

State Counsellor arrives in New York

PAGE 3



Senior General observes tree-planting ceremony

PAGE 9



Environmental education is not advocacy

PAGE 8

TALK AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Political dialogue framework reviewed for national-level dialogue

THE framework for political dialogue was reviewed at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday as part of ongoing efforts to organise national-level political dialogues this year.

Union Political Dialogue Joint Committee Secretary Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong said the meeting focused on what sections of the agenda should be treated ethnically, regionally and topically at the launch of the national-level political dialogue.

According to him, participants at the meeting agreed to make no change to the five sectors and ten points included in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

The outcomes of the national-level dialogue will be discussed at the Union Political Dialogue Joint Committee, whose final outcomes will be brought to the Union Peace Conference for further discussion.

A nine-member work committee has been formed to begin the national-level dialogue, with three representatives each from the government, political parties and ethnic armed organisations.

The national-level dialogue is expected to commence in January as the Union Peace Conference is reportedly scheduled for February.

According to Dr Salai Lian



Union Political Dialogue Joint Committee meeting in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Hmung Sakhong, plans are underway to hold the first national-level dialogue this year.

The meeting drew representatives from the government, ethnic armed groups and political

parties and agreed on NCA-based points that would pave the way for the national-level political

dialogue, Dr Tin Myo Win said. —Zaw Gyi (Panita) and Min Thit (MNA)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Thilawa SEZ in Thanlyin



VP being briefed in Thilawa SEZ. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR Special Economic Zone Central Body Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio went on an inspection tour of the Thilawa SEZ in Thanlyin township, Yangon, yesterday.

Thilawa SEZ Management Committee Chairman U Set Aung briefed the vice president on work in progress within Zone-A and tasks to be completed in Zone-B.

According to Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Ltd (MJTD)'s President and CEO Mr Takashi Yanai, 79 companies from 17 countries have invested in the zone.

Deputy Minister for Elec-

tricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing briefed the Vice President on construction currently under way of generators and the installation of power lines to supply sufficient electricity to the zone.

Officials reported on development projects and the construction of transport infrastructure within the zone.

After hearing briefings, Vice President U Henry Van Thio stressed the need for the systematic handling of land issues, a reliable supply of electricity, environmental conservation, better transport infrastructure, timely completion of the projects and worksite safety.

During the inspection tour, the Vice President was led by officials to the One-Stop Service Centre and to Foster, a Japanese company that produces speakers.

Myanmar and Japan entered into an agreement on 29 October 2013 to implement the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, with Zone-A being brought into operation on 23 September 2015. Construction of Phase One of Zone-B is expected to start in November of this year.

According to officials, Zones A and B, when both completed, will be able to house up to 150 factories and employ 40,000 workers. —Myanmar News Agency

House in Laukkai hit by RPG

AN explosion occurred in a house in the town of Laukkai, northern Shan State, on Thursday, officials said.

According to reports, the house belongs to the former leader of the Kokang self-administered zone. A search of the damaged house led to the

discovery of five pieces of a propelled explosive round. Further investigation revealed that the projectile had been launched from a hill one mile northwest of Laukkai and that the pieces belonged to a 107mm rocket launcher.

Military columns and po-

lice forces, acting on a tip-off regarding suspicious packages found around a hill two miles northwest of Laukkai, discovered night-vision binoculars, 107mm rocket launchers and grenades.

Local security troops are patrolling the area.—Myawady



The 107 mm rocket launchers seen. PHOTO: MYAWADY



Map showing the location of explosion.

PHOTO: MYAWADY



Scraps of rocket launchers. PHOTO: MYAWADY



Ammunition seized. PHOTO: MYAWADY



Time control devices linked to 207 mm launcher rockets.

PHOTO: MYAWADY



Police immaculate monastery, hospital in honour of 52nd Police Force Day

HIGHWAY police, security police and their families carried out sanitation works at a monastery and a hospital in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday in commemoration of the 52nd Myanmar Police

Force Day, which falls on 1 October.

Pol Col Zaw Tun Aung led 150 highway police officers and their families to carry out immaculation works in the compound

of the Thanti Thukha monastery, while Pol Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko sanitised the 1,000-bed hospital in the capital city together with 230 police officers. —*Than Oo (Lay Myet Hnar)*

Myanmar can apply for NUS IT programme

GRADUATED Myanmar students have been invited to apply for entrance to a programme that would lead to a graduate diploma in systems analysis at the National University of Singapore, according to the Crown Education.

Qualified students may apply for stipends plus 90 per cent of a tuition grant scheme from the Singaporean government to undertake the 13-month course that includes a 5-month industrial

attachment under NUS-iSS. During the diploma course, students will pursue courses including advanced web and mobile web application design and development, Java programming and android application development, and user requirement gathering and presentations offered by experts.

After the course, those students will join an intensive programme at international compa-

nies such as BMW, Coca Cola, Singapore Airlines, Resort World Sentosa, OCBC and UOB banks.

Postgraduate students may send their application forms not later than 7 October this year to sit for an aptitude test organised by Singaporean academicians.

For more information, dial 01 527 838, 09 732 732 77 and 09 732 56 395 of Crown Education Yangon office. — *Myit-makha News Agency*

State Counsellor arrives New York



State Counsellor being welcomed upon arrival in New York. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived New York by train at 3.45pm after leaving Washington at 12.55pm, officials

said. The State Counsellor and her entourage were welcomed at Penn Station by Permanent Rep-

resentative of Myanmar to the United Nations U Hau Do Suan and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Rubbish-burning power plant to open next year

A RUBBISH-burning power plant will begin operating next February in Shwe Pyi Thar township, Yangon region. Construction is currently at 80 per cent completion, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

The plant will burn 60 tonnes of rubbish per day and produce

700KW of electricity. From this total, 400 KW will be used to run the factory and another 300KW will be dedicated to the power grid.

“The rubbish-burning power plant will begin operating next February and officially open next April.” said U Aung Myint Maw, assistant chief engineer of the

Pollution Control & Cleansing Department of the Yangon City Development Committee.

The Japanese government contributed \$ 8 million to the project while the Myanmar government provided another \$ 8 million. The factory will be the first of its kind in the country.—200

Electricity comes to village in Meiktila

A VILLAGE-tract in Meiktila township of Mandalay Region has gained access to electricity as a result of self-reliant efforts.

The villagers of Aleiywa now have access to electricity as part of a joint electrification effort made by the government, local people and well-wishers. The village installed 6.5 miles of 11KV power lines and two 200KVA transformers at the cost of K120 million.

At the ceremony, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung and officials pressed the button to start the transformer to supply electricity to houses in the village.

The chief minister described electricity as crucial for the de-

velopment of the economy, education and health, saying that the success of industrial development rests with the availability of electricity.

He also spoke of the government’s commitment to maintaining a sufficient supply of electricity across the country, urging local residents to make the best use of electricity for the development of their community.

U Win Htein, CEC member of the National League for Democracy, called for the use of electricity in enterprises that would enhance socioeconomic development. Meiktila township has 379 villages, of which 275 have access to electricity.—*Myanmar News Agency*



The power station being formally opened by officials. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Building jetty connection in Thilawa proposed

ACCORDING to an authority from the department of Thilawa port, the port has submitted a proposal for the building of an international level jetty to local and foreign businessmen.

“The cost would be very high as the jetty bridge must be

built according to international standards. This is why we have opened the project to international businesses who can bring large budgets.

The port believes that companies with relevant experiences will come and join the

project.” said an authorised person speaking on behalf of Thilawa port.

The jetty bridge will be 590 metres long and 30 metres wide. Construction will begin at the end of this fiscal year.—200

Donors invited to renovate Bagan Pagoda

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

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

Cash donations can be made to following departmental officials:

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

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

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

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

—*Myanmar News Agency*

Plan to add conductorless buses to 45 bus lines announced

ACCORDING to the owner of a bus company with a fleet of 45 buses, more vehicles will soon be added as the testing of the 45 buses without conductors proved to be successful.

“We have plans to run those

buses from Danyingon junction to Sule’, the owner added.

On the new generation of buses the driver has a wireless microphones system while travelers have to pay their fare by putting money into a basket.—*Thiri*

Investment project plans in Mon State stalled by need for Union approval

THE Union government has not yet approved any new investment projects in Mon state despite strong requests from local and foreign businesses, according to Mon state's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Transportation.

"Many local and foreign companies come and meet very often with our government because they want to invest in Mon state. But, our government has not permitted any of them until now," said U Tun Htay, Mon State's Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Transportation.

Under the new government, over 100 organisations including social support organisations, NGO and INGOs and foreign and local investors have met with the Mon state government.

The State government alone is unable to make binding deci-

sions on investment opportunities. Businesses need to submit proposals to the Union government. When the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) permits action, the state government has the right to approve proposals.

The minister said that potential investors need to consider the local electricity supply because the Mon state government cannot provide enough electricity for industry at the moment.

Local and foreign investors have shown interest in the transportation sector, factories sector and other development sectors of Mon state. Businesses from Germany, US, UK, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan come to meet with the Mon State government, it has been learned.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister visits Kawthaung



Taninthayi Region Chief Minister delivering a speech. PHOTO: BOKEPYIN (IPRD)

TANINTHAYI Region Chief Minister Daw Lei Lei Maw Thein, accompanied by ministers of the Taninthayi Region Government and regional level departmental officials, visited Kawthaung on Thursday.

The Chief Minister and party met with departmental officials of Kawthaung District and Bokepyin township in the hall of Bokepyin township Administration Department in Bokepyin.

At the meeting, township level officials from the respective departments reported on education, health, forest, agriculture and livestock, road and bridge and on the prevention and elimination of narcotic drug abuse and trafficking.

Next, the Chief Minister heard reports on respective sectors of the district and township officials and attended to their needs.

The chief minister suggested that priority be given to the fight against narcotic drugs in the villages on the islands in Bokepyin township, that department officials co-operate with the people in treatment for drug addiction and that responsible organisations make a combined effort to co-operate with local people in their efforts to conserve local forest reserves and natural mangrove forests.—*Bokepyin (IPRD)*

Crime NEWS

Yaba seized in Kyauktalone

LOCAL police from Kyauktalone seized 2,800 yaba pills from the home of one Sai Mein in Pan Loin village, Kyauktalone town on Thursday.

On the same day, police searched motorcycle driver Kyaw Naing in Myitkyina town and seized raw opium weighing 31 grams. In another case, police raided the home of one Ma Nanga Yaung on Gaw Sat Yan village, Waingmaw township and discovered raw opium weighing 3.2 kilograms.

And, police from Moemeik Myoma police station seized heroin weighing 58.2 grams from the home of one Daung Haung in Arr Than village, Moemeik town. Police have filed charg-



Criminal suspects seen together with the drugs seized. PHOTO: MPF

es against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Two passengers killed when vehicle plunges into creek

TWO passengers were killed after their vehicle dived into the Nam Lon creek near Sai Lay village, Mongphyat township, Shan (East) on



The vehicle seen plunged into the creek. PHOTO: MYINT MOH (TACHILEK)

Friday morning.

According to an investigation, the vehicle, carrying twelve passengers in total, was being driven by one U Aung Than Htay from Kengtung when it plunged into the creek after the driver lost control of the vehicle.

Emergency responders rescued the passengers and sent them to Mongphyat general hospital.

Police have opened a case into the accident presuming the driver guilty of careless driving.—*Myint Moh (Tachilek)*

Three killed, four injured in accident

A COLLISION between two motorcycles killed three people and injured four more on Thursday night near Thuwunna Wady Myo Ma market, Thaton township, Mon State.

According to an investigation, a Honda motorcycle en route to Bilin from Thaton being ridden by one Aung Mi Naing, 15, with another four passengers on the back pulled into the passing lane in an attempt to pass a vehicle. In doing so, the mo-

torcycle driver lost control and turned into the opposing lane where it collided with another motorcycle being ridden by U Kyaw Hsan Oo with Ma Wai Wai, 22, on board.

U Kyaw Hsan Oo and Ma Wai Wai died on the spot while another five men were taken to Thaton general hospital with serious injuries. One of the injured later died. The motorcycle rider has been charged by police.—*Khon (Win Pa)*



The scene of accident after collision. PHOTO: KHON (WIN PA)

Motorcycle accident kills two, injures one in Yesagy Town

A MOTORCYCLE collided head on with another motorcycle on Pakokku- Yesagy road on Wednesday, leaving two dead and one injured.

The motorcycle was being ridden by one Myo Han, 24, with Aung Myint Hswe on board. The vehicle collided with another motorcycle being driven by one Soe Lwin, 38. The reason for the col-

lision is not yet known.

The collision killed the two motorbike drivers on the spot while Aung Myint Hswe was seriously injured and is now undergoing medical treatment at Yesagy general hospital. Police have opened a case presuming careless driving to be the cause of the accident.—*Ei Mon Hswe (Yesagy)*

LOCAL Business

Myanmar moves to further boost tourism through travel event

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation organised the Myanmar International Travel Mart 2016 yesterday at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon as part of its efforts to boost the country's tourism industry.

The two-day event is the first of its kind in the country, with the federation saying that the event was aimed at promoting the tourism industry.

According to the MTF's

chairman U Thet Lwin Toe, the event did not see any participation from foreign tourism companies. He pledged to invite them to the federation's future events.

According to statistics released by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, some 3 million tourists visited the country in the period January-August. The ministry expects the number to reach close to 6 million in future.

—Ko Moe



Opening ceremony of Myanmar International Travel Mart 2016 being formally opened. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Government entreated to build new container lorry car park in Mawlamyine

THE construction of a new car park for container lorries is urgently needed in the Mon State capital of Mawlamyine as the current parking lot can no longer capacitate the burgeoning numbers of vehicles, the Motor Vehicle Supervisory Committee for Mon State has told Myitmakha News Agency.

"There's no doubt about the need for a container lorry car park in Mawlamyine. Motorcycles are regularly crashing into lorries which have had to park alongside the road as the current car park is too narrow to accommodate them.

It's exacerbating numbers of traffic accidents and always causing problems with local residents. Parking along the road also makes taking showers and going

to the toilet problematic for lorry drivers. That's why a new car park needs to be built as soon as possible," said U Kyaw Win Maung, secretary of the aforementioned committee.

Container lorries from across the country which drive into Mawlamyine park at the container lorry car park located at the entrance of the Zaycho Highway Bus Depot, but the space is rendered insufficient for the volumes of vehicles as part of it has been encroached upon to build a wholesalers trading market.

"In the past, the number of lorries here was few. These days, however, and the space allocated for the car park is no longer big enough; about three years ago, half of the land was handed over to the Mon State Chambers of

Commerce and Industry so they could use it to build an office. We have to wait around seven-to-ten days during the rainy season for up our lorries to be filled up with stock, so it's not easy for us to stay here for that length of time," U Than Win, a container lorry driver from Yangon, told Myitmakha News Agency.

The Mon State Motor Vehicle Supervisory Committee reportedly submitted a proposal to the Mon State government on September 7 entreating them to build a much needed new container lorry car park as quickly as possible.

"We know this issue needs to be solved in a timely manner. Even though we can't always conduct research and consult with the government, we will make efforts to at least solve this problem temporarily," said U Htun Htay, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Transportation for Mon State.

A proposal has also reportedly been submitted to the Mon State government for a German company to build an international-standard car park in the state capital during the incumbent government's term in office.

Records show that 390 container lorries from across Myanmar entered into Mawlamyine during the rainy-season month of August alone, with over a thousand container lorries expected to park up in the Mon State capital during the coming dry seasons.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Container lorries being seen to be parked on the road. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Talks held with China in a bid to bolster border trade

TALKS are currently being held with the Chinese government for the opening of more border trade posts, the Ministry of Commerce has told Myitmakha News Agency.

The establishment of more border trade posts, together with legalizing the importation of Myanmar's agricultural products into China, are reportedly the primary topics on the table for discussion.

"The talks are primarily focused on the issue of rice and maize from Myanmar being exported legally but not recognized as such once they arrive in China," said U Khin Maung Lwin, assistant secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

The Chinese government has reportedly requested the Myanmar Ministry of Commerce to relocate the Chinshwehaw border trading post, which facilitates trade from Shan State, due to the opening of the Yinchuan Central Economic Zone on the Chinese side of the border.

"The trade zone in Yinchuan has been opened through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As such, official talks are being held over the desire of the Chinese government for the Chinshwehaw trading post to be relocated," added U Khin Maung Lwin. "That said, we're still not sure whether trading post will end up being relocated or not as we find ourselves in a situation whereby trade can be augmented without its relocation."

The crux of the problem,

according to traders however, stems from conflicting statuses of legality over agricultural products such as rice and sugar between the government of both countries: the Myanmar Ministry of Commerce regards the goods as legal for export, upon which they are sent to China. The Chinese government, however, defines them as illegal goods, confiscating them once they arrive across the border.

"While I welcome an increase in the number of border trade posts, in that it will have better prospects for trade, volumes of trade won't just grow from that alone. The Chinese are confiscating rice, maize and sugar exported to the country from Myanmar. These activities need to be abated. Primarily, the importation of rice into China needs to be legalized. Next, the [Myanmar] government needs to request a reduction in the rate of duty on such exported goods," Dr Soe Htun, vice chair of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Among the four China - Myanmar border trade posts of Chinshwehaw, Kanpaikti, Lwejel and Muse, the majority of agricultural products, such as rice and sugar, are traded through the Muse border trade post with connects with the Chinese town of Shweli.

According to records of the Ministry of Commerce, over US\$1.9 billion of goods were traded from Myanmar to China between April - August of the current 2016-17 fiscal year.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

India loses WTO appeal in US solar dispute

GENEVA — India lost its appeal at the World Trade Organisation in a dispute over solar power on Friday, failing to overturn a US complaint that New Delhi had discriminated against importers in the Indian solar power sector.

The WTO's appeals judges upheld an earlier ruling that found India had broken WTO rules by requiring solar power developers to use Indian-made cells and modules. The appeal ruling is final and India will be expected to bring its laws into compliance with the WTO rules.

"This report is a clear victory for American solar manufacturers and workers, and another step forward in the fight against climate change," US Trade Representative Michael Froman said in a statement.

Indian officials made no immediate comment on the appeal outcome.

US solar exports to India have fallen by more

than 90 per cent since India brought in the rules, the statement said.

As in the earlier ruling, which was issued in February this year, the judges said India could not claim exemptions on the basis of that its national solar power sector was included in government procurement, nor on the basis that solar goods were in short supply.

There was also no justification on the grounds of ensuring ecologically sustainable growth or combating climate change.

The dispute, which the United States first launched in February 2013, involved an increasingly common target of trade disputes — solar power, with an increasingly common complaint — local content requirements.

The appeal ruling came just days after India launched a WTO complaint against subsidies for the solar industry in eight US states.



Security personnel sit in a boat as they patrol the premises of a newly inaugurated solar farm at Gunthawada village in Banaskantha District in Gujarat in 2011.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Under WTO rules, countries are not allowed to discriminate against imports and favour local producers, but in the past five years countries keen to support their own manufacturers have frequently resorted to local content requirements,

while keeping a sharp eye out for their use by others.

"We strongly support the rapid deployment of solar energy worldwide, including in India," Froman said. "But local content requirements are not only contrary to WTO rules,

but actually undermine our efforts to promote clean energy by requiring the use of more expensive and less efficient equipment, making it more difficult for clean energy sources to be cost-competitive."

—Reuters

Shallow quake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA — A shallow undersea quake of 5.6 magnitude jolted Papua province of Indonesia on Saturday but there was no potential for tsunami, the meteorology and geophysics agency said.

The quake struck at 08 : 20 am Jakarta Time (0120 GMT) with epicenter at 65 km north-west of Jayapura of the province and with the depth at 10 km under sea bed, an official from the the agency told Xinhua by phone.

Indonesia is prone to quake as it lies on a vulnerable quake-hit zone so called "the Pacific Ring of Fire."—Xinhua

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Twenty-two pieces of debris possible part of MH370 found so far

KUALA LUMPUR — A Malaysian official said on Friday that 22 pieces of debris have been found so far along coasts off South Africa, Mozambique, Mauritius and Tanzania, among which two have been confirmed while another four are "almost certain" to be part of the MH370 aircraft.

Malaysia's Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai made the remarks a day after a piece of debris found on the island of Pemba, off the coast of Tanzania in June this year was con-

firmed to be an inboard section of the outboard flap on Malaysia Airlines flight MH370.

According to Malaysia's state news agency Bernama, Liow said Thursday's conclusion, along with the confirmation of the plane's flap-eron, found on Reunion Island in July last year, could help investigators unravel how the incident had actually happened to the missing aircraft.

Apart from the two confirmed and the four

pieces with high possibility, Liow said the rest were hard to determine because there were no serial number nor any other details on them.

According to a summary report posted online by the Malaysian government in August, more than a dozen items of the discovered pieces are "under evaluation."

Quoting the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Liow added the drifting pattern of the debris showed that the search

operation was within the right area.

To date, the search for the missing aircraft has covered more than 110,000 square kilometres in the southern Indian Ocean, off Australia's west coast.

The government of Malaysia, Australia and China jointly announced in July that the search operation would be suspended upon completion of the current search area, but promised to resume search should new evidence emerge.—Xinhua

Nepal's new PM Prachanda holds talks with India's Modi

NEW DELHI — Nepalese Prime Minister Prachanda, who is visiting India for the first time since taking over the premiership last month, held talks here on Friday with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

The two leaders led delegation-level talks and witnessed the signing of an agreement under which India will extend a \$750 million line of credit to Nepal to aid in its reconstruction following last year's earthquake.

"I am confident that this will bring relief to millions of people affected by last year's devastating earthquake in Nepal," said Modi while addressing reporters alongside Prachanda.

India also agreed to extend an additional line of credit for new projects such as roads in southern Nepal's Terai plains, and a polytechnic institute in the Kaski district.

Prachanda said, "India's cooperation in our

infrastructure development has remained significant. I thank Modi for providing three concessional lines of credit."

Expressing concern over the negative trade balance with India, the Nepali premier said, "Currently our imports from India are 10 times higher than exports. We agreed on the need to take measures to address such imbalance, as it cannot be sustainable in the long term."

On the occasion, Pra-

chanda extended an invitation from Nepali President Bidhya Devi Bhandari to Indian President Pranab Mukherjee to visit later this year, and also personally invited Modi to visit Nepal in the near future. "We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming both the president and prime minister to Nepal in the near future," he added.

Prachanda, who arrived Thursday, is on a four-day state visit.—Kyodo News

China issues alert for second typhoon in a week

SHANGHAI — China is bracing for its second typhoon in a week after the government issued a “yellow alert” for Typhoon Malakas on Saturday, just as southeastern provinces continue to clean up after an earlier, stronger storm, state news agency Xinhua reported.

Malakas will be the 16th storm of this year’s typhoon season, coming after Typhoon Meranti made landfall in Fujian province on Thursday.

That storm killed at least 11 people in China and Taiwan and cut power to more than a million homes.

Ahead of landfall, Meranti drew a “red alert” in China’s warning system for severe weather that ranks red as most serious, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

Malakas is expected to bring heavy rains to the coasts of Zhejiang and Fujian provinces as well as parts of Taiwan from Saturday night to Sunday, Xinhua reported quoting China’s National Meteorological Centre.

Waves as high as 3.8 metres are likely in those coastal provinces and ships are advised to stay clear of the area, said China’s National Marine Envi-



Paramilitary policemen remove toppled trees after Typhoon Meranti swept through Xiamen, Fujian province, China, on 15 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ronmental Forecasting Centre.

Support teams have been sent to Zhejiang and Fujian provinces as well as the commercial hub of Shanghai to prepare aid and relief, Xinhua said.

In Taiwan, Malakas has prompted schools and companies to close and disrupted

flights and train services. No damage or casualties have been reported.

Before Meranti struck mainland China, dozens of flights and train services were cancelled, disrupting travel at the beginning of a three-day Mid-Autumn Festival holiday.

Meranti was the strongest typhoon to hit that part of the coast since 1949, Xinhua said.

Typhoons are common at this time of year, picking up strength as they cross warm Pacific waters, and bringing fierce winds and rain when they reach land.—Reuters

One killed, 11 injured after elephant goes berserk in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — One lady was killed and 11 others injured when an elephant attacked crowd in Sri Lanka’s Ratnapura, 97 km away from capital Colombo, on Friday night, police said.

The elephant was being prepared to take part in an annual parade, more popularly known as a “pera hera” when it went berserk and attacked the crowd who had arrived to witness the parade.

Police said altogether 12 people were injured in the attack and were rushed to a nearby hospital.

However one lady, later suffered a heart attack and died after being admitted to hospital.

An investigation has been launched into the incident.

Pera hera is a sacred Buddhist processions held annually in Sri Lanka which attracts large crowds including a large number of tourists.

As a unique symbol of Sri Lanka, the procession consists of many traditional local dances such as fire-dances, whip-dances and Kandyan dances, in addition to the elephants who are usually adorned with lavish garments.—Xinhua

Students’ meeting at UN highlights atomic bombs

NEW YORK — About 50 students from the United States and Japan gathered at the UN headquarters Friday to hear about the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and discuss a world without nuclear weapons.

As the centerpiece of the programme, Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor Setsuko Thurlow, 84, recounted her own experiences on 6 August, 1945, when the first atomic bomb was dropped, telling students that “The entire city disappeared and everyone became homeless.”

The dwindling number of atomic bomb survivors, known as hibakusha, has prompted concern in some quarters that the younger generation will have less opportunity to learn about their experiences.

In 2010, Hidenori Watanabe, an associate professor of system design at Tokyo Metropolitan University and visiting scholar at Harvard University, created the online “Nagasaki Archive” and later the “Hiroshima Archive” using students and volunteers to preserve such stories through technology.

Coinciding with the International Day of Peace, the youth peace conference brought seven Japanese high schoolers and six college students together with 34 New Yorkers for the first time.

“Specifically my generation,

in particular, holds a lot more responsibility for hearing these sorts of stories because my generation is truly one of the last to be able to get this sort of hands-on communication,” Reese Graham said.

The United Nations International School 11th grader said the experience was “much more emotional” than reading a textbook and was positive about the potential of the digital archives.

During the programme, students asked Thurlow a range of questions. When she answered one from a New York high school student whose Chinese relatives suffered under the Japanese during World War II, their interaction prompted tears, with Thurlow apologizing to the girl for what the Japanese soldiers had done. For Hiroshima Joga-kuin High School student Yuri Fujimoto, 15, the meeting was a reminder of the importance of not forgetting the past. “We want to keep the hibakusha’s experiences alive and pass them on to the next generation,” she said.

“The more information, the more knowledge disseminated, creates more interest for people to pick up books and to further study,” Thurlow said of the digital archives. “I think information and knowledge is the essence for finding a way to the solution.”—Kyodo News

Indian activists welcome top court ban on ‘sterilisation camps’ after women’s deaths

NEW DELHI — Women’s health activists on Friday cheered a ruling by India’s top court ordering the government to shut down “sterilisation camps” within three years following the deaths of hundreds of largely poor rural women across the country.

In a judgment on Wednesday, the Supreme Court said 363 women died between 2010 and 2013 during or after surgery in sterilisation camps due poor management by local authorities which included doctors using dirty equipment and expired drugs.

It called on the federal government to ensure the country’s 29 states and seven union territories halt the camps, provide adequate compensation for victims and their families, and hold negligent doctors accountable.

Activists have long campaigned for better regulation of sterilization camps — where women are gathered for mass surgeries to sever or seal their fallopian tubes — and more investment in alternative forms of contraception.

“We welcome the Supreme Court judgment which we consider a landmark one. Providing quality services to and upholding the dignity of women will now be placed strongly on the national agenda,” said Poonam Muttreja, executive director of the Population Foundation of India (PFI).

“This judgment has the poten-

tial to shape India’s family planning programme into a programme of national significance.”

India’s efforts to rein in population growth have been described as the most draconian after China. Birth rates have fallen in recent decades, but population growth is still among the world’s fastest.

According to a study by PFI, 85 per cent of the country’s family planning budget for 2013/14 was spent on promoting and conducting sterilisations on women. Only 1.5 per cent was spent on other forms of contraception.

The world’s top steriliser of women, India came under global scrutiny for its sterilization drive in November 2014 when 15 women died and scores of others were hospitalised after surgery at a sterilization camp in the eastern state of Chhattisgarh.

Investigations found the deaths in Bilaspur district were due to unhygienic conditions, dirty medical instruments and equipment and an overall lack of care for the patients who were poor tribal and low-caste women.

Authorities have put in place guidelines and are training health workers on conducting safe and sanitary surgeries, but incentivised, target-driven sterilisation continue.

Doctors, nurses and health workers receive cash incentives for promoting and carrying out

sterilisations. Patients are also given compensation — ranging from 600 rupees (\$10) to 1,100 rupees (\$17) for tubectomies and vasectomies respectively.

The Supreme Court ruling was in response to a civil petition filed by women’s health activist Devika Biswas alleged widespread mismanagement at camps in various states.

The ruling mentioned how a doctor sterilised 53 women over a period of two hours “in an unprofessional and unethical manner” in a village school in the eastern state of Bihar in January 2012.

The sterilisations were conducted under torch light with the women laying on school desks, the surgeon did not have any gloves and there was no running water available, it said.

The patients, it added, were also not given any pre-operative tests, counseling and were not aware of the potential dangers and outcomes of sterilisation.

“A sterilization surgery does not appear to be complicated and yet several deaths have taken place across the country over the years,” said Justice Madan B. Lokur in his order.

“Undoubtedly, this needs looking into by the Government of India and the state governments and remedial and corrective steps need to be taken.”—Reuters

Opinion

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Environmental education is not advocacy

Khin Maung Aye

ENVIRONMENTAL education has advanced substantially along a number of fronts during the last decade. The state-of-the-art concerning the development of goals for curriculum development, nevertheless, remains largely stable with a few notable exceptions inclusive of Harvey, Stapp, and the Tbilisi intergovernmental conference. And what is more, there exists no research that provides a comprehensive description of environmental education program (s) or project curricula developed and implemented at either primary or secondary schools. Obviously, this lack of awareness has resulted in curriculum development which is largely intuitive in nature without a coherent and/or

cohesive strategy to guide the curriculum developers towards the goals which would facilitate the production of a citizenry competent to cope with the environmental issues successfully. It is a general consensus that the responsibilities of environmental education are too great, and the time is too short while the skills of the practitioner are too low with the result that curriculum development remains to be a matter of intuition.

Concern over this lack of foundation for environmental education was revealed as early as 70s by Clay Schoenfeld, who noted that environmental education was at a stage of development which was passed long ago by many other fields of study-i.e. there is no clearly defined and

delineated substantive structure for environmental education. In this regard, it is worth noting that environmental education is a process which allows people to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving and take action to improve the environment. As a result, people have come to develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and have the skills to make informed and responsible decisions.

The components of environmental education are: awareness of and sensitivity to environment and its challenges; knowledge and understanding of the environment and its challenges; attitudes of concern over environment and motivation to improve and/or maintain envi-

ronmental quality; skills to identify and help resolve environmental challenges; and participation in the activities that lead to the resolution of the environmental challenges; and participation in the activities that lead to the resolution of the environmental challenges.

In a nutshell, environmental education does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action. Rather, it teaches people how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking, and it enhances their own problem-solving and decision-making skills. This being so, the developers of the curriculum for environmental education are advised to be aware of the aforesaid ideas in their curriculum development.

Hailing World Bamboo Day, celebrated the first time in Myanmar

Bamboo and Myanmar, always together

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu, Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

ACCORDING to American Heritage Dictionary "Bamboo is any of various mostly tropical grasses of the genus Bambusa, having hard walled stems with ringed joints. The hollow woody stems of the bamboo are used in variety of construction crafts and manufactures".

Tropical country, Myanmar is home to this indigenous flora which plays a predominant role in the life of its people in all aspects. Regarding Bamboo there is a Myanmar saying as follows: -

- စားအတူတူ . . . We eat together meaning bamboo shoots.
- အိပ်အတူတူ . . . We sleep together meaning bamboo mats
- နေအတူတူ . . . We live together meaning bamboo houses
- သေအတူတူ . . . We die together meaning bamboo shrouds and coffins

Though Myanmar has different climates, bamboo of different species grows profusely across the country. All Myanmar ethnic nationalities have been using different species of bamboo for different uses and purposes since times immemorial. Bamboo shoots are eaten raw, cooked or pickled, dried and preserved with salt for eating on a long journey in Winter. Bamboo shoots make dozens of dishes for both vegetarians and meat eaters.

Tender bamboo shoots are sliced, salted and dried in the sun and stored in bottle or earthen pot for consumption in winter for warmth and medical properties. Natural mushrooms that spring up in bamboo bushes ဝါးရုံခို are much sought after by humans as well as animals particularly elephants and some snakes because they are tender and delicious. All Myanmar ethnic nationalities eat bamboo shoots and bamboo mushroom in a variety of dishes. Hence, bamboo and us— we eat together.

Among different species of bamboo Kya Khat Wa is a thorny type which is used for fencing. Wa Bo is a large and long hollow bamboo used in construction. Kat Moe

Wa is good for roofing. Hta Yan Wa is for walling, Kyan Khin Wa is used for flooring. Hpyao Wa for making mat and Hnyee Wa for tying or making string or rope. Tabu Wa is used for teeth and tongue brushing and cleaning. Hence, bamboo and us — we sleep together.

It is interesting to note that bamboo as well as rattan or cane [which is also Myanmar forest product] is most resilient fibrous flora. If in touch with water it can prove stranger than metal chain. Hence bamboo scaffoldings are used in construction till to-day, not only because they are easily available and comparatively cheap but also because bamboo is resilient and much safer than iron or steel scaffoldings. High rise monuments and buildings in Myanmar were built, maintained, renovated, white washed or gilt by means of bamboo scaffolding. Heavy objects like bells, stone or metallic statues are conveyed, lifted, hung or placed by means of pulleys and ropes made of bamboo or rattan. They are carried on bamboo rafts tied by rattan and floated down river and stream in Monsoon. Within a short time a bamboo house is built using no timber wood, nail or metal roof-only bamboo. A bamboo house can last nearly three years, giving warmth in winter and coolness in summer. In the countryside hollow bamboos are used as water pipes to bring fresh water from falls and streams to your kitchen and bathroom and toilet. Hollow bamboos are used for making fire rocket to burn enemy's camp, ration and ammunition in warfare of old days war canes made of bamboo and lacquer were small, light and easy to carry on back and hide in the bush, on tree, in water or underground. They were water-tight. Lacquered bamboo shields were used by Myanmar warriors in old days and to celebrate light festival in October and November in Shan States.

Bamboo is used for making domestic and agricultural implements and utensils. Cooked rice containers, medicine, cigar, pickled tea, betel nuts containers, whip, yoke, conical cover of bullock cart, bamboo goblets and cups for rice beer, country spirit, fermented toddy juice are popular uses of swains in the country side. The most extraordinary utility value of bamboo is that it is used to shroud the corpse and to intern it in bamboo coffin and to post an epitaph on the grave. Hence, bamboo and us, we

die together.

Bamboo plays no small role in Myanmar history, Buddhism and Myanmar literature visual and performing arts. King Narapatisithu [1173-1210 A.D.] of Bagan dynasty had a very pretty queen named Wei Lu Wadi [Bamboo Queen] because she was born in a bamboo bush. The 15th in the Order of 28 Buddha (နှစ်ကျိပ်ရှစ်ဆူ) was Sujata Buddha who attained enlightenment under the shade of Kya Khat war [bamboo with thorns] [Bambussaarum dinaccea]. One of the residential monastery of Gotama Buddha was called Weiluwan Vihara because it was built in the bamboo forest.

In Myanmar visual arts, bamboo is one of the basic materials used. In lacquer ware making bamboo, cow dung and lacquer are must materials. In performing arts bamboo is used in varieties. We have bamboo slappers, bamboo flutes, bamboo oboe, bamboo Xylophone and many other string, wind and percussion musical instruments. In Myanmar musical timing Si and War [small metal cymbals and a small bamboo clapper are very essential timing instruments for singing dancing and acting and all theatrical arts. Traditional marionette theatre stage is built of bamboo, rattan and thatch. No timber wood no metal materials are to be used. Musical instruments of all Myanmar ethnic nationalities are mostly made of bamboo. Light breeze wafting through bamboo groves produce a religiously mysterious whispering note. Buddhists are recommended to choose the shade of bamboo bush for meditation. At temples and shrines, dwarf decorative bamboos are found enpelted at the entrance.

The following Myanmar folk song epitomises the importance of bamboo in Myanmar culture.

ခလောက်ကလေးရယ်တဲ့ ခိုးခိုးခေါင်
Bamboo bells around the
ပျိုတို့မောင်ယာမလုပ်တယ်
Oxen's necks rattle
ဝါးခွတ်တဲ့တောင်
My lover swain has no farm to till
နွားညှိနေောင် စီအောင်ကွဲ့ဖေကျောင်း
He drives twain handsome cattles,
to cut and bring bamboo on that hill
Long Live Bamboo!



Senior General watering the star flower tree. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General observes tree-planting ceremony

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing planted a tree at the third tree-planting ceremony organised by the families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy, Air) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony took place near the Yezin dam in Zeyathiri

township, with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing planting a star flower tree and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla planting a Gangaw (ironwood) tree.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, Union ministers, senior military officers and their wives also

planted trees at the designated places.

Altogether, 5,000 teak trees were planted at the third tree-planting ceremony.

Similar ceremonies took place at respective military commands the same day with the families of the commands planting 384,045 trees of various kinds.—*Myanmar News Agency*



The tree planting ceremony in progress. PHOTO: MNA

We Are Connected EDM music festival to be held in November

THE We Are Connected EDM music festival will be held at The One Entertainment Park on Paw San Hmwe road, Thingangyun Township, Yangon on 23rd November, it has been learned.

The event will mark the first music festival in Myanmar. Famous Dutch performer DJ Armin Van Buuren as well as other three

top DJ stars will perform at the show.

“The festival will be held in order to strengthen the friendship between the Netherlands and Myanmar. I am very excited about this music festival as it is of world standard.

Myanmar youth will really feel the high standard of music.

The DJ star is from the Netherlands so this will make bilateral relations better I believe.” said Netherlands Ambassador, Mr. Wouter Jurgens.

International organisation ALAD and Star Event Bo Bo Entertainment Zeekwat Collective will cooperate to hold the music show. Heineken will act as pre-

sending partner.

Ticket prices and sale locations as well as information and examples of the kind of EDM music audiences can expect at the show are available on the We Are Connected Facebook page. Tickets will be on sale beginning the second week of October. — *Wah Wah (Myintmakha)*

Tender to be called for tearing down of Mingalar Market

BIDS for tender to tear down the existing fire-damaged Mingalar Market in Yangon’s Mingalar Taungnyunt Township will be called through state-owned newspapers during the third week of September, Myitmakha News Agency has been informed.

Hluttaw MPs, members of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), representatives of the Mingalar Market, together with market sellers, reportedly convened for talks - regarding the matter regarding the pulling down of the market - on the afternoon of September 12 at

the temporary supervisory building, Super One.

“The talks were focused on the tearing down of the Mingalar Market. Apparently, word has been received from Yangon Region Hluttaw and the Yangon Mayor to tear down the building. As such, tenders will be called through state-owned newspapers this week. Two weeks have been allocated to secure a firm for the task as the building will start to be dismantled at the end of this month. Roughly speaking, it should take about two months to completely tear it down. Further

bids for tender will then be called for the rebuilding of the market so that there is no delay between it being torn down and reconstructed,” U Hla Htay, Yangon Hluttaw MP for Mingalar Taungnyunt, told Myitmakha News Agency.

Negotiations have reportedly been made with representatives and sellers of the market for them not to carry goods while doors and fixtures are being taken down, as well as with shopkeepers for them to remove any remaining stock in a timely manner.

“I’ve asked for a shop unit, whether it’s 5 or 7 feet squared,

in the same manner as my current one, as well as the new market to allow for delivery cars to be able to reach all floors via an attached car park,” said U Aung Aung Soe, a Mingalar Market representative of the first floor.

A committee for the tearing down of the market was reportedly formed, comprising market representatives and sellers together with members of the Mingalar Market Commission, at the meeting on September 12 in a bid to mitigate any hindrances to the tearing down of the market. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

POEM:

PEACE

True peace grows no root
Over acute patriotism
Interwoven with
Charity-coated chunks of self.

Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin
Mon, Bama, Rakhine, Shan –
Essentially are
Mere appellations!

In an eco-system,
Presumably, all things –
Living and non-living –,
If in perfect harmony,
Get energies renewed ;
Peaceful world’s a promise
Without making a wish.

(In honour of 21st
Century Panglong)
Tin Zaw Moe

Race tightens in projected US Electoral College vote — Reuters/Ipsos

NEW YORK — An election analysis conducted in the Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project shows that the race has tightened considerably over the past few weeks, with Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump projected to win Florida, an essential battleground state, if the election were held today.

The project, which is based on a weekly tracking poll of more than 15,000 Americans, shows that the 2016 presidential race could end in a photo finish on 8 November, with the major-party candidates running nearly even in the Electoral College, the body that ultimately selects the president.

The States of the Nation project, which delivers a weekly tally of support for the candidates in every state, shows that the race has tightened in several traditional battlegrounds. Pennsylvania has been moved from a likely win for Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton to a tossup; Ohio has been moved from a tossup to a likely win for Clinton.

And Florida is now considered a likely win for the Republican nominee, with 50 per cent support for Trump to 46 per cent support for Clinton.

If the election were held today, the project estimates that Clinton has a 60 per cent chance

of winning by 18 electoral votes. Last week, the project estimated that Clinton had a 83 per cent chance of winning the election.

In a separate national Reuters/Ipsos tracking poll, Clinton continues to lead Trump by 4 percentage points, and her recent bout with pneumonia doesn't appear to have scared away her supporters.

The national 9-15 September tracking poll showed that 42 per cent of likely voters supported Clinton while 38 per cent backed Trump.

Clinton, who has mostly led Trump in the poll since the Democratic and Republican national conventions ended in July, regained the advantage this week after her lead briefly faded in late August.

Clinton has an advantage among minorities, women, people who make more than \$75,000 a year, and those with moderate political leanings. Trump has an advantage with whites, men, avid churchgoers, and people who are nearing retirement age.

Overall, Americans appear to be relatively uninspired by their choices for president with less than eight weeks to go before the election. One out of every five likely voters said they do not support Clinton or Trump for president. In comparison, about one out of every 10 likely voters wouldn't support



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton holds a rally at John Marshall High School in Cleveland, Ohio, US, on 17 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Obama or Republican challenger Mitt Romney at a similar point in the 2012 presidential campaign. Respondents took the survey after video surfaced of Clinton nearly collapsing at a 11 September memorial in New York on Sunday. Her campaign later said she had a non-contagious, bacterial form of pneumonia.

The video sparked a renewed discussion about the health of both candidates. Trump, 70, would be the oldest president to take office, while Clinton, 68, would be the second oldest. —Reuters

UN chief rings Peace Bell ahead of Int'l Day of Peace

NEW YORK — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon rang the Peace Bell at the world body's

New York headquarters Friday to call for a peaceful resolution of conflicts around the world

ahead of the International Day of Peace next week.

"Around the world, conflict is forcing families from their homes; depriving children of an education, and subjecting people to abuse and exploitation," Ban said in a ceremony in the Japanese Garden. "Today we recommit ourselves to doing everything in our power to give them hope of a better future."

The annual ceremony took place in the Japanese Garden to observe the International Day of Peace next Wednesday. Ban rang the bell at the ceremony, along with the new president of the General Assembly, Peter Thomson, and Japanese Ambassador Koro Bessho.

The ceremony also brought together such people as Japanese violinist Midori Goto, who serves as UN messenger of peace, and American actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

The Peace Bell was donated 61 years ago by Japanese peace activist and former city mayor Chiyoji Nakagawa in 1954, two years before Japan's accession to the United Nations.

The 115-kilogram bell is cast with coins collected from more than 60 countries and a gold coin gifted by the bishop of Rome. —Kyodo News



United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon rings the peace bell at the UN headquarters in New York on 16 September 2016, five days before the International Day of Peace, during an event to seek peaceful solutions to conflicts around the world. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU grants Bulgaria 108 million euros to stem migrant flows

BRATISLAVA — The European Union decided to give Bulgaria 108 million euros in emergency funding to help it protect its borders against an increasing flow of illegal migrants and refugees into the country, the president of the EU Commission said on Friday.

Over a million people fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East and Africa arrived in Europe last year, mostly coming via Turkey to Greece. Bulgaria says migrant flows through its territory have been on the rise since June. "Bulgaria is facing a very serious problem. This has to be seen not as a major problem for Bulgaria, this has to be seen as a problem of the EU.

Bulgaria is not left alone." Jean-Claude Juncker told reporters in Bratislava on the sidelines of a summit of EU leaders. Juncker said that in the coming weeks, the financial support from the EU may be raised to 160 million euros, as requested Bulgaria. —Reuters

Merkel says EU-27 to present new agenda in March

BRATISLAVA — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday that European leaders meeting in Bratislava without Britain had agreed to present new plans for reinvigorating the EU by March of next year.

"We have agreed that Europe, in the critical situation in which it is after the referendum in Britain, but also because of other difficulties that we have, that we must jointly agree on an agenda, that we must have a working plan to be able to handle the respective issues until the 60th anniversary of the treaties of Rome," Merkel said after a special summit of EU leaders, meeting without their British counterpart. —Reuters

Vucic meets with Bartolone, wraps up visit to France

PARIS — Serbian PM Aleksandar Vucic on Friday wrapped up a visit to France with a meeting with Claude Bartolone, president of the National Assembly of France.

They discussed bilateral cooperation, France's support for Serbia's EU path and economic cooperation.

Serbia has the support of France, which has recognised the willingness of the Serbian government to take its country to the European Union, Bartolone noted. Vucic highlighted the need to strengthen bilateral trade, thanking France for supporting Serbia's European integration. "France has a great friend in the Balkans that it can always count on, just like we know that we can count on you," Vucic noted, inviting Bartolone and a parliamentary delegation to visit Serbia, the Serbian government said in a statement. —Tanjug

Brazil loses 1.5 million jobs in 2015

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil lost 1.51 million formal jobs in 2015, the worst number of losses in thirty years, according to a government report released on Friday.

According to the Rais report by the country's Labor Ministry, the number of formal jobs fell from 49.6 million to 48.1 million by the end of 2015, representing a job loss of 3 per cent, the worst since the report was established in 1985.

In 2014, the Brazilian economy had, despite all problems, managed to generate 623,000 formal jobs. However, the recession Brazil faced in 2015, when the country's gross domestic product shrank 3.8 per cent, had a strong impact on the job market.

The agriculture sector still managed to register positive figures in 2015, generating 20,900 jobs. —Xinhua

Over 100 shops destroyed in Sri Lanka's former war zone fire

COLOMBO — Over 100 shops were destroyed in a major fire overnight in Kilinochchi, in north Sri Lanka, local police said on Saturday.

The fire, in a former war zone, was brought under control by the police with the assistance of the army.

Fruit stalls and textile shops were among those destroyed in the fire, which was believed to be caused by an electrical short-circuit.

The fire spread rapidly across the temporary shelters as strong winds made it difficult for the authorities to bring the situation under control.

The stores were set up following the end of the war between Tamil Tiger rebels and the military in 2009. The owners were just getting back on their feet when the fire destroyed all that they had. —Xinhua

Slain black youth's BB gun called 'almost identical' to real weapon

COLUMBUS, (Ohio) — The mayor of Columbus, Ohio, said on Friday that the air pistol brandished at police by a black, 13-year-old boy as he was shot dead by a white officer this week was nearly indistinguishable from weapons carried by members of the city's police force.

Mayor Andrew Ginther appeared with Police Chief Kim Jacobs for a tense community meeting of more than 200 people, most of them African-American, who were invited to ask questions of city officials at the church gathering for just over an hour.

But Ginther and Jacobs, who are both white, along with the city's public safety director, Ned Pettus, who is black, had few new details to offer about circumstances leading to the fatal shooting on Wednesday of Tyre King.

The officials appealed for patience on the part of the public while investigations of the incident

continue. "Everyone here is emotional. We're all hurting," Pastor Jason Ridley of the Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church, who hosted the gathering, said of the crowd's mood, which grew angry as officials concluded the session after about 30 questions, leaving many others wanting to speak.

"So we don't get a voice?" one woman shouted, drawing applause and jeers before she was removed by security officers.

According to a police account of the shooting, officer Bryan Mason, a nine-year veteran of the force, shot King multiple times after the youth drew what appeared to be a handgun from his waistband during an encounter with police in an alley.

It was later determined to be an air pistol that fires BBs - small, metal, ball-bearing-like pellets, not bullets.

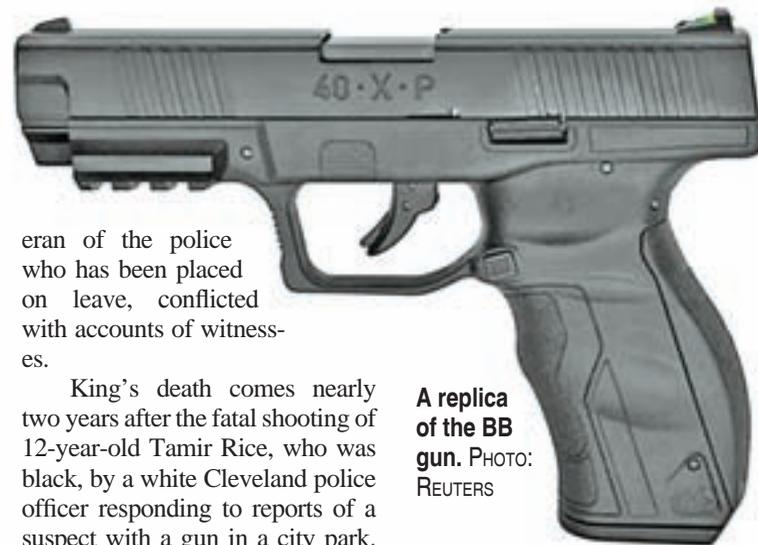
But according to Ginther, the

BB gun looks "almost identical" to the 9-millimeter Glock semi-automatic handguns carried by Columbus police officers.

The mayor said police in the Ohio state capital, who have no video footage of the fatal shooting, are expected to begin equipping their officers with body cameras early next year, a step other big-city departments have implemented to provide "additional oversight and accountability."

Police who confronted the boy were responding to reports of an armed robbery by a man who told officers that a group of males had demanded money and threatened him with a gun. King was one of three young suspects police had sought to apprehend, according to authorities.

King's family members have said in a statement released by their lawyers that the version of events related by Mason, a nine-year vet-



A replica of the BB gun. PHOTO: REUTERS

eran of the police who has been placed on leave, conflicted with accounts of witnesses.

King's death comes nearly two years after the fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was black, by a white Cleveland police officer responding to reports of a suspect with a gun in a city park. An investigation revealed Rice had a replica gun that shoots plastic pellets.

Rice's death became a rallying point for the Black Lives Matter movement and was one of a number of deaths that led to nationwide demonstrations against

the use of excessive force against minorities, especially young black men, by police.

Columbus has remained calm since King's death. Family and friends held a prayer vigil on Thursday near where the boy was shot.—Reuters



A general view shows Castello road in Aleppo, Syria, on 16 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Spotlight on Syria as world leaders gather at United Nations

UNITED NATIONS — The spotlight will be on Syria when world leaders gather at the United Nations next week as the United States and Russia try to shore up a fragile truce deal and President Barack Obama pushes for a boost in global refugee aid.

Some 135 heads of state and government and dozens of ministers will attend the 71st General Assembly, the last for both Obama and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who will step down at the end of 2016 after a decade in the job.

"While many conflicts are causing enormous pain, none is causing so much death, destruction and widespread instability as the worsening war in Syria,"

Ban told reporters on Wednesday. "Major countries with influence have a duty to use their influence and seize this latest opportunity to pursue a political solution."

Members of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), which includes Russia and the United States, are likely to meet on the sidelines at the United Nations on Tuesday, diplomats said, while the UN Security Council is due to hold a high-level meeting on Syria on Wednesday.

Russia had wanted the council to endorse its Syria truce deal with the United States during the meeting, but on Friday said a resolution was unlikely because Washington did not want

to share the documents detailing the agreement with the 15-member body.

White House Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said on Friday he anticipated many of the US discussions at the United Nations "will focus on the situation in Syria, the response to North Korea's latest nuclear test, our shared efforts to combat (Islamic State) with many UN member states."

Nearly 5 million Syrians have fled the country, and some 6.5 million have been internally displaced during the more than five-year conflict, contributing to the record 65.3 million people who were uprooted worldwide last year.—Reuters

Israeli forces say killed three assailants in East Jerusalem, West Bank

JERUSALEM — Israeli forces shot dead three Arab assailants in separate incidents in East Jerusalem and the West Bank on Friday, police and the military said, in a flare-up of a nearly year-old wave of Palestinian street attacks.

With most anti-Israeli assaults carried out since October by individuals without any central guiding hand, it was difficult to gauge why violence had surged on Friday. The frequency of what had been near-daily attacks had slowed in recent months.

At the heavily-patrolled Damascus Gate, a main entrance to Jerusalem's walled Old City, a knife-wielding man attempted to stab police officers and was shot dead by Israeli forces, a police spokesman said.

He was identified by police as a resident of Jordan. It was not immediately clear if he was a Jordanian national.

The military said in a statement that a car carrying two Palestinians rammed into a civilian bus stop at a junction near the settlement of Kiryat Arba, outside the town of Hebron in the occupied West Bank.

"In the attack, three civilians were injured. In response to the immediate threat, forces at the scene fired at the vehicle, resulting in the death of one of the assailants while the other was wounded," the statement said.

Several hours later, a Palestinian stabbed an Israeli soldier at a junction near Hebron, and

forces at the scene shot the attacker dead, the military said.

At least 214 Palestinians have died in violent incidents since October in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Of them, 143 were identified by authorities as assailants while others were killed during clashes and protests.

Palestinians, many of them acting alone and with rudimentary weapons, have killed at least 33 Israelis and two visiting Americans in attacks that have waned in recent months.

Earlier in the day, a Palestinian who was shot during an Israeli army raid on Thursday near Hebron died of his wounds, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

The military said troops fired at him while he was fleeing arrest.

In a statement, the Palestinian presidency called the killings "crimes ... that confirm once again that the Israeli government is pursuing a policy of escalation" and ignoring international peace efforts.

Palestinian leaders say assailants have acted out of desperation over the collapse of peace talks in 2014 and Israeli settlement expansion in occupied territory that Palestinians seek for an independent state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Israel says anti-Israeli incitement by Palestinian officials and on social networks have stoked attacks.—Reuters

Florida expands Zika zone in Miami Beach after five new cases



An airplane carrying a banner asking people to use insect repellent to avoid the Zika virus, flies over Miami, Florida, US, on 13 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MIAMI — State officials in Florida on Friday tripled the active Zika transmission zone in the trendy seaside community of Miami Beach after five new cases of the mosquito-borne virus believed to cause a severe birth defect were identified in the area.

The active transmission zone grew from 1.5 square miles to 4.5 square miles and consists of a large portion of the popular tour-

ist destination, Florida Governor Rick Scott said in a statement on Friday evening. Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine told the Miami Herald that the city will begin truck-spraying of larvicide in the zone on Saturday. “We have a serious problem,” he told the newspaper. “Once again, we must take all reasonable and safe action to eliminate this. This is a problem.”

The zone was expanded after

the Florida Department of Health identified five cases in the area involving three women and two men who all experienced symptoms within one month of each other.

The cases bring the total of non-travel related Zika cases in Florida to 93 and in Miami Beach to 35, the governor said.

Three weeks ago, federal health officials warned pregnant women not to travel to Miami

Beach because Zika has been shown to cause the severe birth defect known as microcephaly, a condition marked by abnormally small head size that can result in developmental problems.

The Zika virus was first detected in Brazil last year and has since spread across the Americas. It has been linked to more than 1,800 cases of microcephaly in Brazil.

Adding to concerns are current guidelines from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that recommend men wait six months after being infected with Zika before trying to have children to avoid passing the virus to a pregnant partner through semen. The governor also said on Friday he expects the Zika zone to be lifted on Monday in Wynwood where aggressive mosquito control and community outreach measures have been effective after several cases of Zika were confirmed recently in the neighbourhood, north of Miami.

Scott also announced that he will authorize an additional \$10 million in state funds to fight Zika and reiterated his call for Congress to provide more federal resources and funding. “Every minute that passes that Congress doesn’t approve funding means more time is lost from researching this virus to find a vaccine to help pregnant women and their developing babies,” he said.—Reuters

Call for world peace unites Non-Aligned Movement in Venezuela

ISLA MARGARITA (Venezuela) — Foreign ministers and related envoys to the 17th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Margarita, Venezuela on Friday called for world peace and an end to regional conflicts.

This ministerial meeting worked to define the scope of the Margarita Declaration, which will be made public by the heads of state on Saturday.

Venezuela’s Foreign Minister Delcy Rodríguez said that “emancipation, anti-imperialism and peace are the flags that define the XVII NAM Summit Venezuela 2016,” according to state TV network Telesur.

Peru’s ambassador to Venezuela, Mario Lopez Chavarri, echoed that the Margarita Declaration would reflect the united condemnation against a number of threats to global peace, including the nuclear tests causing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Chavarri advocated for “dialogue and the peaceful exchanging of ideas, as ways of maintaining peace and development.”

Lebanon’s ambassador to Venezuela, Elias Lebbos, insisted that the NAM group should help find more effective solutions to the problems in the Middle-East, including Palestine.

“Lebanon urges the members of the Non-Aligned Movement to strengthen cooperation between us as well as efforts to tackle the challenges we face,” he said during his address.

For Omar Castaneda, Guatemala’s permanent representative to the UN, “the underlying issues for all interested parties must be dealt with for an inclusive dialogue.”

Venezuela’s Minister of Oil and Mining Eulogio Del Pino said on Friday that the 17th NAM Summit should help promote the kind of consensus needed to stabilize world oil prices.—Xinhua

EU’s Tusk - May indicated could trigger Brexit talks in January-February

BRATISLAVA — British Prime Minister Theresa May has signalled that she could be ready to launch formal Brexit negotiations in January or February next year, European Council President Donald Tusk said on Friday, citing a recent talk with May.

The prime minister herself has ruled out giving formal notification this year of Britain’s intention to leave the European Union under Article 50 of the EU treaty.

But beyond that, she has been vague about when her government might trigger the process, which

would set in motion a two-year countdown to Britain’s exit.

“Prime Minister May was very open and honest with me,” Tusk said of his visit to London on 8 September. “She declared it’s almost impossible to trigger Article 50 this year but it’s quite likely that they will be ready maybe in January, maybe in February next year.”

The remarks in English by the former Polish premier left open whether May had indicated she would launch the process then or would simply be in a position to do so, having secured agreement in

her cabinet on what Britain wants to achieve and having set up the negotiating teams London will need to deal with Brussels.

Tusk said the other 27 EU leaders, whose summit he chaired on Friday in Bratislava to plot a course ahead for the bloc after the shock of Britain’s June referendum to quit were being patient for now: “Our British colleagues need more time to prepare themselves for these negotiations,” he told reporters. “We are well prepared for these negotiations and we could in fact start these procedures even to-

morrow,” he added, saying that the EU’s goal was “the closest possible future relations” with Britain while negotiating in the interests of the bloc.

Senior officials in Brussels and national capitals say they are very anxious that Britain complete its divorce by mid-2019. Failure to hit that deadline would complicate elections to the European Parliament and the appointment of a new EU executive, the Commission, that year as well as hobble negotiations on a new seven-year EU budget.—Reuters

TNT traces on EgyptAir plane debris split investigators

PARIS — Investigators from France’s institute for criminal research found traces of the explosive material TNT last week in Cairo on debris from an EgyptAir plane that crashed in May, triggering a dispute between French and Egyptian authorities, French newspaper *Le Figaro* reported on Friday.

The origin of these traces remains unclear and Egyptian judicial authorities did not allow French investigators to examine the debris in detail, *Le Figaro* said, citing a source close to the investigation.

Egypt wishes to write a joint report with France to validate the presence of TNT on the debris. France has refused to do this because the investigators were not able to carry out an adequate inspection to determine how the traces could have got there, *Le Figaro* said.

A spokesman for the French national police declined to comment.

EgyptAir flight MS804, an Airbus A320, plunged into the eastern Mediterranean en route from Paris to Cairo on 19 May. All

66 people on board were killed, including 15 French passengers. The cause of the crash remains unknown.

Audio from the flight recorder of the crashed aircraft mentions a fire on board the plane in its final moments, the investigation committee said in July.

Earlier analysis of the plane’s flight data recorder showed there had been smoke in the lavatory and avionics bay, while recovered wreckage from the jet’s front section showed signs of high-temperature damage and soot.—Reuters



The EgyptAir plane scheduled to make the following flight from Paris to Cairo, after flight MS804 disappeared from radar, taxis on the tarmac at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, France, on 19 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Venezuela opposition running out of options to force 2016 Maduro vote

CARACAS — Venezuela's opposition failed to draw large numbers on Friday in its latest protests against President Nicolas Maduro, and the national election board delayed a decision on the next stage of a possible referendum on his socialist rule.

The Democratic Unity coalition is running out of options to force a plebiscite this year to trigger a presidential election should Maduro lose.

If a referendum is held in 2017 and he loses, the vice president would take over for the second half of Maduro's six-year term, ensuring the Socialists stay in power.

Maduro, 53, has seen his popularity plummet with the failing economy and is determined to stop a referendum this year that polls show he probably would lose.

The election board said a meeting to organise the next stage of the referendum process — the collection of 20 per cent of voter signatures, or about 4 million — was postponed to Monday because of



Supporters of Venezuela's opposition face police officers who are blocking a street, as they take part in a rally to demand a referendum to remove Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, in Caracas, Venezuela, on 16 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"threats" to the institution.

That was a reference to the opposition's latest street rallies on Friday to protest foot-dragging by the election board, which it accuses of bias.

Despite a 1 September

march that drew an estimated 1 million people, only hundreds turned up on Friday due to a mixture of fatigue, apathy and the need to stand in line for food.

Venezuela's 30 mil-

lion people are suffering shortages, triple-digit inflation and a third year of recession.

That has led to looting, fights in lines and spontaneous demonstrations that could be a bigger threat

to Maduro than the coalition-organised rallies.

"The situation is intolerable. I'm sick of lines, I can't find food or medicines," homemaker Edelmira Flores, 59, said as she waved a banner in a

Caracas square on Friday.

One of the opposition coalition's parties, Justice First, said five of its activists had been arrested overnight in Zulia and Anzoategui states, amid what activists say is a wave of repression by the Maduro government.

There were some minor scuffles at the Caracas rallies.

And two protesters were injured by gunshots in western Trujillo state, coalition head Jesus Torrealba told reporters, without giving details.

"They've gone from harassment to physical violence to armed violence," he said, blaming the government.

There was no immediate response from officials.

Maduro says the increased opposition militancy masks a US-backed coup plan, and authorities have been displaying stashes of weapons and explosives as evidence.

"If we don't defend the revolution, we're finished," said Martha Rojas, 44, at a pro-Maduro rally in Caracas.—Reuters

Shooting wounds two police officers in US state of Texas

HOUSTON — Two police officers were wounded in a shooting on Friday night after they were responding to a suicide call in Fort Worth, a city in the northern part of the US state of Texas.

The shooting happened about 8:30pm local time (14:30 GMT) in a private residence in far south Fort

Worth while the police officers were responding to a 911 call about a suicide, according to the website of the English daily the Dallas Morning News.

One officer had serious injuries to his upper extremities, and the second officer was shot in the chest but was not pierced because of his bulletproof vest. Their inju-

ries are not life-threatening, and they have been rushed to a local hospital.

Police officers were reportedly involved in an active standoff, and neighbors were asked to evacuate as dozens of officers converged in the area.

In March, police officer Matt Pearce of Fort Worth was shot seven times while

in pursuit of 43-year-old fugitive who was shot and killed by other officers.

Friday's shooting comes just more than two months after five police officers were killed and several other officers injured on 7 July by a shooter during a peaceful demonstration in downtown Dallas, a city in northern Texas.—Xinhua

Education is civil rights struggle of our age: UN envoy Gordon Brown

LONDON — Ensuring every child gets a good education is the "civil rights struggle of our generation", United Nations education envoy Gordon Brown said on Friday ahead of launching a plan for the largest educational expansion in history.

Education not only provides children with a route out of poverty but also guards against the spread of extremism, the former British prime minister said as he called for a massive increase in investment.

"We will be betraying half our future if we do not take action," he told a media briefing at the United

Nations.

Under new global development goals agreed upon last year, all children should be receiving primary and secondary education by 2030.

But Brown said under current trends half the world's children would still be either out of school or getting a poor education which would not begin to equip them with the skills needed for the labor markets of the future.

Young people denied school are more likely to end up victims of child marriage, child labour or fall into the hands of traffickers, he said.

Brown also warned of



Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown speaks at a rally at Birmingham University in Birmingham, Britain, on 22 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

a "ticking time-bomb of discontent" among young people deprived of education and opportunities which would leave them "prey to extremist factions determined to exploit their discontent".

On Sunday, Brown will present a report to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon which will call for

the first global education budget and propose a new international funding mechanism to boost investment in schooling in poorer countries.

Brown said low income countries were spending only 3 percent of their national income on education and must invest more.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Cyrus' comedic skills led Woody Allen to cast her as 'Crisis' leading lady

LOS ANGELES — Miley Cyrus may be better known these days for her twerking dance moves and raunchy image, but veteran director Woody Allen's memory of her comic delivery as a child actress was what led him to cast her as his new leading lady.

With more than 40 films under his belt, Allen, 80, is making his first foray into television with a six-part series for Amazon, entitled "Crisis in Six Scenes", in which Cyrus plays a woman named Lucy.

"I had seen her when my kids used to watch her and I would pass by the television set on route to something more substantial. And I said, 'who is that little girl, she's got a great comedic delivery, you know, she knocks off those jokes great,'" Allen told Reuters at the red carpet premiere of the show in New York on Thursday.

"I said, 'remember that little girl,' and they said 'yes, Miley Cyrus.' I said 'yes, let's get her, she would be right for this part and I would trust her with my dialogue.' And she was great."

Allen wrote, directed and appears in the show alongside an ensemble cast that includes Joy Behar and Elaine May. It will debut on Amazon Prime Instant Video in the United States, Britain and Germany on 30 September. As for how Amazon Studios won him over, Allen said the key was allowing him creative freedom.

"They know how I like to work, which is 1,000 percent hands off and put the money in a brown paper bag and get lost and I'll see you in six months," he quipped. "And they're very supportive and fine with that."

—Reuters



Show host Miley Cyrus speaks on stage at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, California in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rolling Stones premiere Cuba concert documentary in Toronto

TORONTO — Keith Richards returned to the Toronto International Film Festival for a second straight year on Friday, joining band mate Ronnie Wood at the premiere of a documentary of their recent Latin America tour that culminated in an historic Cuban concert.

The film 'The Rolling Stones Olé Olé Olé! : A Trip Across Latin America' goes behind the scenes with the veteran rock band as they play across the region for the first time in 10 years, chronicling their engagement with impassioned fans in a range of countries where their music was once banned or stifled.

"It's strange, maybe that's some of the attraction," Richards said on the red carpet ahead of the screening. "I guess that's what happens when you try to suppress something, certain things become obviously stronger."

Directed by Paul Dugdale and shot throughout February and March, the film combines footage from concerts in Peru, Colombia, Brazil and elsewhere and interviews with band members, fans, and tour managers as they plan the free Cuba event.

At one point they are forced to reschedule the concert after US President Barack Obama announced his own

three-day visit after decades of hostility between the former Cold War foes.

The Stones formed in London in 1962, three years after Fidel Castro's bearded rebels toppled a pro-American government.

"That's a tough one," Richards said when asked where the Stones might go next in the service of rock and roll diplomacy.

Richards was at the Toronto film festival last year to promote a film about his solo album 'Crosseyed Heart' that also studied the influence of blues, country and even reggae on his music.—Reuters



Keith Richards (2nd R) arrives with his wife Patti Hansen and fellow bandmate Ronnie Wood (L) and his wife Sally Humphreys on the red carpet for the film 'The Rolling Stones Ole Ole Ole! : A Trip Across Latin America' during the 41st Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), in Toronto, Canada, 16 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Money, roadblocks and drama; Oliver Stone's battles over 'Snowden'

LOS ANGELES — From presidents to serial killers, Oscar-winning filmmaker Oliver Stone hasn't shied away from exploring controversial figures, but he initially balked when asked to make a film about former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden.

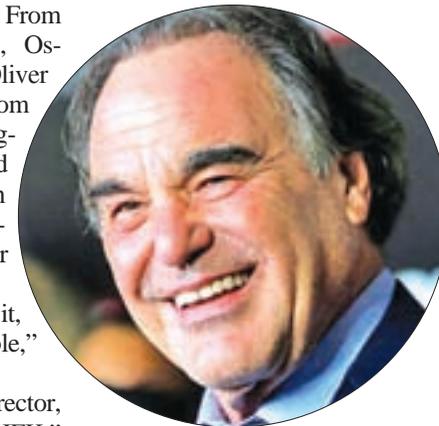
"I didn't want to do it, I wasn't looking for trouble," Stone told Reuters.

But the 70-year-old director, known for films such as "JFK," "Natural Born Killers" and "Wall Street," said he changed his mind after he met with Snowden in Russia.

"Although I was worried about it still being boring and dull, I saw it as a dramatic thriller. I felt like it wouldn't get an audience as a documentary-type film," Stone said. "Snowden," out in theaters on Friday, traces Snowden's journey from a conservative CIA agent to a disillusioned NSA operative until he fled the United States in 2013 and exposed the government's mass surveillance programmes of ordinary people.

He is now living in Russia and is wanted by the US government on espionage charges. Amnesty International and two other groups this week launched a campaign to have him pardoned.

Stone and Snowden met a few times in Russia and agreed that the film was going to be a dramatization. Then the film hit a wall when Stone went to studios for financing. The director declined to name



Director Oliver Stone.

PHOTO: REUTERS

which studios he had approached. "We live in that climate - this is definitely, I believe, self-censorship," Stone said.

"I don't believe the NSA called anybody and said 'don't do this,' Who knows? But the truth is ... you either join the club or you're excluded."

Eventually, Open Road Films, a joint venture by theater chains Regal Entertainment Group and Dalian Wanda Group-owned AMC Entertainment that distributed this year's Oscar-winning journalism drama "Spotlight," stepped in to co-finance "Snowden," made for about \$40 million.

The film, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt as Snowden and Shailene Woodley as his girlfriend Lindsay Mills, was shot mostly in Europe, with Germany providing production subsidies and becoming the stand-in for Maryland, where Snowden grew up.—Reuters

Pulitzer-winning playwright Edward Albee dies at 88 at his NY home — reports

NEW YORK — Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee, whose provocative and often brutal look at American life in works such as “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” earned him a reputation as one of the greatest American dramatists, died on Friday in Montauk, New York. He was 88.

He died in the late afternoon at his summer home in Montauk, a seaside fishing hamlet on the eastern tip of Long Island, after suffering a short illness to which he apparently suc-

cumbed, Albee’s assistant, Jakob Holder, told Reuters.

Holder said the playwright was not alone at the time of his death, but declined to furnish any further details.

Albee once told the Paris Review that he decided at age 6 that he was a writer but chose to work in the format of plays after concluding he was not a very good poet or novelist. His works would eventually rank him alongside Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller and Eugene O’Neill in American drama.

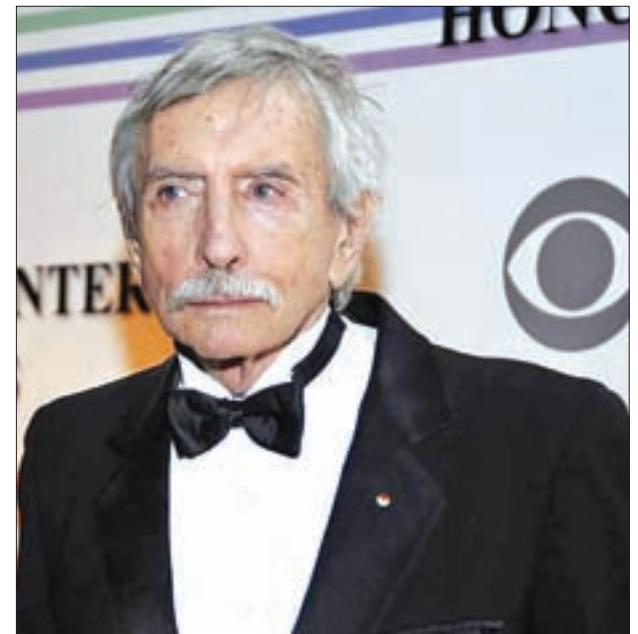
Albee described a playwright as “someone who lets his guts hang out on the stage,” and the inroads of his own works included a powerful anger as he pushed themes such as alienation, resentment and the dark underside of life in the 1950s.

In the preface to his play “American Dream,” Albee described his approach as “an examination of the American Scene ... a condemnation of complacency, cruelty, emasculation, and vacuity ... a stand against the fiction

that everything in this slipping land of ours is peachy-keen.”

The harsh humour and ferocity that prevailed in his more than 25 works long divided critics and audiences, earning Albee as much condemnation as praise. He always returned the volley of attacks, calling his critics fools and his Broadway audiences “placid cows.”

“Art should expand the boundaries of the form and, simultaneously, it should change our perceptions,” he told his biographer. “I despise restful art.”—Reuters



Edward Albee arrives on the red carpet for the Kennedy Center Honours at the Kennedy Center in Washington in 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

Reagans’ personal items to be auctioned in New York

NEW YORK — Furniture, jewelry and cowboy boots are among the more than 700 personal items that once belonged to US President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan set for sale by auctioneer Christie’s in New York starting on Monday.

“It’s the private side of a very public life,” said Johnathan Rendell of Christie’s. “A lot of the things on sale went with them from California to the White House and then came home again.”

Nancy Reagan died in March while Ronald Reagan died in 2004. The auction is expected to generate more than \$2

million dollars, with the money going to The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute.

Rendell said the couple lived modestly.

“This is not an incredibly lavish lifestyle. There are a lot of things that relate to their spending time together.

Almost everything comes in pairs. They were notoriously devoted to each other and that really shows.”

Among the items are cowboy boots that were a gift from Western actor Rex Allen and embossed with the US presidential seal, expected to sell for to \$20,000.—Reuters

With Brexit in spotlight, London picks up fashion show baton

LONDON — A rainy London kicked off five days of catwalk shows on Friday, with questions over what consequences Brexit may have on Britain’s apparel

industry looming over fashionistas.

Picking up the runway calendar baton from New York, London hosts its first fashion week since Brit-

ain’s shock vote to leave the European Union, with a mix of luxury and high street labels unveiling their spring/summer 2017 offerings to buyers and magazine editors from around the world.

A survey by the British Fashion Council (BFC) ahead of the June referendum showed that more than 90 per cent of 290 designers said they wanted to remain in the bloc.

“We have a point to prove to our guests that the vote to leave the EU doesn’t mean we’re going to end our international partnerships and collaborations,” BFC Chief Executive Caroline Rush was quoted as saying in London’s *Evening Standard* paper.

“People want to know if London feels different. We need to send them a clear message that London is open to outsiders and the UK is a place of business opportunity.”

According to figures cited by the BFC, Britain’s fashion industry contributes

some 28 billion pounds to the UK economy, up from 26 billion pounds in 2013.

Prime Minister Theresa May kicked off proceedings on Thursday night with a reception for fashion industry insiders at Downing Street.

“From our home grown start-ups to international fashion houses — every business in the industry will play a major role in ensuring we make a success of Brexit,” she said.

“By taking advantage of the opportunities that leaving the EU gives us and playing to our strengths as a great trading nation — we can build a fairer economy that works for all, not just the privileged few.”

While the September shows have usually been associated with solely womenswear, labels like Burberry will present collections both for women and men this fashion week. Burberry will also offer catwalk items immediately for purchase after its show.—Reuters



A model presents a creation at the Ryan Lo catwalk show during London Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2017 in London, Britain, on 16 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



(18-9-2016, Sunday)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|--|
| 6:00 am | • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 4:15 pm | • Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions |
| 7:35 am | • Business News | 4:35 pm | • Mono Classical Songs |
| 8:35 am | • Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions | 5:15 pm | • Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |
| 8:45 am | • Documentary | 6:15 pm | • KORAOKE World Championships (KWC) Myanmar 2016 (Level-1) (Group-6) |
| 9:35 am | • People’s Talks | 7:15 pm | • Myanmar Series (Part-22) |
| 9:50 am | • Poem for Children | 8:00 pm | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 10:00 am | • Sunday Talk | 8:35 pm | • Documentary |
| 10:35 am | • Women in Myanmar Society | 9:00 pm | • News |
| 11:00 am | • Week Characterful News | • Once Recorded Arts | |
| 12:35 pm | • This Week’s Special Internet | • Myanmar Traditional Performance Arts Competitions | |
| 12:50 pm | • Myanmar Movie | | |

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)



(18-9-2016 07:00am ~ 19-9-2016 07:00am) MST

- Today Fresh**
- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:26 | Am | Strolling Along A Memory Link-U Pein Bridge |
| 07:43 | Am | Wet Markets of Yangon: Thirimingalar Market |
| 07:50 | Am | Sai Ye Kwan |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Rakhine The Land Of Sublime Pagodas |
| 08:56 | Am | H.ELP (12) Elephants are our National Treasure |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence... To Kachin State |
| 09:47 | Am | Beauties Of Makyee Island- Island of Tamarind Tree |
| 10:03 | Am | News |

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 10:25 | Am | Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-6) In Pursuit of a dream |
| 10:56 | Am | Made in Myanmar “Mixxo” |

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) -Saturday 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 | Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies |
| 07:41 | Pm | Kayah Style |
| 07:50 | Pm | Today Myanmar: Sim Card Registering |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Creator Of Imagination |
| 08:52 | Pm | Myanmar Masterclass “Caricature” |

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

Stunning Henderson strike helps Liverpool beat Chelsea

LONDON — A stunning strike from Jordan Henderson helped Liverpool secure a comfortable 2-1 win at Chelsea on Friday that ended the London club's unbeaten start to the season and underlined the growing potential of Juergen Klopp's side.

Liverpool largely dominated the encounter and took a 2-0 lead after Dejan Lovren was left unmarked to steer home the opener and Henderson bent the ball into the top corner from 30 metres to put the visitors in command at halftime.

Chelsea fought back after the break when Diego Costa sidefooted home from close range after 61 minutes but there was little further goalmouth action as Liverpool comfortably held on.

The win moved Liverpool level with Chelsea on 10 points after five games and prevented the Londoners from going top of the table.

"We played football like hell," said Klopp, whose side have now played Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea away from home in their opening fixtures.

"It was really nice to watch. In the second half it was a bit more difficult. After their goal, we managed it well."

Liverpool were sharper from the start than Antonio Conte's Chelsea, who seemed content to sit deep and invite pressure from the visitors, who happily set up camp in the hosts' half in the opening stages.

Daniel Sturridge threatened after only two minutes, curling a shot from the edge of the area that slipped from keeper Thiba-



Liverpool's Jordan Henderson scores their second goal against Chelsea during Premier League at Stamford Bridge, on 16 September 2016. Reuters . PHOTO: REUTERS

ut Courtois's grasp and almost trickled over the line, but it was not long before Liverpool grabbed the lead.

Typically of a sluggish Chelsea performance, Liverpool opened the scoring by catching the hosts napping at the back.

A free kick found its way to Philippe Coutinho and his deep cross found four Liverpool players unmarked at the far post, with Lovren applying a cool

side-footed finish past Courtois.

Rather than prompt a Chelsea response, the hosts seemed to retreat further into their shell, making sporadic forays upfield but rarely threatening Liverpool's goal.

Henderson's stunning second arrived after 36 minutes and was a fully deserved reflection of Liverpool's first-half dominance. Gary Cahill cleared the ball to Henderson 30 metres

from goal and he took aim before curling beautifully into the top corner.

Having been completely outplayed in the first half, Chelsea briefly came out fighting after the break and pulled themselves back into the game on 61 minutes when Costa grabbed his fifth Premier League goal of the season.

Nemanja Matic, anonymous in the first half, did brilliantly to

carry the ball to the byline and pull back for Costa to sidefoot past Simon Mignolet and wake the home crowd.

The striker then had a great chance to level four minutes later, swivelling on the ball before shooting straight at Mignolet from 15 metres, but if Chelsea were hoping to lay siege to the Liverpool goal in the closing stages, it never materialised.— Reuters

Del Potro sinks Murray as Argentina take 2-0 lead

GLASGOW — Juan Martin del Potro delivered a huge blow to Britain's hopes of retaining the Davis Cup when he beat Andy Murray 6-4, 5-7, 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-4 in a five-hour thriller as Argentina grabbed a 2-0 lead in their world group semi-final on Friday.

World number two and Wimbledon champion Murray looked poised to chalk up his 30th victory in 32 Davis Cup matches when he led by two sets to one against the man he beat in last month's Rio Olympics singles final.

But Del Potro, ranked 64th in the world after being plagued by numerous injuries, refused to surrender and condemned Murray to only his third singles defeat in the men's team competition after finishing off the marathon encounter with an ace.

"I won but I still remember Olympic final. This is very important to me and my team and we are looking to reach another final in the Davis Cup," Del Potro

said courtside. "Against Andy you never know when the match will finish. He is a dangerous player, a fighter and great champion. In end I played good forehands and good serves and that was key.

"I am so happy to be playing tennis again after three surgeries. This kind of moment was what I

was missing..." Britain's day went from bad to worse in Glasgow as Guido Pella then beat Kyle Edmund 6-7(5) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 in the second singles. Friday's defeats mean the hosts have to win the three remaining rubbers if they are to reach the final for the second year running.—Reuters



Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro celebrates after winning his match against Great Britain's Andy Murray during Davis Cup Semi Final at Emirates Arena, Glasgow, Scotland, on 16 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Messi, Suarez and Neymar fire Barcelona to easy win at Leganes

BARCELONA — Barcelona's attacking trio of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar were all on target as the champions roared back into life in La Liga with a dominant 5-1 victory at promoted Leganes on Saturday.

Messi sidefooted in a simple cross from Suarez to strike the opening goal after 15 minutes and returned the favour for the Uruguayan to nudge in the second in the 31st.

Neymar stretched Barca's lead to three goals on the stroke of half-time, tapping in another lay off from Suarez, before Messi got his second from the penalty spot 10 minutes into the second half.

Rafinha rounded off the most comfortable of Barca victories with a curled finish in the 64th, although Gabriel Appelt salvaged a goal for the Madrid minnows in the 80th with a free-

kick whipped into the top corner. Barcelona, beaten 2-1 by newcomers Alaves last weekend in their first loss at the Nou Camp since 17 April, now have nine points from their first four La Liga games.

They join Real, who can go clear again when they play at Espanyol on Sunday, at the league's summit.

"This is an important victory against a team that we knew would cause us problems in bringing the ball out. We exploited the space well and we were very active from the start," said Luis Enrique.

After squad rotations backfired against Alaves, Luis Enrique picked a similar team to the one that battered Celtic 7-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday in Barca's biggest ever win in European soccer's top competition.—Reuters