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State Counsellor meets US VP, Secretary of State

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with US Vice President Mr Joe Biden and US Secretary of State John Kerry on 14 September during her visit to Washington DC.

Mr Joe Biden and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi exchanged views on issues related to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation at their breakfast meeting at the Naval Observatory.

US Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a lunch for the State Counsellor at the Blair House, a guest residence on the White House campus in Washington DC. At their lunch meeting, the pair discussed issues related to mutual interests between the two countries.

In the afternoon, the State Counsellor held talks with Congressman Mr Ed Royce, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee at Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

The Myanmar delegation led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also visited the Lincoln Memorial monument.

She also met with the ambassador and staff of the Myanmar Embassy in Washington DC in the evening at an embassy dinner hosted by the ambassador.—*Myanmar News Agency*



US Secretary of State John Kerry greets Myanmar State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi before their lunch meeting at the Blair House, a guest residence on the White House campus in Washington, DC, US September 14, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP

US and Myanmar agree to game-changing initiatives

By Mark Angeles

IN addition to the lifting of US sanctions on Myanmar that came as a result of a historic meeting at The White House yesterday between US President Barack Obama and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, there will be several other

initiatives that were agreed upon in Washington, including global health security and improved English language instruction.

“The President and the State Counsellor committed to mark this new era in the bilateral relationship by announcing a US-Myanmar Partnership. This partnership,

anchored by annual dialogues led by the US Department of State and Myanmar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will allow the two countries to broaden and deepen their cooperation across a range of sectors,” read a statement issued by The White House.

There were six other steps, in

addition to the lifting of remaining sanctions and the restoration of Myanmar to the Generalized System of Preferences that allows open trade, that came about as a result of yesterday’s meeting, according to the White House.

The United States and Myanmar commit to continued co-

operation in addressing remaining challenges, such as strengthening the rule of law, promoting respect for human rights, countering trafficking in persons, combatting corruption, and advancing anti-money laundering efforts and counter-narcotics activities.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Good government originates from the people, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker says at Int'l Day of Democracy celebrations

THE legislature plays a vital role in making change happen by ensuring a system of checks and balances among the executive, legislative and judicial branches, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said in his address to the commemoration of the International Day of Democracy at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He called for bold steps to amend or revoke all the laws that fail to serve the public interest as part of enabling the people to enjoy the full benefits of legal protection.

He urged the representatives to continue to work for the people through their selfless efforts, stressing that the people are always at the forefront of building a developed, democratic federal union.

He pointed out the need for mutual trust among the national brethren, describing racial and religious prejudices as detrimental to freedom, justice and equality.

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister at the State Counsellor's

Office, read out the message sent by the President. Ms Janet Jackson read out the message sent by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Speaking at the event, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint reiterated the notion that all good governments originate from the people is a basic democratic principle, stressing that all power is vested in and derived from the hands of the people.

"The government serves the people, not vice versa," the speaker quoted a democratic phenomenon as stating.

"In a democracy, the people are superior to the government. In a tyranny, it is a different story," he said, adding that democratism encourages public participation, whereas totalitarianism does not.

He stressed the need to display broadmindedness and forgiveness to anti-democracy forces, calling for continuous efforts to ensure the rule of law and promotion of human rights across the country.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint.



Diplomats and MPs attend the commemoration of the International Day of Democracy at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw calls for effective implementation of e-government system



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw representatives held discussions on a proposal calling for the effective implementation of the e-government system in Myanmar yesterday.

U Naing Htoo Aung of Ngahtogyi Constituency said that implementation of the e-government system will be of great benefit to the country and its citizens, adding that it will quicken the policy and law making process and increase the effectiveness of tax collection, thereby ensuring

transparency and curbing corruption.

U Zarni Min of Shweku Constituency said e-government, which is a useful system of public management through ICT, can boost public trust in the government as better services can be brought to the people through effective management.

E-government is the best system to assess the implementation of undertakings, added the lawmaker.

In his discussion, U Soe Myint alias U Aung Zaw Myint of Amarapura Constituency discussed the benefits that could be derived from effective implementation of the e-government system, saying that it can reduce costs and delays in the public sector and facilitate interaction between government organisations and businesspeople.

The discussions attracted 14 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.—*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 formulation of the Myanmar Youth Policy.

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for 31st day

THE Amyotha Hluttaw entered its 31st day meeting with a report on the proposals and questions made at the first regular session, a question and answer session and the approval of a bill yesterday.

U Thein Swe, chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Committee on Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting, read out the committee's report.

According to the report, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives raised 59 questions including 33 starred questions and submitted a proposal to the parliament.

The proposal was documented and pledges were given upon 23 starred and 14 unstarred questions, said the report.

Next, a Q & A session followed with Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo responding to parliamentary questions.

Regarding a call for the construction of a retaining wall to enable motorised boats to dock at Yekyun-Myaukywa jetty in Manaung Township of Rakhine State, the deputy minister said that the Directorate of Water Resour-

ces and Improvement of River Systems will make a field trip to the jetty and coordinate with the regional government which estimated that construction of the retaining wall will cost K21.5 million.

During yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw session, U Zaw Min of the Bill Committee read out a report on the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Bill and sought parliamentary approval of the bill.

The bill will be brought to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval.—*Myanmar News Agency*

VP U Henry Van Thio addresses 6th meeting of Recovery Working Group of ASEAN Disaster Management Committee



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers a speech at the 6th meeting of the Working Group on Recovery of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio addressed the 6th meeting of the Working Group on Recovery of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, the Vice President said that some funds set for investment in development undertakings are diverted toward relief and recovery due to disasters and the impact of climate change.

Regarding recovery efforts, the Vice President stressed the

need to boost disaster resilience by building better preparedness and response plans and to rebuild schools, clinics, roads, water supply infrastructure and cultural buildings for resilience.

He called on ASEAN countries to transform visions of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and outside the Region into reality through collaborative efforts.

Next, Indonesian Deputy

Minister for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Mr. Harmensyah of the BNPB National Disaster Management Agency and UNDP Country Director Mr. Peter Batchelor extended greetings.

Also present were Union ministers, deputy ministers, Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and representatives from ASEAN and AHA Centre-ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ms. Satu Suikkari-Kleven agreed as ambassador of Finland to Myanmar

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Ms. Satu Suikkari-Kleven as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Finland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Ms. Satu Suikkari-Kleven was born in Helsinki, Finland on 26 February 1967. She obtained Master of Laws from University of Helsinki in 1993. She joined the Finnish Diplomatic Service in 1998,

and she served in the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, New York and Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights in Strasbourg, France and Embassy of Finland in Oslo, Norway. She has been serving as Director, Unit for Public International Law, Legal Service, Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 2012 to present.

Ms. Satu Suikkari-Kleven is married, with one child.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mr. Vladimir A. Goshin agreed as ambassador of Belarus to Myanmar

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Vladimir A. Goshin as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi.

Mr. Vladimir A. Goshin was born in Dzhurun village, Aktobe province, Kazakhstan on 31 August 1962. He graduated from Minsk State Pedagogical Institute for Foreign Languages in 1984, from the Russian Customs Academy majoring in customs affairs, jurisprudence in 1999 and from the magistrate programme of the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus in 2009. He served in

various capacities at the Minsk Regional Customs from 1988 to 1997 and served as the first Vice Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus from 1998 to 2011. Then, from 2011 to 2012, he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of India and as a member of the Board (Minister) for customs cooperation of the Eurasian Economic Commission from 2012 to 2016. Since 2016, he has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Vladimir A. Goshin is married, with two sons and a daughter.—*Myanmar News Agency*

US and Myanmar agree to game-changing . . .

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- The United States and Myanmar recognize their shared interest in enhancing bilateral economic engagement and exchanging views on laws and practices that affect bilateral investment flows and foreign investment, including the elements of a high-standard Bilateral Investment Treaty.

- The United States intends to sign a loan guarantee with five local microfinance institutions to support over \$10 million in loans to small businesses in Myanmar, which will increase access to food and support employment opportunities for communities in Myanmar.

- The United States and Myanmar are committed to advancing global health security. In 2017, Myanmar will complete and publish a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of national capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. The United States completed and published a JEE in 2016.

- The United States and Myanmar will expand people-to-people ties by augmenting English-language instruction with

additional training for 1500 English teachers, by expanding US educational advising across Myanmar by 50 percent for students interested in studying in the United States, and by launching a new exchange program for Myanmar leaders that will provide expertise in democratic governance.

- The United States and Myanmar look forward to the arrival of the first group of Peace Corps volunteers, who will train English teachers as well as teach students in middle and high schools.

In Myanmar, news of the game-changing partnership was received with enthusiasm, especially by foreign business leaders.

Jo Daniels, Myanmar Managing Partner at the US-based international law firm Baker & McKenzie, said closer cooperation between Myanmar and the US, has the potential to fuel a boom in infrastructure development and consumer spending in Myanmar.

“As sanctions have eased over the past two years, we have seen a range of multinationals looking to set up Myanmar-specific investment vehicles, or include Myanmar as part of their wider emerging markets invest-

ment strategy. However, US multinationals have not featured as prominently in these discussions as other economic powers such as China, Thailand and Japan, in part due to the complex sanctions upon the regime,” Daniels said.

That sentiment was echoed by the head of General Electric in Asia.

“The US administration has clearly made a decision that reflects confidence in Myanmar government as it transitions into a modern democracy,” said Wouter Van Wersch, President and CEO of GE ASEAN. “We applaud the Myanmar government in what they have achieved to earn the removal of these sanctions, and it serves as a testament to the great progress the country has made.”

General Electric already has a strong presence in Myanmar and will likely play a major role in improving infrastructure. More than half of Myanmar citizens have no access to electricity.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was scheduled to attend an exclusive dinner last night with top business leaders, some of whom paid as much as US\$25,000 per table to attend.—*GNLM*

Tatmadaw proposes removal of landmines in Kayin State

Ye Khaung Nyunt

REPRESENTATIVES of the Tatmadaw proposed to set Kayin State as a pilot area for removing landmines at the Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

Representatives of the ethnic armed organisations agreed to the proposal, offering to discuss it again at the eighth meeting which is slated to be held in November.

“After reaching an agreement over the proposal for the pilot demining area, the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organisations agreed to work together toward their complete removal,” said Col Wunna Aung, Secretary of the JMC-U.

With technical assistance from abroad, the Tatmadaw and signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement will now carry out the removal of landmines together at a time when trust between the two sides has

reached the highest point in almost six decades.

“We will give priority to areas where internationally displaced people will return. There will be no obstacles to removing the mines there,” said Saw Isaac Po of the KNU/KNLA.

AN agreement was reached to open up to six offices in ceasefire areas, according to the second-day session of the meeting on Wednesday.

Four region/state level joint ceasefire monitoring committees have been opened in Shan State, Taninthayi Region, Kayin State and Mon State, with plans to open two more in Bago Region 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.

Information minister leaves for China to attend forum & expo



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint being seen off at the airport. PHOTO: MNA

A MYANMAR delegation led by Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, left Yangon on Thursday for China to attend the 3rd forum of ministers responsible for information and the 5th China-Eurasia Expo to be held in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China.

The Myanmar delegation

was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Information and Mr Chen Chen, Minister Counselor of the Chinese Embassy. The third forum for ministers responsible for information is scheduled to begin on 16 September under a conference titled Silk Road: Connection Eurasia and Deepening Friendly

Exchange among News Media. The Fifth China-Eurasia Expo will take place between 20 and 25 September.

The minister was accompanied by U Ye Naing, general manager of the ministry's News and Periodicals Enterprise, and U Zeyar, director (broadcasting), MRTV. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar International Travel Mart-2016 to be held on Saturday and Sunday

THE Myanmar Travel Association will hold the first international travel exhibition with about 60 booths filled by travel agencies, airlines, hotels, private hospitals and companies related to travel.

The Myanmar International Travel Mart 2016 will

be conducted from 17 to 18 September (Saturday and Sunday) at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

The travel mart is aimed at assisting travel companies with outbound licenses and developing a local and foreign travel market.—GNLM



Crime NEWS

Servicemen given five-year prison sentences for deaths of Mongyaw villagers

SEVEN military personnel accused of the deaths of five villagers in Lashio Township, Shan State (North) were sentenced to five years in prison in a court martial proceeding yesterday.

According to the court martial, the seven service-

men— four officers and three other ranks— were dismissed from the army and jailed for five years at civil prisons with hard labour.

Seven officers and other soldiers from Tatmadaw, plus a police inspector and 18 vil-

lagers from Mongyaw village, were asked to give statements during the court martial in connection with the murder case that occurred after a clash between a military column and a TNLA group near Mongyaw village in the township on 25 June.— *Myawady*

Middle school teacher dies of apparent suicide in Nat Mauk

ACCORDING to Sai Kaung police office, a teacher from the Basic Education Middle School in Pha Taw village of Nat Mauk township, Magway Region apparently committed suicide.

U Own Maung, the representative of the sub village for Phat Taw village, Nat Mauk Township, phoned local police after a man was found dead near his village.

According to the investigation, the dead man was identified as U Phyo Kyaw Kyaw, 26, a middle school teacher from Phat Taw village. He apparently killed himself by tying a rope around his neck at Da Hat tree in a paddy field which is 2 furlongs west of Phat Taw village at 6 a.m on 13th September.—*Kyaw Zeay (Myint makha)*

Handmade grenade found in Myawady



The scene of discovery of a handmade grenade.

PHOTO: TIN WIN HLAING

A handmade grenade was discovered near an electric power factory and a Christian Church in number 5 ward, Myawady township.

Ma Moe Thandar, 36, a vendor, told police she found a handmade grenade when she was about to pick up a plastic bottle in preparation for making a fire at about 4 p.m on 14th September.

According to members of a local military base, they discovered a handmade grenade made up of a plastic bottle filled with gunpowder, small stones, a fuse and two small batteries linked by white and red wires. This was removed by the main engineer of the military battalion at 4:20 p.m.

There were at least six grenades discovered and five explosions since 2nd September, when the army was fighting with DKBA organizations in Hpa An, Kayin State, Kawkaik and Myawady towns.—*Tin Win Hlaing*

Vehicle overturns on Yangon-Mandalay highway

A vehicle overturned as the driver could not control the speed on Yangon-Mandalay highway road.

According to an investigation, a Honda was being driven at a high speed by U Khin Maung Win with one passenger on board when it overturned into the median between mileposts 266/2 and 266/3 after the driver apparently lost control.

Daw Khine Myint Soe, the passenger, was injured, police

said. Pay lay pin lay police will take action against the reckless driver. Members of highway police are in the process of using mobile speed-measuring devices to catch drivers who are operating their cars over the speed limit. The effort is hoped to result in a decrease of car accidents caused by excessive speed.

Between 13 and 15 September, police arrested 39 drivers of cars that the drivers who had been speeding.—*Than Oo*



The vehicle seen overturned on Yangon-Mandalay highway.

PHOTO: THAN OO

LOCAL Business

Government treasury bonds to be auctioned as of 20 September in Yangon

GOVERNMENT treasury bonds are set to be sold through an auction system at the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch) on the third Tuesday of every month as of 20 September, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The auction date, the number of bonds to be auctioned as well the interest rate on the bonds and their terms will be available on the websites of the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Central Bank of Myanmar before each auction.

Banks granted licenses to operate banking services in accordance with Section 2 (g) and Section 52 (j) of the Financial Institution Law enacted on 25 January this year and opened accounts at the Central Bank of Myanmar are allowed to participate in the auction.

Registered firms for the government treasury bill auction that began last January do not need to register again however currently unregistered

firms must submit their auction registration forms to the Central Bank of Myanmar 10 days ahead of the auction they wish to participate in.

Individuals and corporate bodies can invest in treasury bonds through the Myanmar Economic Bank and Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Co., Ltd (MSEC), which are allowed to operate as underwriters by authority of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The rules and regulations of the securities exchange market are available from the Central Bank of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw) and (Yangon Branch) and the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw and on the website of the Ministry of Planning and Finance (ph: 067 410170 and 067 410172) or the Central Bank of Myanmar (ph: 067 418241, 01 8605097 and 01 8603746).—Myanmar News Agency

Five townships in Yangon slated to become commercial sites

FIVE locations in Yangon have been chosen to have commercial sites built, in an effort to ease the growing number of commercial buildings, enterprises, offices and restaurants in downtown Yangon, it is learnt from the City Planning and Land Administration Department under the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

Currently, commercial sites are being implemented in Mindama and Yankin, said U Toe Aung, the deputy head of the City Planning and Land Administration Department. The First Myanmar Construction Company was granted permission to build the commercial site on 36

acres of land on Mindama Road in 2014.

Viet Nam's Hoang Anh Gia La has opened a commercial center, residential buildings and hotels in Yangon. There are also projects jointly conducted by the Construction Ministry and Japanese government on this site. Therefore, it became a natural choice for a commercial site, said land administration experts.

Htauk Kyant, Mingaladon and Hlaingthaya townships are three other places chosen for commercial sites. The construction department said it will soon arrange it so that the businessmen can submit proposals, it is learnt.—200



Tourists seen at U Bein Bridge in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Myanmar and Japan attract more European visitors

MYANMAR and Japan have tied for the top slot with the highest accumulative rate of European travellers, according to PR Newswire.

The online travel agency agoda.com found that Myanmar and Japan were the most popular destinations when they studied the booking patterns of European travellers. Mawlamyine,

home to the world's largest reclining Buddha, was the most favorite destination of the European visitors. The visitation rate to Myanmar doubled in late 2014 as compared to the previous year, it is learnt.

Mawlamyine attracts the visitors with its old buildings dating back to the colonial time. Additional-

ly, Hpa-an is famous for its natural scenic beauty. The number of visitors to Hpa-An increased into two-fold last year.

Hsipaw town is also one of the destinations to which the European travellers flock, known for its historic sites.

Tourists are flocking to Myanmar in rough cor-

relation to the improvement of the country's infrastructures. The most famous destinations, Yangon, Mandalay and Bagan, continue to attract many visitors. As transportation, communications and accommodations improve, other sites such as the beaches in Ngwe Saung and Ngapali are also becoming popular.—Ko Htet

Oil millers to request ban on palm oil imports

OIL millers came to an agreement to propose a ban on palm oil imports, it is learnt from the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association.

"Our association is drawing up a master plan to submit to the ministries concerned, the legislative commission, Parliament and the Union government. Import-

ed palm oil is not good for the health of our citizens. Also, the local oil millers and the oil crop growers are adversely affected," said U Khin Soe, the chairman of this association.

"Myanmar yearly imports 70,000 tonnes of palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, resulting in the suspension of the some oil

millers.

Additionally, the freeze in oil millers affects the feedstuff used in livestock sector, causing unemployment of workers who are engaged in oil mills. Therefore, we all joined to request the government to block the edible oil import."

Research has shown that palm oil has high lev-

els of saturated fats, which can be a significant threat to cardiovascular health.

There are a total of 2,974 registered oil milling enterprises under the Ministry of Industry. However, only 10 per cent have been operating since 2015. Other oil mills have been forced to shut down, it is learnt.—200



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China says opposes 'unhelpful' unilateral North Korea sanctions

BEIJING — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Japanese counterpart that China opposes “unhelpful” unilateral sanctions on North Korea but will work within the United Nations to formulate a necessary response to its fifth nuclear test.

China has expressed anger with North Korea for its largest nuclear test to date last week, but has not said directly whether it will support tougher sanctions.

China has said it believes sanctions are not the

ultimate answer and called for a return to talks.

Wang told Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida that China opposed the nuclear test, and that it is willing to work with other permanent members of the UN Security Council to “come up with a necessary response to the new changes to the situation on the peninsula”, China’s Foreign Ministry said late on Wednesday.

“With all sides focused on the authoritative channel of the Security

Council, China opposes unilateral sanctions that are unhelpful to resolving the issue,” the statement paraphrased Wang as saying, without elaborating.

A US special envoy for North Korea, Sung Kim, met Japanese officials on Sunday and said the United States may launch unilateral sanctions against North Korea, echoing comments by US President Barack Obama last Friday.

Japan’s Foreign Ministry said Kishida said the

nuclear test was unforgivable and a direct, grave threat to Japanese security, and asked China for a constructive response as a responsible permanent member of the Security Council.

China is isolated North Korea’s most important diplomatic backer and biggest trading partner, but frustrated with repeated nuclear and missile tests it has signed on to increasingly tough UN sanctions and insisted it is complying with them.—Reuters



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi attends a joint news conference with Albania's Foreign Minister Ditmir Bushati (not in picture) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Beijing, China, on 25 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thai PM defends rights record since coup ahead of UN visit

BANGKOK — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on Thursday defended his country’s rights record since he seized power in a 2014 coup, saying he acted to end months of political instability.

Thailand has faced a deepening rights crisis since the coup with political activity and peaceful gatherings banned, say activists. Military courts have been used to try na-

tional security cases, including cases involving civilians, and relations with some western countries, including the United States, have frayed.

“Those who evoke human rights and democracy, look at what happened in the past,” Prayuth said in a speech at Bangkok’s Government House, days before he travels to New York to attend a session of the UN General Assembly.

“Foreigners have to understand what we’re going through... Every country has gone through rough times. We’re just a little late. Don’t tell us that we abuse rights, you also abuse the rights of others. You create problems too.”

Southeast Asia’s second-biggest economy is slowly recovering from the events of 2014, when months of street protests and the coup almost

brought economic activity to a standstill.

Since then, dozens of junta critics have been held incommunicado in military detention, although the exact number of people detained remains unknown.

During a UN Human Rights Council review of Thailand in May, foreign governments expressed concern over the deteriorating rights situation in

Thailand.

Prayuth, a former army chief, said he took control of the country in an attempt to calm months of political crisis. He has repeatedly said he does not want to hold on to power longer than 2017 when a general election is expected to take place.

The military government on Monday said it will prosecute cases concerning national security

and royal insult in civilian courts instead of military courts, a change a rights group said was “window dressing” before a UN review.

Thailand’s defence minister also spoke at Government House on Thursday and said bombings in Thai tourist towns last month were not linked to Muslim separatists, contradicting an earlier police statement.—Reuters

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Typhoon cuts power, lashes China with wind and rain before weakening

BEIJING — Typhoon Meranti slammed into southeastern China on Thursday with strong winds and lashing rain that cut power to 1.65 million homes, but there were no reports of more casualties in what has been described as the strongest storm of the year globally.

The storm, registered as a super typhoon before losing strength after sweeping across southern Taiwan, made landfall in the early hours near the major city of Xiamen.

Dozens of flights and train services have been cancelled, state television said, disrupting travel at the start of the three-day Mid-Autumn Festival holiday.

Pictures on state media showed flooded streets, fallen trees and crushed cars in Xiamen as rescuers in boats evacuated people.

About 320,000 homes were without power in Xiamen. Across the whole of Fujian Province, where Xiamen is located, 1.65 million homes had no electricity, state television said.

Large sections of Xiamen also suffered water supply disruptions and some windows in tall buildings shattered, sending glass



A tree is blown down by gale in typhoon-hit Xiamen City, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 15 September, 2016. Typhoon Meranti made landfall in Xiamen in the early morning on Thursday. PHOTO: XINHUA

showering onto the ground below, state news agency Xinhua said.

The report said it was the strongest typhoon to hit that part of the country since the founding of Communist China in 1949 and the strongest so far this year anywhere in the world.

Tens of thousands of people had already been evacuated as the storm approached and fishing boats

called back to port.

One person died and 38 were injured in Taiwan, the Central Emergency Operation Centre there said, as the typhoon hit the southern part of the island on Wednesday.

Meranti was a Category 5 typhoon, the strongest classification awarded by Tropical Storm Risk storm tracker, before it made landfall on the mainland and has

since been downgraded to Category 2.

Typhoons are common at this time of year, picking up strength as they cross the warm waters of the Pacific and bringing fierce winds and rain when they hit land.

Meranti will continue to lose strength as it pushes inland and up towards China’s commercial capital of Shanghai, but will bring heavy rain.—Reuters

Thai deputy PM contradicts police, says bombings not linked to Muslim insurgency

BANGKOK — Last month's bombings in Thai tourist towns were not linked to Muslim separatists, Thailand's defence minister said on Thursday, contradicting the police.

There has been a series of bomb attacks in the central and far south, including coordinated bombings in tourist towns in August that killed four Thai people and wounded dozens, including foreigners.

Analysts say separatist insurgents in the country's three southern Muslim-majority provinces of Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani bordering Malaysia were behind the attacks.

Tourist towns in the central

south have for years been spared any spill-over of violence from the deep south and analysts say the government is loath to blame the coordinated bombings on southern Muslim insurgents because of fear of damaging tourism in the predominantly Buddhist country.

So far, two suspects have been arrested in connection with the tourist-town attacks.

"Even though the arrested suspects were from the southern provinces this is not an expansion of the insurgency and not related to southern violence," Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said at an event outlining the military government's achievements since



Thai soldiers inspect the scene of a car bomb blast outside a hotel in the southern province of Pattani, Thailand, on 24 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

a May 2014 coup.

His comments contradicted a police statement last month linking the tourist town attacks to separatists in the far south.

Thailand and Malaysia on

Friday agreed to consider building a border wall to combat transnational crime and smuggling.

More than 6,500 people have died — the majority of them civilians — since 2004 in fighting

between Malay Muslim rebels and Thai security forces stationed in the area. Violence in the three southern provinces had decreased by 60 per cent since the junta took power, Prawit said.—Reuters



Locals gather at the scene where two trains collided near Multan, Pakistan on 15 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pakistan train crash kills at least six, injures more than 150

ISLAMABAD — A Karachi-bound express train collided with a freight train in Pakistan's central Punjab region early on Thursday, killing at least six people and injuring more than 150, Geo TV said.

The Awam Express hit a stationary cargo train about 25 km (15 miles) from the city of Multan, Geo TV said, citing local officials. Four carriages were overturned.

There was a delay in the emergency response due to Eid

holidays in Pakistan, a mainly Muslim nation of 190 million people.

About 10 people were badly injured.

Pakistan's colonial era railway network has fallen into disrepair in recent decades due to chronic under investment and poor maintenance.

About 130 people were killed in July 2005 when a train rammed into another at a station in Sindh province, and a third train hit the wreckage.—Reuters

Indonesia ferry blast kills two, injures 13

JAKARTA — An explosion on a ferry carrying 35 tourists between the Indonesian resort islands of Bali and Lombok on Thursday killed two people, an Indonesian and a Dutch national, and injured 13, police said.

"Two of them died, 13 were

injured," Bali police spokesman Made Sudana said, adding the explosion happened off the coast of Lombok.

"It seems there was some sort of explosion on the boat, so there was an emergency with the engine."

Tourists on board included Australian, Korean, British, French, and German citizens, according to media.

Bali and neighbouring Lombok are two of Indonesia's most popular holiday destinations.—Reuters

Malaysia confirms debris found in Tanzania is from MH370

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia said on Thursday that a large piece of aircraft debris discovered on the island of Pemba, off the coast of Tanzania, in June, was from the missing Malaysia Airlines jet MH370.

A search of more than two years has turned up few traces of the Boeing 777 aircraft that disappeared in March 2014,

with 239 passengers and crew on board, soon after taking off from Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital, bound for Beijing.

The debris, an outboard flap, will be examined further to see if it can yield any insight into the circumstances around the missing plane, Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong

Lai said in a statement. Investigators have previously confirmed a piece of plane debris found on the French island of Reunion in July 2015 as being part of MH370.

They are examining several other pieces of debris found in Mozambique, South Africa and Rodrigues Island, a territory of Mauritius.—Reuters



Ministry of Transport Malaysian Senior Accident investigator Aslam Basha Kham (C) talks to other officials inspecting a wing suspected to be a part of missing Malaysia Airlines jet MH370 discovered on the island of Pemba, off the coast of Tanzania, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 15 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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Diversity does not have to lead to enmity

Kyaw Thura

AS our country is home to 135 ethnic minorities, it is natural that there is racial diversity with a mishmash of ethnic traditions and cultures. Their separate entities do not have to result in separatism. Despite this, cracks began to appear in the exercise of devolution soon after independence, forcing the relations between the central government and the ethnic groups to cool considerably.

What is abnormal is the battle for supremacy in the country's politics. History bears witness to the fact that political perplexity only reinforces instability and violence, which are mutually reinforcing. Encouragingly, the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference demonstrated that all the ethnic nationalities unanimously concurred with the idea of urgent need for political reform in the pursuit of peace, national recon-

ciliation and inclusive economic growth.

With the new, democratically elected civilian government in place, there is no better time than now for us to be united by a sense of common humanity in turning ethnic diversity into national prosperity. On the whole, humanity can be interpreted as commitment to peace and respect for others.

It is, therefore, undeniable that the time has come for all of

us, regardless of our differences in race, culture and faith, to broaden and deepen our cooperation across a range of the country's development goals. There is every reason to believe that unity in diversity has the potential to blend different perspectives and make them work for common good, thereby speeding up a dramatic change in creating opportunities to establish a democratic federal Union in the interests of all the ethnicity.

WHY LAW MATTERS SO MUCH?

U KHIN MAUNG
(A retired diplomat)

FIRST and foremost, please allow me to assert, with all my sincerity and honesty, that law is so delicate, so demanding, so difficult and so wide a subject that nobody could claim that he knows all the best about the laws. As such, there is a common and simple concept that "a good lawyer is the one who knows where to find the law, applicable and relevant to the case". Anyway, let's study what law means? In essence, "law" is the regime that orders human activities and relations through systematic application of the force of politically organized society or through social pressure, backed by force, in such a society. It is the legal system.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines the term "law" as follows:

"Law is the whole system of rules that everyone in a country or society must obey." According to a great philosopher, Aristotle, "law is a form of order, and good law means therefore good order". Generally speaking, there are two main kinds of laws: Local law or domestic law and international law. In brief, domestic law means the law of or the law relating to one's own country. It is also known as the law of the land. International law is "the legal principles governing the relationships between nations, more modernly, the law of international relations, embracing not only nations, but also such participants as international organizations, multinational corporations, non governmental organizations and even individuals (such as those who invoke their human rights or commit war crimes.)"

Some significant legal terms and their meanings

The rule of law

"The rule of law"- This phrase

means equality before the law, fair lay, uniformity of laws for all private citizen and public official alike. It also means that disputes and differences will be taken to the courts and peacefully settled. Law and order is often equated with the rule of law. Therefore, I would like to say that law is a necessity for the citizens, for the organizations, for the associations, for the states etc. So as to enjoy peace, progress, prosperity, harmony and development, such as economic development, technological development etc. Law here means both the law of the land or municipal law and international law.

The incumbent government of our union is a democratically government. As such, we can say the incumbent government is the government of the people, by the people, for the people. Accordingly, our government is doing magnificent and formidable tasks for all the people. For example, convening twenty-first century Panglong Peace Conference, setting up of Rakhine State advisory commission to address Rakhine issue among so many other splendid tasks. And in doing its tasks, the government is doing its best to win the hearts and minds of the people, making the rule of law prevail, with no corruption, with no favouritism, with no nepotism, with no cronyism in its administration. Only when a government is carrying out its functions or doing administration in accordance with the law, or in other words, only when the rule of law and justice prevail, that government can be recognized as a good government, with clean governance.

In fact, and in reality, nobody is above the law. With the principle of equality before the law, the good government ensures that the law treats everyone all he same, with no privileged class or under-privileged. Simply put, all men are equal in the eyes of the

law. And we have such terms as diplomatic privileges, and diplomatic immunities in diplomacy. Strictly speaking, diplomatic immunity or exemption means only immunity or exemption from the legal procedure, not immunity or exemption from the legal liability. For example, if a diplomat or a diplomatic agent commits an offence in the receiving state where he is carrying out his diplomatic functions, he will be treated as "persona non grata, meaning unacceptable person. And that diplomat will be sent back to the sending state. So, we can see that the rule of law prevails in any situation, where there is a violation of law.

As regard, "the rule of law, I would like to quote a passage or extract from the book entitled "Law and Custom in Burma and the Burmese Family" written by the world renowned author, Dr. Maung Maung. It reads as follows:

"The first essential condition for making democracy secure in our lives is to base all our activities firmly on the rule of law."

Well, you know "the rule of law" is so wide a subject to explain only in a single write-up. We have an old saying in our Myanmar language. If freely interpreted, I think, it may read "a man may not live hundred years long; but he may be faced with over hundred cases or problems. Strictly speaking, whenever there is a case or a problem, it must be settled in accordance with law. Thus, we can see "how law matters so much."

Even in international conflicts or wars, the rule of law, international law at that, is quite essential. So as to give humanitarian treatment to a wounded soldier of a party to the conflict, he must be collected and humanely treated by the other party. The wounded soldier must not be shot dead. In this regard, there have

been multilateral treaties or conventions well prescribed and propagated since the days of yore. For example, "Geneva Convention on the treatment of the wounded soldier at sea, Geneva Convention on the treatment of wounded soldier on land, etc.

Rule of law and law and order—these two principles are quite similar to each other. Where there is no rule of law, there will be no order. Instead, there will be anarchy, political unrest, social unrest, chaos and confusion. So, the rule of law is a necessity for a nation to enjoy peace, progress, prosperity and development. Where there is no rule of law, there will be no peace, no prosperity, no progress and no development. Therefore, laws have to be made, to be promulgated in a state, by its law-making body, the parliament. We call these laws domestic laws. And in international relations, in diplomatic relations, international law, and diplomatic laws have to be prescribed. In essence, therefore, we may define the international law is the law that governs inter-state relations. Diplomatic laws are those which stipulate the diplomatic principles to be adhered to in establishing diplomatic relations between the sovereign states.

In modern history, there were two world wars which had brought enormous loss of lives and property and untold miseries and sorrows to mankind. So, in the preamble to the charter, it was stated: "we the peoples" of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations, large and small, and to establish conditions under justice and respect for the obligations

arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained and to promote social progress and better standards of life, in large freedom etc., we have agreed to the present charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization known as the United Nations."

Laws are made for the benefit of mankind. Laws are made for all human beings to live in peace, in harmony, and to enjoy progress and development, to enjoy equality, liberty and fraternity. So laws must be well in accord with the changing and living world. In short, and all in a nutshell, "Law is not and must not be reduced to mere words in statute books and legal decisions, but is or should be an active, ceaseless social process that runs like nerve system in the living to society. Living laws are needed for a living society, and the blood stream of law needs to be constantly renewed and nourish so that it may accommodate change in its continuity, youth in its age"

Well, from a law-student point of view, may I say that "law is everybody's business, everybody's concern. Nobody can argue that I have committed such an offence, because I don't know law. Ignorance of law is no excuse.

So also, when it comes to international relations, a state as "a member in the family of nations, has to abide by, has to obey the international laws which govern inter-state relations. No nation is an island.

Reference:

- (1) အသက်တစ်ရာမနေရ၊ အမှုတစ်ရာတွေ့ရတတ်သည်။
- (2) Black's Law Dictionary by Bryan A. Garner
- (3) Law and Custom in Burma the Burmese Family, Dr. Maung Maung
- (4) The charter of the United Nations.

Tensions rise as clans of raw jadestone seekers rush to Kani township

Aung Thant Khine

RAW jadestone seekers are flocking to the Nam Shi Pon jade mine in Kani township, it has been learned, resulting in rising tensions among scavenging groups on the site and mining companies.

Eight companies are currently operating on the site of the Nam Shi Pon jade mine. Fights began to break out between groups of raw jadestone seekers between each other and the mining companies when the number of such workers onsite reached 800 back in May. Bamboo fences were reportedly erected to keep the number of jadestone seekers on the site from rising further. However, these efforts have not stemmed the number of arrivals.

"The jadestone seekers have started to throw stones at the vehicles of mining companies. We have informed the matter to regional authorities. The regional authorities responded that since the site is not a fixed living space it is technically difficult to take action against them." Said U Chin, managing director of a jade digging company at the site.



Seekers search jade at the mountain of soil dumped by mining companies in Kani township. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Raw jadestone seeking is the high risk, find-and-claim job of sorting through piles of mining rubble for valuable jade pieces overlooked by large scale operations and turning them over

to mining companies for reward (the only form of payment). Raw jadestone seekers, among other undocumented mine workers, have been described by some experts as the least legally pro-

ected or represented worker groups in the country. The extremely dangerous working conditions of the job made headlines in November last year when tall mounds of mining rubble col-

lapsed on the makeshift homes of jadestone seekers in Hpakant, Kachin State, claiming the lives of 116 workers and their family members.

The unregulated nature of the work along with repeated accusations of widespread worker abuse, flagrant disregard for the safety and livelihoods of workers and their families and the inherent danger of needing to find (or fight for) jadestone to provide food for one's family has cast a long shadow over the jade mining industry.

U Thein Sein's government, following the accident in Hpakant, hastily sent out regulatory officers to check that mining companies were not piling their mine rubble dangerously high – an endeavor that produced some positive results but ultimately did very little to raise the living standards or provide security to raw jadestone seekers. Raw jadestone seekers have been working at the Nam Shi Pon jade mine since around 1990. The migration of unskilled workers from other parts of the country to the mine is seen as a likely reason for the swelling population.

Literacy campaign aims to raise adult literacy levels in Kayah State this year



A literacy training session in progress. PHOTO: 200

LITERACY campaign aims to promote adult literacy levels across Myanmar as more than three million people in the country get no education, said an activist of local organization.

Funded by the Union government, the nation-wide campaign has begun since 2013 to broaden the horizons of national brethren and help overcome challenges.

Under the programme, volunteers will carry out eradication of illiteracy across Kayah State in eastern Myanmar this year by teaching special courses to residents who have never been to school.

Local authorities put concerted efforts to reduce illiteracy rate in the region by offering school facilities including text books and exercise books

free of charge, providing technical assistance to campaigners in target areas and helping out-of-school children to join non-formal education programmes.

Among over 7,000 million total world populations, there are 800 million people with no education, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).—200

Over 3,000 people to receive free eye surgery

MORE THAN 3,000 people with vision problems are set to receive free eye surgery under the programme for visually impaired persons organised by Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara, a famous Buddhist monk.

With the support of the U.S.-based Help Me See Eye Charity Foundation, approximately 3,600 eye patients have been granted to join the surgical operation performed by six eye specialists including Indian Dr Sunil Mullan Kandi starting this month.

A total of 50 people with vision problems have undergone the surgical procedure at Sitagu Eye Care Hospital in Uto

Myothit in Oakpho Township in Sagaing Region between 12 and 13 September, said U Kyaw Win Hlaing of the hospital.

The major aim of the activity is to help people fight eye diseases and loss of vision and to provide better life.

The most common eye diseases in Myanmar are cataract, glaucoma, cornea diseases, injuries and retinal diseases. Glaucoma is the second most common cause of world blindness, and the majority of those blinded reside in Asia. WHO estimates of the prevalence of glaucoma in many Asian regions are crude.—Aung Thu (IPRD)



An eye surgery in progress. PHOTO: AUNG THU (IPRD)



Donald Trump releases medical records for the first time to Dr. Oz on The Dr. Oz Show detailing the results of his most recent physical examination, in New York, US, on 14 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Clinton, Trump move to show medical fitness for White House

WHITE PLAINS, (N.Y.) — US presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on Wednesday moved to show their medical fitness for the White House as Clinton released a letter from her doctor declaring her fit for the presidency and Trump taped a TV-segment about his well-being.

Clinton, 68, is healthy and fit to serve as president and is currently recovering from non-contagious, bacterial pneumonia, her physician, Dr. Lisa Bardack, said in a letter about the Democratic nominee's medical condition released by the campaign.

Trump, 70, knows he could stand to lose a few pounds but otherwise is in great health, campaign adviser Sarah Huckabee Sanders told MSNBC on Wednesday after the Republican nominee taped an episode of the "Dr. Oz Show" in New York that will air on Thursday.

Bardack, in her letter about Clinton, wrote: "She is recovering

well with antibiotics and rest. She continues to remain healthy and fit to serve as President of the United States."

The announcements came as Clinton spent a third day resting at her home in Chappaqua, New York, after falling ill on Sunday morning as she left a 11 September memorial in New York City. Video footage taken by a bystander showed Clinton becoming dizzy as she attempted to get into a waiting vehicle. Her campaign said later in the day that the former secretary of state had been diagnosed with pneumonia on Friday.

Though senior aides knew about Clinton's diagnosis, the delay in public disclosure fuelled criticism that she is prone to secrecy and fed unsubstantiated internet rumours that she is hiding a health issue.

Bardack said Clinton's pneumonia was diagnosed after a chest scan on Friday and that she was prescribed a 10-day course of antibiotics. Bacterial pneumonia can

be treated with antibiotics while viral pneumonia necessitates a different approach, according to Dr. Steve Simpson, acting director of the Division of Pulmonary Disease at the University of Kansas Hospital. Simpson has not evaluated or treated Clinton.

Since bacterial pneumonia is not contagious, Clinton was at no risk of transmitting the infection at campaign and fundraising events before or after she was diagnosed. She is scheduled to return to the campaign trail on Thursday.

Bardack said Clinton's cholesterol and blood pressure are within normal ranges. She had a normal mammogram and breast ultrasound and shows no signs of developing heart disease, which runs in her family. Clinton takes medication for an under active thyroid, which has been stable for years, Clarinex for her allergies, a vitamin B12 supplement and the blood thinner Coumadin following a 2012 blood clot in her head.—Reuters

Britain approves nuclear plant, easing Chinese, French ties

LONDON — Britain gave the go a head on Thursday for a \$24 billion (18.1 billion pounds) nuclear power plant, ending weeks of uncertainty that strained ties with China and France and put a question mark over Prime Minister Theresa May's investment policy.

In a statement, her government said it had decided to proceed with the Hinkley Point C project in central England after a comprehensive review, but was clear Britain would have greater control over future deals when foreign states were involved in buying stakes in "critical infrastructure".

May stunned investors by putting Hinkley on hold in July, just hours before a deal was to be signed, saying she needed time to assess the project that would see French utility firm EDF build Britain's first new nuclear reactor in decades, backed by \$8 billion of Chinese cash.

"Having thoroughly reviewed the proposal for Hinkley Point C, we will introduce a series of measures to enhance security and will ensure Hinkley cannot change hands without the government's agreement," Greg Clark, business minister, said in a statement.

"Consequently, we have decided to proceed with the first new nuclear power station for a generation."

Critics of the deal had expected Britain to try to renegotiate the price, which they say was set too high before oil prices fell dragging energy costs lower, but the statement said the price the government will pay for the energy had not changed.

An aide to Francois Hollande said May had called French president personally to say "she supported the launch of the Hinkley project".




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“Ozone and Climate, Restored by a World United”

UN Secretary-General's message on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 16 September 2016

The world has changed since we last marked International Ozone Day. We now have our 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will foster equitable inclusive growth and further the well-being of people and our planet. On climate change, the Paris Agreement marks a historic turning point in our common journey towards a secure and sustainable world.

Now, we must turn ambition into action, and strengthen climate protection by harnessing the power of the Montreal Protocol to make progress in slowing the near-term warming caused by hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the fastest growing of the greenhouse gases.

Next month, in Rwanda, we have an opportunity to do exactly that, when national delegations gather to reach a global consensus on phasing down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol. Years ago, HFCs were widely adopted as an effective alternative to products that were damaging the ozone layer, particularly those used in refrigeration and air conditioning. However, science has revealed that, while HFCs have greatly reduced the threat to the ozone layer, they are an extremely potent greenhouse gas. With their use increasing rapidly, we must take decisive action – just as we previously did to put the ozone layer on the path to recovery.

Phasing down HFCs would provide considerable benefits. It would avoid up to half a degree of global warming by the end of this century, providing a major boost for the Paris Agreement, and it could also significantly improve the energy efficiency of some alternative refrigerants and technologies.

A global problem requires a global solution. I am confident that any obstacles can be overcome, having already seen nations use the Montreal Protocol to avert up to two million cases of skin cancer a year and save many more people from the suffering caused by cataracts.

By using the Montreal Protocol regime to phase down HFCs, we can complement other efforts to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions under the UNFCCC process. On this International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, let us remember how much has already been accomplished, and commit to do more to protect our atmosphere. By working together, we can build a safer, healthier, more prosperous and resilient world for all people while protecting our planet, our only home.—UNIC/Yangon



Hinkley Point C nuclear power station site is seen near Bridgwater in Britain, on 14 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

She will no doubt also move quickly to ease tension with China, which had called for Britain to proceed with the project immediately after the review was announced.

China's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. China on Thursday began a three-day national holiday.—Reuters

Germany and France see fresh momentum from Ukraine ceasefire

KIEV — The German and French foreign ministers said on Wednesday an attempt to revive a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine from midnight could set the scene for agreement next week on further peace moves.

Visiting Kiev with his French counterpart, Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Ukraine had agreed to abide by a new seven-day truce proposed by Russian-backed separatists and explicitly backed by Moscow.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said he also expected both sides to sign an agreement next week to withdraw their troops from the lines of conflict in three hotspots.

"In the next week we see an opportunity for a new dynamic in the conflict," Ayrault told reporters.

The agreement is expected at a regular meeting on Tuesday of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with both sides in the conflict. It would be monitored and verified by OSCE observers.

A ceasefire was launched to coincide with the start of the school year on 1 September. It failed to stop all fighting.

"We are again at a crossroads," Steinmeier told a briefing. "We see a small sliver of hope in the back-to-school ceasefire ... but it is not enough."

If the ceasefire holds and the agreement is signed as expected, the foreign ministers of France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia could meet in New York next week on the sidelines of a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

That could prepare the way for a meeting of the leaders of the four



Foreign Ministers Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany (L), Jean-Marc Ayrault of France (R) and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko attend a meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, on 14 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Normandy format" countries for the first time since October 2015.

"The presence of Jean-Marc and Frank-Walter here in Kiev is evidence that the Normandy format works, that we must together force Russia to implement the Minsk agreements," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said at the briefing.

France and Germany helped broker the 18-month-old Minsk peace deal. Many of its key points, such as holding regional elections and returning control of Ukraine's border with Russia to Kiev, have long been stalled.

"We understand that to implement the Minsk agreements, to force Russia to implement them, we need a clear idea of the sequence of steps and guarantees of their implementation from Russia," he said.

Moscow denies accusations by Ukraine and NATO that it

helps the separatists with troops and arms in a rebellion in which over 9,500 people have been killed since spring 2014.

Ayrault and Steinmeier emphasised their support for Ukraine and their rejection of Russia's annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine in 2014.

Steinmeier said that as the OSCE did not recognise the annexation, it would not send observers to Russian parliamentary elections planned in Crimea on 18 September.

Making his own separate trip to Kiev, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said on Wednesday it was crucial for the West to maintain sanctions against Russia.

"Clearly it's up to the Russians primarily to make progress on the security side. But it's up to all sides I think in this conversation to make progress together," he said at a briefing. —Reuters

Unions stage final street march against French labour law reform

PARIS — French labour union leaders vowed on Thursday to keep fighting a change of labour law that will make hiring and firing easier but acknowledged months of street demonstrations against the now-adopted legislation were at an end as support fades.

Ahead of protests in Paris and other cities later on Thursday, the union leaders who led wave after wave of often violence-marred street marches in the past six months, said they would continue to fight the law, but not in the streets.

"We won't give up the fight. We're not going to have another wave of demonstrations but there are other ways of fighting the labour law," Jean-Claude Mailly, head of the Force Ouvrière union, told French public TV channel France 2. "This law will be the chewing gum that sticks to the soles of the govern-

ment's shoes."

Mailly and Philippe Martinez, head of the CGT union, said they hoped legal challenges would force the withdrawal of the new law.

They said they intended to challenge application decrees - documents that spell out exactly how the law applies on the ground. The new law, forced through parliament in July by the government in the face of a rebellion by ruling party lawmakers, is designed to make France's rigid labour market more flexible, in part by allowing firms to tailor pay and work terms to their needs more easily.

Seven months before the first round of a wide-open presidential election, President Francois Hollande is still plagued by near double-digit unemployment and hopes the new legislation will help lower the jobless rate. —Reuters

India announces \$1 billion additional aid for Afghanistan

NEW DELHI — India on Wednesday announced an additional \$1 billion in financial aid toward development and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

The announcement came as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with visiting Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani. The aid will be used in areas such as capacity building and energy.

The two leaders reaffirmed their resolve to counter terrorism and strengthen security and defense cooperation as envisaged in the India-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement. India is among the leading donors for Afghanistan with an existing \$2 billion development assistance programme, in addition to undertaking a host of development projects. —Kyodo News

Rebel says Aleppo due to get aid Friday, but has little hope it will

BEIRUT — Humanitarian aid is due to be delivered to Aleppo on Friday following a withdrawal of combatants from a contested road leading to the city on Thursday, a Syrian rebel official said.

"Today the withdrawal is supposed to happen, with aid entering tomorrow. This is what is supposed to happen, but there is nothing to give hope," Zakaria Malahifji, of the Aleppo-based rebel group Fatah al-Raqqa, told Reuters.

The delivery is part of a US-Russian agreement that includes a ceasefire that took effect on Monday. The army and rebels have accused each other of numerous violations, though the overall level of violence has reduced.

Russia, said on Wednesday it was preparing for the Syrian army and rebel fighters to begin a staged withdrawal from the Castello road.

But neither side had started its withdrawal on

Thursday morning.

There was no comment from state media or the army about the proposed withdrawal.

Malahifji, Fatah al-Raqqa's political officer, said rebels were prepared to withdraw but were worried that the other side would take advantage of such a move. "There is great fear because the regime exploits every opportunity," he said.

Government forces seized control of a section of the Castello Road in July, part of its effort to fully encircle the opposition-held eastern half of Aleppo.

"If the regime withdraws 500 metres, east and west (of the road) ... then the guys will be able to withdraw a bit," Malahifji said. "But the regime is not responding. The guys can see its positions in front of them."

A Syrian military source said on Wednesday that armed groups had violated the ceasefire 15 times in the Aleppo area in a 24-hour period. —Reuters



Forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad walk at a military complex as one of them holds up a Syrian national flag, after they recaptured areas in southwestern Aleppo on Sunday that rebels had seized last month, Syria, on 5 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Powell reveals disgust with Trump, distaste for Clinton in hacked emails

WASHINGTON — Former Secretary of State Colin Powell revealed distaste for both US presidential candidates, but levelled his most pointed criticism at Republican Donald Trump in hacked emails leaked by a group American intelligence officials suspect is linked to Russia.

In an email to Reuters on Wednesday, Powell confirmed the authenticity of the thousands of hacked messages but declined further comment.

In one of the leaked emails, Powell, a Republican, called Trump “a national disgrace” and an “international pariah” who allied himself with racists questioning whether President Barack Obama was born in the United States.

“When Trump couldn’t keep that up,” Powell wrote in the hacked message, “he said he also wanted to see if the (birth) certificate noted that he was a Muslim. As I have said before, ‘What if he was?’ Muslims are born as Americans everyday.”

As for Clinton, Pow-



Former US Secretary of State Colin Powell (R) takes part in an onstage interview with Aspen Institute President and CEO Walter Isaacson (L) at the Washington Ideas Forum in Washington, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ell said in another email that the Democratic former secretary of state was “greedy” and had “unbridled ambition.”

The new batch of leaked messages, some from as recent as late August, has renewed concern in Washington about hackers meddling on behalf of Russia in the 8 November election and US politics.

The White House so far has refrained from publicly blaming the attacks on Russia. “The United States

has not made a formal determination in public about who may or may not be responsible,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters during a daily briefing.

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. Some committee documents were leaked in July.—Reuters

Israeli air force launches three raids on Gaza Strip

GAZA — The Israeli air force hit three targets in the Gaza Strip Thursday morning, with no casualties reported.

Local sources told Xinhua that the three raided sites are located in the east, north and northwest, and one of them is the training site of the Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic resist-

ance movement Hamas east of Gaza City.

Israeli public radio reported that the Israeli air force attacked the Gaza Strip in response to the firing of a mortar shell in western Negev overnight Wednesday.

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) released a statement saying that “the IDF holds Hamas respon-

sible for what happens in the Gaza Strip and will continue to act sternly to ensure the safety of southern communities.”

On 21 August, the Israeli air force launched five raids on the Gaza Strip in response to the launch of a rocket from Gaza into southern Israel, without causing casualties.—Xinhua

World Bank chief Kim heads for second-term with no challengers

WASHINGTON — Current World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim is the only candidate that has been nominated as the bank’s next leader, the World Bank announced Wednesday, paving the way for him to serve a second term.

As announced on 23 August, the period for submitting nominations

for the top position of the World Bank Group closed at 6 pm EDT (2200 GMT) Wednesday evening, the World Bank said in a statement.

In accordance with the procedures previously announced, the executive directors of the World Bank will meet with Kim in Washington, DC, “with the expectation of com-

pleting the selection process by the 2016 Annual Meetings” in October, the bank said.

Kim became the 12th president of the World Bank on 1 July, 2012 and his current term expires on 30 June, 2017. Before this post, he served as president of the famous US academic institution Dartmouth College.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INDUSTRIAL GRACE J VOY. NO (610384)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INDUSTRIAL GRACE J VOY. NO (610384) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(S’PORE) PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (011)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (011) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P / M.I.T.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
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South Sudan not yet acting on pledge to work with United Nations, official says

UNITED NATIONS — UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous said on Wednesday South Sudan’s government had not taken any action on a pledge it made 10 days ago to cooperate on the deployment of more United Nations troops in a bid to avoid a possible arms embargo.

During a UN Security Council visit to South Sudan earlier this month, President Salva Kiir agreed to accept 4,000 extra peacekeepers and to allow some 12,000 peacekeepers already on the ground to move around freely so they can protect civilians.

Ladsous told reporters after briefing the Security Council on Wednesday the agreement “has not been enacted upon at all.”

In the wake of heavy fighting in South Sudan’s capital Juba in July, the 15-member council last month authorized a regional protection force as part of the UN peacekeeping mission and threatened to consider an arms embargo if Kiir’s government did not cooperate or stop hindering the movement of peacekeepers. “The members of



South Sudan President Salva Kiir address a news conference at the Presidential State House following renewed fighting in South Sudan’s capital Juba, on 8 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the Security Council call on the government to abide by the commitments it made and to translate them into concrete steps immediately,” the body said in a statement on Wednesday.

The council also expressed concern at “subsequent statements by certain members of the government which appear to contradict the commitment made to the Security Council consenting to the deployment of the regional protection force.”

Britain and France believe an arms embargo should have already been imposed on South Sudan. US Ambassador Samantha Power said Washington will support an embargo if Kiir’s government does not implement its commitments.

However, Russian Deputy UN Ambassador Petr Illichev warned that such a move could harm attempts to bring peace and believes the South Sudanese government should be given at least

a month to start fulfilling its pledges.

UN peacekeepers have been deployed in South Sudan since 2011, when the country gained independence from Sudan. Political rivalry between Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar sparked a civil war in 2013 but, while the pair signed a shaky peace deal a year ago, fighting has continued and Machar fled the country after the eruption of violence in July.—Reuters



Members of the German coast guards prepare to transport the body of a dead stranded sperm whale to the shore line, at the coast of Buesum, Germany, on 4 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Big fish said most endangered as hunting upends primeval trend

OSLO — Big fish and other large ocean creatures face higher risks of extinction than small ones, overturning a 500 million-year pattern and indicating that human hunting is to blame, scientists said on Wednesday.

Fossils from five mass extinction events, most recently when an asteroid struck the Earth 65 million years ago, showed that small marine animals were slightly more likely to be wiped out than big ones in the pre-historic cataclysms, a study published in the journal *Science* said.

By contrast, large modern fish such as tuna and sharks, as well as mammals including whales and seals were more likely to be on a global “Red List” of endangered species than small fish and molluscs. Modern threats “are dominated by large body size. The past extinction events are not,” Jonathan Payne, of Stanford University, who led the study told Reuters.

“This kind of effect hasn’t happened before in the ocean ... in half a billion years,” he said. He said the findings were evidence that human hunting was the dominant threat to marine life. UN reports say the Earth risks a “sixth mass extinction”, driven on land by people clearing forests to make way for farms and roads, as well as by pollution and hunting. Climate change will add to the risks, on land and in the oceans.

The Red List, run by scientists at the International Union for Conservation of Nature, says between 24 and 40 per cent of ocean creatures are now vulnerable to extinction. Even so, the oceans have escaped hunting on a scale blamed for wiping out land creatures such as the woolly mammoth, the cattle-like auroch, the Tasmanian tiger and the dodo.—*Reuters*

Exploitation of Fijian workers leads to New Zealand’s first people-trafficking conviction

WELLINGTON — A man who trafficked vulnerable Fijian workers has become the first person ever convicted of people-trafficking in New Zealand on Thursday.

New Zealander Faroz Ali had earlier admitted eight charges of helping people breach visa conditions and 18 of not paying workers the minimum wage, on the first day of his trial in the High Court in Auckland more than three weeks ago, Radio New Zealand reported.

He was also found guilty on charges of human trafficking and helping 16 Fijian workers enter the country illegally.

During Ali’s trial, the court had been told the workers came to New Zealand on the promise of good wages, accommodation and food.

They had to borrow hundreds of dollars from family and friends to pay Ali and his accomplices “administrative and filing fees” for the chance to work on New Zealand orchards. But when they arrived in New Zealand, they often had to sleep on a floor and were paid just a fraction of what was promised, said the report. Ali would be sentenced in October, Radio New Zealand reported.—*Xinhua*

Viet Nam targets to earn 2.5 billion USD from fruit, vegetable exports in 2016

HANOI — Viet Nam’s fruit and vegetable export value is expected to reach 2.5 billion US dollars in 2016, surpassing rice export revenue for the first time, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) announced on Thursday.

According to the ministry, the vegetable and fruit industry grew from earning 235 million US dollars in 2005 to a record high of some 1.8 billion US dollars in 2015.

In 2005, Vietnamese fruit and vegetables were shipped to 36 markets while the figure rose to 60 markets in 2015.

Le Quoc Doanh, Deputy Minister of MARD was quoted by the state-run news agency VNA as saying that Vietnam has emphasized rice exports for many years.

However, rice exports have been in downward trend. In January-August period, exports of Viet-

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR LETTER OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST(EoI)

TO CONDUCT CHANNEL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

FOR YANGON RIVER

1. The Myanmar Port Authority under the Ministry of Transport and Communication has been trying to implement 5 Year channel development project for Yangon River. In order to cooperate and participate in the project, Myanmar Port Authority is going to invite to interested parties.

2. As far as interested parties, it may propose the plan and measure for 5 Year based on the following to Myanmar Port Authority

a) Outer Bar channel improvement and maintenance job-

on the recommendent track of outer bar area;

i) Dredging Area - About 3.0 Nautical Mile along the recommendent track

ii) Controlling Depth - At least 5 Meter

iii) Width of Channel (Straight line) - At least 0.3 Nautical Mile

iv) Width of Channel (At Turning Point) - At least 0.45 Nautical Mile

b) Inner Bar channel improvement and maintenance job-

i) Length of Channel Line - About 1.1 Nautical Mile (6600’)

ii) Controlling Depth - At least 4.7 Meter

iii) Width of Channel (Straight line) - At least 0.05 Nautical Mile (300’)

iv) Width of Channel (At the Turning Point) - 0.075 Nautical Mile (450’)

c) Improvement of related channel

i) Although it can maintain the controlling depth (CD), the obstacles (such as shallow water and ground) which unexpectedly occur around the channel through inner bar and outer bar must be removed by dredging.

ii) It must conduct maintaining and dredging to be sufficient depth and width of channel by both site negotiation depend on situation.

d) Disciplines for operation

i) must be dredging according to the design with relevant vertical horizontal ratio and gradient for the soil stability.

ii) must be the best model design for long term maintenance system against sedimentation.

iii) in any time it must be able to dredge, if decline controlling depth.

iv) it must be taking into account for environmental protection.

e) Documents that shall be attached

i) experience and profile of company, name of physician and certificate.

ii) kind of company (local Representative, Joint and so on)

iii) last audited annual report.

3. Joint activities with Myanmar Port Authority for the purpose of cost reduction shall be mentioned.

4. Interested parties can take out application form of EoI from Marine Department, Myanmar Port Authority, No (10) Pansodan Street, Yangon by registering on 16 September 2016 and must submit with a set of origin and copy (including Soft copy).

5. Operation area map shall be attached with application form and if you want to know detail information, will contact to
U Aung Kyaw Htoo (MA) 01246380, Dr Myo Nyein Aye (DGM) 01391272 and U Aung San Win (HMS) 01384471

(Myanmar Port Authority)

EoI is just for inviting to interested parties and aim to RFP preparation, not concerned with contract.

Venezuela slams Mercosur members for vetoing its presidency of bloc

CARACAS — Venezuela Delcy Rodriguez posted on Wednesday criticized a decision by members of the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) to veto its turn to take over the presidency of the South American trade bloc. “This decision by the triple alliance of Argentina, Paraguay and ... Brazil violates the legality of the organisation,” Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Rodriguez posted on Twitter. Rodriguez also said the government would soon respond to the veto in further details.

Mercosur is a sub-regional bloc established in 1991 to promote free trade and the movement of goods, people, and currencies. Its full members are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.—*Xinhua*

'Deepwater Horizon' makers say authenticity a priority for film

TORONTO — A top priority for a new movie about the deadly 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill was ensuring it accurately depicted the disaster that killed 11 workers, its director and main actor said.

"Deepwater Horizon", which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on Tuesday evening, focuses on the hours before and after the rig explosion on 20 April, 2010 that led to the worst offshore oil disaster in US history.

Directed by Peter Berg, the film stars Mark Wahlberg as Mike Williams, the real life worker who was one of the last people to escape from the burning rig.

"We wanted to preserve the authenticity of that experience. Eleven people died. It really happened. It's not just a piece of entertainment," Berg said in a red carpet interview ahead of the premiere.

"We tried to be as natural and not slick whenever we could."

The film received a standing ovation after its screening at the festival, with cheers when the spotlight shone on the real Williams, who attended the event with his wife and daughter.

Wahlberg said that because the cast was portraying real people, they felt additional pressure to get it right.

"We just made sure that we

maintained creative control and we stayed true to the actual events and honoring the 11 people that lost their lives," he said in an interview.

Berg said the movie partly originated from a segment on TV programme "60 Minutes" about the hours leading up to the disaster.

"It was about science, it was about human courage, it was about corporate greed. It to me just had all the elements of a really good story and it stuck with me," he said.

The film examines safety decisions made by BP Plc executives leading up to the disaster, highlighting the pressure workers were under to save money as drilling fell behind.

The British oil major in July estimated costs from the disaster will total about \$62 billion, as it sets aside billions for criminal and civil penalties and cleanup costs.

Kurt Russell, who portrays rig boss Jimmy Harrell, said when he first got involved with the project he remembered the spill, but did not realise the degree of suffering or courage displayed. "There were many acts of incredible heroism that night, miracles," he said. "I felt bad about the people that died. I felt they needed to be honoured."—Reuters



Actress Kate Hudson and Gina Rodriguez (L) arrive on the red carpet for the film 'Deepwater Horizon' during the 41st Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), in Toronto, Canada, on 13 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Designer Brandon Maxwell feels the love for Spring/Summer 2017

NEW YORK — Fashion designer Brandon Maxwell kicked off his Spring/Summer 2017 collection at New York's Russian Tea Room restaurant on Tuesday, with his "best friend" Lady Gaga sitting in the front row.

Reflecting on the past year, the designer and stylist said his family and friends were at the core of his latest collection.

His eponymous brand, which he founded just one year ago, is already in many high end department stores, and he has won the prestigious award for emerging talent from the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) last June. "It's been fantastic. It's also been a little scary," Maxwell told Reuters about the past year.

"I took a chance a year ago, and I hoped it would go okay. It's exceeded my expectations, but through that process I have really learned a lot about my friends and family, and the people in my life and one thing that was really big in this collection was just love...I really saw the people rally around me and support me and be there for me." Sitting alongside Lady Gaga, who he still styles, were his mother, grandparents and aunt.

The designer, who has also dressed US first lady Michelle Obama, as well as a host of other celebrities such as actresses Uma Thurman and Gwyneth Paltrow, stayed true to his vision of sleek, elegant looks with piped hem dresses, pleated trousers and deep cut halter tops.—Reuters

Justin Timberlake kicks off concert documentary at Toronto festival

Justin Timberlake.
PHOTO:
REUTERS



TORONTO — Pop star Justin Timberlake's new concert documentary was a joy to make because the lack of rigid plot or story structure makes shooting such productions the "purest form of film making," director Jonathan Demme said on Wednesday.

"Justin Timberlake and the Tennessee Kids," which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on Tuesday, was filmed at the final performances of the singer's world tour in Las Vegas in January 2015.

It begins with a pre-show band huddle and then launches within minutes into the

action-packed dance and musical spectacle from onstage.

"When we film music, to me that's the purest form of film making," Demme said in an interview in Toronto with Timberlake. "There's no script that has to be followed. The only narrative is the music itself." Demme, known for "Philadelphia," "The Silence of the Lambs," and concert films such as "Stop Making Sense" with Talking Heads, said being in the middle of the show makes even a non-musician such as himself feel part of the music.

"We're feeling it, so intense, and capturing it, it's like, 'We're in the band now!'" he said. The film, which will be released on Netflix on 12 October, is a culmination of Timberlake's 134 shows and 2 years on the road on a tour billed as one of the highest-grossing of the decade.—Reuters

Obama to give arts medals to Brooks, Freeman, Gordy next week

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will recognise the comedic talents of Mel Brooks, the Motown sound of Berry Gordy and the iconic voice of Morgan Freeman on 22 September when he hands out the National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal at the White House.

Obama has said the star-studded annual event has been one of his favourites during his time in office. The White House released the list of honorees on Wednesday, including a couple of people with ties to Obama. Freeman is involved with the Obama Foundation, which is raising money for Obama's presidential library in Chicago. Celebrity chef Jose Andres, who will receive a humanities medal, has worked



Producer Mel Brooks speaks at the American Film Institute's 43rd Life Achievement Award at the Dolby theatre in Hollywood, California, US, on 4 June 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

with the White House on immigration reform issues. Andres is being sued by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump for backing out of a deal to open a restaurant in his new Washington hotel after Trump made disparaging comments about Mexican immigrants. Also among the 24 honorees: musicians Wynton Marsalis and Santiago Jimenez; composer Philip Glass; actor Audra McDonald; and authors Sandra Cisneros, Ron Chernow, Rudolfo Anaya, and James McBride.—Reuters

New US black history museum may help dialogue on race

WASHINGTON — The new National Museum of African American History and Culture may help heal the persistent problem of US racism when it opens in 10 days, the head of the Smithsonian Institution said on Wednesday.

The \$540 million museum will be inaugurated by President Barack Obama as racial and cultural differences dominate the national scene, and is an ideal place for a dialogue about them, Smithsonian Secretary David Skorton said.

The bronze-coloured museum's showcase sits on Washington's National Mall, known as "America's Front Yard." It is the only US national museum devoted exclusively to black American life, history, and culture, the Smithsonian says.

"Opening now, at a time when social and political discord remind us that racism is not, unfortunately, a thing of the past, this



A woman passes a display depicting the Mexico Olympic protest during a media preview at the National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington, US, on 14 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

museum can, and I believe will, help us advance the

public conversation," Skorton told a news briefing on

the launch of the museum, the 19th in the Smithsonian

system.

Although workers were still putting finishing touches on the museum, Director Lonnie Bunch said it would be ready in time for the 24 September opening.

"It's a piece of cake," he said. A Smithsonian spokesman said 200,000 timed passes had been snapped up, with no openings available until November.

The 36,000 items in the collection range from trade goods used to buy slaves in Africa to a segregated railway car from the 1920s and a red Cadillac convertible belonging to rock 'n' roll pioneer Chuck Berry. Other displays include a slave cabin from South Carolina, a robe used by boxing great Muhammad Ali and the coffin of Emmett Till, whose 1955 murder in Mississippi helped galvanize the civil rights movement.

The building designed by Ghanaian-born archi-

tect David Adjaye is 60 per cent underground. Half of the cost of construction and installing exhibitions came from the federal government and half from the Smithsonian.

The museum's outer layer consists of 3,600 bronze-coloured aluminum panels formed in the shape of a three-tiered crown. The pattern of the exterior panels is designed to evoke ornate ironwork created by enslaved craftsmen in New Orleans.

Black Civil War veterans first proposed an African-American museum in 1915. Congress approved its creation in 2003, and construction of the 400,000-square-foot (37,200-square-metre) building took almost four years.

Three days of opening festivities will include concerts with such artists as Public Enemy, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Living Colour and Sweet Honey in the Rock.—Reuters

Endangered Hawaiian crow shows a knack for tool use

WASHINGTON — An endangered crow species from Hawaii that already is extinct in the wild displays remarkable proficiency in using small sticks and other objects to wrangle a meal, joining a small and elite group of animals that use tools.

Scientists said on Wednesday that in a series of experiments the crow, known by its indigenous Hawaiian name 'Alala, used objects as tools with dexterity to get at hard-to-reach meat, sometimes modifying them by shortening too-long sticks or making tools from raw plant material.

"Tool use is exceedingly rare in the animal kingdom," evolutionary ecologist Christian Rutz of the University of St Andrews in Scotland, who led the study published in the journal *Nature*, said in an email. The 'Alala (pronounced ah-la-lah) is the second crow species known to naturally use tools. The other is the New Caledonian crow on New Caledonia island in the South Pacific, which uses tools to extract insects and other prey from deadwood and vegetation.

New Caledonian and Hawaiian crows share a common feature: unusually

straight bills. The researchers wondered whether this trait might be an evolutionary adaptation for holding tools, akin to people's opposable thumbs.

Scientists are trying to save the 'Alala from extinction. The remaining 131 birds are kept in two facilities on the Big Island of Hawaii and the island of Maui. "A range of factors may have contributed to the species' decline in the late 20th century, including habitat change and disease," Rutz said.

Scientists have mounted a captive-breeding programme and later this year plan to release captive-reared birds on the Big Island, their former home in the wild, to try to re-establish a wild population.

Humans are the most adept tool users. But our closest genetic cousins, chimpanzees, use stick probes to extract ants, termites and honey. Capuchin monkeys and macaques use stones to hammer open hard-shelled nuts and shellfish, respectively. Egyptian vultures and black-breasted buzzards use stone tools to crack open bird eggs for food. Even some invertebrates, including digger wasps, hermit crabs and some spiders, use tools.—Reuters

Builders go back in time to construct castle the medieval way

TREIGNY — Blacksmiths, stonemasons and quarrymen are hard at work in a Burgundy forest building a 13th century-style castle using the most basic tools and materials, replicating the methods used hundreds of years ago to better understand them.

Forgoing all modern technology, workers use hammers to break stones and forge iron, operate wooden wheels to hoist their materials up to where they are needed, and rely on a quarry for stone, clay and sand as they build up a castle from scratch.

Construction on Guedelon Castle in central-eastern France began in 1997 after an archaeological survey

revealed a medieval fortress hidden inside the walls of nearby Chateau de Saint-Fargeau. Those behind the project hope to answer questions about medieval

construction and provide lessons on sustainable building. Around 40 people work at the site.

"The point of what we're going to do here is...

also help better restore ancient heritage," 44-year-old stonemason Clement Guerard, who has worked on the site since 1999, told Reuters.—Reuters



A view of the construction site of the Chateau de Guedelon near Treigny in the Burgundy region of France, on 13 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar International

(16-9-2016 07:00am ~ 17-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Travel To The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw)
07:45	Am	Excavation At Kawhmu
07:55	Am	Kid's Home
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Adventurous Young Photographer
08:46	Am	Civic Duty
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
09:51	Am	News
10:26	Am	Green Corner

10:35	Am	ABU Radio Song Festival
10:47	Am	Myanma Agarwood

(11:00Am ~ 03:00Pm) - Thursday 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
07:25	Pm	Shwe U Min Natural Cave In Kalaw
07:42	Pm	Buddha Image Built of Bamboo Strip
07:54	Pm	Young Artist: Maw Thu Da Nu
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques

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

Murray in 'one more push' as Britain eye Davis Cup final

LONDON — Andy Murray is ready for "one more big push" this week as he tries to steer defending champions Britain into the Davis Cup final.

Britain take on Argentina indoors in Glasgow and world number two Murray, who spearheaded the team's charge last year, will again be key to their hopes.

An exhausting European summer that began with him reaching the French Open final, and then saw him win a second Wimbledon title and retain his Olympic crown, caught up with the Scot when he lost to Kei Nishikori in the US Open quarter-finals.

But Murray is planning to be back at full throttle this weekend, starting with Friday's opener against former US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro in a repeat of their gruelling final at last month's Rio Games.

"I took a few days off after New York, then came here and I've been practising since Sunday. I get a little break after I'm finished here so one more big push this weekend," he said.

"We want to try to do it again this year if possible. It's going to be hard but I want to win all the events I can. I want to try and finish the year as strong as possible.

"It's been the best year of my career so far and I hope I can keep it going," added Murray who won 11 out of 11 rubbers for his country last year.

His clash with Del Potro will be pivotal with the Argentine, working his way back after multiple wrist surgery, a healthy 12-4 in Davis Cup singles.—Reuters



Aguero hat-trick helps Man City trounce Moenchengladbach

MANCHESTER — Manchester City's Sergio Aguero scored a hat-trick as coach Pep Guardiola maintained his 100 per cent record at the club with a commanding 4-0 victory against Borussia Moenchengladbach in their rearranged Champions League Group C opener on Wednesday.

City immediately took control of the game, which was postponed on Tuesday due to heavy rain, and Aguero gave them the lead in the eighth minute when he lifted a cross from Aleksandar Kolarov high into the Moenchengladbach net.

The Argentina striker doubled the home side's lead in the 28th minute when he sent Moenchengladbach goalkeeper Yann Sommer the wrong way from the penalty spot after Christoph Kramer had clumsily brought down Ilkay Gundogan, making his debut in place of David Silva who was rested as a precaution after developing a mi-

nor injury in training.

Aguero completed his hat-trick in the 77th minute from close range after being set clear by Raheem Sterling and Kelechi Iheanacho made it 4-0 in stoppage time.

The goals took Aguero's Champions League tally to 45, overtaking Paul Scholes and Luis Figo, and he has now scored nine times in five games for City this season.

His efforts ensured Guardiola made a successful start to his attempt to join the elite band of managers — including cross-city rival Jose Mourinho — who have led two clubs to Europe's most prestigious club honour.

The Spaniard, who reached the semi-finals in all three seasons with Bayern Munich after winning the competition with Barcelona, praised his team for the efficient manner in which they dealt with tricky opponents.

"I know this Borussia team

perfectly, I had never won against this coach before. I knew how difficult this would be for us," said the Spaniard.

"It was the most dominant performance of my time here, considering the importance of the game. All the players played at a high, high level."

Guardiola saw new signing Gundogan make a highly impressive debut.

The German, full of neat control and incisive passing, played for the first time since dislocating the knee that kept him out of Euro 2016.

Three minutes after his clinical early strike, Aguero unselfishly set up Gundogan 10 metres out but the former Borussia Dortmund midfielder was denied by an athletic save from Sommer.

After two minor alarms — when Pablo Zabaleta's over-hit back pass evaded Claudio Bravo and a sweet shot by Raffael was deflected by John Stones — City

Manchester City's Sergio Aguero celebrates scoring their first goal against Borussia Monchengladbach during UEFA Champions League Group Stage, Group C at Etihad Stadium, Manchester on 14 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

doubled their lead after Christoph Kramer clumsily brought down Gundogan just inside the box.

Aguero coolly side-footed the penalty home and the only negative of a commanding first-half performance was that the striker required lengthy treatment on his left knee.

He hobbled off at half time but reappeared for the second half and, along with Nicolas Otamendi and especially Sterling, threatened Sommer's goal again.

Sterling's fine reverse pass set Aguero clear on goal in the 77th minute and he put the ball through Sommer's legs to complete his hat-trick before Iheanacho converted after superb work by substitute Leroy Sane.

City next face Celtic in Glasgow on 28 September while Moenchengladbach host Barcelona, who dismantled the Scottish side 7-0 on Tuesday.—Reuters

Japan has best day of Rio 2016 Games but still no gold



Japan's Keiichi Kimura competes during the final of men's 100-metre butterfly S11 class for visually impaired swimmers at the Rio de Janeiro Paralympics on 14 September 2016. Kimura won silver, his third medal of the Games. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

RIO DE JANEIRO — Japan won five medals on Wednesday at the Rio 2016 Paralympics, with three silver and two bronze added to its tally, but the search for gold continues with just four days of competition remaining.

Swimmer Keiichi Kimura confirmed himself as Japan's star of the 2016 Paralympics, winning his third medal of the Games and second silver when he finished second in the men's S11 100-metre butterfly, 0.19 seconds behind Spanish winner Israel Oliver.

"I was counting on the gold, it was really unfortunate. It was

really disappointing. Maybe I'll regret this until I die," said Kimura, a 26-year-old who suffers from a visual impairment.

"I realised that I was really close to the others because my hand touched the hand of the other swimmer (next to me)."

Kimura is the only Japanese athlete to win more than one medal at the Rio 2016 Games, and he has two more chances to win that elusive gold when he lines up in the men's 200m SM11 individual medley and S11 100m freestyle in the next two days.

Japan failed to win any cy-

cling medals at the recent Olympic Games, but on Wednesday the country's Paralympians managed to win two, both in road time trial events.

Masaki Fujita won a Paralympic medal at his third consecutive Games, the Rio silver taking his overall tally to two silver and two bronze medals, when he finished second in the men's C3 time trial. The 31-year-old who lives in Tsuchiura, Ibaraki Prefecture, crossed the line approximately one minute behind the gold medalist, Eoghan Clifford from Ireland.—Kyodo News