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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Chinese Central Military Commission Vice Chairman

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received General Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China, at Seinle Kantha State Guesthouse in Yangon yesterday.

During the meeting matters relating to further relations and cooperation between the two Defence Services were discussed.

During the meeting, the Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission said that the State Counsellor's goodwill visit to China has strengthened bilateral relations between the two countries.

The purpose of his visit to Myanmar is to cement bilateral ties, added the Central Military Commission Vice Chairman, highlighting the importance of people-to-people connectivity and cooperation between the two Defence Services.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with General Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China. PHOTO: MNA

TURN IN YOUR CHEVRONS

66 CHILD SOLDIERS DISCHARGED, RETURNED TO PARENTS

ALTOGETHER 66 child soldiers have been discharged and returned to their respective parents under the supervision of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on grave violations against children (CTFMR).

The ceremony took place in Yangon and attracted Brig-Gen Khun Thant Zaw Htoo and senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), officials from related ministries and United Nations agencies.

Brig-Gen Khun Thant Zaw Htoo and CTFMR's Co-chair Ms Renata Lok-Dessalien, spoke on the occasion.

The released children were given certificates of resignation and citizenship scrutiny cards before being returned to the parents and guardians.

The children were taken to the care centre run by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, where they will be provided with medical checkups. Help will be given to the minors who have difficulty getting

Action has been taken against 81 military officers and 402 personnel of other ranks in connection with the recruitment of children.

in touch with their parents and guardians.

Officials said help will also be given to those wishing to continue their education and those wishing to work. Financial assistance and items for personal use will be provided to them.

The armed forces have so

far returned 810 minor soldiers to their parents in 13 batches since 2012- once in 2012, 3 times in 2013, 4 times in 2014, 3 times in 2015 and 2 times this year.

The country signed the 18-month project of the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on

grave violations against children (UNCTFMR) on 27 June 2012, extending the period of the project for six months each in 2013 and 2014.

The Tatmadaw has taken action against 81 military officers and 402 personnel of other ranks in connection with the recruitment of children up to August 2016.

The Tatmadaw has stated that they are making earnest efforts to ensure that children are not recruited and that any children currently serving in the military are discharged.—*Myawady*

Pyithu Hluttaw

Information Ministry to organise paper-reading sessions and book fairs

THE Ministry of Information is planning to organise a literature festival involving a paper-reading session, discussion and book fair for the third time in cooperation with literature associations with the aim of promoting ethnic literatures, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint told the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

The Union minister said that a paper reading session on political literature was held in conjunction with a monsoon book fair involving more than 100 book shops in the last week of this July and the second paper-reading session along with a book fair is set to take place in late October this year in order to promote translated literature in the country.

Works are underway to upgrade a book shop which is being kept open at Sarpay Beikman Building into the one showcasing various kinds of books and publications in order to assist publishers, added the Union minister.

He went to say that a list of new books sent by Publishers and Distributors Association appears in Kyemon and Myanma Alinn

newspapers and coordination is being made to transport books with the use of state-owned transportation service and ensure the books are exempted from commercial tax.

Next, the Union minister replied to a call for changing the broadcasting system from analog to digital in the townships of the Naga Self-Administered Zone, saying that a relay station in Nanyun Township began digital TV broadcasting this year and arrangements are being made to install a DVB-T2 system in the relay stations in Leshe and Lahe Townships during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The Union minister also responded to a call for the ministry to distribute rules, regulations and procedures of departments and offices which are dealing with the public by posting them in public areas as well as on official websites and social media.

He said that officials have clarified rules and regulations at government departments, saying that people have access to information



Pyithu Hluttaw representatives seen upon arrival at Pyithu Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA

about the ministries, weather news, daily news and breaking news via the Information Minister's Call Centre Hotline (1883).

During yesterday's Hluttaw session, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye also replied to a question regarding food aid needed for flood vic-

tims in Lanhse region of Hsawlaw Township where flooding damaged roads and bridges.

The Union minister said that the ministry and Kachin State government provided flood victims in Hsawlaw and Chipwe Township including Lanhse region with relief supplies including foodstuff.

Moreover, a damaged road section on Chipwe-Hsawlaw-Manky-Weltan road is being repaired and temporary bamboo bridges have been built. Materials for the construction of new bridges in the open season are being stored, added the Union minister.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

348 local and overseas employment agencies given licenses to improve job opportunities; says Union Minister

WITH the opening of 78 labour and employment offices, licenses have been issued to 88 local and 260 overseas employment agencies to improve job opportunities for Myanmar youth, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe told the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

In his response to a question regarding measures to be taken to reduce the rate of employment and create employment opportunities during the government's five-year term, the Union minister said that the government has developed and implemented an employment policy, with the signing of MoU on labour co-operation agreement of employment of workers with Thailand and MoUs on employment of workers that will allow Myanmar workers to enjoy legal protection and benefits with Thailand and The Republic of Korea.

Myanmar workers have been sent to Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, UAE and the RoK and appointment letters for the recruitment of workers have been scrutinised at Myanmar embassies in those respective countries, added the Union minister.

Next, the Union minister replied to questions regarding the issuance of citizenship scrutiny certificates to Myanmar citizens who have not yet applied for the certificates due to various reasons and to questions regarding compensation for a deceased Myanmar worker in Malaysia.



U Thein Swe. PHOTO: MNA

He said that those citizens have been given their cards following the relaxation of some restrictions under the ministry's 100-day plan.

Regarding the deceased Myanmar worker Maung Htan Kee, son of U Ma Nar Htan in Mindat Township, the Union minister said that the process is ongoing, adding that the government is committed to helping Myanmar workers in foreign countries enjoy their rightful benefits through cooperation between Myanmar embassies in respective countries, labour attachés and the ministries concerned.

Then, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Naing Thet Lwin replied to a call for the appointment of only local ethnic people to the two departments under



Naing Thet Lwin. PHOTO: MNA

the ministry as heads of state/region/district/township departments.

The Union minister pledged the appointment of ethnic people who met the necessary requirements for departments at the region/state level will begin next fiscal year.

According to the Union minister only region/state departments are included in the organisation set-up of the ministry.

During yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw session, four lawmakers held discussions on the Pyithu Hluttaw amendments to the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Bill.

According to the Amyotha Hluttaw, its Bill Committee will review the Bill.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Yangon Hluttaw kept in the dark over projects of regional government

HLUTTAW committees are planning to summon civil servants from regional government to explain why the media appear to be the only people privy to projects being implemented within Yangon Region by local government, said U Than Naing Oo, Yangon Regional Hluttaw MP for Pabedan Township Constituency 1.

"The media community is told what projects regional government will carry out, all the while Hluttaw is kept completely in the dark about such activities.

Some Hluttaw committees are saying they're going to summon regional government civil servants to come and explain in detail about the projects they're implementing," said the parliamentarian.

Regional government has addressed Hluttaw, stating they will implement an e-Yangon project in the region, but anything other than this is reportedly yet to be seen.

"We're not seeing an e-Government being implemented," added U Thein Naing Oo. "The [regional] minister said an e-Yangon would be carried out when he met with MPs. He even said things would be done with immigration in an interview he made. But, there's yet to be any evidence to show

anything is actually being carried out."

U Naing Ngan Lin, Yangon regional government Minister for Social Welfare, told Myitmakha News Agency that Hluttaw MPs have no knowledge of decisions made by regional government to conduct projects in the region, only finding out when joint meetings are convened.

"How could Hluttaw MPs be privy to such matters? They are only informed when joint meetings are held.

How could we know about all the decisions our government makes? I think the questioning of regional government on its activities by [Hluttaw] committees is a good thing," he said.

Yangon Region Hluttaw will reconvene for regular sessions come the end of this month of September, while Hluttaw MPs are reportedly busy preparing their questions for regional government on projects they currently still know little to nothing about.

According to article 251 of the 2008 constitution, project related activities to be implemented within states or regions across Myanmar must be conducted with agreement from state and region Hluttaws.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe is welcomed by officials in Nanning International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Myint Swe arrives in Nanning for China-ASEAN Expo, China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

VICE President U Myint Swe arrived in Nanning, the People's Republic of China, yesterday to attend the 13th China-ASEAN Expo and the 13th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

The Vice President was welcomed at Nanning International Airport by Mr Shen Dehai, Vice Chairman of the Guangxi Province's people's political consulta-

tive committee, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Linn Ohn, Nanning-based Myanmar Consul General U Aung Ko and officials.

The Vice President left Yangon for China yesterday afternoon and he was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region ministers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Lian and officials.

Together with the Vice President, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and department officials left for China on the same flight.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Information Minister visits children's library in Pyinmana Township

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint visited a children's library at the office of the Pyinmana Township Information and Public Relations Department yesterday.

During his visit to the office, the Union minister called on officials to allow children to use the library freely and invite librarians in basic education schools to observe children's activities in the library. He also called for turning the public library into a commu-



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits the children's library at the office of the Pyinmana Township Information and Public Relations Department. PHOTO: MNA

nity centre by holding seminars and discussions jointly-organised by NGOs.

Next, the Union minister met with trainees taking a creative art

course (1/2016) at the training school of the IRPD (Head Office) in Pyinmana and observed works of the trainees.—*Nay Pyi Taw IRRD*

VP U Henry Van Thio meets with Bangladeshi Ambassador

VICE President U Henry Van Thio received Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, the Vice President held talks with the

Bangladeshi Ambassador on cooperation in border security and the promotion of bilateral relations as well as in investment and trade sectors.

Also present at the call were Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Henry Van Thio welcomes Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

U Kyaw Myo Htut appointed as ambassador to Canada

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Myo Htut, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Canada.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

U Htin Lynn presents credentials to UN Director-General

U Htin Lynn, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, Geneva, presented his Credentials to the Director-General of the United Nations His Excellency Mr. Michael Moller on 7 September 2016 in Geneva.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Replacing of Bago's near-century old water pipelines nearly complete

THE replacing of near-century old water pipelines in Bago, which commenced in October last year through the concerted efforts of eight local companies, is seventy-five percent complete, the municipal governing body for Bago Township has told Myitmakha News Agency.

The initiative to upgrade the region's aging water distribution network includes the laying of over 15,700 feet of pipeline from the Bago Kandawgyi Lake to the Mekhone water distribution sta-

tion, together with over 30,000 feet of pipeline from the station into, and around, the town of Bago itself. Efforts are reportedly also being made to install water filtration systems in Mekhone and make needed repairs to the water purification tanks.

"Two new stages of pipelines are being laid. Firstly, from Kantawgyi to the Mekhone water distribution station, then a second from the station into the town of Bago. The laying of the first section of pipeline has been com-

pleted - we've just got the replacing of pipeline from the station to Bago left to finish off. Purified water can start to be distributed once all the pipeline has been laid," said U Kyaw Zin Nyunt, an engineer of the Bago Township's municipal body.

The project reportedly marks the first time the water pipelines are being replaced since they were originally laid back in 1920. The eight local companies - which include Han Su, Baho and Nywe Yi Shwe Yi - are working to defini-

tively complete upgrades to the region's water distribution system by January 2017 with financial support in the form of K1,820 million from the overseas-development wing of the Japanese government - the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

"The water from the Kandawgyi Lake is too murky to be utilized as drinking water; it can only be used for the likes of bathing and washing. The majority of people just buy and drink large 20litre bottles of purified

water. We'll have to wait and see as to whether the replacing of the pipelines will provide us with a source of drinking water," Daw Aye Myint, a resident of Bago's Shinsawpu Ward, explained to Myitmakha News Agency.

The design to repair the current water distribution system, so that it could provide purified drinking water to the urban residents of Bago, was reportedly drawn up in partnership by Japanese and Myanmar engineers.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Mayor Dr Myo Aung being explained about the hospital. PHOTO: MNA

Radiation Oncology Department launched at Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital

THE Department of Radiation Oncology was officially launched at Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday with the goal of providing state-of-the-art treatment to cancer patients.

Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Dr Myo Aung, who also serves as the chair of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, attended the launching ceremony to unveil the signboard of the department.

After the ceremony, Dr Myo Aung and officials toured the facilities installed at the department, including CT simula-

tion room, a treatment planning room, linear acceleration room and brachytherapy room to treat patients using radiation-based machines.

Patients with ovarian cancer, prostate cancer and lung cancer may receive special treatment at the new Radiation Oncology Department at a fair price, according to the department.

Equipped with two Linear Accelerators, the department can provide direct patient care to around 80 people per day. —Myanmar News Agency

U Thu Kha art show

THE memorial art show for U Thu Kha will be held at New Treasure Gallery from 12th to 26th November. New Treasure Gallery arranges annually the U Thu Kha memorial art show. A homage paying ceremony will also be held at the event for artists U Shein Tun, U Thet Nyunt and U Lun Gywe.

Artists who wish to take part in showing their work in this exhibition should send examples to New Treasure Gallery starting from 12th up to 19th September, which is the last date that the artists can submit their paintings. Some of the money from sales of the paintings in the exhibition will be donated to the U Thu Kha Foundation. The foundation helps struggling artists and also makes donations. Last summer, the U Thu Kha foundation made a donation for the regions in the country suffering from a water shortage. —Lynn Thu

Indian cotton plantation successfully done in Myingyan Township

AGRICULTURE is the main industry of Myanmar, which makes farmers a part of the most important sector in this country. In Mandalay Region, Myingyan Township, the local cultivators are very pleased with the recent completion of the plantation of Indian cotton, it is learnt.

“We cultivated six silver cotton (plantations) last year at west Myingyan regions, but this year we plant mostly 666 varieties of Indian cotton. The cultivators have to pay Ks 29,000 per cotton seed package and they can plant one and half packages per acre. Those kinds of Indian cotton are related to deep black soils and it can also grow well in alluvial soils and red and laterite soils. Cotton quickly exhausts the fertility of soil. Therefore, regular application of manures and fertilizers to the soils is necessary. “Planting of one acre

cost about Ks 150,000. Picking is a crucial period from the labour point of view. Normally the picking season is spread over a period of about three months. We have to use chemicals three or four times for cotton. In our region, 800 to 900 tonnes of cotton per acre are being produced. The following villages named Ya Thar, Phat Yin, Lay Tan, Ze Pin Kan, Kyauk Kan plant mostly those kinds of Indian cotton. The cotton from those regions are being sold to Myingyan and Mandalay towns,” said U Soe Win, a local cultivator of Phat Yin village.

Myingyan Township is situated in central Myanmar, where crops such as onion, peanut, sesame, cotton, pigeon pea, corn, chick pea, green gram, water melon and cucumber are also cultivated, it is learnt. —Than Zaw Min



Indian cotton plantation in Myingyan Township . PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN

Crime NEWS

Yaba and ammunition seized

AN Anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Kawkaik town arrested one Nan Than Than Myint at her home on Bominyanung road, Kawkaik town on Tuesday. The police searched the home and discovered 982 yaba pills.

When interrogated, Ma Aye Twe claimed that she bought the narcotics from one Ko Tayoke alias Sai Thiha. When police searched the home of Sai Thiha they discovered 71,200 yaba pills, yaba powder weighing 350 grams, ice weighing 1 kilogram and four firearms. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws. —Tin Win Hlaing (Kawkaik)

Five women killed after car plunges into creek in Maubin

FIVE women were killed on Wednesday after their car plunged into a creek in Nag Aik Ton village, Maubin township. According to an investigation,

the car was being driven by one Kyaw Ko Hsan, 50, with six passengers on board when it plunged into the creek between mileposts 3/7 and 4/0 after the

driver lost control.

The dead were identified by police as Dw Khin San, 60, Daw Maw Maw Tun, 44, Daw Yee Yee Swe, 58, Daw Saw Mya, 58,

and Daw Hla Hla, 15.

The driver was rushed to the general hospital and is facing charges of reckless driving. —Than Htay (Dala)

Diazepam and yaba seized in Hlegu township

A COMBINED investigation team comprising officers and staff from Hlegu township seized a haul of diazepam from a home in Kyungalay village, Hlegu township on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the home of one Kyaw Moe and discovered 328,000 diazepam pills. Kyaw Moe was unable to provide a valid prescription note.

On the same day, police from Taunggyi town seized 2,450

yaba pills and two firearms from the home of one Lone Sai at Naung Kyin village, Taunggyi township.

Police also seized 760 yaba pills from a man named Saw Tun who was onboard a passenger bus at Oriental toll gate, Lashio. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws. —Myanmar Police Force



The drug dealers seen together with the drugs seized. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

Rice export via border trade declines by over 4,000 tonnes

Aung Thant Khaing

MYANMAR exported 8,238 tonnes of rice worth US\$3.018 million via border trade camps over the last week of August.

The export volume has decreased by 4,017 tonnes compared to the previous week.

During the last week of August, 2,797 tonnes of Ngasein rice and 900 tonnes of Emata rice were sold to foreign buyers via the Muse (105-mile) trade zone. 186 tonnes of Ngasein rice from Chin-shwehaw border trade camp was sold and 4,355 tonnes of Ngasein rice was sold via Lwegel trade camp.

1,234 tonnes of broken rice worth \$402,000 has been exported to partner countries via sea trade, including 931 tonnes via Muse trade camp and 303 tonnes via Lwegel trade camp.

The export of broken rice has also decreased by \$191 million compared with the previous week.



A farmer works at a field in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Between 21 and 27 August, Myanmar exported 3,904 tonnes of white rice and parboiled rice worth \$1.484 million to major buyers via sea route.

Among the total export volume via sea route, 2,300 tonnes

of white rice went to China while member states of the European Union bought 950 tonnes of converted rice and 654 tonnes of white rice.

The export of white rice and parboiled rice has increased by

2,450 tonnes compared with the previous week.

A total of 3,150 tonnes of broken rice amounting to \$859,000 went to western states. That number is 350 tonnes less than the previous week.

Merchants from border trade camps said the decline in the export volume of rice is linked to the authorities' crackdown on the illegal trade of rice along the China-Myanmar border as well as rice quality issues.

Integrated Port Terminal planned for Thilawa Port

AN Integrated Port Terminal is slated to be built at Thilawa Port, it has been learned.

Interested parties were invited to submit a proposal to implement the construction project. Following submissions the Myanmar Agricultural & General Development Public Limited (MAGDPL), Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) and Myanmar Edible Oil Industrial Public Corporation (MEICO) Limited were granted the contract by the

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) to jointly carry out the project. The Ministry of Transport and Communications has given the green light for those entities to begin spending their budget.

The three plots of land are 111.18 acres wide, with a width of 37.06 acres per plot. The integrated port terminal will be approximately 590 metres long and 30 metres wide. The terminal is intended to facilitate the handling of commodities.—*Ko Htet*

Over 260 enterprises seeking licence for special goods business

A TOTAL of 264 enterprises have sought a licence to engage in special goods business, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

According to the 2016 Union Tax Law, tobacco and liquor, teak and hard wood, jade, ruby, sapphire, emerald, diamond and finished and raw jewelry products, vehicles with above 1800CC, fuel and natural gas are listed in the newly introduced

Special Goods Tax list (SGT).

The enterprises concerned were set to submit registration by 31 May. Those businesses that failed to register will be fined K5 million. Those who evade taxation and sell special goods will be fined 100 per cent of the value of the special goods. Those goods will be confiscated under the Special Goods Tax Law laid down in 2016.

The tax will be levied on

special goods at the prevailing market price. Both importers and exporters of special goods have to register, it has been learned from the Internal Revenue Department. Although the department has announced the deadline there are enterprises which have not yet sought permission. Those businesses will have action taken against them under the Commercial Tax Law, according to the department.—*Ko Htet*



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

DICA received foreign investment worth \$ 1.8 billion during first half of 2016-17 FY

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) received foreign direct investment proposals amounting to US\$ 1.8 billion in the first six months of this fiscal year, it has been learned.

After the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is re-funded, foreign direct investment is expected to reach US\$ 6 billion this fiscal year. The government

has reduced the permitted amount of foreign investment compared with the same period last year. Currently, the MIC permits US\$ 178 million in foreign investment.

The MIC mostly permitted foreign investment in the manufacturing sector as it provides many job opportunities.

Last year, foreign investors mainly invested in oil and natural gas. However, interest in those

sectors has waned in favour of industry.

Foreign direct investment reached US\$ 6 billion last fiscal year, according to figures from the DICA. The energy and manufacturing sector stood first in attracting foreign direct investment. The agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sectors also attracted significant foreign investment.—*Min Thu*

North Korea conducts fifth and largest nuclear test

SEOUL — North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test on Friday, setting off a blast that was more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, and said it had mastered the ability to mount a warhead on a ballistic missile.

Its most powerful explosion to date follows a test in January that prompted the UN Security Council to impose tightened sanctions that increased North Korea's isolation but failed to prevent it from accelerating weapons development.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye, in Laos after a summit of Asian leaders ended there on Thursday, said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was showing "maniacal recklessness" in completely ignoring the world's call to abandon his pursuit of nuclear weapons.

US President Barack Obama, aboard Air Force One on his way home from Laos, said the test would be met with "serious consequences" and held talks with Park and with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the White House said.

China, North Korea's only major diplomatic ally,

said it was resolutely opposed to the test and urged Pyongyang to stop taking any actions that would worsen the situation.

North Korea, which labels the South and the United States as its main enemies, said its "scientists and technicians carried out a nuclear explosion test for the judgement of the power of a nuclear warhead," according to a report from its official KCNA news agency.

North Korea said the test proved it is capable of mounting a nuclear warhead on a medium-range ballistic missile, which it last tested on Monday when Obama and other world leaders were gathered in China for a G20 summit.

Its claims of being able to miniaturise a nuclear warhead have never been independently verified.

North Korea has been testing missiles at an unprecedented rate this year, and the capability to mount a nuclear warhead on a missile is especially worrisome for its neighbours South Korea and Japan.

"The standardisation of the nuclear warhead will enable the DPRK to pro-



Ryoo Yong-gyu, Earthquake and Volcano Monitoring Division Director, points at where seismic waves observed in South Korea came from, during a media briefing at Korea Meteorological Administration in Seoul, South Korea, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

duce at will and as many as it wants a variety of smaller, lighter and diversified nuclear warheads of higher strike power," KCNA said, referring to the country's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Japan Defence Minister Tomomi Inada said the Pyongyang regime's advances in mobile ballistic missile technology posed a grave threat to Japan.

North Korea's nuclear test coincided with the anniversary of its 1948 foundation as a republic.

Its continued testing despite sanctions presents a severe challenge to Obama in the final months of his presidency and could become a factor in the US presidential election in November.

"Sanctions have already been imposed on almost everything possible,

so the policy is at an impasse," said Tadashi Kimiya, a University of Tokyo professor specialising in Korean issues.

"In reality, the means by which the United States, South Korea and Japan can put pressure on North Korea have reached their limits," he said.

Japan's Abe said such a nuclear test could not be tolerated. Japan's foreign minister lodged a protest

and Tokyo also sent two military jets to begin measuring for radiation.

China's environment ministry began emergency radiation monitoring along its borders with North Korea in northeast China, state television reported.

Jeffrey Lewis of the California-based Middlebury Institute of International Studies said the highest estimates of seismic magnitude suggested this was the most powerful nuclear test conducted by North Korea so far.

He said the seismic magnitude and surface level indicated a blast with a 20-to 30-kilotonne yield. Such a yield would make this test larger than the nuclear bomb dropped by the United States on the Japanese city of Hiroshima in World War II and potentially bigger than that dropped on Nagasaki soon after.

"That's the largest DPRK test to date, 20-30kt, at least. Not a happy day," Lewis told Reuters.

"The important thing is that five tests in, they now have a lot of nuclear test experience. They aren't a backwards state any more," he said.—Reuters

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Typhoons cause 42 bln yen in damage to Japan agriculture, fisheries

TOKYO — A series of typhoons since mid-August have caused at least around 41.8 billion yen (\$409 million) in damage to agriculture and fisheries mainly in northern and northeastern Japan, the farm minister said on Friday.

The amount could climb further, as the ministry is still trying to grasp the full extent of damage in Hokkaido, one of the affected regions that also include Tohoku and Kanto. Powerful typhoons have either made landfall

or approached Japan in recent weeks, hitting local farmers who were ready to harvest their produce such as onions and potatoes in Hokkaido, northern Japan, and other areas. "Hokkaido forms the foundation of our country's farming sector so

I'd like to see the severity of damage and consider what we can do about it," Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yuji Yamamoto said at a press conference in Tokyo ahead of his planned visit there next Wednesday. —Kyodo News

New Zealand PM outlines efforts to battle illegal fishing in Pacific

WELLINGTON — New Zealand is working with Pacific island countries to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Pacific as part of a package of aid to protect the ocean resource, Prime Minister John Key said on Friday.

Key and New Zealand officials were on Friday briefing Pacific leaders at the annual Pacific Islands Forum in Pohnpei, Micronesia, on the strong progress made in combating IUU fishing in the Pacific.

"The Pacific's tuna

fishery is the region's greatest natural asset and is currently valued at more than 3.2 billion NZ dollars (2.44 billion US dollars)," Key said in a statement from his office.

"At last year's Pacific Islands Forum, New Zealand committed 50 million NZ dollars (38.2 million US dollars) to support fisheries management in the region, to ensure as much benefit as possible is returned to its people," he said.

"This work is well under way, with almost 30

million NZ dollars (22.92 million US dollars) now allocated to important projects including strengthening the management of coastal fisheries, improving long-line tuna management, and tightening monitoring and control of fishing boats in ports."

IUU cost the Pacific tuna fishery an estimated 850 million NZ dollars (649.48 million US dollars) every year and affected the sustainability of the fishery.

Addressing IUU was critical to the success of the region's efforts, said Key.

"We are working with Pacific countries to increase controls at their ports to better monitor fishing vessels and to reduce the practice of fishers transferring catches between boats outside of ports, in order to under-report their total haul. This is a major problem in the region," said Key.

"These efforts sit alongside progress being made to develop a sustainable, catch-based management system for South Pacific albacore tuna to better protect the resource for future generations."—Xinhua

China, ASEAN eye closer technological cooperation

NANNING — Technological cooperation between China and ASEAN countries has deepened in recent years and will continue to prosper in the future, industry analysts said.

More than 2,000 companies have registered as members of the technological transfer network between China and the ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), said Liu Jianhong, deputy director of the China-ASEAN Technological Transfer Centre. China has also set up bilateral technological transfer centres with Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and Indonesia.

Cooperation between China and ASEAN countries has been carried out in modern agriculture, new energy, reusable energy, the Internet, environmental protection and the biochemical industry. Contracts worth more than 600 billion

yuan have been signed, statistics show.

“For example, in the field of agriculture, some pumpkins can grow quite large in Viet Nam and do not sell well in the market. Chinese agricultural technicians helped improve the breed and it is selling well in northern and highland Viet Nam,” said Liu.

Technological cooperation in mobile Internet industries is also developing fast with more than 200 companies participating.

Sohagame, a Vietnamese gaming company, achieved great success after selling patents for two China-made smartphone games.

Chang Qing, also a deputy director of the centre, said high-level academics including several leading scientists in Southeast Asia have also promoted technological cooperation among the countries.—*Xinhua*

India aims to reduce hydrocarbon imports by 10 per cent by 2022, oil minister says

SINGAPORE — India aims to reduce its hydrocarbon imports by 10 per cent by 2022 through increasing domestic output, fuel efficiency and the use of alternative energy, its oil minister said on Friday.

India currently imports 70-75 per cent of its energy requirements, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters.

The minister spoke on the sidelines of a roadshow in Singapore for investors to explore oil and gas in India.

“A good number of companies are taking our data,” Pradhan said, although he declined to name those who have shown interest.

The minister also said there will be no cess or duties assessed on new oil and gas exploration projects.—*Reuters*

Cambodian court sentences deputy opposition leader to five months in prison

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian court on Friday afternoon sentenced, in absentia, deputy opposition leader Kem Sokha to five months in prison for “refusal to appear” in court over a prostitution case, a spokesman said.

“(Phnom Penh Municipal Court’s) Presiding Judge Keo Mony announced the verdict which sentences Kem Sokha to five months in jail and fines him 800,000 riel (200 US dollars) for refusal to appear in court,” the court’s deputy prosecutor and spokesman Ly Sophanna told reporters.

The verdict was issued after a hearing on Friday morning in which neither Kem Sokha nor his lawyers appeared.

Hundreds of opposition supporters were gathering at the headquarters of opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) on the southern outskirts of Phnom Penh to protect Kem

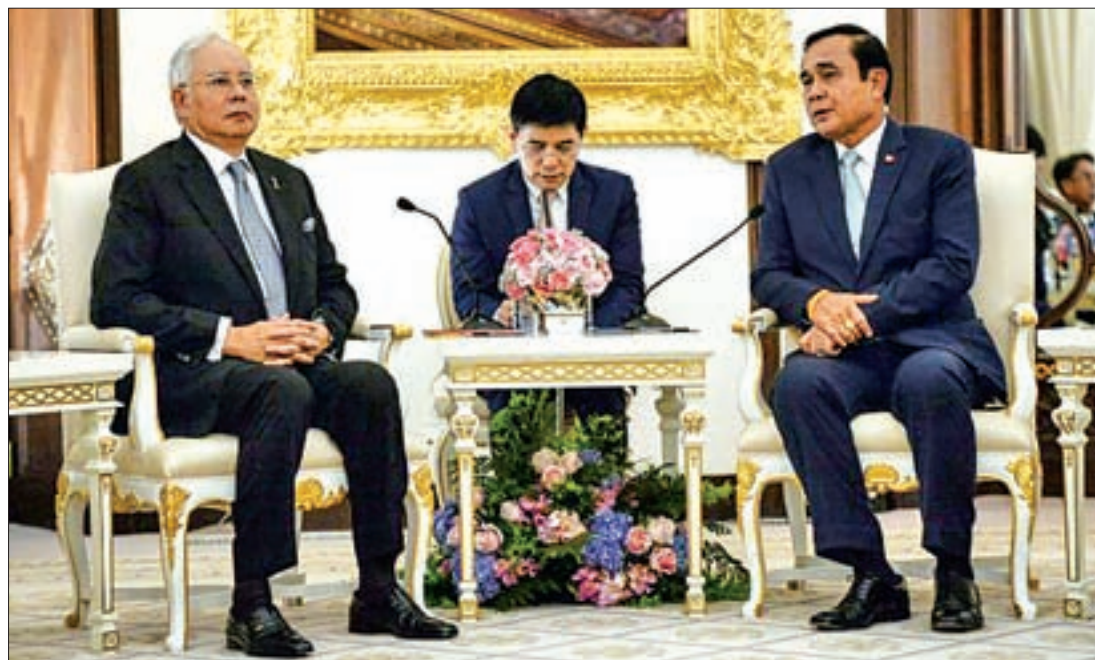
Sokha, who has been holed up at the party’s headquarters since 26 May in fear of arrest.

Kim Santhepheap, a spokesman for the Ministry of Justice, told local media that there will be no immediate arrest of Kem Sokha and the deputy opposition leader has a month to file an appeal before the verdict comes into force.

CNRP’s vice president Kem Sokha was charged with “refusal to appear” on 26 May after he ignored two court summonses.

