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Vice President U Myint Swe calls for more linking among member countries to fight poverty in region

VICE President U Myint Swe called for more networking with member countries in the eradication of poverty in the region especially in light of the abundance of power and economic development at the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit in

Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

“The Asia Region is rapidly developing and during the past decade, Asia’s participation is progressing in the world trade sector. Yet member countries are facing challenges in socio-economy and environment,”

said the vice president.

“And it greatly needs to cooperate, linking with member countries in the eradication of poverty in the region and abundance in power and economic development, more than ever,” he added.

“The continent of Asia,

which covers 30 per cent of the planet, is the biggest and the most different from all other continents, and half of the world population is residing here, this being a place rich in human resources”, he said.

The opening ceremony of the

2nd ACD Summit was inaugurated with an audio presentation of a congratulatory welcoming address sent by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The president of the Summit the Thai Premier made an opening speech.

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Vice President U Myint Swe delivers an address at 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit in Bangkok. PHOTO: MNA

Governmental mission to clarify local people in Rakhine State about deadly attacks on border posts

FOLLOWING the deadly attacks on three border posts in Rakhine State, the Union Government sent a mission today to Rakhine to inform residents about the genuine situation of the attacks as part of an effort to maintain peace and stability.

The mission led by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint comprises Union Minister U Thein Swe, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Myint Nwe, Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Maj-Gen

Than Htut and U Khin Maung Tin, Rakhine State Minister Col Htein Lin and Dr Chan Thar, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Aung Win Oo.

From 11th to 14th October, they will meet with local people, departmental employees and their families in Maungtau, Buthitaung and Rathedaung townships, where violent attacks happened in small hours of 9th

October and will clarify the situation of the attacks not to cause worry and panic.

Following the attacks, the Union Government urged everyone to behave in accordance with the law, as a human rights report on Myanmar was scheduled to submit at the third committee meeting at the UN.

Violent armed attackers targeted three border posts in Rakhine State in the small hours of 9th October, killing nine policemen and injuring five.—GNLM

Troops fight back violent armed attackers, kill four

TROOPS providing security to residents in Maungtau Township fought back violent armed attackers yesterday after they were initially assaulted, killing four attackers and seizing one home-made gun, three bullets and one knife.

Yesterday’s attack occurred while soldiers were carrying out an area clearing campaign near Myothagyi Village in Manugtau township receiving a tip-off that the attackers were present.

The troops came under surprise attack by around 20 armed attackers.

Recovered after the fighting were four bodies, which are still under scrutiny to provide identity together with one home-made gun, three bullets and one knife. There were no casualties among police or Tatmadaw.

The troops are still searching for the violent armed attackers who retreated from the scene.—Myanmar News Agency



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Shan State residents receive warm clothes for cold winter



Shan State Chief Minister Dr Lin Htut receiving warm clothes for cold winter donated by KBZ's BFM Foundation. PHOTO: THURA LWIN (Eco)

KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation sent warm clothes to people in Shan State yesterday ahead of the winter season, which is expected to bring extremely cold weather.

Personnel from the foundation handed out 30,000 articles of warm clothes imported from China to the Shan State Government yesterday in Taunggyi, Shan State, to forward to the people who can experience La Nina-induced weather.

Dr Lin Htut, Chief Minister of Shan State, expressed thanks to the philanthropic foundation for the donations. As part of the efforts to brace for La Nina in the upcoming winter, the BFM has

imported and distributed 200,000 articles of warm clothing to many Myanmar people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The foundation distributed warm clothes to IDPs in Ahtet Manai Village in Lashio Township on 7th October. On 5 October, more than 470 articles of warm clothes donated by BFM were distributed to local ethnic people in four villages door-to-door in Kalay Township, which are not easily accessible due to poor roads and infrastructure.

More than 7,650 pieces of warm clothing from the foundation reached IDP camps in Namkham, Kutkai, Namtu and Muse townships in Shan State (north)

on 1 October. The foundation donated over 36,500 articles of warm clothing through the Mandalay Region Government on 28 August to the people in Mandalay Region. Meanwhile, the BFM's 3,500 pieces of warm clothing were given to the Naga ethnic people in Lahe, Naga Self-Administrative Zone in mid-August.

IDPs in Myaing Gyi Ngu and Maethawaw in Kayin State received 3,000 pieces of imported warm clothes and 10,080 packs of dried instant noodles on 17 September.

BFM has planned to distribute warm clothes to internally displaced persons in Kachin State.—Thura Lwin (Eco)

FDA to open food preservation training for entrepreneurs

THE Food and Drug Administration will provide training relating to the use of internationally recognized drugs for food preservation instead of formalin, aiming to stop the use of formalin in food intended for human consumption, according to the FDA.

The training targets local entrepreneurs such as bakers and food manufacturers, who will

learn systematic methods of food preservation by experts in the commercial cities of Yangon and Mandalay, said Dr Tun Zaw of the FDA. The FDA allows benzoic acid and benzoyl peroxide in food preservation instead of formalin in food products such as noodle and rice noodles so as to reduce formalin effects on the human body.

The course will include production techniques to make value-added food for export market.

During the inspection tours made by the FDA in markets across Yangon Region in 2015 and 2016, the officials found the use of formalin in bean curd cake and rice noodles in markets in Insein and Tamwe townships.—Myitmakha News Agency



Sarus Crane (Grus antigone) with its nest and eggs being seen in Wakema, Ayeyawady Region, Myanmar in October 2016. Photo: Thet Zaw Naing (WCS)

POEM:

“We love our land”

We should be for the country;
Not the country be for us.
This is my home, my land,
My country and my earth.
Between our birth and death,
We have stood on the earth;
So, we love and cherish
Our mother land.
We get food and shelter,
We get the sun and air,
From our mother land.
Anyway, she has supported

And supplied us
With everything we need.
By the way,
When we reach
The end of our life,
She give us
A place to lie down.
Thus, we should respond
To our land
With great love and sympathy
At our best.

Hlaing Bwa

Vice President calls for more linking. . .

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Shaik Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, which hosted 1st ACD Summit and HE Dr Thani Al-zeyoudi, alternate president of the summit, Minister for Climate and natural environment Conservation, also made speeches, followed by keynote addresses of the leaders of the delegation of the attending countries.

General Prayut Chanochart, Prime Minister of Thailand,

warmly welcomed the Vice President and dignitaries from ACD member countries at the Foreign Ministry of Thailand, where the summit was held, and posed for group photos.

The ACD was inaugurated in June 2002 in Thailand as an Asian continent-wide forum, with an aim to build an Asian Community based on the strength, diversity, rich resources and competitiveness of each Asian country.—GNLM



Faculty members and their family members of Pang Long University receive medical check-up

Photo shows a military doctor checking blood pressure of a family member. Nan Hsam military hospital provided healthcare services to 18 faculty members of Pang Long University and their 20 family members, Loilem Township, Shan State (South) on 9 October. PHOTO: OFFICE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Project improves capacity of needy residents in East-West Economic Corridor

ASIAN Development Bank's US\$3 million worth assistance will promote economic empowerment of women and the needy in the East-West Economic Corridor by improving their skills.

The capacity-building development programme will be implemented in four target areas - Mawlamyine, Chaungzon, Mudon and Kyaikhto.

The Asian regional development organisation will support micro and small enterprise development and increase economic opportunities for needy residents in project areas by selling handicrafts and value-added local food to in-

ternational visitors.

The three-year project also aims to reduce household poverty and promote the country's tourism industry, according to the assistant director of the Hotels and Tourism Department (Mon State), saying that several discussions for the new programme have been made between the Mon State government and project implementing bodies since 2014.

Technical training, skills in business management, appropriate technology, finance and markets to build competitive and sustainable businesses will be provided by supporters under the project.—200

Whither the future for Flower City—Dawn or Dusk?

K Zu (AMIA)

GAZING at the lilies and carnations bought from the Pyin Oo Lwin market, U Maung Hla grumbled, “These flowers have ruined our lives.”

The flowers were a beautiful mosaic of colors. Why would such beauty result in so much scorn?

The reason, he said, was their origin — China. U Maung Hla is a Myanmar flower grower who is convinced foreign-grown flowers are the cause of a slow death for local growers.

“Flowers from China have been on sale in Myanmar markets for five consecutive years” he said. “This year, the sale of Chinese flowers reached its peak, decimating the lives of local flower growers.”

Pyin Oo Lwin is known as the city of flowers and has inspired bards, writers, lovers and almost anyone who appreciates beauty. The city attracts visitors and nature lovers from home and abroad. Flower-related businesses are ubiquitous in the town — flower growers, sellers, flower brokerage centres, pedigreed flower-seed shops and flower arrangement stalls.

But that situation has gradually changed. Increased competition from across the border through the Muse border gate has caused some businesses to fold. The resulting debt has caused some owners to split from their spouses, their lives withering like the flowers they used to sell.

Pyin Oo Lwin used to supply 80 per cent of the flower needs of the country, delivering its produce to Yangon and Mandalay, providing a steady income for local farmers. In the past, 10 truck loads of flowers each day were sent nationwide. Only two truckloads are currently delivered. The market has been taken over by flowers imported from China, according to Ma Ni Lar Thwin,

the owner of Pangabar flower brokerage.

Cheaper flowers of Chinese origin such as lilies and carnations now dominate Myanmar flower markets. Unable to compete with them in price, Myanmar flower-sellers have had to reduce the numbers of their employees due to the economic drop. Sales of Myanmar traditional flowers slowly eroded as Chinese imports took their place.

Throughout his life, U Maung Hla eked out a living by growing flowers, which in turn were sold by his offspring, who run a flower brokerage. But U Maung Hla has decided to quit the business in the year to come. Colorful fields of chrysanthemum can no longer cure his disappointment.

His fellow farmers said they want the government to protect the Myanmar flower industry by controlling what they claim are illegal imports.

“We are not afraid of any righteous market competitions. But the government needs to block and scrutinise illegal routes of imports. This will tantamount to considering local farmers’ affairs. We have no techniques to grow their flowers and it costs a lot to buy pedigree seeds,” said U Myint Kyaing, a Myanmar grower.

As sales decline, shops that sell flowers are finding it difficult to collect their debts from local growers, it is learnt.

“Farmers are required to pay their debt at the selling season after a one-year period, but they cannot afford to do so, thus causing us to circulate money into the business”, said Daw Ni Tar of the Lanthit Agricultural Utensils Selling Shop. Local organisations agreed that tighter control over imports is needed.

“The authority concerned is responsible for scrutinising flowers in accord with laws on flowers and seeds and control the undisciplined imports. Failing that, they are guilty of dereliction of duty”, said U Win Kyaing, chairman of Pyin Oo Lwin Horticulture Association, Some 4,000 flower growers from the region tendered an appeal, urging the authority to scrutinise the influx of illegally imported flowers.

“We had bonanza years in the past, but we are losing now” U Mgaung Hla said. “If and when hand-in-hand co-operation between the government and flower growers arise, a new era of prosperity is possible.”



A vendor preparing the flowers to sell.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

President accepts credentials from newly appointed ambassadors



President U Htin Kyaw accepting credentials of the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of India to Myanmar at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw accepted credentials of newly appointed ambassadors from Norway, Russia and India at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Ms Tone Tinnes, the newly appointed Ambassador of the

Kingdom of Norway, Mr Nikolay Listopadov, the newly appointed Ambassador of Russian Federation, and Mr Vikram Misri, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of India, to Myanmar, presented their credentials

to the president separately.

President on the occasions were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Director-General U Ko Ko Naing of the Protocol Department.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mental health first aid training courses to begin in Yangon

MYANMAR is planning to conduct the first-ever mental health first aid training programme in the country with an aim to provide mental health services to people who need to receive early care, according to Myanmar Medical Association.

Prof Win Aung Myint, chairman of the MMA, said the country also requires mental health first aid training as such programmes have been implemented in some foreign countries.

He added that the association will soon develop curricula for basic and advanced courses. In col-

laboration with the Mental Health Hospital and relevant organisations, the MMA made concerted efforts to open the training courses before the end of this year, with Yangon as a pilot project.

Based on community interest, the association will expand its programme not only in Yangon but in every region and state in the Union, Prof Win Aung Myint said.

The main purpose of the project is to offer early health care to people with mental disorders to prevent serious mental illness in later stages, said a mental service

provider at a celebration of the World Mental Health Day, 10 October.

Because of lifestyle changes, mental health problems have gradually increased in the world. It is estimated that mental illness will be one of the most common health problems worldwide by 2030.

When the country launched Mental Health Hospital in Ywathagyi in Yangon in 2002, the hospital hosted only about 400 patients with mental disorders. The number of patients has increased to 1,700 a little over a decade. — 200

Missing policeman, firearm found separately after deadly armed attacks in Rakhine State

A missing policeman and a firearm were found in separate incidents following the violent armed attacks on three border posts on 9 October.

The policeman, Ko Hteik, was found unharmed in the Nipa Palm Grove, two miles away from the

Ngakhuya police camp. Ko Hteik was declared missing in the line of duty at about 9:30am on 9 October.

Police also found an M22 pistol while clearing bushes at 3pm yesterday, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Three border posts under the control of Border Post Headquarters in Maungtau and Rathedaung townships were attacked by armed men in the small hours of 9 October.—*Myanmar News Agency*

A talk for achieving success in business held in Mandalay



A talk organized by Hyper Job Co Ltd in progress. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

HYPER JOB CO, LTD organized a talk to achieve sustainable success in business in the hall of the Wilson Hotel in Maha Aung Myay Township, Mandalay on 9 October. Present at the talk were entrepreneurs, managers from companies and businesses and staff in Mandalay.

At the talk, U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, managing director of Hyper Job Co, Ltd, spoke words of greeting, and director U Zaw Myo Aung elaborated on the process of Hyper Job Co, Ltd. Dr. Tin Win, Rector of Meiktila University of Economics, gave a talk on “How to achieve sustainable suc-

cess in Business”, and economics consultant Daw Hsan Hsan Hla, a retired Lecturer of Yangon University of Economics, on “The Attitudes and Habits of Highly Effective Entrepreneurs”. Director Dr. Aung Soe Myint responded to queries raised by the attendees.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Drug seizures dramatically increase

THE volume of drugs seized has seen a 1,000 per cent increase in the first nine months of 2016 compared with the entire year of 2015 in Thaton district, Mon state.

“The anti-drug police have been exerting greater effort for seizing the drugs. Besides, they are also giving awareness training on the dangers of the abuse of drugs,” said Police Lt-Col Nanda Win from Thaton district.

“We’ve seized more drugs than last year because the public is actively co-operating with us to arrest the drug traffickers. So, I’d like to request the public to inform the police if they find suspicious looking persons in their community. We’ve also told the people in the community that we will provide security for them,” he added.

Young people can easily obtain yaba tablets in their community”, said U Kyaw Wai, a local resident. “So, we need to know the source of the drugs and the channel of distribution. If we cannot annihilate the producers, we cannot protect our children from drug abuse”.

Marijuana weighing a total of 1,538.112 grams and 4,089 yaba pills worth over Ks20 million were seized in Thaton district last year. The report said 81 people have been arrested on yaba-related charges.

The anti-drug police announced that Thaton saw a total of 56 cases in the first nine months of 2016. The police seized marijuana weighing a total of 2613.76 grams and 57,057 yaba tablets worth over Ks190 million from 103 people. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Four more villages in Thaton declared drug free zone

POLICE from Mon state declared four more villages in Thaton district drug free zones on 8 October.

Police Col Bo Bo Win made this declaration at a ceremony where a sign was erected.

“As those villages are found not to be engaged in drug trafficking. So, we declare them drug-free zones.” he said.

More and more cases of drug trafficking or drug abuse are being exposed because of

frequent awareness training courses in the villages as well as providing treatment to drug abusers, official said.

Mon state saw a total of 210 cases in the first nine months of 2016. The police seized marijuana weighing 2.614 kg, ICE weighing 152.2 grams, opium weighing 780 grams and 81,277 yaba tablets from 303 people.

“Our village became a drug free zone. So, I am really proud of our village as a villager. In fu-

ture too, we will cooperate with the police”, said a local from Naung Kala Shan village.

The four villages recently declared drug free zones are: Naung Kala Shan village from Thaton township, Pan Gone village from Paung township, Dauk Yat village from Bilin township, Kaw Pain village from Kyaikhto township, making a total of 10 drug free villages in Mon state.— *Myitmakha News Agency*



The drug-free zone sign erection ceremony in progress.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Crime NEWS

Opium powder seized in Kawthaung

LOCAL police from Kawthaung seized opium powder at Aye Myakanthar ward, Kawthaung town on Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched Swan Htet Aung, who is allegedly connected with drug dealers near Anarwa ward store, Kawthaung town and discovered seven packages of opium powder. When interrogated, He admitted that he had bought it from U Maung Oo.

After 20 minutes, police arrested U Maung Oo at the Anarwa ward store. U Maung Oo said that he kept opium powder at the house of Daw Win Kyi.

When police searched the house of Daw Win Kyi, they found 28 packages of opium powder in the kitchen. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws. — *Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)*



The criminal suspect seen together with opium powder seized.

PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG)

Yaba seized from vehicle and motorbike

POLICE from Nyaungdone township seized Yaba and drug-related items from a vehicle and a motorbike at the Nyaungdone-Mezale checkpoint on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, the police stopped and searched a vehicle en route to Pathein from Yangon driven by Tun Min Latt and discovered Yaba weighing 16.8 grams, Ks 35,000, a mobile phone and some drug-related items. Police have filed charges against him under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws — *Township IPRD*

LOCAL Business

Indian companies mulling purchase of Myanmar's peas

INDIAN companies which have won the tender are considering purchase of Myanmar's peas, resulting in a decrease in the price, said U Min Ko Oo, the secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchant Association.

India's government has been intervening in controlling the pea price since August. Additionally, pea tenders are divided into 5,000 and 10,000 and 14,000 tonnes. Those Indian companies can exploit a profit while monitoring the pea market, said the pea merchants. Myanmar's pea market is dependent on the Indian market. Therefore, the pea price drops when there is no demand from India. That means, the pea price is positively related to the demand, said U Min Ko Oo.

The local pea prices in the first week of October were Ks1.4million per tonne of mung bean and Ks1.1million per tonne of pigeon pea, it is learnt from the statistics of Bayintnaung commodity depot.

During a similar period last

year, mung bean was offered at Ks2.3 million per tonne while the green gram, at Ks1.4million and pigeon peas at Ks1.7million. The price was recorded at its highest point in the pea market.

Myanmar has already reached an agreement to export 1million tonnes of mung bean and pigeon pea to India, said Dr. Than Myint, the Union Minister for Commerce.

But some pea merchants are concerned that an annual export of 1 million tonnes of mung bean and pigeon peas is likely to be a challenge. The remaining stocks are only about 100,000 tonnes of mung bean and 50,000-60,000 tonnes of green grams, it is learnt. A total of 715,300 tonnes of various peas were exported to foreign countries as of 9th September in this fiscal year, earning US\$829.696 million. The volume of export decreases by over 7,700 tonnes when compared to that of the similar period in the previous fiscal year, it is learnt from the above said association.

—Ye Lin Htet (AMIA)



Photo of Yadana gas field located in Andaman Sea, approximately 60 kilometers offshore the nearest landfall in Myanmar. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Offshore Gas Project Awards EPCI Deal in Myanmar

Indonesian platform builder PT Gunanusa Utama Fabricators (PTG) has been awarded a second contract from Thailand's PTTEP for Zawtika project offshore Myanmar.

The initial contract, awarded in September, comprised engineering, procurement, construction and installation (EPCI) of two offshore wellhead platforms, associated pipelines and tie-ins for Phase 1C of the Zawtika Development Project.

"The aggregate value of Lot 1 and Lot 2 of the Project is about US\$305 million (£246.5 million) and the work on both Lot 1 and Lot 2 will be carried out concurrently," the Executive Chairman and CEO of the project associate Federal International (2000), Koh Kian

Kiong, explained in a statement.

The first award, valued at US\$150 million (£121.24 million), gave PTTEP the option to award Lot 2 for additional platforms to PTG on or before July 31, 2017.

According to Federal International (2000), who holds a 20.66% interest in PTG, the company has now received confirmation to proceed with Lot 2 of the project offshore Myanmar.

Federal International added that it will support PTG in terms of procurement, management and other ancillary support services for the project.

The project is due to be completed in the second quarter of 2018, Federal International (2000) explained further.

Zawtika Development Gets Boost with New Contracts

The Zawtika project includes the development of the Zawtika, Kakonna and Gawthaka fields, Myanmar's largest.

The development is located in blocks M9 and M11 of the Gulf of Muktama and is operated by PTTEP International (80%), with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (20%).

The project valued at US\$2 billion (£1.61 billion) initially started delivering gas for domestic purposes in Myanmar in March 2014 and exporting gas to Thailand in August of the same year.

As well as Zawtika, Myanmar is home to three other natural gas exploration projects: Yetagun, Shwe and Yadana.—*Offshore Post*

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Ex-Philippine president Ramos says Duterte government a 'letdown'

MANILA — The government of Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte has been a “huge disappointment and letdown”, a former president and one of Duterte’s mentors said, bucking popular sentiment and a high poll rating for his first 100 days in office.

In rare criticism of Duterte, 88-year-old former president Fidel Ramos said the government was “losing badly” by prioritizing a war on drugs at the expense of issues like poverty, living costs, foreign investment and jobs.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Duterte was a reader and was aware of the commentary. Abella said Ramos, who was in office from 1992 to 1998, was acting like a father and the government respected him.

Duterte picked Ramos as his special envoy to China, to manage the fallout from an arbitration case

Manila won in July that dented Beijing’s claims to jurisdiction over most of the South China Sea.

Duterte has spoken often of his respect for Ramos and that Ramos had persuaded him to run in the May election.

It was not clear why Ramos made his criticism at this time and neither he nor his spokesmen were immediately available for comment.

In a Sunday editorial in the Manila Bulletin newspaper, much of it written in capital letters, Ramos listed priority focus areas that could have been “doable” if Duterte had hit the ground running “instead of being stuck in endless controversies about extrajudicial killings of drug suspects and in his ability at using cuss-words and insults instead of civilised language”.

The drugs crackdown, Duterte’s signature policy



Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos reacts as he speaks to journalists during a trip to Hong Kong, China after a Hague court’s ruling over the maritime dispute in South China Sea, on 12 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

popular among Filipinos who elected him in May by a huge margin, has killed more than 3,600 people since June 30, with 1,377 shot by police in operations. Activists believe the rest were mostly vigilante killings.

Ramos is the only president to score higher

than Duterte in a Philippine opinion poll traditionally conducted after the first 90 days of each presidency.

Duterte was rated “very good”, with a net satisfaction rating of 64 percent in a Social Weather Stations Poll on Thursday, behind Ramos at 66 percent. Only 11 per cent of

1,200 people polled were not satisfied with Duterte.

In a separate poll on Friday, 84 per cent of Filipinos supported the drug crackdown although most felt it important to arrest suspects alive.

Ramos said the government’s mixed statements on Philippine-US relations were “discomfobulating” including Duterte’s verbal attack on US President Barack Obama early in September at the same time his defence minister and finance minister were on visits to the United States.

Duterte a week ago said Obama should “go to hell” and that in his time, he might “break up” with traditional ally Washington. On Friday, he reiterated that ongoing US-Philippines military exercises would be “the last” and challenged Washington to use the Central Intelligence Agency to oust him.

“So what gives??” Ramos asked in the editorial.

“Are we throwing away decades of military partnership, tactical proficiency, compatible weaponry, predictable logistics and soldier-to-soldier camaraderie, just like that?? On DU30’s say-so???” he said, referring to a popular acronym for Duterte.

Ramos hoped the next 100 days would be “much, much better” and Duterte would consider “the entire gamut of Philippine problems, starting with poverty”.

Presidential spokesman Abella said the government listened to what Ramos said, especially on foreign relations.

“He’s a senior statesman. He has his opinion, he has his concerns, especially regarding foreign relations and these are also worth looking into,” Abella told a regular briefing.—Reuters

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Thai king’s condition unstable after haemodialysis treatment — palace

BANGKOK — Thailand’s 88-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world’s longest reigning monarch, is in an unstable condition after receiving haemodialysis treatment, the palace said in a statement late on Sunday.

News about the king’s health is closely monitored in Thailand, where King Bhumibol is widely revered, and the wording of palace statements on his health is intensely scrutinised.

Strict laws protecting the royal family stifles any public discussion of the king’s health.

It is unusual for the palace to state that the

king’s health is not stable. Statements on his health are usually issued after the monarch’s condition shows improvement or when he is recovering from an illness.

Thailand’s main stock index tumbled as much as 3.6 per cent on Monday and the baht fell to more than two-month lows, following the news.

The king has been treated for various ailments over the past year at Bangkok’s Siriraj Hospital — his home for much of the past year — and was last seen in public on 11 January, when he spent several hours visiting his palace in the Thai capital. Anxiety over the king’s health and

an eventual succession has formed the backdrop to more than a decade of bitter political divide in Thailand that has included two military coups and often-violent street demonstrations.

Sunday’s statement was the second health bulletin this month after the palace said on 1 October that the king was recovering after a respiratory infection.

On Saturday, the king was given haemodialysis — a way of cleansing the blood of toxins, extra salts and fluids — which made his blood pressure drop occasionally, the palace said.

Doctors gave him some medicine and put him

on a ventilator to bring his blood pressure back to normal, it said. They continue to monitor his condition closely, the statement said.

“His condition has yet to stabilise,” the palace said. In 2011, Princess Chulabhorn, the king’s youngest daughter, said in a rare televised statement that the king had suffered a health scare and fell unconscious after suffering from internal bleeding likely induced by stress as a result of a flood crisis at the time.

Laws protecting the royals from insult make it a crime to defame, insult or threaten the king, queen, heir to the throne or regent.—Reuters

Cambodian demonstrators, authorities clash at land rights protest

PHNOM PENH —Cambodian land rights protesters clashed with city security guards on Monday as demonstrators in the capital Phnom Penh called on the government to end forced evictions.

Land disputes are a highly contentious issue in Cambodia, where tens of thousands of people have been evicted to make way

for foreign and domestic firms, prompting widespread protests, violent clashes and, in some cases, jail terms for those who refuse to move.

A video circulated on Facebook showed security guards punching and slapping protesters. Reuters couldn’t independently verify the authenticity of the video.

The protesters, many holding models of homes over their heads, were marking World Habitat Day, which took place last week as a reminder of people’s right to shelter.

Phnom Penh City Hall spokesman Mean Chanyada said that a journalist and a human rights worker were injured in the clash and that the use

of violence was necessary to stop hundreds of demonstrators from marching forward.

“There was a small clash because the protesters didn’t follow instructions of the authorities to gather only at one place,” Chanyada told Reuters.

Licadho, a local rights group, called the attack “unacceptable”.—Reuters

China says Thailand made decision to block HK activist's visit

BEIJING — It was the Thai government that made a decision to block the entry to Thailand of a Hong Kong student activist last week, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Monday.

Bespectacled Joshua Wong, 19, who helped organise pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong in 2014, was detained in Bangkok where he had been invited to speak at universities about Hong Kong's "Umbrella Movement" protests and on setting up his political party.

The case raised fresh questions about mainland interference in Hong Kong, which though part of China is meant to enjoy considerable autonomy under a "one country, two systems" formula, and about Chinese influence on Thailand's military government.

Asked about the case, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong said China was consistent when it came to respecting other countries' sovereignty, no matter how big or small the country is.

"As for Joshua Wong, him not being allowed into Thailand, this was the Thai government's decision made in accordance with its relevant immigration rules and laws," Li added, without elaborating.

Thailand's Nation newspaper last week quoted a deputy



Pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong is surrounded by journalists upon his arrival at Hong Kong Airport in Hong Kong, China on 5 October 2016, after being deported from Bangkok. PHOTO: REUTERS

commander of airport immigration police, Colonel Pruthipong Prayoonsiri, as saying China had sent a request "to seek cooperation to deny" Wong entry.

But Pruthipong later told Reuters he had not spoken to the newspaper, did not know if Wong had been blacklisted and declined further comment.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has said Wong's expulsion was a matter for China, not Thailand. Thailand has been ruled by a junta since a 2014 coup which was widely condemned by the West. Since then, the generals running Thailand have forged closer ties with China. Chinese Vice Premier Li Yuanchao met

Prayuth in Bangkok on Sunday, China's Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

Li expressed his hope the two countries would increase mutual support on key issues and "make contributions on maintaining the peace, security and stability of the two nations and the region", the ministry added.—Reuters

Top US, Japanese generals meet in Washington over N Korea

SEOUL — The top commander of US forces in South Korea, Gen. Vincent Brooks, held a meeting with Gen. Toshiya Okabe, chief of staff of the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Force, in Washington last week to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation over North Korea's military threats, US Forces Korea said in a statement Monday. The meeting on Wednesday was held on the sidelines of the 2016 Association of the United States Army meeting and exposition, it said.

The meeting was held "to discuss the need for greater cooperation between the US military and the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Force to address North Korea's evolving nuclear and ballistic missile programmes," the statement said.

The military leaders also "shared views on the importance of increasing dialogue and engagements between the United States, South Korea, and Japan to address options to deter North Korea from future provocations. The AUSA is one of the largest land warfare expositions and professional development forums in the world.—Kyodo News

China says willing to discuss 'possibilities' with India on nuclear group

BEIJING — China is willing to discuss "possibilities" with India on its bid to become a fully fledged member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), a senior Chinese diplomat said on Monday, holding out an olive branch ahead of a summit in India.

India last month said it had held "substantive" talks with China on its attempt to join the NSG, a 48-member grouping of countries that trades in civil nuclear technology.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is campaigning to join the NSG to back a multi-billion-dollar drive to build nuclear power plants in partnership with Russia, the United States and France, and reduce India's reliance on polluting fossil fuels.

Yet his bid to win accession to the group, founded in response to India's first atomic weapons test in 1974, has failed to win over strategic rival China, which enjoys a de facto veto because it operates by consensus.

Speaking to reporters ahead of a visit to India this week by Chinese President Xi Jinping for a summit of the BRICS group



A man walks inside a conference room used for meetings between military commanders of China and India, at the Indian side of the Indo-China border at Bumla, in Arunachal Pradesh, on 11 November 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

of emerging nations, Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong said new NSG members needed to be agreed upon by all existing members. "These rules were not set by China," Li said. "On the issue of joining the NSG, China and India have all along had very good communications, and (China) is willing to have further communications with the Indian side, to increase consensus," he said. "On this, China is willing to jointly

explore all kinds of possibilities with India, but this must accord with the charter of the NSG, and certain rules need to be respected by all sides," Li said, without elaborating. The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) recognises the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — as nuclear weapons powers but not others.—Reuters

For some drug users in the Philippines, rehab means making coffins

OLONGAPO — Some drug users seeking to avoid becoming a bloody statistic in Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown on narcotics, are going into a rehabilitation programme that teaches them how to make coffins.

More than 700,000 drug users and pushers have registered with the authorities in a process termed "surrendering", but there are few programmes or facilities to help most of them.

But in Olongapo, a city of 220,000 three hours north of Manila, drug users are taught carpentry skills and paid 5,000 Philippine pesos (\$103) a month to build wooden coffins as part of the local government's livelihood and rehabilitation programme.

"I knew that if I don't change, I will be in one of those caskets," said a 44-year-old man, who declined to be named, pointing to coffins in a small workshop where nine other former drug users were also working.

Since Duterte was sworn into office on 30 June, more than 3,600 people have been killed, mostly alleged drug users and dealers, in police operations and suspected vigilante killings.

At least 400 self-confessed drug users have surrendered to Olongapo police since June and will be included in the coffin building programme in the coming months.

The caskets, made of simple plywood and painted white, are provided to the poorest families in the city who are unable to afford funeral services, government officials said. Filipinos gave Duterte an "excellent" rating for his war on drugs, an opinion poll showed on Friday, but there was an indication of possible unease over the deadly campaign as most respondents said it was important to arrest suspects alive. Western governments and human rights groups have expressed concern and called for thorough investigations into the killings.—Reuters

Opinion

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Border management mechanism to strengthen

Khin Maung Aye

NEIGHBOURING nations are most relevant in foreign policy, and all five neighbours of Myanmar have strategic, economic, cultural and religious significance for Myanmar. In fact, Myanmar does not just straddle the two superpowers – China and India – it is also the intersection between South Asia and Southeast Asia. This being so, Myanmar is said to be a gateway to South Asia and it also serves as a land bridge to ASEAN. It is true that Myanmar is strategically located with the result that her location brings not only the opportunities, but also a certain amount of vulnerabilities as well.

For example, her western neighbour India's energy requirements can be fulfilled by

Myanmar while India can, in return, contribute substantially towards Myanmar's infrastructure development, communication, education, tourism industry, science and technology. However, the underdeveloped border region and inhospitable terrain between Myanmar and Bangladesh can, for example, provide an ideal platform for insurgents, non-state actors, drugs and weapons traffickers to operate and spread their network. In this regard, Myanmar is still in the process of making peace with all but three ethnic groups, resulting in inability to have perfect control over the turbulent border areas.

Judging by the aforesaid circumstances, Myanmar is obviously in dire need of a strong border management mechanism to

be able to prevent cross-border movement of criminals and/or undesirable destructive elements, to assist in removal of insecurities, to facilitate people-to-people contact and to enhance partnership between Myanmar and her five neighbours in economic, defence, security, social and cultural fields.

In this regard, it is needed for this border management mechanism to address such aspects as screening of people for their identity and background, ensuring validation of travel documents, monitoring return of people to their homes, ensuring respect for religious and cultural traditions, prevention of corruption at border check posts and setting up an early warning and alert system.

It is true that there is a crisis of space, but the space cannot be allowed to be misused or abused by non-state actors who wish to govern the territory without responsibility and accountability. In fact, only the constitutionally empowered institutions should control the territory and its subjects. If considered necessary, force must be used to bring order and reimpose the will of the state. If the non-state actors and/or extra-constitutional super-empowered individuals or organisations are allowed to continue their activities, they will become lethal and unmanageable at some point in time. This being so, the border management in such an environment has to be resilient and capable of dealing with any eventuality inclusive of use of force.

As before, Sir ?

Yin Nwe Ko (Linn)

Ko Kyaw Kha recalled his teen-age days.

Especially, they were those days on which he was in University. He had high opinion on the teachers who were demonstrators and lecturers of his major and the wardens and hall-tutors from his hostel, whom he had close relationship, from having respect for them. As his parents were Buddhists, Ko Kyaw Kha was also a Buddhist of hereditary succession. But during his days in University, the shades of the teachers he had great respect for influenced him a lot, it was his recollection.

Among the intimate teachers, some of them were atheists. They were walking in their lives as atheists and completely satisfied themselves with their lives assuming that they were free from the ties of religions. The teachers whom Ko Kyaw Kha had high opinion were Master's Degree Holders and those who have graduated from abroad as well as those whom Ko Kyaw Kha silently emulated.

When Ko Kyaw Kha was a third year student in University, on one of the holidays, he and his dad discussed a subject about religion while talking about this and that at home. Ko Kyaw Kha argued his dad's talk about the destruction of life as that rice eating

was also consummated of the destruction of life. Ko Kyaw Kha explained to his dad that rice came from paddy plants and paddy plants were organisms in Botanical view and as cutting the paddy plants and eating their fruits by boiling and arranging them to be eaten was also a kind of killing the others, it was also consummated of the destruction of life.

At that moment Ko Kyaw Kha heard the words of grief from his dad. It was "I have done great mistake for that I sent you to University." Their chat ceased with those words that day. Ko Kyaw Kha was proud himself of being an atheist a lot. He was pushing twenty then.

Ko Kyaw Kha did not know the atmosphere of University could influence a youth very well at that age. It was powerful enough to change a youth to transform into an atheist like Ko Kyaw Kha, a politician, a leftist, a businessman and a bookworm.

While he was going on his life temerarily, he became a responsible person in an economic society of his township. While working there, he was in charge of vehicle branch. On the day after he had been in charge of vehicle branch, a cargo truck from that society loaded with broken rice left for Pyay. According to the decision of the E.C., the truck had to return after it got to Pyay. However, the driver and the broker who hired the truck made

agreement themselves without the permission of E.C. and continued the trip to Yenangyaung with that truck. In Yenangyaung, they loaded the truck with the bags of onion and went back. But on its journey home, the truck turned over at Daunghay creek.

At that time, Ko Kyaw Kha did not go along with the truck but stayed at the town as he was ordered to carry out a duty assigned by the township authorities. However, when the responsible person concerned with the truck were arrested, Ko Kyaw Kha was also arrested as he was in charge of the vehicle branch. Then he was set free from the police custody after staying a period of over a month. During that period, the thoughts he did most was the reason why he was arrested like that when he had just taken the duty for one day only, without any misuse. He wanted to know the answer of that question.

Though he was an atheist at that moment, he had been thinking the cause and the effect in relation. Arrest was the negative effect. Negative effect might be caused by negative or wrong doing. He began to think if he had done wrong doing either at present existence or past existence. In his thought, the past existence got included and he started thinking about the three existences – the present, the future and the past – and their interrelationship.

While he was in the custody, some of his intimate friends came

to meet him and gave some

'Ghathās' considered good and 'Dharana Paritta' in order to recite himself and free from his being arrested. As he had to do nothing there, he recited them again and again day and night and night and day, he learnt them by heart before he was set free. He was also accustomed to the habit of saying prayers in early morning and late evening.

On the day he was set free from the custody, he washed his hair with charmed holy water mixed with traditional 'Mingalar' shampoo and ascended the house. From then on, he started doing the task of offering light, water, flowers and rice ('Swam') to Lord Buddha. To say the truth, Ko Kyaw Kha could not even keep the 'Kammasakkata Sammadithi' the lowest belief of a real Buddhist, in his heart, which means that if one does good deed, he must get good effect and if one does wrong deed, he must suffer bad effect. His saying prayers was just in a state due to no wish to encounter the undesirable objects he had experienced in the custody.

About ten years later, Ko Kyaw Kha distinguished the reasons of his being arrested vividly on the base of the admonition of Dhamma. In reality, his being arrested was not due to the overturn of truck. He became perceived clearly in his intellect.

During those ten years, Ko Kyaw Kha got many chances to study Buddhism. In belief and worship of Buddhism, there should not be due to (1) 'Lāba' – the worship of expectation for money and materials (2) 'Baya'

– the worship due to the fear to encounter the danger and (3) 'KulāḌra' – the worship of hereditary succession. They were just the degrading worships. He gradually attained the higher state of worship that was based on the entire belief on the attributes of the Three Gems – Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

In certain years, Ko Kyaw Kha received the ordination of 'Dullaba' monk or went to meditation centers as much as he could. He could practice and shift into 'Vipassanā Sammadithi' from 'Kammasakkata Sammadithi', the most fundamental right view of a Buddhist out of the five steps of 'Sammadithi'. Recollecting the past twenty years passing as an atheist, he became realized that he had been a blind. He got frightened and the thought he dared not think whether he would die at that period often appeared.

Ko Kyaw Kha is now able to see the differences of two real human classes – ordinary human being and 'Ariyā' – and the directions they will go in the next existences. However, he wants to know something. That is nothing but if the teachers who were atheists one day and to whom he had high opinion in his University student's life are alive now, they will be in their 70s as they are about ten years older than him. He has not met them for nearly forty years. Ko Kyaw Kha wants to know the answer of the question whether those atheists namely Sayar U San Tint (Botany), Sayar U Tin Than (Zoology) and Sayar U Sein Win (Chemistry) are still atheists as before.



Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton speaks during their presidential town hall debate with Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, US, on 9 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump vs Clinton: He calls her a devil, she says he abuses women

ST. LOUIS — A defiant Donald Trump on Sunday said Hillary Clinton would go to jail if he were president and attacked her husband for his treatment of women in a vicious presidential debate less than a month before the US election.

Their debate, the second of three before the 8 November vote, was remarkable for the brutal nature of the exchanges between Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, and Clinton, his Democratic rival.

He called her a “devil” who repeatedly lies, someone with tremendous hate in her heart. She called him an abuser of women.

There was a palpable sense of mutual contempt as they stood on stage, refusing to shake hands at the start. Moderators Anderson Cooper of CNN and Martha Raddatz of ABC both seemed at points to be grimly watching two trains collide.

Through it all, Trump, 70, and Clinton, 68, both landed punches as they clashed over taxes, healthcare, US policy in the Syria civil war and Clinton’s comments that half of Trump’s supporters belonged in a “basket of deplorables.”

Trump took the stage in St. Louis, Missouri, at the most perilous time of his 16-month-old candidacy.

A newly uncovered 2005 video of him making vulgar remarks about women prompted a stampede of Republican politicians to abandon him, deepened fissures with establishment party figures, and seemed to many in the party to put his already uphill battle to win the White House even farther out of reach.

A CNN/ORC snap poll of debate watchers found that 57 per cent thought Clinton won the encounter, versus 34 per cent for Trump. Asian shares crept high-

er and the Mexican peso climbed on Monday as markets saw less chance of a Trump victory.

Even after the debate, party leaders remained concerned that Trump had not shown enough contrition over the sexually aggressive remarks to win over independents and women voters who could decide the election.

He again described the comments as “locker-room talk” and said he had never kissed or groped women without their permission, despite having bragged about doing so on the video which emerged on Friday.

President Bill Clinton had done worse to women, Trump said in one of several forceful attacks that may reinforce his popularity with his core supporters who detest the Democratic nominee.

Hillary Clinton responded that Trump’s comments showed he was unfit for the White House.

“He has said the video doesn’t represent who he is but I think it’s clear to anyone who heard it that it represents exactly who he is,” Clinton said.

She accused Trump of dodging a discussion of policy issues to avoid talking about his campaign because of “the way yours is exploding and Republicans are leaving you.” Early in the 90-minute debate, Trump said he would appoint a special prosecutor to look into Clinton’s operation of a private email server during her tenure as President Barack Obama’s secretary of state from 2009-2013.

Clinton said, “You know it’s just awfully good that someone with the temperament of Donald Trump is not in charge of the law in this country.” Trump shot back: “Because you’d be in jail.”

A nearly year-long FBI investigation into the emails concluded earlier this year without charges

being filed, although FBI Director James Comey said Clinton had been careless in her handling of sensitive material.

In a startling admission, Trump dismissed a statement from his vice presidential running mate, Mike Pence, last week in which Pence said the United States should be prepared to intervene militarily in Syria.

“He and I haven’t spoken, and I disagree,” Trump said.

Pence, already the subject of rumors that he might bolt the Trump ticket in disgust at the lewd video, tried to quell the rumors by praising Trump after the debate was over.

“Congrats to my running mate @realDonaldTrump on a big debate win! Proud to stand with you...” Indiana Governor Pence said.

Responding to a 1 October *New York Times* story, Trump acknowledged using investment losses to avoid paying taxes, saying “of course I do.” *The Times* reported he took so substantial a tax deduction on a declared \$916 million loss in 1995 that he could legally have avoided paying any federal income taxes for up to 18 years.

The debate’s town hall-style format, with undecided voters posing about half the questions and the debate’s moderators posing the others, allowed the candidates to move freely around the stage and address the questioners directly.

Clinton and Trump both stood up to answer questions, and Clinton frequently stood directly in front of the questioners to try to connect with voters. At times Trump stood almost over her shoulder, or wandered the stage, while she spoke. Clinton defended her statement in which she said half of Trump’s supporters were part of a “basket of deplorables.”—*Reuters*

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

11 October 2016

THE theme of this year’s International Day of the Girl is based on the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. The slogan is: Girls’ Progress equals Goals’ Progress: What Counts for Girls.

The wellbeing, human rights and empowerment of the world’s 1.1 billion girls are central to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. When we agreed on that agenda, we promised girls quality education and health services.

We committed to ending discrimination and violence against girls, and harmful practices like child marriage. We pledged to leave no one behind.

Too often, in villages, shanty towns and refugee camps around the world, girls are the ones left behind: without nutritious food, healthcare or quality education, and at risk of sexual violence.

Investing in girls is both the right thing to do, and the smart thing to do. It has a powerful ripple effect across all areas of development, and reaches forward to future generations.

But what cannot be measured cannot be managed. If we do not gather the data we need, we will never know if we are delivering on our promises.

We need to make sure that our initiatives are reaching all girls: girls in extreme poverty; girls in isolated rural areas; girls living with disabilities; girls in indigenous communities; girls who are refugees or displaced within their own countries.

Timely, high-quality data is vital so that we know where we are meeting our promises, and where we are falling behind.

Let us all work hard to make sure we count all girls, because all girls count. —*UNIC/Yangon*

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK, Finland-born economists win 2016 Nobel Prize for Economics

STOCKHOLM — UK-born Oliver Hart and Finland-born Bengt Holmstrom won the 2016 Nobel Economics Prize for “their contributions to contract theory”, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Monday.

“(Their work) lays an intellectual foundation for designing policies and institutions in many areas, from bankruptcy legislation to political constitutions,” the award-giving body said on announcing the 8 million Swedish crown (\$928,000) prize.

The economics prize, officially called the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was established in 1968. It was not part of the original group of awards set out in dynamite tycoon Nobel’s 1895 will.

Economy is the fifth of this year’s Nobels. The prizes for physiology or medicine, physics, chemistry and peace were awarded last week. The literature prize is due on Thursday.—*Reuters*

Putin still planning to visit France despite Hollande comments: Kremlin

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin still plans to visit France later this month, despite French President Francois Hollande saying he was unsure whether to receive him, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

“Preparation for Putin’s upcoming visit to Paris continues,” Peskov told journalists.

Hollande condemned Russia’s “unacceptable” support for Syrian air strikes in excerpts from a TV interview released on Sunday and said he was asking himself whether to see Putin when he visits Paris on 19 October.—*Reuters*

Yemen’s Houthi movement denies attack on US warship — official

SANAA — The Houthi movement on Monday denied its forces had carried out a missile attack on a US warship which the US Navy said was launched from Yemeni territory under Houthi control.

“(The Houthi movement) denies targeting any ship off Yemeni waters,” a Houthi official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.—*Reuters*

As Saudis bombed Yemen, US worried about legal blowback

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration went ahead with a \$1.3 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia last year despite warnings from some officials that the United States could be implicated in war crimes for supporting a Saudi-led air campaign in Yemen that has killed thousands of civilians, according to government documents and the accounts of current and former officials.

State Department officials also were privately skeptical of the Saudi military's ability to target Houthi militants without killing civilians and destroying "critical infrastructure" needed for Yemen to recover, according to the emails and other records obtained by Reuters and interviews with nearly a dozen officials with knowledge of those discussions.

US government lawyers ultimately did not reach a conclusion on whether US support for the campaign would make the United States a "co-belligerent" in the war under international law, four current and former officials said. That finding would have obligated Washington to investigate allegations of war crimes in Yemen and would have raised a legal risk that US military personnel could be subject to prosecution, at least in theory.

For instance, one of the emails made a specific reference to a 2013 ruling from the war crimes trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor that significantly widened the international legal definition of aiding and abetting such crimes.

The ruling found that "practical assistance, encouragement or moral support" is sufficient to determine liability for war crimes. Prosecutors do not have to prove a defendant participat-



Firefighters try to extinguish fire at the community hall where Saudi-led warplanes struck a funeral in Sanaa, the capital of Yemen, on 9 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ed in a specific crime, the UN-backed court found.

Ironically, the US government already had submitted the Taylor ruling to a military commission at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to bolster its case that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other al Qaeda detainees were complicit in the 11 September, 2001 attacks.

The previously undisclosed material sheds light on the closed-door debate that shaped US President Barack Obama's response to what officials described as an agonizing foreign policy dilemma: how to ally Saudi concerns over a nuclear deal with Iran - Riyadh's arch-rival — without exacerbating a conflict in Yemen that has killed thousands.

The documents, obtained

by Reuters under the Freedom of Information Act, date from mid-May 2015 to February 2016, a period during which State Department officials reviewed and approved the sale of precision munitions to Saudi Arabia to replenish bombs dropped in Yemen. The documents were heavily redacted to withhold classified information and some details of meetings and discussion.

An air strike on a wake in Yemen on Saturday that killed more than 140 people renewed focus on the heavy civilian toll of the conflict. The Saudi-led coalition denied responsibility, but the attack drew the strongest rebuke yet from Washington, which said it would review its support for the campaign to "better align with US principles, values and interests."

The State Department documents reveal new details of how the United States pressed the Saudis to limit civilian damage and provided detailed lists of sites to avoid bombing, even as officials worried about whether the Saudi military had the capacity to do so.

State Department lawyers "had their hair on fire" as reports of civilian casualties in Yemen multiplied in 2015, and prominent human rights groups charged that Washington could be complicit in war crimes, one US official said. That official and the others requested anonymity.

During an October 2015 meeting with private human rights groups, a State Department specialist on protecting civilians in conflict acknowledged Saudi strikes were going awry.

"The strikes are not intentionally indiscriminate but rather result from a lack of Saudi experience with dropping munitions and firing missiles," the specialist said, according to a Department account of the meeting.

"The lack of Saudi experience is compounded by the asymmetric situation on the ground where enemy militants are not wearing uniforms and are mixed with civilian populations," he said. "Weak intelligence likely further compounds the problem."

The Saudis intervened in Yemen in March 2015 to restore President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi after he was ousted by the Houthi rebels, whom Riyadh charges are backed by Iran. The Saudis gave Washington little advance notice, US military leaders have said.

The Saudi government has called allegations of civilian casualties fabricated or exaggerated and has resisted calls for an independent investigation. The Saudi-led coalition has said it takes its responsibilities under international humanitarian law seriously, and is committed to the protection of civilians in Yemen. The Saudi embassy in Washington declined further comment.

In a statement issued to Reuters before Saturday's attack, National Security Council spokesman Ned Price said, "US security cooperation with Saudi Arabia is not a blank check. ... We have repeatedly expressed our deep concern about airstrikes that allegedly killed and injured civilians and also the heavy humanitarian toll paid by the Yemeni people."

The United States continues to urge the Kingdom to take additional steps to avoid "future civilian harm," he added.—Reuters

Turkish military says killed 417 Kurdish militants since August

ISTANBUL — Turkish security forces have killed 417 Kurdish militants since late August, the army said on Monday, a day after a truck bomb attack on a military checkpoint in southeast Turkey killed 18 people.

The blast was one of the deadliest recent attacks in the region, near the border with Iraq and Iran where much of the army's conflict with the militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) is focused.

The military said in a statement the PKK's ability to stage attacks had been limited and its winter preparations disrupted, prompting it to focus on attacks with improvised explosive devices and suicide bomb attacks targeting civilians.

Since 29 August, 417 PKK militants have been killed, 61 have been wounded, 41 have sur-



Turkish soldiers stand guard at a check point on the main road between Mardin and Cizre near the southeastern town of Midyat, Turkey, on 9 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

rendered and 18 have been captured during a campaign which the military described as "the most effective and comprehensive of recent years".

It said 88 members of the Turkish security forces have

been killed and 152 wounded during the same period.

"The operations will continue with the same determination until the last terrorist has been neutralised," it added.—Reuters

Congo opposition leader arrested over deadly anti-government protests

KINSHASA — An opposition leader in Democratic Republic of Congo was arrested late on Sunday for his role in anti-government demonstrations last month in which more than 50 people died, the government and his party said on Monday.

Bruno Tshibala, the deputy secretary-general and spokesman for the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), Congo's largest opposition party, was arrested Sunday night at Kinshasa airport as he prepared to board a flight for Brussels, the UDPS said in a statement.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende confirmed the arrest, saying Tshibala would be questioned by the attorney general's office on Monday over his role in the protests, including the deaths of a police officer who was burned

alive and a young girl.

"He is among the people who organised the protests of (September) 19th and 20th," Mende told Reuters. "Tshibala signed a communique in which he congratulated the protesters."

Congo's attorney general has said he will punish those behind the demonstrations, which were against President Joseph Kabila's alleged attempts to retain power beyond the end of his final term in December. The UDPS, which has promised further protests, called for his immediate release.

Kabila, in office since 2001, is barred by constitutional term limits from standing for a third elected term but the country's electoral commission says it needs until December 2018 to organise the vote due to logistical and budgetary obstacles.—Reuters

Exelixis and Pfizer drugs compete in kidney cancer trial

COPENHAGEN — Exelixis's drug Cabometyx outperformed Pfizer's Sutent in a clinical study for the treatment of metastatic kidney cancer, suggesting it has the potential to become a first-line treatment, researchers said on Monday.

The drug is currently approved only in patients who have already received prior therapy, while Sutent is cleared for initial use. However, hopes have been building for the Exelixis product in recent months, buoying the firm's shares.

The Phase II study results presented at the European Society for Medical Oncology congress showed a 31 per cent reduction in disease progression or death

among patients on Cabometyx compared to those on Sutent. People on Cabometyx on average went 8.2 months before their disease worsened against 5.6 months for those taking Sutent.

"This data shows that cabozantinib (Cabometyx) has the potential to become a first-line standard treatment," said study leader Toni Choueiri of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Exelixis said it planned to file for US regulatory approval to sell Cabometyx as a treatment of first-line advanced kidney cancer on the basis of the latest clinical data. Commenting on the findings, Bernard Escudier of France's Institut Gustave-Roussy



Surgeons extract the liver and kidneys of a brain-dead woman for organ transplant donation at the Unfallkrankenhaus Berlin (UKB) hospital in Berlin in 2008. PHOTO: REUTERS

recommended additional studies using the drug in the first-line setting but said the results raised hopes for further improvements in treatment.

Ipsen has rights to Exelixis's

drug in some markets.

Pfizer, meanwhile, had more positive news for its established medicine Sutent with a Phase III study showing that it worked well in patients who had part or all of

a kidney removed. Disease-free survival was 6.8 years with Sutent against 5.6 years with a placebo in the trial, which was the first to show such an improvement in the post-surgery setting.—Reuters

WHO responds to critical health needs of IDPs in Nigeria



The World Health Organisation (WHO) headquarters are pictured in Geneva. PHOTO: REUTERS

LAGOS — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has delivered emergency medical supplies to two Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in Nigeria's restive Borno State.

The WHO in a statement made available to Xinhua in Lagos said this is response to the critical health needs of IDPs in Mafa and Dikwa camps, two of the 15 areas liberated by Nigerian troops which are hosting more than 75,000 IDPs.

The medical supplies are in the form of Interagency Emergency Health Kit with enough drugs and medical supplies to treat 15,000 people for three months.

Malaria and Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits were also provided. The supplies will be

distributed to the only existing health facility in each camp and to mobile teams.

State Secretary in the Ministry of Health Abubakar Hassan lauded the global health organisation's contribution, saying WHO's assistance has come in at the right time.

Rex Mpazanje, acting WHO Country Representative, said the organisation is committed to supporting the government of Borno state and other parts of restive northeast to continue to have access to health services.

WHO is appealing for 13.5 million dollars to support health interventions until the end of 2016 in light of the humanitarian situation in Borno and other states in the North East part of Nigeria.—Xinhua

Pneumonia cases in hospitals more deadly than heart attacks: experts

VIENNA — Patients taken to hospital with pneumonia are more likely to die than those suffering heart attacks and must be treated as emergency cases, experts at an Austrian conference have claimed.

The experts, attending the annual conference for the Austrian Society of Pulmonology in Vienna, said the mortality rate for patients with heart attacks is presently under five per cent, while about 10 per cent of persons taken to hospital with pneumonia succumb to the lung condition.

"This is partly due to the fact that lung inflammation is often grossly underestimated as a life-threatening condition," OeGP expert Holger Flick said, according to an Austria Press Agency report on Friday.

He said new findings show that even if patients admitted to hospital do not show immediate signs of being in a critical condition, they should still be subject to intense monitoring and therapy from the outset. These people are often simply placed in normal wards, though their condition can worsen dramatically within just a few hours, he said, with those aged over 65 at particular risk. In the case of heart attacks hospital teams are on high alert and subsequently take an immediate course of action, a level of attention the experts at the conference argue should also be applied in cases of pneumonia.

A new set of guidelines to improve the quality of this treatment has thus been developed jointly by Austria, Germany, and Switzerland.—Xinhua

Viet Nam spots 2 more Zika patients

HO CHI MINH CITY — Viet Nam's Health Ministry announced that a pregnant woman in southern Binh Duong province and a woman in Ho Chi Minh City have been infected with Zika virus, lifting the total number of Zika patients in the country to five.

The 27-year-old pregnant woman, who lives in the town of Thuan An in Binh Duong province, has neither toured nor contacted Zika patients before contracting Zika virus. The 28-year-old woman from Ho Chi Minh's District 9 had not traveled far away before being infected with the virus.

The two women are now in good health conditions. Local authorities are taking measures to prevent new cases of Zika infections.—Xinhua

NASA's Opportunity rover to explore ancient Mars gully

WASHINGTON — US space agency NASA said Friday its 12-year-old Opportunity Mars rover will explore a gully carved long ago by a fluid that might involve water, a feat that has never been done by a Mars rover before.

"Fluid-carved gullies on Mars have been seen from orbit since the 1970s, but none had been examined up close on the surface before," Opportunity Principal Investigator Steve Squyres of Cornell University said in a statement.

"We hope to learn whether the fluid (that carved this gully) was a debris flow, with lots of rubble lubricated by water, or a flow with mostly water and less other material."

Currently, Opportunity is exploring the "Bitterroot Valley" portion of the western rim

of Endeavour Crater, a basin 22 kilometers in diameter that was excavated by a meteor impact billions of years ago.

Opportunity reached the edge of this crater in 2011 after more than seven years of investigating a series of smaller craters, where it found evidence of acidic ancient water that soaked underground layers and sometimes covered the surface.

According to NASA, the gully chosen as the next major destination slices west-to-east through the rim less than a kilometre south of the rover's current location and is about as long as two football fields.

The longest-active rover on Mars also will, for the first time, visit the interior of Endeavour Crater, according to the latest plans for Opportunity's two-year extended mission that be-

gan on 1 October.

The goal is to compare rocks inside the crater to the dominant type of rock Opportunity examined on the plains it explored before reaching Endeavour.

"We may find that the sulfate-rich rocks we've seen outside the crater are not the same inside," Squyres said. "We believe these sulfate-rich rocks formed from a water-related process, and water flows downhill. The watery environment deep inside the crater may have been different from outside on the plain — maybe different timing, maybe different chemistry."

The third main science goal of the new extended mission is to find and examine rocks from a geological layer that was in place before the impact that excavated Endeavour Crater.—Xinhua

France to ask ICC for war crimes investigation in Syria

PARIS — France will ask the International Criminal Court's prosecutor to launch an investigation into war crimes it says have been committed by Syrian and Russian forces in eastern Aleppo.

Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, speaking after a French-drafted United Nations Security Council resolution on Syria was vetoed at the weekend by Russia, also said President Francois Hollande would not welcome his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on 19 October to just trade "pleasantries".

Since the collapse of efforts to reach a ceasefire in September, Russian and Syrian warplanes have launched their biggest offensive on the northern city of Aleppo's besieged rebel-held sectors, in a battle that could become a turning point in the five-year-old civil war.

"These bombings — and I said it in Moscow — are war crimes," Ayrault told France Inter radio. "It includes all those who are complicit for what's happening in Aleppo, including Russian leaders.

"We shall contact the International Criminal Court prosecutor to see how she can launch these investi-



A boy walks past damaged buildings in the northern Syrian rebel-held town of al-Waqf, in Aleppo Governorate, Syria, on 9 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

gations." US Secretary of State John Kerry also called for a war crimes investigation last week.

"It is very dangerous to play with such words because war crimes also weigh on the shoulders of American officials," said Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, according to RIA news agency. It is unclear how the ICC could proceed given that the court has no jurisdiction for crimes in Syria because it is not a member of the ICC.

It appears the only way for the case to make it to the ICC would be through the UN Security Council referral, which has been deadlocked over Syria. Moscow vetoed a French resolution in May 2014 to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC.

Ayrault said Paris would also seek separate sanctions on the Syrian government at the United Nations once a joint UN and Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) inquiry concludes on 21 October.

The inquiry has identified two Syrian Air Force helicopter squadrons and two other military units it holds responsible for chlorine gas attacks on civilians, Western diplomats have told Reuters.

"We do not agree with what Russia is doing, bombarding Aleppo. France is committed as never before to saving the population of Aleppo," Ayrault said.

"If the President decides (to see Putin), this will not be to trade pleasantries," he added.—Reuters

Poland's Kaczynski says EU must reform or collapse

BERLIN — The European Union will collapse if it fails to reform, the leader of Poland's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party Jaroslaw Kaczynski said in an interview published on Monday.

European leaders, struggling to overcome an historic crisis following

Britain's vote to leave the EU, remain divided over migration and economic policy. After more than a half century of closer integration, some fear the bloc risks breaking apart.

"The continent is changing rapidly and, as I see it, not for the better,"

Kaczynski was quoted as saying in German newspaper *Die Welt*. The rise of populist parties across the continent, such as the Alternative for Germany, the National Front in France and anti-European parties in the Netherlands among others could cause the EU as it is

to burst, he said.

"Either we reform the EU or it collapses."

Kaczynski's Law and Justice party is also nationalist-minded, and has divided opinion with its conservative social outlook and consolidation of state power.—Reuters

US Navy ship targeted in failed missile attack from Yemen — US

WASHINGTON — A US Navy guided missile destroyer was targeted on Sunday in a failed missile attack from territory in Yemen controlled by Iran-aligned Houthi rebels, a US military spokesman told Reuters, saying neither of the two missiles hit the ship.

The attempted strike on the USS Mason, which was first reported by Reuters, came just a week after a United Arab Emirates vessel came under attack from Houthis and suggests growing risks to the US military from Yemen's conflict.

The US government, which has become increasingly vocal about civilian casualties in the war, this weekend announced a review of its support to a Saudi Arabia-led coalition battling the Houthis after a strike on mourners in the capital Sanaa that killed up to 140 people.

The failed missile attack on the USS Mason began around 7 pm local time, when the ship detected two inbound missiles over a 60-minute period in the Red Sea off Yemen's coast, the US military said.

"Both missiles impacted the water before reaching the ship," Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis said. "There were no injuries to our sailors and no damage to the ship."

Saudi Arabia and the United States blame Shi'ite Iran for supplying weapons to the Houthis. Tehran views the Houthis, who are from a Shi'ite sect, as the legitimate authority in Yemen but denies it supplies them with weapons.

A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the first missile triggered counter-measures from the USS Mason. It was not immediately clear whether those defences may have helped prevent a direct hit on the ship.

The USS Mason did not return fire, the official said, adding that the incident took place just north of the Bab al-Mandab strait off Yemen's southern coast.

Last week's attack on the UAE vessel also took place around the Bab al-Mandab strait, in what the UAE branded an "act of terrorism."—Reuters



The USS Mason (DDG 87), a guided missile destroyer, arrives at Port Canaveral, Florida, in 2003. PHOTO: REUTERS

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Quotation is issued.

DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Ref No	Description of Goods or Services	Quantity	Units
G.1(a)	Office Furniture	76	Nos
G.2	Air Conditioner(2HP)	6	Nos
G.3	Drinking water Cooler(cool+Hot)	2	Nos
G.4	Computers	36	Nos
G.5	Office Equipment	8	Nos
G.6	Tablets,cases and power bank	450	Nos
G.14	Vehicles	2	Nos

Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION. Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest the dead line, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in 7 (seven) separate contracts. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit Sealed Quotations to: U Myint Oo, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw

For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409413 and email to ksaung@gmail.com.

German police capture man suspected of planning bomb attack

BERLIN — German police said on Monday they had captured a man suspected of planning a bomb attack who had slipped through their grasp during a raid two days ago.

Police had been looking for 22-year-old Syrian refugee Jaber Albakr since he evaded them during a raid on an apartment in the eastern city of Chemnitz, where they found several hundred grammes of explosive.

"Tired but overjoyed:

we captured the terror suspect last night in Leipzig," Saxony state police said on Twitter.

Spiegel Online, without citing a source, reported that police captured Albakr after a tip-off from another Syrian living in Leipzig.

Albakr approached the man at Leipzig railway station and asked if he could sleep at his home. The man agreed and later called police, who arrested Albakr at the home at 00:42 local time on Monday (2242

GMT on Sunday), Spiegel Online reported.

Albakr had been in Germany since last year and was officially recognised as a refugee, police said at the weekend.

A spokesman for the Federal Prosecutor's Office told broadcaster SWR on Sunday: "The overall picture of the investigation, in particular the amount of explosive found, suggests that the person was planning to carry out an Islamist-motivated attack."—Reuters

'Like a nuclear bomb,' cholera and destruction after hurricane in Haiti

PORT-A-PIMENT, (Haiti) — Patients arrived every 10 or 15 minutes, brought on motorcycles by relatives with vomit-covered shoulders and hoisted up the stairs into southwest Haiti's Port-a-Piment hospital, where they could rest their weak, cholera-sapped limbs.

Less than a week since Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti, killing at least 1,000 people according to a tally of numbers from local officials, devastated corners of the country are facing a public health crisis as cholera gallops through rural communities lacking clean water, food and shelter.

Reuters visited the Port-a-Piment hospital early on Sunday morning, the first day southwestern Haiti's main coastal road had become semi-navigable by car.

At that time, there were 39 cases of cholera, according to Missole Antoine, the hospital's medical director. By the early afternoon, there were nearly 60, and four people had died of the waterborne illness.

"That number is going to rise," said Antoine, as she rushed between patients laid out on the hospital floor.

Although there were 13 cases of cholera before Matthew hit, Antoine said the cases had risen drastically since the hurricane cut off the desperately poor region.

The hospital lacks an ambulance, or even a car, and Antoine said many new patients were coming from miles away, carried by family members on

camp beds.

Inside the hospital, grim-faced parents cradled young children whose eyes had sunk back and were unable to prop up their own heads.

"I believe in the doctors, and also in God," said 37-year-old Roosevelt Dume, holding the head of his son, Roodly, as he tried to remain upbeat.

Out on the streets, the scene was also shocking. For miles on end, almost all the houses were reduced to little more than rubble and twisted metal. Colorful clothes were littered among the chaos.

The region's banana crop was destroyed with vast fields of plantain flattened into a leafy mush. With neither government or foreign aid arriving quickly, people relied on felled coconuts for food and water.

The stench of death, be it human or animal, was everywhere.

In the village of Labei, near Port-a-Piment, locals said the river had washed down cadavers from villages upstream. With nobody coming to move the corpses, residents used planks of driftwood to push them down the river and into the sea.

Down by the shore, the corpse of one man lay blistering in the sun. A few hundred meters to his left in a roadside gully, three dead goats stewed in the toxic slime.

"It seems to me like a nuclear bomb went off," said Paul Edouarzin, a United Nations Environmental Program employee based near Port-a-Piment. —Reuters



A couple tries out Samsung Electronics' Galaxy Note 7 at the company's headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, on 10 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Samsung halts Note 7 production after new fire scare

SEOUL— Samsung Electronics Co Ltd suspended production of its flagship Galaxy Note 7 smartphones, a source said on Monday, after reports of fires in replacement devices added to the tech giant's worst ever recall crisis.

Top US and Australian carriers also suspended sales or exchanges of Note 7s, while major airlines reiterated bans on passengers using the phones, after smoke from a replacement device forced the evacuation of a passenger plane in the United States last week.

Fires in phones that were meant to replace devices that had been recalled because of their propensity to explode would be a disaster for the world's largest smartphone maker, suggesting it has failed to fix

a problem that has already hurt its brand and threatens to derail a recovery in its mobile business.

"If the Note 7 is allowed to continue it could lead to the single greatest act of brand self-destruction in the history of modern technology," said Eric Schiffer, brand strategy expert and chairman of Reputation Management Consultants.

"Samsung needs to take a giant write-down and cast the Note 7 to the engineering hall of shame next to the Ford Pinto."

In a regulatory filing, Samsung said it was "adjusting" shipments of Note 7s to allow for inspections and stronger quality control due to some devices catching fire.

It did not comment on the production halt or the

cause of the fires, while the source — who declined to be identified because they were not authorised to speak to the media — did not explain whether specific problems had been identified or when production was halted.

Samsung told Reuters it was investigating reports of "heat damage issues" and would take immediate action to fix any problems in line with measures approved by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

On 2 September, Samsung announced a global recall of 2.5 million Note 7s due to faulty batteries which caused some of the phones to catch fire.

It ordered new batteries from another supplier and started shipping replacements to customers

just two weeks later. But similar problems arose with a replacement Note 7 on 5 October, which began smoking inside a Southwest Airline flight in the United States.

Samsung shares, which have rebounded after an initial sell-off on the recall, closed down 1.5 per cent, compared with a 0.2 per cent rise for the broader market.

"I think the cleanest thing to do is to give up on the Note 7," said HDC Asset Management fund manager Park Jung-hoon, whose fund owns Samsung shares.

"What's scary is that this is causing people to repeatedly doubt Samsung's fundamental capabilities, so it's important for Samsung to get past this issue quickly." —Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGKACHAI VOY. NO (148)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY. NO (148) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

LOS ANGELES — “The Girl on the Train” pulled into the station with a \$24.7 million opening, a solid result despite the fact that the mystery debuted as much of the US Southeast was being pummeled by Hurricane Matthew.

Its success is a shot in the arm to DreamWorks, which optioned the Paula Hawkins’ best-seller about an alcoholic woman (Emily Blunt), who must piece together a mysterious disappearance. The company has suffered a string of flops in recent years, most recently shouldering the twin duds of “The BFG” and “The Light Between Oceans.” However, “The Girl on the Train” kicks off a new five-year distribution deal with Universal Pictures. One that will see the company rebranded as Amblin Partners, complete with backing from Reliance, Entertainment One, and Participant. Over the weekend, Amblin announced that Alibaba Pictures will take an equity stake in the production company. “The Girl on the Train” cost \$45 million to make.

“We are thrilled with the results of the first film in our new partnership with Amblin,” said Nick Carpou, Universal’s domestic distribution chief. “Their passion and commitment to bringing high quality stories to theaters, coupled with our expertise in marketing and distribution, makes for a bright future.”

Nate Parker’s “The Birth of a Nation” was not as fortunate, premiering to a disappointing \$7.1 million across 2,105 theaters. The biopic about slave rebellion leader Nat Turner was a sensation at the Sundance Film Festival, where it premiered to a rapturous standing ovation and sold to Fox Searchlight for a record-shattering \$17.5 million. But the release was derailed after rape allegations against Parker

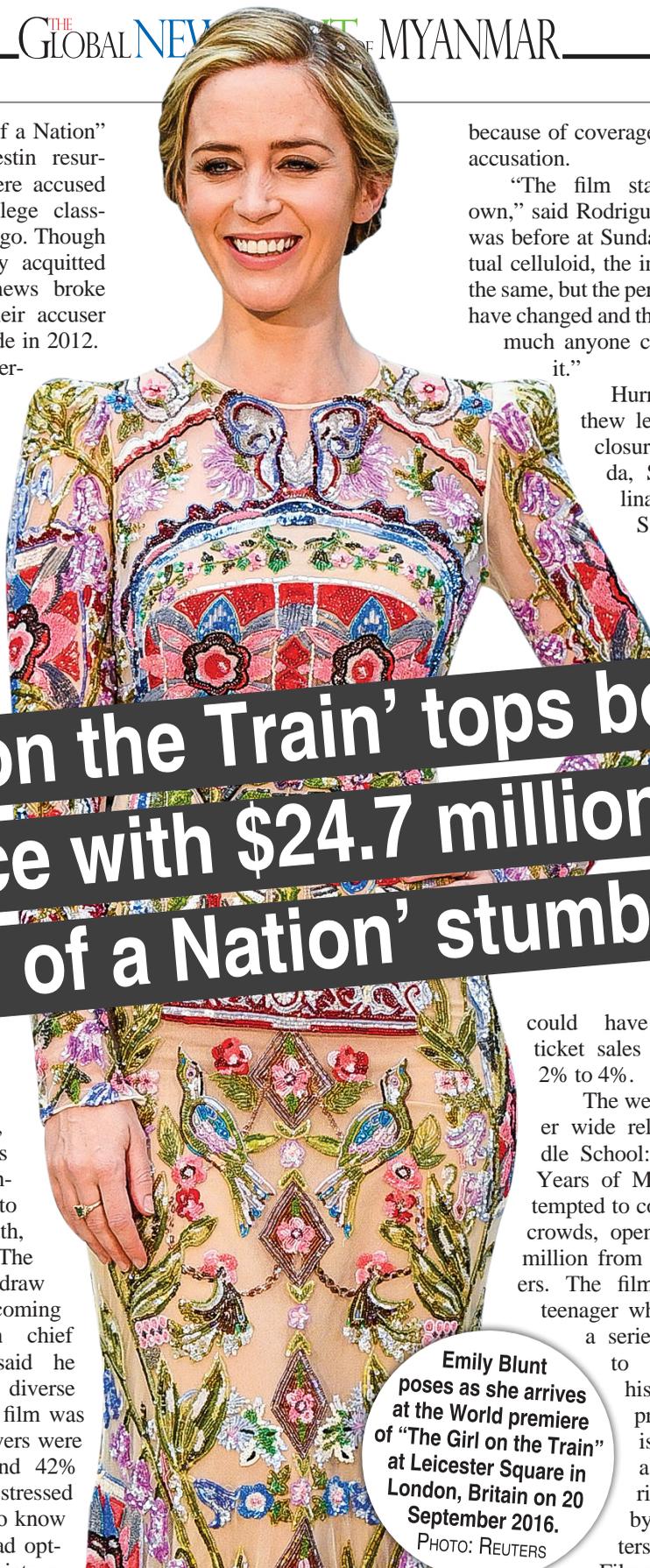
and his “The Birth of a Nation” co-writer Jean Celestin resurfaced. Both men were accused of assaulting a college classmate over a decade ago. Though they were ultimately acquitted of those charges, news broke this summer that their accuser had committed suicide in 2012.

The ensuing controversy overshadowed the strong reviews and may have hurt the film’s Oscar chances.

“This is a pretty pedestrian result,” said Jeff Bock, a box office analyst with Exhibitor Relations. “Clearly, not all

press is good press.”

Searchlight, however, believes that the film’s A CinemaScore could lead to robust word-of-mouth, which might help “The Birth of a Nation” draw an audience in the coming weeks. Distribution chief Frank Rodriguez said he was pleased by how diverse the audience for the film was — 54% of ticket buyers were African-American and 42% were caucasian. He stressed that it was difficult to know how many people had opted not to see the picture



‘Girl on the Train’ tops box office with \$24.7 million, ‘Birth of a Nation’ stumbles

Emily Blunt poses as she arrives at the world premiere of “The Girl on the Train” at Leicester Square in London, Britain on 20 September 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

because of coverage of the rape accusation.

“The film stands on its own,” said Rodriguez. “What it was before at Sundance, the actual celluloid, the image, is still the same, but the perception may have changed and there’s not too much anyone can do about it.”

Hurricane Matthew led to theater closures in Florida, South Carolina, and other Southern states. Studio executives that

it could have depressed ticket sales by between 2% to 4%.

The weekend’s other wide release, “Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life,” attempted to court younger crowds, opening to \$6.9 million from 2,822 theaters. The film follows a teenager who cooks up a series of pranks to embarrass his autocratic principal. It is based on a popular series of books by James Patterson. CBS Films produced

the movie for \$11 million, with Lionsgate distributing the picture.

Last weekend’s champ, “Miss Peregrine’s School for Peculiar Children,” fell roughly 50% to \$15 million for a second place finish. That puts the Tim Burton fantasy’s total at \$51.1 million. Fox backed the film, which carries a sizable \$110 million price tag, and will need foreign audiences to come out in force if it wants to make a profit.

Lionsgate’s “Deepwater Horizon” continued to struggle, taking in \$11.7 million, and bringing its domestic total to \$38.5 million. The action-drama about the men and women caught up in one of the worst oil spills in history earned solid reviews, but cost a massive \$120 million after tax credits were taken into account. It’s shaping up to be a money loser.

Sony’s “The Magnificent Seven” took fourth place with \$9.1 million, pushing the Western remake’s haul to \$75.9 million. “Storks,” the Warner Bros. animated comedy, rounded out the top five with \$8.4 million, bringing its state-side receipts to \$50.1 million.

It’s been a rough fall for the movie business. Ticket sales for the season are down 5.7% year-over-year, as hits like “Sully” have failed to eclipse 2015 blockbusters such as “The Martian” and “Hotel Transylvania 2.” Year-to-date, however, the box office remains up 3.9%, and analysts are hopeful that upcoming releases such as “Doctor Strange” and “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” will get consumers back in the habit of going to the multiplex.

“We’re just waiting for a breakout hit,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at ComScore. “We need something to get us out of this box office funk.”—Reuters

Tom Hanks enjoys playing ‘smartest guy in the room’ in ‘Inferno’

FLORENCE — Actor Tom Hanks said the real draw for him to reprise his role as fictional symbolist Robert Langdon in the film adaptation of Dan Brown’s thriller “Inferno” was the chance to be “the smartest guy in the room.”

“You give me the right amount of verbiage and just enough time to do the right amount of research, and I can convince you that I may be the smartest guy in the room,” the actor said with a laugh to reporters on Thursday.

“The gift that Dan Brown gave me as an actor is to play a guy who’s always curious, who’s always opinionated and who’s always searching for an answer.”

Hanks joined cast members including Felicity Jones and Irrfan Khan, director Ron Howard and author Brown at a news conference for the film in Florence’s Palazzo Vecchio.

Hanks and Howard previously brought Brown’s “Da Vinci Code” and “Angels and Demons” to life in hit blockbuster films.

Sony Pictures’ “Inferno,” due in theaters on 28 October, follows Langdon as he wakes up in Florence with amnesia and has to decipher clues to stop a plague being released by an elusive billionaire who tries to tackle overpopulation. Hanks said the film’s take on overpopulation suggests “we are creating our own version of Dante’s inferno here in the real world.”

He added that there were places in the world where “the environment is hellacious and the people are held in slavery and there is any numbers of degrees of misery that are in fact created by ourselves one way or another.”

Much of the film showcases Florence’s historic buildings and piazzas, as Langdon speeds

through the city’s rich history, solving riddles related to Florentine poet Dante Alighieri’s famed 14th century saga “Divine Comedy,” about a man’s journey through ‘Inferno,’ or hell.

Brown said framing Dante as prophecy and not as history made the story relevant to a modern audience, drawing threads between overpopulation and real world issues such as immigration or lack of natural resources.

Director Howard said he was inspired by the powerful imagery of Dante’s “Inferno” and how it has resonated through centuries and generations.

“I felt that he was giving us the vocabulary of every horror movie we’ve ever seen and admired and you begin to look at it not only on a kind of philosophical level but also as a cultural, a huge cultural and political shift,” Howard said.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

3D mannequin helps cyclist go for gold

DOHA — Olympic silver medalist Tom Dumoulin is confident of winning a gold medal in the men's time trial at the UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) Road World Championships in Doha on 12 October — and the leading cyclist has a secret weapon.

A skinsuit worn by the Dutchman was developed by researchers at Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), in conjunction with his team, Team Giant-Alpecin, using an unusual technique. The interdisciplinary team from TU Delft scanned Dumoulin's body using photogrammetry, before 3D printing a full-sized replica mannequin of his body in classic riding posture. The mannequin was then dressed in a series of skinsuits made of various fabrics and placed on his bicycle saddle, where it underwent tests in the university's wind tunnel.

Dr Jouke Verlinden, of TU Delft's Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering, led the development of the man-

nequin, which first involved placing 150 DSLR cameras in a room and programming them to each simultaneously take a single image of Dumoulin sitting absolutely still on the cycle. Verlinden told Reuters: "You really want to have someone like that fixed in the right position and you need to have an instant 3D scan of that. We used a system based on photogrammetry, so taking a lot of pictures with a high-resolution camera, an SLR camera, and we had a rig with 150 of these cameras which took one picture completely at the same time, and from that we could reconstruct a 3D model." The mannequin was constructed using an expensive 3D printing method. This consisted of turning two household 3D printing machines on their head, so they could print up to two metres high, producing Dumoulin's replica in eight separate parts. It took a total of 50 hours to print, before each part was attached via simple pin-and-hole joints.

"It (the printer) uses

plastic wire, which is extruded like a glue gun and then it's being drawn on the flat surface below, at a tenth of a millimeter or less, and in that way layer by layer you draw these kind of plastic curves," explained Verlinden. The suit was originally made for Dumoulin's participation in this summer's Tour de France and Olympic Games in Rio. Speaking before the two events, he explained his hopes for the skinsuit. "In cycling, and especially in time trialling, it's about seconds, and even if we get only a little difference with a faster suit it will make a big difference maybe in the result," he said. Unfortunately, an accident meant Dumoulin had to withdraw from the Tour at stage 19, but his Olympic performance was a happier experience, with him finishing second in the time trial behind Fabian Cancellara.

Andrea Sciacchitano, assistant professor in aerospace at TU Delft, told Reuters that aerodynamics is crucial to time trial performance. "In order to go faster



(From L-R) Daan Bregman and assistant professor Andrea Sciacchitano, from Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), and Teun Van Erp, sports scientist at Team Giant-Alpecin, pose with a 3D-printed mannequin replica of Dutch cyclist Tom Dumoulin wearing a special skinsuit they co-designed, in Delft, the Netherlands on 4 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

aerodynamics is very important, it's up to 90 per cent of the total resistance that the guy has to overcome — and the roughness of the fabric is very important in order to reduce drag," he said. "One may think that in order to go faster the surface must be very smooth. This is, in fact, not always the case. In some cases some roughness can help the guy to go faster because it energizes the flow close to the surface. So it all-

lows the flow to close on the back and therefore to reduce the aerodynamic drag."

Sciacchitano said a technique developed at the university called particle image velocimetry (PIV) proved crucial in the wind tunnel tests. Helium-filled soap bubbles were used to map the flow and ensure good measurements. "In the wind tunnel we can have a very controlled environment, very specific flow velocity.

Particle Image Velocimetry, is a particular technique that we have developed at TU Delft, in which we introduce small particles in the flow, we illuminate them by means of a laser and we take images of these particles — and by measuring the displacement of these particles at two time instance we can determine the velocity field and therefore the pressure and finally the aerodynamic drag," he said.—Reuters

Latvian photojournalist's exhibition on Tibet opens in Riga

RIGA — A photo exhibition featuring pictures taken by Latvian photojournalist Janis Laizans in Tibet has been unveiled here Friday.

The exhibition, named "Seven Days in Tibet", has a collection of 30 pictures shot by Laizans during his trip to China's Tibet Autonomous Region in the summer.

A group of Latvian journalists, who had the

opportunity to visit Tibet in June, traveled to Tibet's main Buddhist shrines in the capital city Lhasa, as well as Tibet's rural regions.

The photographs displayed at the exhibition show Tibet's impressive landscapes, local residents of the mountainous region, school children and pilgrims. The photo exhibition will last until 16 October.—Xinhua



A man visits a photo exhibition featuring pictures taken by Latvian photojournalist Janis Laizans in Tibet, in Riga, Latvia, on 7 October 2016. The exhibition, named "Seven Days in Tibet", has a collection of 30 pictures shot by Laizans during his trip to China's Tibet Autonomous Region in the summer. PHOTO: XINHUA

Mogao Caves open to photographers for the first time

LANZHOU — Over 100 photographers from China and overseas gathered at the Mogao Caves in north-west China's Gansu Province on Monday, the first such event ever hosted at the site.

The Mogao Caves, also known as the Thousand-Buddha Caves, about 25 km southeast of Dunhuang City, are one of the largest and best-preserved sites of Buddhist art in the world.

According to Dunhuang Academy, the authority in charge of the research, protection and management of the site, no one has ever been allowed to take cameras into the caves by themselves, and until now all photos showing the inside of the caves were taken by the academy only. The event, lasting from 10 to 15 October, is sponsored by the Dunhuang Academy and the provincial literature and art circles federation, and aims to demonstrate the art and historical richness of the caves.

Five caves dating to different historical periods will be opened to the photographers. The copyright of all photos will belong to Dunhuang Academy, and the photos will be reviewed and selected by experts with the results published on the official websites of the academy and by the provincial photographers' association.

Wang Xudong, head of Dunhuang Academy, said: "This activity is part of our effort to showcase and protect Dunhuang culture. Hopefully more people will understand the caves by photographing and joining the army that protects the precious cultural relics of humanity."

The 1,600-year-old Mogao Caves feature a huge collection of Buddhist artworks — more than 2,000 coloured sculptures and 45,000 square meters of frescoes in 735 caves carved along a cliff by ancient worshippers. It was China's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, inscribed in 1987.—Xinhua

		10:27 Am	Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bon Yatanamingalar Palace
		10:45 Am	Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist - U Lun Gywe
(11-10-2016 07:00am ~ 12-10-2016 07:00am)		(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)	
Today Fresh		Prime Time	
07:03 Am	News	07:03 Pm	News
07:26 Am	Geographic Center of Myanmar	07:26 Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:46 Am	Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma	07:53 Pm	Kayah
08:03 Am	News	08:03 Pm	News
08:26 Am	Magnificent Thadingyut Festival	08:26 Pm	A Glance At A Naga Family Life
08:32 Am	Adventurous Young Photographer	08:44 Pm	A Life In The Ring
08:52 Am	Wet Market in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)	
09:03 Am	News	(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)	
09:26 Am	Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)		
09:47 Am	Today Myanmar: Pristine Nature- Gaw Yan Gyi Island		
10:03 Am	News		

Georgia hold Wales as Gareth Bale closes in on record

CARDIFF — Gareth Bale scored his 25th goal for Wales but Georgia fought back strongly to earn a deserved 1-1 draw in a World Cup Group D qualifier in Cardiff.

It left Wales, surprise semi-finalists at Euro 2016, with five points from three games. They lost the group leadership and dropped to third place when Serbia and Ireland both won later on Sunday.

Georgia, in fifth place, took their first point, following narrow defeats by Austria and Ireland.

Wales, who have only ever qualified for the finals once, in 1958, took the lead in the 10th minute when Real Madrid's Bale leapt above his markers to head

in Joe Ledley's corner.

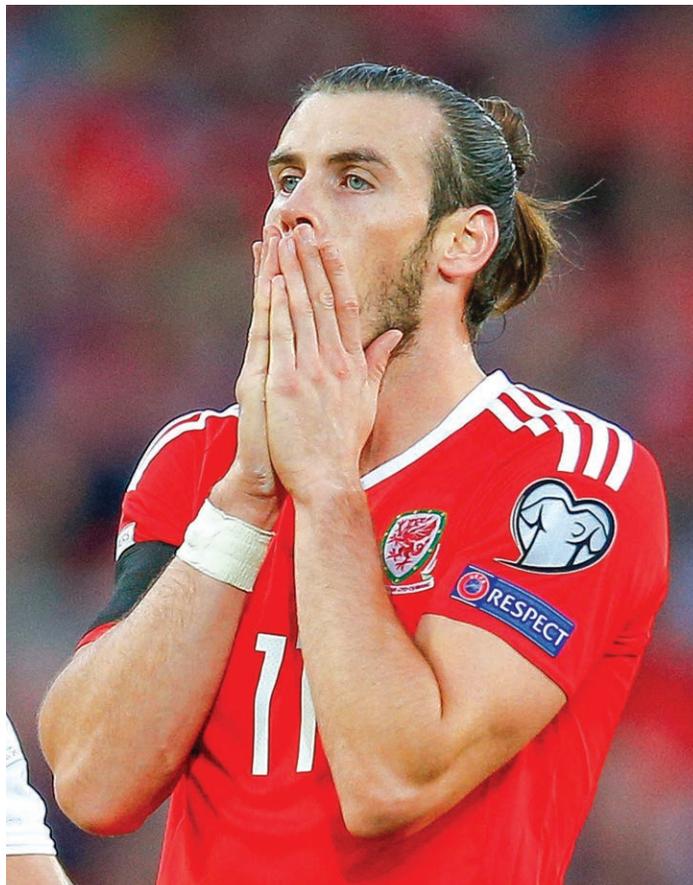
He is now only three goals behind Ian Rush's national record of 28 goals.

The home team paid for a lack of urgency, however, after 57 minutes when Tornike Okriashvili headed an equaliser.

Georgia, dangerous on the counter-attack, could have gone on to win but Levan Mchedlidze missed when clean through and Valeri Qazaishvili hit the bar.

"It was the dream start but then we got too comfortable," said Wales manager Chris Coleman.

"We could have lost it in the second half." Next month Wales are at home again, to Serbia, while Georgia play Moldova.—*Reuters*



Wales' Gareth Bale reacts during 2018 World Cup Qualifying European Zone at Cardiff City Stadium, Cardiff, Wales on 9 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

16-yr-old Hirano becomes 1st Japanese World Cup winner

NEW YORK — Sixteen-year-old Miu Hirano became the first Japanese to win the table tennis World Cup in the women's singles on Sunday, defeating Cheng I-ching of Taiwan 11-9, 11-5, 11-4, 11-8 in Philadelphia.

Hirano is the youngest winner of the tournament and also the first non-Chinese to achieve the feat, according to the official website, although there were no players from China competing this year.

Hirano, who had to settle on being a reserve player during the Rio Games as Japan won the team bronze medal, defeated Rio team regular and close friend 15-year-old Mima Ito 11-13, 11-4, 11-8, 11-4, 11-8 in the quarter-finals on Saturday.

"I'm really pleased to have won the title," said Hirano. "I'd like to aim for the gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. (Ito) is my best friend and my best rival."

Hirano overcame Feng Tianwei of Singapore in Sunday's semifinals 3-11, 11-6, 7-11, 13-11, 11-9, 15-13 before cruising in the final.—*Kyodo News*

Freedom under Mourinho led to Spain call-up — Herrera

LONDON — Midfielder Ander Herrera has thanked Jose Mourinho for giving him the license to express himself and credited the Manchester United manager's tactics for his first call-up to the Spain squad.

Herrera has flourished in the holding midfield role as the 27-year-old has been a regular feature under Mourinho, scoring once in eight appearances in all

competitions this season.

"Mourinho encourages me to do it. Mourinho gives you more freedom as a player," Herrera told British media.

"He wants the player's instinct to come through... he tells us to let that if that instinct guides us on the pitch then we should try things."

Herrera was also keen to repay the faith Mourinho has

showed in him, after initially struggling to get selected under former manager Louis van Gaal, while he also hoped to seal his place in the national team in the build up to the 2018 World Cup.

"I know that in the two years under Van Gaal I was not in the United team enough to be called up," he added.

"Now with Mourinho I'm

feeling good. He is putting faith in me and giving me that chance to play regularly in a top side. Now I have to show that I deserve to stay in the United XI and deserve to keep getting the call to join the Spain squad."

Sixth-placed United take on arch rivals Liverpool, who are fourth in the Premier League, at Anfield in their next fixture on 17 October.—*Reuters*

Neymar injury allows Coutinho to shine on left

RIO DE JANEIRO — Liverpool playmaker Philippe Coutinho is poised to start in his preferred position on the left side of midfield when Brazil travel to Venezuela for their next World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

Coutinho impressed on the right in Brazil's 5-0 rout of Bolivia on Thursday, scoring one goal and setting up another after replacing Chelsea's Willian in the starting lineup.

But the suspension of Neymar has left a vacancy on the left and Coutinho admitted he would relish the chance to play in his favourite position.

"It [the left] is where I play for my club and I'm used to it," Coutinho told a news conference on Saturday. "If I'm chosen to play there obviously I'm going to feel at ease."

"Neymar is a star. He is somebody who decides games so we are going to miss him. But we have a great group and whoever replaces him is going to be well qualified. We have to share

the responsibility between all of us."

Willian is expected to be reinstated on the right of midfield while Guangzhou Evergrande's Paulinho is likely to return from suspension to take Giuliano's place in central midfield.

Brazil are currently second in the 10-team South American zone standings with 18 points, a point behind leaders Uruguay at the halfway point of the qualifying campaign. Venezuela are last with just two points from nine matches.—*Xinhua*



Brazil's Neymar is helped by Bolivia's goalkeeper Carlos Lampe during World Cup 2018 Qualifier at Dunas Arena Stadium, Natal, Brazil on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia hope Kyrgios has turned corner after Japan win

MELBOURNE — Melbourne's notoriously changeable weather threatened to wash out the soft launch of the Australian Open on Monday but the rain was unable to dampen the cheer among tournament organisers enthused by Nick Kyrgios's weekend victory in Japan.

The tempestuous 21-year-old, Australia's brightest hope of a men's grand slam champion since twice winner Lleyton Hewitt, clinched the Japan Open on Sunday with an impressive win over rising Belgian David Goffin.

For a player who professes no love for tennis and has admitted to being "a little bit soft", Kyrgios has won all three of his titles this season, his latest in Tokyo the biggest of a still fledgling career.

Kyrgios clobbered 25 aces past Goffin but a more telling statistic might have been the zero tantrums committed by the hot-headed Australian during the

tense three-setter.

The prospect of a fit, in-form and happy Kyrgios making a deep run at the Australian Open would be a dream outcome for the tournament's organisers but not one they were willing to indulge out loud on Monday, lest the wish not come true.

"It's a long journey; it's a long-term journey when it comes to Nick," a wary Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley said after being soaked by a spring shower at the tournament's launch near Melbourne Park.

"But he's certainly, we've felt, more recently turned the corner."

"But his performances this past week has been tremendous in winning his third professional title."

"And that's fairly remarkable. There's a lot of pressure on him. We do what we can. We have a long-term view of it."—*Reuters*