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NEW APPROACH TO DRUGS

VP CALLS FOR COOPERATION FROM ALL SECTORS TO EFFECTIVELY CONTROL CRIME

THE government is drafting a new policy for controlling narcotic drugs as part of efforts to draw a strategy for solving the drug problem in addition to crime suppression and judicial sectors, said Vice President U Myint Swe in his remarks at the 52nd Myanmar Police Force Day ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw.

“Nowadays, narcotic drugs, *inter alia*, is becoming a major problem for the government. According to experiences encountered by consecutive governments in an attempt to eradicate the drugs, it was found that economic, health and development sectors need to be included in compiling the strategy for solving the drug problem, in addition to crime suppression and judicial sectors,” he said.

“With developing technologies, criminals are using new *modus operandi* to commit crimes, terrors and violence, hence the need for police forces at all levels to sustainably upgrade their abilities for dealing with these problems systematically,” The Vice President added.

U Myint Swe continued, “Increasing and decreasing factors of crimes are closely connected with social, economic and environmental problems. Accordingly, in an attempt to effectively control these crimes, it is essential for the police force to cooperate with various organizations

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Vice President U Myint Swe observing police tactical gear and riot equipment displayed at 52nd Myanmar Police Force Day Ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

Labour Rights highlighted at Stakeholders' Forum

TOGETHER with the government of Myanmar, the EU, as well as the US, Denmark, Japan and the International Labour Organisation actively participated in the Joint Initiative to Promote Fundamental Labour Rights and Practices in Myanmar.

The European Union (EU) is putting into practice its commitments under the 2015 ‘Trade for All’ strategy to make trade policy more responsible and sustainable and to promote decent work, said the statement released by the EU today following the second

Stakeholders’ Forum held in Nay Pyi Taw.

The participants of the forum, which was held on Thursday and Friday, discussed with social partners and other actors the ways forward towards achieving the objectives of the initiative.

The Stakeholders’ Forum provided the opportunity for discussions among Myanmar’s tripartite partners, the other participating international governments, the ILO, development partners, international businesses and investors as well as other civil soci-

ety representatives, according to a statement released yesterday by the European Union delegation in Myanmar.

The participants shared their views on priorities and challenges for the modernisation of Myanmar’s labour laws and practices, and for the improvement of compliance with international labour standards.

The participants welcomed the ongoing progress in adopting labour laws and practices since the last Stakeholders’ Forum in May 2015. The most significant devel-

opments include:

- Renewed tripartite commitment to labour law reform, including consensus on a phased approach: i.e., phase 1 on amendment of the priority laws; phase 2 on development of a Labour Standards Act; and phase 3 on development of a consolidated and cohesive Labour Code;

- Tripartite agreement that new legislation must be compliant with fundamental international labour standards, and further that the process should be guided by other relevant international standards

recognising the challenges and capacities of the local environment;

- Tripartite agreement to institutionalise the National Tripartite Dialogue Forum, chaired by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population with employer and worker representation, which will serve as the prime consultation mechanism for the labour law reform process;

- Agreement on the first-ever minimum wage announced on 28 August 2015 following a series of tripartite consultations;

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Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). PHOTO: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives IPU Secretary-General, S'porean parliament Speaker, Indonesian parliament Vice Speaker

MAHN Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, met with Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to assisting

in development of Hluttaw.

Similarly, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than also held talks with a Singaporean parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of the parliament of Singapore Mdm. Halimah Jacob over bilateral cooperation and matters related to promoting friendship

between the two parliaments.

In the afternoon, the Speaker received Vice Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives Mr Fahri Hamzah and discussed promotion of cooperation and friendship between the two parliaments and legal affairs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Parliamentarians, representatives tours Nay Pyi Taw

Parliamentarians and representatives participating in the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) visited parliamentary

buildings, Myanma Gems Museum and gems emporium, yesterday.

Some representatives played golf at the Nay Pyi Taw

Gold Course.

The MPs and representatives will also tour Nay Pyi Taw tomorrow.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar delegation leaves for South Africa to observe achievements in peace making

As part of efforts for national reconciliation and peace making process, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor left for South Africa yesterday to observe political practices which brought peace through negotiations to the country.

The delegation comprises U Aung Kyi, leader of the advisory commission for the Peace Commission, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin, Deputy Director-General of the President Office U Zaw Htay, Lt-Gen Yar Pyay, Lt-Gen

Aung Lin Dwe, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win and Brig-Gen Sein Tun Hla from the Ministry of Defence.

Representing the signatories to the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement, Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win of Karen National Union, U Sai La, General Secretary 2 of Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, Vice Chairman of Chin National Front, and Khun Okka, patron of PaO National Liberation Organization (PNLO) are also on the delegation.

Meanwhile, representatives of the non-signatories to the NCA included in the delegation are: Vice Chairman 1 Gwan Maw of KIO, Khu Oo Reh, Vice-Chairman 2 of the Karenni National Progressive Party, General Secretary Naing Aung Min of the New Mon State Party, Sai Hin Sai of Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP/SSA), U Nyi Lin of Wa Special Region 2 and U Sai Mauk of Special Region 4 (Mongla).

The visit is scheduled from 1st to 9th October.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Regional Hluttaw representative impatient with delayed housemaid abuse case

A REPRESENTATIVE of the Yangon Region Hluttaw said he would submit a question at the regional parliament concerning the delayed trial of a housemaid allegedly abused by a family in North Dagon Township.

Representative U Nyi Nyi of the Yangon Region Hluttaw was quoted as saying so at the office of the Child Rights Promotion Network in Hledan, Yangon, on Saturday.

“The case was reported to the police on 14 July 2015. The girl suffered abuses disproportionate to her age. If the case continues

to be delayed, I will bring it to the Hluttaw speaker and government officials concerned. Then, I will submit a question to the Hluttaw session.” said U Nyi Nyi.

According to the police report, Daw Aye Aye Win of North Dagon Township took Ma Than Than Ei from her family after successfully persuading her parents in South Dagon Township by saying that she would adopt the girl and make her a Buddhist nun. However, the girl was forced to work as a housemaid and was violently abused without being paid for five years. Daw Aye Aye

was reported to have beaten the girl with iron chains and bars, twisted her fingers with pliers and poured boiling water on her body. Daw Aye Aye Win's son, daughter and son-in-law also stand accused of kicking, hitting and beating the victim. The girl was treated at North Okkalapa Hospital for a week and then treated as an outpatient for some time.

“The trial has been continuing for 15 months. The judge and the police officer who were responsible for the case have moved to other places. There

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets IPU Secretary-General, S'porean parliament Speaker, Indonesian parliament Vice speaker

U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, held talks with Secretary General of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Mr. Martin Chungong at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

At the meeting, the two representatives exchanged views on cooperation between IPU and Myanmar parliaments and assistance in parliamentary development tasks. Likewise, the Speaker met with Speaker of the

parliament of Singapore Mdm. Halimah Jacob and on the same day. The meeting focused on promoting friendship and cooperation between parliaments of the two countries and legislative affairs. In the afternoon, U Win Myint held talks with Vice Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives Mr Fahri Hamzah over cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker U Win Myint welcomes Vice Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives Mr Fahri Hamzah. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly continues

The related meetings of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly were held yesterday morning at the Hotel AEC in Nay Pyi Taw.

Committee on Women Parliamentarians, Committee on Social Matters, Committee on Economic Matters and Committee on Political Matters held meetings respectively, discussing a range of issues including cyber security, peace, local and international challenges, creation of job opportunities, support for ASEAN integration, etc.

In the afternoon, the discussions of committees of the assem-

bly were approved at the meeting of the joint committee of the assembly.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint hosted a dinner in honour of delegates to the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

At the dinner the speaker thanked the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly for its support for the democracy movement in Myanmar and expressed his hope that cooperation of legislative bodies in the region will accelerate further.—*Myanmar News Agency*

may be some weaknesses in handling the case. We will call for an investigation into the delay.” said U Arkar Soe from the network.

It has been 41 court sessions since the case was filed, according to an uncle of the housemaid.

The housemaid's lawyer said that some witnesses who are friends of the accused failed to appear at the court and the girl's father died during the case. In addition, the judge and the police officer who handled the case were transferred to other towns.—*Thi Thi Min*



Injuries on head of the girl. PHOTO: PHYO

MNMC to protect influence and dignity of journalism

“NEWSMEN or artiste literary workers love freedom, hence need to be given freedom of expression and simultaneously privileges for their own security.” said Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, meeting with Myanmar News Media Councilors in Yangon yesterday.

He added that journalists had the right to express freely, but they were required to protect against harm and humiliation, taking responsibility and accountability for their deeds.

He went on to say that News Media Council is needed to control media men to enjoy the freedom conscientiously.

He disclosed that he believed in the existence of the media council since before entering office, so as to maintain the prestige and influence of journalism.

At the meeting, U Khin Maung Lay (Pho Thauk



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint speaking at MNMC meeting. PHOTO:MNA

Kyar-Khit Moe), Chairman of the Myanmar News Media Council, gave a welcoming address while Daw Thin Thin Thar (As-

sociate Secretary-1) discussed results of the Editorial Forum at the meeting between mediemen and MNMC, U Kyaw Swa Min, As-

sociate Secretary-2, results from Access to Information Workshop at the meeting between broadcasting and print media men

from inter-states and regions and MNMC, U Han Nyunt, member of the MNMC, meeting results between MNMC and high-ranking officials of Health Ministry held in Nay Pyi Taw.

Responsible personnel from the Ministry of Information and MNMC also presented arrangements to hold a workshop at Nay Pyi Taw and U Soe Myint, CEO of the Mizzima Media Group, discussed media development policy.

the Union Minister answered questions at a press conference which was held to link media directly with the ministries and he said that spokespersons for ministries should be informed of policies and he wholly accepted media development policy.

The meeting ended with the closing remarks of the MNMC Chairman.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Golden jubilee of MERD held

A CEREMONY in honour of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Myanmar Educational Research Department was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall at 1 pm today.

At the ceremony, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education addressed, “Prior to the emergence of the Myanmar Educational Research Bureau, there existed a branch for educational research under the directorate of education, as of 1955. The MERB, founded on 1 October 1966 was upgraded to the Myanmar Educational Research Organisation and to the Myanmar Educational Research Department respectively. It has

been 50 years since the bureau was founded. The drafting of the 1973 Union of Myanmar Educational Research Law was the landmark of the department and Myanmar was recognised with Mohamed Rizaphala Award of the UNESCO for the eradication of illiteracy in the country under the active aegis of the department in 1991 and with Noma Award in 1983.

The Union Minister added that the Comprehensive Education Sector Review-CESR was successfully implemented for the emergence of the National Education Law and development of education. Starting from the 2016-17 aca-

demic year, new syllabus and curriculums for kindergarten, the very first for KG+12 was introduced.

He pointed out that the ministry congratulated the department, its predecessors and all staff who served during its existence of 50 years.

The Union minister and responsible officials presented gifts and U Than Oo gave words of thanks in return.

Also present at the ceremony were science scholars, national education policy commission members, Director-Generals, rectors and retired staff of the department.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Korea-Myanmar Connectivity Forum held in Yangon

THE Korea-Myanmar Connectivity Forum, jointly organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and Busan University of Foreign Studies of Korea, was held at the National Museum in Yangon on Thursday.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar He Yoo Jae Kyung, Director-General of ASEAN-Korea Centre He Kim Yoing-sun, the speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw, resource

persons and guests attended the forum.

Four resource persons from Myanmar and their Korean counterparts read papers on politics, social culture and economics at the forum. The forum concluded with discussions.—*MNA*

Labour Rights highlighted at Stakeholders' Forum

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- Development by tripartite constituents in October, 2015 of a vision for industrial relations during the first Tripartite Technical Advisory Session on Reforming the Labour Laws in Myanmar in October 2015;

- Enactment of several major legislative amendments, including raising the minimum working age from 13 to 14 years; development of the list of hazardous work for children under 18 years old; and develop-

ment of an occupational safety and health bill.

Building on contributions by workers, employers, civil society and other stakeholders, the partners reaffirmed their commitment to support the Initiative, including the labour reform plan agreed at the 2015 Forum.

Participants agreed on the importance of coordinating their activities as well as fostering dialogue among all stakeholders.

Development partners com-

mitted to provide support to the labour law reform process through development cooperation and technical assistance.

In the medium to long term, the Initiative aims to support public authorities and stakeholders in promoting fundamental labour rights, sound labour relations and responsible business practices in Myanmar.

To support Myanmar's efforts, they agreed to hold a third Stakeholders' Forum in 2017.—*GNLM*

New Approach To Drugs

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such as judicial bodies, personnel from education, health, housing and resettlement, employment agencies, NGOs, from home and abroad, civic associations and news media, instead of relying wholly upon the criminal law and judicial systems.”

“We are responsible for upgrading our police force's abilities to keep up with international standards. Under the aegis

of UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC, ICRC and OHCHER workshops are being conducted.” he went on to say. In the evening, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs, conferred award of honours for valor on two award recipients' family members and two officers for ideal awards. Then, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe gave four other awards.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Minister U Thein Swe presenting honorarium to an elderly person. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar celebrates UNIDO

MYANMAR has been promoting the role of the elderly by organising ceremonies marking the UN International Day of Older Persons, Union Minister for Labour and Immigration U Thein Swe said at this year's event at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

Being a member of the United Nations, Myanmar holds such ceremonies on the International Day of Older Persons which falls on 1 October, the union minister added.

The union minister explained in his address that Myanmar has planned to approve a bill to help

the elderly enjoy healthcare services and social benefits in accordance with the five fundamental principles for the elderly adopted by the UN.

An official read out the UN Secretary General's message for the event and honorariums were also presented to Myanmar's oldest grandpa and grandma at the ceremony.

The government has vowed to cooperate with local and international NGOs for life security and prevention of elderly abuses and discrimination against them. The theme for the event is Take a Stand Against Ageism.—*MNA*

Big haul of ray-finned fish caught off Rakhine coast



A ray-finned fish being carried. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

RAKHINE fishermen caught ray-finned fish weighing 30- 100 visses each in great numbers off the Rakhine coast in September, according to locals.

The big catch is welcome because it has been an otherwise lean year for Rakhine fishermen, officials said. Ray fish is a favourite among locals and is fetching a good price.

"We found big ray-finned fish in Myaybon", said U Kyaw Thein, the administrator of Kyauk Hmaw Gyi village, Myaybon township. "Previously, we scarcely caught anything, never mind big ones -- even one fish a week was quite difficult. Now, we

are catching ray-finned fish weighing between 30 visses and 100 visses. Some fishermen only fish the ray-finned ones. The ray fish sells for Ks 3500 per viss. So, they are earning higher income."

Ray fish fishermen from Gwa, Thandwe, Taungup, Maungtaw, Buhitaung, Pauktaw, Yathedaung, Myaybon, Rambre, Man-aung, Kyaukprou, and Sittwe in Rakhine state need to closely observe the rise and fall of the tides in order to catch the big fish.

"Ray fish are very difficult to catch. Sometimes, the fishermen need to bring two days reserve food

for themselves", said U Tun Min Chay from Taung Phoo village. Pauktaw. "But these days, they are finding a lot of ray fish in the sea. Some fishermen are catching even ten ray fish per day. So, we need to preserve the ray fish in our stock." Ray fish, whose bodies are flat and weigh a maximum of 790 kilograms, are mostly found in the deep sea. Some of the ray fish are sold fresh, but a large portion is salted and then dried in the sun.

Some of the local fishermen store preserved ray fish to sell when prices reach their peak, local officials said. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Two illegal gold miners arrested in Wuntho

TWO men have been charged with illegal mining after they were found in possession of mining related equipment on Ngwarkasout mountain which is behind Kankong village, Wuntho township, Sagaing region.

They were caught on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined investigation team comprising an official and staff from the Forestry Department searched Ngwarkasout

mountain and found two men employed by the Shwe Hmaw Thit Company preparing to dig into a gold mine. The suspects have been identified as U Htay alias U Aung Khin, 50, from Mogok town and U Aung Moe Tin, 51, from Hsipaw town.

Local police from Wuntho Myoma police station have filed charges against both suspects under section 30(B) of the Mining Act.— *Maung Chit Lin*



Authorities inspecting the gold mining site.

PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN

Crime NEWS

Black opium seized on Pinlebu-Phaungpyin road

POLICE from Pinlebu township seized black opium from a motorcycle rider on Pinlebu-Phaungpyin road on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, police stopped and searched one U Tin Shwe from Tazun village and found black opium weighing 3.4 kilograms. The suspect has been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Myo Lwin (Pinlebu)*



U Tin Shwe. PHOTO: MYO LWIN (PINLEBU)

Black opium block and ammunition seized in Tachilek

LOCAL police from Tachilek seized a block of black opium and ammunition from a highway bus station in Waik Kyauk ward, Tachilek town, Shan (east) on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the room of one Kya Pha and found a 9mm handgun, ammunition, 233,500 Baht, 45,600 Yuan, gold weighing one kilogram, black opium weighing

35 grams and five mobile phones. Police have filed charges against him under section 15/16(C) 20(A)/22(B) of the Criminal Law.— *Myint Mohe (Tachilek)*

Suspected arsonist caught in Kyaukse Technology University fire case

A MAN has been arrested for igniting a fire which destroyed a room used for keeping exam answer papers at the Technology University in Kyaukse town, Mandalay region. The fire occurred on Friday.

The accident destroyed 6,510 exam answer papers and other furniture. The fire was brought under control within 10 minutes by firemen. One Maung Thein Htet Aung, 19, from Kaw Lin town, a student at the university was immediately suspected after he was caught on CCTV in the area at the time of the fire.

When interrogated, Maung Thein Htet Aung admitted that he had broken into and set fire to the room while



Maung Thein Htet Aung. PHOTO: KYAW KHAUNG (LYAUKSE)

drunk. Police sent him to Mandalay Ohbo prison and charges are being filed against him.— *Kyaw Khaung (Kyaukse)*

LOCAL Business

100 city buses for Yangon Public Bus Line Company Limited to arrive early next year

The Yangon public bus line company plans to import another 100 new buses, which are expected to arrive early next year, according to Dr. Maung Aung, the secretary of the Yangon public bus company.

The company will buy 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 model buses with left-hand drive. The buses are expected to arrive early next year.

“Currently, the buses are a little bit difficult to purchase. Also, it takes two months for their shipment too. Bus routes are not confirmed yet. We added the new buses for the passengers to travel conveniently”, said Dr. Maung Aung.

The Yangon public bus line company plans to sell 5000 shares (Ks100,000 worth) to the public. Currently, the company sold an equity amounting to Ks 2.4 billion. The company will begin to sell the remaining shares on November 4.—200



A BRT Lite from Yangon Public Bus Line Co Ltd. PHOTO: 200

Sittwe and Thandwe Airports to upgrade

ACCORDING to the Local Department of Civil Aviation, new buildings that can serve six aircrafts at once will be built within this budget year at Sittwe and Thandwe airports, Rakhine State.

Currently, only one hundred departure passengers and 50 arrival passengers are being served simultaneously at Sittwe and Thandwe airports. After completing the planned upgrades, 200 departures and 200 arrivals will be served at once.

“They can serve only two planes at Sittwe and Thandwe at the moment. In the new upgraded building, X-Ray and CCTV camera will be installed for the passengers’ safety. In addition, TV and air-con system will also be fixed for the recreation of the passengers while they are waiting for their planes.” said a representative of the department. The Thandwe airport building will be opened in January, 2017, while the Sittwe airport building will be opened in February.—200

E-village project to begin in Pyin Oo Lwin this November

THE Pyin Oo Lwin Ah nee Sa kan, Mandalay region, E-Village project, that will use IT technologies to improve access and understanding of health, business and other services, will begin this coming November, it is learnt.

According to the Mandalay Computer Entrepreneurs Association, the E-village project will be carried out mainly through cooperation between Japan communication engineers, JTEC and the Myanmar Computer Federation for selling local agricultural products online.

“The computers needed for

Ah nee sa kan will be set up the whole month of October, after that they will make websites and create mobile applications. The authorities concerned will explain this project to local farmers by cooperating with city students,” said a representative of the Mandalay Region Computer Entrepreneurs Association.

“The cultivators can look up the latest prices of crops when they use the internet but the authorities concerned have to teach them the ways of using the internet.” said a cultivator who is working in the agriculture sector in Pyin Oo Lwin Ah nee sa kan.—200

Workshop to ‘penetrate China export market’ to be held

ACCORDING to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the ‘How to Export to China’ workshop for Myanmar businesspeople who want to penetrate China’s export market will be held on 3 and 4 October, 2016.

According to the Enhancing Export Capacities of Asian LDCs for Intra-regional Trade project, the authorities concerned will discuss penetrating China’s export market for the develop-

ment of small and medium enterprise businesses working in the least developed countries. The businesspeople will be given the knowledge, facts, ways, challenges and opportunities of the China export market.

Persons interested in this workshop can apply to attend by downloading the form at www.unfcci.com.mm. This workshop is being held jointly by the UM-FCCI and the International Trade Centre.—Lynn htet

China-Led AIIB Approves \$320 Million Loans to Pakistan, Myanmar Power Projects

THE China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved loans totaling \$320 million to energy projects aiming to ease severe power shortages in Myanmar and Pakistan, the bank said on Thursday (29/09).

A \$300-million loan will fund expansion of a hydropower project in Pakistan, co-financed with the World Bank, and a loan of \$20 million went to a power plant in My-

anmar co-financed with other lenders, the bank said in a statement.

“With the approval of two new projects, we are well on our way to meeting our target to extend financing of \$1.2 billion in 2016,” said President Jin Liqun, adding that the move met a core mandate of backing green and cost-effective infrastructure. The bank has previously co-financed projects such as a slum renovation in Indonesia and

highway construction in Pakistan and Tajikistan. Crisis-hit Mongolia plans to pitch a number of railway projects to the AIIB as it steps up efforts to attract investment and boost trade, Reuters reported this month. The bank, proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping two years ago, began operations in January, with 57 founding member countries and \$100 billion in committed capital.—Reuters

Myanmar awards service license to more foreign banks to boost banking industry

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has awarded service licenses to three more foreign banks this month as the second batch of its grant of such licenses, bringing the total to 13. The three foreign banks, namely Shinhan Bank from South Korea, E SUN Commercial Bank from China’s Taiwan and the State Bank of India, are three out of the four awarded preliminary approval of operating licenses in March this year.

The other one, which is the Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV), had already been awarded service license at the end of June and commenced operations in July.

According to the announcement of CBM, Shinhan Bank, the

first bank licensed in this month, is to start operation in this month while the latter two on Oct. 3.

There are nine foreign banks which have already opened branches in Myanmar. Those nine foreign banks are three from Japan, two from Singapore, and one each from China, Malaysia, Thailand and Australia-New Zealand. Myanmar’s banking and financial sector lags far behind other ASEAN countries. After the Central Bank of Myanmar became independent in 2012, the most visible reform by the central bank is awarding the licenses to foreign banks for opening branches in the country.

Granting licenses to foreign banks is intended to attract more foreign investments to the country,

said an official of CBM earlier.

According to the CBM’s regulations, foreign banks are only permitted to provide corporate banking services to foreign firms and have a maximum of one branch at present. They are set to have a minimum paid-up capital of 75 million US dollars. Local banks are expecting to collaborate with foreign banks in project financing and lending syndicated loans for expanding the country’s banking industry as the local ones are weak in capital assets, according to local bankers. Meanwhile, such local giant banks are stepping up to explore the international market.

There are also 25 local private banks and four state-owned banks in the country.—Xinhua

China paper says US, South Korea will 'pay the price' for planned missile system

BEIJING — The United States and South Korea are destined to “pay the price” for their decision to deploy an advanced missile defence system which will inevitably prompt a “counter attack”, China’s top newspaper said on Saturday.

Tension on the Korean peninsula has been high this year, beginning with North Korea’s fourth nuclear test in January, which was followed by a satellite launch, a string of tests of various missiles, and its fifth and largest nuclear test last month.

In July, South Korea agreed with the United States to deploy the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)

anti-missile system to protect against any North Korean threats.

South Korea aims to deploy the system on a golf course, a defence ministry official said on Friday.

But the plan has angered China, which worries that THAAD’s powerful radar would compromise its security and do nothing to lower temperatures on the Korean peninsula.

In a commentary, the ruling Communist Party’s official *People’s Daily* said China’s opposition to THAAD would never change as it was a serious threat to the regional strategic security balance.

“Like any other country, China can neither be vague nor indifferent on

security matters that affect its core interests,” the newspaper said in the commentary, published under the pen name “Zhong Sheng”, meaning “Voice of China”, often used to give views on foreign policy.

The United States and South Korea have to wake up to the fact that the Korean peninsula is no place to take risks, it added.

“If the United States and South Korea harm the strategic security interests of countries in the region including China, then they are destined to pay the price for this and receive a proper counter attack,” the paper added, without elaborating.



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test, in this undated handout photo provided by the US Department of Defence, Missile Defence Agency. PHOTO: REUTERS

China has repeatedly promised to take specific steps to respond since the THAAD decision was announced, but has given no details about what it may do.

On Thursday, the Defence Ministry said China “means what it says” on considering countermeas-

ures against THAAD.

The United States and South Korea have said THAAD does not threaten China’s security or target any country other than North Korea.

China is North Korea’s most important diplomatic and economic partner, but Beijing has

been infuriated by its nuclear and missile tests and has signed up for strong United Nations sanctions against North Korea.

However, China has continued to call for talks to resolve the North Korean issue and said sanctions are not the ultimate solution.—Reuters

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Threat from extremist groups to southeast Asia growing — Singapore defence chief

KO OLINA (Hawaii) — The threat that violent extremist groups pose to Southeast Asia is growing each year as they become more organised and focused in their aims, Singapore Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen said on Friday.

Ng was speaking to reporters following a meeting of Southeast Asia defence ministers with US Defence Secretary Ash Carter in Hawaii, where the defence chiefs devoted a major chunk of time to discussing the threat from Islamic State and similar groups.

Over 1,000 Southeast Asians have flocked to join Islamic State’s self-declared “caliphate” in Iraq and Syria, Ng said. “Every year we meet, the situation and threat from extremist terrorism rises,” Ng said. “Compared to, say, a year or even two years ago, they’re more organised... they’re more networked, they’re more clear in their



Singapore’s Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen. PHOTO: REUTERS

articulation of what they want to achieve.”

Security officials said in June that Southeast Asian militants who claim to be fighting for Islamic State said they had chosen one of the most wanted men in the Philippines to head a regional faction of the group. Authorities in the region have been on heightened alert since Islamic State

claimed an attack in the Indonesian capital Jakarta in January in which eight people were killed, including four of the attackers. Ng cited a recent plot in which an Indonesian cell coordinated by an Islamic State member in Syria had planned to shoot up hotels in Singapore’s Marina Bay area. The plot was foiled by Indonesian authorities,

he said. “They have gone beyond networks to push the flow of funds, weapons. They are already plotting,” Ng said. US defence officials believe that hundreds of citizens from Southeast Asia have returned to their home countries after joining Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, raising concerns that they may try to launch a wave of attacks.

Ng said Southeast Asian defence chiefs believe that if Islamic State were destroyed in its base in Iraq and Syria, that would actually increase the risk to their region in the short-term, because seasoned Islamic State fighters would likely return home. The United States is leading an air campaign to dislodge Islamic State from Iraq and Syria. “They would decide to come back, some re-energized, some trained and the networks would still be existing,” Ng said.—Reuters

Pakistan announces postponement of South Asia summit

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan said on Friday it will postpone a summit of South Asian leaders scheduled in Islamabad in November and that a new date will be announced soon.

A statement by the

Foreign Ministry said that Pakistan has conveyed the postponement of the summit to Nepal’s prime minister, the current chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

It deplored that the

summit had to be postponed because of India’s decision not to take part on the assumption that Pakistan was involved in the recent terrorist attack in which 18 Indian soldiers were killed.

The SAARC charter

says its summit cannot be held if any one of its members expresses inability to attend. The group comprises Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, India and Pakistan.—Kyodo News



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Narendra Modi shares a moment during a signing of agreement at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan, India to sign nuclear cooperation deal in November — report

TOKYO — Japan and India are likely to sign a civil nuclear cooperation pact during a visit to Japan by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in mid-November, the *Mainichi* newspaper reported on Saturday.

The governments of Asia's second- and third-largest economies are leaning toward holding a summit meeting between Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe, the report said, citing unidentified diplomatic sources from both nations.

The two leaders last Decem-

ber reached a basic agreement for cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, but they stopped short of signing the agreement, citing outstanding technical and legal differences.

Japan, the only country to have suffered a nuclear attack, has been demanding additional non-proliferation guarantees from India, which has a nuclear weapons programme, before exporting nuclear reactors.

India and Japan have been negotiating the nuclear energy deal since Japan's ally, the United States, opened the way for

nuclear commerce with India, which has shunned the global Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The two countries have reached a basic agreement during the working level negotiations that Japan would halt cooperation immediately if India conducted a nuclear test, the report added. A final deal with Japan would benefit US firms. India has already given land for nuclear plants to GE-Hitachi — which is an alliance between the US and Japanese firms — and to Toshiba's Westinghouse Electric Company.—*Reuters*

Rush to get best terms hikes Indonesia tax amnesty revenue to \$7.45 billion

JAKARTA — The first phase of Indonesia's tax amnesty, which tens of thousands joined on the final days, collected 97.2 trillion rupiah (5.74 billion pounds) in revenue to help cover the government's fiscal deficit, Finance Ministry data showed on Saturday.

Some 366,757 taxpayers, including some of the wealthiest individuals in Southeast Asia's largest economy, signed up for the first phase that concluded on Friday, the ministry's website said.

They declared assets worth a total of 3,620 trillion rupiah, with 137 trillion rupiah pledged to be repatriated to Indonesia, it said.

Last week, and in particular on Friday, citizens thronged tax offices to take advantage of the lowest penalty rate of 2 per cent

on previously unreported assets.

The penalty rate rises 1-2 percentage points from Saturday and will go higher on 1 January, for the amnesty's third and final phase, which ends on 31 March.

President Joko Widodo visited Jakarta's main tax office on Friday night.

The response to the amnesty "serves as momentum for us to reform our taxation system, increase our tax base and increase our tax ratio," he told reporters.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati called the first phase results "encouraging".

Government officials set a target of collecting 165 trillion rupiah in revenue. The first-phase total reported on Saturday is 59 per cent of that figure.—*Reuters*

UN chief deeply concerned over rising tensions between India, Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Friday that he is deeply concerned over the significant increase in tensions between India and Pakistan, in particular regarding the cease-fire violations along the Line of Control (LoC).

LoC is a de facto border that divides Kashmir into India and Pakistan controlled parts.

Tensions between the two countries escalated because of the ongoing civilian protests in Indian-controlled Kashmir and a deadly attack last week on an Indian army base in frontier Uri town, about 109 km northwest

of capital city — Srinagar. The attack killed 18 troopers and wounded over 20 others.

"The Secretary-General urges both sides to exercise maximum restraint and take immediate steps to de-escalate the situation," said a statement released by Ban's spokesperson.

"He calls on the governments of Pakistan and India to address their outstanding issues, including regarding Kashmir, peacefully through diplomacy and dialogue," said the statement.

"His good offices are available, if accepted by both sides," it added.—*Xinhua*

India, Pakistan soldiers exchange fire across frontier, no casualties

ISLAMABAD/SRINAGAR, (India) — India and Pakistan exchanged fire across their de facto border in the Kashmir region on Saturday, in minor skirmishes that come at a time of heightened tension between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

Army officers from both countries blamed each other for starting the firing, which took place in the morning along the so-called "Line of Control" dividing them in the disputed Himalayan region. No casualties were reported.

The exchange came two days after New Delhi said Indian troops had crossed into Pakistan's side of Kashmir and killed suspected militants in a "surgical strike", an operation Pakistan says never took place.

That was in response to an attack last month on an army

base in India-controlled Kashmir that killed 19 soldiers and which New Delhi blamed on militants who crossed from Pakistan. Islamabad denied any involvement.

"Pakistani troops today violated (the) ceasefire along Palsanwala sector of Akhnoor area of Jammu," a senior Indian army officer said on Saturday.

"They targeted five of our posts (with) small arms and we also responded and fired back. However, there was no damage."

An official from the Pakistani army said its troops had "befittingly responded to Indian unprovoked firing."

The two countries have fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 over Kashmir. Both claim the former princely state in full.—*Reuters*



An Indian army soldier keeps guard from a bunker near the border with Pakistan in Abdullian, southwest of Jammu, on 30 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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Rules-based societies, democracy and the rule of law

Khin Maung Aye

IN her speech to the opening ceremony of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said *inter alia* that ASEAN itself aspired to be a rules-based, people-oriented and people-centred community, that rules-based is extremely important particularly for members of parliaments and that lawmakers cannot be law breakers. As ASEAN aimed at becoming a rules-based community, all members should also become the rules-based societies. In the case of Myanmar, too, it is of paramount importance to build a rules-based society as it is in a period of transition from a quasi-democracy to a perfect de-

mocracy in that no military presence in the legislatures as well as in the governments.

Myanmar is needed to be rules-based because a rules-based society is the foundation of any democracy. If we really want to establish a democratic country, we are required to strictly abide by the laws, rules and regulations. It is worth remembering that laws are enacted for the sake of the citizens. However, it is important for the law enforcement agencies not to abuse the laws for their own benefits. As pointed out by the State Counsellor, the lawmakers cannot be law breakers.

In fact, a democratic society is based on the rule of law and also on a high degree of transparency in the govern-

ment affairs. By law as well as by public moral standards, everybody—from the head of state, head of government, head of cabinet to the newspaper delivery guy on the street, must be treated equally. Nevertheless, this, of course, does not mean that everybody enjoys the same rights and privileges, but it means that whatever rights or entitlements a person has will be respected by the authorities and by the people in general. Equality between the rich and the poor, men and women, young and old should be as close to a reality as in fully democratic countries.

In this juncture, it is worth noting that the rule of law is a system under which the government and its public officials and

agents as well as individuals and private entities are accountable under the law, and the laws should be clear, publicised, stable and just and are applied evenly. Plus, the laws should protect fundamental rights inclusive of the security of persons and property and certain core human rights.

In addition, the process under which the laws are enacted, administered and enforced is accessible, fair and efficient. According to the principles of the rule of law, justice shall be delivered by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are of sufficient number, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

IT is well-known that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been a Theravada Buddhist Country since years ago. About 90 per cent of the population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar takes faith in Buddhism. All Buddhists throughout the country want the everlasting purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana which mainly depend on the members of the Sangha who can perform and carry out these noble tasks. In order to thoroughly implement the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana, all members of the Sangha of All Orders are to be united among others. According to the history of Buddhism of Myanmar, it was learnt that the unity of members of the Sangha became faint out and nearly disappeared after the Republic of the Union of Myanmar had been invaded and occupied by the British Colonialists. Some patriotic and farsighted members of the Sangha and laydevotees tried to construct the unity of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. However, they were not successful because of not being encouraged and supported by the British colonial government of that time.

After the Republic of the Union of Myanmar had regained Her Independence in 1948, the Bud-

dhist people and Government of the Union of Myanmar of that time were in pursuance of reconstructing the unity of the Sangha throughout the country by holding the Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders for the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana in 1965. And but it was not successful according to the confuse and unstable social and political situation at that time.

However, pious and multifarious Buddhist people throughout the country are eager and always looking forward to obtaining the unity of the Sangha of All Orders which is essential to implement the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. In reality, it is absolutely impossible to carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana without the unity of the Sangha.

According to the strong wish of the Buddhist people and Government of the Union of Myanmar of that time, the very First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders was successfully held in 1980. The Congregation was attended by over 1300 Sangha Samuti representatives representing over three hundred thousand members of the Sangha of All Order in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The congregation was eagerly and earnestly encouraged and supported by the Buddhist people of the entire nation and Government of the Union of Myanmar of that time.

According to the resolutions passed and adopted by the First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana the different levels of the Sangha Organizations which represent the following nine official sects of the Sangha of All Order could be formed throughout the country. The nine official sects (ganas) of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are as followings: -

1. Suddhama Sect (Gana)
2. Shwe Kyin Sect (Gana)
3. Dhammanu Dhamma Mahadwara Nikaya Sect (Gana)
4. Dhammavinaya nulomamuladwra Nikaya Sect (Gana)
5. Anaukchaung Dwara Sect (Gana)
6. Veluvan Nikaya Sect (Gana)
7. Catubommika Mahasatipathana Negettwin Sect (Gana)
8. Ganavimotti Kuto Sect (Gana)
9. Dhammayotti Nikaya Mahayin Sect (Gana)

These different schools and sects of the Sangha are unitedly carrying out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana under the guidance of the different levels of the Sangha Organizations which have been formed throughout the country. The different levels of the Sangha Organizations are formed as follows: -

1. The State Patron Committee

of the Sangha (comprising 111 members)

2. The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders (Comprising 300 members)
3. The State Sanghamahanayaka Committee (Comprising 47 members)
4. The State / Regional Sanghanayaka Committees (Altogether 49 committees comprising 323 members)
5. The Township Sanghanayaka Committees (Altogether 513 Committees comprising 3683 members)
6. The Word/Village-tract Sanghanayaka Committees (Comprising 19993 members)

In order to reconstruct the unity and mutual understanding within the sets and schools are deeply needed for the welfare and **intesets** of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana. And now, we all Buddhists are joyous and have great honour for reconstructing the concrete unity of the Sangha so long as the Buddha Sasana exists.

The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders, comprising the elected three hundred members of the Sangha represents all members of the Sangha throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. According to the principles of the Sangha Organizations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the annual plenary meeting of the State Central Working Committee

of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall be held. The matters relating to the whole Sasana affairs which were done through year by the State Sanghamahamayaka Committee shall be submitted to the annual plenary meeting of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders for records and approvals which lead to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana.

Functions and duties of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders

1. Shall take responsibilities relating to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana and the unity of the Sangha during the transit period of each congregation of the Sangha of All Orders.
2. Shall take responsibilities to hold the fullfledged Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders after five years' term.
3. Shall consult with the Ministry of Religious Affairs in order to hold the Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders.
4. Shall form the convening Committee for holding the Congregation comprising members of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee and members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha in suitable ratio.

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52nd Myanmar Police Force Day held in Kawthaung District



Police Lt-Col Myat Aung reading out the message of Police Chief Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win.

PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG-IPRD)

A CEREMONY marking the 52nd Myanmar Police Force Day took place at the Office of the Kawthaung District Police Force in Taninthayi Region yesterday.

Kawthaung District Police Force Commander Police Lt. Col. Myat Aung read out the Myanmar Police Force Day message from the Police Maj-

Gen.

Next, the District Administrator, the Kawthaung District Police Force Commander, the township administrator, township police commander and officials presented prizes to those who co-operated with police force in police procedures – Ward administrator and mem-

bers, members of fire brigade, people, outstanding district police members and their families members in social works.

Then, the Police Volunteer group donated cash for renovating the earthquake-hit ancient stupas and pagodas in the ancient city of Bagan.—*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung-IPRD)*

Short-term classes to open in cooperation with Japanese Varsities for development of HR in health

MYANMAR authorities concerned are developing human resources (HR) in health section by opening short-term classes and degree/courses cooperating with six Japanese universities.

The ministry of health and sport signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the following Japanese Universities—Niigata University, Okayama University, Chiba University, Kanazawa University, Nagasaki University and Kumamoto University to conduct classes. In addi-

tion, the authorities concerned are opening the post graduate classes at the local health universities and schools. Up to 117 post graduate classes are being opened.

The ministry had signed eleven MoU, 76 LoA and 15 LoI starting from 2011 to cooperate with universities and organizations from other counties in education sector so that they can do the scholarship programs, research and others. Four students from Myanmar are able to attend the degree course at the new med-

ical universities of Japan which will be opened soon. The minister for health and sport had already signed the agreement for corporation for teaching four Myanmar students at post graduate classes in Japan.

According to the ministry, the authorities concerned are performing Systematizing processes in the essential places to operate health care systematically, and they are also revising the curricula of basic health staff, nurses' courses.—*Lynn Htet*

Anti-begging campaign launched in Mandalay

MANDALAY municipal police began arresting beggars on the street on Friday as part of an anti-begging campaign. The municipal staff sent the seven beg-

gars to the police station.

The arrested people include two adults and five children. Police admitted that they were unable to arrest people suspect-

ed of controlling or otherwise profiting from the beggars in a secondhand way.

“We need to crack the gangs. So, I'd like to request all duty-conscientious working people to participate in fighting this very inhumane organised crime,” said U Soe Tint Aung, head of the Water and Sanitation Department Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC)

“Myanmar people give money to the street beggars out of compassion. But, it is an act of spoiling them. They get the money easily and, so, they don't want to work. We have to try to form a good relationship with these children so that we can expose the gangs behind them.” said Director-General U Soe Kyi from the Social Welfare department in an oddly unguarded answer.—*Aung Thant Khine*



A beggar with a baby trying to solicit donating.

PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

POEM:

“The Celebrities’ Words That Hit My Heart”

- * “The famous writer Chit Oo Nyo said,
“You do keep a good mind:
If you want to make your writing good.”
Such words of a celebrity shouldn't be left behind.
- * The old academy actress Swe Zin Htike said,
“If the original is good;
The photo copy will be good.”
I thanked her as I clearly understood.
- * A Japanese Buddhist monk said,
“The donor always feels free and light:
Whereas the receiver gets heavy.”
The light things go up, the heavy sinks down, right?
- * The State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said,
“Be confident of yourself for what you've done;
The good things will automatically come to you”
It's logically and naturally true for everyone.