The accusation against Kem Sokha stems from leaked audio clips of telephone conversation between him and his alleged mistress in February. In the clips, they discussed sex, pregnancy and paying for an apartment.

Kem Sokha has not publicly commented on the veracity of the audio recordings, instead advising his supporters not to respond to provocation.—*Xinhua*



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (L) is received by Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha (R) at Government House in Bangkok, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thailand, Malaysia consider border wall to boost security

BANGKOK — The leaders of Thailand and Malaysia agreed on Friday to increase intelligence sharing on security and to move forward in possibly building a border wall to combat transnational terrorism and smuggling.

People-trafficking and the smuggling of contraband, including drugs and petrol, have flourished along the Thai-Malay border for years until a crackdown by Thai officials on human traffickers caused some of the routes to shut down last year.

Analysts say that separatist insurgents operating in Thailand’s deep south use Malaysia as a base to launch and plan their attacks.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak told reporters that

security remained “a very important matter” for both countries and that there was an agreement to increase intelligence gathering and sharing to apprehend cross-border terrorism.

“We both face security issues including the fight against terrorism, human trafficking and illegal smuggling, that is why we need to address these issues seriously,” said Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

Najib said that both sides had discussed the construction and extension of a border wall with details to be worked out.

“The matter is under consideration but we need to determine the physical dimensions of the wall or fence as well as the sharing of the costs,” he said.

Najib’s visit follows three deadly bomb attacks in southern Thailand over the past month, including a wave of bombings in tourist towns in August which Thai police have linked to Muslim separatists.

Analysts say the attacks were carried out by a separatist insurgent group known as Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) after having been left out of peace talks between the Thai government and a separate separatist umbrella group in Malaysia.

Thailand’s three southernmost provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat were once part of an independent Malay Muslim sultanate until they were annexed by Thailand in 1909.—*Reuters*

India successfully launches advanced weather satellite



People watch as Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) carrying advanced weather satellite INSAT-3DR takes off from the spaceport of Sriharikota in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, India, on 8 September 2016. India on Thursday scripted a twin success by successfully launching its advanced weather satellite INSAT-3DR into space on board its heavy-duty rocket fitted with the indigenous cryogenic engine, which undertook its maiden operational flight. PHOTO: XINHUA

Opinion

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Dealing with the legacy of the past

Kyaw Thura

AS a nascent democracy, our country is still faced with many challenges for political stability, national reconciliation and socioeconomic development. This implies that all the ethnic groups have no time to waste trading blames but take a cautious approach to dealing with the legacy of the past.

Ethnic and communal

tensions have long been commonly recognised as the legacy of the past. Activists have claimed that the holes in the judicial system and the security measures have resulted in the rise of communal tensions between the Buddhist and Muslim communities in some parts of the country. In addition, they have put the blame on the racial and eco-

nomic inequalities of the past for the persistence of ethnic armed conflicts, especially in states.

The dissolution of decades of distrust can be a miraculous cure for the legacy of the past. Now is the time for our national brethren to seek ways for embracing shared hopes and ensure the virtues of freedom, fairness and equality in

rebuilding the future of our country.

No matter what, our selfishness and inaction will only aggravate the painful days of the past. We must shoulder the responsibility of our time to dress the wounds in racial and religious cohesion, integration and harmony. Otherwise, we will then be branded as chief culprits in history.

Freedom of Religion in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

IT is known that there has already been freedom of religion in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since a thousand years ago. Altogether 135 national races have been living harmoniously and peacefully in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since dawn of ancient history of Myanmar. There have been also different religious faiths such as Buddhism, Christianity, Islamism, Hinduism, Animism and others since then. According to the statistical census of 2014, the whole population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are over 50 millions. About 89.8 per cent of the present population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar believe in Buddhism, and about 6.3 per cent in Christianity, about 2.3 per cent in Islamism, about 0.5 per cent in Hinduism, 0.8 per cent in Animism, 0.2 per cent in others and 0.1 in not any faith. The Myanmar national races live harmoniously and peacefully and always pay respect and loving-kindness to each other in spite of their different religious faiths, and any problems, difficulties and conflicts never arise

among them relating to their belief in different religions. They have lived harmoniously in peace leading to stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order since Myanmar has regained her Independence in 1948. During the period of the British Colonial Government, Myanmar national races were oppressed under their rules of separation. However, Myanmar national races were united to fight for Independence and protect their own culture and religions.

After having regained Independence, the people and Government of the Union of Myanmar confirm and adopt one clause on, "the freedom of religion", in the constitution of the state, all Myanmar national races shall share equal rights and responsibilities for the freedom of religion from generation to generation.

Many Buddhist monasteries, Christian churches, Islamic mosques, Hindu temples and other religious buildings stand side by side throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

and it is a significant symbol of freedom of religion.

And also, financial grants and other necessary materials for the communities of religion are supported and provided by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in order to promote and flourish their religions. The Ministry of Religious Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, now and then makes necessary arrange-

ments for the religious leaders to go abroad for attending their religious meetings, conferences and seminars which will be held and organized in respective nations. A large number of books, periodicals, journals, magazines and others on religions are freely published and distributed in accordance with the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Talks and messages of their holydays are allowed to be broadcast every year, and travelling free pass is also issued to the religious leaders of the religious organizations in order to visit their respective communities throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at any time. Haj pilgrims of Islamic community in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are year-

Nepal every year.

All these noble functions of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar fully guarantee freedom of religion for all national races in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

According to 1997 statistics, there are altogether 51,322 Buddhist monasteries, 5,200 Christian churches, 3,215 Islamic mosques, 1,010 Hindu temples and other religious buildings throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

A Division of staff for other religions is established under the Department of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in order to carry out various affairs relating to other religious effectively. For the time being, all Myanmar national races are sharing equal rights and justices of cultural, economic, social and religious affairs and striving in unity to build a new modern developed democratic nation under the effective, wise and prudent guidance and leadership of the new Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar national races live harmoniously and peacefully and always pay respect and loving-kindness to each other in spite of their different religious faiths.

South-East Asia countries to set up fund for health emergencies preparedness

IN a critical step for emergency preparedness across the WHO South-East Asia Region, member countries today agreed to establish a dedicated funding stream aimed at building preparedness for health emergencies in the Region, which is one of the most disaster-prone.

"To date, post-disaster funding through South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund has done an excellent job of helping countries respond to health emergencies once they've occurred, as we saw most recently in Nepal and Sri Lanka. The new funding stream

will allow countries to invest in infrastructure and human resources that will enhance preparedness," Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia, said. In recent years earthquakes, cyclones and floods have caused health emergencies in the South-East Asia Region. The Region has also been threatened by a range of emerging diseases, including SARS, MERS CoV, pandemic influenza and Zika virus.

Establishing a joint funding stream under the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund

(SEARHEF) to help countries better prepare for such events was seen by member countries as a key priority for the Regional health agenda. At present, SEARHEF funds are disbursed only when a disaster has occurred.

"Enhancing health security is a critical component of our public health mission, and a core part of WHO's work in the South-East Asia Region. The new funding stream for emergency preparedness established by member countries is an expression of the solidarity shared within the Region, as

well as recognition that preparedness is less costly than response," Dr Khetrpal Singh said.

Another resolution passed by the session called for promoting physical activity across the Region. Insufficient physical activity is a major contributor to rising rates of non-communicable diseases in the Region, with four-fifth of adolescents not getting enough of it.

"Effective promotion of physical activity needs commitment at the highest level, with leadership from the health sector absolutely crucial. In this Regional Commit-

tee Meeting, Health Ministers have led by example, being role models for physical activity by themselves," Dr Khetrpal Singh said.

The session also passed a resolution on health workforce strengthening which is vital to achieving universal health coverage – a key part of the Sustainable Development Goal of leaving no one behind. At present, the density of health care providers in the Region is 12.5 per 10,000 population, which is less than the WHO recommended minimum of 44.5 per 10,000 population.—GNLM



Vice Senior General observing Rok defence booth. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Vice Senior General Soe Win attends 2016 RoK Army International Conference

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win attended the 2016 RoK Army International Conference held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea on Thursday.

The conference was held under the title of "Roles of Ground Forces and International Cooperation to Encounter Future Asymmetric Threats".

Next, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief viewed defence weaponry booths and extended greetings at a luncheon hosted by General Jang Jun-Kyu, Chief of Staff of the Republic of Korea Army.

Then, the Vice Senior General visited the War Memorial of Korea in Seoul where officials conducted him around the museum.—Myawady

Over 1,500 staff members of ABCC (central) must be transferred to YRTA

OVER 1,500 staff members from seven groups under the All-Bus-Lines Control Committee (central)(ABCC) must be transferred to Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA), it has been learned.

Under the direct control of the Yangon Region Government, over 1,500 staff of the All-Bus-Lines Control Committee (central), ABCC (downtown), ABCC (highway), ABCC (East District), ABCC (West Dis-

trict), ABCC (South District) and ABCC (North District) must be transferred to the new departments under the Yangon Region Transport Authority which was formed on 8 July.

YRTA will manage local bus lines and taxis, other transport vehicles, the circular train line and marine transport. Currently, there are over 350 public bus lines, about 5,000 public buses and over 50,000 taxis in Yangon.—200

Tenders invited for Hlaing Thar Yar and Than Hlin housing projects

ACCORDING to the Department of Urban Planning and Housing Development, local construction firms are being invited to submit tender for medium and low cost housing projects in Hlaing Thar Yar and Thanlyin Townships. Interested parties can submit tender forms up until 30 September with the department.

The locations available for tender are low cost housing on

23 acres of land at the Kyan Sit Min housing project part 2 and low cost apartments on 31 acres of land at the 588 acres of supportive land for the ThilaWa Special Economic zone in Thanlyin Township.

"This project aims to help those who don't have housing in Hlaing Thar Yar and Thanlyin Township," said a representative from the Department.—200

Land prices double near Kyaukphyu SEZ

THE price of land on both sides of Kyaukphyu's Zinchaung Road has doubled since last year because of the areas proximity with the special economic zone project, local real-estate agents told Myitmakha News Agency.

Last year, an acre of land would have set one back between K1 - 1.5 million, dependent upon the location. But the recent unrelenting buying-up of land in the region by local investors has seen the price of an acre frog-leap to K2 - 2.5 million from March and April this year, according to U Maung Gyi, a local real-estate agent.

"Despite remaining uncertainty over when the [KSEZ] project will actually be imple-

mented, people have been buying up land ever since [it was announced in] 2014. Farmers are selling off their lands, and local businessmen, as well as those from further afield, have been snapping them up. That said, transactions haven't been as fervent of late because of the rainy season," said Daw Thandar, a local real-estate agent.

Investors have been attracted to the region by the presence of the Kyaukphyu SEZ and the expectation of large profit margins that could be secured from reselling their purchased land for much higher prices once construction on the economic zone officially begins.—Myitmakha News Agency

Earthquake has had no impact on number of tourists visiting Bagan



A Bagan pagoda being seen thronged with the pilgrims. PHOTO: REUTERS

THE number of tourists visiting Bagan remains constant despite the recent earthquake that destroyed religious structures within the country's archaeological heritage site, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The cultural area attracted slightly more foreign visitors this year than last year, with an official saying that nearly 150,000

tourists visited Bagan between January and August last year, while the same period this year saw more than 160,000.

The earthquake that struck Bagan on 24 August destroyed nearly 400 ancient pagodas and temples in the country's most famous tourist area.

Experts from the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organisation are engaged in renovation and repair work to the damaged pagodas in partnership with local archaeologists and technicians.

According to officials in the hotel zone, visitors still have access to 90% of the pagodas in the archaeological zone, where over 2,000 ancient pagodas and temples still stand.—Ko Moe

Petroleum import expenses alleviated by US\$4.5 million a month

CHANGES to the way petroleum is brought into Myanmar has reportedly reduced importation costs from US\$4 to US\$2.5 a barrel, the Myanmar Petroleum Traders Association (MPTA) has told Myitmakha News Agency.

"It used to cost US\$4 per barrel [of petroleum] back when we started importing into Myanmar from Singapore using 5,000 tonne oil tankers. Since we can now import via tankers which can hold 15,000 tonnes of oil, only US\$2.5 is incurred per barrel, reducing the country's expenditure," said Dr Win Myint, secretary of the

MPTA.

Private businessmen were granted permission to start importing petroleum into Myanmar in 2014, with the inaugural year seeing petroleum imported into the country via 5,000 tonne oil tankers. By 2016, however, petroleum is now being imported through 15,000 tonne oil tankers, reportedly alleviating monthly import expenses by approximately US\$4.5 million.

"There's about 70 businessmen who import petroleum into Myanmar from overseas. They operate wholesale enterprises and

retail shops as well. There aren't restrictions in place, such as the requirement to show one's finances; so businessmen have entitlement to operate their business ventures freely," said Daw Mu Mu Shein, a representative of the Petroleum Price Stability Committee.

The majority of Myanmar businessmen involved in the petroleum industry primarily import from Singapore.

Petroleum sold within Myanmar arrives at the country's ports before being sold in wholesale and retail markets, and petrol stations across the country.—Myitmakha

Clinton criticises Trump for remarks on security briefing, Putin

WHITE PLAINS (NY) — US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton slammed Republican rival Donald Trump on Thursday for talking about things he learned in classified intelligence briefings and for praising Russia's Vladimir Putin as a better leader than President Barack Obama.

Speaking to reporters the day after a New York security forum featuring separate appearances by the two candidates, Clinton also criticized the businessman for saying US generals had been "reduced to rubble" by Obama's policies.

At the televised forum on Wednesday night, Trump said he was "shocked" by information he got during the briefing. "What I did learn is that our leadership, Barack Obama, did not follow what our experts ... said to do," Trump said.

Clinton, who was secretary of state during Obama's first term, said Trump's comments on the briefing were "totally inappropriate and undisciplined."

"I would never comment on any aspect of an intelligence briefing I received," Clinton said before boarding her campaign plane. As nominees for the 8 November presidential election, she and Trump are entitled to receive intelligence briefings.

Clinton said Trump's praise of Putin as a better leader than Obama was "not just unpatriotic and insulting to the people of our country, as well as to our commander in chief, it is scary."

"It suggests he will let Putin do whatever Putin wants to do and then make excuses for him," Clinton said.

Trump fired back at Clinton, saying her comments were an effort to make up for a poor performance during the security forum.

"Hillary Clinton is always complaining about what's wrong," he said during a campaign stop in Cleveland, where he visited a charter school and proposed federal spending on "school choice" programmes.

"I just watched her on the tarmac. She tried to make up for her horrible performance last night," Trump said.

The intensifying political combat came as Clinton's lead in opinion polls has slipped in recent days. The current average of polls by website RealClearPolitics puts her at 45.6 per cent support, compared with Trump's 42.8 per cent. Obama also hit back at Trump for criticizing his foreign policy record, saying the Republican nominee was unfit to follow him into the Oval Office and the public should press Trump on his "outright wacky ideas." —Reuters



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton holds a news conference on the airport tarmac in front of her campaign plane in White Plains, New York, United States, on 8 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kerry tries again with Lavrov on Syria; US says patience not infinite

GENEVA — US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov resumed negotiations on a Syrian ceasefire plan on Friday, with US officials saying they believed a deal was still possible but warning the talks could not go on for ever.

Senior State Department officials briefing reporters on Kerry's flight to Switzerland played down the prospect of a final breakthrough on Syria from Friday's talks, although they said "steady progress" had been made in recent weeks.

"We've been taking issues off the table because we've reached an understanding on them and continue to have some issues that remain outstanding

and that we have been unable to close," one official said.

Issues still to be resolved were "highly technical and complicated", the official said. "We can't guarantee at this point that we are on the cusp of finishing."

The United States and Russia have backed opposite sides in Syria's civil war, which shows little sign of ending after 5-1/2 years of violence in which half the pre-war population has been uprooted. Moscow supports President Bashar al-Assad and Washington supports the opposition, saying Assad must go.

Kerry's meeting with Lavrov is their third in two weeks and they have spoken several times by telephone to try to narrow differences on a Syrian peace plan.

A second US official said that while Kerry would try to make progress, "patience is not infinite" and the United States would not simply keep talking if a conclusion was not reached "relatively soon".

The officials declined to elaborate on what Washington might do if the talks broke down.

Kerry's proposal for military cooperation with Russia over Syria has faced strong pushback from US defence and intelligence officials who argue that Moscow cannot be trusted.

The second official said one of the reasons Kerry kept up the effort was because the Syrian opposition supported it as a way to stop the worst violence in their country. —Reuters



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“Ozone and Climate, Restored by a World United”

NEWS IN BRIEF

French helicopters to rescue 110 stuck in cable car at over 3,000m

LYON, (France) — Helicopters are being sent to rescue 110 people stuck at over 3,000 metres altitude in a cable car that links France and Italy near Europe's highest mountain, the Mont Blanc, police said.

The scenic cable-car journey is 5 km long and usually takes 35 minutes, but passengers have been stuck there for about two hours. "We will evacuate passengers by air, with police helicopters but also private ones called in by local authorities," a spokesman for the local gendarmerie police said. France 3 television said the cable car was stopped after cables got tangled in high wind. —Reuters

Swedish government reiterates stance not to seek NATO membership

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's government reiterated its stance on Friday that the country should not seek NATO membership, following an opposition push to join the military alliance in light of increased tensions with Russia in the Baltic region.

As part of a defence agreement between the centre-left government and three opposition parties the government had commissioned a report evaluating the country's defence and security stance. While the report is still to be published later on Friday, the government said Sweden would not change its long tradition of neutrality by joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. "The combination of military non-alignment, heightened national defence capability and deepening cooperation are our way to meet the challenges we face without contributing to increased tension in our region", Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom and Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist wrote in a signed article in daily Dagens Nyheter. — Reuters

US attempted to rescue two hostages in Afghanistan — Pentagon

WASHINGTON — US forces attempted to rescue two civilian hostages in Afghanistan last month, but the captives were not at the location and no US personnel or civilians were harmed in the attempt, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

"In August, at the recommendation of Secretary Carter, President Obama authorized US forces to conduct a mission in Afghanistan, aimed at recovering two civilian hostages," Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook said in a statement. "Unfortunately, the hostages were not at the location we suspected," Cook said. He added that US forces "engaged and killed a number of hostile forces."

The identities of the hostages were not disclosed. In early August, two faculty members of the American University of Afghanistan, one American and one Australian, were abducted at gunpoint from a road near the university in Kabul. —Reuters

At least three dead after train derails in northern Spain

MADRID — At least three people were killed on Friday after a train derailed in Galicia in north-western Spain, emergency services said.

Dozens of people were also injured in the crash, Spanish media said, citing Eva Garcia de la Torre, the mayor of O Porrino, the town closest to the accident. The train between the city of Vigo and Porto, in Portugal, was carrying 63 passengers and two crew members, including the driver, state-run railway operator Renfe said. Spanish media reported the driver was among those killed. —Reuters

Air strike kills top commander of former Nusra group in Syria

AMMAN — The top military commander of the militant group Jabhat Fateh al Sham, the former al Qaeda offshoot in Syria, was killed in an aerial raid that targeted a meeting of the group's leaders, both the group and rebel sources said on Thursday.

The commander Abu Hajer al Homsy, whose alias is Abu Omar Saraqeb, was killed in a rural area of Aleppo Province, they said, where the group has played an instrumental role in ongoing battles against the Syrian army troops and Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias in the gateway city of Aleppo. An announcement by the group said he was "martyred" in an air strike in the countryside of Aleppo. The nationality of the jets that hit the location was not immediately known, but a rebel source said initial information suggested it was most likely a US jet that struck the hideout.

Since the US-led coalition was launched, air



Fighters of the Syrian Islamist rebel group Jabhat Fateh al-Sham cheer on a pickup truck after a Russian helicopter was shot down in the north of Syria's rebel-held Idlib province, Syria, on 1 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

strikes have targeted Nusra Front figures in Syria, killing scores. But this marked the first time a key figure has been targeted since the group's name change.

Abu Omar Saraqeb was a founding member of Nusra Front, Al Qaeda's powerful Syrian branch, and

had been among the jihadists who fought US forces in Iraq after the US invasion in 2003 before returning to Syria.

Along with other leaders, the jihadist figure set up Jaish al Fateh or the army of conquest — a military alliance of Islamist rebel groups

that last year drove the Syrian army from the northwestern city of Idlib at the height of insurgents' advances.

The major Russian military campaign at the end of last year turned the tide in Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's favour and thwarted the Sunni in-

surgers' rapid gains that brought them close to Assad's minority Alawite stronghold on the coast.

Another Islamist insurgent source told Reuters the militants were present in a secret hideout in the village of Kafr Naha when the raid took place. The leader of the group Abu Mohammad al-Jolani was apparently not at the meeting.

Few other details emerged of the strike, but a photo of another top leader known as Abu Muslim al Shami circulated on social media showing him alive in an effort to refute reports he had also been killed.

The Nusra Front announced last July it was ending its relationship with al Qaeda, the global jihadist network founded by Osama bin Laden, to remove a pretext used by world powers to inflict civilian casualties.

The move appeared to be an attempt to appeal to Syrians who have long had deep misgivings about Nusra's links with al Qaeda

and the presence of foreign jihadists in its ranks.

The move was dismissed by Washington, which said it did not change its stance on the organisation that is listed as a terrorist group and remained a fair target. Washington said altering the name of the group did not signal a shedding of its hardline al Qaeda-style ideology.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov have been trying to reach a deal on deeper cooperation between the US and Russian militaries against radical groups operating in Syria, particularly Islamic State and the former Nusra Front. One of the complications is that former Nusra operates side by side with Western-backed moderate Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebel groups in major frontlines against the Syrian army that is aided by heavy Russian air power and fighters from Iran-backed militias.—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

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For Suntory Holdings Limited.
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, UFC Tower, Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 10 September 2016 Imm@kcyangon.com

Iraq gears up for late-year push to retake Mosul from Islamic State

QAYYARA AIRBASE, (Iraq) — The US-led war on Islamic State has depleted the group's funds, leadership and foreign fighters, but the biggest battle yet is expected later this year in Iraq's northern city of Mosul, where Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared his "caliphate" two years ago.

The jihadist insurgents have lost more than half the territory they seized in Iraq and nearly as much in neighbouring Syria, but still manage to control their twin capitals of Mosul and Raqqa, symbols of the state they sought to build at the heart of the Middle East.

Military and humanitarian preparations are now in full swing to retake Mosul, the largest city under the ultra-hardline group's control. American troops are establishing a logistics hub to the south, while the United Nations warns of the world's most complex humanitarian operation this year.

Iraq's recapture over the summer of Qayyara airbase and surrounding areas along the Tigris river 60 km (nearly 40 miles) south of Mosul have set the stage for a big push on the city, which command-



Displaced children, who fled from the Islamic State violence, are seen at Debaga Camp in the Makhmour area near Mosul, Iraq, on 30 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ers say could start by late October.

Whether Islamic State makes a final stand in Mosul or slips away to fight another day remains in question, but Baghdad expects a fierce battle and the international coalition backing it is preparing for one.

The densely populated river valley may hold obstacles for the military, though Islamic State appears to be putting up relatively little resistance, possibly to conserve fighters

for a showdown in Mosul where their forces are estimated at between 3,000 and 9,000.

Hardcore fighters have likely slipped out already through the desert and into Syria, while many top leaders and foreign fighters have been killed in targeted air strikes, according to Major General Najm al-Jabouri, the Mosul operation's commander.

He told Reuters that victory by year's end would be easy, in keeping with pledges by Prime Minister

Haider al-Abadi.

"We will go to Mosul, they will go to Tel Afar. We will go to Tel Afar, they will go to Baaj," said Jabouri, referring to IS-controlled districts 70 km (44 miles) and 140 km (87 miles) west of Mosul, respectively, which can be used to reach Syria.

"We will go to Baaj, maybe. It depends on the situation in Syria. They can get to Syria but the situation there is not like before. It is not a safe haven for them now."—Reuters

Obama says Trump unfit for presidency, has 'outright wacky' ideas

VIENTIANE — US President Barack Obama hit back at Donald Trump on Thursday for criticising his foreign policy record, saying the Republican nominee was unfit to follow him into the Oval Office and the public should press him on his "outright wacky ideas".

Speaking in Laos at the end of the second of two Asian summits, Obama said the tycoon's lack of leadership credentials was exposed whenever he spoke and American voters were aware of that.

"I don't think the guy's qualified to be president of the United States, and every time he speaks, that opinion is confirmed," Obama told a news conference.

"The most important thing for the public and the press is to just listen to what he says and follow up and ask questions about what appear to be either contradictory or uninformed, or outright wacky, ideas."

Trump declared on Wednesday during a televised forum attended by mil-



US President Barack Obama boards Air Force One to depart at the conclusion of his participation in the ASEAN Summits, from Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, Laos, on 8 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

itary veterans that Russian President Vladimir Putin had been a better leader than Obama.

Trump said the progress of US military generals had been stymied, or "reduced to rubble" with Obama as commander-in-chief and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton as his first sec-

tary of state. It was the first time Trump and Clinton had squared off on the same stage since securing their nominations in July.

Obama said he believed his foreign policy legacy would be one of success, particularly his so-called "rebalance" to Asia. He said Asian leaders would be puz-

zled by Trump's remarks, and Americans would know who to choose as president on 8 November.

"I have confidence that if, in fact, people just listen to what he had to say, look at his track record or lack thereof, that they'll make a good decision," he said. — Reuters

Mistrust of vaccines is greatest in France

LONDON — Public confidence in immunisation varies widely across the world with the French the most sceptical about the safety of vaccines, according to a survey published on Friday.

With outbreaks of measles, whooping cough and other infectious diseases occurring in recent years in places where the take-up of vaccinations has been low, the scientists behind the survey said its insights could help policymakers tackle such problems.

The study took views from almost 66,000 people across 67 countries about whether they consider vaccines important, safe, effective and compatible with their religious beliefs.

France — the birthplace of immunology pioneer Louis Pasteur — was the country least confident of vaccine safety, with 41 per cent of those surveyed disagreeing that vaccines are safe, more than three

times the global average of 12 per cent. Europe had six other countries among the 10 least trusting — Bosnia & Herzegovina, Russia, Ukraine, Greece, Armenia and Slovenia. Publishing their findings in the *journal EBioMedicine*, researchers led by Heidi Larson of the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine said negative attitudes may be due to controversies over suspected side-effects and hesitancy among some family doctors. Public trust in immunisation is an important global health issue, with lack of trust leading people to turn down potentially life-saving vaccines.

Vaccine refusal has been linked to outbreaks of diseases such as measles in the United States, Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa in recent years, and has also caused serious setbacks to global ambitions to eradicate polio. — Reuters



A nurse vaccinates a patient as part of the start of the seasonal influenza vaccination campaign in Nice, southeastern France, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Three suspected female militants seized in France, policeman stabbed

BOUSSY-SAINT-ANTOINE/PARIS — Three women arrested on Thursday in connection with a car laden with gas cylinders found abandoned near Paris's Notre Dame cathedral were likely planning an imminent attack, French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said.

The minister said one of the women had stabbed a police officer during the arrest before being shot and wounded. A source close to the investigation said the attacker was the missing 19-year-old daughter of the car's owner.

The discovery on Saturday night of the Peugeot 607 loaded with seven gas cylinders, six of them full,

prompted a counter-terrorism investigation in a country where militants have killed more than 230 people in attacks since January, 2015.

Police sources said no detonator had been found, though the vehicle also contained three jerry cans of diesel fuel, adding to concerns that there had been a plan to explode the car.

"These three women aged 39, 23 and 19 had been radicalised, were fanatics and were in all likelihood preparing an imminent, violent act," Cazeneuve said in a televised statement.

Seven people have now been detained since Tuesday in connection with the investigation. — Reuters

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for Cooperation Joint Venture at No. 21 Heavy Industry (Thaton) under No.2 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

No. 21 Heavy Industry (Thaton) under No.2 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry are intended to cooperate with Local and Foreign entrepreneurs as JV in production of Tyre and Rubber Based Products.

As a first step, Companies who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) not later than 3 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), on 30 September 2016 to **Planning Department, No.2 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No.41, Naypyitaw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.**

Interested entities can take over the EOI Form and other indications at above office commencing from 12-9-2016 by presenting the document of company profile. Document of company profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Record and Regulation of Company
- Name of Foreign's Technical Cooperator

(For more information: 067-408372, 067-408298)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINES**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ()

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MALACCA STAR VOY. NO ()

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Iranian oil output stagnates for third month amid OPEC bargaining

LONDON — Iran's steep oil output growth has stalled in the past three months, new data showed, suggesting Tehran might be struggling to fulfill its plans to raise production to new highs while demanding to be excluded from any OPEC deals on supply curbs.

Iran's oil output soared to 3.64 million barrels per

day in June from an average of 2.84 million bpd in 2015 following the easing of Western sanctions on Tehran in January, adding to a global crude glut which has slashed oil prices.

But since June, output has stagnated and reached just 3.63 million bpd in August, according to fresh OPEC data based on secondary sources, which

include consultants and industry media, and seen by Reuters. Iran also told OPEC it produced 3.63 million bpd in August, according to an OPEC source.

Iran became the main stumbling block to an initiative by OPEC and non-OPEC Russia earlier this year to freeze output globally. Tehran said it needed to first regain market share

lost while it was under sanctions.

OPEC's largest producer Saudi Arabia insisted all nations should join and the freeze deal collapsed in April.

As Russia and Saudi Arabia are trying to revive the effort to prop up prices again, Iran has signaled it was more willing to co-operate when OPEC and

non-OPEC producers meet in Algiers on 26-28 September. But it stopped short of saying it would join the freeze.

"This (production levels) is a million-dollar question," said a source familiar with Iranian thinking. "The shuttle diplomacy is going on to clear which level is considered an aim for Iran."—Reuters



Toshihiro Nikai, secretary general of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, speaks during the opening ceremony of the Viet Nam Japan University in Hanoi, on 9 September 2016.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Paradise lost: study documents big decline in Earth's wilderness

WASHINGTON — Unspoiled lands are disappearing from the face of the Earth at an alarming pace, with about 10 per cent of wilderness regions — an area double the size of Alaska — lost in the past two decades amid unrelenting human development, researchers said on Thursday.

South America, which lost 30 per cent of its wilderness during that period, and Africa, which lost 14 per cent, were the continents hardest hit, they said. The main driver of the global losses was destruction of wilderness for agriculture, logging and mining.

The researchers' study, published in the journal *Current Biology*, was the latest to document the impact of human activities on a global scale, affecting Earth's climate, landscape, oceans, natural resources and wildlife.

The researchers mapped the world's wilderness areas, excluding Antarctica, and compared the results with a 1993 map that used the same methods.

They found that 11.6 million square miles (30.1 million square km) remain worldwide as wilderness, defined as biologically and ecologically intact regions



The Tsirku River winds through forest as seen in an aerial view near Haines, in southwestern Alaska, US in 2014.

PHOTO: REUTERS

without notable human disturbance. Since the 1993 estimation, 1.3 million square miles (3.3 million square km) of wilderness disappeared, they determined.

"This is incredibly sad because we can't offset or restore these places. Once they are gone, they are gone, and this has shocking implications for biodi-

versity, for climate change and for the most imperiled biodiversity on the planet," said conservationist James Watson of the University of Queensland in Australia and the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York.

The wilderness losses in the past two decades comprised a combined area about half the size of South America's vast Amazon

region.

Watson, who led the study, said about a quarter of the planet's land surface remains wilderness, particularly in central Africa, the Amazon region, northern Australia, the United States, Canada and Russia. The losses in the past two decades were most acute in the Amazon region and central Africa.

"We need to focus on quality of habitat and keeping some places on Earth that are largely untouched by us," Watson said. "We are running out of time and we are running out of space. If society asked the question — 'What does Nature need?' — these places would become a global priority for environmental action."—Reuters

Japan-backed university opens in Hanoi

HANOI — A university jointly backed by Japan and Viet Nam as a symbol of their friendship and co-operation held an opening ceremony in Hanoi on Friday.

Tokyo and Hanoi have prepared for launching the Viet Nam Japan University since Viet Nam asked Japan in 2009 for help in setting up a high-quality facility.

At the university, Japanese instructors will teach Vietnamese students based on the curricula of coordinating universities in Japan, to help strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

Established in Hanoi, Viet Nam Japan University started with master's programmes in six fields, ranging from public policy to area studies and business administration.

Motoo Furuta, a professor emeritus of the University of Tokyo and an expert on modern Vietnamese history, became the new university's dean.

While it has not yet been decided when undergraduate courses will start, Furuta said he hopes to have some courses established by 2020.—Kyodo News

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

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MV ESM CREMONA VOY. NO ()

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AGENT FOR: M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ()

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185



Actress Natalie Portman attends the red carpet for the movie 'Planetarium' at the 73rd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on 8 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Relationships between women a mystery to men, says 'spiritualist' Portman

VENICE — Relationships between women remain a mystery to men, US-Israeli actress Natalie Portman said at the Venice film festival on Thursday, adding her voice to calls for the movie industry to employ more female directors.

Portman spoke while presenting "Planetarium", a drama in which she and Lily-Rose Depp play two spiritualists in late 1930s France who are also sisters. Screening in the out-of-competition section in Venice, it is directed by Rebecca Zlotowski.

"It's crazy that in 25 years of making films this is the first time I've been in a feature directed by a woman," the 35-year-old actress told a news conference ahead of the movie's premiere.

Portman said there were no inherent differences between female and male directors but opportunities for women — at least in the United States — were far fewer.

That in turn affected how stories were told, she said, with little regard to relationships between women which were "central to any women's existence but of course invisible to any male imagination of female life".

This year's edition of the world's oldest film festival features several strong female leads,

including Amy Adams in thrillers "Arrival" and "Nocturnal Animals", Dakota Fanning in survival epic "Brimstone" and Portman again as first lady Jacqueline Kennedy in drama "Jackie".

But just two of the 20 movies vying for the coveted Golden Lion to be awarded on Saturday are directed by women; Ana Lily Amirpour's "The Bad Batch" and Martina Parenti's "Spira Mirabilis", which she co-directed with Massimo D'Anolfi.

Portman, who won an Oscar for her role in ballet thriller "Black Swan" and made her own directorial debut with drama "A Tale of Love and Darkness", said she enjoyed working with 17-year-old Depp, the daughter of maverick actor Johnny.

"It's always a joy when you get to work with another woman on set and not be 'one of the boys', which is what you get used to as an actress in the US," she said. Depp, said she was attracted to her role because of the character's strength and depth, unusual in a cinematic portrayal of a young woman.

"She knows things that the adults surrounding her don't know ... she's strong because of that and she defends her family, she takes care of her sister," Depp said.—Reuters

French actor Belmondo says has done all he wanted in life

VENICE — Veteran French actor Jean-Paul Belmondo said on Thursday he had done everything he wanted in life as he accepted the Venice film festival's Golden Lion for lifetime achievement.

The charismatic 83-year-old star, best known for movies such as the 1964 hit "L'Homme de Rio" (That Man from Rio), received a long standing ovation as he walked on stage, leaning on a cane, to receive the coveted award.

Asked before the ceremony whether there was anything else he wanted to have experimented with, Belmondo smiled and said wistfully:

"Yes, I understand. I would say I've done everything I wanted to. I love the sun. I love the sea, voila," he told reporters.

"It's a great feeling, I'm very happy and really honored to be here in Venice."

Belmondo said he hadn't always known he wanted to be an actor. As a young man, the Frenchman trained to become a professional boxer, but then got involved in theater from where his acting career took off, lasting more than half a century.

While he has done a lot of work in French auteur cinema, many think of him today as a star of action films, where he almost always insisted on doing his own stunts.

Asked which of the two he preferred, he said there was time for both. "I had fun doing both types of roles. Both are good. One day you laugh and the next day you cry, that's how it is," he said.—Reuters



Jean-Paul Belmondo (R) and Sophie Marceau (L). PHOTO: REUTERS

Western remake 'The Magnificent Seven' opens Toronto Film Festival

TORONTO — A merry band of outlaws and hired hands kicks off the Toronto International Film Festival on Thursday in "The Magnificent Seven," leading a slew of action films and intimate true stories vying for early buzz leading into Hollywood's annual awards season.

While the cast of Sony Pictures' remake of its 1960 namesake is far more ethnically diverse than the original, director Antoine Fuqua said he was not trying to make a statement on diversity when casting for the film.

"I just wanted to see Denzel Washington on a horse," he said at a news conference. "We just made our film based on the world we live in right now."

Washington also deflected questions about race, saying that "what people get from it depends on what they bring to it."

The film once again pairs Washington with Fuqua after working on 2001's "Training Day," for which Washington won a best actor Oscar, and 2014's



Actor Byung-hun Lee attends a press conference to promote the film The Magnificent Seven at TIFF the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, on 8 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The Equalizer."

"Obviously it was a good story and a good script. But most importantly it was Antoine," Washington said, on what drew him to the project.

The tale follows a band of out-

laws who come together to defend a gold mining town from murderous baron Bartholomew Bogue (Peter Sarsgaard) after a widowed young woman vows revenge for her dead husband.

The film is led by Washington's bounty hunter Sam Chisholm, who brings together alcoholic gambler Josh Farraday (Chris Pratt), sharpshooter Goodnight Robicheaux (Ethan Hawke) and his knife-throwing comrade Billy Rocks (Byung-hun Lee).

They are joined by bear-like tracker Jack Horne (Vincent D'Onofrio), Mexican outlaw Vasquez (Manuel Garcia-Rulfo) and Native American warrior Red Harvest (Martin Sensmeier).

The 10-day Toronto International Film Festival, now in its 41st year, has often been the launching pad for awards films such as "12 Years a Slave," "The King's Speech" and last year's "Spotlight" all gaining critical praise and momentum at the event before going on to win the Academy Award for best picture.—Reuters

Love stories are not my comfort zone: Sidharth

NEW DELHI — He may have gained popularity with his lover boy image but actor Sidharth Malhotra does not believe that love stories are his comfort zone.

The 31-year-old star, who will next be seen in a romantic drama "Baar Baar Dekho", says for him it is more about the story than how easily he can play his part.

"Love stories are not my comfort zone. I have only done two of them. I have also done one action film. I haven't found my comfort zone. It's more about stories for me. If I have a new story to tell and to be a part of, I would do that," Sidharth told PTI in an interview.

"Like 'Kapoor & Sons', it was a family drama done in a new way. Similarly, I've done 'Baar Baar Dekho' which is again very unique with a concept of time. Trying something new is my comfort zone."

Sidharth, who made his Bollywood debut with Karan Johar's "Student of The Year", is often called Dharma production's blue-eyed boy. When asked about it,

he said, "There is no pressure."

Dharma is one of the best production houses. "At the most Dharma has co-produced my films. But people will not understand that technicality which is fine and I feel happy that I have got this chance as people are dying to work with them."

The actor also revealed that he has a huge crush on his "Baar Baar Dekho" co-star, Katrina, saying working with her in the movie was a dream come true.

"Our chemistry is very good in the film because once you work with a girl that you have a crush on and you are actually doing a romantic film with her so all your fantasies come true in some way as you could say romantic lines to her, dance with her and that is what exactly happened."

"I also got to learn a lot from her as being at this position and the kind of experience she has, she never takes it for granted. She is really hard working as she starts from zero in every scene and every project. It's a very committed quality that she has," he said.—PTI

Conveyor belt sushi restaurant opens in North Korean capital

PYONGYANG/BEIJING, — A major sushi restaurant, featuring a conveyor belt to bring small plates of food to customers, has opened in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

A day after the formal opening of the two-storied restaurant, it was disclosed to Kyodo News on Wednesday, with its manager, Choe Un Hui, saying that its goal is to become a favorite place for local

people to visit.

The restaurant, which offers about 30 menu items, is located near the central part of the capital. The first floor has more than 100 seats and the upstairs has a conveyor-belt sushi counter, using a touch screen ordering system, as well as private rooms.

There are several places in Pyongyang where people can enjoy sushi, but

it is still rare to see a conveyor-belt sushi restaurant.

The manager said securing fresh fish is fundamentally important for a sushi restaurant.

In North Korea, however, flash-freezing equipment is not yet common and many types of fish used for sushi are imported from China, according to restaurant operators in Pyongyang. —Kyodo News



A customer (L) is assisted in placing orders with a touch panel at a newly opened sushi restaurant in Pyongyang on 7 September 2016. The two-story restaurant is equipped with a rotating conveyor belt to carry sushi to customers, a rare facility in the North Korean capital. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

China win seven gold medals on opening day

RIO DE JANEIRO — China claimed seven gold medals to top the standings after the first day of competition at the Rio Paralympics on Thursday.

Four of the victories came in swimming with others in shooting, judo and athletics. China also secured nine silver and four bronze medals to end the day with 20 podium finishes.

Britain were the next most successful team with five gold medals, followed by Uzbekistan with three.

Two of China's swimming gold medals were secured with world record performances: Zheng Tao in the men's 100m backstroke S6 and Song Lingling in the women's 100m backstroke S6.

Zheng clocked 1 minute 10.84 seconds to eclipse the previous record set earlier in the day by his compatriot JiaHongguang by 1.43 seconds.

Jia took silver in 1:13.42 and Ukraine's IaroslavSemenenko clinched bronze in 1:15.41.

Song finished in 1 minute 21.43 seconds to



Li Liqing of China attends the medal presenting ceremony after the Women's Judo 48KG gold medal contest of Rio 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 8 September 2016. Li Liqing won the gold. PHOTO: XINHUA

beat her own world record of 1:24.66. China's Lu Dong took silver, 22 hundredths of a second behind her compatriot, with the Ukraine's Oksana Khrul claiming bronze in 1:26.82.

Other swimming gold medals for China were won by Zhang Li in the women's 200m freestyle S5 and KeLiting won gold in the women's 100m backstroke S7.

Zhang clocked 2:48.33 seconds, 2.58 seconds ahead of Spain's Teresa Perales, with Norway's Sarah Louise Rung taking bronze in 2:51.37.

Ke touched the wall in 1:23.06 to beat compatriot Zhang Ying by just 28 hundredths of a second. New Zealand's Rebecca Dubber clinched bronze in 1:23.85.

In athletics, world record holder Huang Lisha won her third straight Paralympic 100m T53 title, beating fellow Chinese athlete Zhou Hongzhan in the final.

Huang crossed the line in 16.28 seconds, 23 hundredths of a second faster than Zhou. Australia's Angela Ballard claimed bronze in 16.59.

It was Huang's sixth Paralympic Games gold medal.

"I feel proud and really happy to have this gold and achieve this glory for my country," said the 27-year-old, whose impairment was a result of polio.

"Our country really supports us and I'll see

what happens in the future. If I continue training I might still improve and get a new record."

China's Li Liqing won the women's judo -48kg title by defeating Germany's defending champion Carmen Brüssig by ippon.

Li, 23, shed tears of joy after securing her first Paralympic Games gold medal.

"It means so much to me," said Li, who has visual impairment. "I have been with my coach Zhang Guifu for seven years. He is like a father to me. That is why it was so emotional. He taught me everything. I owe this gold medal to him."

And in shooting, China's Dong Chao successfully defended his Paralympic 10m air rifle standing SH1 title by holding off Abdullah Sultan Alaryani of the United Arab Emirates.

Dong secured the gold medal with 205.8 points, beating Alaryani by just 3.2 points. Korea's Kim Suwan took bronze with 181.7 points.—Xinhua

'Go directly to a homeless shelter': game gives taste of life on the street

BRUSSELS — If being sent to jail without passing 'Go' or winning second prize in a beauty contest make "Monopoly" feel oddly detached from real life, a new board game - about homelessness - gives a more realistic taste of the cruel twists of fate.

"While you slept at a homeless shelter, someone stole all your money," reads one card in the game "Outside".

Unlike "Monopoly", where players compete to be property tycoons, "Outside" simulates the hardships of life on the street.

The game's developers, who presented a prototype last weekend at the Brussels Games Festival, hope it can educate people about what it is like to live without a home, including the occasional turn of good luck. "You help a tourist find his way to a hotel, to thank you he gives you 50 euros," reads one of the cards, all of which are based on homeless people's real experiences.

"I want the game to re-

flect reality as much as possible, which is why we've been collaborating as much as possible with homeless people to create this game.", said Lea Aubrit, who interviewed dozens of homeless people as research for "Outside".

Navigating the board as a homeless person, players have the option to visit locations such as help organisations, the hospital or the police station. The end goal is to find a job and housing.

"We want to take the game to schools as a tool to raise awareness about the hardships of living on the streets," Patrice Rousseau, a former homeless person working on the project, told Reuters. "People have all sorts of prejudices about homeless people, that we are lazy and dirty and so on," he said, expressing hope the game would give "a better understanding of what life on the street is like and how once you're there, it's really not easy to get back on your feet." —Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(10-9-2016, Saturday)

06:00	Pm	Weather Report
06:30	Pm	X Sports
06:50	Pm	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-I)
07:05	Pm	MRTV Entertainment Music
08:05	Pm	Cassette Recordings
08:20	Pm	MRTV Entertainment Music
10:15	Pm	Live: Premier League "Burnley Vs Hall City"
10:25	Pm	International Movie Songs
10:25	Pm	Myanmar Movie
(00:00 Am ~ 02:25 Am) Transmission (Repeat-06:00 Pm ~ 08:20Pm)		
02:25	Am	International Movie
04:15	Am	International Movie Songs
04:25	Am	Myanmar Movie
(06:00 Am ~ 08:25 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 08:25 Pm)		
08:25	Am	Myanmar Movie
10:05	Am	International Movie Songs
10:10	Am	International Movie
(12:00 Pm ~ 04:10 Pm) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Am ~ 08:25 Am)		
04:10	Pm	Pyi Thu Ni Ti
04:35	Pm	Cartoon Movie "Dante's Inferno"

From 10-9-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 pm
To 10-9-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 pm



Myanmar International

(10-9-2016 07:00am ~ 11-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon- The Historic Bells
07:39	Am	Visiting A Serene Village In The North west of Myanmar
07:54	Am	Waso or the Buddhist Lent
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Lantern Floating Festival in Kyauk Kyi Township
08:41	Am	Mt. Naw Bu Baw
08:51	Am	Creations of a Designer: Fashion
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Trend Of Kachin Dress
09:53	Am	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Next Generation "May Melody"

10:36 Am Reflected Glory

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue "To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung)" (Part-1)
07:50	Pm	Now in Yangon
07:55	Pm	Today Myanmar: YCDC's Efforts for Granting Land Plots
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Hanthawaddy U Win Tin "A Fearless Man" (Episode - 1)
08:48	Pm	Myanmar Master Class: Artist Tin Win (Beikthano)

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

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

Serena stunned by Pliskova in US Open semis



NEW YORK — For the second straight year Serena Williams saw her bid for a seventh US Open title halted in the semi-finals with a 6-2, 7-6(5) loss to Karolina Pliskova on Thursday that also ended her long reign as world number one.

A year ago Williams went into the semi-finals on the cusp of a rare calendar-year grand slam but was the victim of one of the biggest upsets in tennis history when Roberta Vinci, a 300-to-1 longshot, prevailed. This year it was Czech 10th seed Pliskova, who until this week had never played beyond the third round of a grand slam, delivering the upset as she swept Williams off an Arthur Ashe Stadium court she claims as her own in one hour, 26 minutes. "I don't believe it. Actually, I do be-

lieve it," Pliskova said in a court-side interview. "I always knew I have a chance to beat anybody if I'm playing my game.

"But this is something amazing.

"Serena, she's a champion so it's never easy to play her. You saw even when she was down a break she's still fighting so it's very hard."

There was no calendar-year grand slam up for grabs this year but history continued to beckon Williams, who would have stood alone as greatest grand slam champion in the professional era if she had claimed a 23rd title and moved past Steffi Graf.

And while there was no title to win on this day Williams stepped onto the court

with something to lose.

After 186 consecutive weeks as the world's top-ranked player, Williams, who needed to reach the final to have any chance of retaining top spot, will relinquish the ranking to An-

gelique Kerber.

Pliskova will now take on Kerber in Saturday's final after the second seeded German beat Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-3. After a punishing three-set quarter-final against Simona Halep on the same court 24 hours early, Williams appeared sluggish against the towering Czech.

But a clearly annoyed Williams refused to use fatigue as an excuse for her loss and instead blamed her sluggishness more on left knee problems that limited her mobility. "OK, I'm not going to repeat myself. I wasn't tired from yesterday's match," said Williams. "If I can't turn around after 24 hours and play

again then I shouldn't be on tour.

"I have been having some serious left knee problems. I wasn't tired. Fatigue had absolutely nothing to do with it.

"I wasn't able to move the way I wanted to move."

With the two biggest hitters in women's tennis standing across from each other the match was expected to be an explosive affair filled with booming serves.

Williams opened the contest with an ace but in the end it was the American's serve that ultimately let her down as she committed six double faults, including the deciding point in the tiebreak. Pliskova, who has led the WTA Tour in aces the last two seasons, kept the 34-year-old American under pressure almost from the start and had break chances on all but one of Williams' service games in the first set and converting twice.—Reuters

Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic plays Serena Williams of the USA on day eleven of the 2016 US Open tennis tournament on 8 September.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Rejuvenated Fellaini determined to repay Mourinho's faith

LONDON — Manchester United midfielder Marouane Fellaini has vowed to repay manager Jose Mourinho's faith in him by making a big impression in Saturday's derby against rivals Manchester City.

The Belgian has often been singled out for criticism from the Old Trafford faithful ever since he followed former manager Da-

vid Moyes to United from Everton in 2013.

His troubles did not ease during Louis van Gaal's ill-fated reign, but the 28-year-old has been given a fresh lease of life under Mourinho, playing every minute of United's three Premier League games so far this season.

"Louis van Gaal trusted me, I played a lot of games. This sea-

son, though, I'm playing in my position and I feel the trust of the manager," Fellaini told Sky Sports.

"He has given me confidence and I will give everything. (Mourinho) has had a big impact on me because when someone trusts you 200 per cent you have to repay that."

Fellaini added that the team were fired up for the derby on Saturday, a game that will also see Mourinho renew his touch-line rivalry with old foe Pep Guardiola in the opposition dug-out.

"Everyone wants to play these games, it's a big game, a derby and everyone in the world will watch this game so it is an important game for both teams," Fellaini said.

"When you play against Liverpool and City the tension is there but I think it is very big this season because there are new managers and players.

"There will be a lot of challenges, the crowd will be behind us so it will be a good game."—Reuters



Manny Pacquiao & Jessie Vargas during the press conference at Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills, on 8 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pacquiao made retirement U-turn to continue his 'journey'

BEVERLY HILLS, (California) — While Manny Pacquiao's political career became a priority after he announced his "retirement" from the ring in April, he says the lure of continuing his journey in boxing ultimately led to his comeback.

Seven months after defeating American Timothy Bradley in Las Vegas in his much trumpeted farewell to the sport, the Filipino southpaw will return to the same city in November to challenge World Boxing Organisation welterweight champion Jessie Vargas. Though Pacquiao is an eight-division world cham-

pion and one of the greatest boxers ever, the whole experience of preparing for that 5 November fight feels strange as he will be competing for the first time as an elected senator in his homeland.

"This is very different," a smartly dressed Pacquiao, 37, told Reuters after holding a joint news conference with American Vargas in the chic surroundings of The Beverly Hills Hotel.

"This is my first fight since I was elected as a senator and it's a big challenge for me to try to get the belt and become a champion again, to win the fight as a senator.—Reuters



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho and Marouane Fellaini line up with the Premier League trophy before the match, FA Community Shield, at Wembley Stadium, on 7 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS