REBUILDING AFTER THE FLOODS

Exchange of ideas at high-level disaster recovery forum

Aye Min Soe

A DISASTER recovery forum was held in Yangon on Tuesday, inviting post-disaster needs assessments from those in frontline flood relief efforts.
Vice President U Nyan Tun urged participants at the forum to share ideas for inclusion in the government’s disaster recovery framework.

The vice president stressed the importance of the data gathered by the National Disaster Management Committee and assessments carried out by non-governmental organisations, as well as the mapping of recovery plans.

The strategy of the disaster recovery framework is aimed at collecting accurate data, implementing people-centered development tasks, ensuring food security, aiding the recovery of small and medium enterprises and reducing poverty levels in disaster zones, the vice president said.

NGOs suggested that social media could be utilised to send information and instructions to people in need of aid, and said that there have been weaknesses in terms of the government’s ability to communicate with flood-hit communities.

(See page 3)

Third emergency aid to be extended from Japan to Myanmar

YANGON—According to the press release issued by the Japanese embassy in Yangon, on 8 September, during the Cabinet meeting, Mr. Fumio KISHIDA, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of the deadly floods. He also reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Japan to extend further support for those who have been forced to evacuate in light of the resulting floods.

The press release also stated that Myanmar has been hit by heavy rain since 16th July, which has caused flooding in many parts of the country, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate.

Based on the request to Japan from U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Government of Japan has decided to continue rapidly extending necessary support of up to approximately 5 billion Japanese Yen (approximately 40 million USD) for reconstruction of schools, provision of water purification vehicles and wellbores.

On 4th August, the Government of Japan decided to provide emergency relief goods such as blankets, sleeping pads and plastic sheets worth 18 million Japanese Yen (approximately 150,000 USD) through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

On 14th August, the Government of Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of 2.6 million US Dollars (approximately 325 million JPY) for emergency humanitarian assistance in such areas as food, water and sanitation, shelter, and Non Food Items (NFIs), to be extended in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).—GNLM

France donates €400,000 to Myanmar’s flood victims

YANGON—The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its statement issued on 7 September said that the widespread flooding that has been affecting Myanmar since August in the wake of a cyclone has led to the death of around 100 people, 300,000 people have been displaced and almost 1.5 million have been affected. There has been extensive material damage and crops have been partly destroyed.

In the face of this disaster, Annick Girardin, Minister of State for Development and Francophony, has decided to allocate €400,000 to actions to support food security and nutrition, notably for children. France stands in solidarity with countries affected by extreme climate events. In the run-up to the Paris Climate Conference, it has introduced a project to strengthen the alert systems to warn populations and therefore reduce the devastating impact of these events.—GNLM
Phaungdaw-U Pagoda’s Buddha images to begin ceremonial tour on Oct 14

NYAUNGSWHE—The four sacred Buddhist images from Phaungdaw-U Pagoda in Nyaungswhe, Shan State, will begin their annual tour of the lake from October 14.

They images will be taken to 21 different locations surrounding the lake, which is the country’s second largest and a top tourist destination. The images will arrive in Nyaungswhe on October 20 and will begin the journey back to the pagoda on October 31, according to the pagoda’s trustees.

Of the five Buddha images at the pagoda, tradition dictates that only four are to make the annual ceremonial journey around the lake.—Nay Myo Thurein

Civil society organizations exchange views on internal peace

YANYON—Civil society organizations exchanged their views on the ongoing peace process at Mingalar Yama Pali Tekkatho Monastery on Theinbyu Road on Monday.

A total of 34 CSOs including religious leaders from four major religions in Myanmar, Sayagyi Thakin Ko Daw Hmine Peace Network, national races and democratic forces participated in the discussions.

After discussions, an eight-point statement was issued to announce that wars are basically political issues and armed conflicts break out as the highest form of conflicts when political issues cannot be settled successfully.

Wars are a mere continuation of policy and therefore political solutions are essential for solving internal peace issues including ceasefire agreements.—Thiba Thu

Ayadaw locals warned of risks from chemically-enhanced foods

AYADAW—Local communities in YEGIN and Magyikan villages in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Region, were warned about a variety of health risks associated with chemically enhanced or contaminated foods on September 7.

Students also attended the public awareness talks.

The talks focused on health hazards relating to artificial flavour enhancements in fruit products, poisonous chemical dyes used in dry foods.

Department representatives also warned against eating packaged food that has passed its expiry date and explained the rights and protections afforded by consumer protection laws.—Township IPRD

Township officials check shops on sales of inappropriate foods.  TOWNSHIP IPRD

Monywa

Chindwin river rises dangerously high in Monywa Township

MONYWA—Heavy rains in northern areas of Sagaing Region have caused the Chindwin River to rise to dangerous levels for the second time in recent weeks, noted authorities on 7 September.

The river was recorded at a height of 1,072 centimeters above danger levels on the morning of 7 September.

During the first high tide in early August, when there was a 150-ft breach of the township’s water protection embankment, five low-lying villages in Chaung-U Township were inundated.

The township police force is using sand bags to reinforce the embankment and prevent a second breach.—Po Chan (Monywa)

River transport services closed on Chindwin River

MONYWA—Due to the second occurrence of high tides on Chindwin River that has left water levels dangerously high, the township’s private water transport committee stopped water river transport services on September 4.

River boats will not be permitted to dock at Homalin, Hkamti and Mawlaik towns in northern Chindwin region until authorities determine that conditions improve.

However 586 boats continued to ply along Chindwin River from northern areas to trading towns in Monywa, town sources said.—Po Chan (Monywa)

Executive Daw Wah Wah Min and members of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association Daw Kyi Kyi Win Shwe, Daw Sanda Win and Daw Cho Cho Win seen at Yangon International Airport on 5 September before departure for Japan to attend Workshop on SME Innovation and Quality Management for Myanmar to Increase Productivity in Tokyo and Nagoya from 6 to 10 September.—MWEA

Myanmar Railway technicians receive training in China

NAY PYI TAW—A 24-member delegation of technicians from the Myintge passenger coach factory, led by senior engineer U Myint Zaw, left for China on 6 September.

Members of the delegation will attend a two-month coach design course and other two-week courses, conducted by Sifang Co Ltd.

Upon the completion of the courses, the Myanmar attendees will partner with Chinese experts in manufacturing passenger coaches at the assembly factory in Myitnge, which is located about 13 kilometres from Mandalay.

The factory is expected to produce 120 passenger coaches per year.

At present, Myanmar Railways, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, is building locomotive factory and passenger coach factory in Nay Pyi Taw using loans from the People’s Republic of China.—MNA
President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to DPRK

NAY PYI TAW—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea, First Chairman of the National Defense Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Supreme Commander of the Korean People’s Army of DPRK, His Excellency Mr. Pak Pong Ju, Premier of the Cabinet of DPRK, on the occasion of the Founding of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which falls on 9 September 2015.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief visits Israeli naval base

NAY PYI TAW—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Ashdod Naval Base in Israel on 8 September.

The senior general was welcomed by the commander of the base, Captain Ido Ben Moshe.

The senior general, together with Vice President of IAI RAMATA Mr Nitzan Shaked, rode the FAC Super Dvora MK3 vessel, which has been ordered for the use of the Myanmar Navy.

The senior general also visited ELTA Systems Ltd and the southern command at Gaza Strip.

On 7 September, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Israel Aerospace Industrial (IAI) in Tel Aviv. After watching presentation about IAI 3D War Scenario by an official of IAI, the senior general and party visited IAI.

The Senior General attended a dinner hosted by head of irsorat of Security for the Defence Establishment Mr Amir Kain, at Israel’s Ministry of Defence.—MNA

Political parties launch TV campaigns


The political parties used the 20-minute slot to explain their policies to viewers.

The National Unity Party highlighted its policies on national development, including the rehabilitation of flood-hit farmers, as well as farmland ownership issues.

NUP said it also stands for a liberalised trade and commerce sector, with an emphasis on transparency and increased participation of citizens in the private sector. The broadcast also said that wealth should be more evenly distributed and that it would work to prevent cronyism and monopolisation and would promote entrepreneurship.

The party also encourages the formation of labour organisations and the signing of employment contracts as well as labour rights across the board. A party spokesperson said it is necessary to create job opportunities for young people and increase spending on education. The party will also make every effort to foster greater participation among women in the public domain.

The Mro Ethnic Development Party explained that it changed its name from Khami National Organisation (Party), that it was formed 27 years ago and has represented the interests of Mro nationals in Kayin, Mon-U, Pa-O, Ponnagyun, Buthidaung, Pauktaw and Yadanaung townships in Rakhine State and Paletwa in Chin State. The party will work to prevent cronyism in badly-hit areas in Rakhine State, suggested that farmers in that area will be provided with seeds for winter crops, as it is now too late to grow rice for the current season.

The party will field six candidates in the region, and the areas between the Kalay and Haka, Chin State were badly hit by the recent floods, said U Kyaw Lwin, the Union Minister for Construction. He said the ministry has temporarily re-opened bridges and roads in the worst-hit areas and that it will upgrade these structures to permanent ones in winter.—GMLM

Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW—MRTV news channel and Myanmar Radio will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from Kokang Democratic Party, National Organisation (Party) and Lahu National Development Party on 9 September and 9 October.—GMLM

Myanmar Human Rights Commission shares knowledge with Information Ministry

NAY PYI TAW—Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission shared knowledge about human rights issues with staff from departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information on 8 September.

Commission Chairman U Win Mra and member U Khin Maung Lay gave talks on the principles of human rights, as well as the laws governing them, and explained the functions of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

The ministry’s Permanent Secretary U Tin Swe along with other officials attended the talks, which were held in the ministry’s offices.—MNA
Thailand frees British man blacklisted in plagiarism spat

BANGKOK — A British academic who accused a Thai official of plagiarism, and whose name later showed up on a national security blacklist as a potential danger to society, said on Tuesday he had been freed after being held for four days at a Bangkok airport.

Wyn Ellis, a long-term resident of Thailand with British and Thai citizenship, was freed late on Monday after he was detained shortly after arriving from Europe last Thursday. Ellis is working on a sustain-able rice program for the United Nations in Thailand. He discovered just a few days ago he had been blacklisted, apparently because of a 2006 letter written by the man he had accused of copying his work.

“I am out and I am off the blacklist,” Ellis told Reuters on Tuesday after spending four days in a cell with 15 other people. “It’s a relief to be back in my own home. We had a glass of wine last night to celebrate,” he said.

Ellis said immigration officials showed him the 2009 letter after he was detained. In it, he said former National Innovation Agency (NIA) chief Supachai Lorlowhakarn had described him as a “danger to Thai society” and accused him of forgery, stealing government documents and plagiarism.

Supachai sent the letter to Thailand’s immigration bureau after Ellis had filed a complaint to authorities that Supachai had plagiarized from one of his studies.

The NIA told the immigration department last week that it had revoked Supachai’s letter. Ellis said he had been coming and going to Thailand without any problem, but had lost his Thai passport on a recent trip to Britain and Norway. He was using his British passport when he returned to Thailand on Thursday.—Reuters

Singapore suspends horses import from Malaysia to protect horse industry

SINGAPORE — Singapore has suspended the import of horses from Malaysia to protect its horse population, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) said in a press release on Tuesday.

The suspension, which takes effect on Tuesday, is due to an outbreak of equine influenza (EI), a highly contagious viral disease in horses in its neighbor. Singapore is free from EI, which can have devastating effects on the horse industry, AVA therefore advises the public who may have come into contact with horses in Malaysia to avoid visiting horse establishments in Singapore.

AVA said it would work closely with Malaysia’s Department of Veterinary Services to allow the movement of horses between Singapore and Malaysia to resume once the outbreak in Malay-aysia is resolved.

Equine influenza is a highly contagious viral disease in horses. Clinical signs include fever, nasal discharge, swollen mandibular lymph nodes, dry cough, poor appetite and lethargy. The disease is unlikely to cause death and infected horses recover in three weeks to six months, depending on the severity of infection. EI does not infect or cause disease in humans.—Xinhua

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Indian company gives up Angkor “replica” plan: Cambodian spokesman

PHNOM PENH — The government of India has advised its Indian trust, Mahavir Mandir, to stop copying from the Cambodian Angkor Wat temple in order to avoid seeking a new replica to Cambodia’s famed Angkor Wat temple. Cambodian foreign minister Chum Sounry said Tuesday.

New Indian ambassador to Cambodia Naveen Srivastava made the remarks when he was pressed by Cambodian deputy prime minister and foreign minister Hor Namhong on Tuesday.

“Both ambassadors assured that the Indian government would not allow any replica of Angkor Wat temple to happen because it could affect the country’s tourism,” the Cambodian ambassador said.

The ambassador reported that the Indian government had already stopped the construction of a replica Angkor Wat temple on Saturday.

U.K. lawmakers pass EU referendum legislation to upper house

LONDON — Prime Minister David Cameron’s planned referendum on Britain’s membership of the European Union moved a step closer after the House of Lords trimmed a clause Tuesday, which would have banned a unity pledge by the party’s leader.

The result came as potential rivals and senior MPs questioned the timing of the referendum in a row.

The result came as potential rival and senior LDP lawmaker Seiko Noda did not file candidacy for the upper house election under his second leadership.

Abe returned unopposed as LDP leader, vows to boost economy

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was returned unopposed as president of the Liberal Democratic Party on Tuesday, underscoring the broad support he enjoys within the ruling party after winning three consecutive general elections under his leadership.

The result came as potential rival and senior LDP lawmaker Seiko Noda did not file candidacy for the upper house election under his second leadership.

Abe, who is at the center of a political storm in Japan following a series of corruption scandals, will now turn his attention to the economy, which has been growing at a slow pace.

Abe, who was elected in a landslide victory in 2012, has faced criticism for his handling of the economy, including his policies to boost growth and inflation.

In a policy statement on Tuesday, Abe vowed to deepen public debate on revising the nation’s Constitution.

Speaking to reporters after securing another term as the LDP chief, Abe said, “I believe it was a result of many lawmakers’ calls for unity amid the party’s drive to advance pledges it made for the general election held nine months ago.”

“With Abenomics being on halfway along the road, I would like to fulfill my responsibility by producing results,” he said, vowing to make the economic recovery felt across the country, promote the revitalization of regions and accelerate reconstruction of areas hit by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan.

Abe, who became the first LDP president to be unopposed, said he would focus on securing the government’s political stability in the LDP, as well as enacting structural reforms.

Noda, who is currently the top opposition member in the upper house, had expressed his support for Abe’s policies.

However, he later said he was considering a challenge to Abe’s leadership.

Noda, who has been a strong critic of Abe’s policies, said he was considering a challenge to Abe’s leadership, saying he would like to see the government take a fresh approach to the country’s economic challenges.

SOUTH KOREA

North, South Korea agree to hold family reunions in October: South

SEOUL — Families torn apart by the Korean War six decades ago are to reunite briefly near the heavily fortified border of North and South Korea next month under a deal reached between the two sides on Tuesday, according to a joint statement from the two nations.

The agreement to hold reunions, which would be the first since 2008, will involve up to 80 families, the statement said.

The reunions will be held on Oct. 27 and 28 at Mount Kumgang resort just north of the border, where previous reunions have been held, with 100 participants from each country.

Nearly 130,000 South Koreans looking for family members in the North have registered with the government in South Korea since 1988, but only about 66,000 are still alive, with most aged 70 or more, according to a report from the Unification Ministry.

Some critics say the reunion program works too slowly and involves too few families. Many elderly people on both sides died before they could reconnect with loved ones.

South Korea has already held several family reunions with North Korea.

Tuesday’s agreement called for more talks to pave the way for further reunions, beyond those scheduled for next month.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with Natsuo Yamaguchi, leader of the Komeito party, the junior ruling coalition partner of the Liberal Democratic Party, at the Diet building in Tokyo on Sept. 8, 2015. Abe was re-elected unopposed as president of the party earlier in the day. —Kyodo News
Russia says truce holding in Ukraine but little progress on peace plan

MOSCOW — Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday fighting has died down in east Ukraine since a new truce was put in place on Sept. 1 but blamed Kiev for not moving forward on other provisions of a peace plan brokered by Germany and France.

“A relative stabilisation has indeed taken place from Sept. 1 and there is practically no shell ing by the Ukrainian armed forces of civilian populated areas in Donbas,” Peskov told reporters, referring to the rebel-held east Ukraine.

“But if you look at other conceptual points of the Minsk agreements... unfortunately you cannot note progress, it is impossible,” he said of the peace deal that also includes provisions of autonomy for the rebel regions, amnesty for fighters and other...—Reuters

Germany to receive more than 800,000 refugees this yr: state premier

BERLIN — More than 800,000 refugees will come to Germany this year, the state premier of Germany’s biggest state, North Rhine-Westphalia, said on Tuesday.

“I think it’s clear to all of us that the number won’t stay at 800,000,” Hannelore Kraft said, adding that this government forecast was three weeks old. She also pointed to an influx of 20,000 over the weekend.

“So that the number will need to be revised upwards,” she said...—Reuters

Syrian refugees reach Greek mainland, fleeing chaos of Lesbos

ATHENS — A ship crammed with thousands of mostly Syrian refugees docked in Greece’s main port of Piraeus on Tuesday, after the government said it was stepping up efforts to ease pressure on an eastern island being overwhelmed by new arrivals.

The government-chartered ship had set off overnight from Lesbos, where migrants had massed to get on board. Televisi on pictures showed them disembarking calmly just before midday.

The Red Cross on Monday described conditions on the Aegean island — a short boat journey from Turkey where there are some 2 million Syrian refugees — as a humanitarian disaster.

Interim Migration Minister Yannis Mouzalas said Lesbos was hosting 15,000 to 18,000 migrants, three to four times more than it could cope with.

He told state TV on Monday the government planned to move 12,000 refugees from Lesbos by Saturday by increasing the number of ships to Piraeus from three to four or five.

Over the past nine days, the coastguard estimates Greek authorities have moved close to 18,000 refugees from Lesbos to the mainland. That total includes those who arrived on Tuesday on board the Eleftherios Venizelos, which has a capacity of 2,500.

While Clinton remains the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, edging out Sanders 46 percent to 24 percent in a five-day rolling poll dated September 4 by Reuters/IPSOS, the progressive senator has been eating away at her lead. In an NBC News/Marist Poll released on Sunday, 41 percent of Democratic voters in New Hampshire would back Sanders while 52 percent would cast a vote for Clinton if the poll were held today and Vice President Joe Biden were on the ballot...—Reuters

US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks during a campaign stop at the Quad City Federation of Labor’s Salute to Labor Chicken Fry in Hampton, Illinois September 7, 2015...—Reuters

Clinton to propose US campaign finance overhaul

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton will propose a slate of campaign finance reform measures on Tuesday aimed at limiting political donations from large donors and increasing transparency in election spending.

Clinton, who is seeking the nomination to be the Democratic candidate in the November 2016 presidential election, identified measures she would pursue if she becomes president.

Among them are rules requiring greater disclosure of political spending including by publicly traded companies and US government contractors and a program that would provide matching funds for small donations to presidential and congressional candidates.

“We have to end the flood of secret, unaccountable money that is distorting our elections, corrupting our political system, and drowning out the voices of too many everyday Americans,” Clinton said in a statement issued by her campaign.

“Our democracy should be about expanding the franchise, not charging an entrance fee.”

The measures are aimed at tapping into voter concern over inequality, ranging from income to influence in national affairs. Clinton has put the issue at the center of her campaign, saying she will champion “everyday Americans” and boost the middle class.

But Clinton has come in for criticism for that theme, given her own family wealth and her decades in high-profile public positions.

Clinton also plans to call for an overturning of the controversial 2010 Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court. It allowed corporations and individuals to spend unlimited money for political advocacy through independent political action committees so long as they do not coordinate with candidates. That ruling has become a flashpoint on the campaign trail, drawing criticism from other candidates as well, such as Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who has pressed Clinton on her left.

Overturning the ruling would require new Supreme Court justices as well as amending the Constitution, according to Clinton’s plans, and both are fraught with uncertainty.

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Iran will discuss peace in Syria with any country, Rouhani says

**Number of Saudi-led coalition troops in Yemen rises to 10,000: Al Jazeera**

Saudi army, Islamic State battle for central oilfield

BEIRUT — Syrian government officials have denied that Islamic State fighters captured an oil field which a monitoring group reported had been seized from government forces.

Talal al-Barazi, governor of Homs province, was quoted by al-Watan newspaper on Tuesday as saying Islamic State forces had seized five positions in the area of the Jazal oil field on Saturday, but these had since been recovered by the Syrian army. A Syrian military official, speaking to Reuters, said: “They tried to take some positions but the attack failed.”

The Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict, reported on Monday that the Jazal oil field near the ancient city of Palmyra had fallen to Islamic State, saying it was the last oil field that remained under state control. Islamic State captured Palmyra from government forces in May. The Observatory reported late on Monday that clashes continued in the Jazal oil field and the surrounding area. The facility has been shut down after the government evacuated employees. — Reuters

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani

A Turkish F-16 fighter jet takes off from Incirlik airbase in the southeastern city of Adana, Turkey, in this July 27, 2015 file photo. — Reuters

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey) — Dozens of Turkish warplanes hit PKK targets in northern Iraq

The clashes, weeks before polls in eastern Turkey on Sunday in their attempt to end a three-decade insurgency that remains in state control, brought the last such facility still partly under state control, a group monitoring the conflict reported.

Clashes broke out at dawn at the site which has been shut down by several days of fighting, Rami Abdulrahman, from the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said.

The Observatory, which monitors Syria’s conflict through a network of sources on the ground, had said on Monday that Islamic State fighters, a security source told Reuters on Friday, had seized five positions in the area that holds Syria’s main natural gas fields and multi-million-dollar extraction facilities.

Islamic State, which also controls large parts of neighbouring Iraq, took Palmyra in May, and the army has been battling to retake it and other areas ever since. Talal al-Barazi, governor of surrounding Homs province, was quoted by al-Watan newspaper on Tuesday as saying Islamic State fighters had seized five positions in the area on Saturday, but these had since been recovered by the Syrian army.

A Syrian military official told Reuters: “They tried to take some positions but the attack failed.”

Islamic State said in a statement on Monday its fighters had captured what it described as the village of Jazal. — Reuters

Sandstorm engulfs Lebanon

BEIRUT — An “unprecedented” sandstorm has hit several regions in the Bekaa, North and South of sandstorm on Tuesday, bringing visibility to extremely low levels.

George Kettaneh, the Red Cross official, said the number of people hospitalised as a result of the sandstorm has risen to 130, the Annahar daily reported.

Kettaneh said 130 people complained of respiratory difficulties in the eastern Bekaa Valley and northern district of Akkar were taken to hospitals on Monday night and early Tuesday.

He advised those having asthma problems not to leave their homes.

The Meteorological Department at Beirut’s Rafik Hariri International Airport described the storm as “unprecedented” in Lebanon, expecting the storm to last a few more days. According to the National News Agency, the Traffic Management Center, meanwhile, advised drivers to be cautious to avoid accidents because of low visibility. — Xinhua

Bomb attack in eastern Turkey kills 10 police officers

ANKARA — Ten Turkish police officers were killed in a bomb attack on a minibus in the eastern Turkish province of Igdir on Tuesday, a government official told Reuters.

The attack came amid a surge in violence between the state and Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) militants. Turkish warplanes struck PKK targets in northern Iraq on Tuesday, two days after a militant attack killed 16 soldiers in Turkey’s southeast. — Reuters

Iran will discuss peace in Syria with any country, Rouhani says

**Number of Saudi-led coalition troops in Yemen rises to 10,000: Al Jazeera**

Saudi army, Islamic State battle for central oilfield

BEIRUT — Islamic State fighters battled government forces on Tuesday at central Syria’s Jazal oilfield, the last such facility still partly under state control, a group monitoring the conflict reported.

Clashes broke out at dawn at the site which has been shut down by several days of fighting, Rami Abdulrahman, from the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said.

The Observatory, which monitors Syria’s conflict through a network of sources on the ground, had said on Monday that militants had seized all of the facility — a report denied by the government.

Talal al-Barazi, governor of surrounding Homs province, was quoted by al-Watan newspaper on Tuesday as saying Islamic State fighters had seized five positions in the area on Saturday, but these had since been recovered by the Syrian army. A Syrian military official told Reuters: “They tried to take some positions but the attack failed.”

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A Turkish F-16 fighter jet takes off from Incirlik airbase in the southeastern city of Adana, Turkey, in this July 27, 2015 file photo. — Reuters

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The Observatory, which monitors Syria’s conflict through a network of sources on the ground, had said on Monday that Islamic State fighters, a security source told Reuters on Friday, had seized five positions in the area that holds Syria’s main natural gas fields and multi-million-dollar extraction facilities.

Islamic State, which also controls large parts of neighbouring Iraq, took Palmyra in May, and the army has been battling to retake it and other areas ever since. Talal al-Barazi, governor of surrounding Homs province, was quoted by al-Watan newspaper on Tuesday as saying Islamic State fighters had seized five positions in the area on Saturday, but these had since been recovered by the Syrian army.

A Syrian military official told Reuters: “They tried to take some positions but the attack failed.”

Islamic State said in a statement on Monday its fighters had captured what it described as the village of Jazal. — Reuters

Sandstorm engulfs Lebanon

BEIRUT — An “unprecedented” sandstorm has hit several regions in the Bekaa, North and South of sandstorm on Tuesday, bringing visibility to extremely low levels.

George Kettaneh, the Red Cross official, said the number of people hospitalised as a result of the sandstorm has risen to 130, the Annahar daily reported.

Kettaneh said 130 people complained of respiratory difficulties in the eastern Bekaa Valley and northern district of Akkar were taken to hospitals on Monday night and early Tuesday.

He advised those having asthma problems not to leave their homes.

The Meteorological Department at Beirut’s Rafik Hariri International Airport described the storm as “unprecedented” in Lebanon, expecting the storm to last a few more days. According to the National News Agency, the Traffic Management Center, meanwhile, advised drivers to be cautious to avoid accidents because of low visibility. — Xinhua

Bomb attack in eastern Turkey kills 10 police officers

ANKARA — Ten Turkish police officers were killed in a bomb attack on a minibus in the eastern Turkish province of Igdir on Tuesday, a government official told Reuters.

The attack came amid a surge in violence between the state and Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) militants. Turkish warplanes struck PKK targets in northern Iraq on Tuesday, two days after a militant attack killed 16 soldiers in Turkey’s southeast. — Reuters

Iran will discuss peace in Syria with any country, Rouhani says

**Number of Saudi-led coalition troops in Yemen rises to 10,000: Al Jazeera**

Saudi army, Islamic State battle for central oilfield

BEIRUT — Islamic State fighters battled government forces on Tuesday at central Syria’s Jazal oilfield, the last such facility still partly under state control, a group monitoring the conflict reported.

Clashes broke out at dawn at the site which has been shut down by several days of fighting, Rami Abdulrahman, from the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said.

The Observatory, which monitors Syria’s conflict through a network of sources on the ground, had said on Monday that militants had seized all of the facility — a report denied by the government.

Talal al-Barazi, governor of surrounding Homs province, was quoted by al-Watan newspaper on Tuesday as saying Islamic State fighters had seized five positions in the area on Saturday, but these had since been recovered by the Syrian army. A Syrian military official told Reuters: “They tried to take some positions but the attack failed.”

Islamic State said in a statement on Monday its fighters had captured what it described as the village of Jazal. — Reuters

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani

A Turkish F-16 fighter jet takes off from Incirlik airbase in the southeastern city of Adana, Turkey, in this July 27, 2015 file photo. — Reuters

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey) — Dozens of Turkish warplanes hit PKK targets in northern Iraq

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Dear Editor

As ANGLADESH, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal are adjacent countries in the vast subcontinent with long historical, cultural and socioeconomic ties and distinct biogeographical continuity. All these nations represent similarities in their extremely rich biodiversity and vulnerability of both their forest and wildlife resources due to enhanced anthropogenic pressures. The vast wilderness areas that spread across international boundaries of these nations need modern management and scientific planning necessary for developing a long-term, sustainable and comprehensive conservation strategy for the biogeographically and geologically connected region. Recently four of these nations (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) have become joint signatories in the free transportation treaty between them for better connectivity and to boost regional trade and commerce as part of an appreciable SAARC agreement. However, leaving adjoining Myanmar out of this formal equation is a great loss for the entire Indian subcontinent. I wonder how long it will take SAARC to include Myanmar as a full partner in the process of economic development.

Without Myanmar’s participation, the South Asian economic dream cannot take a full flight as both economic blocs have so much to offer to one another. Similarly, a Joint Conservation Initiative (JCI) between these five nations could successfully contribute towards the conservation of the regional wildlife and forests due to enhanced surveillance and security measures, reduce poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the region, repopulation of suitable habitats with breeding stocks of similar and/or related species from adjoining biogeographically continuous regions, protect international animal corridors for cross border moving species such as rhinoceros, elephants and tigers, support captive breeding programs for successfully releasing endangered species into their natural habitats and in indigenous species exchange programs (like tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, green peafowl etc) between adjoining bioregions for conserving several local endemic and endangered species and protecting vulnerable regional forest ecosystems. All these nations need to sincerely explore the JCI approach through their respective parliaments to formulate a comprehensive policy; and finally negotiate a treaty for developing a joint conservation program or forum to prevent cross border illegal wildlife trade and poaching, to work on necessary fund allocations for the different joint programs, provide advanced joint training of forest and border guards, share intelligence, protect regional wildlife and ecosystems.

A joint program dedicated to the awareness and education of remote, rural communities, fringe dwellers and forest residents along international borders will be necessary to involve indigenous communities into the joint conservation program. Involvement of all stakeholders will be important such as the four national governments, local administrations, forest and environment departments, respective forest guards and border security forces, academics, researchers, local inhabitants; as well as non-government organizations operating along the border areas for promoting awareness about the local forests and wildlife and their conservation. If this program is successful, then a bigger JCI model could be applied for the entire biogeographic zone of South and Southeast Asia in the future with support from all participating nations of the region for better forest and wildlife conservation.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours

Saikat Kumar Basu
Apt 6-409, 43 Street South, Lethebridge AB Canada T1J 4B3

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Axel van Trosenburg

East Asia’s Challenge: Ensuring that Growth Helps the Poor

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EFORE it is too late, we need to take steps to ensure that the present growth wave in East Asia is sufficient to lift the large number of people in the region out of poverty. But this alone will not be enough. We have to adopt an inclusive approach, which includes better education, social protection, and access to health care.

To be effective, an inclusive approach must be accompanied by strong financial policies, which include macroeconomic stability and a healthy fiscal policy.

To achieve these goals, we need to focus on three areas:

1. Education: Education is the key to unlocking the potential of the young people in the region. We must invest in education to give them the skills they need to succeed in the global economy.

2. Social Protection: Social protection is necessary to help those who are left behind. This includes programs to provide food aid, health care, and education.

3. Health Care: Health care is essential for a healthy and productive workforce.

By making these investments, we can ensure that growth helps the poor, and that we are making progress towards a more inclusive and prosperous future for everyone in the region.
Pobbathiri villagers prepare maize for markets

POBBATHIRI — Farmers from Phwaotkway Village in Pobbathiri Township are in the process of preparing maize to be sold at upcoming markets in Pyimmana and Tatkon.

Farmer U Thein Htay Aung said he has cultivated three acres of corn in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area since late May. He said that a bag of corn seedlings costs K23,000 kyats and is enough to cover an acre. After harvesting, he uses machines to dry the corn and turn it into maize.

He says that he goes to sell the produce to nearby townships and that sometimes brokers might come to his house to purchase the maize. As well as selling the corn at markets, he also sells his produce to brokers at an average price of K10,000 per 33.3kg basket.—Shwe Ye Yint

Training course for rural youth begins in Ottarathiri

NAY PYI TAW — A training course on basic engineering and agricultural techniques for youths in rural areas began in Phayagon Village, Ottarathiri Township, on 7 September.

Assistant Director of Rural Development Department of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area U Tin Soe gave the opening address and called on 50 trainees to effectively apply their new skills after completing the Rural Youth Capacity Enhancement Training Course.

The four-day course is part of the Emerald Green Project, which aims to boost skill sets among the rural youth, who will also learn about road and bridge constructions, the use of pesticides, livestock husbandry and fish farming.—Shwe Ye Yint

Solar panels given to Lewe Township

NAY PYI TAW — Eight-hundred-and-fifty solar panels were provided to three villages in Lewe Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on September 6.

Officials from the Rural Development Department presented village representatives with the panels, which were purchased under the 2015-2016 budget allocation set by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

The ministry has said it aims to increase access to alternative power sources in rural areas.

The solar panels will be used by communities in Aungmyeya, Lema and Minpyin villages and the panels will be installed by Thado Aung Zeya Company.—District IPRD

Preparations underway for Phaungdaw-U Pagoda Festival

MEIKTILA — Preparations are in full swing for the 10-day Phaungdaw-U Pagoda festival in Meiktila in Mandalay Region, which will take place from September 21-30.

A traditional boat race will be held on Meiktila Lake, which faces the pagoda. Marker posts along the waterways in the lake are being set up ahead of the boat race. According to local lore, the pagoda was constructed in the 12th century after the Bagan-era monarch King Alaungsithu disembarked from his famous royal vessel on the banks where the pagoda stands today. The festival is now in its 132nd year.

The festival will begin with Buddhist devotees giving offerings to monks and paying their respects to the Buddha images. About a thousand individual stores are expected to display their wares at the famous festival.—Chan Thar (Meiktila)

Meiktila Election Sub-commission holds coordination meeting

MEIKTILA — Meiktila Township Election Sub-commission held a coordination meeting today, on the rules and regulations during the candidates’ campaign period from September 8 to November 6, and for the announcing of the voters’ lists on September 14.

The township election sub-commission chairman U Than Win pointed out that campaign of all candidates of the township’s constituencies for Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House), Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), and Region Hluttaw must be in line with its rules and regulations and that the voters’ lists are to be announced at respective constituencies by September 14. He and committee members discussed for a free and fair General Elections which is scheduled to be held on November 8.—Chan Thar (Meiktila)
Oil prices stabilise on strong German data, but slowing Asia still weighs

An employee keys in the price of petrol at a pump at a petrol station in Hanoi, Vietnam September 3, 2015.—Reuters

SINGAPORE — Oil prices stabilized at low levels on Tuesday as strong German economic data countered Asia’s darkening outlook that continues to clash with a global supply glut.

German exports and imports hit record highs in July despite a slowdown in China. Exports climbed by 2.4 percent on the month to 103.4 billion euros (75.3 billion pounds) while imports grew 2.2 percent to 80.6 billion euros, the highest values on record.

Traders said that the strong German data had helped counter a further darkening of Asia’s economic outlook.

US crude was at $44.74 per barrel at 0730 GMT, down $1.31 since Friday’s close, weighed down by the closure of the largest crude distillation unit at Exxon Mobil Corp’s 502,500 barrel-per-day (bpd) Baton Rouge, Louisiana, refinery.

US markets were closed on Monday for a holiday.

Brent futures, unaffected by the refinery closure, added 66 cents to $48.18 barrel, although the global benchmark was still down $1.09 cents from its opening value on Monday.

Japan’s economy shrank an annualised 1.2 percent in April-June despite ongoing measures to support growth. In China, crude oil imports fell 13.4 percent in August to 26.59 million tonnes (6.29 million barrels per day) from the previous month.

Yet oversupply dominates current markets. Morgan Stanley said it expected prices to remain low but volatile until a global overhang in production was worked off by the fourth quarter of 2016. Oil prices have fallen almost 60 percent since June 2014 when a global glut created by soaring output and slowing demand. OPEC is producing close to records to squeeze out competition, especially from US shale drillers, so far with little effect.

Rosneft’s Sechin put a lid on speculation that Russia might cooperate with the OPEC to curb output to reign in oversupply saying Russia could not easily cut its production as its oil firms had foreign partners with a responsibility to shareholders rather than the government.—Reuters

Toshiba posts net loss, plans restructuring to put scandal behind it

TOKYO — Japan’s Toshiba Corp booked a net loss for the past financial year and pledged a bold restructuring, raising hopes it was finally moving beyond a $1.3 billion accounting scandal.

The submission of its books, twice postponed due to its accounting woes, helped to allay concerns among some investors that the laptops-to-nuclear-power conglomerate risked a delisting if it had missed its latest filing deadline.

Shares in Toshiba rose 1.8 percent on Monday, but they are still down around 30 percent since its accounting issues were disclosed in early April. Analysts, however, said the company still had to tackle deep-rooted problems.

“Toshiba is still facing a number of daunting issues, such as what to do with its unprofitable PC and TV businesses,” said Hiroyasu Nishikawa, a senior analyst at IwaoCosmo Securities Co, adding that its accounting woes were set to drag on due to shareholder lawsuits.

For the past financial year, it reported a 37.5 billion yen ($318 million) net loss. It had at one time expected a 120 billion yen net profit before pulling that estimate in May when it announced the accounting probe was being expanded.

The weaker assessment included a more conservative estimate on the value of its investment in South Texass Project, a US power plant project. The company, however, denied speculation that it would need to draw down deferred tax assets on Westinghouse, its US-based nuclear business.

All in all, Toshiba said it had overstated profits going back to fiscal 2008/09 by 35.5 billion yen ($1.3 billion).

The accounting probe found in July that Toshiba suffered from dysfunctions in governance and a culture of discouraging employees from questioning their superiors, prompting previous CEO Hisao Tanaka and several other board members to step down.

The company’s new Chief Executive, Masashi Muromachi, promised on Monday to announce a restructuring plan for its semi-conductor, PC and TV businesses by the year-end. He also said it was reconsidering plans by his predecessor, who stepped down amid the scandal in July, to grow the healthcare unit through acquisitions.

The company also announced on Monday that former Shiseido president Shinzo Maeda would be the head of a revamped 11-member board, the majority of which are external directors, pending approval at an extraordinary shareholders’ meeting on Sept. 30.

The accounting scandal is Japan’s biggest since 2011 when camera and medical device maker Olympus Corp was found to have been involved in a $1.7 billion scheme to conceal several decades of investment losses.—Reuters

Amazon plans to sell $50 tablet: WSJ

NEW YORK — Online retailer Amazon.com Inc plans to release a $50 tablet in time for the holiday season, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The 6-inch screen tablet comes with a more speaker and is priced much lower than Amazon’s Fire tablet, the cheapest variant of which is sold at $99.

The company was not immediately available for comment.

Amazon also plans to release 8-inch and 10-inch screen tablets, the report said. While other Amazon Fire tablets show advertisements as screen savers, it was not clear if the new 6-inch tablet’s cost included ads, according to the report.—Reuters

Uber to enter 100 more Chinese cities in next 12 months: CEO

An Uber car is seen parked with the driver’s lunch left on the dashboard in Venice, Los Angeles, California, United States July 15, 2015.—Reuters

BEIJING — US ride-hailing service Uber Technologies Inc (UBER.U) will enter 100 more Chinese cities over the next year, doubling a previous goal set just three months ago, Chief Executive Travis Kalanick said on Tuesday.

Uber’s China unit currently operates in almost 20 cities, Kalanick said at an event in Beijing held by Uber investor Baidu Inc (BIDU.O).

The speech comes a day after Kalanick said the China unit had raised $1.2 billion during ongoing fundraising, while people familiar with the matter told Reuters that larger local rival Didi Kuaidi had brought in $3 billion.

The two firms are spending heavily to subsidize rides and gain market share, betting on China’s Internet-linked transport market becoming the world’s biggest and most lucrative.

“When we started this year, we were about one percent market share. Today, nine months later, we’re looking at about 30 to 35 percent market share”, Kalanick said. He did not specify whether that market was for all ride-hailing services including taxis, where Didi Kuaidi dominates, or just for private cars.

Uber also welcomed new regulations expected later this year governing ride-hailing services in China, Kalanick said.

At the event, Baidu, China’s Internet search leader, demonstrated a voice-operated artificial intelligence smartphone assistant for finding nearby services, which could also control a robot reminiscent of Disney’s WALL-E.

After the Baidu slot, Kalanick spoke of the importance of Uber’s relationship with the Internet Firm.

“We can get introductions to the city governments, the government officials that want to shepherd our kind of innovation and our kind of progress into their cities,” he said.

During the speech, Kalanick adopted the language of Chinese officials, riffing on favored Communist Party subjects such as harmony and stability.

“Progress is something we see the government be incredibly open to, whether it be about jobs and less pollution, less congestion on the streets, better utilization of infrastructure, that kind of progress always has to be in harmony with stability and that is one of the big things that we partnered with the government on,” he said.—Reuters
Low emission biogas also produces fertilizer

TORONTO, (CANADA) — A Canadian chemical engineer has devised a product that transforms the waste generated by biogas production into fertilizer. Andrew White says his SulfaCHAR system eliminates chemical waste from the biogas process, while increasing renewable gas plants’ profitability and stopping the degradation to gas engines caused by hydrogen sulfide (H2S).

Biogas can help create electricity or be used as a replacement for natural gas and is often cited as a clean and carbon-neutral alternative to fossil fuels. Yet the decomposition process generates carbon dioxide and other dangerous, unpleasant smelling gases, causing an annual global clean-up bill of $1.2 billion USD.

According to White, “the greatest asset of biogas is that it’s capturing methane that would otherwise be going into the atmosphere where it’s 22 times worse than carbon dioxide for global warming, so a great story, but the same bacteria that make biogas also make hydrogen sulfide which is toxic, corrosive, and causes a lot of maintenance cost in the industry. So we really need to get it out of the gas so that gas can be used.”

Having been surprised by how much waste was generated in the biogas filtering process while touring a renewable natural gas plant six years ago, White decided to try and solve the problem by creating a zero-waste cleaning solution.

He says SulfaCHAR is unique. “One of the unique aspects of our process does is that it catalytically converts the sulfide into sulfur. Sulphur is a fertilizer product and because the feedstock we’re making it out of is a fiber that’s almost a compost when we’re done with it we’re left with a carbon compost that’s already in the fertilizer form, so we don’t have to any reprocessing. As soon as we take it out of the tanks where it’s been used for gas cleaning we can apply it directly to the fields,” said White.

White set up a University of Toronto research spinoff, CHAR Technologies, and says SulfaCHAR is the only product that effectively converts hydrogen sulfide into a fertilizer supplement rather than waste requiring disposal. The product can be used in anaerobic digesters in large-scale animal farming, municipal landfills, and wastewater treatment plants, and White says there are a number of benefits. For instance, when hydrogen sulfide gases through engines it corrodes and destroys components, which can be expensive to maintain. White says his product eliminates this.

White says his is also the most cost-effective biogas product on the market, based on cost per kilogram of H2S removed. “In terms of dollars spent per contaminant removed and that’s simply because we’ve been able to generate such a high capacity for this toxic hydrogen sulfide,” he said.

The other end that the customer really likes is that the other solid products that are out there are responsible for sending to landfill and most, whereas with SulfaCHAR we take it back and redistribute it as an agricultural product, so it’s cheaper and it has this great beneficial end use,” A recent $750,000 Can ($570,000 USD) grant by Sustainable Development Technology Canada will help White upscale production dramatically. He told Reuters:

“We’re scaling up the system that you see behind me to a one ton per day production system, that’s a commercial quantity. That will be online by next Spring, Spring 2016. By Spring of 2017 we’ll have a ten ton production system and hopefully we can serve 100 renewable gas plants.” — Reuters

Planned Parenthood faces unexpected challenge from Obamacare

New York — Angered by videos in which Planned Parenthood officials discussed compensation for providing fetal tissue from abortion, Republicans in Congress are again demanding an end to government funding for the nearly 100-year-old provider of women’s health services.

Away from the headlines, however, the group is facing other major challenges, including one from a far different source: the Affordable Care Act, which it says is acting on its beliefs once some benefits to the organization, according to numbers last updated in July.

The decline was apparent even in areas like upstate New York, New England and parts of the Midwest, which have not seen decreases in state funding.

Some declines are considered positive. The US abortion rate is down, for example, and Planned Parenthood has increased contraceptive coverage, making it easier for women to afford long-last- ing methods such as IUDs, which require fewer office visits. “Data about health centers and patients will fluctuate,” said Kim Gandy, executive vice president of health care, Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

“But at the end of the day, Planned Parenthood has a unique advantage with our providers, some of whom would not be able to get healthcare anywhere else.” The National Right to Life Education Foundation, one of the nation’s biggest anti-abortion groups, said the numbers could suggest that women are acting on their beliefs once they’re free of the influence of providers.

Insurance coverage allows them to “go somewhere where they can get a broader range of services and can avoid a place that also does abortions,” said Randall K. O’Bannon, director of education and research at the group. — Reuters

New York to deploy developing nations’ microsatellites without charge

TOKYO — Japan’s space agency said Tuesday it will start deploying microsatellites for developing nations without charge at the request of VV Kibo Laboratory at the International Space Station.

The program, to be launched possibly in 2017 in cooperation with the United Nations, is aimed at developing nations without launch capabilities who wish to use their own satellites for disaster prevention and other purposes, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said.

Microsatellites measuring 10 centimeters by 10 centimeters will be carried in Kibo aboard unmanned cargo transporters to be launched with Japanese rockets.

Since 2012, Japan has deployed microsatellites in 15 countries in lines of other countries, according to JAXA — Kyocho News

Polio resurfaces in Mali from Ebola-hit Guinea: WHO

GENEVA — Cases of a crippling vaccine-derived polio virus could spread in Ebola-ravaged Guinea and in Mali after a Guinean toddler traveled to Mali and became the country’s first polio case in more than four years, the World Health Organization said on Monday.

The case, caused by a strain of the virus known as type 2 that had come from a vaccine, is the second setback in a week for global efforts to eradicate polio. Two cases were reported in Ukraine last week.

Preliminary tests showed the 19-month-old was paralyzed on July 20, seven days before being brought to Mali for treatment. The strain is the same one found in Siguiri in Guinea’s Kankan region in August 2013.

“The risk of spread is considered to be high in both countries due to low rates of vaccination coverage in both Mali and Guinea,” WHO spokesperson Cory Coziall said in a comment to Reuters.

“Both countries are taking coordinated emergency response measures to bring the outbreak to an end quickly.”

Vaccine-derived polio infection are caused when the virus spreads after being excreted by people who have been immunized with live oral polio vaccine. Unvaccinated children and people with low immunity are then at high risk of becoming infected via contaminated water and sewage.

Vaccine-derived polio virus (VDPV) outbreaks are rare, but pose more of a risk in populations where health systems are fragile and immunization coverage is low.

WHO figures show Guinea’s polio vaccination coverage fell from 63 percent to 42 percent in 2014, as the Ebola outbreak caused chaos and overwhelmed an already weak national health system. In Mali, by contrast, polio vaccination coverage rose to 84 percent in 2014, from 72-77 percent preceding year.

There is no cure for polio, which attacks the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis within hours of infection.

Yanay — A global vaccination campaign has largely stamped out the virus, and only Pakistan and Afghanistan have reported cases of wild polio in recent years.

As the world has moved closer to its goal of eradicating polio, specialists warn such vaccine-derived cases could jeopardize the process.

Writing in the Public Library of Science Pathogens journal in August, researchers led by Javier Martin of Britain’s National Institute of Biological Standards and Control said VDPV represents “a real risk of polio re-emergence in the post-eradication era”.

They recommended that the risk is to switch from using live oral polio vaccines (OPV), which are highly effective, cheap, easy to deliver but contain live virus strains, to inactivated polio vaccines (IPV), which carry no live virus.

Unlike OPV, however, IPV is expensive and difficult to deliver but can either be given as a pre- or post-exposure vaccination (IPV), which carry no live virus.

While the world’s two poorest countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, currently produce IPV, which is not capab
Professor allegedly leaks bar exam questions, prompts criminal probe

SYDNEY — Australia and New Zealand might be asked to leave the Pacific Islands Forum or face a walkout by other leaders if they do not support stronger action on climate change, Kiribati’s president hinted on Tuesday.

Kiribati President Anote Tong told reporters in Port Moresby, capital of Papua New Guinea, that the choice of staying or leaving the forum “would be those of us who feel our interests are being undermined.”

“Or should we ask those who have a problem to disassociate themselves,” Tong said.

Local media reported on Tuesday that Australia’s Prime Minister Tony Abbott is already facing the prospect of a cold shoulder over his government’s climate change policy.

Greenpeace Chief Executive David Titter said Australia and New Zealand are “bad neighbours” and urged the two governments not to try and water down language in a forum statement on climate change to be released later in the week.

“I think it’s appropriate for (Abbott) to face a cold shoulder, because he’s dealing with cultures and nations and people facing an existential threat and he’s not treating them respectfully or responsibly,” Titter said.

At a recent Pacific Leaders meeting, Fiji’s Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, who is boycotting the summit and instead sending his foreign minister, urged Abbott to abandon the “coalition of the selfish” and put the welfare of the Pacific islands ahead of coal industry interests.

A call for a moratorium on all new coal mines was made by six small island states at the PIF on Monday, however it is unlikely to get the backing of the wider forum of 16 nations.

An Oxfam report released on Monday said Australia and New Zealand are presently regarded as the two worst performing governments when it comes to climate change and are a drag on international efforts.

Oxfam Australia Chief Executive Helen Szoke said the recent natural disasters throughout the Pacific should be a wake up call for the two “big brothers.”

“My concern is that the Pacific have largely ignored their neighbours’ calls for stronger emissions reduction targets and greater support to meet the challenges of climate change,” said Szoke.

The small island nations of the Pacific are the most vulnerable to human induced climate change, with the collective leaders aiming to hold the world to restrict the global warming temperature rise to 1.5 degrees, fearing that a two-degree target will risk the existence of many islands.

It has been reported the small island nation of Kiribati has bought land in Fiji in case the country must evacuate and that sea water is encroaching on grave sites in the Marshall Islands.

The EU’s climate change commissioner Miguel Canete told reporters that while the Kiribati government is small, its voices were loud on the world stage. “They are very active negotiators and they have a solid case... when you have commitment and passion your voice is heard,” Canete said. —Xinhua

Photo taken in Tokyo on Sept. 7, 2015, shows Meiji University, where a law school professor is suspected of having leaked questions for the national bar examination to one of his former students.—Kyodo News

Tokyo — Prosecutors began investigating a Meiji University law school professor, suspecting he leaked questions for this year’s national bar examination to one of his former students, sources close to the matter said Tuesday.

The bar exam committee of the Justice Ministry filed a criminal complaint against Koichi Aoyagi on Tuesday for a possible violation of the confidentiality provision in the national civil service law, leading to the 67-year-old being dismissed as a committee member tasked with preparing the bar exam, according to the ministry.

The ministry said Aoyagi leaked questions on the subject of the Constitution to a female student in her 20s for this year’s exam held in May. The two have admitted to the allegation during the ministry’s questioning, it said.

The case is to light just before the Tuesday announcement of exam results.

Aoyagi served as foreign minister and finance minister in Denmark before being elected in June as president of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.—Kyodo News

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The ministry said Aoyagi leaked questions on the subject of the Constitution to a female student in her 20s for this year’s exam held in May. The two have admitted to the allegation during the ministry’s questioning, it said.

The case is to light just before the Tuesday announcement of exam results.

Aoyagi served as foreign minister and finance minister in Denmark before being elected in June as president of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.—Kyodo News

US seeks early accord with Japan on mutual military logistic support

WASHINGTON — The US government is seeking an accord with Tokyo by the end of September on revising a bilateral agreement for the two countries’ mutual provision of military goods and services, sources familiar with bilateral relations said Monday.

Under their defense cooperation guidelines revised in April, Japan and the United States have confirmed their intention to “negotiate expeditiously” a new Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement to “operationalize the mutual logistics cooperation.”

In calling for an early conclusion of talks on a new ACSA, Washington apparently has in mind the expected enactment of security bills that would expand the role of Japan’s Self-Defense Forces abroad.

The legislation would put into effect a landmark Cabinet decision in July last year that re-interpreted the Constitution to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense, or coming to the aid of the United States and other friendly nations under armed attack, even if Japan itself is not attacked.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is seeking to get the controversial legislation enacted during the current Diet session through Sept. 27. The bills are now under deliberation in the upper chamber of the Diet after passing the lower house in July.

The ACSA is seen as facilitating bilateral defense cooperation after the enactment of the new legislation.

Washington and Tokyo plan to expedite working-level talks on a new ACSA, possibly from this week, according to the sources. The talks will also cover a new bilateral agreement on Tokyo’s host-nation financial support for US bases in Japan to replace the existing accord expiring next March, the sources said.

Under the revised defense cooperation guidelines, the SDF and the US military will “provide mutual logistic support where appropriate, including, but not limited to, supply, maintenance, transportation, engineering and medical services” for activities set forth in the ACSA.

The planned working-level talks on a new ACSA are expected to focus on how much the scope of mutual logistic support should be expanded.
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (00015)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (00015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.9.2015 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

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 09 VOY NO (53)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 09 VOY NO (53) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P(T) (1) 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 G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (012N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (012N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.9.2015 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**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (062N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (062N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.9.2015 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 WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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**WEATHER REPORT**

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 9th September, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagar, Mandalay and Maungdaw Regions, scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Increase of rain in Tanintharyi Region and Mon State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th September, 2015:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th September, 2015:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (10%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th September, 2015:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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**Colombia seizes over 3.7 million US dollars worth of fake money**

BOGOTA — Colombian police dismantled here on Monday an illegal organization dedicated to printing counterfeit currencies, seizing 3.7 million US dollars worth of fake money.

According to a National Police report, the operation was conducted along with Europol, the European Union law enforcement agency, and the United States Secret Service in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Bogota.

The police also captured five people, including the ring leader, along with the fake money, which included 2.3 million euros, 1.1 million US dollars and 11 million Colombian pesos (around 3,600 US dollars).—Xinhua
China box office revenue hits $4.7 billion, speeds past 2014 total

SHANGHAI — China’s box office takings have topped 30 billion yuan ($4.71 billion) so far this year, overtaking the total for the whole of 2014 as the country’s film market continues its rapid climb, a major lure for Hollywood studios and investors.

The takings mark a 48.5 percent jump over 2014, when China is on track to hit 40 billion yuan this year, state news agency Xinhua said, citing the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SARFT).

The allure of China’s box office has become increasingly difficult to resist for global film-makers from Sony Corp to Walt Disney Co, despite challenges of navigating the country’s censors as well as getting one of the coveted 34 spots allowed for foreign films each year.

Last November, the vice president of the China Film Producers’ Association, Wang Penglin, said the Chinese film market would overtake the United States to become the largest in the world within three years.

Box office receipts in the United States and Canada combined fell 5 percent last year but still hit 10.4 billion, according to the Motion Picture Association of America Inc. China’s takings jumped 34 percent in the same period.

While foreign films still often top China’s box office charts — action flick “Furious 7” currently holds the number one spot — Chinese movies have raked in 18 billion yuan so far this year, 60 percent of the total, Xinhua reported SARFT as saying.

Chinese blockbuster “Monster Hunt”, China’s highest-grossing film ever, is also likely to steal the top spot after raking in 2.4 billion yuan since its debut on July 16, Xinhua said.

China’s box office lure has also led some studios to remove scenes from their films and add characters to help get past censors and appeal more to a Chinese market, stoking concerns of self-censorship — Reuters

PM Rabin killing “written on wall”, FILMMAKER GITAI SAYS

VENICE — Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai says his film “Rabin: The Last Day”, screened at the Venice Film Festival on Monday, won’t end conspiracy theories about the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995.

But it does show, he says, that there was a right-wing hate campaign against the late war hero and former general.

Rabin was excoriated by critics on the right for signing the 1993 Oslo Peace Accords that recognised the Pales-tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and ceded limited control of parts of the West Bank and Gaza.

He and Shimon Peres — his then foreign minister and later Israel’s president — knew they were targets, Gitai told Reuters at the festival, where his film is in competition for the top Lion d’Or prize to be awarded on Saturday.

“I think that we have to go back 20 years and see this political figure Rabin, just being elected, who from Day One of his re-election puts as his main issue to try to reconcile the conflict,” Gitai said.

“He’s obviously risking his life, because we know the end.”

The film uses archival footage of a campaign rally by Benjamin Netanyahu, the current prime minister at that time, who was leader of the opposition Likud party, speaking from a balcony draped with a huge banner saying “Death to Arabs”.

Rally participants hold up posters showing Rabin dressed like PLO leader Yasser Arafat in a traditional Arab keffiyeh headdress, or caricatured as a member of the Nazi Gestapo.

Gitai’s film also recreates secret meetings by ultra-nationalists who say Rabin deserves to die under a provision of Judaism’s Talmudic law called “din rodel”, which is analogous to the Islamic fatwa edict.

Gitai said his film will not set to rest persistent theories in Israel that the right arranged Rabin’s assassination, or that the left did it to discredit the right.

“Obviously I don’t have any hidden information,” Gitai said, suggesting the vicious atmosphere at the time was more to blame. “For me there is no conspiracy, it was actually written on the wall.”

He said the death of Rabin, whom he knew personally, was a blow to Middle East peace.

The prime minister was gunned down by ultra-nationalist law student Yigal Amir as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv on Nov. 4, 1995.

“In this Rabin government, there is a profound understanding that if you want to make peace ... a real reconciliation, to construct something different, you have to be aware that the other (side) exists, that he has another vision of the conflict. “I think that Rabin was really the first and until now the only Israel’s political figure who understood,” Gitai said. — Reuters

“I like choosing directors I work with”: Oscar-winning actor Juliette Binoche

VENICE — I enjoy so much selecting the directors I collaborate with because then I can really share in the creative process on set,” French Oscar-winning actress Juliette Binoche told Xinhua.

“If I work by myself, I would paint or do something else, but working with others, it’s a co-creation for me,” Binoche said during an interview during the ongoing 72nd Venice Film Festival.


She received three Golden Globes nominations and won the best actress award at the Venice (1993) and Cannes (2010) film festivals.

In the feature film L’attesa, by debut director Piero Messina, showing at the Venice film festival, Binoche plays the role of a mother who doesn’t want to admit her son has died and instead waits for him with his girlfriend in an old Sicilian villa.

Binoche said: “When I read the script and met with Piero, I saw a great director, and felt it would be exciting to work with somebody new.” The subject and the character were interesting for Binoche.

“I thought, ‘this is a film I would like to do because it’s about exploring in a different way the loss of a child. My character in the movie is creating a world in order to survive.’” —Xinhua

Film supporting Japan dolphin hunts draws mixed reaction

MONTREAL, (Canada) — A documentary movie supportive of dolphin hunts in western Japan drew a mixed reaction Monday after its screening at the Montreal World Film Festival in Canada.

Some members of the audience praised Keiko Yagi, the Japanese director of “Behind THE COVE”, for being courageous, while others criticized the documentary as one-sided propaganda.


In the hunting, fishing boats herd dolphins and other small cetaceans into coves where they are caught or slaughtered, a method that has sparked criticism in Japan and abroad.

“For people who want to argue back (even if criticized) but we can win understanding by sending out messages,” Yagi told the around 160 people who watched her first film.

Yagi stayed in Taiji from August to November in 2014 and interviewed a number of people, including a former whale hunter along with conservationist Ric O’Barry featured in “The Cove,” as well as the film’s director Louie Psihoyos. —Kyodo News
Taiji whale museum quits Japan aquarium body over dolphin hunt ban

WAKAYAMA, (Japan) — A whale museum in the western Japan town of Taiji has withdrawn from the country’s aquarium body in protest at its ban on accepting dolphins captured in drive hunts, officials of the museum said Tuesday.

The museum submitted its notice of withdrawal Friday, as demanded by the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the officials said. It was the first such move after JAZA imposed the ban in May. In the hunting, fishing boats drive dolphins and other small cetaceans into a bay where they are caught or slaughtered, a method that has sparked criticism in Japan and abroad.

Whale entangled in fishing wire in California spotted in Mexican waters

LOS ANGELES — A blue whale that was spotted last week entangled in fishing wire off the Southern California border, according to Malibu, a spokesman for the California border, according to Jim Milbury, a spokesman for the California border, according to Malibu, a spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“We believe this is the same whale that was entangled off Palos Verdes,” Milbury said. “The description fits.”

Last week, a blue whale was seen towing hundreds of feet of wire with a buoy attached near the coast of the upscale seaside community of Rancho Palos Verdes, south of Los Angeles.

Whale watching ships were dispatched Sunday to look for the massive mammal and attempt to free it from the tethers, which could eventually weaken or kill it, NOAA said.

NOAA officials would be able to respond to the whale if it moves back into US waters, Milbury said. Mexican rescue teams have been contacted, he said.

Blue whales, the largest mammals on Earth, can reach nearly 100 feet (30.3 meters) in length and weigh 190 tonnes. They were once driven to near extinction by whaling.

Oil train risks affect many US schools, group says

HOUSTON — Thousands of US schools sit along railroad corridors used to carry toxic substances such as crude oil and would be at risk in the case of a derailment, an environmental group said on Tuesday as it called for a temporary halt on oil trains.

ForestEthics said its analysis of US Department of Education data show nearly 15,000 schools with 5.7 million students sit inside the so-called ‘blast zone’, the one-mile area along railroad tracks the US Department of Transportation (DoT) recommends be evacuated in case of crashes.

The DoT moved in May to lower maximum speeds to 40 miles per hour in cities, phase out older tank cars that can puncture, have carriers use safer routes, and require better brakes after a string of accidents.

But environmental groups say traffic should be stopped until even stricter rules are introduced.

They say oil train speeds should be made even slower, even though many trains crawl through some neighborhoods, and that older cars should be taken off the rails right away.

They also want railroads to make public where and when they are running trains with toxic substances so local emergency responders can better prepare for accidents.

To be sure, a series of oil train derailments over the last few years in the United States have caused fiery explosions but no fatalities.

Still, safety advocates say it is just a matter of time before a big accident occurs in a US city. A 2013 accident in Quebec killed 47 people.

After spiking since 2011 on the US shale oil boom, crude train volumes from North Dakota’s oilfields to California and the East Coast have plummeted on concerns in crude oil prices.

And the amount of oil leaving North Dakota by rail has fallen as new pipelines get built. Pipelines now carry around 41 percent of North Dakota’s oil, up from a third last summer, according to the state, which produces about 1.2 million barrels per day. Houston, a center of the US refining and chemicals industry, topped the list of cities with schools in the blast zone.

Fowler wins Deutsche Bank as Stenson has late double-bogey

NORTON (Massachusetts) — American Rickie Fowler took advantage of a late Henrik Stenson double-bogey to clinch a one-stroke victory at the Deutsche Bank Championship in Massachusetts on Monday.

A closing three-under-par 68 at TPC Boston was enough for Fowler, who began the day one stroke behind Stenson.

Fowler finished at 15-under 269, while Swede Stenson (70) claimed second on 14-under after finding a hazard with his tee shot at the third hole.

Stenson, who also finished second last week at The Barclays, missed a 14-foot birdie putt at the final hole, leaving Fowler the luxury of two-putting from 10 feet for the win.

“I didn’t have my best stuff early, made a couple mistakes and Henrik distanced himself a bit,” Fowler said after his third global win of the year, adding to victories at the Players Championship and Scottish Open.

The 26-year-old began his round in wild fashion, when he hooked his tee shot into a hazard, but he saved par and then eagled the par-five second, only to bogey the next two holes.

Unlike his late-round birdie binges at the Players Championship and Scottish Open, a steady bogey-free back nine got the job done for Fowler this time.

But he got some help from Stenson, who miscalculated with a seven-iron at the 16th and came up short. The double-bogey handed Fowler the lead for good.

“Obviously pulled the wrong club out at 16,” Stenson said.

“I was trying to get the most out of a seven-iron into the wind.

“I’m a little disappointed, but all in all the game is headed in the right direction.”

Fowler, who jumped from ninth to fifth in the world rankings, would like to be part of the conversation of the best player in the world.

“You can’t be a number one status for a while, what Jordan did earlier this year, with Rory playing really well for a couple of years and made his number one status for a while, and what Jason has been doing, with some big wins of late,” Fowler said. “I’m just trying to sneak in as maybe the fourth member.”

Oil train derailments over the last few years in the United States have caused fiery explosions but no fatalities.
New Zealand vs Myanmar football match raises K163 million for flood

GLASGOW — Thomas Mueller scored twice and set up another goal as Germany beat Scotland 3-2 on Monday to move to the brink of qualifying for Euro 2016 after all but securing a top-two finish in Group D with two games left.

The world champions now have 19 points while Poland, 8-1 winners over Gibraltar, are on 17.

Ireland, who beat Georgia 1-0 and next face Germany in October, are third with 15 points. Scotland have 11 following a 3-1 defeat against New Zealand.

Mueller underlined his 10th Waning Day of Wagaung 1377 ME         Wednesday, 9 September, 2015

Mueller’s Germany double puts Scots on the rocks

New Zealand vs Myanmar football match raises K163 million for flood

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Mueller underlined his second goal with a close-range header after Scotland had levelled with a Mats Hummels own goal.

Mueller, who was also on target in Friday’s 3-1 victory over Poland, then rode to the rescue again after the home team had levelled once more with a shot from James McArthur before halftime.

The 25-year-old Mueller set up the winner, cutting the ball back for Ilkay Guendogan to fire in off the post in the 54th minute. “Thomas has had a great run and he is always where the striker has to be, in the five-metre area,” coach Joachim Loew told reporters. “We gave the same performance as we did against Poland. We wanted the six points from these two games, now we play in Ireland and at home against Georgia.”

Anderson stuns Murray, Federer in quarters

NEW YORK — Persistence finally paid off for Kevin Anderson as the towering South African prevailed in a slugfest with Andy Murray to reach the quarter-finals of the US Open on Monday while another tennis giant John Isner was slain by Roger Federer.

Two David v Goliath matchups, however, ended all too predictably as 97th ranked British qualifier Johanna Konta saw her Flushing Meadows joy ride ended 7-5, 6-3 by fifth seeded Czech Petra Kvitova and 68th ranked American Donald Young ran out of comeback magic in a 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 loss to fifth seed Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland.

Tomas Berdych’s time in Flushing Meadows also came to an end with the sixth seeded Czech falling 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 to 12th seeded Frenchman Richard Gasquet.

Seven times before the six-foot, eight-inch (2.03m) Anderson had progressed to the fourth round of a grand slam but never beyond until his 7-6(5), 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6(7) victory over third seeded Scott Mct

Murray had battled his way back from two sets down in the second round against France’s Adrian Mannarino, but could not work another miracle against the 14th-ranked, 29-year-old, who swept the final tiebreak 7-0. “That’s obviously something that is disappointing to lose,” said Murray after watching his run of reaching 18 consecutive grand slam quarter-finals come to an end. “That’s many years’ work that’s gone into building that sort of consistency.

“So to lose a match like that, that was over four hours, tough obviously after a couple of tough matches earlier in the tournament, as well. It’s a hard one to lose, for sure.”

Second seed Monisha Halep overcame a thigh injury, baking heat and finally big-hitting German Sabine Lisicki to also reach the US Open quarters for the first time.

Her perfect scoreline in the opening set tiebreak snapped an even longer Isner streak. In 429 tiebreakers played by Isner, he had never dropped one 7-0.

“Seven-love obviously is a pretty good score against John,” said Federer.

Second seed Monisha Halep overcame a thigh injury, baking heat and finally big-hitting German Sabine Lisicki to also reach the US Open quarters for the first time. It was Labor Day in the United States but it was certainly no holiday for Halep who had to work for her spot in the last eight, needing two hours and 38 minutes under a broiling sun to dispatch Lisicki 6-7(6), 7-5, 6-2 and reach the US Open quarter-finals for the first time.

Waiting for the Romanian in the last eight is two-time US Open finalist Victoria Azarenka, who advanced with a comfortable 6-3, 6-2 win over American Varvara Lepchenko. After a couple of days of relief, the heat returned to Flushing Meadows turning the fourth round clash between Halep and Lisicki into a test of survival. —Reuters

Football - Scotland v Germany - UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifying Group D - Hampden Park, Glasgow, Scotland - 7/9/2015 Thomas Muller celebrates with team mates after scoring the first goal for Germany. —Reuters

Buenos Aires — Lionel Messi and Carlos Tevez look set to start an Argentina match together for the first time since the 2010 World Cup in Tuesday’s friendly against Mexico in Dallas.

Coach Gerardo Martino said on Monday he would change most of the side that beat Bolivia 7-0 in Houston on Friday and has been practicing with the pair and new talent.

“The team will be made up mostly of those who didn’t play the other day,” Martino told a news conference in Dallas.

Atlantic’s Correro, who made his debut against Bolivia, Messi and Tevez were all substitutes on Friday.

“We know the crowds are keen to see Lionel (play) and we don’t turn a blind eye to that but we have to look after the players’ bodies,” added Martino.

Diego Maradona was the last Argentina coach to pair Messi and Tevez in attack in the 2010 quarter-final in Cape Town in which Germany crushed his team 4-0. Alejandro Sabella, who steered Argentina to the 2014 final, a 1-0 defeat by Germany in Rio de Janeiro, did not pick Tevez at all during his four years in charge. —Reuters