Daw Aye Aye Pyone
(Retired Teacher)

State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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5. The matters relating to the whole Sasana affairs which have been done by them shall be reported to the Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders when it is held.
 6. The State Sanghamahanayaka Committee shall be formed in accordance with the principles prescribed in chapter 5 clause 25 of these procedures.
 7. Shall approve and confirm the name list of the members of the State Patron Committee of the Sangha submitted by the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee.
 8. Shall approve and confirm the eligible members of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee which is elected and substituted by the vacancy.
 9. Shall approve and confirm the eligible members of the Sangha as the members of the State Patron Committee of the Sangha which is elected and substituted by the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee to fill up the vacancy.
 10. May make necessary rules and regulations, drawing up, prescribing amending, substituting and removing the procedures except the basic principles of the Sangha Organizations.
 11. May instruct the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee in order to make notification in connection with the Dhammavinaya affairs occasionally.
 12. Shall hold the meeting at least one time in a year.
 13. May make suggestions, discussions and necessary decisions on the workdone report submitted to the meeting by the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee.
 14. Shall make and carry out dutifully the matters relating to the Sasana affairs which are trustfully assigned by the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee.
- The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is now striving to promote and flourish the Theravada Buddha Sasana in accordance with its functions and duties which lead to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana as well as for the welfare and interest of the nation. We all Buddhists throughout the country wish the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar more and more success in the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana all over the world.

PM May says Scotland will have no veto over Brexit

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May said she will listen to Scotland's concerns over Britain's exit from the European Union but that the devolved Scottish government will not have a veto over the Brexit negotiations.

Scotland wants to have more detail about how the British government plans to leave the EU to prevent a "hard Brexit" that would severely damage the economy, Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said on Tuesday.

After Britain's vote to leave the EU, Sturgeon said Scotland may seek another independence referendum — something that could split the world's fifth largest economy apart just as it attempts to go it alone outside the European bloc.

"What I am very clear about is that, as we look into these ne-

gotiations, we will fully engage the Scottish government in the discussions that we have, in preparing what position the UK is going to take," May told BBC Scotland.

When asked directly if Scotland could have a veto over Brexit, May said: "The United Kingdom will have a position in the negotiations and we, as a United Kingdom government, will be negotiating with the European Union."

May added that the United Kingdom's government would listen to and take account of the particular concerns of Scotland and other parts of the United Kingdom, which is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The United Kingdom's devolved parliaments could com-

plete or slow an EU withdrawal as their remit over such a major change is unclear and there is a convention for giving the assemblies a say on matters that concern them.

Scots rejected independence in a 2014 referendum. But in the referendum on EU membership on 23 June, Scots voted to stay in the bloc while England and Wales opted to leave.

"There are two questions you can ask about a second [independence] referendum in Scotland: One, 'Could there be?' And that's a process issue," May said.

"I think the real question is 'Should there be another referendum in Scotland?' My answer to that is overwhelmingly 'no'," she said. "There should not be second referendum in Scotland."—Reuters



Prime Minister Theresa May passes tanks as she visits 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Cheshire, Worcesters and Foresters, and Staffords) at their barracks at Bulford Camp on 29 September 2016 near Salisbury, England. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump goes on offensive against former beauty queen, Clinton calls him 'unhinged'

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump increased his attacks on a former beauty queen with a vague and unsubstantiated allegation about a sex tape in predawn Twitter posts on Friday, and Democratic rival Hillary Clinton denounced him as "unhinged."

Trump's refusal to drop his invective against Alicia Machado, the Miss Universe from Venezuela whom he criticized for gaining weight after she won the crown in 1996, threatened to damage his already weak standing among women and Hispanics.

With less than six weeks to go until the 8 November election, Trump made reference - without giving evidence — to a sex tape involving Machado, who had publicly denounced him all week as a humiliating bully. His attacks provided critics with new fodder to question his temperament for the White House.

"Did Crooked Hillary help

disgusting (check out sex tape and past) Alicia M become a US citizen so she could use her in the debate?" Trump said in his Twitter messages in the early hours of Friday. He did not elaborate on his allegations beyond saying that the Clinton campaign was unaware of the beauty queen's past and had been "duped" by her.

At a campaign rally in Coral Springs, Florida, Clinton said the episode was evidence that "a man who can be provoked by a tweet should not have the nuclear codes."

"Who gets up at 3 a.m. in the morning to engage in a Twitter attack against a former Miss Universe? I mean he hurled as many insults as he could. Really, why does he do things like that?"

"His latest Twitter meltdown is unhinged, even for him. It proves again he is temperamentally unfit to be President of the United States," she said.

Later on Friday, BuzzFeed

said Trump made an appearance in a Playboy softcore pornographic movie from 2000 that it said it had obtained from an online adult video store in New York state.

"Trump's role in the porn is relatively benign and centres around him breaking a bottle of champagne on a Playboy-branded limo while several of the playmates are visiting New York City," the online media outlet said.

Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill said in a tweet: "There's been a lot of talk about sex tapes today and in a strange turn of events only one adult film has emerged today and its star is Donald Trump."

Reuters could not confirm the BuzzFeed report. The Trump campaign did not respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Merrill earlier said Clinton called Machado on Friday to thank her for what he said was the courage she has shown.—Reuters



NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia to summon Dutch ambassador over MH17 investigation

MOSCOW — The Russian Foreign Ministry will summon the Dutch ambassador in Moscow on 3 October to explain Russia's reasons for not accepting the findings of an investigation into the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, the ministry said on Friday.

A team of international investigators on Wednesday presented findings showing that the missile launcher used to shoot down MH17 over Eastern Ukraine in 2014 came from Russia and was returned there afterwards — despite Russian denials of involvement in the conflict in Ukraine.

The Dutch Foreign Ministry summoned Russia's ambassador in The Hague for a diplomatic rebuke on Friday after Moscow made remarks critical of the MH17 investigation.—Reuters

United Nations adviser raps Philippines' Duterte over Hitler remarks

NEW YORK — A special adviser to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Friday slammed Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte for likening himself to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler as he defended his crackdown on illegal drugs.

The comments were "deeply disrespectful of the right to life of all human beings," said Adama Dieng, the UN special adviser on the prevention of genocide in a statement.

Duterte earlier in the day compared his crackdown to the massacre of millions of Jews by Hitler in the Holocaust in Nazi Germany during World War II. Dieng said the Holocaust was "one of the darkest periods of the history of humankind and that any glorification of the cruel and criminal acts committed by those responsible was unacceptable and offensive."—Kyodo News

Iran not to accept preconditions for normalising ties with Germany

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry has said that the Islamic republic will never recognise Israel as a precondition for normalising ties with Germany, Press TV reported on Saturday.

"Ties between Iran and Germany are based on mutual respects and interests, and no precondition would be acceptable in this regard," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said. German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel, who will visit Iran on Sunday, said earlier that Tehran should recognise Israel before Berlin normalises ties with Tehran.

Iran could have normal and friendly relations with Germany "only when it accepted Israel's right to exist," Gabriel said in an interview with the Germany weekly *Der Spiegel*.—Xinhua

Two kids killed, three missing after bridge collapse in north Laos

VIENTIANE — Two children have been killed, 52 people rescued and three children are missing after they fell into a river in northern Laos' Luang Prabang province on Friday when a slatted wooden bridge they were walking on tipped sideways, local media reported on Saturday. Fifty-seven schoolchildren, a teacher, and a motorcyclist fell off the bridge into the Xeng River in Vangbay village, some 250 km north of Lao capital Vientiane by aerial distance, after one of the main supporting ropes snapped. Director of Viengkham Secondary School Mai Toumvongsa said to Lao News Agency (KPL) on Friday that "The two victims were year five upper secondary students at Viengkham Secondary School, a male and a female. Later that day, the school held a funeral ceremony for the two victims at Vangbai village."—Xinhua

Russia said to send more warplanes to Syria, diplomacy 'on life support'

MOSCOW/BEIRUT — Russia is sending more warplanes to Syria to ramp up its air campaign, a Russian newspaper reported on Friday, as the United States said diplomacy to halt the violence was “on life support” but not dead yet.

Fighting continued to intensify a week into a new Russian-backed Syrian government offensive to capture rebel-held eastern Aleppo and crush the last urban stronghold of a revolt against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad that began in 2011.

Moscow and Assad spurned a US-Russian brokered ceasefire agreed to this month and launched attacks on rebel-held areas in Aleppo in potentially the most decisive battle in the Syrian civil war.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov spoke by telephone for a third straight day, with the top Russian diplomat saying Moscow was ready to consider more ways to normalise the situation in Aleppo.

But Lavrov criticised Washington's failure to separate moderate rebel groups from those the Russians call terrorists, which had allowed forces led by the group formerly known as the Nusra front to violate the US-Russian



Children play with water from a burst water pipe at a site hit yesterday by an air strike in Aleppo's rebel-controlled al-Mashad neighbourhood, Syria, on 30 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

truce agreed on 9 September.

The United States made clear on Friday that it would not, at least for now, carry through on the threat it made on Wednesday to halt the diplomacy if Russia did not take immediate steps to halt the violence.

“This is on life support, but it's not flat-lined yet,” State Depart-

ment spokesman Mark Toner told reporters. “We have seen enough that we don't want to definitively close the door yet.”

In a 40-minute discussion with Syrians, diplomats and others on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York last week, Kerry said the administration had failed to

make any threat of military force that give him leverage with Russia.

“I think you're looking at three people, four people in the administration who have all argued for use of force, and I lost the argument,” Kerry told the group, according to a recording of the session obtained by *The New York Times*.—Reuters

US urges Iran to free activist serving lengthy prison term

WASHINGTON — The United States said on Friday it was “deeply troubled” that Iranian courts had upheld a 16-year prison term against journalist and human rights activist Narges Mohammadi, and it urged Tehran to release her on humanitarian grounds.

“No one should be jailed for peaceful, civic activism,” State Department spokesman Mark Toner told a news briefing, noting

reports indicated Mohammadi's health was “rapidly deteriorating while in prison” and she had been barred from communicating with her two young children.

“Given these circumstances, the imposition of this prison sentence is particularly harsh and unjustified and we call on the government of Iran to provide Mohammadi with adequate medical care and to release her on humani-

tarian grounds,” Toner said.

Mohammadi was arrested last year after launching a campaign to end the death penalty in Iran. She was sentenced to 16 years in prison in May for founding the anti-death penalty movement, which was deemed to be an illegal splinter group.

Mohammadi, a vice chair of the Center for Supporters of Human Rights, had previously been

sentenced to five years in prison for conspiring against the Islamic Republic and one year for anti-government propaganda due to her human rights activism.

She had been released on bail for medical reasons but was rearrested last year and ordered to serve out the earlier sentences because of her work campaigning against the death penalty.—Reuters

Israeli troops kill Palestinian who stabbed guard at West Bank checkpoint

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian who stabbed and wounded an Israeli security guard at a main military checkpoint in the occu-

pied West Bank that separates Ramallah and Jerusalem, was shot and killed on Friday, police said.

The incident occurred hours

after world leaders, including US President Barack Obama, attended the funeral of Israeli statesman Shimon Peres in Jerusalem, where Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was also greeted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the Palestinian, a 28-year-old East Jerusalem resident, ran into Qalandia checkpoint wielding a knife and stabbed a security guard before he was shot.

The guard was seriously injured and taken to hospital for treatment, Samri said.

In the past year, at least 219 Palestinians have died in violent incidents in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Of those, 148 were identified by authorities as assailants while others were killed during clashes and

protests. Palestinians, many acting alone and with rudimentary weapons, have killed at least 33 Israelis and two visiting Americans in the attacks.

Israel says anti-Israeli incitement by Palestinian officials and on social media networks is stoking attacks.

Palestinian leaders say assailants are acting out of desperation over the collapse in 2014 of peace talks and Israeli settlement expansion on occupied land that Palestinians seek for an independent state.

Palestinians have accused Israel of using excessive force and say that some of those killed over the past year posed no threat or had no intention of attacking anyone. In some cases, Israel has opened investigations into whether excessive force was used.

During his eulogy for Peres,

Police clear out Rome's 'Gloomy Street' migrant camp

ROME — Italian police on Friday cleared out the “Gloomy Street” transit camp in central Rome where thousands of migrants have slept over the past year as they made their way toward northern Europe.

The Baobab centre near Rome's Tiburtina train station was shut down in December, but volunteers quickly set up a camp on the street in front of the old shelter, providing tents, chemical toilets, mattresses and meals.

An estimated 60,000 migrants have slept there over the past 12 months and volunteers said about 300 migrants spent the night in Via Cupa, which means Gloomy Street in English, on Thursday.

Police moved in after dawn, rounding up dozens of people for identification. They later hauled away the mattresses, toilets and food.

“Shutting down the camp doesn't solve the problem. There will still be migrants looking for a place to sleep tonight,” Andrea Costa, one of the founding members of the Baobab shelter, told Reuters.

Italy has been on the front line of Europe's immigration crisis, taking in more than 450,000 migrants who have arrived by boat from North Africa since the start of 2014, official figures show.

The state provides shelter to about 160,000 asylum seekers — eight times more than it did in 2013 — in centres up and down the country, but there are no state-funded shelters for migrants in transit. According to European Union law, they should seek asylum in Italy or be sent home.—Reuters



A medic tends to a wounded Israeli, who was injured in a stabbing attack, at Israeli Qalandia checkpoint near the West Bank city of Ramallah, on 30 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the last of a generation of Israel's founding fathers, Obama gently reminded Netanyahu and Abbas of the “unfinished business of peace.”

Netanyahu and Western-backed Abbas have not held face-to-face talks since 2010 and Abbas opted to attend Peres's funeral, making the short drive from Ramallah through Israeli military checkpoints.

But there was no indication that Abbas's rare visit to Jerusalem and the amiable words he and Netanyahu exchanged would lead to any movement in long-stalled peacemaking. Peres, a former president and prime minister who died on Wednesday at the age of 93, shared a Nobel Prize for the interim land-for-peace accords he helped reach with the Palestinians as Israel's foreign minister in the 1990s.—Reuters

Germany's Merkel says she has not changed course on migrant policy

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel insisted on Saturday that she had not reversed course on her policy on migrants, two weeks after she said she wished she could turn back the clock to better prepare Germany for last year's influx.

Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) suffered electoral routs in two state elections last month as voters rejected her open-door migrant policy just a year ahead of a federal election.

Taking some of the blame for her party's drubbing, Merkel struck a conciliatory tone and said she would if she could "turn back the time by many, many years" to prepare Germany for the influx.

"I have not changed my policy, but made policy," Merkel told the Saturday edition of the *Saechsische Zeitung*. "I see no change of course other than coherent work for many, many months."

Merkel told the paper she had been working since last summer

"on solutions which are good for Germany and for Europe". This includes protecting Europe's external borders and fighting the causes of migrant flight from the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

In addition, Germany has had to bring order to the process of dealing with the influx of refugees, she said. "Our aim is that a situation like last year does not happen again and in fact we have made great progress over the past 12 months."

On Friday, Germany revised down the number of migrants it took in last year to 890,000 from a previous estimate of 1.1 million. It said around 210,000 people had so far come to Germany to seek asylum in 2016. Merkel said the aim was now to push ahead with sending back those who had no right to asylum in Germany, as well as agreeing legal quotas to distribute refugees among European Union member states in an appropriate way.—Reuters



German Chancellor Angela Merkel. PHOTO: REUTERS

Spain's Socialist head suggests will resign on Saturday if loses party vote

MADRID — The leader of Spain's Socialists, Pedro Sanchez, suggested on Friday that he could resign if a party assembly votes against him on Saturday and decides to abstain in a future confidence vote to let acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy stay in power.

The Socialists, the main opposition party, have seen their leadership torn in two after 17 members of its 38-strong executive committee resigned on Wednesday and called for Sanchez to stand down to end the country's nine-month political deadlock.

Sanchez has led a stand-off with Rajoy's conservative People's Party (PP) — which won the most votes but fell short of a majority in two inconclusive elections — that has frustrated repeated attempts to form a government and now points to a possible third election in December.

Sanchez, in his first public comments since the walk-out, told a news conference that he would never agree to abstaining and he would vote on Saturday to open up a leadership race, which he would likely win with support from the grassroots.

"If the party assembly decides that it is necessary to opt for the abstention, I cannot administer a decision that I do not share," he said.



Spain's Socialist party (PSOE) leader Pedro Sanchez reacts as he addresses the media at his party's headquarters in Madrid, Spain, on 30 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

It was unclear whether this meant that he would resign and he did not take questions.

The Socialist rebels hope that by ousting Sanchez, who has presided over a slump in the party's support, they could seek ways to end the stalemate, including a potential abstention in a confidence vote on allowing Rajoy a second term.

They say the party's executive committee should now be absolved given less than half of its members remain and a form of caretaker administration ushered in. A party conference would then have to pick a new leader in a few weeks.

The Socialist Party is pivotal to breaking the impasse because it holds 85 out of the 350 seats in parliament's lower house.—Reuters

Mexico's Colima volcano erupts, local communities evacuated

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's Colima volcano erupted on Friday, spewing a large plume of ash and thick black smoke into the sky and provoking the evacuation of two nearby villages.

The volcano is located in western Mexico between the states of Colima and Jalisco and is

one of the country's most active.

Luis Felipe Puente, head of national emergency services, told Reuters that some 350 villagers living in the shadow of the volcano in the towns of La Yerbabuena and La Becerrera have been evacuated to a nearby shelter.—Reuters

Brazil's Temer says not responsible for high jobless rate

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian President Michel Temer said on Friday that he is not to blame for the country's rising unemployment rate.

In an event with businessmen, the president tried to explain the severe economic crisis Brazil is facing, with rising inflation and unemployment. Brazil's jobless rate has reached 11.8 per cent in August, and there are 12 million unemployed people in the country, according to a report released by statistics agency IBGE earlier in the day. Temer said the current situation is not his fault because he has only been in power for a very short period of time.

"We received the government with a rising inflation rate. We reached almost 12 million unemployed people, and I reiterate

this was not my fault. The state got way more indebted than it was capable of, and by doing so, generated recession and unemployment," he said.

Temer first took over in May, when then-President Dilma Rousseff was suspended from office to be submitted to an impeachment process. On 31 August, Rousseff was impeached and Temer took over officially for the rest of Rousseff's term, which ends in December 2018. Temer, who was previously vice president, is the head of the largest party in the country, the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), which held, in the final year of the Rousseff administration, seven ministries in the cabinet, including positions responsible for the economy.—Xinhua

Liberia passes law to create seats in parliament for women

DAKAR — Women's rights activists in Liberia on Friday welcomed a new law creating parliamentary seats reserved for women, young people and people with disabilities, in a country where women are poorly represented in politics despite having a female leader.

Liberia's House of Representatives on Thursday passed the Equal Representation and Participation Bill, creating five seats for female politicians, one for youths and one for people with disabilities in the nation's lower house of parliament, according to the United Nations agency UN Women.

"The long-awaited passage of this bill is great news for women

in Liberia," said Mary Wandia, programme manager at the rights group Equality Now. "Liberian women and girls have been failed for too long on several fronts".

Liberia boasts the first woman freely elected as a head of state in Africa, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

However only one in nine seats in Liberia's parliament are held by women, according to the World Bank. The West African nation ranks 40th out of 54 African countries for the number of women in parliament, and 149th out of 191 worldwide, UN Women said.

"Girls can aspire to join a space that is welcoming, that expects them," said Peterson Magoo-

la of UN Women. "Women will know that Liberia cares to hear their perspectives and include it in decision making," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

While the law has been hailed as a positive move to encourage women's participation in politics, it may have unintended consequences, said Tamba Johnson of the Women of Liberia Peace Network (WOLPNET), based in the capital Monrovia. Male politicians may seek to persuade voters that aspiring female candidates should be chosen only for the seats reserved for women, Johnson said.

"The allotted seats will always be flagged by men when it comes



A Liberian woman casts her ballot during presidential elections at Klay town just outside the capital Monrovia in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

to elections," Johnson said. "I feel the future political arena for women will become gradually gloomy over the years."

Women's representation in politics has made substantial pro-

gress in sub-Saharan Africa, where the share of female parliamentarians increased to 22.3 per cent last year from 9.8 per cent in 1995, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) said.—Reuters

Thailand confirms first Zika-linked microcephaly in Southeast Asia

BANGKOK — Thailand reported on Friday the first confirmed cases in Southeast Asia of microcephaly linked to mosquito-borne Zika, as the World Health Organization urged action against the virus across the region.

The confirmation of two cases of microcephaly, a birth defect marked by a small head size, came a day after US health officials recommended that pregnant women postpone non-essential travel to 11 Southeast Asian countries because of the risk of Zika.

“We have found two cases of small heads linked to Zika, the first cases in Thailand,” Prasert Thongcharoen, an adviser to the Department of Disease Control, told reporters in Bangkok.

He declined to say where in Thailand the cases were found but officials have said they were not in Bangkok.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said the cases were the first of

Zika-linked microcephaly in Southeast Asia and the virus infection represented a serious threat to pregnant women and their unborn children.

“Countries across the region must continue to strengthen measures aimed at preventing, detecting and responding to Zika virus transmission,” Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, the WHO’s regional director, said in a statement.

US health officials have concluded that Zika infections in pregnant women can cause microcephaly, which can lead to severe developmental problems in babies.

The connection between Zika and microcephaly first came to light last year in Brazil, which has confirmed more than 1,800 cases of microcephaly that it considers to be related to Zika infections in the mothers.

Zika has spread extensively in Latin American and the Caribbean over the past year or

so, and more recently it has been cropping up in Southeast Asia.

Thailand has confirmed 349 Zika cases since January, including 33 pregnant women, and Singapore has recorded 393 Zika cases, including 16 pregnant women.

Some health experts have accused Thai officials of playing down the risk of Zika to protect its thriving tourist industry, but Prasert dismissed that.

“Thailand is not hiding anything and is ready to disclose everything,” he said, adding that other countries in Southeast Asia might also have cases of Zika-linked microcephaly that they have not disclosed.

The WHO said Thailand’s response was an example for the region.

“Thailand’s diligence underscores the commitment of health authorities to the health and wellbeing of the Thai public, and provides a positive example to be emulated,” Singh said.—Reuters

Yuan’s entry into basket of top currencies ‘historic milestone:’ IMF

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund on Friday hailed the inclusion of the yuan in its elite basket of reserve currencies as a “historic milestone” for China.

It marks an important step in further integrating China into the international financial system, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said at a news conference a day before the yuan, also known as the renminbi, joins the composition of the IMF’s special drawing rights, or SDR.

The other currencies in the SDR, a virtual currency it uses based on the values of the basket currencies, are the US dollar, the euro, the Japanese yen and the British pound.

China has called for inclusion of the yuan in the SDR basket in reflection of its rising clout in the world economy.

Financial experts said the inclusion will raise the global profile of the Chinese economy, but is expected to increase pressure on Beijing to work harder to remove re-



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde. PHOTO: REUTERS

strictions on transactions in the yuan.

According to the IMF, the yuan has a weight of 10.92 per cent in the basket, below 41.73 per cent for the dollar and 30.93 per cent for the euro but above 8.33 per

cent for the yen and 8.09 per cent for the pound.

As of Friday, the weights of the dollar, euro, pound and yen were 41.9 per cent, 37.4 per cent, 11.3 per cent and 9.4 per cent, respectively.—Kyodo News

New Jersey train crash turns spotlight on Christie, funding crisis

NEW YORK — A deadly New Jersey Transit train crash this week has renewed questions about Republican Governor Chris Christie’s hard-nosed approach to a public transit funding crisis, even as he announced a compromise on Friday to pay for long-delayed construction projects.

The timing of Friday’s announcement seemed telling, despite the fact there is no evidence of a link between the crash and a lack of funding, said Brigid Callahan Harrison, a political science professor at Montclair State University.

“I think this put considerable pressure on the governor and the state legislature to fix a situation that had not been solved since August,” she said.

A spokesman for Christie, however, said the meeting with legislative leaders to discuss a potential resolution was scheduled days before the Hoboken tragedy.

New Jersey Transit, among the busiest commuter rail systems in the United States, has suffered from huge budget pressures as Christie and state legislative

leaders have sparred over how to pay for much needed infrastructure improvements, experts said.

Thursday’s crash inside Hoboken Terminal killed one woman and injured more than 100 others after the train hurtled into the station, smashing through a platform and collapsing a section of the roof.

On Friday, Christie and the Democratic leaders of the legislature’s two houses announced a \$16 billion deal to fund the state’s transportation trust fund, which provides money for capital projects for highways and public transit, through 2025.

The trust fund had essentially gone bankrupt earlier this summer after Christie and legislators could not agree on how to replenish it. The governor declared a state of emergency in July and froze hundreds of ongoing projects, including \$2.7 billion worth of New Jersey Transit work.

Christie has been the “biggest obstacle to restoring solvency to the transportation trust fund,” said Janna Chernetz, the director of New Jersey policy for the



New Jersey Governor Chris Christie reacts to a question during a news conference in Trenton, New Jersey, US in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tri-State Transportation Campaign, an advocacy group. She said Friday’s deal, while good news, would keep funding basically level when adjusted for inflation. “It’s just unfortunate that it took this much to get this little,” she said. The accident’s cause remains unknown. In an opinion piece in the *Star-Ledger* newspaper on Friday, the state’s transportation commissioner, Richard Hammer, called it “irresponsible” to suggest any link between the trust fund shutdown and the Hoboken crash.

New Jersey Transit’s funding problems go well beyond the trust fund, however. The state’s direct subsidy for the agency’s operating budget has decreased 90 per cent in the last dozen years, according to transit

experts, even as ridership has grown 20 per cent.

Approximately one-fifth of the annual operating budget has come from the capital budget, according to Chernetz. Meanwhile, the agency has been without an executive director since last year and has canceled every public board meeting since June, leaving observers in the dark about how it plans to close a massive budget gap this year. “Infrastructure is a basic building block of our economy in New Jersey for all the obvious reasons, starting with the fact that we’re a corridor state,” said Loretta Weinberg, the Democratic majority leader in the state Senate and a vocal Christie critic. “All the governor has ever done is cancel, veto or stand in the way of moving ahead.”—Reuters

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Jennifer Garner thinks parents set example for their kids

LONDON — Jennifer Garner says parents' behaviour is the best way to teach their children how to conduct themselves. The 44-year-old star, who has two daughters Violet, 10, and Seraphina seven, and a son Samuel, four, with estranged husband Ben Affleck, thinks that only parents set a good example for their children, reported FemaleFirst.

"I don't think empathy is something you can drill in someone's head. You have to have faith that while your kids can seem to be selfish and concerned

only about the word 'mine' sometimes, overall, they are watching you really carefully, and if you care about other people, they will too.

"I try to be the best version of myself and to have faith that they're watching me as carefully when I do something right as they do when I roll through a stop sign," she said.

Garner also expressed her fears for her eldest daughter Violet, who will soon discover social media as her schoolmates are now exploring laptops and other devices.

"We just had back to school night, and I said afterwards, 'Do they need a computer?' They need some kind of device or computer to complete their homework.

"Our daughter doesn't have any of those things, and she's like, the only kid in the class who doesn't, apparently. So I found an old laptop this weekend for her, and I am kind of panicked about it. She's not on social media yet — her school has a no social media policy until sixth grade — but I know it's coming soon," she added.—PTI



Jennifer Garner.
PHOTO: PTI

Boston Marathon bombing makes way to TV and movie screens

LOS ANGELES — More than three years after the Boston Marathon bombing, the story of the 2013 deadly attack on the race and its aftermath is making its way to both the big and small screens.

Cable channel HBO on Friday released the first trailer for its documentary "Marathon: The Patriots Day Bombing" which will be screened on 21 November.

The documentary uses surveillance footage, news clips and home movies to examine the bombing that killed three people and wounded more than 260 near the marathon route's finish line in central Boston in April 2013. It will also feature interviews with first responders and survivors, and the trial, conviction and death-penalty

sentencing of bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

Tsarnaev's older brother, Tamerlan, died following a shootout with police in the suburb of Watertown, Massachusetts, after Dzhokhar Tsarnaev ran him over in a hijacked sport utility vehicle. The brothers, ethnic Chechens, had immigrated to the United States from Russia a decade before the attack.

The attack is also the subject of a Hollywood feature film called "Patriots Day," starring Mark Wahlberg and Kevin Bacon, that will be released in late December and is seen as a possible awards contender.

A third film, "Stronger," starring Jake Gyllenhaal, is expected to be released in 2017.—Reuters



Actor Daniel Craig
PHOTO: REUTERS

Daniel Craig still first choice for Bond, says producer

LONDON — The team behind the James Bond films wants Daniel Craig to return as 007, the spy series' executive producer said on Friday, even after the British actor said he would rather slash his wrists than appear again.

The 48-year-old star was "absolutely the first choice ... We would love Daniel to return as Bond," Callum McDougall told BBC radio.

Craig said last year he was "over" the role after filming wrapped up on the last instalment "Spectre", which went on to gross \$880 million worldwide. When asked if he could imagine doing another Bond movie, Craig told *London's Time Out* magazine:

"Now? I'd rather break this glass and slash my wrists."

His words triggered a flurry of speculation over who might appear next, with Idris Elba, Tom Hiddleston and Aidan Turner among the top contenders.

Craig was widely praised for bringing a fresh grittiness to the role of the suave secret agent over four films, starting with *Casino Royale* in 2006.

A report by RadarOnline earlier this month said Craig had already been offered \$150 million by studio Sony to return for two more films. McDougall told the BBC that Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael Wilson both shared his views. "I know they are hoping for him to come back," he said.—Reuters



Brad Pitt poses on the red carpet at the premiere of "The Big Short" in New York, in 2015. PHOTO:REUTERS

Brad Pitt to have drug tests in deal with Jolie to see kids

LOS ANGELES — Brad Pitt will undergo drug and alcohol tests as part of a temporary agreement with his estranged wife Angelina Jolie that will allow him to see their six children, two people familiar with the agreement said on Friday.

The temporary agreement, which will run until 20 October, was the first breakthrough in the bitter split between the superstar couple since Jolie filed for divorce on 20 September. The actress cited "the health of the family" and sought full physical custody of the children.

Pitt, 52, and Jolie, 41, both agreed to undergo individual counseling, and Pitt's initial visit with the children will take place

with a therapist, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

No ruling or decision has been made on who will eventually have legal or physical custody, they said.

Representatives of Pitt and Jolie did not return calls for comment on Friday.

Media reports say that since their separation on 15 September, Pitt has not seen the three biological and three adopted children he had with Jolie.

The couple, dubbed Brangelina during their decade-long romance, split following an incident on a private plane in which Pitt was reported to have lost his temper in front

of one or more of the children. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has said it is evaluating whether to pursue an investigation into the matter.

Both stars have laid low since the announcement of their divorce. Pitt this week skipped the red carpet premiere in Los Angeles of his latest movie project, saying he wanted to focus on his "family situation."

Pitt's next film is the November war drama "Allied" in which he stars with French actress Marion Cotillard. Cotillard last week issued a statement strongly denying any involvement in Pitt's divorce after rumors that they became romantically involved during filming.—Reuters

Archaeologists discover pre-Columbian tombs in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY — Guatemalan archaeologists hope two tombs uncovered in Peten, Guatemala, will shed light on a clash between two kingdoms located in the Maya Lowlands during the Classic Maya period from 250 to 900 AD.

The tombs in Peten, 310 miles (500 km) from the capital, Guatemala City, escaped decades of looting at the site, a group of archaeologists told a news conference on Monday.

Beginning in 2000, archaeologist Francisco Estrada-Belli, who directs Boston University's Holmul Archaeological Project, and his team have protected the site — the Classic Maya city of Holmul — employing four park rangers to guard it from looters. The rangers also protect Holmul's structures from erosion through the use of roofs.

As a result, the coordinator of the foundation for Maya Cultural and Natural Heritage, Hector

Escobedo, said structures at Holmul were among the best preserved in the Maya region.

Archaeologists told reporters the findings were important because one of the tombs — dating to between 650 and 700 AD — could be that of a ruler.

Kaanul and Tikal, two kingdoms from that period, competed with each other for control of resources and adjoining cities.

In another tomb in Holmul, the remains of a middle-aged person were

found, accompanied by vessels and jade ornaments. A jade necklace could be a "war trophy," said Estrada-Belli at the National Palace of Culture.

"This is the first major find of this kind. The offerings include some elaborate ceramics and objects of bone and shell," Estrada-Belli said. "The most interesting is one that has an inscription that states that the object is a jade necklace piece and belongs to a king from another place." —Reuters

Kyoto designer weaves chocolate-dyed kimono for Italy show



Kimono designer Nobuaki Tomita poses with a kimono and obi sash made of fabric dyed with chocolate in Kyoto on 26 September 2016. The garments were produced to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Japan's diplomatic relations with Italy, a major chocolate producer. PHOTO: KYODO

KYOTO — A designer from Kyoto has succeeded in producing a sweet-smelling kimono made of fabric dyed with chocolate to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Japan's diplomatic relations with Italy, a major chocolate producer.

Ready to be unveiled at a kimono fashion show in Turin, Italy later in October, Nobuaki Tomita's silk garment, a white robe with chocolate-coloured foliage scrolls and obi sash, was four years in the making.

He said his first attempt to dye a kimono with chocolate in 2012 failed to produce the desired result with both the fragrance and color washing out in the process of steaming the fabric at the high temperature he thought necessary to maintain the colouring.

With the help of Turin and other partners, the

designer embarked on his second challenge in October last year. In addition to solid chocolate he used four years ago, he also obtained cocoa from the Italian city. It took more than 100 attempts at fine-tuning to create the best mix of materials. Tomita took up the challenge out of concern about the future of craftsmanship in Japan's ancient capital. "We've seen a growing number of professionals in traditional arts and crafts disappear each year," he said. "By demonstrating a new form of art to the world, I hope to maintain traditions in Kyoto."

Italy was the fourth largest source of chocolate products for Japan, accounting 10.3 per cent in 2014, following Belgium, the United States and France, according to the Finance Ministry's customs trade data. —Kyodo News

Chiuri at Dior targets Millennials with eclectic wardrobe

PARIS — Maria Grazia Chiuri, Dior's first woman designer, on Friday took the fashion brand in a new direction with a maiden eclectic collection aimed at connecting with young consumers and re-invigorating sales.

Chiuri, who arrived at Dior in July after two

decades at Valentino, put together in five weeks a wardrobe that mixed "sport couture" with street style and fairy tales.

"The collection is eclectic just like women are eclectic, they like to mix different things and create their own personal style," Chiuri said after the show.

The show opened with all-wite looks featuring quilted cotton fencing plastrons and long, romantic tulle skirts.

Later on, models strutted down the runway in biker jackets, long skirts and T-shirts saying "J'adiore," or "We should all be feminists" or "Dior

Revolution."

"It was a very rich and desirable collection," said former Lanvin designer Alber Elbaz who was sitting next to celebrities such as singer Rihanna, shoe maker Christian Louboutin and France's former first lady Carla Bruni.

The show closed with a series of long black and nude tulle dresses with knit lingerie and embroideries of a moon, stars, the devil and the sun.

"She has a global vision for the brand," Dior Chief Executive Sidney Toledano told Reuters, adding that he thought Chiuri felt and understood what young consumers wanted.

Dior's priority — as for all of its luxury peers — is appealing to the consumers of tomorrow, the so-called Millennials — people born after 1980, who grew up with the Internet and for whom social media is part of their life.

According to some analysts, Millennials already represent around half of luxury buyers today. —Reuters



Models present creations by Italian designer Maria Grazia Chiuri as part of her Spring/Summer 2017 women's ready-to-wear collection for fashion house Dior during Fashion Week in Paris, France, on 30 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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(2-10-2016 07:00am ~ 3-10-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Continuation In Rural Tradition
07:56	Am	Goldsmith
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Interesting Features of Rakhine
08:46	Am	Inspiration
08:53	Am	Guiding Star of Song Birds
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Wonderful Indonesia
09:52	Am	My Life & My Art
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan) (Vitis) [Doctor] [Painter]

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-5)
07:42	Pm	Kindhearted Pet Lovers
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar "Zika Virus Disease"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	"Myanmar Music Icon" Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs(Episode-2)
08:49	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Pann Kyi

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

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

MRTV

(2-10-2016, Sunday)

6:00 am

- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 am

- Business News

8:35 am

- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

9:35 am

- People's Talks

9:50 am

- Poem for Children

10:00 am

- Sunday Talk

10:35 am

- Women in Myanmar Society

11:00 am

- Week Characterful News

12:35 pm

- This Week's Special Interest

12:50 pm

- Myanmar Movie

4:15 pm

- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

4:35 pm

- Mono Classical Songs

5:15 pm

- Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

6:20 pm

- KARAOKE World Championships (KWC) Myanmar 2016 (Level-2) (Group -2)

7:15 pm

- Myanmar Series (Part-26)

7:40 pm

- The Art Festival 2016

8:00 pm

- News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35pm

- Life Struggles

9:00 pm

- News

9:50 pm

- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Kvitova powers past Cibulkova to capture Wuhan Open title

WUHAN, (China) — Petra Kvitova raced to a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Dominika Cibulkova in the Wuhan Open final on Saturday to capture her first title of the year with a ruthless display of power hitting.

The victory secured a second Wuhan title for the 14th-seeded Czech and moves Kvitova up to 12th place in the race to qualify for the season-ending eight-woman WTA Finals in Singapore after a campaign hampered by illness.

The two-time Wimbledon champion, who knocked out world number one Angelique Kerber in the last 16, took a stranglehold of the match from the onset, losing just one point in the first four games as she blazed through the first set.

Cibulkova, who had won her previous two meetings against the Czech, played four three-setters in five matches en route to the final and fatigue appeared to catch up with the 10th-seeded Slovak as she managed just two winners in the en-

tire contest.

With the first set under her belt, Kvitova refused to take her foot of the gas as she smashed 28 winners in the match to coast to victory in a little more than an hour.

Despite her heavy defeat, Cibulkova will move up to a career-high eighth in the world rankings when they are released on Monday, while Kvitova will climb up to 11th.

—Reuters



Everton up to third despite being held by Palace

LONDON — Everton moved up to third place in the Premier League despite being held to a 1-1 draw by Crystal Palace as Belgium strikers Christian Benteke and Romelu Lukaku both got on the scoresheet in a battling encounter on Friday.

Benteke headed the equaliser for Palace five minutes into the second half after Lukaku opened the scoring in the 36th and remarkably it was the Everton forward's first Premier League goal from a direct free kick out of the 65 he has scored.

The draw took Everton to 14 points from six matches before their rivals play this weekend with a top-of-the-table clash that sees leaders Manchester City, who have a maximum 18 points, visiting Tottenham Hotspur in second on 14.

"It's a good point in the end. We defended set plays and second balls well against a difficult team," said Everton manager Ronald Koeman. "The team performance was outstanding, although we'd like to create more opportunities.

"We've had a good start to the season. The position in the table is not everything at the mo-

ment and we need to improve, but we're doing a good job."

Having lost their unbeaten league record at Bournemouth last weekend, Everton looked hungry to make amends and, propelled by the fleet-footed Yannick Bolasie playing against his former club, they quickly took the initiative.

A Bolasie cross came close to picking out Lukaku at the far post after 14 minutes before the Belgium targetman did make his mark on the scoreboard 10 minutes before the break.

He bent a superb free kick over the wall after Damien Delaney was penalised for a high boot on Phil Jagielka, although the Everton defender had handled the ball as he raised both arms to protect himself.

"I have chased the ball and put my head in," said Jagielka. "I got a bit scared and tried to protect myself and ended up handballing it. It is a natural reaction to a high boot. The ref knew that. It was his decision."

Alan Pardew thought his Palace side were hard done by with the foul given against them. "I was a bit disappointed that the referee gave the free-kick. It was a bit harsh," he said.—Reuters

Scottish boxer Towell dies after bout

LONDON — Scottish boxer Mike Towell has died in hospital after the 25-year-old suffered serious injuries in a welterweight bout in Glasgow on Thursday.

Towell was knocked down in the opening round of his bout by Welshman Dale Evans and referee Victor Loughlin eventually stopped the contest in the fifth. The Dundee fighter received treatment in the ring before being taken to hospital St Andrews Sporting Club, which organised the fight, said early on Saturday that Towell had died. "Within the last hour Mike Towell passed away - he will always be in our hearts #RIPIronMike," it said on Twitter.

After the fight, Evans released a statement saying he was "devastated" to see Towell being taken from the ring on a stretcher.

"The aftermath of the fight is so hard to take in but I just want people to know that every thought I have today is with Mike Towell's family," he said.

"He is a true warrior who has brought such excitement to Scottish boxing."—Reuters

Late Milner penalty gives Liverpool 2-1 win over Swansea

LONDON — James Milner scored an 84th-minute penalty as Liverpool came from behind to rescue a 2-1 win at Swansea City on Saturday and move second in the Premier League.

Swansea, who are still with-

out a league win since the opening day of the season, deservedly took the lead after eight minutes when a simple far-post corner was headed back across goal for Leroy Fer to poke home.

Yet after the hosts domi-

nated the opening 45 minutes, Liverpool woke up in the second half and wrestled back control of the game, levelling through Roberto Firmino's header nine minutes after the restart.

When Firmino was dragged

back in the area by Angel Rangel, Milner stepped up to coolly sidefoot down the middle of the goal as Liverpool continued their excellent start to the season with a fourth successive league win.—Reuters



Liverpool's James Milner scores their second goal from the penalty spot during Premier League at Liberty Stadium, on 1 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS