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HANDING OVER THE GAVEL

37th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly wraps up

THE 37th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly concluded yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw with the ceremonial handing over of the mallet, the symbol of the Assembly chairman and AIPA banner by Manh Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, to the 38th host country's deputy speaker of the Philippines Lower House Mr Eric Singson.

In his closing address at the ceremony, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and chairman of the 37th AIPA, expressed his hope for peace and stability in the region and sustainable progress under the leadership of the Philippines.

"It is an honourable deed to hand over the duties of the chairman to the Philippine Parliament, the oldest democracy in the region," said the Speaker.

The assembly made decisions, numbering 30 or so, and many matters were discussed, including cyber-security in the region, prevention against the Zika virus, creation of job opportunities, better working environments, fortification of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and implementation of projects in the socio-security declaration of ASEAN for the development of business and enterprises in the region.

Amendments over rules and regulations of the Women Parliamentarians Organization (draft) were discussed and decided unanimously, said Mahn Win Khaing Than.

"The old one was enacted 18 years ago, hence it needs to be amended. And the Assembly did



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than hands over chairmanship of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly to deputy speaker of the Philippines Lower House Mr Eric Singson. PHOTO: MNA

record marvelous performances of respective chairpersons of joint-communique committee, the Committee of Women Parliamentarians and the committee for political, economic and social affairs, he added.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing

Than also urged AIPA to closely cooperate with international parliaments and other aligned organisations to overcome challenges to be encountered on the way to 2025. "In order to be a developed ASEAN community, implementation of decisions made by the

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly should be emphasised," said the Speaker.

It was learnt that 38th General Assembly of AIPA would be held in September, 2017, in Manila, the Philippines, to be attended by Georgia and Ukraine as observers.

Simultaneously, the 2nd general meeting of the 37th AIPA was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. Decisions made by political, economic and social committees and WAIPA were read out and approved. — Myanmar News Agency

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BFM's warm clothes reach IDPs in northern Shan State



A person from BFM presents warm clothes to ethnic people in Namtu. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

WARM clothes donated by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation reached internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Shan State yesterday.

Responsible personnel of the foundation presented more than 600 IDPs shelter at a monastery and a temple in Namtu.

As part of efforts to brace for La Nina in the upcoming winter, the BFM has imported and distributed 200,000 articles of warm clothing to many Myanmar people, including internally displaced persons who are expected to experience very cold weather in the coming winter.

On 1 October, the philanthropic foundation went to IDP camps in Namkham, Kutkai, Namtu and Muse townships in Shan State (north) and presented warm clothes to people at

IDP camps and to students totaling 7,652.

The foundation presented 3,000 pieces of imported warm clothes and 10,080 packs of dried instant noodles to IDPs in Myaing Gyi Ngu and Maethawaw in Kayin State, on 17 September.

The foundation donated over 36,500 articles of warm clothing through the Mandalay Region Government on 28 August to the people in areas in Mandalay Region who are also expected to experience very cold weather.

Meanwhile, the BFM's 3,500 pieces of warm clothing were given to the Naga ethnic people in Lahe, Naga Self-Administrative Zone in mid-August.

The foundation is planning to send warm clothing to the IDPs in Shan State and Kachin State and aged people in Sagaing Region soon.—*Thiha Tun*

Myanmar Build & Décor Expo to come this month

BUILDING materials, interior design, furniture, and decor in the latest market trends will be exhibited at the Myanmar Build & Décor Expo in Yangon this month, according to organisers.

The new event is scheduled to take place from 6 to 8 October at Myanmar Event Park, with plans to showcase a wide range of product and services of the industry such as landscaping, swimming pool systems, ventilation, piping, tiles, stones, concrete materials and electrical systems.

The trade expo will be jointly organised by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Associ-

ation, Association of Myanmar Interior Designers, Myanmar Engineering Society and the Associates of Government Technical Institute Myanmar.

More than 200 international companies from Germany, Italy, Japan, Viet Nam, Korea, Singapore, China, Malaysia and other countries will exhibit their products and services during the three-day event.

Organisers say that it is a diamond opportunity to share the industry's knowledge and latest information with experts, inviting architects, builders, landscapers, electricians, contractors, hotel and resort owners, interior designers, property developers, traders, importers and exporters.—*Moe Moe*

Retaining walls to prevent erosion to be built in Lat Pan Kyun village, Taungup

ACCORDING to U Thant Sin Maung, the Union Minister of the Ministry of Transport and Communication, retaining walls to prevent erosion will be built quickly, if funds are available, within the 2017-18 budget year in Lat Pan Kyun village, Taungup township, Rakhine State.

"It is really essential to conduct construction on the supporting or retaining walls for erosion within Ywar Oo Monastery, Lat Pan Kyun village." U Thant Sin

Maung said. "The retaining walls should be built strongly so as not to cause erosion ever again", he added.

The department of water resources and river development, Rakhine State office, is trying to begin construction of a 600-foot stone dyke to prevent erosion. The budget for this process, Ks525.42 billion, is being helped by adding spare funds to local government's 2015-2016 budget year and 2016-2017 budget year. But the budget

fund is not allowed for this process as there are many projects as the priority levels depend on allowance funds' limitation.

"The erosions are happening continuously within the monastery," said Daw Ni Ni Myint, the representative of Pyithu Hluttaw, Taungup Township. "Almost all villagers may have to move to safer places within the coming years". There are about 300 houses in Lat Pan village, Taungup township. —*Wai Phyo (MMK)*

Taunggyi pine forest turned into park for locals since last week

THE Taung Gyi Pine forest, located in Eain Daw Street, Thitaw ward, Taunggyi, has been transformed into a public park where locals can recreate, starting from last week.

"This programme is being carried out by a local environmental preservation organisation named Shin Than Yar gabar myae green. The members are

clearing bushes, rubbish, plants and cutting trees within the pine forest," said a representative of the organisation.

Authorities concerned have placed 13 stone benches within the park and will also beautify it with electrical items and flowers. A playground, toilets and rubbish bins will be including in that process.

According to the representative of Shin Than Yar gabar myae green, they donated K2,000,000 towards the renovation cost of Eain Daw Pine Forest. The name of the park has yet to be decided.

The Shan Hluttaw had arranged to build a new Hluttaw in the Eain daw Pine forest but backed down when locals reacted angrily. —*Lynn Htet*

Yangon police record almost 700 drug cases this year

AS PART OF its rule of law programme to reduce drug-related crimes and the trade of opium, yaba pills and other illegal substances, police in the Yangon Region exposed about 700 drug cases over the past eight months of this year, according to police.

Authorities destroyed various kinds of illegal stimulants

worth over K23 billion collected from nearly 1,000 traffickers, including 893 men and over 100 women, all of whom have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Police say that they have worked to educate the general public and prevent the trading of

opium and sex-stimulation drugs through various means.

Nearly 1,000 cases relating to the production and distribution of illegal drugs occurred in Sagaing Region this year. The number has increased by over 100 cases compared with last year's total, according to Sagaing Region police.—*Wunna*

150 athletes participate in 39th traditional cane-ball contest

THE 39th MYANMAR traditional cane-ball competition is being held at the 40,000-seat Bogyoke Aung San Stadium in Yangon starting on 1 October.

Around 150 athletes from states and regions across Myanmar — from the capital Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Mon, Kayin, Shan and Kachin states — are taking part in the four-day sports event organised by the Myanmar Chinlone Federation and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The contest is aimed at promoting the role of traditional sports among the public, with the ministry putting forth a concerted effort to resurrect the country's traditional sports through effective plans, Dr Thet Khaing Win, permanent secretary of the ministry, said.



A team participating in 39th traditional cane-ball contest. PHOTO: TIN SOE (MMAL)

Chinlone is a combination of sport and dance. Players use six points of contact with the ball: the top of the toes, the inner and outer sides of the foot, the sole,

the heel, and the knee. It was introduced by Myanmar at the 27th Southeast Asian Games hosted in Nay Pyi Taw in 2013.—*Tin Soe (MMAL)*

Myanmar will deal with challenges, achieve peace and tranquility in democratic ways

MYANMAR will deal with challenges from inside and outside the country, as well as achieve peace and tranquility in compliance with democratic practices, said MP U Zaw Thein, Chairman of the International Relations Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw, at the press conference on 37th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

There was no discussion concerning with the South China Sea issue during the assembly, according to the press



MPs reply to questions raised by journalists at the press conference. PHOTO: MNA

conference. The assembly included talks about the need for maritime security in the region, but participants in the discussion excluded it in the decisions, assuming that it was not necessary.

On the question of migrant

workers in foreign countries, there were discussions about migrant workers from South-East Asian nations, including Myanmar. The assembly reached agreements that the organisation is responsible for protecting the employees and their

families from being harmed and anyone performing similar work is entitled to similar wages.

It was also decided to enact the internationally accepted agreements in member countries.

In replying to a question con-

cerning Myanmar parliament's legislative process, Mr Issara Sunthornwat said that he believed fully in its process and is greatly satisfied with parliamentarians' efforts in establishing policy. — Myanmar News Agency

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker hosts dinner to delegates of Inter-Parliamentary Assembly



The two Hluttaw speakers presenting gifts to artistes. PHOTO: MNA

CHAIRMAN of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and Speaker of the Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than hosted a dinner in honour of the delegates to the assembly and Speaker of the Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw Building.

It was attended by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and leaders of the delegations.

Mahn Win Khaing Than delivered an address at the dinner and enjoyed dinner with the delegates.

Artistes of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religions Affairs and Culture entertained guests with music and dance.

The delegations from ASEAN countries also entertained the dignitaries with their cultural performance respectively. Following the performance, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint presented a flower basket to the artistes of the Fine Arts Department. — Myanmar News Agency

Delegates to Inter-Parliamentary Assembly visit national museum



Delegates to Inter-Parliamentary Assembly visiting the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

DELEGATES to the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, including the general secretary of the IPU, visited the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 October.

They viewed exhibitions of the prehistoric age, the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age of Myanmar, the Pyu Era and the Bagan Era. In the afternoon, they went sightseeing to Mount Pleasant. — Myanmar News Agency

Children's literature festival to be held in November

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint sought advice for organising a children's literature festival in Myanmar at a meeting in Yangon today.

At the meeting, the union minister said that the government intended to organise a children's literature festival on a grand scale. Ministry officials then explained the arrangements for the events and participants took part in the

discussion that followed. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the union minister.

The festival will take place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (II) in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 November and will feature story-telling, colouring and paper-folding contests, book and cartoon exhibitions and other events. — Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint chairs the meeting on organizing a children's literature festival. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar hosts Climate Outlook Forum, Climate Services User Forum for Agriculture

THE ninth South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF 9) was held in conjunction with Climate Services User Forum for Agriculture (CSUF-Ag2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.

RIMES expert Dr Govindarajulu Srinivasan and Head of World Climate Application and Services Division (WCAS) of WMO Dr. Rupa Kumar Kolli also spoke on the occasion.

The SASCOF-9 and CSUF-Ag2 were jointly organized by

the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Transport and Communications and Thailand-based Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System under the sponsorship of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The forums were aimed at holding discussions on seasonal forecasts and releasing climate change projections and seasonal climate outlooks which are very important for farmers in the agriculture sector and for water resource users. — Myanmar News Agency



Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung presenting prize to a Police officer.

PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MDY)

52nd Myanmar Police Force Day held in Mandalay

A CEREMONY to mark the 52nd Myanmar Police Force Day was held in the hall of Mandalay Region Police Force headquarters on 1 October.

At the ceremony, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung made the opening speech followed by an address by Police Colonel Han Tun from Mandalay Region.

Dr. Zaw Myint Maung pre-

sented awards to the outstanding children of police officers who passed with distinctions the 2016 matriculation examination. Colonel Myoe Min Aung, the Minister for Security and Border Affairs, presented prizes to outstanding police member athletes. The commander of the Mandalay Region Police Force gave certificates to outstanding personnel.

Present at the ceremony were

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Mandalay Mayor U Ye Lwin and members of Mandalay Region Government, No 3 Police Security Force Commander Police Brigadier General Myint Toe, the commander of the Mandalay Region Police Force, the commanders of district and township police Forces and retired police members.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

52nd Myanmar Police Force Day and Prize presentation ceremony held in Kyaukme town, Shan State (North)

A CEREMONY to mark the 52nd Myanmar Police Force at the MinYeKyawswar hall of the District Police Force was held in Kyaukme Township, Shan State (North) yesterday.

At the opening ceremony, the Kyaukme District Administrator made a speech, and District Police Force Commander Police Lt. Col. Khin Maung Nyunt read out a message from the Police Chief.

The District Administrator presented outstanding awards to Police Lieutenant Aung Chit Su and Police Warrant Officer Thar Ei. Lt. Col. Aung Naing Htoo of No 1 Mobile Operations Command presented prize to the

representatives of Nawngkhio and Hsipaw Townships which mostly implemented measures in combatting drug trafficking and timber trading.

The District Police Force Commander gave prizes to the Ward administrators and members of civil society organisations who co-operated with the police force in police procedures and two outstanding police members.

Police officers gave outstanding awards to the police members and presented prizes to the outstanding children of Police members who passed the matriculation examination for 2016 with flying colours.—*Myint Aung (Kyaukme—IPRD)*



Police Commander presenting prize to an outstanding Police Lieutenant. PHOTO: THEIN TUN AUNG

First Private Bank introduces new mobile service



Dr. Sein Maung explaining my kyat mobile banking service. PHOTO: SHEW WIN (PYAY)

THE First Private Bank Limited introduced its new mobile banking service "my kyat" to shareholders and entrepreneurs in Pyay town, Bago Region being from 29th September.

Dr. Sein Maung, Chairman of First Private Bank Limited, elaborated my kyat services which is the bank's new mobile banking service to the shareholders and the

entrepreneurs in AyeyarOo hall on the Kannar street in Pyay town.

Mykyat is a monetary service provided by the legal representatives of the bank to customers in the areas without banking system.

Mykyat aslo provides monetary services in the areas where there are no branches of bank and/or ATM machines.

Mykyat, he said, is believed to

be able to attract the customers and reduce service charges with bank accounts being not needed.

It will also enable remittance transaction with the use of mobile phones. He emphasized that Mykyat can be used by everybody regardless of having a mobile bank account or not, and with an ordinary handset or smart phone handset.—*Shew Win (Pyay)*

Eel price on the rise in domestic market

THE PRICE of eel, one of the country's export items, has risen in the local market due to various reasons, according to merchants.

The price of the freshwater fish increased to K8,000 (US\$ 6.38) per viss on 14 September from K5,000 (\$3.98) after September 23.

The majority of residents in Kyaukse and nearby regions

generate income mainly from eel trading. They catch the fish with bamboo bottles along irrigational channels. One or two eels weighing between 25 and 50 ticks can be captured in a bottle.

Eel fishermen normally use shrimp and earthworms as bait and can catch from two to four visses of the freshwater fish a day.

China has been a major buy-

er of Myanmar eel since 1993. Eel has been exported to the world's most populous country through the border gates such as Muse, the biggest trading point between Myanmar and China, said local producers. Naturally captured eel is the only type exported because there is currently no technical expertise to breed eels successfully on commercial farms.—*Kyi Kyi*

Crime NEWS

Woman nabbed after taking jewelry

A WOMAN who allegedly stole gold jewelry from a shop in Hpa-an on 1st October was nabbed by local people a short time later, according to a police source.

Ma Ni Ni Win, also known as Lone Lone, 24, asked Daw Htay Htay Thu, the owner of the jewelry shop in Hpa-an, to show her jewelry. After agreeing to buy the jewelry, Ma Ni Ni Win then allegedly took two items and ran away when the owner was preparing for the payment.

The owner shouted for help and the passersby apprehended the alleged thief.

Action has been taken against her by the Hpa-an Myoma Police Station.—*Police*



Ni Ni Win (alias) Lone Lone. PHOTO: POLICE

Bus hits dump truck on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

A PASSENGER bus of the Shwe Man Yadana Express Line crashed into the back of a dump truck carrying rocks in the Bawni Section of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway early yesterday morning. There were no injuries.

The bus driver was said to be trying to overtake the truck, but lost control of the vehicle

and hit the back of the truck, forcing the latter to stop by the roadside. The bus stopped on the road divider.

The bus was carrying 33 passengers. Both vehicles sustained damage.

The police have charged both drivers for overdriving.—*MNA*

LOCAL Business

Myanmar garment manufacturers request tax exemption in FOB system

MYANMAR garment entrepreneurs have requested the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Planning and Finance to grant a tax exemption in the Free-on-Board (FOB) system to maintain Myanmar's garment industry for the long term, it is learnt from the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association.

Myanmar garment factories are currently operating under Cut, Make and Pack (CMP) system. Six to 15 per cent of taxes are levied on the export of garments processed under FOB system if the clothing is exported under its own brand.

To enhance the garment sector, manufacturers are being asked to switch from the CMP system to FOB.

The garment enterprises have not improved because of the requirements in procedures. Additionally, the citizen-owned garment factories are dealing with the problem that their factories could be shut down over the next five years.

Myanmar's garment market is strongly influenced by Japan, Europe, South Korea, America and China under the CMP system.

The garment industry earned US\$1.65 billion in 2015 and the income from garment factories are expected to reach US\$2.1 billion by the end of 2016.

There are a total of 900 locally operated garment factories with a labour force of about 350,000.—200

Value of trade through Muse border trade camp on the decline

The value of trade through the Muse border trade camp was on the decline as of the end of September, it is learnt from the statistics of Trade Department.

The value of trade via Muse as of 23rd September in this fiscal year amounted to US\$2,214.732 million, whereas in the similar period of last fiscal year the figure was US\$2,447.717 million, a slump of over US\$232 million. The export volume also dropped

when compared to the previous fiscal year.

The Muse border trade camp handles the largest amount of trade among border towns with over US\$2 billion in value annually.

Agricultural products, livestock, minerals, forestry products and industrial finished products are exported from Myanmar. Personal goods, industrial raw materials and capital goods are imported into

Myanmar from neighbouring countries.

The Myanmar export sector is dependent on mineral resources, natural gas, teak, agricultural and fisheries products.

Myanmar has entered into an agreement with the neighbouring countries of India, Thailand, China and Bangladesh to enhance border trade.

The value of trade through Myanmar's 15 border trade camps as of

23rd September totaled US\$3,239.860 million. The 15 border trade camps are Muse, Lweje, Kan Pike Tee, Chin Shwe Haw, Tamu, Reed, Myawady, Tachilek, Keng Tung, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maw Taung, Sittwe and Maung Taw.

The government has plans to negotiate with the countries concerned to open more border trade camps in order to increase border trade.—Mon Mon

Rubber latex factory to be opened in October in Palaw Township

A rubber latex purifying factory will be launched at the end of October in Boat Chaung village, Palaw Township, Meyik District, Taninthayi Region, it is learnt.

The factory is currently experimentally operational with the assistance of foreign experts and local staff. Over US\$5 million has been

invested in this venture, the first rubber latex purifying factory in Taninthayi Region. The factory will eventually produce purified rubber latex and RSS-1 rubber sheets.

Myanmar's ethnic-owned Vantage Company Limited and Thai Tex Company jointly established this factory, which is expect-

ed to produce 500 tonnes of finished rubber products per month if there are sufficient raw materials, said U Maung Myint, a rubber businessman.

Vantage Company Limited has operated rubber plantations in Boat Chaung village since 1996. The company exports RSS-1 rubber to the domestic mar-

ket and began exporting to foreign markets in 2013.

The purified rubber manufactured from this factory is expected to be of high quality and to command the prevailing world market price. In addition to various gloves used in industry, laboratories and operation rooms, the factory will also produce car tyres.—200

Demand for sesame seeds could rise with lower incidences of pesticide residue

The sesame seed market will rebound only if pesticide residue is virtually undetectable. The export of black sesame seeds is expected to reach 10,000 tonnes during this fiscal year of 2016-2017, it is learnt from Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

China purchases most of Myanmar's sesame seeds, followed by Japan and South Korea. Currently, the demand is on the decline

due to the recent discovery of pesticide residue in the seeds. Over 90,000 tonnes of various types of sesame seeds were exported in 2103-2014 fiscal year.

The sesame seeds are exported through normal trade to Japan and China (Taipei) through the Muse border trade camp, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The export of sesame seeds in the previous fiscal year declined due to floods. During this fiscal year,

pesticide residue caused a slump, it is learnt from the local sesame seeds merchants.

The price of black sesame (bud) per 45-viss bag ranges from Ks140,000 to Ks145,000, while that of black sesame seeds are from Ks125,000 to Ks136,000. A bag of brown sesame costs from Ks67,000 to Ks79,000 while a bag of white sesame seeds sell for Ks87,000 to 93,000, it is learnt from the merchants of Mandalay department.—200

Taninthayi government to confiscate over 300,000 acres of land

TANINTHAYI region government will confiscate over 300,000 acres of fallow and virgin land, it is learnt.

The Regional government have scrutinised and found 374,743.86 acres of land uncultivated. The forestry department has already confiscated 364,870.63 acres out of 374,743.86 acres of unused land. The regional government will receive the land confiscated by the forestry department, said U Myint Maung, Minister of Regional Resources and Environmental Conser-

vation on 27 September at the Regional Hluttaw meeting.

"Our regional government is planning to confiscate fallow and virgin land in order to allow local people to cultivate this land on a manageable scale, to provide loans to the private companies for implementation of agriculture projects and to create more job opportunities for the locals", said U Myint Maung.

The regional government granted a total of 51,474.15 acres of land to

cultivate palm oil, rubber, perennial crops and hardwood plants from 2009 to 2016. But the regional government found only 140,030.29 acres of land have been planted while 374,743.86 acres remained uncultivated.

The regional government will carry out onsite visits and if they find unused land, they will submit those cases to the Ministry of Resources and Environmental Conservation (Nay Pyi Taw).—Myitmakha News Agency

"Minga la ba, Myanmar!"

India's largest bank opens its first branch in Yangon, Myanmar

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Southern Philippines rebels free three Indonesian hostages

MANILA — Abu Sayyaf rebels linked to Islamic State freed three more Indonesian captives on Sunday after a three-month ordeal, the Philippine government said, taking the number of hostages released to nine in the past two weeks.

They were handed over in Sulu to Nur Misuari, founder of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a Muslim rebel group that has signed a peace deal with the government. It was not clear whether a ransom was paid.

During the past two weeks Abu Sayyaf, an Islamist group that has made vast sums of money from the kidnap business, had

freed three Indonesians, two Filipinos and a Norwegian man snatched from a resort last year alongside two Canadians who were later beheaded.

The releases come as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) steps up offensives to flush out the rebels from their island strongholds of Sulu and Basilan.

President Rodrigo Duterte has made destruction of the Abu Sayyaf the top security priority of the military, and has ruled out including it in a nationwide peace process because of its brutality and criminal activities.

"These recent breakthroughs were a convergence of efforts that

President Duterte initiated, getting the cooperation of the MNLF, the local governments, the stakeholders and the AFP through their ongoing military operations in the area," Jesus Dureza, Duterte's peace negotiator, said in a statement.

Though originally formed with secessionist goals, Abu Sayyaf, which means "bearer of the sword", is seen by security experts more as a group of bandits than separatists.

The group, which has entrenched its network in the impoverished communities of the deep south, is still holding five Malaysians, four Filipinos, two Indonesians and one Netherlands national.—Reuters

Thailand's king recovering after respiratory infection: palace

BANGKOK — Thailand's 88-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest reigning monarch, is recovering after a respiratory infection, the palace said in a statement on Saturday.

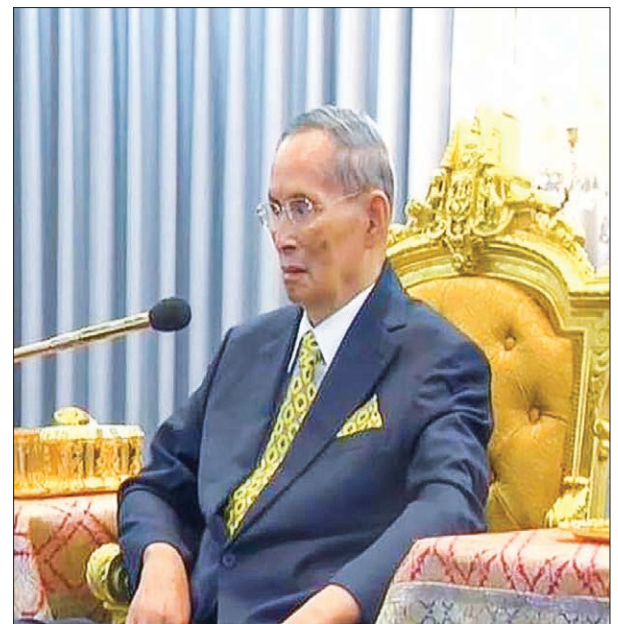
The king has no fever and is breathing normally after doctors administered antibiotics to treat an inflammation of his left lung on 29 September, it said.

A team of physicians would continue to give the king renal therapy and monitor his condition closely, it added.

Saturday's statement comes after four health updates in September.

The king has been treated for various ailments during a year-long hospitalisation in the Thai capital.

King Bhumibol is deeply revered in Thailand where he is accorded semi-divine status. Many Thais see him



Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej is seen attending a ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand on 14 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

as a pillar of stability in a country subject to bouts of political instability and which has been ruled by a military junta since 2014. The king was last seen in public on 11 January.—Reuters

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Park says North Koreans fleeing their country are welcome in South

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Saturday criticized North Korea's regime for trampling on the human rights of its citizens and said she wants people fleeing the North to come to "the free soil of South Korea anytime."

"The universal values of freedom, democracy, human rights and welfare are the precious rights you (North Koreans) should also enjoy," she said in a speech delivered at the Gyeryongdae military headquarters in South Chungcheong Province to mark the country's Armed Forces Day.

The president said that as the North seeks to advance its nuclear weapons capabilities, it will not renounce its nuclear tests and missile provocations. Therefore, pressure would continue to be applied to Pyongyang, she said.

Having judged the possibility of North Korea turning away from the path of provocation to be low, Park's comments indicate that Seoul is shifting its emphasis toward inducing the collapse of the North's regime.

Her call to people fleeing the country is apparently part of psychological warfare aimed at destabiliz-



South Korean President Park Geun-hye gives a speech during a ceremony at the Gyeryongdae military headquarters in South Chungcheong Province to mark the country's Armed Forces Day on 1 October 2016. In the speech, Park criticised North Korea's regime for trampling on the human rights of its citizens and said she wants people fleeing the North to come to "the free soil of South Korea anytime." PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ing the North from within.

She also instructed that preparations be made envisaging a sudden turn of events in the North such as due to a coup. "We must make all possible preparations so as to be able to systematically cope with a chance occurrence that could come about in the North," said the command-

er in chief.

Since a speech she gave in August, Park has stressed the stance of not viewing North Koreans as enemies while criticizing the country's leader Kim Jong Un.

In Saturday's speech she said that South Korea is well aware of the gruesome realities faced by the

North's soldiers and citizens.

The president stressed that her government would do its best to keep North Korean citizens informed of the truth and ensure their rights are protected in order to put a stop to the military provocations and the regime's rights abuses.—Kyodo News

Abe aims to spur growth, longevity with new technology



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivers a speech at the Science and Technology in Society forum in Kyoto, on 2 October 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Sunday the Japanese government will promote advanced technology as the key to economic growth and a society in which people live long lives.

"Science and technology play even more key roles in tackling challenges like aging," Abe said in a speech in English at the Science and Technology in Society forum in Kyoto. "Its implications (are) of course positive."

The premier said issues long seen as difficult can be solved by combining the latest technologies, such as robots and big data.

New ideas and innovations can be created by further promoting women's empowerment, he said.

Abe attended the forum for the fourth consecutive year. —Kyodo News

Landslide buries buildings in NW China, at least one injured

LANZHOU — At least one person was injured when a landslide buried two buildings in northwest China's Gansu Province, said local government on Sunday.

The landslide occurred at 7:30 am Sunday, destroying two residential houses in Wudu District, Longnan City, said the district government.

Rescuers have pulled a woman from the debris and sent her to hospital.

Authorities confirmed no one was living in one of the buildings. The exact number of people in the other building, which was rented, is still unclear.

A rescue operation is underway. —Xinhua

Indians disclose \$10 billion in hidden wealth in tax evasion amnesty

NEW DELHI — A government amnesty targeting tax evasion in India has prompted tens of thousands of suspected tax dodgers to disclose nearly \$10 billion in undeclared income, the finance minister said on Saturday.

The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent out about 700,000 notices earlier this year to suspected evaders to coax them to declare hidden income and assets, known as "black money" in India, promising they would not be pursued by authorities if they came clean and paid a penalty.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told reporters the four-month scheme that closed on Friday had led to 64,275 declarations, resulting in a provisional 652.5 billion rupees (\$9.8 billion) in undisclosed wealth.

Jaitley added the final figure

would likely be higher.

Factoring in taxes owed and penalties of 45 per cent, the government could raise more than 293.6 billion rupees (\$4.41 billion) from the declared income, according to Reuters calculations.

There was no public target for the initiative, but government officials had an internal goal to raise about \$7.5 billion in back taxes.

During the 2014 elections, Modi pledged to bring back billions of dollars in "black money" if elected. Modi, in a tweet, called the outcome of the scheme "successful" and said it was "a great contribution towards transparency and growth of the economy."

In a country of 1.3 billion, fewer than 18,000 people declared annual income of 10 million rupees or more in 2012/13, the latest figures show. —Reuters

Philippine president rejects Hitler label, says it didn't originate from him — spokesman

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte should not be compared to Adolf Hitler, and his reference to the Holocaust was an "oblique deflection" of claims he is a mass murderer, his spokesman said on Saturday, as anger smouldered over his incendiary remarks.

Duterte's comments on Friday that he wished to kill millions of drug dealers as part of his anti-narcotics war, and those he made about the deaths of millions of Jews, were "two entirely different things", Ernesto Abella said in one of two statements, which stopped short of an apology.

"The president's reference to the slaughter was an oblique deflection of the way he has been pictured as a mass murderer, a Hitler, a label he rejects," Abella said.

"He likewise draws an oblique conclusion, that while the Holocaust was an attempt to exterminate the future generations of Jews, the so-called 'extra-judicial killings', wrongly attributed to him, will nevertheless result in the salvation of the next generation of Filipinos."

The maverick 71-year-old



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while delivering a speech before female police officers during a gathering in Davao city, Philippines, on 30 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

president appeared to liken himself on Friday to the Nazi leader, and said he would "be happy to slaughter" three million Filipino drug users and peddlers, adding that he had been portrayed by critics as "a cousin of Hitler".

"If Germany had Hitler, the Philippines would have ...," he said, pausing and pointing to himself.

More than 3,100 people

have been killed since "Duterte Harry", as he has been dubbed, took office on 30 June and kicked off a drugs war that was the bedrock of his election campaign.

Most of those killed were drug users and dealers, with some deaths during shootouts in police operations and others the work of vigilantes, police say. —Reuters

Australia says MH17 missile suspects might be confirmed by year-end

SYDNEY — Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said on Sunday the names of those responsible for shooting down Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over Ukraine in 2014 might be confirmed by the end of the year.

"By the end of the year, maybe early next year, the list of those that we believe should be held accountable will be confirmed and then there must be a prosecution,"

Bishop said in an interview with Australian state broadcaster ABC.

International investigators said on Wednesday the passenger plane was downed by a Russian-made missile fired from a pro-Russian rebel village in eastern Ukraine.

The findings counter Moscow's suggestion that the flight, en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur in July 2014,

was brought down by Ukraine's military rather than the separatists. All 298 people on board, including 28 Australians, were killed.

Bishop said the culprits could face an international tribunal, similar to the one used to prosecute those responsible for the 1988 bombing of a PanAm flight over Lockerbie, Scotland. —Reuters



A pro-Russian separatist stands at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, near the village of Hrabove (Grabovo) in Donetsk region, Ukraine, on 18 July 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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Rules-based vs principles-based accounting

Khin Maung Aye

Firms and companies are almost always required to prepare financial statements in compliance with the standards set by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), the standards of which are generally principles-based. These days are witnessing a lot of debates over whether principles-based accounting is more efficient than the popular rules-based accounting, particularly in responding to accounting scandals like Enron and WorldCom.

In fact, rules-based accounting is fundamentally a list of detailed regulations for accountants to follow in preparation of financial statements.

Many accountants are in favour of the prospect of employing the rules-based standards because they can be, in the absence of rules, brought to the court of law should their judgment of the financial statements be incorrect. When there are strict rules to abide by, the possibility of being sued is reduced. Establishment of a set of rules can promote accuracy, thereby reducing ambiguity and/or equivocality, which can cause aggressive reporting decisions by management. On the other hand, the complexity of rules can create undesirable confusions in the preparation of financial statements.

As for principles-based ac-

counting, like generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), a simple set of key objectives are established to ensure good reporting upon the part of the accountants. GAAP is employed by the accountants on a conceptual basis. Common examples are provided as guidance and the objectives are explained. Despite certain rules being unavoidable, the guidelines or rules are not meant to be applied to all situations. The basic advantage of principles-based accounting is that its broad guidelines can be practical for a variety of circumstances. Precise requirements can sometimes force managers to manipulate the statements to fit

what is compulsory. The problem with principles-based guidelines is that lack of guidelines can yield unreliable and inconsistent information, which makes it difficult to compare one organization to another.

This being so, when contemplating which accounting method is better, it must be made sure that the information provided in the financial statements is relevant, reliable and comparable across reporting periods and entities. Increased discussion has pushed accountants towards principles-based accounting, but it is recognised that the method needs to be modified to make it more effective and efficient.

The Implications of the new MAC Law for Private Business Enterprises and management's and the auditor's responsibilities in regard to the financial statements

Tin Shein
CEO, MICPA

THE new Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC) Law was enacted by Pyithuhluttaw on 5 June, 2015. It empowers the MAC, which was formed under that law, to regulate the accounting profession in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and also recognizes the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) as the National Accountancy Body that has the right to develop close relationships with the professional accounting bodies in the ASEAN countries and other international accounting bodies, such as ACCA, ICAEW, CIMA, etc. Thus MICPA has been enabled to exchange with them knowledge of the latest developments in the fields of financial and cost accounting, financial management, auditing and related subjects.

Though the new MAC Law has long been passed by Pyithuhluttaw and published in the newspapers, it does not seem that management personnel and chief financial officers (CFOs) of the majority of the business enterprises, both local and foreign, have studied its provisions that have direct bearing on them, in so far as the maintenance of proper accounts, the preparation of their financial statements and the running of their operations are concerned.

So the aim of this article is to bring to their notice the pertinent Sections of the new MAC Law

they have the obligation to comply with without fail.

The objectives of the MAC Law are as follows:--

(a) to increase qualified professional accountants and skilled accountants to contribute to the development of national economy;

(b) to work for the development of modern accounting;

(c) to raise the ethical integrity of Practicing Accountants and to maintain the quality of accounting;

(d) to enable both the Government sector and private sector reporting to be done in accordance with the International Accounting Standards and Standards on Auditing;

(e) to open up more job opportunities by developing the professional accounting firms.

As the regulatory body, MAC has prescribed the Myanmar Accounting

Standards (MAS), Myanmar Financial Reporting Standards that all corporate bodies (business enterprises/companies) have to follow in preparing their respective financial statements. Of course MAS and MFRS are the same as the International Accounting Standards (IAS) and the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the only exception being that certain IAS and IFRS that are not currently relevant to our present situation have been carved out and that the word "international" is changed to "Myanmar". However, it may be mentioned that steps are now

being taken to adopt full IFRS by conducting negotiations with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), which may pave the way for MICPA to join IFAC as a full member. Membership in IFAC will bestow upon our professional accountants (CPAs) the status of fully qualified accountants that will be recognized by other foreign professional accounting bodies as well as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other UN agencies.

The requirements of the MAC Law to be fulfilled by all business enterprises/companies, public and private, are given below:--

Section 1 (t): The manager of an organization means the person who has to practically manage a business organization for shareholders or on their behalf or for the owner or on his behalf, or the organization that has so to manage. That expression includes the management committee, board of directors, working committee, trustee, administrative committee, etc. that are known under different names as per their organizational set-ups.

Section 62: A manager of a business organization has responsibility for reporting appropriately or accurately and completely on operational results, financial position, and cash-flow, as they actually exist, as per the accounting period or the financial year.

For that matter, arrange-

ments shall be made to prepare and issue the financial statements in accordance with the accounting standards and reporting standards prescribed by the Council.

Section 63: In order to ensure that financial reporting is made with reliable good quality financial statements, the respective persons shall take responsibility for doing the following:--

(a) assume responsibility as those who prepare, sign and approve the financial statements of any one of the business organizations and statements of accounts as required business-wise that are prepared only by the professional accountants or accounting technicians;

(b) a manager of a business organization shall take responsibility as one who approves and submits those financial statements;

(c) a Certified Public Accountant (Full-fledged) or the Government auditor, who acts as an auditor under the provisions of the respective law, shall assume responsibility as one who discloses and presents the audit opinion on the fair view of the said financial statements.

Section 64: A manager of a business organization shall arrange to fulfill the following requirements as befit the nature, size, condition of the business organization in order to present the financial statements of the organization in accordance with the financial reporting standards prescribed by the Council:--

(a) to organize and assign a sufficient strength of accounting technicians and professional accountants to the task of undertaking accountancy work and preparing the accounts;

(b) to arrange to put internal auditing in place that is

completely independent of the said duties of undertaking accountancy work and preparing the accounts.

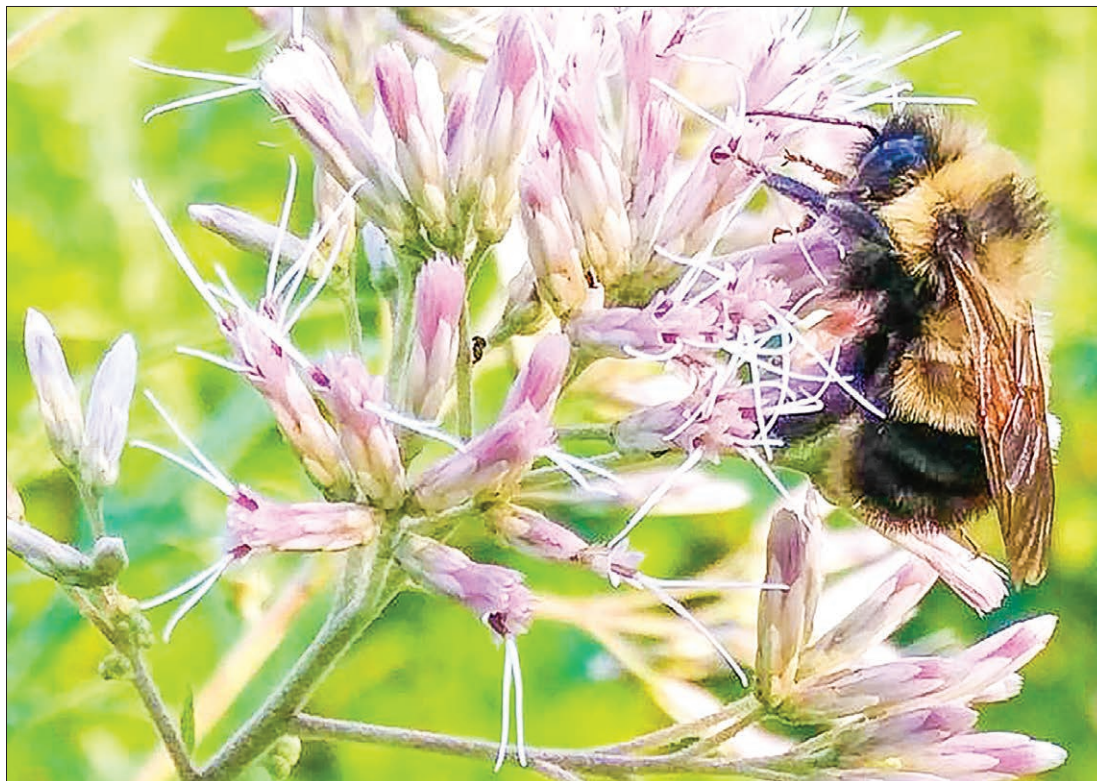
Section 65: The Council shall inform the respective organization, which has the administrative authority, of the manager of a business organization who breaches the provisions of Sections 62 to 64 for taking necessary action.

Section 80: A manager of a business organization shall not incorrectly present and issue its financial results, financial position and cash-flow.

Section 81: A manager of a business organization shall not undertake accountancy services and preparation of accounts or interfere with those who take responsibility for carrying out such tasks by exercising undue influence on them so as to affect the true and fair presentation of the accounts.

Section 89: A manager of a business who violates Section 80 or Section 81 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a period which may not extend more than 3 years or with a fine which may not extend more than Kyat 100 lakhs or with both.

to be continued



A rusty patched bumble bee which the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing for federal protection as an endangered species is pictured in Madison, Wisconsin, US in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

US adds first bees to endangered species list

HAWAII — Seven types of bees once found in abundance in Hawaii but now facing extinction on Friday became the first bees to be added to the federal list of endangered and threatened species, according to US wildlife managers.

The listing decision, published on Friday in the Federal Register, classifies seven varieties of yellow-faced or masked bees as endangered, due to such factors as habitat loss, wildfires and the invasion of nonnative plants and insects.

The bees, so named for yel-

low-to-white facial markings, once crowded Hawaii and Maui but recent surveys found their populations have plunged in the same fashion as other types of wild bees — and some commercial ones — elsewhere in the United States, federal wildlife managers said.

Pollinators like bees are crucial for the production of fruits, nuts and vegetables and they represent billions of dollars in value each year to the nation's agricultural economy, US officials said.

Placing yellow-faced bees

under federal safeguards comes just over a week since the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed adding the imperiled rusty patched bumble bee, a prized but vanishing pollinator once found in the upper Midwest and Northeastern United States, to the endangered and threatened species list.

One of several wild bee species seen declining over the past two decades, the rusty patched bumble bee is the first in the continental United States formally proposed for protections.—Reuters

'Long way to go' before mass space travel a reality, say astronauts

GUADALAJARA, (Mexico) — Though often talked about, mass space travel remains a distant possibility, US and Russian astronauts said here on Friday.

Addressing the 67th International Astronautical Congress, held in Mexico's western city of Guadalajara from 26 to 30 September, Russian cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev and Oleg Kotov, and their US counterpart Sandra Magnus, said there are unlikely to be space shuttles for average citizens anytime soon.

"There's still a long way to go," said Krikalev, a seasoned cosmonaut who has flown 11 missions and spent more than 800 days in space.

Accessible space travel has been in the headlines as recently as Tuesday, when Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX and car company Tesla, unveiled an ambitious plan to colonize Mars.

The fact that entrepreneurs

such as Musk are getting involved in space travel, one of the exclusive realms of governments, does mean the industry is evolving, said Krikalev.

However, for space travel to become available on a large scale, scientists need to develop rockets that are more user-friendly than those we have now, he said.

"Not everyone can fly a plane, much less a spacecraft, so to be able to send thousands of people into space we need to continue to develop the technology," said Krikalev.

Extended stays in space present another challenge, said Kotov, because "our bodies are not designed to live in space."

Those planning to stay up there any length of time would have to undergo physical training, said Kotov, who has made three trips, in 2007, 2010 and 2013, and spent 526 days in total in space.

—Xinhua

Morphosys moves closer to getting first antibody drug on market

FRANKFURT — German biotech Morphosys moved a step closer to getting its first antibody drug onto the market as its licensee, Johnson & Johnson unit Janssen, reported positive results from a phase 3 study of psoriasis drug guselkumab.

Johnson & Johnson said earlier the experimental biotech drug proved more effective at clearing moderate to severe cases of the skin condition than a placebo

or Abbvie's Humira, the world's top-selling prescription medicine.

A Morphosys spokesman said on Saturday that guselkumab could now become its first drug to market, depending on whether and when Johnson & Johnson makes an application.

Morphosys gets milestone payments during the development phase and would receive royalties from Johnson & Johnson once it goes on sale.—Reuters

Big Pharma vs Big Pharma in court battles over biosimilar drugs

ZURICH — The line dividing makers of brand-name drugs and copycat medicines is blurring as companies known for innovative treatments queue up to peddle copies of rivals' complex biological medicines.

These drugmakers are now increasingly straddling both sides of the courtroom, too, protecting their high-price products from biosimilars — biopharmaceutical drugs with the treatment properties of medicines they seek to mimic — while simultaneously challenging rivals' patent claims.

Biologics, manufactured in living cells, then extracted and purified, are more complex than traditional medicines and cannot be copied with precision, and so their knock-off versions are called biosimilars instead of generics.

The allure of biosimilars is clear, with insurers and other payers counting on the steep discounts. US pharmacy benefit managers are already trimming brand-name drugs from their rosters.

With Novartis Chief Executive Joe Jimenez predicting biosimilar discounts of up to 75 percent, in part based on devel-

opments in Europe, makers of innovative drugs are fighting tooth and nail to protect their higher-priced products for as long as possible.

For instance, AbbVie has sued in Delaware claiming patent protection for its arthritis drug Humira, the world's best-selling prescription medicine, until at least 2022 as it seeks to delay an Amgen replica that won US approval last week.

Meanwhile, Amgen has gone to another US federal court seeking to protect its own arthritis medicine, Enbrel, from a Novartis biosimilar until 2029.

With lawsuits pitting Big Pharma against Big Pharma piling up, lawyers said the legal landscape has gotten a lot more complex.

"One of the biggest surprises has been the number of innovator biopharma companies, like Amgen, now developing biosimilars to compete with the products of other innovator companies," said Don Ware, an expert on biosimilars at US law firm Foley Hoag in Boston.

"This creates conflicts for law firms like ours, because suddenly the clients we advise are



Pharmaceutical tablets and capsules in foil strips are arranged on a table in this picture illustration taken in Ljubljana in 2013.

PHOTO: REUTERS

adverse to each other," Ware said. "And it makes it hard for the companies to retain top outside counsel without having to give them conflict waivers."

Sanofi, Merck, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Biogen are also embroiled in lawsuits over biosimilars.

Even so, some analysts say the lawsuits are business as usual and are unlikely to spill over into other areas, including research partnerships.

Novartis and Amgen may be at each other's throats in court over the Swiss drugmaker's Enbrel copy, but the two are still cooperating on a drug for migraines.

"It's not like these companies are bitter enemies," Zuercher Kantonalbank analyst Michael Nawrath said. "These court cases are simply the last resort of original drug makers to wring a few more months or a year of exclusivity from their blockbusters."

Conflicts pitting big drugmakers against each other may have been inevitable after Europe in 2006 and the United States in 2010 created separate biosimilar approval rules.

After all, Big Pharma's financial clout and expertise made large, sophisticated drugmakers the natural candidates to manufacture complex biosimilar copies that cost hundreds of millions to bring to market, far more than for generic off-patent copies of simpler, small molecule drugs.

Some smaller companies and generics makers have jettisoned biosimilar programmes after originally underestimating hurdles to entry, Richard Francis, head of Novartis's Sandoz division that makes biosimilars, said earlier this year.

Just this week, Shire abandoned two biosimilar candidate drugs that accompanied its Baxalta takeover, copies of Amgen's Enbrel and AbbVie's Humira, to focus on rare diseases.

"The realisation of what it's going to take to stay in this market and be successful has led to a change in the landscape and the players in it," Francis said.—Reuters

British PM May to trigger EU divorce process by end of March

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May will trigger the divorce process from the European Union by the end of March, firing the starting gun on the country's biggest shift in policy since World War II.

May, appointed prime minister shortly after Britain voted in June to leave the bloc, has been under pressure from EU officials, investors and members of her Conservative Party to offer more on her plan for Britain's exit, beyond her catch phrase "Brexit means Brexit".

In an interview with the BBC,

May for the first time confirmed what many expected — that she will trigger Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty before the end of March next year.

"We will trigger before the end of March next year," May told the BBC's Andrew Marr show, referring to a the formal divorce process which gives Britain up to two years to negotiate its exit from the bloc.

Asked whether her government would prioritise immigration over access to tariff-free trade with EU countries in divorce talks with the bloc — something that

has muted investment, May said only that she wanted to get the "right deal".

"I want the right deal for trade in goods and services and what we are doing at the moment ... is listening to businesses here in the UK, listening to different sectors, finding out what it is that is most important to them," she said.

To get the right deal, May was clear that she must keep her cards close to her chest, saying she would not give a "running commentary" on her negotiation or give her position away. —Reuters



A woman walks with her dog in front of the Hungarian government's referendum poster regarding EU migrant quotas in Budapest, Hungary, on 30 September 2016. The poster reads: 'We should not take a risk, vote no'. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hungarians set to reject migrant quotas in boon for PM Orban

BUDAPEST — An overwhelming majority of Hungarians are expected to reject the European Union's migrant quotas in a referendum on Sunday, which should boost Prime Minister Viktor Orban's standing at home and embolden him in his battles with Brussels.

Orban, who has been in power since 2010, is among the toughest opponents of immigration in the EU, and over the past year he has sealed Hungary's southern borders with a razor-wire fence and thousands of army and police border patrols.

After casting his vote in a wealthy Budapest district on Sunday, Orban told reporters that he would go to Brussels next week to start talks, empowered by the outcome of the referendum.

"And I shall try, with the help of the outcome, if this is an appropriate outcome, to achieve that we should not be obliged to accept people in Hungary whom we don't want to live with."

He also said his government might modify the Hungarian con-

stitution after the vote.

In a letter published in a daily newspaper on Saturday, Orban again urged Hungarians to send a message to the EU that its migration policies were flawed and posed a threat to Europe's security.

"We can send the message that it is only up to us, European citizens, whether we can jointly force the Union to come to its senses or let it destroy itself," he wrote in the Magyar Idok.

While Budapest says immigration policy should be a matter of national sovereignty, human rights groups have criticized the government for stoking fears and xenophobia, and for mistreating refugees on the border.

Last year, hundreds of thousands of migrants fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East crossed Hungary on their way to richer countries in Western Europe, this year Hungary recorded around 18,000 illegal border crossings.

Around 1,500 people demonstrated in Budapest on Friday against the referendum.

Orban's hardline approach on migration has won allies in Central Europe. Eastern Europe's ex-communist states, now in the EU, are opposing a policy that would require all EU countries to take in some of the hundreds of thousands of people seeking asylum in the bloc.

Opinion polls show support for a rejection of EU migrant quotas of more than 80 per cent among those who say they will vote. But they also indicate turnout might not necessarily top the 50 per cent required for the poll to be valid.

Erzsebet Virag, voting near Budapest's eastern railway station where a year ago thousands of migrants camped outside waiting to get on trains toward Vienna, said:

"I voted (No) because there are a lot of poor people in our country too and if more poor people come in we will be even poorer and have to work even more."

Voting will close at 1700 GMT. Preliminary results are expected after 1800 GMT. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran showcases new combat drone, copied from US unmanned aircraft

DUBAI — Iran's Revolutionary Guards unveiled a home-built drone that they said was capable of carrying bombs, state media reported on Saturday, in what appeared to be another copy of a reconnaissance US drone that Iran captured five years ago.

The drone, called Saegheh, or lightning, was unveiled at an expo showcasing the latest achievements by the Revolutionary Guards' aerospace arm.

"This long-range drone is capable of hitting four targets with smart precision-guided bombs with high accuracy," the head of the Revolutionary Guards' aerospace arm, Amir Ali Hajizadeh, was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA. —Reuters

Japan to develop securer passport to prevent terrorism

TOKYO — Japan's Foreign Ministry will follow European countries in introducing a passport with a hard plastic page containing identity information, making it harder to forge as part of measures to prevent crime and terrorism, an official of the ministry said on Saturday.

The ministry aims to add the new security feature in the fiscal year starting April 2023, the official said.

Experts have been reviewing ways to improve passport security for the ministry since 2014.

The ministry has decided to centralize passport issuance which is currently conducted by each prefecture and requested around 300 million yen (\$3 million) from the fiscal 2017 budget to develop a new issuance system for the National Printing Bureau. —Kyodo News

Russia says US 'aggression' in Syria would mean 'tectonic shifts'

MOSCOW — "Direct aggression" by the United States towards the Syrian government and armed forces would lead to "frightening, tectonic shifts" in the Middle East, RIA news agency cited Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova as saying on Saturday.

Russia and the United States back opposing sides in the Syrian conflict. A US-Russian brokered ceasefire in Syria recently fell apart, and Russian war planes on Saturday struck rebel-held areas north of the Syrian city of Aleppo. —Reuters

Police firing in India's Jharkhand kills four villagers

NEW DELHI — At least four people were killed and over a dozen, including policemen were injured when police fired on a group of villagers in eastern India state of Jharkhand, officials said on Sunday.

The villagers were protesting against state-run National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) project being set up in the area, alleging they were denied adequate compensation for their acquired land.

Killings took place at Barkagaon on Saturday in Hazaribagh district, about 80 km north of Ranchi city, the capital of Jharkhand.

"Four villagers were killed and over a dozen including policemen were injured in clashes between agitating villagers and police," an official posted at Hazaribagh district said. "The locals were on protest for a fortnight demanding adequate compensation for their land acquired by NTPC."

Official said protesters were led by a Congress party legislator and clashes broke out after police detained the legislator.

Locals alleged the NTPC of violating forest rights and denying them compensation while acquiring land for a coal mining site. —Xinhua

Palestinian hands still extended for peace with Israel: Abbas

RAMALLAH — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said late on Saturday night that the Palestinian hands are still extended for peace with Israel after Israel closed the doors for dialogue.

"Neither they (Israelis) eliminate us nor we eliminate them ... they have their state and we do have ours," Abbas told a conference held on Saturday in the West Bank city of Bethlehem. "Doors for dialogue with the Israelis were closed, 'but we didn't close it and our hands are still extended for peace,' he said. Abbas added that the resumption of dialogue with Israel "must be based on stopping settlement, implementing and respecting the former peace accords and agreements." "If Israel doesn't respect and implement the simple agreements, how could it respect a permanent peace agreement," said Abbas.

He noted that the Palestinians are honest by calling for dialogues and meetings based on halting settlement and implementing the former peace agreements and respecting it. —Xinhua

Syria presses Aleppo advance, tells rebels to leave

BEIRUT — Syrian government and allied forces advanced north of Aleppo, pressing their week-old offensive to take the insurgent-held, eastern part of the city after dozens of overnight air strikes.

The Syrian army told rebels to leave the area, offering safe passage and aid supplies.

The Syrian military, supported by Iranian-backed militias and Russian air power, began their push to take the whole of the divided city after a ceasefire collapsed last month. The assault has nearly destroyed eastern Aleppo's healthcare system, the UN said.

An air campaign by the Syrian government and its allies was reinforced by a ground offensive targeting the besieged eastern half of the city where insurgents have been holding out.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Syrian military said the army and its allies had advanced south from the Handarat refugee camp north of Aleppo city, which they took earlier this week,

taking the Kindi hospital and parts of the Shuqaif industrial area.

Air strikes and shelling continued on Sunday, the Observatory said.

Zakaria Malahifji, of the Aleppo-based rebel group Fastaqim, told Reuters there were clashes in this area on Sunday.

The Observatory added that there was fierce fighting between rebels and government forces all along the front line which cuts the city in two.

The Syrian army said on Sunday that rebel fighters should vacate east Aleppo and it would guarantee them safe passage and necessary aid.

"The army high command calls all armed fighters in the eastern neighbourhood of Aleppo to leave these neighbourhoods and let civilian residents live their normal lives," the statement carried by state news agency SANA said.

The relentless Russian and Syrian air campaign in east Aleppo has damaged hospitals and water supplies.



An empty room at a damaged field hospital is seen after airstrikes in a rebel held area in Aleppo, Syria, on 1 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

East Aleppo came under siege in early July after its main supply route, the Castello Road, fell under government control.

Internationally brokered attempts to establish ceasefires to allow in United Nations humanitarian aid have failed, although other international and local aid groups have brought in limited supplies.

The UN's Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Stephen O'Brien, said he was "deeply alarmed by the ferocious pummeling of eastern Aleppo" and reiterated UN calls for a pause in fighting, medical evacuations and access for aid.

"The health system is on the verge of total collapse with patients being

turned away and no medicines available to treat even the most common ailments."

"With clean water and food in very short supply, the number of people requiring urgent medical evacuations is likely to rise dramatically in the coming days," he said.

On Saturday, the largest trauma and intensive

care centre in eastern Aleppo was badly damaged by air strikes and had to close. Two patients were killed.

The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), which partly supported the hospital, said the hospital had been hit seven times since July, with three attacks this week alone.

"The situation in Aleppo is beyond dire ... People are stuck under the rubble and we can't get to them because of the intensity of the shelling. We are pleading for help to stop the bombing," said Mohamed Abu Rajab, a SAMS nurse at the hospital.

SAMS said only five hospitals remained operational in east Aleppo.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by state media that the participation of Russia's air force in the conflict now in its sixth year had "tightened the noose on terrorist groups and reduced their ability to spread terror to other countries". The Syrian government refers to all groups fighting against it as terrorists.—Reuters

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

No.(2) Mining Enterprise

Invitation for Opening Tender

1. No. (2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites to submit the tender quotation for the following materials.

No.	Materials Classifies	weight	location	Tender Closing Date and Time	Delivery Term
1.	Tin Concentrate	8.00 MT (Abt)	Dawei, Tanintharyi Region	25.10.2016 2:00 PM	F.O.B(Dawei)
2.	Wolfram Concentrate	5.00 MT (Abt)	"		
3.	Tin- Wolfram Mixed Concentrate	288 MT (Abt)	"	26.10.2016 2:00 PM	F.O.B(Loikaw)
4.	Tin Wolfram Scheelite Mixed Concentrate	255 MT (Abt)	Loikaw, Kayah State		
5.	Electro Refined Tin (ERT)	100 MT (Abt)	Tin Smelting and Refining Plant (Thanlyin)	27.10.2016 2:00 PM	F.O.B (Thanlyin,TSRP)
6.	Pyro Refined Tin (PRT)	100 MT (Abt)	"		

2. No.(2) Mining Enterprise could provide necessary documents to interested companies and contact under mention address within office hours.

- No.(2) Mining Enterprise,
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation,
Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw, Ph:+95-(0)67 409391,e-mail; metwo@e-mining.gov.mm

Tender Invitation Committee
No.(2) Mining Enterprise

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

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1. Open Tenders are invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No	Tender No	Description
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2.	12(T)18/(MIT) 2016-2017	Taper Bearing Unit (TBU) AAR Class "C"-1500 Sets Seal for Taper Bearing Unit (TBU) AAR Class "B"-1000 Sets Seal for Taper Bearing Unit (TBU) AAR Class "C"-1000 Sets

Closing Date & Time- 17.11.2016(Thursday)(14:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 3.10.2016 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

Afghan Taliban fighters press advance on Helmand capital

LASHKAR GAH — Taliban fighters have advanced closer to Lashkar Gah, capital of the strategic southern province of Helmand, pushing into a farming district on the other side of the river from the town, officials said on Saturday.

Though the Western-backed government in Kabul pushed the insurgents back with the aid of US airstrikes in August, it is struggling to reverse the tide of the fighting.

Capturing the city would give the Taliban

their first provincial capital since the northern city of Kunduz fell briefly a year ago and would reinforce the impression that government forces are losing momentum in the war.

The insurgents, who control large sections of the opium-growing province, are now in Bolan, an agricultural zone that links Lashkar Gah with Gereshk, a town that straddles the main Highway One, as well as Marjah district centre to the west.

"The Taliban came to our villages, blocked the

main road and are attacking security forces," said local resident Rozi Mohammad.

Local officials said security forces were engaging the insurgents and were expected to begin offensive operations soon though they faced strong opposition.

"We are about 300 meters away from the Taliban positions. They are firing at us from residents' homes and we are waiting for fresh forces to repel them," said Hesmatullah, a policeman whose unit was involved in the fighting.—Reuters



A military vehicle patrols in the Babaji area of Lashkar Gah Helmand province, Afghanistan, on 8 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Colombians vote in referendum on peace deal, 'yes' win likely

BOGOTA — Colombians look set to back a peace accord with Marxist rebels in a referendum on Sunday, the final hurdle to a deal ending 52 years of war that calls for FARC fighters to re-enter society and form a political party.

The plebiscite asks for a simple "yes" or "no" on whether Colombians support the accord signed last week by President Juan Manuel Santos, who has staked his legacy on peace, and the rebel commander known as Timochenko.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), whose numbers dwindled to about 7,000 in recent years due to a US-backed military offensive, have agreed to turn in weapons and fight for power at the ballot box instead of with bullets. After four years of negotiations in Havana, the final agreement was applauded round the world. Recent polls show about two-thirds of voters are likely to ratify it. Influential former President Alvaro Uribe has led the "no" camp, arguing that rebels should pay for crimes in jail and never be given congressional seats. But most Colombians, including even some who see the accord as too soft on the



Demonstrators take part in an event organized by supporters of the 'no' vote for the upcoming referendum on a peace deal between the government and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels in Bogota, Colombia, on 1 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

FARC, seem convinced that an imperfect peace is better than more war.

"Even one less death is enough of an argument," said Sandra Guevara, a 42-year-old secretary. "I'm voting yes because I'm betting on hope, to guarantee my son can see a better country." Under the accord the FARC, which began as a peasant revolt in 1964, can compete in the 2018 presidential and legislative elections and has 10 unelected congressional seats guaranteed through 2026.

While the number of seats is not enough to sway legislation, some are still outraged.

"The president has given the guerrillas the ability to be in government. He's sold out the country," said 66-year-old Bogota housewife Fanny Castro, whose son-in-law is in the army. "We have to vote no or we'll have the guerrillas on top of us."

For decades, the FARC bankrolled the longest-running conflict in the Americas through kidnapping and ex-

tortion, spreading a sense of terror that left few Colombians unaffected. The conflict claimed more than 220,000 lives and displaced millions of people. If the peace accord is approved on Sunday, Santos will likely turn his focus toward a much-needed tax reform and other measures to compensate for a drop in oil income, as well as possible talks with the smaller ELN rebel group.

Voting closes at 4 p.m. local time (2100 GMT) and results are expected by early evening.—Reuters

Police clash with migrants and protesters outside Jungle camp

CALAIS, (France) — French police fired tear gas and water cannon at migrants and protesters who gathered in defiance of a ban on Saturday outside the shanty town near Calais known as "the Jungle", local authorities said.

About 200 migrants and some 50 protesters assembled under a bridge to protest against living conditions in the nearby camp that President Francois Hollande has vowed to close by the end of the year.

Police clashed with migrants as they pushed them back to the camp while activists threw stones at the security forces.

Another 150 protesters who left Paris on Saturday aboard four coaches were blocked by police at a toll road about 30 miles (48 km) short of the northern port.

Thousands of migrants fleeing war and poverty, from Afghanistan to Syria, have converged on Calais over the past two years.

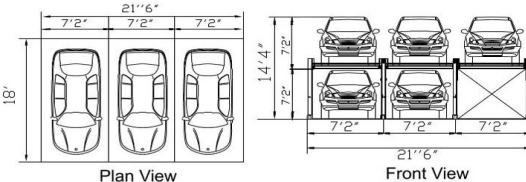
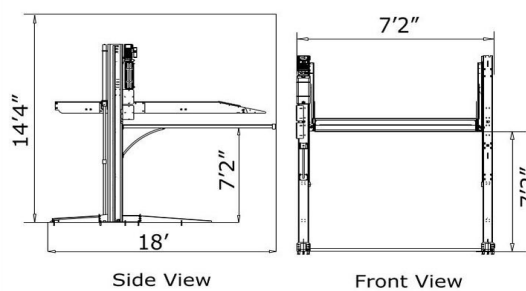
Many attempt to sneak onto trains using the Channel Tunnel or lorries heading to Britain, where they hope to settle. The presence of the migrants has led to tension with some residents and a permanent police deployment.—Reuters



A migrant holds a placard with a message for Britain's prime minister as they face off with French riot police during a protest near the area called the 'jungle' where they live in Calais, France, on 1 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Ethiopians killed in stampede after police fire warning shots during protest

ADDIS ABABA — Police in Ethiopia's Oromiya region fired teargas and warning shots on Sunday to disperse anti-government protesters at a religious festival, triggering a stampede that the opposition party said killed at least 50 people.

The government did not give a precise death toll resulting from chaotic scenes during the annual festival where some people chanted slogans against the government and waved a rebel group's flag. But it said "lives were lost" and that several were injured.

Sporadic protests have erupted in Oromiya in the last two years, initially sparked by a land row but increasingly turning more broadly against the government. Since late 2015, scores of protesters have been killed in clashes with police.

These developments highlight tensions in the country where the government has delivered stellar

economic growth rates but faced criticism from opponents and rights group that it has trampled on political freedoms.

Thousands of people had gathered for the annual Irreecha festival of thanksgiving in the town of Bishoftu, about 40 km (25 miles) south of the capital Addis Ababa.

Crowds chanted "we need freedom" and "we need justice", preventing community elders, deemed close to the government, from delivering their speeches at the festival.

Some protesters waved the red, green and yellow flag of the Oromo Liberation Front, a rebel group branded a "terrorist" organisation by the government, witnesses said. When police fired teargas and guns into the air, crowds fled and created a stampede, some of them plunging into a deep ditch, witnesses said.

The witnesses said they saw people dragging out a dozen or more victims,

showing no obvious sign of life. Half a dozen people, also motionless, were also seen being taken by pick-up truck to a hospital, one witness said.

"As a result of the chaos, lives were lost and several of the injured were taken to hospital," the government communications office said in a statement, without giving figures. "Those responsible will face justice."

Merera Gudina, chairman of the opposition Oromo Federalist Congress, told Reuters at least 50 people were killed, saying his group had been talking to families of the victims.

He said the government tried to use the event to show Oromiya was calm. "But residents still protested," he said. The government blames rebel groups and dissidents abroad for stirring up the protests and provoking violence. It dismisses charges that it clamps down on free speech or its opponents.—Reuters

Protesters hold 'die-in' at Heathrow against airport expansion

LONDON — More than a hundred people demonstrated at London's Heathrow Airport on Saturday, including dozens who took part in a "die-in" at one terminal, just weeks before Prime Minister Theresa May's government is due to decide where to build a new runway.

After a decade of reviews and U-turns, the government is expected to rule in mid-October on whether to build a third runway at Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, or at its smaller London rival Gatwick.

Expansion plans have



Climate activist group Reclaim the Power lie on the ground and carry luggage during a protest against airport expansion plans at Heathrow Airport in London, Britain, on 1 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

been opposed by residents and some lawmakers at both locations.

Protesters lay on the floor of Heathrow's Terminal 2, with many wearing white masks in a so-called die-in to highlight the impact of air travel on climate change and pollution levels.

One woman wearing a mask lay next to a banner which read: "Stay Grounded."

No New Runways." Others took part in a cycle ride nearby, wearing red T-shirts with the message: "No 3rd runway", according to images posted on Twitter.

A Heathrow spokeswoman said the airport continued to operate as normal during the demonstration.

Heathrow has said it will comply with an extended ban on night flights and meet European air quality rules if the project gets the green light.

It has also said it will meet 11 conditions set out by Britain's Airports Commission, including a requirement on air quality which states that new flights will only be permitted if air quality does not breach EU limits. —Reuters

In search of rebound, Trump ramps up attacks on Clinton

MANHEIM (Pa.) — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump closed out a rough week for his campaign on Saturday by escalating personal attacks on Democrat Hillary Clinton, questioning her stamina and saying she should be in prison for her handling of classified emails.

After a week in which he drew wide criticism for a public feud with a former beauty queen, Trump sought to rebound with a highly negative attack on his opponent in the 8 November election, with a second presidential debate against her looming in a week.

At the same time, the *New York Times* reported it

had obtained records showing Trump declared a \$916 million loss on his 1995 income tax returns, a deduction so large that it may have allowed him to avoid paying any federal income taxes for years.

Trump has refused to release his tax records, saying he is under a federal audit.

At a rally in Manheim, Pennsylvania, Trump said he did not believe Clinton, who suffered a bout of pneumonia last month, was up to the task of being president. He tried to resurrect a tactic he employed against former Republican rival Jeb Bush, who Trump had derided as "low energy."

Clinton kept her pneumonia diagnosis private until she was seen nearly collapsing while getting into her vehicle at a ceremony marking the September 11, 2001, attacks in New York.

Ticking off a list of world problems, Trump said, "She's supposed to fight all of these things and she can't make it 15 feet to her car. Give me a break."

"Folks, we need stamina, we need energy, we need people who are going to turn deals around," Trump said.

Trump has often told crowds who chant "lock her up" over her use of a private email server as U.S. secretary of state from 2009 to 2013 to instead help him

defeat her.

But on Saturday, Trump told thousands of supporters that Clinton's handling of classified emails and destroying of 33,000 emails that she had deemed of a personal nature meant that "she should be in prison, let me tell you."

Trump did not stop there. He said he did not believe Clinton would be loyal to her supporters and chuckled, "I don't even think she's loyal to Bill, to tell you the truth. And why should she be, right? Why should she be?"

In 1998, Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, was caught up in a sex scandal involving for-



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. PHOTO: REUTERS

mer White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Trump was widely seen as having lost his first presidential debate with Clinton last Monday although he cites online polls showing he won. In the days since

the debate, Trump has been struggling to regain his footing, getting caught up in a back-and-forth with former Miss Universe Alicia Machado, who Trump had criticized for gaining weight. —Reuters

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5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 5.10.2016 on payment of the Myanma Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

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Asylum seekers Vanessa Mae Bondalian Rodel, 42, from the Philippines, and Ajith Pushpakumara, 44, from Sri Lanka, who helped hiding Edward Snowden while he was in Hong Kong in 2013, attend a special screening of the film 'Snowden' directed by Oliver Stone, in Hong Kong, China, on 30 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Edward Snowden film premieres in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — The new movie 'Snowden' held its premiere in Hong Kong on Friday (September 30) night. The asylum-seeking family who, at one point, hid the US whistle-blower in their Hong Kong apartment after he fled his country, attended the premiere of the film, which tells the story of the former US National Security Agency (NSA) intelligence contractor. Edward Snowden's lawyer in Hong Kong, Jonathan Man, pointed out his client was actually helped by people who were also stateless. The movie was shot by US director Oliver Stone, known for his controversial revisions of key moments in American his-

tory and raising questions about US government accountability. Snowden leaked details about the US government's massive surveillance programs and was granted asylum in Russia, after fleeing the United States in 2013. Supporters see him as a whistle-blower who boldly exposed government excess.

But the US government has filed espionage charges against him for leaking intelligence information. The film is based on two books about Snowden written by The Guardian journalist Luke Harding and Snowden's Russian lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena.—Reuters

Documentary film on Tsukiji fish market released amid relocation row

TOKYO — The first documentary film about the famed Tsukiji fish market was released in Tokyo on Saturday, depicting the everyday lives of unsung seafood professionals, amidst an imbroglio over the site's planned relocation.

"Tsukiji Wonderland" has been released at a time when the wholesale fish market is drawing all the more attention after newly elected Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike recently postponed the relocation of the aging market in central Tokyo, citing safety concerns about soil contamination at the new site.

The 110-minute film, which is not about the disputed relocation but spotlights Japan's food culture and hundreds of intermediate wholesalers in the market who devote their lives to procuring the finest, most desirable seafood, was directed by 38-year-old Naotaro Endo who first visited the market in 2012.

The fishmongers at Tsuki-

ji, Endo said, are a breed unto themselves, highly specialized in certain fish and shellfish species. Seafood is selected according to the seasons and depending on particular cooking methods for their meticulous customers.

"I wanted to portray their professional expertise accumulated over a long period of time," Endo said in a recent interview with Kyodo News.

The film, Endo's debut feature, preserves on screen the fish market that has been operating for about 80 years at the current location. Tsukiji, according to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market, offered more than 400 types of seafood, with a total market value of about 1.6 billion yen (around \$15.8 million) a day in 2014. With an almost religious fervor, some of the country's top chefs come to the market, where intermediate wholesalers bid for products for their customers, like

restaurants and retailers, in competitive auctions, which start before dawn. The purchased fish are prepared for sale at their shops within the marketplace.

Over the years, Tsukiji has been dubbed the "kitchen of Japan," playing an unrivalled role in "washoku" Japanese cuisine, which has been designated by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage. Endo was first impressed by the vibrancy of Tsukiji, which led him to want to film the people there. But the idea did not immediately materialize as he first had to obtain permission to film at the restricted marketplace, which is supervised by the Tokyo metropolitan government.

Endo was aiming for something unprecedented — shooting scenes at Tsukiji throughout a year — to showcase the market's season specialties, such as saury in autumn and blowfish in winter.—Kyodo News

Daniel Radcliffe recalls first meeting with Donald Trump



Daniel Radcliffe has revealed he was left amused by Republican presidential nominee Donal Trump's self-confidence when he first met him more than 10 years ago. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Daniel Radcliffe has revealed he was left amused by Republican presidential nominee Donal Trump's self-confidence when he first met him more than 10 years ago.

Stopping by The Graham Norton Show, the 27-year-old British actor recalled the first time he met the Republican nominee when he was still a pre-teen and revealed the eyebrow-raising advice he got from the businessman, reported Aceshowbiz.

Radcliffe, who appeared on the show alongside Trolls co-stars Justin Timberlake and Anna Kendrick, first told the host that he ran into Trump while he was promoting the first Harry Potter film. He was 11 or 12 at the time.

"They took us to New York and it was sort of the first time doing any of the morning shows in New York and I was about to do the 'Today' show and I'd never been American morning TV

before, and I was quite nervous," he shared.

Trump happened to be there as well and they got to interact before Radcliffe began his interview. That's when the 70-year-old told the young star to brag about their meet-up to the morning show's viewers.

"They sort of walked me over to him and he said, 'Oh hi, nice to meet you.' And I said, 'Nice to meet you.' He said, 'How are you?' I said, 'I'm quite nervous. I've never been on TV before, I don't know what I'm gonna talk about.' And he brilliantly just said, 'You tell them you just met Mr. Trump,'" Radcliffe said. As Timberlake and Kendrick showed unimpressed expressions, the actor added, "To me, that is the Everest of self-confidence. Imagine if I'd just been to you, 'When you go on that show, just talk about me. Don't talk about your stuff,'" said actor.—PTI

He saw himself disintegrating: Robin Williams' wife

LOS ANGELES — Losing visual and spatial abilities, finding himself stuck in a frozen stance and unable to move are few of those struggles, which much-loved actor Robin Williams went through in his final months before the suicide, reveals his wife in a heart-wrenching essay.

Williams' fans haven't even properly moved on from the actor's suicide in 2014, and the latest details of his condition before he took his life only deepen those wounds. In a piece titled, "The Terrorist Inside My Husband's Brain", Susan Schneider chronicles the couple's battle to arrive at a proper diagnosis.

"Robin was losing his mind and he was aware of it," Schneider writes in the journal of the

American Academy of Neurology.

"Can you imagine the pain he felt as he experienced himself disintegrating? And not from something he would ever know the name of, or understand? Neither he, nor anyone could stop it — no amount of intelligence or love could hold it back."

"At times, he would find himself stuck in a frozen stance, unable to move, and frustrated when he came out of it. He was beginning to have trouble with visual and spatial abilities in the way of judging distance and depth. His loss of basic reasoning just added to his growing confusion." She notes that his conditions were so severe that he said he wanted to "reboot" his brain.

"[Robin] kept saying, 'I just want to reboot my brain.'"

Doctor appointments, testing, and psychiatry kept us in perpetual motion. Countless blood tests, urine tests, plus re-checks of cortisol levels and lymph nodes. "Everything came back negative, except for high cortisol levels. We wanted to be happy about all the negative test results, but Robin and I both had a deep sense that something was terribly wrong." Schneider recalls that the actor had trouble "remembering just one line" while filming "Night at the Museum 3." "On May 28th, he was diagnosed with Parkinson disease. We had an answer. My heart swelled with hope. But somehow I knew Robin was not buying it."—PTI

Accused mobster, near death, denies ties to Boston art heist: lawyer

BOSTON — An accused mobster on what may be his death bed once again denied knowing anything about the whereabouts of paintings stolen from a Boston museum in the largest art heist in US history, his lawyer said on Saturday.

Robert Gentile, 80, faces charges of selling a loaded firearm to a convicted killer. His attorney contends the case was brought to pressure him into leading federal agents to paintings stolen from

Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990.

Attorney Ryan McGuigan said he visited Gentile in South Carolina this week after being advised by federal officials to tell Gentile's wife, also 80 and in ill health, and son, in his early 50s, to prepare for the possibility of the man's death.

"I told him that if there ever was a time to give up some information that you haven't yet, that I don't know, this would be it," McGuigan said in a phone

interview. He said he believed that if Gentile were to offer up new information about the paintings, federal officials would allow him to see his family in Connecticut.

"He said, 'Yeah, but there's no painting,'" McGuigan said. "His story has never changed in the six years that I have represented him."

A spokesman for federal prosecutors in Connecticut declined to comment. McGuigan said he could not provide more

detail on where Gentile is being held.

Gentile had been due to stand trial last month on the gun charge, but his failing health delayed proceedings.

He has repeatedly denied knowing the whereabouts of any of the art taken in one of the longest-unsolved high-profile crimes in Boston.

The theft was carried out by two men dressed in police uniforms who apparently overpowered a night security guard who

had buzzed them in a back entrance. None of the 13 artworks, which include Rembrandt's "Storm on the Sea of Galilee" and Vermeer's "The Concert," has been recovered.

Due to a quirk in Gardner's will, the empty frames that held the paintings remain on the walls of the museum she built to house the collection she amassed with her husband.

The art must be displayed the way it was during her lifetime, preventing

curators from hanging new works and leaving a constant reminder of the theft.

At a court hearing last year, federal prosecutors said Gentile was secretly recorded telling an undercover FBI agent he had access to at least two of the paintings and could sell them for \$500,000 each.

A 2012 FBI search of Gentile's home turned up a handwritten list of the stolen art, its estimated value and police uniforms, according to court documents.—Reuters

Lucky toddler becomes New Zealand's youngest lottery millionaire after winning bond prize

WELLINGTON — A three-year-old boy has become New Zealand's youngest ever Bonus Bonds prize recipient after winning 1 million NZ dollars (728,683 US dollars) in the investment lottery scheme.

The boy's Bonus Bonds account was set up when he was born, with just 250 NZ dollars (about 182 US dollars) worth of bonds, given by a relative.

The boy had just returned from holiday with his family when they were

told the news, according to the *New Zealand Herald*.

"My husband was literally pumping the air when he was on the phone," the boy's mother told the newspaper.

The toddler's parents always believed he was

special, being born on Christmas Day, said the report. Bonus Bonds is a New Zealand unit trust with a reward scheme based on cash prizes to savers every month. 1 million NZ dollars is the biggest monthly prize.—Xinhua

Outstanding Chinese students in US Midwest get Chinese government award

CHICAGO — Chinese Consul General in Chicago presented awards for students who have achieved excellence in their academic study in a ceremony held Saturday in the University of Chicago.

While addressing the ceremony, Chinese Consul General in Chicago Hong Lei spoke highly of the diligence and innovation of Chinese students and urged them to go on studying hard to attain higher achievements.

A total of 33 Chinese students studying in US Midwest won the 2015 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad.

The 33 awardees come from 16 universities in the US Midwest, including the University of Chicago, the Northwestern University, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Purdue University.

"China needs talents, and embraces you all who come back," said Hong Lei. He also encouraged Chinese students to contribute to the development of China-US relations. Jiang Yuanwen, a student from the University of Chicago and one of the awardees, expressed his gratitude, saying it is a token of the support and care for overseas Chinese students from the motherland.—Xinhua



Contestants take part in the 7th Annual World Poutine Eating Championship in Toronto, Canada, on 1 October 2016. Joey Chestnut of the United States won the champion after eating 25.5 lbs, 51 boxes of poutine in ten minutes and set a new world record on Saturday. PHOTO: XINHUA

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10:27	Am	Fantastic Orchid Garden From The Flower City
10:37	Am	Kambawzathardi Golden Palace — A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days

10:52 Am Myanmar Masterclass: ARTIST SOE HNIN AUNG

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-10)(Part -1)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle)
08:49	Pm	Chef Life: Myo Min Soe Oo

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

MRTV

(3-10-2016, Monday)

6:00 am

- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 am

- People' Talks

8:35 am

- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

9:35 am

- Women in Myanmar Society

10:35 am

- Solution For Agriculture

11:15 am

- ASEAN Programme

11:35 am

- MRTV's Youth Programme

12:35 pm

- TV Drama Series

1:10 pm

- TV Drama Series

1:55 pm

- KARAOKE World Championships (KWC) Myanmar 2016 (Level-2) (Group -1)

2:35 pm

- Tasty Trip

4:10 pm

- University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) — Second Year (Philosophy)

4:35 pm

- Socio Economic Scenes

5:15 pm

- This Week's special Interest

5:35 pm

- Yes or No Talk Show "Sport or Adventure" (Part-1)

6:35 pm

- Law Affairs

7:15 pm

- TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

- News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

- News
- TV Drama Series
- MCN Dedate

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Reed helps put US in command after Europe rally

CHASKA (Minnesota) — Birdies galore and thrills aplenty characterised another remarkable day of Ryder Cup golf as the US repelled a Rory McIlroy-inspired fightback from Europe to lead by 9 1/2 - 6 1/2 points on Saturday.

The holders briefly silenced a raucous Hazeltine National crowd by winning the morning foursomes 2 1/2 - 1 1/2 but the US, desperate to avoid a fourth straight defeat in the biennial team event, rallied to take the afternoon fourballs 3-1.

McIlroy, all high-fives, fist pumps and eye-bulging reac-

tion, was as animated as he has ever been in the Ryder Cup as he and Belgian rookie Thomas Pieters took their record to 3-0 this week by beating Brooks Koepka and Dustin Johnson 3 and 1.

Ryder Cup veteran Lee Westwood suffered heartbreak in the next match, missing from inside three feet at the last as he and fellow Englishman Danny Willett slid to a one-hole defeat at the hands of JB Holmes and Ryan Moore.

Phil Mickelson and Matt Kuchar never trailed in match three, recording a 2 and 1 victory over Sergio Garcia and

Martin Kaymer.

The irrepressible Patrick Reed was the central figure in the last tussle of the session as he and Jordan Spieth took down England's Justin Rose and Henrik Stenson of Sweden 2 and 1 on a sun-kissed second day.

World number three McIlroy was clearly irked by persistent heckling from the galleries, one day after Willett was teased and taunted as a result of his brother's midweek rant against the home fans.

Curtis Strange, US captain in 2002, did not like what he witnessed.—Reuters



Stoke City's Joe Allen scores their first goal against Manchester United during Premier League at Old Trafford, on 2 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Stoke's Allen strikes late to deny Man United

LONDON — Manchester United were denied by a spirited Stoke City performance as Joe Allen pounced late to secure the visitors their first point at Old Trafford since 1989 in a deserved 1-1 Premier League draw.

United thought they had done enough when substitute Anthony Martial put them ahead on 69 minutes, two minutes after coming off the bench, with a curling shot from the edge of the area that beat Stoke's excellent keeper Lee Grant. But Allen, who should have scored earlier, struck from close range in the 82nd minute after David De Gea fumbled a Glen Johnson effort and Jonathan Walters' shot came back off the bar. "To go a goal behind against a team like that and get a point is a tough ask but we did it, said Allen, whose goal was his second in consecutive league games. "When you come to Old Trafford you're not going to get many chances.

"We haven't been picking up many points but you can't fault the effort. We were determined to come here and get at least a point. We did threaten at times, which is a good sign for the weeks to come." Although Paul Pogba hit the bar late on, the visitors earned their draw with a backs-to-the-wall showing that moved them off the bottom of the table.

United, who again started with Wayne Rooney on the bench, should have made more of a string of chances, with Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Jesse Lingard all going close. Despite the dropped point, United manager Jose Mourinho said it was the "best United performance all season".

Mourinho added: "It was much better than against Leicester (when United won 4-1 last week). It could have been 3-0 or 4-0 at half time, 6-0 at the end of the game, but the result was 1-1. But that's football." —Reuters

Ricciardo leads Red Bull one-two as Hamilton retires

SEPANG, (Malaysia) — Daniel Ricciardo claimed his maiden Formula One win of the season in Sunday's Malaysian Grand Prix after reigning world champion Lewis Hamilton retired from the lead with a blown engine.

The Australian's Red Bull team mate Max Verstappen finished second to score the former champions' first one-two finish since the 2013 Brazilian Grand Prix, denying Mercedes the chance to wrap up the constructors' title at the Sepang circuit.

Nico Rosberg finished third,

despite collecting a 10-second time penalty after colliding with Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen, to extend his gap over Hamilton to 23 points in the overall standings.

—Reuters



Daniel Ricciardo. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bayern drop first points, Dortmund lose at Leverkusen

BERLIN — Bayern Munich's perfect Bundesliga start came to a screeching halt when they drew 1-1 with Cologne on Saturday but they still protected their three-point lead after rivals Borussia Dortmund lost 2-0 at Bayer Leverkusen. The Bavarians, who lost at Atletico Madrid in the Champions League in midweek, hit the woodwork three times but failed to make their dominance count, with Cologne protecting their undefeated run. Bayern, however, stayed three points clear at the top on 16 after a surprisingly toothless Dortmund conceded one goal in each half to slump to their second loss of the season at Leverkusen and drop to third on 12, level with fourth-placed Cologne.

"We have not been good in two games but I am confident," Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters. "We started the game well, dominated but in the second

half Cologne improved.

"We could have won that game but Cologne also had chances to win it. We can be disappointed but we should not be worried."

The hosts struggled against the hard-working Cologne defenders for 40 minutes before Joshua Kimmich finally broke the deadlock, diving to head in a beautiful Juan Bernat cross for the lead.

Thomas Mueller came close to adding another goal four minutes after the restart as did Robert Lewandowski, with Bayern keeping up the pressure and looking to kill off the game.

But it was Cologne who scored when striker Anthony Modeste timed his run to perfection, taking off inside the box to volley a cross into the back of Manuel Neuer's net for his fifth goal of the campaign. The hosts were left stunned for a few minutes with Cologne trying to hit them



Cologne players celebrate draw against Bayern Munich during German Bundesliga, Allianz-Arena, Munich, Germany, on 1 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

again on the counter-attack and Yuya Osako's effort was ruled out for offside. Cologne keeper Timo Horn made the save of the day when he punched a point-blank Mueller volley on to the crossbar and the Bavarians also hit the woodwork with a powerful low drive by Bernat five minutes from

time. The last big chance fell to the visitors, however, with Simon Zoller coming agonisingly close to a stoppage-time winner as his shot rolled just wide of the post.

Hertha Berlin climbed to second spot on 13 points, after easing past Hamburg SV 2-0 with two goals from Vedad Ibisevic, who

became a father late on Friday.

Hamburg, under new coach Markus Gisdol, have yet to win this season and are in 17th place on just one point. Dortmund were a shadow of their attacking self as mercurial Leverkusen took a 10th-minute lead through Admir Mehmedi's header.—Reuters