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Locals deserve benefits of tourism: Vice President

LOCAL people of a popular tourist destination deserve direct and indirect benefits of tourism, said Vice President U Henry Van Thio on his inspection tour of community-based tourism in Kayah State.

While visiting the villages of local ethnic groups, the vice president promised them he would allocate more funds for vocational training of the locals so they can take advantage of the surging popularity of the region. The funds would be used for training of local tour guides, restaurateurs, hoteliers and arrangements for community-based and eco-tourism.

Kayah State attracted 3,986 tourists during the period from January to September 2016. During his tour of the state, the vice president visited Htipwint Lake, near Ngwe Taung Village in Dimawhso Township, where an umbrella-shaped volcanic structure of 227 feet in height and 115 feet in width that was created by a now-extinct volcano is located.

Package vacation tours feature the Taungkwe Pagoda, Myonarm Pagoda, Kandarawadi Palace, Htipwint Lake and its umbrella-shaped volcanic structure, the seven-tiered lake, the Htisekha waterfall and the Lawpita Hydropower Dam.

The vice president enjoyed the performances of local troupes and presented cash awards. At the seven-tiered Lake in Tahnelale Village, he heard reports on the revitalisation of Kayah traditions that are attracting an increasing number of tourists.



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Vice President U Henry Van Thio is welcomed by Padaung ethnic women. PHOTO: MNA

COLONIAL-ERA LAW REPEALED LAW REVOKING EMERGENCY PROVISIONS ACT APPROVED

MYANMAR has scrapped the Emergency Provisions Act, a law that was often used to quell dissent.

The government enacted the Law Revoking the Emergency Provisions Act, effectively abolishing the 66-year-old law. The law was signed yesterday by President U Htin Kyaw after it was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the joint-session of the two parliaments.

The Emergency Provisions Act was enacted in 1950 after Myanmar gained independence from Britain.

Under the act, anyone committing treason - which ranged from sabotage of railways to damaging telegraph poles - could face

life behind bars or even death. Hefty jail terms were also meted out for other crimes, such as spreading false news or disrupting public morality.

Also during yesterday's session, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin sought approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to ratify Protocol to the ASEAN

Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanisms.

Six ASEAN countries including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Laos have confirmed their entrance to the protocol, but Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore have yet to do so because they have to undergo a process of approval at home.

U Kyaw Tin said that Myanmar needed to ratify the protocol because it is a useful mechanism for peaceful resolution of disputes among member countries.

The Hluttaw is scheduled to discuss the protocol on 7 October.—GNLM with the Myanmar News Agency



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

44th Session of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw held with question and answer session and one proposal discussion

THE 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw continued for its 44th Session today with queries being fielded from parliamentarians and the discussion of one proposal.

U Mg Mg Oo, parliamentarian of Insein constituency, questioned what arrangements were being made to fulfill the need for the availability of a 24-hour power supply in the locomotive factory and staff housing complex of Myanmar Railway in Insein Township.

In response, U Thant Zin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Telecommunication replied that it would cost K3.7 billion to supply 24-hour electricity to the locomotive factory and staff housing complex in Insein Township. The minister added, "To do so, as of the nearest fiscal year, a budget for the installation of transformer and its accessories should be submitted. It was learned that it would cost over K1.8 billion to provide

a 24-hour power supply to the staff housing complex of Myanmar Railway in Yangon Region. Depending on the budget allocation during the ministry's tenure, the ministry plans to provide that power supply."

U Wun Hla of Nan Yun constituency, Naga Self-Administered Zone raised a question as to when the installation of GSM-3G phone lines in Nan Yun Township and Pan Saung Don Hi sub-township would be finished.

The Minister replied, "In Nan Yun and Pan Saung Townships, 2 CDMA -450 MHZ mobile stations consisting of 750 lines each have been operating well whereas in Don Hi Township, one MPT Satellite Terminal mobile station has been set up. In Don Hi one GSM 3G mobile station, currently under construction, is expected to operate 3G mobile services by the end of December 2016. But, it will be possible only if new satellite towers

have been built in substitution, in Nan Yun township and Pan Saung Sub-township. The ministry intends to provide phone and internet coverage services that will reach almost to the border areas by December 2018."

U Than Nyunt of Phyu constituency tendered a proposal urging the Union Government to upgrade national rail transportation to a level consistent with international standards. The proposal was discussed by 13 MPs.

Concerning this, Maj Ye Naing Lwin, representative for the Tatmadaw, said that good rail technology is attributed to providing low cost transport with time accuracy. It behooves the country to urgently find solutions to the ministry's annual losses in the rail transport sector, he said. With a view toward attracting investors from home and abroad, it is necessary to amend the Investment Law as well as rules and regulations for the benefit of the



Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA



Maj Ye Naing Lwin.



U Thant Zin Maung.

nation and its subjects, he added. The Major then stated his support for a budget allotted to building a better rail network in the country.

Afterwards, the minister proposed to record the proposal for

the reason that it cannot be implemented within 5 years. U Win Myint, the speaker, announced that it would be recorded with the approval of the Hluttaw.

—Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

42nd Session of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw held with discussions over project budget allocations, water works



U Kyaw Than.



Dr Tun Win.



U Khin Maung Latt.

THE 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw met for its 42nd session yesterday where a query was raised by U Khin Maung Latt of Constituency 3, Rakhine State on whether there were any plans to implement projects such as paddy cultivation development projects with monetary subsidies or loans from the World Bank, ADB or other banks in Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State.

Dr Tun Win, deputy minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation replied that the ministry would implement such projects under the national budget and allied countries' loans if the plan bears fruit.

The deputy minister added, "For the storage and distribution of fresh water in Ponnagyun Township, the Khami Kyein Chaung reservoir has been built with several embankments repaired. The Tabet Hlan Lethamar,

the Kha Maung Taw and Kyauk Seik Pyin embankments will be repaired in the near future."

In regard to the question raised by U Kyaw Than of constituency 10 Rakhine State, the deputy minister replied, "to repair 43 ruined embankments, the authorities need to embank 16,000 feet in total, hence the need to block Tein Creek. For the implementation of the works, the ministry will carry out the process by asking for a budget allotment from the State Government Fund's for the 2017-2018 fiscal year."

Concerning the question asked by U Tet Tun Aung, constituency 2 Rakhine State, the deputy minister replied, "An area survey needs to be launched to build a new dam and the estimated cost must be calculated in detail. It is impossible to do so in this fiscal year. It will be carried

out in the 2017-18 financial year as a priority, if it is deemed likely to be fruitful."

In regard to the query made by U Zaw Min Latt alias U Ko Latt of constituency 1, Shan State, the deputy minister answered, "To open up a bank (branch) in Yat Sauk Township - there is no plan for the time being, for many reasons - the need for staff, buildings and general budget concerns."

U Sun Myint, member of the Law Drafting Committee, read out the report with findings and comments by the committee on the draft of the Myanmar Investment Law as approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Hluttaw Speakers invited interested parliamentarians to discuss the draft and decided to hold that discussion during its 43rd session. —Myanmar News Agency

MPs Urge Smooth Process for citizenship certificates

YANGON Region Government will take punitive action against staffers who impede those applying for citizenship scrutiny certificates.

"We have instructed authorities concerned to facilitate the process of issuing the citizenship scrutiny certificates to eligible people if the facts in application form are correct," said U Zaw Aye Maung, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs.

MPs at the Yangon Region Parliament on Tuesday urged the government to make the process as convenient as possible in issuing the certificates.

MP U Thein Myint from Tamwe Constituency said the government has a responsibility to ensure smooth implementa-

tion of NRC issuance.

MPs also urged the government to promote public awareness about how to obtain citizenship certificates through pamphlets and notices in public places.

MP U Hla Htay from Mingalar Taung Nyunt also noted the long process to get an NRC card, which is necessary to pursue higher education and apply for jobs.

The Regional Minister also highlighted an option that allows citizens to complain of the staffers who violate the rules.

According to the 2014 census, about two per cent of the country's population; over 1.4 million people, do not have their NRC cards. —Ko Moe

Huawei Technologies donates K50 million toward repair of earthquake-hit pagodas in Bagan

HUAWEI Technologies (Yangon) Co., Ltd donated K50 million toward the renovation of ancient religious edifices in Bagan damaged during a recent earthquake today.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Mr. Zhang Liman, CEO of Huawei Technologies (Yangon) Co., Ltd, attended the ceremony which was held at the ministry

in Nay Pyi Taw.

First, the CEO explained the purpose of the donation. Then, the union minister thanked the company.

The donation is specifically intended to aid the currently ongoing, internationally monitored repair of ancient pagodas and temples in Bagan that were damaged during the earthquake on 24 August. —Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor hosts dinner for Commons Speaker of Britain

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a dinner for the British delegation led by Mr John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Britain, at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Before the dinner, the State Counsellor greeted those in attendance.

Also present at the dinner were Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Ti Khun Myat, Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar Mr Andrew Patrick and other officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks with Mr John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Britain. PHOTO: MNA

Workshop on crime prevention strategy held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony of the workshop on drafting the national strategy for crime prevention in accordance with the country programme (2014-2017) signed between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the UNODC was held at the Royal Ace Hotel

in Nay Pyi Taw today.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Mr. Troels Vester of the UNODC addressed the opening ceremony.

Police Major-General Zaw Win, Chief of the MPF, explained the chang-

ing concepts of crime prevention.

It was attended by officials of the Myanmar Police Force and the General Administration Department.

The first day of the workshop took place at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel in

Nay Pyi Taw. Participants discussed guidance of the UN on crime prevention, experiences, types of crime committed in Myanmar each year, causes of crime and so on.

The workshop will continue tomorrow.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Yangon circular train upgrade project to cost USD 301.29 billion



A train arriving Yangon Station. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

THE upgrading of the Yangon circular train will cost US\$301.29 billion, which will come from the government budget and from a loan from Japan, according to the Myanmar Railway (MR).

The project will consist of appropriate departments building an urban train foundation path, railways, bridges, fences, pedestrian overpasses and pavements and purchasing new carriages.

“They will carry out the Yangon circular train

upgrading project with government budget and Japan loan. The authorities will buy 66 (Deisel Electric Multiple Use (DEMU) carriages with US\$206 billion of Japan loan,” said U Tun Aung Thin, general manager of Myanmar Railway (Lower Myanmar).

Myanmar Railway has cooperated with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since 2015. The project is expected to take about six years starting in 2017.—*200*

Chinese navy ships end 5-day visit in Myanmar

Zaw Gyi (Panita)

TWO Chinese navy ships left Yangon yesterday after ending their five-day goodwill visit. The two warships, the Xiangtan and the Zhoushan, arrived last Friday and were met by senior Myanmar military officers at the Thilawa International Port Terminal in Yangon.

The military delegation led by Senior Captain Mr Wang Hongli, together with Chinese Ambassador Mr Hong Liang, visited parliamentary meeting at the Yangon Region Parliament on Monday. They were welcomed at the parliament by Yangon Region Chief Min-

ister U Phyo Min Thein and Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Tin Aung Tun.

The visit came after the completion of its escort mission in the Gulf of Aden. The Chinese naval fleet, with a crew of 728 officers and sailors led by RADM Qin Wei, Deputy Director of Political Department, East Sea Fleet, PLA-N, aims to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation, said Senior Captain Mr. Wang Hongli.

During the visit, officers of the Chinese naval fleet met with Myanmar military leaders and participated in sports events with Myanmar Tatmadaw soldiers.



Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein conducts Chinese navy delegation around the parliament. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

Locals deserve benefits . . .

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After hearing the reports, the vice president highlighted the importance of conservation of historical heritage, natural environment and traditional culture and urged officials to educate local people in order to be able to understand the nature of community-based tourism.

The vice president also viewed the traditional weaving methods of the Kayah ethnic people and their traditional homes. Afterwards, he visited Ngwe Taung Dam and natural limestone caves near Loikaw. Later that evening, locals performed traditional dances for the vice president in Kayah State Hall. With the tourism

industry rising globally, Myanmar expects to attract seven million tourists in 2020.

Myanmar has seen its tourism sector improve year after year, receiving 4.6 million visitors in 2015, with arrivals expected to reach 7 million in 2020, according to the vice-president. Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is implementing public-based tourism development projects as an initiative for the progress of tourism at designated areas nationwide. The ministry is making arrangements for travelers to observe traditions and customs of local people and to enjoy the ways of ethnic people, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

14th YANGON INTERNATIONAL LIFESTYLE FURNITURE FAIR

6th October to 10th October 2016

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Corn price drops due to lower demand from China

A DROP in demand for Myanmar corn in China is making it difficult for corn growers to hit their profit targets this year, it has been learned from local corn growers.

Myanmar grown corn is mainly exported to China. Last year, the price of corn remained high and so domestic corn growers planted more acres in anticipation of healthy exports this year.

China, however, has since tightened controls on corn imports, resulting in corn growers having to face losses, said corn grower U Sai Myint Han from Kyaukse township.

Last year, corn growers individually earned an average of K2,000,000 from exporting. This year's average earnings have dropped to around K600,000. Currently, corn sells for around K220 per viss (one viss is approximately 1.6 kilo-

grams) and dried corn sells for around K350 per viss.

"The yield of corn was over 1,000 visses this year. Growing corn seeds costs K250,000 per acre, which does not include corn mill costs and labour charges," said another corn grower named U Sai Thar Aung.

"We borrowed money at high interest from outside the community because the agriculture loan was insufficient to grow enough corn to reap what we expected to be a good return. But, it has not happened as we expected," said U Kyaw Myint, a local corn grower from Yezagyo.

The total volume of exported corn between 10 and 16 September was 14,879 tonnes worth US\$3.48 million. Myanmar growers export corn via Muse, Lwejai, Chin Shwe Haw and Kan Pait Tee trade camps.—
Aung Thant Khine



A maize plantation in a village near border with China. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Crime NEWS

Verdict on Dutch citizen to be given on 6th Oct

Aung Thant Khaing

THE court verdict on the Dutch citizen who unplugged cables to an amplifier at a religious ceremony and was subsequently accused of violating tourist visa rules will be handed down on Thursday.

The verdict comes after an investigation of the accused Dutch citizen and the witness he supplied yesterday.

The Dutch tourist unplugged the cables connected to an amplifier at Thusarita Dhammayon of Maha Aungmyay township in Mandalay during a Dhamma preaching ceremony. Court officials said his actions were disrespectful.

"The accused entered the Dhammayon, a sacred place for Buddhists, with shoes on and unplugged the wires, violating section 295 of the Penal Code on religion, instead of abiding by the traditions under the existing law—Daw Kay Phyo Khaing", a liaison officer of the court said.

Mr Klass Haytema was charged with violation of visa



Mr Klass Haytema arrives the court. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

regulations section 13 (1) and was put on trial on 3 October by the judicial officer.

A township judge said the accused has properly followed court procedure in defending himself.

"He is legitimate for proving that he is not guilty and submitting witness to the court," the judge said. "Eyewitnesses

on other side are required to be tried again if the accused demands".

The accused disclosed that he did not know the place was a holy place where footwear is strictly prohibited, and he went there to lessen the volume of the amplifier, without any intention to ruin equipment; thus he was not guilty of the case.

Police seize yaba pills from guest house

A COMBINED team comprising officers and staff from Kawthaung police seized yaba from a house in Aung Thuka ward, Kawthaung town on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the home of one Nay Chatgyi alias Than Phyo Aung and found 975 yaba pills inside a bag belonging to the suspect. Further searching revealed small personal caches of

yaba and other drug paraphernalia belonging to other guests.

Police have filed charges against Than Phyo Aung, Yan Naing Myo and Aung Lin Phyo under sections 15/19(A)/21 of the Penal Code. Police also filed charges against Thiha Kyaw and Thar Lay under sections 15/16(C)/21 of the Penal Code.—
Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)

Yaba seized in Mandalay and Yangon Region

An ANTI-narcotic police squad in Mandalay discovered 11,594 yaba pills inside the luggage of one Ma Shwe Hsai, it is learnt. Police made a traffic stop and searched a passenger bus at the 16 mile check point in Patheingyi township, yesterday.

Similarly, a combined investi-

gation team comprising police officers and staff from Yangon seized 570 yaba pills from a man found at Capital Hypermart in Dawbon township on Monday. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—
Myanmar Police Force



Ma Shwe Hsai seen together with seized drugs. Photo: MPF

Village woman commits suicide by poison

A 20-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide after drinking poison in Inn Bot Gone village, Min Hla township, Bago region, yesterday.

The deceased, identified as Ma Aye Chan Moe, consumed poison after she divorced from her husband. After being discovered, Ma Aye Chan Moe

was rushed to Min Hla general hospital. She died shortly after arrival. Police have arranged for a postmortem and are investigating the matter.—
Poke Sa Min Hla

LOCAL Business

Myanmar's pomelo to penetrate international market

Myanmar's pomelo cultivated under the UN-approved Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) is prepared to enter the ASEAN and international market, it is learnt from JIZ-SAFT (Standards in the Southeast Asian Food Trade).

Starting the third week of September, JIZ-SAFT has entered into agreement with the local partner growers in Mon State to carry out GAP project under the guidance of the Fruit, Flower and Vegetables Producers and Exporters Association. These local partner growers are engaged in Oway, Myint, Thanda Myaing, Wai Tun fruit farms in Mon State.

The project is slated to be

conducted from September, 2016 to February, 2018. The local partners will share the information of the project and GAP techniques to the pomelo association.

JIZ-SAFT will export products of the GAP project to foreign markets, ensuring the health security of consumers.

Agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar's economy, in which 70 per cent of the population in rural areas makes a living. Overall, the agricultural sector employs 50 per cent of the labour force, contributing 30 per cent of the GDP. Twenty per cent of exports are agricultural products, it is learnt.—200

Parking violation enforcement using wheel clamps to start on 15 October in Mandalay

MANDALAY City Development Committee (MCDC) will take action against drivers who park their cars in violation of traffic rules starting 15th October. Issuance of parking violation stickers and use of wheel clamps will begin, said U Win Maung, the head of the tax department of Mandalay City Development Committee.

Mandalay is the first city in Myanmar to introduce this system. A two-week awareness campaigns concerning the traffic rules began on 1st October. Notices will also be printed in newspapers and also via signs, pamphlets and LED boards at

popular public areas.

Initially, several teams, each comprising staff members from tax department, a traffic policeman and a police officer from MCDC will patrol the streets at north and south 35th Street in Mandalay.

Car owners and drivers found to be in violation will be fined Ks50,000. If they fail to pay the fine within a day, the vehicles will be towed and additionally fined Ks5,000 per day. If the drivers destroy the wheel clamp, they will be required to give a compensation equal to 10 times the value of the destroyed clamp.—200

Number of beekeepers increases due to foreign demand for Myanmar honey

WITH the demand for Myanmar's honey on the rise from foreign countries, including the United States, private entrepreneurs engaged in honey bee keeping has reached about 750, it is learnt from officials.

Myanmar's honey is exported annually to the United States, Canada, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, China and Japan. The bee-keeping business could help reduce the poverty rate

in rural areas by creating more job opportunities, officials said. The United States and Canada started placing orders for Myanmar's honey in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, said an official from the Sagaing bee-keeping department. Myanmar produced 10,875.81 metric tonnes of honey during the past three fiscal years from 2013-2014 to 2015-2016, of which 8,471.24 metric tonnes were exported.—200

Correction

A story about the State Bank of India in yesterday's issue incorrectly referred to the new office to be located in Yangon as a "representative office". The correct term should be "branch office". The accompanying photo contained a similar mistake. Also, the caption incorrectly referred to the bank as the State Bank of Myanmar. The correct name is the State Bank of India. H.E B. Shyam Charge d' affaires of the Embassy of India in Yangon graced the occasion.—Ed



Customers evaluate Thanaka barks at a shop in Bago. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Myanmar's Thanakha to be exported to European countries

Efforts are being made for the products of Myanmar's Thanakha (a yellowish-white cosmetic paste made from bark of the Thanakha tree) to be exported to European countries.

Thanakha products were previously sent to European countries to be tested in a laboratory. These products, already approved

by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are required to be in accordance with the quality and standards of the countries to which the products will be exported, said Kenneth Sein, a managing director from KSH Co., Ltd.

Thanakha is traditional cosmetic of Myanmar. Fifteen varieties of thanaka include soap, ton-

er, perfume, shampoo and facial foam.

Apart from cosmetic use, Thanakha also imparts a cooling sensation with its fragrant scent that is similar to sandalwood and provides protection from sunburn. It is also believed among Myanmar women to help remove acne and promote smooth skin.—200

One to two million flats required for urban people

ONE to two million apartment rooms are required for urban people, said Mr. Jack Finegan, a UN-habitat's Urban Programme Specialist.

According to statistics from the 2014 Population and Housing Census, about 1 to 2 million of rooms are needed for urban people. About 2 million of apartments are likely to be needed in 2030.

Myanmar's urban development is 30 per cent and it will keep forward to next 30 years, said Mr. Jack Finegan.

The urban population yearly increases 2 per cent and the accu-

mulative population in the urban city is higher when compared to other countries. Myanmar will soon have to deal with the requirements of low-cost housing, he continued.

The burgeoning migration to Yangon is being witnessed, causing the increase in housing requirements, said Mr. Nitesh Khirwal, the managing director and co-founder of House.com.mm.

Yangon is possibly to host above 10 million in the coming 10 to 20 years, resulting from the economic and social conditions. The city will turn into a Mega City, said U Myint Naing, the

deputy director-general from the human settlement and housing development department.

Therefore, this will be the main problem for Yangonites to solve. The rural development might reduce the migration rate to the big cities. Thus, the rural development plan is given priority to carry out, he added. About 75 per cent of Yangon population earns Ks 2 Lakh and under, according to the survey in Yangon. Additionally, the accommodation for one third of Yangon's population should cost Ks65,000 per month, said Mr. Jack Finegan.—Myitmakha News Agency

Philippine-US war games under way as doubts hang over alliance

MANILA — The Philippines and the United States launched annual joint military exercises on Tuesday, barely a week after the new president in Manila said they would be the last.

President Rodrigo Duterte has angrily rejected US concerns over the bloody war on drugs he has launched since coming to office in June. His frequent tirades have thrown into question one of Washington's most important alliances in Asia. However, the annual amphibious landing exercises between the Philippines military and US Marines were to take place as planned in the northern island of Luzon on Tuesday. US and Philippine personnel were seen linking arms and chatting at an opening ceremony in Manila. The exercises run until 12 October. "We share a unique and enduring bond in this region, and each year we are offered an invitation

to strengthen our relationship during (these exercises)," US Marine Brigadier General John Jansen said in a speech. Military leaders from both countries have also started preparing for a new set of exercises next year. Duterte has engaged in near-daily outbursts against the United States for the past month, at one point calling US President Barack Obama a "son of a bitch", raising questions about whether Manila might complicate regional diplomacy.

Despite US dismay over Duterte's remarks, current and former US officials played down the impact. Duterte later said he regretted using that language to describe Obama.

Washington relies on its alliance with the Philippines to cement its influence in Asia as a counterbalance to China's rapid rise. Duterte has appeared to actively court its rivals Rus-

sia and China, saying they expressed support when he complained to them about the United States. Duterte's foreign minister has said his comments had been taken out of context and, while US officials have expressed concern over his remarks, they say they are reassured by the fact he has yet to translate his words into less military cooperation. The United States has sent the Philippines hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid and military and development assistance in recent years, making it the third-largest Asian recipient of US military aid after Afghanistan and Pakistan. A US embassy official said on Tuesday both sides were continuing to co-operate. "We're continuing to work with our partners on our bilateral relationship as we know it to be and as it has existed for decades," embassy official Emma Nagy said.—Reuters

New deputy FM appointed in Laos

VIENTIANE — The Southeast Asian nation of Laos appointed a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), local media reported Tuesday.

Thongphan Savanphet has been appointed to the position, joining Sengphet Hounbounyuan and Khamphao Eunthavanh as deputies in the Lao foreign

ministry, Lao News Agency KPL reported.

The appointment comes amid transition in the Lao MOFA with the appointment of Minister Saleumxay Kommasith in April coinciding with the elevation of predecessor Thongloun Sisoulith to the prime ministership of the nation of some 6.5 million.

The change follows a busy year for the diplomatic corps with the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that culminated in the hosting of the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and related summits on 6-8 September.—Xinhua

Typhoon Chaba to bring stormy conditions to Sea of Japan coast Wednesday

TOKYO — A powerful typhoon is forecast to bring strong winds and high waves to northern areas of the Sea of Japan coast on Wednesday after passing near Japan's southern island prefecture of Okinawa, the weather agency said.

Typhoon Chaba, the season's 18th typhoon, may make landfall in the

Hokuriku or Tohoku areas of the main island of Honshu on Wednesday evening or Thursday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The agency lifted a special warning for Okinawa Prefecture on Tuesday after the typhoon passed nearby early in the day. It caused damage to dozens of buildings on Kume Is-

land but nobody was reported injured, according to the local government.

As of 6 p.m., the typhoon was moving northward at a speed of 30 kilometers per hour in the East China Sea, packing winds of up to 252 kph with an atmospheric pressure of 925 hectopascals near its center, according to the agency.—Kyodo News

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Indonesia air force holds its largest military exercise in South China Sea



Indonesian Air Force Sukhoi fighter jets land after training for an upcoming military exercise at Hang Nadim Airport, Batam, Riau Islands, Indonesia on 3 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

JAKARTA — Indonesia's air force is holding its largest military exercise this week, near some of its islands in the South China Sea, in a show of sovereignty over the gas-rich area on the fringe of territory claimed by China, officials said on Tuesday.

President Joko Widodo in June launched an unprecedented campaign to bolster fishing, oil exploration and defence facilities around the Natuna

island chain after a series of face-offs between the Indonesian navy and Chinese fishing boats.

China, while not disputing Indonesia's claims to the Natuna islands, has raised Indonesian anger by saying the two countries had "over-lapping claims" to waters near them, an area Indonesia calls the Natuna Sea.

"We want to show our existence in the area. We have a good enough air

force to act as a deterrent," said Jemi Trisonjaya, spokesman for Indonesia's air force. More than 2,000 air force personnel were taking part in the two-week long exercise, which includes the deployment of Indonesia's fleet of Russian Sukhoi and F-16 fighter jets, he said.

Other branches of the Indonesian armed forces are not taking part in exercise, which ends on Thursday. China claims almost

the entire South China Sea, where about \$5 trillion worth of trade passes every year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims.

While Indonesia is not part of the dispute over claims in the South China Sea, it objects to China's inclusion of waters around the Natuna Islands within its "nine-dash line", a demarcation line used by China to show its claims in the sea.—Reuters

Establishment Thai MPs plan military-backed party to keep junta chief as PM

BANGKOK — Pro-establishment lawmakers in Thailand said they plan to ensure junta chief Prayuth Chan-ocha stays on as prime minister by fielding a proxy political party backed by the military in a general election planned for next year.

Thailand voted overwhelmingly in August to accept a junta-backed constitution, paving the way for an election — but one that will require future elected governments to rule on the military's terms.

Paiboon Nititawan, a former senator appointed by the military to its reform council and its constitution drafting committee, said he would set up a party to nominate Prayuth as the next prime minister.

"We have retired generals and soldiers that are interested in joining our party," Paiboon told Reuters. "We need a good



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha speaks during an announcement of the junta's two year accomplishments at Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

person to ensure the reforms put in place by the junta get carried out. For me, that person is General Prayuth."

Thailand has seen 19 coups

or attempted coups since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932 and the role of the military in politics is always closely watched. Politicians from main

political parties said the military had been lobbying people to join Paiboon's party.

For its part, the junta says it does not support the formation of a political party and it is not interested in staying in power beyond 2017. Prayuth has said that all options must be exhausted before he would accept any nomination to become prime minister again.

Suranand Vejjajiva, a former minister in the Yingluck Shinawatra government that was overthrown in May 2014, said a party that supports Prayuth as premier could gain enough seats to ensure military rule.

"There is something within the Thai political culture that longs for a figure of authority who comes in and solves our problems," he told Reuters.

Kasit Piromya, a former

foreign minister and member of the pro-establishment Democrat Party, said the military was reaching out to more conservative members of his party to form a coalition with Paiboon's party.

Under the new constitution, a 250-member upper house Senate will be appointed by the military and six seats will be reserved for the heads of the armed forces and police.

The military will need at least 125 lawmakers from the elected lower house to join the appointed senators in voting for a non-elected prime minister.

The constitution will allow the military to retain extensive powers during a transition period following the general election and, following an eventual royal succession that has prompted worries about instability.—Reuters

Vietnamese customs seize over 300 kg of elephant ivory from Africa

HANOI — Vietnamese customs officers seized more than 300 kilograms of elephant tusks from Africa over the weekend, official media reported Monday.

The 309 kg of tusks, seized on Saturday at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, were transported on an Etihad Airways plane from Lagos, Nigeria, the Viet Nam News Agency said.

It said the case is under investigation.

The elephant ivory was falsely declared as glass, according to TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade watchdog of the conservationist groups WWF and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The seizure follows one in March at the same airport in which 238 kg of ivory arriving by air from Nigeria was found by customs officers.

"The authorities in Viet Nam are to be commended for

making this important seizure," Chris Shepherd, regional director for TRAFFIC in Southeast Asia, said in a statement.

Viet Nam is among 22 countries listed by authorities of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, as "most heavily implicated" in the illegal trade in ivory that is threatening the survival of elephant populations in Africa.

Among them, Viet Nam and seven other countries — Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and China including Hong Kong, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda — have been designated as countries of "primary concern." A survey carried out over an approximately two-week period in 2015 found more than 16,000 ivory products in the greater Hanoi area alone, according to TRAFFIC.—Kyodo News

Thai-Chinese mark Vegetarian Festival with piercings, processions

PHUKET — Devotes on the Thai island of Phuket parade with gruesome piercings as exploding firecrackers fill the air during an annual Vegetarian Festival.

For 10 days during the ninth month of the Chinese lunar year, believers from the country's Thai-Chinese community abstain from meat, alcohol, sex, and other habits thought to be vices that pollute the body and mind. Instead, they pray at temples, join in processions, walk over hot coals at shrines and have their faces pierced, all in the name of purification.

Piercings through the cheeks or lips are often done

with knives, swords or skewers. More unusual ones are done with guns, umbrellas, or models of ships and motorcycles.

Believers are usually in a trance as the ritual is carried out. They may also choose to cut themselves with axes or pierce their skin with several hooks.

The festival, known as "Jia Chai", which started on Saturday, and continues until 9 October, is thought to have first been observed more than 150 years ago, when an itinerant Chinese opera troupe which had fallen ill recovered after praying to the Nine Emperor Gods and adhering to a strict vegetarian diet.—Reuters

North Korean missile advances expose Japan in two-decade arms race



Members of the Japan Self-Defence Forces stand guard near Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) land-to-air missiles, deployed at the Defence Ministry in Tokyo, Japan, on 7 December 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — Successful rocket tests have propelled North Korea ahead in a two-decade long arms race with Japan, leaving Tokyo unsure it could fend off a missile strike by the Pyongyang regime without US help, military sources told Reuters.

Under young leader Kim Jong Un, North Korea has test fired 21 ballistic missiles since the start of the year, an unprecedented burst of activity that has rattled its neighbours and the international community.

"Their progress has been faster than anticipated," a senior Japanese military commander said.

"There is a limit to what our current ballistic missile defence system can achieve," he added,

asking not to be identified because he isn't authorised to speak to the media.

Planned upgrades to Japan's ballistic missile defence (BMD) are not due to begin until April at the earliest, while the deployment of new systems designed to destroy incoming warheads could take years to complete.

Constrained by production schedules and tight budgets that limit its ability to accelerate those plans, Japan may instead have to lean more heavily on its US ally to guard against attacks, the sources said. "Our only option for now may be to rely on the US to stop them," said another source at Japan Self Defence Forces (SDF).

Tokyo and Pyongyang have

been locked in an arms race since 1998 when North Korea fired a missile over Japan.

In June, a medium range Musudan rocket reached an altitude of 1,000 km (620 miles) on a lofted trajectory, marking a breakthrough that could allow Pyongyang lob warheads over the range of Japanese BMD Aegis destroyers patrolling the Sea of Japan.

That would leave older PAC-3 Patriot missile batteries protecting major cities including Tokyo as a last line of defence. A \$1 billion programme to improve their range and accuracy will begin after March, but the first will not be ready until the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, sources previously told Reuters.—Reuters

Opinion

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Strike a balance between negative and positive impacts of tourism

Tha Sein

TOURISM has experienced continued growth and deeper diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. It can bring about a real sense of pride and identity to communities and provides financial support for the conservation of ecosystems and natural resource management, making the destinations more authentic and desirable to visitors. Modern tourism is closely linked to development and includes more new destinations for tourists. These dynamics turned tourism into a key driver for socio-economic progress, leading to the alleviation of poverty in countries which are heavily reliant on tourism.

In his address at the ceremony to mark 2016 World Tourism Day held in Nay Pyi Taw the other day, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said that as long as those involved in tourism are working together with a sense of responsibility and accountability, the tourism industry will make progress, as Myanmar has seen its tourism sector improve year after year, receiving 4.6 million visitors in 2015, with arrivals expected to reach 7 million in 2020.

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is implementing community-based tourism development project as an initiative for the progress of tourism at designated areas nationwide and on course of fostering awareness

among local community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic values. Despite the work and potential of the industry to contribute much to the national development, it remains largely on the sidelines of the formal process at the international level.

According to the World Tourism Organisation, it was estimated that the industry managed to create one-eleventh of global job opportunities, especially for women and youths with 540 million tourists to visit the Asia-Pacific region in 2030, occupying 30 per cent of the world market. The universal recognition of the tourism industry as the world's biggest

and most rapidly developing business is a major step forward, for it has created jobs for skilled and semi-skilled employees both in urban and rural areas.

As any kind of development requires some interference with the nature and overdevelopment comes at the cost of nature with a possible damage to the rare species of flora and fauna, it is incumbent upon officials concerned to strike a balance between the negative impacts and positive impacts of tourism, when natural and man-made disasters and emergencies have become more frequent in the country. Only then, will tourism development of the country be possible and meaningful.

Participating in Change:

Promoting Public Sector Accountability to All

Shabih Mohib, Soren Davidsen and Robert Boothe

Successful development is about making a reality of aspirations and ambitious ideas through effective implementation – Myanmar can achieve just that for its people by instilling the values of transparency, accountability and public participation in its public sector.

Ideas and policies matter. They have the power to be transformative. A strong and efficient, transparent and accountable public sector is crucial for translating inspiring ideas and policies into real development outcomes. If we liken Myanmar to a car, then the public sector – a collection of institutions, processes and people which together function as the machinery of government – has an important role to play. The people of Myanmar sit in the driver's seat, the private sector is the engine which moves the economy forward – and the public sector acts as the car's transmission and gearbox. If it's running well, the car moves forward smoothly – but if it's poorly maintained, people may be in for a bumpy ride.

There are many examples of governments whose ideas inspired, but only a few manage to achieve their aspirations. In post-apartheid South Africa, the African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela, inspired the hopes and dreams of a nation with their vision for peace and

prosperity. However, it took many years of challenging public sector reform to help achieve the success we see in South Africa today. At this critical juncture, how can Myanmar's government ensure that its vision for growth and development is translated into real outcomes?

An important place to start is with public participation. In the past, lack of transparency and participation in the public sector had fueled inefficiencies in Myanmar, and compounded loss of public trust in government. Global experience suggests that citizen participation, especially from the poor, is a critical ingredient for good service delivery – as is accountability for results, where effective provision of services is rewarded, especially provision to those people with the greatest need. Both public participation and accountability for results are most effective in an environment of openness and transparency.

Myanmar has taken some important first steps towards a more accountable public sector, and better use of public resources to support growth and service delivery. Transparency has increased, with televised Union Budget debates, and published versions of both the enacted budget as well as a new, simplified Citizen's Budget. This has had a major impact on spending, with large increases for services like health and education. The tax system has become more equitable and transparent, with the introduction of a new self-assess-

ment system of taxation by the Large Taxpayer's Office. In addition to building trust, this new system will likely increase revenues – when Vietnam undertook a similar phased approach introducing self-assessment in the late 1990s, compliance costs for taxpayers dropped significantly, and government revenues as a share of GDP grew by more than 50 percent by 2011. Myanmar has also moved towards greater transparency in the use of natural resource revenues, successfully becoming a candidate of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) with the first report published in early 2016. Together, these reforms have helped revenues grow by almost double 2009 levels, providing crucial resources for services and public investment.

How can Myanmar build on the momentum of these different reforms? There are many opportunities to strengthen participation, transparency and accountability, but five options in particular seem promising.

First, continuing to promote a fair and transparent tax system will build public trust while also securing much-needed revenues. Authorities can achieve these objectives by continuing to roll out the self-assessment system to medium taxpayers, by continuing to strengthen taxpayer services and outreach, and by publishing and disseminating annual EITI reports, with the medium-term goal of expanding coverage to the jade and gems sectors.

Second, authorities can build trust and participation by enhancing transparency of public finances. This could include timely publication of key documents such as a Citizen's Budget, a Medium-Term Fiscal Policy statement with views on both availabilities and key commitments in the medium term, and the Union Budget proposal when it is submitted to the Hluttaw. A further step would be to publish existing fiscal data on the Ministry of Planning and Finance website for use by academia and civil society, building trust and confidence in government.

Third, Myanmar can empower local governments to meet the needs of their people by considering an appropriate balance of Union-State/Regions government relations. Decentralization is a complex and often political process – and by establishing a technical secretariat within government to provide advice on key policy questions such as roles and responsibilities, spending and revenue raising powers, Myanmar can make informed decisions about the best path forward. Such a secretariat was established in Thailand in the early 2000s under the Office of the Prime Minister to support the decentralization program, and it proved very important in coordinating the decentralization program.

Fourth, authorities can seek more active public engagement and feedback on policy reforms. Conducting public consultations on key legislation, especially related to public finances, would help build trust and partnership with the people of Myanmar while also giving valuable feedback and ideas to government. A medium-term goal could include developing a general legal framework to govern the issuance, con-

sultation and publication of legislation in order to entrench the principles of transparency and disclosure.

Finally, Myanmar can commit to the principles of accountability by measuring and publishing performance figures for key public services like waste management, sanitation, and the provision of utilities like power and water. Moving forward, various government departments could adopt minimum standards which the people of Myanmar should expect for these and other key services – and establish channels for the people of Myanmar to report any issues and have them speedily resolved. Such standards not only strengthen trust and accountability – they provide crucial information which government managers can use to help in their work.

When a government has great ideas, the difference between success and failure hinges on the ability of the public sector to translate policies into outcomes. The people of Myanmar stand to benefit from a public sector which is transparent, participatory and accountable. The World Bank Group looks forward to continuing working with Myanmar on improving service delivery countrywide.

Shabih Mohib is a program leader and lead governance economist, Soren Davidsen is senior public sector specialist and Robert Boothe is a public sector specialist at the World Bank. This op-ed is based on the World Bank Group's policy note "Participating in Change: Promoting Public Sector Accountability to all," prepared by Shabih Mohib, Robert Boothe, May Thet Zin, Soren Davidsen with inputs from Elizabeth Moor-smith and Corey Pattison.

MRCCI organizes roundtable discussion on “Smart Idea for You”

ORGANISED by the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI), a roundtable discussion on “Smart Idea for You” was held at the Mandalay National Theatre on Saturday 1 October. Chairman of MRCCI U Aung Than delivered the opening speech.

The headmaster of University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) of Thailand explained the MBA course was jointly organised by MRCCI and UTCC. Economics Professor Dr. Aye Kyaw asked questions of the younger participants during the roundtable discussion. Profesor Dr. Aung Myint and Sartaung U Thein Tun and U Chit Tun Pe spoke on “Successful Business”, and the author and journalist U Kyaw Yin Myint spoke on



Smart Idea for You roundtable discussion in progress.
PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

“Youth and Education”.

At the evening session, vice chairman of MRCCI U Aung San Win (Aung Thamadi) gave a talk on “Launching Business without Capital” and Myanmar Academy Award winning actress Swe Zin Htaik asked questions of the attendees. — *Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Three buffaloes killed by lightning



The carcasses of the tree buffaloes. PHOTO: SALAI MANG NGAI (GNLM)

A LIGHTNING strike in Sagaing region killed three buffaloes in Poe Hone village, Indaw township on Sunday. A local villager discovered the dead animals after a storm passed through. The dead animals belonged to U Hlan Kyine and Daw Khin Nu Paing. The village administrator and Doctor Aung Zaw Thien from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department visited the scene for investigation.

We should not eat the meat of animals killed by lightning. It can be poisonous for people, said a veterinarian.— *Salai Mang Ngai (GNLM)*

Works of Myanmar artist to be exhibited in London

WORKS of Min Wai Aung, a famous local artist who has found recognition internationally, will be showcased at an exhibit in the United Kingdom at the end of this month.

The new art exhibition will be held at Kings Road Gallery in London between 27 and 30 October, featuring 26 works, including 20 watercolour paintings and six acrylic paintings.

This is the sixth time Min Wai Aung has exhibited his artworks in London, which is considered a gateway to the global art market. His works featuring monks, nuns and lay people in bold colour combinations became famous among western art lovers starting from 1990s.

Min Wai Aung has been showcasing his art in Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Viet Nam and Japan in Asia, and also in Western countries including France, Switzerland, Germany and the United States.

The domestic art market in Myanmar has a bright future because of better infrastructure development including hotels, condominiums and high-rise buildings in the major cities. Currently, local artists mainly rely on foreign art lovers and collectors.—*Myint Maung Soe*



PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)

POEM:

“Our Beneficial Teachers”

* T stands for ‘teach’ or ‘train’.

Teachers do their duties under sun or rain
‘E’ stands for ‘experience’ that they need.
Their briefings are worthless indeed.
‘A’ stands for ‘active’ that they always are.
They make their pupils to become many a star.
‘C’ stands for ‘cavil’ as they’re fair and just.
They’re punctual as they think it’s a must.
‘H’ stands for ‘heart’ that means ‘kind’
‘To be dutiful’ is what they keep in mind.
‘E’ stands for ‘expose’ pupils’re scolded if they do wrong.
Teachers’ words are so soft that it’s like a song
‘R’ stands for ‘reliable’ as they are strong.
All the pupils pray, “May all teachers live long. ! “
All the teachers are the kindest and noblest under the sky.
They’re happy to teach until all the seas go dry.
The most honorable beings on earth are the Teachers.
The persons who people love, obey, trust and respect are the Teachers.

Daw Mya Mya Than and
the pensioner; teachers of S.H. S (6)
Botahtaung

“World Teachers’ Day”

- For many a year, teachers have watched the pupils playing to and fro.
The great doctors, the famous statesmen, they’ll surely grow.
For many a time, teachers may come and teachers may go.
Around the world is held “World Teachers’ Day”.
- Teachers are all kind and good, they may be from East or West.
They never feel tired though they teach without a rest.
With might and main, body and soul, they’ll do their best.
Around the world is held “World Teachers’ Day”.
- How wonderful they work, week in and week out, from morn to night.
They’re pleased if their pupils are good, clever, just and bright.
Their pupils are well-trained to differentiate what’s wrong or right.
Around the world is held “World Teachers’ Day”.
- The things that the teachers’ve longed and wished will come true.
Their hairs turn grey, with bent back and broken teeth, they’ll teach anew.
They’re sure and satisfied as they know they’ve done their job through.
Around the world is held “World Teachers’ Day”.

Daw Aye Aye Pyone
(Retired Teacher)

“Our Kind-hearted Teachers”

- * All the students are the same.
From the point of teacher’s view.
The students come from different land.
And their complexion of different hue.
Teachers treat the pupils so kindly.
That their love is genuine and true.
- * Though their work seems to be tiresome,
There’s cheer in every teacher’s face.
How wonderful they train their pupils!
Though each comes from different race.
Neither religion nor nation matters much,
Teacher’s smile is full of glow and grace.
- * East is East and West is West.
Never the twain shall meet.
But teachers have the same feeling,
Whenever their pupils welcome and greet.
Teacher’s spirit is so immortal,
That, on earth, there’s no one who can compete.

Honouring all the teachers
of the world
Daw Khin Khin Zaw and
Pensioner teachers of St. Paul’s
Boys School, S.H.S (6) Botahtaung

In new blow to campaign, Trump's foundation ordered to halt fundraising

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump answers questions from veterans as he appears at the 'Retired American Warriors' conference during a campaign stop in Herndon, Virginia, US, on 3 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



WASHINGTON — New York's attorney general ordered Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's charitable foundation to immediately stop fundraising in the state, warning that a failure to do so would be a "continuing fraud."

For Trump, the cease-and-desist order was the latest in a series of blows that has sent his campaign reeling. The New York businessman and his aides spent much of the weekend pushing back against suggestions that he may not have paid US federal income taxes for almost 20 years.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office said the Donald J. Trump Foundation was violating a state law requiring charitable organisations that solicit outside donations to register with the office's Charities Bureau.

The order followed a series of reports in *The Washington Post* that suggested improprieties by the foundation, including using its funds to settle legal disputes involving Trump businesses.

"The failure immediately to discontinue solicitation and to file information and reports required under Article 7-A with the Charities Bureau shall be deemed to be a continuing fraud upon the people of the state of New York," according to a letter dated on Friday that the office posted online on Monday.

Trump's campaign has suggested that the probe launched by Schneiderman, a Democrat, was politically motivated.

While again putting Trump's campaign on the defensive, the order could also undercut his efforts to make the Clinton Foundation, the family charity of Democratic presidential rival Hillary Clinton, a primary target in his campaign against her.

Trump has sought to paint the Clinton Foundation as a

"pay-to-play" operation under which the former secretary of state and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, rewarded big donors to the foundation with access.

The scrutiny of the Trump Foundation came as the Republican candidate was dealing with a torrent of bad news, including his shaky performance in first debate with Clinton on 26 September and the release by the New York Times of tax records that showed Trump taking an almost \$1 billion loss in 1995 that may have allowed him to avoid paying federal income taxes for up to 18 years.

In its series on the Trump Foundation, *The Washington Post* reported that Trump may have violated US Internal Revenue Service rules against "self-dealing" by using foundation money to purchase two portraits of himself, which were then hung at his private golf clubs in New York and Florida.

The newspaper also said that Trump may have improperly used the foundation to settle legal disputes, including one at the his Palm Beach, Florida estate; diverted income from his business to the charity to avoid paying income tax; and donated foundation money to support Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, a Republican, who was considering launching an investigation into Trump University, Trump's for-profit education venture. The foundation ended up paying a \$2,500 fine to the IRS for that donation.

In response to the Post's reporting, Schneiderman's office began a probe into the Trump Foundation.

The Trump campaign said in a statement on Monday that the charity would cooperate with the investigation. "While we remain very concerned about the political motives behind AG Sch-

neiderman's investigation, the Trump Foundation nevertheless intends to cooperate fully with the investigation," said Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks.

"Because this is an ongoing legal matter, the Trump Foundation will not comment further at this time," she added.

The New York Attorney General's Office is the sole regulator of charities in the state. A spokesman for the office said it is not unusual for the regulator to send notices to charities whose filings are overdue or incomplete, but a cease-and-desist letter is more serious.

While letters such as the one the Trump Foundation, which is based in Woodbury, New York, on Long Island, received are not judgements of wrongdoing, they are sent only after the office gets "a clear indication of wrongdoing," the spokesman said.

Trump established the charitable foundation in 1988, but it runs no programmes of its own. Instead, it donates money to other nonprofit groups such as the Police Athletic League for youths. Once the foundation began soliciting money from other donors beyond the Trump family, it was required by New York law to register with the state.

It is a radically different vehicle than the New York City-based Clinton Foundation, which has a \$354 million in assets and almost 500 staffers. It has worked to reduce the cost of drugs for people with HIV in developing countries, eradicate childhood obesity in the United States and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, among other things.

Trump has accused Clinton of being corrupted by donors to the Clinton Foundation while she was US secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. Clinton has dismissed Trump's allegation as a political smear.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thouless, Haldane and Kosterlitz win 2016 Nobel physics prize

LONDON — British-born scientists David Thouless, Duncan Haldane and Michael Kosterlitz won the 2016 Nobel Prize for Physics for studies of unusual states of matter such as in superconductors, the award-giving body said on Tuesday.

"Thanks to their pioneering work, the hunt is now on for new and exotic phases of matter," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement awarding the 8 million Swedish crown (\$937,000) prize.

"Many people are hopeful of future applications in both materials science and electronics."

Thouless was awarded half the prize with the other half divided between Haldane and Kosterlitz. Physics is the second of this year's crop of Nobels and comes after Japan's Yoshinori Ohsumi was awarded the prize for medicine on Monday.—Reuters

US providing \$400,000 in aid to Haiti and Jamaica for Hurricane Matthew

WASHINGTON — The US Agency for International Development said on Monday it was providing a combined \$400,000 (311,575 pounds) in aid to Haiti and Jamaica as the Caribbean nations prepare for Hurricane Matthew.

The agency said in a statement it had pre-positioned relief supplies and was preparing to ship in additional supplies to the central Caribbean.—Reuters

Wikileaks' Assange signals release of documents before US election

BERLIN — Wikileaks founder Julian Assange said on Tuesday the organisation would publish around one million documents related to three governments and the US election before the end of the year.

Assange denied that the release of documents related to the US election was specifically geared to damage Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, and said he had been misquoted in that regard.

Assange also signalled changes in the way Wikileaks is organised and funded, saying the group would soon open itself to membership. He said the group was looking to expand its work beyond the 100 media outlets it already works with.—Reuters

Not-guilty pleas entered for man accused of killing UK lawmaker

LONDON — The man accused of killing British lawmaker Jo Cox a week before the June referendum on EU membership declined to respond when asked if he was guilty at a court hearing on Tuesday and the judge recorded pleas of not guilty to all charges.

Thomas Mair, 53, is accused of shooting and stabbing Cox, a member of parliament for the opposition Labour Party, as she arrived for a meeting with residents in the northern English town of Birstall, part of her electoral district.

The murder shocked the nation and led to the suspension of referendum campaigning for several days. Cox had been campaigning for Britain to remain in the EU.—Reuters

Vietnamese 3-member family die in wedding shop fire

HO CHI MINH CITY — A Vietnamese couple and their daughter died in a fire which broke out early Tuesday at their wedding shop in Ho Chi Minh City.

The fire in District 12 killed the shop's owner Trinh Ngoc Tin, 35, his wife, and their two-year-old daughter, said the municipal Fire Prevention and Fire Police. Firefighters with six fire trucks managed to put out the blaze in around half an hour.

A total of 2,460 fires and explosions broke out across Viet Nam in the first nine months of this year, killing 90 people and injuring 216 others, while leaving losses of some 1,058 billion Vietnamese dong (47.4 million US dollars), the country's Fire Prevention and Fight Department said.—Xinhua

US suspends Syria ceasefire talks with Russia, blames Moscow

WASHINGTON — The United States broke off talks with Russia on Monday on implementing a ceasefire agreement in Syria and accused Moscow of not living up to its commitments under the 9 September deal to halt fighting and ensure aid reached besieged communities.

The confirmation that the US-Russian talks on Syria have collapsed suggests that there is little hope, if any, of a diplomatic solution emerging anytime soon to end a 5-1/2-year-old civil war that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced 11 million.

“The United States is suspending its participation in bilateral channels with Russia that were established to sustain the cessation of hostilities,” US State Department spokesman John Kirby said in a statement.

Secretary of State John Kerry last spoke to his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, on Saturday, a senior State Department official said, after Kerry threatened last week to walk away from the talks.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Russian news agencies the United States was trying to shift blame onto Russia, which in recent days had tried to sustain the agreement.

But Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s forces, supported by Iranian-backed militia and Russian air power, have since last week stepped up their offensive against rebel-held areas of Aleppo, Syria’s biggest city, bombing hospitals and damaging water supplies.

In the northeastern city of Hasaka, a bomb killed at least 20 people at a Kurdish wedding, according to a Kurdish militia and a



A man inspects damage near a hole in the ground after airstrikes on the rebel held al-Ansari neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria on 2 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

monitoring group.

A US intelligence official said the bombing campaign was “one of the deadliest” since the civil war erupted in 2011.

“These air strikes, mostly focused on Aleppo, have utilized a wide variety of deadly munitions, including barrel bombs, thermobaric bombs, incendiary munitions, cluster bombs and bunker busters,” the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The end of the talks could trigger deeper US consideration of military options such as providing more sophisticated arms, logistical support, and training to Syrian rebel groups, either directly or via Gulf Arab states or Turkey.

But the speed with which the ceasefire collapsed — after

a UN aid convoy was bombed in Syria — appeared to take some officials in the Obama administration by surprise and without a clear plan on the immediate way forward.

US President Barack Obama has been loath to get more deeply involved in a third war in the Islamic world and US officials have said he is unlikely to do so with less than four months left in office.

Just before Monday’s announcement, Russian President Vladimir Putin suspended a treaty with Washington on cleaning up weapons-grade plutonium, signalling he was willing to use nuclear disarmament as a new bargaining chip in disputes with the United States over Ukraine and Syria.

The senior State Department official dismissed links between the suspension of talks on Syria and Putin’s announcement.

Amid the growing tensions, the State Department announced that the top US diplomat on Europe, including Russia, will travel to Moscow later this week to hold talks with senior Russian officials on Russia’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea region in 2014. The United States and European Union imposed sanctions against Moscow for its actions in Crimea. Kirby said the United States would continue to communicate with the Russian military to ensure that American and Russian aircraft targeting Islamic State positions in Syria do not come into conflict with each other.—Reuters

Turkey suspends 12,800 police, tightening clampdown after failed coup

ANKARA/ISTANBUL — Hours after announcing a three-month extension of a state of emergency, Turkey suspended 12,801 police officers on Tuesday, saying they had suspected links to US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara blames for orchestrating July’s failed coup.

In a statement, Turkey’s national police headquarters said 2,523 of those suspended were police chiefs. The overall number represents more than 5 per cent of Turkey’s entire police force.

They “have been assessed to have communications or links to the Gulenist Terror Organisation, identified as a threat to national security,” the written police statement said.

Turkey lists the religious movement led by Gulen as an illegal terrorist network, though he has denied having any link to the uprising. State-run Anadolu Agency said 37 people working in the Interior Ministry’s headquarters had also been removed from their posts. It was not clear if both measures were linked.

President Tayyip Erdogan has taken unprecedented steps to rid state institutions of staff deemed disloyal or potential enemies since the attempted coup on 15 July. About 100,000 people in the military, civil service, police, judiciary and universities have been sacked or suspended from their jobs, and 32,000 people have been arrested.

Tuesday’s move came hours after deputy prime minister and government spokesman Numan Kurtulmus announced that a state of emergency imposed shortly after the failed coup would be extended for a further 90 days when it expires on 19 October.—Reuters

Afghan officials say troops clear Taliban from Kunduz amid sporadic clashes

KUNDUZ — Afghan forces regained control of most of the northern city of Kunduz city on Tuesday amid sporadic fighting, officials said, a day after Taliban militants appeared to encounter little resistance as they pushed to the city centre.

But social media accounts linked to the Taliban, which had taunted Afghan forces and their Western backers throughout Monday’s attack, said the group’s fighters were still inside Kunduz city on Tuesday with “clashes ongoing” and government troops “on the run”.

Taliban militants slipped past government defences early on Monday and occupied or attacked central areas of Kunduz, almost exactly a year after they briefly

captured the city in one of their biggest successes of the 15-year war.

The attack in Kunduz, as well as Taliban gains in areas of Helmand and Uruzgan where they also threaten provincial capitals, has underlined the insurgents’ growing strength and exposed weaknesses in the government, which is meeting international donors in Brussels this week to try to secure billions of dollars in additional aid.

Questions dogged the Afghan security forces, with the US military reporting it saw little evidence of significant fighting as the Taliban moved in, and some witnesses saying many police had simply abandoned their checkpoints without firing a shot.

In Washington on Monday, Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis told reporters the Taliban attack was more of a “Western-movie style shoot-them-up” raid than a concerted military offensive.

Afghan Defence Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said no checkpoints manned by army troops had been abandoned.

Afghan officials are still investigating how the Taliban managed to once again penetrate the city’s defences, despite months of military operations aimed at preventing a repeat of last year’s debacle, Ministry of Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqqi told reporters in Kabul.

“Right now we are focusing on clearing the city,” he said.

Backed by US special forces



Afghan security forces keep watch in front of their armoured vehicle in Kunduz city, Afghanistan on 4 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

and air support as well as warplanes of their own, Afghan soldiers sought to clear the city overnight, said Kunduz police chief Qasim Jangalbagh.

Taliban fighters, seeking to reimpose Islamic law after their 2001 ouster, remained in several areas of Kunduz but Afghan forces had made progress, he said.

“We have received reinforcement and have air support,” Jangalbagh said. “More than 25 enemies are killed so far and we have retaken several places. We are committed to clear the city.”

Five members of the government security forces had been killed, with another 13 wounded, Waziri reported.—Reuters

For now, US tries to ignore Philippines president's broadsides

WASHINGTON — US officials are doing their best to ignore Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's hostile rhetoric and taking comfort in the fact that he has yet to translate his words into less military cooperation.

The United States is trying not to give the new president a pretext for further outbursts while at the same time pressing ahead with military and other cooperation at lower levels, US officials said on Monday.

While an open break with Manila would create problems in a region where China has grown increasingly aggressive, there are no serious discussions about taking punitive steps such as cutting aid to the Philippines, according to two US officials.

Mindful of anti-colonial sentiment, despite the estimated 3 million people of Philippine descent living in the United States, US officials do not want to say or do anything that might encourage Duterte to turn his rhetoric into reality.

"He is like Mr. Trump," a senior Southeast Asian official said, referring to US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. "He craves attention, and the more he gets, the more outrageous he becomes. It is wisest to ignore him."

Asked by a reporter for his response to that comment, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said: "That is their opinion."

In the last month, Duterte has called US President Barack Obama a "son of a bitch," leading the White House to cancel a planned meeting.

He also appeared to liken himself to Hitler and said he would "be happy" to kill 3 million drug users and peddlers in the country but later apologised to the Jewish community for his reference to the Holocaust. Duterte also said his mention of the Nazi leader was a reference to how his critics had portrayed him.

In his latest broadside, Duterte said on Sunday he got expressions of support from Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and from an unnamed Chinese official after he complained of ill-treatment by Washington.

While Duterte has publicly suggested he would end joint military exercises, push US special operations forces out of the southern Philippines, and review a defence pact signed two years ago, US officials stressed none of this has happened.

US military officials said they were well aware of Duterte's comments, but their counterparts in the Philippines had reassured them that business continues as usual.

"No one is really losing sleep over it," said one US defense official on condition of anonymity.

"It is all bluster," said a second defence official, saying Duterte's remarks "have not bled over into our world."

There are about 100 US soldiers in Zamboanga City in the south, a Philippine military spokesman said, well below the 1,200 US forces initially deployed to help train and advise local troops fight the Abu Sayyaf Group, an Islamist militant group.—Reuters

Nobel winner Ohsumi says he hopes to encourage other researchers

TOKYO — Japanese scientist Yoshinori Ohsumi said Tuesday he hopes other researchers will be encouraged by his receipt of the Nobel prize in physiology or medicine for an intracellular process that degrades and recycles proteins.

"I hope it will serve as a message that something good may happen when you are doing basic things," Ohsumi told the media a day after becoming only the third Japanese to be the sole winner of one of the three Nobel natural sciences prizes.

Ohsumi, who revealed the mechanism of how autophagy begins and opened up the possibility of new treatments for illnesses including cancer, also said he hopes Japanese society will "support basic research for the future."

The 71-year-old honorary professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology has been busy giving interviews and making TV appearances since Monday evening and indicated the win has yet to sink in.

"I caught about three and a half hours (of sleep) and it still feels like an extension of yesterday, so I might feel differently once I get home and relax," he said.



Japanese scientist Yoshinori Ohsumi (L), 71, and his wife Mariko, 69, pose for photos with flowers during a press conference at the Tokyo Institute of Technology campus in Yokohama on 4 October 2016. The honorary professor at the institute won the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for elucidating mechanisms for autophagy. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

"I saw people in my laboratory making a toast with beer on TV and wanted to join in. I haven't been able to celebrate myself," he said smiling.

In a press conference held late Tuesday morning, Ohsumi urged young people to see the world.

"It is important to go abroad and experience different cultures," he said.

While a number of Japanese have shared

Nobel prizes with others, only two others before Ohsumi had singly won a prize in the field of natural sciences — Hideki Yukawa, who won the Physics prize in 1949, and Susumu Tonegawa, who won the physiology or medicine prize in 1987.

Ohsumi's 69-year-old wife Mariko said she was "downright surprised" at the news that he had been chosen for the Nobel prize.

"My husband sometimes fools me and teases me, so when he mentioned the Nobel prize I thought it was a lie," she said at the joint press conference.

Ohsumi also thanked people for providing an environment in which he could conduct research freely and expressed his gratitude for his wife's support throughout the 40 years they have been together.—Kyodo News

UN committee starts talks on banning nukes

NEW YORK — A UN General Assembly committee began discussions Monday on a spate of disarmament and security issues, with major regional blocs and other nations showing support for the start of negotiations in 2017 to outlaw nuclear weapons.

Myanmar's UN Ambassador Hau Do Suan was among speakers who noted that little progress has been made in realising a world free of atomic weapons in the 71 years since atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, despite the existence of disarmament treaties.

"Sadly, nuclear weapons still exist in large numbers and we are not yet in a position to claim that we are close to achieving the goals of a world free of nuclear weapons," he said, speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

He said the bloc has put its weight behind holding a conference in 2017 that would be open to all states along with international organizations and civil society "to negotiate a legally binding instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination."

The move came after a group of six countries has submitted a draft General Assembly resolution urging the start of negotiations in 2017 to outlaw nuclear weapons.

The draft resolution is expected to be put to a vote at the First Committee, which is charged with overseeing disarmament issues, as early as late this month.

The Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, also supports the international effort to advance negotiations as it considers the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons a violation of the United Nations



US Assistant Secretary of State Frank Rose speaks on 3 October 2016.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

charter, as well as goes against international and humanitarian law.

On behalf of the group, Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador Penelope Beckles, said such a prohibition on nuclear weapons can lead to attaining a world without them, adding that they support the recommendation "to begin a multilateral process for the negotiation of a legally binding instrument for the prohibition of nu-

clear weapons towards their total elimination."

Mexico's Ambassador Juan Jose Gomez, whose country is one of the drafters of the resolution along with Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Nigeria and South Africa, spoke out about the move toward multilateral negotiations by calling it a "collaboration" of the membership in an attempt to fill the legal gap and in an effort to work toward prohibiting them.

The United States has made clear its objection to any resolution calling for multilateral talks on the matter. Japan, the world's sole atom-bombed country, which is also under the US nuclear umbrella, has yet to state its position.

"Nuclear disarmament will only be achieved through an approach that takes into account the views and the security interests of all states," US Assistant Secretary of State Frank Rose said.—Kyodo News

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Duterte’s enforcer says ‘we are at war’, has no regrets about killings

LA UNION (Philippines) — When Philippines police chief Ronald Dela Rosa gave a rousing speech to his men at a regional headquarters in Luzon, they rewarded him with a gift: a replica of the sword used by actor Mel Gibson in the movie *Braveheart*.

The barrel-chested police chief grinned and gave the weapon, which is almost as long as he is tall, a practice swing. A voice on the camp’s loudspeaker declared him “the bravest of bravehearts”.

Dela Rosa acts as the enforcer for Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, whose war on drugs has led to more than 3,400 people being killed in just over three months.

Dela Rosa’s tour of Luzon, the country’s largest and most populous island, was the latest in a series of trips to stiffen the resolve of police officers at the campaign’s bloody frontline.

“I have to encourage them to do our job,” he told a Reuters reporter who went on the trip last month. “We are at war.”

Police said on 3 October they had shot dead 1,375 people in operations since President Duterte took office on 1 July. They also report a further 2,066 “deaths under investigation”, many of which human rights activists attribute to vigilante killings.

Reuters was unable to confirm the accuracy of these numbers or the extent

to which the killings have been committed by vigilantes.

The campaign has sparked outrage abroad, but in the Philippines it has won praise from a crime-weary population and only muted criticism from civil society groups.

In a country where the police are generally despised and feared because of their reputation for corruption and violence, Dela Rosa is popular. After only two months as police chief, the national media is already touting him as Duterte’s possible successor, an idea that the president’s spokesman Martin Andanar described as “speculative”.

Duterte has often called for the killing of drug dealers. And Dela Rosa has echoed the incendiary remarks. At a speech last month, he encouraged users and pushers to kill drug lords who had grown rich from exploiting the poor.

“You know who are the drug lords here, go to their houses, pour gasoline, set it on fire, show them you are angry at them,” he said.

Still, Dela Rosa’s close operational knowledge of the drug war could make him a focus if there is ever an independent investigation into the killings, said Rose Trajano, secretary general of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, a nationwide coalition based in Manila. It is unclear, though, whether anyone will be in a position to hold such



Philippine National Police Chief General Ronald ‘Bato’ Dela Rosa (C) and other police officials salute as they wear local Igorot tribe headdress while singing the national anthem during a visit at police Camp Dangwa, Benguet Province in northern Philippines on 2 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

an investigation.

“He is a good soldier of the president, but there will also be fear in him,” she said.

Dela Rosa told Reuters he was confident that killings during police operations were legitimate, and that the “deaths under investigation” were mostly the work of drug syndicates. “They are killing each other,” he said.

In person, Dela Rosa is intense but courteous, and says he is under pressure.

“My worry is that I won’t be able to deliver what is expected of me,” he told Reuters.

Duterte vowed on 18 September he would extend his anti-drug campaign for another six months, but Dela Rosa said he still felt pressed for time.

The biggest obstacles to the campaign, he said, were providing rehab services for the many users of crystal methamphetamine, a highly addictive drug known locally as shabu, and halting its

influx from abroad, particularly the flow from China.

More than 700,000 drug users and pushers have registered with the authorities in a process termed “surrendering”. But there are very few programs or facilities to help most of them, and local media have reported the killing of scores of people who have registered.

Dela Rosa told Reuters the number of drug-war killings would continue to rise. “Every day the number of dead increases,” he said. “Every day the arrests increase and those who surrender.”

Dela Rosa bristles at the mention of foreign critics. The United States has said it is “deeply concerned” by the killings, while two United Nations experts have accused Duterte of incitement to violence, a crime under international law.

“They’re making us out to be killers,” said Dela Rosa. “It really broke my

heart. We’re doing this for the good of the Filipino people.”

Before the anti-drug campaign, he said, people were scared to leave their houses. “Now the situation has been reversed. Law-abiding people are going out. Criminals are hiding. See the difference?”

But while other serious crime has declined, the murder rate has soared, and in some communities residents told Reuters that police and vigilante killings had made them too frightened to go outside after dark.

Dela Rosa, 54 — whose earliest ambition was to be a boxer — is popularly known as “Bato”, after his hometown south of Davao City. It also means “rock” in the national language Tagalog.

His late father was a pedicab driver who could barely afford to send him to school, said Dela Rosa in a tribute on his Facebook page in June.

Davao City is where President Duterte spent 22 years as mayor, unleashing a brutal anti-drugs campaign that the hard-charging Dela Rosa joined as he rose through the ranks of the local police force.

“I liked what he was doing and he liked what I was doing, so we became friends,” Dela Rosa recalled. Duterte made him Davao’s police chief in 2012.

The Coalition Against Summary Execution, a Davao-based watchdog, has documented 1,424 vigilante-style killings in the city, including 162 in 2012-13 when Dela Rosa was chief.

Asked about the findings, Dela Rosa said: “I will look into that.” Adding: “I don’t memorize that data.”

Duterte appointed Dela Rosa his national police chief over other more senior officers, giving him free rein to roll out Davao’s harsh crime-fighting model across the country.—Reuters

Haitians flee homes as Hurricane Matthew hits

LES CAYES (Haiti) — Haitians living in vulnerable coastal shacks frantically sought shelter as the strongest Caribbean storm in nine years, Hurricane Matthew, closed in on the southwestern peninsula, sending storm surges, wind and rain into seaside towns.

Matthew, a violent Category 4 storm packing 145 mile-per-hour (230 kph) winds, was due to pound the western tip of Haiti early on Tuesday, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

“Life-threatening rain, wind and storm surges” had begun to spread over parts of

the country as Matthew approached, the centre said in a 5 a.m. EDT (0900 GMT) Tuesday advisory.

The outer bands of the cyclone had already reached the area late on Monday, flooding dozens of houses in the town of Les Anglais when the ocean rose, the local mayor said. In the town of Les Cayes on the southern coast, the wind bent trees and the power went out.

“We have gusts of wind hitting the whole area and the people have fled to a shelter,” said Les Anglais mayor Jean-Claude Despierre. In Tiburon, another town near-

by, the mayor said people who had been reluctant to leave their homes also fled when the sea rose.

“Everyone is trying to find a safe place to protect themselves, the situation is very difficult,” mayor Remiza Denize said, describing large waves hitting the town.

The storm is forecast to spread hurricane-force winds and up to three feet of rain across denuded hills prone to flash floods and mudslides, threatening villages as well as shanty towns in the capital Port-au-Prince.—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)	II		
3.	Tin- Wolfram Mixed Concentrate	288 MT (Abt)	II	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)	II		

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

Kim Kardashian back after being held at gunpoint in \$10m Paris robbery

PARIS/NEW YORK — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian returned to New York “badly shaken” on Monday after being robbed at gunpoint in her Paris residence by masked men who stole some \$10 million worth of jewellery.

Kardashian, wearing sunglasses and with her head bowed, was pictured entering her Manhattan apartment with her rapper husband Kanye West. She had left Paris by private jet hours after robbers tied

her up in the bathroom and put a gun to her head.

According to her publicist, Kardashian was “badly shaken but physically unharmed.” She said nothing to waiting media upon her arrival.

The reality star’s friends, including Jonathan Cheban and La La Anthony, turned up at her residence shortly after her arrival and also avoided talking to the media.

“What happened is very unfortunate and those responsi-

ble must be severely punished,” French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault told TV5 Monde. “We are fully mobilised to ensure the safety of the French people, as well as all those who visit France, and in particular tourists.”

A Paris police source earlier told Reuters that five attackers, wearing ski masks and clothes with police markings, struck around 3am (0100 GMT) inside the exclusive apartment block where Kardashian, 35, was staying while attending Paris Fashion Week.

Two of the men entered Kardashian’s apartment after threatening the night guard with a handgun. Kardashian, who has two young children with West, was not beaten but the robbers put a handgun against her temple before tying her up, the source said. iTELE television said she had been tied up with packing tape.

E! News, whose US network broadcasts the “Keeping Up With the Kardashians” television show, on Monday quoted a source close to Kardashian as saying she feared for her life.

“She begged for them to let her live and (said) she has babies at home... She thought they were for sure going to kill her,” the unidentified source told E! News.

The robbers stole a box containing jewels worth 5 million to 6 million euros (\$5.6 million to \$6.7 million) and a ring worth about 4 million euros (\$4.5 million), the Paris police source said.

As news of the robbery spread, West abruptly ended a performance in New York less than an hour into his set on Sunday night.—Reuters



A police officer stands guard at the entrance of a luxury residence on the Rue Tronchet in central Paris, France, on 3 October 2016 where masked men robbed US reality TV star Kim Kardashian West at gunpoint early on Monday, stealing jewellery worth millions of dollars, police and her publicist said. PHOTO: REUTERS



Grumpy cat arrives at the 2014 MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles, California in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Grumpy Cat immortalized in wax, makes Broadway debut

LOS ANGELES — Grumpy Cat, the internet’s most famous scowling feline, not only unveiled a waxwork of herself this weekend, but also joined the cast of Broadway musical “Cats” to close out the show with some added “meow.”

Grumpy Cat, 4, posed next to a wax replica of herself at Madame Tussauds waxwork museum in Washington D.C. last week, before snapping photos with the museum’s other famous inhabitants, including former US presidents Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan.

When asked how Grumpy Cat was feeling, her owner Tabatha Bundesen told Reuters, “She was thrilled. As you can see, she’s still thrilled.”

After her visit to the nation’s capital, Grumpy Cat’s next stop was New York’s Broadway, where she was the guest of honor at Friday’s curtain call for Andrew Lloyd-Webber musical “Cats.”

She was cheered on by the cast on stage and the audience as she received a placard commemorating her Broadway debut.

Grumpy Cat, whose real name is Tardar Sauce, went viral in 2012 after her permanent scowl, which her owner said was caused by feline dwarfism, became meme-worthy fodder.

She has appeared in Lifetime movie “Grumpy Cat’s Worst Christmas Ever” in 2014 and also has picture books and plush toys modeled after her.—Reuters

Stella McCartney models dance as if in Broadway musical

PARIS — Stella McCartney on Monday gave further evidence that fashion brands are increasingly becoming entertainment companies as she closed her show with models twirling and dancing as if in a Broadway musical.

Videos of the event at Paris’s Opera Garnier went viral after appearing on social media like Instagram and Facebook.

Fashion brands are stepping up their presence on social media to woo young consumers — the buyers of tomorrow — who spend more time online than with traditional media such as glossy magazines and TV.

Stella McCartney is one of the most active fashion brands on Instagram, with more than 3 million followers. Last year, it invited artists to post illustrations of her show on Instagram, which raised the brand’s visibili-

ty worldwide.

“It is important that the show is fun,” McCartney told Reuters after the Paris show. “I am very irreverent, I am British, so I want to have fun, I want to enjoy it and this is what we do in this house.”

It has been all about sports this Paris Fashion Week — with fencing at Dior and car racing at Nina Ricci — and at Stella McCartney, the focus was on gymnastics.

Models strutted down the catwalk in all-in-one pieces with gym tops and wide trousers. There were also white cotton corsets featuring what appeared to be back-supporting belts and stitched in with baggy trousers.

At the end of the show, instead of sashaying down the runway to present the collection as a group one last time, as is normally done, the models formed

circles and rows and danced for 10 minutes with arms in the air to loud electro-African music.

“It was magical, it was one of those shows you want to be part of as a model,” actress and model Natalia Vodianova told Reuters. “It was great to see the girls allowed to shine and show their true personality.”

Vodianova sat next to actress Salma Hayek and her husband Francois-Henri Pinault, chief executive of the Kering group, which has a 50 per cent stake in Stella McCartney.

Stella McCartney reported sales in its home British market of 31.8 million pounds (\$40.83 million) in 2015, against 31.6 million pounds in 2014, and said operating profit in Britain grew 10 per cent to 6.63 million pounds over the same period. — Reuters



Models present creations by British designer Stella McCartney as part of her Spring/Summer 2017 women’s ready-to-wear collection during Fashion Week in Paris, France on 3 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

French artist brings floating fish to London's Tate Modern

LONDON — French artist Philippe Parreno fills Tate Modern's Turbine Hall with inflatable fish for a new installation in the vast central space of the London gallery.

"Anywhen", on display until April, uses speakers and video screens to toy with time and space as the fish float into different formations.

"The sound objects interact with the light changes. The panels interact to the sound changes, so everything is connected," Parreno said. "Although there is something at work, we don't really know what is at work."

The gallery's Tur-

bine Hall has previously displayed works such as Ai Weiwei's "Sunflower Seeds", made up of 100 million handmade porcelain "seeds" spread on the floor. Parreno's previous work has explored boundaries between reality and fiction. He is also known for a film, "Zidane: A 21st Century Portrait", which followed former French footballer and current Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane. "I think Philippe has this very rare capacity of bridging the history of modern contemporary art and what art might be," said Andrea Lissoni, Tate Modern's senior curator of international art.—*Reuters*



French artist Philippe Parreno poses with his installation 'Anywhen', in the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern in central London, Britain on 3 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Danish park designed to promote tolerance in community wins architectural award

AL AIN (United Arab Emirates) — An urban park in Denmark to promote tolerance between immigrants and local residents and a mosque in a flood-prone area of Bangladesh were among winners of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture on Monday.

The \$1 million prize is awarded every three years to honour architectural projects that address the needs of societies in which Muslims have a significant presence.

This year's six winners also included a children's library in Beijing and a pedestrian bridge in Tehran.

Superkilen, a series of public spaces in a deprived immigrant area of the Danish capital Copenhagen,



People play basketball at Superkilen park in Copenhagen, Denmark on 22 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

was designed as an outdoor meeting place for people of 60 nationalities living in the area — including many refugees.

Islamic-themed sculptures and skateboard ramps are a feature of the urban park and Muslim women

bring their children there to play on the swings.

"Architecture can be a means of joining people. It is a way to showcase commonalities between the Muslim communities that exist in all regions of the world," said Mohammed

Al Asad, a member of the Award's steering committee.

"Of course there are tensions in Europe between the immigrant and host populations. This project is unique because it brings together all the different ... communities," he said. The six winners were chosen from 348 projects in 69 countries nominated for the award, and were announced in a ceremony in the renovated 19th century Jahili fort in the United Arab Emirates.

The winners were chosen by an independent jury of architectural experts appointed by the Aga Khan Foundation, named after the wealthy leader of the Ismaili branch of Shi'ite Islam.—*Reuters*

Serbia's first Confucius Institute celebrates 10th anniversary

BELGRADE — The 10th anniversary of the Confucius Institute in Belgrade was celebrated with a ceremony at the Belgrade University followed by a forum on learning Chinese at Serbian elementary and high schools.

The celebration was attended by Chinese Ambassador Li Manchang, Serbian and Chinese professors and students.

Radosav Pusic, a director of the Confucius Institute in Belgrade, said that the institute started at the faculty of philology of the Belgrade University in 2006.

"If we speak of numbers, during these ten years we had a constant increase of students. What is more important, that the interest of our children, and by that I mean kids from kindergartens, elementary schools and high schools, is also increasing," he said.

Pusic added that the institute aims to spread Chinese language as well as to serve as a cul-

tural bridge between the two countries.

In front of Confucius Institute, Pusic handed letters of gratitude to those who gave their contribution to the development of the institute — Ambassador Li, Belgrade City Library, Qi Gong Association of Serbia, 13th Belgrade High School and Belgrade City Museum.

He also handed awards to winners of the photo and video competition "China in My Eyes." Li noted in his speech that an increasing number of Serbs learn Chinese and this can be a great result of the work of the Confucius Institute.

"Nowadays I can find Serbian-Chinese translators everywhere, and those are all Serbs," Li said.

"This all shows that all of you gathering here gave a great contribution to advancing friendly relations between China and Serbia," he stressed, concluding that he hopes that more Serbs will learn Chinese language.—*Xinhua*

mitv

Myanmar International

(5-10-2016 07:00am ~ 6-10-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Back To A Paradise (Ep-2)
07:52	Am	Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	19 Hours
08:51	Am	Thin Byu Mat
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Leading Woman: May Sabe Phyu @ L. Hkawn Htoi
09:39	Am	Oboist and His Life
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Shrinking Footprints
10:51	Am	Beach Food Delivery

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Katthapha
07:43	Pm	Five-Star Ocean Liners in Myanmar Waters
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations - Lacquer Ware Making
08:51	Pm	Gardener: Rose Plantation

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
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(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Tyson Fury celebrates winning the fight during IBF & WBO Heavyweight Title's at Esprit Arena, Dusseldorf, Germany in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

World heavyweight champion Fury is now 'here to stay'

LONDON — Britain's world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury said he was now "here to stay" just hours after announcing his retirement from boxing on Monday.

"Boxing is the saddest thing I ever took part in, I'm the greatest, and also retired," Fury said in an expletive-filled rant on Twitter.

A few hours later, however, the 28-year-old revealed he was planning to carry on fighting.

"Hahahaha u think you will get rid of the GYPSYKING that easy!!! I'm here to stay. #TheGreatest just shows u what the Medea are like. Tut tut," he said. Fury, WBA and WBO

and champion, had been due to defend his titles against Wladimir Klitschko in July but pulled out with an ankle injury.

The fight was rescheduled for this month but postponed again due to an unspecified medical condition.

Fury has tested positive for cocaine, ESPN reported last week citing a leaked letter sent by the Voluntary Anti-Doping Agency (VADA). Reuters was unable to verify details of the report.

Fury's uncle and trainer Peter Fury said recently that the boxer was "almost at breaking point" and receiving professional help.—*Reuters*

Murray aims to take bite out of Djokovic's rankings lead in China

SHANGHAI — Andy Murray begins his late-season assault on Novak Djokovic's world number one ranking at the China Open this week hoping to take a chunk out of the 4,695-point gap separating them.

The Briton has enjoyed one of the best years of his career, winning Wimbledon and the Olympics, and could still finish the season by toppling the Serb who has been ranked number one since July 2014.

While on the face of it the gap still looks huge, Djokovic is defending far more points than Murray until the end of the season and he will not be able to defend his China title after withdrawing due to an elbow injury.

Djokovic, 29, finished last season in unstoppable form, winning in China, Shanghai and Paris before claiming the ATP Tour Finals. He has 3,800 points to defend for the rest of the season to Murray's 1,160, meaning there is the possibility of a large swing in Murray's direction.

Should Murray win in China and take the 500 ranking points on offer he would move 1,000 points closer to Djokovic ahead of Shanghai where he lost to Djokovic in the semis a year ago.

Murray has spoken of his desire to become the first British player to reach number one since computer rankings were introduced and with Djokovic

apparently suffering injury niggles he has a realistic shot.

"I've never been there and it's something I would like to do for the first time, which is maybe more of a motivation for me than some of the guys that have been there before," he said.

"But I want to just try and finish this year strong from a personal point of view. It's been my best season to date, and I want to try to finish it as best as I can."

However, Murray has also had a gruelling year and needed to rest a thigh injury ahead of Beijing — a legacy of his Davis Cup exertions when he lost a five-set cliff-hanger to Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro last month.



Great Britain's Andy Murray celebrates after winning his match against Argentina's Guido Pella during Davis Cup Semi Final at Emirates Arena, Glasgow, Scotland on 18 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I needed a break anyway and I haven't been able to practise as much as usual coming into an event like this," he said.

"But I feel healthy, my leg feels good. I think this week I

need to be realistic with maybe how I'm going to play.

"I have very few days of practise coming in here and I'm not putting too much pressure on myself right now."—*Reuters*



Maria Sharapova of Russia stretches to hit a return to Serena Williams of the US during their women's singles final match at the Australian Open 2015 tennis tournament in Melbourne in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

CAS to rule on Sharapova's doping ban on Tuesday

LONDON — The verdict in Maria Sharapova's appeal against a two-year doping ban will be announced by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Tuesday.

CAS said it would issue the decision at 12.00pm BST.

Five-times grand slam winner Sharapova was banned by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) in June following a positive test for the banned drug meldonium during January's Australian Open. The former world number one from Russia is seeking to have her suspension wiped out or reduced.

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

Sharapova, 29, admitted taking meldonium during the season's opening grand slam in Melbourne but said she had been unaware that it had been banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

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