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GOING TO 71ST UNGA

State Counsellor leaves for United Kingdom and United States



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi being seen off by officials on her arrival at the Yangon International Airport to leave for the United Kingdom and the United States. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Yangon yesterday morning to visit London and the United States to attend

the 71st United Nations General Assembly.

The State Counsellor and her entourage were seen off

at the airport by local officials, the ambassador of the United States to Myanmar, the deputy head of mission of the British Embassy,

and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

was accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials. —Myanmar News Agency

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US\$400 million off-shore oil well logistics base earmarked for construction in Ayeyarwady

IN a bid to get a green light from authorities, the SIM Company has reportedly submitted a proposal to the Ayeyarwady regional government on its off-shore logistics base project, anticipated for implementation on Ngayoutkaung Beach, located in Ayeyarwady Region's Ngapudaw Township, Myitmakha News Agency has been told.

The SIM Company is reportedly a Myanmar-owned subsidiary of the Dutch-based Southern Island Group. They have further submitted their proposal to regional government after it was passed by the Investment Commission back in March this year.

"The proposal was submitted to the Investment Commission so the company start to could implement the project, and it's since been presented for approval to regional government in accordance with investment commission protocol," said U Hla Kyaw, Minister of Planning and Finance for Ayeyarwady Region.

U Aung Kyaw Khine, speaker of the Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw, informed Myitmakha News Agency that findings of the Hluttaw's Economic and Manufacturing Development Committee will be presented to Hluttaw on September 28 once they have finished scrutinizing and studying the proposal.

"The project proposal is short, highlighting only the positives; they haven't mentioned any of the potentially negative aspects. There will be advantages and disadvantages to a project,

such as this one, but the views and opinions of local residents are important. They need to be informed of this project proposal and their opinions towards it consulted upon," said U Phyo Zaw Shwe, Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw MP for Ngapudaw Township.

It is anticipated the project will be constructed on 184.30 acres of land within Ngapudaw Township's Nantharpu village tract. Estimates put the cost of the project at roughly US\$400 million, while the aim of the project is to build a off-shore logistics base that could facilitate transportation and other service requirements for off-shore oil wells, according to the Ayeyarwady regional government.

"Ever since the erstwhile government was in power, I was under the impression the project was for the building of a deep-sea port. I think only the individuals, who took land from local residents in all manners of ways, will prosper [from the initiative]. More than developing an industrial zone in the Ngayoutkaung beach region, I would prefer tourism development initiatives to be carried out as it's home of Gawgyi Island and untouched beaches," said U Maung Kan, a resident of Ngayoutkaung region.

Local farmland was confiscated from villagers during the erstwhile government reportedly to be utilized for the implementation of the off-shore logistics base.—Myitmakha News Agency



A pagoda in Bagan struck by the recent earthquake. PHOTO: REUTERS

JICA to submit construction project for sight seeing viewpoint place in Bagan

ACCORDING to second representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) named U Han Nyunt, JICA will submit project on the end of September to construct view point for the foreigners who came to Bagan as they want to do sightseeing.

This project was not being allowed since 2014 when the authorities concerned submitted to the department of ancient culture, but at the moment, they allowed to construct the project as the earthquake has been shaken recently, and it is also an essential for the visitors and tourists.

According to policy, the authorities concerned get the

allowance to construct view points at South east of Sularmuni pagoda and Ko Mauk Kan's bank near West Phwar Saw village. The bank will be heightened to use as view point for the visitors.

"There is no full data for construction project and thus we agreed according to policy. We need Management Plans to arrange the project. The authorities of JICA have to submit the detail facts of project how they will maintain that viewpoint after finishing the construction," said U Aung Kyaw, the director of ancient culture department (Bagan branch).

In this function, the view

point will be built on the place of natural pool and therefore, it can be attracting not only local visitors but also foreigners and on the other hand, the ancient culture can be remained.

In addition, the authorities concerned of this project will also conduct the neat and tidy by including car parking, shops and paths not losing the environment. This project will cost more than the normal amount.

The foreign visitors used to see sunset from Bagan ancient pagodas such as Shwesandaw, Pya That Gyi, Thisa-wadi, Taung Guni Myauk Guni and Bagan Myaw. —Aung Thant Khine



Government hopeful regulation of sand digging activities in Mandalay will abate current grievances

U Toe Aung Lin, head of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR) for Mandalay Region, has stated his department will award tender licenses to those involved in sand digging and selling enterprises along the banks of the Ayeyarwady River, which cuts through the erstwhile royal capital.

He made the statement during a press conference held in Mandalay's Media Center on September 7.

"Local grievances concerning the sand industry haven't been resolved. Tenders will be called and issued out in accordance with the law," said the department head.

Bids for tender, which include permission to dig sand

along the banks of the river, and are related to the payment of tax upon the volume of sand dug, can reportedly be submitted to the DWIR from the last week of this September.

Sand entrepreneurs can reportedly submit their applications for an area they desire to utilize to regional government, upon which the applications will be scrutinized by regional government, together with the Department of Water Sources and River Development, before digging permits will then be handed out.

Press conferences have been repeatedly held over instances of sand extraction activities destroying top soil, rendering land along the banks of the river no longer arable during the seasonal dry months of the year when water

levels reside.

"Unfavourable problems have befallen us. If government departments concerned took action decisively, we'd no longer see any crime related activities take place in regard to the digging and selling of sand. Since our department are the ones taking responsibility for this issue, we'll make sure to see these issues are resolved," said U Maung Myint, chair of the Sand Entrepreneurs Association.

U Toe Aung Lin told Myitmakha News Agency he believes that the calling of tenders and official demarcation of areas for the purpose of sand extraction will resolve the current grievances felt by those within Mandalay's sand industry.—Myitmakha News Agency

Vice President U Myint Swe tours Nanning, attends opening of 13th CAEXPO



VP U Myint Swe in Jiangsu Mountain area. PHOTO: MNA



VP U Myint Swe greeting governor Chen Wu. PHOTO: MNA



VP U Myint Swe seen together with vice premier Zhang Gaoli. PHOTO: MNA



VP U Myint Swe formally opening Myanmar booth. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Myint Swe, who is in Nanning, China, yesterday visited the Buddhist Temple on Qingxiu Mountain, where he paid respects to the leading monk before presenting offertories.

Mt Qingxiu, honoured as the green lung of Nanning and regarded as one of the eight picturesque spots in Nanning, offers breathtaking views of green trees, majestic

hills, rocks, mountains and clear streams.

Vice President U Myint Swe met Governor of Guangxi autonomous region Mr Chen Wu to discuss ways to improve trade, transportation, the economy and tourism between the two countries.

In the afternoon, the vice president cut a ribbon to launch the

country's booth at the 13th China-ASEAN Expo (13th CAEXPO), together with Union Minister Dr Than Myint and the vice chairman of the Guangxi's People's Political Consultative Committee.

Myanmar has opened 145 booths at the event.

In the evening, U Myint Swe met Chinese Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli at the Liyuan State Guest

House. At the meeting, the Chinese vice premier pledged China's continued assistance to the country's development programmes in areas of agriculture, health, education, rural development and poverty reduction.

China offered its support for the government's peace initiatives, expressing its delight at the success of the 21st Century Panglong

Peace Conference.

Vice President U Myint Swe said the China-ASEAN Expo and the economic summit gain greater momentum year by year. He also pledged his country's active participation and cooperation in the process.

Their meeting was followed by a dinner hosted by China's vice premier.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Leadership skill development course opened for disabled youth for three weeks in Yangon

MYANMAR Independent Living Initiative Association and national level disabled youth leadership skill development course is being opened for three weeks starting from 6th September at No 17, Thar Yar Aye road, ward 3 of Mayangon township, Yangon.

The opening of this course aims for the disabled youth to become leaders around the country who can lead and conduct actively the affairs of the disabled persons and for the disabled persons to survive in their lives like the other normal ones.

"In this function, we also aim for the disabled youth in all States and Regions. The course forms are being delivered as much as they can, but they could not reach

till the far regions and states that are poor in development such as Chin State and Kayah State," said Ma Yu Ya Thu, Planning and Resource director of Myanmar Independent Living Initiative Association.

The leadership skill development course also aims mainly for the disabled youths' leadership skill by teaching effective lectures. In that course, the teachers will teach them to cooperate with others as the group, to widen their communication fields, management of finance and others. This course is being opened twice a year annually starting from 2012 and this is the ninth batch of the project to promote the skill of the disabled youths like others around

the environment by cooperating with The Nippon Foundation and Myanmar Independent Living Initiative Association.

About 20 candidates around the country attend that course in each batch, and after this, the associations can conduct about 171 youths. According to the list of 2014 census of Myanmar, about 2.3 per cent are the disabled ones. The term is used to refer to individual functioning, including physical impairment, sensory impairment, cognitive impairment, intellectual impairment, mental illness, and various types of chronic diseases. Disability is conceptualized as being a multidimensional experience for the person involved.—*Khin Zarli*

Proceeds from Filipino - Myanmar fashion show to be donated to Yangon Children's Hospital

TO mark 60 years of friendship between Myanmar and the Philippines, a charity fundraiser dinner and fashion show will be held at downtown Yangon's Sule Shangri-La Hotel on September 17, with the proceeds from the event to be donated to the Yangon Children's Hospital.

The event is being organized through the concerted efforts of the Myanmar Fashion Designers Group and the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP). Myitmakha News Agency has been informed.

Prominent fashion designers from both countries will also reportedly be sharing their knowledge and expertise during the event. "The histories of Myanmar and the Philippines are not the same," said Maria LM Salcedo,

minister of the Consulate of the Philippines to Myanmar and head organizer of the Passion for Fashion show. "But I'm confident the culture and society of our countries will be understood though the innovative fashion designs [that will be presented]," she adds.

The event will feature the Filipino fashion designers of Len Cabili, Len Nepomuceno, Dong Omega-Diaz and Tonichi Nocom, together with their Myanmar counterparts of Myint Zu, Pyay Soe Aung, Ma Pote, Lat Lat, Lwin Su Htway and Kaung Myat. It will also mark the first time the designs of the Filipino fashion stylists will be showcased in Myanmar.

The show will reportedly feature traditional, modern/contemporary and high types of fashion.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Traditional art of 'mirror painting' at risk of disappearing, says artist

THE traditional Myanmar method of 'mirror painting', in which an artist draws a scene reversed, needs to be taught to and fostered by a new generation, said U Chit Mya, a 'mirror painting' artist.

U Chit Mya is reportedly the only traditional 'mirror painter' still working.

Born in Amarapura, he began his artistic career by learning from his grandfather, U Ba Thet, and his father, U Ba Yee.

"The trick of the mirror picture is to draw conversely. The painter has to draw the front side first, and then the background is added. But, no one wants to hand over this technique and so it may disappear.

Foreigners have become interested in mirror pictures, though, so the mirror picture market is now much better than before," he said.

A mirror picture is currently selling for around US\$ 33 for a 10x14 inch frame for tourists



The one and only mirror painting artist. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

while locals pay around K50,000 for a 18x24 frame.

"Previously, mirror pictures were mostly bought by Chinese people. After 2014, western foreigners were also in pursuit of mirror pictures.

Painting a Myanmar traditional mirror picture takes about two days. The mirror pictures

are drawn using four colours," he added.

U Chit Mya will attend a mirror painting seminar which will celebrate the artform at a US university in 2017. He also demonstrated mirror painting in Bangkok at technology show in May of this year.—Aung Thant Khine

Heroin seized in Phakant, Thazi and Kunlong

A CACHE of heroin was seized from a vehicle on Hsai Taung-Tarmakhin road, Phakant township on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, an anti-narcotics squad comprising policemen from Mohnyin police station searched a vehicle being driven by one La Zein Thu Rain and found 7.7 kilograms of heroin hidden in 616 soap cases.

On the same day in Thazi township, police seized 48,160 yaba pills from a vehicle being driven by one Myint Kyaw Thu with Tin Win on board near the railway station of Kwe Tat Sun village, Thazi township.



La Zein Thu Rain. Photo: MPF

Police also seized yaba powder weighing 1 kilogram from the home of one Yin Wu in Nam Lin village, Kunlong township.

All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force



Kyaw Kyaw Oo (a) Kyet Kalar. PHOTO: MYO ZAYAR (PYIMANA)

Police arrested a man for looting gold chain

A man was arrested and another suspect remains on the loose by police after he tried to run away with a gold chain from a couple at Minglar Shan Kan, Pyinmana township, Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

According, two men approached to a couple who is sitting at Minglar Shan Kan. Then, two men asked money from the couple.

The couple gave Ks 400 to them. But, two men were not satisfied and allegedly snatched

the gold chains from the couple. Then, two men tried to run away. The people nearby were informed to the police station.

The two men tried to escape but police intercepted a man. The gold chain was recovered and a man was arrested.

The police identified a snatcher as Kyaw Kyaw Oo alias Kyet Kalar, 19. Police are still searching for a second suspect.—Myo Zayar (Pyinmana)

Crime NEWS

Hand-made bomb blast kills one in Hkamti

A hand-made bomb went off on a road 800 metres off Hkamti town at 4am on 9 September, killing a person on the spot suspected of planting the explosive, local police said.

The police search of the area led to the discovery of four unexploded mines, which police

said failed to blow up as the rain wetted them.

"That person used plastic bottles to make bombs, but not systematically. Four mines did not blast. Maybe, their gunpowder was wet in the rain," a police officer said.—Aung Thant Khaing



The scene of bomb blast. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Raw opium seized in Muse

MUSE police seized heroin weighing 13.4 kilograms from two passengers identified as Ma Nan Sein U and Ma Nan Kwe. Both suspects were found in a vehicle on Nam Paw bridge, Muse township on Thursday.

Similarly, a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from Hpa-an township seized 90,000 yaba pills from one Sai Nwe Hsin at the corner of Chin Kyi Yae and Bayint Naung road, ward 4, Myawaddy town on Friday. Police also searched a vehicle

being driven by one Sai Mu and discovered 30,000 yaba pills on Asia road, Myawaddy.

On that same day, police from Tachilek seized 596 yaba pills from motorcycle driver Sai Hlaing wam at Tachilek checkpoint. Police from Nayung She police station seized 400 yaba pills from the home of one Tun Hla in Htee Kar village, Nyaung Shwe township. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—Myanmar Police Force

Hlaingthayar market destroyed by fire

A FIRE devoured Hlaingthayar market in ward 7, Hlaingthayar township on Wednesday. According to an investigation, the fire broke out when the staff of the Ngwe Chinthe shop used a fan with a broken plug.

The fire was put out with the help of 25 fire engines at around 5:53 am. Most of the shops within the market were destroyed. Police have taken action against Ma Aye Htwe alias Ma Aye Htay.—Than Htike (Hlaingthayar)



The scene of the outbreak of fire on Hlaingthaya. PHOTO: THAN HTIKE (HLAINGTHAYA)

LOCAL Business



Dragon Fruit. PHOTO MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Roaring trade of dragon fruits in Kalay

AN inaugural trial of cultivating dragon fruits along the side of the Kalay - Kantkaw highway, located in Sagaing Region's Kalay Township, has proved successful, with the purple fruit being snapped up by both local residents and passing travelers, Myitmakha News Agency has been informed.

"We're receiving buyers from the surrounding villages as well as those passing by along the main road. We're currently making between K300,000 - 500,000 a day

from selling [the dragon fruit]," said Daw Mot Mot Hlaing, manager of the dragon fruit orchard.

Standing at 430 feet above sea level, dragon fruits were first planted on a five-acre space in the orchard back in 2008 but it's only been this year, with a better quality crops being grown and improvements to road infrastructure, that the orchard has seen a roaring trade, according to local growers.

"The dragon fruits from our region have a more distinct fla-

vour. People eat the fruits as it's said to possess beneficial qualities for those suffering from diabetes and heart related diseases," said Daw Cherry, a resident of Kalay town. A kilogram of dragon fruits is currently being sold for K1,500 in the orchard.

The red and white Cactaceae variety of dragon fruits are planted annually in April, reportedly taking six-months to grow before they are ripe for picking.—Myitmakha News Agency

Yangon's revenue authorities collect K200 billion taxes over past five months

REVENUE authorities in Yangon received around K200 billion taxes of budgeted taxes this fiscal year, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

The number has decreased by over K100 billion compared with the same period last year. This is linked to the amendment of the 2016 Union Tax Law.

The government is expected

to collect over K550 billion from all forms of business operated in the region, including from state-owned enterprises, private firms and sole proprietorship over the past five months.

Between April and August this fiscal year, the Yangon Region revenue authorities collected over K34 billion commercial taxes, around K143 billion income

taxes, over K19 billion stamp duty and K3 billion special goods taxes.

The Internal Revenue Department collected K1,000 billion commercial tax in 2015-2016 FY.

The authorities have urged entrepreneurs to pay commercial tax to the relevant revenue officers within the set time frame.—Min Min

Pioneering of organic chilies in Kyaukse proves successful

THE success of growing organic chili crops in Mandalay Region's Kyaukse Township has expedited plans to expand cultivation of the fiery vegetable. Myitmakha News Agency has been told by the Pioneer Star Company - a joint business venture with local farmers.

The Pioneer Star Company partnered with five local farmers in June this year to plant a trial chili crop on five acres of land. The success of four of those five acres has been the catalyst to ramp up cultivation, with plans reportedly in place to plant a thirty-acre crop this September with fifteen farmers.

"Once we're prepared the soil,

with plant the chili crops with an organic fertilizer called compiex in lieu of employing the using industrial chemicals. We then rake the top-soil before planting the chili crops under plastic sheeting. Each of the chili plants are then watered with a gallon of water once every three days," explained Kyaw Soe Thu, a member of the Pioneer Star Company.

The chili crops harvested from the trial batch have reportedly been sold and exported to Singapore.

"If cultivating chili crops with an ordinary method, the crops can only be harvested once every four months. Utilizing an organic

method of cultivation however, expedites the process with chilies able to be picked once every six-to-ten weeks. Our initial success with planting a one-acre trial crop of chili means we'll now replant our crops, expanding to three acres worth," said Naing Htun Win, a chili grower associated with the Pioneer Start Company.

The current market price for a viss (1.6 kilograms) of the aforementioned organic chilies fetch K800, while an acre of chili plants can reportedly produce two tonnes worth of chilies, according to local growers.—Myitmakha News Agency

IFC planning to give USD 13.5 billion loan to Amata Hotel Group

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corporation (IFC) is arranging to give USD 13.5 billion loan to Amata Hotel Group.

That loan will be used in building hotel including 144 rooms at Bagan which is being constructed by Amata and new hotel with 110 rooms and 20 villa constructions. The investment amount of these two construction projects is USD 29 billion and IFC had arranged to assist USD 13.5 billion.

Amata Hotel Group is owned by United International Group (UIG). IFC will give loan in two instalments — the first will be to UIG, USD 8.15 billion the second, and USD 5 billion.

The opened hotels of Amata

Hotel Group are Amata Ngapali Beach Resort in Thandwe, Amata Garden Resort in Nyaung Shwe, Hsipaw Resort in Thi Paw and Boutique House in Bagan. And then, Oriental Ballooning business is also being run.

IFC also invested USD 10 billion in Myama Aawba Group's factory for preventive medicine for crops on 6th September. Besides, IFC also invested in other Myanmar Businesses such as City Mart Holding by assisting USD 25 billion, USD three billion to Oway, USD 30 billion to Irrawaddy Green towers and USD 21 billion loan to six small local loan enterprises.—Lynn Thu

Border trade booming in Maungdaw

AN absence this rainy season of what locals deem almost-annual landslides along the Buthidaung — Maungdaw road has augmented the flow of bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Myanmar through the border town of Maungdaw, border traders have told Myitmakha News Agency.

U Thein Htun, an exporter based in Maungdaw, says the 16 mile-long trading route is susceptible to blockages caused by landslides and other falling debris as it's a road which primary cuts through the mountainous north of Rakhine State.

"It's vital the Maungdaw — Buthidaung road is in good shape as markets and consumers on both sides of the boarder depend on it. The trade industry was hit hard in years gone by when the road became inaccessible; fresh produce couldn't withstand the long delays, going off and rotting. This year, though, and profits from the

import-export of basic consumer commodities are up two-fold thanks to the normal, steady flow of trade from an absence of blockages to the trading route," he explained.

The Maungdaw — Buthidaung road is reportedly a long-standing primary trade route which significantly facilitates the bilateral trade of goods to-and-from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

"The road hasn't been marred by any problems this year, doubling border trade compared with the 2015-16 fiscal year. We had more trade in the first five months of this fiscal year than the same period of 2015. That said, the flow of trade for this year is still yet to fully reach that of anticipated forecasts," U Thar Htun Sein, assistance director of Border Trade Association (BTA) for Maungdaw, told Myitmakha News Agency.—Myitmakha News Agency



Welcoming signboard of Maungdaw seen against the mountain ranges. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

South Korea says North's nuclear capability 'speeding up', calls for action

SEOUL — South Korea's foreign minister said on Saturday that North Korea's nuclear capability is expanding fast, echoing alarm around the world over the isolated state's fifth nuclear test carried out in defiance of UN sanctions.

North Korea conducted its biggest nuclear test on Friday and said it had mastered the ability to mount a warhead on a ballistic missile, ratcheting up a threat that rivals and the United Nations have been powerless to contain.

The test proved North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was unwilling to alter course and tougher sanctions and pressure were needed to apply "unbearable pain on the North to leave no choice but to change," South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se said.

"North Korea's nuclear capability is growing and speeding to a considerable level, considering the fifth nuclear test was the strongest in scale and



South Korean President Park Geun-hye presides over an emergency meeting at her residence in Vientiane, Laos, in this handout picture provided by the Presidential Blue House and released by Yonhap, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the interval has quickened substantially," Yun told a ministry meeting convened to discuss the test.

The blast, on the 68th anniversary of North Korea's founding, drew global condemnation.

The United States said it would work with partners to impose new sanctions, and called on China to use its influence — as North Korea's main ally — to pressure Pyongyang to end its nuclear

programme.

But Russia was sceptical that more sanctions were the answer to resolving the crisis, while China was silent on the prospect of a new United Nations Security Council resolution, although state media did carry commentaries criticising the North.

Under 32-year-old leader Kim, North Korea has sped up development of its nuclear and missile programmes, despite UN

sanctions that were tightened in March and have further isolated the impoverished country.

The Security Council denounced North Korea's decision to carry out the test and said it would begin work immediately on a resolution. The United States, Britain and France pushed for the 15-member body to impose new sanctions. US President Barack Obama said after speaking by telephone with South

Korean President Park Geun-hye and with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday that they had agreed to work with the Security Council and other powers to vigorously enforce existing measures against North Korea and to take "additional significant steps, including new sanctions."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said it may take more than additional sanctions to resolve the crisis, signalling it may prove a challenge for the Security Council to come to an agreement on new sanctions.

"It is too early to bury the six-party talks. We should look for ways that would allow us to resume them," Lavrov said.

The so-called six-party talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear programme involving the United States, Russia, Japan, South Korea, China, and North Korea have been defunct since 2008.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said the Unit-

ed States had repeatedly offered talks to North Korea, but Pyongyang had to accept de-nuclearisation, which it had refused to do.

"We have made overture after overture to the dictator of North Korea," he said, adding that he ultimately hoped for a similar outcome as in the nuclear talks in Iran.

China said it was resolutely opposed to the test but Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying would not be drawn on whether China would support tougher sanctions against its neighbour.

On Saturday, the influential Chinese state-run tabloid the *Global Times* said North Korea was wrong in thinking building nuclear weapons would provide it more security or prestige in the world.

"Owning nuclear weapons won't ensure North Korea's political security," it said in an editorial. "On the contrary, it is poison that is slowly suffocating the country." —Reuters

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Bangladesh factory fire kills 23, injures more than 24

DHAKA — A fire on Saturday at a food and cigarette packaging factory in Bangladesh killed at least 23 people and injured more than two dozen, emergency and government officials said, with fears the toll could rise.

The cause of the fire in the Tongi industrial zone about 20 km (12 miles) north of the capital, Dhaka, was not immediately known, but officials said a boiler explosion prob-

ably triggered the blaze, around 8am, as workers prepared to swap shifts.

"We cannot confirm if people are inside, but our priority is to rescue them if there is anyone," Mohammad Akhtaruz-zaman, a fire official at the site, told Reuters by telephone, adding that the blaze was now under control.

"There were about 100 people inside when the fire broke out," Mo-

hammad Nayan, a worker assisting with rescue efforts, told reporters.

More than 20 fire-fighting teams battled to douse the flames, which also caused the partial collapse of the four-storey Tampaco Foils building, officials said.

Officials of Tampaco Foils, where the fire broke out, could not immediately be reached for comment.

On its website, the company lists major in-

ternational brands, such as British American Tobacco and Nestle, among its customers.

The incident is the latest in a series of industrial accidents in the South Asian country that is one of the world's top garment exporters.

In 2013, the collapse of Rana Plaza, a building outside Dhaka, killed 1,135 workers mainly employed in the garment industry.—Reuters



Firefighters extinguish a fire at a garment packaging factory outside of Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 10 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Asian nations plan fund to better prepare for health emergencies, says WHO

NEW DELHI — Eleven countries in South and East Asia on Friday agreed to establish an emergency fund to strengthen their health services to better respond to outbreaks of diseases, including emerging viruses such as Zika, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Friday.

Made up of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, South Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste, the South East Asia region is highly susceptible to disasters such as floods which can result in disease outbreaks.

The region is also threatened by a range of emerging diseases such as SARS, MERS CoV, pandemic influenza and Zika, say experts, adding that countries

remain ill-prepared to effectively contain an outbreak should it occur.

The WHO said while nations already contributed to a fund to tackle health emergencies such as outbreaks of cholera or diarrhea in the aftermath of disasters, it was crucial to have finance available to help countries prepare beforehand.

“To date, post-disaster funding through South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund has done an excellent job of helping countries respond to health emergencies once they’ve occurred, as we saw most recently in Nepal and Sri Lanka,” said Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO’s South East Asia director.

“The new funding stream

will allow countries to invest in infrastructure and human resources that will enhance preparedness,” she added in a statement.

In a resolution passed by the 11 countries at a WHO meeting in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo, governments also agreed to increase the number of health workers, provide them with training and better conditions in order to retain them.

The ratio of health care providers in the region currently stands at 12.5 workers for every 10,000 people, just a quarter of the WHO recommended minimum of 44.5.

Aid workers welcomed the move, citing the Ebola crisis in West Africa in 2013-15, as an



Shadows of journalists are reflected on a wall next to WHO’s logo at a news conference in Beijing, China, on 29 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

example of why it was necessary to build local capacity and prevent an outbreak becoming a crisis.

“To deal with an outbreak, we need to work before, during and after. A strong public health system is the best shock absorber in such settings,” said Unni Krishnan, Save the Children’s emer-

gency health director in Asia and Pacific.

“This initiative should aim to prepare local medical colleges and local health systems for such scenarios — a collaborative approach between governments, UN systems and non-governmental organisations is key.” —Reuters

Philippines to allow Indonesia to pursue pirates in its waters

JAKARTA— Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Friday while visiting Indonesia that he has agreed to allow Indonesian authorities to pursue pirates into Philippine waters and even “blast them off” there.

“If the chase began in Indonesia and the chase continues in the international waters, and if they are really fast enough also, inside now the Philippine wa-

ters, they can go ahead and blast them off — that’s the agreement,” Duterte said.

Speaking at a lunch event with the Filipino community in Jakarta ahead of his talks with Indonesian President Joko Widodo, he also suggested that the pirates could be detained and then executed.

“When there are sharks around, just feed them to the

sharks. It would make them fat. Good for sashimi also,” he joked.

In a statement issued after his talks with Widodo, Duterte called them “very productive and fruitful” and said the two leaders “agreed to step up joint measures to address the issue of piracy and lawlessness in the waters in our region.”

Speaking about piracy in the Sulu Sea to reporters, he said,

“We have decided to end this problem, once and for all.”

Apparently softening his earlier remarks, Duterte said that if Indonesian vessels pursue pirates into Philippine waters, they could call on Philippine forces nearby to take over the chase.

“This time, personally, I would allow the pursuit. But it is until such time a competent Philippines authority to take over

the chase,” he said. Widodo said Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia will engage in joint maritime patrols in Sulu Sea area where nine abducted Indonesians are still held by Abu Sayyaf militants from the Philippines.

In his statement, Duterte said he and Widodo both “viewed with grave concern the threat of terrorism and violent extremism.” —Kyodo News

Japanese lawmaker Inoki meets North Korea’s top diplomat

PYONGYANG — Japanese wrestler-turned-parliamentarian Antonio Inoki on Saturday met with North Korea’s top official in charge of foreign affairs, Ri Su Yong.

The meeting took place a day after North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test and there is a possibility that the two discussed Pyongyang’s arms development programme.

Inoki, an independent lawmaker, has said his visit to Pyongyang is timed to coincide with the 68th anniversary of North Korea’s founding on Friday and the main purpose is to promote sports exchanges.

Ri, a vice chairman of the Workers’ Party of Korea, is known as a trusted confidant of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Ri, who was previously North Korea’s foreign minister, held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in May.

He conveyed to Xi a verbal message from Kim at that time in which the North Korean leader said he hopes to strengthen bilateral relations and maintain peace in the region.

Before leaving for the North



Japanese wrestler-turned-parliamentarian Antonio Inoki (R) shakes hands with North Korea’s top official in charge of foreign affairs, Ri Su Yong, ahead of their talks in Pyongyang, on 10 September 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Korean capital on Thursday, the 73-year-old former pro-wrestling star, whose real first name is Kanji, said he has plans to meet with “various” officials during the visit, which is his 31st.

However, Inoki, who is scheduled to stay until next Tuesday, has said he is not representing the Japanese government.

Inoki, a House of Councillors member, has developed special connections with North Korean officials through his numerous visits, although Tokyo and Pyongyang have never had diplomatic relations.

He last visited North Korea about two years ago and co-hosted a two-day wrestling event in Pyongyang. —Kyodo News

Asia’s oldest stock exchange BSE files for long-awaited IPO

MUMBAI — BSE Ltd, India’s second-biggest stock exchange, on Friday filed for a long-awaited initial public offering (IPO), seeking to list its shares on larger rival National Stock Exchange (NSE).

Shareholders including Singapore Exchange will be selling up to 29.96 million shares, or a 27.9 per cent stake, in the IPO, according to a draft prospectus.

Banking sources had previously said the IPO of Asia’s oldest stock exchange was likely to raise about \$150 million for its long-time investors, some of whom are looking to cash out.

Stronger stock markets in India have sparked a boom in IPOs this year. Financial sector listings especially have been lapped up by investors, with stocks such as RBL Bank and Ujjivan Financial Services surging after their debuts.

ICICI Bank, the second-biggest Indian lender by assets, said on Thursday it was seeking to raise as much as \$909 million by selling shares in its insurance arm ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, in what will be the biggest local IPO since 2010.

Founded in 1875, BSE, whose first venue for broker meetings was under a banyan tree in India’s financial capital Mumbai, has long been considering an IPO. However, lack of clarity on rules for the listing of stock exchanges had delayed the process.

Of the 107.35 million shares in BSE, trading members hold about 52.3 million shares, or 48.7 per cent with the rest held by Deutsche Boerse AG, Singapore Exchange and a group of foreign portfolio investors, insurance firms and individuals.

Singapore Exchange plans to sell its entire stake in BSE in the IPO, the prospectus showed.

BSE, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange, boasts the most listings in the world with more than 5,900 listed companies but it has been dwarfed by rival NSE in trading volumes, especially since the introduction of derivatives that have increased liquidity in large caps. For the quarter to the end of June, BSE reported total income of 1.65 billion rupees (\$24.7 million) and net profit of 527 million rupees.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Leadership style vs productivity

Khin Maung Aye

MANAGERS employ diversified styles to motivate the employees to produce to their utmost. An autocratic manager is one who scarcely seeks input from his employees to make decisions. This style of management can have an advantage in a fast-paced work environment in which quick decisions are needed to be made for daily routine tasks. Under this management style, managers tend to motivate their employees by establishing confidence in the manager's ability to make accurate and productive decisions. Employees are comfortable with the manager's knowledge on the industry and the company processes, and employees are motivated by their

manager's ability to keep their department or factory focused upon achievement of company goals.

Different from the autocratic leaders, the democratic leaders allow their employees to be involved in the decision-making process. They scarcely make important decisions without seeking the agreement of their employees. Their method of motivating their employees is inclusion—making the staff participate in the decision-making process that keeps the department running smoothly. Employees take an emotional interest in the success of their department because they can contribute towards formulation of departmental policies and process.

There are also those managers who sit back and just permit their employees to make the decisions affecting the daily routine tasks. This type of management is most effective with proactive and highly trained staff. These quiet leaders motivate their teams by playing the role of a resource person who provide information as and where necessary. They allow their employees to dictate their own success. If an employee's production begins to decline, the quiet leader will offer a developmental programme to help get the employee back on track.

And what is more, there is another style of leadership known as the transformational leadership. Under this style of

leadership, a leader is a charismatic manager who opines that he has a vision for the future of the company that will bring success to all staff. Leaders or managers of this type motivate their staff by making effort to get the employees enthusiastically on board with their ideas for the future and then continually uses the vision of a more brilliant future as an incentive or motivation for their employees to be more productive. The transformational leader formulates a comprehensive plan for success that he delivers to employees and explains how each employee will have a role in the success of the business firm. In a nutshell, the organizational productivity is influenced by the style of leadership.

The Sacred Museum of the Sixth Great Buddhist Council

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

WITH a view to perpetuating and propagating the Theravada Buddhism, a Sacred Museum commemorating the Sixth Great Buddhist Council of 1954 has been already built with support of multifarious Buddhist people and the government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar in the year 2000. The Sacred Museum is grandly situated on Sirimangala Kaba Aye Hillock close to the east of the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) in which the Sixth Great Buddhist Council was successfully held in the year 2498 of the Buddhist Era. 1954 AD. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council was attended by an assembly of (2500) venerable elders (Bhikkhus) and heads of states from five Theravada Buddhist nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. At the Sixth Great Buddhist Council, an assembly of (2500) venerable elders (Bhikkhus) led by the most Venerable Revata recited and verified the scriptures which were later put into print.

We all Buddhists throughout the world know that altogether Six Great Buddhist Councils were held in order to recite and give authenticity of the whole body of the teachings of the Omniscient Buddha and to preserve and propagate those sacred teachings after the noble demise of the

Omniscient Buddha in 544 BC.

Just three months and four days (in 544 BC) after the noble demise of the Omniscient Buddha, the First Great Buddhist Council were held in the city of Rajagaha (India). The whole body of the teachings of the Omniscient Buddha was recited and given authenticity by an assembly of five hundred Arahats presided over by the Venerable Mahakassapa at the First Great Buddhist Council which was held with the support of King Ajatasattu.

In the year (100) of the Buddhist Era, 443 BC, the Second Great Buddhist Council was held in the city of Vesali (India). The ten indulgences that a sect of heretical monks were trying to add to the original teachings of the Omniscient Buddha were dismissed by an assembly of seven hundred Arahats led by the Venerable Yasa at the Second Great Buddhist Council which was held with support of King Kalsoka.

In the year (235) of the Buddhist Era, 308 BC, the Third Great Buddhist Council was held in the city of Pataliputta (India). The doctrines of unlawful extraneous elements that some had tried to insinuate into it were cleared by an assembly of one thousand Arahats headed by the Venerable Mahamoggaliputtasasa at the Third Great Buddhist

Council which was held with the support of Emperor Asoka.

In the year (450) of the Buddhist Era, the Fourth Great Buddhist Council was held in Malaya, Sri Lanka (Ceylon). An assembly of five hundred venerable elders (Bhikkhus) led by the Venerable Mahadhammarakkhita wrote the entire words of the Omniscient Buddha's teachings on palm leaves at the Fourth Great Buddhist Council. The Fourth Great Buddhist Council was held with the support of King Vattagamini of Ceylon.

In the year (2415) of the Buddhist Era, 1871 AD, the Fifth Great Buddhist Council was held in Mandalay, Myanmar. An assembly of two thousand and four hundred venerable elders (Bhikkhus) led the Venerable Jagarabhivamsa recited and approved the scriptures at the Fifth Great Buddhist Council, and then the scriptures were inscribed on 729 stone slabs. The Fifth Great Buddhist Council was held with the support of His Majesty, King Mindon of Myanmar.

The Sixth Great Buddhist Council

In the year 2498 of the Buddhist Era, 1954 CE, the Sixth Great Buddhist Council was held in the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) on the Sirimangala Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, Myanmar. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council had the collaboration and par-

ticipation of the learned monks (Mathatheras) from Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, India and Pakistan. Five hundred Buddhist monks in Myanmar who were well-versed in the study and practice of the teachings of the Buddha took the responsibility of re-examining the Texts. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council was held by an assembly of twenty-five thousand venerable elders from five Theravada Buddhist nations (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar) led by Adhidhammaratthaguru. Nyaungyan Sayadaw, the Most Venerable Bhaddanta Revata to recite and verify the scriptures (Pali texts, Athakatha and Tika) which were later put into print.

Aggamahapandita Mahasi Sayadaw, the Most Venerable Bhaddanta Sobhana acted as questioner and Tipitakadharadhammabhandagarika, Mingun Sayadaw, the Most Venerable Bhaddanta Vicittasara Bhivamsa as an examiner on recitation and verification of the scriptures at the Sixth Great Buddhist Council from the very beginning to the end. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council lasted two years from 2498 to 2500 Buddhist Era, (1954 to 1956 CE).

The Sixth Great Buddhist Council was held with the support of generous Buddhist peoples and the Five Theravada

Buddhist nations, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos and other 25 nations.

The Theravada Buddhism consists of Tripitaka canons and five Nikaya treatises which have been verified and approved by the Six Great Buddhist Councils which were successfully held by the successive Mathatheras after the noble demise of the Omniscient Buddha over 2560 years ago.

The Sacred Museum of the Sixth Great Buddhist Council

Members of Sangha, Buddhist people and successive Governments of the Union of Myanmar realized that a Sacred Museum commemorating the Sixth Great Buddhist Council should be established in which the significant and remarkable records, artifacts, religious objects, photographs, pictures and others related to the Sixth Great Buddhist Council are to be preserved and displayed at this Sacred Museum. According to the strong wish of members of Sangha, Buddhist people and successive Governments of the Union of Myanmar, the Sacred Museum commemorating the Sixth Great Buddhist Council of 1954, has been successfully already built. This Sacred Museum will stand forever as a significant and sacred symbol of Theravada Buddhism in the world so long as the Buddha Sasana exists.

Six artists of MWPA to go to the International watercolor painting exhibition

SIX members of Myanmar Watercolor Painters' Association will go to the International watercolor painting exhibition in Singapore which will be held from 15th to 21st September.

This exhibition is annually held by Singapore watercolor painting association. An artist named Zaw Win(Thit htwin), artist named Khin Maung San, artist

named U Malar, Zaw Tun, Thiha and Sai Maung Maung from Myanmar watercolor painters' association will go to the international watercolor painting exhibition, it is learnt.

"Singapore watercolor painters' association has linked with International watercolor artists. The members in this exhibition will come from other countries.

Myanmar is included as a member in this exhibition. In this exhibition, besides watercolor paintings, practical painting and outdoor drawing paintings will also be put at the places where many Myanmar are in Singapore," said artist U Malar, the secretary of Myanmar Watercolor painters' Association. — *Lynn Thu*

Beached whale rolled back into sea

A WHALE weighing approximately two tonnes was found washed ashore near a coastal village of Manaung township on Friday, locals said.

According to the local Fisheries Department, villagers dug tunnels to push the beached whale back out to sea where it regained its maneuverability and bearings and swam away.

On 25 January, a wounded whale was found stuck on the coast near a village of the same town. The whale later died while locals were attempting to shift it, a task apparently made difficult by the low tide.

According to researchers, whales beach themselves when they have become disoriented, sick or confused by the use of man-made sonar which may interfere with the animal's brainwaves or the use of its echolocation.—200



The whale being sent back to the sea. PHOTO: 200

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

AS we all know, the world is being threatened not only by global warming but also by drug trafficking. The first issue threatens all the living things on earth and the latter threatens the human life and human society.

I undoubtedly believe that every government across the world does not hesitate to combat the drug trafficking. They are very eager to do this and understand that the menace of drug abuse destroys and weakens the human capability of every society. If a certain country does not seriously crack down on the drug ring or mastermind in its territory, it will lose its human capacity. Since the illegal drug trade is a lucrative business, some poor people work as illegal drug carriers or lackey of drug dealers. Poverty also makes this illegal business thrive in some societies in the world. Despite the existence of drug laws in any country, drug trafficking is a long standing issue in the world. The government, law enforcement agencies and judges ought not to be corrupt in dealing with drug trafficking cases. The actions

taken against the drug traffickers in China, in the Philippines, in Malaysia and in Indonesia are rather encouraging. Being a human being, I do not want to see any human society devastated or destroyed by the impact of illegal drug trade.

Mostly, the drug abusers belong to well-to-do families. Not everyone can afford to buy narcotic drugs to enjoy intoxicating affect or psychotropic sensation or so-called ecstatic sensation indeed. Simply saying, unless there are illegal drug manufacturers, mastermind and investors in that illegal drug trade, there will be no drug trafficking in the world. That is why we need to annihilate or eradicate the manufacturers, mastermind and investors involved in that illegal drug trade. In this regard, we need to cooperate with INTERPOL or ask for the assistance of INTERPOL so that the inhumane drug traffickers and their mastermind can be punished for their human- race- threatening illegal drug trade on earth. By using transnational drug trafficking net work, they buy raw material

and sell the products secretly. These perpetrators never ever think that they are selling the poison to other fellow humans for the sake of their personal benefit and illegal lucrative drug trade. Besides, they are the violators of the respective drug laws promulgated in every society. If the number of drug addicts is greater than normal people in a particular society, that society will be ruined. We should remember the opium war and its destructive power to humans devastated in China in the past history. It is obligatory for every government to crack down on the drug rings or mastermind with the assistance of INTERPOL and law enforcement agencies properly. We humans are obliged to preserve human race by avoiding the drug abuse and abstaining from doing the business of drug trafficking.

May every government be wise and kind to protect their citizens from the scourge of drug abuse and trafficking attentively!

Truly
Hein Htet

POEM:

Learning English

Needless to say learning a foreign language such as 'English' is always an advantage it is a common language of the internet one can access even with a mobile handset which almost every person seems to possess but not keen on using the device to access the world of information and knowledge for weakness of their English language.

Learning English is not an easy undertaking the 'four skills' need a lot of practising.

Extensive practise by the learner must follow intensive methodical instruction of the 'four'. Reading, probably the most important of them, materials in English will improve comprehension and enable on the internet, to acquire information. However suitable books written in good English are scarce and not affordable by many who wish to improve their reading skills in English.

The GNLOM's, NLOF Student's Companion is suitable for students of basic education and interested young readers of working age to further improve their 'English' language.

Perhaps GNLOM to the SC could also add a page to feature reading materials in English of simple usage like English translations of Myanmar folk-tales and stories (which the writer came across in his book-shop forays) and because of their Myanmar cultural grounding could be more comprehensible to Myanmar seeking good affordable materials of English reading.

Lokethar

Donors invited to renovate Bagan Pagoda

WELL-wishers home and abroad are invited to donate cash to the funds for the repair and renovation of the damaged ancient religious structures in Bagan and NyaungU areas.

A 6.8 magnitude earthquake, centring 12 miles west of Chauk in Magway Region, struck the country's historic site of cultural heritage on 24 August.

Cash donations can be made to following departmental officials:

U Myo Tint Aung
Director, Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs (Nay Pyi Taw)
Ph: 067 408 031, 09 861 7342

Daw Ohnmar Aung
Director, Department of Archaeological Research and National Museum (Yangon)
6 ½ mile, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon
Ph: 01 513 897, 09 730 302 38, 09 506 1832

U Nyo Myint Tun
Director, Department of Archaeological Research and National Museum (Mandalay)
Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay
Ph: 02 600 59, 09 201 9004

U Soe Tint
District Administrator
NyaungU District General Administration Department
Ph: 061 60 261, 061 602 62, 09 442 003 012

—Myanmar News Agency



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks at the Cleveland Arts and Social Sciences Academy in Cleveland, Ohio, US, on 8 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Clinton, Trump escalate fight in dramatic week on national security

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK — Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton clashed over national security again on Friday, with Trump calling his Democratic rival “trigger-happy” and Clinton arguing his proposals would make the world a more dangerous place.

The two White House hopefuls have waged a running battle this week over who is best placed to command the world’s most powerful military, with both touting their support from retired military leaders and attacking their opponent’s temperament and judgment.

Trump also injected drama into the national security debate this week by wholeheartedly endorsing Russian President

Vladimir Putin as a strong leader who has fared better than US President Barack Obama. Clinton, many Democrats and even some in his own Republican party balked.

Trump, speaking on Friday at the conservative Value Voters summit in Washington, painted Clinton as a “massive failure” while she was America’s top diplomat from 2009 to early 2013, blaming her for the current turmoil in the Middle East.

“The problem is, Hillary Clinton is trigger-happy. Her tenure has brought us only war, destruction and death. She’s just too quick to intervene, invade, or to push for regime change,” he said at the summit.

Meanwhile in New York, Clinton met with national security

and foreign policy experts who are supporting her campaign to discuss terrorism. She touted the bipartisan nature of the meeting and vowed to work across the aisle as president to tackle national security challenges.

“The nominee on the other side promises to do things that will make us less safe,” Clinton told reporters at a news conference on Friday afternoon. “National security experts on both sides of the aisle are chilled by what they’re hearing from the Republican nominee.”

Both candidates are hoping to capitalize on concerns about national security and paint their opponents as unqualified leading into the 8 November presidential election.—Reuters

Cuba launches new international campaign against US embargo

HAVANA — US sanctions cost Cuba \$4.6 billion last financial year, the government said on Friday, and called on US President Barack Obama to do more to ease the pressure in the spirit of improved relations between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez made the comments at the launch of an annual campaign for a United Nations resolution condemning the US trade embargo put in place after Cuba’s 1959 revolution, but which has softened a little under Obama.

“The blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba persists,” Rodriguez told reporters at a news conference. “The blockade is the main cause of the economy’s problems and obstacle to development.”

Rodriguez said damages from April 2015 through March 2016 amounted to \$4.6 billion and to

\$125.9 billion since the embargo’s inception. This year’s UN General Assembly vote, set for 26 October, will be the 25th time Cuba has marshaled international support against the embargo. Cuba usually wins overwhelming support for a resolution which is non-binding.

Since Presidents Obama and Raul Castro stunned the world in December 2014 by announcing they would work to normalize relations, the Cold War foes have opened embassies, restored commercial flights, opened travel options and negotiated agreements on issues affecting the environment, law enforcement, the postal service and communications.

Obama, who visited Cuba earlier this year, has also gradually poked holes in the embargo through executive orders.

Rodriguez said the advances so far were positive but “limited and superficial” in the

economic sphere.

“President Obama reserves broad executive latitude that he can use up to his last minute in the White House,” he said.

More than 100 US business delegations have visited Cuba since 2014 and around 300,000 Americans are expected to arrive this year under looser travel restrictions. US telecommunications companies have signed roaming agreements, a Carnival cruise ship makes regular stops and a Havana hotel is under US management.

But many US companies say the embargo makes business nearly impossible.

Obama has insisted he opposes the embargo but can do little more because only the Republican-controlled Congress can lift it.

Many experts beg to differ and are urging him to act before leaving office in January.—Reuters



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စက်တင်ဘာလ ၁၆ ရက်



“အိုဇုန်းလွှာနှင့်ရာသီဥတု ကောင်းမွန်ဖို့ ကမ္ဘာတစ်ဝန်း လက်တွဲညှိညှိ ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”
“Ozone and Climate, Restored by a World United”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian court jails British-Iranian aid worker for five years — family

TEHRAN — An Iranian Revolutionary court has sentenced Iranian-British aid worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe to five years in prison on charges that remain secret, her family said on Friday.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe was detained in early April as she tried to leave Iran after a visit with her two-year-old daughter. Iran’s hard-line Revolutionary Guards have accused her of trying to overthrow Iran’s clerical establishment. The official charges against her have not been made public and the Iranian authorities were not immediately available for comment. “On 6 September Nazanin was sentenced to five years imprisonment by Judge Salavati of the Revolutionary Court,” her family said in a statement.—Reuters

Chelsea Manning announces hunger strike over treatment in prison

WASHINGTON — US soldier Chelsea Manning, serving a 35-year prison term for passing classified files to WikiLeaks, said on Friday that she would refuse to eat until given help for her gender dysphoria and “treated with dignity, respect and humanity” by the government.

The 28-year-old Army private, who was born male but revealed after being convicted of espionage that she identifies as a woman, tried to commit suicide in July over what her representatives said was the government’s denial of appropriate treatment for those gender issues.

The Army announced later that month that it would investigate Manning for misconduct in connection with the attempt to take her own life, a probe that could lead to indefinite solitary confinement, reclassification into maximum security or additional prison time.

“I need help. I needed help earlier this year. I was driven to suicide by the lack of care for my gender dysphoria that I have been desperate for. I didn’t get any. I still haven’t gotten any,” Manning said in a statement released by a spokeswoman.—Reuters

German court rules 92-year-old Auschwitz radio operator unfit for trial

BERLIN — A 92-year-old woman who worked as a radio operator at Auschwitz has been ruled as unfit to stand trial on charges that she was an accessory to the murder of 260,000 at the Nazi death camp.

The court in Kiel said on Friday the woman identified only as Helma M. was almost blind and deaf, and that a serious illness she suffered this year had left her physically, mentally and emotionally unfit to be put on trial. A spokeswoman for the court said in a statement that judges had ruled that the woman “did not fulfil the basic conditions to take part in an enduring trial”. Germany has been holding trials of suspects of Nazi crimes, using accessory to murder charges to convict Sobibor death camp guard John Demjanjuk in 2011 and 94-year-old former Auschwitz guard Reinhold Hanning earlier this year.—Reuters

UN names two experts to probe North Korea’s human rights violations

GENEVA — UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein on Friday named two experts as part of a team to seek accountability for human rights violations in North Korea.

Sonja Biserko of Serbia and Sara Hossain of Bangladesh will now support the work of Tomas Ojea Quintana of Argentina, the UN special rapporteur on the human rights situation in the isolated country.

Their appointment is in line with the decision by the UN Human Rights Council in March to establish a group of independent experts who will investigate human rights violations in the North, especially ones amounting to crimes against humanity.—Kyodo News

US, Russia clinch Syria deal, aim for truce from Monday

GENEVA — The United States and Russia hailed a breakthrough deal on Saturday to put Syria's peace process back on track, including a nationwide truce effective from sundown on Monday, improved humanitarian aid access and joint military targeting of banned Islamist groups.

"Today, Sergei Lavrov and I, on behalf of our presidents and our countries, call on every Syrian stakeholder to support the plan that the United States and Russia have reached, to ... bring this catastrophic conflict to the quickest possible end through a political process," US Secretary of State John Kerry told a news conference after marathon talks in the Swiss city.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that despite continuing mistrust, the two sides had developed five documents that would revive a failed truce agreed in February and enable military coordination between the US and Russia against militant groups in Syria.

Both sides agreed not to release the documents publicly.

"This all creates the necessary conditions for resumption of



US Secretary of State John Kerry, UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura (C) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrive for a press conference following their meeting in Geneva, Switzerland where they discussed the crisis in Syria, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the political process, which has been stalling for a long time," Lavrov told a news conference.

The deal followed talks that stretched late into Friday night and several failed attempts to

hammer out a deal over the past two weeks. The announcement on Friday was delayed as Kerry and US negotiators consulted with officials in Washington.

"The Obama administration,

the United States, is going the extra mile here because we believe that Russia, and my colleague (Lavrov), have the ability to press the Assad regime to stop this conflict and to come to the table and

make peace," he said.

Previous efforts to forge agreements to stop the fighting and deliver humanitarian aid to besieged communities in Syria have crumbled within weeks, with the United States accusing Assad's forces of attacking opposition groups and civilians.

Kerry said the "bedrock" of the new deal was an agreement that the Syrian government would not fly combat missions in an agreed area on the pretext of hunting fighters from the banned Nusra Front, an al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria.

"That should put an end to the barrel bombs, and an end to the indiscriminate bombing, and it has the potential to change the nature of the conflict."

Under the agreement, Russian-backed government forces and opposition groups, supported by the United States and Gulf States, would halt fighting for a while as a confidence building measure. During this time, opposition fighters will have the chance to separate from militant groups in areas, such as Aleppo, where they have become intermingled.—Reuters

Afghan security forces plan push to relieve besieged provincial capital

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan) — Afghan forces backed by air strikes are preparing a new offensive to clear Taliban militants encircling the capital of Afghanistan's province of Uruzgan, where the two sides have fought bitter clashes, officials said on Saturday.

Street-to-street fighting in Tarin Kot, the provincial capital, where Taliban fighters rampaged to within a few meters (yards) of the government center on Thursday, has quieted as the frontline has moved 15 to 20 km (9 to 12 miles) away, said Dost Mohammed Nayab, the provincial governor's spokesman.

"We have enough forces, ammunition and reinforcements at the moment," he said. "We are

working on a bigger plan to eliminate the Taliban from Uruzgan. We will have a massive operation in three or four days."

The Taliban attack, in one of Afghanistan's top opium-producing areas, reveals how thinly stretched Afghan security forces have become as they try to contain Islamist insurgents fighting to overthrow the Western-backed government in Kabul.

Since the US-led military coalition declared the end of its combat mission in 2014, the Taliban have sought to move from their strongholds in rural areas and attack major cities such as south-central Tarin Kot, as well as the capitals of the southern province of Helmand and the northern

region of Kunduz. On Friday US warplanes conducted at least three air strikes in Uruzgan, alongside strikes by the Afghan air force.

Taliban forces briefly seized Kunduz city a year ago and the American commander of the roughly 16,000 international troops remaining in Afghanistan has vowed to help Afghan forces hold onto the cities. In an online statement on Friday, the Taliban said clashes continued and at least one local government commander had defected, along with some of his men and weapons.

The group also claimed to have hit a commando helicopter, killing or wounding all aboard. The Afghan military denied that report.—Reuters

Fighting rages in Aleppo hours after Syrian peace deal

AMMAN — Fighting raged on in southern Aleppo on Saturday, the army and rebels said, hours after the United States and Russia hailed a breakthrough deal to put Syria's peace process back on track.

The army attacked rebel-held areas, pushing to maximise recent gains before a new nationwide ceasefire was due to come into effect on Monday. Insurgents said they were planning a counter offensive.

Years of fighting in the divided northern city — Syria's biggest before the civil war — have killed thousands and left residents

struggling to get food and water. Violence there has scuppered past peace efforts.

The army and pro-government militias pushed from the city's the Ramousah area towards rebel pockets in the Amriyah district, both sides said.

"The fighting is flaring on all the fronts of southern Aleppo but the clashes in Amriyah are the heaviest," said Captain Abdul Salam Abdul Razak, the military spokesman of the rebel Nour al-Din al Zinki Brigades.

Recent government gains in Ramousah have reopened the main route into the government-held

west, and let forces backing President Bashar al-Assad encircle the city's rebel-held east.

The UK based Observatory for Human Rights which tracks violence across Syria said jets believed to be either Syrian or Russian also hit rebel-held towns in the northern Aleppo countryside including Anadan and Hreitan along important insurgent supply routes. The monitor confirmed reports by residents and activists in rebel-held eastern Aleppo who said Syrian army helicopters dropped barrel bombs on residential civilian areas in several districts.—Reuters

Islamic State twin suicide bombings at Baghdad mall kill 12

BAGHDAD — Twelve people were killed late on Friday in two suicide bombings claimed by Islamic State at a shopping mall in eastern Baghdad, police and hospital sources said.

More than 40 people were wounded in the attack at Nakheel Mall across from the oil ministry, the sources said. One bomb went off at the entrance to the mall, the other in the parking lot.

Unconfirmed amateur video published on Facebook showed what appeared to be four separate fires, including two cars engulfed in flames, under a highway overpass near the mall amid the wailing sirens of first responders.

Amaq news agency, which supports Islamic State, said in an online statement that two suicide bombers, one wearing a vest and the other in a car, had targeted "a gathering of Shi'ites" on Palestine

Street. The fight against Islamic State, which seized a third of Iraq's territory in 2014, has exacerbated a long-running sectarian conflict in Iraq, mostly between the Shi'ite majority and the Sunni minority.

The militants have lost ground in the past year to US-backed government forces and Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias, and Iraq is gearing up for an offensive next month to recapture the northern city of Mosul.

Yet such bombings show the group can still strike outside the territory its controls in northern and western Iraq. A car bomb near a hospital in central Baghdad killed nine people on Monday, and another one down the road in July killed 324, one of the deadliest such attacks since the US-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein 13 years ago.—Reuters



Municipal workers sweeps the ground at the site of a suicide bomb attack at Nakheel Mall across from the oil ministry, in Baghdad, in Iraq, on 10 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



The map of Europe is depicted on a twenty euro banknote in this photo to illustration taken in Athens, Greece in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Private investors tout EU real estate as 'biggest spread anywhere'

SAN FRANCISCO — There is significant money to be made in Europe by investing and lending where local banks cannot, two prominent private fund managers told attendees of a US hedge fund conference on Friday.

"The most attractive opportunity in this environment is to step in where the banks are least able to lend," Stuart Fiertz, co-founder and president of Cheyne Capital Management, said in a panel discussion at the Alpha Hedge West conference in San Francisco.

London-based Cheyne managed about \$14.8 billion (11 billion pounds) in so-called regulatory assets as of 31 May, which includes leverage. Its offerings include hedge funds and other private funds that bet on real estate, corporate bonds, stocks and more.

"We think there's tremendous opportunity in Europe," added Bruce Richards, chief executive officer and co-managing partner of \$12.7 billion Marathon Asset Management.

The executives, speaking side by side in front of an audience of pension trustees and fellow hedge fund managers, were particularly bullish on European real estate.

After much anticipation, European banks were finally starting to shed property-related nonperforming loans, Fiertz and Richards said. Those asset sales come

as banks have generally pulled back from extending riskier real estate and commercial loans.

Both moves, they said, create opportunities for private lenders such as Cheyne and Marathon, which use private credit funds that lock up investor capital for several years as opposed to their hedge funds, which offer looser liquidity terms.

Fiertz said European banks have pulled back from real estate lending faster than their loans to companies, creating more relative opportunity. Some so-called value-add loans up to \$100 million to improve properties were yielding interest rates of about 10 per cent plus fees, he said.

Instead of making real estate loans, Richards said New York-based Marathon was buying nonperforming loans directly from banks, sometimes at a 50 per cent discount from face value. Marathon can then take over and manage the underlying properties and receive income from existing commercial tenants.

With cheap financing to make the purchase, the money to be made is "very, very encouraging," Richards said.

"If you can buy at 7, 8 per cent cash flowing, hard assets with financing rates that are (ultra low), that's the biggest spread anywhere in the world," he added. "You can't even go to Brazil and find a spread that big."—Reuters

Gaza man shot dead in protest near border with Israel — Palestinian official

GAZA — An 18-year-old Palestinian was killed during a rock-throwing protest near the Gaza-Israel border on Friday and a Palestinian health official said Israeli soldiers shot him, but the Israeli army said troops were not responsible.

Gaza health ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra said Abdel-Rahman Al-Dabbagh was killed by an Israeli bullet to the head during the border clash in the central Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military said troops had sought to contain the

violence on the other side of the border fence and had used only tear gas.

"Dozens of rioters breached the buffer zone and attempted to damage the security (border) fence. ... Forces stationed at the border used tear gas that led to the dispersal of the riot. Following a preliminary review, the Israel Defence Forces did not conduct the reported shooting," a military statement said.

In violence since October in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, at least 210 Pales-

tinians have been killed, 141 of whom Israel said were assailants. Others died during clashes and protests.

Palestinians, many of them acting alone and with rudimentary weapons, have killed at least 33 Israelis and two visiting Americans.

Palestinian leaders say assailants have acted out of desperation over the collapse of peace talks in 2014 and Israeli settlement expansion in Israeli-occupied territory that Palestinians seek for an independent state.—Reuters

Germany's Steinmeier sees Turkey decision on air base as signal for dialogue

BERLIN — German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Friday said he viewed Ankara's decision to allow German lawmakers to visit a Turkish air base as "political signal" of its willingness to resume dialogue with Berlin after significant strains.

Steinmeier underscored that Turkey remained an important

partner for Germany and the European Union in tackling the migrant crisis, but said Turkey also had a central role in helping to resolve various crises in the Middle East.

Turkey on Thursday agreed to let a small group of German lawmakers visit 250 German soldiers at Incirlik Air Base near the Syrian border on 4 October. It

had banned the visit in response to a parliamentary resolution declaring the 1915 massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces a "genocide."

Steinmeier said he hoped that the phase of "talking past each other" would now be replaced by more direct dialogue between Ankara and Berlin and the rest of the EU.—Reuters



People reflect on a floor with an airplane symbol at the air base in Incirlik, Turkey, on 21 January 2016. Photo: Reuters

US tells consumers to stop using fire-prone Samsung phones

SEOUL/NEW YORK — A US government safety agency on Friday urged all consumers to stop using Samsung Galaxy Note 7 phones, which are prone to catch fire, and top airlines globally banned their use during flights.

Following reports that the phones' batteries have combusted during charging and normal use, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission said it was working on an official recall of the devices and that users should turn them off in the meantime.

Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) said it was working with the agency. It voluntarily is-

sued a recall last week for 10 markets including the United States, and it was expediting shipments of replacement phones to customers.

The US government action heralds more fallout for the South Korean manufacturer, which may take a financial hit from the recall and lose customers who are concerned about the quality of its flagship phones.

For Samsung, which prides itself on manufacturing prowess, the scale of the recall is expected to be unprecedented. Some 2.5 million of the premium devices have been sold worldwide, the company has said. Its shares closed down 3.9 per

cent on Friday. Samsung said users in the United States can exchange their phones for one of several models and receive a \$25 gift card.

"The cost of the recall is going to be astronomical," said product liability expert and chief executive officer of Real-World Forensic Engineering, Jahan Rasty. "They have to compensate people, fix the problem and give them a revised version of the product that doesn't have the same manufacturing or design defect."

"The longer this story lingers, the more it will etch itself in people's minds," he said.

One pain point is that the de-

vices are now off limits in a typically high-use setting: aboard planes.

Aviation authorities and airlines from North America to Europe and Asia have issued bans or guidance on the phones. On Thursday, the US Federal Aviation Administration said travellers should not use or charge them while in the air, or stow them in checked luggage.

That prompted the world's three largest airlines by passenger traffic — American (AAL.O), Delta (DAL.N) and United (UAL.N) — to start telling passengers at the gate and on board aircraft to keep

the phones switched off until they deplane. While experts say the bans may be tough for airlines to enforce, they nonetheless may deter would-be customers of the Note 7 in addition to annoying existing customers.

That's because airlines have increasingly made movies and TV shows available free for streaming on smart devices in flight, to avoid the cost of installing new screens on seat-backs. For now, Note 7 customers are cut off from this entertainment. This is "a huge black eye for Samsung," TECHanalysis Research President Bob O'Donnell said.—Reuters

Portugal's Guterres still leads race for UN chief after fourth ballot



Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), arrives for a news conference at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 18 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS — Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres still leads the race to become the next United Nations Secretary-General after a fourth UN Security Council secret ballot on Friday, diplomats said. The 15-member council

cast a ballot for each of the remaining 10 candidates, and the choices are: encourage, discourage or no opinion. Guterres received 12 encourage, two discourage and one no opinion, diplomats said.

This is a slight improvement on his third round result of 11 encourage, three discourage and one no opinion.

Slovakia's Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak hung on to second spot with 10 encourage, four discourage and one no opinion, diplomats said. This was also a slight improvement on his last result of nine encourage, five discourage and one no opinion.

The Security Council will hold secret ballots until a consensus is reached on a candidate to replace UN chief Ban Ki-moon of South Korea who steps down at the end of 2016 after serving two five-year terms.—Reuters

Sorrow, selfies compete at New York's 9/11 memorial 15 years on

NEW YORK — The memorial in New York City at the site where the Twin Towers fell in the Sept. 11 attacks 15 years ago straddles two worlds: one of the living and one of the dead.

A marker for where more than 2,600 people were killed, it attracts tourists from around the world. Some are drawn there to pause and reflect, others to satisfy a morbid fascination with the site of the worst attack on US soil since Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941.

Clutching cell phones, cameras and selfie sticks, visitors generally take their time around the National September 11 Memorial Museum. They are expected to turn out in droves on Sunday for the 9/11 anniversary.

More than 28 million people have seen the memorial and 7 million have been to the museum since they were opened five years ago, leaving some

local people thinking the significance of the site is fading as it becomes just one more tourist site.

Rosanne Hughes' husband died on 11 September, 2001, while he was on a work visit at the Windows on the World restaurant high in the World Trade Center's North Tower.

Now a board member of the New Jersey 9/11 Memorial Foundation, Hughes said it was hard for victims' relatives to sometimes see insensitive or even rude behavior at the plaza in Lower Manhattan.

"It's very disrespectful for people to go there and take selfies and smile for the cameras and in the background is where the towers collapsed," Hughes said.

"I saw people with their kids running around, you know laughing, having fun. I guess people just don't understand that it's just not that type of museum."

Early on that bright Tuesday morning in 2001, two hijacked planes were slammed into the North and South towers of the World Trade Center. A third plane was flown into the Pentagon near Washington, DC, and a fourth crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

The memorial and museum, which cost more than \$700 million to build, feature twin pools with waterfalls, each covering nearly an acre. The pools stand in the footprints of the towers.

Flanking the pools are platforms dotted with Swamp white oak trees and ivy beds. The names of every person who died in the 9/11 attacks are inscribed on bronze panels that rim the pools. Coins glistened from the inner ledges of the pools, sharing space with paper napkins, bottle caps and even a plastic coffee cup one recent Sunday.—Reuters

After protests, US halts North Dakota pipeline near tribal lands

WASHINGTON/BISMARCK, (North Dakota) — The Obama administration stepped into a dispute on Friday over a planned oil pipeline in North Dakota that has angered Native Americans, appealing for calm while blocking construction on federal land and asking the company behind the project to suspend work nearby.

The move came shortly after US District Judge James Boasberg in Washington rejected a request from Native Amer-

icans for a court order to block the project. The government's action reflected the success of growing protests over the proposed \$3.7 billion pipeline crossing four states which have sparked a renewal of Native American activism.

"This case has highlighted the need for a serious discussion on whether there should be nationwide reform with respect to considering tribes' views on these types of infrastructure projects," the US Departments of Justice, Army and

Interior said in a joint statement released minutes after Boasberg's ruling.

Opposition to the pipeline has drawn support from 200 Native American tribes, as well as from activists and celebrities. The Standing Rock Sioux, whose tribal lands are a half-mile south of the proposed route, say the pipeline would desecrate sacred burial and prayer sites, and could leak oil into the Missouri and Cannon Ball rivers, on which the tribe relies for water.

On Friday, the tribe

called the Obama administration's intervention "stunning," saying it set the stage for nationwide reform on projects affecting tribal lands. "Our hearts are full, this an historic day for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and for tribes across the nation," tribal chairman Dave Archambault II said in a statement. "Our voices have been heard."

In North Dakota's state capital of Bismarck, hundreds of protesters celebrated the government decision.—Reuters

Wanted immediately a COO for a Family Office, passionate about tech based, new age businesses in Myanmar. Also need young, energetic candidates for an exciting venture. All applicants must be fluent in English and Myanmar and have a computer science/marketing degree. Knowledge of Hindi will be an added advantage. Please apply with a scanned photograph and details of experience to profhub566@gmail.com

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 13th SEPTEMBER 2016 (Bakri Eid), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (124N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (124N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Protesters demonstrate against the Energy Transfer Partners' Dakota Access oil pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in Cannon Ball, North Dakota, US, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gordon-Levitt examines whistleblower's motivations in 'Snowden'

TORONTO — When veteran filmmaker Oliver Stone was casting an actor to play former NSA contractor-turned-whistleblower Edward Snowden in a film, he said he went to only one person - Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

"I don't know why, he just looked like, and felt like, and acted like he was one of that generation, very much the same age and computer knowledgeable," Stone told Reuters last month in Los Angeles.

"Snowden," which had its world premiere on Friday at the Toronto International Film Festival and hits theaters on 16 September, sees Gordon-Levitt, 35, play the 33-year-old Snowden through a decade of his life.

Gordon-Levitt, who achieved fame as a child actor in television series "3rd Rock from the Sun," said that by playing Snowden, he hoped to understand his motivations.

"I was kind of trying to figure out why he did what he did, what was going on in his head," he said. "And one of the questions everyone asks is, 'Why didn't he just, you know, voice his concerns through proper channels?'"

The film leads up to the events of 2013, when Snowden fled the United States after exposing the government's mass

surveillance programs to journalist Glenn Greenwald and documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras.

The US government filed espionage charges against Snowden and he was granted asylum in Russia, where he has lived since, with his girlfriend Lindsay Mills. Actress Shailene Woodley plays Mills in the film.

Gordon-Levitt said he related to Snowden's disillusionment with the US government after watching US National Intelligence director James Clapper deny, before a congressional committee, that the NSA was collecting records on millions of Americans.

"If the director of National Intelligence is being asked by a senator under oath, 'Hey, is this happening?' and he's telling a lie, well, then, what is some guy that works at the NSA going to accomplish by complaining through proper channels?" the actor said.

Tech-savvy Gordon-Levitt, who said he donated his fee

for the film to the American Civil Liberties Union, is the founder of HitRecord, an online collaborative creative hub to brings together artists from around the world.

He said he tended to be optimistic about new technology but the movie made him more aware of its negative aspects.

"It's worth being optimistic about all those things, but it's also probably worth paying attention and considering what might the downsides be of this new technology that we're inheriting," he said.—Reuters



SMAP fans celebrate band's 25th anniversary despite imminent breakup

TOKYO — Fans of the now middle-aged Japanese boy band SMAP, set to break up at the end of this year, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the release of the group's first single by begging the band to continue in personal ads in newspapers across the country on Friday.

Messages such as "Happy 25th anniversary," "Thank you for your smiles always" and "I will support you forever and ever," placed by SMAP fans, filled almost the entirety of the personal ad space in the morning edition of the *Tokyo Shimbun*.

Similar messages were also printed by regional newspapers in various parts of the nation, including the Kahoku Shimpō in Miyagi Prefecture, the Shizuoka Shimbun in Shizuoka Prefecture, the Jomo Shimbun in Gunma Prefecture, and the Kitanippon Shimbun in Toyama Prefecture.

The 25th anniversary of a band as hugely popular as SMAP would usually involve special concerts and events, but no celebrations were planned after talent agency Johnny & Associates Inc. announced in August the group will break up at the

end of the year.

But loyal fans launched a campaign on Twitter calling on fellow fans to place anniversary messages in newspapers around Japan.

SMAP, which stands for Sports Music Assemble People, was formed in 1988 by six boys, with one leaving in 1996 to pursue a career as an auto racer.

The group debuted as a band when their first single was released on 9 September, 1991. It has since put out a plethora of hit songs such as "Sekai ni Hitotsu Dake no Hana" (The Only Flower in the World) and "Lion Heart."

The band caused a brief media frenzy in January when the news of their potential breakup surfaced, before band members said later that month they would stick together.

At the time, fans also launched a campaign to express their support through the purchase of CDs of "Sekai ni Hitotsu Dake no Hana," SMAP's best known song, and as a result pushed the CD single released in 2003 to No. 1 again on a Japanese hit chart.—Kyodo News



Leonardo DiCaprio arrives on the red carpet with Fisher Stevens (R) for the film "Before the Flood" during the 41st Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), in Toronto, Canada, on 9 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

DiCaprio's 'Before The Flood' aims to make climate a US election issue

TORONTO — Hollywood heartthrob and environmental activist Leonardo DiCaprio said he rushed to release his upcoming climate change documentary "Before the Flood" ahead of November's US presidential elections to issue a clarion call to US voters in time to influence their decisions.

"We wanted this film to come out before the next election because ... the United States is the largest contributor to this issue," DiCaprio said to the audience after the film's world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on Friday.

"We cannot afford, at this critical moment in time, to have leaders in office that do not believe in the modern science of climate change," he added.

The film follows the Oscar-winning DiCaprio and actor-filmmaker Fish-

er Stevens as they travel from Canada's oil sands to tiny Pacific islands, interviewing world leaders such as the Catholic Church's Pope Francis and US President Barack Obama, climate scientists and academics.

DiCaprio's interview subjects discuss and document the negative impacts of industrialization and increasing consumption on the health of the planet.

"The fact that we are still debating any of this is just utter insanity to me," DiCaprio said.

The actor, who won an Oscar this year for playing a fur trapper battling nature's elements in "The Revenant," was an executive producer on 2014 Oscar-nominated documentary "Virunga," about the threatened gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This year, he is an executive producer on Netflix documentary "The Ivory Game," about Africa's illegal ivory trade, also making its debut at the Toronto film festival.

"Before the Flood" is out in New York and Los Angeles theaters on 21 October and airs

on National Geographic Channel globally on 30 October.

The film calls out the sizable minority of Republican lawmakers who flatly deny the broad scientific evidence that human activity is causing environmental damage, and names presidential candidate Donald Trump and former candidates Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

It seeks to effect a balance between making clear that the earth is facing a massive danger while also offering audiences a glimmer of hope that catastrophe can be averted.

The gloom came from DiCaprio and the hope from Stevens, the pair said in the question and answer session that followed the screening. The film also criticizes those who fund anti-environment groups for commercial gain.

"The Koch brothers aren't denying it, they just want to make money," Stevens said, referring to Charles and David Koch who have founded and funded conservative and libertarian political organisations.—Reuters

Paralympics: Silence for Brazil! Crowd at blind soccer struggles with quiet

RIO DE JANEIRO — The Brazilian crowd was one of the quietest ever for their national soccer team, but it was still not quiet enough when the ball came into the box in the 29th minute.

With Brazil trailing Morocco 1-0 on Friday, the noise rose effortlessly from a nervous crowd used to cheering on their own, and striker Nonato, unable to hear the jingling bell inside the ball, missed.

"Silence please," the referee called to the stands once more. Brazil's coach shook his head in despair.

Blind five-a-side soccer, where players follow the ball by the rattling it makes as it rolls, may be the only sport at the Olympic and Paralympic Games

in Rio de Janeiro where the raucous home crowd is a liability rather than a boon.

From judo to tennis and golf, Brazil's fans ripped up traditional crowd etiquette and brought a loud soccer culture to Olympic sport. Opposition athletes were often booed and chants from an army of yellow shirts deafened venues.

But this arena is different, as green signs asking for quiet attest. The players are totally or almost totally blind and wear eye masks to make sure no one has an advantage.

As the crowd wrestled with how to show their support, the "shhhhs" of fans demanding quiet

were often louder than the cheers they were hoping to stop.

"It's so difficult. We're trying but we really want to shout," said Sonia Lima, 54, at half time when the noise level rose with collective relief that silence was, for a few minutes at least, not necessary.

Watching with four friends all dressed in Brazil shirts and waving flags, Lima said the silence felt unnatural. "When they get near the goal I just want to scream: 'Take a shot dammit.'"

Fortunately for the excitable crowd, Brazil overcame the noise to find their rhythm in the second half and clawed their way to a 3-1 win with stunning strikes from Ricardinho

and Jefinho.

After the match, a relieved Jefinho tried not to discourage the crowd as he asked them to quiet down.

"That energy (of the crowd) is very important for us on the pitch. Silence is needed, but the support that comes from them is really important for us too," Jefinho, who is widely considered the greatest player to grace blind five-a-side soccer, told reporters.

The defending Paralympic champions hope the crowd learns the right way to show their support before Brazil play Turkey on Sunday. "Over time the crowd will get used to our game and will start being quieter," Jefinho said. —Reuters

Paralympics: Judo bronze to Hirose as Japan awaits 1st Rio 2016 gold



Junko Hirose (bottom) of Japan competes against Maria Merenciano Herrero of Spain in a bronze-medal match in the 57-kilogram division of women's judo — a sport for visually impaired athletes — at the Rio de Janeiro Paralympics, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

RIO DE JANEIRO — Junko Hirose won judo bronze at the Rio 2016 Paralympics on Friday, Japan's fourth overall medal, as the country's first gold remains elusive and the slow start continues.

Hirose, 25, competing in the 57-kilogram division of women's judo — a sport for visually impaired athletes — took an ippon win over three-time Paralympic medalist Maria Merenciano Herrero from Spain. The medal is Hirose's first at the Paralympics and a career-best result for the Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, resident.

"I am really happy that I could fight my fight," Hirose said, also explaining that she believed she fought instinctively and that her superior strength and power on the ground paid off in the bronze contest.

Fellow Japanese ju-

doka Aramitsu Kitazono reached the bronze medal bout in the men's 73-kg event but was unable to overcome Germany's Nikolai Kornhass, the 25-year-old from Kobe losing by ippon.

Japan missed out on winning its first track and field medal by one place when Maya Nakanishi finished fourth in the women's T44 long jump final.

Nakanishi's 5.42-metre leap was 15 centimeters from bronze and 41 cm behind gold medalist, France's Marie-Amelie le Fur, who set a world record in the event. Japan's other contestant in the final, Saki Takakuwa, finished fifth.

Japan's defending gold medalist women's goalball team got its first win of the Games, beating hosts Brazil 2-1 to claim the lead in Group C with four points.

—Reuters



Moroccan and Brazilian players plays the game during Men's 5-a-side Men's Preliminaries Pool A, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Entertainment Channel

(11-9-2016, Sunday)

06 : 00	Pm	Weather Report
	Pm	Music Programme
06 : 15	Pm	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-2)
06 : 35	Pm	Myanmar Movie
09 : 20	Pm	Live: Premier League "Swansea Vs Chelsea"
11 : 15	Pm	International Movie

(00:00 Am ~ 03:20 Am) Transmission (Repeat -06:00 Pm~09:20 Pm)

03 : 20	Am	MRTV Entertainment Music
03 : 35	Am	Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant
03 : 50	Am	International Movie Songs
04 : 00	Am	International Movie

(06:00 Am ~12:00 Pm) Transmission (Repeat - 00:00 Am~06:00 Am)
(12:00 Pm ~ 04:05 Pm) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Am~10:05 Am)

04 : 05	Pm	Sayit-Wyne Girls
04 : 30	Pm	Innovation of Traditional Design
04 : 45	Pm	Cartoon Movie "Bionicle: Mask of Light"
06 : 00	Pm	Close Down.

From 11-9-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 pm
To 12-9-2016 (Monday) 6:00 pm

Myanmar International

(11-9-2016 07:00am ~ 12-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Geographic Center of Myanmar
07:45	Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part-1)
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	Memorable Yaw Region
08:45	Am	Safari World
08:55	Am	H.E.I.P (11) Elephants are facing running out of habitats and in danger
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Most Prominent Resort and Residence - Ngapali
09:50	Am	Kindhearted Pet Lovers
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Art of Making Glaze Ware
10:43	Am	A Chance to Change Their Future

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue "To the coastal region (Meyik - Kawthoung)"(Part-2)
07:42	Pm	Inspiration
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar "Mobile Banking System"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Hanthawaddy U Win Tin "A Fearless Man" (Episode - 2)
08:44	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Zay Yar Aye

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

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

Wawrinka beats Nishikori to set up final against Djokovic

NEW YORK — Stan Wawrinka outslugged Japanese sixth seed Kei Nishikori 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-2 in energy-sapping humidity at Flushing Meadows on Friday to set up a US Open final against world number one Novak Djokovic.

The third-seeded Swiss took a while to get untracked as 2014 US Open runner-up Nishikori played a near flawless opening set of the semi-final with just two errors.

The Japanese broke Waw-

rinka to start the second set, but the Swiss started rolling after breaking back in the fourth game and Nishikori, who went five tough sets to upset second seed Andy Murray in a four-hour quarter-final, began to wither.

Wawrinka, the 2014 Australian Open winner and 2015 French Open champion, broke Nishikori in the last game of the second, third and fourth sets to reach his first US Open final.—Reuters



Kei Nishikori of Japan congratulates Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland on his win in four sets on day twelve of the 2016 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre, New York, USA, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

First blood to Guardiola as De Bruyne inspires City

MANCHESTER — Pep Guardiola drew first blood in his renewed managerial duel with Jose Mourinho as Manchester City deservedly won an absorbing Premier League derby 2-1 against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Kevin de Bruyne, who was never appreciated by Mourinho when they were at Chelsea together, proved instrumental in City's magnificent win, scoring the opener and making the second for Kelechi Iheanacho before halftime.

With his side being outpassed and outclassed in a one-sided first half, Zlatan Ibrahimovic brought United back into the match just before the break after a mistake by City's new goalkeeper Claudio Bravo.



Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne hits the post against Manchester United during Premier League at Old Trafford, on 10 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bravo's error on a hugely unconvincing debut inspired a much more even second half and Ibrahimovic had goal ruled out for offside before man of the match De Bruyne hit the post as City maintained their 100 per cent record this season to move three points clear at the top of the table.—Reuters

Pacquiao's age gives trainer cause for concern

LOS ANGELES — Manny Pacquiao will be one month shy of his 38th birthday when he challenges World Boxing Organisation welterweight champion Jessie Vargas in November, a mature boxing age that gives his trainer cause for concern.

Though Hall of Fame trainer Freddie Roach is confident that Pacquiao still has "a lot of fight left in him", he has told the Filipino southpaw that the very first time he sees him a step slower in the ring, he will have to retire.

"I do have some concerns over his age. I put all the factors together and so forth and I have a deal with Manny," Roach told Reuters. "I tell him, 'When you start slowing down just one step, I'm going to tell you to retire.'"

"We have an agreement that he will retire when I tell him but I haven't seen that step lost yet.

In his last fight, he fought a very good fight. We saw a lot of aggressiveness come out of Manny.

"He has the killer instinct coming back and I like that a lot. With his religion, it (the killer instinct) got away from him for a little while but he is very dedicated to his religion also and that makes the training a little more difficult."

Pacquiao, an eight-division world champion, scored a unanimous decision win over American Timothy Bradley in his most recent bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas in April.

That was his first fight in nearly a year after his loss to undefeated American Floyd Mayweather in a heavily hyped welterweight showdown, and it improved his career record to (58-6-2).—Reuters

Lewandowski steers Bayern to 2-0 win at Schalke

MUNICH — Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski made amends for several glaring misses when he scored a late goal and set up another as the German champions ground out a 2-0 win at battling Schalke 04 on Friday.

The Poland striker, who netted a hat-trick in a 6-0 home demolition of Werder Bremen on the Bundesliga's opening weekend, spurned several chances in either half before he found the back of the net with a trademark clinical finish in the 81st minute.

He then ripped through the home team's defence in stoppage time before squaring a perfect pass for substitute Joshua Kimmich, who sealed the win with an angled

shot. A well-organised Schalke frustrated the visitors for long spells and missed their best chance early in the second half when Dutch striker Klaas Jan Huntelaar rattled the crossbar with a screaming shot from 30 metres.

Despite having several key players injured, Bayern's new coach Carlo Ancelotti was still spoilt for choice from a deep squad and handed Renato Sanches his debut following the midfielder's 35-million euro (\$39.8 million) close-season move from Benfica.

Yet the 19-year-old, who helped Portugal win Euro 2016, struggled in his maiden appearance for Bayern as did his teammates against a packed Schalke

midfield. Lewandowski skewed a shot wide in the first half and shot over an empty net from four metres in the second before he finally broke the deadlock. The 28-year-old hitman took a defence-splitting pass from Javi Martinez in his stride and buried the ball over advancing keeper Ralf Faehrmann from 14 metres.

He missed another close-range sitter in the dying minutes before putting Kimmich through and the versatile midfielder made no mistake from inside the penalty area. In Saturday's stand-out fixtures, Bayer Leverkusen take on Hamburg and Borussia Dortmund visit promoted RB Leipzig.—Reuters



Robert Lewandowski (C) of Bayern Munich, Nabil Bentaleb (L) and Matija Nastasic of Schalke fight the ball during German Bundesliga at Veltins Arena, in Gelsenkirchen, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS