THE PALM OF PEACE

Current signatories set to extend truce offer to non-signatories

Ye Myint

Despite the fact that the recently agreed ceasefire agreement applies only to the eight signatory groups a number of diplomatic overtures are being made between signatories and non-signatories to attempt to create a more inclusive picture in the near future according to a statement from the ceasefire signatories.

Before the signing of the ceasefire agreement on 15 October the represented ethnic factions had already discussed aligning themselves politically to aid the nation’s peace process, said Salai Yaw Aung, adding that it is imperative for those groups not yet named in the ceasefire agreement to be involved in the peace process.

Despite not having total inclusiveness at the moment the government is looking to expand the ceasefire said U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre.

The centre’s working group will host talks with any groups, signatories or non-signatories, who are available and willing to attend meetings in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 4 to 11 November, added the senior adviser.

Dr. Min Zaw Oo, the MPC’s programme director provided information on activities in Chiang Mai, saying that there will also be meetings on the formulation of ceasefire monitoring guidelines by working groups of the Joint Monitoring Committee-JMC.

The meeting is separate from talks held between ethnic signatories, non-signatories and ethnic armed groups in the attempt to expand on the peace agreement, he said.

Representatives from the government and eight ethnic signatories met in Yangon for the first time on 29-31 October having finalised the military code of conduct for both sides and formed a Union-level JMC.

According to the post-signing guidelines the second JMC meeting is scheduled to take place in Nay Pyi Taw after the second Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting-JICM on 16 November. The second JICM is set to be held 30 days after the signing of the ceasefire between the government and ethnic groups.

White ballot paper sections will appear yellow at polls: UEC

The Union Election Commission announced yesterday that political logos containing sections of white will appear yellow on the ballots as they are printed on yellow paper imported from Indonesia.

In its statement the UEC requested that political candidates clarify to voters the possible change in colour of their party logos if those logos include white sections.

To prevent the use of counterfeit ballot papers for the upcoming November 8 election the government has imported Light Yellow W/F Paper (80 gsm) with security marks from the P T Pura factory in Indonesia.

A watermark of the UEC’s logo is featured on the ballot paper to prevent counterfeiting, according to the statement.

The UEC also urged voters to take note of the names of candidates and parties along with their logos when they cast their votes on Sunday.

The Union Election Commission has ordered more than 125 million ballot papers from the state-run Printing and Publishing Enterprise (PPE) for the upcoming general election, said PPE managing director U Aung Myo Myint at a press conference in Yangon in mid-September.

The ballots are costlier but of higher quality than those used in the 2010 election, U Aung Myo Myint said.—GNLM

Correction

Please read “Male candidates make up the 86.8 percent of the total with 5,274 and women making up the rest with 800 (13.2%), according to the statistics from the UEC instead of second sentence in the second last paragraph in the news under headline “More than 10,500 observers to monitor 8 November election” on the front page of this daily issued on 3-11-2015.—GNLM
Mandalay holds diabetes prevention talks

IN honour of World Diabetes Day, which falls on 14 November, educational talks on nutrition and diabetes prevention were held at the Hotel Mandalay on 1 November.

Diabetes specialist Professor Dr Aye Aye Aung of the Mandalay General Hospital explained diabetes prevention strategies and habits for a healthy lifestyle. Dr Aung Moe Myint introduced Naturally Better products to the audience.

Data show that two people in the world develop diabetes every 10 seconds, and four million die of the disease every year. The disease can happen to anyone, regardless of age, the doctors explained.

Professor Dr Dr Aye Aye Aung explained the symptoms of the disease and other diseases that occur in diabetic patients. She encouraged audience members to take daily half-hour walks for exercise and to maintain healthy diets.

World Diabetes Day is the primary global awareness campaign for diabetes around the world. It is held on November 14 each year and was first introduced in 1991. —Thiha Ko Ko

Tatkon residents pay respect to senior citizens

RESIDENTS of Tatkon Township paid respect to senior citizens over the age of 90 at a ceremony on 1 November. The senior citizens and attendees recited Namo Tassa three times. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe, township administrator U Yi Mon, town elders, departmental officials, NGO staff and village administrators paid respects to the 226 elders.

After that, the officials gave Thadingyut gifts and medicine to the senior citizens.—Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Gi Group launches Myawaddy-Yangon-Mandalay-Muse express bus route

BUS company Gi Group introduced a new Myawaddy-Yangon-Mandalay-Muse route on 31 October. At the launch ceremony in Myawaddy, District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo said Myawaddy, which borders Thailand, is now easily accessible via the Asian Highway. He urged the bus line to take every caution for passengers’ safety.

The opening was also attended by Gi Group patron U Thein Oo, chairman U Zami Aung, members of parliament and local officials. Two express buses will operate the route. A ticket for the Myawaddy-Yangon sells for K12,000, or K14,000 to include additional services.

The new route ends in Muse, Shan State, which borders Yunnan Province, China.—Thein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Chinlone skills demonstration marks successful completion of rice offering

A RICE offering ceremony to members of the Sangha took place at the religious hall in Wunna Theikdi Ward, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 1 November.

Local people donated provisions to more than 300 Buddhist monks and nuns from 33 monasteries, led by Minwun Hill Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandimasara.

In commemoration of the successful completion of rice offering ceremony, Aung Zaw Lin, gold medallist in the 27th SEA Games, traditional chinlone professional Daw Ni Ni Mar and other players demonstrated their skills together with local enthusiasts at the Swetahar Traditional Chinlone Club in Pyinmana.—Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Township MCWA provides uniforms to members

THE Tatkon Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association held an educational health talk in conjunction with a ceremony where uniforms were given to association members at the Township General Administration Department on 1 November.

Chairperson of the association Daw Aye Aye Mar made a speech while the head of the township’s Public Health Department Dr Tun Tun explained HIV/AIDS prevention techniques.

Health staff Daw Thin Thin Hlaing and Daw Khin Mar Htwe demonstrated hand washing and gave talks on dengue haemor rhagic fever.

Officials presented 100 uniforms to members of the township association.—Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Workshop focuses on voting process for voters with disabilities

MYANMAR Independent Living Initiatives held a workshop on 1 November to explain the voting process to people with disabilities. The workshop was held at the Dinda Hotel in Mahaungmyae Township, Mandalay. The workshop was attended by officials of the Social Welfare Department, parliament members, civic organisations and journalists.

MILLI members spoke about the challenges eligible voters with disabilities face in Myanmar and how to alleviate these challenges on voting day. The politicians and other attendees at the workshop discussed possible solutions.

According to the 2014 national Myanmar, there are 2.3 million people with disabilities in Myanmar, comprising 4.6 percent of the total population of 50 million.

The Union Election Commission has allowed voters with disabilities to be accompanied at the polling booth by other voters to help in the voting process, said a Social Welfare Department official.—Maung Pyithu
President inspects development tasks in Rakhine State

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein, together with Command-er-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers and deputy minis-
ters, arrived in Sittway in Rakhine State on Tuesday morning.

The president and party were welcomed by acting Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Mya Aung, of-
cials and local people before pro-
ceeding to Mrauk-U. In Mrauk-U the president and party attended the golden umbrella and diamond orb hoisting ceremony of the Mahar- pyinnyakaw Pagoda.

The president offered 50 Bud-
gha images and 50 solar lamps to Alodawpyay Sayadaw and Kathi-
na robes to the abbot of Buywet-
mahmyo Monastery. The Maha Pyinnyakaw Pagoda is located in the compound of Minister Maha Pyinnyakaw and was built during the reign of King Min Yaza Gyi in AD 1600.

The president met with Hlutt-
aw representatives, members of the township management com-
mittee, the township development supporting committee, the town-
ship development affairs com-
mittee, departmental officials and
town elders at the meeting hall of Mrauk-U District General Ad-
ministration Department.At the meeting the president said that he
had visited Mrauk-U on 6 August to deliver relief aids to flood vic-
tims. The president pointed out that
one-third of the country was hit by
various natural disasters at the end
of last July but with the coopera-
tion of government agencies, both
national and local and the local
civilian population, the situation
had returned almost to normal and
it was now necessary to attempt
to improve living conditions and
increase disaster resistance. The
president added that during the
about five years of the term of the
government, efforts have been
made to implement reform meas-
ures without bloodshed. He said
it requires careful planning to shift
from one political system to a com-
pletely different system. He added
that it is important for the image of
the nation to hold the November
8 elections in a free and fair man-
ner. There are concerns at home
and abroad for stability before and
after the elections. Over ten thou-
sand observers including about one
thousand international observers
and over 9,000 local observers will
monitor the elections. The interna-
tional community does not have
great confidence due to the lack of
democratic culture and experience
in Myanmar, the president said.

In conclusion, the president urged
local people to cooperate with the
government to hold the elections in
a free and fair manner. The district
commissioner, officials of the CB
KMA Foundation and the chair-
man of Mrauk-U township devel-
opment affair committee reported
on flood relief efforts and regional
development tasks. The group
inspected new houses for flood
victims donated by the CB KMA
Foundation in Htamarik New
Village and the reconstruction of
a middle school hit by floods in
Mrauk-U. The president met with
Hluttaw representatives, mem-
bers of the township management
committee, the township develop-
ment supporting committee and
the township development affairs
committee departmental officials
and town elders at Yarmaung Hall
in Minbya.

A town elder expressed thanks
for the President’s time and the
arrangement of Rakhine State gov-
ernment.

The president visited Sittway, Mrauk-U and Minbya on 6 August and
inspected the renovation of Sittway Point.

A local official reported on
the renovation of the Sittway Point
Beach, which has been renovated
at the cost of K 2 billion under the
arrangement of Rakhine State gov-
ernment.

The president visited Sittway, Mrauk-U and Minbya on 6 August and
Butthadaung and Yathedaung on 7 August to inspect relief efforts
following Cyclone Komar.—My-
anmar News Agency

85 more Myanmar fisher-
men arrive home

OFFICIALS of the Relief and Resettlement Department flew
home 85 Myanmar citizen fisher-
men in the second group arrival
from the Open Distress Camps in
Port Blair, India, yesterday.

They arrived at Yangon Inter-
national Airport yesterday evening
where they were welcomed by
departmental officials, officials of
various region and state govern-
ments and representatives from the
International Organisation of Mi-
gration (IOM).

Provided to returned fisher-
men was emergency cash, cloth-
ing, equipment, SIM cards and
top-up cards before they were
transported to their homes. 243
Myanmar fishermen have arrived
back home from India over the last
two days.—Zaw Min Latt

Tatmadawmen must take
ethnics into account, abide
by rules of UEC

TATMADAW must give first
priority to the safety and peace
of ethnic communities and be ready
to defend them, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told servicemen from
Sittway Station yesterday.

The commander-in-chief of
defence services urged the Tat-
madawmen to elect Hluttaw repre-
sentatives who can join hands with
ethnic communities.

In conclusion, he said that
the Tatmadaw is supporting
the democratic culture and experi-
ence of foreign organisations. He
stressed the need for Tatmadawmen to abide by the
rules and regulations of the Union
Election Commission in regards to
advanced voting.

The senior general noted that
the Tatmadaw is supporting the
signing of the ceasefire agreement
with armed ethnic groups.

The senior general presented
books to a senior military
officer.—Myawady

Employers to assist staff
in voting this Sunday

May Zau Zau

AIR Kanbawza airlines has announced that they will make
sure their on-shift workers will be
able to vote this Sunday by
offering them transport to ballot
box locations.

“We told our staff not to
miss the chance to vote so we
will provide transport for them.
We will pick up airplane staff from
the airport at 5:30 am for voting. We
will allow staff from the 9 am to
12 noon shift to return home to
vote and evening shift staff who
have voted in the morning will be
picked up from home and taken
to the office. As Myanmar citizens
we must not lose our chance to
vote freely,” said U Khin Maung
Kyaw, chief administration of-
icer of Air Kanbawza.

A money changer in Ka-
muay Township who isnormally
open Sundays has vowed to close
for election day to enable staff
to vote in the general elections.

Police launch investigation into bus attack

YANGON police have launched
an investigation to identify the
group of unidentified men who
attacked the Parami 174 Bus line
at a Tamway traffic stop in Bahan
Township on Monday.

Six unidentified men in a ve-
hicle apparently blocked the bus
at the traffic lights before attack-
ing the bus driver and conductor
with iron rods. The bus driver and
conductors had earlier got into an
argument with a man driving Hon-
da Insight (2J/—), which tried to
overtake the bus at 8-mile junction,
according to the police.

The driver of the Honda and
about five other people boarded the
bus and assaulted the driver and
conductor with iron rods. When the
bus driver and conductors fled they
smashed the front and back wind-
shields and windows of the bus.

One female passenger faint-
ed due to shock and another was
injured as she tried to flee the as-
saual.—Zaw Gyi (Panta)
ASEAN defence ministers meetings plus related meetings to kick off in Malaysia

MANILA — The Philippine Supreme Court is unlikely to rule on a constitutional challenge to a new US-Philippine security agreement before President Barack Obama visits Manila later this month, with a decision expected next year, a court source said.

The deal gives US troops wide access to Philippine military bases and approval to build facilities to store fuel and equipment for maritime security, but it was effectively frozen after leftist politicians and other opponents challenged its constitutionality last year.

With tension growing over China’s island-building in the disputed South China Sea, Philippine political experts had expected the Supreme Court to issue a ruling before Obama attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Manila on 18-19 November.

The Enhanced Defence Co-operation Agreement (EDCA) was signed just days before Obama last visited Manila in April 2014.

A court source, who declined to be identified, said domestic political issues were likely to take priority.

“I expect the court to decide on the military deal next year, before the elections in May,” the source said, referring to national elections scheduled for May 2016.

Supreme Court spokesman Theodore Te said it was unclear when the court would issue a ruling.

Experts had already said any further delays to the agreement might raise eyebrows in Washington given Manila has been the most vocal critic of Beijing among the claimants to the South China Sea and has urged the United States to push back against China’s territorial ambitions.

Last week a US warship patrolled the territorial limits around one of Beijing’s artificial islands in the Spratly Archipelago, prompting China’s naval chief to warn that a minor incident could spark war in the South China Sea.

“It is painful to watch a case so vital to Philippine national security mired in judicial indecision,” said Patrick Cronin of the Center for a New American Security, referring to national elections.

To be sure, US-Philippine military ties are already robust.

Philippine military officials say there has been an increase in US exercises, training and ship and aircraft visits in the past year under Obama’s “rebalance” to Asia. But the EDCA would take the relationship a step further, partly by giving US forces broad access to the Philippines. “There is no doubt the US will be disappointed. But the process demonstrates judicial independence where due diligence is expected,” said Philippine security expert Rommel Banlaoi.

British journalists jailed for Indonesia visa violations, could be freed immediately

BATAM — An Indonesian court on Tuesday sentenced two British journalists to two months and 15 days in jail after they were convicted of violating immigration laws by working without appropriate visas.

Neil Bonner and Rebecca Prosser were arrested in May in Indonesia’s western island of Batam, where they were filming a documentary about piracy in the Malacca Straits for the London-based production company Wall to Wall, with funding from National Geographic TV.

The two could be freed immediately due to time served.

“I don’t think journalism is a crime.”

Neil Bonner British journalist

Foreign journalists must have a work visa to report in Indonesia. “The defendants have been proven legally and convincingly guilty of committing a criminal offence as foreign correspondents,” Judge Wahyu Prasetyo Wirbowo said.

Prosser said the guilty verdict made the world’s fourth-most populous country a “more dangerous landscape for journalists”. “I feel a sense of sadness because it’s journalism on trial and we have been found guilty,” Bonner told reporters. “I don’t think journalism is a crime.”

Last year, two French journalists were convicted of using their tourist visas to work as journalists in the politically sensitive Papua province and spent 11 weeks in detention before being sent back to France.

The court also fined the two 25 million rupiah ($1,845) each. The prosecution had asked for a five-month jail term.
Indonesia to deport Indian on Interpol most-wanted list

JAKARTA — Indonesia will deport one of India’s most wanted men on Tuesday to face charges in more than two dozen murder cases at home.

Rajendra Nikalje, widely known as Chhota Rajan, was arrested by police on Indonesia’s resort island of Bali last week, ending a two-decade-long international manhunt.

Rajan has been on Interpol’s most-wanted list since 1995 suspected of running a crime syndicate that engaged in extortion, arms smuggling and contract killing.

“There are no administrative problems now. We have prepared everything (for his deportation),” Bali police spokesman Hery Wiyanto said, adding he would be flown back to India late on Tuesday.

Rajan, 55, had been living incognito in Australia, but fearing his enemies would find him, was able to fly to Bali where he was arrested without resistance, according to news reports.

India’s national security adviser devised a plan to secure the arrest of Rajan as part of a strategy to hunt down India’s most-wanted man, Dawood Ibrahim, Indian police and ministry sources told Reuters. The two are believed to have worked together.

Ibrahim is accused of masterminding a dozen bombings and grenade attacks in Mumbai in March 1993, killing 257 people and wounding more than 700 in the deadliest such attack in the nation’s history.—Reuters

Japan delivers 2 boats to Vietnam to help boost security capability

DANANG — Japan on Tuesday delivered two secondhand fishing boats to the Vietnamese coast guard for use as patrol boats in a move to help Hanoi strengthen its law enforcement capability amid territorial disputes with Beijing.

The provision of the vessels is part of a grant-in-aid deal signed between the Japan and Vietnamese cities of Danang and Hanoi last year.

The ships delivered in the central Vietnamese city of Danang will be refurbished as patrol boats.

The grant-in-aid deal provided for the delivery of six vessels to the Vietnamese side, with four, including the latest two, having been delivered.

Japan is set to provide additional vessels to Vietnam under a separate agreement reached last September in Tokyo between Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of Vietnam’s ruling Communist Party and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.—Kyodo News

Arizona grandpa leaves girl, 5, in desert with gun

PHOENIX — An Arizona grandfather has been arrested and accused of leaving his five-year-old granddaughter alone in the desert with a loaded and cocked .45-caliber handgun and the instruction “to shoot any bad guys,” authorities said on Monday.

Paul Armand Rater, 53, was booked into the Fourth Avenue Jail in downtown Phoenix on suspicion of two counts of felony child abuse and one count of felony child endangerment stemming from incident on Sunday night. Deputies said he and the child left their home in Buckeye, about 30 miles (48 km) west of Phoenix, in a pickup truck early on Sunday afternoon and that the girl was reported missing four hours later.

She was eventually located in the desert by her mother and an off-duty firefighter. The child was holding the powerful pistol.

“She was given the gun and told to shoot any bad guys,” Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio told Reuters by telephone. “I don’t know how a five-year-old can tell a good guy from a bad guy, but that’s what she said she was told.” Rater was later located at a store where he told deputies the vehicle had broken down and that he had left the girl under a tree in the desert because she was complaining she could not walk anymore, court records showed. He admitted leaving the girl with his gun, “while he went for a few drinks and a cheeseburger,” the sheriff’s office said.

The child was returned to her mother and state child welfare authorities were alerted, the sheriff’s office said.—Reuters

US hails Japan-China-South Korea summit, 1-on-1 talks between Abe, Park

WASHINGTON — The US government on Monday welcomed the trilateral summit of Japan, China and South Korea at which the leaders of the three Northeast Asian neighbours agreed to revive their annual talks after a three-and-a-half year hiatus.

“We support their efforts to improve relations among the three countries,” Elizabeth Trudeau, director of the State Department’s Press Office, said in a press briefing. “We believe strong and constructive relations between South Korea, Japan and China support regional peace and prosperity, which serves our interests and the interests of the region.”

At their talks in Seoul on Sunday, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Park Geun-hye agreed to advance their partnership in the spirit of “facing history squarely and advancing toward the future” despite disputes over territory and views on wartime history.

On the first one-on-one talks between Abe and Park held on Monday, Trudeau said Washington welcomes the two leaders’ agreement to accelerate their efforts to resolve the “sensitive issue” of “comfort women” — former sex slaves for the Japanese military. Many of those women were from the Korean Peninsula, which was under Japan’s colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.—Kyodo News

Nikolic: Campaign includes sharing film on social networks

BELGRADE — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic urged all friends of Serbia to join the campaign against Kosovo becoming a UNESCO member and share the film on the destruction of Serbian cultural heritage in Kosovo-Metohija (KiM) through social networks.

The film shows crimes against Serbian cultural heritage committed by Kosovo Albanians from 1999 until now.

Nikolic also said that UNESCO’s General Conference will decide in several days whether Serbian churches and monasteries and Serbian cultural heritage in KiM should be put under the protection of the cultural heritage law and destroyed in them.

The Serbian president called on all friends of Serbia to help prevent this from happening by downloading the film on https://youtu.be/SKuJWflxFrG and sharing it on social networks.—Tanjug

China’s ruling Communist Party says to accelerate military reform

BEIJING — China’s ruling Communist Party will seek to build the capability to win an “informationized war” by 2020 as part of accelerated reform of the armed forces, state media reported on Tuesday.

China will make significant progress toward realising “mechanization and informatization” by 2020, and build a system capable of “winning an informationized war and effectively fulfilling the mandated mission of building modern military strength with Chinese characteristics”, the Xinhua news agency reported.

The reform pledge was contained in a communiqué issued nearly a week after the Party’s Central Committee held a high-level policy meeting to set a 13th Five-Year Plan.

Xinhua released parts of the document via its microblog.

China will advance “rule of law” over the armed forces, Xinhua said, and reach reform goals by 2020. The leadership is expanding a sprawling anti-graft campaign that has ensnared high-ranking military officials. Fuelled by double-digit annual spending on defence, China’s growing military strength and increasingly assertive stance on territorial disputes have rattled the United States and its allies in Asia.—Reuters

Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic. Nikolic. PHOTO: TANJUG

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (left) and South Korean President Park Geun-hye (right). Photo: Tanjug
Austria drafts law to deter most Afghan migrants

VIENNA — Austria’s cabinet proposed a bill on Tuesday to deter Afghan migrants from coming to the country located along a major migration route across Europe and facing record numbers of asylum requests this year.

The move follows the German interior minister’s call for Afghans, who make up a large proportion of the hundreds of thousands of migrants seeking refuge in Europe, to stay in their home country.

Austria’s new law would force most Afghans to wait for three years, rather than one year under current rules, to bring their families to Austria as well as to prove they have an independent source of income, health insurance and a flat.

“This is a political decision. Making family reunification rules stricter mainly affects Afghans,” Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner told ORF radio.

“It is important for us to create clear rules here and of course to decrease (Austria’s) attractiveness.”

The law, due to pass parliament next month and be implemented from mid-November, would apply to those granted “subsidiary protection” — which mainly applies to Afghans rather than those being granted full political asylum, such as most Syrians.

Austria got a total of 46,000 requests for asylum in the first eight months of this year, with nearly 10,500 from Afghans, according to interior ministry data. That made them the second-largest group of asylum seekers here after almost 13,000 Syrians. — Reuters

A migrant child looks through a train window at a new winter refugee camp in Stavolni Brod, Croatia, on November 3. PHOTO: Reuters

US admiral, in China, says freedom of navigation operations no threat

BEIJING — Freedom of navigation operations by the United States should not be viewed as a threat, US Pacific Command commander Admiral Harry Harris said on Tuesday after a US warship challenged China’s territorial assertions in the disputed South China Sea last week.

“We’ve been conducting freedom of navigation operations all over the world for decades, so no one should be surprised by them,” Harris said at a Beijing university, in comments released by the US military.

“I truly believe that these routine operations should never be construed as a threat to any nation.”

“The United States takes no position on competing sovereignty claims to land features in the South China Sea and we encourage all claimants to solve disputes peacefully, without coercion, and in accordance with international law.” — Reuters

US warship challenges China’s claims to South China Sea

VIENNA — US Pacific Command commander Admiral Harry Harris said on Tuesday that US warship challenges to China’s territorial assertions in the disputed South China Sea last week should not be viewed as a threat, Reuters reported.

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No coherent strategy for Syria air strikes, UK MPs say

LONDON — Britain should not extend its air strikes against Islamic State fighters into Syria until there is a clear strategy to defeat the militants, a committee of MPs said, dealing a blow to Prime Minister David Cameron.

Cameron has said he wants to do more to tackle Islamic State and hopes to seek parliamentary approval to carry out attacks in Syria. Britain is already involved in bombing IS targets in Iraq and has provided allied with surveillance over Syria.

“We believe that there should be no extension of British military action into Syria unless there is a coherent international strategy that has a realistic chance of defeating ISIL and of ending the civil war in Syria,” parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee said in a report published on Tuesday.

“In the absence of such a strategy, taking action to meet the desire to do something is still incoherent,” the report said. It is a setback for Cameron, who is trying to build cross-party support for extending strikes and wants to avoid a repeat of his 2013 parliamentary defeat over plans for British air strikes against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The committee, which has no power to override the government, said the UK had no coherent long-term plan for defeating ISIL and ending the civil war”.

He said there was now an “alarming range” of international actors involved in Iraq and Syria, with Russia’s decision to support Assad by launching strikes against Islamic State fuelling a complex picture of outside intervention. “These forces desperately need coordinating into a coherent strategy and that is where our efforts should be focused,” Blunt said. — Reuters

South African prosecutors begin arguments in appeal court to convict Pistorius of murder

BLOEMFONTEIN — South African state prosecutors began their appeal to have paralympian Oscar Pistorius’ conviction scaled up to murder from culpable homicide for killing his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine’s Day 2013.

Pistorius was released from prison into house arrest last month after serving a fifth of his five-year prison term.

During the trial, the state failed to convince judge Thokozile Masipa of Pistorius’ intent to kill when he fired, leading to his conviction for negligent killing or culpable homicide. — Reuters

Clashes in Turkey’s Kurdish southeast kill one, curfew ordered

DIYARBAKIR — Security forces backed by helicopters imposed a curfew in parts of a southeastern Turkish town on Tuesday and one man was killed in clashes with Kurdish militants, security sources said, the first death since a weekend election heightened tensions.

The Turkish military meanwhile said it had carried out air strikes on Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) militant bases across the border in northern Iraq on Monday, suggesting there will be no let-up in its campaign in the wake of the vote.

The ruling AK Party won back a parliamentary majority on Sunday in a major victory for President Tayyip Erdogan, who has pledged to continue operations against the PKK after a two-year ceasefire collapsed in July. — Reuters

Djuric advocates reinforcement of UN mission in Kosovo

BELGRADE — Head of the Serbian government’s office for Kosovo-Metohija (KJm) Marko Djuric and new UNMIK head Zahir Tanin discussed further cooperation and dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.

At Monday’s meeting, Djuric pointed to the importance of isolating the status issue during the dialogue, implementing the Brussels agreement and establishing the community of Serb municipalities.

He advocated reinforcement of the UN mission in KJm, especially when it comes to protection of the Serb community and the rights of internally displaced persons, the office for KJm issued in a statement.

Djuric stated that Belgrade is against Kosovo’s UNESCO bid, adding that addressing the issue of cultural and historical heritage and the Serbian Orthodox Church outside the dialogue on normalization of relations with Pristina is unacceptable. — Tanjug

Russia’s Aeroflot replaces A321 plane on Moscow-St Petersburg route

MOSCOW — Russian state carrier Aeroflot has replaced an Airbus A321 aircraft on its Moscow-St Petersburg route due to technical issues, TASS news agency quoted a source as saying on Tuesday.

The source said the plane had engine problems but had not left the ground.

An A321 plane crashed in Egypt on Saturday killing all 224 passengers and crew, most of whom were Russian. The flight was operated by Aeroflot rival Kogalymavia. — Reuters

No coherent strategy for Syria air strikes, UK MPs say

British Tornado jet. PHOTO: Reuters

Washington Post

State. Committee chair Crispin Blunt said there was no expectation that British intervention in Syria would be militarily decisive, and there was no “coherent and long-term plan for defeating ISIL and ending the civil war”.

He said there was now an “alarming range” of international actors involved in Iraq and Syria, with Russia’s decision to support Assad by launching strikes against Islamic State further complicating the picture. “These forces desperately need coordinating into a coherent strategy and that is where our efforts should be focused,” Blunt said. — Reuters
Rare cyclone batters Yemen, thousands flee homes

CAIRO — A cyclone with hurricane-force winds made landfall on Yemen’s Arabian Sea coast on Tuesday, flooding the country’s fifth-largest city Mukalla and sending thousands of people fleeing for shelter.

Officials and meteorologists say the storm is the most intense in decades in the arid country, whose storm response is hampered by poverty and a raging civil war.

In the provincial capital Mukalla, whose 300,000 people are largely ruled by al Qaeda fighters since the army withdrew in April, water submerged cars on city streets and caused dozens of families to flee to a hospital for fear of rock slides.

Residents said the seafront promenade and many homes had been destroyed by the cyclone, called Chapala, and officials in the dry hinterland province of Shabwa said about 6,000 people had moved to higher ground.

“The wind knocked out power completely in the city and people were terrified. Some residents had to leave their homes and escape to higher areas where flooding was less; it was a difficult night but it passed off peacefully,” said Sabri Saleem, who lives in Mukalla.

There were no initial reports of injuries.

An al Qaeda militant on Twitter prayed for deliverance from the storm and said that a US pilotless drone was flying especially low over the city, where the militant group’s deputy leader was killed in an air strike in June.

“May God cause it to crash,” said the man, going by the name of Laith al-Mukalla.

“God spare us your wrath, and place the rains in heart of the valleys and mountains.”

The cyclone first hit the remote Yemeni island of Socotra, killing three people and displacing thousands.

An island of natural beauty, Socotra is home to hundreds of plant species found nowhere else on Earth and lies 380 km (238 miles) off Yemen in the Arabian Sea. Its 50,000 residents speak their own language.

Meteorological agencies predicted Chapala would hit land around Balhaf, site of Yemen’s liquefied natural gas terminal, and weakening as it advanced towards the capital Sanaa in the country’s north.

The facility has been mostly shuttered since the start of a war in March between a Saudi-led Arab military coalition and the Iran-allied Houthi movement which controls Sanaa.

It was not immediately clear if the terminal, once a lifeline for Yemen’s weak economy, suffered damage.—Reuters

Fourteen kidnapped aid workers released in eastern Congo

KINSHASA — Fourteen aid workers kidnapped two days ago by unidentified assailants in the eastern Rutshuru region of Democratic Republic of Congo have been released, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Dozens of people have been kidnapped in Rutshuru this year by armed militias and criminal gangs. The area is still plagued by rebel groups following a 1998 to 2003 war that killed millions, mostly from hunger and disease.

The group of 14 kidnapped on Sunday were employees of a Congolese non-governmental organisation.

“We are very happy to learn that the 14 aid workers kidnapped on Sunday have been released,” the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Congo said on its Twitter feed.

Local government officials could not be reached for comment.

A spokesman for OCHA did not immediately have further details on the circumstances of the release, nor could he confirm their nationality.—Reuters

Iraq sacks trade ministry officials in graft probe

BAGHDAD — Iraq’s acting trade minister has sacked seven senior ministry officials wanted on graft-related charges, including the head of the grain board, two ministry officials said on Tuesday.

Iraq is one of the world’s biggest importers of wheat and rice.

The grain board is responsible for procuring grain internationally and from local farmers, and any disarray in the ministry is bound to raise concerns over Iraq’s ability to secure strategic commodities.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the move by minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani was part of “a comprehensive operation... to cleanse the ministry of officials who have any hint of corruption”.

Iraq issued an arrest warrant last month for then Trade Minister Milas Mohamed Abdul Kareem after a corruption investigation into bribes, illegal benefits and the misuse of his position.

“This corruption and violations smear the reputation of the country,” one of the officials told Reuters. “If this situation continues, it could lead to dire consequences in the Iraqi trade sector.”

Several Trade Ministry officials have faced corruption allegations in the past, and four ministry security guards are being prosecuted for allegedly killing a ministry media adviser in September with a bomb attached to his car.

Abdul Kareem is among the most senior officials to face judicial action since Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced a reform campaign in August after nationwide protests erupted over corruption, poor electricity and water services and unemployment.

The upheaval at the trade ministry is an important test of whether Abadi will be able to push through the reforms, which have exposed the country’s political fault lines.—Reuters
What the end of politics would be like?

Myint Win Thein

With the elections around the corner in Myanmar candidates are campaigning for victory. They propose the changes they will bring about if they are elected by the people. No politician, whether ruling or in opposition, proposes the status quo. It is natural for politicians to propose change during election campaign. The world is changing, one cannot offer the voter nothing.

Politics is defined by various philosophers in different ways. For laypersons, it simply means change. In the history of mankind, man always demands change or progress. That is why every politician promises change when they vie for votes of the people. If there were nothing left to change in the world the first things to face extinction would be politics. Political science would become a dead language that is studied just for personal interest. Politicians would not be spared, they would also extinct.

However, the world always changes. As a result, everyone has to decide their politics even though they do not compete in elections. It is worth asking what the lives of people would be like if nothing was left to be changed in the world or if there were no politics in it. Would it be like the hell or the heaven? Would the world stop changing? It is a question to be answered by political philosophers.

Hotels can accommodate increasing number of tourists

Ko Moe

THE number of foreign tourists visiting Myanmar will double to 10 million in 2016, U Tin Win, Chairman of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Yangon Zone) said yesterday.

“Tourist number will probably rise from February up until the Maha Thingyan Festival period in 2016. Even after the general election has finished the number of tourists will be rising,” he said.

From January to September 2015, tourist arrival through Yangon International Airport numbered 729,181 in comparison with 677,007 from the same period the year before.

The number of visitors from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong from January to September 2015 was less than that of 2014 while this year’s tourists from China, Japan, Korea and India increased over 2014 numbers. Tourists from other Asian countries were 75 percent of the total number until September, 2015.

From January to August 2015 more than 800,000 tourists entered Myanmar by air or ship while more than 2.2 million tourists visited the country through border entrances.

Although the number of tourists is increasing day by day, Myanmar’s hotels can give them adequate accommodation, said U Tin Win.

“Hotels are sprouting up across the nation to accommodate tourists,” he said.

A total of 340 hotels are operating across the nation in 2015, compared with 290 in 2014.

The government has established 17 hotel zones—Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Monywa, Magway, Pyin Oo Lwin, Hpa-an, Kengtung, Bagan, Chaungtha, Ngwe Saung, Nga-pali, Loikaw, Inlay, Mawlamyine and Dawei.

Tourist arrival is highest in the Yangon, Mandalay, Inlay and Bagan hotel zones.

Japan grants US$610,317 for non revenue water reduction in Mayangon Tsp

Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI sprinkles scented water on plaque for handover of non revenue water reduction project in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

The handover and opening ceremony of the project took place at Myaing Hay Wun Garden, Mayangon Township on 30 October 2015.

Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, U Hla Myint, Mayor of Yangon, U Soe Si, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) Member, Dr. Atsushi MASUKO, President of TSS Tokyo Water Co., Ltd, Mr. Shinichi YOSHIDA, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Tokyo Waterworks, and Representatives from Toyo Engineering Corporation and Mitsui & Co., Ltd attended the ceremony.

An around-the-clock and stable water supply system is essential for the lives of people as well as for the industry. According to the survey data in 2012, Mayangon Township has the largest number of leakage repairs in Yangon Region. To improve such situation, the Japanese Government in cooperation with Japan Consortium supported the installation of required equipment and materials, the renovation of the water supply network, the installation of an efficient water cleaning system, and the maintenance training for YCDC counterpart engineers.—GNLM

History is a fiction

History down the ages has been a socio-economic fiction. It has always been the sweet and happy Story of the rich and powerful in their own words and terms. History does not reflect the true story, But always the relative truth From the perspective of the victorious and politically powerful. History is the story of the rule That is designed, dictated and formulated By the clever rules and administrators and the beneficiaries; And never by the poor or the public. It is always for the poor, but never of the poor and by the poor. It is always the stories of the kings and emperors, Dictators, governors and politicians. History changes from time to time To carefully cater to the need of the one in power and strength. History is a statement That always depends On the perspective of its beneficiaries. History is the tool of propaganda History has been the servant of the rich and the powerful. History has been bent and redesigned and custom designed. According to the need of the time And the owner that dictates it History has been the candy can In the hands of a clever kid; That uses the candies from the can to serve his broader interest. Twisting and turning its dimension and dynamics to suit a hidden agenda.

Saikat Kumar Basu

There was a girl called Miss Bright, Who could travel faster than light. She went off one day in a relativistic way, And came back the previous day. Hey, hey..... keh, Tr la la.

He went crazy after studying General Relativity. Poor chap.

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POEM
Yangon-Mandalay express train to take only 12 hours by 2016

THE Yangon-Mandalay express train is planned to take only 12 hours from the beginning of 2016 according to the Myanmar Railways of Ministry of Rails Transportation. The duration will be far more convenient for travellers, said an MR official.

The current ride takes 14 hours at a speed of 65 km per hour (40 mph). Before that the ride had been 16 hours.

MR has been implementing the necessary construction work with heavy machinery, especially on the Yangon-Mandalay railroad as it is the main line. The work began in the 2013-2014 budget year and is currently 60% completed.

— Soe Win (MLA)

Traditional medicine, health services provided to locals of Ottarathiri Tsp

A MEDICAL team from the 100-bed Traditional Medicine Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw provided free health services to locals of Zawanatheidi ward in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Monday.

The team, led by senior traditional medicine practitioner Daw Soe Soe Maw along with district traditional medicine officer U Hla Maw and hospital staff treated a total of 56 patients, giving them indigenous medical aid.

Medical teams from the capital’s traditional hospital routinely visit communities to offer their services, said a hospital staff.

—Shwe Ye Yint

Demonstration at No 9 long staple cotton field in Chautk

A THRIVING staple cotton field in Supoathtan village in Chauk Township of the Magway Region was demonstrated as a model field on Monday. Departmental officials, staff and local cotton farmers totaling over 150 attended to observe the methods and growth of the cotton field of farmer U Tin Maung. The demonstration show was conducted by the industrial crop office of the Agriculture Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Region agriculture officials explained the field’s GAP (good agricultural practices) applied as well as the quality seeds used.

The observers were explained the advantages of cultivating high priced No 9 long staple cotton which is suitable for the local soil. The observers were handed out pamphlets on cotton cultivation.

—Township IPRD

Mandalay Ward election sub-commissions handing out voter identity slips

WARD election sub-commissions of Mandalay District have from the 2-7 November to hand out voter identity slips to their respective citizens. Ward officials have toured districts disseminating the slips and spreading word of their availability.

The slips have been issued specifically for voters who have lost their citizenship security cards.

Voters were previously told to bring their citizenship security cards to the ballot booths on election day this Sunday, 8 November.

The election commissions have assured constituents that if an eligible voter does not have the slip they will not lose the right to vote at the General Elections.

The voter identity slips indicate the voter’s name, ballot booth, and serial number in the voters’ list, birth date, citizenship security card number and parent’s names and address. The slips are to be produced by voters at polling stations on election day.

The slips will streamline important checks on voter identity, necessary to the security and fairness of the election, said an election sub-commission member.

—Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay

Local ethnics attend mass rally to support signing of NCA in Myawady.

MYAWADY held a rally at Myasandi Park in ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State yesterday in support of the recently signed Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement between the government and eight ethnic groups. The NCA was signed on 15 October in Nay Pyi Taw. —Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)

Township residents support ceasefire agreement

MYAWADY held a rally at Myasandi Park in ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State yesterday in support of the recently signed Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement between the government and eight ethnic groups. The NCA was signed on 15 October in Nay Pyi Taw. —Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)
SINGAPORE — Crude oil futures were pressured on Tuesday by oversupply and worries the dollar will strengthen when the US Federal Reserve eventually raises interest rates. Benchmark US crude futures were trading at $46.17 per barrel at 0628 GMT, up just 3 cents from their last settlement after falling in the previous session due to a rise in stockpiles.

Crude continues to remain under pressure due to emerging supply-side news and slowing Chinese demand. Russian oil output broke a post-Soviet record in October for the fourth time this year. News from Iran is also painting a negative picture,” ANZ bank said in a morning note.

Meanwhile, Gulf oil producers are delaying some field maintenance until next year to keep production high and reduce costs as they forecast ongoing low oil prices in 2016.

An expected dip in US oil production as a result of low prices is unlikely to be enough to significantly reduce a glut, which is seen remaining at over 1 million barrel per day on average in 2015.

“Our framework suggests that (US) production would drop by 35,000 barrels per day in 2016 at the current rig count under our well deferral scenario, more than the 20,000 barrels per day year-on-year decline estimated a week ago,” Goldman Sachs said. But it added that “a rapid draw-down of the observed backlog of uncompleted wells could lead to higher production later this year and in 2016”.

US crude oil stockpiles likely rose by 2.7 million barrels last week, growing for a sixth consecutive week as supply outstrips demand, a Reuters poll showed. Industry group the American Petroleum Institute (API) will issue its preliminary inventory data on Tuesday before official numbers on Wednesday from the US government.

At the same time, traders are keeping an eye on US monetary policy as a rise in American interest rates would likely push up the dollar against other currencies, making oil imports more expensive in some other countries.

“With the focus on US economic data this week, anything supportive of the Fed raising rates could see commodity markets come under some pressure,” ANZ said.—Reuters

In rare appearance, Larry Page discusses new Alphabet structure

SAN FRANCISCO — In a rare public appearance, Google co-founder and Alphabet Inc CEO Larry Page explained why he was spurred to create a whole new structure for the company he created with Sergey Brin almost two decades ago.

“I want to push the envelope for what’s possible for an innovative company with large resources,” he said during a Q&A session with Fortune editor Alan Murray at the magazine’s Global Forum in San Francisco.

He said the new company would operate a little bit like a venture capital firm, a little bit like Berkshire Hathaway Inc, the conglomerate controlled by billion-aiire investor Warren Buffett, whom Page admires. There are “aspects of Berkshire to Alphabet,” he said, but it’s too early to tell how the new company would function. Whimsically addressing how the name came about, he credited Brin with it. “It’s only fair since I chose Google,” he joked.

He also tackled a question on Google’s efforts in China, saying “we’ve always had operations in China,” and adding “we’d like to do more.” He said he had “delegated this question to Sundar,” referring to Sundar Pichai, the new CEO of Google Inc, Alphabet’s search engine unit.—Reuters

Crude oil prices remain under pressure from oversupply

SANTIAGO — As Latin American economies slow down, governments need to make more efforts against poverty, the Santiago-based UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said Monday.

The agency’s recommendation is based on its new study on inclusive social development which will be presented at the three-day Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima, Peru, on Monday.

The study highlights the importance of creating productive and decent jobs, since wage income represents 80 percent of total household income on average in the region, said ECLAC. The organisation acknowledged that the region has in the past decade made notable progress in diverse areas of social development, but much more remains to be done.

More than half of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean lives “in situations of indigence, poverty or vulnerability to poverty,” said ECLAC. Countries in the region must make “significant efforts, ... to comply with the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals, especially the first one, which aims to eradicate extreme poverty in all its forms by 2030,” the agency said.—Xinhua

Israel wonders if too much competition a bad thing in mobile market

TEL AVIV — Israel’s mobile phone market looks set to consolidate as concerns grow that cut-throat competition is undermining firms’ ability to invest in infrastructure, leaving Israel trailing other nations despite its reputation as a high-tech leader.

Five years ago, an Israeli family might pay $300 a month for mobile phone services. Today, a family of six can get all its calls, messages and 10 gigabytes of data for as little as $30 a month.

The 90 percent price drop stems from reforms introduced by the government since 2011 to boost competition and stop what it saw as price gouging by a trio of companies.

Consumers have gained, but operators are suffering – profits have been wiped out, share prices and dividends have been cut back and capital spending has fallen 20-40 percent since 2010.

Despite its world-leading technology, Israel now lags behind other OECD countries in communications infrastructure.

Israel is just starting to roll out fourth-generation mobile networks, several years behind most OECD countries.

The government is also concerned about a drop in Israel’s ranking in Internet speeds. At 46 megabits per second, Israel is far below the OECD average of 77, despite being a tech hub.

The lagging infrastructure led the government to worry its reforms may have gone too far and damaged investment.

“We have a problem with the implementation of the reform because the companies don’t have enough money to invest in infrastructure,” Shlomo Filber, director general of the Communications Ministry, told Reuters.

The government is now considering allowing consolidation in the market that would enable prices to rise and permit companies to make more profit to plough back into infrastructure.

Filber said he is not opposed to mergers, as long as there is enough competition and no negative impact on infrastructure. That contrasts with the tougher line on telecoms mergers being taken by European regulators, who have scuppered a mobile deal in Denmark and voiced scepticism that bigger operators will spend more on network upgrades.

Having started with three operators and then expanded to 10, Israel is heading back to four. Two small virtual operators, which piggyback off other networks, are merging and several companies are bidding to buy upstart Golan Telecom.—Reuters

LatAm needs to step up fight against poverty as economies slow: UN agency

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Space revolution hatching in a New Zealand paddock

AUCKLAND — The next revolution in space, making humankind what was long the special preserve of tax-funded giants like NASA, will be launching next month in a paddock in New Zealand’s remote South Island.

The rocket launch range is not just New Zealand’s first of any kind, but also the world’s first private launch range, and the rocket, designed by Rocket Lab, one of a growing number of businesses that have seen the cost of getting into space, will be powered by a 3D-printed rocket engine — another first.

The 16-metre carbon-based rocket being assembled in a small hangar near Auckland Airport will weigh just 1,190 kilograms, and with fuel and payload will be about only about a third the weight of SpaceX’s Falcon 1, the first privately developed launch vehicle to go into orbit back in 2008.

The remote launch site is no accident.

“One advantage of New Zealand being this little island nation in the middle of nowhere is that’s the perfect place to launch a rocket,” said Rocket Lab’s CEO Peter Beck.

Shipped plants need re-routing every time a rocket is launched, which limits opportunities in crowded US skies, but New Zealand, a country of 4 million people in the South Pacific, has only Antarctica to its south.

Rocket Lab, part funded by Lockheed Martin Corp, is aiming for up to one launch a week from around 2018, costing just under $5 million each, a tenth of typical launch prices now, and vastly increasing business access to space. Even NASA, struggling to shift its launch backlog, this month awarded Rocket Lab and rivals Firefly Aerospace and Virgin Galactic contracts totaling $17.1 million to launch tiny satellites into orbit from 2017.

Rocket Lab recently signed a deal with Silicon Valley-based Moon Express to send a rocket to the moon in 2017 in a bid to win Google’s $20 million Lunar XPrize competition to send a probe that broadcasts images from the moon.

Moon Express has already contracted for five launches with Rocket Lab and plans to send robotic spacecraft continually to the moon for exploration and commercial development of natural resources such as platinum.

Its CEO Bob Richards accepts there will be glitches and a steep learning curve, but believes companies like Moon Express are making the future as the low-cost launch brings to businesses what used to required the resources of a superpower.

“The emergence of commercial space today will have the same impact as the emergence of commercial aviation did in the early 1900s,” he said.

The bread and butter of new launch companies will be the burgeoning small satellite industry, as players such as Google, Virgin and Samsung [SAGR, UL] plan satellite constellations to carry communications infrastructure and gather data from low-earth orbit.

“We’re not about building a rocket; we’re about enabling the small satellite revolution,” said Rocket Lab’s Beck.

Three separate internet broadband ventures to provide low-cost internet from the top of the Himalayas to the middle of the Sahara desert are being planned by One Web, Samsung and SpaceX, with support from Google. These alone will require 6,000 new satellites in the next four years, Rocket Lab predicts.

The Satellite Industry Association says just over 200 satellites were launched in 2014, nearly double the previous year.

Not everyone believes there will be enough demand to support the growing number of launch companies.

“The market can’t sustain that many; there’s going to be a thinning out of the herd,” said Daniel Lim, vice president of disruptive innovations at space services provider TriSept Corporation.

Others say launch cost is still too high at around $5 million, when for $40,000 companies can rideshare on a larger rocket to launch a nano-satellite, if they can tolerate long waiting lists and don’t need control over timing or trajectory.

But space startups have been proving popular with investors. “Investor dollars are in re-runs their flow,” said Sean Casey, head of Silicon Valley Space Centre, a business accelerator for space startups.

“Venture capitalists are looking for a return on investment and the possibilities of disruptive technologies.”

The largest 100 new space companies received more than $2 billion investment in 2015, around four times more than in 2009, according to data from New Space Global.

“That is still dwarfed by NASA’s $17.6 billion budget last year, but many say small companies offer options and a risk appetite that government agencies cannot.

Sandy Tirtey, a hypersonic engineer who leads the vehicle team at Rocket Lab, used to work for the European Space Agency, but lost patience with the red tape required to make small design changes.

“I had enough of all these processes,” he said. “We’re not spending all day feeding paper work, we’re spending all day solving problems,” he said. —Reuters

Embattled stem cell researcher Obokata stripped of doctorate

TOKYO — Waseda University said Monday it has revoked the doctoral degree given in 2011 to Haruko Obokata over the alleged falsification of papers on “STAP cell” research that was initially seen as a groundbreaking stem cell discovery.

The university’s President Kaoru Kamata told a press conference in Tokyo that the 32-year-old former Riken institute researcher submitted her corrected thesis within the one-year deadline, but the content did not reach the level required for evaluation.

In a statement, the university criticized the revocation procedure as being “unfair” because examiners were apparently seeking to reject her thesis anyway, according to a lawyer representing her.

Obokata’s previous academic work came under scrutiny after allegations of data falsification and fabrication surfaced in papers she and fellow researchers published last year, in which they claimed to have succeeded in creating stem cells from differentiated cells without reprogramming.

The papers appeared in the British scientific journal Nature in January 2014, but were retracted in July the same year.

Also in July last year, Waseda University, which launched an investigative panel separately over her doctoral thesis, concluded that her work contained copyright infringement and other flaws.

Obokata, however, also acknowledged there had been serious flaws in the guidance and screening process, and said in October last year that it would give Obokata a one-year period to correct her dissertation before revoking the doctoral degree.

Obokata’s lawyer Hideo Miki said Obokata was upset about the outcome, saying Waseda University reached its conclusion by “placing emphasis on the social atmosphere” rather than for academic reasons.

She was told by an examiner of the thesis, “It is obvious that we cannot acknowledge you as a doctor when considering the reactions seen among (academic) circles,” according to Miki.

The scandal has shaken stem-cell research and sparked a debate about research ethics.

In September, seven laboratories based in the United States, China, the Netherlands and Israel confirmed that STAP cells could not be reproduced using the method promoted by Obokata and her co-authors despite more than 100 attempts.

Riken also said what was touted as STAP cells originated from embryonic stem cells. —Kyodo News

Risk of contracting fatal infectious diseases lies in blood: Australian study

MELBOURNE — Australian scientists have found a way to predict the likelihood of someone contracting a fatal infection as many as 14 years before the onset of the disease.

The Melbourne University researchers, who worked in conjunction with Finnish counterparts, said a person’s predisposition to certain diseases — such as pneumonia and sepsis — could be detected in their blood.

They found that certain proteins in the blood were overactive and that the immune system was likely to be chronic, Michael Inoye, a worker in the university’s Centre for Systems Genomics, told Fairfax Media on Tuesday. The scientists analysed raw data provided by Finlab researchers, who analysed the blood and DNA samples of 10,000 volunteer participants.

The health records of each participant were followed up 14 years after, with their history — a clean bill of health, death or injury — matched-up to the original amount of GlycA detected within their body. Scott Ritchie, a computational biologist involved in the study, said those at an increased risk of death or hospitalisation had abnormally high, dormant levels of GlycA, without already contracting an infection. —Xinhua
Zimbabwe arrests editor, reporters over elephant poaching story

HARARE — Zimbabwean police said on Tuesday they had arrested an editor and two reporters from a state-owned newspaper for publishing falsehoods after reporting that a police commissioner and junior officer were involved in a spate of elephant killings. Poachers have used cyanide to kill 60 elephants in the Hwange national park in the west and the northern part of the country since late September. Sunday Mail editor Mabasa Sasa and reporters Tinashe Farawo and Brian Chatemba were arrested on Monday and were held at a Harare police station, Zimbabwe Repulic Police (ZRP) national spokeswoman Charity Charamba told a news conference.

The newspaper group that owns the weekly newspaper, Zimpapers Ltd, said it would issue a statement later on Tuesday. The newspaper reported in its latest edition that an unnamed assistant police commissioner, a police officer, rangers from the parks agency and Asian businessmen were part of a syndicate being investigated for the poaching of elephants in Zimbabwe. Charamba denied the police were investigating any of its officers for poaching. She said the three reporters would be charged with publishing or communicating false statements that were prejudicial to the state.

“The falsehoods have dented and tarnished the image of the (police) organisation for no apparent reason. The story does not only affect ZRP but the entire security apparatus,” Charamba said. Police want the reporters to identify the assistant police commissioner allegedly involved in the poaching. The three reporters are expected to appear in court by Wednesday. The charge carries a fine of $5,000 or sentence of up to 20 years upon conviction.

Charamba said police had since August this year recovered 70 elephant tusks, 30 kg of ivory, 100 kg of cyanide and arrested eight people linked to poaching.

Elephant conservation groups said in 2013 that as many as 300 elephants died in Hwange park after poachers laced salt pans there with cyanide. The government strongly disputed the figure, saying only a few dozen animals had died.—Reuters

Former senior Chinese official jailed for 12 years for graft

BEIJING — A Chinese court has sentenced a former top aide to the country’s disgraced security chief Zhou Yongkang to 12 years in prison for corruption, state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) reported via its official microblog on Tuesday.

Li Chongxi, once the top political adviser in the southwestern province of Sichuan, one of Zhou’s old strongholds, was indicted on corruption charges in April. He is among a slew of former Zhou allies to face punishment for graft amid a sweeping anti-corruption campaign by the ruling Communist Party’s leadership.—Reuters
Poornations struggle to spend climate aid billions — charity

LONDON — Billions of dollars pledged by developed nations in climate finance over the last decade remain unspent as poor countries that often most need the money are ill-equipped to spend it, international climate change observer WaterAid said on Tuesday.

Despite donors’ willingness to provide funding, vulnerable countries worst hit by rising climate pressures such as droughts and floods often lack the capacity to implement, manage and oversee projects to help them cope, WaterAid said.

“Countries that are most in need of adaptation finance are also those that are least able to spend it,” WaterAid analyst Louise Whiting told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

More support is required to help countries get ready to use climate finance “so they can actually spend the money and get it to where it is needed,” she added.

Just 15 percent of the $21.1 billion climate finance approved by developed countries from 2003 to 2014 has been disbursed, and little of it went to the world’s poorest countries, WaterAid said in a report based on research by development consultancy Oxford Policy Management.

Sub-Saharan African countries received less than 2.5 percent of total climate funding in that period despite being among those at greatest risk from extreme heat and erratic rainfall, and being responsible for only a tiny fraction of planet-warming emissions, the report said.

Just 16 percent of climate finance has been used for adaption programmes, while the vast majority of the money is being spent on reducing carbon emissions in middle-income countries, it said. WaterAid joined other anti-poverty charities in urging world leaders due to agree a new deal to curb global warming at a U.N. summit in Paris next month to boost funding for efforts to adapt to climate change impacts.

WaterAid said it was alarming that, despite growing evidence linking climate change to water security, only a fraction of climate finance goes to securing access to clean water during floods or droughts, jeopardising development gains.

“For families living in extreme poverty, with fragile access to safe water, good sanitation and hygiene, these lengthening dry seasons and intensifying monsoons wipe out years of work and further entrench the cycle of poverty,” Whiting said in a statement. “Safeguarding basic services including clean water, sanitation and hygiene helps communities recover faster and become more resilient to climatic extremes.”

More than 650 million people around the world live without access to clean water and 1.2 billion live in areas of water scarcity, WaterAid said, citing United Nations figures. They will become even more vulnerable as their already scarce resources are further exposed to climate-related threats, WaterAid said.—Reuters

Villagers walk on a street as the hazy shrouds Pulau Mentaro village in Muaro Jambi, on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Photo: Reuters

UNited States — The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreed on Monday to promote international food trade and safety in ways that improve nutrition and allow small-scale producers to better access to international agricultural markets.

“We look forward to ensuring a fair trade of agricultural and food products through this stronger (FAO-WTO) cooperation,” FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva said in a press release.

“The on the hand trade is likely to play an increasing role in meeting the growing demand from food-deficit countries. On the other hand, greater trade openness may undermine the capacity of local people to produce their own food,” he was quoted as saying at an event at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

According to the press release, Graziano da Silva warned that failure to reach a balanced solution on issues relating to production and trade of agricultural products could derail the international community’s recently agreed sustainable development goal to eradicate world hunger.

WTO’s Director-General Roberto Azevedo stressed that “we seek to ensure that the global trading system works for all, that it is fair and balanced,” in a way “which supports growth and development and allows people to access the goods and services that they need for better food.”

“When I visit developing countries, especially in Africa, business people tell me about the difficulties they face in meeting the required standards,” he said.

It is essential to provide capacity building for developing countries, an area of work where the WTO and FAO are seeking to deepen their collaboration, Azevedo added.

Azevedo referred to the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled for December in Nairobi, Kenya, where the role of agriculture — especially in development and in improving the lives of people in least developed countries — will be high on the agenda. Issues for discussion include addressing trade restrictions that impact imports, such as the lowering of tariffs, the need to minimize domestic agricultural subsidies, and the “distortions these programmes produce,” Azevedo said, as well as the need to eliminate export subsidies.—Xinhua

SO THAT U MYO MIN THEIN AND EVERYONE MAY KNOW

Under the Directive of Daw Aye Sandar, living at No. 128, Aye Chan Tha Yar Yay Street, U Nine Ward (48), Dagon Myothit (Northern), Yangon Region, it is declared as the following:

My Client Daw Aye Sandar is the Legal Managing Director in “STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MARKETING (SAM) COMPANY.”

Other Director is Daw Thida Swe.

It is declared to know the General Populace, that U Myo Min Thein andSAM Company has No Absolute Concern/Connection and apart from it the Company does not assign him Any Duty to perform.

If anyone performs to cause Losses/Impacts towards the Business of Company, Finance, Prestige, it is declared in addition, that lawful Action shall be taken.

Assign Director

Daw Aye Sandar

Under Directive

Daw Thae Su Mon

U Win Swe Oo

Higher Grade Pleader

Advocate

No. 126(First Floor), 38th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENC: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4TH NOVEMBER, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Mandalay Regions, Shan and Chin States, scattered in Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA:

Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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HtET Lin Co Ll.C. Advocate

MYANMAR TRADEMARKS AND PATENT LAW

E-mail: rtpolicy@myanmarmain.com

Tel. 375618

G.P.O Box 668

Yangon

4 November 2015

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LOS ANGELES — British singer Adele smashed records with her comeback single “Hello”, selling more than 1.1 million digital songs in the first week and becoming the first song ever to break the 1 million download mark on the Billboard charts.

Adele also roundly beat Canadian teen heartthrob Justin Bieber, whose latest single “Sorry” sold 276,800 downloads in its debut week, taking second place, according to data released by Nielsen Music on Monday for the past week.

“Hello” was the first single from Adele’s upcoming new album “25”, to be released this month, and follows a four-year break from music after her “21” album won six Grammy awards and sold more than 30 million copies worldwide.

Adele has already won the “Best New Artist” award and the “Pop Vocal Album” award at the recent Grammy Awards.

The music video also broke records at entertainment platform Vevo.com, delivering more than 27 million views in the first 24 hours after its release last week.

Nielsen Music said the previous best-selling digital song in a single week was American rapper Flo Rida’s “Right Round” in 2009, which sold 636,000 downloads. On the Billboard 200 album chart, Australian pop punk band 5 Seconds of Summer grabbed the No.1 spot selling 192,000 units of their new release “Sounds Good Feels Good.”

That pushed country singer Carrie Underwood into second place with her new album “Storyteller” with some 177,000 units sold.

Rapper Flo Rida’s “Right Round” was the first digital song to pass 1 million digital sales in its first week.

LOS ANGELES — British actress Monica Bellucci has immense respect for Shah Rukh Khan and would like to work in Bollywood.

Monaica Bellucci, who is all set to play the Bond girl in“They’re Out There,” is impressed with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan whom she met in Morocco recently.

“He is a really kind hearted man. I am glad that I met him and I have an immense respect for him.”

Bellucci feels Bollywood films are entertaining and Indian cinema is doing well.

“Bollywood has many talented and good directors and it is doing really good. There’s something different happening out there,” she said at the world premiere of the movie in London recently.

“Spectre”, the 24th James Bond film from Albert R Broccoli’s EON Productions, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, and Sony Pictures Entertainment, is set for release in India on 20 November, 2015 in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu.—PTI

BEVERLY HILLS — The movie awards season kicks off with the Hollywood Film Awards, honouring performances from released as well as upcoming films.

Beverly Hills film awards are seen as a dress rehearsal for the main Oscars ceremony in February that honours the best in film.

British actress Carey Mulligan received the Hollywood Actress Award for her role in “Suffragette” while Swedish actress Alicia Vikander received the Hollywood Breakout Actress Award for “The Danish Girl”.

Jane Fonda won the Supporting Actress Award for her work in “Youth”. She said it was “pretty surprising” to still be working at 77, but added that things were slowly changing for older actors.

“Not fast enough, but we keep pushing and we’ll continue to, so that more older people, more older women in particular and more women in general have jobs in front of and behind the camera,” she said.

Benicio Del Toro received Hollywood Supporting Actor Award for “Scenaros”.

Also receiving awards were actor Robert De Niro, who was honoured for Career Achievement and producer Ridley Scott, who received the Hollywood Producer Award for “The Martian”—Reuters

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Culture fest with a twist

Performers from the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region at their pavilion at the expo. PHOTO: XINHUA

BEIJING — A wide range of displays, from cultural to cutting edge, marks this year’s exhibition. Sun Ye looks up the stalls that celebrate art forms of dozens of countries and China’s many provinces.

The 2015 Beijing Culture Expo this year features the Belt and Road Initiative, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei integration and various initiatives in technology and finance.

The 2015 China International Culture and Creative Industry Expo, now in its 10th year, was launched on Thursday at Beijing’s China International Exhibition Centre.

A full slate of forums, exhibitions and competitions in the culture and creative realm will be held through December across the city.

Some parallel sessions will also be held in Yangzhou in Jiangsu Province. Exhibitors from more than 40 countries and regions have gathered for the event.

The expo also has delegations from 23 provinces.

“The Beijing Culture Expo is the window to understand China’s creative sector and its cutting-edge industries,” Li Wei, vice-president of the expo’s organising committee and secretary-general of Beijing municipal government, said at the opening ceremony.

In the 10 years since the expo was launched, Beijing’s creative sector has gone on to become one of the pillars of the city’s development, says Li.

The sector has grown at a rate of 17.3 percent annually since 2006. In 2014, it contributed 13.2 percent to the city’s gross GDP.

The deals signed during the last nine expo are worth 500 billion yuan ($73 billion), according to official statistics.

“The expo provides fuel for the growth of industry,” Li says. “At the expo, you can always catch the tempo of the times.”

The theme this year is “promote cultural prosperity and facilitate innovation.”

As the Belt and Road Initiative continues to expand, its influence in nearly all realms of business inside and outside the country, the expo also shows the project’s impact on the cultural front.

Local crafts and artistic products from regions along the Silk Road, from Kyrgyzstan to the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, are on show.

Previews of Silk Road-themed performances, from 3-D projection shows to extravagant dance dramas, travel to the Silk Road’s cultural destinations and even holiday resorts are all being promoted at the expo.

Yu Haibo, deputy director of the cultural expo with foreign committee office, says: “This is the window to display Chinese culture.”

As Beijing and Tianjin cities, and Hebei province have begun regional integration, their cultural front is also being highlighted at the event.—XINHUA

Kenya seeks to reassure tourists of safety at World Travel Market

NAIROBI — Kenya’s tourism marketers have traveled to Britain to reassure international tourists of their safety while travelling in the country.

About 50 marketers led by Cabinet Secretary for East African Affairs and Commerce Phyllis Kandie will be showcasing their tourism products at the 36th World Travel Market (WTM) in London for four days from Monday.

“We are in London to now re-affirm our resilience and that Kenya is safe for our tourists, the government has put in place a raft of security measures to scale up security for both the visitors and tourists alike,” Kandie said in a statement issued in Nairobi on Monday.

Kenya Tourism Board (KTB)’s key strategy during the event will be to promote their tourism products and services. KTB Managing Director Mutahi Ndegwa has expressed his optimism of reversing the downward growth following a number of marketing strategies KTB has put in place. British government has revised its travel advisory on Kenya last Thursday.

“The move is a major boost to the strategies already in motion to improve the tourism sector that is now picking up.”

UK remains one of the top source markets and the revision of travel advisory will further enhance the arrivals from the market,” Ndegwa said.

“It is a positive endorsement and recognition of government’s efforts up in improved security for both citizens and tourists alike,” he added.

Kenya will be among the over 5,000 suppliers that are showcasing their products in London. KTB is sourcing for tourists who are looking up for travel and vacation products who are meeting to discover and negotiate the latest travel industry trends and opportunities, at the WTM, one of the largest tourism fair in the world.

Kenya has set aside 100 million US dollars, up from the previous 50 million dollars budget to revamp the tourist sector.

Kandie said the tourism sector plays a critical role in Kenya’s economy due to its huge multiplier effects.—XINHUA

Americans becoming less religious, especially young adults: poll

NEW YORK — Americans are becoming less religious, judging by such markers as church attendance, prayer and belief in God, and the trend is more pronounced among young adults, according to a poll released on Tuesday.

The share of US adults who say they believe in God, while still high compared with other advanced industrial countries, slipped to 89 percent in 2014 from 92 percent in 2007, according to the Pew Research Center’s “Religious Landscape Study.” The proportion of Americans who say they are “absolutely certain” God exists fell even more, to 63 percent in 2014 from 71 percent in 2007. The percentage of Americans who pray every day, attend religious services regularly and consider religion important in their lives are down by small, but statistically significant measures, the survey found.

The trend is most pronounced among young adults, with only 23 percent of those born from 1990 to 1996 absolutely certain of their belief in God, compared to 71 percent of those “silent generation,” or those born from 1928 to 1945. Younger people also are less likely to pray daily, at 39 percent, compared to “silent generation” adults at 67 percent. Young adults are also much less likely to attend religious services, the survey found. On the other hand, 77 percent of Americans continue to identify with some religious faith, and those who do are just as committed now as they were in 2007, according to the survey. Two-thirds of religiously affiliated adults say they pray every day and that religion is very important to them, the survey found.

The survey also found religious divides among the political parties, with those who are not religiously affiliated more likely to be Democrats, at 28 percent, compared to 14 percent of Republicans. About 38 percent of Republicans identify as evangelical Protestants — the largest religious group in the party, the survey found. Catholics make up 21 percent of each major political party. Orianna O’Neill, 21, a student at Beloit College in Wisconsin who comes from a non-religious household but sometimes prays, said she thinks the anti-science, anti-gay rhetoric of some politicians may be turning some young people away from religion.—Reuters
Mourinho needs a win as Dynamo Kiev visit London

CHELSEA manager Jose Mourinho will be scrutinised more closely than ever as his ailing side take on Dynamo Kiev in Champions League Group G on Wednesday.

Despite having won the competition twice, with Porto and Inter Milan, the Portuguese is under increasing pressure now that the Premier League champions have been beaten five times in their past seven games.

They have slumped to 15th place in the table and key players such as last season’s player of the year, Eden Hazard, are badly out of form.

Although fans remain generally supportive, chanting Mourinho’s name during the 3-1 home defeat by Liverpool on Saturday, some players are becoming disenchanted, according to media reports.

That means it is another big week for him, with the Kiev game followed by a visit to Stoke City, who knocked Chelsea out of the Capital One Cup on penalties last Tuesday.

The goalless draw away to Dynamo two weeks ago was one of Chelsea’s better performances of a poor season. They hit the post twice and could easily have won, but failing to do so left them on four points in Group G, one behind the Ukrainian champions.

Porto top the group with seven points and could extend their lead against Macabbi Tel Aviv, who have lost every game so far.

“Everyone can see how much hard work we are putting in and we are playing well, but the results are not coming for us,” Nigerian midfielder John Obi Mikel told reporters after the defeat by Liverpool.

“The goals and the wins are not coming, but you can see we are playing for the manager and we are right behind him. There is no doubt about it. If anyone can turn this around I definitely think he is the one.”

Kiev’s Portuguese international Miguel Veloso also backed his compatriot Mourinho, with a post on his Facebook page.

“Say whatever you want to say,” he wrote.

“Unfortunately, I had the chance to exchange a few words with this man only twice in my life. I already used to be his fan, now I am even more.”

Fans have right to protest against UEFA: Pellegrini

LONDON — Manchester City supporters have the right to boo the Champions League anthem to express their dissatisfaction with European football’s governing body, Manuel Pellegrini has said.

UEFA launched disciplinary proceedings against City under regulations concerning the “disruption of the competition anthem” after fans jeered while it was played before the Premier League club’s 2-1 home win over Seville on 21 October.

“I think everyone has the right to boo or protest on different things,” Pellegrini told reporters ahead of Tuesday’s return game in Spain.

“If they boo then they feel there’s something UEFA is not doing right.”

The Chilean’s comments come in the wake of club captain Vincent Kompany describing UEFA’s investigation as “a joke”.

“There is nothing holy about the Champions League anthem,” the Belgium defender had said.

We have played many games in Europe where there has been racial abuse — we have had to put up with it.

City’s fans are frustrated with UEFA over the organisation’s decision to play a Champions League match against CSKA Moscow behind closed doors last year because of a series of offences, including racial abuse, from the Russian club’s fans.

City supporters who paid to travel to Moscow for the game were not compensated by UEFA, while some CSKA fans were reported to have attended the fixture.

Garde watches on as Tottenham beat Villa to go fifth

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur left new Aston Villa manager Remi Garde in no doubt about the challenge he faces after a 3-1 victory kept the beleaguered club bottom of the Premier League on Monday.

Garde, named as Villa’s new boss earlier in the day, watched from the stands as they slumped to a seventh straight league defeat to leave them with only four points from 11 matches.

Tottenham extended their unbeaten league run to 10 to move up to fifth in the table, above West Ham United on goal difference, one point off the top four.

The hosts took the lead when Moussa Dembele forced his way into the penalty area and scored with an angled shot after three minutes and youngster Dele Alli powered in a low shot from the edge of the penalty area on the stroke of halftime.

Jordan Ayew pulled one back for Villa after 78 minutes to give them a glimmer of hope before Harry Kane sealed the victory for Spurs with a curling shot to round off a superb move in the third minute of stoppage time.

Garde, sitting in the front row of the director’s box at White Hart Lane, would have taken heart from a spirited late push from Villa but they will need to show a far greater improvement if they are to avoid relegation.

Villa, with caretaker manager Kevin MacDonald in the doghouse, lacked confidence and rarely troubled Spurs, although Leonel Bacuna struck the post with a shot just before Ayew scored.

“For the new manager, the shift the players put in shows that there is something for the manager to work with,” MacDonald said.

Garde’s first match in charge is against leaders Manchester City on Sunday and his first six matches are all against teams in the top half of the table.

With Tottenham unbeaten in the league since losing to Manchester United on the opening day of the season, hopes of a challenge for a top-four finish are rising, but manager Mauricio Pochettino is not getting carried away.