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The special meeting is held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 14th October, 2016. PHOTO: MNA

SPECIAL MEETING ON NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY

A special meeting was held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday focusing on current issues relating to national defence and security.

It was attended by President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win and Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe.

At the meeting, they dis-

cussed recent violent armed attacks on border posts in Maung-taw Township, Rakhine State, movements of the violent attackers and their background, current activities of the authorities and future plans for the state.

In addition, the participants of the meeting discussed armed conflicts in Kachin State and northern Shan State, activities of RCSS armed group which has already signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, issues in Wa Special Region-1 and Mong-la Special Region-4 and arrangements for enhancing combat skills of members of the Myanmar Police Force.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being seen after the special meeting on national defence and security. PHOTO: MNA

Press release regarding the attacks on the Border Guard Police posts in Maungtaw Township—14th October 2016

1. On the morning of 9th October 2016, armed attackers carried out a surprise attack on Kyikanpyin Border Guard Police (Number One) Headquarters, Kottankauk Police Outpost, and Ngakhuya Local Police Office. As a result of this attack, 9 members of the Myanmar Police Force were killed, and 48 weapons of various types and 6624 rounds of assorted ammunition, 47 bayonets, and 164 magazines were lost. Following the defensive actions of the police, the bodies of 8 attackers were found, and 2 attackers were captured alive. From them, 1 homemade pistol, 2 rounds of ammunition, and 1 magazine were recovered.
2. The armed attackers, with the weapons and ammunition they had seized, continued to move around the Maungtaw District and carry out attacks. Tatmadaw infantry units together with members of the

Myanmar Police Force have carried out joint combat operations against the attackers. Joint columns of Tatmadaw and police have conducted clearance operations in the areas where the attackers are hiding. During these operations they have had frequently come into armed contact with the attackers. So far, five members of the Tatmadaw have given their lives.

3. According to the initial findings of the interrogations of the two attackers who were captured and two additional attackers whom Bangladesh handed over to Myanmar, the attacks in Maungtaw Township were systematically planned in advance over a long period of time, assisted by foreign funding and the support of members of foreign terrorist organisations.
4. According to the findings of the interrogations, the attacks in Maungtaw were intended to promote ex-

tremist violent ideology among the majority Muslim population in the area. Using Maungtaw as a foothold, this was an attempt to take over the areas of Maungtaw and Buthitaung. For this, they received significant financial support from extremist individuals in some Middle Eastern countries. This funding was not provided by particular organisations, but was provided secretly through contacts between individuals.

5. Interrogations have revealed that the attacks in Maungtaw were carried out by the Aqa Mul Mujahidin organisation which is active in Maungtaw, and which is linked to the RSO armed organisation. The leader of this organisation is Havistoohar, a religious and social extremist aged around 45 years, of Kyaukpyinseik village in Maungtaw Township.

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Senior General and top-ranking military officers posing for a group photo with the war veterans. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General delivers speech at MWVO conference

BEING a powerful and strong organization in the national defence and national politic sectors, Myanmar War Veteran Organization is to contribute towards the interest of the people in accordance with policies of the State working for stability, unity and development, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said at the Conference of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Headquarters held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization (MWVO) joined the ASEAN War Veterans Federation in September 2012 and is cooperating with regional war veterans organizations in a friendly, manner, according to the senior general.

Then, the senior general said that the Tatmadaw, while discharging the national defence duty, was contributing to the

needs of the country such as stability, unity and development in accordance with its fine traditions and urged the MWVO to participate in the national politics by helping link the Tatmadaw and the people.

The Tatmadaw has built 101 advanced apartment buildings for war veterans in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Magway, Lashio and Homelin and another 70 are under construction in Yangon, Magway, Papun, Dawei, Myeik and Kholan, according to the senior general.

He also said that a home for the aged for veterans was built by the Tatmadaw and well-wishers and the home can accommodate 120 grandpas, 56 grandmas, 56 elderly couples and 72 families of disabled soldiers.

In conclusion, the senior general pointed out that independent non-political organizations that

will cooperate with the government are essential to the flourishing of democratic system and urged the organization to enhance the abilities of the organization and to actively participate in national defence sector as a reserved force.

Later, Chairman of Myanmar War Veterans Organizations Central Executive committee Lt-Gen Hla Min (Retd) presented K 81 million cash assistance for veterans who are above 75 years of age, K 180.15 million for veterans who lost their limbs and K 4 million for those who are studying at defence services universities.

After the ceremony the senior general greeted participants of the conference warmly and in the evening, the senior general hosted a dinner in honour of the participants at Zeyarthiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw.—*Myanmar News Agency*



KNU chairman Saw Mutu Sephaw observing the exhibits at the museum. PHOTO: MYAWADY

KNU Chairman and party visit Tatmataw Historical Museum in Nay Pyi Taw

Saw Mutu Sephaw, KNU chairman and party visited Defence Services Meseum in Nay Pyi Taw on a study tour. They were shown the documentary film in the cinema room.

The chairman and party observed the exhibits shown in the office of archivist, followed by presentation of gifts by the archivist.—*Myawady*

Thai authorities continue to provide identity cards to Myanmar migrant children

THE SCHEME to issue identity cards to Myanmar migrant children under 18 years of age will continue, according to a member of Thai National Human Rights Commission.

According to local migrants in Thailand, the Thai authorities have started issuance of identity cards to Myanmar students who have been attending schools in Mae Sot, Tak Province, Thailand since 11 October.

The Education Department in Tak Province offered IDs to 150 Myanmar students on that day.

This is part of the Thai government's effort to promote the lives of migrants by providing IDs, which will help children have rights under the laws enacted by the Thai government, said the chairman of Committee for the Myanmar Migrant Affairs, who also served as a member of te Thai National Human Rights

Commission.

Ma Aye Aung, one of the Myanmar migrants living in Mae Sot, who has lived in Thailand for nearly 20 years, said she is very happy that her children, who were born in Thailand and are now attending the Thai schools, have received IDs from the authorities. There are almost 8,000 Myanmar migrant children in Thailand.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Cambodian Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint on Friday met Mr Sok Chea, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw at 1.30 p.m.

During the meeting, both sides discussed promotion of existing relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Cambodia.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint welcomes the Cambodian Ambassador. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Cambodian Ambassador

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than on Friday met Mr Sok Chea, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the call, the two representatives discussed matters relating to the promotion of bi-

lateral relations and further cooperation.

Also present at the meeting were U Aye Thar Aung, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw and officials from the Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes the Cambodia Ambassador. PHOTO: MNA

Press release regarding the attacks on the Border Guard Police posts in Maungtaw Township—14th October 2016

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He previously attended a six-month Taliban training course in Pakistan, and he has 4 sisters and 1 brother living in Saudi Arabia. Assuming the identity of a refugee, he frequently went to stay in a village near Teknaf in Bangladesh, from where he received funding from organisations based in the Middle East. Among those he worked with were: a Pakistani citizen called Kalis who came to Ngakhuya village after living in Bangladesh; Ibrahim, Aza, and Ayatullah who lived in Kutabaloun refugee camp in Bangladesh; and 12 men living in Nila refugee camp including individuals called Zubaid and Islam. Kalis previously attended a terrorist training camp in Pakistan, and he speaks Myanmar, Bengali, Arakan, Malay and Pakistani languages fluently. Around five months ago, through the arrangement of Havistoohar, Kalis came to Maungtaw and began delivering armed training classes to local extremist youths recruited and mobilised by Havistoohar.

6. The four main instigators in Middle Ngakhuya village, called Abdul Rahman, Munet, Kapiktulah and Akis, had all attended an RSO training course. Havistoohar, Kalis, Mabuya of Maungnama Village (who led the attack on Kyikanpyin), together with 12 attackers who had come from a refugee camp in Bangladesh, had carried out robberies in the villages of Pha Wut Chaung, Ale Than Kyaw and Nga Chaung in Maungtaw Township.

7. According to the findings of the interrogations, Havistoohar and his organisation mobilised extremist youths in the Maungtaw area. They secretly ran weapons training and self-defence training in remote locations in the hills and forests, as well as in the compound of Abdul Rahman in the Middle Ngakhuya village, and in the forest near Kyauk Pyin Seik village. Following this, plans were drawn up to carry out violent attacks.

8. Havistoohar had planned for a total of around 400 attackers to simultaneously launch attacks on 6 separate locations: Mabuya would lead around 100 attackers against Kyikanpyin Border Guard Police (Number One) Headquarters; Kalis and Abdul Rahman would lead around 100 attackers against Ngakhuya Police Local Office; Wadif would lead around 50 attackers against Kyain Chaung Local Police Office; Aza would lead around 50 attackers against Kyauk

Hlay Kar Local Police Office; Raw Paing would lead around 50 attackers against Ywet Nyo Taung Local Police Office; and Abu Kumar would lead around 12 attackers against Kotankauk Police Outpost. However, on 9th October they were only able to attack three locations: Kyikanpyin, Kotankauk, and Ngakhuya. Havistoohar had instructed that after attacking the bases, the attackers should murder the members of the police, take their weapons and equipment, and use those weapons in further attacks on nearby Tatmadaw and police bases. Before the attacks took place, the organisation leaders systematically explained to the attackers the plan of attack.

9. The Aqa Mul Mujahidin organisation deployed tactics often used in violent armed attacks around the world: receiving foreign funding (from those originally from Maungtaw but now in the Middle East); attending terrorist training courses (delivered by the Taliban in Pakistan, and RSO in Bangladesh); and using religion to mobilise extremist youth in Maungtaw. According to their plan, they intended to take over the majority-Muslim areas of Buthitaung and Maungtaw, and to spread propaganda through disseminating video files on the internet and via social networks, in line with the methods of terrorist organisations such as the Taleban, Al Qaeda and ISIS, in order to attract greater foreign support and funding and encourage the cooperation and participation of domestic and foreign religious extremists.
10. At present, the small armed organisation led by Havistoohar is still attempting to carry out continued attacks in the Maungtaw area with a strength of almost 400 extremist armed attackers. Members of the Myanmar Police Force are taking responsibility for security and rule of law, and Tatmadaw military columns have responsibility for clearance operations. The police and the Tatmadaw are carrying out these responsibilities at full strength. In doing so, they are frequently coming into armed contact with the attackers. At the same time, investigations are continuing into domestic and foreign terrorist links and supporters of terrorism. Further news will continue to be released as it is received, so as to keep the general public informed.
11. The attacks in Maungtaw were systematically planned and prepared over a long period of time with the support and assistance of foreign terrorist organisations



The photo of Havistoohar captured from a video clip.
PHOTO: MNA

- and supporters of terrorism. These attacks were an attempt to attack and destroy the security of the nation, and the lives, property and security of the citizens of the country. We will take effective action to defend against, respond to and defeat all armed violent attacks and attempted attacks, in accordance with the Constitution, the anti-terrorism law, and other existing laws relating to security and defence. Not only the attacks in Maungtaw, but all violent attacks or attempted attacks will be responded to effectively, and defeated. We will continue to investigate and identify those controlling and organising the armed attacks from behind the scenes, those who are secretly providing funding, and all organisations and individuals that support armed attacks, and we will take effective action against them. Furthermore, we will take strong action in line with the law against those who try to take advantage of these attacks by instigating or attempting to instigate religious or social conflicts and unrest between communities.
12. We call on our citizens to understand the actions of the government, and to be aware and pay attention to the danger of violent attacks. We call on our citizens to work together with responsible persons to prevent instigation on religious or social grounds within your communities, and to prevent the spread of conflict to other areas. We ask religious and community leaders to make every effort to work together to help to prevent the emergence of conflicts. And we ask our citizens to cooperate with the government for the sake of national security and the defence of the Union. *(Translated Version of the press release)*

Govt invites cooperation from political parties, civil society organizations in reducing public anxiety

A governmental mission comprising Union ministers has asked cooperation from political parties and civil societies in Rakhine State in reducing anxiety of the people due to rumors related to recent violent armed attacks in the state.

At the meeting in Sittway yesterday, the mission expressed their worries over spreading rumors which followed the violent attacks, urging the representatives from the political parties and civil society organizations not to believe rumors but to official information released by the gov-

ernment.

