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REGIONAL STRIFE BARS POLLS

UEC decides not to hold election in four townships

Aye Min Soe

THE Union Election Commission announced on Tuesday that they will not hold the 8 November election in two townships nor in several village-tracts of another two townships in Shan State on the grounds that the region lacks stability.

The statement the UEC released claimed that the election will not be held in Mongshu Township, Kehsi Township, eight village-tracts in Tangyang Township, five wards and 37 village-tracts in Namtit of Hopang Township as the situation in those areas calls into question the freedom and fairness in which the upcoming election can be held. The Shan State Nationalities Democratic Party-SNDP requested on 19 October that the UEC suspend the election in three townships — Mongshu, Kehsi and Tangyang — in eastern Shan State due to conflict between the Tatmadaw and local armed ethnic groups.

A follow-up letter from the SNDP, signed by the party's general secretary Sai Hla Kyaw, requested that the UEC resume the election in the three townships once stability had been restored.

Locals said that they did not believe a free election was possible in their area as they are currently displaced by the fighting.

Meanwhile, the UEC announced Tuesday that it would allow civil service personnel, who will be working on the day of the election, to cast advanced votes as of this Thursday if they apply to do



Government completed printing ballots for the November-8 election by 21 October. PHOTO: KYAW THU WIN

so with the relevant ward/village sub-election commissions.

Those who will be on duty on election day will be allowed to cast their votes for the upcoming election on 6 and 7 November, according to the UEC.

Two members of a ward/village sub-election commission will be sent to visit those who cannot get themselves to a polling station in order to collect advanced votes from them. The UEC invited can-

didates' agents, observers and media personnel to observe the advanced voting process.

The UEC's director, U Thaung Hlaing told the press Tuesday that the commission would take action against anyone caught attempting to block Myanmar citizens from voting for the November 8 election if they are entitled to do so.

The final voters' list will be made publicly available at sub-election commissions nation-

wide on 2, 6 and 7 November.

The People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE), which has monitored political campaigns in 129 townships from 8 September to 18 October has urged all political parties on Tuesday to follow the code of conduct and to use monitoring committees at every level.

At the rallies observed 93 percent of candidates made no personally degrading remarks or

inciting comments about any other candidate. At 98 percent of the rallies observed no speaker made any comment about a particular group or person. PACE, however, found that at 2 percent of rallies observed inciting remarks were made about race, religion and/or gender.

PACE also recommends that the Union Election Commission ensure that candidates have equal access to public spaces and freedom of movement.

Indian firms to showcase products and services in Yangon

Ye Myint

MORE than 60 Indian firms are set to host an exposition of their products and services along with a seminar, the Indian Embassy in Yangon said yesterday.

The exhibition, entitled "4th Enterprise India Show" will feature a wide range of consumer products and services that range from infrastructure supplies, petroleum and natural gas equipment, power and

energy tech, services, textile and garment technology and education products at the Tatmadaw Hall in Yangon from this Thursday until 1 November.

The exclusive exhibition will provide a platform for business networking, joint venturing, technology transfer, marketing arrangements, people-to-people interaction and cultural exchange, the embassy claimed. Its aim is to contribute to Myanmar's econom-

ic opening, to aid in development and increase economic strength. It will also improve bilateral relations said Indian Ambassador Mr. Gautam Mukhophadhaya.

Run in association between the Indian Embassy in Myanmar, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry the four-day event is managed by the Confederation of In-

dian Industry-CII, India's premier business association.

According to the embassy a seminar to forge bilateral trade and economic cooperation in the areas of investment, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, construction, power and renewable energy, consumer goods and services, information technology, hospitality and the fishing industry is also scheduled to take place at Parkroyal Hotel in

Yangon on Thursday.

During her visit to Myanmar early this year Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman said that the two countries expected to top US\$10 billion by 2020 with a trade target of US\$3 billion in 2015.

India is the fifth largest trading partner to Myanmar after China, Thailand, Singapore and Japan with investments in agriculture, manufacturing, oil and gas.

Firefighters' refresher course opens in Myawady Township

AUXILIARY firefighters' refresher course No 2 for 2015 was opened at Ingyinmyaing village in Myawady Township of Kayin State on Monday.

The district's Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo said in an address that firefighters need to remain at peak mental and physical condition in order to carry out the brave and dangerous work of searching and saving citizens in

danger and administrating fire safety standards.

Staff Officer of the Township Fire Services Department U Myint Swe spoke briefly on the role of the fire service in the community and the importance and purpose of the department. Fifty firefighters are attending the refresher course. Training began on Monday and will run until 20 November.—*Htein Lin Aung-IPRD*



Auxiliary fire fighters attending refresher course in Myawady Township. Photo: Htein Lin Aung-IPRD

Thazi Township gets improved water supply



A worksite seen with heavy machinery to dredge earthen lake. PHOTO: THEIN MYINT KYAW

THAYETPIN Dam in Ywapalaegy village and Phongyi Lake in Yinmabin village are being built in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, for local water sufficiency.

The infrastructure projects are being implemented by the

township's Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development. The facilities will supply drinking water as well as agricultural irrigation to the area.

The projects were inspected by Meiktila District department

head U Thin Min Latt and officials on 24 October. They also viewed the agriculture and livestock breeding works funded by the ministry's Emerald Green Project at Katkyaeinn and Saegyima villages.—*Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)*

Detour road built in Kyunsu Township

THE Kangyi-Phankhapinkon road, which is a detour to a local Naval Region Command Headquarters, is being built in Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region,

with funding from the Department of Progress of Border Areas and National Races under the Ministry of Border Affairs.

The detour was requested by

members of the local rural community. The two-mile road, when completed, will better accommodate the daily transportation needs of the locals.—*Yan Naing (IPRD)*

Hinthada workshop explores 2014 census

AN educational workshop on Myanmar's 2014 nationwide census was held in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, on 25 October. Data on population and housing were distributed and explained by Deputy Director U Toe Lin of the Immigration and

National Registration Department (INRD).

The data were also handed over to District Census Committee Chairman U San Htay.

The three-day workshop was attended by district civil service personnel, INRD staff from

Hinthada, Ingapu, Myanaung, Kyangin, Laymyethna and Zalun townships, and social organisations, totalling 69 attendees.

The census was conducted from 30 March to 10 April last year across most of the country.—*Kyaw Kyaw (Hinthada)*

International election observers visit townships in Kachin State

INTERNATIONAL observers of Myanmar's general elections, to be held on 8 November, arrived in Kachin State on 12 October to begin overseeing the electoral process during what will be a 36-day visit.

Kaka Suminta of Indonesia and Lalaine Marfil Apugan of the Philippines from the Asian Network for Free Elections together with an interpreter have visited Myitkyina, Mohnyin and Mogaung town-

ships and plan to tour townships in Bhamo District.

They will not be visiting Putao District, Phakant Township nor a number of other areas in the state due to security concerns.

More international observers including officials from the European Union will be arriving in Kachin State according to election officer U Myo Min Oo of Mohnyin District.—*GNLM-001*



Correspondent of Global New Light of Myanmar Daily meets observers from Asian Network for Free Elections in Mohnyin. PHOTO: GNLM-001

Livestock and pastures training course ends in Pobbathiri Tsp

A VOCATIONAL training course on pastures and livestock breeding run by the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department was completed on Monday. The course was held in Pobbathiri township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The two-week course was set up to improve the rural community's professional expertise

and increase their propensity to generate income. The 20 attendees were given completion certificates by township DLBV officer U Kyaw Kyaw Naung.

The course taught knowledge in pasture farming, pig, poultry, goat and cattle breeding, the vaccination of poultry and general disease control among other subjects.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Czech Republic

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Milos Zeman, President of the Czech Republic and His Excellency Mr. Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Czech Republic, which falls on 28 October 2015.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar forms communication commission

THE government of Myanmar formed a communication commission on 8 October according to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Exercising the power conferred on them by Section 86 of the Communications Law, the

Government of Myanmar formed a 5-member communication commission led by the Chairman of the Myanmar Computer Science Development Council, Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Workshop on sustainable management of nature reserves held in Nay Pyi Taw

A WORKSHOP to introduce the sustainable management of nature reserves in Myanmar was held at the Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

The workshop was organized by the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, the WCS and the UNDP.

Permanent Secretary U Khin Maung Yi, Deputy Residence Representative Ms Thuy Hang Thi To of UNDP Myanmar and Country Director U Than Myint of WCS

made speeches at the workshop.

Myanmar aims to designate 10 percent of its total land area as natural reserve under the national forestry sector's 30-year project. The plan currently counts 39 nature reserves covering 5.75 percent of the total land area of the country.

The purpose of the workshop was to promote public understanding of the project, to attract partner organisations and to review the annual work plan.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Joint-venture company established for transportation



The signing ceremony for establishment of joint venture company in progress. PHOTO: MNA

A JOINT venture signing ceremony was held between Road Transport under the Ministry of Rail Transportation and CJ Korea Express Asia Pte. Ltd at a ministry meeting room yesterday.

The ceremony established the CJ Korea Express RT Myanmar Co, Ltd which will operate road transportation and be based in Yangon. Managing Director of Road Transport U San Myint Oo signed the agreement with Mr. Lee Joon, head of the South East Asia of CJ Korea Express Asia Pte. Ltd and reached a land lease agreement

with the Chairman of CJ Korea Express RT Myanmar Co Ltd Mr Lee Jae Hee.

The ministry offered CJ Korea Express RT Myanmar the deal for the freight and warehouse, goods transportation and services site which sits on a 3.25-acre plot of land. It is located in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

In the first operation by the joint venture company 60 vehicles will be used to meet transportation requirements with an eye towards expanding in that number in the future.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife being welcomed by Czech Ambassador Mr Jaroslav Dolecek at the reception to mark Independence Day of the Czech Republic at Sule-Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on 27-10-2015. PHOTO: MNA

PPE informs UEC of difficulty in printing ballot papers after 31 Oct

THE Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information said on Tuesday that it would not be able to timely print ballot papers that are sent to it after the end of this week.

The PPE announced that

it had informed the UEC that it cannot guarantee ballot paper orders that are sent to it before Saturday, 31 October will be filled. There may be difficulties in completing the printing process in time if the UEC place more orders this week. The

PPE has printed ballot papers of standard quality in accordance with data scrutinized and approved by the Union Election on schedule so far.

The PPE printed over 130 million ballot papers by 22 October.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Human rights commission submits appeal to pardon political prisoners, detained students, supporters to president

MYANMAR National Human Rights Commission sent an appeal on Tuesday to the president to pardon political prisoners, detained students and supporters, according to the statement of the commission.

In its statement, the commission said that the Multi-party Democracy General

Election would be held on 8 November and the Union Election Commission was endeavouring their best to hold free and fair election in conformity with the law.

The UEC also requested responsible organizations and the public to extend their cooperation for the elections, the

statement said.

The statement said the Myanmar Human Rights Commission had submitted an appeal to the president to consider granting pardon to political prisoners, detained students and supporters as a gesture of welcoming the General Election.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Korea-Myanmar Inland Aquaculture Development Forum held in Mandalay

KOREA-MYANMAR Inland Aquaculture Development Forum was held at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on October 27.

The forum was attended by U Khin Maung Aye, Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Mr Nam Kwon Hyung, chief resident representative of Korean International Cooperation Agency and experts from National Fisheries Research and Development Institute from Korea.

The purpose of the forum is to propose the draft master plan for the development of inland

aquaculture industry and to draw action plans for the promotion of inland aquaculture industry in Myanmar.

Mr Nam Kwon Hyung, chief resident representative said the fisheries sector in Myanmar is vital for national food security, income generation and export promotions.

Mr Nam said, "That is why we have to achieve high productivity and quality by aquaculture development not only for the domestic consumption, but also for foreign markets."

In this connection, KOICA is supporting the "Pro-

ject for Development of Inland Fish Farming Technology" in partnership with Department of Fishery."

In the forum, the presentations such as the proposal of the draft master plan for inland aquaculture development in Myanmar, the establishment of an inland aquaculture research and extension center in Myanmar, leading causes of mass mortality of fishes occurring in natural water body, Myanmar inland aquaculture policy and development plans, challenges in Myanmar inland aquaculture farms are.—*KOICA Myanmar*

Philippines say they have 'no capacity' to resettle asylum seekers

MANILA — President Benigno Aquino on Tuesday said the Philippines had “no capacity” to permanently relocate asylum seekers now being held in Australian detention camps on remote, impoverished South Pacific islands.

Hundreds of boat people seeking asylum in Australia have been placed in detention camps on Manus island in Papua New Guinea and on the tiny island of Nauru.

“We would want to assist but there are limitations as to how far we can assist,” Aquino told reporters in Manila, saying his government was “challenged to meet the needs of its own people right now”.

Canberra and Manila have held talks about resettling some of the refugees in the Philippines after a similar deal with Cambodia struggled to get off the ground.

Human rights groups criticised the Aquino government for entering into talks with Australia when thousands of Filipinos displaced by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013

were still without homes.

“And this proposed agreement is not one of a transitory nature, it’s not one of just being a transit point but actually relocating these people here,” Aquino said. “And we are not in a capacity at this point of time to afford permanent residency to these people.”

“We would want to assist but there are limitations as to how far we can assist.”

President Benigno Aquino



President Benigno Aquino. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia had offered \$150 million spread over five years in exchange for permanent relocation of some refugees. A similar deal was struck with Cambodia, but only four asylum seekers were resettled before the deal was stopped.

Since 2012, people on boats attempting to reach Australia have been turned back or taken to camps in Nauru, where there have been reports of assaults and systemic child abuse, or Papua New Guinea, where Canberra has set up processing centres.

From the late 1970s until late 1980s, the Philippines helped provide transit to thousands of Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians who escaped by boat to seek permanent homes in the United States and elsewhere in the West.—Reuters

Indonesia’s mudflow disaster site gets makeover as tourist spot

SIDOARJO — Plodding around a vast field of mud that sits on top of a dozen submerged villages, tourists snap photographs of a volcano that is still spewing sludge nearly a decade after it erupted in one of the strangest disasters on record.

A short distance away, a woman surveys stone sculptures of half-buried people and monuments commemorating the 2006 catastrophe that displaced tens of thousands of villagers and transformed a landscape stretching across hundreds of hectares at the eastern end of Indonesia’s Java island. Reports at the time put the death toll at around a dozen.

Disaster tourism has become more common in Indonesia,

where visitors are drawn to sites of earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions to witness the aftermath of catastrophes or simply do some soul-searching.

“I had watched a lot of the news on television, but I didn’t expect that seeing it with my own eyes could give such a different impression,” said tourist Wisnu Titik Kartiani at Sidoarjo’s mudflow disaster site. “If this is called tourism, I suppose this is tragic tourism.”

Her guide, Sumono, was one of the villagers who now ferry tourists on their motorcycles or sell videos of the disaster that took away their livelihoods as factory workers.

“We are grateful for any work we can get,” he said.

At its peak, mud was spewing at a rate of around 150,000 cubic metres a day from the volcano at Sidoarjo, which many believed was triggered when PT Lapindo Brantas, a company linked to the powerful Bakrie family, was drilling for oil and gas. The Bakries denied wrongdoing and said it was due to natural causes.

The government had agreed to foot part of the compensation costs and, to date, around 90 per cent of the victims had received payments, said Wahyu Sutopo, an official at the Sidoarjo Mudflow Mitigation Agency.—Reuters



A man takes a picture of his family near stone sculptures of half-buried people at the Lapindo mud field in Sidoarjo. PHOTO: REUTERS

Malaysia’s human rights have been eroded under PM Najib

KUALA LUMPUR — Human rights in Malaysia have deteriorated under Prime Minister Najib Razak’s administration despite his promises to provide more freedom, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday.

The rights group’s findings, published in a report, will add to pressure on Najib and further undermine his tattered image as a reformist, as he struggles to weather criticism of his handling of a scandal at a state investment fund.

“Prime Minister Najib came to power with the promise he’ll be a reformer ... but when the political situation became complicated, he reversed his course,” Brad Adams, the group’s Asia Director, told a news conference in Kuala Lumpur.

The prime minister’s office did not respond to emailed request for comments.

Malaysia has been ruled by Najib’s party, the United Malays National Organisation, since independence in 1957.

When Najib took power in 2009, he promised to uphold civil liberties as part of a campaign for more moderate government.

He did repeal a colonial-era Internal Security Act but backtracked on a promise to repeal a Sedition Act.

He strengthened the Sedition Act and introduced a tough Prevention of Terrorism Act after his coalition lost the majority vote in 2013 elections, although it managed to stay in power. The government also amended existing laws to restrict speech, including on social media.

This year, authorities have cracked down on anti-government rally organisers, those critical of Najib and debt-ridden state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Authorities also blocked websites and suspended newspapers that reported extensively on 1MDB.

“The single thing this government can do is to stop arresting, charging, investigating people for peaceful expression,” Adams said.

1MDB has debts of more than \$11 billion and is under investigation for financial mismanagement. Najib is the chairman of the fund’s advisory board. Separately, Najib has been scrutinised after a report emerged that almost \$700 million was banked into his account. Reuters has not verified the report.—Reuters

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Land ministry suspends Okinawa's move to block base relocation

TOKYO — The land ministry said Tuesday it will suspend the Okinawa governor's attempt to prevent the state from moving ahead with the building of a US military replacement facility in the southern island prefecture.

The ministry's move sets the stage for the Defence Ministry to resume work related to the relocation of the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from a crowded residential district in Ginowan to a less populated area in the Henoko coastal area of Nago.

Political wrangling between the local and central governments has been intensifying since Gov. Takeshi Onaga on 13 October revoked the approval granted by his predecessor to the central government in 2013 for landfill work to relocate the base. "It was recognised that there are flaws in the approval," Onaga said at the time.

The Defence Ministry's Okinawa Defence Bureau suspended relocation-related work following the governor's action, but countered the following day by asking land minister Keiichi Ishii to examine the legitimacy of Onaga's revocation and to suspend the decision.

On Tuesday, the land, infrastructure, transport and tourism minister told a press conference that he will suspend the governor's decision because not doing so would make it "impossible to continue the relocation project" and continue to pose "risks" to



People stage a protest outside the US Marine Corps' Camp Schwab in Nago in Japan's southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa, on 27 October 2015. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

residents living around the base.

Ishii added, "The Japan-US alliance may be adversely affected."

While it may take some time for the minister to complete his examination of the legitimacy of the governor's revocation, the defence bureau can proceed with the relocation work in the meantime.

The government agreed at a Cabinet meeting the same day to start taking steps toward calling for Onaga to "correct" his action, one that Chief Cabinet Secretary

Yoshihide Suga said "significantly harms public interests, such as by causing serious damage in terms of diplomacy and defence."

The Cabinet also agreed that there were "no flaws" in the approval for landfill work granted by former Gov Hirokazu Nakaima and that Onaga's move to revoke it was "illegal."

Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said relocation work will resume as soon as a land ministry document on the suspension is delivered to him and necessary preparations are made.

Tuesday's action by the land ministry angered local people opposed to the base relocation, with some criticizing the state for acting "unreasonably" and "insulting Okinawa."

The local government and many residents in Okinawa are opposed to the relocation plan as they are seeking to reduce the burden on their prefecture from hosting the bulk of US forces in Japan. Onaga was elected last November on a pledge to oppose the relocation within Okinawa.—*Kyodo News*

Nepal reschedules election date for new VP vote

KATHMANDU — Nepal has rescheduled the election date for the post of second Vice President of the country from Wednesday to Saturday. Citing special reason, the election slated for 28 October has been postponed for three days.

According to a press statement issued by the Legislature Parliament on Tuesday, candidates can field the nomination for the post of Vice President on Friday.

If consensus is not forged among the political parties, secret voting will be held from 11 am local time on Saturday. The new Vice President will be the second VP of the Federal Democratic Republic Nepal and first one after the promulgation of new constitution.

The reschedule comes on the same day when three candidates including a woman have filed their candidacy for the post of President of the Himalayan nation. The election for the post of President is taking place tomorrow.

Nepal elected KP Sharma Oli as the new Prime Minister on 11 October nearly a month after the country adopted a new constitution on 20 September. The first Vice President of Nepal Parmanand Jha was elected in the post on July, 2008.—*Xinhua*

China says West trying to 'falsify' Communist Party history

BEIJING — Enemy forces in the West are trying to "falsify" the history of China's ruling Communist Party and its military and force a "colour revolution" on troops who are too susceptible to outside influences, the military's official newspaper said on Tuesday.

President Xi Jinping has repeatedly reminded the military to be loyal to the party, as he also steps up efforts to fight graft in the army and modernise forces that are projecting power across the disputed waters of the East and South China Seas, though it has not fought a war in decades.

In a front page commentary, the official People's Liberation Army Daily said that unnamed enemies in the West were trying to undermine the military.

"Hostile Western forces are sparing no effort to belittle our fine traditions, denigrating our heroes and falsifying our party's and military's history," it said, without giving details.

They are "trying in vain to

push a 'colour revolution' to get us to change our stripes", the newspaper added, referring to popular uprisings that occurred in former Soviet states like Ukraine that swept away often long-established rulers.

The party does not look kindly upon any challenges to its official narrative of history over issues like World War Two, which lauds the role of the party in fighting the Japanese, a view often challenged by Western academics and others who say it was Nationalist forces who did most of the fighting.

The paper said that as China continued to modernise, its soldiers, who were mostly born in the 1980s and 1990s, were more and more susceptible to "multiple, diverse values and points of view", a huge challenge to their ability to distinguish right from wrong. "Their understanding and appreciation of our fine traditions is not deep, and their knowledge is insufficient," it added, again without elaborating.—*Reuters*

International Criminal Court says India should hand over Sudan's Bashir

MUMBAI — The International Criminal Court said India should arrest and hand over Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, who is wanted on genocide charges and expected to visit New Delhi for a summit this week.

Bashir is accused of masterminding genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in his campaign to crush a revolt in Sudan's western Darfur region. The Hague-based tribunal issued warrants for his arrest in 2009 and 2010.

Along with at least 40 other African leaders, the 71-year-old president is expected to arrive in New Delhi on Wednesday to attend an India-Africa Summit aimed at boosting trade and investment between the two regions.

Although India is not an ICC signatory, New Delhi should act as a UN Security Council resolution had lifted Bashir's immunity under international law and urged

all states to fully cooperate with the ICC, said the office of ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda.

"As states ponder over such matters, it is fundamentally important not to forget the victims who deserve justice for the unimaginable atrocities they have suffered," Bensouda's office told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by email late on Monday.

"By arresting and surrendering ICC suspects, India can contribute to the important goal of ending impunity for the world's worst crimes."

Indian officials were not immediately available for comment, but Foreign Ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup, when asked the country's position, told local media, "India is fully compliant with its international legal obligations."

This is not the first time the ICC has asked a foreign government to arrest and hand over Bashir.

South Africa, which is a sig-

natory to the ICC and obliged to implement warrants from the court, was criticised in June for allowing Bashir to leave an African Union summit, defying a ruling by its own court ordering his detention.

Sudan has previously accused the ICC of being a political tool to target African leaders. Others indicted by the ICC include Laurent Gbagbo, former president of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, and Muammar Gaddafi, the late leader of Libya.

But Amnesty International India said the two warrants against Bashir charged him with criminal responsibility on 10 counts, including murder, torture and rape, and appealed to India to detain the Sudanese president.

"As a country which aspires to a more prominent global position, India must not turn a blind eye to these charges. The Indian government must show true leadership by helping bring Omar al-Bashir to trial."—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

China urges US to act cautiously in South China Sea

BEIJING — China is still trying to verify whether a US warship went within 12 nautical miles of Chinese-controlled islands in the South China Sea but, if true, the United States must think carefully, China's Foreign Min-

ister said on Tuesday.

"If true, we advise the US to think again and before acting, not act blindly or make trouble out of nothing," the foreign ministry quoted Foreign Minister Wang Yi as saying.—*Reuters*

Kosovo opposition bent on bringing down government

PRISTINA — Kosovo's opposition continues to demand that Prime Minister Isa Mustafa withdraws his signature from the Brussels agreement, which obligates Pristina to enable the establishment of a community of Serb municipalities.

If this does not happen, mass protests will be held to bring down the government, says a member of the radical opposition Self-Determination movement Aljbuljena Hadziu, according to the Pristina portal

Republika.ifo. Mustafa claims that the opposition will not be able to block the activities of the parliament, but admits that it can create difficulties.

In an attempt to prevent the adoption of agreements on setting up a community of Serb municipalities and the border demarcation with Montenegro, Kosovo's opposition set off tear gas in the parliament four times, most recently on Friday evening, and staged street protests.—*Tanjung*

Pakistan says militants firing from Afghanistan killed seven soldiers

WANA — Islamist militants firing from Afghanistan into Pakistan killed seven Pakistani paramilitary soldiers on Tuesday, officials said, in an attack likely to put more strain on tense relations between the neighbours.

Afghanistan and Pakistan routinely trade accusations of doing too little to prevent Taliban fighters and other militants operating in the other's

territory.

The Pakistani army said seven members of the paramilitary Frontier Constabulary (FC) were killed near a border town in the mountainous South Waziristan region.

"Heavy fire from across Pak Afghan border early morning today on a FC check post northeast of Angoor Adda in South Waziristan," the military said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Biden offers to work with Guatemala's Morales to fight corruption: White House

WASHINGTON — The White House said US Vice President Joe Biden called Guatemalan President-elect Jimmy Morales on Monday, a former TV comedian who was swept to power in a Sunday election centered on the issue of government corruption.

Biden "offered to work

personally with the Morales Administration and the other leaders of the region to combat corruption, promote shared prosperity, address insecurity, and advance regional energy integration efforts," the White House said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Turkish police detain 30 in raid against Islamic State: Dogan

ISTANB — Turkish police detained about 30 people on Tuesday in a raid against suspected Islamic State militants in the central city of Konya, Dogan News Agency reported.

The sweep comes a day after police launched a series of operations against Islamic State groups, including a raid on more than a dozen houses in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir.

Seven militants were killed and 12 more were captured in that operation.

Turkish authorities have extended operations into suspected Islamic State cells after a double suicide bombing in Ankara that killed more than 100 people, the worst attack of its kind in Turkey's modern history, was blamed on the militant group.

Last week, President Tayyip Erdogan said Syrian intelligence and Kurdish militants, not only Islamic State, were behind the attack on a rally of pro-Kurdish activists and civic groups.—*Reuters*

Fly, don't walk, EU urges Balkan migrants



A group of migrants wait to enter a makeshift camp at the Austrian Slovenian border near the village of Sentilj, Slovenia on 26 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — The European Union plans to persuade refugees to wait in Greece for paid flights to other countries offering asylum rather than risk dangerous winter treks through the Balkans, EU officials said on Monday.

Pledging to act fast on agreements by Balkan leaders on Sunday to slow and control the flow of Syrians and others making their way to Germany from Turkey, officials acknowledged people would keep coming and said persuading them to accept orderly relocation arrangements would be vital.

"The idea is also to convince the Syrian father that it is better to stay in Greece with his family until they can be relocated," one EU official said, noting the difficulties tens of thousands of people face out in the open in the Balkans.

Free flights to safe countries would be a much better option, the official said, than uncertain treks to the north.

The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), which worked with the EU and non-EU states in the region to formulate Sunday's plan stressed the need for immediate action to save lives, though questions remain over how fast resources will be available and how squabbling neighbouring governments will start to cooperate.

"Measures agreed yesterday have to be applied immediately and completely," said UNHCR spokeswoman Carlotta Sami. "We have already had several cases of hypothermia among peo-

"Measures agreed to yesterday have to be applied immediately and completely."

Carlotta Sami
UNHCR spokeswoman

ple waiting in the cold... There is a risk of tragedies due to the weather."

The agreement foresees places for 100,000 people waiting for asylum claims to be assessed, 50,000 in Greece and 50,000 in Balkan states further north. The EU has promised funds to Greece and the other countries to provide emergency help.

At the meeting, involving 11 countries and held at the initiative of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was pressed to do more to document those arriving. The final joint statement said policies of "waving through refugees" toward neighbouring countries must end.

Tsipras himself stressed that the root of the problem lay in Turkey, from where most Syrians and Iraqis, as well as migrants from South Asia, head by sea to nearby Greek islands. The EU is negotiating separately with Turkey to control those flows.

Several diplomats and EU officials said there were signs that Tsipras, who has had rocky

relations this year with Berlin and Brussels during negotiations on a euro zone bailout, was stepping up cooperation on the migrant crisis after months in which officials have complained about a perceived lack of will in Athens.

A priority now for Greece will be the provision of some 20,000 new places to house people temporarily by the end of the year, in addition to the existing 10,000, EU officials said. A further 20,000 places should be provided later. The Greek government has resisted setting up camps. EU officials said places could be provided in other ways, such as hotels or private apartments.

Those identified as economic migrants to be returned to their home countries could be kept in secure units, however.

A major part of EU efforts to ensure Greece and Italy do not simply help undocumented migrants travel through to reach richer parts of northern Europe has been a new scheme to relocate those likely to be granted refugee status in other EU states.

That has set governments against each other and has got off to a slow start. So far fewer than 100 people have been flown from Italy to northern countries and none as yet from Greece.

EU officials said the scheme, intended to take up to 160,000 people over the next two years, would accelerate once migrants could be reassured that it would work. Many had been reluctant to agree to it, officials said, fearing they might be deported.—*Reuters*

Taliban urge rescuers 'not to hold back' in Afghan quake relief effort

KABUL — The Taliban urged aid agencies on Tuesday to push ahead in delivering emergency supplies to victims of the massive earthquake that hit remote mountainous regions of northern Afghanistan and Pakistan, killing at least 300 people.

With harsh winter weather setting in across the rugged Hindu Kush mountains where the earthquake struck, the plight of thousands of people left homeless by the earthquake was becoming increasingly serious.

"The Islamic Emirate calls on our good willed countrymen and charitable organisations to not hold back in providing shelter, food and medical supplies to the victims of this earthquake," the Taliban said in a message of condolence to quake victims, using their formal name.

"And it similarly orders its mujahideen in the affected areas to lend their complete help."

However the relief ef-

fort is being complicated by unstable security caused by the Taliban insurgency, which has made large parts of the affected areas unsafe for international organisations and government troops.

"We have insufficient food and other aid," said Abdul Habib Sayed Khil, chief of police in Kunar, one of the worst-hit provinces, where 42 people were confirmed dead.

"It has been raining for four days and the weather is very cold. If we don't provide aid very soon it may turn to another disaster."

Roads and communications were cut off to many areas at the epicentre of the earthquake and authorities and international relief organisations were still trying to assess the extent of the damage.

In Pakistan, where landslides and heavy rain and snow over the weekend had already left thousands of tourists stranded in mountainous areas of the north,

the country's well-equipped military was heavily involved in the relief effort.

Several helicopters had been dispatched to affected areas to assess damage and run rescue operations, the National Disaster Management Authority said.

"Rescue work is ongoing and tents, blankets and sleeping mats are being provided," Latif ur Rehman, a Pakistani disaster management official, told Reuters from the northwestern city of Peshawar.

Authorities confirmed 228 deaths in Pakistan while in Afghanistan, the death toll had climbed to around 80. At least 4,000 houses and compounds had been destroyed or damaged, Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said.

However, the death toll could climb in coming days as communications to cut-off areas are restored.

The earthquake struck almost exactly six months after Nepal suffered its worst quake on record on 25 April.



Army soldiers load sacks of food aid on a helicopter, to distribute in earthquake stricken areas in Peshawar, Pakistan on 27 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Including the toll from a major aftershock in May, 9,000 people lost their lives there and 900,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.

The initial magnitude 7.5 quake on Monday afternoon was followed by seven aftershocks, measuring as high as magnitude 4.8, according to the US Geological Survey. The latest aftershock came just before dawn on Tuesday.

The quake was 213 km (132 miles) deep and centred 254 km (158 miles) northeast of Kabul.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) said roads between the Afghan cities of Taloqan and Kunduz in the north and between Jalalabad in the east and the capital Kabul had been cut by landslides.

The United States and Iran were among countries that offered to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, which already depends heavily on foreign aid after decades of war that have wrecked its econ-

omy and infrastructure.

In Washington, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the US Agency for International Development was ready to provide emergency shelter and relief supply kits.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, in London en route from an official visit to the United States, said he would oversee rescue efforts.

"We will try our best to deal with this disaster using our own resources," he said.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOUNT BOKOR VOY NO (002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOUNT BOKOR VOY NO (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims 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 YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV LINDAUNIS VOY NO (0015S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LINDAUNIS VOY NO (0015S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.10.2015 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 Claims 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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

Police arrest 15-year-old in Northern Ireland over TalkTalk hack

LONDON — Police arrested a 15-year-old boy in Northern Ireland on Monday over a cyber attack that may have led to the theft of data from among the 4 million customers of British broadband provider TalkTalk.

The attack, which took place on Wednesday, prompted the company to deny accusations of laxity and say its security was "head and shoulders" above that of its competitors. But it has led to calls for greater regulation of how companies and public bodies manage personal

data. A ransom demand was received by TalkTalk on Friday. Since then, the firm has said the attack was not as serious as first feared and it did not believe those behind it would be able to steal money from its customers.

"A 15-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of Computer Misuse Act offences," London's Metropolitan Police, whose cyber-crime unit has been investigating the attack, said.

"He has been taken into custody at a County Antrim police station where he will later be interviewed," it

said in a statement, adding police officers were searching an address in Northern Ireland in connection with the arrest. A spokeswoman for TalkTalk said the company had been informed of the arrest.

"We are grateful for the swift response and hard work of the police. We will continue to assist in the ongoing investigation," she said in a statement.

TalkTalk said on Sunday it had hired defence company BAE Systems to investigate the cyber attack.

Shares in the company fell a further 12 percent

Monday, wiping around 360 million pounds off the company's market value since the news broke after the market closed on Thursday.

As well as anger from its customers, TalkTalk is likely to face tough questioning from British lawmakers about the adequacy of its defences against cyber attack.

Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Committee has said it will conduct an inquiry on data protection, which will likely see TalkTalk executives summoned to appear.—Reuters

Free Syrian Army groups say they did not visit Moscow

BEIRUT — Delegations from Free Syrian Army rebel groups did not visit Moscow, representatives of four factions fighting under the FSA banner told Reuters on Tuesday, denying Russian news agency reports that such visits had taken place.

Russian Foreign Ministry official Mikhail Bogdanov was quoted by Interfax news agency on Tuesday as saying delegations from the Free Syrian Army had visited Moscow

several times, including this week, amid heightened diplomacy on Syria.

The Free Syrian Army is a loose alliance of rebel groups, some of them recipients of military support from President Bashar al-Assad's foreign enemies. It does not operate with a centralised command structure.

"This talk is not correct," said Ahmed al-Seoud, head of the FSA-affiliated 13th Division group, which operates in areas of west-

ern Syria being attacked by Russian warplanes.

The spokesman for Al-wiyat Seif al-Sham, an FSA group operating in southern Syria, said: "Nothing of this sort happened on our part as FSA."

It is impossible for us to accept going to Moscow, and to have dialogue with it. We don't want their help."

"We contacted our friends in other areas and nobody went," added the spokesman, Abu Ghiath al-Shami.

The main Western-backed political opposition, the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, also denied such visits in a statement posted on its website.

"The Syrian Coalition considers these claims a part of the Russian misleading propaganda that aims at diverting attention from failures of the Russian aggression on the Syrian people," the Turkey-based organisation said.—Reuters

OPINION

Society and the law

Myint Win Thein

EVERY society in the world is founded on the idea of the law. These laws help to regulate society and bring about harmonisation and prosperity. As long as the laws of society are fair and just and benefit the population it is not often necessary to amend the law over time. Therefore it is most important that the law of the land is based on common decency and a shared sense of justice.

When a law is no longer considered to be based on the idea of justice or reason people try to amend it. For example, a fine imposed by a particular law for an offence might have been fair 50 years ago but the amount of money for the fine is no longer reflects the harshness of the infraction. It has become too little. Thus, offenders happily pay small fines rather than abide by the law or learn from the experience. Justice cannot be done under those circumstances and the law has become obsolete.

At such a time people must amend the law to prevent such offences taking place. However, when there are too many laws that are not based on the idea of justice people are forced to demolish the entire institution of law instead of amending laws individually. This is called systemic rot,

inertia. It is an unhealthy and, in the worst cases, dangerous state of affairs. When the entire system of law is demolished and needs to be rebuilt, society suffers. Therefore, it is vital that all laws in a society are not only just and fair but fluid and forward looking.

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The Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma (The Full Moon Day of Thadingyut, Mahapavarana Day)

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

THE Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma (the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut, Mahapavarana Day) falls on 28th October in the year 2015.

In the fourth week, after attaining the enlightenment, the Omniscient Buddha began to contemplate and review the Dhamma (the truth). He had realized near the Bodhi tree. On His seventh Vassa (Seven Years) of enlightenment, the Omniscient Buddha, out of compassion for the Devas and Brahmas, went to the Tavatimsa Devaloka (Celestial abode) where he preached the Abhidhamma Pitaka (Basket of Ultimate things) for a full three months to His deceased mother who was reborn as Santusita Deva, and also to the other Devas and Brahmas assembled there, hoping to make them realize the four ultimate things for which a Knowledge of Abhidhamma is absolutely necessary because it deals with the highest and ultimate sense of things springing into being as facts as distinct from mere names.

After preaching Abhidhamma (Ultimate Truth) to His deceased mother, Santusita Deva and other Devas and Brahmas for a full three months, the Omniscient Buddha returned to the human abode on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut. According to the Pali Text, three decorated stairways of silver, gold and ruby beginning from the top of the great Mount Meru to the gate of Sankassa town on earth were created as a token of paying deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha who returned to the human abode. The Omniscient Buddha took the middle stairway accompanied by Devas and

Brahmas who took right stairway and left stairway. All Devas and Brahmas from the Tavatimsa Devaloka (Celestial abode) paid deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha for a full three months from 1st Waning of Waso to Full Moon of Thadingyut. According to the Vinaya rules of the Omniscient Buddha, the period of a full three months from 1st Waning of Waso to Full Moon of Thadingyut (roundabout from mid-July to mid-October) is retreated-period of Buddhists.

“When the Omniscient Buddha has preached Abhidhamma for a full three months to His deceased mother who was reborn as Santusita Deva and to other Devas and Brahmas at the celestial abode, He said to the king of the celestials that He would return to the Human abode. Therefore, the king of the celestials created and arranged three stairways of silver, gold and ruby beginning from the top of the great Mount Meru to the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode.”

During retreat-period, all Buddhist monks must not have to go away from their residence (monasteries, temples) not more than seven days. Especially, they have to fulfill their religious duties (Ganthadhura and Vipassanadhura) during the retreat-period more than before. All Buddhist monks have followed and practised the said Vinaya rules since over 2559 years ago.

When the Omniscient Buddha descended from Tavatimsa (Celestial abode), the Devas and Brahmas accompanied Him put-

ting up while sacred umbrellas and fanning Him. At that time, because of unlimited miraculous powers, supernormal powers and glory of the Buddha, the whole earthings could see the magnificent celestial abode, and also the Devas and Brahmas could see hundreds of thousands of millions of people greeting and paying deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha who descended at the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut (Ma-

happavarana Day) are held. On this noble day, most Buddhists keep nine-precepts for their meritorious deeds dedicating to the attainment of noble stage of Nibbana (supreme bliss).

The Pali term Abhidhamma is composed of Abhi which means subtle or ultimate, and Dhamma which means truth or doctrine. The Abhidhamma, therefore, means subtle or ultimate truth or doctrine. The Abhidhamma Pitaka consists of the four ultimate things, Mind (Citta), Psychic factor (Cetasikas), Matter (Rupa) and Nibbana. It is the most important and most interesting to a deep thinker. It is subdivided into seven books.

When the Omniscient Buddha has preached Abhidhamma for a full three months to His deceased mother who was reborn as Santusita Deva and to other Devas and Brahmas at the celestial abode, He said to the king of the celestials that He would return to the Human abode. Therefore, the king of the celestials created and arranged three stairways of silver, gold and ruby beginning from the top of the great Mount Meru to the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode.

Sending forth the six coloured rays emanated from His body, the Omniscient Buddha descended by the middle stairway of ruby to the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode (on earth). The Devas (Celestial beings) accompanied the Buddha from the right side stairway of gold playing musical instruments and fanning the Omniscient Buddha. The Brahmas (higher celestial beings) accompanied the Omniscient Buddha from the left side stair-

way of silver putting up white umbrellas.

At the time, when the Omniscient Buddha returned from the celestial abode to the human abode, the highest Brahma realm, Ekamanta, the lowest Avija (Apaya planes of miserable existences), the four cardinal points, the ten directions and thousands of worlds were clearly visible without any blockage and barrier because of unlimited miraculous power, supernormal powers and glory of the Omniscient Buddha.

People could see the whole celestial abode, Devas and Brahmas, and all celestial beings in turn viewed more than hundreds of thousands of millions of people who were welcoming and paying deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha. There was no one that did not wish and pray to become a Buddha, the most noble wish after witnessing the most surpassing splendour.

Up to this day, we can visualise the most surpassing splendor and significant event of the Omniscient Buddha descending to the earth from the great Mount Meru accompanied by Devas and Brahmas to the gate of Sankassa, Town of the human abode.

On the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut, we all Buddhists generously offer lights, water, flowers, scents, fruits, food and other various kinds of offertories to pagodas and monasteries and also pay respect to teachers, parents and elders. These meritorious deeds dedicate to the attainment of the noble stage of Nibbana through the most surpassing splendour and significant event of the Omniscient Buddha descending to the human abode from the celestial abode on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut.

Traditional Elephant Dance Festival held in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE town's famous Traditional Elephant Dance Festival was held on 27 October.

Many locals and foreign visitors attended the festival according to a festival organisation committee member.

This year's dance competition festival will include 25 elephant dances. There will also be a mahout dance competition. A total of 60 elephant dancers will tour around Kyaukse three times, paying respects to the ancient Bagan King Anawrahta. "We have explained the disciplines to the participants in the lead up to the competition," member of the panel of judges U Thein said.

The festival, held in Mandalay Region, attracts spectators from across the country.—*Tun Tun Naing- Kyaukse*



Local people enjoy opening ceremony of traditional elephant dance festival in Kyaukse. PHOTO: TUN TUN NAING



Volunteers participate in measuring the plot before harvesting Paletwe paddy on model plot in Myawady Township. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG-IPRD

Field Day of model Paletwe paddy plantation in Myawady Township

THE Harvesting and Field Day of model Paletwe hybrid Paddy Field 1288 in Ingyinmyaing, a village of Myawady Township, Kayin State, was completed on Monday.

The paddy field, owned by farmer U Shan Mae was planted using GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) methods. This specific method of farming was developed to maximize growth and bolster harvest takings.

Local agriculture officials and farmers discussed and reviewed the paddy plantation and the GAP methods applied. The yield of the paddy field was 225.27 baskets per acre. (1 basket=33.33 kg)

Myawady District's Deputy Commission U Lwin Ko Oo, local officials and 74 farmers from nearby villages attended the field day to observe the process.—*Htein Lin Aung-IPRD*

Doyens of traditional dramatic arts pay respects

THE 8th Respect Paying Ceremony to Doyens of traditional dramatic arts was held at Yangon's University of National Culture and Fine Arts yesterday. The event was organised by the Myanmar Dramatic Arts Association, Myanmar Dramatic Arts Foundation and the Yangon Region Dramatic Arts Association.

Myanmar Dramatic Arts Association Chairman U Sein Kyi Moe thanked the Ministry of Culture, the Yangon Region

Government, dramatic artists and donors in his speech. He vowed that the ceremony will be held annually. A total of 167 doyen traditional dramatic artists including U Sein Yoe, U Sein Shwe Kyaw, Dancer Daw Shwe Leikpya (Golden Butterfly) and Daw Mya Khyemon (Emerald Mirror) were paid traditional respects and each presented with K 50,000, gifts and medicines. The celebrated doyens are 75 years old or above.—*Soe Win-MLA*

Chanayethazan's 32nd Street upgraded to asphalt

MANDALAY City Development Committee members U Aung Htay, U Zaw Moe and U Ye Mon inspected the upgrading of 32nd Street in the city township of Chanayethazan on Monday.

The 1,100-foot-long gravel road between 60th and 61st streets is being upgraded by engineers of Road and Bridge Department with an asphalt surface.

The drains on the roadsides are also being cleared.—*Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay*



Officials of MCDC inspect progress in construction of road in Chanayethazan Township. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Honda to commercialize automated driving vehicles by 2020

TOKYO — Honda Motor Co. said Tuesday it will launch self-driving vehicles by 2020, commercializing autonomous functions such as entering and exiting an expressway.

Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. have already announced their plans to commercialize automated driving vehicles by around 2020.

Honda said it will first sell vehicles capable of auto-

mously keeping a lane and maintaining an appropriate distance with a preceding vehicle on local roads.

The autonomous vehicles to be launched by 2020 will offer an automated expressway trip, automatically operating steering wheels, accelerator and breaks. The vehicles will change lanes as needed.

Honda plans to demonstrate automated driving on an ex-

pressway in central Tokyo in the near future.

Toyota said earlier in the month it will commercialize vehicles capable of an autonomous expressway trip around 2020. Nissan said earlier in the year it will provide self-driving on congested expressways and fully automated parking by the end of 2016 and introduce autonomous traveling through intersections by 2020.—*Kyodo News*

Apple Pay growth slows a year after launch

LAS VEGAS — Apple Inc's mobile wallet Apple Pay is winning over more US households a year after its launch, but growth has slowed, research released on Monday showed.

Fourteen percent of US households with credit cards had signed up for the payment option by the end of September, up from 11 percent in February, Phoenix Marketing International said at a payments conference in Las Vegas.

"A very rapid initial threshold was achieved by Apple Pay

and it is still growing but the growth rate has slowed down," said Greg Weed, director of card performance research at Phoenix.

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment, but noted that a company statement in early October cited "double digit monthly growth in Apple Pay transactions" since its launch.

About 48 percent of Gen Xers, in their mid-30s to mid-50s, use Apple Pay, compared with 42 percent of millennials, aged 21 to 34, Phoenix said.

Among Apple Pay users, 86 percent have linked their credit cards to make a purchase, 49 percent consumers use their debit cards and 22 percent use different types of prepaid cards, the report showed.

Phoenix said it has been researching Apple Pay since its launch in October 2014, with a group of 15,000 consumers.

In June, two-thirds of the top 100 US retailers told Reuters they did not plan to accept Apple Pay this year.—*Reuters*

Gold treads water near \$1,160, Fed meeting in focus

SINGAPORE — Gold steadied just above \$1,160 an ounce on Tuesday as investors kept to the sidelines ahead of a Federal Reserve policy meeting that kicks off later in the session, waiting for clues on the timing of a US rate hike.

Spot gold was steady at \$1,163.71 an ounce by 0326 GMT. The metal had fallen to its lowest in nearly two weeks at \$1,158.77 on Friday, but has since firmed as the dollar gave up some recent gains. The dollar was lower on Tuesday, after data showed new home sales dropped steeply in September and on caution ahead of the Fed's two-day policy meeting.

The US central bank is widely expected to leave rates unchanged but investors are increasingly sceptical that it will raise rates before the end of the year. The Fed holds one more policy meet this year in December. Gold prices stabilised after last week's losses from weak housing data and a softer dollar, said HSBC analyst James Steel.

"Gold is receiving some oxygen from the investor uncertainty generated by the perceived di-

visions at the Fed," said Steel.

Fed policymakers have been worried about weakening global growth and a relatively strong dollar disrupting US economic growth, but they have been sending out mixed messages regarding the timing of a rate hike, the first in nearly a decade. Fed Chair Janet Yellen may need to adopt a stronger tone at this week's policy meeting if she expects to keep a December interest rate rise in play. Yellen's inclusive style has been tested recently by two fellow governors who publicly appeared to disagree with her view.

Global growth worries have prompted the market to push expectations for a rate hike to next year, though a few haven't completely ruled out a December rate hike. Ultra-low rates boost the appeal of bullion, a non-interest-paying asset.

Technically, gold still appears to be testing correction levels with a key pivot seen at \$1,156, ScotiaMocatta analysts said in a note. "While that level holds we expect the bull trend to renew to the upside with \$1,192 and \$1,209 key target levels," they said.—*Reuters*

Wal-Mart seeks to test drones for home delivery, pickup

CHICAGO — Wal-Mart Stores Inc applied Monday to US regulators for permission to test drones for home delivery, curbside pickup and checking warehouse inventories, a sign it plans to go head-to-head with Amazon in using drones to fill and deliver online orders.

The world's largest retailer by revenue has for several months been conducting indoor tests of small unmanned aircraft systems — the term regulators use for drones — and is now seeking for the first time to test the machines outdoors. It plans to use drones manufactured by China's SZ DJI Technology Co Ltd.

In addition to having drones take inventory of trailers outside its warehouses and perform other tasks aimed at making its distribution system more efficient, Wal-Mart is asking the Federal Aviation Administration for permission to research drone use in "deliveries to customers at Walmart facilities, as well as to consumer homes," according to a copy of the application reviewed by Reuters.

The move comes as Amazon.com Inc, Google and other companies test drones in the expectation that the FAA will soon establish rules for their widespread commercial use. FAA Deputy Administrator Michael Whitaker said in June that the agency expected to finalize regulations within the next 12 months, faster than previously planned. Commercial drone



A 'Phantom 2' drone by DJI company flies during the 4th Intergalactic Meeting of Phantom's Pilots (MIPP) in an open secure area in the Bois de Boulogne, Paris on 16 March 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

use is currently illegal, though companies can apply for exemptions.

The FAA will review Wal-Mart's petition to determine whether it is similar enough to earlier successful applications to be fast-tracked, or whether it would set a precedent for exemptions, requiring regulators to conduct a detailed risk analysis and seek public comment, agency spokesman Les Dorr said. The

FAA normally aims to respond to such petitions in 120 days. Amazon has said it would be ready to begin delivering packages to customers via drones as soon as federal rules allow.

Wal-Mart spokesman Dan Toporek said the company would move quickly to deploy drones depending on its tests and regulations.

"Drones have a lot of potential to further connect our vast net-

work of stores, distribution centers, fulfillment centres and transportation fleet," he said. "There is a Walmart within five miles of 70 percent of the US population, which creates some unique and interesting possibilities for serving customers with drones."

Finding ways to more efficiently warehouse, transport and deliver goods to customers has taken on new importance for Wal-

Mart, which this month projected a surprise decline in earnings next year as it copes with costs to increase wages, beat back price competition and boost online sales.

In the FAA application, Wal-Mart said it wanted to test drones for taking stock of trailers and other items in the parking lot of a warehouse using electronic tagging and other methods. A Wal-Mart distribution centre could have hundreds of trailers waiting in its yard, and a drone could potentially be used to quickly account for what each one is holding.

The retailer also wants to test drones for its grocery pickup service, which it has recently expanded to 23 markets with plans to add another 20 markets next year. The test flights would confirm whether a drone could deliver a package to a pick-up point in the parking lot of a store, the application says.

Wal-Mart also said it wants to test home delivery in small residential neighbourhoods after obtaining permission from those living in the flight path. The test would see if a drone could be deployed from a truck "to safely deliver a package at a home and then return safely to the same," the application says.

To date the FAA has approved more than 2,100 exemptions allowing for commercial drone testing and use.—*Reuters*

Pooped out: absence of big mammals foils ecosystem fertilisation

WASHINGTON — You can call it the fertilisation cessation, and scientists say it has had a disruptive effect on ecosystems around the world.

A study unveiled on Monday showed that the extinction or precipitous population declines of large land and sea mammals starting at the end of the last Ice Age and continuing through today has deprived ecosystems of a vital source of fertilisation in their dung, urine and, after death, decomposing bodies.

The scientists said these large mammals including whales, mammoths, mastodons, ground sloths, rhinos, huge armadillos as well as seabirds and migrating fish like salmon played a key role in making Earth fertile by spreading nutrients across oceans, up rivers and deep inland.

“In the past, abundant large free-ranging animals made nutrients more evenly distributed, thus increasing global fertility,” University of Oxford ecologist Christopher Doughty said.

By traveling long distances, these large mammals transported and recycled nutrients like phosphorous and nitrogen to far-flung



A humpback whale breaches off South Africa's Kwa-Zulu Natal South Coast. PHOTO: REUTERS

ecosystems, boosting their productivity. This capacity to spread nutrients away from concentrated sources on both land and sea to other ecosystems has plummeted to 6 percent of its former level,

the study found.

“In a sense, Earth was a land of giants before humans colonized the planet,” University of Vermont conservation biologist Joe Roman said.

About 150 species of large mammals went extinct around 10,000 years ago, many due to a combination of human hunting and climate change, Roman said.

Of 48 species of the very

largest plant-eating land mammals alive during the Ice Age, including 16 species of elephants and their relatives, nine rhinoceros species and eight giant sloth species, only nine remain, none in the Americas, Doughty said.

Before commercial whaling cut global whale populations by up to 90 percent in recent centuries, whales and other marine mammals transported around 750 million pounds (340,000 tonnes) of phosphorus from depths of around 100 yards (metres) where they feed to the sun-lit ocean surface annually, the researchers estimated. This has declined to 23 percent of its former level.

“Great whales such as humpbacks, blue whales and sperm whales often dive deep to feed, coming to the surface to breathe and digest. They also defecate, or poop, at this time, releasing important nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous. These nutrients can enhance the growth of algae, invertebrates even fish,” Roman said.

The research was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. —Reuters

Bacon and other processed meats can cause cancer, experts say

PARIS — Eating processed meats like hot dogs, sausages and bacon can cause colorectal cancer in humans, and red meat is also a likely cause of the disease, World Health Organisation (WHO) experts said.

The review by WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), released on Monday, said additionally that there was some link between the consumption of red meat and pancreatic cancer and prostate cancer.

IARC classified processed meat as “carcinogenic to humans” on its group one list along with tobacco and asbestos, for which there is “sufficient evidence” of cancer links.

Each 50-gram (1.8-ounce) portion of processed meat eaten daily increases the risk of colorectal cancer by 18 percent, the agency estimated.

A 50-gram portion would be the equivalent of eating one hot dog or two slices of bacon. Americans eat about 21.7 grams of processed pork per day, according to a 2011 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Red meat was classified as probably carcinogenic in IARC's group 2A list, joining glyphosate, the active ingredient in many weedkillers.

The IARC examined some 800 studies during a meeting of 22 health experts earlier this month.

“For an individual, the risk of developing colorectal (bowel) cancer because of their consumption of processed meat remains small, but this risk increases with the amount of meat consumed,” Dr Kurt Straif of the IARC said in a statement.

The classification for red meat, defined as all types of mammalian meat including beef, lamb and pork, reflected “limited evidence” that it causes cancer. The IARC found links mainly with colorectal cancer — which is a cancer that starts either in the colon or rectum — but also observed associations with pancreatic and prostate cancer.

Inconclusive evidence of a link between processed meat and stomach cancer was also observed, it said.

The news prompted animal rights activists People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to offer free vegan diet starter kits and outraged agriculture groups.

The Canadian Meat Council, which represents meat packers such as Maple Leaf Foods (MFI.TO) and the Canadian-based units of Cargill Ltd. [CARGIL.UL] and JBS SA (JBSS3.SA), rejected the findings as simplistic, while trade group North American Meat Institute said the IARC report “defies common sense.”

Some scientists and research-



Bacon is fried up in a pan in a kitchen in this photo illustration in Golden, Colorado on 26 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ers said the news may not add much to long-standing health recommendations to limit consumption of such meat.

The IARC does not compare the level of risk associated with different substances in a given category, so does not suggest eating meat is as dangerous as smoking.

“Nobody is telling people not to eat meat,” said David Wallinga, senior health officer for health and environmental advocacy group Natural Resources Defence Council. “What they’re saying is if you eat it, eat less of it and buy it from sources that have produced it better.”

Meat suppliers and processors argue that meat provides essential protein, vitamins and minerals.

Shares of most meat companies were little changed on Monday. Tyson Foods Inc (TSN.N) fell after a rating cut by JP Morgan to “neutral,” which focused on the company's shrinking market share

in packaged meat.

“I’m not expecting that [IARC] report to be a big issue going forward,” said Brian Weddington, a vice president of Moody's Investors Service's corporate finance group. “I think there's still going to be a lot of hot dogs sold tomorrow.”

The medical community has long thought there could be a link between red or processed meat and colorectal cancer, said Tim Key, a professor at Oxford University.

“Eating a bacon bap [sandwich] every once in a while isn't going to do much harm; having a healthy diet is all about moderation,” Key said in a statement from charity Cancer Research UK.

According to estimates cited by the IARC, 34,000 cancer deaths per year worldwide are attributable to diets high in processed meat. About 1 million cancer deaths per year are due to tobacco smoking, it said.—Reuters

Nearly 200 sickened by Shigella outbreak in San Francisco area

SAN FRANCISCO — Nearly 200 people in the San Francisco area have been sickened by an intestinal disease caused by the highly contagious Shigella bacteria since an outbreak began at a Mexican seafood restaurant 10 days ago, health officials said on Monday.

The outbreak, which began on 16 October at the Mariscos San Juan No. 3 restaurant in San Jose, had spread across six counties and infected 182 people as of last Friday, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department said in a statement.

Many of those sickened have required hospitalization and at least a dozen were admitted to intensive care units, health officials said.

Health officials say transmission typically occurs when fecal matter enters the mouth, possibly when an infected food handler prepares meals consumed by unwitting diners. The department said it is investigating all possible sources of the contamination.

Shigella infections can trigger watery or bloody diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever and other symptoms, the department said. The bacteria is “extremely contagious,” it added, urging sickened individuals to avoid going to work.—Reuters

South Africa's left-wing EFF leads latest anti-government protest

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's left-wing Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) led a march on Tuesday calling for a fairer distribution of the country's wealth, the latest sign of anti-government dissent following a wave of student protests last week.

Protests by students across South Africa pressured President Jacob Zuma into scrapping plans to increase university fees next year, in what was seen as a symbolic victory for the post-apartheid "Born Free" generation. The political party, led by Julius Malema, is looking to use the momentum built from the student demonstration to increase the pressure on Zuma's African National Congress (ANC) ahead of local elections next year. "Black people remain a conquered nation 20 years into democracy," Malema told 702 Talk Radio. "We want to bring the best of the best policies which will grow this economy and create jobs for everybody and distribute the wealth of

South Africa to all South Africans," he added.

The EFF march, which attracted hundreds of people, will stop at the Chamber of Mines, South African Reserve Bank, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, as it calls for the country's institutions to ensure the white minority release wealth into the hands of the black majority. Zuma is often quoted saying only around 10 percent of the JSE is owned by black South Africans, while the exchange says blacks own at least 23 percent of the top 100 companies.

Malema, a former ANC youth leader, has stamped his mark on South African politics with mocking criticism of Zuma and regular reminders that the masses have yet to feel the economic benefits since the end of white minority rule in 1994.

The EFF has pledged to nationalise South Africa's mines and land, raising fears of the kind of seizures of white owned farm undertaken by Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A piece of diamond-bearing kimberlite on display in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories in Canada on 26 September 2015. A decline in diamond prices because of lower growth in Chinese jewelry demand is dulling the appeal of Canada's Arctic diamond industry, with the resulting drop in exploration hurting the region's long-term prospects. Exploration spending in Canada's diamond-rich Northwest Territories (NWT), the world's third-biggest producer, is forecast to drop 54 percent this year, according to a Canadian government estimate earlier this year. PHOTO: REUTERS

US Navy destroyer sails into Chinese 'territorial' waters

WASHINGTON — US Navy destroyer Lassen sailed within 12 nautical miles (about 22 kilometres) of islands artificially created by China in the South China Sea, a US defence official said Monday, drawing protests from China, which calls the area its "territorial" waters.

The official said the US ship sailed in the area Tuesday morning local time. While the 12-nautical-mile zone delimits territorial seas under a UN convention, Washington argues that Beijing cannot claim territorial waters around artificial islands and international law allows the US military to send ships within the zone.

Quoting an unnamed US defense official, Reuters news service reported Monday afternoon that this is the first of a series of challenges to China's territorial claims.

The guided-missile destroyer would likely be accompanied by a P-8A surveillance plane, according to the report. The Lassen is deployed at the US Navy's base in Yokosuka, Japan.

The US government criticized China for pushing massive reclamation projects in the disputed Spratly Islands while turning a deaf ear to objections by other claimants, such as the Philippines and Vietnam.

Diplomatic sources also said earlier the month that Washington has in-

formed nations in Southeast Asia it will soon send naval vessels into what China claims as its territory in the South China Sea. The United States has also mentioned the plan to the Japanese government, according to a US government official. In Tokyo on Tuesday, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference that the Japanese government will not comment on "each operation" of the US forces, while adding, "We are closely exchanging information." The Pentagon flew patrol aircraft in areas close to the 12-nautical-mile zone earlier this year but the US military refrained from entering it. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said earlier

this month that it firmly opposes "any country using the freedom of navigation and overflight as an excuse to undermine other countries' sovereignty and security."

During their summit in Washington in September, US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping failed to bridge the gap over the issue of China's unilateral reclamation and construction of various facilities, including airstrips, on the artificial land.

Adm. Harry Harris, commander of the US Pacific Command, expressed concern last month that China is building runways of some 3,000 metres in length in at least three areas in the Spratlys.—Kyodo News

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (119N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (119N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
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MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (117N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (117N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.10.2015 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 Claims 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
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Phone No: 2301185

Navy veteran sues US State Department for denying 'intersex' passport

DENVER — A Navy veteran from Colorado who identifies as neither male nor female has sued the US Department of State after being denied a passport for refusing to select a gender on the application, court documents showed on Monday.

Dana Zzyym claimed in a federal discrimination lawsuit filed in the US District Court in Denver that it was a constitutional violation to force an "intersex" person to pick either a male or female when seeking to travel abroad.

"I am not male, I am

not female, I am intersex, and I shouldn't have to choose a gender marker for my official US identity document that isn't me," Zzyym said in a statement.

The lawsuit names US Secretary of State John Kerry and the director of the Colorado passport agency as defendants.

The State Department did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

Zzyym was born in 1958 with "ambiguous external sex characteristics," and the gender box on the birth certificate was initial-

ly left blank, the lawsuit said.

Zzyym's parents and doctor decided "Dana would be raised as a boy" with the name Brian Orin Whitney and "male" was later added to the birth certificate, it said.

"Similar to many other intersex children, by age five, Dana had been subjected to several irreversible, invasive, painful, and medically unnecessary surgeries designed to make Dana's body conform to binary sex stereotypes," the complaint said.

Whitney enlisted in

the US Navy in 1978 and served as a machinist mate during three tours of duty in Beirut and one throughout the Gulf, it said.

Leaving the Navy in 1984, Whitney later realized that the male gender identification was "arbitrary" and explored living as a woman, which did not feel right either, according to the lawsuit. Whitney ultimately adopted the name Dana Zzyym and was denied a passport last year when attempting to travel to Mexico City for the International Intersex Forum.—Reuters

Five Britons killed when Canadian whale-watching boat sinks



An RCMP boat carrying divers sits beside a capsized whale watching boat in Tofino, British Columbia on 26 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOFINO — Five Britons were killed when a Canadian whale-watching boat sank on Sunday, and authorities were still searching on Monday for a sixth person feared drowned in the frigid waters of the Pacific Ocean

off the coast of British Columbia.

The boat, carrying 24 passengers and three crew, sank on Sunday afternoon, sparking a rescue effort by the Canadian military, Coast Guard, fishermen and mari-

ners from a nearby Aboriginal community. Five people were confirmed dead and one was missing, while 21 were rescued.

The casualties included four men and a woman, and ranged in age from 18 to 76,

the provincial coroner said. All five were passengers on the boat, not crew. The coroner did not release any information on the missing person.

“My thoughts are with the family and friends of all those affected by this terrible accident,” UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said in a statement.

The Leviathan II, a three-deck cruiser that can carry up to 46 people, was operated by Jamie’s Whaling Station and Adventure Centres. Whale watching trips usually last two to three hours.

The boat had lifejackets for 50 adults and 20 children, although passengers and crew were not wearing

them, said Jamie Bray, owner of the tour operator.

That was in line with guidelines from Transport Canada, he said, which advises passengers risked becoming trapped inside a closed vessel if they wore lifejackets.

The Leviathan “did this exact same trip for 20 years, twice a day,” he said, adding its skipper had 20 years of experience.

In 1998, a boat operated by the same company sank near Tofino, killing the ship’s captain and a German tourist. Bray said a rogue wave hit that vessel, a smaller, open Zodiac.

Survivors and bodies were brought ashore in Tofino, a remote town of about

2,000 people on the west coast of Vancouver Island popular with surfers, hikers and tourists from around the world looking to catch a glimpse of humpback and Pacific gray whales.

“There was absolute pandemonium,” said witness Sheila Simpson, who watched paramedics work to save injured victims and later comforted survivors: “They were in absolute shock.”

Most of those rescued were taken to a hospital. Several have since been released.

Canada’s Transportation Safety Board said its investigation into the incident could take several months.—Reuters

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Two French pilots convicted of drug trafficking flee Dominican Republic

PARIS — Two French pilots who had been in the Dominican Republic awaiting a court appeal of their conviction for drug trafficking are now back in France, their lawyer said on Tuesday, after what appeared to be a well-planned escape.

A report on BFMTV carried photos of the two men in a speedboat, and said they went from the boat to a larger vessel,

which then sailed to the nearby French-governed part of the Caribbean island of Saint Martin. The report said the two men arrived back in France on Saturday.

Saint Martin is about 730 km (450 miles) from Santo Domingo, the capital of Dominican Republic.

The two men had been sentenced to 20 years in prison for bringing drugs into the country by private

plane but deny the charges. They had been free to move around under judicial supervision while awaiting their appeal.

The lawyer, Jean Reinhart, said the pair were not fleeing Dominican justice, but seeking French justice. He said a Marseille judge was leading an inquiry into the affair.

A statement from the Foreign Ministry said the French government was

not involved in helping the men flee.

According to Le Figaro newspaper the two men, Bruno Odos and Pascal Fauret, were “extracted” from the country by a team of people. Fauret was due to give a news conference later on Tuesday.

Two other Frenchmen who were also convicted in connection with the same case are still in the Dominican Republic.—Reuters

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Melco opens \$3.2 billion casino with bet on Batman to revive fortunes



Bond is back. Film stars mingle with royals at 'Spectre' premiere

LONDON — Film stars mingled with royals at the world premiere of "Spectre" on Monday, marking British secret agent James Bond's glitzy return to the silver screen.

Hundreds of cheering fans greeted Bond actor Daniel Craig upon arrival at London's Royal Albert Hall, where residents from nearby buildings watched the premiere from their windows. Returning for the fourth time as 007, Craig said his own excitement at being allowed to continue in the series stemmed from his involvement beyond acting.

"I've just been allowed to be creatively involved with these films from the very beginning and I've continued to do it with this," he said. "Thankfully we've just got the most amazing team around us and we figure it out." Craig has been quoted as saying he wanted out of the franchise and told an interviewer in July he would rather slit his wrists than play 007 again. Asked how much he knew of his future as Bond, Craig told Reuters: "I know enough". He was joined on the red carpet by co-stars Lea Seydoux and Monica Bellucci, Ralph Fiennes, director Sam Mendes and movie producer Barbara Broccoli who later welcomed Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate and Prince Harry to the premiere. "It's incredible how James Bond represents so much, not just in England but all over the world," Bellucci said. Trailers have shown action-packed scenes typical of Bond movies as 007 uncovers the shady Spectre organisation, and its dark link to villain Franz Oberhauser, played by Oscar winner Christoph Waltz. —Reuters

MACAU — Batman and Wonder Woman are just some of the superheroes casino operator Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd is deploying at its new \$3.2 billion casino in Macau, which opens on Tuesday in the midst of a sharp downturn for the Asian gambling playground.

Mariah Carey will headline a star-studded opening ceremony for the Hollywood-themed Studio City resort, Melco Crown's third in the southern Chinese territory, the only place in the country where casino gambling is legal.

Studio City represents a break from the other 37 casinos operating in Macau. It has no VIP baccarat lounges and will focus instead on mass-market casual gamblers, in a sign of the times for the world's largest gam-

bling hub. Macau's gaming revenues have slumped to around 4-year lows as China's economic growth slows and a corruption crackdown deters high-rollers. Studio City brings a new element to the city in terms of non-gaming amenities, but analysts say its opening will not change the industry's gloomy outlook.

"Until the macro situation is resolved, it is unlikely that new property openings no matter from which operator will add significantly to industry revenues," said Michael Ting, analyst at CIMB Securities in Hong Kong. Studio City is the second resort to open in Macau this year after Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd opened its Broadway casino and resort extension in May. Melco received permission to operate 250 gaming

tables, more than the 150 tables predicted by analysts but less than the 400 tables Melco had requested from the government.

Studio City's non-gaming elements were the main reason for the allocation, said Lionel Leong, Macau's secretary for economy and finance. The government granted Galaxy 150 tables earlier this year and an additional 100 last week.

Since opening in May, Galaxy has grown its market share among the six Macau operators, even though it posted a 29 percent revenue drop for the third quarter. Union Gaming analyst Grant Govertsen said Galaxy was benefiting from strong growth in its mass segment, even though it remained vulnerable to another slump in VIP revenue due to its reliance on big-spenders.—Reuters

Comedian Ricky Gervais to host Golden Globes for fourth time



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Irreverent British comedian Rick Gervais will host the Golden Globes ceremony in 2016 for a fourth time, organisers said on Monday, bringing his biting humor to the glitzy annual movie and television awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

Gervais, the creator of mockumentary "The Office," hosted the dinner for three consecutive years from 2010-2012, keeping his celebrity targets on edge with a stream of barbed comments.

Organisers the Hollywood Foreign Press Association said they were thrilled to have him back for the 10 January ceremony. "His off-the-cuff wit and quirky charm will surely have the room and audiences around the world at the edge of their seats," Lorenzo Soria, president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, said in a statement.

Gervais, 54, sent a cryptic Twitter message saying only "Pssst!" and launched the hashtag #Hesback.

The Golden Globes is one of Hol-

lywood's biggest and rowdiest awards ceremonies, and is broadcast live on NBC around the world.

"Disarming and surprising, Ricky is ready to honor — and send up — the best work of the year in film and television. Fasten your seats belts," NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt said in a statement.

Last year's Golden Globes hosts were American comedians Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, who were at the helm for a third time. Gervais starred in and created the British version of "The Office" in 2001 before selling the format to US television. He also created the comedy series "Extras" and "Life's Too Short" as well as appearing in movies including "Night at the Museum," "The Invention of Lying" and "Muppets Most Wanted." Last week the organisers of the Oscars announced that edgy comedian Chris Rock would host its 2016 ceremony in Hollywood in February.—Reuters

Pentatonix edges Demi Lovato for Billboard 200 chart top spot

NEW YORK — Texas a cappella group Pentatonix beat former Disney Channel star Demi Lovato to the top spot on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday with its self-titled album.

It was the first No. 1 album for the five-person group, who won the NBC television show, "The Sing-Off," in 2011. "Pentatonix" sold 98,447 units, compared with 98,176 for Lovato's new release "Confident."

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs

equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Last week's chart-topper, Selena Gomez, slipped to the 7th position with "Unbreakable," while Canadian rapper The Weeknd held on to the No. 3 position with "Beauty Behind the Madness." Other new entries in the Top 10 included rapper Machine Gun Kelly with "General Admission," which made its debut at No. 4, and rock act Coheed and Cambria with "Colour Before the Sun" in 10th place.—Reuters



Pop group Pentatonix PHOTO: REUTERS

Hungary approves new Budapest museum quarter



Tourists cool off in water vapor in front of the Hungarian Parliament during a hot summer day in Budapest, Hungary on 22 July 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BUDAPEST — Hungary has finalised plans to create a new museum quarter at Budapest's City Park by 2019 that should boost the capital's appeal to international tourists, the project's commissioner said on Monday.

Laszlo Baan told a parliamentary hearing the 200 billion forints (\$710.28 million) project would draw an extra 300,000 tourists to Budapest annually, helping it

compete with other popular European destinations such as Prague and Barcelona.

The entire City Park area, which already includes the Budapest Zoo, Szechenyi thermal baths, extensive green spaces and four museums around its Heroes' Square entrance, will be renovated, the MTI news agency quoted him as saying.

The project will include a new National Gallery, a House of Hungarian Music

and a state-of-the-art restoration and storage building. A museum of photography and another dedicated to architecture will be built elsewhere in Budapest, Baan said.

International architectural firms involved in the project include Norway's Snohetta, which designed part of the 11 September Memorial Museum in New York, and SANAA, the Japanese architects of the Lou-

vre-Lens Museum, according to the project's web site.

The new development will partly replace a wide concrete promenade that was used during the Communist era as a parade ground and has mostly languished as a car park since then.

Critics — political opponents, architects, environmental lobbyists and local citizen groups — have called the project politically

motivated, unnecessary and expensive, and said it would eat into green areas in the capital.

Baan dismissed those claims, saying the museums will only use areas already covered by concrete. The City Park might also be linked to the city center by a green corridor, he said.

With 2 million residents in its center and suburbs, Budapest is one of the largest cities in central and

Eastern Europe. Two other large cities in the region, Vienna and Berlin, have also consolidated and expanded their art offerings in dedicated museum quarters.

Budapest, which also stages an annual Formula 1 Grand Prix race and one of Europe's leading pop music festivals, Sziget, has an ambitious development outlook including its candidacy to host the 2024 Summer Olympics.—Reuters

3,500 year-old jewelry haul shows opulence of prehistoric Greek burials

ATHENS — Archaeologists in southern Greece have discovered gold signet rings and a chain, gold and silver goblets,

a sword and over 1,000 fragments of semi-precious stones in a tomb believed to date back to 1,500 BC, the Greek Cul-

ture Ministry said.

"It is the most impressive display of prehistoric funerary wealth in mainland Greece which has

come to light in the past 65 years," it said on Monday.

The discovery was made by American archaeologists working in the Pylos region in the southwest Peloponnese this summer.

The jewelry and weapons are thought to have been used to surround the shroud, placed in a wooden casket, of a warrior aged 30 to 35, likely a prominent figure of his time in the early Mycenaean period, the ministry said.

"The placement of so many jewels at a man's grave also challenges the widely held conviction that jewels were mainly used in women's burials," the ministry quoted archaeologists Jack L Davis and Sharon R. Stocker from the University of Cincinnati as saying.—Reuters



A golden chain found inside an ancient tomb dated circa 1500 B.C in the southeastern city of Pylos, Greece on 26 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory Of Bago City
07:51 Am Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Thadingyut .. Beautiful Night With Colourful Lights
08:44 Am Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
08:49 Am Pre-PLF 2015
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Khin Zaw Latt
09:39 Am A Trip To The City Of Rakhitta, Rakhine
10:03 Am News
10:25 Am Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre- Hmawbi
10:38 Am Karaweik Palace- A Symbol Of Glorious Myanmar Culture

10:53 Am Myanmar Harpist
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm Travel To The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw)
07:44 Pm Cosplayer
07:49 Pm Amazing May Phoo Han
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1) The Culture Of Pennant Pillar
08:40 Pm Art Students: Their Dream
08:46 Pm Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
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Smalling one of the best in the world, says United's Rooney



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney and Manchester City's Fernandinho in action. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Manchester United defender Chris Smalling is among the “top three centre-halves in the world”, according to club captain Wayne Rooney.

Smalling, who has risen from a bit-part player to a first team regular under manager Louis van Gaal over the past 18 months, is enjoying his finest ever run of form for his club and has featured in all of United's games this season.

“He has been incredible and for me he is right up there in world football in terms of centre-halves,” Rooney told the club's website (www.manutd.com).

“He is in the top three centre-halves in the world — I think he is that good.

“He is a great player and he is developing to become more

of a leader of the back four. It is great to see for both United and England, and hopefully that can continue for him and he can help us to be successful.”

The England captain's praise of Smalling comes in the wake of Van Gaal saying the defender could one day captain United, and the 25-year-old has said the manager's influence has been key to his improved performances. “When you hear such good praise, especially from Wazza (Rooney) and the manager, you just want to show them that it's not just words that are meaningless,” Smalling said, quoted by the Telegraph.

“I think he (Van Gaal) is a very experienced manager. He says a lot of things that I try to take on board and I think he wants you to express yourself.

“When he shows that trust,

I just want to repay it and do as well as I can. But yes, he has given me massive credit,” he added.

Meanwhile, the club have announced that they will hold a testimonial for Rooney to mark his 12 years at Old Trafford and the striker has pledged to donate all the proceeds from the game to charity.

The match will be held at Old Trafford on Aug. 3, with the opponents yet to be decided and the funds generated will be distributed to several children's charities through the specifically created Wayne Rooney Foundation.

“The match night will obviously be special for me and my family but I hope that we can also deliver one or two surprises,” Rooney said. —Reuters

Nadal narrowly avoids another Rosol beating

BASEL — Third seed Rafa Nadal came within two points of defeat by old nemesis Lukas Rosol before sparking into life and reaching the second round of the Swiss Indoors tournament in Basel on Monday.

Spaniard Nadal was in all sorts of trouble, trailing by a set and 5-4 and with 69th-ranked Rosol serving at 30-0, but his Czech opponent framed a basic backhand volley at 30-15 and blew his chance, Nadal going on to win 1-6, 7-5, 7-6(4).

A Rosol double fault allowed former world number one Nadal to take the second set and the decider looked like being a no-contest as Rosol's challenge began to unravel. Na-

dal moved a break ahead but, at 4-2, Rosol played some stunning groundstrokes to earn three break points and though Nadal saved two of them he then blazed a forehand long.

There has been no love lost between the players since Rosol stunned Nadal in the Wimbledon second round in 2012, with Nadal gaining revenge at the 2014 Wimbledon tournament. Angry looks were exchanged as the decider moved into a tiebreak in which the Spaniard trailed 3-0 before Rosol's forehand deserted him and Nadal won seven of the next eight points to get the job done. “It was a very tough match emotionally,” Nadal, who lost

the opening set in 23 minutes, said.

“At the same time, it's a great victory. It's important for me to have these kinds of comebacks. I've been in these situations more times than I would like this year, so I'm happy to win a match like this.”

Fourteen-times grand slam champion Nadal, who has already booked his place at the ATP World Tour Finals despite a relatively lean year, will play Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov or Ukraine's Sergiy Stakhovsky in round two. Top seed and local favourite Roger Federer begins his quest for a seventh Basel title on Tuesday against Mikhail Kukushkin.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Head German coach picks 23 players

GERMAN football coach Gerd Zeise, former head coach of the Myanmar U-19 team and current head coach to the Myanmar national team released the names of his 23 chosen players for the team on Monday.

Four players from the U-23 team - Hein Thiha Zaw, Phyo Ko Ko Thein, Ye Win Aung and Nay Lin Tun were selected.

The squad comprises goalkeepers Kyaw Zin Phyo of Magway FC, Myo Min Latt of Kanbawza FC, Yan Aung Lin of Hanthawady United; defenders Kyaw Zin Lwin and Nanda Kyaw from Magway FC, David

Htan and Zaw Min Tun from Yangon United, Hein Thiha Zaw and Phyo Ko Ko Thein from Ayeyawady United, Aung Zaw of Hanthawady United, Zaw Lin of Kanbawza FC, Ye Win Aung of Yadanabon FC; the midfielders are Ye Ko Oo and Hlaing Bo Bo from Yadanabon FC, Yan Aung Kyaw and Kyi Lin from Yangon United, Nay Lin Tun, Kyaw Min Oo and Thiha Zaw from Ayeyawady United, Suan Lam Mang of Chin United and the forwards are Kyaw Ko Ko of Yangon United, Aung Thu and Thet Naing from Yadanabon FC. —Myanmar Football Federation

Myanmar to host International Open Chess Tournament in November

Ko Moe

THE Myanmar International Open Chess Tournament 2015 will be held at the Central Hotel in Yangon from 23 to 27 November according to the Myanmar Chess Federation.

Prizes will be given to players who place from first to 10th position. The first prize winner will be awarded US\$3,000, second place will receive US\$1,400 and third US\$1,000.

Officials will present US\$700 to the top Myanmar player, US\$400 to the runner up and US\$200 to the third place winner.

Best youth players in the U-18, U-14 and U-10 events and women's event will win US\$100 each.

Players ranking from first to 20th position in the Myanmar Open Chess Qualifiers will be allowed to take part in the international tournament free of charge. Those who place 21st to 30th will pay a discounted entry fee of K15,000 and those who place 31st to 40th must pay a K30,000 fee.

Players may enlist with the Myanmar Chess Federation at the Aung San Stadium in Yangon. Two passport sized photos are required. Registration is open until 15 November.

A total of 137 chess players from 18 countries including Myanmar participated in the International Open Chess Tournament in 2014. England's Nigel Short and Russia's Belous Vladimir won the championship jointly for that year.

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