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U.S. SANCTIONS TO BE LIFTED

Positive changes for Myanmar during State Counsellor's meeting with Obama

MYANMAR will be able to export about 5,000 products to the United States duty-free thanks to a new designation under the Generalized System of Preferences trade program, a US official said yesterday.

The change, set to take effect on 13 November, will help the Myanmar government create jobs and reduce poverty in a country where per capita income is estimated at \$1,280, the official said.

The designation came as Myanmar's State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met President Barack Obama at the White House yesterday.

As Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived at the White House, Obama issued a statement saying he would reinstate Myanmar to the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which provides duty-free treatment for goods from poor and developing countries.

Obama said Myanmar's progress is not complete, but is on right track.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Washington DC yesterday and soon met with several top US leaders. The State Counsellor began with breakfast with Vice President Joe Biden at his residence, and following breakfast, met with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office at the White House.

After meeting with President Obama, she was scheduled to have lunch with US Secretary of State John Kerry at Blair House, the president's guest house that is located across the street from The White House. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be staying at the Blair House during her trip to Washington, D.C.

Blair House has served as the home away from home for visiting chiefs of state, heads of govern-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with US President Barack Obama at the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, US September 14, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ment, and their delegations since 1942.

On Wednesday evening, the State Counsellor will enjoy a VIP tour of the Lincoln Memorial, one of Washington's most important landmarks, and the site of Martin Luther King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. Her day will conclude with a dinner at the Myanmar Embassy.

Daw Aung Sun Suu Kyi last

visited Washington in 2012 when she was still opposition leader. On that occasion, she was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal, the legislature's highest civilian honor, which she had been awarded in 2008 while under house arrest. Her current visit to Washington is a major milestone in her transition from heroine of Myanmar's democracy struggle to a national leader focused on economic

growth for her country.

There were positive indications from The White House yesterday that remaining sanctions would be lifted.

Obama said yesterday the United States was prepared to lift sanctions on Myanmar "soon" and that democratic progress in the country was incomplete but on the right track.

During a meeting with Myan-

mar's Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the White House, Obama said the US moves would give incentives to businesses to invest in the Asian country.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, visiting the White House for the first time since her party won a sweeping victory in last year's election, said it was time for all sanctions that hurt her country economically to be lifted. **See page 4 >>**



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Pyithu Hluttaw

Government will not open forests to logging companies: MTE



Thura U Aung Ko.



U Ohn Win.

MYANMAR Timber Enterprise will carry out logging by itself and will not allow private companies to fell and take trees from Myanmar forests, Union Minister U Ohn Win told the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

Works are underway to halt the extraction of teak and other hardwood and reduce the annual allowable cut (AAC), said the Union minister, adding that measures are being taken to in-

terrupt illegal trade in timber and forest products.

Next, the Union minister elaborated on large-scale marble extraction in Nyaung-U Township of Rakhine State, saying that No 1 Mining Department received US\$3,278.782 as 3 per cent mineral tax and \$21,202.82 as 20 per cent production sharing following the export of 612.1846 metric tonnes by the Myanmar Simco

Song Da Joint Stock Company Limited (MYSICO), a Vietnamese company.

According to the Union minister, the marble extraction enterprise is operating with an investment of \$18.147million under a 20-year contract.

During yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw session, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko also responded to a question regarding the ministry's plan to preserve religious edifices

across the country including Kyauktan Township.

The Union minister said that the government laid down policies for preservation of cultural heritage, adding that four destinations in the township have been set as cultural sites and preservation works are underway. The ministry is handling provision of technical assistance to repair of ancient pagodas and buildings. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee to review annulment of Emergency Provisions Act

THE Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for the 30th day with taking the oath of office by a Hluttaw representative and a decision made to review a Bill to Repeal Emergency Provisions Act yesterday.

Frist, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Yaw Naka of Kachin State Constituency 5 took the oath of office before the Speaker.

Next, lawmakers debated the Bill to Revoke Emergency Provisions Act. U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region Constituency 5 suggested that an old law be revoked after a new law was enacted, pointing out security concerns for eastern and western parts of the country.

In his discussion, Major Win Thein, Defence

Service personnel Hluttaw representative, expressed objection to the submission of the bill, saying that the country will lose a law that can guarantee peace and stability, the rule of law and public interest if an existing law is abolished urgently.

U Soe Thane of Kayah State Constituency 9 also stressed the need to give



U Soe Thane.

the bill serious consideration, calling for a review of the law by experts from various points of view before its nullification.

Next, Lt-Col Zaw



Lt-Col Zaw Moe.

Moe, another Defence Service personnel Hluttaw representative, called on the parliament not to repeal the Emergency Provisions Act in an urgent



U Maung Maung Ohn.

move.

The Amyotha Hluttaw then decided to send the bill for review by the Bill Committee. —Myanmar News Agency

MIC holds joint forum to address economic trends



Hans van Beek.



Larry Jagen.



Kenneth Stevens.

MYANMAR Investment Commission and the Hong Kong-based Euromoney Institutional Investor (Asia) jointly organised the Myanmar Global Investment Forum at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an address by Planning and Finance Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win.

The forum was aimed at helping foreign investors gain insight into the country's economic activities. Local and foreign participants discussed the property market, the condominium act, foreign investment, the tourism industry and current complexities of high-rise buildings.

Hans van Beek, myjobs.com.mm

Everybody sees improvement in Myanmar.

This is a good sign. We know 55 to 60 million people. This is the fastest growing market in the world. It would be a steady growth. I don't think everybody expects a big boom tomorrow. You need to have a longer term view. We need to take a long view. I would say it's better for everyone, it's better for investors. It's better for Myanmar people. It's not just going like up and down. Everything is going steadily, that is what everybody is expecting. People don't see a big jump at this moment. People see steady improvement. We continuously see new companies enter into Myanmar. They start with a few people and they want to see what they can produce here. This is a good start and they would invest more and more.

Larry Jagen, Expert for South-East Asia Affairs

This forum is a great success. It's been the biggest attendance ever, and I have been to many conferences. Local companies, foreign investors, big international financial institutions are here. What it shows is that there is tremendous interest in the Myanmar economy. It's been a part of the economic development of the NLD government. There has been a lot of enthusiasm. At the moment, people are cautious about investing immediately. They want to see more details from the government's economic policy and changes to bureaucratic restrictions on businesses. This (forum) is an incredible networking event. It is a great sign of the future of investment in

Myanmar.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will meet with American President Barack Obama. We would like to know American sanctions are going to be lifted later this week.

Kenneth Stevens, Managing Partner of Leopard Capital

If (investment opportunities in Myanmar) are gradually, slowly getting better, I think investors a long time ago found it very difficult here. But in the last four or five years, Myanmar is improving and people are finding interesting companies as good partners.

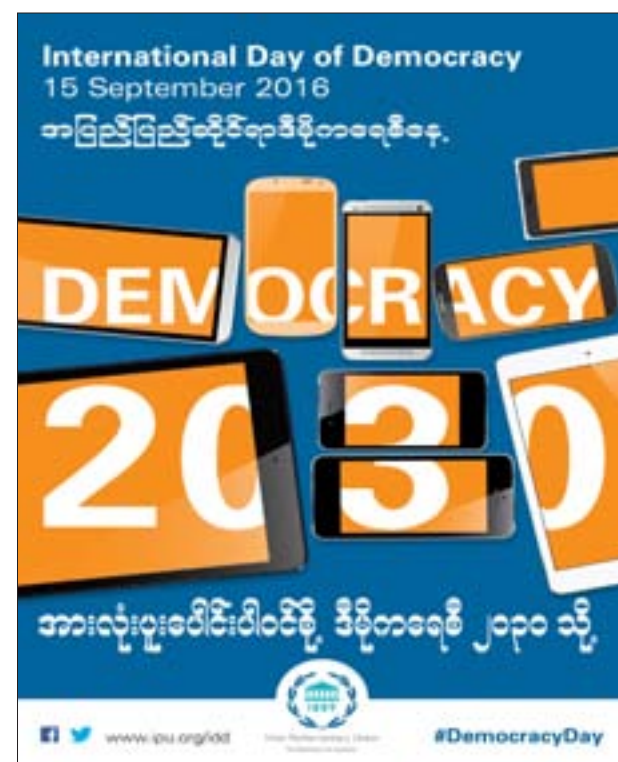
(Sanctions)

I don't see that as a very important issue. Many people think sanctions are still problem. —Myanmar News Agency

Government making efforts to encourage youth participation in policy making

TO adopt a youth policy for Myanmar, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports are working together with other ministries concerned and youth representatives from regions and states to bring about the political engagement of young people, it has been learned.

Discussions on youth policy, surveys and youth forums are being conducted in regions and states as part of government's efforts to elect youth representatives from across the country so that young people can be involved in the eventual formation of the Myanmar Youth Policy.





President U Htin Kyaw poses for documentary photos together with students from the University for the Development of National Races. PHOTO: MNA

President U Htin Kyaw meets with primary teacher trainees

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw gave a speech to students from the three-year primary teachership training course No 45 of the University for the Development of National Races at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, the President said that the 21st Century Panglong Union Conference was successfully held in Nay Pyi Taw and the conference was televised live from beginning to end.

The 21st Century Panglong Conference served as the first step towards the country's national reconciliation and peace process and the government is striving for inclusion of all stakeholders in the process, added the President.

Efforts are being made to encourage the remaining non-signatory groups to sign the nationwide ceasefire agreement, said the President, stressing the need to find a

solution to a nearly 70-year-old internal armed conflict through political dialogue.

He called for an environment of mutual understanding, trust and respect for Union brethren while resolving political problems by political means at the negotiating table, highlighting the importance of keeping national unity and already-achieved Union spirit sustainable.

He said he was very proud to have future leaders like primary teacher trainees who are going to perform duties to ensure national unity and development of all ethnic people in the Union.

He called on the trainees to strive to become great teachers with the abilities to improve the socio-economic status of the national races and promote Union spirit among the entire population while serving the country as ed-

He called on the trainees to strive to become great teachers with the abilities to improve the socio-economic status of the national races and promote Union spirit among the entire population.

ucation staff in their own regions after completion of the three-year course.

It is required that they do their bit in the country's national reconciliation efforts by educating ethnic minorities in border areas that lag behind in development for various reasons, added the President.

The President also emphasised the need to raise awareness of threats posed by narcotic drugs among students as drug abuse is posing serious threat to young people in urban and rural areas.

The President described the danger of narcotic drugs as a

threat to the country's rule of law, peace and stability and socioeconomic development undertakings for ethnic minorities.

While elaborating on the government's endeavours in nation-building tasks, the President said that there can only be a healthy democracy through cooperation between the government and the entire people, adding that national reconciliation is vital to building a democratic federal Union inspired by all national races.

In conclusion, the President called on primary teacher trainees to strive to become good educa-

tional staff who are able to ensure human resources development in the regions where they are assigned with duties as well as to promote regional development and better socioeconomic status as well as the Union spirit among all national races.

Next, Ma Hla Myat Aye of the Palaung national race spoke words of thanks on behalf of the trainees.

Two trainees presented a gift to the President. Afterwards, the President posed for documentary photos together with trainees and cordially greeted them including the principal and faculty members.

Also present were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung and Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Nai Thet Lwin, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut and departmental heads.—*Myanmar News Agency*

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Experience luxurious 'Hot Pot' at the D'Cuisine where Chef Murray and his team brings the popular 'Hot Pot' to a whole new level! With 6 different soup bases ranging from the 'Tom Yum' to the 'Bak Kut Teh' to the 'Ma La Tang', quality meats and seafood plus a dozen different types of sauces and condiments, this heart-warming dining experience is available only on Wednesdays! Plus! Look out for the Traditional Myanmar Lok Lok bar with seafood & meat dumplings too!

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Venue : D'Cuisine All Day Dining Restaurant

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SEDONA
YANGON

Positive changes for Myanmar during State Counsellor's meeting with Obama

>> From page 1

Myanmar was removed from GSP benefits in 1989 following pro-democracy uprisings a year earlier that were suppressed by the ruling military junta.

The United States eased some sanctions against Myanmar earlier this year to support political reform but maintained most of its economic restrictions with an eye toward penalizing those it views as hampering the democratically elected government.

With Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Washington, officials in Myanmar said the government there was making a push to overhaul rules on new foreign investment this week.

New investment approvals have fallen since Daw Aung San Suu Kyi took power in April and some businesses and investors have criticized her for failing to prioritize the economy.

Separately, a group of 46 non-governmental organizations circulated a letter they wrote to Obama on Monday expressing concern about reports of plans to ease sanctions on Myanmar.

The State Counsellor will continue her efforts to focus on economic development for her country on Thursday evening, when she will meet with major players in the American business community at a dinner where participants have paid as much as \$25,000 per table.—GNLM

Myanmar encyclopedias to be republished

A WORK coordination meeting on the republication of Myanmar encyclopedias by Sarpay Beikman in cooperation with the Tun Foundation was held at the Central Printing Press in Yangon yesterday, with an address by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint.

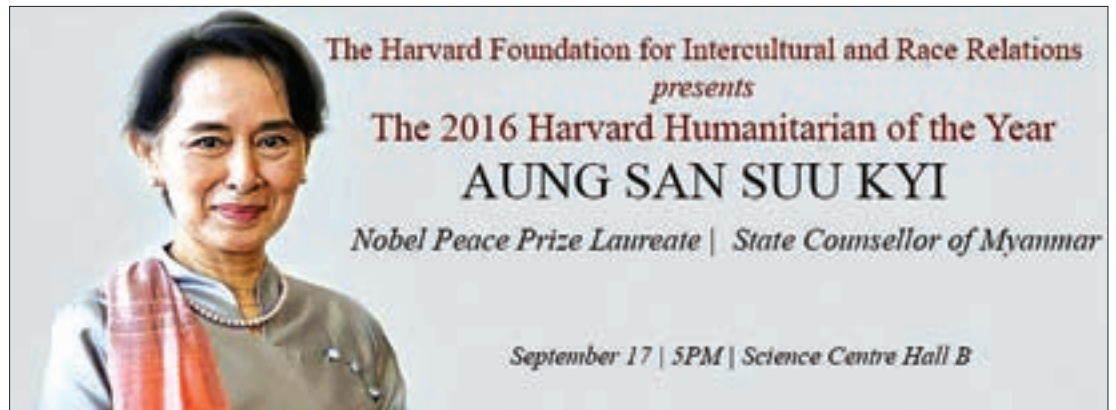
During the meeting, Chief Editor U Aung Than of Sarpay Beikman said that upgraded Myanmar encyclopedias will be republished.

Next, Chairman of Tun Foundation Bank U Thein Tun said that arrangements have been made to republish the encyclopedias with the help of experts.

Those present made suggestions on the process of republishing Myanmar encyclopedias. This was followed by concluding remarks by the Union minister. Also present at the meeting were officials of the Ministry of Information, literati and other experts.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivering the uncluding remarks at the meeting to republish encyclopedias. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor to be named 2016 Harvard Humanitarian of Year

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be honoured with the 2016 Harvard Humanitarian of the Year award by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations on 17 September, according to officials.

Every year, the foundation presents the Humanitarian Award to an individual whose

dedication to the improved quality of life has inspired others to greater heights.

The awards have been conferred on famous people like Martin Luther King, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Dr Benjamin Hooks. The foundation presented the award to Malala Yousafzai in 2013, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-

moon in 2014 and Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi in 2015.

This award is given in memory of the Rev. Professor Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor and Minister in Harvard's Memorial Church, who died in 2011, and is authorized by the Dean of Harvard College and the President of Harvard University.—Than Oo (Lay Myat Hnar)



JMC-U meeting being held at NRCP in Yangon. PHOTO: YE KHAUNG NYUNT

JMC plans to open more offices in ceasefire areas

AN agreement has reached to open up to six offices in ceasefire areas, according to the second-day session of the Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

Four region/state level joint ceasefire monitoring committees have been opened in Shan State, Taninthari Region, Kayah State and Mon State, with plans to open two more in Bago Re-

gion and Chin State.

According to JMC-U's Secretary-1 Dr Shwe Khar, offices will be opened in Taungoo of Bago Region in October and in Haka of Chin State in November.

The discussions included the meeting between the JMC-U and the United Nations and demarcation.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) finances the committee to con-

duct its peacemaking activities, with an official estimating that the committee would need US\$100,000 to continue its work until the end of this year.

In connection with demarcation, the Tatmadaw will make discussions with ethnic armed organisations under the supervision of the Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee. The committee is planning to include civil society organisations in the process.—Ye Khaung Nyunt

Crime NEWS

Police investigating grisly corpse discovery in local water well, Pyay

A BODY that was discovered in a well by a local woman has been removed by police in Hsin Su ward, Pyay town, Bago region on Monday.

The witness reportedly discovered the body when trying to extract water from the well.

Local ward authorities were unable to identify the remains as anyone known to the community.

Police sent the body to the general hospital for a post mortem. An investigation is ongoing.—Ko Lwin (Hswar)

Four arrested for selling fake gold

FOUR individuals have been arrested while another two suspects remain on the loose for allegedly selling fake gold at a jewellery shop in Loikaw town, Kayah state. The arrests were made on Sunday.

According to an investigation, one of the suspects in the case sold a fake gold chain to a staffer of the Hteik Tan jewellery shop in Thiri Minglar mar-

ket, Loikaw town.

When the forgery was discovered the shop alerted police. The police arrested one Thaug Hteik, 32, from Mya Yadana ward, Mingladon township, Yangon on suspicion of being the seller.

During a search of his person police found two gold chains that proved to be fake. Police also arrested Win Min

Kyaw alias Ah Kaung Gyi, 25, and Kyaw Myint Win alias Tayoke Kyi, 32, from North Okkalapa township and another suspect identified as Tun Tun Oo from Mingladon township. Police are still searching for two more suspects identified as Daw Thein Thein Aye, 48, from Kyauktada township and Myo Ko.—Kyie Myint Nang (Loikaw)

LOCAL Business

US\$ 258 million in Japanese investments made into Thilawa Special Economic Zone

JAPANESE companies have invested over US\$ 258 million in 25 enterprises operating out of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone beginning from November of the 2014-2015 FY to July 2016, according to Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The total invested amount in the Thilawa (SEZ) is currently US\$830 million from 14 foreign countries. Singapore tops the list with investments totalling US\$ 372 million in 18 enterprises, Hong Kong with US\$ 38 million in five enterprises and Thailand with over US\$ 60 in seven enterprises, UAE with over US\$15 million, Panama with over US\$13 million, China over

US\$12 million, Malaysia over US\$9 million, South Korea over US\$ 8 million, Australia US\$7 million, Viet Nam US\$6 million, Brunei US\$5 million and Taiwan US\$4 million.

Singapore stands at the top of 14 foreign countries currently investing in 68 enterprises operating out of the Thilawan Special Economic Zone. Japan is second after Singapore, it has been learned from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

12 new industries, including a garment factory and an auto parts factory, have commenced operation in the Thilawan Special Economic Zone.—*Min Thu*



A man works at the site of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone project outside Yangon in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fair tax rate possibly to persuade more tax payers

A fair tax rate is needed in the real estate sector in order not to make the public carry a heavy tax burden, it is learnt from the real property businessmen.

“Faced with a heavy tax burden, people will just try to evade paying taxes,” said U Than Oo, the vice president 1 of Myanmar Real Estate Service Association (Central). “This action can affect both the citizens and the government. Therefore, we would like to request the government to make amendments in the taxation rate and to levy the tax based on the situations of the public. If the fair rate is imposed,

the public will regularly pay tax, resulting in the increase in revenue.”

The new tax rate on real property is 15 per cent for property worth below Ks30million, 20 per cent for property in the Ks30million to Ks100million range and 30 per cent for property worth above Ks100million. The increase in the tax rate is bringing down the real estate market, the businessmen said. Although the government might amend the tax rate on real estate, there is currently no plan to reduce the rate, it is learnt from the Internal Revenue Department.—*200*

Project in Kabyar Wa beach to resume in October

THE project in Kabyar Wa beach, which was suspended for four months, will resume in October, it is learnt from Aurun Company Limited.

Kabyar Wa, one of the most beautiful beaches in Myanmar, is just 25 kilometers away from Ye Township in Mon State.

A project to build hotels and promote tourism in Kabyar Wa beach was started in 2015, but the effort ran into problems because of the geographically narrow areas of land that were being considered for development. The plan was shelved after discus-

sions with foreign investors as well as with local organizations foundered.

The project will resume in the open season. Construction of restaurants, hotel zones, resorts, and attractions such as museums are included in the project. Only one-third of the infrastructural development projects are complete. Previously, Kabyar Wa had virtually no visitors despite its stunning views because there are no public transport and no security. Therefore, building of infrastructure has become a priority.—*200*

Relaxations to be made to persuade more industrial enterprises to register

PROCEDURES for registration of businesses will be relaxed to persuade more industrial enterprises to register because there are still unregistered private enterprises, according to the Second Five-Year National Development Plan.

Myanmar is dealing with difficulties in formulating effective policy when drawing up development projects, a result of the increased number of unregistered private industrial enterprises. In addition to a relaxation of procedures, an on-

line registration system will also be implemented, it is learnt from this plan. Additionally, efforts will be made to encourage the enterprises to register in cooperation with mobile registration teams, according to the Industrial policy released by the Ministry of Industry.

The registration of big enterprises will be granted by the Union Government, while small and medium-sized enterprises can register at the regional and state offices.

The industrial sector is faced

with the high cost of raw materials and processing, weakness in quality and innovation, low techniques of manufacturing, lack of penetration into foreign markets, monetary insufficiency for investment, insufficiency of electricity, lack of infrastructural development, a shortage of skilled workers, conflicts between labourers and employers, laws and procedures which are not in accord with the modern business situations and high price of industrial plots of land.—*Ko Htet*

Border trade with ITC amounted to over Ks2.2billion

BORDER trade with the Individual Trading Card (ITC) as of the end of August in the 2016-2017 fiscal year earned Ks2.2billion, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The commerce ministry issued 45 ITCs from 1st to 26th August in this fiscal year. The value of exports with ITCs amounted to Ks370million,

whereas the import value was over US\$1,850million.

Trading with ITCs is available in Tamu, Muse, Myawady, Tachilek, Kanpik Tee, Kawthaung, Reed, Maw Taung and Kengtung border trade camps. The Kanpik Tee border trade camp is reported to have the largest trade using ITCs, with a trade value so far this year of

Ks633million.

The value of trade with ITCs is over Ks279million in Tachilek, over Ks270million each in Myawady and Muse, over Ks278million in Tamu, Ks68million in Kawthaung, over Ks189million in Reed, over Ks195million in Maw Taung and over Ks6million in Kengtung border trade camps.—*Mon Mon*

Local and Thai entrepreneurs jointly establish footwear factory in Myawady industrial zone

A footwear factory being jointly established by local and Thailand entrepreneurs in the Myawady industrial zone is slated to open next year, said an official from the factory.

Construction of the factory

began in 2012, but is still only half-built. The factory is expected to employ 500 workers. Skilled workers from Bangkok footwear factories will be invited so that they can share their skills with the local workers, he added.

The factory is being built with allocated money of over US\$300,000. Thailand will provide the machines and technical assistance. The daily wages for the workers are expected to be Ks5,000.—*200*

Top diplomats from US, Japan, South Korea to meet on North Korea

SEOUL/BEIJING — US Secretary of State John Kerry will meet with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts in New York on Sunday to discuss responses to North Korea's latest nuclear test, South Korea's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

The three countries are pushing for tough new UN Security Council sanctions on North Korea after the isolated country on Friday conducted its fifth and largest nuclear test.

The blast was in defiance of UN sanctions that were tightened in March.

China, the North's chief ally, backed the March resolution but is more resistant to harsh new sanctions this time after the United States and South Korea decided to deploy a sophisticated anti-missile system in the South, which China adamantly opposes.

South Korea said Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se and his counterparts Kerry and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida will meet during

the annual UN General Assembly to discuss putting further pressure on North Korea.

The United States wants China to do more, with US Defence Secretary Ash Carter last week singling out the role he said China should play in curbing its neighbour.

North Korea has been testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles at an unprecedented rate this year under young leader Kim Jong Un.

On Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke with South Korea's Yun by phone, expressing Beijing's opposition to the North's latest nuclear test but also reiterating opposition to the planned deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system in the South, China's foreign ministry said.

China is North Korea's most important diplomatic and trade partner and refuses to cut the country off completely, fearing it could collapse.



US Secretary of State John Kerry shakes hands with Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) and South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se before a meeting at the Lotte New York Palace hotel in Manhattan, New York in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Beijing's official *People's Daily* newspaper on Wednesday called the United States a trou-

blemaker and said it has no right to lecture China about taking responsibility for reining in North Korea

as tensions on the peninsula are a direct result of US actions.

In a commentary, the

ruling Communist Party's official paper said the United States was pretending it had nothing to do with the North Korea issue and was putting the blame on others.

"People have reason to doubt whether Washington is willing to make the effort to push the North Korea issue in the direction of a resolution," the paper said.

China and Russia have pushed for a resumption of six party talks on denuclearisation in North Korea. The talks, which also involve Japan, South Korea and the United States, have been on hold since 2008.

Washington has said it is willing to negotiate with the North if it the country commits to denuclearisation, which Pyongyang has refused to do. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will seek Cuba's help in responding to North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes during a rare visit to Havana next week, a spokesman said.—Reuters

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Malaysian democracy group to stage 1MDB protest, calling for Prime Minister to resign

KUALA LUMPUR

— Malaysian democracy group Bersih said on Wednesday it would hold a protest rally calling for the immediate resignation of Prime Minister Najib Razak to allow an independent investigation into the financial scandal at 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Bersih chairman Maria Chin Abdullah said the rally would be held on 19 November. "Bersih believes not protesting is not an option. Malaysians must stand united and take a strong stand against this grand corruption and the failure of our institutions," Maria told reporters.

More than 200,000 people marched through the streets in August 2015 in a similar rally organised by Bersih, which draws the bulk of its support from Malaysia's ethnic Chinese minority, calling for Najib's resignation.

1MDB is a state fund Najib founded in



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak attends the ASEAN-US Summit in Vientiane, Laos, on 8 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

September 2009 to invest in strategic property and energy projects.

Najib was the chairman of 1MDB's advisory board until recently.

US prosecutors filed civil lawsuits in July alleging that over \$3.5 billion was defrauded from 1MDB.

The Wall Street Journal has reported that global investigators believed more than \$1 billion entered Ma-

laysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's personal bank accounts, much of it from 1MDB.

None of the information publicly disclosed about the 1MDB investigations across the world has shown any connection between alleged misappropriation of money linked to 1MDB and the prime minister. Najib has denied any wrongdoing.—Reuters

Malaysia reports 2 more new Zika cases

KUALA LUMPUR

— Malaysia's health ministry reported two more new cases of Zika virus, including a two-month pregnant woman who lives in Sarawak east Malaysia.

Health Minister Dr. S. Subramaniam said in a statement on Tuesday night that the mosquito-borne virus was detected in the 35-year-old pregnant woman, who last visited Singapore in July and her 39-year-old sister, who went to Sarawak to visit the sister on 26 August. Both of them began to show symptoms on 6 September and later tested positive for Zika infections.

The two new cases bring the total number of Zika infections reported in the country to six since 1 September, including two pregnant women.

S. Subramaniam added that in the same period, 68 patients who had symptoms of Zika were tested and all of them showed negative results. The minister said prevention and vector control activities have been carried out in the patients' residential areas.—Xinhua

China sets up new logistics force as part of military reforms

BEIJING — China's military has set up a new logistics support force as part of efforts to reform and modernise the world's largest armed forces, state media has reported.

President Xi Jinping's push to reform the military coincides with China becoming more assertive in its territorial disputes with Asian neighbours in the East and South China Seas.

China's navy is investing in submarines and aircraft carriers and its air force is developing stealth fighters.

In January, China created three new military units, including a missile force that controls its nuclear deterrent.

The new joint logistics force would better support military operations, the official Xinhua news agency said late on Tuesday.

The move "is a strategic decision by the Communist Party's Central Committee and Central Military Commission to comprehensively deepen national defence and military reform", Xinhua cited Xi as telling a ceremony in Beijing.

"It is of far-reaching significance to establishing a modern joint logistics support force with Chinese characteristics and building a world-leading military," he said.

Support centres for the

new unit would be established in five Chinese cities, Xinhua said, including Shenyang in the northeast, close to the sensitive North Korean border.

Xi said the logistics body "is a main force in strategic battle support missions".

The new force should "deepen logistics preparedness for battle and better integrate the force into the joint operations system and carry out real battle training", he said.

Xi's reforms include establishing a joint operational command structure by 2020 and rejigging existing military regions, as well as cutting troop numbers by 300,000, a surprise announcement he made last year.

China has been moving rapidly to upgrade its military hardware, but integration of complex systems across a regionalised command structure has been a major challenge.

The move has proved controversial and Xi has run into opposition in the military, though, and the military's newspaper has published a series of commentaries warning of opposition to the reforms and concern about job losses.

Xi has also made rooting out deeply entrenched corruption in the military a top priority. Dozens of senior officers have been investigated and jailed.—Reuters



An aerial view of land reclamation in Jakarta Bay, Indonesia, on 14 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indonesia to resume land reclamation on 'Giant Sea Wall' to save sinking Jakarta

JAKARTA — Indonesia will resume land reclamation that will help prevent Jakarta from sinking below sea level, a cabinet minister said, five months after work was suspended due to regulatory and environmental concerns.

Greater Jakarta, one of the world's most densely populated cities, sits on a swampy plain and is sinking at a faster rate than any other city in the world.

Jakarta has focussed its attention on bolstering its defences with a 15-mile sea wall and refurbishing the crumbling flood canal system.

The government decided late on Tuesday to allow work to continue on a key phase of the "Giant Sea Wall", which aims to shore up northern Jakarta while revamping the capital's image into a Singa-

pore-like waterfront city.

"If this Giant Sea Wall is not done, that will create a big impact on Jakarta with regards to salt water penetration," Coordinating Maritime Minister Luhut Pandjaitan told reporters on Tuesday.

Included in the master plan is the building of 17 artificial islands off Jakarta's northern coast, where property developers plan to build shopping malls and attractions similar to Singapore's Sentosa Island.

But work on that project was suspended in April following disagreements between the government and the Jakarta governor over who had authority to issue permits. Some fishermen have also protested against reclamation, saying it would reduce their catch.

In response, the government

plans to offer them fishing permits in waters near the Natuna Islands.

The suspension in April also threatened to delay Indonesian property developer PT Agung Podomoro Land's multi-billion-dollar Pluit City, comprising apartments, offices and shopping malls on parts of artificial land it was constructing.

"We are still waiting for government direction," said Justini Omas, the company's corporate secretary. "Previously, we had planned that construction of the island would be done in 2018."

Earlier this month, former Agung Podomoro executive Ariesman Widjaja was jailed for three years for bribing a member of the Jakarta provincial assembly to influence the regulation for the land reclamation, media said.—Reuters

North Korea ramps up uranium enrichment, enough for six nuclear bombs a year

SEOUL — North Korea will have enough material for about 20 nuclear bombs by the end of this year, with ramped-up uranium enrichment facilities and an existing stockpile of plutonium, according to new assessments by weapons experts.

The North has evaded a decade of UN sanctions to develop the uranium enrichment process, enabling it to run an effectively self-sufficient nuclear programme that is capable of producing around six nuclear bombs a year, they said.

The true nuclear capability of the isolated and secretive state is impossible to verify. But after Pyongyang conducted its fifth and most powerful nuclear test last week and, according to South Korea, was preparing for another, it appears to have no shortage of material to test with.

North Korea has an abundance of uranium reserves and has been working covertly for well over a decade on a project to enrich the material to weapons-grade level, the experts say.

That project, believed to have been expanded significantly, is likely the source of up to 150 kilograms (330 pounds) of highly enriched uranium a year, said Siegfried Hecker, a leading

expert on the North's nuclear programme.

That quantity is enough for roughly six nuclear bombs, Hecker, who toured the North's main Yongbyon nuclear facility

in 2010, wrote in a report on the 38 North website of Johns Hopkins University in Washington published on Monday.

Added to an estimated 32- to 54 kilogram plutonium stockpile,

the North will have sufficient fissile material for about 20 bombs by the end of 2016, Hecker said.

North Korea said its latest test proved it was capable of mounting a nuclear warhead on a medium-range ballistic missile, but its claims to be able to miniaturize a nuclear device have never been independently verified.

Assessments of the North's plutonium stockpile are generally consistent and believed to be accurate because experts and governments can estimate plutonium production levels from telltale signs of reactor operation in satellite imagery.

South Korean Defence Minister Han Min-koo this year estimated the North's plutonium stockpile at about 40 kilograms.

But Hecker, a former director of the US Los Alamos National Laboratory, where nuclear weapons have been designed, has called North Korea's uranium enrichment programme "their new nuclear wildcard," because Western experts do not know how advanced it is.—Reuters



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives field guidance to the 18 January General Machine Plant in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 10 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Why not buy into her reform initiatives?

Kyaw Thura

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI deserves a special mention for all the sacrifices she has made to drive democratic reform in the political arena as the leader of the most popular political party in the country, let alone what she is doing in her capacity as State Counsellor to secure political reform and enhance national reconciliation.

She spent much of her productive time under house arrest for over 20 years because of her endeavours to enable the people to enjoy democratic rights,

braving the painful days of being separated from her spouse and two sons. Her selfless dedication to democracy earned her the Nobel Peace Prize, with the international community regarding her as "an international symbol of peaceful resistance in the face of oppression" and "an outstanding example of the power of the powerless".

Recently, she appointed former UN chief Kofi Annan as the leader of the Advisory Committee for Rakhine State and entrusted him with the task of finding ways to smooth the path to

peaceful coexistence between the Buddhist and Muslim communities in the western part of the country. After meeting the leaders of the two communities in Rakhine State, the former UN secretary general gave press conferences in which he promised that his commission would stay impartial in its mission and reaffirmed that they would not interfere with the country's own affairs but provide advice and suggestions in a report they would compile in a year. Even at this momentous event, her far-sighted decision sparked a storm

of protest, but only in two of all the states and regions.

Despite some severe criticism, her natural charm and charisma shine through her contagious courage at home and abroad, a factor that led to a majority support and a major shift from military rule to a more civilian, democratic government. It is, therefore, absolutely vital for us to continue to support the government's reforms and commit ourselves to turning our country into a more peaceful, stable, prosperous democracy.

Will you abandon 'hundred' seeing 'thousand'?

Yin NweKo (Linn)

A day in October.

While using facebook, Ko Kyaw Kha, a regular netizen, found a queer message in English in his chat room.

Ko Kyaw Kha is a middle-aged man who have already made friends over a thousand people local and abroad on facebook. He occasionally makes a chat with his friends through the chat room.

This message was rather queer as the name of the message-sender had never been found among those of his friends local and abroad. Ko Kyaw Kha could not guess how his account was known and how the message was sent into his chat room. The message said that she was friendly with Ko Kyaw Kha and wanted to have an important discussion on certain matter, leaving her e-mail address.

As he saw the name 'Mirabel Jude' whom he never knew, Ko Kyaw Kha thought if someone made it for a fun. However, he had a sudden idea in which he would make a reply e-mail no matter what it was and replied that he was interested in the subject that would be discussed. After that Ko Kyaw Kha was without keeping a memory alive with Mirabel Jude. When he looked at the inbox of e-mail about ten days later unexpectedly, he saw the second e-mail of Mirabel Jude. The date indicated that it lasted over a week. When Ko Kyaw Kha opened that inbox, he saw an unexpected long e-mail in English.

The summary of it was that her name was Mirabel Jude and unmarried. She wrote that letter with tears and pains. She was from Kenya and a daughter of a Deputy Minister. Her father died in a plane crash in 2008. She had a step-mother and an uncle yet. Both of them took all possessions of her father and left nothing for her. Besides, they did not give her international passport. She was helpless and

lived in a refugee camp in Dakar, Senegal. Before her father's death, he entrusted \$ 6.6 million in a bank in England for her future. However, she could not get it as she had to have a foreign partner or a trustee abroad in order that the money could be transferred into his or her account. She had no next of kin and foreign partner. Therefore, Ko Kyaw Kha assumed himself as her next of kin as well as her trustee and would arrange to transfer the money from the bank of England. She wrote it to ask for his help.

Ko Kyaw Kha could not believe it as the amount of \$ 6.5 million was a large sum of money in Myanmar currency. He made a print of it through his computer in order to read it again. The e-mail was in a full size of A 4 paper.

Ko Kyaw Kha seriously thought whether it was a deliberately created story or an actual request for help encountering with real difficulty. He also thought what he would continue to do after transferring the money into his bank account. Was the money free from danger? He made all-round thoughts. Nevertheless, he decided to reply that e-mail as a test of her original attitude on him. In his e-mail, he asked her how he would do or what tasks would be done on his side. On the following day, Ko Kyaw Kha searched the e-mail inbox with care. There was the third one from Mirabel Jude.

In her third e-mail, Mirabel Jude said that she was excited whether her previous long e-mail would go well with Ko Kyaw Kha's heart. She started her e-mail with what she was very glad because of Ko Kyaw Kha's reply. She continued she was let to use the computer from the office of Rev. Father in the refugee camp. His phone number was +221....., she stayed in Room 14 of female hostel. She did not have any experience in international transaction of banks. So

there was nothing she could do without the help of Ko Kyaw Kha. She could use the access of internet and computer just because of the gratitude of Rev. Father. She did not have money to make a call to Ko Kyaw Kha. She also asked him to send her his address, present occupation, the name of the Bank which would be contacted and the photos of Ko Kyaw Kha. She also sent two of her full-length photos.

Ko Kyaw Kha made the e-mail into a print and the photos were downloaded and saved in his computer. The data Mirabel Jude asked were sent through e-mail. Ko Kyaw Kha was rather excited as he already knew that she had prepared the papers to be contacted with the bank after she had got his next e-mail. In the following morning, he found another e-mail from Mirabel Jude. In that e-mail, the address of the bank from London to which Ko Kyaw Kha would make a contact, its e-mail addresses and phone numbers, the name of the superior of the Bank, the forms Ko Kyaw Kha would fill up, the bank account number of her father and the ready-made letter Ko Kyaw Kha would have to send to the bank were completely mentioned including a request letter in which the bank would have to transfer \$ 6.5 million from the account of Mirabel's father into his as Ko Kyaw Kha was her next of kin as well as a foreign partner.

Ko Kyaw Kha had to think carefully. He did not know whether the data in the e-mail were right or not. Practically real difficulty for Ko Kyaw Kha was not whether Mirabel's data were right or not but that of Ko Kyaw Kha's account in bank. The bank Ko Kyaw Kha had made his account was a private bank under the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Fishery and it had no contacts with any foreign banks. The superior of the bank made Ko Kyaw Kha know they did not have the authority to

accept and transfer the bills with a bank abroad. The bank could do the transactions for the locals only.

There are only three banks in the small town where Ko Kyaw Kha lives in. They are Myanmar Economic Bank, Agricultural Bank and Animal Husbandry and Fishery Bank. There is no bank that cannot do the transactions with the foreign banks. It took Ko Kyaw Kha about two or three days not knowing what to do from his side rather than scrutinizing whether the data Mirabel sent was right or not. On the following day, Ko Kyaw Kha got another e-mail from Mirabel Jude. This time, not having read it yet, Ko Kyaw Kha made a print through computer and printer. It was about 4.30 am. Though the time is the one many people are fast asleep, it is the best time for receiving and sending e-mail in Myanmar.

At daybreak, after having breakfast, Ko Kyaw Kha read the e-mail, he saw Mirabel said that the query Ko Kyaw Kha had made what he would have to do after transferring the bills into his account was the very suitable one. First, Ko Kyaw Kha would have to send some money to her after the bills had been transferred so that she could make the papers for her travel, Ko Kyaw Kha would have to help her to invest a business with the remaining money for her future. She wanted to go back to school. There were many difficulties about food, shelter, clothing etc., in the refugee camp. The only thing she could do was putting her trust in her Maker. She needed help from Ko Kyaw Kha at present as she did not feel well. She had difficulties to buy some drugs and food. Therefore, she made a request that Ko Kyaw Kha would be to send 100 dollars to her through Rev. Father's address in Dakar, Senegal.

A hundred dollar is equivalent about over one lakh kyats in My-

anmar currency. The balance in Ko Kyaw Kha's account was much more than one lakh kyats. However, the major problem was the transaction of the banks. It seemed Ko Kyaw Kha had to invest a hundred dollar first in order that \$ 6.5 million could be transferred into his account. Ko Kyaw Kha did not send reply e-mail on that day.

The story between Ko Kyaw Kha and Mirabel Jude came to an end on that very day.

I would like to leave the ending of the story as the dear readers' own opinions if the transactions of the banks in such small town Ko Kyaw Kha lives in were OK.

In fact, those who are associated with the facebook, a social network, are all ordinary human beings. I dare say there are no **Ariyās** in association with facebook. Ordinary human being is the fool who thinks and does as he wishes regarding the absence or presence. Ko Kyaw Kha includes in them and so does the one named Mirabel Jude. One stimulates the other's greed with \$ 6.5 million dollars persuading his pities to fall upon her and one did with **Abijā** wishing the other's money to come into his pocket without his own endeavor.

Then, when the other moved to seize one hundred dollars from the other's pocket with greed first, the one did not bear in taking one hundred dollars out from his pocket with **Avariciousness**.

All in all, in the view of Dhamma, both sides are wrong. All are demerit minds and they are leading to **Apāya**. When objectively thinking, the story created by the lady abroad is conspicuous that it is a fabricated one. Nevertheless, I remember a sentence I have ever read in the novel entitled '**Pone-narr Ba Kun**' written by Sayar **Minn Thein Kha**. It is '**If you are going to lie, don't make trifle but lie up to one's heart.**'

Message of U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the International Day of Democracy which falls on 15 September 2016

My fellow citizens,

On this auspicious occasion of the International Day of Democracy, it is my earnest wish that all Myanmar citizens enjoy the full essence of democracy and that good democratic practices prevail to that end.

In recent history, our people were deprived of democracy for decades. The people of Myanmar have strived for and gained freedom from injustice and inequality, and Myanmar is now on the right track to democracy. At the same time, the people of Myanmar must continue to work together to consolidate and strengthen Democracy to make it sustainable.

My fellow citizens,

Democracy is the political system in which the strength and power of the people are its main pillars and the democratic system put desires and hopes of the people at the center of its agenda.

In a democratic system, representatives of people or representatives that represent the majority consider matters of the country and make decisions. Nevertheless, in doing so, opinions of minority cannot be ignored since democratic system respects

fundamental freedoms and rights of individuals and the minority. Therefore, in democratic countries, participation of the people is respected in finding solutions to the political issues.

The recently held Union Peace Conference-21 st Century Panglong epitomizes the above-mentioned principle.

To end the armed conflicts which stemmed from differences among the brothers and sisters and achieve long lasting peace, national reconciliation and emergence of a democratic federal union as per people's desire, representatives of different ethnic groups and organizations, as well as individual experts, took part in the Conference and presented diverse perspectives in a transparent manner.

The issues raised at the first meeting of the 21 st Century Panglong Conference will be further discussed at the national level discussions. Peace negotiations at forthcoming political dialogues will continue with the aim of the emergence of a democratic federal union, acceptable to the entire population. This is the practice of democratic system in which all citizens can participate in the process without distinc-

tion of being majority or minority.

This democratic practice will bring about peace and prosperity to the country, and it is firmly believed that the people of this country will be able to enjoy freedom, justice and equality.

My fellow citizens,

The theme of this year is "Democracy 2030", the theme selected by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The theme aims to link the future of democracy, youths and the role of all parliaments with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The year 2030 is not in the far distant future. In order for the transformation of Myanmar democratic process from transition stage to consolidation stage, it is necessary to strengthen political culture of the people including the new generation of young people. The success of the democratization of a country is measured by the wellbeing of its people and we must put our utmost efforts to bring changes which are people-oriented and people-centered.

Myanmar is striving for national reconciliation and peace, constitutional amendments for emergence of a democratic federal union and crafting a common national identity. Regardless of whether this journey is near or far, we must move ahead.

It must be stressed that the sustainable development goals can only be achieved by a responsible society which accepts decision of majority, respects minority, tolerates differences and values democratic culture and in an environment where transparency, accountability and tranquility prevails.



In order to create conducive environment, it is necessary to strengthen democratic foundation such as Hluttaws, political parties, electoral system, civil society organizations and laws and rules, by learning from the past and reviewing the present and making the preparation for the future.

My fellow citizens,

It is evident that in our endeavours to achieve sustainable development, all brothers and sisters will need to march hand-in-hand no matter where they come from, the hills or lowland, states or regions.

Therefore, on this auspicious occasion of the International Day of Democracy, I strongly urge my fellow citizens to contribute to our common efforts of building a peaceful democratic federal union based on democratic spirit and practices, mutual understanding, respect, trust and friendship.

Opinions of minority cannot be ignored since democratic system respects fundamental freedoms and rights of individuals and the minority. Therefore, in democratic countries, participation of the people is respected in finding solutions to the political issues.

President U Htin Kyaw meets with outgoing Belgian Ambassador



President U Htin Kyaw shakes hands with Mr. Marc Michielsens, Bangkok-based Belgian Ambassador to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Bangkok-based Belgian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Marc Michielsens, who has completed his tour of duty, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win and departmental officials. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar Parliamentary Union meets to discuss formation of Region/State Hluttaw Offices

THE Myanmar Parliamentary Union meeting (4/2016) was held in Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by the Chairman of the Myanmar Parliamentary Union and Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and Vice Chairman and Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint as well as deputy speakers, region/state Hluttaw speakers, members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and officials of Hluttaw Offices.

In his address, the MPU Chairman said that a message had been sent to the President urging for the allowance of separate Hluttaw Offices in re-

gions and states and for hearing of regional parliaments' views on a report of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the matter which will be discussed at the meeting.

The MPU Vice Chairman spoke on the occasion, calling for adherence to existing laws and for checks and balances.

MPU members and com-

mission members then expressed their views on the Home Affairs Ministry's report on the formation of Hluttaw Offices in regions and states.

The meeting came to end with an agreement to set the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office as the central office of region/state Hluttaw Offices.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Speakers of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw chair the Myanmar Parliamentary Union meeting (4/2016). PHOTO: MNA





US President Barack Obama meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Oval office of the White House in Washington, on 9 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Record new US military aid deal for Israel to be signed in days

WASHINGTON/JERUSALEM — The United States and Israel have reached final agreement on a record new package of at least \$38 billion in US military aid and the 10-year pact is expected to be signed this week, sources close to the matter told Reuters on Tuesday.

The deal will represent the biggest pledge of US military assistance made to any country but also involves major concessions granted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to officials on both sides.

Those include Israel's agreement not to seek additional funds from Congress beyond what will be guaranteed annually in the new package, and also to phase out a special arrangement that has allowed Israel to spend part of its US aid on its own defence industry instead of on American-made weapons, the officials said.

Israel's chief negotiator, Jacob Nagel, acting head of Netanyahu's national security council, arrived in Washington overnight in preparation for a signing ceremony with US National Security Adviser Susan Rice, according to one source familiar with the matter.

Nearly 10 months of drawn-out aid negotiations have underscored continuing friction between US President Barack Obama and Netanyahu over last year's US-led nuclear deal with Iran, Israel's arch-foe. The United States and Israel have also been at odds over the Palestinians.

But the right-wing Israeli leader decided it would be best to forge a new arrangement with Obama, who leaves office in January, rather than hoping for better terms from the next US administration, according to officials on both sides.

A deal now allows him to avoid uncertainties surrounding the next president, whether Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Donald Trump, and to give Israel's defence establishment the ability to plan ahead. Obama's aides want a new deal before his presidency ends, seeing it as an important part of his legacy. Republican critics accuse him of not being attentive enough to Israel's security, which the White House strongly denies.

Israel has long been a major recipient of US aid, mostly in the form of military assistance against a backdrop of an ebbing and flowing conflict with the Palestinians and Israel's neighbours, as well as threats from Iran.

The 10-year aid packages underpin Washington's congressionally mandated requirement to help maintain Israel's "qualitative military edge" in the region.—Reuters

US Democratic Party says it was hacked again, blames Russians

WASHINGTON — The head of the Democratic National Committee said on Tuesday the organisation had been hacked by Russian state-sponsored agents who were trying to influence the US presidential election, after a similar leak in July roiled the party.

A link to the documents was posted on WikiLeaks' Twitter account and attributed to alleged hacker Guccifer 2.0. The release came during a presentation on Tuesday from a person speaking on behalf of Guccifer 2.0 at a London cyber security conference, Politico reported. Reuters could not immediately access the documents.

"There's one person who stands to benefit from these criminal acts, and that's (Republican presidential nominee)

Donald Trump," DNC interim Chair Donna Brazile said in a statement.

"Not only has Trump embraced (Russian President Vladimir) Putin, he publicly encouraged further Russian espionage to help his campaign," she said.

Trump in July invited Russia to dig up emails from Clinton's time as secretary of state, prompting Democrats to accuse him of urging foreigners to spy on Americans. He later said he was speaking sarcastically. The Trump campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned as DNC chair on the eve of July's Democratic National Convention after WikiLeaks published an earlier trove of

hacked DNC emails that showed party officials favouring eventual nominee Hillary Clinton over US Senator Bernie Sanders during the party's nominating contests. Three other senior officials also stepped down from the DNC after the leak.

"We have been anticipating that an additional batch of documents stolen by Russian agents would be released," said Brazile, who took over from Wasserman Schultz on an interim basis.

Democratic Party sources said the party and Clinton's presidential campaign were deeply concerned about possible publication by WikiLeaks or other hackers of a new torrent of potentially embarrassing party information ahead of the 8 November election.—Reuters



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“Ozone and Climate, Restored by a World United”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope says murdered French priest a martyr, on road to sainthood

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis said Father Jacques Hamel, the French priest knifed to death at his altar by Islamist militants in July, was a “martyr”, and indicated on Wednesday he was already on the road to sainthood.

Francis spoke at a special Mass for pilgrims from the Rouen area of France where Islamist attackers stormed into the church in Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray, forced the 85-year-old Hamel to his knees and slit his throat while they chanted in Arabic.—Reuters

Offices reopen in Indian tech capital Bengaluru as protests wane

BENGALURU — Indian and foreign companies reopened offices and staff trickled back to work in the technology capital Bengaluru on Wednesday, after two days of violent protests over access to water from a river severely disrupted life in the city.

Multinationals like Amazon.com, as well as Indian technology firms such as Infosys, were among major employers who had told workers to stay home on Tuesday while riot police enforced a curfew in parts of the city.

“We are working today,” said Sarah Gideon, spokeswoman for Infosys.

An Amazon spokeswoman said its employees had returned to the office and its delivery service was running as normal.—Reuters

Schools shut, flights canceled as Super Typhoon Meranti hits Taiwan

TAIPEI — More than half a million homes lost power across Taiwan on Wednesday and five people were injured as Super Typhoon Meranti, which is believed to be the world's strongest storm this year, hit the island.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau warned that the Category 5 storm threatened several southern and eastern cities, including Kaohsiung and Hualien, with strong winds, torrential rain and flooding.

Meranti, which grew in strength the closer it got to Taiwan, was carrying maximum winds of 227 km per hour (141 mph) as it clipped the south of the island, the weather bureau said.

“This typhoon is the world's strongest so far this year,” weather bureau spokeswoman Hsieh Pei-yun said.—Reuters

WFP provides food aid to 140,000 North Korean flood victims

GENEVA — The World Food Programme said on Tuesday it has provided food assistance to about 140,000 North Koreans affected by recent flooding in the northern part of the country.

“To meet food needs, WFP immediately distributed an emergency food ration of fortified biscuits, for seven days, and soybeans, enough for 30 days, to reach 44,000 people,” the WFP said in a statement.

“Following an interagency assessment of the affected areas, WFP rapidly distributed the same emergency ration to reach an additional 96,000 people,” it added.

The WFP also estimated a cost of \$1.2 million to continue supplying immediate food support for flood victims, adding that a further \$21 million in funds will be required to continue the aid until August 2017.

Flooding caused by typhoon-triggered heavy rains in late August have so far claimed the lives of 133 and left 395 others missing, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.—Kyodo News

Colombian rebels trade guns for shovels ahead of peace meeting

YARI PLAINS, (Colombia) — Hundreds of FARC rebels are converging on a camp in southern Colombia to pour cement, shore up dirt roads and set up communications ahead of the group's congress this week, where delegates will ratify a peace deal to end 52 years of war.

Representatives from each unit of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) will debate and vote on the accord reached last month after years of talks with the government.

As many as 1,000 delegates and media are expected at the 10th congress from Saturday, where rebels will discuss the five-point accord and their imminent entry into politics. Historically secretive, this congress is the first one open to civilians.

The grassy plain, about five hours drive on mud roads from the nearest large town, is being prepped with toilets and large wooden structures for dining and other events at the week-long meeting. Visitors will sleep in tents and lean-tos.

Fighters accustomed to bombing raids were laying bricks and lashing together bamboo stalks for roofing when Reuters visited the site before the official opening of the conference.



A Colombian from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) works at a house to prepare accommodation for an upcoming congress ratifying a peace deal with the government, near El Diamante in Yari Plains, Colombia, on 8 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We're working 24 hours a day in three shifts so we can be ready, given the peace process accelerated and the date surprised us a bit," Carlos An-

tonio Lozada, a member of the FARC's seven-member ruling committee, told Reuters.

With shirts wrapped around their heads, rebels mixed cement

with sticks as two dozen reinforcements, carrying Kalashnikov rifles, arrived by truck.

The congress will mark the group's final meeting as a guer-

rilla army and offer hints of its political future.

A preliminary agenda seen by Reuters showed delegates would discuss rural reform and political prisoners.

Previous congresses, to decide battle strategy, were sometimes held via internet due to military offensives that prevented leaders meeting.

Under the peace accord, which will be decided nationally at an 2 October plebiscite, ex-rebels will be able to run for office once they complete demobilization requirements.

Marquees have been set up for the press, meals will be provided for \$30 a day and an already struggling internet connection is tasked with providing Wi-Fi.

The rural location means logistics will be tricky. Roads are thick with mud and heavy rains could make them impassable.

Already, FARC fighters are busy laying wooden planks over the mud to fend off wash-outs and prevent trucks and buses getting bogged down.

"We really need two lanes," joked Dairon, his nom de guerre, as he supervised the rudimentary roadworks.—Reuters

Pardon for former NSA contractor Snowden seen unlikely

WASHINGTON — The US government will not budge on its demand that former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden return to face prosecution for stealing thousands of classified intelligence documents, despite new calls for President Barack Obama to pardon him, US officials said on Tuesday.

The officials said they expect Snowden's supporters to use the Thursday release of "Snowden" — directed by veteran filmmaker Oliver Stone — to mount a public campaign demanding a pardon before Obama leaves office in January.

Snowden, who lives in Moscow, is scheduled to appear via video link on Wednesday at a New York press conference, where advocates from human rights groups will call for a pardon.

They argue that Snowden performed a public service by exposing excessive and intrusive electronic spying by the intelligence agency and its English-speaking allies, including Britain's Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

In an interview published by The Guardian on Tuesday,

Snowden said the US Congress, the courts and the president all "changed their policies" as a result of his disclosures, and that "there has never been any public evidence that any individual came to harm as a result."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said on Monday that Snowden is charged with "serious crimes, and it's the policy of the administration that Mr. Snowden should return to the United States and face those charges."

Two other US officials said there are no discussions inside the Justice Department about granting him a pardon.

Some officials have acknowledged that Snowden raised legitimate questions about the extent and effectiveness of some electronic eavesdropping, particularly the NSA's sweeping collection of "metadata" on domestic telephone calls by Americans, a practice that was curtailed after his revelations.

Other officials, however, say the material Snowden gave the media included sensitive details about the locations and operations of US and allied global spying operations, some of which were compromised.

—Reuters

Britain's Libya intervention flawed, ex-PM Cameron to blame: lawmakers

LONDON — Britain's 2011 military intervention in Libya, ordered by former prime minister David Cameron, relied on flawed intelligence and hastened the North African country's political and economic collapse, lawmakers said on Wednesday in a damning report.

Britain and France led international efforts to help oust Libya's then-leader Muammar Gaddafi in early 2011, using fighter jets to beat back Gaddafi's armies and allow rebels to topple the longtime dictator.

But Libya has since suffered years of chaos. Islamic State has gained a foothold, former rebels still fight over territory and people smugglers have set up a huge operation, sending tens of thousands on the perilous sea journey to Europe.

Cameron, who ran Britain from 2010 until July, had a "decisive" role in the decision to intervene and must bear the responsibility for Britain's role in the crisis in Libya, a report produced by parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee said.

"The UK's actions in Libya were part of an ill-conceived intervention, the results of which are still playing out today," said committee chairman Crispin Blunt, a member of Cameron's Conservative party.

"UK policy in Libya be-

fore and since the intervention of March 2011 was founded on erroneous assumptions and an incomplete understanding of the country and the situation."

The committee's statement said the "ultimate responsibility rests with David Cameron's leadership".

Earlier this year, US President Barack Obama said European allies had become distracted from the Libyan crisis after the intervention. Obama's office later said he had not intended to be critical of Cameron.

Cameron stepped down as prime minister after losing a referendum to keep Britain in the European Union, and on Monday

resigned as a member of parliament saying he did not want to become a distraction for his successor Theresa May.

The report said his government failed to identify from intelligence reports that the threat to civilians was overstated and that the rebels included a significant Islamist element.

The post-intervention response was also lacking, it said.

"Our lack of understanding of the institutional capacity of the country stymied Libya's progress in establishing security on the ground and absorbing financial and other resources from the international community," Blunt said.—Reuters



British soldiers stand guard during the visit of defence secretary Liam Fox at Misrata airport 200km (124.2 miles) east of Tripoli on 8 October, 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS



Former Israeli President Shimon Peres delivers a statement to the media as he is discharged from a hospital near Tel Aviv, on 19 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli statesman Peres, 93, 'critical but stable' after stroke

JERUSALEM — Former Israeli President Shimon Peres remains in a "critical but stable" condition in hospital following a massive stroke, his son-in-law and personal physician Rafi Valdán said on Wednesday, though the family is optimistic he will recover.

Valdán said it was too early to tell whether there may be lasting neurological damage following the stroke that afflicted the right side of Peres' brain on

Tuesday, but the 93-year-old's broader health indicators were good.

"All the parameters are stable — blood pressure, heart rate, blood saturation," Valdán told reporters, adding that that gave him a "certain optimism".

"The chances of survival are pretty good. As for the degree of neurological recovery, nobody can say at this early stage."

Peres, Israel's leading states-

man, who served as president and twice as prime minister and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994, has had minor health issues over the past year while maintaining a busy public schedule.

He held regular meetings on Tuesday and was in "perfect condition," Valdán said, before suffering headaches. He was taken for an examination at hospital and then suffered what Valdán described as a "massive stroke".—Reuters

Brexit not the end of European Union: Juncker

STRASBOURG — The president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, sought on Wednesday to rally support for the European Union, saying the bloc battered by the UK Brexit referendum was not about to break up despite its existential crisis.

In setting out the Commission's plans for the first time since the UK voted to exit the EU on 23 June, Juncker highlighted the British referendum as a warning that the EU faces a battle for survival against nationalism in Europe.

"The European Union doesn't have enough union," Juncker told the European Parliament in Strasbourg. "There are splits out there and often fragmentation exists ... That is leaving scope for galloping populism," he said.

But he underlined he believed the world's biggest trade bloc was still an important force.

"The EU as such is not at risk," he said. Proof of that, Juncker said, was the success of a new European investment fund that the former Luxembourg premier proposed to double to 630 billion euros (\$707 billion) by 2022 to help with a sharp fall in spending since the global financial crisis, helping projects from airports to broadband networks.

"Our European investment fund will provide a total of at least 500 billion of investment by 2020, and will work to reach 630 billion by 2022," he said. "If with member states contribute we can get there even faster."

Juncker also wanted to extend the fund to the private sector in Africa to help curb emigration to Europe, starting with a pot of 44 million euros that could also be doubled later on. An Africa fund was part of Juncker's efforts to stress a more positive agenda, particularly over the migration crisis that has deeply divided the European Union.—Reuters

Mexico puts federal police under spotlight over 43 student deaths

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has widened its investigation into the abduction and apparent massacre of 43 trainee teachers in the southwestern city of Iguala in 2014 to examine the role of federal and state police, a federal prosecutor said.

During the first year of the investigation, authorities focused on the municipal police in Iguala and the nearby town of Cocula, who federal prosecutors said were in cahoots with a drug gang suspected of killing the students.

The disappearance of the 43, on 26 September, 2014, sparked international outcry, battering Mexico's reputation and plunging President Enrique Peña Nieto's administration into crisis.

Alfredo Higuera, the special federal prosecutor assigned to the case, said in an interview that the probe had now gathered about 100 additional declarations in recent weeks from 19 federal police and 39 from the state of Guerrero.

"Individuals from all forces have made declarations, obviously including people at the federal level," said Higuera, who took office a month after a group of international experts appointed by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH) cited deep flaws in the government's investigation.

The government's account stated that the 43 were abducted by

corrupt police and handed over to suspected members of local drug cartel Guerreros Unidos, who then killed them, incinerated the bodies and threw their ashes into a river.

The government said it believed the gang had targeted the students in the belief they were linked to a rival outfit.

The remains of only one of the missing youths have been de-

finitively identified so far, and the CIDH report on the disappearances picked serious holes in the government findings.

Higuera said important new information had been gleaned from the analysis of hundreds of calls made by police and officials on the night of the disappearances, as well as from suspects in custody and students who disappeared.

"This is an investigation that goes beyond any situation, both because of the number of victims and the number of people who took part in it," Higuera said.

The probe is now putting greater stress on determining whether students could have been brought to a variety of places after they were abducted, rather than a single location.—Reuters



Relatives hold up posters during a rally in support of missing students from Ayotzinapa Teacher Training College, at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City, on 19 February 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Maduro boasts start of Venezuela summit despite 'gringo pressure'

CARACAS/PORLAMAR — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro hailed the start on Tuesday of a summit of the Non-Aligned Movement as a success despite what he said were attempts to wreck the gathering in the crisis-stricken nation.

Worries over anti-Maduro protests, poor attendance and food availability dominated the buildup to the meeting of the Cold War-era bloc on Venezuela's Margarita Island in the Caribbean.

Maduro, whom the opposition is vying to unseat via a recall referendum this year, has blamed the worries on what he says is a

US-led campaign seeking to sabotage his socialist administration.

"Welcome to the delegations of over 105 countries that are already here, working despite pressure from the 'gringos,' despite a right-wing lobby, despite the threats — they can't keep us back!" he said during his weekly television programme on Tuesday night.

"Today will stay in the annals of Venezuelan diplomacy for centuries to come," added Maduro, as ministers clapped.

Set up in 1961, the Non-Aligned Movement provided an alternative for nations who did not back either the United States

or Soviet Union during the Cold War. Its relevance has declined since the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall.

Critics are outraged that Maduro is hosting the summit as families in the recession-hit country skip meals due to severe food shortages and raging inflation.

"We ask your governments to express solidarity with the Venezuelan people in these times of uncertainty and calamity," opposition leader Henrique Capriles said in an open letter to summit participants, urging them to speak out against Maduro.

The opposition said on Tuesday it had held two private

meetings with government representatives in recent days to push for a recall referendum, without providing details. Previous talks have failed to make significant progress.

The opposition has decried a crackdown in the run-up to the summit, citing summons by the intelligence service, a raid on a Margarita mayor's home and a ban on opposition legislators flying in to the island.

A journalist publicizing a rare protest that saw Venezuelans run after Maduro in Margarita earlier this month banging pots-and-pans was jailed and accused of money laundering.—Reuters

Mexico reaches compensation deal for victims of 2015 Egypt bombing

MEXICO CITY — Mexicans who lost relatives or were wounded in an aerial bombing in Egypt last year have reached a compensation agreement with the Egyptian Travel Agents Association (ETAA), Mexico's government said on Tuesday.

In September 2015, an Egyptian army aircraft fired on a group of visitors parked for a barbecue near a tourist site, thinking they were militants. Eight Mexican citizens and four Egyptians were killed. Six Mexicans were wounded.

Mexico's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that after the intervention of both governments and their lawyers, an accord was reached with the ETAA to pay "financial compensation" to the victims once current religious festivals in Egypt are over.

The federation is a union of local tourism chambers of commerce. It



Egyptian police personnel stand guard outside Dar Al Fouad Hospital, where injured tourists who were mistakenly targeted in a military operation "chasing terrorist elements" are recovering, in Cairo, Egypt in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

represents the tourism industry and is not officially part of the Egyptian government.

Muslims this week celebrate the Eid al-Adha holiday, one of the two

most important festivals of the Islamic calendar.

The ministry, which in May complained that it was not satisfied with Egypt's response to the attack, did not divulge de-

tails of the agreement.

Under the accord, authorities in Egypt will also erect a memorial to the Mexican and Egyptian victims, the ministry said.—Reuters

Stem cells injected into brain to treat Parkinson's disease in world's first trial in Australia

MELBOURNE — A Victorian man has had stem cells injected into his brain in the world's first trial to treat Parkinson's disease.

The 64-year-old man, who remains unidentified while he recovers, had millions of cells injected into 14 sites in his brain via two 1.5-cm holes in his skull by doctors at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Doctors in charge of the trial hoped the stem cells, which can transform into brain cells, would boost levels of dopamine, a neurotransmitter. A deficiency in dopamine can lead to tremors, rigidity and slowness associated with Parkinson's.

The patient was administered 300 micro liters, or 0.3 milliliters, of the pluripotent stem cell, a master cell that can change into any cell in the body, which was frozen and imported from the United States.

Neurologist Andrew Evans and neurosurgeon Girish Nair, the two doctors who carried out the proce-

dures, said it took several months to plan the operation from scratch and receive approval to go ahead. The two brain experts created a three-dimensional model of the patient's brain, which they used to complete "dummy runs" of the operation.

"The idea with cellular replacement therapy is to be able to implant cells that will differentiate or change from stem cells into cells that either produce dopamine or provide other forms of support to remaining neurons," Evans told News Limited on Wednesday.

Only 1 or 2 per cent of the injected cells will become dopamine but pre-trial studies showed that only 10,000 dopamine cells were needed to make a significant difference.

Nair said the slightest mistake in the surgery could have resulted in the death of the patient and injecting the cells too slowly could have resulted in the cells becoming stuck and developing into a tumor.—Xinhua

Court recognises two A-bomb survivors as radiation disease sufferers

NAGOYA — The Nagoya District Court on Wednesday recognised two men who were exposed to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima as suffering from radiation diseases, overturning the government's rejection of their bid to be certified under standards eased in recent years.

The court, however, dismissed similar claims made by two women in the same case who were exposed to the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, while acknowledging a causal relationship between the diseases suffered by all four plaintiffs and their exposure to the atomic bombings.

Presiding Judge Yoshitaka Ichihara said in the ruling that while the men needed surgery or repeated hospital visits for medical treatment when they applied for certification, the women faced a low probability of their medical conditions deteriorating or relapsing as a long time had passed since their last surgical procedures.

The four plaintiffs, aged from 80 to 91 and now living in Aichi Prefecture in central Japan, were ex-

posed to the atomic bombings in August 1945 and subsequently developed conditions such as cataracts and lung cancer. In a statement, a team of lawyers representing the plaintiffs called the ruling "unfair" on the grounds that the court defined the scope of conditions requiring medical treatment "extremely

narrowly." The two women plan to appeal the ruling to a higher court. The government decided in 2008 to recognise cancer and cataract patients more proactively as sufferers of atomic bomb diseases if they clear government-set criteria for recognition, such as their distance from the epicenter of the bombings and when

they approached the epicenters after the bombings. In 2013, the government decided to expand the criteria to include sufferers of diseases other than cancer. Similar lawsuits have been filed at seven courts across Japan, and some courts have ruled in favour of plaintiffs, according to the lawyers.

—Kyodo News



Lawyers for plaintiffs hold banners in front of the Nagoya District Court in the central Japan city on 14 September 2016, after the court recognised two men exposed to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima as suffering from radiation diseases, overturning the government's rejection of their bid to be certified under standards eased in recent years. The court, however, dismissed similar claims made by two women who were exposed to the Nagasaki atomic bomb. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.9.2016 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INNWA STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Bollywood should make more 'socially conscious films', says Om Puri

LONDON — The Indian film industry needs to break out of its mould and produce more hard-hitting films that challenge its audience, veteran actor Om Puri said.

Puri, who has acted in both Hollywood and Bollywood and was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire), said Indian filmmakers should draw on the country's rich culture and history.

"We always say we give people what they want. That shouldn't be the attitude. Then why don't you give your child what he wants," Puri told Reuters in an interview.

"Similarly, your audience, if you think that you need to develop their taste, then give them something that is tasteful," Puri has over four decades of experience acting in television,

theater and film and was one of the first actors to cross-over into the

West. Some of his notable movies include "East is East" and "The One Hundred-Foot Journey" in which he starred with Oscar winner Helen Mirren. The actor, who comes from a modest background in Punjab and says he is a self-made man, is now also breaking barriers by acting in a Pakistani film. Puri plays the lawyer father of the protagonist in "Actor in Law", a movie which explores social issues like corruption and gender discrimination.

Unlike Bollywood, filmmakers for the Pakistani film industry work with much smaller budgets and are still trying to make a bigger impact on the international arena. Few Pakistani films have been shown in India, although Puri said he was going to try his best to get "Actor in Law" distributed there, particularly because it would enable filmmakers to produce bigger budget films. Puri, who has also acted in several films examining religious extremism like "The Reluctant Fundamentalist", said he hoped playing such roles would help in changing the mindsets of people who are being drawn to terrorism especially in today's world.—Reuters



Victoria Beckham.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Vera Wang, Victoria Beckham debut their spring/summer 2017 looks

NEW YORK — For spring 2017, American fashion designer Vera Wang's muse is a sexy, powerful woman who is not afraid to show her feminine side.

During New York Fashion Week, Wang's models on Tuesday strutted down a solemn black runway, each wearing sky-high platform heels.

The collection had two main colors: black and white. Garments were made in solid, sheer and shimmering fabrics, sometimes embellished with pearls in either colour.

"It's about a very powerful woman. Power was one of the most important things, about craft, and the construction of the clothing, both the tailored and the flow, the soft," Wang said in an interview after the show.

A structured, oversized jacket paired with a mini skirt with a sheer long train and a

black slouchy top was juxtaposed against a tight-fitting long skirt with large black pearls.

Wang said her use of black and white and pearls was reminiscent of another famous designer - Coco Chanel. "I was just looking at the clothes today, now, and I said 'Oh my God, I think there is something of a Chanel thing going on in my psyche.'"

The New York-based designer, famed for her exquisite bridal gowns, closed the show with sheer black chiffon gowns that glided down the runway.

Celebrities on hand included tennis star Maria Sharapova, actress Chloe Sevigny, Tony-winner Cynthia Erivo, and K-pop star and former Girls' Generation member Jessica Jung, who launched her own fashion line, Blanc & Eclare, in 2014.

"I am always watching the shows ready to learn," Jung said of her experience at New York Fashion Week.

"She (Wang) is somebody that I look up to and I am very humbled to have been invited to her show and watch it," she added.—Reuters

Gosling, Stone spin modern twist on old Hollywood in 'La La Land'

TORONTO — While intense dramas and true life stories have dominated this year's Toronto International Film Festival, a vibrant love story inspired by the golden age of Hollywood musicals has found a warm welcome.

"La La Land," a musical contemporary tale of star-crossed lovers chasing their dreams in Hollywood and starring Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling, received a standing ovation at its premiere Tuesday night.

"It's a great story and they're great engaging characters and the music kind of aids in that," Gosling, who plays a tortured jazz pianist, told Reuters on the red carpet. He added that he didn't think viewers had to like musicals to enjoy the film.

Stone, who plays an aspiring actress, said "I learned to tap and ballroom dance and sing live on camera, which was pretty insane."

"La La Land" is the second feature film from writer-director Damien Chazelle, 31. His first film "Whiplash," an intense study of a jazz drummer's quest to perfection, won three Oscars. "I love the old Hollywood musicals, as you can see, but I really have a fondness for the French answers to those musicals," Chazelle told the audience and a short question-and-answer session after the screening.

"I wanted to do a musical, but really ground it in real life and invest it with stuff that felt messier and real," Chazelle said.

"La La Land" has already been drumming up awards buzz. Critics have praised the performances and the intricate, colorful, love letter to a bygone era of movies. The film follows the two leads as their lives converge in poetic chaos while they try to make their respective dreams come true, even as they fall in love.—Reuters

Callie Hernandez arrives on the red carpet for the film "La La Land" during the 41st Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), in Toronto, Canada, September 12, 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Blanchett leads celebrities in video poem for refugees

NEW YORK — A host of celebrities seek to highlight the plight of refugees in a video in which they read a poem listing items people have grabbed as they fled their homes.

Oscar winner Cate Blanchett leads a cast including Keira Knightley, Stanley Tucci, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Jesse Eisenberg and Kit Harrington in performing the poem "What They Took With Them" in the film, which U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said was released on Facebook on Monday to support its #WithRefugees petition.

Written by Jenifer Toksvig, the poem was inspired by the stories and testimonies of people fleeing their homes and the items they took with them.

Among those listed by the actors in the film are a wallet, an army service record, a high school certificate, a mobile phone, house keys and a na-



Actress Cate Blanchett.
PHOTO: REUTERS

tional flag.

"The rhythm and words of the poem echo the frenzy and chaos and terror of suddenly being forced to leave your home, grabbing what little you can carry with you, and fleeing for safety," Blanchett, a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, said in a statement.

UNHCR said the petition is asking governments to ensure refugees have access to safe places to live, education and work.—Reuters

Activists, participants clash at Spanish bull-lancing festival

TORDESILLAS (Spain) — Animal rights activists clashed with locals holding an annual bull-lancing festival in central Spain on Tuesday at which participants were for the first time in centuries banned from killing a bull after chasing it on horseback.

The “Toro de la Vega” (Bull of the Plain) festival, in the small town of Tordesillas, dates back to 1534 and traditionally involves hunters on horses and on foot hounding a bull from the streets into a pine forest until it is brought down with spears and lances.

Regional authorities said in May that the festival could no longer culminate with the hunters slaying the bull. Animal rights groups claimed the ruling as a victory in a country still known



Revellers run in front of a bull, named ‘Pelado’ during the Toro de la Pena, formerly known as Toro de la Vega (Bull of the Plain) festival, in Tordesillas, Spain, on 13 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

for its tradition of blood sports and descended on the town in central Spain for its first edition since the change.

Small scuffles broke out at the heavily-policed event between supporters and opponents of the festival in the run-up to the

hunt — renamed Toro de la Peña, or Bull of the Rock — where the bull was chased with sticks before being led away.

It will later be put down, in keeping with local laws. Most prize bulls in Spain are not eaten.

Dozens of activists chanted “we will not stop until abolition” as they waved hands painted red.

Traditionalists protested at the ruling and called for the festival, which draws hundreds of participants and several thousand of spectators, to be returned to its original format.

“The Toro de la Vega should continue and whoever doesn’t like it, just don’t come here,” said festival supporter Lara Avila. “They don’t have to suffer by coming here and ruining our party.”

Spain’s long-held traditions involving the slaying of specially bred bulls — at local festivals or in

rings where professional toreros confront the animal — still have a loyal following.

Attendance was up slightly in the past two years after a dip, with just under 10 per cent of the population going to watch such festivals, official data shows.

But these rituals are also facing rising opposition from an increasingly vocal animal rights movement, while some local authorities have cracked down on the practice by withdrawing subsidies or introducing regional bans.

“I have no words. It is an atrocity,” said one animal rights activist at Tordesillas, Sonia Val-lense. “They have not been stopped. They are going to kill (the bull) in one way or another.”—Reuters

Scottish killings and Californian satire on shortlist for Man Booker Prize

LONDON — Novels on subjects ranging from murder in 19th century Scotland to classical music in revolutionary China were short-listed on Tuesday for the 2016 Man Booker Prize, considered one of the world’s most prestigious literary awards.

Three British authors joined two US writers and one Canadian on the shortlist for the 50,000 pound award for fiction, with the winner to be announced on 25 October in London.

The shortlist included “The Sellout” by US author Paul Beatty, a satire on black lives in California, and “Hot Milk” by British writer Deborah Levy, which explores the relationship of a woman and her ill mother in a hot Spanish fishing village.

The other finalists were “His Bloody Project” by British writer Graeme Macrae Burnet, a thriller inspired by a spate of killings in 19th century Scotland; “Eileen” by US author Ottessa Moshfegh, about a disturbed young woman working at a boys’ prison; “All That Man Is” by David Szalay, a British-Canadian writer, which tells the stories of nine men through different stages of life, and “Do Not Say We Have Nothing”

by Canadian writer Madeleine Thien, about a young woman’s flight from China after the Tiananmen Square protests. Deborah Levy is the only author to have previously short-listed for “Swimming Home” in 2012.

Nobel Prize laureate J.M. Coetzee’s “The School days of Jesus,” and “My Name Is Lucy Barton,” by Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout, which were both on the longlist, failed to make it to the final six.

First awarded in 1969, the Booker prize was opened in 2014 to include all fiction written in English and published in Britain. It had been limited to writers from Britain, Ireland, the Commonwealth and Zimbabwe.

Previous winners include Salman Rushdie, Hilary Mantel, Iris Murdoch and Ian McEwan.

“It was both agonizing and exhilarating to be confronted by the sheer power of the writing,” Amanda Foreman, chairman of the judging panel, said in a statement.

“The final six reflect the centrality of the novel in modern culture — in its ability to champion the unconventional, to explore the unfamiliar, and to tackle difficult subjects.”—Reuters

Paralympics: Japan’s Kunieda defeated in wheelchair tennis q’finais

RIO DE JANEIRO — Two-time champion Shingo Kunieda of Japan fell short in his bid for a third consecutive gold in men’s wheelchair tennis singles at the Paralympic Games, losing in straight sets Tuesday to Belgium’s Joachim Gerard in the quarterfinals.

The 32-year-old Kunieda went down 6-3, 6-3 to the world No. 2 Gerard, who powered serves through the windy conditions and hit 27 winners compared to nine by Kunieda.

“From the first set to the end, he played better tennis than I did,” Kunieda said.

“My service game was unsteady, and he was able to take advantage of it.”

Currently ninth in the International Tennis Federation’s rankings, Kunieda has yet to regain his form after an elbow surgery in April that caused him to miss Wimbledon this summer.



Shingo Kunieda and Satoshi Saida (JPN) of Japan compete during wheelchair tennis, men’s double semifinal at Olympic Tennis Centre, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 13 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

He holds a career 11-3 record against the 27-year-old Gerard, having defeated him twice this year after

falling to the big-serving Belgian in the NEC Masters last December. In addition to singles gold at the 2012 London and 2008

Beijing Paralympics, the former top-ranked Kunieda has also captured 24 Grand Slam singles titles since 2006.—Kyodo News



Myanmar International

(15-9-2016 07:00am ~ 16-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Tour of The National Heritages and Archeological Site
07:49	Am	Ancient Heritage at Natalin
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose — Min Thu Wun (Ep-4)
08:52	Am	Political Life & Remembrance
09:03	Am	Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
09:26	Am	News
09:52	Am	“Myanmar Traditions and Culture” Tea
10:03	Am	Coin Collectors
	Am	News

10:27	Am	Swan Hein Cave
10:45	Am	Beach Food Delivery
10:54	Am	A Photographer’s Life at Shwedagon Pagoda

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday 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	“Myanmar’s Beauty and Nature” Beach
07:51	Pm	Wet Market in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations- Gem Stone Painting
08:44	Pm	A Life In The Ring

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

Wasteful PSG held by Arsenal in Group A opener

PARIS — Paris St Germain wasted the chance to ignite their stuttering start to the season when they were held to a 1-1 home draw by Arsenal in their Champions League Group A opener on Tuesday.

The hosts enjoyed a dream start when Edinson Cavani put them ahead in the first minute but PSG squandered numerous opportunities and paid dearly when Alexis Sanchez swept in an equaliser late in the second half.

Cavani headed home after just 44 seconds but PSG gradually let Arsenal fight their way back into the game until Sanchez fired home from just inside the box in the 78th minute.

Both sides ended with 10 men after Arsenal's Olivier Giroud and PSG's Marco Verratti were shown red cards for an innocuous off-the-ball incident in stoppage time.

French champions PSG, who took only one point from their last two Ligue 1 games, next travel to Ludogorets while Arsenal will host Basel on 28 September. Basel and Ludogorets also drew 1-1. "For a home game we would have preferred all three points especially since we played much better. We wasted chances but we played



Arsenal's players in action with Paris Saint-Germain's players during UEFA Champions League Group Stage, Group A at Parc des Princes, Paris, France, on 13 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

a good game," said PSG's Blaise Matuidi.

PSG were boosted by the return of centre back Thiago Silva who made his first appearance of the season after a hip injury.

Grzegorz Krychowiak started in midfield alongside Adrien Rabiot and Marco Verratti while Blaise Matuidi was fielded in an

unusual position on the left wing to contain Hector Bellerin.

For Arsenal, Giroud started on the bench with Sanchez up front and Alex Iwobi on the right wing.

Cavani benefited from some loosing marking by the Arsenal centre backs to glance home Serge Aurier's cross.

Angel Di Maria proved a constant threat, finding Rabiot in the box with a superb backheel and forcing Arsenal keeper David Ospina to a spectacular save direct from a corner.

Cavani missed a sitter in the 35th minute, shooting wide in front of an empty goal after going around Ospina.—Reuters

Bolt leaves door open to 2017 sprint double at worlds

KINGSTON — Usain Bolt has left the door open to running in both the 100 and 200 metres at next year's world championships where he said he will be more focussed on protecting his legacy than topping his world records.

The Jamaican, who last month drew down the curtain on his Olympic career by securing a sweep of the sprint titles for a third successive Games, said his plan was to only contest the 100m in London but that his coach has other ideas.

"That's the plan, but I still have to discuss it with my coach," Bolt told Television Jamaica on Tuesday.

"(Glen Mills) still wants me to do the double, but I've told him I would really like to just do the 100m, so at the start of the season we'll decide exactly what (to focus on), but that's what's on my mind."—Reuters



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