The mission also pledged to take punitive actions against the attackers and urged the participants to cooperate with government to help relieve the anxieties of the public.

Then, Rakhine State Chairman U Saw Shwe of National Unity Party expressed support for efforts of the government and vowed to cooperate with the government.

Rakhine State Chairman Dr San Shwe of Union Solidarity and Development Party volunteered to distribute food to nation-

als in Maungtaw area and advised the government to take such matter more seriously with nationalist awareness and security awareness in the future.

Sittway Township General Secretary U Khin Maung Tun of Arakan Patriot Party called for the implementation of 120 recommendations of the commission formed in 2012, while General Secretary U Tun Aung Kyaw of Arakan National Party also called for unity and offered freedom of movement in the entire country after scrutinizing citizenship according to



Governmental mission meeting with representatives from political parties and CSOs.
PHOTO: MNA

the 1982 Citizenship Law.

Sittway Township National League for Democracy called for punitive action against attackers and rumour mongers.

Then, representatives from civil society organiza-

tion from Sittway took part in the discussions.

Afterwards, deputy ministers for the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Border Affairs, and the State Counsellor's Of-

fice, the state chief minister and the union ministers responded to the discussions.

The union ministers also responded to the questions raised by the media after the meeting. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Detained nationals numbering 132 return from Malaysia

A TOTAL of 32 workers together with two infants, who were detained at 11 camps in Malaysia, returned home Friday by a chartered flight sponsored by the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation (BFM).

They were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by responsible personnel of the BFM and Managing Director U Moe Hsan Aung, Managing Director of the Kanbawza Group of Companies. BFM provided them upon their arrival with K100,000 each and clothes.

According to sources, 2,294 Myanmar citizens were detained for various reasons in 11 camps in Malaysia. The foundation sponsored the return of more



Those arriving from Malaysia queuing at immigration counter at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: THURA LWIN (Eco)

than 3,000 Myanmar workers detained in Malaysia, more than 500 Myanmar fishermen detained

the Port Blair of India and more than 510 Myanmar workers trafficked and enslaved at Benjina

Island, Indonesia.

The philanthropic foundation has brought back over 4,200 workers since 2013 from Indonesia, Malaysia and India by chartered flights. This marks the 12th time the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has worked in cooperation with relevant government departments and organisations to have migrants sent back home to Myanmar.

Since August this year to date, the state authorities have brought 1,642 Myanmar migrant workers detained in Malaysia, including six babies, back to their homeland. —Myanmar News Agency/Thura Lwin (Eco)

Historic C-47 aircraft lands in Mandalay

A historic C-47 aircraft landed in Mandalay yesterday before flying "across the hump" to reach its final destination in Guilin, China where it will go on permanent display at the Flying Tiger Heritage Museum.

The museum chronicles the critical contributions made by the pilots known as the "Flying Tigers" and the people in the region

who traveled the route in an effort to bring victory and peace to the region during World War II.

The aircraft will fly over Mandalay and will leave for Guilin, China, today.

The aircraft cancelled the schedule to land in Mandalay on 20th August as the engine of the aircraft was being repaired.—Aung Than Khaing



Historic C-47 aircraft. PHOTO: AUNG THAN KHAING

Crime NEWS

Yaba and raw opium from Taunggyi and Kengtung

AN anti-narcotic squad from Kengtung township seized Yaba

and opium from a house at Nam Baw Aww village, Kengtung

township on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched a house of Arr Day Lay and found 2,100 Yaba tablets and raw opium weighing 80 grams.

Similarly, a combined investigative team from Taunggyi township stopped and searched a vehicle driven by Zaw Lin Htet, with Aung Kyaw Myint on board, at on the road of Taunggyi town and found 130 Yaba tablets.

When the team continued to search the house of Zaw Lin Htet Pyay Taw Thar ward, they found 1,750 Yaba tablets and opium solid oil weighing 110 grams.

Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—Myanmar Police Force



A criminal suspect seen together with the drugs seized. PHOTO: MPF

Two suspects arrested for attempted murder

POLICE arrested two men who allegedly attempted to kill a man at ward 4, Hsezin village, Phakant township, Kachin state yesterday.

According to the investigation, Nyein Ti Soe, 25, and Aung Zin, 31, allegedly became intoxicated and used rude words

at U Kyaw Khine's shop. So, the shop owner U Kyaw Khine asked them to go back their home. Then, two men stabbed U Kyaw Khine's chest with a knife. The victim's family informed the police station of the matter.

The police arrested Nyein Ti Soe and Aung Zin at their

house when the police got the information.

Currently, the victim is undergoing medical treatment at Tamakhin station hospital. The police have filed charges against them under section 326 of the Penal Code.—Myitmakha News Agency

Two car thieves arrested

TWO men were arrested by the public after their failed attempt to rob a taxi which they had hired from Aungmingalar Highway Terminal on 13 October.

The accused were said to have hired the cab from the highway terminal to Dagon University, and on arrival at the corner of Kyansittha and Bhomu Ba Htoo roads, one of them threatened the driver at knife point and

another one tried to grab the car key. However, the driver escaped from them by jumping from the car and asked for help of public nearby. The public arrested them.

The police have taken action against the two accused, Ko Htet(a) Min Thiha, 21, and Nga Me (a) Zwe Nyi Nyi Soe from Dagon Myothit (East) and Dagon Myothit (North).—Myanmar Police Force



Ko Htet (a) Min Thiha and Nga Me (a) Zwe Nyi Nyi Soe. PHOTO: MPF

Urea fertilizer to be sold direct to farmers

THE Agriculture Department will sell Urea fertilizer direct to the farmers after collecting data in Ayeyawady region, according to an official from Ayeyawady region Agriculture Department. The urea fertilizer is produced in the No. 5 fertilizer plant, Kan Gyi Daung Town, Patheingyi district, Ayeyawady region. The Agriculture Department will sell 7,000 tonnes in total. The government will sell 3,000 tonnes to farmers from 20 different townships stricken by the floods and the remaining 4,000 tonnes to farmers from 26 townships.

Farmers who want to buy the Urea fertilizer will pay in the money at Myanmar economic banks after obtaining recommendations from the respective villages and townships before seeking the minister's permission. After fulfilling these three requirements, farmers can buy the fertilizer from No.5 fertilizer plant. According to the collected data, there are many farmers in Pyapon township and Bokalay township who want to buy the fertilizer. No.5 fertilizer factory has already suspended production. They will sell Urea fertilizer for Ks 208,000 per tonne and Ks 14,400 per bag with the arrangement of Ayeyawady region government.—200

LOCAL Business

Vietnamese telecom Viettel to invest \$2bn in Myanmar over five years

VIETTEL, Viet Nam's largest mobile network operator, is expected to make US\$2 billion investment in Myanmar's telecom sector within five years, with plans to launch its service business next year, it is learnt.

The Vietnamese group operates in ten countries in Asia, Africa and America, and will provide its telecommunications services for Myanmar people in partnership with local companies.

Viettel will occupy a 49 per cent share of the joint venture company while 23 per cent will go to a local consortium. The government-owned Star High Public Co Ltd will hold the remaining 28 per cent stake.

A joint venture agreement has already been signed between Viettel and local partners to kick off operations in early 2017, said U Zaw Min Oo, a member of the board of directors of Myanmar Technologies and Investment Corporation.

The Vietnamese market



leader with about 40 per cent of all customers on its network will be the fourth telecom operator in Myanmar. The company is likely to offer telecommunications services through mobile towers owned by the military-run Myanmar Economic Cooperation.

The two giant telecom operators—Qatar's Ooredoo and the Norway's Telenor—got licences from the Myanmar government in 2014 to operate their service business in the country. They both have introduced 4G services to their subscribers this year.

Among operators, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications is the largest telecom operator in the country. It plans to provide 4G network next year.—200

GL on a roll in Myanmar

THE digital finance firm, through its holding company in Singapore, GL Holdings, will form a 57:43 joint venture with U Aung Moe Kyaw and his AMK Consortium to support Century Finance Company, a Myanmar finance company owned by U Aung Moe Kyaw.

It will provide a broad range of financial services to the booming Myanmar markets, especially in the countryside.

The JV is expected to be established by the end of this year or early next year.

"We are very pleased to enter into this collaboration with U Aung Moe Kyaw and his partners," Mitsuji Konoshita, chairman and chief executive officer, said at the signing of the agreement with U Aung Moe Kyaw in Bangkok. According to Group Lease's filing to the Stock Exchange of Thailand, AMK Consortium controls about 65 per cent of whisky distribution.

It also manages more than 22,000 grocery shops in Myanmar, including 1,400 wholesale shops, some of which are already operating pawnshop businesses.

This distribution network is the biggest in Myanmar in outlets, which will perfectly match Group Lease's digital finance

platform.

As Group Lease has already proven in Cambodia with True Money, its digital finance business model is the only model that can utilise 100-per-cent benefits from AMK Consortium's extensive agents network.

The business model in Myanmar will be a mixture of the "channelling services" model in Indonesia with its partner Bank JT and the agent model in Cambodia with True Money.

"These business models are quite new, unique and innovative.

"Combining them together, we shall be able to effectively provide a wide range of financial services for the benefit of the Myanmar people, especially those in the rural grassroots areas," Konoshita said.

Century Finance, one of Myanmar's 15 non-bank finance companies licensed by the Myanmar central bank, provides car leasing services. With Group Lease's expertise and support, its range of financial services will now broaden to cover the leasing of motorcycles, agricultural machinery and solar panels and other consumer finance credit under "channelling services" managed and provided by the new JV.—*The Nation*

Condominium rules will be finalised in December. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE



Condominium rules to be finalised in December

THE Ministry of Construction has put concerted efforts to finalise the condominium rules, which will include exact provisions and procedures before the end of December, according to a spokesperson of the ministry's Department of Urban and Housing Development.

The ministry and relevant organisations have been developing the Condominium Law

since 2013. It aims to establish a framework to promote and facilitate foreign investment in the country's real estate market.

In January this year, the Union parliament enacted the Condominium Law.

The new Condominium Law allows foreign nationals to legally purchase condominiums in the country for the first time.

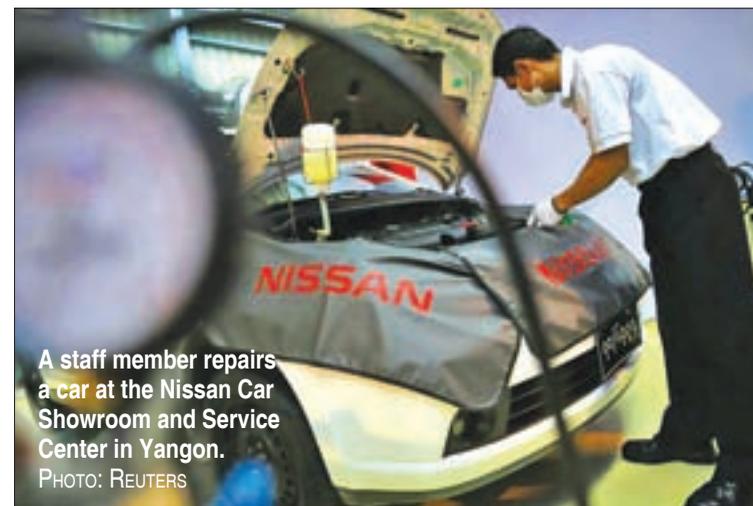
Under the law, the licensed developer must construct the building on a "collectively owned" land parcel. This is the land owned by persons who have obtained an apartment ownership registration certificate.

The condominium must be constructed on a land mass of at least 20,000 square feet (0.5 acres).—200

Authorities expect Ks180 billion in taxes from automobile industry this fiscal year

THE Planning and Finance Ministry expects to receive over Ks180 billion worth taxes from automobiles and related businesses this fiscal year, according to the ministry's announcement.

The revenue authorities have collected four types of taxes from 21 different kinds of businesses during 2016-2017 FY. The minis-



A staff member repairs a car at the Nissan Car Showroom and Service Center in Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

try estimates the country will receive approximately Ks181.470 billion in tax after the end of this financial year.

According to the ministry's budget estimation, the authorities expect to earn a total of Ks6,219.758 billion in tax including Ks181.470 billion from automobile and related industry,

Ks710.613 billion from natural gas production and Ks5.762 billion from import businesses operated under the Ministry of Commerce.

The Union government plans to allot a K217.879 billion budget from its total revenue obtained from imposition of commercial tax.—200

Philippine President issues order for adoption of 25-year development plan

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has approved and adopted a 25-year long-term vision to guide the development planning for the country.

The National Economic and Development Authority released Friday a copy of Executive Order No. 05, which contains the Ambisyon Nation (Our Ambition) 2040.

“By 2040, the Philippines shall be a prosperous, predominantly middle-class society where no one is poor; our peoples shall live long and healthy lives, be smart and innovative, and shall live in a high-trust society,” said the executive order, which Duterte signed on 11 October.

Under the plan, the Philippine government

aims to triple real per capita incomes and eradicate hunger and poverty by 2040, if not sooner.

An appropriate set of milestones shall be identified to guide the achievement of Ambisyon Nation 2040, divided into four successive medium-term development plans.

The development plans shall ensure sustainability and consistency of strategies, policies, programs and projects across political administrations.

All plans of government departments, offices and instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled corporation and local government units, should be consistent with Ambisyon Nation 2040, according to the executive order.

—Xinhua



Mourners line up to enter the Grand Palace to pay respect to Thailand's late King Bhumibol Adulyadej in Bangkok, Thailand, on 14 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thailand faces uncertainty, grief without King Bhumibol

BANGKOK — Thousands of weeping Thais on Friday lined the route the body of their beloved King Bhumibol Adulyadej will take to the riverside Grand Palace ahead of a funeral and a traditional royal cremation that will need months to prepare.

The world's longest-reigning monarch, who was worshipped as a father figure during his 70-year reign, died in a Bangkok hospital on Thursday. He was 88.

The king stepped in to calm crises on several occasions during his reign and many Thais worry about a future without him. The military, which took power in a 2014 coup, has for decades invoked its duty to defend the monarchy to justify its intervention in politics.

Many people sheltered beneath umbrellas on the route from the hospital to the palace or cooled themselves with fans along the narrow, sun-seared pavements.

Military government leader Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Thursday security was his top priority and he ordered extra troops deployed around the country.

Security was tight on Friday in the city's old quarter of palaces, temples and ministries with soldiers at checkpoints, government offices and intersections.

The king had been in poor health for several years but his death has shocked the Southeast Asian nation of 67

million people and plunged it into grief.

Most people in the capital and in towns across the country dressed in black but shops opened for business.

The cabinet declared a government holiday for mourning but the Stock Exchange of Thailand and other financial institutions opened as normal.

The stock market's benchmark index rose at 0600 GMT while the baht currency strengthened about 1 per cent against the dollar, on hopes that there would be an orderly succession. The central bank governor said there had been no abnormal speculation.

Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn is expected to be the new king but he does not command the same adoration that his father earned over a lifetime on the throne. At the Grand Palace, thousands of mourners, some sobbing, lined up to kneel before a portrait of the king and make a ritual pouring of water as part of royal funeral rites.

“I still feel like I'm dreaming. I can't believe it happened,” said Supawan Wongsawas, 64, a retired civil servant. Suthad Kongyeam, 53, said it felt like losing a father.

“He was the heart of the whole country,” said Suthad. “Everything is shaken. There is nothing to hold on to anymore.”

Thailand has endured bomb attacks and economic worries recently while rivalry simmers between the military-led establishment and populist political forces after a decade of turmoil including two coups and deadly protests. Military government leader Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Thursday the country was in “immeasurable grief ... profound sorrow and bereavement”.

He said security was his top priority and called for businesses to stay active and stock investors not to dump shares.

Thursday's crush of mourners in the grounds of Siriraj Hospital, where the king died, had gone by Friday, but about 100 people, most dressed in black, prayed there before a statue of the king's late mother.

“I'm scared and don't know what to think. If I go home I can't think,” said Jirawat Wayaphan, 64.

The hospital was open and busy, but all visitors froze and stood at attention as the national anthem was played over loudspeakers as usual at 8 am.

Black-and-white footage of the king playing jazz on the saxophone has replaced regular transmissions on television channels since shortly after the king's death was announced.

Prayuth said Prince Vajiralongkorn wanted to grieve with the people and leave the formal succession

until later, when the parliament will invite him to ascend the throne.

“Long live His Majesty the new king,” Prayuth said.

Thailand's strict lese-majeste laws have left little room for public discussion about the succession.

The junta has promised an election next year and pushed through a constitution to ensure its oversight of civilian governments. It looks firmly in control for a royal transition.

Foreign embassies in Thailand advised tourists to respect the feelings of the Thai people at their time of grief. Tropical Thailand, with its beaches, Buddhist temples and infamous night life, expects a record 33 million tourists this year.

Most Thais have known no other monarch and King Bhumibol's picture is hung in almost every house, school and office.

Until his later years, he was featured on television almost every evening, often trudging through rain, map in hand and camera around his neck, visiting a rural development project. His wife, Queen Sirikit, 84, has also been in poor health in recent years. Prayuth warned against anyone taking advantage of the situation to cause trouble. Politicians from all sides will be in mourning. Given a smooth transition, major economic disruptions are not expected, analysts and diplomats said. —Reuters

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Japan withholds UNESCO funding after Nanjing Massacre row

TOKYO — Japan has withheld its 2016 funding for the UN heritage body UNESCO, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday, following its decision last year to include documents about the 1937 Nanjing Massacre in its “Memory of the World” programme.

He did not give a reason, but Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Thursday the UNESCO decision was problematic given conflicting views of Japan and China and that Tokyo might halt funding.

“We gave an explanation yesterday to a meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party on how payment of our contribu-

tion has yet to be made,” Kishida told reporters, referring to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s ruling party.

“As for the future direction, we would like to make a decision in a comprehensive manner.”

Ties between China and Japan, the world’s second- and third-largest economies, have been plagued with a territorial dispute over a group of tiny East China Sea islets and the legacy of Japan’s wartime aggression.

China says Japanese troops killed 300,000 people in 1937 in its then capital of Nanjing. A postwar Allied tribunal put the death toll at 142,000, but some conservative Japanese politi-

cians and scholars deny a massacre took place at all.

UNESCO established the “Memory of the World” programme in 1992 to protect important historical documents and materials.

Japan last year raised questions about the authenticity of the Nanjing Massacre documents submitted by Chinese organisations for the inclusion in the programme and asked for fairness and transparency, prompting an angry retort from China.

Japan had been due to contribute about 3.85 billion yen (\$37 million) to UNESCO in 2016, or about 9.7 per cent of its total budget.—Reuters



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida makes an opening remarks during the trilateral foreign minister’s meeting in Tokyo, Japan, on 24 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Woman mauled by tiger to sue Beijing wildlife park

BEIJING — A woman who was mauled by a tiger after getting out of her car at a wild animal park in Beijing is suing the park, saying she hadn’t been fully informed of the park’s dangers and left the vehicle because she was carsick, a Chinese newspaper reported.

The woman’s mother was attacked and killed by another

tiger after she hopped out of the car to try to save her daughter who had been dragged away.

The woman, surnamed Zhao, was seeking 2 million yuan (\$299,917.52) in compensation from Badaling Wildlife World, the *Beijing Times* reported on Thursday in what it said was her first interview since the incident on 23 July.

Zhao said a park official in a nearby vehicle failed to come to the rescue. She also told the newspaper she signed an agreement not to exit her vehicle without knowing what it was and thinking it was some kind of registration to enter the park. The ticket taker did not explain it, she said.

The newspaper cited a man

surnamed Cao from Badaling Wildlife World as saying that the park would act according to government investigation report which had released the park from any responsibility.

The park will only consider compensating the family out of a moral obligation, Cao added.

The park declined immediate comment when contacted by Reuters.

The park only agreed on 745,000 yuan of compensation against over 1.5 million yuan required by the family for Zhao’s injury. They have settled on 1.2 million in compensation on the death of Zhao’s mother, said the newspaper citing Zhao’s father.

The story triggered an online uproar with most users siding with the park, criticizing Zhao for violating park rules and ignoring warning signs. The latest twist created another wave of criticism against Zhao on Weibo, a popular Twitter-like microblog in China.

“Why always trying to find excuses. The family has a terrible safety awareness. You said you couldn’t see the sign and so did your husband. Who is to blame?” one weibo user wrote.—Reuters

Japan to use automatic facial recognition to target terror suspects

TOKYO — The Justice Ministry said on Friday it will start using an automatic facial recognition system at the nation’s airports and seaports to better prevent terrorists from entering Japan.

The new system, which goes into operation on Monday at 156 airports and ports across the country, will automatically compare the facial images of foreign nationals at immigration with those of suspected terrorists obtained from organisations both at home and abroad.

If the images match, special staff will analyze them and question the suspects. They may be deported once they are determined to be terrorists, the ministry said.

Since November 2007, all foreign nationals aged 16 or older are in principle required to be photographed and submit their fingerprints at immigration.—Kyodo News



A tiger (R) approaches a woman before attacking her, after she exited a car in a Beijing wildlife park, China, on 23 July 2016, in this still image taken from video. PHOTO: REUTERS

ICC prosecutor warns Philippines over drug war killings

AMSTERDAM — The International Criminal Court may have the jurisdiction to prosecute perpetrators of thousands of alleged extrajudicial killings in the Philippines’ crackdown on drugs, a prosecutor at the Hague-based tribunal said.

Nearly 2,300 people have died since Duterte started the campaign on 30 June, according to police, of which 1,566 were drug suspects killed in police operations.

“I am deeply concerned about these alleged killings and the fact that public statements of high officials of the republic of the Philippines seem to condone such killings,” ICC Prosecutor

Fatou Bensouda said in a statement.

The Philippines joined the ICC in November 2011 and extrajudicial killings could be prosecuted by the ICC if they are “committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population,” she said.

Earlier on Thursday, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte called US President Barack Obama, the European Union and United Nations “fools” and said he would humiliate them if they questioned his war on drugs.

Duterte’s communications secretary, Martin Andanar, said the president has already stated

he was “willing to submit himself for investigation before any body”.

Andanar said vigilante killings were not sanctioned by the government.

“Many of those who died were killed during legitimate police operations, which are currently undergoing investigation as directed by the president,” he said in a statement on Friday.

The ICC, established under the 1998 Rome Statute, is a court of last resort. It only intervenes if a country is found to be unwilling or unable to prosecute crimes under its statute, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.—Reuters



A policeman holds his weapon as people pass by during a drug raid in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, on 12 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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

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

For further improvement of food security

Khin Maung Aye

MYANMAR has a vast area of land measuring 676,578 square kilometers inhabited by more than 51 million according to 2014 national census. A plethora of ethnic races make up diversified ethnic and religious groups. Despite Myanmar's being endowed with natural resources with immense possibilities inclusive of agricultural land, forests, natural gas, metals, gems and water resources and despite being possessed with human capital as well as comparatively sound economic growth performance, Myanmar is still among the least developed countries-LDCs, considered one of the poorest countries in Asia, ranking 132 out of 169 countries in 2010 UNDP Human Development Index. From 2005 to 2010, the number of people living under the poverty line dropped from 32 per

cent to 26 per cent. Nevertheless, there is growing concern over rising inequality, disparities among divisions and regions, urban and rural areas, as well as constant low investment and lack of productive assets.

In this regard, it is worth noting that more than 25 per cent of Myanmar citizens are poor according to the 2010 IHLCA Survey. Despite agriculture's being the mainstay of the dominant share of the rural population, food poverty in rural area is higher than that of urban area. This can be attributed to the different availability of food as well as to economic access to food. What is more, Myanmar is unfortunately vulnerable to natural disasters like cyclone, landslides, earthquake and drought. All these have made World Food Programme (WFP) intervene in 2010 when WFP launched a new Pro-

tracted Relied and Recovery Operation (PRRO). This operation of WFP has focused its attention on the improvement of food security, nutritional status and livelihood of the vulnerable people of Rakhine, Shan and Kachin states and Magwe region. WFP's food assistance targets poor and vulnerable households, children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women, school children and their families as well as HIV-AIDS and tuberculosis patients.

Concerning the livelihood programmes, they are two-fold—food for work activities and food for training while the school feeding component aims to increase both enrolment and attendance. In 2010, WFP provided family take-home rations of rice to 266,000 children as an incentive for their families to send them to school. It also provided monthly rations to 2,000 com-

munity teachers. However, since early 2016, WFP has been turning its assistance programmes to IDPs. Cash-based transfer was introduced to enable the IDPs to diversify their food choices. In this regard, 27,600 IDPs have transitioned to cash-based transfers. Based on a recent market assessment, WFP intends to employ combined cash and food (rice only) transfer modality for the remaining 8,000 IDPs, who are presently receiving regular food baskets.

To sum up, WFP has been present in Myanmar since 1994 and has implemented several food assistance interventions to improve nutrition, food security and livelihood access for the most vulnerable people in remote areas throughout the country. WFP's interventions are welcomed and we hope WFP can extend assistance programmes far and wide.

Handwashing with soap – one defence against antimicrobial resistance

Penny Dutton

THIS Saturday October 15 is Global Handwashing Day and a chance to remind ourselves and others of the importance of handwashing with soap as an easy, effective, and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

In health care facilities, handwashing with soap, along with clean water and sanitation, is a critical defence against the growing threat of infection and antimicrobial resistance.

Discussions in the United Nations General Assembly last month show the treat of drug-resistant micro-organisms to human health and development globally. All around the world, many common infections are becoming resistant to the antimicrobial medicines used to treat them, resulting in longer illnesses and more deaths. According to the UK Government's Review on Antimicrobial Resistance published earlier this year, by 2050 up to 10 million people may die every year from drug-resistant infections. This is not just a health problem, but an economic one too. It is thought that growing resistance to antibiotics could not only cost enormously in loss of lives but could also cost the global economy up to \$ 85 trillion by 2050.

At the local level, midwives



Washing hands with soap. PHOTO: REUTERS

deal with practical challenges to infection prevention and control on a daily basis. Before a WaterAid intervention earlier this year, in Kimboi hospital, in the Iramba district of Tanzania, the hospital's taps were dry for 23 hours per day, leaving medical professionals faced with a difficult choice: risk the transmission of infection during childbirth because the delivery room and instruments could not be properly cleaned, or prescribe precious antibiotics as a preventive measure, possibly contributing to

the emerging problem of drug-resistant infections. During a three week water shortage earlier this year, midwives were not able to do their jobs safely without readily available clean water. At least 12 babies developed sepsis during this period, and two of them died. Midwives faced the torturous question of whether those babies' deaths were their fault: were those infections transmitted in the delivery process?

The experience of Kiomboi hospital is not an isolated one. The

World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 38% of healthcare facilities in low and middle income countries lack access to a basic water source. 19% do not have adequate sanitation, and 35% do not have soap for handwashing. The situation in Myanmar raises concerns as not all hospitals and health centres have infection prevention and control measures, nor adequate hand hygiene practices, water of sufficient quantity and quality, and enough clean toilets for medical staff, patients and carers.

All UN member states have promised to ensure healthy lives for all by 2030. Clean water, proper sanitation, rigorous hand and environmental hygiene, and infection and control practices are critical to delivering quality health care. They can prevent infections and save mothers' and babies' lives. Using antibiotics to do the job of clean water, good sanitation, and good hygiene runs counter to good public health practice, and contributes to the global rise in drug-resistant infection.

What we need is for decision-makers to

Commit that by 2030 every healthcare facility will have a reliable and sufficient supply of clean running water, safe toilets for patients and staff (with locks and lights, child-friendly, and accessible to people with disabilities), functional sinks, soap and alcohol-based hand rubs for health workers and patients in all treatment and birthing rooms, and sufficient supplies of cleaning materials to maintain a hygienic and sterile environment.

Ensure that no new healthcare facilities are built without adequate, sustainable water and sanitation services.

Ensure that all healthcare workers are given professional training and support to practice and promote good hygiene.

Two wild elephants captured in Tatkon



TWO wild elephants were captured by experts by Myanmar Timber Enterprise after they wandered close to a village in Tatkon Township yesterday.

For the safety of local people, a team from the wildlife department shot the two elephants with tranquilizing darts and captured them.—*Tin Soe Lwin*

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin attends 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting

U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, attended the 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand from 13 to 14 October 2016.

The Meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, and H.E. Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The Meeting was attended by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, EU Foreign Ministers, and Secretary-General of ASEAN.

During the 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation from ASEAN and EU Mem-

ber States exchanged views on the recent developments in ASEAN and EU; the review of the ASEAN-EU enhanced partnership; the review of the implementation of the Banda Seri Begawan Plan of Action (2013-2017); the ASEAN-EU cooperation and the future direction of ASEAN-EU relations.

The Meeting further discussed on the East Asia regional security, the ASEAN-EU cooperation on maritime security, counter-terrorism, migration and human trafficking, climate change and disaster management.

At the Meeting, Minister of State led the discussion on "Initiative for ASEAN Integration

(IAI) Work Plan III which was developed under Myanmar's Chairmanship of IAI Task Force. In his discussion, the Minister of State, sought the support of the European Union Member States for the successful implementation of the five strategic areas of the Work Plan III namely food; agriculture; trade facilitation; micro-small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); education; and health and wellbeing.

The Meeting adopted Bangkok Declaration on Promoting an ASEAN-EU Global Partnership for Shared Strategic Goals.

On the sidelines of the 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, Minister of State had sepa-

Establishment of third party to monitor construction projects to be discussed at Yangon Region Hluttaw

REPRESENTATIVES discussed a proposal raised by U Thet Tun Win, Botahtaung Constituency (2), to establish a third-party organisation to monitor all construction projects in the country at the seventh session of the second Yangon Region Hluttaw on 12 October.

U Thet Tun Win said the country needs to set up an organisation to connect the government and private construction companies. The new body has to monitor all construction projects in the country to ensure the development of high-quality buildings in line with international norms and standards.

He pointed out unsuccessful

projects, including the extended building of Yangon's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, a public specialist hospital in Yangon, and school buildings in some townships.

After a 15-minutes break, the parliament took a vote as to whether or not to continue discussion on the proposal. Forty-nine out of 114 MPs agreed to continue the discussion at the second Yangon Region Hluttaw on 21 October.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, and other ethnic representatives rejected the U Thet Tun Win's proposal.—*Ko Moe*



Ministers from ASEAN countries and EU pose for a group photo at 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

rate bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers from Romania, Hungary, Estonia, Finland, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of France, and Deputy Ministers from Lithuania, Germany, Greece, Bulgaria and Spain and discussed matters

to further enhance bilateral relations and cooperation.

U Kyaw Tin signed the Book of Condolence at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand on the passing of His Majesty the King of Thailand.—*GNLM*

Aids sent to victims, locals by Defense Services for the 2nd time

MORE victims and staff residing in Taungpyowae and nearby villages were evacuated to places of safety by two Tatmataw helicopters, four trips in all.

The staff including 115 educational service-men and their families, staff of immigration and national registration department, staff from land records, Forestry Department, INGO personnel and Health Department they were

sent to Buthitaung and Sittwe by four trips of two Tatmataw choppers. Provisions sent for locals included 95 packs of biscuits, 54 packs of canned food, 300 packs of soft drinks and 504 packs of Mamee-brand noodle. The food sent at 9:25 am from Mingaladon Air-base arrived at Sittwe 10:50 am. The dry ration will be handed over to locals by the authority.—*Myawady*

US embassy extends condolences to families of victims of violent attacks

The U.S. Embassy in Yangon released a statement expressing concerns about the recent violent attacks in Rakhine State.

On behalf of the US government, the embassy expressed concerns about the recent attacks on Border Guard Police posts in Rakhine State, and subsequent violence that reportedly has resulted in further deaths.

"We extend our condolences

to the families of the victims. It is our hope that a thorough, transparent investigation in accordance with the law will be carried out to ensure the perpetrators are held accountable," said the statement.

We will support the government's efforts to address the underlying causes of conflict in the state," said the statement.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Criminal case filed against Ava tailoring by Social Welfare Department commenced to be put on trial

FOUR family members of Ava Tailoring prosecuted by the Social Welfare Department for torturing underway housemaids and for failure to pay wages they deserved were sent before the court for the first time.

Present at the court yesterday were prosecutor Daw Aye Naw Win, principal of Women Vocational Training School, Social Welfare Department, the accused – Daw Tin Thuzar, Ma Su Mon Latt, Ko Tin Min Latt, and Ko Yazar Tun. Out of the accused, Ko Tin Min Latt alone had already had a pleader. The other three were not yet ready to hire pleaders for them, so the trial will be heard on October 21, according to the township judge.

In meeting with media, U Than Myint, the advocate to plead for the accused said, "The prosecutor comes to the trial today. The proceeding will be carried out at the trial whether the accused have lawyer power ad-

duced to the court or not."

As regard the case, Anti-human Trafficking Force (Yangon)

prosecuted six family members including Daw Tin Thuzar under human trafficking protection law at the judicial court of Yangon Western District, commencing to be tried on 13 October and to be tried on 21 October under the assault acts.—*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*



The accused of housemaids torturing case being seen as they leave the court. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

Kerry says nations working to reach deal on cutting HFC gases

KIGALI — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday that nations were working towards reaching a global deal this weekend on cutting greenhouse gases used in refrigerators, as he prepared for a potentially decisive meeting with India's environment minister.

Kerry arrived in the Rwandan capital Kigali on Thursday to help close the deal among about 150 nations to phase down factory-made hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) gases,

also used in air conditioners. If successful, it would be the third global climate deal this month.

A quick phase-down of HFCs could be a major contribution to slowing climate change, avoiding perhaps 0.5 degrees Celsius (0.9 Fahrenheit) of a projected rise in average temperatures by 2100, scientists say. Asked whether a deal was likely, Kerry told reporters: "We're here to work for one."

"We'll see what happens," he

added as he started a meeting with Zhai Qing, China's deputy minister of environmental protection.

India in particular is under pressure to speed up its plans for cutting HFCs. India's government wants a peak in poor nations' rising emissions only in 2031 to give industries time to adapt. More than 100 nations including the United States, the European Union and African states favour a peak in 2021.—Reuters



(From L-R) French politicians Bruno Le Maire, Alain Juppe, Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, Nicolas Sarkozy, Jean-Francois Cope, Jean-Frederic Poisson and Francois Fillon pose before the first prime-time televised debate for the French conservative presidential primary in La Plaine Saint-Denis, near Paris, France, on 13 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

France's Juppe seen winning first primary debate — poll

PARIS — Former Prime Minister Alain Juppe was seen as the winner of the first debate on Thursday among candidates for the centre-right's nomination in France's 2017 presidential election, a poll published immediately afterward showed.

Juppe, already the front-runner on a centrist platform of "happy identity" which he said in the televised debate meant giving voters hope, was seen as most convincing by 32 per cent of those who said they would vote in the end-November primaries.

The poll was conducted as an online survey of 885 voters by polling firm Elabe commissioned by news network BFM TV.

Nicolas Sarkozy, a former president running on a law-and-order agenda meant, he said, "to ensure France once more becomes the great nation it is," convinced 27 per cent of voters in the two-hour debate.

The debate showed great similarities among the seven candidates on economic proposals meant to reduce public spending

and loosen or eliminate France's iconic 35-hour work week.

There were more differences on issues of security and immigration, with contenders quarrelling over whether those on intelligence services' watch lists should be systematically detained.

Sarkozy, who was France's president from 2007 to 2012 before losing to current president, Socialist Francois Hollande, was attacked by several of his former ministers and party allies. They questioned why he would be any different than in his first term and noted he faces multiple judicial investigations into alleged corruption, fraud and campaign funding irregularities.

"Ten years ago, in 2007, I believed in Nicolas Sarkozy's plan to break with the past, but it never happened," former conservative party leader Jean-Francois Cope said.

"If I had been put under formal investigation, I wouldn't have run (in this election)," he said.

Sarkozy, who denies any wrongdoing, retorted that such

accusations "do not honour those who make them."

He appeared quite tense at times while Juppe was subdued, apparently wanting to avoid any move that could hurt his lead in the race.

All were harsh in their criticism of Hollande, the most unpopular French president on record and a likely opponent in the April 2017 presidential election.

"I want to lead you on the path of hope," Juppe said in his concluding remarks of a sometimes very technical debate that lacked any strong vision for France's future. "I am convinced that with the right reforms, France will once again be the country where the living is good."

Sarkozy, his main challenger in the primaries, concluded by saying: "I believe in France, I believe in the genius of the French people ... I want to be the spokesman of the silent majority."

Two more televised debates will follow before the first round of the primaries, scheduled for 20 November.—Reuters

UN Secretary-General's Message for International Day of Rural Women

15 October 2016

Rural women make up nearly half the agricultural labour force around the world. They grow, process and prepare much of our food. They are the backbone of rural communities, and in many households they have the key responsibility for food security, education opportunities and healthcare.

But the effects of climate change and environmental degradation are forcing many rural women to migrate, increasing instability for their families and communities and creating an obstacle to development and growth.

Natural disasters, together with recurrent slow-onset crises like drought, affect rural women disproportionately, adding to the challenges they already face in accessing food, healthcare, education and information.

Many rural women move in order to find more productive land and improve their lives and those of their families. But migration can increase their isolation and marginalization. Others are left behind when male family members leave to seek opportunities elsewhere. Both groups need the support of the international community, as an integral part of the debates around migration and development.

Simple changes in policy can benefit rural women and help them to cope with the effects of the changing climate. For example, regulating remittances and reducing transaction costs can empower rural women economically, so that they can build the resilience of their families and communities. Training and access to information on climate-resilient agriculture and technology can make a critical difference. But too often, these are considered to be men's issues and women are excluded from benefitting.

As we consider how we can better respond to the movements of refugees and migrants, I call upon everyone to take the special needs and concerns of rural women into account.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promises to leave no one behind. To deliver on that, we must help rural women to thrive, and to access the support and information they need, so that they can fulfil their potential without leaving their communities.—UNIC/Yangon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Putin ratifies deal for Russia to use Syria base indefinitely

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin has ratified an agreement with the Syrian government that allows Russia to use the Hmeimim air base in Syria indefinitely, the Kremlin said on Friday.

Russia's air force has launched air strikes in support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad from the Hmeimim base.

Russia also this week announced plans to build a permanent naval base in the Syrian port of Tartus.

The Kremlin said costs associated with the agreement ratified by Putin will fall within normal defence spending in each year's federal budget.—Reuters

Tour bus fire in South Korea kills 10 and injures seven: Yonhap

SEOUL — A fire on a tour bus in South Korea on Thursday night killed 10 people and injured seven more, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The bus caught fire near the city of Ulsan in the country's south-east, after one of its tires burst, causing it to veer into a guardrail, police said, according to Yonhap.

The report said the vehicle was carrying about 20 people.—Kyodo News

Man killed by falling iron pipe in Tokyo's Roppongi area

TOKYO — An iron pipe that fell from near the 10th story of a building under construction in Tokyo's Roppongi district struck a pedestrian on the head and killed him on Friday, police said.

The accident occurred just before 10 am as workers were dismantling scaffolding. Rescue workers had to cut the pipe from the head of Kazuhiko Iimura, 77, from Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward, in order to take him to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The pipe measured around 1.8 metres long and 3 centimetres thick, with the tip that struck the man being thinner.

The victim's wife, also in her 70s, was transported to hospital but did not suffer major injuries herself, according to the police. The accident happened near Roppongi subway station.—Kyodo News

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

| YANGON TO BANGKOK | | | | BANGKOK TO YANGON | | | | RGN TO ICN | | | | ICN TO RGN | | | | MDL TO DMK | | | | DMK TO MDL | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------|-------------------|-------|--------|-------------|-------------------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------|-------------------|-------|-------|------|
| Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| TG-304 | 09:50 | 11:45 | Daily | TG-303 | 7:55 | 8:50 | Daily | KE-472 | 23:30 | 7:50 | Daily | KE-471 | 18:45 | 22:25 | Daily | FD-245 | 12:45 | 15:00 | Daily | FD-244 | 10:50 | 12:15 | Daily | | | | |
| TG-2302 | 15:00 | 16:55 | Daily | TG-2301 | 13:15 | 14:10 | Daily | RGN TO KUL | | | | KUL TO RGN | | | | MDL TO SIN | | | | SIN TO MDL | | | | | | | |
| TG-306 | 19:45 | 21:40 | Daily | TG-305 | 17:50 | 18:45 | Daily | AK-505 | 8:30 | 12:45 | Daily | AK-502 | 6:55 | 8:00 | Daily | MI-533 | 15:20 | 20:15 | 2 | MI-522 | 11:00 | 12:50 | 2,6 | | | | |
| PG-706 | 6:15 | 8:30 | Daily | PG-701 | 8:50 | 9:40 | Daily | AK-503 | 19:30 | 23:45 | Daily | AK-502 | 17:50 | 19:00 | Daily | MI-522 | 13:40 | 20:15 | 2,6 | MDL TO BKK | | | | BKK TO MDL | | | |
| PG-702 | 10:30 | 12:25 | Daily | PG-707 | 13:45 | 14:35 | Daily | 8M-501 | 7:50 | 11:50 | 1,3,5 | 8M-502 | 12:50 | 13:50 | 1,3,5 | MDL TO KMG | | | | KMG TO MDL | | | | | | | |
| PG-708 | 15:20 | 17:15 | Daily | PG-703 | 16:45 | 17:35 | Daily | MH-741 | 12:15 | 16:30 | Daily | MH-742 | 13:40 | 14:50 | 1,6,7 | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| PG-704 | 20:00 | 21:55 | Daily | PG-705 | 20:30 | 21:45 | Daily | MH-743 | 15:45 | 20:05 | 1,4,6,7 | MH-740 | 10:05 | 11:15 | Daily | PG-710 | 14:05 | 16:30 | Daily | PG-709 | 12:00 | 13:20 | Daily | | | | |
| 8M-335 | 7:40 | 9:25 | Daily | 8M-336 | 10:40 | 11:25 | Daily | RGN TO KMG | | | | KMG TO RGN | | | | NYT TO BKK | | | | BKK TO NYT | | | | | | | |
| 8M-331 | 16:30 | 18:15 | Daily | 8M-332 | 19:15 | 20:00 | Daily | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | CA-416 | 12:15 | 15:45 | Daily | CA-415 | 10:45 | 11:15 | Daily | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days |
| UB-017 | 15:10 | 19:20 | 1,3,5 | UB-020 | 11:00 | 11:30 | 7 | MU-2032 | 15:20 | 18:40 | 2,4,5,6,7 | MU-2031 | 14:00 | 14:30 | 1 | MU-2031 | 08:15 | 11:25 | 3 | PG-722 | 20:25 | 22:35 | 2 | PG-721 | 18:25 | 19:35 | 2 |
| UB-017 | 17:50 | 19:20 | 2,4,6,7 | UB-018 | 20:20 | 20:50 | Daily | MU-2012 | 12:25 | 18:40 | 3 | MU-2031 | 13:55 | 14:30 | 2,4,5,6,7 | PG-722 | 19:30 | 22:30 | 1,2,3,4,5,7 | PG-721 | 17:00 | 19:00 | 1,2,3,4,5,7 | | | | |
| UB-019 | 8:05 | 9:35 | 7 | UB-020 | 9:15 | 9:45 | 1,2,4,5,6 | RGN TO TPE | | | | TPE TO RGN | | | | MDL TO KMG | | | | KMG TO MDL | | | | | | | |
| UB-019 | 6:30 | 8:00 | 1,2,3,4,5,6 | DMK TO RGN | | | | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | CI-7916 | 10:45 | 16:15 | 1,2,3,4,6 | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| RGN TO DMK | | | | DMK TO RGN | | | | RGN TO PEK | | | | PEK TO RGN | | | | MDL TO KMG | | | | KMG TO MDL | | | | | | | |
| Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| FD-252 | 8:30 | 10:15 | Daily | FD-251 | 7:15 | 8:00 | Daily | CA-906 | 23:50 | 0550+1 | 3,7 | CA-905 | 19:30 | 22:50 | 3,7 | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | | | | |
| FD-256 | 13:25 | 15:10 | Daily | FD-255 | 12:05 | 12:55 | Daily | RGN TO HAN | | | | HAN TO RGN | | | | NYT TO BKK | | | | BKK TO NYT | | | | | | | |
| FD-254 | 17:30 | 19:05 | Daily | FD-253 | 16:20 | 17:00 | Daily | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| FD-258 | 20:05 | 21:55 | Daily | FD-257 | 18:05 | 18:55 | Daily | VN-956 | 19:10 | 21:30 | 1,3,5,6,7 | VN-957 | 16:50 | 18:10 | 1,3,5,6,7 | PG-722 | 20:25 | 22:35 | 2 | PG-721 | 18:25 | 19:35 | 2 | | | | |
| DD-4231 | 08:00 | 9:50 | Daily | DD-4234 | 10:25 | 11:15 | Daily | RGN TO SGN | | | | SGN TO RGN | | | | MDL TO KMG | | | | KMG TO MDL | | | | | | | |
| DD-4235 | 12:00 | 13:45 | Daily | DD-4230 | 6:20 | 7:05 | Daily | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| DD-4239 | 21:00 | 22:45 | Daily | DD-4238 | 19:30 | 20:15 | Daily | VN-942 | 12:10 | 15:00 | 2,3,4,5,7 | VN-943 | 9:35 | 11:10 | 2,3,4,5,7 | PG-722 | 19:30 | 22:30 | 1,2,3,4,5,7 | PG-721 | 17:00 | 19:00 | 1,2,3,4,5,7 | | | | |
| SL-201 | 11:00 | 13:00 | Daily | SL-200 | 9:05 | 10:00 | Daily | RGN TO HKG | | | | HKG TO RGN | | | | MDL TO KMG | | | | KMG TO MDL | | | | | | | |
| SL-207 | 20:05 | 21:45 | "Daily" | SL-206 | 18:15 | 19:05 | "Daily" | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| RGN TO CAN | | | | CAN TO RGN | | | | RGN TO HAN | | | | HAN TO RGN | | | | NYT TO BKK | | | | BKK TO NYT | | | | | | | |
| Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| 8M-711 | 20:30 | 01:05+1 | 5 | 8M-712 | 2:45 | 4:20 | 6 | VN-956 | 19:10 | 21:30 | 1,3,5,6,7 | VN-957 | 16:50 | 18:10 | 1,3,5,6,7 | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | | | | |
| 8M-711 | 8:40 | 13:15 | 2,4,7 | 8M-712 | 14:15 | 15:50 | 2,4,7 | RGN TO SGN | | | | SGN TO RGN | | | | NYT TO BKK | | | | BKK TO NYT | | | | | | | |
| CZ-3056 | 11:25 | 16:15 | 3,6 | CZ-3055 | 8:50 | 10:25 | 3,6 | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| CZ-3056 | 17:30 | 22:35 | 1,5 | CZ-3055 | 14:40 | 16:30 | 1,5 | VN-942 | 12:10 | 15:00 | 2,3,4,5,7 | VN-943 | 9:35 | 11:10 | 2,3,4,5,7 | PG-722 | 20:25 | 22:35 | 2 | PG-721 | 18:25 | 19:35 | 2 | | | | |
| RGN TO SIN | | | | SIN TO RGN | | | | RGN TO HKG | | | | HKG TO RGN | | | | MDL TO KMG | | | | KMG TO MDL | | | | | | | |
| Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| 8M-231 | 8:20 | 12:50 | Daily | 8M-232 | 13:50 | 15:20 | Daily | KA-251 | 1:10 | 5:45 | 1,2,3,4,6,7 | KA-250 | 21:45 | 23:30 | 1,2,3,5,6,7 | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | | | | |
| SQ-997 | 10:35 | 15:10 | Daily | SQ-998 | 07:55 | 09:20 | Daily | KA-251 | 1:30 | 5:55 | 5 | KA-252 | 22:50 | 00:30+1 | 4 | PG-722 | 20:25 | 22:35 | 2 | PG-721 | 18:25 | 19:35 | 2 | | | | |
| MI-515 | 14:20 | 18:50 | 1,5 | MI-522 | 11:00 | 12:20 | 4,6 | UB-8027 | 9:45 | 14:15 | 1,5,7 | UB-8028 | 15:15 | 16:55 | 1,5,7 | PG-722 | 19:30 | 22:30 | 1,2,3,4,5,7 | PG-721 | 17:00 | 19:00 | 1,2,3,4,5,7 | | | | |
| MI-519 | 17:35 | 22:10 | Daily | MI-518 | 15:15 | 16:40 | Daily | RGN TO DOH | | | | DOH TO RGN | | | | MDL TO KMG | | | | KMG TO MDL | | | | | | | |
| MI-522 | 15:45 | 20:15 | 4,6 | MI-516 | 12:00 | 13:25 | 1,5 | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| MI-533 | 13:10 | 20:15 | 2 | MI-533 | 11:00 | 12:20 | 2 | QR-919 | 8:15 | 10:55 | 1,4,6 | QR-918 | 20:40 | 6:25 | 3,5,6 | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | | | | |
| 3K-584 | 19:15 | 23:50 | 2,5 | 3K-583 | 17:05 | 18:35 | 2,5 | RGN TO CNX | | | | CNX TO RGN | | | | NYT TO BKK | | | | BKK TO NYT | | | | | | | |
| 3K-582 | 11:15 | 15:50 | 1,3,4,5,6,7 | 3K-581 | 8:55 | 10:25 | 1,3,4,5,6,7 | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| TR-2823 | 9:45 | 2:15 | Daily | TR-2822 | 7:20 | 8:45 | Daily | PG-724 | 13:10 | 15:05 | Daily | PG-723 | 11:40 | 12:35 | Daily | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | | | | |
| UB-001 | 7:30 | 12:00 | Daily | UB-002 | 13:15 | 14:45 | Daily | RGN TO DAC | | | | DAC TO RGN | | | | NYT TO BKK | | | | BKK TO NYT | | | | | | | |
| RGN TO NRT | | | | NRT TO RGN | | | | RGN TO DAC | | | | DAC TO RGN | | | | NYT TO BKK | | | | BKK TO NYT | | | | | | | |
| Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | Flight no. | Dep | Arv | Days | | | | |
| NH-814 | 21:45 | 06:50+1 | Daily | NH-813 | 11:00 | 15:40 | Daily | BG-061 | 16:15 | 18:00 | 1,3,6 | BG-060 | 12:45 | 15:30 | 1,3,6 | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | NYT-2030 | 14:05 | 16:45 | Daily | | | | |

AIRLINE CODES

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 8M = Myanmar Airways International | AK = Air Asia |
| BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines | CA = Air China |
| MH = Malaysia Airlines | CZ = China Southern |
| MU = China Eastern Airlines | FD = Air Asia |
| NH = All Nippon Airways | KE = Korea Airlines |
| SQ = Singapore Airways | QR = Qatar Airways |
| PG = Bangkok Airways | TR = Tiger Airline |
| UB = Myanmar National Airlines | |
| VN = Vietnam Airline | |
| 3K = Jet Star | |
| AI = Air India | |
| CI = China Airlines | |
| DD = Nok Airline | |
| KA = Dragonair | |
| MI = Silk Air | |
| TG = Thai Airways | |

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| DAY | 4 = Thursday |
| 1 = Monday | 5 = Friday |
| 2 = Tuesday | 6 = Saturday |
| 3 = Wednesday | 7 = Sunday |

Five in six infants undernourished, risk irreversible mental and physical damage — UN

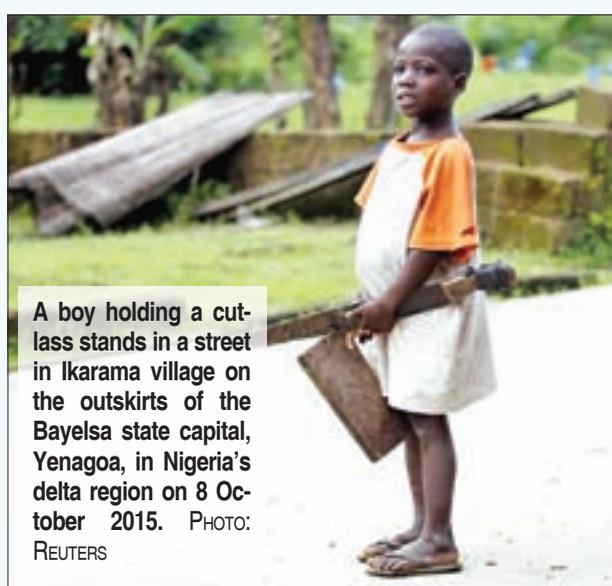
ROME — Five in six children under two years old in developing countries are not getting enough of the right kinds of food, putting them at risk of irreversible mental and physical damage, the UN children's agency UNICEF said on Friday.

Half of children aged between six and 23 months are not being fed frequently enough, UNICEF said.

And a widespread lack of solid foods and variety of ingredients are depriving the same age group of essential nutrients when their growing brains, bones and bodies need them the most, the agency said.

Even in well-off families in developing countries, "far too many" infants and young children are missing out, the agency said in a report published ahead of World Food Day on 16 October.

"How can it be that in 2016 we still have so many children who are not getting enough nutrition (for) healthy growth?" France Begin, senior nutrition ad-



A boy holding a cutlass stands in a street in Ikarama village on the outskirts of the Bayelsa state capital, Yenagoa, in Nigeria's delta region on 8 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

viser at UNICEF in New York, said in a telephone interview.

"The first two years of life ... is a window of opportunity you don't want to miss," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Improving the quality and quantity of mealtimes for young children could save 100,000 lives a year, reduce health costs and improve productivity in adult life, the UN agency said.

Meal rates are lowest in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa where stunting rates are highest — meaning that children's heights are low compared to their age.

Less than one third of infants and young children in developing countries are fed enough of a variety of foods, leaving the majority at risk of undernutrition, the report said.

Another concern is that a third of children are

not being given solid foods at the recommended age of six months, the agency said. In 2000, the proportion was half of children that age.

Junk food high in fat, sugar and salt but low in micronutrients and protein, are becoming more common in children's diets in both rich and poor countries, Begin said.

Studies in Senegal, Nepal, Tanzania and Cambodia found a large number of children eating unhealthy snacks, mainly in towns and cities but also in rural areas, she said.

The foods are heavily promoted by companies in many countries, and parents do not necessarily know they are unhealthy for their children, Begin said.

"My concern is that already children don't have enough nutrients in their diet to grow adequately, so if you replace good foods (they do receive) with foods that only provide fat and sugar ... you are not giving a chance at all to the child," she said. —Reuters

US breast cancer deaths drop; rate among white women falls most

ATLANTA — US death rates from breast cancer have dropped, although the decline was still greater among white women than black women, according to a study released Thursday.

From 2010 to 2014, there were approximately 41,000 deaths each year from breast cancer, the second-most deadly cancer for women after lung cancer, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

While total death rates dropped during the five-year period, the decline was greater for white women at 1.9 per cent per year compared with 1.5 per cent per year for black women, the study found. Black women died at a rate of 29.2 deaths per 100,000 people compared to 20.6 deaths per 100,000 for white women, the CDC said.

However, there were indications that disparity could be dimin-

ishing, particularly among women under 50 for whom the decline in death rates was the same among white and black patients, said Lisa Richardson, director of CDC's Division of Cancer and one of the authors of the study.

That could be because younger women are now getting earlier and better treatment for breast cancer, Richardson said in a telephone interview.

"Younger black women tend to have more aggressive cancer and if you don't get the therapy right, it is difficult to make up the difference later," Richardson said. "We're hopeful the lack of difference in death rates between black and white women under 50 will start to be seen in older women."

A healthy diet, exercise and maintaining a normal weight are among factors that can help prevent breast cancer, Richardson said.—Reuters

Haitians blame fatal crash on UN peacekeepers as storm aid anger grows

LES CAYES — Haitians on Thursday protested against the death of a motorcyclist in an accident they blamed on blue-helmeted peacekeepers, adding to a spate of incidents the United Nations says is affecting delivery of relief after Hurricane Matthew. The category 4 hurricane tore through Haiti on 4 October, killing about 1,000 people and leaving more than 1.4 million in need of humanitarian aid, including 175,000 made homeless, besides disrupting power, communications and transport links.

An international relief effort headed by the Haitian government has accelerated this week, but tempers are running high across the hard-hit southwest because help has yet to reach many families whose crops and water supplies were destroyed, increasing the risk of cholera and malnutrition.

On Thursday, near the coastal town of Saint-Jean-Du-Sud, about 100 people gathered around the corpse of a motorcyclist they said was hit by a truck in a convoy of UN peacekeepers.

“MINUSTAH killed



UN peace keepers stand guard near relief aid after Hurricane Matthew passes in Jeremie, Haiti, on 9 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Jean-Claude,” one woman shouted, using the acronym for the UN mission based in the country since 2004.

A Brazilian contingent of UN peacekeepers and Haitian national police held back the crowd until an am-

bulance arrived. Men pulled downed trees across the road to barricade it briefly.

“Debris from the hurricane has not been removed and it encourages accidents,” said Dieuleme Boulote, 40, a journalist for

Radio Lumiere, who added that he did not blame the UN mission. “The government is supposed to unblock the road.”

Efforts are being made to clear roads and deliver aid, especially to tackle

cholera, a disease accidentally brought to the country by UN peacekeepers six years ago.

The armed peacekeepers are accompanying convoys because of cases of looting and attacks on aid

trucks.

Stephane Dujarric, a spokesman for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, said there had been several security incidents involving humanitarian aid, including one in which peacekeepers fired their weapons.

“On 11 October, UN escort troops fired non-lethal ammunition to disperse crowds attempting to loot a humanitarian convoy in Les Cayes,” said Dujarric, speaking before Thursday’s protest.

On Saturday, he added, Ban would be in Les Cayes, a port town badly hit by the storm. The United States Agency for International Aid (USAID) announced \$12 million in additional humanitarian aid, including 515 tonnes of items such as blankets and chainsaws airlifted by the US military. Venezuela said it had sent 700 tonnes of aid material by ship. USAID said \$7 million would go toward the UN World Food Program for food assistance, with \$2 million going to improve logistics and telecommunications, and the rest for relief supplies.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YU HUA VOY. NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YU HUA VOY. NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4. 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ADMIRAL SCHMIDT VOY. NO (1610)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ADMIRAL SCHMIDT VOY. NO (1610) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

Honduran president warns of drug cartel plan to assassinate self, US envoy

TEGUCIGALPA — Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez said on Thursday authorities were investigating an alleged plan by a drug cartel to assassinate him and the US ambassador to the Central American country, James Nealon. A conservative lawyer who came to power in 2014, Hernandez has reined in homicides with a

tough policy against drug cartels that use Honduras as a base to move cocaine into the United States, amid concerns expressed by rights groups.

“They reported there was evidence of plans for an attack against Ambassador Nealon and against (myself) by an Atlantic criminal group,” Hernandez told a radio station, referring to a

cartel based in the eastern part of the country. “So we told everyone that they had to do their job, investigate and bring proceedings in the case.” External sources had revealed the assassination plot, Hernandez added, but declined further comment, citing the sensitivity of the case.

It was not immediately clear what role the cartel

played in the plan.

The revelation comes a day after Honduran army captain Santos Orellana, under investigation by the United States for alleged corruption and narco-trafficking ties, accused the Drug Enforcement Agency of pressuring him to testify against the president’s brother over a plot to kill the US ambassador.—Reuters

Former Brazil senator sentenced to 19 years in Petrobras probe

SAO PAULO — A former Brazilian senator was sentenced on Thursday to 19 years in prison for corruption, money laundering and obstruction of justice in the investigation of kickbacks at state-run oil company Petrobras.

Gim Argello was arrested in April on evidence he took 7.35 million reais (\$2.28 million) in bribes to ensure executives at major infrastructure companies would not be summoned by an investigative congressional committee in 2014.

Argello, a senator for the federal district from 2007 to 2015, was serving as the vice president of the congressional committee looking into accusations of widespread corruption in Petrobras projects in 2014.

“Instead of fulfilling his duty, the condemned took advantage of power and opportunity to illegally enrich himself and continue a criminal cycle,” federal judge Sergio Moro wrote in his decision. “The practice of crimes by congress-



Former senator Gim Argello (C) is escorted by federal police officers as he leaves the Institute of Forensic Science in Curitiba, Brazil, on 13 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

men, overseers of law, is especially reprehensible.”

The decision found that Argello, of the centrist Brazilian Labor Party, received 5 million reais in campaign contributions from UTC Engenharia SA and 2 million reais in con-

tributions from Toyo Setal Engenharia.

Argello was also convicted of taking 350,000 reais from builder OAS SA [OAE.P.L] — money that was laundered through a Catholic church in the district.—Reuters

Invest in cities now or face 2.5 billion discontent urbanites by 2050, report warns

RIO DE JANEIRO — In fast-growing cities across the developing world more than 70 per cent of residents lack access to basic services like clean water, affordable transportation or decent housing, a research group said on Friday ahead of a UN conference on urbanisation.

By 2050, 2.5 billion people, a bigger population than China and India combined, will move into the world's cities, said the World Resources Institute (WRI), a Washington, D.C.-based group.

Governments, especially in Africa and Asia where 90 per cent of the urban growth will take place, need to better prepare for the influx, the WRI said.

Despite budget constraints, officials should work to upgrade essential

services in informal settlements or slums in order to save money in the long-term and improve quality of life for newly arrived city dwellers, the report said.

“For many rapidly urbanizing cities, the challenge is to deliver quality core services that are affordable, reach more people and are less resource intensive than traditional solutions,” said Victoria Beard, the report's lead author.

The call for targeted investments to reduce inequality comes days before government leaders, city planners and UN officials gather in Ecuador on 17 October for the Habitat III conference to make a plan for managing mass migration into urban areas.

The United Nations conference on urbanisation is held every 20 years



General view of the skyline of La Defence business district from Paris, France, on 12 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

with up to 35,000 delegates expected to discuss the challenges of coping with world's fast growing cities and slums.

Despite the challenges, some fast-growing cities in poor countries are on the right track, the WRI report

said. “Medellin (Colombia) made a commitment to redistribute revenue to make the city more equal,” Beard told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. “As a result they were able to reduce crime and poverty during a period of sustained growth

over 20 years.”

Once notorious for violence as the home of drug kingpin Pablo Escobar, Medellin used public money to build a cable car linking hillside slums with the city centre so residents could find work. It's an example

that other cities could follow, Beard said, as it's often cheaper in the long-run to improve informal settlements rather than building roads and other infrastructure to expand suburbs to accommodate new arrivals. —Reuters

Saudi Arabia, SoftBank aim to be world's No. 1 tech investor with \$100 billion fund



People walk behind the logo of SoftBank Corp in Tokyo in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

DUBAI/TOKYO — Saudi Arabia and Japan's SoftBank Group (9984.T) will create a technology investment fund that could grow as large as \$100 billion, making it one of the world's largest private equity investors and a potential kingpin in the industry.

The move is part of a series of dramatic business initiatives launched by Riyadh this year as Saudi Arabia, its economy hurt by

low oil prices, deploys huge financial reserves in an effort to move into non-oil industries.

Earlier this year, it invested \$3.5 billion in US ride-hailing firm Uber, surprising many.

SoftBank, a \$68 billion telecommunications and tech investment behemoth, has also been stepping up investment in new areas. It agreed to buy UK chip design firm Arm Holdings in

July in Japan's largest ever outbound deal.

Saudi Arabia's top sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), will be the lead investment partner and may invest up to \$45 billion over the next five years while SoftBank expects to invest at least \$25 billion.

Several other large, unnamed investors are in active talks on their participation and could bring the total size

of the new fund up to \$100 billion, SoftBank said.

“Over the next decade, the SoftBank Vision Fund will be the biggest investor in the technology sector,” SoftBank Chairman Masayoshi Son said in a statement.

At an annual rate of \$20 billion, the new London-based fund could at current levels account for roughly a fifth of global venture capital investment. —Reuters

Major firms pledge to help electrify New Zealand vehicle fleet

WELLINGTON — Some of New Zealand's biggest companies on Friday threw their support behind a government drive to electrify the country's vehicle fleet with a pledge to boost the total number of electric vehicles by 75 per cent.

The initiative, driven jointly by national carrier Air New Zealand and electricity generator Mercury, represented a total corporate sector commitment of more than 1,450 vehicles over the next three years.

Along with the significantly lower running costs of electricity, this would remove almost 3 million kg of carbon emissions annually, they said in a

joint statement.

The business leaders, representing more than 30 organisations, each committed to make at least 30 per cent of their company fleets plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) by 2019 at a meeting in Auckland attended by Transport Minister Simon Bridges.

Air New Zealand is due to transition more than 75 per cent of its light vehicle ground fleet to electric by the end of this year.

Chief executive officer Christopher Luxon said the commitment was a landmark event in addressing New Zealand transport emissions and demonstrating genuine sustainability.

“We wanted to get the business community together to lead the way on EVs and create the critical mass of demand necessary to really launch the market in New Zealand,” Luxon said in the statement.

Mercury introduced plug-in vehicles to its fleet more than five years ago and would have more than 70 per cent plug-in electric by 2018, said chief executive Fraser Whineray.

The business case for organizations and the logic of electric vehicles in New Zealand was clear, given the country's renewable electricity supply, Whineray said in the statement. —Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (13 / 2016)

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

| Sr.No | Tender No | Description | Remark |
|-------|------------------|--|--------|
| (1) | IFB-059(16-17) | Spares for SAFE Daughter Compressor, 3 rd & 4 th Stage SAFE Compressor (170) Items | US\$ |
| (2) | IFB-060(16-17) | Spares for HDD Rig (13) Items | US\$ |
| (3) | IFB-061(16-17) | Spares for BF 8M 1015CP & BF 6M 1015 CP Deutz Engine Ex HDD Rig (18) Items | US\$ |
| (4) | IFB-062(16-17) | Spares for BF 4L 2011 Deutz Engine Ex HDD Rig (28) Items | US\$ |
| (5) | IFB-063(16-17) | Spares for UD Quester Tractor (41) Items | US\$ |
| (6) | DMP/L-012(16-17) | Assorted Kinds of Engineering Hand Tools (3) Groups | Ks |
| (7) | DMP/L-013(16-17) | Assorted Kinds of Engineering Workshop Tools (3) Groups | Ks |

Tender Closing Date & Time - 10-11-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 12TH October, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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



A papier mache sculpture as seen in the Bob Dylan museum in the basement of the local library in the childhood home of Bob Dylan, winner of the 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature, in Hibbing, Minnesota, US, on 13 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

In Bob Dylan's hometown, an awkward embrace for its Nobel son

HIBBING (Minn) — Well before a teenage Robert Zimmerman became Bob Dylan and embarked on a legendary music career that earned him a Nobel Prize on Thursday, he set himself apart in Hibbing, Minnesota by busting up a guitar and setting it on fire to warm a cabin where he was staying with friends.

"He wanted attention. He wanted to be noticed no matter what," said Leroy Hoikkala, 77, Dylan's former bandmate in a Hibbing group called the Golden Chords.

To many in his hometown who still remember him, Dylan, now 75, was an outsider in the Jewish minority with greased hair working in his father's home appliance store.

Dylan lived from ages 6 to 18 in the multi-ethnic mining town, part of the so-called "Iron Range." His childhood home is still there and a street is named after him. But there is no statue or memorial for the rock star hailed as "the voice of a generation," who became the first singer-songwriter to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

"Hibbing is a town where people don't get too excited about

anything," said Hoikkala, adding his bandmate was "independent, impatient and restless."

Growing up, Dylan saw the harsh realities of life in the town of biting winters about 180 miles (290 km) north of Minneapolis. While his family was relatively comfortable, he saw lots of local workers toil at mines that were in decline in Hibbing, which then had about 17,000 people.

"His sense of social justice is a function of his contact with a lot of working class people in Hibbing," said Alex Lubet, a professor of music at the University of Minnesota who has been teaching courses on Dylan for the past decade.

One of Dylan's early love songs, "Girl From the North Country," also has been linked to his hometown, with many people thinking it is about a girlfriend from Hibbing High School.

Since leaving, he has seldom returned.

One notable visit came in 1969, when Dylan was riding a wave of global fame and stopped by for his 10-year high school reunion. He was met with enthusiasm by some classmates and anger by others who felt he turned

his back on the town.

"You can see northern Minnesota in so many of his lyrics when he talks about the colors, the cold, the rails and working with iron," said Joe Keyes, one of the founders of the former Dylan Days festival in Hibbing. He now leads Dylan tours in the town for fans making pilgrimages.

Dylan's birth certificate and other artifacts are collected in the basement of Hibbing's public library, which has also put together a walking tour. It includes a stop at the bowling alley where Bob Zimmerman and a team named the Gutter Boys won a competition.

Hibbing City Council member Jennifer Hoffman Saccoman said the Nobel Prize may add to the push for a permanent Dylan museum but she thought it may be best for local leaders to talk to Dylan himself to see how he wants to be remembered at home.

High school classmate Roz Whalen said she will always remember Dylan as the cool kid who played a rocking version of "Great Balls of Fire" at a school recital.

"I really, really liked his music when we were in high school," she said.—Reuters

Global premiere of 'Doctor Strange' opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — British actor Benedict Cumberbatch said at the world premiere of his new film "Doctor Strange" he relished playing his first role as a superhero.

Amid fireworks and screaming fans at the red carpet premiere in Hong Kong on Thursday night, Cumberbatch said the film based on a popular American comic was a classic Marvel offering.

"It sort of fulfilled everything that you could have imagined from a Marvel film. It's big. It's bold and it is very new, visually obviously, but also

some of the tone of it," he said.

Cumberbatch who gained international acclaim for his role in the TV series "Sherlock", was joined by co-star Tilda Swinton, director Scott Derrickson and Marvel Studios executive producer Kevin Feige.

Cumberbatch plays Stephen Strange, a neurosurgeon who loses the use of his hands in a car accident and discovers the world of sorcery, with Swinton his mentor.

The film will play in Hong Kong cinemas on 27 October, one week before its US release on 4 November.—Reuters

Nicole Kidman drew on own adoption experience for 'Lion'

LONDON — Nicole Kidman said her own experience of adopting children led her to her latest role, playing an Australian mother who adopts an Indian child in "Lion," which made its London Film Festival premiere on Wednesday.

"Lion," which opens in US theaters on 25 November, follows the true story of Saroo Brierley, played by British actor Dev Patel, who was separated from his family in central India aged 5 when he accidentally boarded a train to Calcutta.

As a lost child unable to remember where his home is, Saroo is put up for adoption and taken in by an Australian couple.

Years later as a grown man living a successful life in Australia, Saroo tries to find his family using satellite images from Google Earth and confronts new challenges as his past life collides with his present.

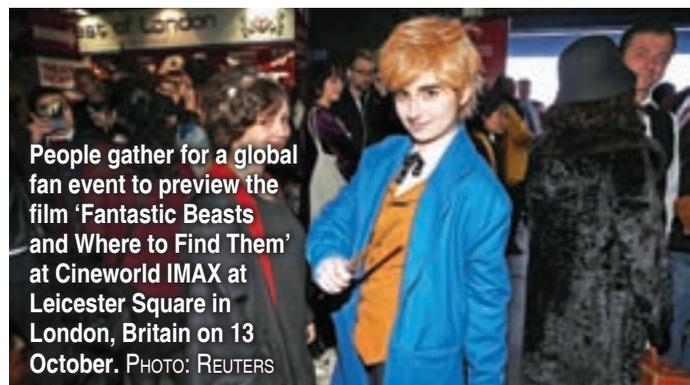
Australian actress Kidman, 49, who adopted two children with her ex-husband, actor Tom Cruise, said that was the reason she was drawn to play Sue Brierley, Saroo's adopted mother.

"I was drawn to her and she wanted me to play her, which I loved," Kidman said.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Rowling to conjure five 'Fantastic Beasts' films for Potter fans



People gather for a global fan event to preview the film 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them' at Cineworld IMAX at Leicester Square in London, Britain on 13 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — "Harry Potter" fans got fantastic news on Thursday.

Author J.K. Rowling said that the Potter spinoff movie franchise "Fantastic Beasts" will consist of five films, up from the previously announced three.

"We set a trilogy as a placeholder because we knew there would be more than one movie, but ... we're pretty sure it's going to be five movies," Rowling told participants in London gathered at a fan event.

The British author of the best-selling "Harry Potter" books was a surprise addition at a question-and-answer event with the "Fantastic Beasts" cast in London and Los Angeles that was broadcast across the world. The news was welcomed by excited screams from the audience, while the cast, including Oscar-winner Eddie Redmayne, looked surprised as they heard it for the first time. The films will be released by Warner Bros, a unit of Time Warner

Inc. TWX.N.

A 4-minute "Fantastic Beasts" featurette shown at Thursday's event finally hinted at the wider plot of the film that has so far been under wraps.

The planned movies, designed as prequels to the Potter stories, will trace the rise of a powerful wizard named Gellert Grindelwald and his eventual 1945 duel with Albus Dumbledore, the popular wizard headmaster from the Potter stories.—Reuters

Sony Music to press over 10,000 Dylan CDs after prize announcement

TOKYO — Sony Music Labels Inc. decided on Friday to increase production of Bob Dylan's compact disc albums after receiving over 10,000 orders following the announcement that the US singer songwriter had won the 2016 Nobel Prize in literature.

"Dylan The Best" released in 2007 has been particularly popular among these orders, according to the unit of Sony Music Entertainment (Japan) Inc.

"We would like to conduct a campaign to pass on Dylan's music to the next generation," an official of the company said. The company will release a 36-disc box set in November featuring Dylan's concerts in 1966, the official said.—Kyodo News



A special section dedicated to Bob Dylan is set up in a Tower Records store in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward, on 14 October 2016, a day after the 75-year-old legendary musician won the Nobel Prize in literature. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japan seeks fire, earthquake safety strategy for foreign tourists

TOKYO — The Japanese government started discussions on Friday on a strategy for guiding foreign tourists to safety in case of fires and earthquakes, as it prepares to host the 2020 Olympics and

Paralympics in Tokyo. A panel under the Fire and Disaster Management Agency will compile the strategy around March 2018, which will then be provided to municipalities, stadiums,

airport buildings and other major facilities.

The panel will consider installing digital screens within such facilities and displaying emergency earthquake alerts and escape

routes in multiple languages.

Currently, there are no official guidelines on notifying foreigners of disasters or evacuation procedures, with facilities largely left to their own device.—Kyodo News

Gorilla briefly escapes its London Zoo enclosure



A general view of London Zoo where a gorilla escaped earlier today, London, Britain, on 13 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — A gorilla escaped from its enclosure at London Zoo on Thursday and some visitors had to be locked inside a cafe for their own safety before it was recaptured, British media reported.

The creature was caught after reportedly being tranquilized, the Press Association said. A Metropolitan Police spokesman said the incident was now over.

A gorilla named Harambe became the centre of global media attention earlier this year after being killed by staff at the Cincinnati Zoo in the United States, minutes after a three-year-old boy fell into its enclosure.—Reuters

Blast from the past — comet may have hit Earth 56 million years ago

WASHINGTON — Droplets of glass dug up in New Jersey and from the Atlantic seabed indicate a comet or some other extraterrestrial object may have smacked Earth 56 million years ago, roughly 10 million years after the asteroid impact that doomed the dinosaurs.

Scientists said on Thursday the collision may have triggered a particularly warm, ice-free period on Earth when important mammalian groups, including the primate lineage that led to humans, appeared for the first time.

The findings, published in the journal *Science*, marked the latest evidence of the profound influence that past impacts by celestial bodies have had on life on Earth.

The tiny spherical bits of dark glass, called microtektites, represent strong evidence of a collision with a comet or asteroid, the researchers said. They form when a space rock hits Earth's surface and vaporizes the spot where it lands, ejecting into the air bits of molten rock that solidify into glass.

The microtektites were excavated from a geological layer marking the start of the Eocene Epoch about 56 million years ago from three sites in southern New Jersey (Millville, Wilson Lake and Medford) and an underwater site east of Florida.

That coincided with the beginning of a warming event, called the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, associated with an accumulation of

atmospheric carbon dioxide. It lasted more than 100,000 years and drove up global temperatures about 9-14 degrees Fahrenheit (5-8 degrees Celsius).

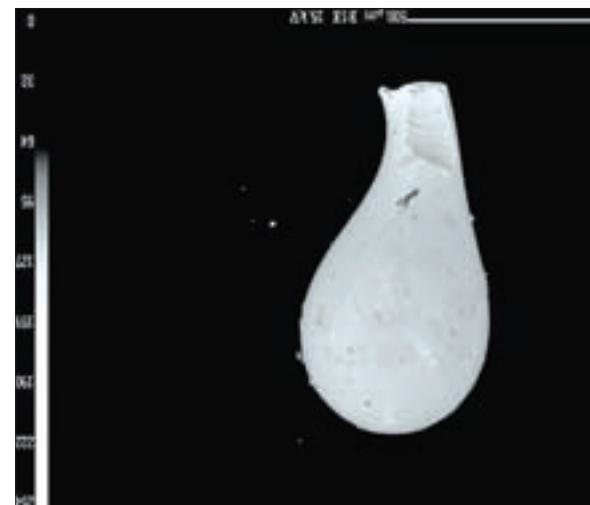
The impact of an asteroid about six miles wide (10 km) off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula 10 million years earlier killed off many marine and terrestrial creatures including the dinosaurs and enabled mammals to gain supremacy.

No such mass extinction was associated with the event 56 million years ago, although many single-celled ocean-bottom creatures disappeared. During the warming period, primates and two mammal groups — one that includes deer, antelope, sheep and goats and another that includes horses and rhinos — first appear in the fossil record.

The researchers said they have not found the location of an impact crater linked to the collision. They said geological evidence suggested the object was a comet.

"We can't really say where it was, or how big, at this point," said geochemist Morgan Schaller of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who led the study.

While the findings are not proof that the impact caused the warming period, they are "a rather dramatic finding in support of an impact trigger" for the climate changes, said planetary scientist Dennis Kent of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and Rutgers University.—Reuters



A tiny sand-grain-size tektites, thought to be created when vaporized material from an impact solidified while flying through the air, is shown in this image released in New York, US, on 13 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

05:26 Pm Discovering Tribes "MUUN (Episode - II)"

05:49 Pm Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"

06:03 Pm News

06:27 Pm Next Generation "Sammy Tin (Clarinetist)"

06:35 Pm A Way of Life: Karate-do

06:49 Pm Safari World

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm A Journey To Southern Shan State (Episode-1)

07:47 Pm Today Myanmar: Pristine Nature-Gaw Yan Gyi Island

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm National Literary Icon and Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature "Sayar Zaw Gyi" (Childhood and Student Life) (Episode-2)

08:50 Pm Director: Kyi Phyu Shin

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (05:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)

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

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

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

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am Great Shwedagon- Historic and Mysterious Places

07:54 Am Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive

08:45 Am Live: Anniversary of The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

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

(03:00 Pm ~ 04:52 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 08:45 Am)

04:52 Pm Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)

05:03 Pm News



PHOTO: REUTERS

Ranieri hopes attacking trio can link up to terrorise defences

LONDON — Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri is holding special training sessions for Jamie Vardy, Islam Slimani and Riyad Mahrez and hoping they can forge a prolific attacking threat capable of terrorising Premier League defences.

Leicester relied heavily on goals from Vardy and Mahrez when they romped to a maiden league title by a 10-point margin last season but this term have scored just eight times in seven league matches.

Ranieri is convinced the work he is putting in on his

strike trio will pay dividends, however.

“In the training sessions, I often put the three together to manage better and better in every situation. Then I believe in these three guys,” Ranieri told British media.

“There are special sessions, and also when we play matches they stay always together so they can link every time better, to get a better understanding.

“There is a very good link between the three and I think this is a strength of our future.”

Slimani has hit the ground running since joining the club for record fee in August with three

goals in five appearances but Vardy has not scored since the Algerian’s arrived.

“It’s important he (Slimani) understands our movement. And his team-mates, understand his movement, he is strong in the air, can hold a ball, it’s important the others get around him,” Ranieri said.

“He has to improve more how we play and how we move ... he has to understand the Premier League and he can improve more.”

Leicester, who are 12th in the table, travel to face seventh-placed Chelsea on Saturday.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Neymar vows to continue showboating despite criticism

BARCELONA — Barcelona and Brazil forward Neymar has said he will continue to show off his skills on the pitch even if his showboating upsets opponents.

The forward had to be substituted during Brazil’s 5-0 win over Bolivia last week after being elbowed in the face by Yasmani Duk having attempted to pass the ball through the striker’s legs.

Despite being left with a bloodied face, and Duk saying after the game that Neymar had to learn how to “respect his opponents”, the Brazilian remains unapologetic for his style of play.

“I’m definitely not going to change, players have to know that when they face me that I have my own way of playing and that is dribbling, scoring goals and helping my team mates,” Neymar said on Thursday.

“I’m happy playing that way and if they don’t like it there’s nothing I can do.”

Neymar’s ostentatious playing style has also come under scrutiny at club level.

The Barcelona forward upset Leganes player Lluís Sastre, who kicked out at the Brazilian for showboating during the Catalans’ 5-1 victory last month.

“They can kick me and elbow me, but not every player in the world can dribble, that is getting harder and harder to do,” Neymar added.—Reuters

Bautista Agut ousts Tsonga in Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI — Roberto Bautista Agut stunned ninth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-3, 6-4 to reach the Shanghai Masters semifinals on Friday.

The Spaniard broke his French rival three times in the first set and once in the second as he raced through in one hour 12 minutes at the Qi Zhong Tennis Centre.

Bautista Agut’s third win in a row over Tsonga, the last year’s runner-up, pitches him into a semifinal against either defending champion Novak Djokovic or Germany’s Mischa Zverev.

The 28-year-old world No. 16 is now into the last four at a Masters tournament for the second time after his Madrid Masters semifinal spot in 2014.—Xinhua



Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain plays against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France at Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai, China on 14 October. PHOTO: REUTERS



Australia’s Daria Gavrilova. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gavrilova stuns Kerber at Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG — World number one Angelique Kerber crashed out of the Hong Kong Open in the quarter-finals on Friday, the German slumping to a shock 6-3, 6-1 defeat to Australia’s Daria Gavrilova at Victoria Park.

Kerber, who also suffered a surprise loss to Elina Svitolina in the round of 16 at last week’s China Open, committed six double faults and struggled on serve

as her 38th-ranked opponent secured victory in an hour and 14 minutes.

Moscow-born Gavrilova fired five aces against the German as the 22-year-old continues her quest for a first WTA singles title, and she will next face Frenchwoman Kristina Mladenovic for a place in the final.

Her victory over Kerber, who surged to the top of the rankings after winning the Australian

and US Open titles this year as well as reaching the Wimbledon final, was her first against the German Olympic silver medallist in six meetings.

Mladenovic defeated American Bethanie Mattek-Sands 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(3) in the second quarter-final. Jelena Jankovic is the defending champion and the Serb faces another Frenchwoman, Alize Cornet, in a last eight encounter later on Friday.—Reuters

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