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A TIME OF DETERMINED HOPE

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speech to Assembly cites UN as inspiration

MOUNTING the podium of the General Assembly as the representative of Myanmar's first civilian Government in over 50 years, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said Wednesday that the same spirit and goals that inspired the founding of the United Nations 70 years ago have influenced the country's new administration.

"The strength of this organisation lies in its universality and legitimacy, anchored in the Charter and in the fundamental principles of international law. For all its imperfections and limitations, the United Nations remains a receptacle of our hopes for a more peaceful and prosperous world, a kinder, more compassionate home for all mankind," she told the annual general debate on its second day.

She noted that Myanmar joined the UN as the newly independent Union of Burma in 1948, an "era of determined hope, when the peoples of the world rose out of the ravages of war to build anew their countries and their faith in the human capacity for achieving peace with equality, prosperity with justice."

"Now, once again, it is a time of determined hope for Myanmar," she said, citing the overwhelming majority her National League for Democracy won in elections last November as voters demonstrated support for a political culture founded on a belief in their right to fashion the future of their country in the shape of their dreams and aspirations.

"And these dreams and aspirations echo those that had led to the founding of the United Nations," she declared.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed that for a country that has



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 71st United Nations General Assembly in Manhattan, New York, US September 21, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

experienced over six decades of internal armed conflict, nothing is more important than lasting peace and national reconciliation, noting her efforts to achieve this through a national peace conference.

Turning to the situation in Rakhine state, where local communities have been living in squalid camps after a communal conflict, she said Myanmar does

not fear international scrutiny.

"We are committed to a sustainable solution that will lead to peace, stability and development for all communities within the state. Our Government is taking a holistic approach that makes development central to both short and long-term programmes aimed at promoting understanding and trust," she stressed, noting that

she had appointed former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to chair a commission to foster these efforts.

Broaching wider issues, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the issue of migration can only be solved by tackling its root causes, the two most important of which are lack of peace and lack of development.

On terrorism, she stressed that lack of social and economic security are doubtless important factors, "but we also need to consider the possibility that lack of purpose, of a sense of direction in life, could also be a force that drives many, especially the young into the snare of ideologies that appear to offer certainty."—

GNLM



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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss urgent motion on Human Rights Commission



U Htay Win Aung.

THE Pyithu Hluttaw agreed to discuss an urgent motion calling for punitive measures against some members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission for their failure to protect victims of human rights violations yesterday.

The urgent motion was submitted by U Htay Win Aung alias U Pyone Cho of Dawbon Constituency, and the motion was seconded by Daw Thandar of Einme Constituency.

During the 38th day session



Dr Myint Htway.

of the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday, parliamentary questions on health matters were answered, a proposal urging the Union government to make more investments in rail transportation service for its development and the submission of a report of the Bill Committee on Myanmar Territorial Sea and Maritime Zones Bill to the parliament were carried out.

Regarding a question about pharmacy and pharmaceutical equipment distribution in the country, Union Minister for



Daw Thandar.

Health and Sport Dr Myint Htway replied that a letter for the appointment of sole agent status is critical to applying for permission to import medicines, and import permission can be granted to another company if a sole company issues a No Objection Letter.

The house will need to amend the law if the procedures require changing, added the Union minister.

On a question about whether a plan to set Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships as priori-

tised areas in accordance with the Law on Health Care for Population Control, the Union minister said that reproductive health action plan financed by UNFPA is in progress beginning this year.

Moreover, birth control measures, family health and maternal and child health sectors have been prioritised and a work plan for reducing maternal and infant mortality and vaccination programs are being carried out with special attention, added the Union minister.

He continued to answer questions about a proposed plan to honour individuals and organisations for the successful ascent of Mt. Everest and an unused hospital in MraukU.

While responding to the first question, the Union minister said that the ministry and Htoo Foundation presented cash awards of K11 million each to two Myanmar mountaineers Ko Win Ko Ko and Ko Pyae Phyo Aung and half size statues of the two climbers are being kept in honour of them at the Myanmar Sports Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. The statues were

installed on 25 August.

The ministry is planning to present certificates of honour to the Htoo Foundation, the Technical Climbing Club of Myanmar and the Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation, said the Union minister.

On the unused hospital in MraukU, the Union minister replied that the old health facility blocking the view of the Palace site in MraukU Cultural Heritage Region is set to be demolished not later than next fiscal year.

An office of the District Public Health Department, Maternal and Child Health Care Centre, School Health Centre, Tuberculosis Control Centre, Malaria Control Centre and an office of the Township Health Department, which are temporarily being kept open in the building of the old hospital, are set to move to a new building for the District Public Health Department which is under construction in the compound of the MraukU Township People's Hospital, added the Union minister. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw continues with Q & A session

THE Amyotha Hluttaw continued its 36th day session with parliamentarians hearing answers to questions regarding the agriculture and irrigation sectors and agreeing to discuss the third revised bill to amend the Myanmar Gems Law yesterday.

During a Q & A session, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu replied that it is difficult to plant Vetiver Grass, which is a perennial bunchgrass in agricultural land, suggesting that the type of grass should be grown to fight soil erosion near rivers and creeks, highways, dams and in mountainous regions.

Regarding construction of the Hsabee-Kanpetlet road linking Paletwa and Kanpetlet Townships of Chin State, the Union minister said that the proposed road construction will be put into



Dr Aung Thu. PHOTO: MNA

the ministry's yearly priority list for regions and states, adding that there is no immediate plan to build the road during this fiscal year.

On a call for the distribution of the Farmland Law Guidebook and the opening of multiplier

courses on the law, the Union minister replied that books on the 2012 Farmland Law and Regulations are on sale and multiplier courses are being conducted by Region/State/District/Township farmland management committees under the supervision of the central committee.

The Union minister continued to answer a question about whether a plan to carry out dredging operations for Ngwetaung Dam will be carried through, saying that a survey will be conducted to know its siltation and a decision will be made as to what measures should be taken after the survey.

The 51-year-old dam reportedly shows no impact from sedimentation in its supply of irrigation water and drinking water to the region. —Myanmar News Agency

138 detained nationals return from Malaysia

A total of 138 detained Myanmar nationals in Malaysia have returned home, under an arrangement among the Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee, Mother Trading and Construction Co Ltd and the Miba Gonyi philanthropic organisation.

The 138 detained Myanmar nationals with Certificates of Identity arrived at the airport in Yangon at 9pm yesterday. They were the eighth batch to return from Malaysia.

The Mother Trading and Construction Co Ltd and the Miba Gonyi philanthropic organisation helped upon their arrival them with K50,000 each and clothes.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is cooperating with Malaysian authorities to protect Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia.

A total of 1,099 detained Myanmar nationals have so far been brought back home from Malaysia. —Zaw Gyi



Detained workers are welcomed by officials. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

Activities to change tobacco habits conducted

TOBACCO consumption in Myanmar has been reduced through effective strategies by the Public Health Foundation (PHE), a non-profit organisation aiming for universal health care in the country.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports, relevant government departments and partner organisations, activities on the control and elimination of tobacco consumption and smoking across the nation have been accelerated by the foundation, said

Dr Phone Myint, secretary of the PHF.

Tobacco use is a major preventable cause of premature death and disease globally. Tobacco use causes at least 15 different cancers, including lung cancer, cancer of the mouth, bladder, kidney, pancreas, liver, stomach and colon.

According to a study, almost 20 per cent of the world's adult population smokes cigarettes. About 800 million adult men and nearly 200 million adult women

worldwide smoke cigarettes.

According to the Myanmar Global Youth Tobacco Survey in 2011, 18.6 per cent of students reported current use of any tobacco products, with 6.8 per cent cigarettes smokers, 8.2 per cent che-root smokers, 9.8 per cent smokeless tobacco users and 7.5 per cent were current users of tobacco who had quit chewing betel.

The prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among boys was about 4 times higher than girls. —Myitmakha News Agency

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses Asia Society in New York

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spoke at an event hosted by the Asia Society in New York about Myanmar's development and the way forward for the nation on Wednesday evening.

During the event, the State Counsellor participated in a question-and-answer discussion with those present.

Present at the event were invitees, foreign policy experts, political scientists, businesspeople, local New Yorkers and students.

After the event, the State Counsellor attended a dinner hosted by the Asia Society.

State Counsellor Daw Aung

San Suu Kyi addressed the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York, the United States in the afternoon on that day.

After addressing the UN General Assembly, the State Counsellor held talks with Mr. Lundeg Purevsuren, adviser to the Mongolian President on foreign policy, on policy matters between the two nations.

Next, the State Counsellor was present at a ceremony concerned with the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the 2016 Treaty Event. — *Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi takes part in a ceremony celebrating the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) during the General Assembly for the 71st session of the UN General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York, US, September 21, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Vice President U Henry Van Thio welcomes ASEAN Energy ministers. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Henry Van Thio meets with ASEAN Energy Ministers, Deputy Secretary-General

VICE President U Henry Van Thio received Ministers for Energy from ASEAN countries and the ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General Dr. Lim Hong Hin at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the represent-

atives discussed matters related to further cooperation among ASEAN members in the energy sector.

Also present were Union Minister U Pe Zin Tun, Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing and officials.— *Myanmar News Agency*

D-G U Kyaw Zeya concurrently appointed Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Director-General U Kyaw Zeya of the Political Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been appointed concurrently as Permanent Secretary of the ministry, said the Union Government yesterday.— *Myanmar News Agency*

President's Office closely watching torture case

THE President's Office announced yesterday that it is closely keeping tabs on the progress of an abuse case of two underage maids in Kyauktada Township.

The statement said that it has ordered the Ministry of Home Affairs to give protection to the victims, their families and the man who brought the abuse

to the attention of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has also been ordered to help the victims feel secure and to console them, said the statement.

Ministry of Home Affairs has also been instructed by the President's Office to send a de-

tailed report on the handling of the case by the Kyauktada Township Police Station.

