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MYANMAR IS PREPARED: MINISTRY Union's readiness for anti-terrorism attacks revealed

THE deputy minister for Home Affairs has revealed that the Union has made extensive efforts to combat terrorism in country and beyond, including surveillance of suspected terrorists and specially trained anti-terrorist combatants, it was learnt yesterday.

The revelation came from Maj-Gen Aung Soe, the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, in his response to a question from MP U Tin Aye about whether Myanmar was prepared for a possible terrorist attack.

"The Ministry has world terrorist organizations and their members recorded, international mercenary fighters registered, having terrorist suspects kept under constant surveillance, and is concurrently making arrangements to be able to take prompt action against them", Maj-Gen Aung Soe said yesterday.

The deputy minister said Myanmar is collaborating with local, regional and international organisations in the fight against terrorism.

The State has made following tasks to give prompt response to destructive elements, according to the Ministry for Home Affairs:

1. Organizing Counter-Terrorism Department in the Police Force Special Branch to carry out relief and operations missions
2. Deploying specially-trained anti-terrorist combat groups in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.
3. Having security guards stationed at religious edifices, bridges and factories of importance, and guarding of dignitaries under a special security programme
4. Exchange and collection



Police checking visitors as they provide security to regional sports event in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

of terrorist attack information and linking with INTERPOL, ASEANAPOL, neighbouring countries, and allied organizations and other sources.

5. Establishing an Administration Centre for National-Level Emergency Cases at Nay Pyi Taw, equipped with advanced technology for use on the central, state and regional levels.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has also made efforts to

eradicate money laundering in the Union to prevent the funding of terrorist groups. The Money Laundering Eradication Law and the related MLE centre has been formed, according to the ministry.

At international border gates, up-to-date equipment and databases such as the MIND/ FIND Device (Mobile/ Fixed Interpol Network Database) have been installed for security, surveillance

and linking with Interpol.

And at border areas abutting China, Thailand, India and Laos, Border Liaison Officers are watching those who go in and out of the country, according to the ministry. At international Airports, CCTVs are installed and a Police Command Centre is watching around the clock.

As soon as it is learnt that there is a potential terrorist entering the country, the deputy minis-

ter said, police who are linked to departments concerned immediately commence gathering intelligence. From this information, the terrorism threat is categorised into 5 levels, ranging from level 1 (wanted list) to level 5 (on record).

"If necessary, terrorist attacks will be fought hand-to-hand with Tatmadawmen" the deputy minister said.—*Myanmar News Agency*



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Three currently suspended fertiliser factories to resume operations when natural gas production increases

THREE fertiliser factories which have been temporarily suspended due to lack of raw materials will return to normal operation when inland and offshore blocks produce further quantities of natural gas, it has been learned.

At an Amyotha Hluttaw meeting yesterday, Deputy Minister for Electric Power and En-

ergy Dr Tun Naing clarified that old equipment and a shortage of natural gas forced three fertiliser factories to temporarily halt production.

The Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise of the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy remains the governing body of the factories. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds talks with EU Ambassador



Speaker U Win Myint receives Mr Roland Kobia in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, received Ambassador of the European Union Mr Roland Kobia at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker U Ti Khun Myat and officials of the office of Pyithu Hluttaw. — *Myanmar News Agency*

14th Yangon International Lifestyle Furniture Fair held from 6 to 10 Oct

UNDER the arrangement of Thousand Islands Business Group, Yangon International Lifestyle Furniture Fair was opened yesterday at the Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road in Yangon yesterday.

The event was formally opened by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Planning and Finance Minister U Myint Thau, Managing Director of Myanma Timber

Enterprise U Saw John Shwe Ba, President of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win and Chairman of Thousand Islands Business Group U Min Thein.

The fair has attracted 38 companies, staging 176 booths for five days from 6th to 10th October. Local and foreign made modern furniture are being displayed at the fair. —*GNLM*

Legal talks to be held in January in major cities

A SERIES of legal talks are planned to take place in commercial cities next year, aiming to distribute useful legal knowledge among residents, with organisers inviting law graduates to participate in the discussions.

U Ba Tint Swe, chairman of a local organization formed with law graduates, said the events are scheduled to be held in January in both Yangon and Mandalay in collaboration with legal experts from home and abroad as well as law-related professional associations.

The moves aim to promote legal knowledge and practice among people by sharing useful legal in-

formation at seminars, with organizers planning to provide training to members of the organisation with the support of the International Trademark Association.

Formation of a monitoring committee on legal affairs will be finalised before the end of this month by the organization, said U Ba Tint Swe, who plans to accept the assistance of the Law Department in Yangon University for a legal seminar in Yangon. Nandar & Association, Law and Audit Services Co Ltd will provide necessary support to successfully hold the legal talks in Mandalay. —*Khin Maung Thaw (Kamayut)*

Amyotha Hluttaw



MPs of Amyotha Hluttaw arrive to attend the meeting on 6th October, 2016. PHOTO: MNA

More than 61 billion kyats collected from foreigners as tax in 2015-2016 FY

YANGON REGION Government collected taxes amounting to more than 61 billion kyats from foreigners employed in worksites in the region in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

U Zaw Aye Maung, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs, disclosed the collected tax in his reply to the question raised by U Aung Myo, of constituency 1, Sanchaung Township at the 3rd session of Yangon Region Parliament yesterday.

During the financial year, alien workers numbering 6,596, in all, were assessed and 61.298

billion kyats were levied as tax, it was learnt.

According to the minister, it is said that there are foreigners granted with 12 kinds of entry visa and among them 3,928 entered holding business visa.

Foreigners are required to apply for work permit with the approval of respective companies they will work for, attached.

Following the receipt of work permit, they must undergo the immigration department's investigation process.

If he is found to be needed for the company and dutiful in paying tax, he will be granted

3-month visa the first time. On expiry of the first 3 month-term, he must undergo the similar process to get 2nd time 6-month-stay visa. For the third time, he will be granted 12-month visa, he added.

Foreign employers are now working in eight working sectors— industrial, construction, hotel and tourism and sports sectors. In today's session of Yangon Region's parliamentary meeting, regional cabinet members replied to queries raised by parliamentarians, and some proposals were submitted, it is learnt. —*Ko Moe*

Maid-abuse trial postponed due to difficulty in hiring lawyers for the accused

THE trial for the widely publicised maid-abuse case involving Ava Tailoring came to a halt yesterday as some accused have had difficulty finding lawyers to represent them, it is learnt.

The accused, all family members of one household, were charged by the No (6) Human Trafficking Unit (Yangon) and brought to trial yesterday however the trial had to be adjourned as some of the accused reported that they had been encountering difficulty hiring a lawyer, according to the Yangon

West District Court.

According to authorities, six accused, including Daw Tin Thuzar, were told on 29 September that they should hire lawyers to defend themselves and that the trial would begin on 6th October.

However, one of the accused, Daw Thiri Latt, told the court that they had difficulty hiring a lawyer and that she had not had enough time to talk to her family. The accused claimed that she would try to hire lawyers before the next trial.

The judge responded that it was impossible to hear a trial as serious as the case before him without the accused lawyers being present. The trial has been postponed until 13 October.

"Such procedural rules are in place to protect the people. I will try to get my client a fair trial," said Lawyer Daw Hnin Su Aung. The accused are being charged under three sections of the human trafficking law, four sections of the criminal code and one section of the juvenile law. —*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*

17 human trafficking cases in Sagaing over 11 years

THE NUMBER of human trafficking cases in Sagaing Region between 2005 and to date has reached 17 cases, according to anti-trafficking officials.

Over the past 11 years, the majority of human trafficking cases happened in Kalay, with five cases, followed by Shwebo, Sagaing and Monywa with two cases each. Htigyaing, Indaw, Yinmabin, Homalin, Katha and Banmauk have one case each.

Police Major U Khin Maung

Kywe said traffickers usually attract their target persons, particularly women and children, with money. The victims of human trafficking are frequently lured by false promises of traffickers.

Police are facing difficulties at uncovering more human trafficking cases because of unregistered phone numbers, U Khin Maung Kywe said.

Ma Thanda Htwe, a child rights activist, said Saging Re-

gion sees very few human trafficking cases compared with other regions such as Shan State, Yangon and Mandalay regions. The region also has few child-related cases.

She added that if anyone fails to abide by the law, rules and regulations relating to child rights, they will be charged under the existing laws by activists in cooperation with local authorities. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President's Office

Order 56/ 2016

5th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1378 ME

(6th October, 2016)

Resignation from membership of

MNHRC permitted

Under the provision of Section 17 of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, the following members of the MNHRC are permitted to resign from the membership of MNHRC, of their own will.

(1)

U Zaw Win

(2)

Dr Nyan Zaw

(3)

Dr Daw Than Nwe

(4)

Daw Mya Mya

Sd/ Htin Kyaw

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President's Office

Order 57/2016

5th Waxing Day of Thidingyut, 1378 ME

(6th October, 2016)

Transfer of Regional Ministers in

Magway Region

In accordance with the Sub-section (F) of Section 262 of the Constitution and Sub-section (G) of the Section (8) of the Region or State Government law, the following regional ministers have been transferred to ministries shown against each.

(1)

Dr Khin Maung Aye

Ministry of Social Affairs

(2)

U Myint Zaw

Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, Electric Power and Energy

Sd/Htin Kyaw

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of heads of

service organizations

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Soe Lin Han	Director-General
Deputy Director-General	Strategic Studies and Training Department
Political Affairs Department	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
(2) Police Birg-Gen Thein Oo	Director-General
Deputy Police Chief	Correctional Department
Myanmar Police Force	Ministry of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs	
(3) U Kham Aung	Managing Director
General Manager	Myanmar Postal Service
Myanmar Postal Service	Ministry of Transport and Communications
Ministry of Transport and Communications	
(4) Dr Daw Tin Tin Lay	Director-General
Deputy Director-General	Department of Medical Human Resources Development and Management
Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management	
Ministry of Health and Sports	Ministry of Health and Sports
(5) Prof Dr Daw Mya Mya Aye	Rector
Professor/Head of Department	Medical Technology University (Mandalay)
Microbiology Department	Department of Medical Human Resources Development and Management
University of Medicine (Magway)	Ministry of Health and Sports
Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management	
(6) Dr Daw Khin Thet Wai	Rector
Pro-rector (Admin)	University of Nursing (Mandalay)
University of Medicine (Mandalay)	Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management
Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management	Ministry of Health and Sports
Ministry of Health and Sports	

President U Htin Kyaw talking to Myanmar ambassadors at his office. PHOTO: MNA

President gives guidance to newly appointed Myanmar ambassadors

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Myanmar ambassadors who have been assigned to Ottawa, New Delhi and Pretoria, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the president clarified government policies and gave guidance to the ambassadors.

U Kyaw Myo Htut has been assigned as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Canada; U Maung Wai to India and U Myint Swe to South Africa.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor and Indonesian envoy discuss trade, investment

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Ms Rini Mariani Soemarno, the Special envoy of the President and Minister of State Owned Enterprises of the Republic of Indonesia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the two representatives discussed matters pertaining to state-owned enterprises and the enhancement of economic cooperation between the Republic of the Union Myanmar and the Republic of Indonesia, including trade and investment cooperation.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Ms Rini Mariani Soemarno. PHOTO: MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President's Office

Order 58/2016

5th Waxing Day of Thidingyut, 1378 ME

(6th October, 2016)

Appointment of Regional Minister in

Magway Region

In accordance with the Sub-section (F) of Section 262 of the Constitution, Sub-section (C) of the Section (8) of the Union Government Law and Sub-section (G) of the Section (8) of the Region or State Government law, U Nay Myo Kyaw, proposed by the Chief Minister of Magway Region, has been appointed as the Magway Regional Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population.

Sd/Htin Kyaw

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

US\$ 98 million loan from AGD Bank to be used in education sector development

ACCORDING to a representative from the Ministry of Education, the authorities concerned will promote processes for the education sector with a loan of over US\$ 98.5 million.

That loan will be used for upgrading processes in the middle and high school level education sector, technologies sector and professional education sector. Curricula will be reviewed, classrooms will be extended and industrial schools will be upgraded.—200

Over 2,000 IDPs not allowed to return home as Tatmadaw clashes with RCSS/SSA



An IDP camp Mongkai, Shan State. PHOTO: NAUNG (MMK)

FIGHTING between Tatmadaw and Restoration Council of Shan State/ Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) at Banpwe village, Mongkai township, Shan State (South) on 1st October has caused over 2,000 villagers to flee the violence and seek shelter at a monastery in Mongkai.

"The clashes has been occurring within Banpwe village on the evening of 1st October, thus, all the villagers and teach-

ers from the village moved to Tone Lot village," said U Myint Naing, the headmaster, who has taught in Banpwe village for over 20 years.

According to U Thar Aung, a helper at the Tone Lot IDP camp, some villagers had to run while they were doing good deeds at a monastery.

At Tone Lot (South) monastery, villagers from Banpwe can be found. At Tone Lot ward

2 and at Tone Lot (North) monastery, villagers from Konesar and the locals from Tone Lot ward 1 are being housed. The total number of IDPs from those two monasteries is over 2,000.

Tatmadaw and RCSS/SSA have already signed Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), and they also have formed Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee. —Naung (MMK)

Waterpark built in North Okkalapa Kanthaya Park

A WATERPARK is being built by the Phyo Pyat San Company within Kanthaya park, which is located on the corner of Thudamar road and Khay Mar Thi road, North Okkalapa township, it is learnt. Construction of the waterpark will be completed in March, 2017.

Permission for the park was granted by the Yangon City Development Committee. The park will use water from the municipal supply but treat it using a Singaporean-made machine.

The waterpark will be subject to security tests and checks. The estimated cost of the whole project is over US\$ 3 million.

"If visitors don't want to play in the water, they can play some of the thirteen games in the park. In addition, visitors can go shopping at the shopping Mall. They can also see films at Kanthaya Recreation Center," said U Nyi Nyi Aung, Managing Director of Phyo Pyat San.

Entrance to the park and car parking is free.—200

Construction, Power & Mining Myanmar 2016 convention to be held

AN open convention, titled the Construction, Power & Mining Myanmar 2016 Show, will be held within the Myanmar Event Park from 13 to 15 October, it has been learned.

The event will include three international trade exhibitions, with over 190 leading businesspeople from 120 countries participating in the event.

There will be five interna-

tional shows from China, Germany, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

"We will provide awareness of Myanmar's mining sector at this event.

Currently, mining entrepreneurs are formulating the rules to implement the new mining law," said an official from the Myanmar Mining Entrepreneurs' Federation.—200

Dutch citizen receives 3-month sentence and K100,000 fine for violating tourist visa rules/insulting religion

Aung Thant Khaing

ONE Mr Klaas Haytema, who has been visiting Myanmar on a tourist visa from the Netherlands, was sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment and fined K100,000 by the Maha Aungmyay Township Judicial Court yesterday.

The man was found guilty by the court of trespassing onto the groups of a religious building whilst wearing shoes in order to unplug the cables of an amplifier that was blaring Buddhist chants in the middle of the night. The

event occurred in Yadanabummi East Ward of Maha Aungmyay Township in Mandalay on 23 September.

"I wanted to sleep desperately. I couldn't stand the noise and checked outside the hotel. I saw that children were playing. I thought that they were playing it (the sermon) and disconnected the amplifier." Mr Haytema reportedly told the court.

It was reported that police had to be called to protect the man from an angry mob which formed once his actions became

known.

After six hearings in court, the judge handed down his verdict under Section 296 of the Penal Code and the fine under Section 13/1 (violation of visa regulations).

"The section under which he was sentenced is for disturbing religion. The Section he was charged for was intentionally damaging a religion," said U Hla Ko of the Myanmar Legal Aid Network.

Mr Haytema, 30, was staying at the Four Rivers Hotel situated near the hall at the time of the incident.

He said that he did not deliberately 'insult religion' by unplugging the offending speaker and that, in fact, he did not know that the hall was a religious building.

"I did not notice that it was a religious building. I am really sorry and I really apologise," Mr Haytema reportedly said at one of his hearings.

The accused arrived in Mandalay on 20 September via Kunming, China, using a visa he had applied online, said the head of the Maha Aungmyay Township Immigration Department.



Dutch citizen seen after receiving the sentence.

PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Crime NEWS

Yaba seized in Maha Aungmyay township

A COMBINED investigation team comprising members and staff of Mandalay police station seized yaba from a motorcycle rider on Thidar Myint street between 68-69 street, Maha Aungmyay township, on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, police stopped and searched one Kyaw Kyaw with Kyaw Sein onboard and discovered 80,000 yaba pills.

Similarly, an anti-narcotic police team from Muse seized

1,000 yaba pills during the search of a vehicle being driven by one Pauk Law with Kyaw Kyaw on board at Kutkai Kaugkhar road on Wednesday.

And, police from Taunggyi town seized 565 yaba pills from motorcycle rider Kyaw Zeya on Taunggyi-MongPyin road, Taunggyi township. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—Myanmar Police Force



Kyaw Kyaw and Kyaw Sein seen together with the drugs seized.

PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

Detached houses worth Ks40million to be sold at Ngwe Saung

THE detached houses worth over Ks40million developed by iMyanmarHouse and I Green Construction can be purchased with a down payment of Ks500,000, said U Nay Min Thu, the managing director of iMyanmarHouse.com.

“Ngwe Saung is a famous beach in Myanmar, attracting tourists and locals alike”, said U Nay Min Thu. “We plan to sell the houses for those who want to buy a relaxing house near the beach”.

The real estate expo that will feature these houses, among

others, will be held on the 8th and 9th of October from 9am to 5pm at Myanmar Culture Valley. The buyers have to pay a deposit of Ks500,000, for which they will receive an ownership land grant. They will then have to pay Ks1.2million per month until the balance is met. After six months of payments, they will receive the keys to the house.

This project in Ngwe Saung is situated between the beach resorts of Chaungtha and Ngwe Saung. Developers said there are plans for offering similar housing in Ngapali Beach. —200



Business men clarify 4th MyanmarWater 2016 event and 2nd Renewable Energy Myanmar 2016 before a press conference. PHOTO:GNLM

The 4th Edition of Myanmar Water 2016 to be held from 20-22 Oct

FOLLOWING the success of MyanmarWater 2015, the Myanmar's leading water event is back with more participating companies to showcase their latest technology and innovations at Myanmar Event Park (MEP) Yangon from 20 - 22 October 2016.

The Myanmar Water 2016 and Renewable Energy Myanmar 2016, co-located with the 2nd Edition of Renewable Energy Myanmar 2016, is supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), Myanmar Engineering Society (MES), Green Building Committee (BEI) Myanmar, PERDASAMA Muda National and Malaysia Photovoltaic Industry Association (MPIA).

The event is accompanied with a three-day Conference and Technology Symposium in water and wastewater management as well as renewable energy and energy efficiency technology.

“TSS Tokyo is proud to support MyanmarWater as the economic drivers for Myanmar's water and wastewater industry.

It is a win-win situation for us to showcase our products and technology to Myanmar's government, business leaders and communities,” says Dr. Masuko, President of TSS Tokyo Ltd.

MyanmarWater 2016 is expected to bring together more than 150 participating companies from 16 countries with 5,500 attendees including the industry experts, decision makers, professionals from water and wastewater management, consultants, contractors and others.

“Given our commitment to the economic development of Myanmar and the overall wellbeing of its people, MyanmarWater 2016 is specially designed to address the future challenges of water safety and innovative solutions related to water and sanitation planning, with a clear motive to lead Myanmar toward a sustainable water future,” says Mr. M. Gandhi, Managing Director of UBM (ASEAN BUSINESS), UBM Asia. The renewable energy event will showcase the latest ideas, technology and solutions including the hydropower & wind, solar thermal & PV, biomass, biogas, biofuel, geothermal and more.—GNLM



A fence seen along the India-Myanmar border. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

India-Myanmar border gate closed after explosion, shootings

INDIA shut down the border crossing between India and Myanmar on 3rd October after an explosion in the town of Moreh, Manipur State, India and a shooting near Nanpharlon market in Tamu, Sagaing Region on 2nd October. Both towns are near the border.

After the explosion and shoot-

ing, authorities in India closed the gate where goods normally flow in and out of the Nanpharlon market for the security of the local people living in the border area, said U Tint Wai, the Police Superintendent from Tamu District's Police office.

The closure of the gate be-

tween India and Myanmar renders trade difficult and makes businesses suffer, said local residents.

At least three explosions have occurred at the border area this year. Authorities from the two countries are still investigating these cases.—Myitmakha News Agency

Undisciplined sales representatives of MPF prompts warning

THE selected five sales representatives of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (MPF) need to strictly follow the rules laid down by the Ministry of Industry, said U Ko Ko Lwin, the permanent secretary of the Industry Ministry. If they fail to obey the rules, their deposits of Ks100million each will be confiscated.

The sales distributors of MPF are not engaged in a large

profit-making business, U Ko Ko Lwin said. That means a profit of only 2 to 5 per cent of the value of the drugs is allowed. If they break the rules once, they will be given a warning. The deposit will be confiscated if a second offense is committed, he added.

Previously, there was an exclusive sales representative of MPF. Exploiting the requirements in the market, fake drugs

were found to be produced and sold at the market. The fake drugs of MPF worth over Ks2,000 million were seized when a surprise check was done.

The MPF drugs are distributed through the selected five representatives, who have to deposit Ks100million each in the bank. They have to comply with the rules set by the Industry Ministry.—200

Floor price of FMI share drops under Ks10,000

THE floor price of First Myanmar Investment (FMI)'s shares slumped to under Ks10,000 at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) on 5th October, it is learnt.

The price of FMI's shares was Ks16,000 per unit at the beginning of the day on 5th October. A total of 6,339 units of FMI's shares were traded, with a total share values of over Ks99million.

The shares trading volume of FMI from 3rd to 5th October reached 15,344 units, amounting to over Ks242million.

The drop has not yet caused investors to panic, but one shareholder said he would watch the market very closely.

“As far as I am concerned, I will not resell my shares yet,” said U Hla Aung, an FMI shareholder. “I will trade my shares once the price jumps”

FMI announced it would pay dividends of Ks135 per share for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, in contrast to shareholders of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co., Ltd (MTSH), who enjoyed

dividend payments of Ks2,500 per share. After the companies released the announcements, the shares of FMI began to decline.

The volume of share trading at YSX are 23,480,013 shares traded by FMI, 3,892,915 shares of MTSH and 10,400,986 shares of Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB).

The share trading is opened at YSX two times a day, 11am and 1pm. It was learned from YSX that trading times will be extended.—Myitmakha News Agency

Duterte rated 'very good' in first 90 days — Philippines poll

MANILA — Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has been rated "very good" in an opinion poll on his first 90 days in office, which has been defined largely by his deadly war on drugs and vitriol against Western leaders.

Only 11 per cent of 1,200 Filipinos surveyed by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) agency said they were dissatisfied with his performance. That gave Duterte a net satisfaction rating of 64 per cent, getting him off to a better start than predecessors Benigno Aquino, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, but short of the 66 per cent achieved by Fidel Ramos in 1992.

The rating, announced on Thursday, was calculated by deducting the 11 per cent from the 76 per cent

of respondents who said they were satisfied with Duterte's presidency, then rounding it off. Thirteen per cent were undecided.

The SWS survey did not ask respondents to give a reason for the rating. It was conducted in face-to-face interviews held from 24-27 September, after Duterte had a spat with President Barack Obama over criticism of his anti-dugs campaign but before he said he was seeking new alliances with China and Russia.

A survey by Pulse Asia, another polling agency, less than a month after he took office on 30 June said Duterte had a record 91 per cent trust rating. The two polls are not comparable.

Duterte won the 9 May election by a substan-

tial margin after promising to expand a ruthless anti-crime campaign he started while mayor of Davao City, which had earned him nicknames like "the Punisher" and "Duterte Harry".

Political analyst Nelson Navarro said the SWS survey suggested Filipinos felt safer because Duterte had followed through with his promised war on crime and drugs, in which over 3,400 people have been killed.

He said Duterte's abrasive style and his sometimes profane outbursts against the United States, European Union and United Nations were not discrediting him either, and supporters would rally in his defence amid criticism at home and abroad.

"This is not going



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte gestures as he delivers a speech to the members of the Philippine Army during a visit at the army headquarters in Taguig city, metro Manila, Philippines, on 4 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

to be good manners and right conduct.

What you see here is exactly what you get. His tough stance has gained him popularity across the

Philippines," Navarro said.

"Everyone likes to dump on President Duterte for the extra-judicial killings but ... there is a kind of backlash on the perception

of the West."

The SWS poll considers a net approval rating of over 70 per cent as "excellent" and 50-69 per cent as "very good".—Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye

ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Expatriate Consultant Editors

Alec Wilmot

cousultanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Mark Angeles

markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators

Khin Maung Oo, Myint Win Thein

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor

Ye Htut Tin (Local News)

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon, Tin Nwe Lynn

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw,

reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Abortion legal in Thai birth defect cases linked to Zika, officials say



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

BANGKOK — Predominantly Buddhist Thailand will relax its strict rules against abortion to cover fetuses with proven birth defects linked to the Zika virus, health officials said on Thursday, doubling to 24 weeks a deadline for the

procedure.

Thailand last week confirmed its first known cases of microcephaly linked to the mosquito-borne virus. The two cases of the birth defect marked by a small head were the first in Southeast

Asia, following Zika outbreaks in the Americas.

Health experts who met this week to draft guidelines for expectant mothers with Zika concluded that abortions can be carried out at up to 24 weeks in case of serious birth defects.

"The difficulty with Zika is to determine microcephaly. It is usually found later in pregnancy," Pisek Lumpikanon, president of the Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, told Reuters.

"Legal medical abortions can be done up to 24 weeks," he added. "The reason is that at 24 weeks and after the baby already has a good chance of survival."

Abortion is illegal in

Thailand, except in cases of rape or to save a woman's life or preserve her health, and if carried out in up to 12 weeks of pregnancy. Beyond that time, hospitals must decide on a case-by-case basis.

There are no specific tests to determine if a baby will be born with microcephaly but ultrasound scans can identify it in the third trimester of pregnancy, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says.

Thailand has said it is considering testing all pregnant women for Zika.

Inadequate screening by health authorities across Southeast Asia is likely to lead to significant under-reporting of the spread of Zika, regional experts say.—Reuters

Abe to 'study' issues around dual nationals in top gov't roles

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Thursday he wants to study the issues presented by the possibility of dual nationals serving as Cabinet ministers or in other high-ranking government positions, amid controversy after two lawmakers admitted to holding foreign citizenship.

"We must figure out what is at issue," Abe said in a House of Councillors budgetary committee session, without specifying

what he will do next.

Japan's diplomats are forbidden by law from holding foreign citizenship, but there are no such rules for Cabinet ministers, Self-Defence Forces personnel or police officers, who are required only to prove their Japanese citizenship. Heated debate has followed the admission by main opposition Democratic Party leader Renho last month that she had retained, apparently unknowingly,

Taiwanese nationality obtained through her father. Renho was born in Japan prior to a law change granting citizenship to children of Japanese mothers. Kimi Onoda, an upper house lawmaker with Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, admitted Tuesday to retaining US citizenship and said she has begun the procedure of renouncing it. "It's natural to choose the appropriate people to deal with state secrets and diplomatic ne-

gotiations, but there is a possibility of things not operating that way," Abe said. Abe made the remarks in response to a question from LDP lawmaker Haruko Arimura, who pointed out that a dual national had worked in the highly secret environment of the prime minister's office, apparently referring to Renho's term as a prime ministerial aide during the Democratic Party of Japan's 2009-2012 turn at power.—Kyodo News

Thai students mark university massacre amid junta rule

BANGKOK — Thai students on Thursday marked the 40th anniversary of a campus massacre by state forces in the military-ruled country amid what one rights group said was a “deep-rooted culture of impunity” that has emboldened the army to intervene in politics.

Political upheavals caused by urban and rural protests destabilised Thailand between 1973 and 1976, prompting the military to intervene, saying it needed to save the country from what it called the “red menace” of socialist leaning students, academics and farmers.

On 6 October, 1976, state forces and royalist mobs attacked a group of about 2,000 students inside Thammasat University in Bangkok and hanged, shot or beat to death dozens, accusing them of sympathizing with revolutions sweeping through Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos at the time.

In recent times, Thailand has weathered more than a decade of

political upheaval since the army ousted populist Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in 2006.

Eight years later, the army removed his sister, Prime Minister Yingluck, in a May 2014 coup, saying it acted to end months of political instability.

Since then, Thailand has faced a deepening rights crisis with political activity banned.

“From the 6 October, 1976, massacre until today, the Thai military has never been held accountable for political violence,” Sunai Phasuk, Thailand researcher at Human Rights Watch, told Reuters.

“A deep-rooted culture of impunity has emboldened the military to intervene in politics, violate human rights ... and overthrow an elected government again and again.”

Around 200 students gathered at Thammasat University to remember the 1976 massacre and laid wreaths at a memorial.

Surachart Bamrungsuk, a



Thai students lay flowers on a memorial during the 40th anniversary of a campus massacre by state forces in the military-ruled country at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

political science professor and survivor, said it was important to remember 1976 because Thailand had “come full circle”.

“It’s important the younger generations know what happened,” Surachart told Reuters. “We need to remember because we have come full circle. Once again we have a military government like 40 years ago.”

The military government declined to comment on the 6 October anniversary.

“Forty years later we are still fighting against dictatorship,” said Sirawith Serithiwat, a student activist.

The anniversary comes a day after Thailand barred entry to Hong Kong student activist Joshua Wong, a key figure in the

2014 Umbrella Revolution protests in the city, who was due to speak at two university events in Bangkok.

Last month, international rights group Amnesty International accused Thailand’s military government of allowing a “culture of torture” to flourish since 2014, accusations the junta rejected.—Reuters

US and Australia to share cost of US military’s Australian deployment

SYDNEY — Australia and the United States have agreed to share the cost of the US military’s presence in Australia’s tropical north, a critical part of President Barack Obama’s “pivot” to Asia, Australian Defence Minister Marise Payne said on Thursday.

Payne met US Defence Secretary Ash Carter in Washington this week to discuss plans to double the number of US Marines in the northern city of Darwin from the current 1,250 by 2020, a goal that was delayed earlier this year from 2017 as originally planned.

Australia and the United States signed a “force posture agreement” in 2014 to provide for joint exercises and for US naval and air force deployments. Operational costs until now had been split on an ad-hoc basis, with infrastructure spending withheld.

In March, they discussed basing US long-range B-1 bombers in Darwin, bolstering US military presence close to the disputed South China Sea. Darwin is closer to Indonesia than it is to the Australian capital, Canberra.

However, in charting a course between its most important ally the United States and its biggest trading partner China in the contested region, Australia has drawn rebukes from both superpowers.



Australian Defence Minister Marise Payne speaks during a news conference with British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, Defence Secretary Michael Fallon, and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London, Britain, on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

China has criticised Australian freedom-of-navigation flights in the area and a senior US soldier has called on Australia to do more there. Payne said in a statement on Thursday that supporting the Marines in Darwin was “consistent with Australia’s long-standing strategic interests in supporting US engagement in our region in a manner that promotes regional security and stability”. The two countries will share more than A\$2 billion (1.19 billion pounds) in infrastructure investment in northern Australia and other costs linked to the 25-year deployment.—Reuters

India arrests 70 call-centre workers accused of duping US citizens

MUMBAI — Police in India said they arrested 70 call-centre workers on Wednesday on suspicion of tricking American citizens into sending them money by posing as US tax officials.

A total of 772 workers were detained earlier on Wednesday in raids on nine call centres in a Mumbai suburb, a senior police official told Reuters. Seventy were placed under formal arrest, 630 were released pending questioning over the coming days, and 72 were freed without further investigation.

“The motive was earning money,” said Parag Manere, a deputy commissioner of police. “They were running an illegal process, posing themselves as officers of the (US) Internal Revenue Service.”

The police official did not identify the company where the call centre workers were employed, or any of the main players involved in the alleged scam. He also declined comment on whether Mumbai police were investigating in conjunction with US authorities, or comment on

what prompted the inquiry.

Manere said the alleged scammers asked Americans to buy prepaid cash cards in order to settle outstanding tax debts and also used the threat of arrest against people who did not pay up.

Last year, a Pennsylvania man who helped coordinate a fraud in which India-based callers preyed on vulnerable Americans by pretending to be US government agents was sentenced to 14-1/2 years in prison.—Reuters



Policemen come out of one of the closed call centres in Mira-Bhayander, on the outskirts of Mumbai, India, on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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Tie welfare benefits to work responsibilities

Khin Maung Aye

ALONG with the recognition of cultural context for formulation of citizens' rights, the republican ideals of civic virtue and good citizenship have also revitalised the ideal of good citizenship. Defined by civic culture as well as civic virtue, patriotic spirit and participatory citizenship have come into existence in classical antiquity, and been revived as an ideal in Renaissance Italy, 18th century America and France. From the late 18th century, the civic republican tradition gave way to liberalism. The revitalisation of civic republicanism or neo-republicanism has emerged in the non-liberal as well as liberal articulations of citizenship, taking various guises depending upon specific ideological tradition in which it is placed.

Broadly identified, notions of active citizenship conform to the distinction between civil society and the political arena which individuals enter to articulate their purely private concerns. On the other hand, political society is generated whenever individuals communicate not their purely private concerns but rather matters of shared importance to influence or make demands on the state.

According to Walzer, citizenship provides a common binding principle. Citizenship as a binding principle makes itself manifest in civil society – the setting of settings (Walzer 1989), which provides the space where individuals as part of diverse social groups are trained in civility and self-restraint. Walzer places faith in the idea of critical associationalism, which is based on the belief that in this age, the density of associational life and the activities and understanding that go with it need to be recaptured and relearned, and proposes that participation in voluntary organizations of the civil society – churches, families, ethnic associations, voluntary groups, schools – inculcate the civic virtues that bind citizens in mutual obligation.

Another strand is different from civil society theorists. According to Martial's argument, the politics of rights should be replaced with the politics of common good. Working within a framework of common good and common obligation of all citizens, they argue for a workforce programme instead of a welfare programme, cutting back the safety net of the poor, and tying welfare benefits to work responsibilities.

FAREWELL, MISTER MCDOWELL! AN INTERVIEW WITH THE OUTGOING CANADIAN AMBASSADOR

Alec J. Wilmot

MISTER Mark McDowell has acted as Canadian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar since August of 2013 (though this tenure only represents a small part of his connection with the country). Having completed his tour of duty, I took the opportunity to visit him at the Canadian Embassy on the ninth floor of the northern tower of the Sule Centrepoint building. I wanted to get a sense of how he feels about his work here, the growing Canadian presence in Myanmar and the incredible transformations that have occurred over the last few years. Mr. McDowell is a tall, affable man who speaks of his work with a certain reserved joy. He admitted at the top of our conversation that he was feeling a little worn out - it was after office closing on a Friday afternoon.

No matter, he said, let's begin. So, Ambassador McDowell, when are you leaving your post?

My last day is the third of September. I have had my farewell calls with the President and (Senior General) Min Aung Hlaing so I have five more days of work. My plan is to stay in Myanmar for a while in some capacity because I'm optimistic about the country and I want to see how it develops politically and economically. Also, because I have a chance to be a part of it in some way. Maybe someone reading your article will think 'give this man a job!' (he says with a cheery laugh). I almost feel like I've been watching Myanmar as a TV series for thirteen years and I can't stop watching it - I can't turn it off now just when there's all of these exciting things that are developing.

Of SG Min Aung Hlaing's private demeanor, Mr. McDowell says:

Surprisingly, he is very keen to converse and the meeting was pretty long. We talked about a lot of stuff. A lot of people think about the military - that you've got to be very standoffish, that they don't want to answer questions but he seems very keen to talk and we talked about a lot of issues. I think, like a lot of people, he understands more (English) than he speaks. They have an interpreter there but when you're talking he knows what you're talking about.

So, who will be the new ambassador to Myanmar?

The new ambassador has



Ambassador McDowell in the meeting room of the Canadian Embassy, Yangon.

been named. It's Karen MacArthur.

Does Mr. McDowell know her?

I'm afraid I don't know her because we've never been posted in the same area.

How did you end up being posted to Myanmar? Did you have any choice in the matter?

In the Canadian Foreign Service, we apply for jobs. A list of postings comes out around this time of year in the autumn for the next summer and we apply for them. My first choice was definitely Yangon. They (Global Affairs Canada) don't always give you your first choice but if they do give you your first choice you have to be grateful for it. I don't think they care whether it's your first choice, (you will be selected) if you happen to be the person they want. **What led you to want to work in Myanmar and do you have expertise that made this choice obvious?**

Yes, that's the second part of it. I speak Indonesian quite well. I started a PhD in political science in Indonesia and I have always applied to go to Indonesia as my first choice but I've never been sent. So, I thought I was quite well prepared to apply for this job in Myanmar but that made me pessimistic about my chances. I was posted to Bangkok from 2003 until 2007 - I was the head of the political section there and as the head of the political section I was also in charge of (relations with) Myanmar because we didn't have an embassy here. I was the person who basically ran the relationship with Myanmar and I visited every couple of months. In fact, I think I made over twenty trips here during my tenure in Bangkok. So, I got to know the country quite well and I got to know people in the NGO sector as well as democracy activists. I then took leave from the Department of Foreign Affairs for two years, from

2007 until 2009, and one of the things I did during that period was come back here to do a research project about Myanmar - looking at civil societies and the aftermath of (Cyclone) Nargis. So, from 2003 until 2009 I was quite closely involved in Myanmar issues. I was very pleasantly surprised when I got the job as ambassador in 2012. **What were relations like when you were communicating with the Myanmar government from Thailand?**

Very strained. The word I always use is 'frosty'. Our former government was very fond of saying that they had the toughest sanctions in the world on Myanmar. We had very, very tight trade sanctions. We basically had no senior contact. I was really the only person from the Canadian government for four years. The ambassadors used to come once a year, something like that. The relationship was really very minimal. It was too bad. We weren't even involved, really, because we didn't have an embassy here unlike other countries like the UK or the USA who also had very tough sanctions.

The UK had very good contacts with the democracy movement here. When I arrived in 2013 it was really a start-up situation. We had almost no trade, which now makes our trade statistics look very good because trade has gone up by something like one thousand, one hundred per cent in the last three years (he chuckles). We had no high level contacts, we had no development cooperation programme, we had no people to people ties because it was so difficult to get a visa. So, it was really starting from scratch but I kind of enjoyed that - (there was) nowhere to go but up. It was just really fun. It was a great challenge and it was fun to start things from scratch.

Have you always been in this building?

We moved in here (Sule Centrepoint Towers) in May, 2014. We held our official opening in August, 2014. For about a year previous to May, 2014, we were located in a temporary space in the UK embassy - we were located in what was actually a former change room for the guards - but I don't say this with irony, the British were actually very generous to let us use those rooms because all the embassies were building up at that time and they were very cramped and I felt a little bit guilty for taking those two rooms. It was a very difficult situation for us because, as you can imagine, we couldn't really hire staff. There was only space for three desks. We had four or five people in there.

In that case, how did sending secret cables work?

I couldn't. I had to go to Bangkok. The one benefit is that I got to go on a lot of trips. I would go one morning, do some work, stay overnight and then come back the next day.

How has your relationship with the Myanmar government changed since the NLD took power?

I would say that it's different, but good. We have to give the former government some credit - they were very eager to engage with western countries after such a long period of poor relations. There were all kinds of misgivings in Canada about engaging with a semi-democratic government but actually it was a very productive relationship and they were very tolerant of us as a brand new embassy that had very limited capacity.

In terms of our engagement with the current government - when you have a complete change of government you have to learn how to deal with all the new personalities. The thing that's a little bit complicated now is that I think the state and region governments are going to become increasingly important and that's something we, Canada, are very interested in. We are very interested in helping Myanmar develop its federal system because they have said that they're interested in a federal form of government and that is really something we've come back to over and over again over the last three years. I haven't had the time to visit all fourteen states and regions but I've been doing my best to talk to state and region governments.

Of Daw Aung Suu Kyi's role in the relationship, he said:

Daw Aung Suu Kyi has been pretty generous with her time. She

met with Minister Dion twice during his visits here. She does think about Canada. I was very happy when she said in a press conference (he paraphrases) that Canada understands better than most other countries the challenges that Myanmar faces in its current situation in developing a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-religious society. She is an honorary Canadian citizen. In fact, she has an aunt who lives in Canada.

On the topic of communication, or lack thereof, between Canada and the Tatmadaw, he said:

Canada is unusual in that we still don't have a defence attaché accredited here - that's a legacy of the sanctions period and I believe in the interview with (Senior General) Min Aung Hlaing he raised the issue of more interaction, more relations between our military forces. At the moment, we still have none.

Meetings of that nature are described as simply being to 'improve relations between the armed forces of the two nations'. What does that mean in practical terms?

The military here wants to become more of a modern, professional force and that means having access to international standards of training and I think also (the military) has suffered from isolation in the same way some sectors of the economy did. They want to have access to global standards of hardware and software, and I think that would be a great thing if they become more of a cosmopolitan organisation.

One area of cooperation came about because Canada has significant support for counter-terrorism and anti-crime capacity building. We've funded a lot of projects which are ASEAN wide and because of that we've had a lot of Canadian funded projects on things like container security, border security, border management, police training, fraudulent document (spotting) training, money laundering training and that is a very interesting area.

Can you tell me about the embassies', or your, most valued projects?

Well, I'd say number one is federalism. On the political side it is the big issue we want to engage on. It's not just selling the Canadian model but about having a dialog and showing how the Canadian model works. By no means do we want to push our model but the interesting thing about Canada's model is that we are dealing with multiple languages, unlike some

other federal countries. We're also dealing with the issue of a country where natural resources are extremely important - that's very relevant to the Myanmar situation. Canada's federalism is actually very, very complicated because we have this linguistic issue - we also have an issue with aboriginal people and their special rights and privileges - there are different types of arrangements with different groups. It's like a series of experiments (in governance) that you can take a look at. We also want to continue supporting some grass roots organisations that we have been supporting for the last three years like Pen, for example, or the Human Dignity Film Institute and other small organisations. We've been very active on LGBT rights and we've been very active on freedom of expression issues so those are things I think we would be very happy to continue to support.

On the development side, we launched a development cooperation programme about a year ago and we've now delivered a few programmes. One that's of great interest is a programme to support women entrepreneurs in rural areas. Given that seventy per cent of the population here lives in a rural area and it's going to be that way for a while to come, it's really important to try to raise incomes in rural areas. We don't have expertise in growing tropical crops but we can help with things like marketing, transport - those types of issues. We're agriculturally focussed. The one area that's gone more slowly than we expected is trade and investment. There was a lot of expectation, when the opening of this embassy was announced in Canada, that there was going to be a boom in natural resources, for example. That hasn't happened here in the mining sector yet. Part of it has been political uncertainty, part of it has been sanctions but the main issue has been mining legislation and the concerns that mining companies have about making an investment that will be secure. I think there is still a lot of potential for Canada here and it's going to be very interesting when that boom occurs - it will happen at some point. We're strong in IT and in financial services but, again, the market is closed (for now) so that is an area where my successor will be very busy.

What's going to be very interesting is Myanmar's peace process. We are interested in supporting it in any way possible and

that's kind of a work in progress.

What did you think of the mixed responses to the results of the 21st Century Panglong Conference?

Well, I mean, not everyone is going to get what they want. You've got twenty parties taking part - ethnic armed groups, the government and the military. I don't know, it's going to be a long discussion but I'm not pessimistic about it in the long run. I think there's an understanding that some kind of federal system is the answer. I think what you're referring to is that the military alluded to the fact that what's in the 2008 constitution may be enough but there will some kind of long term accommodation reached. In the last five years if you had bet on optimism, you would have made a lot of money by now because there was pessimism about the original opening back in 2011. Pessimism also around the elections and the handover but if you look at the big picture over the past five years, it's been fantastic.

What are your day to day activities like?

The really good thing about being an ambassador is that you don't have a 'normal day'. That's my favourite thing about it. In a small embassy like ours I spend a certain amount of time in administration - dealing with finances or personnel or property, that's unavoidable. Since I supervise the sections - development, trade, consulate, I have to know what's going on. We don't have a political section here so I do all of the political reporting and meeting. That's an unusually large amount of my time as ambassador. Normally, at the very start of the day, I have meetings with the sections to make sure I'm assisting them in whatever way they need and that I know what's going on. Then, I might have a meeting with the UN where they inform us on the situation on humanitarian disasters (prevention, aid stockpiles) and then I would be in contact with headquarters talking about getting Canadian aid through our development section. I might talk with people in grass roots organisations. I meet with the other ambassadors a lot because we share notes on what's going on. I'm trying to travel to Nay Pyi Taw more often than I used to. A typical day in Yangon and a typical day in Nay Pyi Taw are very different. In Nay Pyi Taw, we have very good access and we can meet ministers and senior people in the government. I meet with commercial contacts, too. I get a

real variety.

What has been the most interesting or memorable day?

Definitely election day. For Canadians and Americans, it's like championship day. There's a lot of tension and a lot thinking 'which way is the day going to go?'. On election day, in our embassy, we didn't have an election team from Canada because we had just had our own election. What we did is - we mobilised everyone in our embassy. We organised ourselves into several teams. Two teams went to Mon State, two teams went to Bago, two were just in Yangon and I went to Bogle, Ayeyarwady Delta. That was the city I did my little study on after Nargis and I thought it would be interesting to go back there. It was a hive of activity at the polling stations (but) everyone was very calm and patient.

What was your reaction to President Obama agreeing to lift the final sanctions?

The last two countries with significant sanctions (on Myanmar) are the US and Canada. Let's just say we (Canada) have been considering raising sanctions for some time and we'll see what happens.

Ambassador McDowell's closing remarks.

I've always been interested in Myanmar, even since university. We always had this image of Myanmar as this very strange and exotic country and it is a very unusual, exotic country in a good way. So, Myanmar is in this period of extremely rapid change and the one thing that I hope is that Yangon doesn't just try to become another Kuala Lumpur (example South East Asian metropolis). There is something that Myanmar - the one benefit of the fifty years of being detached from the global system - is that a lot of aspects of its physical, material and non-material culture is still intact. Colonial buildings, the skyline here (Mr. McDowell gestures out of the 9th floor window westwards toward Lanmadaw), the flowers and trees and water everywhere. It's such a beautiful built environment and a beautiful natural environment. People are a little bit different here from other places. People are sweet here and I just hope all of that isn't lost in the rush to develop. There's such a unique culture here and because of their late development they understand that they have the chance to avoid all kinds of mistakes. Don't give up your longyi - that's my symbol of it.

Trump backs off praise of Russia's Putin after debate

HENDERSON, (Nev.) — US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump backed off from praising Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, saying he was unsure of his relationship with the Russian president who he has described as a better leader than President Barack Obama.

The day after running mate Mike Pence appeared to break ranks with Trump during a vice presidential debate and called Putin “a small and bullying leader,” Trump adjusted his own previously warm rhetoric towards the Russian.

“I don’t love (Putin), I don’t hate. We’ll see how it works. We’ll see,” Trump told supporters during a campaign stop in the swing state of Nevada. “Maybe we’ll have a good relationship. Maybe we’ll have a horrible relationship. Maybe we’ll have a relationship right in the middle.”

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has criticised Trump, who often praises Putin, as being too cozy with the Russian leader and questioned the Republican’s business interests in Russia. Those charges were repeated by her vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine during a debate with Pence on Tuesday.

In response, Pence denounced Putin for his interference in Syria’s civil war and support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

“The small and bullying leader of Russia is now dictating terms to the United States,” Pence said. “The greatest nation on earth just withdraws from talks about a ceasefire, while Vladimir Putin puts a missile defence system in Syria.”

The vice presidential encounter set the table for a second presidential debate on Sunday in St.

Louis between Clinton and Trump, who needs to rebound from a rocky performance in his first debate, one that gave Clinton a boost in national opinion polls with the 8 November Election Day only five weeks away. In Nevada, Trump suggested Russia could be a valuable ally in the fight against Islamic State, also known by the acronym ISIS.

“I will say if we get along with Russia and Russia went out with us and knocked the hell out of ISIS, that’s okay with me, folks,” he said. Trump celebrated a strong debate performance by Pence, the governor of Indiana, and said his running mate had won on style and on the issues.

“He’s getting tremendous reviews from me and everybody,” Trump told a group of pastors and leaders gathered at a Christian academy in Las Vegas. —Reuters



Greek fisherman Stratis Valamios, 40, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, is seen onboard his motorboat at the port of the Skala Sikamias village on the island of Lesbos, Greece, on 5 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Greek islanders tipped for Peace Nobel stoic about nomination

LESBOS, (Greece) — For months Greek fisherman Stratis Valamios would steer his boat out to sea, only instead of fish, he pulled out people.

Day after day, rubber boats packed with refugees and migrants would attempt the short but dangerous crossing to Greece from Turkey, even as winter set in and the seas turned rough and winds grew violent.

“It was like a war zone,” Valamios, now a co-nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, said of his tiny seaside village of Skala Sikamias on Lesbos, the island where more than 800,000 people escaping war and conflict in the Middle East and beyond arrived in 2015.

“You had the wounded, the dead,” he said matter-of-factly. “We brought in many babies out here on the concrete, on the tables,

and they died in our arms.”

No one knows how many people Valamios and other locals saved from drowning, but it is believed to be in the hundreds.

Together with other islanders, Valamios has been nominated by Greek academics and the Hellenic Olympic Committee for the Nobel Peace Prize. They have been chosen symbolically to represent all Greeks and volunteers who helped refugees. The award will be announced in Oslo on Friday.

Far to the south, Lesbos, Greece’s third-biggest island and just over four miles from the Turkish coast, was the frontline of Europe’s refugee crisis last year. At its peak, as many as 3,000 people were arriving on its shores a day.

The dinghies often collapsed under the weight of three times as many people as they were de-

signed to hold, crammed in by smugglers eager to make an easy profit by charging some \$1,500 per head. Hundreds drowned and many bodies are still missing.

“Imagine being here and seeing drowned children on the beach, or saving a father whose baby has drowned, or saving a baby whose mother and father have drowned,” Valamios said.

The headless body of a baby washed ashore on a nearby beach earlier this year. One mother lost two of her children, he said. One washed up in Greece, the other in Turkey.

Some days, Valamios would fit 20 people in his 3-metre (less than 10 foot) long motorboat. Its railing is still broken and wobbly from when one Syrian man tried to desperately cling onto it, he said. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Outgoing Ban Ki-moon says likely successor Guterres is ‘super choice’

ROME — United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday welcomed the likely nomination of Antonio Guterres, a former Portuguese prime minister, as his successor.

“I know Guterres very well and consider it a super choice,” Ban told reporters in Rome after a meeting with the Italian president.

“His experience as Portuguese prime minister, his wide knowledge of world affairs, and his lively intellect will serve him well in leading the United Nations in a crucial period,” Ban said.

The UN Security Council is expected to formally nominate Guterres later on Thursday. —Reuters

Bomb kills at least 25 Turkish-backed rebels in north Syria — monitors, witnesses

BEIRUT — A bomb blast at a Syria-Turkey border crossing killed at least 25 Turkish-backed rebel fighters and wounded dozens more on Thursday, witnesses and a monitoring group reported.

The blast took place on the Syrian side of the Atmeh crossing, west of Aleppo. A photo sent by a witness in the area, purportedly of its aftermath, showed the bloodied corpses lying on the ground.

Most of the rebels were from a group called Failaq al-Sham, witnesses said. Turkey is backing the rebels in an offensive against Islamic State further to the northeast, along a separate stretch of border.

The rebels use the Atmeh crossing to move between Idlib Province, through Turkey, to areas of Aleppo Province along the border where the fight against IS is taking place, the Observatory said.

Residents told Reuters they also use it to evacuate wounded fighters.

Ankara’s operation, dubbed “Euphrates Shield”, has also targeted Kurdish militants. —Reuters

Iraq calls for UN emergency meeting on Turkey’s military deployment

BAGHDAD — Iraq has requested an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss Turkey’s military presence on its soil, state television said on Thursday, as a dispute with Ankara over the troops escalated.

Turkey’s parliament voted last week to extend the deployment of an estimated 2,000 troops across northern Iraq by a year to combat “terrorist organisations” — a likely reference to Kurdish rebels as well as Islamic State.

Iraq condemned the vote, and Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi warned Turkey risked triggering a regional war. On Wednesday, Ankara and Baghdad summoned the other’s ambassadors in protest at remarks from the other’s camp.

In a statement cited by state television on Thursday, Iraqi foreign ministry called the troops’ presence a “violation”. —Reuters

Russia despatches one more missile corvette to Mediterranean — agencies

MOSCOW — A Russian missile corvette left its Black Sea Fleet base of Sevastopol on Thursday and is heading to join a group of Russian warships in the Mediterranean, Russian news agencies cited a fleet spokesman as saying.

The Mirazh, armed with Malakhit cruise missiles, follows another two Black Sea Fleet missile corvettes, The Serpukhov and The Zelyony Dol equipped with Kalibr long-range cruise missiles, which had been due to reach the Mediterranean on Wednesday. —Reuters

Hurricane Matthew death toll rises to 65 in Haiti, total toll 69

MEXICO CITY — Hurricane Matthew has killed at least 69 people, the death toll in struggling Haiti alone rising to 65, local officials said, as the storm headed northward on Thursday battering the Bahamas en route to Florida.

Haiti’s civil protection service put the toll in the impoverished Caribbean nation at 23 dead, many killed by falling trees, flying debris and swollen rivers. The interior ministry, a local mayor and other local delegates confirmed 42 other deaths to Reuters across Haiti.

That included a group of 24 people killed in the coastal town of Roche-a-Bateau.

“I’ve never seen anything like this,” said the town’s delegate Louis Paul Raphael.

Four people were killed earlier in neighboring Dominican Republic. —Reuters

Dozens of Afghan troops missing from military training in US

WASHINGTON —

Forty-four Afghan troops visiting the United States for military training have gone missing in less than two years, presumably in an effort to live and work illegally in America, Pentagon officials said.

Although the number of disappearances is relatively small — some 2,200 Afghan troops have received military training in the United States since 2007 — the incidents raise questions about security and screening procedures for the programmes. They are also potentially embarrassing for US President Barack Obama's administration, which has spent billions of dollars training Afghan troops as Washington seeks to extricate itself from the costly, 15-year-old war. The disclosure could fuel criticism by supporters of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, who has accused the Obama administration of failing to properly vet immigrants from Muslim-majority countries and has pledged a much tougher stance if he wins. While other foreign troops on US military train-



Afghan Uniform Police and soldiers from the US Army 4th Brigade Combat Team provide 360-degree security outside a compound during training at National Training Centre at Ft. Irwin, California, US, on 18 September 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing visits have sometimes run away, a US defence official said that the frequency of Afghan troops going missing was concerning and "out of the ordinary."

Since September alone, eight Afghan troops have

left military bases without authorisation, Pentagon spokesman Adam Stump told Reuters. He said the total number of Afghan troops who have gone missing since January 2015 is 44, a number that has not previ-

ously been disclosed. "The Defence Department is assessing ways to strengthen eligibility criteria for training in ways that will reduce the likelihood of an individual Afghan willingly absconding from training in the US

and going AWOL (absent without leave)," Stump said.

Afghans in the US training programme are vetted to ensure they have not participated in human rights abuses and are not affiliated with militant groups before

being allowed into the United States, Stump said.

The defence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added there was no evidence any of those who had absconded had carried out crimes or posed a threat to the United States.

The Afghan army has occasionally been infiltrated by Taliban militants who have carried out attacks on Afghan and US troops, but such incidents have become less frequent due to tougher security measures.

Trump, whose other signature immigration plan is to build a wall on the US-Mexico border, has proposed a temporary ban on Muslims seeking to enter the country, and has said that law enforcement officers should engage in more racial profiling to curb the threat of attacks on American soil.

After Omar Mateen, whose father was born in Afghanistan, killed 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando in June, Trump said an immigration ban would last until "we are in a position to properly screen these people coming into our country." —Reuters

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INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Medical Services, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of Cancer Drug. Tender documents are available during office hours at the Central Medical Stores Depot office, Commencing from (7.10.2016).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (4.11.2016) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores),

Phone No. 01-371969, 01-372362, 01-371284

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Medical Services

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Colombia's Santos, rival Uribe willing to work on peace deal

BOGOTA — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and opposition rival Alvaro Uribe met on Wednesday in a bid to resolve differences over a peace deal with Marxist FARC rebels that was unexpectedly rejected in a plebiscite, leaving the country in limbo.

The two expressed willingness to seek an end to the 52-year war that has killed more than 220,000 people and displaced millions more.

Sunday's shock referendum result, which confounded pollsters and was a political disaster for Santos, plunged the country into uncertainty over the future of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels, who had been expected to disarm once the deal was passed by voters.

After more than three hours of talks, former President Uribe emphasized the need for "adjustments and proposals" to ensure the deal includes all Colombians.

Without giving any



Colombian former President and Senator Alvaro Uribe arrives before a meeting with Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos at Narino Palace in Bogota, Colombia, on 5 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

concrete proposals, Uribe, 64, said Santos had shown he was disposed to changes.

Uribe, a former lawyer and cattle rancher, opposed Santos' peace talks from the start and said the final deal, which was reached in August after four years of painstaking negotiations in Havana, gave too many concessions to the

rebels.

He spearheaded the "no" campaign, urging Colombians not to approve the accord, which would have given the FARC guaranteed congressional seats and immunity from traditional jail sentences. "No" carried the day by less than half a percentage point.

"We identified that

many of their worries come from points that need clarification or precisions. Today we began to work with them to firm up those points and resolve their doubts," Santos said in a brief statement.

The future of the deal seems to hang on whether the FARC will accept tougher conditions for

demobilization, perhaps combined with a softening of Uribe's hard-line demands.

Santos once served in Uribe's cabinet, but the two have not met since late 2010.

The government has said the decision to reopen talks lies with rebel leadership.

Government negotiators are in Havana to confer with guerrilla commanders who have said they will remain "faithful" to the accord.

Thousands, many wearing white, marched in cities across the country in support of the deal on Wednesday. Members of Santos' cabinet joined marchers in Bogota's main square.

A senior US State Department official said both sides are committed to dialogue.

"They have made it clear they want the peace process to continue and they want to negotiate a settlement," the official, who met with both sides, told reporters.—Reuters

Nikolic: Serbia wants to join EU, but not at price of recognising Kosovo

BELGRADE — Serbia wants to become a full EU member, but not at the price of recognising Kosovo-Metohija or giving up on the friendship with Russia, President Tomislav Nikolic said on Wednesday at a meeting with the Czech Foreign Ministry's special Western Balkans and OSCE envoy Stefan Fuele.

Nikolic affirmed Serbia's commitment to EU integration, expressing the expectation the EU would find solutions for the challenges it is facing, the presidential press office said.

Serbia's commitment to peace and stability is in no doubt, Nikolic also said.

Speaking about the situation in the region, he said Croatia sometimes acted in a way not in keeping with European standards, adding that Bosnia and Herzegovina had major functional problems.—Tanjung

Brazil police seek more charges against Lula in graft case



Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRASILIA — Brazil's federal police have requested formal corruption charges against former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in a case involving contracts obtained by building and engineering conglomerate Odebrecht [ODBES.UL] in Angola, a source said on Wednesday.

The source, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitive nature of the information, said that Lula was among 10 people

that police have requested be charged in a document sent by police to prosecutors.

Under Brazilian law, only prosecutors can formally charge someone after a police investigation and those charges must then be approved by a judge.

Lula has already been charged twice in connection to a massive anti-corruption investigation centered on state oil company Petrobras and will stand

trial before anti-corruption judge Sergio Moro. The trial date has not been set.

In an emailed statement, lawyers representing Lula "repudiated" on Wednesday that the police document was leaked.

They said they asked police for a copy of the document, but were told it was already in the hands of federal prosecutors. The lawyers said their request to see the document was denied by the prosecutors.

"It's strange, to say the least, that the day after the police inquiry was referred to prosecutors, the press obtained it first ... and at the same time it is denied to the defence," read the statement from the Sao Paulo-based Teixeira, Martins & Advogados firm that represents the Lula family.

Prosecutors did not immediately respond to after-hours requests for comment.—Reuters

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation No.(2) Mining Enterprise Invitation for Opening Tender

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

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

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

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

Tender Invitation Committee
No.(2) Mining Enterprise

Paris climate accord to take effect; Obama hails 'historic day'

OSLO / WASHINGTON — A global agreement to combat climate change will take force after support from European nations sent the accord across an important threshold on Wednesday, prompting US President Barack Obama to hail it as a "historic day" for protecting the planet.

European nations, Canada, Bolivia and Nepal raised backing for the 2015 Paris Agreement to countries representing 56.87 per cent of world greenhouse gas emissions, above the 55 per cent needed for implementa-

tion, a United Nations website showed.

The deal will formally start in 30 days on 4 November, four days before the US presidential election in which Republican Donald Trump opposes the accord and Democrat Hillary Clinton strongly supports it.

China and the United States joined up last month in a joint step by the world's top emitters.

Obama called Wednesday "a historic day in the fight to protect our planet for future generations" and he told reporters on the White House

Rose Garden: "If we follow through on the commitments that this Paris agreement embodies, history may well judge it as a turning point for our planet."

Germany, France, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Portugal and Malta — European Union nations which have completed domestic ratification and account for about four percent of emissions — formally signed up on Wednesday.

In total, 73 countries out of 195 have ratified the agreement, according to the UN website.—Reuters



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Not just a thriller, 'Girl on the Train' plumbs women's struggles

NEW YORK — It's a thriller, a whodunit, a story of loneliness, alcoholism and voyeurism. But "The Girl on the Train," the movie version of the best-selling novel, is also a tale of female empowerment, the filmmakers say.

After selling 15 million copies worldwide since its 2015 release, Paula Hawkins' story of murder, betrayal and emotional abuse gets a dark twist in the movie that opens this week.

Emily Blunt plays Rachel Watson, an alcoholic who has lost her job and her marriage and who spies from the train on her cheating ex-husband (Justin Theroux) and his new wife Anna (Rebecca Ferguson). Rachel turns amateur detective when another woman with disturbing secrets, Megan (Haley Bennett), goes missing and turns up dead.

"I feel like this film represents women's right to be bad and flawed and wrong and messed up. I think women around the world are going to applaud that," Blunt said.

"Yes, (the women) are pitted against each other in the beginning but yet they do ultimately unite, and they are real," she added.

All three women are subject to jealousy, controlling behaviour and gaslighting — the term for psychological abuse that makes a victim doubt his or her sanity.

Some previews have had



Emily Blunt poses as she arrives at the World premiere of 'The Girl on the Train' at Leicester Square in London, Britain, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

women in the audience cheering at the end as the female characters wreak their revenge.

The movie opens during domestic violence awareness month in the United States and the National Network to End Domestic Violence has produced discussion questions that highlight themes of abuse in the book.

Director Tate Taylor said he would be glad if the film empowers women. "I didn't intend, on

an intellectual level, for it to be a revenge film, but it has struck a nerve."

Taylor, who also directed the female-centric movie "The Help," attributes his empathy with women to his upbringing.

"I was raised by a single mom. She was pretty much my primary caregiver... So I had a lot of female energy and I saw a lot of struggle, a lot of determination and a lot of success. I equate

women with being survivors because of my mom," he said.

Taylor and Blunt said the movie was deliberately darker than the book.

"We agreed that we were really going to reveal the underbelly of domestic life in all its darkness," said Blunt. "It's incredibly brutal to watch at times and unsettling, and I am thrilled that even for lovers of the book, it still shocks."—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

France's Isabelle Huppert to receive AFI festival tribute

LOS ANGELES — French actress Isabelle Huppert, known for films such as "La Ceremonie," "The Piano Teacher" and "Amour," will receive a tribute honouring her career from the American Film Institute (AFI) at this year's festival, the organisation said on Wednesday.

Huppert, 63, will be honored at a gala ceremony on 13 November in Hollywood that will include a screening of her latest film "Elle," directed by Paul Verhoeven. It will be part of the AFI's annual film festival in Hollywood, which showcases key films in contention for awards.

Nominated for a record 15 Cesar Awards, France's top acting honor, Huppert won best actress for 1995's thriller "La Ceremonie." Her English-language films include 2004's "I Heart Huckabees," 2013's "The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby" and last year's "Louder than Bombs."—Reuters

Rolling Stones expected to announce first studio album in a decade



Members of the Rolling Stones. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — The Rolling Stones are expected on Thursday to announce their first studio album in a decade after teasing new music for days on Twitter.

The British rock band this week released on Twitter a 10-second snatch of a bluesy track and video of them playing in a studio, with the message "Coming 6 October." On Wednesday, the band's official Twitter feed said, "Tomorrow. 2 PM GMT/6 AM PST/9 AM EST."

The veteran rockers last released an album of new material in 2005 with "A Bigger Bang," but have toured the world relentlessly. In March, they staged the first major concert by a Western

rock band in Cuba, playing free for an estimated 500,000-strong crowd.

Lead guitarist Keith Richards said a year ago that he and bandmates Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Ron Wood planned to get back into the studio in 2016.

A new album would mark the longest interval between new studio sets for the band, which formed in London in 1962.

The Stones are due to perform at a three-day outdoor festival in southern California this weekend dubbed "OldChella" because the lineup includes other stalwarts of rock and pop music including Paul McCartney, The Who and Bob Dylan.—Reuters

Diversity in focus at this year's London Film Festival

LONDON — The BFI London Film Festival kicks off 12 days of movie premieres, screenings and talks on Wednesday with organisers this year focusing on promoting diversity.

"A United Kingdom", based on a true story about a British woman marrying an African prince in the 1940s and facing opposition, will start the proceedings when its stars Rosamund Pike and David Oyelowo walk the red carpet in Leicester Square later on Wednesday.

Oyelowo will also headline the festival's Black Star Symposium, which will look at the challenges black actors face in Britain and the United States, a topic in the spotlight after the outcry over the lack of diversity at this year's Academy Awards.

All of this year's acting Oscar nominees were white for a second consecutive year, leading to criticism with the social media hashtag #OscarsSoWhite. In June, the awards' organisers invited 683 new members

to join, with a focus on female and minority talent.

"We need to see more films that reflect the society we actually live in," Oyelowo told Reuters in an interview to promote "A United Kingdom".

"The estimation of who we



Actress Rosamund Pike. PHOTO: REUTERS

are, what we believe in as human beings is very much rooted in the films we see because they are supposedly a reflection of the lives we live and the societies we live in but I would argue that they are not."

Other movies showing at the festival include "Birth of a Nation" about an 1831 Virginia slave revolt and "Queen of Katwe", about Ugandan chess player Phiona Mutesi, in which Oyelowo also stars alongside Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o.

Oliver Stone's "Snowden", about former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, and fashion designer Tom Ford's "Nocturnal Animals" will also be screened at the festival which runs until 16 October.

"We have a very diverse audience and the stories we bring to the screen should be reflecting that audience," the BBC quoted festival director Clare Stewart as saying.

"12 Years a Slave" director Steve McQueen will be honored at the festival with the British Film Institute's highest accolade, the BFI Fellowship.—Reuters

Ripe old age: humans may already have reached maximum lifespan

WASHINGTON — When she turned 120 years old in 1995, plucky Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment was asked what type of future she expected.

“A very short one,” she replied.

But Calment lived two more years, dying at age 122 with the longest documented lifespan of any person in history. Scientists who examined statistical trends regarding maximum lifespans said on Wednesday Calment’s record may last a long time.

An analysis of mortality and population data covering about 40 countries indicated humankind may already have hit its longevity ceiling, they said.

Average life expectancy continues to increase and more people are reaching extreme old age. But, the researchers said, people who reach 110 today have no greater life expectancy



The World’s oldest woman, Jeanne Calment, 120 years old, is kissed by two young girls during a special ceremony in a retirement home in Arles, Southern France, on 21 February 1995. PHOTO: REUTERS

than those who lived to 110 in the 1970s. The age at death of the world’s oldest person has not increased since Calment

died in 1997.

The trend since then has been for the world’s oldest person to reach around age 115, and the

researchers predicted this would remain stable for the foreseeable future.

“It is possible that someone might live slight-

ly longer, but the odds of anybody in the world surviving to 125 in any given year is less than one in 10,000,” said molecular geneticist Brandon Milholland of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, who helped lead the study published in the journal *Nature*.

“Despite any gains in the average life expectancy, there is a limit beyond which the maximum lifespan of humans cannot be extended,” Milholland added.

Since the 19th century, life expectancy increases have been driven by factors including vaccines, antibiotics, improved treatments for cancer and heart disease, and better sanitation and nutrition. Infant and child mortality has fallen worldwide and life expectancies in developed countries now reach into the 70s and 80s.

“We suspect that the accumulation of damage with age, especially mutations in the individual cells of the body, somatic mutations, ultimately places a limit on lifespan,” Milholland said.

Medical research generally focuses on individual diseases, which does not extend maximum lifespan because lifespan-limiting damage affects all organs, Milholland said. So, for example, a treatment improving cardiac function would not prevent neurodegeneration.

“The odds are very slim that we will ever see a person who lives longer than Jeanne Calment,” Milholland said. “And if we do ... they would probably not exceed her record by very much.”

Italian woman Emma Morano, 116, is recognised as the world’s oldest living person.—*Reuters*

Classes instruct Japanese businesswomen how to act, dress like leaders

TOKYO — For Japanese businesswomen looking to get ahead in the country’s male-dominated corporate world, a range of classes and seminars aim to help them succeed by advising how to project an image of self-confidence and leadership.

At the end of May, President Inc., a publisher of business magazines, organised a leadership seminar in Tokyo for women in managerial positions, lecturing them on how to behave like a leader.

Kaori Yano, a speech instructor, told some 40 participants, mainly in their 30s and 40s that “In a business meeting, aren’t you cowering with your hands

on your lap? That makes you only look like a doll.”

“You should bring your arms up and square your elbows on the table just like a TV anchor does,” Yano said. “That makes you look greater and more dignified.”

“In a male-dominated society, it’s not easy for women to get their opinions heard,” she said. “In important meetings, they need to work out what’s best for their views to go through.”

A 32-year-old woman who heads a business section at her company said, “A man’s ideas will always be adopted, even when I have already made a similar proposal. It’s so

frustrating.” Another woman, a 59-year-old company executive, said of the seminar “I have learned how people think and how they behave” in certain business situations. “I want to reflect what I have learned in my marketing job.”

Keiko Ishikawa, director of the Risk Managers and Consultants Association of Japan, said, “A hairdo, outfit, standing posture, and how to walk and sit tend to be considered secondary in business. But if you make a mistake in important situations, such as extending an apology, the business will be endangered.”

Fashion experts say one’s outfit could be an

important business tool for women.

“What is important both for men and women in choosing clothing in business is not wearing what they like to wear but choosing it from the client’s view,” said Iseko Takano, a stylist who works for corporate executives and TV celebrities. “How they want to look to the client is important.”

Takano recently gave a styling lesson to a woman working at I-mam Inc., a Tokyo-based business consulting firm. Takano suggested the woman wear a tight skirt to highlight her vertical physical line and make her look capable.—*Kyodo News*

Picasso works go on display at London’s National Portrait Gallery

LONDON — Pablo Picasso’s family, friends and lovers are the subjects of a new exhibition of the artist’s work at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

More than 80 works by Picasso go on display

at the gallery in the heart of the British capital from Thursday until February.

“Picasso’s portraits epitomise the astonishing variety and innovation of his art,” the gallery said on its website.—*Reuters*



Diana Widmaier Picasso, grand-daughter of Pablo Picasso, poses beside a 1938 portrait of her mother entitled ‘Maya in a Sailor Suit’ at the National Portrait Gallery in London, Britain, on 5 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar International

(7-10-2016 07:00am ~ 8-10-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Welcome To Naga Land
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Shan Novices To Be.....
08:42	Am	Development Momentum Of Sittway
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-1)
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Green Corner (Episode- 6) “Papier-mâché Bead & Bird”
10:39	Am	A Bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-1)

10:57 Am Creations of a Designer: Fashion

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung) (Part-1)
07:51	Pm	Sai Ye Kwan
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-1)
08:54	Pm	Now in Yangon

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Tyson Fury in action against Wladimir Klitschko during the fight for IBF & WBO Heavyweight Title's at Esprit Arena, Dusseldorf, Germany on 28 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Klitschko says Briton Fury dragging boxing 'through the mud'

BERLIN — Wladimir Klitschko has accused world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury of throwing boxing into disrepute after the Briton twice called off a fight against the Ukrainian, briefly retired from the sport and admitted to substance abuse.

Fury, WBA and WBO champion, had been due to defend his titles against Klitschko in July but pulled out with an ankle injury. The fight was then rescheduled for this month but postponed again due to an unspecified medical

condition, with Fury making further headlines by telling Rolling Stone magazine he had taken to drinking and cocaine to deal with depression.

"Fury is dragging boxing through the mud," Klitschko told *Bild* newspaper on Thursday.

Klitschko, who lost his titles to Fury in a surprise defeat last year, has been waiting for almost 12 months for a rematch.

"This just shows how unfair Fury is," Klitschko's manager Bernd Boente told the newspaper. "He stalls with Wladimir. He

blocks the world title."

Fury has also been charged with an anti-doping rule violation by UK Anti-Doping after a urine sample from February 2015 — nine months before his victory over Klitschko, showed traces of the banned stimulant nandrolone. He has denied doping.

The 28-year-old on Monday announced his retirement from the sport in an expletive-laden tweet, only to abruptly reverse the decision hours later, saying he planned to carry on fighting.—*Reuters*

Tiger Woods named an assistant captain for 2017 Presidents Cup

NEW JERSEY — Tiger Woods, who plans to make his PGA Tour return next week after more than a year on the sidelines, has been appointed as one of three vice captains to US skipper Steve Stricker for next year's Presidents Cup in New Jersey.

Woods will join Fred Couples and triumphant US Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III as assistants for the biennial team competition against the Internationals to be played at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City from 28 September - 1 October. "It's just a tremendous honour," Woods, who has paired up successfully with his longtime friend Stricker in the past at both the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup, said in a statement on Wednesday after being formally appointed.

"We've been friends for close to 20 years now, and we've been on teams together ... so for him to have the confidence in me, to be part of the crew and help him in any way I possibly can — I'm

thrilled to be his assistant."

Former world number one Woods, who got his first taste as a vice-captain during last week's Ryder Cup in Minnesota where the United States beat Europe 17-11, could still play his way on to the US Presidents Cup team.

"If that happens, replacing him as a captain's assistant will be a great problem for me to have," said Stricker. "But if he doesn't, I'm honoured he accepted this role for the first time in his impressive Presidents Cup career.—*Reuters*



Team USA captain Davis Love III greets Team USA vice captain Tiger Woods on the 18th hole during the afternoon four-ball matches in the 41st Ryder Cup at Hazeltine National Golf Club, Chaska, MN, USA, on 1 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Svitolina stuns Kerber to reach China Open last eight

BEIJING — Elina Svitolina stayed calm in the face of adversity to secure a surprise 6-3, 7-5 win over German world number one Angelique Kerber as the Ukrainian advanced to the China Open quarter-finals in Beijing on Thursday.

The 16th-seed saved nine of 10 break points in the opening set, six of them coming in a topsy-turvy ninth game, before unleashing a forehand winner past the stranded Australian and US Open champion to seize the first set after 45 minutes.

Svitolina, who stunned former world number one Serena Williams at the Rio Olympics, rallied from an early loss of serve in the second set to break Kerber twice more on her way to



Elina Svitolina of Ukraine. PHOTO: REUTERS

a fourth win against a top-10 opponent in 2016.

The 22-year-old Ukrainian will next face Australian Daria Gavrilova, who beat Caroline Garcia 6-4, 6-3, in the last eight.—*Reuters*

Arsenal could win three trophies this season, says Hleb

MINSK — Former Arsenal star Alexander Hleb says he made a mistake by leaving the Emirates to join Barcelona in 2008, and expressed regret at turning his back on managerial "great" Arsene Wenger.

The Frenchman has been in charge of the Gunners for more than two decades and Hleb believes this could be one of his most successful seasons yet, with Arsenal capable of winning three trophies.

"Wenger always sets the highest goals. He has managed to keep his key players and they are playing great football. They are tearing everyone apart," Hleb told Reuters, as he prepared for Belarus' World Cup qualifier against the Netherlands.

"I hope the team will win three trophies this season — the Premier League, the FA Cup and the Champions League. This Arsenal side certainly has the ability and I will really be supporting them."

After three years at the Emirates, where Hleb established himself as a key figure after joining from Stuttgart, the Belorussian decided to move to Barcelona.

The midfielder, who is now 35 and on the verge of winning another Belarus title with BATE Borisov, says his career never hit the same heights after leaving the British capital.

"I was playing at the top of my game in London and it was the best moments of my



Former Arsenal star Alexander Hleb. PHOTO: REUTERS

career," said Hleb, who never won a trophy with Arsenal.

"In my first season we got to the Champions League final. We lost, but I remember this final more than the other one when I won with Barcelona in 2009, but I didn't play."

His move to the Catalans did not work out and he was sent out on loan by manager Pep Guardiola.

"On the one hand I regret that I did not stay at Arsenal. Wenger was like a father to me and trusted me. I get sad when I start to think about this," he said.

"On the other hand, Barcelona was and still is the strongest club. I did not play that often, but I still got game time."

In a frank appraisal of his time at Barcelona, Hleb said that he only had himself to blame.

"I was behaving like a bloke. Guardiola was young and had only just taken over the club. He could not find the right words," he said.—*Reuters*