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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing signs condolence book for King Bhumibol Adulyadej

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MAKING BUSINESS WITH INDIA

Myanmar, India sign 3 MoUs for cooperation in insurance, power and banking

MYANMAR and India yesterday signed three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for co-operation in the insurance, power and banking sectors following delegation-level talks headed by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“The two leaders witnessed exchange of agreements in sectors of power, banking and insurance,” Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup tweeted.

The agreements signed yesterday are as follows:

- An MoU between the Financial Regulatory Department of Myanmar and the Insurance Institute of India for designing an academic and professional programme for the insurance industry of Myanmar.
- MoU on cooperation in the Power Sector.
- An MoU on banking supervision between the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of Myanmar.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a photo opportunity ahead of their meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India, on 19 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the State Visit of the State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India

- At the invitation of H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, paid a State Visit to India from October 17-19, 2016. Earlier, the State Counsellor had participated in the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa on October 16.
- State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was accompanied by a high-level delegation that included U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, U Toe Aung Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and U Kyaw Linn, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction. She was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan on October 18, 2016. The Prime Minister hosted a lunch in her honour.
- State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid tribute and respect to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. She recalled the historic and fraternal support extended by the leaders of both India and Myanmar to the freedom movements in each others' country.
- H.E. Smt Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India, had a meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
- The Indian leadership congratulated the State Counsellor on the historic achievement of the National League for Democracy at the general elections in Myanmar last year and underlined India's commitment to support the Government of Myanmar in its quest to achieve the aspirations of the Myanmar people.
- The two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on various issues of mutual interest. India expressed support for the efforts of the State Counsellor for the economic and social development of the country,

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Central Committee, commission on Rakhine State hold meeting

CENTRAL Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State and Advisory Commission on Rakhine State held a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, focusing on current issues and measures being taken for peace and stability in the state.

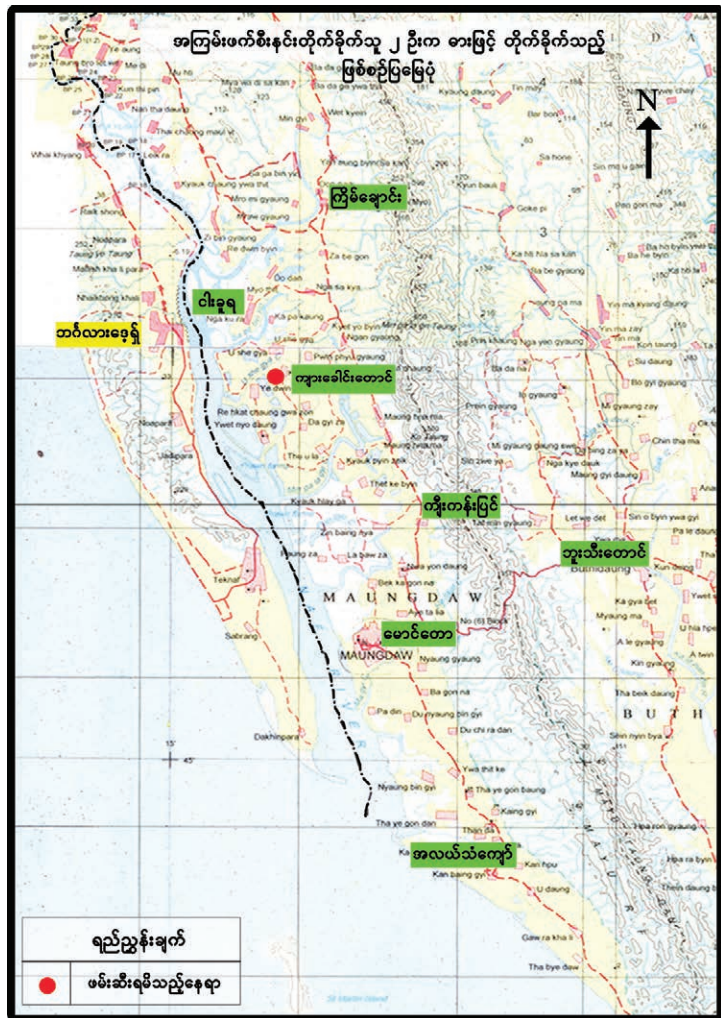
Present at the meeting held at the State Counsellor Office were members of the central com-

mittee Union ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Dr Pe Myint, Dr Than Myint and Dr Myint Htwe and Union Attorney-General U Htun Htun Oo and members of the advisory commission U Win Mra, Dr Tha Hla Shwe, Mr. Ghassan Salame, Ms Laetitia van den Assum, Dr Mya Thida, U Khin Maung Lay and Daw Khin Saw Tint. — Myanmar News Agency



Meeting between Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State and Advisory Commission on Rakhine State being held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

11 attackers involved in 10/9 attack in Maungdaw arrested



Map shows the location where two armed men attacked a soldier in Maungdaw.

ELEVEN men allegedly involved in the violent armed attacks of 9 October in Rakhine State were arrested Tuesday, according to the military-run Myawady News today.

“During an area clearance operation at 9 am on 18 October around Ngakhuya Village in Maungdaw Township, combined troops comprising soldiers from the Tatmadaw and Police managed to arrest Musta Ahmed, who was involved in the violent armed attacks on the Ngakhuya border outpost”, said the report.

Later that evening, troops also arrested Jina Kham, son of Tawlinu Ahlaung Sedi Ahmed, son of Aryu, Shar Arlaung, son of Mumed Arlaung, Anawa, son of Rusha, Anawa, son of Islam, Anawa, son of Hussein Ahmed, Anawa, son of

Phweyaw Ahmed, Disu Ali, son of Mahmoud Rawphi, Adu Zawkaw, son of Ahmoud Ali and Khin Maung Tun, son of Deda Ahmed, at the Ale Ywa Village in Ngakhuya Village-tract, according to the report.

Acting on information received during interrogation of the men, troops raided the house of Kphite Tullah from Ngakhuya Ahle Village, who escaped. Found at his home was one single firearm and 11 bullets. All the detainees remain under interrogation.

Two armed men ambushed a soldier yesterday in Maungdaw attacking him with knives.

The soldier fought them back, killing one, but another attacker managed to escape. — GNLM

Workshop on access to news and information held in Nay Pyi Taw

A WORKSHOP on challenges in accessing news and information was held in at Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, underscored the responsibility of the governmental departments to deliver information to the public.

“Journalists are never satisfied with the news they already have,” said Dr Pe Myint. “In terms of governmental departments, they are responsible to deliver news and information to the public. As for newsmen, they are to find out our weaknesses while pointing out and criticising the

three Pillars of the State to the best of their calibre. It is a favorable advantage for the governmental departments to gather facts and figures and reproduce them when they interview them, he added.

“It is a success for a media man to publicise what no one knows, so they are to glean as much as they can, and simultaneously to make it known to the public without delay”, he added.

The meeting was also attended by dignitaries from the office of Union Government, spokespersons from the Supreme Court and Ministries and responsible officials.

The workshop released its

12-point outcome which highlighted the duties of the spokespersons, ethics for news editing, the importance of building trust between the government and media, restrictions on media personnel due to security, posting news releases on the websites of ministries so that media personnel can get information they want to know, assigning court reporters at the Supreme Court and lower courts, timely release of information to the public and seeking permission from the respective heads of the courts to interview the accused and plaintiffs in the compound of a court. — Myanmar News Agency

3rd regular meeting of the 2nd Yangon Region Hluttaw discusses rampant crime, traffic rules violation issue

AT the meeting, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Tin Aung Tun replied, “Criminal can effectively have action taken if and when there exist good practices of management among judicial bodies. The reason is that it is wholly concerned with the management of judicial bodies to sentence offenders to punishments they deserve,” in answer to a question raised by U Zaw Win Naing, Hluttaw member of Latha Township constituency 1 as to whether there are presently plans and arrangements to take action against rapists of minors, cases of tortur-

ing and armed groups’ murders which occurred in the country.

There were 139 murder cases committed alone or by a pair of perpetrators up to October 2016, 159 murder cases committed by two or alone in 2015, 17 group murder cases committed by three or above up to 17 October 2016 and 32 group murder cases committed by three or above, of which 29 had already been sued, it is learnt.

Colonel Tin Aung Tun added, “Offenders were arrested and the State confiscated their possessions seized from them after investigation by anti-Money Lau-

dering Unit.

Thingangyun Constituency MP Nay Phone Latt urged authorities to stop towing cars that break traffic rules in Yangon downtown, suggesting cars’ being locked on street instead of towing.

The MP pointed out that neither the government nor the company is held accountable when cars got damaged while towing.

According to official figures, authorities took action against 450 illegally parked cars last month. It was the highest kind of violation of traffic rules in Yangon.—Ko Moe

Arrangements for displaced persons in Maungdaw discussed

UNION ministers and authorities discussed arrangements for departmental staff and displaced locals to be provided with assistance and security when they resume their duties in Maungdaw.

The meeting held in Rakhine State Regional Government in Sittwe yesterday was attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister for Social

Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State Cabinet ministers and departmental officials.

They discussed matters related to staff who abandoned their homes out of fear as violent attacks on border police outposts occurred in the small hours of October 9. Existing personnel are serving in their places of duty under heavy security by the Tat-

mataw-Police-Combined Forces. In other business, building roads connecting villages, implementation of projects small-scale hydro power plants and opening vocational training schools for locals to acquire technical knowledge were also discussed. The Myanmar Police Force is cooperating with the Tatmadaw in order to achieve regional stability in Maungdaw, Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor concludes three-day visit to India



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 October after concluding her three-day visit to India. She was welcomed back at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Aung and Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win. PHOTO: MNA

Political dialogue expected to begin in November

Ye Khaung Nyunt

NATIONAL Level Political Dialogues are expected to start in November, according to U Hla Maung Shwe, Secretary of the The Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC).

The Secretary said yesterday at the second-day meeting that work on the framework review for political dialogue was almost complete.

"Negotiations have been smooth and we will be able to conclude the framework review tomorrow. So, political dialogues are likely to be held in November," U Hla Maung Shwe said.

However, the Delegation for Political Negotiation of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) and the Peace Commission have scheduled to discuss the remaining four points that have not yet been agreed upon

in early November, and there are some issues to be solved.

"At present, it can be assumed that we still have difficulties to overcome. However, we have co-operated in the framework review for political dialogues and at the same time, we are trying to find out ways and means for signing the NCA and how to reduce military tensions", said U Khu Oo Yel, Leader of the DPN,

"Inclusiveness still poses a problem with the NCA. We want peace for the entire country. So, it is necessary to allow all stakeholders to participate in the political dialogues," he added.

Fifteen representatives of the government, eighteen representatives of ethnic armed groups and fourteen representatives of political parties participated in the second day of the framework review meeting, which will continue for the third day today.

69th Independence Day Convening Central Committee holds its First Meeting

THE Central Committee for Convening 69th Independence Day 2017 held its first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, U Myint Swe, Vice President and Chairman of the committee, said: "In observing ceremonies marking 69th Independence Day nationwide, they are needed to hold meaningfully as it is of great importance to the nation, with the aims of building a genuine State with a common agreement in accordance with decisions made by political dialogues in the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong .

He also emphasized non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the National Solidarity, Perpetuation

of Sovereignty, of exerting concerted efforts for the emergence of Democratic Federal Union complying with democratic standards.

Seven sub-committees formed were designated to be assigned duties.

As per annually-held formalities, morning and evening events will be separately held to be attended by State Leaders, dignitaries from the Cabinet, diplomatic corps, invited guests from NGOs and INGOs, hence there is a need to ensure the security of the attendants."

Afterwards, secretary of the central committee director-general of the office of the Union Government clarified matters to be carried out by 7 sub-committees separately, followed by

explanations concerning preparation work for hoisting and paying tribute to the National Flag, security arrangements, preparation for broadcasting and releasing news and information via mass media, preparation for writing Independence Day Felicitations Message and necessary matters.

The meeting ended with the closing address by the vice president, calling for joining enthusiastically to be able to hold ceremonies with pomp. Today's meeting was also attended by Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, Dr Myo Aung, chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and deputy ministers, chairmen of sub-committees and responsible persons, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency



Vice President U Myint Swe addressing the meeting of 69th Independence Day Convening Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar, India sign 3 MoUs for cooperation . . .

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met Mr Modi on the third and concluding day of her state visit to India.

On Tuesday, she met President Pranab Mukherjee and Ex-

ternal Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

This is the first official visit of the State Counsellor to New Delhi since her National League for Democracy (NLD) took office in March.

Prior to reaching New Delhi on Monday, she attended the BRICS-Bimstec Outreach Summit in Goa on Sunday.

Her visit comes after Myanmar President U Htin Kyaw's visit to India in August.—GNLM

CELEBRATING OCTOBER AT SEDONA HOTEL YANGON



OKTOBERFEST (WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER)

Gather your Lederhosen, brush up on your yodelling then head over to Sedona's Oktoberfest Celebrations here at D'Cuisine every Wednesday night in October.

Bring your family & friends to sample choice German delights of Sausages, Schnitzel & Strudel! Leave some room for our delicious German desserts and of course the unmistakable free flow of Beer, wine & soft drinks that defines the Oktoberfest celebrations! Prost!

Time : Wednesdays (Dinner only)
6.30pm to 10.00pm
Venue : D'Cuisine All Day Dining Restaurant

**Inclusive of free flow of wine, beer & soft drinks

SEAFOOD AND BBQ BUFFET DINNER

Escape the everyday packed and noisy environs to enjoy a delicious, leisurely dining setting in luxurious comfort of D'Cuisine.

Indulge yourself, family and friends in our spectacular seafood night with our wide selection of Seafood and grill items from the Cold Buffet to the BBQ sections plus a selection of much more delicious dishes to choose from. Don't forget to leave some room for our heavenly desserts.

Time : Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
6.30pm to 10.00pm
Venue : D'Cuisine All Day Dining Restaurant

**Inclusive of free flow of wine, beer & soft drinks



Restoration of quake-damaged pagodas in Bagan to commence in January

A woman walking past a damaged pagoda after an earthquake in Bagan, on 25 August. PHOTO: REUTERS



Aung Thant Khine

PAGODAS and stupas damaged by an earthquake in August have been protected not to become further harmed. The protection will also prepare the structures for individual, cutting-edge renovation work that will ensure each edifice will not lose ancient artistic value, said U Soe Tint, head of Administration Office, Nyaung-U district.

"Every pagoda nearly in the condition of dilapidation was maintained by supporting it with poles and by covering it under shelter to protect against water and rain damage. As for Mingalar Cetiya, scaffolding was quickly erected because its raised platform on the upper part of the Cetiya became cracked."

Departmental officials, architects and experts surveyed the sites and collected different views and

opinions. Renovation work will be carried out in three prioritized steps, in consultation with different opinions, it was said.

One expert said that it was necessary to maintain ancient artwork and consider what effect repair would have on the buildings.

There are 389 stupas and pagodas that have been approved for repair. Out of this number, 36 were listed in high priority to be renovated, 53 as second priority and 300 as third priority. A diamond-studded post above the vane of one pagoda that fell to ground will also be repaired. It will be scrutinised to allow former donors to donate to the repair.

In addition to the 389 pagodas in Bagan, 3,133 pagodas and stupas in the greater Bagan region were also ruined by the earthquake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale at 5pm on August 24.

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especially job creation, capacity building, reconstruction of roads, provision of power, education facilities and health infrastructure that would contribute to progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar. It was agreed that areas for cooperation identified during the visit to India of Myanmar President U Htin Kyaw in August 2016 would be fast-tracked for implementation.

7. India expressed the hope that, as a diverse and pluralistic society, Myanmar would be able to find equitable solutions peacefully through consultations among all stakeholders. India reaffirmed its commitment to assist Myanmar's efforts for strengthening democratic institutions and to support the 21st Century Panglong peace process now underway in Myanmar and expressed the hope that this would lead to enduring peace.

8. In the context of the recent terrorist attacks in Uri, the State Counsellor condemned the terrorist incident and conveyed her deep condolences to the loved ones of those who lost their lives. The Prime Minister also condemned the recent armed attacks against three border posts in the northern part of Rakhine State and expressed his profound sympathy for the families of the policemen killed in the attacks.

9. Both sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed and agreed that the fight against terrorism should target terrorists, terror organisations, networks and also hold to account states that encourage, support or finance terrorism in any way. Both sides also agreed that terrorism is first and foremost a violation of human rights and that there can be no justification for extending support, financing, provision of material resources or training to terrorists who destroy innocent lives. Both countries called for the expeditious finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism presently being negotiated in the United Nations.

10. Both sides shared the view that maintaining security along the border is essential for the socio-economic development of the border area. In this regard, both sides underlined their mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and reaffirmed their shared commitment to fight insurgent activity and the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Both sides also agreed that the long-standing commitment not to allow insurgent groups to use their soil for hostile activities against the other side is essential for the prosperity of the people residing along the border. In this context, it was agreed that the Border Guard Forces on both sides would further coordinate and exchange information towards securing the common borders. Both sides also agreed to expedite discussions

regarding relevant border segments.

11. Both sides expressed their mutual respect for the already-demarcated boundary between the two countries, and stressed the need to resolve outstanding boundary demarcation issues as soon as possible through existing mechanisms.

12. Understanding that enabling and facilitating regulated and easy movement of people across the land borders for business, tourism and other purposes is in the interest of both countries, both sides also agreed to coordinate, through diplomatic channels, the setting up of immigration facilities at the Tamu-Moreh and Rhi-Zowkhathar border crossing points.

13. Both sides agreed to remove impediments to trade and commerce to enable bilateral trade and investment to reach its full potential. It was agreed to hold early meetings of the Joint Trade Committee (JTC), Joint Working Groups on Border Trade and Border Haats, and Joint Working Groups on Railways and Shipping. Myanmar side reiterated its intention to invite Indian companies to participate in competitive tenders for petrochemical and petroleum products, marketing infrastructure and the setting up of LPG terminals.

14. Both sides agreed on the need for close cooperation on the development of ocean-based Blue Economy and Maritime Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal and to chart out ways for future cooperation.

15. The two sides reviewed the development cooperation initiatives being undertaken with technical and financial assistance from the Government of India and agreed that these should be expedited, as the areas of connectivity upgradation, capacity building, agriculture, education infrastructure, healthcare and IT and industrial training, and various other training programmes are directly linked to the well being of the people.

16. India expressed its willingness to support pulses research in Myanmar by extending cooperation in the area of developing improved varieties, cultivation practices and pulses procurement. The project proposal on the Establishment of Varietal Development and Seed Production Centre on Pulses would be finalised soon.

17. Recognising the contribution of power infrastructure, generation and transmission capacity to socio-economic progress, India will assist in strengthening the power supply elements on projects identified by the Myanmar Government. In this context, both sides expressed satisfaction over the signing of an MoU between India and Myanmar on Cooperation in the field of Power.

18. As a technology demonstration pilot project, Myanmar welcomed the announcement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with regard to the provisioning and installation of an LED based energy efficient lighting

project in Myanmar. Both sides agreed to select the location through consultations between India, Myanmar and relevant state government.

19. Recognizing the need to upgrade training infrastructure and capacity-building of the Police, India agreed to support Myanmar in creating police training infrastructure and to share expertise in developing training manuals, including in forensics and cyber-security. The Yamethin Women's Police Training Centre would be developed into a Centre of Excellence by providing appropriate standards, environment, infrastructure and materials for training.

20. The Myanmar side expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of India for all assistance rendered to Myanmar in its endeavours for economic and social development.

21. The India side agreed to Myanmar's request for the provision of more diplomatic training related to the capacity building of Myanmar Foreign Service officials and to assist Myanmar in its ongoing efforts for the development of a diplomatic academy in Yangon.

22. The two sides agreed to set up an Eminent Persons Group to explore means of consolidating and further expanding the multi-faceted relations between the two countries. It was decided that the modalities for the establishment and working of the Group would be worked out subsequently.

23. Turning to regional and multilateral affairs, both leaders noted the commonality of their views on global issues of consequence. Both sides underlined the need for early reform of the UN Security Council. Myanmar side reiterated its support for India's efforts to become a permanent member in an expanded and reformed UN Security Council.

24. The Myanmar side congratulated India for the successful hosting of BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit which has been just concluded in Goa. The two sides also took note of discussions during the Outreach Summit and expressed their shared commitment to promoting regional cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade, transportation, connectivity, energy and counter terrorism within the BIMSTEC framework.

25. The State Counsellor thanked the President of the Republic of India for the warmest hospitality accorded to her and the delegation and especially for the accommodation arrangement for the delegation at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace). She also thanked the Prime Minister of India for the exceptional hospitality extended to her and to the members of the delegation during their visit to India.

26. The State Counsellor extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Myanmar at the earliest possible mutually convenient date and the invitation was accepted. The dates for the visits will be coordinated through diplomatic channels.

LOCAL Business

Natural gas core of export activity, followed by garment sector

NATURAL gas comprises 45 per cent of the export sector, by far the biggest chunk of the market, it is learnt from an announcement released by the Customs Department. The second most exported category is the garment sector, at 17 per cent

The export of natural gas in the 2015-2016 fiscal year fetched over US\$4.3billion, whereas exports from the garment sector amounted to over US\$1.6billion. The export of various peas and pulses totalled

over US\$1 billion, constituting 11 per cent of exports.

The export of agricultural products as of 14th October in this fiscal year 2016-2017 fetched US\$ 1,448.655 million, while the export value of animal products was US\$3.646 million. In the similar period, the values of export are US\$ 250.03 million from marine products, US\$ 481.782 million from minerals, US\$120.011million from forest products, US\$2851.812million from manu-

facturing goods and US\$919.232 million from other goods, for a total of US\$6,075.168million, it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.

The Myanmar garment sector cannot enjoy the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) from America, but the volume of demand from Japan and European Union is on the rise. Therefore, the garment sector is expected to earn US\$2.1billion this year, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

Border trade tops US\$3billion, a rise from previous fiscal year

BORDER trade as of 14th October in this fiscal year 2016-2017 reached over US\$3billion, which is higher compared to the similar period of the last fiscal year, it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.

Border trade value from 1st April to 14th October in this fiscal year fetched US\$3,790.3million, which is up from US\$3,451.254million in the similar period of the last fiscal year 2015-2016. The value of trade increased US\$339.046million in this fiscal year.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products and manufacturing goods while consumer goods, intermediate goods and capital goods are imported into Myanmar. The Myanmar export sector is dependent on natural gas, teak, agriculture and fisheries products. The Muse border camp has the highest volume and value of trade with US\$ 2,626.434million as of 14th October in this fiscal year. However, the figure slumped by US\$3.347million when com-

pared to the similar period of last fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

There are a total of fifteen border trade camps in Myanmar: Muse, Lweje, Chin Shwe Haw, Kan Pike Tee, Keng Tung, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maw Taung, Sittwe, Maung Taw, Tamu and Reed.

Myanmar has entered into agreements with the neighboring countries—India, Thailand, China and Bangladesh to trade through border trade camps.—*Ko Htet*

KBZ introduces Union Pay International Credit Card

KANBAWZA Bank (KBZ) launched its Union Pay International Credit Card with China-based Union Pay International (UPI) on Tuesday.

With two versions — a Classic Card and a Platinum Card — the KBZ Union Pay cards can be used at more than 7,000 shops across Myanmar and at over 35 million stores in 160 countries around the globe. Union Pay's global payment network also allows eligible customers to purchase goods and services online and to withdraw cash up to a predetermined limit.

"With the motto of 'For Your Perfect Moment', Union Pay International Credit Card is the new product which will fulfill wishes of the people", said U Aung Kyaw Myo, Managing Director of KBZ Bank, in his opening remarks at the launch ceremony for the Union Pay International Credit Card.

With its new products, bank branches and expanding services, KBZ is assisting conglomerates and development SMEs in Myanmar while providing the ministries with payroll services with the KBZ Explore Debit Card (ATM) system, he added.

The launching ceremony was

attended by U Set Aung, Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Director-General of the CBM U Win Thaw, Chairman of KBZ Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win, executive directors Daw Nang Lang Kham and Daw Nang Kham Naung, personnel from KBZ and Chief Cooperation Officer of UnionPay International Mr David Lees. Customers can use the cards, which are enabled with a smart chip and PIN for added security, at all Myanmar ATMs and at all Union Pay participating outlets, including online.

cluding online.

In addition, Union Pay's Asia Prestige Program allows access to VIP airport lounges around the world and to lounges at 20 railway stations in China. The card also allows the option of buying travel insurance. KBZ has called on customers to use the cards responsibly, as credit is different from debit, offering advice through its branches and call centres, and has begun an online campaign on how to be smart with a credit card.—*Thura Lwin (Eco)*



Union Pay Int'l Credit Card launching ceremony. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Taxation rate for jade mining blocks likely to be reduced by half



Miners search for jade stones at a mine dump in Hpakhant. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Aung Thant Khaing

The rate of taxation levied on jade mining blocks could possibly be reduced by half, subject to ongoing negotiations, said U Myint Pe, Yadana Thein Gay Har Company from Kani area.

Jade mining companies have to pay taxes after the extracted jade stones are appraised. The companies and authorities are in discussions about the possible reduction of the taxation rate, he said.

Jade mining companies are said to pay more than the basic price when bidding for jade mining blocks. A block is set at an acre and a company could previously bid up to 50 blocks.

However, the number of blocks on which a company can bid is not confirmed yet this year. If a block is bidden at a floor price of Ks1million, the

price can go up to Ks50million. It is reported that bidding is also planned for those who are engaged in small scale businesses to be able to participate, he continued.

Permits for exploration will be set for three different enterprises -- heavy, middle-sized and small-sized enterprises. Myanmar Gems Enterprise will carry out the measurement of blocks and taxation, setting the period of mining permits and reporting the number and specifications of heavy machines and arranging agreements, it is learnt.

Myanmar Gem and Jewelry emporium will be held from 20th to 29th November at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. The appraising of the jewelry and setting of the floor price are being conducted from 18th October to 4th November.

Commercial trucks selling well at Yangon car showrooms and centers

COMMERCIAL trucks are in demand at car showrooms and centres in Yangon Region, perhaps because of the increasing number of construction sites.

Previously, commercial trucks did not sell well in Yangon. However, the month of October has seen a rise in the sale of commercial trucks, said

a manager of Kyaw car showrooms in Bahan Township.

Fuso and Isuzu trucks are popular. The showrooms also offer installment system, it is learnt.

The prices of the trucks are between Ks20 and Ks30 million. The businessmen use the trucks mainly in construction sites.— 200

Museum at Mandalay Palace to be upgraded



Museum at Mandalay Palace also known as Myanansankyaw Shwenandaw. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

THE MUSEUM at Mandalay Palace, also known as Myanansankyaw Shwenandaw, the last royal palace of Myanmar, will be upgraded this month with the financial assistance of families of the country's armed forces.

Families of Myanmar's Tatmadaw, headed by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, contributed over Ks180 million for the project to upgrade the existing structure of

the museum by experts, said U Nyo Tun Myint, director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Branch).

On behalf of the Tatmadaw families, Commander of Central Command Maj Gen Win Bo Shein presented Ks187.933 million to the department last Monday, with the authorities planning to spend the funds on maintenance of some halls of the palace in need of repair and renovation, he added.

The cultural museum is situated on the western side of the palace grounds, showcasing many ancient artifacts including clothing fashions, furniture and other household articles of the King and general that has become one of the tourist attractions of Myanmar.

Located in the heart of Mandalay City, the Great Golden Royal Palace was built by King Mindon in the 1850s, when he shifted his capital from Amarapura. —Aung Thant Khaing

Growers in Ayeyawady to expand profitable bamboo plantations

GROWERS in a village located in Mawlamyinegyun Township in Ayeyawady Region plan to develop bamboo plantations on a commercial scale starting from the cold season, local bamboo producers say.

The business plan comes from a programme implemented by local producer U Htet Hsan, who has developed two kinds of marketable bamboo species since 2013 with successful outcomes. The project encourages other farmers to develop bam-

boo plantations on a commercial scale.

Bamboo remains an essential product for residents. Those in rural areas use the giant woody grass for construction material, furniture and implements.

Ko Zaw Zaw Win, a bamboo dealer, said local people need bamboo products in a number of segments. Sometimes evergreen plants are bought from other villages because of increasing demand, he said.

Residents from Phaya Vil-

lage in the township habitually use bamboo to build their homes. Currently, there is only one bamboo grower across the village. The price of bamboo is between Ks500 and Ks600.

Bamboo is a subfamily of flowering perennial evergreen plants in the grass family. Bamboo is one of the fastest-growing plants in the world, and is also used in traditional medicine for treating infections and promoting healing. —Myitmakha News Agency

Chinese top list of those who faced deportation due to visa rules violations

AMONG those who faced deportation due to violation of visa rules in Mandalay Region, Chinese citizens are the most numerous, according to Immigration Department officials in Mandalay Region.

Action is being taken against those who fail to follow the country's existing laws as well as culture-related rules and regulations, said U Win Myint, deputy head of the department.

According to official figures of the department, 16 foreign nationals were deported by authorities as of mid-October this year. Of that group, 13 were Chi-

nese citizens, two Bangladeshi and one Russian. A total of 38 foreigners, including 28 Chinese citizens, six Bangladeshis, two Indians and two Koreans, were deported last year.

A local resident said there are many Chinese citizens in Mandalay, mostly found in hotels and guest houses. Some of them working in the region cannot speak the Myanmar language.

Authorities have urged local people to inform them immediately when they find foreign nationals living in the region without legal documents. —Aung Thant Khaing

Htantabin township administrator attends capacity building course

A capacity building course for administrators of wards and village-tracts was opened in the hall of Htantabin township Information and Public Relations Department in Htantabin township on 18 October.

At the opening ceremony,

Township Administrator U Than Shwe gave the opening speech, and two trainers gave instruction to the trainees. The three-day course will run from 18 to 20 October. A total of 90 administrators have attended the course. —Shwe Win (Pyay)



Township Administrator U Than Shwe delivering the opening speech. PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

Crime NEWS

Illegal tablets and pill moulding machine seized in Hinthada



Ma Thida Oo being seen with the tablets and the moulder seized. PHOTO: MPF

ACTING on a tip-off, officials of Hinthada District Health Department, police and witnesses searched the house of Ma Thida Oo, 47, at No. 190 B on Merchant street, Lethamar Ward, Hinthada and confiscated 2,580 tablets of AJI-NO-MOTO brand, 450 sheets bearing an elephant logo, 300 plastic bags, one medicine packet and a 4-foot-high tablet moulding machine.

Police have filed charges against Ma Thida Oo under Section 19 (a) of the National Drug Law. —Myanmar Police Force

Yaba tablets seized in Hsenwi of Northern Shan State

A combined team comprising members of Anti-Drug Squad Unit 24 based in Lashio searched a house owned by Ma Aye Kyi, 30, in Narsaurt village in Hsenwi and seized 1000 yaba

tablets in the bedroom of the house on 18 October. Action has been taken against her under the Psychotropic Substances and Anti-Narcotic Drug Law. —Myanmar Police Force



Ma Aye Kyi seen together with yaba tablets seized. PHOTO: MPF

Some 137 Cambodian schoolchildren fall ill after eating contaminated food

PHNOM PENH — About 137 Cambodian schoolchildren in southern Takeo province have become sick after eating tainted food distributed by a local volunteer group, a police officer confirmed on Wednesday.

Sok Sochea, deputy police chief of Tram Kak district, where the incident occurred, said the children fell ill on Tuesday afternoon, about four hours after they ate fried rice with egg, corn and sausage and drank milk and fresh water. "They all have the same symptoms: vomiting and diarrhea," he told Xinhua, adding that they had been rushed to hospitals soon after the incident.

He said sample of the tainted fried rice was sent to the provincial food safety bureau for an

examination.

According to the police officer, the contaminated food was distributed to those schoolchildren at Wat Tatai primary school by a group of students from a school in Phnom Penh.

Sochea said that he and the group of students visited and made cash donation to the ill-fated children in hospitals on Wednesday afternoon and saw that they were all in stable condition.

Checks on food are rare in Cambodia, where safety regulations are lax.

Last month, the Ministry of Health urged all citizens to be careful with food hygiene to avoid illness after some 37 Buddhist monks fell ill in southeastern Kampong Cham province after eating tainted food.—Xinhua

Philippines' Duterte says South China Sea arbitration case to take 'back seat'

BEIJING — The South China Sea arbitration case will "take the back seat" during talks with China, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Wednesday in Beijing, adding that he would wait for the Chinese to bring up the dispute rather than doing so himself.

Duterte arrived in Beijing on Tuesday with at least 200 top business people to pave the way for what he calls a new commercial alliance, amid deteriorating ties with long-time ally the United States.

The effort to engage China, months after the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague ruled over South China Sea disputes in favour of the Philippines, marks a reversal in Philippine foreign policy since Duterte took office on 30 June.

China refused to participate in the arbitration case or recognise its find-

ings. Speaking to reporters at his hotel, Duterte described the judgment as a "piece of paper".

"It would not be in keeping with courtesy and goodwill if I am the one to open it," he said. "And you will say, will it take a back seat? Of course, it has to take the back seat."

China has welcomed the shift in tone that has added to strains between the Philippines and the United States, even as Duterte has vowed not to surrender any sovereignty to Beijing.

Duterte said on Sunday he would raise the arbitral ruling, and vowed not to deviate from the tribunal's award.

Speaking in Beijing, Duterte said he did not want to make any "hard impositions" on the South China Sea, and would wait for Chinese President Xi Jinping to raise the subject.

"I have to be courte-

ous and I have to wait for your president to mention it in passing for me to respond," he said.

"It is in the broader outline of talks that we have agreed. But as a matter of courtesy, and the oriental way, we will always wait because I am a visitor.

I cannot destroy the goodwill just by blurting out something."

In a series of conflicting statements, Duterte has insulted US President Barack Obama and the US ambassador in Manila for questioning his war on drugs, which has led to the deaths of 2,300 people. He told Obama to "go to hell" and alluded to severing US ties.

Speaking earlier, Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay said territorial disputes between China and the Philippines may take a lifetime to resolve, but should not prevent warming ties.

On Wednesday, Philippine Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez told reporters in Beijing that Bank of China had agreed to provide a \$3 billion credit facility for infrastructure investments in the Philippines.

Their remarks came as Philippine police used tear-gas to disperse about 1,000 anti-American protesters outside the US embassy in Manila.

Yasay reiterated that the thaw with China was "not going to erode our close ties with the rest of our allies and traditional partners". "As we renew our ties with this great nation, it does not mean that we are weakening ties with the rest of the members of the international community.

This is at the core of the independent foreign policy that our president has moved and put forward," he said.—Reuters

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Philippine police van drives at protesters to break up anti-US demo



Various activists and Indigenous People's (IP) groups clash with anti-riot policemen during a protest against the continuing presence of US troops in the Philippines in front of the US Embassy in metro Manila, Philippines, on 19 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — Philippine police used tear gas to disperse about 1,000 anti-US protesters outside the US embassy in Manila on Wednesday, as television news footage showed a patrol van, which had come under attack, driving at demonstrators.

The rally came as President Rodrigo Duterte visits Beijing to strengthen

relations with the world's second-largest economy amid deteriorating ties with former colonial power the United States, sparked by his controversial war on illegal drugs.

Police made 29 arrests at the rally while at least 10 people were taken to hospital after being hit by the police van, Renato Reyes, secretary general of left-

wing activist group Bayan (Nation), told reporters.

The protesters were calling for the removal of US troops in the southern island of Mindanao.

"There was absolutely no justification (for the police violence)," Reyes said. "Even as the president avowed an independent foreign policy, Philippine police forces still act as

running dogs of the US" In a series of conflicting statements, Duterte has insulted US President Barack Obama and the US ambassador in Manila for questioning his war on drugs, which has led to the deaths of 2,300 suspected users and pushers. He told Obama to "go to hell" and alluded to severing ties with Washington.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Invest in urban infrastructure to reduce poverty

Myint Win Thein

CLIMATE change is threatening to drive millions of people in urban areas into poverty in the coming decades, according to a recent World Bank report. However, cities around the world, especially in the developing world, are not sufficiently prepared to face climate-related disasters.

The report pointed out that the number of people who live on less than US\$1.25

per day would increase by 77 million by 2030 from more than one billion today and development efforts made for decades would be in vain if governments fail to invest in projects that protect the poorest in cities from climate-linked disasters such as rising sea levels due to global warming.

With economic reform, the landscape of cities across Myanmar is rapidly changing. High-rise buildings are

emerging here and there. However, most of them are business complexes and high-end condominiums for the rich. With the aim of attracting foreign investors and tourists, the priority is given to foreign investment and tourism infrastructure.

Although regional governments have just started efforts to build affordable apartments for the poor in the outskirts of cities, investment in disaster-proof new

urban infrastructure that will help mitigate poverty for the urban poor cannot be sufficiently made due to tight budgets.

However, experts are warning city planners that failure to invest in disaster-proof new urban infrastructure will have to pay a higher price in the future and are calling for investment in resilient measures that are vital for a safe and prosperous future for cities.

THE BALL IS IN OUR COURT

Arakan Sein

THE ball is in Myanmar's court now after the United States has lifted the economic sanctions on Myanmar which were imposed in May, 1997. The United States has now removed all individuals and entities from the US sanctions list, including former military leaders and many major companies.

It is not surprising that the move followed a meeting between State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and President Barack Obama at the White House on 14 September. Mr Obama issued a statement saying he would reinstate Myanmar to the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), which provides duty-free treatment for goods from poor and developing countries Myanmar with a per capita income of about US\$ 1280 is entitled to GSP benefits and is strategically located between the economic gi-

ants, China and India ; the former is the second-biggest economy after the United States and the latter is the biggest developing country in the world. Both countries share a long border with Myanmar with their own interests in the resource-rich South-east Asian country.

India is seeking to reinforce its relationships with ASEAN under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Act East" strategy as Myanmar is the gateway for India. India and Myanmar were under the British rule for many years and are naturally linked with each other culturally, socially and historically. In the east stands China which is ranked as the second-biggest economy which enjoyed close relationships with former military governments. During 1988 uprising the West imposed sanctions on Myanmar, forcing our country to rely on China for trade and political support in the international communities especially at the

United Nations. At the same time China has an opportunity to play a major role as a builder in Myanmar, a nation strategically located between India, China and the Southeast Asia and with an access to Indian Ocean.

But the United States is not completely out of the picture, some analysts argue. President Obama affirmed continued US support for Myanmar's democratic transition during State Counsellor's official visit to Washington, D.C in September, 2016. Both leaders noted that Myanmar's transition has allowed for a dramatic change in the bilateral relationships.

The State Counsellor's tender balancing diplomacy is already producing results: China and India are willing to offer attractive terms of support to prevent Myanmar from being swayed to the other side. The United States has lifted economic sanctions on Myanmar and Japan is coming in with massive aids.

The State Counsellor's cautious diplomatic skill is balanced to maintain a reasonable distance from its neighbours.

Like it or not, Myanmar was once regarded as an isolated pariah state or impoverished, strife-ridden Southeast Asian country. Under the new government, Myanmar is no longer in that position now; it is somewhat like a village belle courted by many handsome boys. The new government has opened its doors to the outside world, attracting a lot of investors from big powers such as the US, China, India and Japan.

In this situation, what should all individuals and entities removed from the US sanctions list do for the benefits of the country and for themselves regardless of their political and economic backgrounds. In this connection, my own suggestions: look to the future; hope for the best and prepare for the worst. All parties to civil conflict in the country are

earnestly requested to seize the opportunity offered by the 21st Century Panglong Peace process to build the foundations for a democratic, federal Union. She expressed her belief during discussions with President Obama that the Panglong Peace process would lead to a lasting peace with armed ethnic groups. In conclusion, the United States has its part in Myanmar's democratic transition by lifting the economic sanctions. China and India are willing to help us too; so is Japan which has already promised massive financial aids for the infrastructure developments in the country.

The ball is in our court now. How should we respond to international reactions during our democratic transition at this opportune moment?

With unswerving belief, we the people of Myanmar should take an active part in all activities created by the democratically elected new government.

The government's policy for national reconciliation and union peace

1. To review the political dialogue framework
2. To amend the political dialogue framework
3. To convene the union peace conference—the 21st century Panglong in accordance with the amended and approved political dialogue framework
4. To sign union agreement—the 21st century Panglong Conference Agreement based on the results of the 21st Century Panglong Conference
5. To amend the constitution in accordance with the union agreement and approve the amended constitution
6. To hold the multi-party democracy general elections in accordance with the amended and approved constitution
7. To build a democratic federal union in accordance with the results of the multi-party democracy general elections

Shady trees to be grown along Yangon's roads

TREES THAT will grow to above six feet in height will be planted across the city of Yangon before December under a new programme implemented by the City Mart Company, the country's largest retail chain, in cooperation with Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association.

The new programme aims to conserve the natural environment in Myanmar's commercial city, with 20 varieties of trees to be cultivated along roads and streets across Yangon.

The City Mart Company pledged to offer Ks50 million to plant up to 100,000 trees, including at least 300 flowering trees, shady trees and evergreen trees. The

programme will continue until August of next year.

The Yangon City Development Committee has also carried out its greening programme to develop grasslands, plantations and shady trees within municipal areas.

The YCDC has implemented its tree-planting programme only on the outskirts of downtown areas as the downtown townships face a scarcity of vacant lands. They conduct conservation of the existing trees.

The YCDC requires an adequate number of staff members to effectively carry out greening programme across 33 townships in Yangon.—200



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi giving talks at the Business Roundtable in New Delhi. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor attends India-Myanmar Business Roundtable

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the Business Roundtable in New Delhi yesterday, clarifying economic policy, opportunities for investment in Myanmar and the Investment Law.

Indian Investment in Myanmar must be linked to Myanmar's overall development, stated the State Counsellor at the India-Myanmar Business Roundtable.

She said that opportunities for cooperation must be mutually beneficial and must be a fair deal for both countries.

She mentioned that My-

anmar has promulgated a new Investment Law which would accord the same treatment to foreign companies as was being given to domestic companies.

With the enactment of the new law, the Minister hoped that there would be transparency in contracts, the rule of law would be enforced and corruption would be curbed.

She invited Indian industry to cooperate with Myanmar in areas such as skill development, agriculture especially organic agriculture, agri-machinery and infrastructure development among others.

In his address, Amar Sinha, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, highlighted certain issues between the two countries which needed to be resolved including the need to modernize banking and finance channels in Myanmar, equal treatment in terms of tariffs and duties, tariff rationalization in the automobile sector and clarity on Myanmar's energy policies.

At the business roundtable, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi replied to the questions raised by Indian businessmen.—*GNLM*

Fossil footprints of early humans found in Ingapu ancient city

FOSSIL footprints left by early humans have been found at a mountain located near an ancient site in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region, locals say.

The one-foot long, 6-inch wide fossil footprint and 8-inch long, 2-inch wide footprint as well as a 3-inch long, 7-inch wide handprint were discovered on a laterite stone wall at Taungnyo Mountain near Kyauktalon Village, situated 4 miles west of

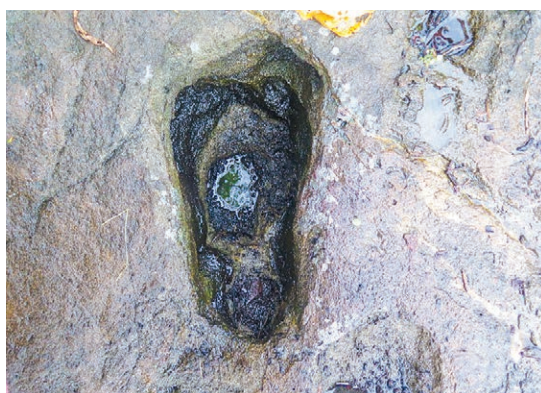
the ancient city of Pyu.

Archaeologist U Win Maung (Tampawady) said the first step is to examine the natural stone of the mountain where the ancient symbols have been found.

Sayadaw U Pyinnya Thiri, who maintains the ancient city of Pyu, said he has collected several kinds of fossils, including stone weapons and axes discovered in Kyauktalon

and Gyopinsu villages near the mountain by locals.

Daw Thida Win, assistant director of Archaeology Department (Patheingyi Branch), said the department received photographs of the ancient fossil footprints, handprints and stone weapons sent by the locals, with plans to forward the items to the headquarter of the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Fossil footprints of early humans found in Ingapu ancient city. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing signs condolence book for King Bhumibol Adulyadej

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing signed a condolence book for Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Embassy of Thailand in Yangon yesterday.

At meeting with the ambassador and military attaché of Thailand, the Senior General expressed his sorrow over the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing signing the book of condolence for Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Embassy of Thailand. PHOTO: MNA

POEM:

Repatriation of Myanmar Workers Abroad

Many Myanmar workers abroad suffer miseries sent by human traffickers and illegal 'Agencies.' Some as illegal migrants apprehended, often being imprisoned and awaiting deportation.

Myanmar Embassies in concerned countries in cooperation with donors and civil societies are doing the necessary in implementation of the Myanmar workers' safe repatriation.

Having said that, it's needed to examine who for their misery, is primarily to blame. No doubt it's the 'Rings' of human traffickers engaged in sending and 'sale' of the workers. Their 'Modern Slavery' must be exposed on information by the returnees disclosed, and action under the law on trafficking should be taken to stop the 'Rings' operating.

According to some of the repatriated workers it seems many had gone on false 'job offers', no 'work permits' obtained by the employers, mostly recruited by the local illegal 'Agencies' (and by some legal Agencies cutting corners,) illegally sending the unsuspecting workers to their 'counterparts' serving the employers. Its imperative to find the concerned 'Agencies' through information from the returnees. They should be sought out and action taken under the Overseas Employment Legislation.

If action is not taken against the above 'senders' the offenses will be repeated by the offenders and there just might be no end to the repatriation of Myanmar workers abroad facing deportation.

Lokethar

Thailand sees a jump in royal defamation cases after death of king

BANGKOK — Thai police are investigating 12 new complaints of royal defamation found on social media lodged since the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej last week, a sharp rise amid intensifying scrutiny of anything deemed offensive to the monarchy.

The death last Thursday of the revered king, who was 88, after seven decades on the throne has plunged the Southeast Asian country into mourning and heightened sensitivity about the monarchy.

King Bhumibol was seen as a stabilizing figure in a country often racked by political turmoil.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has moved quickly to quash any uncertainty around the royal succession, saying Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn would ascend the throne after a period of mourning that he had requested.

Insulting the monarch, the regent or the heir, known by the French-language term “lese-majeste”, is a crime in Thailand that carries a jail sentence of up to 15 years for each case.

Police spokesman Kitsana Pattanacharoen said there had been 12 lese-majeste cases since last Thursday, with arrest warrants issued for eight suspects and four already in police custody.

“Their crime was posting messages or pictures which insulted the monarchy on social media,” he told Reuters.

There were 70 cases in the



Thailand's Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn takes part in a ceremony honouring the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand, on 19 October 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

two-and-a-half years from a May 2014 coup up to last Thursday, said Weerawat Somnuek, a researcher at Thai legal monitoring group iLaw.

“Twelve cases in a week is a lot,” Weerawat told Reuters.

The stepped-up prosecutions come at a time of deep grief among Thais, who have for decades seen the late king as a unifying father figure.

People are dressing in black around the country, and have been

streaming to Bangkok's gilded Grand Palace to pay their respects to the late king, who is lying there.

No date has been set for a royal cremation but it is expected to take place in about a year.

The Thai stock market, which fell sharply last week as investors worried about stability after King Bhumibol, has been stable this week.

But some grief-stricken people have been quick to anger.

In some cases, violence has

erupted against individuals deemed disrespectful, while similar anger has erupted online against people whose posts have been seen as inappropriate.

Thailand's main mobile telecoms operators have, at the government's request, asked customers to report websites and social media posts deemed inappropriate or insulting.

The government also asked internet service providers to monitor content and inform platforms

such as Facebook, Twitter and Youtube to block offensive content. Failure to do so would be considered a crime, the government said.

The junta has sought to reassure the public that a roadmap to the restoration of democracy, which promises a general election in 2017, remains on course and there is no uncertainty around royal succession.

Prime Minister Prayuth told reporters after a cabinet meeting on Tuesday that the roadmap was unchanged and the succession would happen after a period of mourning.

“There are a lot of preparations needed to be made before succession,” junta spokesman Colonel Winthai Suvaree told Reuters.

Winthai said an estimate the prime minister gave on Tuesday of seven to 15 days was meant only to convey a passage of time and was not to be taken literally.

“The length of time he mentioned were just a turn of phrase and not exact figures,” Winthai said.

The formal procedure for the prince becoming king involves the cabinet informing the president of the legislature. The assembly then invites the prince to ascend the throne.

Pornpet Vichitcholcha, president of the National Legislative Assembly, told reporters that the legislature was ready to handle the matter at any time.—Reuters

Viet Nam to host summits, conference on Mekong River utilization, regional cooperation

HANOI — Viet Nam will host its neighbouring states at two summits and a conference to discuss sustainable use of Mekong River water and strengthening regional cooperation later this month.

Leaders and heads of governments of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand will join Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc at the seventh Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Summit (ACMECS 7) and the eighth Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Summit (CLMV 8).

They will also attend the World Economic Forum (WEF)-Mekong Conference in Hanoi. The three events all take place on 24-26 October, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dang Dinh Quy said at a press briefing Wednesday.

The two summits will focus on issues of strategic orientation including how to improve competitiveness of Mekong region.

At national level, it will include structural reforms, creating favourable business environment for investors and enterprises while at regional level,

it requires cooperation among countries to expand market for investors, enterprises, improve personnel quality, and deal with common challenges of environment and water resource, said a representative of Viet Nam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the briefing.

According to Quy, the summits, which are meetings among brothers, traditional friends and neighbours, will provide an important mechanism to increase mutual trust, and solve problems of cross-border crimes, environment, regional connectivity and customs clearance.

The summits are said to be the best places to talk about sustainable exploitation of Mekong River water resource, Quy told reporters.

Meanwhile, the WEF Conference on the Mekong Region will bring together some 160 enterprises, including global multinational companies and large regional companies from across ASEAN and the Asia Pacific.

The participants will discuss ideas, policies and initiatives that can best help the region attain its true potential.—Xinhua

Bad winter delays MH370 search by up to two months, say authorities

SYDNEY — An undersea search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 will be delayed by up to two months because of bad weather in the Indian Ocean during the southern winter, authorities said on Wednesday.

The Boeing 777 disappeared on its way from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in March 2014 with 239 passengers and crew on board, sparking a two-and-a-half year search that has focused on the In-

dian Ocean. Authorities from Malaysia, Australia and China initially expected to finish searching a 120,000-square-km (46,000 square mile) target area by the end of 2016.

“Due to poor weather conditions over the Southern hemisphere winter, it is expected searching the entire ... area will be completed by around January/February 2017,” they said in a statement. In what has been the most expensive search in aviation history, the authorities

said they had searched 110,000 square km (42,500 square miles) to date. The search will be suspended once the target area is scoured, pending new information.

Why the aircraft went off course and came down are a mystery. The only confirmed traces of the plane have been three pieces of debris found washed up on the island country Mauritius, the French island Reunion and an island off the coast of Tanzania.—Reuters



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

US expects Islamic State to wield chemical weapons in Mosul fight

WASHINGTON — The United States expects Islamic State to use crude chemical weapons as it tries to repel an Iraqi-led offensive on the city of Mosul, US officials say, although adding that the group's technical ability to develop such weapons is highly limited.

US forces have begun to regularly collect shell fragments to test for possible chemical agents, given Islamic State's use of mustard agent in the months before Monday's launch of the Mosul offensive, one official said.

In a previously undisclosed incident, US forces confirmed the presence of a sulfur mustard agent on Islamic State munition fragments on 5 October, a second official said. The Islamic State had targeted local forces, not US or coalition troops.

"Given ISIL's reprehensible behaviour and flagrant disregard for international standards and norms, this event is not surprising," the second official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity, and using an acronym for Islamic State.



Iraqi security forces gather in Qayara, south of Mosul, to attack Islamic State militants in Mosul, Iraq. PHOTO: REUTERS

US officials do not believe Islamic State has been successful so far at developing chemical weapons with particularly lethal effects, meaning that conventional weapons are still the most dangerous threat for advancing Iraqi and Kurdish forces — and any foreign advisers who get close enough.

Sulfur mustard agents can cause blistering on ex-

posed skin and lungs. At low doses, however, that would not be deadly. Roughly 5,000 US forces are in Iraq. More than 100 of them are embedded with Iraqi and Kurdish Peshmerga forces involved with the Mosul offensive, advising commanders and helping them ensure coalition air power hits the right targets, officials said. Still, those forces are not at

the front lines, they added.

The fall of Mosul would signal the defeat of the ultra-hardline Sunni jihadists in Iraq but could also lead to land grabs and sectarian bloodletting between groups that fought one another after the 2003 overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

US President Barack Obama estimated on Thursday that perhaps 1 million

civilians were still in Mosul, creating a challenge for Iraq and its Western backers trying to expel the group through force.

"If we aren't successful in helping ordinary people as they're fleeing from ISIL, then that makes us vulnerable to seeing ISIL return," Obama told reporters in Washington.

The International Or-

ganisation for Migration's Iraq chief, Thomas Weiss, said on Tuesday he expected Islamic State militants to use Mosul residents as human shields and lent his voice to concerns about the dangers of chemical agents.

The IOM had not managed to procure many gas masks yet, despite those risks, Weiss said from Baghdad. "We also fear, and there has been some evidence that ISIL might be using chemical weapons. Children, the elderly, disabled, will be particularly vulnerable," Weiss said.

Attacking Iraqi forces are still 12 to 30 miles (20 to 50 km) from the city itself and US officials believe that Islamic State is most likely to use chemical weapons later in the campaign, in what could be a difficult, protracted battle.

The leader of Islamic State was reported to be among thousands of hard-line militants still in the city, suggesting the group would go to great lengths to repel the coalition. American officials believe some of Islamic State's best fighters are in Mosul.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185



People remove belongings from a damaged site after an air strike Sunday in the rebel-held besieged al-Qaterji neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria, on 17 October 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Government must rid Aleppo of 'terrorists' to protect civilians: Assad

BEIRUT — Syria's President Bashar al-Assad told a Swiss TV station that government forces had to rid the city of Aleppo of rebel "terrorists" under its constitutional mandate to protect the civilian population.

"That's our mission, according to the constitution, according to the law, that we have to protect people, that we have to get rid of those terrorists from Aleppo.

This is where we can protect the civilians,"

he said in an interview with Swiss broadcaster SRF conducted on Tuesday and posted on SRF's website on Wednesday.

"How can you protect them while they are under the control of terrorists? They've been killed by them, and they've been controlled fully by the terrorists. Is it our role to sit aside and watch if that's how we can protect the Syrian people? We need to attack the terrorists, that's self-evident."—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TEAL BULKER VOY. NO (0447)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TEAL BULKER VOY. NO (0447) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301186



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro (C) attends a ceremony to sign off the 2017 national budget at the National Pantheon in Caracas, Venezuela on 14 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Venezuela delays state elections to 2017, opposition angry

CARACAS — Elections for Venezuela's state governorships will be held in 2017 rather than December as expected, the election board said on Tuesday, giving the unpopular socialist government more breathing space before going to the polls.

Critics say authorities have delayed the elections - and are also seeking to derail an opposition push for a referendum to recall President Nicolas Maduro — because they are frightened of letting Venezuelans have their say.

Maduro, who replaced the popular Hugo Chavez in 2013 after his death, has seen his ratings halve to just over 20 per cent amid a deep economic crisis in the OPEC nation. The 23 state governors' four-year terms were to end in early January, with elections anticipated for December.

But National Election Board head Tibisay Lucena, who the opposition says

is close to the government, said they would instead be held toward mid-2017.

Although Lucena did not give reasons, government officials have said exceptional measures are justified because of a US-led "economic war" against them and the oil price crash.

"This decision by the election board is part of a dangerous trend by a regime clearly acting outside the constitution," the opposition Democratic Unity coalition said. With Chavez suffering from cancer but having just won re-election himself, the socialists swept to victory in 20 states in the last regional elections in 2012.

But opinion polls show they would currently fare badly in any election, and government sources have said they are hoping for an oil price recovery to help them. The opposition has pushed for a referendum this year to remove Maduro and

trigger a new presidential election.

But even if they collect the 4 million signatures needed to trigger the plebiscite, in a drive later this month, such a vote could only take place next year.

Under Venezuela's constitutional rules, that means that should Maduro lose a referendum next year, his vice president would take over rather than there being a new election, dashing the opposition's hopes of ending 17 years of socialism.

Later on Tuesday, Maduro warned that various opposition parties were at risk of losing their legal status and needed to renew their registry with the electoral board if they wanted to participate in the 2017 state polls. "If they flout the law ... then the governor elections will come and we will participate (alone) ... It's a real, possible, probable scenario," he said.—Reuters

New York officer shoots woman who charged him with baseball bat: police

NEW YORK — A New York City police sergeant fatally shot a 66-year-old woman who charged him with a baseball bat at her apartment on Tuesday, prompting an investigation that will look into why he did not use a Taser instead, an assistant police chief said.

The Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr called the shooting an "outrage."

It follows a string of incidents that have put law enforcement across the country under heightened scrutiny over the use of lethal force, especially against minorities and the

mentally ill.

Police on Tuesday evening received an emergency call of an emotionally disturbed person at an apartment building in the Bronx, where the woman's neighbour complained she was acting irrationally, said New York police assistant chief Larry Nikunen.

The sergeant entered the woman's apartment and found her clutching scissors in a bedroom, Nikunen said at a news conference.

The sergeant talked to the woman, convincing her to put down the scissors, but she charged toward him while picking up a baseball

bat, Nikunen said.

"As she attempted to strike the sergeant he fired two shots from his service revolver, striking her in the torso," Nikunen told reporters.

The New York Police Department is investigating and will look into why the sergeant did not use a Taser against the woman instead of opening fire, Nikunen said.

The name of the woman, who was pronounced dead at a hospital, was not immediately released. Police had previously been to her apartment to handle similar disturbances, Nikunen said.—Reuters

Five French reactors ordered to have safety tests ahead of schedule

PARIS — France's Nuclear Safety Authority has ordered the country's utility EDF to conduct checkups at five nuclear reactors ahead of their scheduled maintenance tests, citing potential weakness in critical parts manufactured by a Japanese company, French media reported Tuesday.

All five nuclear reactors are using parts made by Japan Casting & Forging Corp., which is now under scrutiny by Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority.

The NRA discussed the matter at its regular meeting Wednesday as it has also found the company manufactured pressure ves-

sels in 13 Japanese nuclear reactors including the Sendai Nos. 1 and 2 reactors operated by Kyushu Electric Power Co. in Kagoshima Prefecture. The Sendai No. 1 reactor is undergoing a scheduled checkup while the No. 2 reactor is in operation.

In addition, the NRA said the company had manufactured components at the No. 2 unit of Kansai Electric Power Co.'s Mihama plant in Fukui Prefecture and No. 1 unit at Kyushu Electric's Genkai nuclear plant in Saga Prefecture, which have already been decommissioned.

The company based

in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, admitted that it could have delivered to France items that were weaker than those used in Japan citing the manufacturing differences between products for the Japanese and French markets, in a report submitted to the NRA meeting Wednesday. The company said products delivered to France could have contained a higher carbon concentration than permitted, which makes steel weaker in general, as the company only discarded a small portion containing elevated carbon levels from the steel mass used as raw material.—Kyodo News

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(2.8.2016)

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botataung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 20th October 2016

kmma@kcyangon.com

Colombian opposition may meet with FARC rebels about peace deal

BOGOTA — Representatives from Colombia's right-wing opposition could meet with leaders of the FARC rebels to discuss potential changes to a peace accord signed by the guerrillas and the government, opposition leader Alvaro Uribe said on Tuesday.

Hardliner Uribe, an ex-president, current senator and leader of the right-wing Democratic Centre party, had previously said his group would not meet with the rebels, who signed a peace deal with the government last month to end 52 years of war.

Colombians rejected the accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in a surprise plebiscite result this month. Uribe spearheaded the "No" campaign.



Senator Alvaro Uribe, Colombia's former president. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We think that at this time, in the interest of a national deal, spokespeople from "No" could at some

point speak with the FARC," Uribe told journalists.

President Juan Manuel Santos, who has staked his

legacy on a successful deal, has been meeting with opponents in a bid to salvage the accord.—Reuters

Singapore 'closes' Zika zone as virus spread dwindles

SINGAPORE — Singapore said on Tuesday it had declared a Zika cluster area "closed", after no new infections were reported for two weeks.

The Aljunied Crescent/Sims Drive cluster in the southeast of the island was closed on 9 October, the National Environment Agency said in a statement.

The agency said it will keep the area under surveillance until 31 October.

More than 400 people became infected with the Zika virus in Singapore after the first case was discovered on 27 August, including 16 pregnant women.—*Reuters*

China may give Filipino fishermen access to Scarborough

BEIJING — China will consider giving Filipino fishermen conditional access to disputed waters in the South China Sea after the presidents of the two countries meet in Beijing this week, two Chinese sources with ties to the leadership said.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte plans to raise the plight of Filipino fishermen when he meets his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, on Thursday, a Philippine official told Reuters.

China seized Scarborough Shoal — claimed by Beijing as Huangyan island and by Manila as Panatag — in 2012, denying Philippine fishermen access to its rich fishing grounds.

The seizure formed part of a case the Philippines took to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague, which in July rejected China's territorial claims over much of the South China Sea, including



A fisherman repairs his boat overlooking fishing boats that fish in the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, at Masinloc, Zambales, in the Philippines, on 22 April 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

its assertion of a 200-mile (320 km) exclusive economic zone around the disputed Spratly Islands. China immediately declared the ruling "null and void" but said

it was time to get talks started again between the countries directly involved in the territorial disputes to reach a peaceful resolution.

Arriving at his hotel in

Beijing, Duterte told reporters he expected to achieve "plenty of happiness for my country" during his trip to China. Asked about the South China Sea dispute,

he said: "No, that is not one of the topics on the agenda. It might crop up but it is going to be a soft landing for everyone. No impositions."—*Reuters*

Nobel Prize committee fails to get response from Bob Dylan

STOCKHOLM — Nearly a week after Bob Dylan was awarded Nobel Prize in literature, the prize committee has given up trying to reach the American icon for confirmation.

"Right now we are doing nothing. I have called and sent emails to his closest collaborator and received very friendly replies," said Sara Danius, permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy on Monday.

On Tuesday, the administrative director of the

Swedish Academy Odd Zschiedrich said that "we have stopped trying — we said everything we needed to his manager and friend ... but we haven't heard anything back," according to a CNN report.

Thursday night, the very day that Dylan was announced the winner of the prize, he gave a concert in Las Vegas but didn't speak a word about the award.

When Dylan performed on Friday in the US city of Coachella, once again he failed to mention

the prize, although another band on the same stage congratulated Dylan on winning the award and spoke highly of his achievements.

Dylan's silence about the Nobel Prize puts a question mark on his appearance at the awarding ceremony in Sweden scheduled in December.

However, Danius said she isn't worried. "If he doesn't want to come, he won't come. It will be a big party in any case and the honor belongs to him."

But "I think he will

show up," Danius added.

Bob Dylan was born on 24 May, 1941 in Duluth, Minnesota, in the United States. A productive artist, he has been awarded a number of awards for his music.

On 29 May, 2012, at the White House in Washington DC, US President Barack Obama, who called himself a fan, presented Dylan with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is one of the nation's highest civilian honours.—*Xinhua*

Moscow vows to hit back in row over Russian TV channel's UK accounts



The logo of a NatWest bank is seen in London, on 24 June 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSCOW — Russia has promised to retaliate against Britain after a British state-owned bank said it was withdrawing its services from Kremlin-backed Russian

broadcaster RT.

RT said on Monday that NatWest, owned by Royal Bank of Scotland Group (RBS), had given notice it intended to withdraw its

banking services from the channel's British arm. RT accused the bank of attacking freedom of speech.

RBS responded by saying it was reviewing the situation and would contact RT to discuss the matter, which caused a furore in Russia where the Russian Foreign Ministry said it looked like a politically-motivated move to silence an inconvenient outlet.

Maria Zakharova, the Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman, told reporters on Tuesday evening that Moscow would retaliate in kind if necessary.

"Our stance is unambiguous. We never leave friends in the lurch. Tit-

for-tat retaliation is always due," the TASS news agency cited Zakharova as saying.

"Apparently, we need to reach a certain point to react and show the other side a mirror image of its own actions. To let them feel a similar situation. It works well. But this is not our choice."

She did not say which British media outlet or outlets operating in Russia might be targeted for retaliation. Three pro-Kremlin senators in the upper house of parliament have urged authorities to hit back by closing the BBC's bank accounts in Russia, the RIA news agency reported on Monday.—*Reuters*

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"Bicycle computers; display device for gear position, gear ratio and rest of battery for bicycle; digital display device (electronic) for bicycle; numerical value indicators for bicycle; time recording apparatus for bicycle; global positioning system [GPS] apparatus for bicycle; measuring apparatus for bicycle; numerical value receivers for bicycles; speed indicators for bicycle; manometers for bicycle; tachometers for bicycle; power meters for bicycle; odometers for bicycle; wireless units for bicycles; electric cables for bicycles; batteries; batteries for bicycles; battery chargers; battery chargers for bicycles; computer software; digital video cameras; digital video cameras for bicycles; digital video cameras for fishing; protective helmets for sports; protective helmets for bicyclists; eyeglasses; sunglasses; bicycle goggles and cases therefore" in International Class 9; and

"Lighting apparatus for bicycles, bicycle lights, dynamo-powered lights for bicycle, direction light for bicycles, light reflectors for bicycles, signaling light for bicycles, ice boxes" in International Class 11.

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Botataung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 20th October 2016

kmma@keyangon.com

DiCaprio foundation would return gifts if they are from Malaysian fund in probe

NEW YORK — Oscar-winner Leonardo DiCaprio's charitable foundation would return gifts or donations made to him or his ventures if they were found to have come from Malaysian wealth fund 1MDB, which is being investigated on money laundering allegations, his representatives said on Tuesday.

In his first comment on the multinational probe into the fund, DiCaprio said he was cooperating with US authorities to determine if money had come from questionable sources, according to the statement.

In July a Hollywood production company was accused in a US civil lawsuit of using \$100 million that prosecutors said had been diverted from the 1MDB fund to finance DiCaprio's 2013

film "The Wolf of Wall Street," in which he starred.

In a statement on Tuesday, DiCaprio's representatives said he had first learned of the probe through press reports in July.

"He immediately had his representatives reach out to the Department of Justice to determine whether he or his foundation, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (LDF), ever received any gifts or charitable donations directly or indirectly related to these parties, and if so, to return those gifts or donations as soon as possible," the statement said.

"All contact was initiated by Mr. DiCaprio and LDF," it said.

The production company, Red Granite Pictures, has said that to its knowledge none of the money it received was illegiti-

mate and that it had done nothing wrong. The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, set up in 1998, supports a range of environmental projects.

In August, the Hollywood Reporter published a story alleging that the actor's foundation had benefited to the tune of some \$2 million from cash and in-kind donations made by a Malaysian financier, who was named in the US lawsuit as being involved in the creation of the 1MDB fund.

The actor, who won an Oscar in 2016 for his role in "The Revenant," is also a United Nations climate change "messenger of peace," but he has come under pressure from some environmental activists to step down from the role following the 1MDB scandal.—Reuters



US actor Leonardo DiCaprio looks on prior to speaking on stage during the Paris premiere of the documentary film "Before the Flood" on 17 October 2016 at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, France.

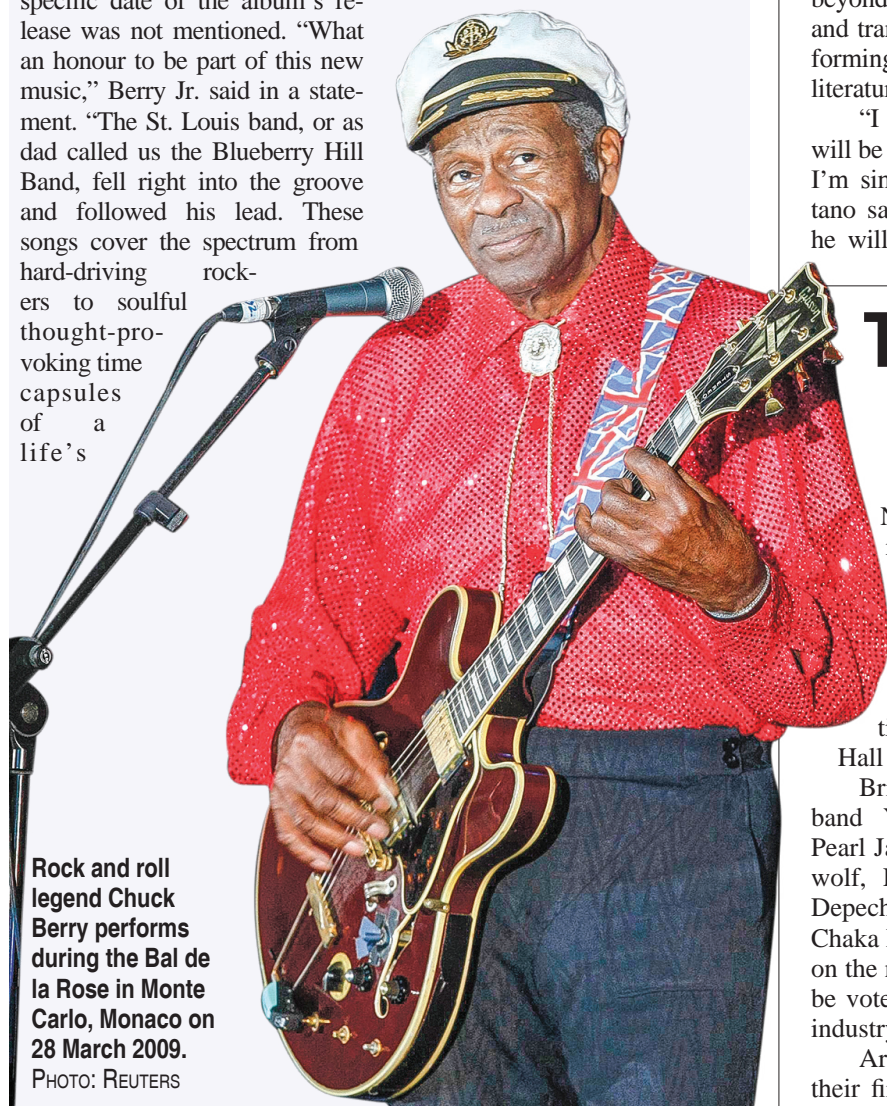
PHOTO: REUTERS

At 90, Chuck Berry to release first new album in four decades

ST. LOUIS (Missouri) — Rock 'n' roll legend Chuck Berry celebrated his 90th birthday on Tuesday by announcing that his first album of new music in 38 years would be released next year. Called simply "Chuck," the album will consist mostly of new, original material recorded and produced by Berry, his record company said.

Berry's children, Charles Berry Jr. on guitar and Ingrid Berry on harmonica, form part of his backing band on the record. The specific date of the album's release was not mentioned. "What an honour to be part of this new music," Berry Jr. said in a statement. "The St. Louis band, or as dad called us the Blueberry Hill Band, fell right into the groove and followed his lead. These songs cover the spectrum from hard-driving rockers to soulful thought-provoking time capsules of a life's

work." Berry said he was dedicating the new album to his wife of 68 years, Themetta. "My darlin' I'm growing old! I've worked on this record for a long time. Now I can hang up my shoes!" the musician said in a statement. With songs like "Maybellene," "Roll Over Beethoven" and "Johnny B. Goode" in the late 1950s, Berry helped lay the foundation for modern rock music and was a major influence on scores of 1960s bands, including the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.—Reuters



Rock and roll legend Chuck Berry performs during the Bal de la Rose in Monte Carlo, Monaco on 28 March 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

Film director Takeshi Kitano awarded France's Legion of Honour

TOKYO — The French government has named Japanese film director Takeshi Kitano as a recipient of the Legion of Honour for his impact on contemporary arts, his office said Tuesday.

Kitano, 69, will be named an Officer, the fourth-ranked honor in the L'ordre National de la Legion d'honneur, at a ceremony in Paris next Tuesday.

Former French culture minister Jack Lang said in his comment that Kitano "comfortably went beyond the limits of art genres and transformed the rules of performing arts, television, film and literature," according to the office.

"I am very surprised that I will be given such an honour, and I'm simply filled with joy," Kitano said in a statement, adding he will devote himself to doing

various jobs while preserving his own style.

The Legion of Honour, founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, recognises eminent service in fields such as culture,

science and business.

Among the approximately 1,500 foreigners conferred the honor, 10 per cent are Japanese, according to the French Embassy in Tokyo.—Kyodo News



Japanese comedian and movie director Takeshi Kitano (R) and boxer Hisashi Amagasa pose for a photo in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Tupac Shakur, Janet Jackson head up Rock Hall of Fame nominees

NEW YORK — Slain rapper Tupac Shakur, pop star Janet Jackson and protest singer Joan Baez were among 19 musicians nominated on Tuesday for induction in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

British progressive rock band Yes, American rockers Pearl Jam, metal band Steppenwolf, English electronic band Depeche Mode, and funk singer Chaka Khan, were also included on the nominees list, which will be voted on by fans and music industry experts.

Artists must have released their first recording at least 25

years ago to be eligible for nomination. The names of the 2017 inductees will be announced in December once voting is complete. Shakur was killed at age 25 in an unsolved 1996 drive-by shooting in Las Vegas that has only boosted his fame. The Harlem-born rapper, who sang about social inequity and black struggles, is regarded as one of the most influential voices in hip hop music, spurring the release of documentaries, movies and a Broadway musical.

Shakur's nomination reflects the growing acceptance of rap as a force in mainstream music and follows the Hall of Fame induction in 2016 of California

rappers N.W.A. as only the fifth hip hop act ever to be voted in.

Baez, 75, became a voice of protest in the tumultuous 1960s, becoming one of the first singers to promote the songs of Bob Dylan and singing at the 1969 Woodstock festival. Her performances of the traditional song "We Shall Overcome" in the early 1960s became the anthem of the civil rights movement.

Jackson, 50, the youngest child of the famed Jackson singing family, is one of the best-known pop singers in the world but is still waiting to be inducted after first becoming eligible for the Hall of Fame in 2007.—Reuters

Nepal gives discounts to Japanese tourists for 60th anniversary of ties

KATHMANDU — Nepal is offering special rates along its popular trekking trails and at homestay destinations for Japanese tourists visiting Nepal until February next year, tourism officials said on Wednesday.

“On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan, we have coordinated with the private sector to offer discounted trekking and homestay rates to Japanese tourists visiting Nepal until February,” Kundan Mishra of the Nepal Tourism Board

told Kyodo News.

“Japanese tourists are special for Nepalese people. We hope a large number of Japanese tourists will visit Nepal during this period,” Mishra added.

In coordination with the Nepal Tourism Board and the Trekking Agencies’ Association of Nepal, tour agencies are offering up to 32 per cent discount on Everest Base Camp treks, 34 per cent for Annapurna Base Camp treks and 26 per cent for Langtang Valley treks.

Special rates are also being offered for the Kanchanjunga Base Camp,

Rolwaling Eco-Cultural, Jomson-Mukthinath, Upper Dolpo, Dhaulagiri Circuit, and Upper Mustang treks, among others.

The Homestay Association of Nepal is offering 20 per cent discount to Japanese tourists who want to enjoy homestays.

Nepal was seeing as many as 800,000 tourists per year until 2015 when devastating quakes during a peak tourist season killed nearly 9,000 people, destroyed much of Kathmandu’s prized cultural heritage and battered the tourism industry.

“Recovery in trekking

and mountaineering sectors has been encouraging. However, (the number of) people visiting Nepal for cultural heritage tours hasn’t quite recovered yet,” said Chandra Prasad Rijal, president of the Trekking Agencies’ Association of Nepal.

Japanese tourists feature in the top 10 nationalities visiting Nepal. The list is topped by Indians, followed by Chinese.

“The number of westerners visiting Nepal has gone down in recent years, but the number of Asian tourists is increasing,” Rijal said.—Kyodo News

Tokyo, Kyoto named world’s 2 best cities in US magazine poll

NEW YORK — Tokyo and Kyoto have been picked as the world’s best and second best cities outside the United States, the US travel magazine Conde Nast Traveler said on Tuesday.

Magazine readers cast more than 100,000 votes for their favourite cities in the 2016 poll, according to the website of the magazine, and Japan’s current and ancient capitals climbed the ranking from 15th and ninth the previous year, according to the Japan National Tourism Organisation.

Italy’s Florence ranked third in the poll. The magazine highlighted Tokyo’s variety encompassing modern skyscrapers, historic temples and shrines, adding it is “one of the world’s best food destinations.”

Kyoto was described “one of the most well-preserved cities in Japan” and “well known for kaiseki, the traditional multi-course meal that changes seasonally.”

Also in the poll, the Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo, was named the top hotel in Northern Asia, while All Nippon Airways came in fifth in the “Best Airlines in the World” ranking.

More than 300,000 readers made their voices heard via computers, tab-



Tokyo Skytree is illuminated in yellow and green, the colours used in the Brazilian flag, on 4 August 2016, ahead of the 5 August opening of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

lets and smartphones in this year’s Readers’ Choice Awards, which started 29 years ago, according to the magazine.

The total number of foreign visitors to Japan this year is expected to top 20 million for the first time and the government has doubled its annual target of overseas visitors to 40 million in 2020, the year Tokyo hosts the Olympics and Paralympics.—Kyodo News

Visitors attracted by chrysanthemum flowers in central China’s Kaifeng



Tourists view chrysanthemum at the Longting Park in Kaifeng, central China’s Henan Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

Brunei sees less tourist overall but more Chinese visitors in Q2

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — Brunei has seen a drop in the overall tourists to the country by air in the second quarter of 2016, while the number of tourists from China and Japan has increased, according to the latest official statistics.

The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism said in a statement late on Tuesday that air arrivals for the second quarter of 2016 had dropped by six per cent, reaching 52,292 arrivals compared to 55,647 arrivals in the same period of the previous year.

However, the ministry said the second quarter 2016 has continued to show positive growth from the Far East region. Arrivals through the Brunei International Airport from the Far East rose by 8.9 per cent, with most visitors coming from China and Japan.

“The increase can be attributed to the ease of visa requirements for the visitors from China and high Japanese currency rate which has influenced travel demand from Japan for the month of April to June 2016,” said the ministry.

The lower number of air arrivals was due to declining trend in travel demand, high competitiveness from other countries within the region and economic slowdown in main source markets like Australia and New Zealand, Europe and ASEAN, according to the statement. The top four countries for tourist arrivals in the second quarter 2016 were Malaysia due to its easy air accessibility and proximity with 25 per cent, followed by China at 18.3 per cent, Indonesia at 9.5 per cent and the Philippines at 8.7 per cent.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(20-10-2016 07:00am ~ 21-10-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Five Hair Relic Enshrined Pagodas
07:39	Am	Family of Toys
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	“Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture”
		Novicehood in Myanmar
08:51	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar “The Family”
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Marketable Goods (Straw painting)
09:44	Am	Chinlone and the dreams of the player
10:03	Am	News

10:27	Am	Sayit-wyne Girls
10:50	Am	Mt. Naw Bu Baw

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
07:45	Pm	Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
08:42	Pm	Young Lady Musician: Nge Nge Lay
08:57	Pm	Now in Yangon

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

Rooney expects big things of 'fantastic' United

LONDON — Captain Wayne Rooney says there is enough talent in the "fantastic" Manchester United squad to launch a serious challenge for the Premier League title despite a mixed start to the campaign.

United, who last won the league in 2013, have displayed flashes of brilliance under Jose Mourinho but their erratic performances have threatened to undermine the Portuguese manager's maiden campaign at Old Trafford.

"I do think we'll be challenging this season — we've still got that belief and it is even stronger after working with this manager and the players over the last few months," Rooney told British media.

After suffering back-to-back defeats last month, a five-game unbeaten run in all competitions has raised spirits as seventh-placed United held rivals Liverpool to a 0-0 draw on Monday to maintain a five-point gap behind leaders Manchester City.

"I think we've got a fantastic

squad that is ready and capable of challenging. I'm sure over the next few weeks or couple of months we will have our way of playing, and it will be his (Mourinho's) way of playing.

"It is a different way of playing, but if you're an individual you should learn what the manager wants. As a team, it's going to take a little bit longer. We knew it was going to take a bit of time," Rooney added.

Following his world record move to United in August, midfielder Paul Pogba has yet to live up to his hefty price tag but Rooney is confident that once the Frenchman adapts to the rigours of English football, he will be well worth the outlay.

"Paul is a fantastic player, I think he is working hard and he is doing well," the England international added of the former Juventus star. "It is a different league to what he's been used to — he didn't really play last time when he was here so this is all new. He is a fantastic player and he will shine for us this season there is no doubt." —Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Guardiola denies trying to take Messi, Neymar to Man City

BARCELONA — Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola has denied a Mundo Deportivo report that he tried to sign strikers Lionel Messi and Neymar from former club Barcelona in the close season.

The newspaper also suggested that Guardiola attempted to buy Barca forward Luis Suarez and midfield pair Andres Iniesta and Sergio Busquets.

City did bring keeper Claudio Bravo over from the Nou Camp as a replacement for Torino-bound Joe Hart and the former Bayern Munich boss acknowledged he had also spoken to Marc-Andre ter Stegen who missed the majority of the club's La Liga games last season. "There are some wars you lose from the start and it would have been nice if people had given my side of the story," Guardiola told a news conference ahead of Wednesday's Champions League Group C game against Barca. — Reuters

Real Madrid deal with five-goal show

MADRID — Gareth Bale scored his first European goal in almost two years as holders Real Madrid moved into a commanding position in Champions League Group F after cruising to a 5-1 victory over Legia Warsaw on Tuesday.

Bale gave the hosts the lead in the 16th minute with a curled left-foot drive and an own goal by Legia's Tomasz Jodlowiec, deflecting in Marcelo's shot, doubled their advantage.

Miroslav Radovic pulled one back for the Poles from the penalty spot but Marco Asensio made it 3-1 in the 37th minute with a low shot on his Champions League debut.

Substitute Lucas Vazquez volleyed home a cross in the 68th minute and former Juventus striker Alvaro Morata rounded off the win by converting a pass from Cristiano Ronaldo in the 84th.

Real are second in Group F, level on seven points with Borussia Dortmund, and both teams will seal their place in the last 16 if Zinedine Zidane's side win at Legia and the Germans beat Sporting Lisbon at home on 2 November.

"I'm happy with the result, with the goals and the performance," Zidane told BeIN sports.

"Of course we can improve, our objective was to play very attacking football and we took risks, conceding a few chances, but the important thing was to win

and accumulate points, and that's what we did."

There was trouble outside the Santiago Bernabeu stadium before kickoff on Tuesday, with five supporters and two police officers suffering minor injuries, according to local media reports.

On the pitch, Legia nearly caused the holders an early surprise with Jodlowiec shooting straight at Keylor Navas and mid-

fielder Vadis Odjidja hitting the post.

Real took the lead soon after though, Bale cutting inside from the right to strike into the far corner for his first European goal since December 2014.

Jodlowiec turned in Marcelo's shot soon after but a foul by Real defender Danilo allowed Radovic to reduce the deficit from 11 metres and net Legia's first

Champions League goal for 21 years.

Twenty-year-old winger Marco Asensio built on his impressive start to his Real career by netting his fourth goal of the season after being teed up by Ronaldo. Ronaldo turned provider again by releasing substitute Morata for the fifth goal after Vazquez had lashed home the fourth. —Reuters



Real Madrid's Marco Asensio and Legia Warsaw's Adam Hlousek in action during UEFA Champions League at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, on 18 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen for 100 per cent Leicester

LEICESTER, (England) — Leicester City are on the brink of qualifying for the Champions League knockout stages after a 1-0 win over Copenhagen on Tuesday continued to defy their domestic woes and kept up a perfect record in Group G.

For the third time this term Leicester went into a Champions League game on the back of a heavy Premier League defeat but they shrugged off the disappointment to secure a third straight win in the competition thanks to Riyad Mahrez's 40th-minute goal.

It was no vintage show from Claudio Ranieri's men, who lost 3-0 at Chelsea on Saturday, although they were unfortunate not to triumph by a bigger margin after Islam Slimani had a goal harshly ruled out for offside in the second half. They ended the contest, however, grateful to keeper Kasper Schmeichel for a superb one-handed save in the final minute as Leicester inflicted a first defeat on Copenhagen in 24 matches in all competitions. —Reuters