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Friday, 6 October 2017



Women light incense and candles for prayers during the Thadingyut (Festival of Lights) full moon day festival at the Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon last night. Thadingyut marks the end of the three-month-long Buddhist Lenten period. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Thadingyut festival celebrated at pagodas across Myanmar

Pagodas across Myanmar were packed with devotees on the full moon of Thadingyut yesterday, as devotees celebrated the end of the Buddhist Rain Retreat, a holy period for Buddhists.

On this auspicious day, Buddhists perform meritorious deeds at pagodas and monaster-

ies across the country.

In the evening, Buddhists light candles at pagodas across the country for the Thadingyut celebration to welcome the Buddha's descent from Tavatimsa, a celestial abode, after preaching Abhidhamma to a deva who had been His mother in a previous

existence.

Thadingyut falls on the seventh month in the Myanmar calendar, and the festival marks the end of the three-month long Buddhist Lent.

Festivals both large and small marking the full-moon of Thadingyut are commonly held

across the nation.

During festival days, observant Buddhists usually go to pagodas and monasteries to pay homage to the monks and offer alms and offertories. Traditionally, it is also a time to pay respect to elders.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends the rice donation ceremony

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mann Win Khaing Than yesterday attended a rice and offertories donation ceremony held at the Shwe Myin Win Pagoda in Myawaddy Township, Kayin State yesterday.

U Htoo Lwin, the deputy commissioner of the general administration department, officials, donors and well-wishers offered lunch to monks at the Tharthana Beikman building.

A Buddhist monks combined chanting ceremony was

also held at the ordination hall of Phayar Gyi monastery.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and his family donated offertories to 3,000 monks, nuns and novices from 317 monasteries in Myawaddy District at the platform and passageway of Shwe Myin Win Pagoda.

The regional regiment's high ranking officers and families, departmental officials and families from districts and townships, political parties, members



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mann Win Khaing Than and wife donate offertories to monk at the Shwe Myin Win Pagoda in Myawaddy Township. **PHOTO: HTAIN LIN AUNG**

of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, social and religious organisa-

tions, members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, members of the local fire brigade,

donors and local people also gave offertories. — Htain Lin Aung (IPRD)■

World Teachers' Day 2017 event held

A CEREMONY commemorating World Teachers' Day 2017 was held yesterday morning in Ministry of Education assembly hall, with Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivering a speech.

The event was opened by basic education teachers from Nay Pyi Taw and Pynmana singing a song titled "Today's Teacher".

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi then delivered a speech saying, "Today is an auspicious day when teachers around the world are honoured. Teachers are continuously moulding students to become good human beings, to work together in cooperation, to take responsibility and to be inventive. Good education can be provided only with good teachers."

Myanmar society considers teachers as one of the five gems (others being Buddha, dhamma, sangha and parents) and are valued and respected.

There are many ethics and morals that teachers need to maintain. From their way of dressing, addressing, to thinking and acting, they need to set an example to the human society and must live as a role model, said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister added that the difficulties, problems, inadequacies and challenges faced now need to be overcome with the help of good teachers to raise the education level by increasing school enrolment, reducing the dropout rate, encour-

aging primary level students to complete their primary education, increasing the quality of learning, providing the human resources required in respective regions through technical and vocational training, educating and training graduates who can compete internationally, and educating and training through Deep Learning.

To implement all of these effectively, the minister urged all to teach in freedom and empower teachers according to the theme of World Teachers' Day 2017 -- "Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers."

Following the minister's address, the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO secretary general Dr. Kyi Shwin read a joint message sent by the heads of five group leaders under the United Nations.

Myanmar Teachers Federation president Dr. Sai Khaing Myo Tun similarly read a message on behalf of his federation.

Afterwards, basic education students sang "Myat Saya" (revered teachers) and Dr. Win Tun, director-general of the planning and training department, education research bureau, reported a brief record of honorary doyens

and outstanding teachers.

The Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and officials then presented prizes to honourable personnel of World Teachers' Day, distinguished teachers, teachers with zero absent days and teachers who guided students in achieving awards at international competitions.

Prizes were then awarded to the winners of a basic education high school, middle school and primary school level essay competition by Pyithu Hluttaw Education Development committee chairman Dr. Tin Aung.

Winners of the university/college, basic education high school and middle school level essay competition were presented by National Education Policy Commission vice chairman U Nyi Hla Nge.

Winners of the university/college, basic education high school and middle school level poem competition and winners of the university/college level poster competition were presented by Local and International Organisations Affairs committee chairman U Min Oo.

An enactment of the song "Flower Caretakers" was performed by basic education teachers and students, after which Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and officials viewed the display booths at the World Teachers' Day event.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi presents prize to honourable personnel of World Teachers' Day on 5 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar, Japan to open vocational training school

A technical and vocational training school is being planned in co-operation with the Japanese government, according to a report in the Myawaddy Daily yesterday.

"To be able to open the training school, the Japanese government is still negotiating with the Myanmar government. The training school will be constructed in the Greater Yangon Area. The Japanese government will provide technical assistance, which is necessary for the training school. Implementation of the project will take two years," said Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, the ambassador of Japan to Myanmar.

"We still need to prepare for the choosing of a site to construct the school building, the hiring of both expatriate and local trainers and drawing the syllabus and curriculum to be able to open the training school, he added. Upon completion of construction, the vocational training school in Yangon will conduct training courses on pharmaceutical manufacturing, engine technology and computer technology. Upon completion of training, the school will create projects for the trainees to be able to qualify for decently paying jobs. The projects will include road transportation and ICT.— GNLM ■

Cultural heritage region of Bagan crowded with pilgrims

ON the full-moon day of Thadingyut, the Bagan region of ancient cultural heritage was crowded with pilgrims from both home and abroad, it was learnt.

“This year, school holidays coincided with long holidays of businesses and offices, making holiday-makers, especially local ones, go on more trips than last year. At many famous pagodas, there are traffic jams, especially at sunset. Being over-crowded with many vehicles some had to go back to their lodging places, without being able to enjoy the scenic views”, one of the tour

guides said.

Due to the influx of local pilgrims to Bagan this year, all hotels, motels and lodging houses have been booked since a week prior to the full moon day. Some local visitors were staying at monasteries in Bagan and Nyaung-U, with some pilgrims finding it difficult to find for lodging even for a night, it was learnt.

“We have come to know that it is required to book rooms for lodging in advance when paying a pilgrimage visit to Bagan. It is okay for men to sleep in cars, whereas we are not. To our great



Pilgrims lighting candles at Shwezigon Pagoda on the full moon day of Thadingyut in Bagan. **PHOTO: YE THURA AUNG (NYAUNG-U)**

pleasure, we had a good time from this Bagan visit”, said one female pilgrim.

A myriad of visitors from home and abroad visited the Bagan region, a bonanza period for eateries, souvenir and craft

shops, traditional clothes shops, vehicular businesses and bike rental businesses in Bagan and Nyaung-U, it was learnt.

At the night of full-moon day of Thadingyut, famous pagodas in the region — Shwe See

Gone, Ananda, Ah Lo Daw Pyae, Buu pagoda, Lawka Nanda, Hti-lo-Minlo pagodas are heavily congested with pilgrims, with local residents donating candle lights to the pagodas.—Ye Thura Aung (Nyaung-U) ■



The map shows the flow of members of the Muslim community from northern Rakhine State into Bangladesh continues. **PHOTO: MNA**

Muslims from Buthidaung Township at border to cross into Bangladesh

THE flow of members of the Muslim community from northern Rakhine State into Bangladesh continues, with large numbers of villagers gathering near the border to prepare for the crossing.

The Muslim villagers said they are leaving Myanmar due to livelihood difficulties, health problems, a belief in a lack of village security, a fear of becoming a minority and wanting to join others of their own race in Bangladesh. Large number of Muslim villagers from Buthidaung Township left for Bangladesh starting on 26 September and continue to mass near the border.

Upon learning of the departure of another group of Muslim villagers from Buthidaung

Township, security personnel in Maungtau Township conducting law enforcement measures went to inspect one of the gathering places on 3 October afternoon and found about 730 villagers from Kadi Village, Payapyinaungpa Village and Theintaung Village on the beach near Layinpyankwin Village, Maungtau Township and 382 villagers from Nanyakone village tract, Condine village tract, Thapyaychaung village tract, Darpaingsaya village tract and Ywetnyotaung village tract near Ngayantchaung Village, Maungtau Township. Another inspection on 4 October found a total of 1,443 villagers from Gudapyin village, Ponnnyolate village and Thabataung (south) village near the

mouth of Gawduthara creek.

From 26 September to 5 October, the number of people massing at the border who have left their villages were: on 26 September, 168 near Ywathit Village; on 27 September, 771 at a beach near Layinpyankwin village; on 28 September, 895 at the beach near Layinpyankwin village; on 29 September, 538 between the border fence and Panyaungbingyi village; on 3 October, 12,094 near the mouth of Gawduthara creek, 730 at a beach near Layinpyankwin village and 382 near Ngayantchaung village; on 4 October, 1,443 between Panyaungbingyi village and Ywathit village, for a total of 17,013. —Myanmar News Agency ■

One man arrested, arms, ammunition, mines seized

SECURITY personnel conducting law enforcement measures on Wednesday acted on a tip-off and searched the vicinity of Thawunchaung village and found weapons, ammunition and landmines. The perpetrators are suspected of being members of the ARSA, a terrorist group.

Security personnel found a 12-gauge smooth-bore shotgun with 14 shells, two string-activated IEDs measuring 5 inches in diameter and 8 inch in length,

two IEDs operated by remote control measuring 2 inch in diameter and 9 inches in length, three hand-made, 9-inch long steel pipe grenades, one hand grenade, one silver-coloured smoke grenade, two flares measuring 1.5 inches in diameter and 11 inches in length, two flares measuring 1.5 inches in diameter and 6 inches in length, nine key hooks commonly used for detonating IEDs, two batteries, and a connector measuring 3

inches x 2 inches x 1 inch connected with wires in a bush at the bottom of Mayu Mountain about 1,000 meters northeast of Thawunchaung village.

On Wednesday, after receiving a report of suspected terrorists arriving nearby, security personnel searched Myomakanyintan village tract and caught Mahmet Ayid, aged 23 with a steel sword about 18 inches long. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Arms, ammunition and landmines discovered on 4 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

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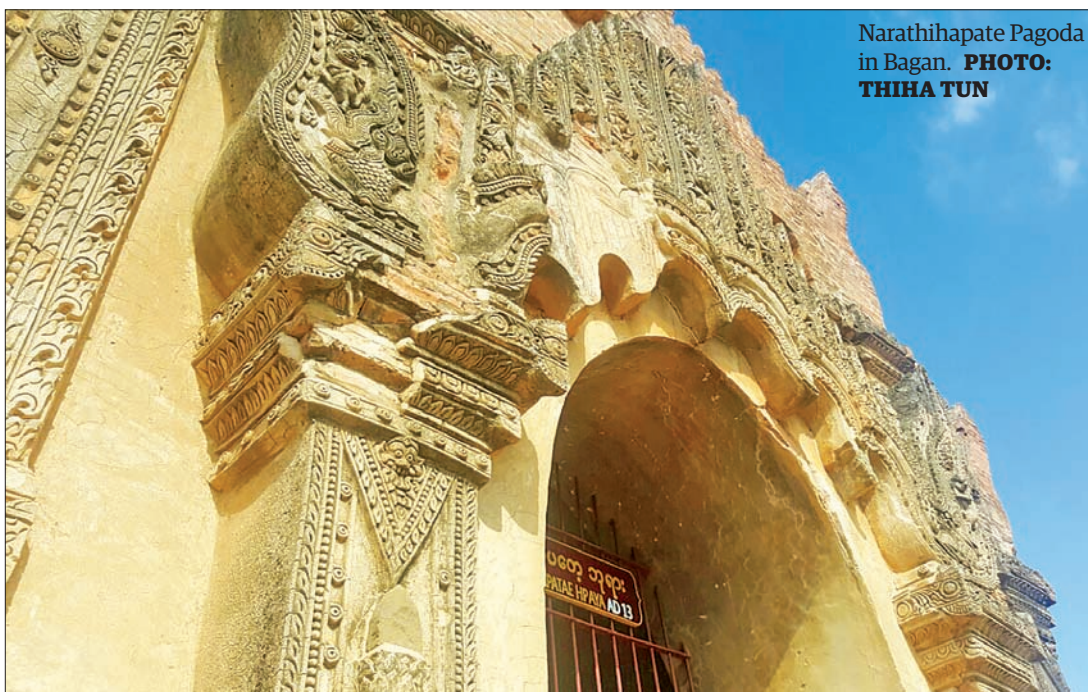
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

History students go on excursion to Bagan

THIRTY-four students of Myanmar History and Culture Diploma Course No. 3, Department of History, University of Yangon visited Bagan to tour the archaeological zone from 28 September to 1 October.

The group went on an excursion tour led by Professor Margaret Wong, head of the Department of History at the University of Yangon, with retired professor Dr U Kyaw Win, Secretary of the Myanmar Historical Commission, Dr Myint Thein, Retired Deputy Director-General of Department of Historical Research and a member of Myanmar Historical Commission, and U Than Lwin, retired professor and a member of Myanmar Historical Commission.

During the excursion, students visited Bagan's historic pagodas, literature, arts, culture and architecture, recorded Bagan era lifestyle and wall paintings, stone sculptures as well as religious and cultural activities.—Thiha Tun ■



Narathihapate Pagoda in Bagan. **PHOTO: THIHA TUN**



Myanmar History and Culture Diploma students tour the Bagan archaeological zone. **PHOTO: THIHA TUN**

Hlaing Tsp to receive more water supply by Kokkowa project

Townships in western Yangon, chiefly Hlaing Township, will receive additional water supply upon completion of the Kokkowa water supply project, which is being implemented in Htantabin Township, Yangon Region, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Currently, the YCDC supplies water from Hlawga and Joe Phyu water reservoirs to

the Yangon area. The YCDC has also supplied water from the Lagwan Pyin and Kokkowa reservoirs when they found the new water resources. The YCDC supplies water from Joe Phyu reservoir to Mingaladon, North Okkalapa and Mayangon townships, while water from Joe Phyu reservoirs via Yegu Yetoon factory to Yankin, South Okkalapa, Thingangyun,

Thakayta, Bahan and other western townships of the Yangon region.

Similarly, the YCDC also supplies water from Hlawga reservoir to Ward Nos 1,2,3,4,5,13 and 15 in Hlaing township and the houses situated on Insein Road. The YCDC has also dug tube wells and installed a piped water system in the Ward Nos. 2, 3 and 4 in

Hlaing Township.

Joe Phyu reservoir is so far away from Hlaing township that the water supply is insufficient for local consumption in Hlaing township. Therefore, the YCDC plans to distribute water from Kokkowa water reservoir to Hlaing township and other Yangon western townships when the Kokkowa water supply project is completed.—GNLM ■

Two dead after ferry capsizes on Taninthayi River

Two passengers died and four were missed when a ferry capsized in the Taninthayi River yesterday morning.

The two who died were identified as Daw San Kyu, 65, of Dawei ward in Myeik Township, and Daw Htay Htay Haling.

Upon hearing of the accident, Daw Tin Yee, Phythu Hlutaw representative of Kyun Su Township, U Khin Maung Aye, head of Kyun Su Township's general administration department,

Police Major Aye Min, officials, rescue teams and local seamen went to the scene and carried out rescue efforts. The fatal incident occurred as the ferry was on its way from Min Thann to Maung Hlaw villages on the Taninthayi River, with about 30 people on-board. The ferry was about 42 feet long, nine feet wide and about three feet high. It was driven by San Linn, also known as Moke Lone Kyaw. —Khaing Htoo, Myeik (IPRD) ■



Residents join in the search and rescue mission for the passengers of the ferry capsized in the Taninthayi River. **PHOTO: KHAING HTOO**



An employee works on a production line at a garment factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Myanmar's garment sector second biggest exporter

Myanmar earned more than US\$1 billion from garment exports between April and early September, making it the second leading item in the export sector, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Garment exports primarily go to Japanese and European markets. Additionally, it is also exported to South Korea, China and the U.S.

Myanmar's garment industry is currently operated on the Cutting-Making and

Packing (CMP) system, and those engaged in this industry are striving to transform from CMP into the Free on Board (FOB) system.

Myanmar's cheap labour attract foreign garment producers to make investments in the country, which sometimes brought the workers into conflict over wages, depending on the market condition.

The estimated value of garment exports was about US\$2 billion in Fiscal Year 2016-2017,

according to the Commerce Ministry.

In the export sector, natural gas and agricultural products constituted 25 per cent of all exports, while CMP garments accounted for 16 per cent. Minerals made up eight per cent, fisheries five per cent and forest, animal products and other products accounted for 21 per cent. There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, with a labour force of more than 300,000.—Ko Htet ■

FDI in first six months reaches over US\$4.1 billion

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first quarter of this fiscal year hit over US\$4.1 billion, according to statistics released by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

The MIC permitted 132 projects of FDI as of the end of September, with the manufacturing sector absorbing most of the investments.

That sector attracted FDI of \$1.4 billion, closely followed by the real estate sector with estimated investments of over \$1 billion. More than \$770 million of FDI flowed into other service sectors, while the transport and

communication sectors attained investments of \$423 million.

The agriculture sector attracted investments of \$130 million, while FDI into the hotel and tourism sector received about \$154 million. The power sector attracted FDI of \$116 million. Livestock, fisheries and industrial estate sectors also attracted a smaller amount of FDI.

Singapore put the most investments into Myanmar this year, followed by China and the Netherlands.

Since the 1988-1989 fiscal year, more than \$74 billion of FDI was recorded by the MIC.

The MIC set ten prioritised sectors for investment: agriculture and related services; value-added production of agricultural products; livestock production, breeding and production of fishery products; export promotion industries; import substitution industries; power sector; logistic industries; education services; the health-care industry; construction of affordable housing and establishment of industrial estate. The MIC will grant permits for investment proposals of these sectors as soon as possible.—Ko Khant ■

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Thadingyut festival celebrated at pagodas across Myanmar

FROM PAGE-1

Locals flock to Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw

In Nay Pyi Taw, Buddhist devotees flocked to the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

Other famous pagodas and houses were decorated with multi-coloured lights in Lewe and Tatkon townships of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Local people relaxed at Nay Pyi Taw Thatta Thattaha Budh Gaya, Water Fountain Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Gardens,

Safri Park, National Races Village and hot springs.

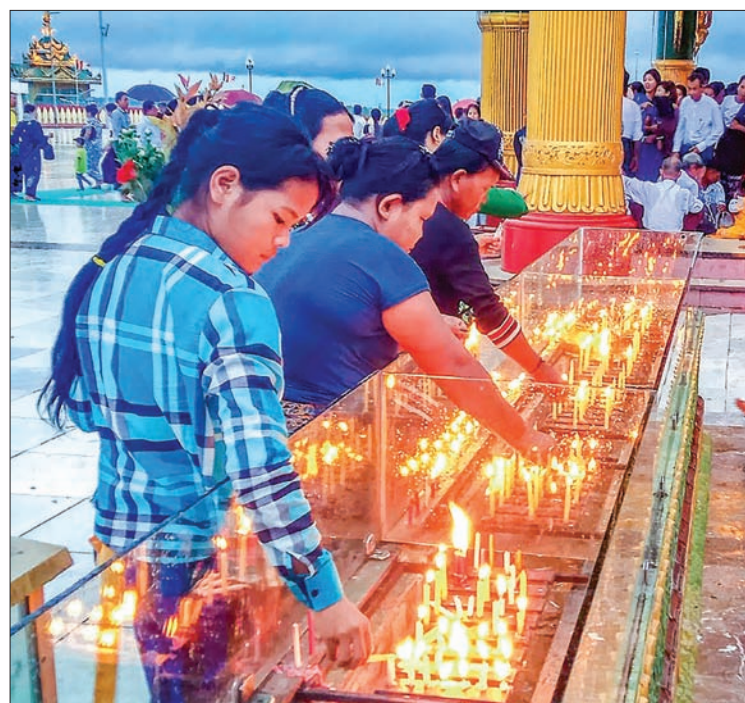
In Mandalay Region, famous pagodas such as Shwekyeemyin, Sacred Tooth Relic (Mandalay), Maha Muni Buddha Image and Aungdawmu pagodas were crowded with Buddhist people, who placed flowers, fruit, water, oil lamps and gold leaf before images of the Buddha. Many congregants chanted religious verses. In the evening, various buildings in Mandalay City were illuminated with multi-coloured lightings.—Myanmar News Agency



Buddhists celebrate Thadingyut festival at Shwesigon Pagoda in Maungtau, northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN**



A family lights candles at the Shwedagon Pagoda. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**



Pilgrims light candles at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Buddhists are seen at the Shwedagon Pagoda on Full Moon Day of Thadingyut. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**



Buddhist monks arrive the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw to celebrate the Thadingyut Festival. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**



People gather to get charity food as they participate in the Nibbana Market in Kawthoung. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE**





Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull speaks to state and territory leaders during a meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, on 5 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Australia creates photo ID database to help track terror suspects

SYDNEY — Australian police will create a national photo database using existing identification records held by state authorities to identify terror suspects, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Thursday, fanning privacy concerns among rights groups.

Turnbull said the database was intended to accelerate the process of identifying potential terror suspects, replacing a time-consuming system that could take up to a week when national authorities requested information from their state counterparts.

“It shouldn’t take seven days to be able to verify someone’s identity or seek to match the photo of someone who is a person of interest,” Turnbull told reporters in Canberra.

“It should be done seamlessly and in real time,” he said.

The biometric database stops short of enabling real-time

detection of suspects by scanning large crowds and alerting authorities when people on a security watch list are identified, similar to a system in place in China.

China leads the world in the use of facial detection, even allowing education authorities to use the system to catch students cheating on exams, but Australia will limit the new database to police and intelligence agencies only.

Turnbull said the system would not be connected to Australia’s existing network of closed-circuit televisions, easing fears that authorities were seeking to create an automated system of detection. Australia, a staunch US ally, is on heightened alert after a series of “lone wolf” attacks in recent years, and has sent troops to fight alongside the United States and other allies in Afghanistan and Iraq. —Reuters ■

Thousands queue to pay last respects to Thailand’s late King Bhumibol

BANGKOK — Almost 12 million people, or almost one sixth of Thailand’s population, have visited the glittering Grand Palace in Bangkok to pay their respects to the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej since he died last October, the palace said on Thursday.

Thousands lined the streets of Bangkok’s historic area near the Chao Phraya River to enter the palace on Thursday, the last day to see the late king before the royal cremation on 26 October.

Queues stretched for more than two km (1.2 miles), officials said, with many lining up since Wednesday.

“I’ve been here since 6 pm and I managed to pay respects at 7 am,” Tossapon Thongmak, 33, a Bangkok resident.

“We were rained on last night but this is a must - we must pay our respects to father,” he said. King Bhumibol died last October aged 88 and his body

has laid in state in a gold hall at the palace.

He was widely seen as a father figure and regarded as the nation’s moral compass during decades of on-off political turbulence including several coups, bloody street protests and a region-wide 1997/98 financial crisis.

He was succeeded in December by his only son, King Maha Vajiralongkorn, known as Rama X, who has since overseen a shake-up at the palace to give himself greater authority.

The royal funeral will be a mix of Buddhist religious ceremonies and Hindu Brahmin rituals. “This is the first time that many Thais will experience a royal funeral for a monarch. So the grandeur, the beauty, and the determination of everyone involved in the preparation is a new experience for all,” Tonthong Chandransu, a public relations official for the funeral

organisation committee and an expert on the Thai monarchy, told Reuters in an interview.

“From the architecture, the craftsmanship, the various preparations and their fine details, I have never seen this sort of dedication.”

Builders have been working for months on a royal crematorium that was built from scratch on a green in front of the palace.

“Time was needed in order to build heaven, based on imagination and belief systems that fused Buddhism with Brahmin Hindu traditions that are important in Thai society,” Tonthong said.

The palace has said it expects 250,000 mourners to attend the royal cremation.

Thailand’s tourism body has asked tourists to respect Thai sensitivities during what promises to be an emotionally-charged time.—Reuters ■



Well-wishers line up to pay respect to late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej near the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Talks to form NZ coalition government start, no decision until after final count

WELLINGTON — New Zealand First Party leader Winston Peters began talks on Thursday with the governing National Party and opposition Labour Party aimed at forming a coalition government after last month’s inconclusive election.

Peters, whose nationalist party holds the balance of power, has said no decision will be made until after a final vote count is

released on Saturday.

“It’s like being between the devil and the deep blue sea here,” Peters told reporters at Parliament, according to the New Zealand Herald.

Peters held talks with Prime Minister Bill English and members of his centre-right National in the morning and an afternoon meeting with Labour leader Jacinda Ardern, who told local

media the conversation was “a great start”.

“It’s setting the agenda, the ground rules, the protocols, how we’re going to go about it. Let’s have an agreement about precisely how we’re going to do this,” Peters said in a video posted on Fairfax Media.

English’s National Party won a 10-point lead over centre-left Labour in the 23 Sep-

tember election, but neither won enough seats to govern alone.

This is the third time Peters, 72, has held the balance of power after an election and he has previously formed coalitions with both National and Labour.

A complete count is due on 7 October when “special votes” which make up 15 per cent of the total and include overseas ballots are released. The final

count is not expected to change the outcome.

Peters has said he will make a final decision by 12 October.

Observers said Peters’ focus in talks will likely be on domestic policies, especially regional development to shore up his voter base, despite his rhetoric about limiting Asian investment and slashing immigration. —Reuters ■

Need to prioritise eradication of terrorism

Khin Maung Oo

STARTING from the early hours of August 25, over 30 security outposts in northern Rakhine State were severely destroyed in coordinated surprise attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists. As a result, many local nationals and residents were killed, injured and later relocated to safer places. Yet, news on these actual events were not mentioned at all by UN senior officials and on the websites of international media agencies, whereas affairs of refugees fleeing Maungdaw to take shelter in the neighboring country were being discussed over and over again and spoken aloud almost always appearing at the top of the agenda.

These affairs were actually due to the atrocious attacks and killings of ARSA extremist terrorists, but in the interna-

tional media there were nonstop discussions about refugee affairs, completely ignoring the terrorist attacks. By seeing this, we may note with regret that most of the international media were sympathetic to the terrorists. At the present time, many places all over the world are being attacked by extremist terrorists. It is ironic that the countries which have been loudly speaking about refugee affairs are facing the dangers of these extremist terrorists themselves.

Recently, it was learnt that an overseas-based media company conducted an interview with the one who got involved in the attack together with ARSA extremist terrorists, from a refugee camp near the Bangladesh border. We would no longer like to claim that the media company was the one encouraging terrorism. But it is

doubtful whether the camp was a refugee camp or a terrorist camp. In actuality, refugees and terrorists mingled freely in this refugee camp. Very recently, Bangladesh security forces seized some ARSA extremist terrorists together with weapons.

Across the world, extremist terrorists are being eradicated. But it can be assumed that terrorists are separately hiding, rather than they are being split. The Rakhine State affair of Myanmar is similar to these, so the Myanmar Government will systematically solve the problem with the spirit of humanitarianism. Accordingly, the United Nations and the international community should call for all communities to effectively deal with the dangers of extremist terrorists.

To our great sorrow, on October 1, while celebrating a music festival at Las

Vegas, in Nevada State, USA, a lone gunman fired into a crowd, killing 59 innocent people and injuring over 500. On Sept 15 as well, there was a bomb-blast on board the London Sub-way train, injuring at least 22 people. Meanwhile, 84 innocent people were killed in the attacks of ISIS's extremist groups in southern Iraq. In last May, over 20 people were killed in the bomb-blast at the stage show in Manchester, UK. In the recent attacks of terrorists, over 100 innocent were killed with nearly 100 people are missing.

These events are in fact the attacks of extremist terrorists. We firmly believe that the UN and all the nations of the world should make concerted efforts for the eradication of terrorism as a priority, so that further atrocious killings and displacements will not happen again. ■

The truth behind the northern Rakhine issue

Khin Maung Myint

THE following is the truest and most comprehensive account of the presence the self-identified race in northern-Rakhine in Myanmar. I claimed thus, because it was written without any prejudice or bias toward any race or religion. Also, it was written based on the personal experiences of a person, who had an in depth knowledge of the history of the emergence of the self-identified term and not from hearsays from either sides of the conflicts or from the lobbyists, NGOs and various envoys, rapporteurs, who are mostly biased. That person is me.

In the international media, both in the print and on the broadcast media, and also on the Internet social media, I had come across a lot of untrue stories. Most of them recognized the illegal Muslims as belonging to the self-identified who are being persecuted and denied citizenship by a country, in which they are one of the ethnic races. Those are absolute absurdities, falsely fabricated and misrepresented, with bad intentions and lack of journalistic ethics on the part of the international media. As for the social media, I have nothing to say as it is a place for everyone to voice their opinions freely and frankly and have heated debates, but lacked authenticity and reliability. Those with little or no knowledge of a particular issue or topic should not join the debates on the social media to discuss sensitive matters such as this issue.

Most of those who advocate for the so-called self-identified race claim that those people had been on our soil for many centuries, some even claiming that they had settled in the Rakhine

areas of Myanmar since the eighth century. That claim needs clarification, though the date is not a big issue, what is important is whether the people who migrated to those area in those days were really the people who mainly involved in the current northern Rakhine issue. To my knowledge, and I am quite confident that I am correct, they were people from the East Bengal State of India, which evolved into the present day Bangladesh. So, naturally they were Bengalis and being Bengalis, they could be Hindus and Buddhists only, as these were the domestic religions of those eras, years before the spread of Islam to those areas.

Another point to take into consideration is the fact that in the olden days there were no mutually accepted, well defined boundaries between the countries in our region like elsewhere in the world. The boundaries were only arbitrary, depending on which country was superior in military power at that time. Thus it can be assumed that the borders were always shifting from time to time. Besides, the borders may not be properly demarcated and people of different races and religions could freely roam from place to place, in search of greener pastures and suitable dwelling places to settle. This assumption is proved by the fact that there are many Rakhine and even some Bamar descendants living today in Bangladesh as citizens of that country. Likewise there are many Bengalis living in Myanmar as Myanmar citizens. Those who had been to the Maungdaw, Buthitaung and Rathetaung areas will know that more than ninety percents of the population are Bengalis some of who hold Myanmar citizen identifications. Also other

parts of the Rakhine State have many Bengalis residing there officially as Myanmar citizens. Even many other parts of the country have their share of Bengalis today. In Yangon, their community have increased noticeable and most of them are well established in various businesses. Many of them are more prosperous than the other average Myanmar citizens of Indian origins. So, where are their claims of persecutions? They are enjoying the full rights of the citizenship and in some cases they may be even getting more privileges than other national races as they are receiving aids from foreign Muslim countries.

Here, I would like to differentiate between our citizens of Bengali origin and the illegal Bengalis who are claiming to be a race of Myanmar, a non-existent race throughout our history. If you will go back in time for about two centuries, you will find yourself back in 1824, when the British annexed Arakan (now Rakhine). Even then, there must be quite a large population of Bengalis who were from the India proper, already in Arakan area, as Rakhine of today was used to be called. The British passed a statute, which recognized the Bengalis who were already there at the time of their annexation, as citizens of Burma (Myanmar) and those who came later as foreigners. Those people were mostly from Chittagong area, thus they were known in the old days as Chittagonians, which in Myanmar language they became "Khawtaws". Most of them were laborers or "colliers", in the Indian jargon. As most of the regions in their homeland were always inundated the whole year round, even today, they came to Rakhine to work as farm hands

during the paddy cultivation seasons and returned to their native places after the harvests. The Arakan or Rakhine area was known to them as "Rohin", and those returning from "Rohin" were called "Rohingya", meaning "returnee from Arakan", by the people back in their native land. Thus it's quite evident, the self-identified term does not represent a race but just a description to identify them. Those returnees from Arakan were nomadic peoples, without any permanent settlement. This statement can be clarified if you will care to go to Chittagong and make some inquiries. Some old timers there, who are not biased will tell you that my statement is true. They are scorned by many local people there.

My experience with them was nearly four and a half decades ago, while I was posted in Akyab (Sittway). In 1969, a campaign to screen and sort out the illegal immigrants and expel them by the route they entered into our country, was launched. The nature of my posting at that time put me in a position to take charge of that campaign, that was code named "Kyeegunn Sitsinyae" in Myanmar, which can be translated as "The Operation Crow". Over two hundred immigration officers, drawn from all over the country were placed at my disposal. The campaign was conducted in three townships, namely: Mrauk Oo, Pauktaw and Minpya in the Sittway District.

Our columns entered the villages during the nights, assisted by local policemen for security, as those areas were still not safe due to insurgency. They looked for suspicious Bengalis and asked for their National Registration Cards (NRC).

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The truth behind the northern Rakhine issue

FROM PAGE-8

Those who could not produce any identifications to prove their citizenships were rounded up, which numbered over two thousand. Those persons were thoroughly interrogated to identify their nationalities and almost all of them said they were Bengalis and admitted to be from the neighboring country. Some try to bluff in the beginning, but on further investigations they too were found to be illegal immigrants.

They were transported, to the Taungpro, close to the border with the other country. There they were individually asked again, from which country they were from and all answered they were from East Pakistan, as Bangladesh was known in those days and pointed their fingers towards that direction. After confirming thus, they were allowed to return to their native country and they crossed the shallow river dividing the two countries to return to where they came from without any protest.

That confirmed they were illegal immigrants. There was no outcry, whatsoever, from their community or the international communities, objecting their expulsion. Destitute people from the cyclone frequented and flood prone areas of the neighboring country entered our country to work as farm hands or coolies during the paddy growing seasons.

Most usually returned to their homeland after the harvests. Later many people did not return at all. They mingle with the local Bengalis, who were naturalized citizens and some even managed

to get NRC cards through illegal means. Over the years, since the British times, these people had been coming and going between the two countries at will. It was understandable, while under the British, as our country and theirs' were ruled as one—the British India. Thus it can be assumed that there were not much restrictions at the border crossings. However, after our Independence the incumbent government, irresponsibly recognized some later day illegal immigrants as citizens to gain the majority seats in the parliament. That was a grave mistake. The root cause of the recent communal conflicts was the influx of these aliens, which, in my opinion was left unchecked for nearly four decades since we were forced to accept the expellee, back in the mid nineteen seventies. My understanding was, more than double the amount of those actually expelled had to be taken back. That was a blow below the belt or in other words, our sovereignty had been undermined by the international communities who lobbied the United Nations General Assembly to pass the unfair resolution to receive the expellee back. It was not only their fault, but also our authorities, especially those who carried out the expulsions at that time were also to be blamed. Because, as I had stated somewhere in this article, when we expelled the aliens, there was no outcry or problem whatsoever, at home or abroad.

Here, I think I should make some clarifications as to who those so-called self-identified race is. I had already mentioned above that there was never an ethnic race in Myanmar

known as the self-identified term. They were in fact Bengali or Chittagonian collies who migrated to the Rakhine during paddy cultivating seasons and returned to their place of origin after the harvests since the olden days. Then how come, today,

This is not an issue of race or religion, but the problem of desperate and destitute peoples in search of greener pastures, using the excuse of being persecuted in Myanmar to make their migration to third countries easier.

they are claiming to be one of the Myanmar national races, who are being denied citizenship and are being persecuted? Their design is quite clear. They are using that false claim as a ploy to get recognized as the citizens of Myanmar, legitimizing their stays, even if it is only temporary, before they can proceed to another country and claim refugee status and to eventually get settled in a third country. My analysis and deduction is: it is just a ploy or a ruse to pave their way for their exodus to more prosperous places. Most of the boat people found in the region, claiming to be from Myanmar are in fact

from the neighboring country and most had never ever set foot on our soil. To further make my point more strong I will mention one incident, which I think, not many people knew about it. In 1969/70, an ungrounded movement organization was uncovered in Sittway and its leader and members apprehended. The documents confiscated from them revealed they were members of the Rohingya Muslim Independence Revolutionary Front (RMIRF). I do not think it would be necessary to point out what sort of an organization that was, judging from the usage of the words Independence, Revolutionary and Front. At the time they were exposed, we deduced that it was the reemergence of the Mujahideen Rebellion of the nineteen fifties that had been wiped out a long time ago. Their objectives were to continue the lost cause of that rebellion: to liberate the Northern Rakhine to establish a Muslim enclave. Their actions undermine the sovereignty of our country. However, after they failed to achieve that goal, they must have changed their strategy. Instead of taking up arms and fighting for Independence as they first set out to do, they are trying to swallow our ethnic races by the influx of illegal immigrants getting recognized as belonging to a national race or acquire citizenship statuses and eventually flush out the local Rakhines altogether. The world media, the international communities and even the UN fell for their deceit and are sympathetic to them.

If one should surf the website # Rohingya on the Internet, one would find that not only just a few persons from within our country, but many others from abroad, are carrying out propagandas extensively. I doubt those people really know where the Rakhine State is, though they are loudly denouncing the persecutions of the non-existent race. Surprisingly there is one person, with high credentials from an American university, who claims he is a Bamar, Buddhist and is the most active advocate for the so-called term. There is no reason for him to claim thus to speak up for the non-existent race, as this is not an issue of race or religion, but the problem of desperate and destitute peoples in search of greener pastures, using the excuse of being persecuted in Myanmar to make their migration to third countries easier. I am surprised to learn that they are gaining much attentions and sympathies worldwide. I cannot imagine the gullibility of those who believed them.

Before concluding, I would like to make my stand concerning the northern Rakhine issue clear. I am neither anti Muslim nor anti Bengali. I am not against the real descendants of the naturalized citizens of Bengali origins, getting recognized as citizens. This is their birth rights if they are born and bred in Myanmar, of parents both of whom are naturalized citizens. However, I am of the opinion that the later day illegal immigrants are entirely untitled to be granted the citizenship.

Raw opium, ICE and yaba pills seized

An anti-narcotics squad from Hpa-an searched a vehicle driven by Myo Zaw Win, also known as Kalay Nge, on Hap-an-Hlaing-bwe Road in Hpa-an at 4pm on Wednesday and confiscated 1,000 yaba pills and a phone handset from Myo Zaw Win. On the same day, an anti-narcotics squad from the northern Yangon Region searched Nay Htet Lin, also known as Tayokekyi, on Thamine Road, Ward 2 in Mayangone Township, at 4:30 pm. The

police seized 2,000 yaba pills and a phone handset from him. The squad also searched his house at No (123/A), Karyathukha street, Ward 12 in Yankin Township at 6pm and found 600 yaba pills and 0.45 grams of crystal methamphetamine, or ice.

Similarly, Lashio police force searched a motorcycle driven by Thaug Tin in Nwangkhio Township on Muse-Mandalay Union Road near the Oriental Toll gate at 3:30am on Wednesday and

found 580 yaba pills. On the same day, an anti-narcotics squad from Tachilek stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Law Kyu together with Li Gya on board at Lwalsiton village, Wanlone village-tract in Tachilek Township. The police discovered 1,330 yaba pills and 100 grams of raw opium on them. Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■



Nay Htet Lin (a) Tayokekyi seen together with drugs. PHOTO: MPF

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Macron's sharp tongue throws French Twitter into a frenzy

PARIS — Emmanuel Macron, who at the age of 39 has brought youth and vigour to the French presidency, is also developing a reputation for stinging and sometimes off-message language.

During a visit to a struggling company in the south-west of France on Wednesday, Macron was caught on video discussing clashes outside between the police and workers protesting his economic policies.

"Instead of kicking up a bloody mess, some of them would be better off going to see if they can get a job over there," he said, referring to a nearby aluminium factory battling to find workers. "Some of them have got the qualifications to do it," he said, adding: "It's not that far for them to go."

The comments lit up TV channels and Twitter, where they were relished by the far-left and far-right, who are keen to cast Macron, a former investment banker, as out of touch with the common man and a president for the rich.

Florian Philippot, until recently the number two in the far-right National Front party,



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech during a visit to The School of Application to the Trades of Public Works (EATP), which is devoted to apprenticeship and vocational training in Egletons, France, on 4 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

described Macron as having "contempt" for France's low-income workers.

A similar accusation was levelled by Clementine Autain, a lawmaker from the far-left France Unbowed party.

"It shows a great class contempt," she said. "He can't stop coming out with unfair com-

ments targeting the masses."

Macron's new spokesman, former journalist Bruno Roger-Petit, was quick to post the full video of Macron's exchange on Twitter, saying some outlets and opponents were circulating extracts that made the president sound worse than was the case.

"Truncated and taken out of context," he said of snippets on social media. "Emmanuel Macron was underlining that the search for solutions on jobs is everyone's responsibility." It is not the first time Macron has sparked controversy with his language and then shown little sign of contrition.—Reuters ■

British services sector shrugs off Brexit fears to continue robust employment trend

LONDON — Britain's dominant services sector continues its strong creation of new jobs, despite a slight fall in activity and continued worries over the potential harm of Brexit.

According to a survey report released Wednesday by financial information firm IHS Markit, Britain's Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) hit 53.6 in September, up from an 11-month low of 53.2 in August (above 50 shows growth).

The third quarter aggregate figure of 53.5, compared to an averaged 54.3 in the previous quarter, shows that growth in the services sector, which accounts for more than 75 per cent of the British gross domestic product (GDP), has eased slightly since

the second quarter.

Survey respondents cited a range of supportive economic fundamentals, including healthy labor market conditions and resilient consumer spending. This is positive for the British economy as consumer spending is currently the principal driver of growth.

However, there were also reports that worries about the business outlook, founded in uncertainty over the outcome of the Brexit negotiations, had acted as a headwind to growth.

"Below the pick-up in the headline PMI, the services survey also saw a drop in the new orders component of the survey, which, at 53.3, was at its lowest in 13 months," Sam Hill, chief

UK economist at Royal Bank of Canada, told Xinhua.

"This month's survey also showed input prices at a seven-month high with firms reporting higher food, energy and fuel bills as well as increased import prices, which was reflected in a rise in output prices. Despite also reporting rising staff salaries, firms continued to expand employment at a relatively robust rate," Hill said.

The rate of job creation eased only slightly from August's 19-month high, and a number of firms commented on increased unfilled vacancies at their business units, reflecting difficulties in recruiting suitably skilled staff.

Slack in the British economy has been reduced with un-

employment at 4.3 per cent and the number of people in jobs at a record high.

Hill said that with the PMI surveys for manufacturing, services and construction for the third quarter completed with Wednesday's services release, GDP growth looked likely to be 0.3 per cent quarter on quarter.

The positive performance of the services sector contrasts with the contraction in the smaller construction sector, as revealed in PMI figures on Tuesday.

The figures are unlikely to deter the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) from its intention of putting up the bank rate from its current record low of 0.25 per cent.—Xinhua ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Kazuo Ishiguro wins 2017 Nobel Prize for Literature

STOCKHOLM — Japanese-born Kazuo Ishiguro has won the Nobel Prize for Literature for uncovering "the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world," the Swedish Academy said on Thursday on awarding the 9 million crown (\$1.1 million) prize.

The award marks a return to a more mainstream interpretation of literature after the 2016 prize went to American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan. The prize is named after dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel and has been awarded since 1901 for achievements in science, literature and peace in accordance with his will.—Reuters ■

Controlled explosion carried out after London tube station closed due to suspect package

LONDON — A controlled explosion was carried out after a London tube station was put into lockdown Wednesday evening due to a suspect package, said the Metropolitan Police.

"We were dealing with a suspect package in #Islington. A controlled explosion was carried out, and the incident was stood down at 19.34 hrs," tweeted the Metropolitan Police. Police have been called to Angel Station in North London to investigate the security alert.—Xinhua ■

12 unaccounted for after Chinese fishing vessel collides with tanker

TOKYO — A total of 12 people were missing after a fishing vessel from the Chinese mainland collided with a tanker of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region early Thursday in international waters some 400 km north of the Oki Islands in western Japan, according to the Chinese Consulate-General in Osaka.

Four of the 16 crew members on board the fishing vessel have been rescued, while 12 others were still missing, said the consulate-general.—Xinhua ■

Las Vegas gunman stockpiled weapons over decades, planned attack

LAS VEGAS — The Las Vegas gunman who killed 58 people and himself in the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history stockpiled weapons and ammunition over decades, and meticulously planned the attack, authorities believe.

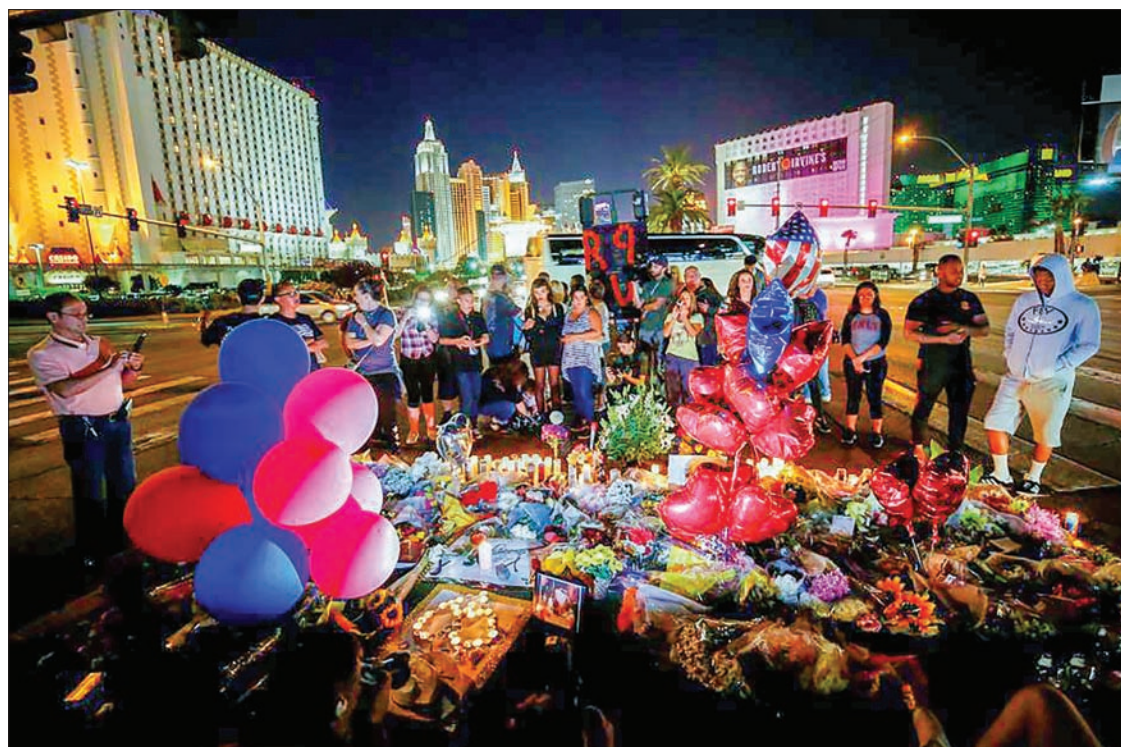
But what led Stephen Paddock, 64, to unleash the carnage he did remains largely a mystery.

“What we know is that Stephen Paddock is a man who spent decades acquiring weapons and ammo and living a secret life, much of which will never be fully understood,” Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said at a news briefing on Wednesday night.

Lombardo said he found it hard to believe that the arsenal of weapons, ammunition and explosives recovered by police in their investigation could have been assembled by Paddock completely on his own.

“You have to make an assumption that he had some help at some point,” Lombardo said.

Some 489 people were also injured when Paddock strafed an outdoor concert with gunfire on



People gather at a makeshift memorial in the middle of Las Vegas Boulevard following the mass shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 4 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Sunday night from his 32nd-floor suite of the Mandalay Bay hotel on the Las Vegas Strip. He then took his own life.

There is evidence that Paddock tried to survive and escape. He also may have scouted out the location, renting a room at

the Ogden, a nearby hotel, during the Life is Beautiful festival a week earlier, Lombardo said.

Police recovered nearly 50 firearms from three locations they searched, nearly half of them from the hotel suite. Twelve of the rifles there were fitted with

so-called bump stocks, officials said, allowing the guns to be fired almost as though they were automatic weapons.

Lombardo said investigators were examining the possibility Paddock's purchase of more than 30 guns in October

2016 may have been precipitated by some event in his life. He did not elaborate.

There remained no evidence as yet “to indicate terrorism” in the shooting spree, said Aaron Rouse, FBI special agent in charge of the Las Vegas field office.

Paddock's girlfriend Marilou Danley was questioned by the FBI on Wednesday and said in a statement she was unaware of the Paddock's plans.

“He never said anything to me or took any action that I was aware of that I understood in any way to be a warning that something horrible like this was going to happen,” Danley, 62, said in a statement released by her lawyer Matt Lombard.

Danley returned late on Tuesday from a family visit to the Philippines. She is regarded by investigators as a “person of interest”. Lombard said his client was cooperating fully with authorities.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation official in Las Vegas, meanwhile, said no one has been taken into custody. —Reuters ■

Putin expects mutual interests to improve Russian-US relations

MOSCOW — The fundamental mutual interests of Moscow and Washington, including fighting terrorism, will help to improve their relations, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday.

Addressing a plenary session of the Russian Energy Week, which kicked off in Moscow on 3 October, he said the two countries share fundamental interests, including energy policies, fighting cybercrime, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, anti-terrorism efforts and dealing with regional conflicts.

“I think these fundamental mutual interests will sooner or later change the nature of Russian-US relations for the better,” Putin said.

“Some forces are making use of Russian-American relations to resolve internal political problems in the United States,”

he said.

The REW, being held in Moscow and St. Petersburg, will end on 10 October. Participants will discuss prospects for the development of the core sectors of the economy, including oil, gas, coal and petrochemical industries.

On Tuesday, Putin had said that Russia is ready to cooperate with the United States on the basis of equality.

While accepting the diplomatic credentials of new foreign ambassadors, including the new US envoy to Russia Jon Huntsman, Putin called the current level of Russian-US relations “unsatisfactory”.

He said Russia advocates constructive, predictable and mutually beneficial cooperation based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, respect of national interests and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. —Xinhua ■

Scorched earth of Portugal fires may hold seeds of a renewal

MACAO, (Portugal) — Large parts of Portugal's interior are desolate places these days, with charred trees as far as the eye can see and an acrid smell lingering in the air.

Sixty-four people died in this year's summer fires, Portugal's deadliest natural disaster in living memory. Three months after the biggest blaze, it's hard to imagine anything growing again in the hills around towns like Macao.

But the blackened terrain may hold the seeds of a plan that could not only stop the cycle of deadly fires but also rejuvenate the local economy with commercial farming and forestry projects.

At the heart of the issue lies age-old traditions in management of the land, made up mostly of small plots that have become fire hazards after they were abandoned by new generations of landholders who moved to the cities.

Locals say they need government help to merge the

plots into economically viable units that will give absentee owners an incentive to build firebreaks and clear highly flammable undergrowth and wild eucalyptus trees.

“We need a big revolution to make sure this doesn't happen again but I don't know if anybody will do it,” said Paula Fernandez, mayor of the village of Castelo, which was hit a day after the inferno started north of her parish in June.

Fernandez and two colleagues fought the flames themselves with a small water truck because firefighters never came. They saved the village but not the surrounding forest, part of the 45,000 hectares destroyed in this area alone in just five days.

Spurred into action by the fatalities and 1 billion euros in fire losses, the government agreed to create a legal framework around merging the plots which will include a central land registry, federal grants and tax incentives for

landowners.

The Minister of Agriculture, Forest and Rural Development, Luis Capoulas Santos, told Reuters his ministry stands ready with 600 million euros for forest reform until 2020.

There will be “a generous and attractive package of tax benefits which aims to encourage and stimulate the creation of these entities,” he said in an e-mail.

The details of how the system will work have yet to be finalised, however, creating concern the initiative will wither.

“The problem has been that politicians haven't been ready for our solutions. They still think the small landowners are here, clinging to their plots. They are not,” said Antonio Louro, deputy mayor of Macao and architect of its land reforms.

“The only way to stop the cycle of fires every 10 to 15 years is if we break it by intervening.” —Reuters ■

Party of Hope to call for nuclear plant ban in Constitution

TOKYO — The newly formed Party of Hope will call for Japan to abandon nuclear power and enshrine that decision in a revised Constitution, its draft policy manifesto showed Thursday.

The party led by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike also plans to introduce an economic policy mix dubbed “Yurinomics,” according to the manifesto, which will be presented in tandem with its electoral pledges for the lower house poll on 22 October.

Despite her position at the center of the new party’s campaign, Koike reiterated Thursday that she does not plan to resign as governor to run in the general election, for which official campaigning will begin on Tuesday next week.

The Party of Hope supports -- as does the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party and the smaller Komeito party -- revising the 70-year-old Japanese Constitution for the first time.

In its pledges for the House of Representatives election, the Party of Hope is expected to promise to scrap all of Japan’s nuclear power plants by 2030.

According to the draft policy manifesto obtained by Kyodo News, enshrining that nuclear power-free status in the Constitution would protect it from interference by future govern-



Party of Hope leader Yuriko Koike (front L), alongside Democratic Party leader Seiji Maehara (front R), speaks to reporters in Tokyo, on 5 October, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ments.

The Abe administration, meanwhile, aims to bring some of Japan’s idled reactors back online under safety regulations that were tightened in the wake

of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

The Yurinomics name riffs off the “Abenomics” policy package championed by Abe. Koike’s party, founded just last week,

aims to take power from the coalition that has ruled under Abe for nearly five years.

But Koike reiterated she will not stand in the election.

The governor said she was

asked to run during a meeting on Thursday with Seiji Maehara, leader of the disintegrating Democratic Party, whose conservative wing has mostly been absorbed by the Party of Hope.

“I communicated (to Maehara) again that I will not run,” she told reporters after the meeting.

But Maehara hinted that it is still not too late for her to decide to run before official campaigning begins.

“(Koike) herself may be thinking that this is all settled... (but) in the end this election is about who will be prime minister. I think Ms. Koike is the one,” he told reporters after the meeting.

The two are planning to meet again on Friday, a source close to the matter said.

The Party of Hope has still not made clear who it would like to see as prime minister if not Koike.

Maehara told reporters that he and Koike agreed that the Party of Hope should make clear its preferred prime minister soon, while Koike said she will “thoroughly discuss (the matter) with my colleagues.” The Party of Hope’s draft manifesto says it will support the adoption of renewable energy technologies in order to make them account for at least 30 percent of Japan’s energy mix.—Kyodo News ■

Indian election commission ready for simultaneous national, state polls from 2018

NEW DELHI — India’s independent Election Commission has said it will be able to hold simultaneous national and state elections from next year. “We will be logistically ready to hold simultaneous polls by September 2018, but it’s up to the government to take a decision and make necessary legal amendments for it,” India’s Election Commissioner

O.P. Rawat told the media in the central city of Bhopal Wednesday evening. The top poll official also said the commission has already ordered more electronic voting machines (EVM) and will have them by next year. “We will have four million voter verifiable paper audit trail EVMs by September 2018,” he added.

Indian Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi had earlier this year made a strong pitch for simultaneous holding of national and state elections, urging all political parties to rise above politics to consider the proposal. The next general elections are slated for 2019. But not all Indian states are scheduled to have polls that year. Polling takes place every five years in this country.—Xinhua ■

Clean energy to reach 90 pct in Russia’s power generation by 2035

MOSCOW — Clean energy produces about 84 per cent of electricity in Russia for the moment and the figure is expected to reach 90 per cent by 2035, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday.

“Russia’s energy balance is one of the cleanest among the world’s largest economies,” the president said while addressing a plenary session of the Russian Energy Week (REW), which kicked off in Moscow on 3 October.

According to Putin, currently over one-third of Russia’s electricity is produced with nuclear energy, hydroelectric energy and other renewable energy sources, while about 50 per cent of it is generated with natural gas,

which helps to significantly reduce emissions.

The renewable energy power generation in Russia will increase several-fold in the next two decades in accordance with Russia’s national energy strategy, he said.

“The ongoing change in Russia’s energy balance will reduce domestic oil consumption, and the methods for coal use will become more environmentally friendly,” Putin said.

The REW, being held in Moscow and St. Petersburg, will end on 10 October. During the forum, participants will discuss prospects for the development core sectors of the economy including oil, gas, coal and petrochemical industries.—Xinhua ■

Cambodia’s rice exports up 17 per cent in nine months

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia exported 421,966 tons of milled rice in the first nine months of 2017, a 17 per cent rise compared with the same period last year, according to the latest report on Thursday.

China is the top buyer of Cambodian rice, followed by France and Poland, said the

report released by the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export, adding that 60 countries and regions had purchased Cambodian rice.

Export to China accounted for 124,760 tons, or 29.5 per cent of the total exports, during the January-September period this year, the report said.

Cambodia is expected to export 200,000 tons and 300,000 tons to China in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

The Southeast Asian country produces over 9 million tons of paddy rice a year. With this amount, it has over 3 million tons of milled rice for annual export.—Xinhua ■

Abandoned by tourists, Bali town counts cost of Indonesia volcano

AMED, (Indonesia) — A Balinese town once bustling with holidaymakers has almost emptied of tourists after warnings that nearby Mount Agung could erupt at any time — a snapshot of the growing cost the rumbling volcano poses to Indonesia's economy.

Business has slumped at many hotels, dive resorts and restaurants in towns around the volcano since authorities issue the highest alert level for Mount Agung last month.

An owner of a dive center in Amed, around 15 km (9 miles) from the volcano and just outside the official "danger zone", said many of her guests had canceled.

"If (the situation) lasts for nine months or more... then we have no choice but to close down because we will have no money left to operate and



Jemeluk beach is seen some 15 km away from Mount Agung, a volcano on the highest alert level, in Amed on the resort island of Bali, Indonesia, on 2 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

pay the staff," said Helene Rabate, a Spaniard who runs the centre.

Cafes and restaurants were largely empty and few visitors were seen at the usually crowded dive centers of this seaside town.

The last time Agung erupted was in 1963, when more than 1,000 people were killed. Since then, tourism has transformed towns like Amed from sleepy fishing and agricultural villages.

Restaurant own-

er Wayan Widarti has seen a dramatic drop in customers. "It could be worse than when the Bali bombing happened because there's uncertainty on when (the eruption) is going to happen and how long we wait," she said, re-

ferring to the 2002 night-club bombing that killed 202 people and prompted a slump in visitors to the holiday island.

Bali, famous for its surf, beaches and temples, attracted nearly 5 million visitors last year — more than half the total number of foreign tourists to Indonesia.

Tourism, a cornerstone of Bali's economy, is Indonesia's fourth-biggest earner of foreign currency after natural resources like coal and palm oil.

Indonesian policy makers have been seeking to boost an economy whose growth rate has been stuck at around 5 per cent for the last few years, so any protracted damage to tourism will be particularly unwelcome.

Indonesian officials have said Bali remains safe for tourism, but there have been cancellations

even in areas further away from the volcano amid concerns that ash clouds could disrupt air connections.

Some tourists are still in the area at a safe distance from the volcano.

"We plan to... just follow security instructions... and take a fast boat to escape if there is an eruption," said Arlin Shiu, a woman from Hong Kong who was traveling with a friend. Disaster management authorities have imposed an exclusion zone of up to 12 km, prompting more than 140,000 residents to flee to neighboring villages. "For people who live in safe zones, there is no reason to evacuate," Bali governor I Made Mangku Pastika said, adding that makeshift evacuation centers were straining under the weight of thousands of extra evacuees. —Reuters ■

IEA lifts five-year renewables forecast after record 2016

LONDON — The International Energy Agency (IEA) raised its forecasts on Wednesday for renewable energy over the next five years following a record 2016, adding that renewables growth is squeezing natural gas and coal. In its medium-term renewables market report, the IEA expects global renewable electricity capacity to rise by more than 920 gigawatts, or 43 per cent, by 2022, due to supportive policies for low-carbon energy and cost reductions for solar PV and wind.

The projected growth is 12 per cent more bullish than the IEA's forecast last year. In 2016, net additions to renewable energy capacity—including hydro-power, solar, wind, bioenergy, wave and tidal—set another world record, growing by 165 gigawatts (GW), 6 per cent more than in 2015, the report said. Solar PV capacity grew by 50 per cent to reach more



Solar panels are seen in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China, on 18 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

than 74 GW last year and it was the first time solar PV additions rose faster than any other fuel, surpassing the net growth in coal.

"Our expectation is that (growth in) renewable electricity generation in the next five years will be higher than electricity generation from coal and natural gas times two," IEA executive director Fatih Birol told journalists.

The agency sees renewable power generation rising by more than a third

to 8,169 terawatt-hours (TWh) in 2022 — from around 6,012 TWh in 2016 — which is equivalent to the combined electricity consumption of China, India and Germany.

"Natural gas will continue to grow but moving toward the industrial and heating sectors," Birol said. "We still think LNG (liquefied natural gas) will be a key source for power generation especially in Asia, even though we expect renewables to grow

as well," he said.

The Paris-based IEA, the West's leading energy forecaster, had been criticized by environment campaigners in previous years for underestimating the growth of renewables and over-emphasizing the continued role of fossil fuels.

Renewables will account for 29 per cent of the global energy mix in five years' time, compared to the 24 per cent forecast last year. "While coal remains the largest source of electricity generation in 2022, renewables close in on its lead.

In 2016, renewable generation was 34 per cent less than coal but by 2022 this gap will be halved to just 17 per cent," the report said. China will be responsible for the largest amount of global renewable capacity growth, driven by strong government targets, economic incentives and air pollution concerns. —Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bylaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bylaws 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185



Charlotte Carroll poses as she arrives for the opening night gala and screening of the film "Breathe" during the British Film Institute (BFI) London Film Festival at Leicester Square in London, Britain, on 4 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Lights, camera, action: London's Film Festival opens

LONDON — Red carpets are being unrolled as the British capital prepares to play host to some of international cinema's big names for the 12 days of the London Film Festival.

The opening night gala is the European premiere of "Breathe", the directorial debut of Andy Serkis, who came to fame as an actor for his motion-capture portrayals of CGI characters such as Gollum in the "Lord of the Rings" films.

Stars including Oscar-winner Emma Stone and Bryan Cranston will be at the event promoting films - the tennis dra-

ma "Battle of the Sexes" and the Richard Linklater-directed comedy "Last Flag Flying" respectively.

The 61st edition of the festival will show 243 feature films from 67 countries, as well as a slew of shorts and documentaries.

"It is a delight to welcome some of the most thrilling storytellers from across the world to the Festival - we love to watch and engage with the extraordinary conversations that the Festival brings," said Amanda Nevill, chief executive of the British Film Institute. —Reuters ■

Jason Aldean, Jennifer Lopez cancel shows after Las Vegas shooting

LOS ANGELES — Country star Jason Aldean said on Tuesday he would cancel three shows this week to honour victims of the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history in which a gunman opened fire on a crowd at a Las Vegas music festival during the singer's performance.

Aldean cancelled stops in Los Angeles, San Diego and Anaheim, California, as part of his "They Don't Know Tour." The tour will resume in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on 12 October and refunds will be offered for the cancelled shows.

"I feel like out of respect for the victims, their families and our fans, it is the right thing to do. It has been an emotional time for everyone involved this week, so we plan to take some time to mourn the ones we have lost and be close with our family and friends," Aldean said in a statement.

The singer added: "Our first time back onstage will be a very tough and emotional thing for us, but we will all get through it together and honour the people we lost by doing the only thing we know how to do - play our songs for them."

Aldean was on stage on Sunday night at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival when Stephen Paddock, a retiree armed with multiple assault

rifles, strafed the crowd at the concert from a high-rise hotel window, killing 59 people. The massacre left more than 525 people injured.

Jennifer Lopez, currently in her "Jennifer Lopez: All I Have" residency at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas, also cancelled her scheduled shows this week. The performances will be rescheduled for later dates.

"Jennifer is heartbroken that such a senseless tragedy occurred. Her thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families," the singer's representatives said in a statement on Tuesday.

Organizers of the Austin

City Limits Music Festival in Texas said on Tuesday they would offer refunds to people who no longer want to attend for security concerns after the Las Vegas shooting.

Earlier this week, Warner Bros. said it would scale back Tuesday's world premiere of sci-fi film "Blade Runner 2049" after the Las Vegas tragedy, cancelling the red carpet, where stars chat to reporters and pose for photos.

ESPN's "Monday Night Football" and ABC's Monday episode of "Dancing With the Stars" both opened with a moment of silence for the victims of the tragedy. —Reuters ■



Jennifer Lopez at an event in West Hollywood, California, US, on 19 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

James Arthur wants to try out acting

LONDON — Singer James Arthur has said he wants to try his hand at acting as he wishes to see himself turn into another person altogether.

The 29-year-old musician said he is bored of being just himself and wants to be creatively inspired, reported DigitalSpy.

"I would like to get involved in acting. My life for the last five years has been about being James Arthur, I would like to be someone else."

"I like to mess around and be different characters. It's being creative in a different way,"

Arthur told Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield on "This Morning" show.

The former "X Factor" winner also dished about his book and said he felt obliged to write about his traumatic childhood to help those in need.

"I felt like I needed to help other people who were struggling with mental health issues. I go right back to my childhood. 'I felt a little embarrassed about writing a book, the only way I was going to do it was if I could be candid and honest,'" he said. —PTI ■

Patricia Arquette to make directing debut with 'Love Canal'

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actor Patricia Arquette is set to make her feature film directorial debut with "Love Canal".

The movie is inspired by the 1970s housewives-turned-activists who are at the center of Will Battersby's upcoming documentary "The Canal", reported Deadline.

The story will follow a band of working class women from the titular New York neighbourhood who stood up to govern-

ment power and the chemical industry, ultimately pressing President Jimmy Carter to approve relocating their families from houses built atop lots previously used as toxic chemical dumping grounds.

Brad Desch has penned the screenplay. Arquette is also producing the project with Safe House's Tory Tunnell and Battersby. Arquette, 49, previously directed a pair of episodes from her NBC series "Medium" in 2009. —PTI ■

WWII shipwreck found off northern Australia after 74 years

SYDNEY — Researchers said Thursday they have discovered the wreck of an Australian merchant ship sunk by Japanese aircraft during World War II, after it lay hidden in the sea off northern Australia for 74 years.

For many years, the whereabouts of the SS Macumba had been a mystery, but a joint investigation between the Northern Territory government and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation led to its discovery the previous day.

David Steinberg, senior heritage officer with the Northern Territory government and principal investigator in the search for the SS Macumba, said the discovery brought on mixed feelings.

"I was excited about discovery, but you have to remember it is a tragedy," he told Kyodo News. "Three people died on that ship and one body wasn't recovered so it's a war grave site."

The 2,540-ton merchant ship was sunk by two Japanese aircraft on 6 August, 1943, while transporting a cargo of supplies from Sydney to the northern city



The Australian merchant ship SS Macumba is shown in this undated supplied photo. The 2,540-ton vessel was sunk in August 1943 by two Japanese aircraft during World War II and the wreck lay hidden off the coast of northern Australia for over seven decades, until it was discovered on 4 October 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

of Darwin. The ship's captain and 36 crewmen survived.

Steinberg said the discovery of the wreck after so many years is a significant reminder of the role northern Australia played during World War II.

"We were part of the front

line during the war," the marine archaeologist said.

Steinberg said many Australians remember the Japanese air raids on Darwin in February 1942 that killed 235 people, but other attacks are not so widely known.

"(The bombing of Darwin) was so devastating, it's well remembered," he said. "But they don't remember that attacks from the Japanese continued for years. Macumba was attacked in August 1943, over a year after the bombing of Darwin."

After over 10 hours of search, investigators found the sunken vessel off the Northern Territory coast in the Arafura Sea, at a depth of 40 meters. According to researchers at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the ship looks "upright and relatively intact."

Given the size of the vessel, the Macumba has likely formed an artificial reef, providing habitat for a variety of marine life, said the organization's Marine National Facility Voyage Manager Hugh Barker in a statement.

"Our drop camera even got a close-up photo of an inquisitive reef shark that seemed to be guarding the site. It was a special night for all on board and we are so pleased to find the final resting place of Macumba."

Steinberg and his team will now work with the Australian government to declare the Macumba a historic shipwreck to be protected for years to come.

"We're looking to put a protected zone around the site to prohibit entry into it until we understand its full significance," Steinberg said.—Kyodo News ■

From WALL-E to POST-E: Robot helps deliver mail in German town

BERLIN — Postal workers in the western German town of Bad Hersfeld are getting a helping hand from a new colleague. A bright yellow, four-wheeled robot will carry mail and packages and follow them as they do their rounds.

The scheme is being tried by German postal and logistics company Deutsche Post DHL, which says the custom-built "PostBOT" can carry loads of up to 150 kilograms and can navigate around obstacles.

With the rise of online shopping, postal workers are having to handle ever-heavier packages. Deutsche Post staff already have access to electric bikes and trikes to help them with their deliveries.

The robot, which can carry up to six post trays, uses sensors to track the legs of the postal worker and can be used in all weather conditions, the company said.

"Day in and day out, our



A distribution centre of German postal and logistics group Deutsche Post DHL is pictured in Obertshausen, Germany in 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

delivery staff performs outstanding but exhausting work. We're constantly working on new solutions to allow our employees to handle this physically challenging work even as they continue to age," Deutsche Post executive Juergen Gerdes said in a statement.

The "PostBOT" design is based on a robot from French company Effidience.

The trial in two delivery districts in Bad Hersfeld will run for six weeks, after which Deutsche Post will assess the project to see how further improvements can be made.—Reuters ■

World's biggest book sale kicks off in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — The world's biggest book sale, better known as the "Big Bad Wolf book sale," got underway in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo on Thursday with 1.5 million books on sale.

Founded by Managing Director Andrew Yap and Executive Director Jacqueline Ng in Malaysia, the sale is aimed at encouraging the reading of English books at reasonable prices.

This year's sale, inaugurated in Colombo by Education Minister Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, will be open 24 hours a day, providing book enthusiasts the opportunity to shop non-stop for 10 consecutive days. It will end on 15 October.

The Big Bad Wolf is backed in Sri Lanka by ProRead Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a firm with a mission of spreading knowledge with affordable books, and is also

supported by the Ministry of Education.

Nishan Wasalathanthri, director of ProRead Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, said that they were excited about the opportunities that the Big Bad Wolf Book Sale can offer avid Sri Lankan readers and parents.

"From the very beginning, we identified the need for a book sale of this nature in Sri Lanka, and we are positive that the visitors to the sale will be delighted with the choice of books available, as well as the many activities that we have lined up to encourage a more knowledge-sharing community," he said.

According to media reports, the Big Bad Wolf held its first sale in 2009 in Selangor state in Malaysia. It has also been held in Thailand and Indonesia.—Xinhua ■

Myanmar loses to Thailand in football friendly

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar lost to a strong Thailand team in a friendly match yesterday at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay by a score of 1-3.

The exhibition match was in preparation for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup Qualification.

Both teams played energetically from the start, but the Thai strikers were too strong for Myanmar defenders to effectively block the ball. Even in the early minutes of the first half, Thailand made counter attacks and Myanmar lost some possessions. At the 12-minute mark, Thailand got the opening goal scored by striker Mongkol Tossakrai. The Myanmar strikers tried to respond and had golden opportunities to even the score, but Thailand's keeper was too strong and was able to clear the ball and make numerous saves. Thailand got its second goal at 32 minutes by striker Theersil Dangda, who converted



Myanmar shining player Aung Thu carries the ball at yesterday match in Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO:MFF**

a slow pass. In the second half, Myanmar changed tactics and star Aung Thu scored for Myanmar utilising a pass from Zin

Min Tun. At the 78-minute mark, Thailand got a penalty shot and Thitiphan Puangjan scored the third goal for Thailand. Although

Myanmar had many chances to score, Thailand's defenders held strong, and the match ended with a score of 1-3. ■

Myanmar defeats Thailand futsal club friendly

Myanmar's futsal club beat the Thailand futsal club Hong Yen Tah Kam by a score of 1-0 last night in Thailand.

The game's lone goal was scored by Myanmar star Pyae Phyo Maung, who showed why he is a shining player for Myanmar. Thailand's club played well, but Myanmar effectively attacked the opponents' defensive line.

Myanmar also tested with High Way FC on Tuesday and Thai Port FC on Wednesday in Thailand. The team is preparing for the AFF Futsal Championship 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam that will be hosted from 24 October to 3 November. Myanmar will next play Thailand Futsal Club Kasem Bundit on Sunday in their fourth friendly match.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■



Bayern Munich manager Jupp Heynckes (L). **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Heynckes set to succeed Ancelotti at crisis-hit Bayern

BERLIN — Treble-winning coach Jupp Heynckes is set to take over at Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich for a fourth time, succeeding sacked Carlo Ancelotti, German media reported on Thursday.

The 72-year-old Heynckes led Bayern to the domestic league and Cup double and the Champions League title in 2013 but then had to make way for Spaniard Pep Guardiola.

According to the Bild newspaper Heynckes, who also led Real Madrid to the Champions League title and coached Benfica, Athletic Bilbao and a string of Bundesliga clubs, will take over

until the end of the season.

The club could not be immediately reached for a comment.

Italian Ancelotti took over last season but was fired last week after the German champions slipped to second place in the league after twice squandering a two-goal lead in consecutive games. They had also been beaten 3-0 at Paris St Germain in the Champions League.

Heynckes, who has not worked since 2013, had also coached Bayern from 1987-91 and briefly took over at the end of the 2008/9 season before becoming head coach between 2011-13. — Reuters ■

Leicester dealt transfer blow as FIFA rejects Silva appeal

LONDON — Leicester City's attempts to sign Adrien Silva from Sporting Lisbon were dealt a blow on Wednesday, with FIFA saying it had rejected an FA petition to grant the midfielder an international transfer certificate.

Leicester bought the 28-year-old just before the transfer window closed on 31 August, but FIFA, who handle international transfers, received the paperwork moments after the deadline for registration ended.

FIFA refused to sanction Silva's transfer, prompting the English FA to write to the world

governing body in early September, but that appeal has now been rejected.

"The petition made by The Football Association for permission to request the International Transfer Certificate for the player Adrien Silva and subsequently register the player for its affiliated club, Leicester City FC, is rejected," FIFA said in a statement.

Leicester will now only be able to sign the player when the transfer window reopens in January, unless they take their case to the Court of Arbitration for

Sport (CAS).

A club spokesman said Leicester "were reserving its position" as to whether it would decide to appeal to CAS.

"We cannot hide our disappointment or that of the player at the short-term consequences of the decision," the spokesman added. "The club and its staff will continue to work with Adrien to hopefully minimise the impact that missing a substantial period of the season may have on the player, while continuing to prepare the squad for the games ahead." —Reuters ■

Nishikori to play at New York Open in February

NEW YORK — Kei Nishikori, who has been sidelined since he suffered a season-ending wrist injury in mid-August, will play at February's New York Open, tournament organizers said Wednesday.

The 11-18 February indoor hard-court tournament at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum was formerly held as the Memphis Open, an event Nishikori won in four consecutive seasons between 2013 and 2016, but after 41 years in Tennessee

the ATP confirmed its relocation to Long Island in 2018.

Nishikori ranked fourth in the world in March but dropped to 14th last month after rupturing a tendon in his right wrist, forcing him to miss the U.S. Open, the last Grand Slam of the season. He finished the season without a title for the first time in six years.

Nishikori will also compete in the Mexico Open to be held later in February. The 27-year-old was a finalist in the 2015

tournament in Acapulco.

Coach Michael Chang said late last month that Nishikori, the first Japanese to crack the top 10 in the ATP Tour rankings, should be ready to go at the start of the season "if all goes well."

But on Tuesday, Dante Bottini, another of Nishikori's coaches, told an Argentine radio station that his player has an uphill battle to be ready for the year's first Grand Slam, Australian Open, in January. —Kyodo News ■