While keeping watch on the progress of the case, the President's Office is also observing the measures taken on the case by MNHRC, which mediated the negotiations between the family of the victims and the abusers.— *GNLM*

ASEAN energy ministers pledge greater cooperation in energy security and sustainability

A PRESS conference took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday in connection with the ongoing 34th ASEAN Ministers of Energy Meeting (AMEM) and its related meetings.

The five-day meeting kicked off in the country's capital city on Monday with the aim of enhancing cooperation in areas of energy security and sustainability and broadening collaboration with ASEAN's dialogue partners and international organisations.

The meeting discussed strategies to achieve higher as-

pirational targets to improve energy efficiency and increase the uptake of renewable energy sources in line with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2020.

The meeting agreed on the aspirational target to increase the component to renewable energy to 23 per cent by 2025 in ASEAN energy mix and reduce energy intensity by 20 per cent in 2020 based on the 2005 level.

Energy and Electricity Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing said the meeting reached an agreement to enhance connectivity

for energy security and accessibility through the construction of more gas pipelines, promote the technologies for use of coal and clean coal, and implement civilian nuclear energy in 2016-2017.

According to officials at the press conference, the 34th ASEAN Ministers of Energy Meeting (AMEM) has set a theme "Toward Greener Community with Cleaner Energy". The ASEAN ministers for energy will meet in the Philippines for the 35th AMEM next year.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Mandalay becomes magnet for internal migrants

MANDALAY Region has become a magnet for internal migrants, when compared with other regions and states, according to Director U Min Min Win of the Labour Department.

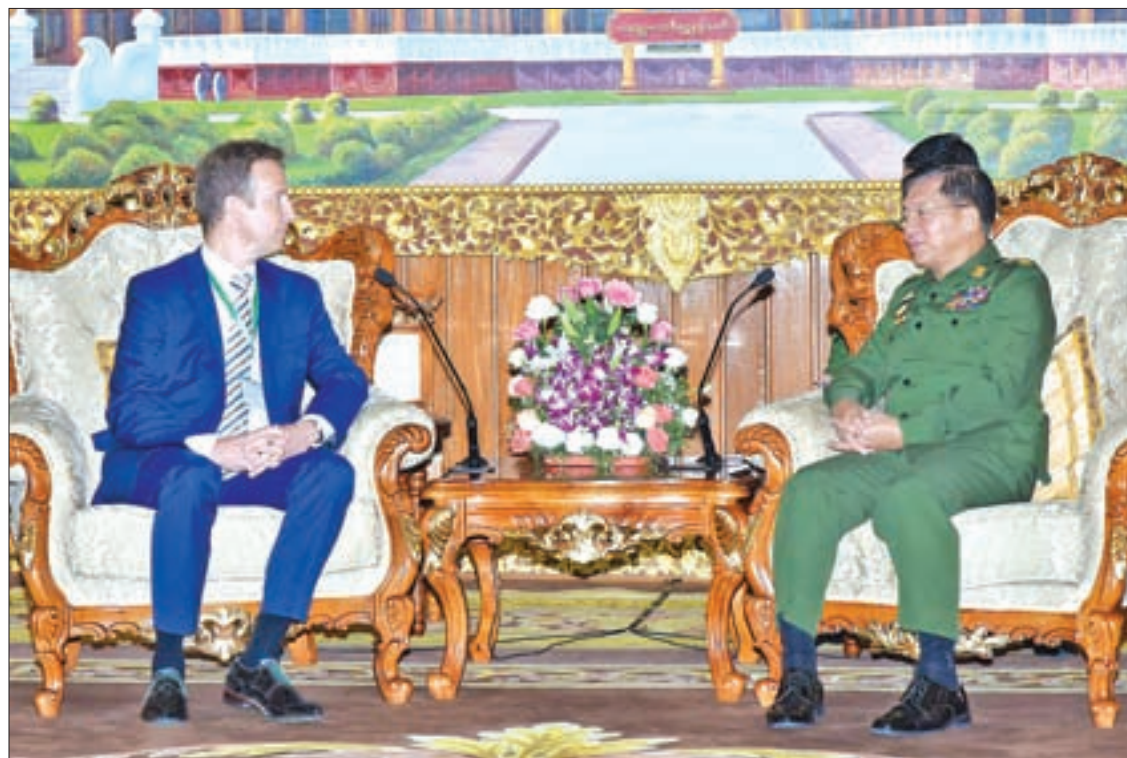
The director blamed low education and the paucity of employment for migration from rural to

urban areas and foreign countries, with analysts relating the growth in migration to the region's booming businesses.

According to statistics, 35% of the region's population lives in urban areas and 65% in rural areas. According to the national census taken in 2014, one fifth

of the country's population is migrant workers internally and externally. The country has 263 licensed overseas employment agencies, which officially send local migrant workers to Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan and Middle East countries.— *Aung Thant Khaing*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Dutch Ambassador



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Dutch Ambassador Mr. Wouter Robert Marie Jurgen. PHOTO: MNA

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ambassador of the Netherlands to Myanmar Mr. Wouter Robert Marie Jurgen at Bayintnaung Yeiktha Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two of-

ficials held discussions on the ongoing peace process, the Tatmadaw's attempts for cooperation with the government, challenges to humanitarian assistance activities in Kachin State and further relations between the two armed forces.

Also present were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Military Attaché Colonel Allard Wage-maker.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Pakokku General Hospital given kidney dialysis machine, water purifier by BFM

PAKOKKU General Hospital was provided with a kidney dialysis machine and a water purifier yesterday by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation.

The donations were made to mark the opening of the second branch of the Kanbawza Bank.

Dr U Phone Maw, the medical superintendent of the hospital, expressed thanks to the foundation for donating the water purifier and the dialysis machine, which is worth K27 million.

At the ceremony, a townselder also thanked the BFM for its contribution of K200 million for the rehabilita-

tion of the people in Pakokku affected by the Storm Giri in 2011.

The philanthropic foundation is providing the healthcare sector with infrastructure and has enabled children to receive surgeries to repair cleft lips and cleft palates.

Since its founding in 2008, BFM has made efforts to uplift the lives of the underdeveloped community members at the grassroots level, supported other philanthropic organizations, helped with disaster relief and recovery and provided free healthcare services at flood-hit areas all across the country.—

Thura Lwin (Eco)



A personnel of the Brighter Future Myanmar clarifies purpose of the donation of adialysis machine and a water purifier. PHOTO: BFM

Crime NEWS

Twelve people injured in car accident

A NISSAN Pick up vehicle carrying twelve passengers crashed into a tree near Chaung Kauk village, Hsin Paung Wae township, Magwe region on Tuesday. According to an investigation, the vehicle, en route to Koebine village from Magwe, was being driven by one U Han Tun, 47, when it crashed into the tree after the driver lost control.

Than Naing Tun, 20, together with other eleven passengers sustained minor injuries in the accident and they are all taking medical



Volunteers assist injured people after the accident. PHOTO: MOE KO KO

treatment at Chaung Kauk station general hospital. The driver has

been charged by police.— *Moe Ko Ko*

Yaba sized in Eindu, Nawngkhio and Myawady

AN anti- drug squad from Eindu township searched the home of one Ma Ta Nut on Monday in Kawsakalo village, Hpa-an township and discovered 1,710 yaba pills.

Similarly, police seized



Ma Ta Nut. PHOTO: MNA

1,710 yaba pills from Aung Zaw Lin, Aung Myo and Kyaw San Win who were found at a shop in Par Hat ward, Nawngkhio town on Sunday.

On the same day, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Myawady township searched the home of one Ma Su Su Haling in ward 4, Myawady town and seized 199 yaba pills. Police also arrested Ma Thazin who is reported to have a connection with the drug sellers. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.— *MNA*

Man injured in petrol fire

A FIRE broke out on the road between Phongyi jetty Bridge 1 and 2 on Wednesday. The fire was caused by a petrol tanker overturning and subsequently coming alight while petrol spilled from the vehicle's tank.

U Hsan Tin, 64, driver of the vehicle, was burned in the accident and was taken to Yangon general hospital for treatment. The fire was put out with the assistance of neighbours. Local police have filed charges against U Hsan Tin.— *Khin Sai*

Uncensored movie sellers arrested in Mandalay

POLICE seized uncensored movies at a shop owned by one Ma Cho Cho, 34, in Yadanar road, 49 street, Pyigyidagun township on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, members of the police searched the shop and found uncensored materials numbering 1,528 CDs/VCDs.

Similarly, members of the police searched a shop owned

by one Aung Thet Phyto in Yadanar road, Pyigyidagun township and seized 1,459 CDs/VCDs. Police also seized 23,475 CDs/VCDs from the shop of one Ma Aye San in Pyigyidagun township. Local police have filed charges against them under Television and Video Law Section 32(B). — 002



Seizures from uncensored movie sellers are seen in Mandalay. PHOTO: POLICE

LOCAL Business

DICA targets to open three more branches in Kayin, Bago and Magway

Ko Moe

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration will open three more branch offices in Kayin, Bago and Magway this fiscal year to facilitate the process of making investments by local and foreign businesspeople, said DICA Director-General U Aung Naing Oo yesterday.

Upon the opening of the branch offices, businesspeople in regions and states will be able to apply for company registration in regions and states without needing to go to Nay Pyi Taw or Yangon, said the DICA director-general. According to DICA,

first priority is to open a branch office in Kayin State early next month before opening the remaining two branches in Bago and Magway Regions.

Branch offices for business registration can save the time and money for business operators in regions and states, added the director-general.

The DICA has opened seven branch offices in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Monywa, Patheingyi, Dawei and Taunggyi.

Coordination is being made with regional governments to establish industrial zones in regions and states, said the DICA.

Lifting of sanction would have no impact on jewellery market

THE jewellery market in Myanmar probably won't improve even if America's sanction are lifted, said U Yone Mu, the chairman of Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

There is little demand from America for Myanmar's jade, U Yone Mu said. Before the sanction on Myanmar was imposed, America had not purchased much of Myanmar's gems and jewellery. Therefore, the clearing of America's sanction list will have vir-

tually no impact on Myanmar's jewellery market, he added. "If the sanction is lifted, we have to see the percentage of impact on Myanmar's jewellery market. After that, there are restrictions laid down by the state", said U Thar Tun, a jewellery entrepreneur. The gems and jewellery entrepreneurs are in a difficult situation because there is still no exact policy of gems and jewellery that has been enacted, according to the jewellery entrepreneurs.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Poultry companies from the Netherlands, Belgium could produce 12 million chicks yearly

A chicken hatchery that will produce 12 million chicks yearly will be created by a joint venture of poultry breeding firms called Belgabroed from Belgium and De Hens from the Netherlands.

The two companies will invest over US\$10.5million to set up a hatchery. The poultry breeding business is expected to be operational by 2017 under the name of Bel Ga Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation. Bel Ga Myanmar will be controlled by BDH Azier BV, a joint venture between poultry breeding firm Belgabroed from Belgium, and the giant Netherlands-based animal

feed firm De Heus.

The hatchery will be established in Yangon Region. Bel Ga Myanmar will distribute the chicks to the highly competitive poultry market. As a result of this, the chicken price is likely to decline. Bel Ga Myanmar has reached an agreement with International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of World Bank to receive US\$6.5million loan, it is learnt. The Dutch company De Heus has experience in Asia, having launched Bel Ga Vietnam in 2013. The business operates two breeding farms and a hatchery in south-central Vietnam.—*Mon Mon*

Income tax on permit-free cars reaches over Ks13,700 million



Cars sale centre at old Thiri Mingala Market. PHOTO: KAUNG HTET

THE income tax levied on permit-free cars reached about Ks13,743 million, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

The levy was imposed starting 2nd June, and since then there are about 100 cars whose owners pay income tax per day. About 8,376 cars, mostly with 1300cc engine and commercial used cars with 660cc engines, individually pay the tax. Although permit-free cars have to

pay income tax, that money can be reimbursed at the township offices of the Internal Revenue Department. But there is a delay which monthly and yearly income taxpayers often encounter, it is learnt. The deregistration of, scrapped old cars in Yangon Region reached over 120,000 as of September, it is learnt from the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD).

Over 15,000 deregis-

tered cars are locally produced vehicles that have been used for over a decade. The deregistration of the scrapped cars is decreasing. The car owners can deregister their cars once the cars are over 20 years old. The deregistration of the scrapped old cars began in September, 2011 and the cars which substitute those deregistered old cars are permitted to import, it is learnt from this department. Previously, the deregistration

was allowed for 40-year-old cars. The 20-year-old cars and 10-year-old locally produced cars are permitted to deregister later on. Previously, the deregistration had to be done at the Myintha RTAD office in the western district of Yangon Region and at the Myingyan RTAD office in Mandalay. Starting from 2nd February, 2016, the deregistration of the old, scrapped cars can be made at the townships and districts concerned.—*Ko Htet*

Government low-cost housing event to be held in October at MICT Park

A low-cost housing event will be held from 21st to 23rd October at MICT Park in cooperation with the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and the Construction and Housing Development Bank.

The low-cost housing event, led by House.com.mm, includes low-cost apartments implemented by the government under a 100-day project.

The low-cost housing expo will feature the government's low-cost programmes and the fair-cost

apartments developed by construction businessmen.

"We will make an effort to meet the target, but the event will not be one-stop service for the buyers", said Ko Tun Tun Naing, in charge of public relation for House.com.mm. The low-cost housing expo plans to sell apartments in 8-year instalments through a contact with Construction and Housing Development Bank. The down payment is set at 20 to 30 per cent of the cost.

The highest cost of the apartments sold by the

government is Ks12million per apartment and the lowest cost will be under Ks10million.

Those who want to buy the apartment in instalments must have a minimum monthly income of three to five lakhs. The apartments will be three sizes: 658, 484 and 520 square feet in area. The apartments will be in four-storey buildings with 6 or 8 units on each floor.

"There is no rule to sell the apartment to those who cannot afford to pay the down payment. But

we will make an effort to formulate this rule. We will scrutinise the buyers whether they have their own house or not, said an official from the Construction and Housing Development Bank.

There are a total of 2,208 rooms for sale from the government: 864 rooms from the Yuzana low-cost housing project; 1, 840 rooms from the Kanaung low-cost housing project and 504 rooms from the Shwe Lin Pan project 3, Hlaingthaya Township.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Malaysian police arrest four terror suspects, including three foreigners

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian authorities have detained four men, including three foreigners, for alleged terrorist activities, the federal police chief said on Thursday.

The inspector general of police, Khalid Abu Bakar, said a 37-year old Bangladeshi restaurant owner, wanted by Interpol, was picked up on 19 August on suspicion of being involved in the smuggling of firearms for use by an international terror group.

A 38-year old Nepali who runs an entertainment outlet was apprehended on 19 August. He was said to be involved in forging travel documents for an overseas terror group. Both the Bangladeshi and Nepali were deported on 2 September. The third foreign suspect, a 26-year old Moroccan who worked as a welder, was found to be

a member of the Islamic State organisation, Khalid said. He had previously been detained by Turkish authorities in early February while trying to enter Syria illegally. After he was freed, he slipped into Malaysia in early May. He was caught on 2 August and deported on 21 September. The sole Malaysian nabbed in the latest anti-terror sting was a 34-year old driver whom Khalid said has ties to Muhamad Wandy Bin Mohamad Jedi, who is currently fighting alongside Islamic State in Syria. Police have stated Mohamad Wandy was the mastermind behind the 28 June grenade attack on the Movida pub in Puchong, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, which injured eight people — the first “successful” attack claimed by the terror group on Malaysian soil.—*Kyodo News*

At UN, China calls for North Korean denuclearisation, dialogue



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang speaks during a High Level Leaders meeting on Refugees on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters in New York, US, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on Wednesday that countries must remain committed to denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula while seeking a solution to the North Korean nuclear issue through dialogue.

Li, in a speech to the

annual United Nations General Assembly, said maritime disputes should also be resolved through talks, a reference to disputes in the South China Sea. “We should remain committed to the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula ... and seek consultation and dialogue for

a solution, so as to maintain the international nuclear non-proliferation regime,” Li said.

“China also maintains that disputes concerning territory and maritime rights and interests should be resolved through dialogue and negotiation. We need to expand common ground while shelving differences.” China has competing maritime claims with several East Asian countries and its assertive pursuit of territory in the South China Sea is a potential flashpoint and a cause of significant friction in its relations with the United States. China is North Korea’s neighbour and main ally, but has been angered by its repeated missile and nuclear tests and backed tough UN sanctions on Pyongyang. At the same time, it has repeatedly called for a return to international talks to resolve the

issue, in spite of skepticism of other world powers.

UN diplomats said China and the United States have started discussions on a possible UN sanctions resolution on North Korea. Washington said Li and US President Barack Obama agreed in New York on Monday to step up co-operation in the UN Security Council and in law enforcement channels.

Obama said on Tuesday that North Korea’s nuclear tests were a danger to all and it must face consequences.

China and the United States are also targeting the finances of Liaoning Hongxiang Industrial, a Chinese conglomerate headed by a Communist Party cadre that the Obama administration thinks has a role in assisting North Korea’s nuclear programme, the *Wall Street Journal* reported this week.—*Reuters*

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Bangkok edges out London as world's top travel destination: Mastercard

BANGKOK — The Thai capital of Bangkok has beaten London to be crowned the world’s most popular travel destination this year, according to an annual ranking by global payments and technology company Mastercard released on Thursday.

Tourism has been one of the rare bright spots for Thailand, Southeast Asia’s second-largest economy, which has grappled with weak consumer confidence and exports after a 2014 coup the military said was aimed at ending months of political unrest. Last month’s wave of bomb blasts in southern Thailand, which police have blamed on Muslim separatists, appears to have had a limited impact on tourism. Bangkok, also known as the ‘city of angels’, topped the 2016 listing of 132 cities, beating London, Paris and Dubai to become the city most visited by international travellers in the Mastercard Index of Global Destination Cities. “It isn’t a flash in the pan. Bangkok is in a strong position to be the top destination city for a long time,” Yuwa Hedrick-Wong, Mastercard chief economist, told Reuters. “There’s the



Tourists hold up umbrellas at a department store in Bangkok, Thailand, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

value for money, especially for visitors coming from high-income countries.”

Thailand expects to welcome a record 33 million visitors this year, thanks to a jump in the number of Chinese tourists.

Sprawling Bangkok is projected to receive 21.47 million international visitors in 2016, just ahead of second-ranked London, with

19.88 million visitors.

“The pollution makes it a less than ideal city to stay long term, but the food is second to none,” James Donnelly, 31, a tourist from Britain who was visiting the city on his way to Viet Nam, told Reuters. Elsewhere in Asia, the Japanese city of Osaka has shown the strongest growth in international visitors over the

past seven years, attracting tourists from neighbouring countries, particularly China and South Korea, said Mastercard. The British capital topped the 2015 ranking of global destinations, but Mastercard did not say why some of its shine had rubbed off for travellers this year. The two cities have topped the ranking for most of its history.—*Reuters*

Shinzo Abe: Japan's shrinking population not burden but incentive

NEW YORK — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Japan's aging, shrinking population was not a burden, but an incentive to boost productivity through innovations like robots, wireless sensors and Artificial Intelligence.

Abe's comments on Wednesday came days after official data showed that Japan has 34.6 million people aged 65 and older, or 27.3 per cent of the population — the highest proportion among advanced nations.

"I have absolutely no worries about Japan's demography," Abe said in a prepared speech at a Reuters Newsmaker event, noting that nominal gross domestic product had grown despite losing 3 million working-age people over the last three years.

"Japan may be aging. Japan may be losing its population. But these are incentives for us," he said.

"Why? Because we will continue to be motivated to grow our productivity," Abe added, citing robots, wireless sensors, and Artificial Intelligence as among the tools to do so.

"So, Japan's demography, paradoxically, is not an onus, but a bonus."

Abe has said he wants to halt the slide in Japan's population at 100 million people by 2060, about one-fifth below the current level.

The government also aims to raise the fertility rate from 1.4 births per woman to 1.8 — still below the 2.1 needed to prevent a population from shrinking.

Abe has focused on mobilising women and the elderly



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a Reuters Newsmaker conversation in Manhattan. PHOTO: REUTERS

to compensate for a shrinking workforce rather than tackle head-on the politically touchy topic of immigration, although some changes are being considered on that front.

He outlined plans for labour-market reform, which he said would help boost long-term growth, but steered clear of a move many experts say is vital — making it easier for companies to fire workers.

A divide has emerged between a falling number of salaried workers and a rising tide of part-time or other "irregular" employees, whose lower wages and scant job security depress spending and constrain consumer confidence.

Abe vowed that a task force he is convening will fill this gap and ensure equal pay for equal work, as well as find ways to encourage more women and older people to work.

But he declined to directly address a question on whether the government would make it easier to dismiss workers who do not have the needed skills.

Instead, Abe referred to a domestic debate about whether to settle dismissals with cash payments rather than in court.

"I have no intention of introducing a system where you can fire people freely with monetary compensation," he said.

Abe, who returned to office in December 2012 for a rare second term pledging to reboot the economy with mix of ultra-easy monetary policy, fiscal spending and reforms, reiterated that the economy remained his top priority.

Critics worry he might switch his attention to trying to revise Japan's post-war pacifist constitution, as Abenomics seems to be running out of steam.—Reuters

Indian cabinet approves purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets

NEW DELHI — India's cabinet cleared the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets from Dassault Aviation on Wednesday, paving the way for signing a deal that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is betting on to modernise the air force, a government source told Reuters.

The acquisition is part of a \$150-billion military overhaul India has launched, drawing global arms makers into one of the world's most promising markets.

Under the deal, India will get 36 Rafale jets ready to go straight into service. India's fighter aircraft fleet, comprising Russian, British and French planes, is down to 33 squadrons as against the air force's requirement of 45 to counter a "two-front collusive threat" from Pakistan and China.

The two countries will sign the final deal on Friday, the source, who did not wish to be

named as he is not authorised to speak to the media, said.

French defence minister Jean-Yves Le Drian is arriving New Delhi on Thursday, the source said, to sign the deal with his Indian counterpart, Manohar Parrikar. French President Francois Hollande's office confirmed that Le Drian would visit India at the end of the week.

India, the world's biggest arms importer, had intended to buy 126 Rafale planes before several years worth of talks with Dassault broke down and Modi and Hollande stepped in last year to agree on the smaller purchase.

The value of the deal, which had been repeatedly held up as the two sides haggled over financial terms, was not immediately available.

Indian defence ministry officials have earlier said the value of the deal could be \$8.5 billion to \$9 billion.—Reuters



An Dassault Rafale from the French Air Force flies over San Lorenzo beach during an aerial exhibition in northern Spain. PHOTO: REUTERS

Just do it: Chinese city tells cadres to set example and have second child

SHANGHAI — With China facing a demographic crisis of stalling birth rates and a fast-ageing population, one city has taken a novel approach: a direct call to action aimed at young government officials to lead the way and have a second child.

The government of Yichang city in central Hubei Province posted an open letter calling for young cadres to have more children to stem a slide in birth rates in the city which has started to hit economic growth.

China's demographic time-bomb has become increasingly urgent of late as the country faces its slowest economic growth in a quarter of a century, with a sluggish manufacturing sector hit by a dearth of cheap labour due in part to a shrinking workforce.

"Young cadres have to take the lead having a second child, while elder cadres should urge them on," the letter said, citing the need to bolster the city's working population and raise a

fertility rate that has fallen below one child per woman.

"If things continue as they are, it will bring huge risk and damage to our city's economic and social development, as well

as the livelihood of our families," said the letter, stamped by official departments including the city's health bureau.

China last year said it would ease family planning restrictions

to allow all couples to have two children after decades of a strict one-child policy, a move aimed at relieving demographic strains on the world's second largest economy.

Beijing has loosened the rules over the last few years in the face of concerns the strict policy was leading to a shrinking workforce unable to support a fast-growing elderly population. By around the middle of this century, one in every three Chinese is forecast to be over 60.

"The low birth rate has aggravated the risk of the one-child policy, led to an ageing population, a shortfall in the labour force, and lagging urbanisation, which hits the city's labour productivity and overall competitiveness," the letter said.

The open letter, picked up by domestic media late on Wednesday but dated 13 September, has received a mixed response.

"Our jobs are stable so it's easier to have two children. Those with a busier job have to sacrifice more if they want a second kid," said Yan Liu, a civil servant with a 14-month-old girl in Shanghai.

Online, some people were more sceptical.—Reuters



A poster advocating couples to have a second child, is seen in Changde, Hunan Province, China, on 14 July 2016. Red Chinese characters read "the nation advocates one couple to have two children". PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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

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

Harness diversity as a source of energy

Kyaw Thura

AS a country of diverse races, cultures and religions, Myanmar still finds itself grappling with challenges on its path of democratic reform to a harmonious, peaceful, prosperous society that embraces ethnic, religious and social diversity. There is no alternative but to work together and harness diversity as a source of energy for achieving peace with equality and enhancing prosperity with justice.

As State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has put it in her address to the UN General Assembly yesterday, national reconciliation for the restoration of enduring peace is second to none, given the country's six decades-plus of internal armed conflict. The onus is on all the people across the country, regardless of their race, gender and religion, to remain committed to a sustainable solution that will lead to peace, stability and development for all ethnic communities.

Nobody should ever lose their innate sense of responsibility to remove the threat of conflict and instability by promoting understanding and trust among all communities across the country in order to ensure social and economic security.

It is better to demonstrate support for a political culture of unity in diversity, if we want to make our dreams and aspirations come true. It is time to shift our attitude to diversity from social discrimination to social integration. After all, whether our country becomes a successful multi-ethnic, multi-religious society depends on how effectively we can build our country anew with our determined hope of bringing people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds together.

Tamu border trade zone reaches biggest value of trade with ITC

THE value of trade at the Tamu border trade camp has risen through the use of individual Trading Cards (ITC). The value itself has exceeded K300 million, according to the Trade Promotion Department.

The trade value, with the use of ITCs, has reached over K280 million at the Muse, Myawady and Tachilek border trade camps. The export value with ITCs is K400 million while the import value with ITCs is K1.9 billion across 20 border trade camps.

Trading with ICT cards means that individual businesspeople are allowed to conduct direct trade at border camps. The card holders are allowed to import electrical appliances and other personal goods from other countries and export agricultural products from Myanmar.

Traders from border trade camp began to use Individual Trading Cards (ICT) in 2012. The card holders are allowed to trade goods worth K10,000,000 per week. — 200

Statement by H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the General Debate of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 21 September 2016

Madame Vice President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the first representative of the new government of Myanmar to speak before this Assembly, it is my duty, and my privilege, to reaffirm our faith and confidence in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The strength of this Organization lies in its universality and legitimacy, anchored in the Charter and in the fundamental principles of international law. For all its imperfections and limitations, the United Nations remain a receptacle of our hopes for a more peaceful and prosperous world, a kinder, more compassionate home for all mankind.

My country joined the United Nations as the newly independent Union of Burma in 1948. It was an era of determined hope, when the peoples of the world rose out of the ravages of war to build anew their countries and their faith in the human capacity for achieving peace with equality, prosperity with justice. Now, once again, it is a time of determined hope for Myanmar. When our people cast the overwhelming majority of their votes in favour of the National League for Democracy during the elections last November, they were demonstrating their support not just for a political party but for a political culture founded on a belief in their rights, and their capacity, to fashion the future of their country in the shape of their dreams and aspirations. And these dreams and aspirations echo those that had led to the founding of the United Nations.

The dream of turning swords into plough shares, or to use a more modern idiom, converting weapons of destruction into farm machinery, is one that our people, who have long been compelled to sacrifice their sleep and their fields to the exigencies of conflict, understand with their hearts and their

minds. To be safe in our own homes, to be confident in our capacity to realize our full potential, to be happy in the promise of progress for our young and security for our elderly, to be strong in our rights and duties as citizens of a peaceful and prosperous Union. These are our simple aspirations. Simple, but, it hardly needs to be said, not easy to achieve. And the only path that will lead us to our goals is the path of peace, the path that we must follow with hope and determination.

Madame Vice President,

The people of Myanmar have long been deprived of their inherent right to live in peace and security, to fundamental freedom and to development, in the context of our 2030 goals, sustainable development. For a country that has experienced over six decades of internal armed conflict, nothing is more important than the achievement of lasting peace and national reconciliation. It is a difficult and complex task that the new government of Myanmar is taking on as a major challenge and a high priority. Recently, we convened the first session of the Union Peace Conference, also known as the 21st Century Panglong, as it embodies the spirit of Panglong, the conference of 1947 that paved the way to the founding of the independent Union of Burma. Attended by representatives of the Government, the Parliament, the Armed Forces, ethnic armed groups, political parties and civil society organizations, the Union Peace Conference is based on the principle of inclusiveness and embodies the spirit of Union. The Conference is not an end in itself. It is the first vital step on our journey to national reconciliation and lasting peace that will save succeeding generations from the scourge of fraternal strife, which has brought untold sorrow to our peoples.

Madame Vice President,

Over the last few years, the world has focused its attention on the situation in the Rakhine



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 71st United Nations General Assembly in Manhattan, New York, U.S. September 21, 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS/MIKE SEGAR

State of the country. As a responsible member of the community of nations, we do not fear international scrutiny. We are committed to a sustainable solution that will lead to peace, stability and development for all communities within the State. Our Government is taking a holistic approach that makes development central to both short and long term programmes aimed at promoting understanding and trust. The Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State was established soon after our new Government took office. We are undertaking the tasks of establishing security, peace and stability and rule of law; scrutinizing migration and citizenship; facilitating settlements and implementing socio-economic development; and coordinating and cooperating with the UN Agencies and international organizations for provid-

ing humanitarian assistance.

To buttress our efforts to address the issue comprehensively and more effectively, we have also established the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

There has been persistent opposition from some quarters to the establishment of the Commission. However, we are determined to persevere in our endeavour to achieve harmony, peace and prosperity in the Rakhine State. Here, I would like to take the opportunity to ask for the understanding and constructive contribution of the international community. By standing firm against the forces of prejudice and intolerance, we are reaffirming our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person.

Madame Vice President,

Peace and national reconcili-

ation are prerequisites for the successful implementation of policies and programmes aimed at fulfilling the social and economic needs of our people. Myanmar's 2016 national economic and development policy is designed to meet many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the enhancement of infrastructure investment, agriculture, private sector, SMEs and, in particular, poverty alleviation. National reconciliation, job creation and preservation of natural resources, capacity building and creating opportunities for the young are the key objectives of our people-centered and inclusive policy.

Madame Vice President,

Many of our shared concerns as members of the United Nations have been discussed comprehensively in this assembly since the general debate opened yesterday. I will therefore touch upon just a few issues, migration, terrorism,

nuclear disarmament, mindful of your exhortation to keep within the limits of the time allotted to us.

Durable solutions to problems can be found only by investigating their roots. The unprecedented scale of migration in recent years and the consequent sufferings makes it an imperative to address the two most important causes of irregular migration; lack of peace and lack of development. While talking about building peace and development, we cannot neglect the important aspect of enhancing respect for human rights, equality, diversity and tolerance with a balanced implementation of multi-dimensional economic policies. This is a challenging task and there is a need for countries to work in collaboration to seek just and comprehensive solution in compliance with international law. Migrants contribute to the economies of

their host countries as well as to the global economy. Therefore, I believe that building cooperation and collaboration between the host country and the country of origin in ensuring the rights of migrant workers will be mutually reinforcing for both. Our planet is a place to be shared by all. Sharing values and wealth will create a better world for all of us.

Madame Vice President,

We must be united in standing together against all forms and manifestations of violent extremism related to religious, cultural and social intolerance. Having identified extremism as the root of terrorism, we need to explore the causes of extremism. Lack of social and economic security no doubt are important factors but we also need to consider the possibility that lack of purpose, of a sense of direction in life, could also be a force that drives many, especially the young into the snare of

ideologies that appear to offer certainty.

Madame Vice President,

Myanmar advocates a world free of nuclear weapons. The annual resolution tabled by my country on nuclear disarmament aims at achieving peace and security for present and future generations. Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different regions of the world contributes to this goal. I am happy to inform this Assembly that we will be depositing our instrument of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty-CTBT this afternoon.

Madame Vice President,

We have known the cost of contention and suffered the wound of strife. It is something that we do not wish for anybody or any country in our world. I would like to thank all those who have helped us along our road to build a truly democratic federal Union. It has been a hard road that we have been helped by compassion, by loving kindness and by understanding. We would like to call for more of these factors in facing the problems of our world today. I have seen too much anger and hatred and resentment, demands, not offer of services. We would like our world to be a kinder world, a world that gives places giving above receiving. Whilst we are taught in Burma that the causes of corruption are greed, anger, fear and ignorance, I am not talking of corruption simply as the taking of bribes, or the offering of bribes, but of the corruption of human nature. Anger, greed, fear and ignorance corrupt human nature and it corrupts our whole world. I would like to call on all to help us in making this world truly a better place for us to live in for our grandchildren and great great grandchildren to live in. And where but in this gathering of nations, can I make such an appeal. So, I appeal to you that we all stand up against anger and hatred, against fear and ignorance and find a way to a better world through our capacities for compassion, for loving kindness and for the ability to be happy in the good fortune of others.

I thank you, Madame Vice President.

As Obama's term wanes, so does focus on Israeli-Palestinian issue



Israeli army soldiers keep guard as an Israeli military front loader opens the entrance of the West Bank village of Bani Na'im, near Hebron, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS — In his first major United Nations speech eight years ago, President Barack Obama said he would not give up on Israeli-Palestinian peace.

In likely his last UN speech, on Tuesday, he spoke little about the conflict beyond voicing the unsurprising sentiment that matters would improve if Israel let go of Palestinian land and if the Palestinians rejected incitement and embraced Israel's legitimacy.

While US officials have said Obama could lay out the rough outlines of a deal — “parameters” in diplomatic parlance — after the 8 November presidential election and before he departs on 20 January, many Middle East analysts doubt this will have

much effect.

The result, they say, is likely to be a legacy of failure on an issue Obama made a priority when he came into office in 2009 and declared in his first UN General Assembly address: “I will not waver in my pursuit of peace.”

Obama has little to show for his two efforts — one spearheaded by George Mitchell in his first term and another by US Secretary of State John Kerry in his second.

“He has not made an impact on this issue, at all, and he wants to,” said Elliott Abrams, a Middle East adviser to former President George W. Bush, a Republican. “So I think the question that he is asking is really a legacy question, rather than asking a pragmatic question of what will really help

the parties.”

Obama raised concerns about Israeli settlements in the West Bank when he met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York on Wednesday. A senior US official told reporters afterwards those concerns included the “corrosive effect” settlement activity during 50 years of occupation had had on prospects for negotiating peace based on two states, Israeli and Palestinian.

The CIA Factbook online says about 371,000 Israelis live in settlements scattered among an estimated 2.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank, captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. Neither figure includes East Jerusalem, which both sides claim. —Reuters

Anti-Trump campaigners hit London's streets in red bus

LONDON — Activists urging American expats in Britain to vote in the upcoming US presidential election took to the streets of London on Wednesday in a red open-top double-decker bus adorned with anti-Donald Trump posters.

Organisers, online activist network Avaaz, put up flags, balloons and posters reading “American Abroad: Vote to Stop Trump” on the bus, referring to the Republican presidential nominee who faces Democrat Hillary Clinton in the 8 November vote.

Some 30 activists filled the top of the bus as it made its way around the British capital, chanting “Stop Trump” and singing along to Bruce Springsteen song “Born In The USA.”

The bus made stops along the way, with campaigners using tablets to help some expats register for the vote.

Some eight million Ameri-



A campaigner attaches American flags to a ‘Stop Trump’ open-top double decker bus before touring London to urge Americans living abroad to register and vote, Britain, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

cans live abroad, of which more than 220,000 live in Britain. However, just 12 per cent of them vote, Avaaz said in a statement.

According to a Reuters/

Ipsos poll published last week, Clinton leads Trump by 4 percentage points, with 42 per cent of likely voters supporting her and 38 per cent backing the Republican. —Reuters



Theme for 37th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

“Vibrant AIPA for a progressive ASEAN Community”

NEWS IN BRIEF

US fighter crashes off Okinawa: local government official

NAHA — A US military aircraft crashed off the coast of Okinawa Prefecture on Thursday, the local prefectural government said.

The AV-8 Harrier jet crashed around 1:55 pm about 150 kilometres east of Cape Hedo located at the north end of the southern island prefecture.

The pilot has been rescued, according to the US military.

The Japanese coast guard is searching for the site of the crash and the US military is investigating the cause. —Kyodo News

Death toll from floods, landslides in Indonesia rises to 26

JAKARTA — The death toll from flash floods and landslides in Indonesia's West Java has risen to 26, with 19 others missing, the country's disaster agency said on Thursday.

In the worst-hit Garut district, 23 people died and 18 are missing. In Sumedang district, three people died and one person is missing.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency Chief Wilem Rampangilei reported the disaster countermeasures to President Joko Widodo on Wednesday evening.

Search and rescue operations also involving the police and military are continuing. —Kyodo News

NATO: We are threatening no one, Balkan peace joint concern

BRUSSELS — NATO is not threatening anyone, an unnamed NATO official told Tanjug's Brussels correspondent when asked if a recent statement by Czech General Petr Pavel could be seen as a threat to Serbia.

Pavel, who chairs the NATO Military Committee, said Saturday the Balkans remained a potential source of war conflicts, adding that NATO must be able to deter adversaries and defend its members, as well as have a greater role in the fight against terrorism.

Pavel was referring to tensions in the W. Balkans that are also recognised by all regional leaders, the official said.

Asked if Pavel's words reflected NATO's position or his own, the official said the general had made the statement as chairman of the Military Committee, and that NATO and all countries in the region were cooperating closely towards a joint objective of keeping the W. Balkans safe and secure. —Tanjug

EU asks Obama to stop 9/11 Saudi bill

WASHINGTON — The European Union on Wednesday called on President Barack Obama to block a US bill allowing survivors and families of victims of the 11 September attacks to sue Saudi Arabia, saying it was in violation of international law.

“The possible adoption and implementation of the (bill) would be in conflict with fundamental principles of international law and in particular the principle of State sovereign immunity,” the European Union delegation to the United States said in a letter to the US Department of State seen by Reuters. The letter said the EU considers that the bill's adoption and its implementation could have unwanted consequences, as other states adopt similar legislation. —Reuters

US watchdog slams Afghan anti-corruption body and former president

WASHINGTON — An Afghan anti-corruption body formed in 2008 has been ineffective, lacks independence and never verified the asset declaration forms of former President Hamid Karzai, the US government's top watchdog on Afghanistan said in a report published on Thursday.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) found that asset declaration forms submitted by Karzai and senior members of his government had omissions and errors.

The report highlights the

challenges Afghanistan faces in battling corruption, which US officials say undermines the fight against the Taliban.

Corruption is widely considered pervasive in Afghanistan, which the watchdog group Transparency International ranked 166th out of 168 nations in its annual corruption index this year.

The SIGAR report found that when Karzai submitted his asset declaration form in September 2015, he listed cash in a German bank account but did not give an account number and left the

source-of-money field blank.

"Under personal effects, the president listed jewels but again provided no purchase date, no current value, and no source of income to purchase the asset," the report added.

When then-Vice President Karim Khalili left office, his declaration form said he had "no cash assets or personal effects, and no vehicles, loans, off-duty activities, or educational expenses to declare," the report said.

Khalili declared a house and four plots of land but gave no in-

formation on their value.

The report, citing an adviser with the anti-corruption body, said the asset declaration process was simply "window dressing designed to keep the international community happy."

Karzai, who has faced criticism for failing to curb corruption during his tenure, could not immediately be reached for comment.

The United States has appropriated nearly \$113 billion for reconstruction in Afghanistan since 2001, when US-led forces

invaded the country and toppled the Taliban regime.

SIGAR's website says, "These funds are used to build the Afghan National Security Forces, promote good governance, conduct development assistance, and engage in counter-narcotics and anti-corruption efforts."

As the US-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has withdrawn troops, however, the Afghan government has been facing a growing threat from a renewed Taliban insurgency.—*Reuters*

Senate clears way for \$1.15 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON — The US Senate cleared the way for a \$1.15 billion sale of tanks and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, defending a frequent partner in the Middle East recently subject to harsh criticism in Congress.

The Senate voted 71 to 27 to kill legislation that would have stopped the sale.

The overwhelming vote stopped an effort led by Republican Senator Rand Paul and Democratic Senator Chris Murphy to block the deal over concerns including Saudi Arabia's role in the 18-month-long war in Yemen and worries that it might fuel an ongoing regional arms race.

The Pentagon announced on 9 August that the State Department had approved the potential sale of more than 130 Abrams battle tanks, 20 armored recovery vehicles and other equipment to Saudi Arabia.

The Defence Security Cooperation Agency said General Dynamics Corp would be the principal contractor for the sale.

Paul, Murphy and other opponents of the arms deal were sharply critical of the Riyadh government during debate before the vote, citing Yemen, the kingdom's human rights record and its international support for a conservative form of Islam.

"If you're serious about stopping the flow of extremist recruiting across this globe, then



An Abrams battle tank during a tour of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Centre, Lima Army Tank Plant, in Lima, Ohio, in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

you have to be serious that the ... brand of Islam that is spread by Saudi Arabia all over the world, is part of the problem," Murphy said.

The criticism came days before lawmakers are expected to back another measure seen as anti-Saudi, a bill that would allow lawsuits against the country's government by relatives of victims of the 11 September attacks.

President Barack Obama has promised to veto that bill,

but congressional leaders say there is a strong chance that lawmakers will override the veto and let the measure become law. Overriding a presidential veto requires a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate.

In Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is battling Iranian-allied Houthis, the Houthis have accused the United States of arming and supporting the Saudis, who intervened on the side of Yemen's exiled government.

The war has killed over 10,000 people and displaced more than 3 million.

But backers of the deal said Saudi Arabia is an important US ally in a war-torn region, deserving of US support.

"This motion comes at a singularly unfortunate time and would serve to convince Saudi Arabia and all other observers that the United States does not live up to its commitments," Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said.—*Reuters*

US tests for mustard agent after rocket attack near Iraq base

WASHINGTON — The US military is testing to see if a chemical agent may have been used in a rocket attack in Iraq by Islamic State that came within hundreds of yards (metres) of US forces but injured no one, a US military official said on Wednesday.

The rocket fell on Tuesday in an unpopulated area near the Qayyara West base, where hundreds of US forces are working to prepare an airfield ahead of Iraq's offensive to retake the city of Mosul from the radical group Islamic State, said the official, who spoke with Pentagon reporters on condition of anonymity. A group of US forces inspected the fragments afterwards and took a small sample of a suspicious "tar-like, black, oily" substance, which initially tested positive for mustard agent but then tested negative in a subsequent examination, the official said. Further tests were underway. The incident was first reported by CNN. As a precaution, they underwent routine decontamination procedures, including showers, but did not display symptoms that would typically show up within 12 hours of exposure.

"It's been more than 24 hours and we haven't seen anyone who has any indication of blistering or anything like that," the official said.

"There are absolutely no injuries. Nobody has been off their typical work schedule. It hasn't impacted the mission in any way." The US military has used air strikes to repeatedly hit Islamic State's chemical weapons stores, and experts have warned that the militant group might use the agents during the upcoming Mosul offensive.

The United States has also observed repeated Islamic State attacks over the past year or so against Iraqi troops, Kurdish forces and Syrian soldiers, a second US official said. But the official stressed there had not been such attacks against the US forces in Iraq, who number at least 4,400.

"I don't know of a case like this where it was proximate to US forces like this before," the second official said.—*Reuters*

Rocket attack from Syria hurts six, including five children, in Turkish town — officials

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey) — Six people, including five children, were wounded when a rocket from Syria hit the Turkish border town of Kilis on Thursday, officials said, the first such attack since Ankara-backed rebels cleared Islamic State from Turkey's southern border this month.

Windows were shattered and dust rose from smashed con-

crete on a busy shopping street, footage following the attack aired by on CNN Turk showed.

The local governor, Ismail Catakli, said in a statement that six people, five of them children, were wounded in the attack.

All six of the wounded are Syrian nationals, Mayor Hasan Kara told CNN Turk, adding that none of their injuries were life threatening. Kilis is home to

a sizeable population of Syrian refugees who fled the civil war into neighbouring Turkey.

Police sources said the rocket came from Islamic State-controlled territory inside Syria. Since January of this year such cross-border rocket attacks have killed 21 people and wounded 80 in Kilis, security sources said.

This month Turkish tanks

rolled into Syria from Kilis province, as part of Ankara's operation, dubbed "Euphrates Shield" that has helped Turkey-back rebel sweep Islamic State from a 90-km (55 miles) stretch of Turkey's border.

However, the land under control of the rebels is a narrow wedge and Islamic State has a presence further south.—*Reuters*

State of emergency called after second night of unrest in Charlotte, North Carolina

CHARLOTTE, (N.C.) — One person was shot and gravely wounded on Wednesday in a second night of unrest in Charlotte, North Carolina, officials said, as riot police dispersed unruly protesters after the fatal police shooting of a black man under disputed circumstances.

North Carolina's governor later declared a state of emergency amid the disturbances and said the National Guard and state Highway Patrol troopers would be sent in to help police in Charlotte restore and maintain order.

Charlotte Police Chief Kerr Putney initially reported that a person shot during the protest had died, but city officials later posted a Twitter message saying the individual had been hospitalised in critical condition on life support.

The city also said the gunshot was fired by one civilian at another, not by police. A police officer was also being treated for injuries suffered during Wednesday's protests, it said.

Putney told Fox News: "We're trying to disperse



Two women embrace while looking at a police officer in uptown Charlotte, NC during a protest of the police shooting of Keith Scott, in Charlotte, North Carolina, US, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the crowd. We've been very patient, but now they've become very aggressive, throwing bottles and so forth, at my officers, so it's time for us now to restore order."

The flashpoint for

Charlotte's unrest was Tuesday's fatal police shooting of Keith Scott, 43, who according to police was armed with a handgun and refused officers' orders to drop the weapon. His family and a witness to the shooting said

Scott was holding a book, not a firearm.

Authorities have not released any video of the incident but the city's mayor said she would view the footage on Thursday.

Governor Pat McCrory

said he was acting at the request of the Charlotte police chief in sending National Guard and state troopers to assist local law enforcement.

"Any violence directed toward our citizens or police officers or destruction of

property should not be tolerated," McCrory said in a statement.

The latest trouble began with a peaceful rally that turned violent after several hundred chanting demonstrators marched through downtown with brief stops at a black church, police headquarters and a large entertainment venue called the EpiCentre.

As they approached downtown Charlotte's central intersection, protesters confronted a column of patrol cars and officers in front of the Omni Charlotte Hotel and began to surround groups of police and their vehicles. Police then unleashed volleys of rubber bullets, pepper spray, tear gas and flash-bang grenades to disperse the protesters, who began hurling fireworks and debris at officers outside the hotel.

The confrontation grew more intense as a phalanx of helmeted police carrying shields advanced down a street, pushing back a crowd of demonstrators who scurried for cover as officers fired more tear gas.—Reuters

Schools in Canada province closed by threat, but no device found

CHARLOTTETOWN — Canadian police evacuated all schools in the eastern province of Prince Edward Island on Wednesday after a bomb threat, but authorities said the situation was under control after no explosive device was found.

About 19,000 students at 62 schools were taken to safe locations in their communities around the island on Canada's eastern coast. It is the country's smallest province with a population of about 146,000.

"The minister of public safety just informed me that all of the schools' children and personnel are

safe. The situation is under control," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said at a news conference in Ottawa.

The provincial government said in a tweet that information about whether schools would reopen on Thursday would come on Wednesday evening.

In Prince Edward Island's capital of Charlottetown, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sergeant Kevin Bailey said at a press conference he was aware of separate threats in the nearby province of Nova Scotia and the United States.—Reuters



A Charlottetown Police vehicle drives into Sherwood Elementary School in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (014N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (014N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.9.2016 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY. NO (157)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY. NO (157) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.9.2016 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Ukraine, separatists agree troop withdrawals in three hot spots

MINSK — Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists agreed on Wednesday to withdraw troops from three small towns on the front line in eastern Ukraine, a pilot de-escalation project that is part of the latest push to get a much-violated ceasefire to stick.

Under the terms of the agreement, armed forces from both sides are banned from entering the three areas, which are four square kilometres each in size. The withdrawal must start within a month and be completed within three days.

The move follows a new truce on 15 September that spurred hopes for the peace process, although it failed to stem all the violence in the region. The conflict has killed over 9,600 soldiers, civilians and pro-Russian rebels since April 2014.

The plan was first announced during a visit by German and French foreign ministers to Kiev last week.

The withdrawal will be observed along three sections of the 480 km front line, in the small towns of Stanytsia Luhanska and Zolote in the Luhansk region and Petrovske in the Donetsk region, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said.

German Foreign Min-



A woman takes a selfie with military cadets as they attend a Peace March to mark the International Day of Peace in Kiev, Ukraine, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ister Frank-Walter Steinmeier welcomed the agreement but said more work was needed.

“We have had to learn that neither pronouncements of good will nor commitments about the withdrawal of weapons were sufficient to achieve a lasting ceasefire,” he told the newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung. “Additional areas (for withdrawals of troops) must be agreed soon to ensure the disengagement of forces along the entire line of con-

frontation.”

Most of the terms of the original Minsk deal, including restoring control of Ukraine’s eastern borders to Kiev and holding regional elections, have yet to be implemented.

“There are no guarantees even now,” Steinmeier said. “If the parties to the conflict are unwilling to stick to already signed agreements, there will be no progress.”

While limited in geographic scope, the latest agreement is the first time

the sides have committed to withdraw light arms. High-calibre weapons are already meant to have been withdrawn to secure holding areas, although the OSCE regularly reports violations on both sides.

Separatist officials welcomed the deal, the separatist news website DAN reported.

The document could help “shift the situation from truce to peace,” DAN quoted rebel envoy Denis Pushilin as saying. —Reuters

Mexican minister says prepared to ‘talk to the devil’ if Trump wins

MEXICO CITY — Mexican Economic Minister Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal said on Wednesday that Mexico was prepared to “talk to the devil” should Republican Donald Trump win the US presidential election in November.

Villarreal gave the response during a forum sponsored by the Americas Society/Council of the Americas in New York that featured the presidents of Peru, Chile and Colombia, with Villarreal standing in for Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto.

“We cannot afford to risk a very important bilateral agreement,” Villarreal said at the event on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly when asked about the possibility of Trump becoming president.

“If we have to talk to the devil to guarantee the safety and future of the Mexican people in the US, Mexico will talk to the devil.” Trump, who is facing off with Democrat Hillary Clinton in the 8 November election, has infuriated Mexicans by vowing if elected to build a border wall with Mexico to keep out illegal immigrants — which he said that country would pay for.

He has also threatened to carry out mass deporta-

tions, renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Mexico and Canada, and in announcing his candidacy last year, referred to some immigrants from Mexico as rapists and drug runners.

When other leaders at the event were asked about Trump, Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski said in a joking manner: “Oh, no, we’re not worried at all.”

He then added: “That’s the thing Trump doesn’t understand. The Latins have helped the US immensely. They have kept the US young ... and Social Security that was supposed to go bust years ago is still working because of (Latino immigration).”

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet said: “I just want to give a general perspective: I think the world needs more female presidents.” The leaders also discussed opening relations with Venezuela, the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal and the role of the Pacific Alliance, which includes Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru, as a major trade partner with the United States. The United States and 48 other nations are so-called observer states within the alliance.—Reuters

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation document is issued. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Ref No	Lot No	Item No	Description of Goods	Quantity	Units
G.54	1	1	CDD Logo-Paper Sticker for documents filing	101,840	pieces
		2	CDD Logo - Reflective Stickers for Motorbikes	9,900	pieces
		3	CDD Logo - Paper Sticker for Project Cars	124	pieces
	2	1	Vinyl Posters for Gender (size 1' x 1.15')	5,000	pieces
		2	Vinyl Poster for Gender (size 6' x 2')	8,500	pieces
G.61	1	1	Printing Standard Design Material Infrastructure	150	copies
G.62	1	1	Printing Safeguard Materials Year 3 & Year 4	24,668	copies

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate one or more of the Reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest on October 11, 2016 (the deadline for submission), after which no Quotations will be accepted.

Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011.

Please submit Expression of Interest and Sealed Quotations to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw.

For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com

For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

French police clash with migrants trying to reach Calais port

CALAIS, (France) — Hundreds of migrants trying to make their way to Britain from Calais in northern France clashed with French riot police on Wednesday, Reuters witnesses and police said.

Police used tear-gas grenades and led charges to disperse migrants trying to make their way to the approach road for Calais port.

The clashes took place not far from where a British-financed wall is being built to seal off the road, where migrants frequently try to jump on trucks bound for Britain.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(12 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-055(16-17)	5” ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade X42 (13000) Meter	US\$
(2)	IFB-056(16-17)	Spares for Cummins Engine Ex Kenworth Truck (16) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-057(16-17)	Spares for 3 Ton Fork Lift (48) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-058(16-17)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipe (5) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 24-10-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 23RD September, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Jesse & Joy, Djavan and Fonseca lead Latin Grammy nominations

LOS ANGELES — From singers to engineers, an array of musical talent received Latin Grammy nominations on Wednesday, with artists Djavan, Fonseca, Jesse & Joy, producer Julio Reyes Copello and engineer Ricardo Lopez Lalinde leading the way with four nods each.

Brazilian singer-songwriter Djavan's "Vidas Pra Contar," Mexican sibling duo Jesse & Joy's "Un Besito Mas" and Colombian singer Fonseca's "Conexion" will be vying for album of the year, the night's top prize, alongside seven other contenders.

Jesse & Joy are also nominated in the song and record of the year categories, the only artist to score nominations for the three top awards.

The Latin Grammy nominees and winners are voted for by members of The Latin Recording Academy. Winners will be announced at the 17th Annual Latin Grammy Awards in Las Vegas on 17 November, televised live on the Univision Network.

"This year's group of nominees showcases the craftsmanship of the artists in front of the microphone and behind the soundboard," Gabriel Abaroa Jr., president and CEO of The Latin Recording Academy, said in a statement.

In the best new artist category, ten newcomers are nominated for the coveted accolade; Brazilian actress-singer Sophia Abrahão and actor-singer Ian Ramil, Chilean artists Alex Anwandter and Mon Laferte, Mexican-American indie band The Chamanas, Colombian artists Esteman, Manuel Medrano and pop band Morat, Mexican singer Joss Favela and Puerto Rican singer Ile.

Other key nominees include Spanish-American pop singer Enrique Iglesias, Colombian pop singer Shakira, Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli, Puerto Rican hip hop duo Wisin & Yandel and California singer Julieta Venegas.

Some more notable artists, such as Ricky Martin and Juan Luis Guerra, failed to land nods this year.—Reuters



Angelina Jolie & Brad Pitt. PHOTO: REUTERS

After split, London's Madame Tussauds separates Jolie, Pitt wax figures

LONDON — London's Madame Tussauds museum said on Wednesday it had separated its wax figure replicas of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt after the Hollywood power couple announced their split.

Jolie's attorney said on Tuesday the actress had filed for divorce from Pitt, her romantic partner since 2005 and husband of two years.

"We reacted quickly to yesterday's news of the separa-

tion of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt and their plans to divorce by mirroring the separation in the attraction," a Madame Tussauds spokesperson said.

"The couple's wax figures, which were launched in 2013, have been split up and are now featured at a respectful distance from each other. Angelina is keeping Nicole Kidman company and Brad Pitt is with his several time co-star Morgan Freeman."—Reuters

French actress Cotillard denies role in Jolie, Pitt split

LOS ANGELES — French actress Marion Cotillard on Wednesday denied any involvement in the sudden split between Hollywood power couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, wishing that the two will "find peace," and confirming her pregnancy with her long-time partner.

Cotillard, 40, posted a statement on her verified Instagram page a day after Jolie filed for divorce from Pitt, amid some media reports that Cotillard and Pitt may have been romantically involved.

Pitt and Cotillard star together in the upcoming war drama "Allied."

The Oscar-winning French

actress said the statement would be her only comment on the "whirlwind news that broke 24 hours ago and that I was swept up into."

"As this situation is spiraling and affecting people I love, I have to speak up. Firstly, many years ago, I met the man of my life, father of our son and of the baby we are expecting. He is my love, my best friend, the only one that I need," Cotillard said, referring to French actor Guillaume Canet.

She signed off by saying: "I do very much wish that Angelina and Brad, both whom I deeply respect, will find peace in this very tumultuous moment."

Cotillard's name was mentioned in some reports as media outlets and fans tried to understand what led to the sudden divorce of one of Hollywood's most visible couples, known for their good looks, successful films and activism.

Jolie, 41 and Pitt, 52, known collectively by the tabloid press and gossip sites as "Brangelina," married in 2014 after a decade together and have six children.

They were steady fodder for tabloids with reports focusing on what role Jolie played in the breakup of Pitt's marriage to actress Jennifer Aniston and, more recently, possible trouble in the marriage.—Reuters

Poet behind book about US racism wins 2016 'genius grant'

NEW YORK — A poet whose work explores the casual racism in the United States toward African-Americans is among the 23 winners of \$625,000 "genius grants," the US organisation awarding them said on Thursday.

Claudia Rankine, 53, was joined in the honour by leaders in fields as varied as civil rights law and microbiology, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation said in a statement.

The annual awards are provided as seed money, with no strings attached, for intellectual, social and artistic endeavors, the foundation said. Grants are paid out over five years.

Rankine's 2014 book of poetry, "Citizen," which has won multiple literary awards, was among the works cited by the foundation for the grant. The book examines the ways subtle racism like suspicious looks or complaints about affirmative action paint everyday life for many black Americans.

"The first piece in 'Citizen' was written right after Katrina,"



Claudia Rankine. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rankine said, referring to the 2005 hurricane, in a video interview on the foundation's website. "I recorded all of the CNN coverage and was fascinated by how racism coloured the reporting."

"After that I began to respond to events that caught the public imagination, mostly things like police shootings of unarmed black men and other places of blatant injustice that clearly was tied to racism," she added.

The group, which launched the awards in 1981, uses nominators and selection committees to

decide who gets the grants. Recipients usually do not know they are being considered unless they win, the group said.

Among 2016's other winners are:

- Ahilan Arulanantham, 43, a civil rights attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California who has worked to protect the right to due process for people facing deportation and expanded access to legal help for immigrant detainees.

- Sarah Stillman, 32, a long-form investigative journalist for the New Yorker whose stories have covered topics like the kidnapping of undocumented children near the US-Mexico border and poor conditions endured by foreign workers at American military bases in Afghanistan and Iraq.

- Microbiologist Dianne Newman, 44, whose study has focused on ancient microbes and the ways bacteria both shaped the early development of the earth and how it operates in the context of modern medicine.—Reuters

Oxford ranked as world's top university: Times Higher Education

EDINBURGH — The University of Oxford has become the first British university to top the Times Higher Education's global league table, knocking the California Institute of Technology into second place.

Oxford topped the list because it improved across the four main indicators that influence the rankings — teaching, research, citations and international outlook, Times Higher Education said.

But Britain's vote to leave the European Union could threaten the oldest university in the

English-speaking world, locking academics out of research projects, said Phil Baty, the editor of the rankings.

"As well as some top academics reporting they have been frozen out of collaborative research projects with EU colleagues, many are admitting that they might look to relocate to a university outside the country," Baty told the BBC.

While Oxford, the University of Cambridge and London's Imperial College make the top 10 along with ETH Zurich, the list is dominated by US

universities.

Stanford University is ranked third, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology fifth, Harvard sixth, Princeton seventh and the University of California, Berkeley and University of Chicago at tenth equal.

Cambridge was ranked fourth, Imperial eighth and ETH Zurich ninth.

More broadly, the rankings showed institutions in Asia had made progress with two new Asian universities now in the 100 and another four joining the top 200. —Reuters



Graduates queue to have their photograph taken after a graduation ceremony at Oxford University, Oxford, southern England in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

Patchworks and denim in Cavalli's Milan show journey

MILAN — Roberto Cavalli took guests at his catwalk show on a long journey around the globe, wrapping his models in bright textiles and patchworks from different countries and showcasing hippy-meets-native-American in his spring/summer 2017 collection.

A season made of patchworks, of influences, materials, cultures and times.

Past a lantern-studded courtyard, in a sixteenth century palazzo in the heart of Milan, models perched on high wedged heels were draped in shawls, stoles, vests, ponchos and multi-coloured fabrics.

Gypsy layered dresses alternated with flared trousers, suede fringed coats and kimonos made spectators travel around the world in just a few minutes, on Wednesday night, at the end of Milan's first day of its fashion week.

Denim decorated with patchworks and native American motifs gave way to velvet trousers with intri-

cate crystal decorations and suede embroidered with roses.

The colour palette used by creative director Peter Dundas, who took over from the founding designer last year, was bright, varied but focused mainly on a range of blues and oranges.

"The mood of a pio-

neer, the wanderlust of a pagan traveller exploring the universe... a melange of inspirations and influences, times and placea... combining different cultures in a mix," read a catwalk note.

In July, Cavalli appointed former Versace head Gian Giacomo Ferraris as its new chief executive.

The brand is undergoing a transition since Italian private equity fund Clesidra took over in April last year and is seeking to revamp the Florentine label, famous among celebrities and known for its animal prints.

Milan's six-day fashion events run until Monday. —Reuters



A model presents a creation at the Roberto Cavalli fashion show during Milan Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2017 in Milan, Italy, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

First security robot in service at Shenzhen airport

SHENZHEN — The first security robot joined staff at Shenzhen airport on Wednesday.

"AnBot", or "Shenzhen Xiaolan" in Chinese, can work around-the-clock and react to emergencies with an electric riot fork. The intelligent guard is 1.5 metres tall and weighs about 75 kg.

With four digital cameras, the security robot is capable of autonomous patrols, intelligent monitoring and auto recharging.

It can answer passengers' questions about flight information and communicate with people in different contexts, said an official with the Shenzhen Public Security Bureau.

In case of emergencies, AnBot can deter

suspects with sound and light, and use tools like the electric riot fork to prevent crime.

The use of intelligent security robots will ease pressure on airport police in their daily patrols and save human resources, said the official.

More security robots will be deployed in different areas of the airport.

AnBot was developed by Shenzhen Public Security Bureau, the National University of Defence Technology and a domestic technology company.

Besides a booming industrial robot sector in China, robots have been increasingly used in the service sectors such as senior care and domestic cleaning. —Xinhua

Number of foreign visitors to Japan sets August record of 2.04 million

TOKYO — The estimated number of foreign visitors to Japan in August rose 12.8 per cent from a year earlier to 2,049,200, a record high for August and topping 2 million for the second straight month, the Japan Tourism Agency said on Wednesday.

The number of foreign visitors from January through August this year totaled 16,059,500, up 24.7 per cent.

The total exceeded 15 million at a faster pace than last year, when the number of foreign visitors for the entire year was a record high.

The number of foreign visitors in the first eight months of last year totaled 12,875,256, and

19,737,409 for the entire 2015. As major factors behind the record number of visitors in August, the Japan Travel Agency cited increased port calls by cruise ships, airlines launching new routes and an increase in the number of flights, and continuous visit-Japan campaigns.

However, the year-on-year increase in August remained below 20 per cent for the second consecutive month, following a 19.7 per cent rise in July.

By country and region, the greatest number of visitors — some 677,000 — came from China, followed by 458,900 from South Korea and 333,200 from Taiwan. —Kyodo News

mitv

Myanmar International

(23-9-2016 07:00am ~ 24-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes: Pre Kayaw (Their Life and Customs) (Part-1)
07:52	Am	One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (EP-3) (Part-1)
08:50	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (EP-3) (Part-2)
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Karaweik Palace- A Symbol of Glorious Myanma Culture
09:41	Am	A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas

09:53	Am	Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Green Corner (Episode- 4) "Plastic Flower"
10:36	Am	A Lucky Boy
10:53	Am	Dengue Fever

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday 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	Alaungdaw Kathapa
07:44	Pm	Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Architect: U Thaw
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: 3D

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

Manchester rivals win to tee up fourth round tie

LONDON — Manchester City continued their imperious start to the season with a 2-1 win over Swansea City to reach the fourth round of the League Cup on Wednesday but it was a testing night for rivals United who eventually overcame Northampton Town 3-1.

Holders City, who have won two of the last three League Cups, clinched a ninth straight win in all competitions under Pep Guardiola as goals from Gael Clichy and 19-year-old Aleix Garcia helped them through an all-Premier League encounter at the Liberty Stadium.

It was far less straightforward for United, who were pegged back and frustrated by third tier Northampton before goals from Ander Herrera and Marcus Rashford wrapped up the win.

The two Manchester rivals were then paired against each other in the fourth round draw that also pitched Liverpool against Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United against Chelsea.

Tottenham made light work of third tier Gillingham, romping to a 5-0 victory, while West Ham needed a 96th-minute free kick from Dimitri Payet to beat Accrington Stanley 1-0.



Manchester City's John Stones in action with Swansea City's Mike van der Hoorn during EFL Cup Third Round at Liberty Stadium, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

City and United both began the season strongly but while Guardiola's side have gone from strength to strength United's good early form has disappeared and they came into the clash against Northampton on the back of three straight defeats.

City looked in control of

their tie against Swansea from the start and took the lead when Clichy ended a flowing move with a right-footed effort four minutes after halftime.

When Garcia steered home Jesus Navas's cross midway through the second half the tie was effectively done and dusted although Swansea scored

a stoppage-time consolation through Gylfi Sigurdsson.

It was a different story at Northampton's tiny Sixfields stadium, where United dominated the ball but looked edgy and nervous after Michael Carrick's powerful opener was cancelled out by Alex Revell's penalty just before halftime.—Reuters

Manchester United look to get back on track against Leicester

LONDON — After successive Premier League defeats, Manchester United will hope to re-energise their faltering campaign and make up ground on the early pacesetters with victory at home to champions Leicester City on Saturday.

After losing to leaders Manchester City and Watford, either side of a Champions League defeat to Feyenoord, United already trail Pep Guardiola's vibrant City by six points and sit in seventh place.

Manager Jose Mourinho has spoken about his new charges reacting badly to "negativity", which some observers felt he increased with public criticism of defender Luke Shaw after the 3-1 defeat by Watford last weekend.

A 3-1 win over Northampton Town in the League Cup on Wednesday prevented a fourth straight defeat, but it was not an entirely convincing United performance against the third-tier outfit.

There will particular interest in Mourinho's team selection at home to Leicester (1130GMT) and whether England and United captain Wayne Rooney, who has been in poor form, keeps his place.—Reuters

Messi ruled out for three weeks with groin injury

BARCELONA — Lionel Messi will be out of action for three weeks after the Barcelona talisman suffered a groin injury in Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid, the Spanish champions said.

The five-times world player of the year limped off in the second half of Barca's La Liga match at the Nou Camp, moments before the visiting side equalised.

"Leo Messi has torn the groin muscle in his right leg. He will be out of action for approximately three weeks," Barcelona officials said in a statement. Barca's all-time top scorer will miss league fixtures at Sporting Gijon and Celta Vigo as well as the Champions League group game with Borussia Moenchengladbach. The Argentina captain is also likely to sit out his country's World Cup



Barcelona's Lionel Messi sits on the pitch injured, next to Andres Iniesta and medical staff member Ricard Pruna during their Spanish La Liga Santander at Camp Nou stadium, Barcelona, Spain, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

qualifiers against Peru and Paraguay. If Messi's recovery goes according to plan, he will return to action for Barca against Deportivo La Coruna on 15 October.

"I'm not a doctor and I can't give any information here but when Messi is injured we all lose, football loses," Barca coach Luis

Enrique said. Messi was forced to miss eight weeks last season after injuring his knee but Barca won eight of the 10 games they had to play without their star man, and Luis Enrique said he was not worried about how his side would fare again without the maestro.—Reuters

Neutral venue for Davis Cup finals unappealing to Murray

GLASGOW (Scotland) — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray is not overly enthusiastic about the possibility of a neutral venue hosting the Davis Cup finals, but backed proposals to shorten matches in the competition.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) is considering plans to select fixed-venue cities in advance for the Davis and Fed Cup finals, switching from the current format where one of the finalists host the decider.

Croatia will host Argentina for the 2016 Davis Cup title after winning their semi-finals last weekend, but a host city has yet to be named.

"I am not sold on that (neutral venue)," Murray told British media. "I do love the home

and away atmosphere that we get in the Davis Cup.

"It is something that we as tennis players aren't really used to because we are playing in neutral venues a lot of the time and the home and away aspect is something that I enjoy and makes it special." The world number two however supported the idea to host the finals over two days instead of three.

"The last three days, coming off the back of the Olympics, Cincinnati, the US Open, and then being on court for 10 or 11 hours, was really hard," the Olympic champion added.

"Maybe playing it over Saturday and Sunday, best of three sets, I like that idea. If it doesn't work you can always change back."—Reuters