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BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS US lifts economic sanctions on Myanmar

PRESIDENT Barack Obama has lifted sanctions on Myanmar by revoking the ban on trade benefits to the country, pledging to assist the civilian government led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in carrying on its efforts toward political reform and broad-based economic growth.

President Obama said in his official letter that "the situation that gave rise to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997 has been significantly altered by Myanmar's substantial advances to promote democracy, including historic elections in November 2015 that resulted in the former opposition party, the National League for Democracy, winning a majority of seats in the national parliament and the formation of a democratically elected, civilian-led government".

Obama cited the democratic transition in the country, formerly known as Burma, from decades of military rule – including historic elections last November and the launch of a democratically elected government in March – the release of many political prisoners, as well as greater enjoyment of human rights.

The United States has now removed all individuals and entities from the US sanctions list and revoked the ban on imports into the United States of Myanmar-origin jadeite and rubies, according to the Treasury Department.



With lifting US sanction on it Myanmar will be able to increase its export. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Asia World Company Limited (AWC) and its group of companies, one of the country's largest conglomerates, welcomed the milestone announcement of the issuance of the Executive Order by President Obama.

The US's move followed a

meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the White House on 14 September.

As Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived at the White House, Obama issued a statement saying he would reinstate Myanmar to the Generalised System of Prefer-

ences (GSP), which provides duty-free treatment for goods from poor and developing countries.

Myanmar will be able to export about 5,000 products to the United States duty-free thanks to the new designation under the GSP trade program, according to

a US official.

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



Myanmar labour attaché posing for a group photo with Thai officials.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Labour attaché meets Thailand-based Labor Orgs

ACCORDING to U Khaing in-charge Phuket office of Myanmar Employees Website, the Myanmar Embassy's labour attaché U Moe Aung Khaing met with Thailand departmental officials and labour organisations at the office of social welfare and the office of maternity and child care of Phuket, southern Thailand on Friday.

Present at the interview were members of Myanmar Employees's Webside(Phuket), Foundation for Education and Development, Good Shepherd Shelter for

Hope, DISAC, MNP, and Maternity and Childcare Association, it is said.

U Moe Aung Khaing disclosed, "I will submit to the authority concerned at the bilateral meeting on labour affairs, the matter of Myanmar, employees holding medical insurance certificates, having to pay extra charges to hospitals. Plus other needs will be fulfilled in consultation with the ambassador. The embassy is always ready and willing to help the needs of labour organisations."

U Khaing, in-charge of Phuket office, Myanmar Employees Website, also said at the meeting, "To our great elation, we received wholehearted help of our ambassador in carrying out the wellbeing of Myanmar workers."

Through the arbitration, unpaid wages for 18 Myanmar labourers were recovered, and 50 per cent of the wages for 8 workers are to be disbursed in Thailand amounting to 42,000 Bahts with the remaining wages to be paid in a month.—Soe Win

6,000 Packages of LEO beer destroyed in Tachilek



The LEO beer being destroyed in Tachilek. PHOTO: WAI YAN LIN (IPRD)

AN earth haulage truck was used to destroy yesterday around 6,000 packages of LEO beer worth K60 million at Tachilek Township Customs Department in the presence of the committee to destroy the beer. Present at the ceremony

were Shan State Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Tint, Deputy Director U Mya Win from Township Customs Department, and officials from the departments concerned.

The police confiscated the LEO beer on 9 June under

Section 7(1) of the Customs Act.

Illegal alcohol, beer, assorted soft drinks without FDA certificates, a variety of foodstuffs and personal goods worth K28 million were also destroyed on 8 April.—Wai Yan Lin (IPRD)

Retired rector to participate in MOOCS in Seoul

A RETIRED rector of the Yangon University of Distance Education left for Seoul, Republic of Korea, yesterday to participate in the Second Regional Expert Meeting on Massive Open Online Courses—MOOCS—in Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Hla Tint, retired rector of the YUDE, will participate in the meeting which will be

held on 10 and 11 October.

At the meeting, jointly organised by the UNESCO and the National Institute for Lifelong Education—NILE, 25 experts from the Asia-Pacific region will discuss opening of qualified on-line courses.

YUDE has conducted its on-line Post Graduate Diploma in Law-PGDL since November, 2012, and the online

five-year course on Bachelor of Law-LLB since December, 2013.

YUDE, which is also a member of the Asian Association of Open Universities—AAOU and International Council for Open and Distance Education—ICDE, is the only university in Myanmar conducting online undergraduate courses.—GNLM

Dagon FC (Myanmar) left for Viettel World Cup 2016 of Viet Nam



Dagon FC (Myanmar) Football team posing for a group photo. PHOTO: MEC

THIRTEEN Players of The Dagon FC football club led by team leader U Thein Aung left for Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam by VN-956 Vietnamese Airline From Yangon International Airport on September 30.

The Viettel World Cup is a biannual tournaments organized by Viet Nam.

The Participants are 17 clubs from 11 countries, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Peru, Mozambique, Cameroun, Tan-

zania, Haiti, Burundia, East Timor and Viet Nam.

The tournament will be held from 1st October to 15th October. This is the first time for Myanmar, Dagon FC to participate in this championship.—MEC

POEM:

On Viewing the Video Clip on the Opening of IPA General Assembly

- * I didn't have the privilege to be present on the occasion,
But I happened to view the video clip on Youtube,
And I was so pleased
With the way the State Counsellor struck the big gong.
Yes, I like the way she struck the gong.
The first strike was a sort of tantalizing;
With a muffled wooden head of the mallet
the Boss struck on the bronze boss.
Then the second strike gave out a louder reverberation.
Then the third and final strike_
The Lady swung the mallet
with all her mustered-up strength_
I wonder where that strength came
From such a frail physique_
And the gong shook, and the gong stand shook,
and the whole hall shook, too,
With the applause of the chuckling audience.
- * On reflecting that video clip,
I remind myself of one motto:
Whatever you do,
Do it with all your might_
Even when striking a gong!

Zaw Tun

Activists call for an end to armed clashes



Activists stage the campaign in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

ACTIVISTS conducted a campaign in Yangon yesterday calling for the stopping of armed conflicts in Myanmar and for carrying out a probe into cases in which one child was killed and some injured due to blast.

People from about 30 organisations gathered outside Mahabandoola Park downtown, wearing white dress and holding placards and shouting slogans "Stop wars for peace".

They also displayed photos of the children suffering from armed conflicts and recited poems.

The European Union Delegation issues a statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission accredited to Myanmar yesterday, expressing concern about reports of intensifying mil-

itary action and armed clashes in Myanmar.

The escalation in fighting has resulted in casualties and the internal displacement of many civilians. At the same time, humanitarian access to conflict areas has been severely curtailed, preventing life-saving assistance from reaching affected communities, said the statement.

The European Union consists of 28 member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.—Zaw Gyi (Panita)

Experts discuss earthquake preparedness in Yangon

AUTHORITIES and experts gathered in Yangon yesterday discussing issues related to earthquake awareness, it is learnt.

At the Earthquake Forum, they stressed the important role of the government in reducing disaster risk.

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, has invited earthquake experts to give information on quake awareness and to highlight the role of government in raising awareness in attempts to reduce disaster risk.

The forum aims to increase earthquake preparedness and response capacity of Yangon Region through possibility planning.

Authorities and partners are cooperating for plans to make cities like Yangon more well prepared in case an earthquake strikes.

In accordance with the disaster management law, the government established the national Disaster management committee (NDMC), the highest deci-



Experts have suggested to check high-rise buildings in Yangon for quake resistance. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

sion-making body for disaster management.

At the forum, experts suggested putting focus on work

on earthquake emergency plans, survey and dividing quake risk zones in Yangon area.

Saw Htwe Zaw, Secretary

of Myanmar Earthquake Committee, said Yangon is included in one of the zones with quake fault, urging the people to get

more earthquake awareness.

Experts called for checking high-rise buildings in Yangon and Mandalay for quake resistance recently as the cities are located near the Sagaing fault line.

The committee also stressed the need to raise earthquake awareness as the earthquake-resistant structures are still few in the two cities.

Myitkyina, Thabeikkyin, Tagaung, Sagaing, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Toungoo, Pyu and Bago which are located along the Sagaing fault line can be stricken by quakes, according to the committee.

A powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar, killing at least three people and damaging famous pagodas and temples in ancient Bagan city and other regions.

Sagaing fault is the major active fault in Myanmar, running through or near major cities such as Yangon, Bago, Taungoo, Pyinmana, Meiktila, Sagaing, Mandalay and Myitkyina, according to officials. —*Kay Khaing*

No plan to hand over Maha Thaantithukha Buddhist Missionary Monastery: permanent secretary

MAHA Thantithukha Buddhist Missionary Monastery, which has been donated to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in dedication to the flourishing of Buddhism, will not be handed over to any individual or any organisation, according to Permanent Secretary U Zar Ni Win of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The permanent secretary was quoted as saying so at a press conference on the future of the monastery.

He said that officials tried to settle the dispute over the mon-

astery through negotiations but to no avail as London Sayadaw U Ottara and another four monks refused to apologise to venerable Sayadaws of the SSMNC and chose to settle it according to legal procedures.

Action was taken against the five monks in accordance with the Sangha Vinichaya Rules, he added.

Previously, the London Sayadaw told local media that they were asked to apologise and they would be released.

However, the Sayadaw add-

ed that they chose to follow the legal course because they could not apologise as they had not done anything wrong.

The monastery has been locked by Yangon Region Government with the permission of the SSMNC.

The missionary monastery was built with the aim of training monks to enable them to preach Buddhism in foreign languages, and a total of 125 monks have graduated from the monastery, according to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Home for the aged named Anupyinnya Siza Yeik to open in early 2017 fiscal year

THE artists built a home for the aged named Anupyinnya Siza Yeik, which is aimed for the elderly artists. The authorities concerned have planned to open it in January 2017.

According to actress Chit Chit Zaw, the building is a four storey building, and there are five rooms on each floor. At the moment, they make the staff look after the elders by giving the training courses.

In this function, they recruited the staff, and gave the training. But on the other hand, they haven't received any elders

at home for the aged named Anupyinnya Siza Yeik. They will start receiving the elders before the opening ceremony.

There is no limitation for the numbers of aged people. Pho Chit, an actor, constructed the building for aged performers of art.

And then, singer Yee Yee Thant will construct one more building for the aged musicians. Those buildings are being donated for Anupyinnya Siza Yeik aged home.

The cost for this building is over Ks 4,000 lakh, and six aged people can stay in a room.

Therefore, about 120 aged people are able to stay there.

Constructing that kind of building for the aged people who have no place to live safely is a good deed.

The aged performers, and artists' last time of their lives will be peaceful thanks to the cetana of the donors.

The authorities concerned attended the ground breaking ceremony of home for the aged at Shwenathar village, Pale town, Mingaladon Township on 19th April, 2015.—*War War (MMK)*

Italy to launch project on sustainable tourism in support of cultural heritage in Myanmar

Italy will carry out a project on sustainable tourism in upper Myanmar developed by the University of Florence.

The plan, presented by the University of Florence, is a fundamental starting point in this direction, especially for the development of tourism in the north of Myanmar", said the Ambassador of Italy, Pier Giorgio Aliberti, at the launch of the "Sustainable destination plan for the ancient cities of upper Myanmar", realized by the Universities of Florence and Mandalay in collaboration with the Italian Development Cooperation Agency and the Myanmar ministries of Tourism, Planning and Finance and Culture.

The initiative aims to promote the development of sustainable tourism in the area of Mandalay,

in the context of a broader project of cooperation between the two countries aimed at preserving and enhancing the cultural heritage of Myanmar, according to the statement released by Italian embassy in Yangon yesterday.

During the mission Ambassador Aliberti has also met the representatives of the local Chamber of Commerce, some members of the Mandalay civil society engaged in politics, environmental protection and women empowerment.

In addition, he met with the Chief Minister and the Mayor of Mandalay, whose encounter was an opportunity to confirm the commercial cooperation between Italy and Myanmar in priority sectors such as agribusiness and infrastructure, and to discuss about new forms of cooperation for the future.—*GNLM*



Mingun Pahtodawgyi in Sagaing is one of the tourist attractions in central Myanmar. PHOTO: GNLM

Two new villages to add to Community Based Ecotourism in ADPA

TWO new villages, In Daung and Shein Ma Kar villages, will be added to the Community Based Ecotourism in the Ayeyarwady Dolphin Protected Area (ADPA) in Mandalay region. Previously, there were six villages in ADPA, but now there will be eight, said project manager U Kyaw Hla Thein from the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The ecotourism project will create increased income opportunities for local fishermen and support ongoing dolphin conservation, according to the Society.

"This year, foreigners sleep overnight because they can find many dolphins active near In Daung village, which foreigners enjoy visiting. So, we added two new villages to ADPA. We also added a Myanmar traditional Pottery business in Shein Ma Kar village," he added.

Fishermen there go about fishing with the assistance of the dolphins. Besides fishing, they earn

extra income from cooking, selling souvenirs and showing the dolphins.

"The project is aimed at preserving endangered species. But, we can't do anything without the assistance of local people. Local people are closely in touch with the dolphins which are being faced with the danger of extinction. So, we have implemented this community-based ecotourism project in Ayeyarwady Dolphin Protected Area," he added.

According to this year's data collection, conducted in ADPA in Mandalay, there are 25 dolphins. Out of the six villages, Hse Thae and Myit Kan Gyi are from Singu township while Myay Sun, Sein Pan Gone, Aye Kyun, and Hsin Kyun are from Madaya township.

Tourists from Germany and France in Europe, Korea, China and other countries are interested in dolphin-assisted fishing. — *Aung Thant Khine*



An Ayeyarwady Dolphin seen jumping out of the water. PHOTO: WCS(MYANMAR)

Crime NEWS

Myanmar man held in Pathum Thani murders

A homeless man originally from Myanmar is being held as a suspect in connection with the separate killings of three homeless people in Pathum Thani last week.

A Bangkok Post's yesterday report said that police apprehended the 20-year-old suspect identified only as Bung or Jimmy in Chatuchak district of Bangkok on Friday evening. Traffic police from the Bang Sue station had spotted him sleeping on a median strip near the Mor Chit bus terminal on Kamphaeng Phet Road.

The officers found his appearance, clothing and bicycle matched a sketch and surveillance footage of a man wanted

for three slayings in tambon Prachathipat of Thanyaburi district, Pathum Thani, between Tuesday and Thursday of this week.

Mr Bung ran away when officers approached him but was caught at 6.40pm in Phahon Yothin Soi 18/1. Police seized the bicycle and two mobile phones from him. The suspect was taken to the Bang Sue police station where he admitted he was the man shown in the police handout but denied any involvement in the murders. He said he fled police because he had entered Thailand illegally and did not want to get caught.

Mr Bung said he had been in the neighbourhood where the

killings took place for six days, trying to find a job and surviving by scavenging and begging. He had been arrested by Bang Sue police for illegal entry last month and was deported to Myanmar. He returned again late last month by travelling on foot through the Mae Sot-Myawaddy border checkpoint in Tak province. He claimed a Karen man in Tak gave him the bicycle, which he rode to Bangkok.

Police on Saturday took the handcuffed suspect to the scene of the crimes for a re-enactment, where Mr Bung told officers that he only talked to the victims but did not kill them. — *Bangkok Post*

Yaba seized in Nawngkhio and Laukkai

AN anti-narcotic squad in Lashio seized 15,600 yaba tablets owned by Pan Aung, 15,600 yaba tablets from Hsan Kyawt and 15,600 yaba tablets from Ma Aye Kawt when they searched a Shwe Oh Sei passenger bus at Nawngkhio entrance gate, near oriental toll gate on Friday.

On the same day, a combined team comprising officers

and staff from Kunlong police station seized 1963 yaba tablet from a motorbike driven by Yun Le Zay with Ma Wan Tar Chin on board on Laukkai-Yan Long Khine road, near Taung Nyi Naung patrol ship, Laukkai town. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — *Myanmar Police Force*



Criminals seen together with yaba seized in Nawngkhio and Laukkai. PHOTO: MPF

One person injured in three-vehicle collision

A MAN was injured in a three-vehicle collision on Hla Hteik Kau (3), Wunna Theikdi ward, Zabuthiri township on Friday. The collision occurred at 7:30pm.

According to an investigation, a Mini Bus driver U Toe Gyi alias U Tun Tun Khine, 51, was attempting to turn left when the bus collided with a vehicle owned by the Minister of Industry

and another car of Ko Nay Myo Thu which was stopped beside the road. The accident badly damaged three of the vehicles.

U Tun Tun Khine was taken to the 1000-bed general hospital for emergency care by the Pay Sat Thu social assistance association. The police have taken action against the responsible driver. — *Ko Pauk*



The minibus damaged by three-vehicle collision. PHOTO: KO PAUK

Man wanted by police for robbery in Taungdwingyi

POLICE are looking for a man who allegedly stole money from a man in Taungdwingyi town on Friday. According to an investigation, U Khin Thaung, 55, from Hnin Kyan village, Myothit town withdraw K100,000 from CB bank and subsequently had a large amount of that fund pilfered from his bag.

So, he went to the police station and informed the matter. The police opened a case under Section 379 of the Penal Code. — *Kyaw Zayar*

Yaba worth over K2.1 million seized

A COMBINED investigation team comprising an official and staff from Yatsauk Myoma police station raided the home of Han Nyunt Lwin at Oaktaya ward, Yatsauk town yesterday. The police discovered 1,597 yaba pills inside a plastic bag under the tree.

The combined team con-

tinued to search and found 531 yaba pills in a wood store hut behind the house.

The police seized 2,128 yaba pills in total. The police have filed charges against the homeowner under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — *Myanmar Police Force*

Indonesia, Japan extend bilateral swap agreement

JAKARTA — Indonesia and Japan on Friday extended their bilateral currency swap agreement for another three years.

The agreement was reached between Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso, Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani, and Bank of Indonesia Governor Agus Martowardojo at annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington.

The agreement allows both countries to settle trade settlements without using the US dollar.

The size of the swap facility remains at \$22.76

billion.

“It shows the strengthening financial cooperation between both countries,” Agus said.

He voiced hope that the arrangement could support the efforts of maintaining macroeconomic and financial stability in the region and also complement existing financial safety nets at the regional and global levels.

Besides Japan, Indonesia also has bilateral swap agreements with fellow member countries of the Association of South-east Asian Nations, China, South Korea, and Australia.—*Kyodo News*

Mt. Aso in southwestern Japan erupts

TOKYO — Mt. Aso in southwestern Japan erupted in the early hours of Saturday, spewing volcanic ash 11,000 metres into the sky, the weather agency said.

The explosive eruption occurred around 1:46 am on one of the peaks of the 1,592-metre mountain in Kumamoto Prefecture, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

It was the first explosive eruption at that particular peak since January 1980.

The agency raised the alert level for the volcano to 3 on a scale of 5, calling on people not to approach the mountain and warning of falling rocks. There was also a small-scale eruption at 9:52 pm Friday, the agency said. Apart from that, the most recent eruption occurred on 1 May.

“Mt. Aso is in an unstable condition and could erupt again on the same scale,” an agency official told reporters, warning residents of volcanic ash, rocks and volcanic gas. The weather agency has warned that ash could

reach as far as the western Japan prefecture of Hyogo. Ash fall has been observed in the western main island of Shikoku.

The eruption has disrupted train services. Kyushu Railway Co. has suspended services for a 38-kilometre section between Aso and Bungo Taketa stations on the Hohi Line running through the northern outskirts of the volcano.

A brief power outage affected some 29,000 houses in the city of Aso and three other municipalities.

It is unclear whether

the eruption was related to powerful earthquakes that hit Kumamoto and neighboring Oita Prefecture in April, killing 49 people, the official said.

The Aso city government opened shelters at 10 locations. The central government set up a liaison office in the prime minister’s office. On Mt. Aso, three tourists were killed by large rocks thrown up in an eruption in September 1979. An eruption with pyroclastic flows was also observed in September 2015.

—*Kyodo News*



The collapsed buildings of Aso Shrine which were damaged by last April’s earthquake are covered with volcanic ashes from Mount Aso in Aso, Kumamoto prefecture, southwestern Japan, in this photo taken by Kyodo, on 8 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Death toll rises to 18 in east China landslide, nine still missing

HANGZHOU — Rescue work is still under way 10 days after a deadly landslide hit east China’s Zhejiang Province.

As of 10 pm Friday, 18 bodies had been retrieved,

according to the disaster relief and rescue headquarters. Nine others are still reported missing.

More than 1,600 rescuers have been mobilized for search and rescue efforts,

and over 270 machines have been put to use to pump water from the barrier lake, smash rocks, and remove debris, according to the headquarters.

Rain brought by Ty-

phoon Megi caused about 400,000 cubic meters of debris to tumble down the mountains of Sucun Village, Suichang County, on 28 September burying 20 houses.—*Xinhua*

Rouhani urges Malaysian companies to invest in Iran’s oil, gas, petrochemicals

TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has invited Malaysian companies to invest in Iran’s oil, gas and petrochemical industry, local media reported on Saturday.

Iran seeks an increase in economic ties with Malaysia and “it supports investments by Malaysian companies in the oil, gas and petrochemical sec-

tors,” Rouhani was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency.

The Iranian president, who visited Kuala Lumpur on Friday, urged for cooperation with Malaysia in the Halal food industry, academic and technological fields and tourism industry.

Rouhani also said Iran and Malaysia can facili-

tate each other’s access to markets in West and East Asia. In a meeting between Rouhani and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak on Friday, both sides vowed to double trade volume within the shortest possible time.

With reference to the impacts of restrictive western sanctions against Iran’s monetary and financial sys-

tems over the past years, both sides agreed to work together to find mechanisms to enable the private sectors of both countries to conduct business in an efficient way.

Leading a political and economic delegation, President Rouhani embarked on a tour of Southeast Asia on Wednesday that first took him to Viet Nam.—*Xinhua*

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Bangladesh kills 11 members of Islamist group blamed for cafe attack

DHAKA — Bangladeshi security forces killed 11 members of a Islamist militant group on Saturday blamed for an attack on a cafe in Dhaka in July in which 22 people were killed, mostly foreigners.

The 11 militants, believed to be members of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), were killed in three raids on militant hideouts on the outskirts of the capital, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told reporters.

Seven militants were killed in a raid on one hideout after police were tipped off that the JMB's Dhaka unit chief and his associates were there.

"We requested them to surrender but they opened fire at our officers, which prompted them to retaliate," Khan said.

The 1 July attack in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter was claimed by Islamic State militants and was one of the most brazen in Bangladesh, which has been hit by a spate of killings of liberals and members

of religious minorities in the past year. The government has blamed domestic militants but security officials say the scale and sophistication of the July attack suggested links to a trans-national Islamist network.

Police have killed more than three dozen suspected militants in shootouts since the Dhaka cafe attack, including its presumed mastermind, Bangladesh-born Canadian citizen Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury. The United States believes elements of Islamic State are "connected" to operatives in Bangladesh, US Secretary of State John Kerry said during a visit to Dhaka in August.

The targeting of foreigners could hurt foreign investment in the poor South Asian economy, whose \$28 billion garments export industry is the world's second largest. Nine Italians, seven Japanese, an American and an Indian were among those killed in the July attack.—Reuters



Policemen patrol outside the Holey Artisan Bakery and the O'Kitchen Restaurant as others inspect the site after gunmen attacked, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 3 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Aso, Lew vow to cooperate for strong UN sanctions on North Korea

WASHINGTON— Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso and US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew on Friday affirmed their commitment in working with other countries to adopt a new UN Security Council resolution to impose tougher sanctions on North Korea in response to its fifth and largest nuclear test last month.

During a meeting in Washington, Aso and Lew also agreed to work toward a swift implementation of a yet-to-be ratified Pacific free trade agreement involving the two countries and 10 other economies, according to Japanese and US officials.

Referring to Pyongyang's 9 September nuclear test, the ministers underscored the two countries' "continued coordination in sending a strong response to North Korea's multiple provocations, including its recent nuclear test," according to the US Treasury Department.

They also vowed to ensure "global implementation," including in China, the main diplomatic and economic benefactor of North Korea, of a sanctions resolution the Security Council adopted in March to punish the North's fourth nuclear test conducted in January, the department said.

Japan, the United States and South Korea, in collaboration with other countries, have been pushing for a strong Security Council sanctions resolution on North Korea for escalating provocations in defiance of existing Security Council resolutions banning Pyongyang from conducting nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches.

The Aso-Lew talks also came as regional powers are alarmed by



Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso (L) and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda attend a press conference in Washington, on 7 October 2016. Aso and US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, meeting the same day, affirmed their commitment in working with other countries to adopt a new UN Security Council resolution to impose tougher sanctions on North Korea in response to its fifth and largest nuclear test in September. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

the possibility that North Korea may carry out yet another nuclear test or ballistic missile launch Monday to coincide with the 71st anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea led by leader Kim Jong Un.

In a related move, Lew and Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei in a meeting Thursday in Washington "discussed their concerns regarding attempts by China-based North Korean actors and front companies to circumvent UN sanctions and the need for cooperation on this matter," according to the Treasury.

On 28 September, a US official hinted Washington is investigating more Chinese entities for alleged dealings with North Korea in violation of US and UN sanctions, two days after the Treasury Department blacklisted a Chinese trading company

for acting on behalf of a North Korean bank and assisting in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In Friday's talks, Aso expressed the Japanese government's resolve to win Diet approval of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and related bills during the extraordinary session through 30 November, according to a senior Japanese official.

Lew "reinforced the importance of working towards swift approval and implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership," the Treasury said.

In a ministerial meeting Friday in Tokyo, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Japan will create "momentum" for the 12-nation TPP to come into force quickly by winning Diet ratification ahead of other countries.—Kyodo News

Philippine military says no certainty war games with US will end

MANILA — A review by the Philippines of joint military drills with the United States could see exercises continue or scaled back, a military spokesman said on Saturday, following more rhetoric from the president about scrapping them completely.

An assessment would be conducted among the defence top brass and the executive about the merits of exercises that have gone on for decades between the two treaty allies. A unilateral decision would be taken, then the United States would be notified, said armed forces spokesman Restituto Padilla.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, in a speech on Friday that continued his near-daily lambasting of Washington, repeated his position from a week earlier that for Philippine-US war games, "this year would be the last."

Padilla's comments, meanwhile, echoed words by the defence minister that indicated military programmes with the United States could remain intact.

"The procedure is now that

they conduct a review and assessment in order to find out the benefits that are derived to the Philippines," Padilla told ABS-CBN News Channel.

"There may be a recommendation to continue all of it, or some of it and suspend the others, where benefits derived are not in our favour."

Fissures in the alliance have widened in recent weeks as Duterte intensifies a verbal onslaught against anyone who criticises a brutal anti-drugs campaign that has killed thousands since July.

There are 28 exercises each year between the Philippines and United States, including three large-scale programmes. Marines from both sides are until Wednesday engaging in war games that include amphibious landings and live-fire drills.

About 500 Filipino activists rallied outside the presidential palace on Saturday in support of Duterte's anti-American stance, holding signs with slogans like "US troops out" and "down with imperialism".—Reuters



US military forces aboard Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) manoeuvre on South China Sea near the shore in San Antonio, Zambales Province, Philippines. PHOTO: REUTERS

Obama casts early vote for 2016 election during Chicago trip

CHICAGO — President Barack Obama on Friday cast his ballot for the 8 November election during a trip to his hometown of Chicago.

Onlookers cheered as Obama, who was a US senator from Illinois prior to becoming president, entered the early-voting facility in downtown Chicago.

A smiling Obama shook hands with the poll workers at the

site and thanked them for their “outstanding work” before heading to an electronic voting machine.

“Now they can’t see me, can they?” Obama asked the workers as he jokingly shielded his machine from reporters standing nearby.

Obama has been campaigning for Democratic nominee Hillary

Clinton to succeed him in the Oval Office.

In 2012, Obama was the first president to vote early. At the time he was running for his second term in the White House. Obama was scheduled to spend the weekend in Chicago. He made the stop at the voting facility in between appearances at two political fundraisers.—*Reuters*

Egypt disturbed by US embassy’s security warning

CAIRO — The spokesperson of the Egyptian foreign ministry said late Friday the ministry was disturbed by the security warning issued by the US Embassy in Cairo.

The embassy neither coordinated with the foreign ministry nor notified any other Egyptian authority of the reasons for issuing such an alert or the nature of these security concerns, which in turn raises questions about the reasons behind issuing the alert, Ahmed Abu Zeid said in a state-

ment.

The US Embassy’s warning advises citizens of the United States to avoid large gatherings and public spaces on 9 October in Cairo, due to potential security concerns.

The spokesperson added that when contacted to clarify the reasons for issuing the security message, the US Embassy denied the presence of any particular reasons or security threats that triggered the alert, emphasizing that such alerts are standard precau-

tionary measures taken during extended holidays that often lead to increasing numbers in public gatherings.

Abu Zeid further added that the Foreign Ministry deplored, during the call to the US embassy, these unnecessary alerts that can have negative impacts, particularly on the economic front.

The spokesperson called upon all embassies in Cairo to exercise caution when issuing unnecessary or incomprehensible statements.—*Xinhua*

Clinton leads Trump by 5 points in presidential race — Reuters/Ipsos poll

NEW YORK — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton leads Republican rival Donald Trump by 5 percentage points among likely voters, roughly the same advantage she has held over the past several weeks, according to the Reuters/Ipsos national tracking poll released Friday.

The 30 September, 6-October, 6 opinion poll showed that 43 per cent of likely voters supported Clinton while 38 per cent supported Trump. Clinton has consistently led Trump by 4-6 points in every weekly poll since the beginning of September.

During this period, the candidates faced off in the most-watched presidential debate in history — a matchup that a majority of Americans believed Clinton won. *The New York Times* also released portions of Trump’s 1995 tax returns that showed the celebrity real estate developer had reported a loss that was big enough to have allowed him to avoid paying personal taxes for a number of years.

Clinton and Trump will meet again in their second debate on Sunday night, which will be in a town hall format, with the 8 November election fast approaching.

At this point in 2012, the race was tighter between Democratic President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney: Obama led Romney by less than 2 percentage points among likely voters in the Reuters/Ipsos poll during the first week of October. The incumbent eventually won the 2012 election by nearly the same margin in the popular vote.

This year, however, both candidates appear to have a bigger opportunity to shake up the race and



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton speaks at a Women for Hillary campaign finance event in Washington, DC, US, on 5 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

improve their numbers in the final weeks, given that a larger proportion of the electorate appears to be uncommitted.

When asked in the poll, roughly one out of every five likely voters would not pick either major party candidate and instead selected options such as “Other,” “Wouldn’t Vote” or “Refused.” That was twice the number of uncommitted voters as there were in the Reuters/Ipsos poll at the same point in 2012.

Americans have expressed a dim view of both Clinton and Trump this year. Both candidates are disliked by a majority of likely voters, according to the poll, and an increasing number of women have expressed an “unfavourable” view of both candidates this week.

In a separate poll that includes alternative-party candidates, Clinton led the field by 5 percentage points. Among likely voters, 42 per cent supported Clinton, 37 per cent supported Trump, 8 per cent picked Libertarian candidate Gary

Johnson and 2 per cent supported Jill Stein of the Green Party.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll is conducted online in English in all 50 states. The poll included 1,695 people who were considered likely voters due to their registration status, voting history and stated intention to vote in the election. It has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3 percentage points.

National opinion polls have differed this year in how they measure support for Clinton and Trump. Some polls, like Reuters/Ipsos, try to include only likely voters, while others include all registered voters.

The Reuters/Ipsos tracking poll also gathers responses every day and reports results twice a week, so it often detects trends in sentiment before most other polls. An average of major opinion polls aggregated by RealClearPolitics showed Clinton ahead of Trump by 5 percentage points on Friday.—*Reuters*

2016 Message from the Director-General of Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Serving a new society: delivering beyond your doorstep

9 October 2016

Just as in all service industries, the customer has always been the main focus of postal services worldwide.

One of the first examples of globalization, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established 142 years ago as a means of creating a seamless network for communicating across borders, allowing the Post to deliver the world. Industry dynamics and consumer demands have today pushed the Post to deliver right to customers’ homes — at their doorstep.

Our customers trust us and we are also the only trusted partner to provide locally and globally essential services to the public thanks to the universal service delivery network and obligations.

Our customers’ needs, however, are changing rapidly. Modern information and communications technologies have created a new type of consumer, for whom delivering at the doorstep is not enough; they want service when and where they need it. The demand is for more flexible and personalized services.

While these innovations may be disruptive, we are hopeful that, as has happened with other advancements before, the Post will turn these challenges into opportunities and stay relevant to its customers.

To achieve this, the Post must continuously transform and find new ways to go beyond simply delivering to the customer’s doorstep.

In the Istanbul World Postal Strategy, the UPU has provided a suitable platform that will guide the postal industry between 2017–2020 and beyond. Under this plan, the strategy sets out to achieve three very important goals:

- Goal 1: Improve the interoperability of network infrastructure



- Goal 2: Ensure sustainable and modern products
- Goal 3: Foster market and sector functioning

Leading the transformation agenda is the UPU’s Vision 2020, which will focus on innovation, integration and inclusion to drive our industry’s business over the next four years. We must work toward creating a postal world where innovation is shared, promoted and delivered; where postal networks are integrated internationally, regionally and nationally; and where the Post is seen as a vehicle for inclusive development by governments, development partners and international organizations.

Above all, the industry has to identify new opportunities being brought about by customers’ daily needs and expectations in all facets of their lives.

The UPU is working to make this possible by bringing postal leaders and stakeholders together and has created opportunities for them to discuss new ways to transform our business to meet customers’ needs in the changing postal paradigm.

We are determined to remain the trusted, reliable and affordable communication service provider for institutions, businesses and citizens of the world.

I wish you a happy World Post Day.Mr.

Mr. Bishar Abdirahman Hussein
Director-General of the UPU

German police hunt man feared to be planning bomb attack

BERLIN — Hundreds of police including specialist commandos combed a residential area of the eastern German city of Chemnitz on Saturday for a man suspected of planning a bomb attack, after failing to find him in a raid on an apartment. The deployment followed a tip-off from the domestic intelligence service, though the “where, when, how and why” of the planned attack remained unclear, said Tom Bernhardt, spokesman for the Saxony state criminal investigation office.

Police found traces of ex-

plosives in the apartment in the Fritz-Heckert neighbourhood, Bernhardt said. They asked local residents to remain indoors.

“The cordoned-off area is so wide that we can almost rule out a threat to the local population,” he said. Bernhardt said it was unclear how many suspects were involved or what the motive of the planned attack was.

In late July, Islamic State claimed responsibility for attacks on a train near Wuerzburg and at a music festival in Ansbach which wounded 20 people.—*Reuters*

Opinion

Write for us

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A 'do it yourself' project to protect against WMDs

Khin Maung Aye

THESE days, cases of manslaughter between beloved ones are being heard. These have apparently occurred after verbal arguments between man and wife, parent and offspring, brother and sister or in-laws.

In fact, they are bonded with love and compassion. So, the root of these murder cases should be anger, which results from greed and delusion or ignorance. According to Lord Buddha, greed, anger and delusion are the roots of all the unwholesome deeds in this world.

People fight at home, at school or at work because of these weapons of mass destruction—greed, anger and delusion. Terrorist attacks on nations and war among countries happen because of these WMDs. Whatever the

unwholesome or so called social deeds big or small that occur around the world can fit into these weapons. As these weapons are highly destructive, it is needed to completely get them rid of our world. So, the question is how to rid greed, hatred and delusion. Non-greed can be achieved by the practice of non-attachment. It is easier said than done, for people find it difficult to let go the persons and/or things they are attached too much to. The profound cravings and attachments embedded in us may be very subtle, hard to see, yet possibly very strong. Only through the practice of vipassana meditation can these attachments be let go with ease.

In the same way, hatred can be gotten rid of only through the practice of loving kindness. The more we practice loving kindness,

the faster the anger or the hatred we are harbouring will leave us. Nevertheless, how long it will take for the anger or hatred to leave our heart depends on the type of people. In this regard, it is worth recalling the simile Lord Buddha has used. He said, "In some people, anger is like a line drawn in the water. It vanishes instantly as soon as it appears. In others, it is like a line drawn in the sand, which will slowly fade away over time. For the third type, it is like a line drawn on rock", which requires great effort and a long time to rid. The first type harbors great love whereas the third type needs to practice more to instil loving kindness into his heart.

Finally, ridding delusion is the most difficult task. To do this, we have to contemplate on how eye, ear, nose, tongue, body and

mind work together with object, sound, smell, taste, touch and mental object and how and where this craving arises. Then, we can contemplate on impermanence, suffering and non-self of these six senses and their external sense objects. If this process is practiced diligently with mindfulness, it will help us get rid of the craving.

Buddha was crystal clear in his clarification of the Noble Eightfold Path on which we have to walk if we want to rid these weapons of mass destruction. But it is like a 'do it yourself' project. Nobody can do it for us, not even Buddha. This being so, it is incumbent upon us to tread on this path to free ourselves from the danger of the WMDs—greed, anger (hatred) and delusion (ignorance.)

Homage to 21st Century Myanmar Teachers on World Teachers Day

Pho Thit

AS societies become more complex and highly developed, greater demand is made on education to fulfil personal, professional and national development needs. On the one hand, with the growth in ICT, globalization and importance of innovation, in addition to providing knowledge, education institutions must be future oriented, impart ICT, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, information management, and job relevant skills and prepare students to be able to respond creatively to the challenges of rapid changes. On the other hand, despite material growth, with societies becoming increasingly more divided, education is also expected to play a role in creating social harmony and narrowing social divisions, by inculcating in young people tolerance, understanding, peace, a caring spirit for the underprivileged and those with special needs, and respect for diversity. As the world has become a more dangerous place with increase in terrorism, violence, conventional and cyber crimes, drug abuse, drug trafficking and human trafficking, education must also provide young people with information of the kind of dangers they face and knowledge of how to protect themselves. In addition, as access to education widens and education spreads to all corners of a country, education needs also to be able to cater to the differing intellectual, emotional, physical and social needs of a diverse student population. Consequently, all these fresh responsibilities that education of

the 21st century has to bear have greatly increased the duties of the 21st century teachers.

Today, due to the multifaceted requirements, it is not enough for teachers to just have the traditional knowledge of subject matter, methodology, and child psychology, and have affection for children and an enormous amount of patience. Schools of the 21st century in both developed and developing countries demand that teachers must be ICT literate to help themselves and their students learn better. They need to possess a variety of teaching techniques to cater to students with different needs and backgrounds. They must be able to teach students to communicate effectively and to collaborate with others. They must have the ability to develop students thinking and life skills, so that they can solve daily as well as work related problems. They must be innovative themselves to nurture innovation in their students. They must train students to notice the commonalities and appreciate the differences among the members of their community and those from other communities, and understand that in this world, their well being is interrelated with the well being of others, including that of their environment. This is a formidable task for any human being. Some who entered the teaching profession find the work too demanding and leave; some fall prey to temptations and exploit their positions to become rich. Fortunately, however, the vast majority of dedicated teachers rise up to the challenges and try to fulfil as many of the responsibilities as they can, despite having to work

in difficult circumstances, far from their families and homes. They continue to render their services till retirement age not giving much thought on whether their work is appreciated, or whether they will get promotion, or be able to live a comfortable life after retirement.

The world has celebrated World Teachers' Day in various forms since 1994 and each year a different theme is chosen with the aims of highlighting the important role that teachers play in society and promoting appreciation for the work of millions of teachers all over the world in nurturing generations of students to reach their full potential. The theme of this year's World Teachers' Day is Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status which are often forgotten in this world which is more interested in technological development and achievements and less interested in the daily efforts exerted by human beings.

How are we in Myanmar showing our appreciation to the 390,092 Myanmar teachers consisting of 74,195 male teachers and 315,897 female teachers, 196,192 who are in the urban areas teaching 39,69788 students between the ages of 5 and 19 and 193,900 who are in the rural areas teaching 10,583640 students between the ages of 5 and 19? (Calculations are based on figures provided in 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census.) Myanmar people continue to follow the tradition of valuing education upheld since ancient times, as they regard it as not only developing knowledge but also good morals. In the same way, they also continue to show great re-

spect to teachers and accord them the same status as the Lord Buddha. His teachings, the Sangha and one's parents. Teachers are traditionally seen as undertaking the duties of protecting their pupils from harm, giving guidance, providing knowledge and skills, and recommending their students to appropriate persons. In return, since the days when all children attended monastic schools, students are expected to be active participants in the class, abide by the teachers' guidance, learn what they are taught, treat their teachers warmly, and take care of their teachers' needs. Many in Myanmar, especially women, have been drawn to the profession, not because of the salary, since teachers have always been poorly paid, but because of the high regards shown to teachers by society, the opportunity to develop the minds of young people, the tranquil nature of the work and the honest way of earning a living.

There is no doubt that much needs to be done to improve the status of teachers in developing countries like Myanmar. However, an initial few steps should make them quite happy. Firstly, governments must try to improve teachers' social standard by increasing their salary to match it with the amount of time, effort and preparations they have to put in to educate our children, and providing them with decent accommodation close to the schools where they work, especially for those living in less developed areas where transportation is difficult, housing is poor and facilities are limited. Secondly, a variety of awards should be introduced to honour distinguished

teachers so that their achievements and hard work will be made well known in their respective community that may not know how hard teachers have to work. Thirdly, teachers should be empowered by allowing them a role in the management of their schools and what and how students are taught. Moreover, promotions and transfers should be merit based such as, by giving priority to teachers who are outstanding and who have worked for a certain numbers of years in remote regions. Similarly, more training institutions should be opened to reduce the backlog of teachers who wish to undertake professional development through further studies and to improve their promotion prospects. Measures should also be taken to appoint more teachers in rural areas so that student teacher ratio will be as close to that of in urban areas thereby reducing the workload of teachers and enabling teachers to improve their quality by giving them more time for lesson preparation and professional development. Finally, all schools should be provided with the required facilities and teaching aids to improve the working conditions of teachers.

There is no doubt that we need to think, and think creatively, in seeking ways and means to keep teachers happy and satisfied, as happy teachers will mean more effective and dynamic teachers and more effective, efficient and dynamic teachers will mean a better learning environment for all our children, whether in rural or urban areas, where they can seek the knowledge, skills and competencies demanded by 21st century.

Syrian government, allies advance before UN council votes

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces recaptured territory from insurgents in several western areas on Saturday as the UN Security Council prepares to vote on rival French and Russian draft resolutions urging an immediate ceasefire.

President Bashar al-Assad's forces, backed by Russian air power and Iranian, Lebanese and Iraqi fighters on the ground, hold the upper hand around the key battleground of Aleppo, whose opposition-held eastern sector has been encircled for all but a short period since July.

The government side's bombardment of Aleppo since a ceasefire brokered by Washington and Moscow in September collapsed after a week has drawn condemnation from the United Nations and countries supporting the Syrian opposition.

France, which opposes Assad, demands in its draft resolution an end to air strikes and military flights over Aleppo city. It appears certain to be vetoed by Russia, which has backed Assad with a year-long air campaign against the rebels.

Russia's draft, which does not include that demand, urges Moscow and Washington to revive the ceasefire deal.

Rebels also suffered setbacks



The sun sets over Aleppo as seen from a rebel-held part of the city, Syria. PHOTO: REUTERS

further northeast near the Turkish border on Saturday, in fighting against Islamic State militants, British-based monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported.

Syrian government forces and their allies, backed by air raids, took over an area on Aleppo's

northern outskirts on Saturday, state media and the Observatory said.

The advance in the Awaija area strengthened their hold on areas surrounding rebel-held east Aleppo, the Observatory said.

Rebel official Zakaria Malahifi of the Aleppo-based Fastaqim

faction denied there had been a government advance there.

But he did confirm government advances further south in Hama Province, reported by pro-Damascus media and the Observatory. The Syrian army and its allies recaptured several towns and villages from rebels in Hama's

northern countryside, reversing recent insurgent gains in the area.

Rebels had seized towns and villages north of Hama city after launching an offensive at the end of August in rare advances while insurgent factions were pressed elsewhere.

The government's Hama advances were their first in the area since then, the Observatory said.

It said the government side had taken advantage of recent infighting between two Islamist insurgent groups in the countryside of Idlib, north of Hama's provincial boundary.

In a separate government advance against insurgents near Damascus, the Syrian army and allied forces seized a large portion of the town of al-Hameh to the northwest of the Syrian capital, the Observatory said.

Russia's air power has been crucial for strengthening Assad's position in the past year, pounding rebels including foreign-backed factions.

Washington accuses Moscow and Damascus of war crimes for intentionally targeting civilians, aid deliveries and hospitals which have been hit particularly around Aleppo in recent weeks. —Reuters

Sunni force pleads for Iraqi government help as Mosul fight looms

BASHIQA, (Iraq) — Abu Mahmoud, part of a 2,500-man predominantly Sunni Arab force pulled together to launch an offensive against Islamic State in the Iraqi city of Mosul, has heard from relatives the group has been threatening to behead anyone who speaks of "liberation".

That threat has not discouraged him but he is worried about a lack of support from the Shi'ite-led central government.

"The most important thing we need is weapons and government support," said Abu Mahmoud, 42, who like others interviewed at a training camp in Bashiqa in northern Iraq, declined to give his full name for fear of reprisals.

Abu Mahmoud, who covers his face so that Islamic State militants don't target his family, hopes he and other men in the National Mobilisation force will capture Mosul and rescue its residents in an operation expected to start within weeks.

The Iraqi army, along with Kurdish peshmerga fighters, will take the lead in one of Iraq's most important offensives in years, with the aim of clearing Islamic State from its last major stronghold and promoting long-term stability.

But complaints from fighters and commanders in the National

Mobilisation force about lack of weapons from the Baghdad government highlights sectarian fault-lines that could undermine the offensive and chances for sectarian and ethnic harmony.

Iraq has descended into civil war, mainly between Shi'ites and Sunnis, since a U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The force, that trains about five hours a day at the camp, was patched together by former Mosul governor and Sunni politician Atheel al-Nujaifi in 2014, not long after Islamic State swept through northern Iraq, virtually unopposed by an army riddled with corruption.

Nujaifi purchased used weapons for the fighters in markets, according to his commanders.

After the camp came under heavy Islamic State rocket fire, Turkish trainers positioned six tanks along the edge of the compound in May 2015.

While the men have benefited from the training, Shi'ite Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi warned Turkey's military presence in Iraq could spark a regional war.

Last week, Turkey's parliament voted to extend its military presence in Iraq for a further year to take on what it called "terrorist organisations".—Reuters

Two militants kill themselves in standoff with Turkish police — governor

ANKARA — Two militants believed to be preparing a car bomb attack detonated explosives, killing themselves in a remote area near Ankara on Saturday after Turkish police told them to surrender, the provincial governor said.

The militants, believed to be a male and female, probably had ties to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) armed group, Ercan Topaca told reporters at the scene of the blast outside the capital.

"It looks like there is a high probability of a PKK link," Ankara Governor Ercan Topaca said in comments broadcast by CNN Turk.

Video footage showed forensic teams in white overalls inspecting the site as police secured the area around a hut in flat countryside on the road to the town of Haymana.

Police seized two pieces of plastic explosives and 200 kg (440 pounds) of ammonium nitrate, the governor's office said in a statement.

Ammonium nitrate is an ingredient in bomb-making.

The office said security forces launched an operation against the militants around 6 am (0300 GMT) at a stud farm some 30 km (19 miles) from the

capital after a tip-off from Diyarbakir, the main city in the Kurdish heartland of southeast Turkey.

An identity card found at the scene, believed to belong to one of the would-be bombers, was of a man from the southeastern province of Bingol. A third individual was also being sought, the governor said.

The PKK has fought a three-decade insurgency, focussed on the southeast, in which more than 40,000 people have been killed. It is designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

A two-year-old ceasefire between the group and the Turkish state collapsed in July last year, triggering renewed clashes and bomb attacks.

Leftist and Islamists militants have also carried out bombings in Turkey in the past, with jihadist group Islamic State blamed for some recent attacks.

On Thursday a bomb attack near a police station in Istanbul wounded 10 people. The Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK), an offshoot of the PKK, claimed responsibility for that blast on Friday. —Reuters



Police forensic experts examine a car after a blast detonated by two militants, in the countryside of Haymana near Ankara, Turkey, on 8 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US pressed to disclose secret court's order on Yahoo email search

SAN FRANCISCO — A US senator and civil groups critical of surveillance practices on Friday called on the government to release a 2015 order by a secret court directing Yahoo to scan all its users' incoming email, saying it appeared to involve new interpretations of at least two important legal issues.

Their concerns center on the nature of the technical assistance the court required Yahoo to provide and the scope of the search that legal experts said appeared to cover the Silicon Valley internet company's entire network.

Yahoo installed a custom software program to search messages to hundreds of millions of accounts at the behest of US intelligence officials with an order from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, a secret tribunal, Reuters reported on Tuesday.

They were looking for messages containing a single piece of digital content, three former employees and a fourth person ap-



A man walks past a Yahoo logo during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on 24 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

prised of the events told Reuters.

Intelligence officials told Reuters that all Yahoo had to do was modify existing systems for stopping child pornography from being sent through its email or filtering spam messages.

But the pornography filters are aimed only at video and still images and cannot search text, as the Yahoo program did. The spam filters, meanwhile, are viewable by

many employees who curate them, and there is no confusion about where they sit in the software stack and how they operate.

The court-ordered search Yahoo conducted, on the other hand, was done by a module attached to the Linux kernel - in other words, it was deeply buried near the core of the email server operating system, far below where mail sorting was handled, according to three former

Yahoo employees.

They said that made it hard to detect and also made it hard to figure out what the program was doing.

How much companies can be forced to do to comply with government orders for searching data is being debated in the courts. Companies have successfully argued that changes that would degrade users' experience or force them to write new code, essentially a form of speech, would violate basic rights.

Most famously, Apple refused to write code that would unlock an iPhone belonging to a gunman in last year's mass shooting in San Bernardino, California. The FBI later dropped its demand.

In the case of Yahoo, company security staff discovered a software program that was scanning email but ended an investigation when they found it had been approved by Chief Executive Officer Marissa Mayer, the sources said.—Reuters

VW, Audi recall 334,000 vehicles in North America due to fuel leaks

DETROIT — Volkswagen AG (VOWG_p.DE) is recalling about 334,000 Volkswagen and Audi brand vehicles in the United States and Canada in three separate recalls, each due to fuel leaks but with different causes, US safety regulators and VW said on Friday.

No one has been injured as a result of these issues, Volkswagen spokeswoman Jeannine Givan said on Friday. While the fuel leaks could increase the risk of fire, there have been no fires reported, she said. Affected models are gasoline versions of the 2009-2012 model year Audi Q5 SUVs, and 2007-2012 Audi Q7 SUVs; gasoline versions of 2012-2013 Audi A6 and A7 sedans; as well as all engine types of 2015-2016 VW Golf, VW SportWagen, VW GTI, and Audi A3 sedans and Audi A3 Cabriolet.

About 83 per cent of the recalled vehicles are registered in the United States. Volkswagen did not immediately say whether the recalls will affect vehicles outside of North America.

The company did not say how much it expects the recalls to cost. VW said it will notify affected vehicle owners instructing them when parts will be available for them to go to VW and Audi dealerships for repairs free of charge. In the meantime, VW said it will send out interim notifications to affected consumers in November.—Reuters

US court reinstates Apple \$120 million patent win over Samsung

NEW YORK — A federal appeals court on Friday reinstated a \$120 million jury award for Apple Inc (AAPL.O) against Samsung (005930.KS), marking the latest twist in the fierce patent war between the world's top smartphone manufacturers.

The court said that there was substantial evidence for the jury verdict related to Samsung's infringement of Apple patents on its slide-to-unlock and autocorrect features, as well as quick links, which automatically turn

information like addresses and phone numbers into links.

Friday's decision was made by the full slate of judges on the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, DC. In an 8-3 ruling, the judges said that a previous panel of the same court should not have overturned the verdict last February.

The three-judge panel did not follow US Supreme Court limits on the scope of its review, because it examined evidence outside the record of the case, the

decision said.

Representatives for Samsung and Apple could not immediately be reached for comment.

The appeal stems from a May 2014 verdict from a federal court in San Jose, California, which ordered Samsung to pay \$119.6 million for using the Apple features without permission.

Infringement of the quick links feature accounted for nearly \$99 million of the damages.

The jury had also found that Apple infringed a Samsung pat-

ent on digital photo technology and awarded \$158,400 in damages. Friday's decision upholds that award.

The two companies have been battling over mobile device technology patents for years, with Apple mostly prevailing.

In December, Samsung paid Apple \$548.2 million stemming from a separate patent case.

Part of that dispute has been appealed to the Supreme Court, which will hear it on Tuesday.—Reuters

Finance leaders issue fresh warnings amid Deutsche worries, pound rout

WASHINGTON — World finance leaders issued fresh warnings about economic stability risks on Friday amid worries about a massive US fine for Deutsche Bank destabilising Germany's largest bank, a sharp fall in the British pound and weak global growth.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the chairman of euro zone finance ministers, said that the US Department of Justice's demand that Deutsche Bank pay \$14 billion for its role in the sub-prime mortgage crisis is too big and will undermine financial stability.

"Let's hope it is an opening bid," Dijsselbloem told Reuters in an interview on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings in Washington. "These kinds of fines are completely oversized, and they are damaging to financial stability."

Deutsche Bank has been struggling to overhaul its business model that is built around trading activities that have become much less lucrative under new regulation enacted since the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

"Here is a financial institution



World Bank President Jim Yong Kim sits on a panel at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank Group in Washington, on 7 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

which needs to be restructured and strengthened and needs to bring in new capital and we cannot then have an even bigger amount of capital being pulled out by the American authorities. That is really counterproductive to put it mildly," Dijsselbloem said.

US Treasury Secretary Jack

Lew declined to comment specifically on Deutsche Bank, but said that Europe needed to do more to ensure that its banks were adequately capitalized and ready to deal with future risks to stability.

"We've also been clear that Europe has not done as much as the United States and this is a case

where sometimes doing more is better," Lew told a news conference, referring to new capital requirements and regulations imposed on US banks after the last crisis.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble earlier said that a new financial crisis could

not be ruled out and that the IMF is backing up his longstanding warnings about the risks to the banking system from "ultra-loose" monetary policy.

Speaking at a news conference to discuss Germany's leadership of the G20 major economy meetings in 2017, Schäuble declined to answer direct questions about Deutsche Bank's health.

But he repeated his sharp criticism of "ultra-loose monetary policy," which includes the negative interest rates and other unconventional strategies of the European Central Bank aimed at jolting Europe out of extremely weak growth.

"The danger of a new crisis has not completely vanished," Schäuble said.

IMF officials have said this week that Deutsche Bank needs to reassess its business model to maintain profits and capital in what is expected to be a long era of low rates that will pressure earnings.

Deutsche shares rose on Friday after Reuters reported that Qatari investors who own a nearly 10 percent stake in the bank do not plan to sell their shares.—Reuters

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Physical appearance

Choose the best answer.

- Liz always **looks / appears** good- she has great **dress / clothes** sense.
- Simon is nearly fifty but he's ageing well – he doesn't look his **years / age** at all.
- He noticed that his hair was **changing to / going** grey.
- The police are looking for a man **in / of** his early twenties, **of average / middle** height and with a **full / complete** beard.
- As the suspect has very distinctive **features / facial parts**, it will be difficult for him to **adopt / take** a disguise.
- I don't usually spend much time **putting / doing** my make-up – I just **put on / paint with** a bit of lipstick and eyeliner.
- His **scruffy / disorganised** clothes and badly-cut hair didn't make / do a very good impression on his boss.
- You look great! Have you lost **fat / weight**?
- He was **wearing / using** sunglasses and **wearing / carrying** an umbrella.

A. Which of these alternatives is not a natural-sounding

collocation?

- Paul's clothes are really _____.
a. in fashion b. out of fashion c. full of fashion
- I don't really like this shirt – it _____.
a. doesn't suit me b. doesn't fit me c. doesn't accommodate me
- James' _____ made a strong impression on all the women in the office.
a. striking good looks b. boyish good looks c. good face
- He's only in his twenties but he's starting to _____ already.
a. be hairless b. go bald c. lose his hair

B. What's the opposite of these expressions? Choose from these adjectives:

crooked	dry	broad	curly
---------	-----	-------	-------

- Straight hair / _____ hair
- Oily skin / _____ skin
- Narrow shoulders / _____ shoulders
- Even teeth / _____ teeth

Answer Key

- looks / dress, 2. age, 3. going, 4. in/ average/full, 5. features / adopt, 6. doing / put on, 7. scruffy / make, 8. weight, 9. wearing / carrying
- C, 11. C, 12. C, 13. A
- curly hair, 15. dry skin, 16. broad shoulders, 17. crooked teeth

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India to re-auction unsold airwaves when telcos' fortunes improve

NEW DELHI — India said on Friday it will consider re-auctioning mobile phone spectrum that remained unsold in a sale this week when the financial situation of its telecoms companies improves.

The government raised \$9.9 billion from a spectrum auction that ended on Thursday, but there were no takers for the most-efficient yet priciest 700 megahertz band of airwaves and only 40 per cent of the total on offer was sold.

Indian telecoms services are among the cheapest in the world, making margins relatively lower than elsewhere and putting pressure on carriers' finances, with local ratings agency ICRA forecasting their combined debt to rise to 4.25 trillion rupees (\$64 billion) after funding the latest sale.

"If their financial situation is not good, and they can't buy it now, what is the guarantee that they will be able to if we do another auction immediately," Telecoms Minister Manoj Sinha told reporters, when



A man talks on his mobile phone in the village of Devmali in Rajasthan, on 14 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

asked about the unsold airwaves.

"So, we will take the appropriate decision at the appropriate time."

Telecoms Secretary J.S. Deepak separately told Reuters that the ministry was on course to achieve its revenue target set by the finance ministry, despite earning far less than he budgeted 645 billion rupees from the auction.

Deepak said the government will decide later on whether to consider cutting the price of the 700 band airwaves.

The telecoms ministry will get a minimum of 320 billion rupees upfront as carriers are allowed to pay in instalments. Vodafone Group Plc was the top spender in the

auction with 202.8 billion rupees worth of bids, followed by Bharti Airtel's 142.44 billion rupees, according to government data released on Friday.

Reliance Jio Infocomm bought airwaves worth 136.72 billion rupees, Idea Cellular spent 127.98 billion rupees, and Tata Teleservices bid for 46.19 billion rupees.—Reuters

London School of Economics says Britain barred foreign experts from Brexit work

LONDON — A British government official told the London School of Economics that foreign academics should not do advisory work for the government on Britain's exit from the European Union, the university said.

The row with LSE added spice to a tumultuous week for British politics which saw Prime Minister Theresa May announce a date for triggering Brexit, sterling plunge and a senior minister propose firms disclose what percentage of their workforce was non-British.

According to the LSE, a Foreign Office official told an academic at the School that only UK passport holders could do consultancy work on a Brexit project being worked on by the LSE for the government.

"We believe our academics, including non-UK nationals, have hugely valuable expertise, which will be vital in this time of uncertainty around the UK's relationship with

Europe and the rest of the world," the LSE said in a statement.

"The UK government regularly calls upon LSE's world-class academics for their advice on a range of issues," the LSE said.

The London School of Economics and Political Science, or LSE, is one of the world's top universities, which counts financier George Soros, Rolling Stone Mick Jagger and former US President John F. Kennedy among its alumni.

With around 9,600 full time students from 140 countries, the LSE is one of Britain's most internationally diverse universities. It says over 100 languages are spoken on its campus in central London. A spokeswoman for the British Foreign Office, or FCO, declined to directly address the row but said when asked for comment that it may require security clearance and that it sought the best advice regardless of nationality.—Reuters

Girls spend 160 million more hours than boys doing household chores everyday

UNITED NATIONS — Girls between five and 14 years old across the world spend 40 per cent more time, or 160 million more hours a day, on unpaid household chores and collecting water and firewood compared to boys their age, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said in a report released on Friday.

The report, "Harnessing the Power of Data for Girls: Taking stock and looking ahead to 2030," includes the first global estimates on the time girls spend doing household chores such as cooking, cleaning, caring for family members and collecting water and firewood.

The disproportionate burden of domestic work

begins early, with girls between five and nine years old spending 30 per cent more time, or 40 million more hours a day, on household chores than boys their age, showed the report which was released ahead of International Day of the Girl on 11 October.

The numbers rise as girls get older, with 10 to 14

year olds spending 50 per cent more time, or 120 million more hours each day, the report said.

"The overburden of unpaid household work begins in early childhood and intensifies as girls reach adolescence," said UNICEF's Principal Gender Advisor Anju Malhotra.

"As a result, girls sacri-

fice important opportunities to learn, grow, and just enjoy their childhood," Malhotra said. "This unequal distribution of labour among children also perpetuates gender stereotypes and the double-burden on women and girls across generations."

Meanwhile, the report noted that girls' work is less visible and often underval-

ued. Too often adult responsibilities such as caring for family members, including other children, are imposed on girls.

Time spent on chores limits a girl's time to play, socialize with friends, study and be a child. In some countries, collecting firewood and water puts girls at risk of sexual violence.—Xinhua



An exterior view of the government offices of the small island nation of Nauru is pictured, in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

United Nations report slams Nauru for failure to protect refugee children

MELBOURNE — A United Nations report has slammed the tiny-Pacific island nation of Nauru for its failure to protect asylum seeker children from sexual abuse inside the country's Australian-run detention centre.

Under Australia's hard-line immigration policy, asylum seekers intercepted trying to reach the country by boat are sent for processing to a camp in Nauru or to Manus Island in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and are not eligible for resettlement in Australia.

"The Committee is concerned at the inhuman and degrading treatment, including physical, psychological and sexual abuse, against asylum seeking and refugee children living in the

Regional Processing Centres," the report from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child said.

The report also highlighted the lack of basic services, such as clean drinking water and mental health support for the 70 children, who are among the over 500 asylum seekers detained on Nauru.

Australia's offshore processing camps for asylum seekers have been heavily criticised by human rights groups over allegations systemic abuses of the detainees, including sexual assault of women and children. A series of self-immolations and other incidents of self-harm by asylum seekers on Nauru, led to the death of at least one refugee in May.

"Australia can't escape its own responsibility, nothing happens on Nauru without Australia's approval," Ian Rintoul from the Refugee Action Coalition said.

The Australian government contracts a private company to manage the detention facility's on Nauru and in PNG. A spokesperson from the Nauru government and the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection did not respond to request to comment on the report. The report comes amid uncertainty over the future of the centre, as the company contracted to run the facility, in April said they would not continue to do so after 2017.—Reuters

Venezuela creates Hugo Chavez peace prize, awards to Russia's Putin

CARACAS — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Friday announced the creation of peace prize in honour of late socialist leader Hugo Chavez, and said he was awarding it to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The announcement comes on the same day that the Nobel Committee awarded its annual Peace Prize to Juan Manuel Santos, president of neighbouring Colombia, for his role in negotiating a peace agreement with Marxist FARC rebels.

"I've decided to create the Hugo Chavez prize for peace and the sovereignty," Maduro said during a televised broadcast to unveil a statue of Chavez designed by a Russian artist.

"I think President Vladimir Putin deserves this Hugo Chavez award," he said, describing Putin as a "fighter for peace."

Maduro said winners of the prize will receive a miniature replica of the statue.

Venezuela during Chavez's 14-year rule openly challenged Washington's dominance in the region while building up alliances with traditional adversaries of the United States including Russia and China.

Critics of the Ruling Socialist party frequently ridicule its efforts to build Venezuela's presence in international politics, noting the country's unravelling economic system has created runaway inflation and chronic product shortages.—Reuters



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (R) meets with Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro on the sidelines of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Tehran, Iran, on 23 November 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Colombia government, FARC willing to hear plans to change peace deal

BOGOTA — Colombia's government and Marxist FARC rebels said on Friday they were willing to listen to proposals to alter their peace accord after a painstakingly negotiated deal was unexpectedly rejected in a plebiscite, leaving the country in limbo.

In a joint statement from Havana, negotiators from the government and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) said that after four years of talks, they have the "necessary reforms and measures to achieve peace and guarantee an end to the conflict."

The two sides, however, recognised the accord was rejected in an 2 October plebiscite and were willing to listen to proposed adjustments.

"It's right that we continue listening to different sectors of society in a quick and efficient manner to understand their concerns and promptly find a solu-



Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (L) and Marxist rebel leader Rodrigo Londono, better known by the nom de guerre Timochenko, applaud after signing an accord ending a half-century war that killed a quarter of a million people, in Cartagena, Colombia on 26 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tion," they said in statement read by lead government negotiator Humberto de la Calle, without providing details of the next steps.

The statement comes just hours after President Juan Manuel Santos was awarded the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end a 52-year-old war

with the FARC.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said Santos had brought one of the longest civil wars in modern history closer to a peaceful solution, but the process could still collapse given the plebiscite result.

In a vote that confounded opinion polls and was a disaster for Santos, Colombians narrowly rebuffed the pact as too lenient on the rebels, who formed in 1964 as a peasant rebellion.

While the nation of almost 49 million people clamour for peace, the result of the plebiscite showed Colombians are not willing to accept it at any price.

In Bogota, Santos and representatives have been listening to the views of those who voted against the deal, led by former President Alvaro Uribe.

Those will be presented by government negotiators at some point to the FARC for discussion.

Uribe, a former lawyer and cattle rancher, opposed the peace talks from the start and said the final deal gave too many concessions to the rebels.

He spearheaded the "no" campaign, urging Colombians to reject the accord, which would have given the FARC guaranteed congressional seats and immunity from traditional jail sentences. His side won by half a percentage point.

While there appears to be willingness on all sides, 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 has maintained an optimistic tone since his defeat on Sunday.

"Thank God peace is close. Peace is possible," he said after hearing of his award.—Reuters

Hurricane Matthew kills almost 900 in Haiti before hitting US

PORT-AU-PRINCE, (Haiti)/DAYTONA BEACH, (Fla.) — Hurricane Matthew killed almost 900 people and left tens of thousands homeless in Haiti earlier this week before plowing northward on Saturday over waters just off the US southeast, where it caused flooding and widespread power outages.

The number of deaths in Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, surged to at least 877 on Friday as information trickled in from remote areas previously cut off by the storm, according to a Reuters tally of death tolls given by officials.

Matthew triggered mass evacuations along the US coast from Florida through Georgia and into South Carolina and North Carolina.

US President Barack Obama urged people not to be complacent and to heed safety instructions.

"The potential for storm surge, loss of life and severe property damage exists," Obama told reporters after a briefing with emergency management



Downed trees and an affected house is seen in an area devastated by Hurricane Matthew in the outskirts of Port Salut, Haiti, on 7 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

officials about the fiercest cyclone to affect the United States since Superstorm Sandy four years ago.

Matthew smashed through Haiti's western peninsula on Tuesday with 145 mile-per-hour (233

kph) winds and torrential rain. Some 61,500 people were in shelters, officials said, after the storm pushed the sea into fragile coastal villages, some of which were only now being contacted.

While highlighting the misery of underdevelopment in Haiti, which is still recovering from a devastating 2010 earthquake, the storm looked certain to rekindle the debate about global warming and the

long-term threat posed by rising sea levels to low-lying cities and towns.

At least three towns in the hills and coast of Haiti's fertile western tip reported dozens of people killed, including the

farming village of Chantal where the mayor said 86 people were killed, mostly when trees crushed houses. He said 20 others were missing.

"A tree fell on the house and flattened it. The entire house fell on us. I couldn't get out," said driver Jean-Pierre Jean-Donald, 27, who had been married for only a year.

"People came to lift the rubble, and then we saw my wife who had died in the same spot," Jean-Donald said, his young daughter by his side, crying "Mommy."

With cellphone networks down and roads flooded, aid has been slow to reach hard-hit areas in Haiti. Food was scarce and at least seven people died of cholera, likely because of flood water mixing with sewage.

The Mesa Verde, a US Navy amphibious transport dock ship, was heading for Haiti to support relief efforts. The ship has heavy-lift helicopters, bulldozers, fresh water delivery vehicles and two surgical operating rooms.—Reuters

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Fighting OPEC only for the 'brave,' says oil bull Hall

NEW YORK — OPEC is back in the business of influencing oil prices as Saudi Arabia works with Russia and Iran to limit output, and only "a brave person" would bet against this, oil bull Andy Hall said in his latest investor letter.

The hedge fund manager is up nearly 18 per cent for the year at his \$2.5 billion Astenbeck Capital Management in Southport, Connecticut, after his fund rose 6 per cent in September as oil rallied.

With the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries now looking to limit output for the first time since 2008, the cartel can no longer be ignored, he said in Astenbeck's October investor letter, seen by Reuters on Friday.

OPEC declined to cut output two years ago after oil breached \$100 a barrel, instead letting the biggest oil market collapse in a generation happen as the price plunged.

"Now Saudi Arabia has declared it wants higher prices and is working with the rest of OPEC — and quite possibly Russia — to achieve them by

curbing production," he said, adding that this included Saudi arch rival Iran. "It's a brave person who bets against this combination of factors."

Hall's remarks come as OPEC officials embark on an unusual flurry of meetings in the next six weeks to nail down details of the Algiers deal.

Oil prices settled down 1 per cent on Friday after hitting June highs above \$50 this week. Prior to that, they jumped as much as 15 per cent over a week after OPEC announced its planned cuts on 28 September.

Still, the market is trading at just half of the mid-2014 high above \$100.

Astenbeck did not return an email seeking comment.

OPEC hopes to bring its output to 32.5 million to 33 million barrels per day, cutting about 700,000 bpd from a global glut estimated by analysts at 1.0 million to 1.5 million bpd. The amount that each member cuts would be decided at the group's policy meeting in Vienna in 30 November, it said.—Reuters

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Steve Harvey encouraged Kelly Clarkson to make soul record

LONDON — Singer Kelly Clarkson credits comedian and TV personality Steve Harvey with inspiring her to get really soulful on her new album.

The *Because of You* hit-maker recently dumped the deal she signed with Sony Music's RCA Records after winning the first season of *American Idol* back in 2002, and joined the roster at Atlantic Records.

At the time of the June announcement, Clarkson revealed the album she had started working on drew on her love of soul and R&B music, confessing "it's a record that I have been wanting to make since I was a little girl, and a record that fans have been asking me to make for years". Now, the 34-year-old singer has revealed it was actually

Now, the 34-year-old sing-

er has revealed it was actually Harvey who encouraged her to embrace the more soulful side of her vocals, which she had become known for while on the hit TV talent show, before embarking on a more pop/rock career path for her album releases, reported Contactmusic.

The pair met at US President Barack Obama's second inauguration back in 2013, when Clarkson performed a moving rendition of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", and a chat with Harvey got her thinking about the direction of her future projects.

"I sang at the Inauguration... and Steve Harvey, one of my favourite people, came up to me and was like, 'Oh my gosh, I didn't know you could, like, sing!'" Clarkson said.

The singer said she was in-

Singer Kelly Clarkson. PHOTO: PTI



itially taken aback by the comment, but she soon realised he meant it as a compliment.

"I was like, 'What the hell?'. I was like, 'What

have I been doing for 14 years?' He goes, 'No, no, no! I like your stuff, but you should be making an album like that. Where's that record?' I was

like, 'It's coming! You're going to know it.'

"It's true, I don't feel like I've done a record that's shown my potential."—PTI

'Moonlight' explores often unseen gay, black male experience

LONDON — A film about a young black impoverished man's struggle with his sexuality hopes to give a voice to characters not often seen in movies, according to the cast and director of "Moonlight."

"Moonlight," which debuted on Thursday at the London Film Festival after receiving strong reviews last month at the Toronto International Film Festival, is the

coming-of-age tale of a black boy named Chiron, grappling silently with his homosexuality.

The movie, based on Tarell McCraney's play "In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue," tells Chiron's story in three chapters — as a skinny child called 'Little,' picked on by his peers; as a skinny teenager, bullied as he tries to understand his sexuality; and as a hardened grown man who goes

by 'Black.'

"It's almost taboo to be a black American man who is homosexual, or a black man who is homosexual because growing up you're told that you have to be that much more imposing, that much bigger, that much better ... than your counterparts," said Trevante Rhodes, who plays adult Chiron.

"It's kind of oxymoronic to be homosexual and have those

same attributes."

Set in impoverished neighborhoods of Miami, the film shows a black community supporting each other where they can — such as when a young Chiron, neglected by his drug-addict mother, finds a surrogate family in a couple.

Naomi Harris, who plays Chiron's troubled mother, said the film "sheds light on a section of society that doesn't normally get light shed on it."

"It has universal themes about humanity, about our universal search for love and also it's representing the gay community in a way that I don't think they generally are represented," the actress said.

Director Barry Jenkins added, "I don't think we see characters like this often in the arts." He said when he read McCraney's play, "it grabbed me in such a way that I thought it would be cowardly not to look at it."

The film, out in UK theaters this week and in US theaters on 21 October, has already been garnering Oscar buzz for its subject matter and performances.

Janelle Monae, who plays a surrogate mother figure to Chiron, said she hoped movie-goers would "feel more empathetic towards the black, poor gay male experience and that we continue not to ostracize those who are different from us."—Reuters

Actor Malkovich wins libel suit over Le Monde tax story

PARIS — US actor John Malkovich won libel damages from French daily *Le Monde* on Friday over an article in which the newspaper suggested he had held a secret Swiss bank account.

A French court ordered *Le Monde* and two of its reporters, Gerard Davet et Fabrice Lhomme, to pay 14,000 euros (\$15,600) in fines and damages to the *Dangerous Liaisons* star, lawyers for both sides told Reuters. In a February 2015 article about tax evasion and HSBC's Swiss private banking arm, the newspaper included Malkovich in a list of celebrities it claimed had held secret accounts with the bank between 2005 and 2007.

However, the actor's lawyers told the court he had never held an account with HSBC. A share account held elsewhere by Malkovich had been disclosed to US tax authorities and closed in 1999, before the institution was acquired by HSBC, they said.

Le Monde will appeal the ruling, its attorney Christophe Bigot said on Friday.—Reuters



Cast members pose as they arrive for the gala screening of the film 'Moonlight', on the second night of the 60th British Film Institute (BFI) London Film Festival at Embankment Garden Cinema in London, Britain, on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Man arrested in London after climbing Buckingham Palace gate

LONDON — A 21-year-old man was arrested on Friday for scaling a gate at Queen Elizabeth's London residence, Buckingham Palace, police said.

"As he dropped to the ground he was met by officers and arrested for trespassing ..." they said in a statement, adding that the man was unarmed.

He was taken into custody and will undergo a mental health assessment. The 90-year-old queen was

not in London at the time.

Several security breaches have taken place at the palace over the years.

In May, a man with a conviction for murder climbed over the wall and walked for about 10 minutes around the grounds of the palace before being arrested. He was jailed for four months.

In October 2013 a man armed with a knife tried to enter through one of the gates and was later jailed

for 16 months.

That incident took place just a month after two men were arrested following a break-in at the palace in one of the most serious security breaches there for about 30 years.

One of the biggest security breaches at Buckingham Palace happened in 1982 when an intruder, Michael Fagan, climbed a wall and wandered into a room where the queen was in bed.—Reuters



Buckingham Palace is seen through the perimeter fence in central London, Britain, on 24 October 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iceblocks for elephants as Sydney's zoo turns 100

SYDNEY — The animals of Sydney's harbourside Taronga Zoo munched celebratory meals on Friday, to mark the park's centenary.

Elephants licked iceblocks, lemurs ate apples, and the koalas were given a special serving of their customary eucalypt leaf, a zoo spokesman said.

In the giraffe enclosure olive boughs were shaped

to form the figure "100" and served as breakfast, consumed with relish by the giraffes before a backdrop of the harbour with the city and its famous bridge.

One of Sydney's main tourist attractions, Taronga Zoo opened in 1916, when Australia was at war in Europe. Its "bar-less" enclosures were inspired by Hamburg Zoo and it

was stocked with a menagerie of 228 mammals, 552 birds and 64 reptiles which crossed Sydney Harbour by barge from an earlier zoo.

"A hundred years ago Taronga was primarily a place of entertainment, today it is leading world cutting-edge research and education for wildlife," New South Wales state environment minister Mark

Speakman said at the zoo.

The celebrations were launched by a Fiordland Crested Penguin called Munro, who stood by while keepers sang "Happy Birthday", some dressed in historic uniforms.

Each year, about 1.4 million people visit the zoo and it is now home to more than 4,000 animals.—Reuters

China's Golden Week tourists 'shed inhibitions' and hit the road

LONDON/SINGAPORE — When Ines Chou was planning her "Golden Week" holiday, it was Britain's history and heritage rather than its high street shops that lured her to the country.

Chou was among a record six million Chinese expected to have traveled overseas for the holiday, which ends on Saturday, and offers insights into the changing travel tastes of a key group of holidaymakers for the retail and travel sectors in top destination countries.

"London has a lot of culture and free museums," said the marketing director from Beijing, who visited the British Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Opera house during her trip.

Total spending this

week by the 750 million Chinese tourists at home and abroad is expected to hit \$72 billion this year, according to the China Travel Academy (CTA), a government-backed research institute. The shopping hot spots of Hong Kong, South Korea and Singapore have long been overseas favorites for Chinese visitors, but a reduced appetite for luxury due to a slower Chinese economy and crackdown on extravagance has left some retailers feeling the pinch.

"They used to spend money like nobody's business, so we would always look forward to Golden Week," said Azri, a supervisor at the Salvatore Ferragamo boutique in Singapore's upscale ION Orchard mall.—Reuters



Australian school children form the number 100 in the giraffe enclosure as two giraffes (R) look on during an event marking the 100th anniversary of Sydney's Taronga Zoo, on 15 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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(9-10-2016 07:00am ~ 10-10-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

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08:50	Am	Excavation at Kawhmu
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09:26	Am	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "The Golden Land"
09:46	Am	The Iron Rider
10:03	Am	News
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10:45	Am	Licuala Palm Leaf
10:54	Am	Talented Kid (Moe La Win)

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	A Famous Pagoda in the Sea
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08:03	Pm	News
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08:52	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture

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

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

MRTV
(9-10-2016, Sunday)

6:00 am

- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:35 am

- Business News

8:35 am

- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

9:35 am

- Nine Precept

10:00 am

- Sunday Talk

10:35 am

- Women in Myanmar Society

12:35 am

- This Week's Special Interest

12:50 pm

- Myanmar Movie

3:35 pm

- Documentary (Weather)

4:15 pm

- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

4:35 pm

- Mono Classical Songs

5:15 pm

- Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

6:20 pm

- KARAOKE World Championships (KWC) Myanmar 2016 (Level-2) (Group -4)

7:15 pm

- Myanmar Series (Part-28)

7:40 pm

- The Art Festival 2016 (Part-4)

8:00 pm

- News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

- life Struggles

9:00 pm

- News
- Once Recorded Arts
- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Rosberg secures pole for Japanese Grand Prix

SUZUKA, (Japan) — World championship leader Nico Rosberg will start the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix from pole position after setting the fastest time in qualifying on Saturday.

The German's Mercedes team mate Lewis Hamilton will start alongside him in second with Kimi Raikkonen locking down third spot for Sunday's race in his Ferrari.

Hamilton trails Rosberg by 23 points with five rounds left after the Briton retired while leading in Malaysia with a blown engine and heads into the race desperate to revive his flagging title prospects with a third straight win at the Suzuka Circuit.—Reuters

Dimitrov upsets Nadal to join Murray in China Open semis

BEIJING — Bulgarian's Grigor Dimitrov claimed a first career win over former world number one Rafael Nadal at the eighth time of asking to reach the semi-finals of the China Open on Friday.

Dimitrov, ranked 20th in the world, knocked out the second seed 6-2, 6-4 to set up a clash with Canada's Milos Raonic.

Top seed Andy Murray faced some stern resistance against fellow Briton Kyle Edmund before winning 7-6(9), 6-2.

Edmund's barrage of heavy forehands worried Murray in the opening set and the world number two trailed 2-5 in the tiebreak and had to save a set point before converting his fifth. Despite Edmund breaking early in the second set, Murray raised his level to win six games in a row.

"He (Edmund) made it very tough for me. He's improving at a solid pace now... If he keeps going on the path he's on just now, he'll be up at the top of the game very soon," Murray, a three-times grand slam winner, told reporters.

Murray will face fifth seed David Ferrer in the semis after the Spaniard beat in-form 19-year-old Alexander Zverev 6-7(4), 6-1, 7-5 in two hours and 21 minutes.—Reuters

Goffin advances to Japan Open final against Kyrgios

TOKYO — Fifth seed David Goffin of Belgium reached the final in his first Japan Open after defeating fourth seed Marin Cilic of Croatia 7-5, 6-4 on Saturday, setting up a final against Australian sixth seed Nick Kyrgios.

Goffin, ranked 14th in the world, displayed fast returns and nimble footwork to tame an erratic Cilic at Ariake Tennis Forest Park, continuing his strong form against the 11th-ranked giant Croat after winning their previous two meet-

his first serves despite five aces in the set, and Goffin took advantage of another second serve as he broke again with a backhand winner before holding serve.

The big-serving Cilic continued to blow hot and cold in the s e c -

"Marin for example has won the Masters 1000. Why not one day, and maybe tomorrow hopefully."

Kyrgios will take on Goffin for the first time on Sunday in the final after winning 6-4, 6-4

lievable entertainer and athlete. He's probably the only player I'd watch by paying."

Neither had dropped a set this week, but it was Monfils who fell behind as the 15th-ranked Kyrgios broke to lead 4-3 before holding his next serve after five deuces to take control of the tie.

The eighth-ranked Monfils dropped his serve to open the second set before immediately breaking back, but failed to make the most of Kyrgios' 50-per cent first-serve success rate in



David Goffin of Belgium returns the ball against Marin Cilic of Croatia at Ariake Coliseum, Tokyo, Japan, on 8 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing s both in March this year in the Davis Cup and at the Indians Wells Masters.

"I have good returns and I have to use it. That's probably my strongest weapon and I had to make him run a lot," said Goffin. "I've been playing like this since I was young, I was small and I had to make my opponent run."

Goffin was behind 5-3 after handing his opponent a break but stepped in to attack Cilic's second serves, saving a set point before breaking back immediately. The Croat was hit and miss with

ond set, setting himself up nicely only to smash a volley wide to give up two break points en route to falling behind 3-2, and his struggle to land backhand shots gave Goffin more than enough room to breathe.

The Belgian wasn't overpowered at rallies either and didn't leave Cilic another chance to break, rifling in two aces of his own to go up 5-3 before sneaking in the forehand match-winner to end it in 1 hour, 39 minutes.

"I didn't think about the final or tournament at the beginning of the week. (But) I think I have the capacity to win a tournament like this," said Goffin.

against second seed Gael Monfils, tying his career record 1-1 against the Frenchman.

"It was very entertaining and I had lots of fun from it," said Kyrgios. "He's probably the only person who can play the shots he plays and he's an unbe-

the set before again falling 4-3.

It was a similar story from there on as Kyrgios snatched the next game after three deuces before hammering a volley to seal his final berth, but the Australian, who like Goffin has yet to win an ATP 500 tournament, insists the occasion will not get to him.

"I'm just going to go into it just like any other match, it's just another tennis match at the end of the day," he said. "I'm just going to go there and try to enjoy myself and see how it goes." —Kyodo News

Swiss win five-goal thriller in Hungary in last minute

BUDAPEST — Substitute Valentin Stocker scored in the last minute to give Switzerland a 3-2 win away to Hungary on Friday after Adam Szalai had twice equalised for the hosts in a thrilling World Cup qualifier.

The Swiss went top of Group B with six points from two matches following a game in which all five goals were scored after halftime, while Hungary were left with one point and already look unlikely to make a first World Cup appearance since 1986.

The Faroe Islands are second with four points after their shock 2-0 win in Latvia, while Portugal and Latvia have three and Andorra none.

Switzerland struggled to get going in the first half without the suspended Granit Xhaka, who usually dictates the rhythm in midfield.

But striker Haris Seferovic, widely criticised for his performances at Euro 2016 when he failed to score a goal, put them in front six minutes after halftime, scoring from a rebound after Xherdan Shaqiri's shot was saved by Peter Gulacsi.

Szalai equalised two minutes later, also from a rebound after his own shot hit the post.



Switzerland's Blerim Dzemaili misses a goal against Hungary's goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi and Zoltan Stieber during World Cup 2018 Qualifier at Groupama Arena, Budapest, Hungary, on 7 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Left back Ricardo Rodriguez put Switzerland back in front in the 67th minute, volleying home from Valon Behrami's lofted cross for his first international goal, only for Szalai to again equalise four minutes later.

Switzerland were not to be denied, however, and snatched

the points when a long thrown-in was twice headed on and Stocker scored at the far post.

"Hungary applied lots of pressure on us during the game which was intense and entertaining. Hungary came back at us twice, but we showed character at end," Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic

told reporters.

His Hungarian counterpart Bernd Storck added: "It was a dynamic and good game, both teams gave all they had. We are very disappointed because we came back twice against a top team, but we made too many mistakes and they made us pay for them." —Reuters