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GOODWILL FROM DOWNING STREET

British PM to State Counsellor: 'Delighted with democracy in Myanmar'

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was welcomed by British Prime Minister Mrs. Theresa May to No 10 Downing Street to discuss Myanmar's transition to democracy.

The two leaders yesterday discussed bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Theresa May expressed her delight for Myanmar's successful transition to democracy, promising that the new government of Britain would promote the bilateral relations and cooperation and would help development of Myanmar.

Britain is also planning to hold a trade and investment forum in November in London to boost the bilateral trade and investment, she added.

The prime minister also invited the State Counsellor to pay an official goodwill visit to Britain next year.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also expressed her thanks to the British prime minister for Britain's support to Myanmar's transition to democracy.

She also requested Britain government to help Myanmar's agriculture, forestry, education, health, human resource development sectors.



See page 3 >> Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May (L) greets State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi outside No 10 Downing Street in London. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Singaporean businesspeople tend to boost trade, investment in Myanmar

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Further easing of US sanctions possible

AS State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives in the United States, officials in America are possibly preparing for further relaxation of sanctions on Myanmar.

Yesterday, the White House said it wants to make sure that US sanctions against Myanmar are

not preventing economic investment that would help the people there, President Barack Obama's deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said on Tuesday.

Rhodes told a conference that US leaders wanted to consult with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

about the issue. She is meeting with Obama at the White House today.

"The view of the government matters a lot to us," he said, referring to sanctions policy.

The US sanctions that remain largely target military-run

enterprises, or businessmen with close links to the former government. A ban on importing Myanmar jade and gemstones into the US also remains in place, as well as a ban on arms sales to Myanmar.

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Myanmar's nascent bird-watching industry starts to take flight

TOURIST industry insiders predict this year could see the number of foreign tourists to the country augmented with the addition of foreign birdwatchers visiting Myanmar, as well as regular tourists, citing the proliferation in Myanmar of some of the world's seldom-seen, rare bird species.

Myitmakha News Agency has been told that Myanmar started to become a destination of widespread interest upon global bird-watching communities from September 2014.

"The number of foreigners which comes to engage in bird-watching is augmenting year upon year. So, it's probably this year will see a further increase on last year's figures. Myanmar is home to six bird species not found anywhere else on the planet. That, combined with the fact the country hosts a number of other seldom-seen species, has seen bird-watching enthusiasts from abroad visit the country. We didn't used to get foreign birdwatchers visiting in the past," said Ma Htet Htet, owner of a tourism enterprise in Mandalay.

An array of winter bird species such as the kite and grey heron can be seen in Myanmar during the open tourist season, while the chance to spot some of the world's rare bird species, including that of the price bird, during September in the Bagan region has driven up the number of tourists visiting the temple studded part of Myanmar.

"There are rather few bird-watching enthusiasts in Myanmar. Being a bird-watching guide is a job which can only be

done by those with a passion for birds; only by thoroughly studying birds can one be in a position to tell guests which kinds of bird they can expect to encounter on their trip, and at which times they are most likely to spot them. A steady surge in the number of birdwatchers from abroad will give us guides more business," said Ko Kyaw Kyaw, a bird-watcher tour guide.

Over fifty species of birds can be spotted in the areas surrounding Mandalay, while the Chin Hills are also home to a variety of bird species. Myanmar birdwatcher tour guides also told Myitmakha News Agency that Tanintharyi Region is famous for the mountain quail species of bird.

Although no formal records exist which document the numbers of foreign birdwatchers which started to visiting Myanmar for bird-watching purposes from 2014, tour guides estimate that year saw roughly 80 birdwatchers visit Myanmar, with 2015 seeing that figure increase to around 100.

Bagan, Kalaw, Inle Lake, the Chill Hills; the lakes of Puleik, Taungthaman and Sunye; and Hlawga Wildlife Park are regions of the country popular with foreign bird-watching enthusiasts.

Myanmar is home to over 1,100 species of birds, while bird-watching enthusiasts from abroad predominantly come from Britain, with German, American, Swedish and Chinese birdwatchers having also visited the country on bird-watching holidays. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee meets to form sub-committee in Bago Region



Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee meeting to form sub-committee in progress. PHOTO: MNA

THE seventh Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee-Union Level meeting took place at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday with discussions on works to form JMC-State Level (Kay-in-2) in Bago Region which is expected to begin this month.

Chairman of the JMC-U Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Vice Chairman

1 Saw Isaac Po and Vice Chairman 2 U Ko Ko Gyi extended greetings on the first day of the meeting set to last for three days until Thursday.

During the three-day meeting, the formation of another JMC-S in Chin State this December, a report on the interim Technical Secretariat Centre of JMC, discussions on work

guidelines for two secretaries of JMC-U, duties and responsibilities of an executive director and a deputy executive director, matters related to demarcation and demining and the presence of international experts are also set to be discussed. The second-day of the JMC-U continues today at the same venue. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Dala's electricity network to be upgraded



Electric power lines are being changed. Photo: Myitmakha News Agency

YANGON Dala Township, an underdeveloped quarter of the city located across the Yangon River, is to receive the distribution of 1.2MW of electricity this 2016-17 fiscal year, the township's office of electrical engineers has told Myitmakha News Agency.

The expansion to the volume of electricity with services the township will include the replacement of over a 140 decaying wood and metal electricity poles with concrete poles, and

the installment of six 200 KV A transformers.

Once complete by mid-October this year, Dala Township will be able to receive 1.2MW of electricity.

"Efforts are being made to increase electricity to Dala in a bid to mitigate against declines in electricity availability, and to allow for the utilization of electricity at its full-voltage capacity. We're also replacing the hazardous wooden electricity poles with concrete substitutes," said

U Aung Kyaw Moe, electricity manager for the township.

"There are certain streets in our ward where the electricity cuts out. We also experience power cuts from the over-usage of electricity during the evenings," said Ma Moe Lwin Oo, from Dala Township's Tapinshwehti Ward. The initiative to increase the capacity of electricity in Dala will reportedly be carried out by a total of 60 electrical engineers.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



British PM to State Counsellor: 'Delighted with democracy in Myanmar'

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also invited Mrs May to pay a visit to Myanmar.

In the afternoon, the State Counsellor held talks with Ms Priti Patel, the Secretary of State for International Development at the ministry in London.

At the meeting, Ms Priti Patel promised to help necessary sectors of the country for the development of the country while Britain is currently assisting in

Myanmar's agriculture, education, monetary and poverty reduction.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sought further help from Britain to Myanmar's education, health, vocational training, human resource development and creation of job opportunities.

The Myanmar delegation led by the State Counsellor left London for Washington at 5.20 pm local time.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Ms Priti Patel, the Secretary of State for International Development. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Henry Van Thio addresses Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Day ceremony



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits booth displayed at Anti-Human Trafficking Day ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio stressed the need to improve cooperation among countries to fight human trafficking, considered a form of trans-boundary criminal activity, at a ceremony to mark Myanmar Anti-trafficking Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. In his address, the Vice President elaborated on Myanmar's efforts to tackle trafficking in human beings with a five-year national plan that began in 2007, saying that the year 2016 is the fifth year of the country's second five-year plan.

The Vice President said that the third five-year plan will be set up, focusing on recommendations stated in the 2016 Trafficking in

Persons (TIP) report released by the United States that decided to drop Myanmar to "Tier 3" from "Tier 2".

Myanmar is working closely with Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia to protect Myanmar fishermen from labour exploitation overseas. Myanmar is also working with UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs to launch human trafficking awareness campaigns in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, disaster-hit regions and areas of internal migration, added the Vice President. Thanks to collaborative efforts, trafficked victims in China, Thailand and Indonesia were rescued and sent back to their families, said the

Vice President, adding that seminars and training courses were organised for anti-human trafficking corps and local police members.

Mr. Aaron Greenberg of UNICEF Myanmar and Mr. Kieran German-Best, Chief of Mission of International Organization for Migration (Myanmar) also spoke to the gathering yesterday.

The Vice President and party then viewed documentary photos on anti-human trafficking activities. Myanmar observed the 2016 Anti-Human Trafficking Day with the theme "Shared Responsibility for Anti-Trafficking in Persons".—*Myanmar News Agency*

Further easing of US sanctions possible

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It was earlier reported on that the US Chamber of Commerce called for the American government to "normalise" relations fully and introduce preferable trade terms to encourage export-led industries in Myanmar.

The US business lobby will soon get a chance to express its wishes to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in person, it has been learnt.

In collaboration with the US-Asean Business Council, the US Chamber of Commerce is hosting a roundtable discussion, reception and dinner with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Four Seasons Hotel on Thursday during her visit to Washington DC.

To participate in the exclusive dinner, invitees have paid US\$7,500, \$15,000 and \$25,000 for an "off-the-record" chance to

speak with the State Counsellor and her entourage. The invitation describes the dinner as an opportunity to learn "how the US business community can best support Burma's development." Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be in Washington DC to meet with President Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, members of the US Congress and various business leaders.—*(From wire services)*

Singaporean businesspeople tend to boost trade, investment in Myanmar

Ko Moe

SINGAPOREAN businesspeople are showing an increased interest in making investments in Myanmar. Singapore has invested a total of US\$13,286.354 million, according to U Zaw Min Win, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

"Singaporean firms tend to invest more here," said the UM-FCCI Vice President, adding that bilateral meetings are ongoing to further boost trade and investment. The UM-FCCI and Singapore Business Federation jointly organised a Business Dialogue & Networking Session in Yangon yesterday, with 47 Singaporean businesspeople holding talks with Myanmar counterparts on cooperation in maritime trade, foreign investment, construction, energy and electricity, real estate and health sector.

For Myanmar business firms, the meeting was the first business session with Singaporean counterparts in the time of the new government.

During the business session, representatives also exchanged views on potential sectors for investment that include the manufacturing of construction materials, microfinance and information and communication technology.

We explained the philosophy and mechanics behind economic zones including the Thilawa Special Economic Zone being implemented in Myanmar to Singaporean businesspeople, added the UM-FCCI Vice President. Sources say that Myanmar and Singapore have enjoyed a total trade volume of more than \$2billion so far.

According to the Myanmar Investment Commission, Singapore is the second largest investor in Myanmar after China, which topped the country's FDI list with an investment of \$18,112.755.

Women outnumber men in being victims of human trafficking in Myanmar

Phoe Thant

THE majority of people trafficked in Myanmar are women with 283 female victims accounting for 68.09 per cent of total (rescued) trafficked people. The number for men was 133 during the period from September 2015 to this September, according to a report released at a ceremony to mark Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, Chair of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, called on those willing to find a job abroad to seek reliable information before agreeing to any contract.

According to the International Labour Organisation's new global estimate, nearly 21 million people, three out of every 1,000 people worldwide, are victims of forced labour, trapped in jobs they

have been coerced or deceived into and which they cannot leave.

Lt-Col Thet Naung of the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Corps said that no decline has been seen yet in the number of people trafficked yearly despite 127 arrests being made in human trafficking cases up until this September.

Hotlines have been set up in Nay Pyi Taw (ph: 0949555666 and 0949555777), Yangon (ph: 0949555999) Sittwe (ph: 0949670877 and 043 22909), Muse (ph: 082 52890), Kawthoung (ph: 059 5051981), Myawady (ph: 058 50262), Myanmar Embassies in the People's Republic of China (ph: 010 65320359) and Thailand (ph: 080456556) and the information centre of the Social Welfare Department (ph: 01 666619) to collect information about human trafficking.

LOCAL Business

Mandalay jetties to be upgraded



Jetties in Mandalay will be upgraded under eight schemes.
PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Aung Thant Khaing

OPERATIONS will start soon to systematically upgrade the jetties in Mandalay region, said U Toe Aung Lin, Department Head of Mandalay Region Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

A committee has already been formed to improve the function, organisation and appearance of Mandalay jetties. A law has been instituted to effectuate the development of the jetties.

There are eight schemes to implement this plan, including the development of the jetties and piers and handling of the vessels to systematically arrive and depart from the jetty. The committee will also make effort to ensure there will be minimal environmental impact.

This committee will also eliminate the squatter houses located along the jetties and try to organize the vessels that are moored there.

"The passenger and commodity vessels, cargo ships and the cruises scatter at the jetty. Thus, the jetty scene looks awful. They all are needed to organize", said Ko Kyaw Myint Than, a resident who lives near the jetty.

Value of trade between Myanmar and Thailand tops US\$500million

THE value of trade between Myanmar and Thailand as of the end of August in this fiscal year amounted to over US\$500million, according to border trade statistics.

The Myawady border conducts the largest trade volume with Thailand.

Trade value in a similar period of last year was only US\$394.618million, difference of US\$105.243, it is learnt from the Trade Department. Currently, Thai-Myanmar border camps such as Tachilek, Myawady and Kawthaung border trade camps are being opened.

"We mainly export finished industrial products, forestry products and agricultural products, whereas capital goods and personal goods are imported into Myanmar," said a border trade businessman.

Myanmar has already entered into agreements with the neighbouring countries — China, India, Bangladesh and Thailand — to conduct trade.— *Mon Mon*

Myanmar low-quality rice to penetrate ASEAN market

MYANMAR's rice is still of low quality, but efforts are still being made to penetrate ASEAN market, according to the Myanmar rice entrepreneurs.

Myanmar wants to make inroads into the markets of The Philippines and Indonesia to keep up with other rice-exporting countries. But the price of Myanmar's rice is higher because of the high processing costs. Also, Myanmar cannot compete with other countries because the rice is still of lower quality, said U Ye Min Aung, the general secretary of

Myanmar Rice Entrepreneurs' Association.

"The government is making a concerted effort to sell the rice under G to G (government to government) agreement," he said.

Myanmar needs technical assistance in the processing of the rice to minimize waste in the manufacturing process. Additionally, Myanmar requires a systematic cultivation method, the entrepreneurs said.

Thailand and Viet Nam are the largest exporters among

ASEAN countries.

When the Philippines invited tenders to import rice for their reserves, Thailand won a tender to import 100,000 tonnes of rice, while Viet Nam won a bid to import 1.5 lakh tonnes.

Myanmar is making an effort to import from 1 to 2 million tonnes of rice per year to foreign countries. Myanmar imported 1.4million tonnes of rice during the last fiscal year. China constitutes eight per cent of rice export from Myanmar.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Consignment vehicles for 2003-2005 models back to their manufacturing countries

CARS made in the 2003 to 2005 model years that were imported under a consignment system have been put on a cancelled list by the Ministry of Commerce and will be sent back to their country of manufacture at the end of the year, according to the ministry.

The ministry estimated there are around 3,000 vehicles

which will have to be sent back.

"If these cancelled cars are stranded with the newly imported cars, the number of cars will shoot up. There will be space problems to handle these cars. Therefore, we decided to export to their countries of origin after discussions with the experts concerned," said an official from the Commerce Ministry.

By the end of the year, cars made in those years will be placed on the cancelled list if they are not sold by the end of the year. Some car companies have made 100 per cent payments for these imported cars under the consignment system, whereas some companies have agreed to make payment only after the cars are sold.—*Mon Mon*

Enterprises approved by MIC could create 30,000 job opportunities

BOTH local and foreign enterprises have been granted permission by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) during the last half of this fiscal year 2016-2017 to create 29,248 job opportunities, it is learnt from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The sector that is given priority to make investments will be confirmed only after a policy is promulgated. Currently, construction businesses and industrial manufacturing enterprises are given precedence for creating more job opportunities.

MIC granted permission for 23 enterprises on 9th September, including nine garment factories under the Cutting, Making and Packing (CMP) system. Out of the 23 enterprises, six belong to foreign direct investment enterprises, while seven are joint venture investments. The remaining ten enterprises are owned by Myanmar citizens. MIC has approved 59 enterprises with an investment of US\$300million, it is learnt.—*Ko Htet*

US bombers fly over South Korea in show of force after nuclear test

SEOUL — Two US B-1 bombers flew over South Korea on Tuesday in a show of force and solidarity with its ally after North Korea's nuclear test last week, while a US envoy called for a swift and strong response to Pyongyang from the United Nations.

Speaking in the South Korean capital on Tuesday, Sung Kim, the US envoy on North Korea, added that the United States remained open to authentic, meaningful dialogue with Pyongyang on ending its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

"Our intention is to secure the strongest possible (UN Security Council) resolution that includes new sanctions as quickly as possible," Kim told a news briefing after meeting his South Korean counterpart.

He said the United States would work with China, North Korea's major diplomatic ally, to close loopholes in existing reso-

lutions, which were tightened with Beijing's backing in March.

"China has been very clear that they understand the need for a new UN security council resolution in response to the latest North Korean nuclear test," Kim said.

However, China and Russia, which strongly oppose a recent decision by the United States and South Korea to deploy an advanced anti-missile system in the South to counter the North's missile threat, have shown reluctance to back further sanctions.

"Both sides think that North Korea's nuclear test is not beneficial to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula," China's official *People's Daily* newspaper said on Tuesday following a high-level China-Russia security meeting in Beijing.

"At present, we must work hard to prevent the situation on the peninsula



A US Air Force U-2 jet flies over Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on 13 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

continuing to escalate, and put the issue of the nuclearization of the peninsula back on the track of dialogue and consultation," it said. The pair of supersonic B-1 Lancer strategic bombers, based in Guam, were escorted by South Korean and US fighter jets, in

a low-altitude flight over South Korea's Osan Air Base, which is 77 km (48 miles) from the Demilitarised Zone border with the North and about 40 km (25 miles) from the South's capital Seoul.

North Korea's official KCNA news agency said

public anger was "exploding like a volcano" against Washington's dispatch of bombers to South Korea.

"Any sanction, provocation and pressure cannot ruin our status as a nuclear state and evil political and military provocations will only result in a flood

of reckless nuclear attacks that will bring a final destruction," KCNA said. North Korea's weapons enhancements, including the testing of various types of missiles this year at an unprecedented rate, have alarmed neighbours South Korea and Japan.—Reuters

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Philippines guarantees US deal intact as Duterte's salvos test ties

MANILA — The Philippines moved to shore up relations with the United States on Tuesday with guarantees that a treaty between them would be honoured and security ties were "rock solid", despite President Rodrigo Duterte's railings against Washington.

The firebrand leader launched more verbal salvos on Monday about what he called atrocities under American colonial rule of the archipelago nation, saying US special forces working in the restive south under a defence treaty should leave because they were compli-

cating counter-insurgency operations.

Duterte is hugely popular at home for his brash comments and take-charge style, but the frequency of his tirades against Washington, including calling President Barack Obama a "son of a bitch" last week, has tested a relationship of strategic importance to both sides.

Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay said Duterte's remarks, including that the southern Philippines "would never have peace" while allied with Washington, should not be taken as a signal that a pact between them would be

abrogated.

"The president has said, even as a priority statement in his inaugural address, that we will respect and continue to honour our treaty obligations and commitments," Yasay said in a radio interview.

Duterte said during an oath-taking ceremony for state officials on Monday that US special forces in Zamboanga "must go", because they could become high-value targets for the Islamist Abu Sayyaf rebels, who are notorious for kidnapping and beheading foreigners.

The military said only a "token" number of

American troops would be impacted by the withdrawal and broader military programmes were intact.

"We assure our people and allies that Philippine-US defence relations remain rock solid," armed forces spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla said in a statement.

Duterte on Monday also showed those at the ceremony pictures of what he said were victims of colonial-era atrocities against Muslims in Mindanao, repeating assertions that Americans were to blame for the instability that has dogged the region.—Reuters

Indonesia makes more efforts to fight forest fires as hotspots rise significantly

JAKARTA — Indonesia on Monday deployed two helicopters, one plane and 3,500 soldiers, police and firefighters to combat forest fires as the number of hotspots rose to 351, spokesman of the disaster agency said here on Monday evening.

Some 140 out of the total 351 hotspots were located in West Kalimantan province and the rest was across the nation, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of the national disaster agency told Xinhua by phone.

The focus of the bat-

tle against the agriculture and forest fires was in West Kalimantan Province as it was hit hardest, the spokesman added.

Sutopo noted that land clearing for plantation and farming was blamed for the ongoing fires.

The efforts to fight the

fires had been hampered by lacking water supply for water bombing and the long distances from water sources, he said.

Besides, the community burned the land again after firefighters put out the fires, Sutopo said.—Xinhua

South Korea jolted by biggest-ever earthquake, tremor felt nationwide

SEOUL — A 5.8-magnitude earthquake jolted southeastern South Korea on Monday, the biggest-ever quake striking the country, injuring at least two people and making people feel the tremor nationwide, Seoul's weather agency said.

The biggest tremor came less than an hour after a 5.1-magnitude earthquake struck on the outskirts of Gyeongju city in North Gyeongsang province at about 7:44 pm local time (1044 GMT).

The epicenter of the first quake, which recorded the country's fifth-biggest seismic intensity, was some 9 km southwest of Gyeongju city, an official at the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) said in a televised press briefing.

The second tremor with the highest-ever magnitude of 5.8 occurred at 8:32 pm at a nearby location, just 1.4 km away from the first epicenter.

Concerns emerge here that South Korea is no longer a safety zone from seismic activity as earthquakes of 5.0 magnitudes or higher have happened three

times in 2016 alone.

A 5.0-magnitude quake struck in waters some 52 km east of the country's southeastern city of Ulsan on 5 July. The North Gyeongsang province has been hit by quakes 62 times in the past 10 years, including Monday's two tremors.

At least 22 aftershocks with two to four magnitudes followed the big quakes. The weather agency sees no possibility for tsunami and little chance for bigger quakes.

Two people were injured in Gyeongju city, but no more injuries have been reported yet.

According to TV footage, cracks were seen in roads and in the walls of buildings and apartments. One house saw its roof collapsed, with bottles and items broken and strewn across the floor after falling from shelves at a discount outlet.

The big quakes were felt nationwide from the epicenter's adjacent cities of Ulsan and Busan to as far north as capital Seoul and far south as the southern resort island of Jeju. —Xinhua



Goods are scattered on the ground after the earthquake in Gyeongju, South Korea, on 12 September, 2016. A 5.8-magnitude earthquake jolted southeastern South Korea on Monday, the biggest-ever quake striking the country, injuring at least two people and making people feel the tremor nationwide, Seoul's weather agency said. PHOTO: XINHUA

India's tech capital, companies shut down after violent protests

BENGALURU — Indian and foreign technology companies including global outsourcing firm Accenture closed offices and told staff to stay at home in the technology hub of Bengaluru on Tuesday after riots over the diversion of water from a river. The violence was triggered by a court decision on Monday that asked the southern state of Karnataka to divert some water from the Cauvery river to neighbouring Tamil Nadu state.

Businesses in Bengaluru have faced four days of disruption this month because of protests about the water dispute and an unrelated trade union-organised strike on 2 September.

This week's disturbances have been the most serious.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to resolve their water dispute peacefully. "The violence and arson seen in the last two days is only causing loss to the poor, and to our nation's property," Modi said on Twitter. —Reuters

About 200 Zika cases recorded in Thailand: ministry



A city worker fumigates the area to control the spread of mosquitoes at a university in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13 September 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Thailand has recorded about 200 cases of Zika since January, the health ministry said on Tuesday, making it a country with one of the highest numbers of confirmed cases in the region.

It was the first time Thailand's health ministry has confirmed the number of Zika cases this year.

The announcement comes a day after health experts called on Thailand to be more transparent in reporting the Zika threat to the public after health officials

played down risks from rising infections of the mosquito-borne virus.

Health officials have expressed concern that disclosing information on Zika, which is linked to serious birth defects, would damage Thailand's lucrative tourism industry.

"Since January, we have recorded about 200 cases and over the past three weeks, we have confirmed an average of 20 new cases per week," Ministry of Public Health spokesman Suwannachai Wattanayingcharo-

enchai told Reuters.

"The number of cases is stable," he said, without giving further details.

Island city-state Singapore reported its first locally infected Zika patient on 27 August and since then, the number of reported infections has soared to more than 300.

Malaysia and the Philippines have also reported cases.

The virus, which is affecting large parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, has been circulating in Asia for years.

The lineage of the virus circulating in Asia is different to the one in the Americas, researchers say. The level of population immunity to the lineage of Zika in Asia remains unknown, according to the World Health Organization.

Suwannachai urged the public not to panic and reiterated a message aimed at reassuring tourists. "People shouldn't be scared to visit provinces affected by the Zika virus," Suwannachai said. Zika infections in pregnant women have been shown to cause microcephaly — a severe birth defect in which the head and brain are undersized — as well as other brain abnormalities. —Reuters

Singapore pledged multi-pronged approach to fight Zika

SINGAPORE — Singapore's Health Minister Gan Kim Yong on Tuesday highlighted preparation, response and long-term management as the country's three-pronged strategy to tackle the spread of Zika virus.

The minister made the remarks during his ministerial statement at the Parliament.

Gan said Zika is a mosquito-borne disease, and most of the people who have been infected recovered and are no longer symptomatic.

The government will not isolate or hospitalize Zika patients, he said.

The health minister said more than 500 samples a month were tested for Zika from January this year, and close to 4,000 samples were tested between February and August, before the first confirmed case was reported on 27 August.

Gan said the ministry has worked with National Environment Agency's Environmental Health Institute to put in place a surveillance programme for Zika two years ago.

Gan said the sudden surge

of Zika infected cases from 27 August to 28 August was due to the active back-tracing process. He said the ministry only confirmed the first locally transmitted Zika case on 27 August, and then released information the same evening.

To manage Zika in the long-term, Gan noted that efforts are now focusing on vector control. The ministry will monitor babies born to pregnant women with Zika over time.

The minister reiterated that subsidized Zika testing is extended to all Singaporeans beyond the affected clusters.

On a suggestion to set up a Zika national registry, Gan said the ministry will study it carefully.

Singapore has confirmed 333 cases of locally transmitted Zika virus infection, including eight pregnant women, as of Monday.

These infection involved seven clusters, with slightly more than 80 per cent of the total cases from the main cluster in Aljunied, Sims Drive and Paya Lebar Way. —Xinhua

‘I didn’t think it was a big deal,’ Clinton says of pneumonia bout



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton arrives for ceremonies to mark the 15th anniversary of the 11 September attacks at the National 9/11 Memorial in New York, New York, United States on 11 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Democrat Hillary Clinton said on Monday she could resume presidential campaigning in a couple of days after a bout of pneumonia that she initially had not believed was “that big a deal.”

Clinton’s health scare after she almost collapsed at an event on Sunday, causing her to cancel some campaign trips, revived concerns about a tendency toward secrecy that has dogged her campaign, and underscored perennial worries about the medical fitness of candidates for one of the world’s most demanding jobs.

“Well, it will be in the next couple of days. ... I just want to get this over and done with and get back on the trail as soon as possible,” she said in an interview on CNN on Monday night, adding she had ignored doctor’s orders to rest.

“I just didn’t think it was going to be that big a deal.”

Her campaign acknowledged on Monday it may have been too slow disclosing her pneumonia diagnosis after she nearly fainted at a New York memorial ceremony for the 11 September, 2001, attacks. She was diagnosed with the lung infection on Friday.

“I think that in retrospect, we could have handled it better in terms of providing more information more quickly,” Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon told MSNBC earlier in the day.

The health problem was the latest blow for the Democratic presidential nominee at a time when Republican rival Donald Trump has erased most of her lead in national opinion polls and is competitive again in many battleground states where the 8 November election is likely to be decided.

Clinton, 68, said she had dealt with similar episodes of dizziness before. “You know, it is something that has occurred a few times over the course of my life. I’m aware of it and usually can avoid it,” she told CNN.

Asked if she passed out during the incident on Sunday, she said: “No, I didn’t. I felt dizzy and I did lose my balance for a minute. Once I got in. Once I could sit down. Once I could cool off. Once I had some water, I immediately started feeling better.”

Her campaign said her husband, former President Bill Clinton, would campaign on her behalf while she rests.

Both Clinton and Trump, 70, said they intended to release more of their medical details in the coming days, as their campaigns gear up for the November election.

Questions about the incident reinforced the perception of Clinton as secretive, a view fueled by the controversy surrounding her use of a private email server while serving as President Barack Obama’s secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

A federal investigation of that issue said she was “extremely careless” in her handling of classified emails, but did not recommend criminal charges. Trump said on Monday that health was a campaign issue but he did not attack Clinton over her physical condition. “I just hope she gets well and gets back on the trail,” he said in an interview with Fox News.

He focused his criticism on comments by Clinton last week in which she dismissed half of his supporters as a “basket of deplorables” of racist, homophobic people. Clinton said she

regretted the remark.

Trump has compared the comment with a much-criticised remark by 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney that 47 per cent of the electorate was dependent on the government.

“I was deeply shocked and alarmed to hear my opponent attack, slander, smear, demean these wonderful, amazing people who are supporting our campaign by the millions,” Trump told a conference of National Guard members in Baltimore.

Trump has himself aroused controversy with comments in which he called some Mexican immigrants criminals and rapists, questioned whether a US-born judge could be fair because of his Mexican heritage and criticized the Muslim parents of an American soldier who died in combat in Iraq.

Clinton’s pneumonia disclosure was made public hours after her campaign said she had become “overheated” to explain why, her knees buckling and unsteady, she was rushed from the 11 September ceremony.

“The short-term publicity will be more about the handling of this than the substance,” David Axelrod, a former political adviser to Obama, told Reuters.

“Antibiotics can take care of pneumonia,” Axelrod tweeted later. “What’s the cure for an unhealthy penchant for privacy that repeatedly creates unnecessary problems?”

Trump had suggested for weeks that Clinton lacked the energy needed to be president. He has raised questions about her stamina, reprising a tactic from the Republican primary campaign when he derided rival Jeb Bush as a “low-energy” candidate. —Reuters



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“Ozone and Climate, Restored by a World United”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli military denies any of its aircraft shot down in Syria

JERUSALEM — Israel’s military denied on Tuesday a report on Syrian state media that an Israeli warplane and a drone were shot down after an Israeli attack on a Syrian army position.

“Overnight two surface-to-air missiles were launched from Syria after the mission to target Syrian artillery positions. At no point was the safety of (Israeli) aircraft compromised,” the Israeli military said in a statement.—Reuters

China calls for avoiding tension after US bombers fly over South Korea

BEIJING — China’s Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that all sides should avoid taking steps that increase tension after two US B-1 bombers flew over South Korea in a show of solidarity in response to North Korea’s nuclear test last week.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying made the remarks at a regular press briefing.—Reuters

Indonesia mulls losing cellphone certification for global brands

JAKARTA — Indonesia is considering scrapping its conformity certification for global cellphone brands next year in a bid to boost the country’s industry, a minister said on Tuesday. “Hopefully starting January 2017, global brands won’t require a certification process (to launch its products in Indonesia),” Communications and Information Minister Rudiantara said in Jakarta.

He said the global mobile phone brands carried out better testing process for their products compared to that of Indonesia, where the country’s tedious certification scheme can take up about a month, resulting in a long delay for the launch of any new handset.

He expected losing the certification process could expedite the launch of a fresh mobile phone in Indonesia, which is the third-largest smartphone market in the Asia-Pacific region. “We will remain conducting investigation (into the products) in the market together with the Trade minister,” Rudiantara said, adding that the plan has already received positive feedbacks from international cellphone companies.

Mobile phone penetration in Indonesia is still low with roughly 30 per cent of its 250 million people owning cellphones.

But the country is considered one of the fastest growing markets thanks to its large number of young age population and growing income per capita.—Xinhua

Roth: Germany to remain dependable partner of Serbia

BELGRADE — Germany will remain a dependable partner of Serbia on its path towards the EU, Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe at Germany’s Federal Foreign Office, told Tanjug after meeting with Serbian Minister for European Integration Jadranka Joksimovic Monday.

Roth said he was very appreciative of the constructive role played by the Serbian government, and PM Aleksandar Vucic in particular, in regional relations. We need regional reconciliation and a constructive position of all actors, and I think it is good that the Serbian government is advocating reconciliation while proving that in political practice, said Roth, who is scheduled to speak with Vucic on Tuesday. The Berlin process was launched two years ago, clearly signalling a need for concrete steps — people are communicating, but investments in infrastructure and youth are needed, too, he said.—Tanjug

Obama would veto bill allowing 9/11 families to sue Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama would veto a bill passed by both houses of Congress that would allow survivors and families of victims of the 11 September attacks to sue the government of Saudi Arabia for damages, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said on Monday.

"It's not hard to imagine other countries using this law as an excuse to haul US diplomats or US service members or even US companies into courts all around the world," Earnest told reporters in a daily briefing.

"I do anticipate the president would veto this legislation when it is presented to him," he said.

The House of Representatives passed the bill by voice vote, without objections, on Friday, after the Senate passed it unanimously in May, clearing the way for it to go to the White House for Obama to sign into law or veto.

Congressional aides said the

measure appeared to have enough support, two-thirds majorities in both the Senate and House, for lawmakers to override an Obama veto for the first time since he took office in January 2009.

However, it was not clear when the vote would take place. The Senate sent the bill to Obama on Monday night, giving him a 10-day window to veto the measure that would end on 23 September. The Senate has been aiming to leave Washington as soon as this week, before that deadline, and the House next week, and lawmakers would not be in Washington again until after the 8 November elections. Under the Constitution, Obama has 10 days to veto the bill before it automatically becomes law. The Constitution also allows a "pocket veto," in which the president can defeat a bill just by holding onto it until Congress is out of session. —Reuters



The Tribute in Light shines on the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in Manhattan, New York, US, on 11 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Syria truce largely holds, aid preparations underway



A child reacts inside a field hospital after airstrikes in the rebel held Douma neighbourhood of Damascus, Syria, on 12 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIRUT — A nationwide ceasefire brokered by the United States and Russia was mostly holding across Syria on Tuesday and efforts to deliver badly needed aid to besieged areas including the northern city of Aleppo got cautiously underway.

Syrian state media said armed groups had violated the truce in a number of locations in Aleppo city and in the west Homs countryside on at least seven occasions on Tuesday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said pro-government forces had shelled near two villages in the south Aleppo countryside and a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Damascus. But there were no reports of deaths or injuries. Around 20 trucks carrying aid crossed into northern Syria from the Turkish border town of Cilvegözü, some 40 km (25 miles) west of Aleppo, a Reuters witness said, although with security a concern it was not clear

how far into Syria they would go. A Turkish official said they were mostly carrying food and flour. The Syrian government said it would reject any aid deliveries to Aleppo not coordinated through itself and the United Nations, particularly from Turkey, Syrian state media reported. The UN said its trucks had not yet entered Syria and that it was still awaiting confirmation that the ceasefire was holding before sending in its own convoy. "We are waiting for this cessation of hostilities to actually deliver the assurances and the peace before trucks can start moving from Turkey. As I speak, that has not been the case," Jens Laerke, spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said in Geneva.

"We need to enter an environment where we are not in mortal danger as humanitarian organisations delivering aid," he said. —Reuters

Germany arrests three Syrians, sees same network as Paris attacks

BERLIN — Three young Syrian men arrested in Germany on Tuesday were Islamic State members brought into the country by the same network that smuggled militants into France to carry out deadly attacks last November, the German government said.

Federal prosecutors said police special forces arrested the three in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein on suspicion of being sent by Islamic State "either to carry out a mission that they had been informed about or to wait for further instructions" for an attack.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière said they arrived in late 2015, probably with the help of

the same network that funnelled IS militants into Paris to carry out shootings and bombings that killed 130 people on 13 November last year.

"Everything points to the fact that the same smuggler organisation behind the Paris attacks also brought the three men to Germany who were arrested," de Maizière told a news conference. "Indications are that their travel documents all came from the same workshop in that region."

European governments are on high security alert after a series of militant strikes in France, Belgium and Germany, where three attacks this summer were carried out by asylum-seekers

and two were claimed by Islamic State.

Around a million migrants arrived in Germany last year, and concern about their presence has grown since the attacks, raising pressure on Chancellor Angela Merkel to cap arrivals at 200,000 refugees per year, as her Bavarian allies are demanding. She refuses to set such a limit.

More than 200 police were involved in the operation to arrest the three men, aged 17 to 26. ARD television said they were held after raids at refugee housing in towns north of Hamburg. German authorities searched the flats of the three suspects but did not reveal what they might have found. —Reuters

Libyan commander's seizure of oil ports risks new conflict

TUNIS/BENGHAZI, (Libya) — Libyan forces loyal to eastern commander Khalifa Haftar said on Monday they had tightened their control over four major oil ports, casting a Western-backed project to unite Libya and revive oil exports into deep uncertainty.

Haftar's forces met little resistance as they seized the terminals at Ras Lanuf, Es Sider, Zueitina and Brega in an operation launched on Sunday, displacing a rival armed faction aligned with the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli.

The advance is the latest power struggle over the OPEC

nation's energy assets, after the 2011 fall of Muammar Gaddafi and the chaos that followed left the North African country splintered into rival armed factions.

Haftar opposes the Tripoli government and has resisted its attempts to integrate his self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) into unified armed forces. His seizure of the ports risks a response from powerful western brigades allied with the government and a deepening of regional divisions.

But Tripoli may seek a deal with Haftar, similar to the agreement it struck with the armed faction he has displaced, to re-

start the oil exports it needs to stave off a financial crisis that could paralyse government operations. Conflict and political disputes have reduced Libya's oil output and exports to a fraction of the level seen before an uprising toppled late dictator Gaddafi five years ago.

In a statement signalling a willingness to get oil flowing, Haftar's LNA said late on Sunday it would secure the ports to "return operational responsibility to the National Oil Corporation with a guarantee of non-interference by armed forces in operational activities and exports". —Reuters

Opinion

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ICTs – cost-effective and convenient means to promote transparency and to reduce corruption

Khin Maung Aye

THE combination of e-government, social media, Web-enabled technologies, mobile technologies, transparency policy initiatives, and citizen desire for open and transparent government are fomenting a new age of opportunity, which has the potential to create open, transparent, efficient, effective, and user-centered Information and Communications Technology (ICT)-enabled services. And what is more, the governments, the development agencies and organisations and citizen's groups are increasingly linking investment, governance and support to create a more open

and transparent government. There seldom is such an alignment of policy, technology, practice and citizen demand -- all of which bode well for the creation of technology-enabled government that in stills the trust of citizens in the government.

However, there are technological challenges such as technology development, technology access and literacy. Even in the most developed country like the US, nearly 40 per cent of households still do not have internet access (US Census Bureau, 2009). The digital divide is long documented, and broadly defined as the gap between

those who have access to technologies and those who do not.

Such being the case, it is of importance to promote technology literacy, usability, accessibility and functionality. Looking beyond the technological issues, the researchers points to two critical success factors — a culture of transparency embedded within the system of governance and a transparency "readiness" factor, i.e., the factors like technology perpetration, technology capabilities and access of government agencies, and social and technology readiness of the populace (Brown & Cloke, 2005, Kolstad et al 2009). These two factors

are essentially two sides of a coin — one needs the culture of openness to permeate governance structures and operations while simultaneously needing the technical and social capabilities to truly implement e-government transparency initiatives. Without the two factors operating in tandem, it is highly unlikely that the essential trust between the government and the governed will develop and thus truly create an open and transparent environment. In a nutshell, ICTs are cost-effective and convenient means to promote openness and transparency as well as to reduce corruption.

Keep Alive Trees, Lifeless Friends of Animate Beings

Ashin Suriya (Thegon)
ITBM University

ALL over the world we are encountering undesired environmental catastrophes almost every day such as flooding, earthquakes, heat-wave, and the like. These are believed to be happening due to deforestations, etc. This article was penned based on my different attitudes to trees, some of my experiences, scholars' test on environment.

Our village is situated in the western part of Thegon town, Pyay District of West Bago Division. Our monastery is about fifteen minutes' walk from our village. So it can be named Forest Monastery. Accordingly, it is encompassed by lots of trees, especially mango trees, which have been grown as the fence of the monastery instead of brick wall and there are a lot of mango trees in the compound as well. In the back of the monastery compound are several types of bamboo trees, a grove of 'Thiho thayet' (cashew) trees of around two hundreds and the woods of 'In' trees of about three hundreds. The wide wood of 'In' trees has been preserved by successive abbots of our monastery since over one hundred years ago. Around the monastery compound and its groves there are paddy fields and ground nut fields.

Over twenty five years ago, there were about 30 monastic

students such as novices and lay boys and even some girls in the monastery under our influential abbot. State schools had not been as popular yet in our region then as in the present day. Our abbot taught us Myanmarsar (Myanmar Thin Pon Gyi), Mangala Sutta, Lokaniti, other Paritta suttas, basic Abhidhamma (Abhidhammatthasangaha), Basic English, basic Mathematics and basic astrology.

Before teaching in the morning, all students had to clean the whole monastery compound: some elder students had to sweep the fallen mango leaves into heaps on the ground while other students had to put them in bamboo baskets. Some other younger students like us had to collect the fallen leaves with our hands. Sometimes in the early summers, we were asked to clean the 'In' tree leaves and other kinds of leaves fallen down in the 'In' tree grove to be prevented from wildfire.

As a child, I was such a playful boy that I was sometimes too lazy to pick up the leaves. While picking up them, I, in a disappointed voice, used to say to some of my friends in the absence of our abbot and elder students, "Why doesn't the abbot cut down the mango trees."

As times went by, my childish view on the trees and the leaves totally changed. When I went back to my monastery from learning centres in the summer

vacations, I had experience of the cool shades well that the trees give. I began to love the trees from then on. They are always green and have been providing their simple and natural shades for us all the time, noticeably in summers. On special *Upasatha* (Sabbath) days, precepts-observers gather and converse leisurely under the cool shades of the mango trees in our monastery. The mango trees in it yield fruits in abundance almost every year and let a variety of birds sit on their branches to sing songs, which relax the listeners in a natural way.

It is believed that flooding is caused by loss of trees or deforestation. The forests and the mountainous hills lying on the west of our villages stand about many miles, stretching to Shwetaung town and Pyay town. The areas that were thickly covered with a variety of trees have become bald and deforested day by day.

In spite of many other reasons for such deforestation (in our region), there may be three main reasons, in my opinion, lack of electricity, unprincipled cutting of trees as building materials for home-use and extension of fields for growing crops, especially ground nuts and sesame, in the forest. To them, another reason to be added is commercial purpose of exporting wood abroad, both legal and

illegal across the country. Of them, the lack of electricity leads people to cutting trees for fuel, and to making charcoal for selling. The second act of making charcoal is worse than the first in making the forest bald. Those who make charcoal are furious-bull-like people. Just as a furious bull attacks everything it sees ahead, charcoal-makers also cut down every tree they found in the forest and made them charcoal. Besides, they did not give a chance to roots of the trees either, to remain undug in the ground and seem to look on the trees as their enemies because they dug out all the roots of them, too. It happened as a Myanmar saying goes, 'Leave even no stumps of reed if cut down'. In the long run, our country will suffer worse and worse situations and disasters like intense heat-wave, flooding, river-bank encroachment, storms like Nargis, etc., unless we make effective protection and take some measurements against all acts driving to deforestation.

Therefore, I would like to give humble suggestions of the incumbent government. The following should be prioritized for protection against deforestation:

1. Give light to your entire beloved country by sufficient electricity as quickly as possible;
2. Conduct public educative efficient talks on value of trees and forest to the

people nationwide;

3. Take upright and effective actions against those violating rules prescribed pertaining to trees and forest;
4. Organize events of growing trees nationwide, especially in tropical areas.

Let me conclude my article by sharing an environmental experiment made by scientists many years ago. The experiment was about how much animate beings require relation or connection with trees and forests or natural environments. Scientists used two glass-containers. In a glass-container was a mouse together with a rose with its stalk while in another one was a mouse with no rose. Each was kept therein the same amount of periods. Wonderfully, the mouse placed along with the rose in the container kept alive but the other was found dead.

Trees are lifeless. Trees are not our enemies. Trees do not attack beings. They do provide us with whatever they possess, fruits, flowers, leaves, branches, covers and eventually their body of trunks. They bring fresh air to us through their leaves. Being present of the trees on earth is much beneficial to human beings as well as animals. Therefore, it is time for all of us to keep trees alive for the prevention of terrible disasters and for the protection of our incomparably priceless human lives as well.

Eleven traffic lights to be upgraded in Mandalay

ELEVEN sets of traffic lights with built-in sensor systems will be erected across Mandalay before the end of the current fiscal in a bid to curb congestion, according to the Department of Buildings and Warehouses of the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC).

“[The traffic lights will be erected] through the concerted efforts of the tender-winning company and the MCDC. We’ve now finished inspecting parts of the city where the traffic lights have been earmarked for,” U Ohn Kyaw, head of the aforementioned department, informed Myitmakha News Agency.

The traffic lights will be erected at the intersections of 35th and 78th, 35th and 77th, 35th and 73rd, 35th and 66th, 30th and 78th, 30th and 73rd, 30th and 66th, 30th and 62nd, 26th and 73rd, 26th and 66th, together with 35th x 62nd streets.

“Traffic lights already exist at most of the earmarked locations,” added U Ohn Kyaw. “These sets of lights will be taken down and utilized in other parts of the city where they are need-

ed.”

As well as the built-in traffic sensor lights, sets of lights for pedestrians will also reportedly be erected at the intersections of 12th and 66th, 84th and 27th, together with 84th and 28th streets. The numbers of traffic lights within the city are being expanded every year, with the last fiscal year seeing 57 such built-in sensor traffic lights put up across the city, while this fiscal year will see that number increased to 68 traffic lights.

“The old traffic lights worked on a timer system, regardless of whether cars were waiting or not. The new traffic lights, however, will mean less time spent waiting for the lights to turn green as they have built-in sensors which can detect whether cars are waiting or not,” U Maung Than, a Mandalay taxi-driver, told Myitmakha News Agency. As three of the 11 earmarked locations do not already have traffic lights in place, the city will boast a total of 76 traffic lights once the new sets of lights have been erected, according to the MCDC.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar Global Investment Forum held in Nay Pyi Taw



Myanmar Global Investment Forum being held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO:MNA

THE Myanmar Global Investment Forum, jointly-organised by the Myanmar Investment Commission and Hong Kong-based Euromoney Institutional Investor (Asia), was held in Nay Pyi Taw with the opening ceremony being held yesterday.

During the opening cere-

mony, Chief Executive Officer Mr. Tony Shale of Euromoney Institutional Investor extended greetings and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win gave an opening address.

Next, experts and officials made presentations on a variety of topics pertinent to

economic reform development, increasing the investment potential of Myanmar, the electricity and energy sectors, infrastructure and industrial development.

The Myanmar Global Investment Forum is scheduled to conclude today. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Police seize yaba pills, heroin, marijuana and ice

POLICE in Myanmar seized 33,145 yaba pills, 396 grams of heroin, 979 grams of marijuana and 2.5 grams of ice in Lashio, Thabeikkyin, Thakayta, Dagon

Seikkan and Hline Townships in recent days.

Shan State Police seized 22,090 yaba pills from a suspect riding a motorcycle on the Union

Highway in Lashio of Shan State on 11 September.

Likewise, an anti-narcotic squad in Pyin Oo Lwin arrested a man with 5,000 yaba pills and 33 blocks of heroin weighing 396 grams on Moemeik-Twin-nge road in Thabeikkyin Township on the same day.

In Thakayta Township of Yangon the seizure of four yaba pills from two suspects led to the discovery of 4,811 yaba pills and 979.8 grams of marijuana in the same township and Dagon Seikkan Township. On 10 September, Yangon police arrested a man with 2.5 gram of ice during a search of his car and seized 1,240 yaba pills from his home in Hline Township.— *Myanma News Agency*



A drug dealer being seen together with the drugs seized.

PHOTO: MNA

Yaba pills seized in Tangyang

AN anti-drug squad seized 6,200 yaba pills from a motorcycle driver on Tangyang-Mongkaung Road in Tangyang Township on Monday.

Charges have been filed against one San Win, the motorcycle rider.

Similarly, a combined team comprising local police and members of an anti-drug squad

in Lashio, acting on a tip-off, searched a passenger bus at Mile Post No. 80/4 on the Muse-Mandalay Union Road on the same day.

During the search the team discovered 350 yaba pills belonging to one Maung Lin.

Charges were filed against that suspect by police on the same day.— *GNLM*



San Win seen together with the drugs seized. PHOTO: MPF

Obama hopeful on spending, Zika funds after meeting Congress leaders

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said after meeting with the top four congressional leaders on Monday he was encouraged that lawmakers would be able to pass short term spending legislation to keep the government open during the 2017 fiscal year.

Democrat Obama said he was hopeful about reaching agreements with the Republican-majority Congress on funding to fight the Zika virus and for disaster relief after flooding in Louisiana.

The president met with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Paul Ryan, both Republicans, and Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi on issues that have been a struggle as his second term winds down.

“My hope is that by the time Congress adjourns before the election that we will have an agreement in place to fund the government and that our Zika funding will be taken care of,” Obama told reporters in the Oval Office. Obama will leave office on 20 January.

Obama said he hoped Congress can make “modest progress” before the 8 November elections and he was “even more hopeful we can get some things



US President Barack Obama meets with Speaker Paul Ryan (2nd-L), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (L), Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid (R) and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (C) at the Oval Office in the White House, Washington US, on 12 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

done,” after them.

Congress must pass a temporary spending bill by 30 September or much of the federal government will shut down. Shortly before the meeting with Obama, McConnell said congressional leaders were making progress on legislation on temporary spending and Zika. McConnell said he expected to

advance the legislation in the Senate this week.

Congressional leaders are considering attaching as much as \$1.1 billion in Zika spending to the temporary spending bill. In February, Obama had asked Congress to approve \$1.9 billion in emergency funds to fight Zika with diagnostic tools and vaccines, but disagreements

over side issues related to abortion have led to divisions about full funding. Ryan spoke at the meeting about his desire to come to a speedy resolution on short term spending legislation that includes funding for Zika, an aide to the speaker said. Ryan also made clear his objections to doing a massive spending bill later in the year, the aide said.—Reuters

Cancer overtakes heart disease as Australia's biggest killer

SYDNEY — Cancer has become Australia's biggest killer, overtaking heart disease for the first time to take more lives than any other ailment, a government health agency said in a report released on Tuesday.

Indigenous Australians also fare much worse than non-indigenous on almost every health score, according to Australia's Health 2016 report, compiled by the government's Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and published every two years. The total number of deaths from cancer was 44,100 in 2013, the institute said, for the first time surpassing the number of deaths from cardiovascular disease, including heart attacks and stroke. Lung cancer is Australia's most common fatal cancer.

“People are now living long enough to get cancer in greater numbers,” said Professor Lisa Horvath, director of research at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse cancer hospital in Sydney. “Age is the biggest risk factor, apart from smoking, for getting cancer.”

Globally, cardiovascular diseases are a bigger killer than cancer, according to the World Health Organisation. Australia is doing better than Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development averages for life expectancy and infant mortality.—Reuters

Jeff Bezos unveils new rocket to compete with SpaceX

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla) — Jeff Bezos on Monday unveiled a heavy-lift reusable rocket expected to compete against Elon Musk's SpaceX and other companies for commercial satellite launches before the end of the decade.

Bezos' Kent, Washington-based Blue Origin space company is designing two versions of the rocket, named New Glenn, a nod to John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth and the last surviving member of NASA's original Mercury Seven astronauts.

“New Glenn is designed to launch commercial satellites and to fly humans into space,” Bezos, also the founder and chief executive of Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O), said in a statement emailed to Reuters on Monday. Both versions of New Glenn will use a first stage powered by seven methane-burning BE-4 engines. The company is building a launch site and test facility at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, and a rocket manufacturing plant at NASA's adjacent Kennedy Space Centre.

Blue Origin also intends to sell the BE-4 to United Launch Alliance for its new Vulcan rocket.



CEO of Amazon.com Jeff Bezos arrives for the world premiere of “Star Trek Beyond” at Comic Con in San Diego, California US, on 20 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ULA is a partnership of Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) and Boeing Co (BA.N).

Blue Origin intends to fly New Glenn's first stage back to a landing pad so it can be refurbished and reflown, an approach that fellow tech billionaire entrepreneur Musk is taking with his Falcon rockets. SpaceX so far has successfully landed rockets six times, twice on the ground and four times

on a platform floating in the ocean.

SpaceX had expected to try a seventh landing on 3 September but its rocket was destroyed during a routine prelaunch test two days before liftoff from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

The cause of the accident, which destroyed a \$200 million Space Communication Ltd (SCC.TA) satellite, is under investigation.—Reuters

Sea-snail venom may lead to fast-acting diabetes medication

MELBOURNE — Venom from a species of marine cone snails may help develop ‘ultra-fast-acting’ insulin, leading to more efficient therapies for diabetes patients, a new study has found.

Researchers have successfully determined the 3D structure of a cone snail venom insulin, showing how these highly efficient natural proteins called Con-Ins G1 can operate faster than human insulin.

The team also discovered that Con-Ins G1 was able to bind to human insulin receptors, signifying the potential for its translation into a human therapeutic.

Researchers led by Mike Lawrence from Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Australia, utilised the Australian Synchrotron to create and analyse the 3D structure of the cone snail venom insulin protein with exciting results.

“We found that cone snail venom insulins work faster than human insulins by avoiding the structural changes that human insulins undergo in order to function — they are essentially primed and ready to bind to their receptors,” Lawrence said.

Human insulins could be

considered ‘clunky’ by comparison, he said.

“The structure of human insulins contain an extra ‘hinge’ component that has to open before any ‘molecular handshake’ or connection between insulin and receptor can take place,” Lawrence added.

“By studying the three-dimensional structure of this snail venom insulin we’ve found how to dispense with this ‘hinge’ entirely, which may accelerate the cell signalling process and thus the speed with which the insulin takes effect,” he said.

The team's findings build on earlier studies from 2015, when the University of Utah reported that the marine cone snail *Conus geographus* used an insulin-based venom to trap its prey.

Unsuspecting fish prey would swim into the invisible trap and immediately become immobilised in a state of hyperglycaemic shock induced by the venom. Researchers said it was fascinating to uncover how the cone snail insulin was able to have such a rapid effect on its prey and that the peptide had therapeutic potential in humans.—PTI

India, US to embark on joint military exercise Wednesday

NEW DELHI — India and the United States will embark on a two-week joint military exercise in the hilly state of Uttarakhand Wednesday.

The 12th edition of joint military exercise “Yudh Abhyas” (war exercise), focusing on anti-insurgency and anti-terrorist operations, will be held in the hills of Uttarakhand from 14 to 27 September, according to an official statement on Tuesday.

“Yudh Abhyas” 2016 will simulate a scenario where both nations are working together in a counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment in

mountainous terrain under a United Nations charter, the statement said.

Over 200 US Army personnel and 200 Indian Army personnel will take part in the military exercise, the curriculum of which “is progressively planned where the participants are initially made to get familiar with each other’s organisational structure, weapons, equipment and drills.”

“Subsequently, the training advances to joint tactical exercises wherein the battle drills of both the armies are coherently unleashed,” the statement added. —Xinhua

Philippines to accept Indonesia’s decision on Filipino woman jailed on drug charges

MANILA — The Philippines said on Monday that it will accept the decision of the Indonesian government on the fate of a Filipino woman jailed in Indonesia on drug charges.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay said in a statement that President Rodrigo Duterte has told Indonesian President Jokowi Widodo during their bilateral meeting in Jakarta last Friday “that he respects their judicial processes and will accept whatever the final decision they will arrive at regarding her case.”

Yasay was referring to the case of Mary Jane Veloso who is on death row in Indonesian jail for allegedly

smuggling heroin into Indonesia. She has maintained her innocence, saying she was an unknowing drug mule.

Indonesia gave her a last-minute reprieve in April last year.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella told a news conference that Duterte’s “actual statement and conversation” with Widodo regarding Veloso went like this, “Follow your own law, I will not interfere.”

He stressed that Duterte did not make any endorsement. “There was none, no categorical statement. There was no endorsement. He simply said, follow your own laws.” —Xinhua

Jailed Kurdish militant says conflict with Turkey could be settled in six months —brother

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey) — A three-decade conflict between the Turkish state and Kurdish militants could be resolved within six months if talks were to be revived, the jailed rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan said, according to remarks by his brother on Monday.

They were the first public comments from Ocalan in more than a year, after the government suspended visits to his island prison in April 2015, and they come at a time of violence and political upheaval.

“He said that if the state is ready for this project, we can finish it in six months and that the previous (peace) process has not been completely wiped out,” Mehmet Ocalan quoted his brother as saying, at a news conference in Diyarbakir on Monday.

“This is not a war that one side can win. It’s time for the bloodshed and tears to end,” he said.”

Thousands have died since July 2015, when a ceasefire with the armed PKK, which Ocalan founded, collapsed. Ocalan had negotiated that truce from his prison cell, where he’s been kept since 1999 on a treason conviction.

In the latest violence, suspected Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants set off a car bomb on Monday near government offices in the city of Van, wounding



Pro-Kurdish politicians wearing t-shirts featuring Abdullah Ocalan gather to start a hunger strike to demand the right to visit the jailed PKK militant leader Ocalan, in Diyarbakir, Turkey, on 5 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

scores of people. The attack came a day after the mayors of 24 Kurdish-run municipalities who were suspected of PKK links were stripped of office.

So far, the Turkish government has shown little sign it will seek a negotiated solution to the latest spasm of violence. The crackdown has coincided with a purge of journalists, politicians, government workers, soldiers, teachers and others after a failed coup attempt in July.

President Tayyip Erdogan, who backed two-year peace talks with Ocalan before the fighting re-ignited, has said the campaign against the PKK — called a terrorist group by the United

States and European Union — was now Turkey’s largest ever.

Mehmet Ocalan, who is the first family member to see his brother in two years, said that the 68-year-old was in good health. The Council of Europe’s Committee for the Prevention of Torture saw Ocalan in April 2016.

The government allowed the family visit before the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha and after about 50 Kurdish activists began a hunger strike, demanding an end to Ocalan’s isolation. The group said at the news conference they would abandon their eight-day action after the visit took place. Ocalan’s last con-

tact with the outside world was in April 2015, with parliamentarians from the opposition Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP), who were acting as mediators in the peace process. Weeks later, the pro-Kurdish HDP saw significant gains in a general election, depriving the ruling AK Party of single-party rule for the first time in 13 years. The HDP accuses the government of reviving the conflict to regain control, which it did in a 1 November re-run election. Erdogan and the AKP reject any such claim. The autonomy-seeking PKK took up arms in 1984, and more than 40,000 people, mainly Kurds, have died in the fighting. —Reuters

Brazil’s former speaker stripped of seat over Swiss accounts

BRASILIA — Two weeks after the removal of Dilma Rousseff as Brazil’s president, the lower house of Congress on Monday expelled the lawmaker who engineered her impeachment for lying about secret bank accounts in Switzerland.

The once powerful former speaker Eduardo Cunha, who has been charged with corruption by the Supreme Court, was banned from politics for eight years and faces arrest now he has lost his congressional prerogatives.

The chamber voted overwhelmingly 450-10 to strip him of his seat.

“This shows that Brazil will no longer tolerate a politician who turned Congress into a business counter for bribes and favours,” said lawmaker Rubens Bueno of the Popular Socialist Party. Bueno said Cunha took kickbacks from



Former speaker of Brazil’s Lower House of Congress, Eduardo Cunha, attends a session of the House as they debate his impeachment, in Brasilia, Brazil on 12 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

companies and instructed them to donate to the campaigns of his allies.

Cunha’s downfall has many politicians worried because he has threatened to bring down others by revealing cases of corruption that could endanger members of the government of Brazil’s new President Michel Temer and derail his fiscal reform agenda.

Cunha has warned he

could tell all in a plea bargain that could compromise many in a discredited political establishment, where 50 politicians are already under investigation for taking kickbacks in the Petrobras scandal.

In all, about 60 per cent of the 513 lawmakers in Brazil’s lower house are under investigation for various allegations, according to watchdog group Trans-

parency Brazil.

Cunha has been charged by the Supreme Court for allegedly taking a \$5 million bribe on a drill ship contract for state-run oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA (PETR4.SA) and for having undeclared Swiss bank accounts.

“I did not lie. Where is the proof? Where are the account numbers?” Cunha asked his peers, appearing in the house to repeat his defense argument that his assets were held in trust funds over which he had no control.

An ethics committee report read out to the chamber said the existence of his accounts and assets abroad was fully proven.

Dozens of lawmakers who Cunha helped elect had sought to delay the committee hearings and managed to drag out the case for over 10 months. —Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Pet Incorporated, a company incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware and having its registered office at Number One General Mills Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55426, United States of America is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

PROGRESSO

Reg. No. 4/7211/2013(9.7.2013)

In respect of “Soups; processed vegetables; Processed beans; Clam sauce; Canned tomatoes; Tomato puree; Canned fish” in Class 29; and “Vinegar; Bread crumbs” in Class 30.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P.
For Pet Incorporated,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Bothahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 14 September 2016 Imm@kcyangon.com

Reykjavik unveils plan to limit urban sprawl to become carbon neutral by 2040

LONDON — The Icelandic capital of Reykjavik is aiming to become carbon neutral by 2040 by imposing strict limits on urban sprawl and improving the efficiency of public transport, according to a plan unveiled by the city's mayor.

The climate policy blueprint puts Reykjavik at the forefront of global attempts to curb carbon emissions and combat climate change.

Like other Nordic cities, including Oslo and Helsinki, Reykjavik is working towards emissions targets that go beyond the national targets agreed by global leaders at the COP21 summit held in Paris last November.

In 2009, Reykjavik became the first municipality in Iceland to make a policy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Cities play a key role in the fight against climate change. They can react quickly ... and are more often than naught far more progressive than the world's governments," Mayor Dagur B. Eggertsson said in a foreword to the report released on 9 September.

In his city's action plan, Eggertsson noted that while other cities around the world had similarly ambitious targets, Reykjavik was better placed than most to meet its own since the city's carbon emissions are already relatively low.

Due to a ready local supply of geothermal energy, all homes in the city and neighbouring municipalities are heated with geothermal energy. All electricity is produced with hydroelectric power.

The new plan includes



A general view shows the city of Reykjavik seen from Hallgrímskirkja church on 13 February 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

several measures to achieve the target, with promises to mandate the green emphasis in all of the city's operations.

For example, one goal is to ensure all vehicles in the City of Reykjavik are powered by green energy

by 2040, including both public and private transportation.

The city's public transport system stands in line for significant restructuring in order to increase the number of people using it to 12 per cent from four

percent by 2030.

The city is also planning to curb urban sprawl with 90 per cent of all new residential units to now be constructed inside the city's current urban limits.

The plan said the aim is to reduce travel needs

and promote a shift towards "urban densification".

This was in line with academic studies that point to the advantages enjoyed by compact, high-density cities in building mass transit systems and reducing carbon emissions.—Reuters

Abe to visit typhoon-damaged areas in Hokkaido, Iwate on Wednesday

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit Hokkaido and Iwate Prefecture in northern Japan on Wednesday to observe areas affected by Typhoon Lionrock and talk with local people, the government's top spokesman said on Tuesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference that Abe will exchange opinions

with people affected by the disaster. In the town of Iwaizumi, Iwate Prefecture, flooding left nine people dead in a nursing home.

Earlier in the day, Abe told a meeting of Liberal Democratic Party executives that "the government and ruling parties will come together and do all that we can to deal with this disaster."—Kyodo News



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) attends a meeting of Liberal Democratic Party executives in Tokyo on 13 September 2016, alongside the party's secretary general Toshihiro Nikai (L) and vice president Masahiko Komura. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAWEI STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T / M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2016 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
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185



Actress Lupita Nyong'o (L) and David Oyelowo (R) stand with director Mira Nair as they arrive on the red carpet for the film "Queen of Katwe" during the 41st Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), in Toronto, Canada, on 10 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Queen of Katwe' brings uplifting underdog chess tale to Toronto

TORONTO — Chess may not be the most visual of sports to watch in a film, but the true story of an impoverished Ugandan girl overcoming obstacles to become a chess champion transcends the game, according to the cast of "Queen of Katwe."

The Walt Disney Co film, out in theaters on 23 September, is a "life-affirming African story," star David Oyelowo told Reuters at the red-carpet premiere on Saturday at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"As someone of African descent, we don't see enough of that I believe in cinema, in the press as well, so I'm very proud to see a story like this made by Disney as well," Oyelowo added.

"Queen of Katwe" follows the story of Phiona Mutesi, a young girl with no education being raised by her single mother and siblings in Katwe, an im-

poverished district of the capital, Kampala.

The real Phiona Mutesi, aged around 20 years old now, and Robert Katende also attended the premiere on Saturday, with the young chess champion saying she could not believe a movie had been made about her life.

"I'm just a person from nowhere and now I'm coming to this. I can't believe it. It's just exciting," she said.

In the film, Phiona is introduced to chess through charity worker Robert Katende, played by Oyelowo, who encourages Katwe uneducated children to play the strategy game, likening it to their inherent survival instincts learned in the slums.

As Phiona starts to beat all her challengers, Katende takes her and the Katwe children to compete in tournaments with players from wealthier back-

grounds and education. The young girl often doubts her abilities, but her coach keeps guiding her to believe in herself.

Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong'o, who plays Phiona's fiercely protective and indefatigable mother, Harriet, said that while she was not yet a mother, she learned about the selflessness of motherhood.

"It's almost like your heart is dislocated and running around and just feeling the fear, inhabiting the fear of a mother letting her chicks out every day to survive," she said.

Director Mira Nair said she had lived in Kampala for 27 years and brought her own experience of the city and culture to the film.

Nair said she wanted to portray "the country from within, feeling the dignity and the complete joy even during the best of struggles."—Reuters

Rapper Travis Scott gets first Billboard No 1 album

NEW YORK — American rapper Travis Scott scored his first No. 1 album on the Billboard 200 charts on Monday with "Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight," knocking Barbra Streisand into sixth place.

Scott's album sold some 87,000 units in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan, while rock band A Day to Remember debuted in the No. 2 spot with 66,000 album units for its new release "Bad Vibrations."

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal

one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album). Streisand, who topped the Billboard 200 last week with her "Encore: Movie Partners Sing Broadway," slipped to No. 6 in the second week of release. It was her 11th No. 1 album, solidifying her record as having the most Billboard No. 1 albums among all women.

In the digital songs chart, which measures online single download sales, American duo The Chainsmokers again took the top spot with the summer hit "Closer," which has dominated the charts for weeks.—Reuters

Apple Corps is sued over Beatles' 1965 Shea Stadium film rights

NEW YORK — Apple Corps Ltd, the music company founded by members of The Beatles, was accused in a lawsuit on Monday of infringing copyrights of a company claiming to own a master recording of the group's famous 1965 concert in New York's Shea Stadium.

Sid Bernstein Presents LLC sued before this week's scheduled release in theaters and on Hulu of "Eight Days a Week: The Touring Years," a Ron Howard-directed documentary about Beatles concerts from the dawn of Beatlemania through 1966.

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the complaint filed in US District Court in Manhattan.

Sid Bernstein, who died in 2013, was a promoter who helped bring the Beatles to the United States from their native Britain.

The complaint said he also helped stage the group's 15 August, 1965, performance at Shea, and arranged for TV variety show host Ed Sullivan's production company to film it.

But the plaintiff, which said it was assigned Bernstein's

rights, said the group's manager, Brian Epstein, took custody of the "Master Tapes" and began using them without seeking consent.

It said the recording was later used in the 1966 movie "The Beatles at Shea Stadium," the 1995 documentary "The Beatles Anthology," and the 2010 documentary "The Last Play at Shea" about Billy Joel's concerts there two years earlier.

The plaintiff said it sued after the US Copyright Office refused to register its copyright claim, and after learning that Apple planned to release a remastered version of the Beatles' performance with the "Eight Days a Week" documentary.

Its lawsuit seeks a variety of damages and a declaration that Bernstein was the "dominant, and hence sole, author of the copyrightable work embodied in the Master Tapes." A lawyer for the plaintiff did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The case is Sid Bernstein Presents LLC v Apple Corps Ltd et al, US District Court, Southern District of New York, No. 16-07084.—Reuters

Fight over the Holocaust explored in movie 'Denial'

TORONTO — "Denial" is the true story of a Jewish woman who had to prove in court that the Holocaust had taken place, but it also has a timely message for present day society, according to director Mick Jackson.

"Denial," which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival last weekend, recounts how Deborah Lipstadt, a prominent historian, writer and professor, was sued for libel in Britain in 1996 by Holocaust denier David Irving after she called him a liar in one of her books.

The case was heard in a London court, where the burden of proof in libel cases lies with the

defendant, and Lipstadt, played by Rachel Weisz, was called on to prove that the Holocaust actually happened. Irving maintained that no Jews had been killed in gas chambers at Auschwitz, citing lack of evidence, and he belittled the claims of Holocaust survivors.

The judge in the case ruled against Irving in 2000, finding that he had not been libeled by Lipstadt.

Director Jackson said the film was timely because it was about fighting for truth.

"If you want to draw conclusions and parallels with what is happening in our story tonight and what's happening in the US, in France, in Britain — all of those

places where right-wing extremists are taking command of the narrative just lying like one of the characters in this movie does - it's important. You see this movie and be changed, I hope," he told Reuters on the red carpet in Toronto on Saturday. Weisz, who was joined by Lipstadt at the premiere, said she felt a personal connection to the story, because her own parents were Holocaust refugees.

"I felt it was a very important story for the fight for truth and the fact there's a difference between fact and opinion," she told Reuters.

"Denial" is due to open in US movie theaters on 30 September.—Reuters



Actress Rachel Weisz and Deborah E. Lipstadt. PHOTO: REUTERS

Canada finds second ship from doomed Franklin voyage

OTTAWA — Explorers have found the wreck of HMS Terror, the second of two British ships lost in the disastrous 1845 Franklin expedition to Canada's Arctic Northwest Passage, Britain's Guardian newspaper said on Monday.

The Arctic Research Foundation, a private group that sent a vessel to help look for the ship, found it in pristine condition at the bottom of a

bay earlier this month, a spokesman told the paper. Sir John Franklin and his 128-member crew in the Terror and HMS Erebus all died after the vessels became stuck in ice during a search for the fabled Arctic passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The fate of the ships remained one of the great mysteries in Canadian history for almost 170 years until a team found

the wreck of the Erebus in September 2014.

Canada's federal parks ministry — which is coordinating the search for the Terror — said it was working to verify the report. Reuters was not immediately able to contact the foundation. —Reuters

Aussie researchers create world's 1st science app that looks after dog's wellbeing

SYDNEY — An Australian university has come up with the world-first science app called DogLogBook which helps man's "best friend" attain happiness from puppyhood right up to old age.

A team from the University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science, who designed the app, said on Tuesday that they were giving smart phone users a chance to eliminate their pets' stress by creating a happier lifestyle.

Users of the DogLogBook app will soon be able to log and track their dogs' activities, check on health-related issues or behaviours that may be problematic, such as barking at night or destroying the house while owners are away.

The app will cater to dogs of all ages and there is even a specific tool to monitor pups suffering from epilepsy, the university said in a statement.

Mia Cobb, a canine

scientist who was part of the DogLogBook development team, said it was hoped that these combined features would help owners become more mindful of their dogs' overall happiness and wellbeing.

"DogLogBook may also help take some of the pressure off owners in identifying and acknowledging decline as dogs near the end of life," Cobb said. "There is also a working dog channel in DogLogBook that logs training investment and tracks assessment outcomes, as well as assisting in the health management of dogs working in roles as diverse as scent detection, guide, livestock herding, guard dogs, and racing greyhounds," the university said. Professor Paul McGreevy from the university's School of Life and Environmental Sciences said the app would be made free for users. McGreevy said DogLogBook users

would enable dog owners to gather and review real time data about their dog's health-care, management and preferences in life. DogLogBook will be launched on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) television programme called Catalyst on Tuesday night during the final instalment of a two-part series in which three dog owners had been put to the test to transform their dogs' behaviour in two weeks by just using the app.—Xinhua

A model presents creations from the Jeremy Scott Spring/Summer 2017 collection during New York Fashion Week in the Manhattan borough of New York, US, on 12 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Designers Carolina Herrera and Jeremy Scott reveal new collections

NEW YORK — Fashion designer Carolina Herrera celebrated 35 years in the business by taking over The Frick Collection, a museum on Manhattan's upper eastside, to debut her collection at New York Fashion week on Monday.

The first "look" on the runway combined elegance and comfort with a ball gown made from denim.

"This show is very special to me," Herrera told Reuters, noting she'd like to take some of the looks of her first collection and design "for the woman of today."

The 39 "looks" were tailored but combined with soft edges to maintain the feminine attitude of the brand. Tulle skirts were paired with knit tops, tweed was used to create a sexy suit and chiffon added movement to the looks. The mainly black and white colour palette was broken up with metallics, and a feminine floral print.

The 77-year-old Venezuelan native started designing in 1980 in New York and counted her first show among her proudest career moments.

Herrera said her best memory was the finale of her first show. "It was so glam-

orous and so fashionable and so wonderful that I always remember it with great pride," said the designer.

American fashion designer Jeremy Scott also presented a whimsical Spring 2017 collection Monday. Taking his inspiration from the city's 1980's party scene, he showed a colorful collection with influences from disco, punk and sci-fi.

"I have been thinking about the days of New York's party scenes in the early 80's, when it was a little bit more wild, seedy and rough and dirty and more experimental," the designer explained to Reuters. "I really want to capture that spirit, something very fun, but aggressive and kind of punky," he added.

A sweater reading "Slime City" summarized the theme of the collection, hinting to the 1980's comedy-horror film. Models wearing colourful dresses embellished with safety pins and zippers, captured the "punk" spirit, while the grunginess of the city was represented in looks with black leather, latex, metal rings and dog collars. The disco spirit was present in the form of sparkly sequins that were paired with large geometrical shapes.

Scott, who is also the creative director of Italy's Moschino, has dressed many celebrities such as Katy Perry, Gwen Stefani and Rihanna. His latest muse, the Los Angeles-based designer said, is K-Pop star CL, who is a member of the girl band 2NE1.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(14-9-2016, Wednesday)

Pm		
06 : 00	pm	Weather Report
	pm	MRTV Entertainment Music
06 : 20	pm	Premier League (Review)
07 : 20	pm	International Drama Series
07 : 55	pm	International Drama Series
08 : 35	pm	MRTV Entertainment Music
08 : 55	pm	Cassette Recordings
09 : 55	pm	Myanmar Video
06 : 00	pm	Close Down.

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

From 14-9-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm
To 15-9-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm



Myanmar International

(14-9-2016 07:00am ~ 15-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	History Of Wish fulfilling Mai-Lamu Pagoda
07:45	AmShan Novices To Be.....
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-3) His Public Service & Literary World
08:50	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Living in Off-Season
09:38	Am	On the River

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Sayit-wyne Girls
10:49	Am	Amazing: Sayargyi Nyein Chan Aung

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday 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	A Trip To The City Of Rakkhita, Rakhine
07:45	Pm	YUFL
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- The Making Procedure Of Goldsmith
08:43	Pm	Young Lady Musician: Nge Nge Lay

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

Everton's Lukaku back in the goals with a hat-trick

LONDON— Everton's Romelu Lukaku ended his longest goal drought in English football with an 11-minute hat-trick to power the visitors to an emphatic 3-0 win over Sunderland on Monday and third place in the Premier League table.

The Belgian international had not scored a league goal in 13 matches covering more than 15 hours but said he should have scored more goals at the Stadium of Light as Everton posted their most impressive start to a season for 10 years.

After four games, they are level on 10 points with second-placed Chelsea and two behind leaders Manchester City.

"I could have had five," said Lukaku, who was the focal point of almost every attack. "I have to be more (ruthless) if I want to help the team fulfill its objectives."

It looked like it might be another night of frustration for Lukaku as he snatched at a couple of chances but after the break he proved unstoppable, powering home two far-post headers from the right and then the left in the



Everton's Romelu Lukaku scores their first goal during Premier League at Stadium of Light, on 12 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

60th and 68th minutes.

Helping his cause were the pinpoint crosses from Idrissa Gueye and Yannick Bolasie, a constant threat all night, as Everton exploited the full width of the

pitch. The striker scored again in the 71st when he latched on to Kevin Mirallas's through ball to slot the ball past goalkeeper Jordan Pickford with a cool left-foot finish for his third career

hat-trick, and second in the Premier League. Lukaku put his lack of goals down to a struggle for match fitness following a pre-season heel injury. "I think it was all about fitness levels," he said. "I'm

happy for the team."

Everton manager Ronald Koeman thought Lukaku deserved much of the credit for a shrewd tactical switch in replacing England midfielder Ross Barkley with Gerard Deulofeu at halftime.

The Spaniard made an immediate impact in creating attacking width that Sunderland could not deal with.

Koeman has had a huge impact at the club since arriving from Southampton in the close season and the Dutchman is clearly not afraid to make changes if his players fail to produce.

Sunderland manager David Moyes, who spent 11 years at Everton, acknowledged his side gave away soft goals. "When you step up to the big league there are no excuses," he said. After four games without a win, Sunderland have one point from four games and are facing another relegation fight. "We have to stop conceding goals," said Moyes. "Lukaku is a big threat and we knew that tonight. We needed to pick him up."—Reuters



Maria Sharapova speaks to the media announcing a failed drug test after the Australian Open during a press conference today at The LA Hotel Downtown, Los Angeles, on 7 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CAS to rule on Maria Sharapova doping ban appeal in early October

BERLIN — A decision on former world number one tennis player Maria Sharapova's appeal against a two-year doping ban will be issued in the first week of next month, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said on Tuesday.

Five-times grand slam winner Sharapova, 29, was banned by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) in June following a positive test for the banned drug meldonium during January's Australian Open.

Sharapova was named in Russia's official entry list for the Olympic Games in Rio de

Janeiro but the CAS decided in July to defer its decision on her appeal against the ban.

Sharapova is seeking to have her suspension, which was handed down by the ITF in June, wiped out or reduced.

She had called the ITF's ruling "unfairly harsh" as an independent tribunal had found that she had not intentionally violated anti-doping rules.

Meldonium was added to World Anti-doping Agency's list of banned substances at the start of the year after mounting evidence that it boosted blood flow and enhanced athletic performance.—Reuters

Ronaldo cannot wait for 'special' Sporting match

MADRID — Real Madrid talisman Cristiano Ronaldo faces an emotional reunion with boyhood club Sporting Lisbon when his side begin the defence of their Champions League crown on Wednesday.

Ronaldo, who scored the decisive penalty in the shootout win over Atletico Madrid in last season's final, returned to club football following an injury lay-off when he scored in the 5-2 thrashing of Osasuna on Saturday.

The Portugal captain netted in a 1-0 win and a 2-1 triumph over Sporting while he was with Manchester United but has yet to face them in a Real shirt.

Ronaldo moved from his family home in Madeira to Sporting's academy at the age of 12 and spent one season in the first team, scoring five times in 30 appearances in all competitions before joining United in 2003.

"It's a special match, it's a special team," he told www.uefa.com. "To play Sporting again is a privilege for me."

"I wanted to draw Sporting again because I think they have a good team, they have a good coach (Jorge Jesus) and it will be another special moment in my life."

No team has retained the Champions League title since

the competition was revamped in 1992 but Ronaldo said Real, who have been kings of Europe a record 11 times, were capable of bucking the trend.

"It's a great challenge and I think at Real we have a chance to win it again," he added. "We know it's a very difficult competition...but we think positive, that it's possible to win it again."

Ronaldo played 65 minutes against Osasuna, his first appearance since injuring his knee in Portugal's Euro 2016 final win over France in July, and is expected to start against Sporting.

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Karim Benzema is likely to return to the starting lineup for the first time this campaign after struggling with a hip problem but midfielder Isco, defender Fabio Coentrao and goalkeeper Keylor Navas are injured.

Sporting are top of the Primeira Liga after winning their fourth consecutive game of the season on Saturday, easing to a 3-0 victory over Moreirense.

Left back Jefferson, nursing a hamstring problem, is their only injury concern.—Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo warms up before the match at Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid, Spain, on 10 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS