QUAKE AWARENESS

Experts urge to check high-rise buildings for quake resistance

HIGH-rise buildings in Yangon and Mandalay are needed to be checked for quake resistance as the cities are located near the Sagaing fault line, said Myanmar Earthquake Committee.

“I think people who live in the quake zone need to be alert against possible quake,” said Daw Hla Hla Aung, Patron of the committee at a talk show in Yangon yesterday.

The Earthquake Committee said they are conducting quake awareness to people, engineers and constructors as well to know the quake risk management, preparedness measures and quake early warning system to lessen the losses. The committee also stressed the need to raise earthquake awareness as the earthquake-resistance structures are still few in the two cities.

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

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

Ministry plans free accommodation for Kyaik Htee Yoe pilgrims

THE Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs is planning to provide free accommodation for pilgrims visiting the Kyaik Htee Yoe pagoda in Mon State.

The announcement came after the ministry met the business people in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 September to discuss their business activities undertaken in the neighbourhood of the pagoda.

Their discussions also covered the undertaking of lawful business, the implementation of peaceful pilgrimage for visitors, the provision of free accommodation, the placing of community donations under the care of the trustees after the revocation of the contract system and the standardisation of the quality of gold foils for the pagoda.

At the meeting, Yoe Yoe Lay Company agreed to reconstruct its seven hotels in accord with the ministry’s regulations. The company will hand over two community halls, which have been converted into guest houses, to the pagoda’s board of trustees to provide free accommodation. —001
KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has assisted in philanthropic works in Bawsai, Shan State (South) with donation of a vehicle and water purifiers to a local philanthropic organization and communities.

An official of the foundation said yesterday that Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of the BFM, handed over a Super Custom car worth of K24 million to U Sai Tin Pe, chairman of the philanthropic organization, at a ceremony held in Bawsai on 22 September.

Following the ceremony, the chairperson and members of the foundation donated water purifiers to Shwegu Monastery, Bawsai Hospital and the Basic Education High School in Bawsai.

More than 20 wells, 32 lakes and a water supply network with 99 outlets have been established in Bawsai so far by the foundation benefiting local ethnic Danu people.

Under its nationwide water supply project, the BFM has established 172 tubewells, 102 lakes and 284 water outlets for water supply networks.

The water supply networks in Shan State (South) help local ethnic peoples in Kalaw, Pintaya, Aungpan, Heho, Taunggyi, Hopon and Namhsam townships have helped them overcome water scarcity.

—Thura Lwin (Eco)

The presence of social and environmental issues associated with development projects and manufacturing facilities in Mandalay Region is due to weak adherence to and poor enforcement of environmental legislation, said a regional parliamentarian.

“Such laws have been enacted but no implementation has taken place,” said U Tin Aung of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw, adding that the legal framework is very good but there exists a common lack of adherence to the law.

The Environmental Conservation Law was enacted in 2012 and rules and regulations were adopted after its enactment but the policy has suffered due to either poor implementation or none at all, said the regional lawmaker.

During a regular session of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw on Thursday, parliamentarians unanimously approved a proposal calling for measures and assessments of the impact of development projects and factories upon the people and the environment.

It is required that the authorities make social and environmental impact assessments of environmentally sensitive projects, said U Aye Khaing, another regional parliamentarian.

According to sources, plans are underway to form an environmental appraisal committee with the aim of taking swift actions against environmental violations.—Aung Thant Khaing

A DISPLACED persons camp in Namatu town, Shan (North) is badly in need of food, according to the Namatu Camp Support Committee. Namatu Camp currently holds regional people fleeing conflict.

Internal conflict broke out between the Ta’ang National Liberation Army/Palaung State Liberation Front and the Shan State Army (South) in Mantung township in July. Villagers from the conflict areas moved themselves and their families to Namatu camp shortly after.

“We are not going back yet because they are still fighting. On 18 September, fighting occurred again near Mong Yok village. The ethnic local people really want to go back to their native land because this is cultivation season for them. So, I expect peace to be restored some time soon.” said Vice Chairman U Sai Ba Nyan from Namatu camp.

At the beginning we had many donors and much food, U Sai Ba Nyan explained, but our resources have dwindled.

There are 274 people in Shwe Myin Thar and over 220 people in Lesu church in Namtu town (both locations constitute Namatu camp), said an official from the camp.—Myitmakha News Agency

HUMAN emotions and traits are universal. Hate, love, anger, greed, generosity, compassion, courage, integrity, honour, and so on, are found in all human societies and cultures. However, the emphasis placed on any emotion or trait will vary from culture to culture.

In Myanmar, much emphasis is placed on respect for parents, elders and people in authority. We are an “obedience-based” society. In many advanced countries, societies tend to be more “speak-your-mind”, and the spirit of the Myanmar “arr nar de” is missing. Myanmar people on the other hand are much obsessed with “arr nar de”, and often fail to speak their minds. In a way, it is a weakness, because sometimes we need to speak honestly and frankly, and sometimes we need to say “No”.

“Arr nar de” is being overly sensitive to how other people might feel about what do or say, and being hesitant or afraid to be honest and frank.

There seems to be no direct translation for “arr nar de”. How can “arr nar de” be translated? The difficulty arises partly because we expect there is one word in English for every word in another language, and vice versa. However, this is not the case for many words. A single word in one language may require two or three words, or a phrase. In some cases, no equivalent word exists. The Eskimo language has, for example, more than fifty words for “snow”, but the word “snow” has no direct equivalent word in Burmese, because snow is outside the experience of Burmese people. We refer to “mist” as “hmzin”, which is also used for “dew”; and “snow” is usually translated as “hmzin-ge”, or “frozen mist”.

Instead of looking for word for word equivalents, we need to consider the situation in which the word or words are used, and then think of the words and expressions that are used in another language. When we do this, it becomes clear that “arr nar de” is most closely equivalent to the English word “sorry”, and the spirit of “arr nar de” is equivalent in most cases to the “spirit of being sorry.”

The English word “sorry” is used very commonly, and also used in a variety of situations. Some dictionary definitions of “sorry” are:

• feeling ashamed, embarrassed, unhappy about something done,
• feeling sadness, sympathy, regret, or embarrassment because something bad has happened to someone,
• feeling disappointed or unhappy about a situation, and wishing you could change it,
• wishing something had not happened, feeling regret.

Examples of usage:
- You visit a friend and accidentally break an expensive vase.
  In Burmese: “Arr tar lite tat.”
  In English: “Oh I am (so) sorry.”
- A friend asks if you like his singing, and you must tell him it is not good.
  In Burmese: “Oh, you shouldn’t have bought it. … I’m really sorry it happened.”
- A friend breaks your vase and later buys an expensive one and gives it to you as a replacement.
  In Burmese: “Oh, arr nar sayar gyi”
  In English: “Oh, you shouldn’t have bought it. … I’m really sorry it happened.”
- A friend asks if you like his singing, and you must tell him it is not good.
  In Burmese: “Pyaw ya hmar arr nar par de.”
  In English: “I’m sorry but ….”
- A friend breaks your vase and later buys an expensive one and gives it to you as a replacement.
  In Burmese: “Oh, arr nar lite tat” or “Arr nar sayar gyi”
  In English: “Oh, you shouldn’t have bought it. … I’m really sorry it happened.”
- A friend asks if you like his singing, and you must tell him it is not good.
  In Burmese: “Pwee na hmar arr nar par de.”
  In English: “I’m sorry to have to say this, but ….”
- You see a neighbor that you don’t know well, and don’t want to take him to the city in your car, but you give him a lift.
  In Burmese: “Arr nar lo. khae gae-de”
  In English: I felt awkward/ embarrassed/ sorry (not to take him) so I gave him a lift.
- You see a neighbor that you don’t know well, and don’t want to take him to the city in your car, but you give him a lift.
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Malaysian stolen vehicles believed to be smuggled into Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia

Press Release

Following is an unofficial translation of the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. During her stay in New York, the State Counsellor met with Myanmar communities on 17th September, 2016, and accepted the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year Award at the University of Harvard in Boston the same day.
3. On 18th September, 2016, the State Counsellor met with staff families of the Myanmar Permanent Representative Office and the Myanmar delegation attending the 71st United Nations General Assembly in New York; on 19th September, 2016, met separately with Ms Irina Bokova, the Director-General of UNESCO; Mr Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark; Mr Enrique Penal Nieto, President of Mexico; Ms Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh. On 20th September, 2016, the State Counsellor attended the “Together for the 2030 Agenda: Partnering for Women: Children and Adolescents, To Thrive and Transform the World,” high-level meeting and acted as a panelist and participated in the discussion there. She also received Mr Ilyad Ameen Madani, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
4. On 21st September, 2016, the State Counsellor delivered a general policy speech at the 71st United Nations General Assembly. On the same day, the State Counsellor participated in the ratification ceremony of Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).
5. On 22 September, 2016, the State Counsellor gave an interview to the CNN. On the same day, she met with Prof Klaus Schwab, Chairman of the World Economic Forum; Mr George Soros, Founder of the Open Society Foundation; Mr Zend Raad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees separately. In the evening, the State Counsellor accepted the Golden Plate Award presented by Academy of Achievement at the New York Public Library.

Before the trip to New York, the State Counsellor had visited London from 10th September to 13th September, 2016, and met with 12 Myanmar ambassadors to Europe, Middle-East and Africa and also held talks with leaders of Britain. Besides, at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America, the State Counsellor paid an official visit to Washington DC from 13th September to 16th September, 2016. During the visit, she held talks with President Barack Obama and secretaries of the Administration and lawmakers.

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived back in Yangon last night after finishing her official trip in the United States and attending the 71st United Nations General Assembly.—Myanmar News Agency

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

THE GOVERNMENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Geoffrey Quinton Mitchell Doidge as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Geoffrey Quinton Mitchell Doidge was born on 26 April 1954. He studied business management and marketing course. From September 2008 to October 2010, he served as Cabinet Minister of Public Works of the Republic of South Africa. In addition, he served in various capacities in the Government, Cabinet Committees, Inter-Ministerial Committees and political field of the Republic of South Africa. From 1994 to 2010, he also served as a Member of Parliament. He has been serving as High Commissioner Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh and Nepal since 2011.

He speaks English, Afrikaans and Xhosa languages. He is married.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

THE GOVERNMENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Juks Boon-Long as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Juks Boon-Long was born on 17th November 1957 in Thailand. He received a Bachelor’s degree of L13 from the University of Ramkhamhaeng of Thailand, a Master’s degree in International Politics and Economics from the University of Detroit, United States of America, and an honourable degree from the National Defense College of Thailand in 2009.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in 1984, and has served in various capacities in the Ministry and the Royal Thai Embassies in Washington DC, Hanoi and Berlin. From 2006 to 2009, he served as Consul-General of Thailand in Los Angeles, United States of America. From 2009 to 2012, he served as Director-General of the Department of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. From 2012 to 2015, he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to the Kingdom of Norway.

Mr. Juks Boon-Long is married.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Peace Commission, DPN hold talks in Chiang Mai

THE government’s Peace Commission and the Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) discussed a proposal submitted by the Nationalities Feder- al Council (UNFC) yesterday in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

During the meeting, the two sides sought ways which can help achieve peace in the country.

DPN’s leader Kha Oo Ra’la said both sides felt that the discussion between them are getting more precise. However, fightings happened unexpectedly and were escalating, he added.

Speaking at the meeting, U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the advisory committee to the government’s peace commission, urged peace makers at the meeting to work together and moving forward.

Last month, the UNFC made an eight-point proposal at a meeting in Yangon to review the framework for political dialogue, but it did not appear at the next meeting on 16 September. —Ye Khuang Nyunt
**Round trip mass cycling held in Mandalay**

Under the instruction of Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar Cycling Federation and Sports and Physical Education Department of Mandalay Region organized the mass cycling event 2016 in Mandalay.

The mass cycling took place in Chanayethazan township, Mandalay Region on 25 September.

A total of 200 armature cyclists including Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung participated in the event. The round trip event started from the front of the office of Mandalay City Development Committee at the junction of 26 and 27 streets to Yankin Mountain. The finish line was at the start line.

The event aimed for promotion of national health and physical fitness, energy saving, reduction of air pollution and reduction of traffic congestion.

The mass cycling event will be held in the last weeks of every month as a mass activity in Mandalay, it is learnt.—*Thiha Ko Ko* (Mandalay)

**Mandalay’s MRA to choose EC members**

THE Myanmar Retailers’ Association (MRA) in Mandalay Region is holding an election to choose its executive members, according to its secretary U Nay Myo.

The association will form its executive committee with 37 members, who the secretary said must be retailers themselves. According to its regulations, the association will hold an election every two years. The deadline for election is set on 31 October as the final election will come in December.

The association will represent all retailers by enhancing and protecting their interests in terms of business transactions with foreign firms, U Nay Myo said. “We need members who can lead the association with their fresh insights and innovative ideas,” Chairperson Daw Win Win Myint of the Myanmar Retailers’ Association, Mandalay’s MRA has nearly 300 members. —*Aung Thant Khaing*

**Seven people charged with possession**

Seven people have been charged with possession in two separate places, according to sources close to the police. A joint drug squad of Taunggyi discovered stimulant pills hidden in a bag of a passenger on the highway bus near Kalaw on 24 September.

Police stopped Mandalamin highway bus and searched the passengers. They found 1,980 stimulant tablets in the bag that belonged to Min Min Soe.

In another incident the same day, a combined team comprising local security troops and police stopped and search a Vigo with licence plate 2L6487 with six people on board near the Namthwe bridge in Mong Khut, Shan State. The search led to the discovery of two hand grenades, a walkie-talkie and five hand phones. Further investigation led to the seizures of 1,970 stimulant tablets, three kilos of raw opium, six guns, 3,199 rounds of ammunition, two hand grenades, TNT gunpowder, 1,700 yuan and a variety of goldwear from two houses of Kya U in Mong Khet. —*Myanmar Police Force*

**Crime**

**Light truck overturns on Yangon-Mandalay Road**

A LIGHT truck driven by Kyaw Kyaw overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway on 23rd September, carrying 13 people on board.

The vehicle lost control near mile post 7/257 on Pepinlay highway on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. Out of 13 people, 10 people sustained light injuries. The injured were sent to receive medical care at Nyaung Gon Township hospital.

This accident damaged property worth over Ks100,000 and the driver Kyaw Kyaw has been charged by police under sections 337/338 of the criminal law. To reduce the motor vehicle accident cases on the highway, the police squad led by U Soe Myint Oo, the Police Superintendent, conducted surprise checks on 23rd September at 201 mile post. Similarly, a police squad led by Zaw Hlaing Tun, the sub-inspector seized the vehicles which exceeded the speed limit on Palway highway.

The Police squad led by Yan Naung Soe, the deputy superintendent checked the vehicles at No.3 Road toll gate near Yangon Region and 16 vehicles failed to follow the traffic rules. A total of 746 vehicles exceeding the speed limit were seized on the highway from 1st to 23rd September and 582 car drivers have been charged by the police.—*ThAnOtO* (LaMyanaR)

**World Rabies Day**

**28 September**

**Rabies**

EducatE. V accinate. El iminate

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LOCAL Business

Among 42 hotels, only 25 allowed to continue within Bagan Ancient Zone

ONLY 25 hotels have been allowed to complete their construction process out of a total of 42 which were under construction after originally having been given the green light to build inside the Bagan Ancient Zone. The rejected 17 hotel projects must cease construction now, it has been learned.

The 25 hotels approved for completion were chosen for being 70 to 90 per cent of the way through the construction process.

Businesses that have lost out on their projects will get back a ten-year grant. A grace period of five years has also been set for those companies to move their hotel projects elsewhere. After fifteen years, those hotels must be moved to a hotel zone which is seven kilometers away from the Bagan Ancient Zone.

The government and hotel businesses are set to sign an agreement on the matter soon. According to the rules of the UNESCO, there can be no building less than seven metres from the ancient zone. The authorities stated that they will not allow the construction of modern buildings near Nyaung Oo. —Mon Mon

Concerns over US$ exchange rate affect import and export

THE US$ exchange rate is likely to have a direct impact on import and export in the local market, according to traders. If the dollar rate continues to increase, the price of importing pharmaceutical products, home decoration products and machines and exporting beans, corns and sesames will rise.

The price of sesame has increased due to high demand from China as well as the rising US$ exchange rate, a trader said.

So far, the value of export and import has increased 30 per cent, up from 20 per cent, according to the import/export business insiders.

Although an appreciation in the value of the US dollar is a good sign for exporters, it will have a negative impact on importers.

The Central Bank of Myanmar should intervene, said one monetary expert.

The US$ exchange rate increased again in August. A few days ago, $1 USD was selling for 1,260 Kyats while being bought for 1,255 Kyats. Currently, $1 USD is equivalent to 1,245 Kyats on local currency exchange market. —Min Thu

Myanmar rice to export to Indonesia

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Indonesia and Myanmar to annually export 100,000 tonnes of Myanmar rice to Indonesia between 2016 and 2019 will be signed soon.

The authorities from Indonesia have requested a temporary halt on the deal as the country has a new commerce minister and wishes to recheck and clarify the terms included in the MoU via diplomatic exchange. The Myanmar authorities are waiting for the new Indonesian commerce minister to approve the terms.

The Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPPCO) has already signed the agreement which requires them to export 20,000 tonnes of Myanmar rice to Perum Bulog, Indonesia.

Currently, up to 90 per cent of exported Myanmar rice goes to China through border trade camps.

According to an announcement from the Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar has yet to sign export agreements with China, Indonesia, The Philippines and Japan. —Lynn Thu

MIC permitted eight enterprises including four garment enterprises

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) granted permission to eight enterprises including four garment enterprises, according to an announcement released by MIC.

These permitted enterprises include manufacturing of garments under Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) system, manufacturing and marketing the corns, prawns and assorted snacks, sterilized, sweetened and condensed Milk, corrugated carton box and beautification corrugated carton box and cement, it is learnt from Myanmar Investment Commission Meeting (18/2016).

Out of eight, four are completely foreign owned and they are manufacturing garments on CMP basics, Timber (Myanmar) Apparel Co., Ltd in Shwe Lin Pan industrial city, Hlaingthaya Township, Prettex Myanmar Co., Ltd in Thardukan industrial zone, Shwe Pyitha Township, Myanmode Co., Ltd and Oumi Fashion (Myanmar) Co., Ltd in Hlaingthaya Township, Yangon Region respectively.

Another three are joint venture investments, SKP Interfood Co., Ltd which will manufacture corns, prawns and assorted snacks in South Dagon industrial zone; Myanmar Hachiya Paper Box Co., Ltd in Hlaingthaya industrial zone-2 for corrugated carton box and beautification corrugated carton box; and Myanmar Than Taw Myat Co., Ltd in Kyaukse, Mandalay for manufacturing cement.

Pacific Food Industries Ltd is wholly Myanmar citizen investment to manufacture dairy products in Hlaingthaya industrial zone 3 in Yangon Region.

These permitted enterprises will create 4,654 job opportunities, according to MIC’s announcement. —Mon Mon

Steel mill in Taunggyi, Shan State, to start its operation in October

A STEEL mill using Romelt Process will be operational in October, said an official from the Ministry of Industry.

This mill is established on 5,260.50 acres of land at Pin Pet region, 8 miles away from Taunggyi, Southern Shan State. The ministry already entered into agreement worth 137 million euros with Tyanzhprom Export from Russia to produce iron ore in 2014.

The mill is expected to annually manufacture 200,000 tonnes of pig iron and 720,000 tonnes of iron ore. Myanmar is faced with the burgeoning demand of steel year by year.

The construction of this mill aims at substituting the imported steel from abroad.

The iron ores produced from Pin Pet steel mill will be sent to steels mill in Myingyan Township in order to produce the steel raw materials like billets and slag. The pig oil will be produced from iron ore using the technique discovered by Mr. Romelt. It is the first time to produce the pig iron from iron ore with the use of Romelt process, it is learnt.

According to the geological measurement, the mill is constructed near the mines which can possibly produce 10.7 million tonnes of Hematite iron ore with 56.4 per cent of iron ore property, 59.3 million tonnes of Limestone iron ore with 42.6 per cent of iron ore property. —200

Bagan is one of the famous tourist attractions in Myanmar. PHOTO: MYANMAR

26 September 2016
Philippines tells world not to interfere in Duterte drugs war

UNITED NATIONS — Philippines Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay told the United Nations on Saturday his country’s new president, Rodrigo Duterte, had an “unprecedented” mandate and the world should not interfere in his crackdown on crime.

Addressing the annual UN General Assembly, Yasay said the Duterte government was “determined to free the Philippines from corrupt and other stagnating practices, including the manufacturer, distribution and use of illicit drugs.

“Our actions, however, have grabbed both the national headlines and international attention for all the wrong reasons,” he said.

“We urge everyone to allow us to deal with our domestic challenges in order to achieve our national goals without undue interference.”

Duterte won a landslide election victory on 9 May after vowing to wipe out drugs and crime. Police said this week that in the past 11 weeks, nearly 3,000 people had been killed in Duterte’s war on drugs, a figure adjusted from the 3,800 they cited last week.

The killings have drawn widespread international criticism, including from the United Nations, drawing angry responses from the United Nations, European Union, then invited transnational crime.”

Duterte’s defiance of high-profile organisations and his insults of anyone from US President Barack Obama to the pope have amused many Filipinos, but worried foreign governments — not the least the United States, which sees Manila as a vital partner in Asia in the face of a rising China. Some analysts predict Duterte will also diversify foreign relations beyond Washington, including by seeking better ties with erstwhile maritime foe China.

Yasay said core values of law — including an international court ruling this year in favour of the Philippines and against China over competing claims in the South China Sea.

In spite of Duterte’s criticisms of the world body, Yasay said the United Nations had demonstrated “continued resilience and relevance” and added in apparent reference to the US alliance: “Our domestic concerns compel us to partner with like-minded countries in the areas of maritime security, counter-terrorism, disaster response, and transnational crime.” — Reuters

Residents involved with illegal drugs wait for fellow surrenderees before taking a pledge that they will not use or sell “Shabu” (Meth) again after surrendering to police and government officials in Makati, metro Manila, Philippines, on 18 August 2016. Photo: Reuters

Viet Nam pledges efforts to implement sustainable development

UNITED NATIONS — Viet Nam has committed itself to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), said Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Binh Minh Saturday.

Minh made the remarks at the annual high-level debate of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly.

“I believe that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is within our grasp,” Minh said, “we are indeed expected by our people, our children and our grandchildren to deliver on our commitments.”

Reform, innovation, creativity and economic restructuring are setting countries on a prosperous path, he added.

Deputy prime minister said sustainable development requires global and regional cooperation and integration.

Viet Nam’s advancements in science and technology are paving the way for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Minh added.

This year’s high-level General Assembly debate from 20-26 September has gathered over 140 world leaders here in New York on a variety of issues, ranging from sustainable development, counter terrorism, and refugee and migrant crises. — Xinhua

China air force holds drills in Western Pacific for second time this month

BEIJING — China’s air force said on Sunday it had flown more than 40 bombers and other fighter planes through a strait between Japanese islands on their way to drills in the Western Pacific.

“Regular long range drills in the Western Pacific and patrols over the East China Sea air defence identification zone were for the Air Force to protect China’s sovereignty and national security, China’s air force spokesman Shen Jinke said, according to a statement posted on the Ministry of Defence website.

China drew condemnation from Japan and the United States in 2013 when it imposed an Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea, in which aircraft are supposed to identify themselves to Chinese authorities.

The patrols were “carefully monitor and judge the foreign military aircraft that enter the air defence zone, to take measures to respond to different threats in the sky and to protect national airspace,” the statement said.

Aircraft of the People’s Liberation Army did the exercises after flying over the Miyako Strait, a body of water between Japan’s islands of Miyako and Okinawa, the air force statement said.

This comes as China has been increasingly asserting itself in territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas. China’s ties with Japan have been strained by a longstanding territorial dispute over a string of islets in the East China Sea, known in China as the Diaoyu and in Japan as the Senkaku.

The two countries have also clashed over what China sees as Japan’s refusal to take responsibility for its wartime past.

China’s navy has often used the Miyako Strait, a key strategic route for the military, as a pathway from eastern China to the Pacific Ocean.

Earlier this month, Chinese bombers, fighters and early warning and aerial refuelling aircraft flew through the Bashi Channel that separates Taiwan and the Philippines to exercises in the Western Pacific. — Reuters
Havana — Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang met with Cuban President Raul Castro on Saturday during a two-day trip to Havana, and the two leaders oversaw the signing of around 30 agreements on economic cooperation in various sectors, Cuban state media reported.

Li is the first Chinese premier to visit Cuba since the two countries established diplomatic relations 56 years ago, although President Xi Jinping visited in 2011.

China is Cuba’s second largest trading partner after Venezuela. The two countries traded $1.6 billion in the first nine months of 2015, a 57 percent increase over the same period the previous year, official Cuban data shows.

Li said in an interview with the Cuban Communist Party newspaper Granma that his trip aimed to deepen the two countries’ relationship, forge new areas of economic cooperation and “intensify the mutual political trust.”

The two countries signed agreements on collaboration in the science, environmental, industry, energy, public health and agricultural sectors, Cuban state TV said. China also agreed to extend lines of credit for certain projects, it added, but did not specify how much.

Cuba has become a hot destination for tourists, foreign investors and leaders alike since the government embarked on business-friendly reforms and Havana and Washington announced a detente nearly two years ago after decades of hostility.

Earlier this week, Shizuo Abe became the first Japanese prime minister to visit Communist-nist-ruled Cuba, saying he wanted to deepen the two countries’ relationship.

Li landed in Havana on Saturday during a two-day trip to Havana’s Revolution Palace, Cuba, on 24 September 2016. Photo: Reuters

Japan eyes exhibiting materials on territorial issues in Tokyo

TOKYO — The government is considering exhibiting materials to raise public awareness of Japan’s stance on territorial issues with South Korea, China and Russia in the central part of Tokyo on a regular basis from next year, a government source said Sunday.

The territories in question are the South Korean-controlled group of islets in the Sea of Japan called Takeshima in Japan and Dokdo in South Korea, the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, claimed by China as Diaoyu, and the Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, referred to as the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia.

Some such materials are currently on exhibit in a facility of the Japan Coast Guard’s Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department in Koto Ward in eastern Tokyo, which is open on weekdays and attracts some 100 visitors a month. The government believes the planned permanent exhibition at the heart of Japan’s capital would draw more visitors, the source said. To back up Japan’s claim to these islands, historical documents such as marine charts and hydrographic maps made before World War II are expected to be displayed, according to the source.

“Our aim is not insisting loudly on Japan’s sovereignty rights,” the source said, stressing the importance of having people learn about their country’s territories. In a related move, the government has posted 200 additional materials on Takeshima and the Senkakus on the website of the Cabinet Secretariat since Friday.—Kyodo News

Two men from Chiba Pref win giant pumpkin competition

CANBERRA — Australia’s social services minister has flagged a plan to replace family welfare payments with tax breaks.

Christian Porter said the current family tax benefit (FTB) scheme, whereby families that earn less than $70,000 US dollars total per year are awarded up to $2,400 per child annually for every dependent child, was “deeply inefficient.”

Porter said there were “hundreds of thousands” of cases every year where families were paying more than $4,000 US dollars in income tax and then being awarded the same amount back in FTB payments.

“You can imagine that that is an extremely inefficient and costly system to, in effect, draw money from one group through tax to give it straight back to them, with all of the administrative costs and loss that occurs in moving that money through government back to the pockets of people from whom you took it in the first place,” Porter told Sky News on Sunday.

“The FTB System, when it was designed in its present form by (former PM) John Howard and (former Treasurer) Peter Costello, had always envisaged tax credits rather than direct transfer welfare payments, but for a variety of reasons that didn’t occur at the time. “Allowing people to keep more of their own money, rather than taking money off them, washing it through government with all of the expense and administrative burden that takes and then giving it back to them, the first situation of letting them keep more of their own money is far preferable,” Porter said technological limitations at the time the FTB was first introduced was the reason it had defaulted to the current structure, but technological improvements within the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) could see the new system introduced by 2020.—Xinhua

Government vows punishment over north China bus-truck collision

BEIJING — China’s top work safety watchdog said on Sunday that a task force has been dispatched to investigate a bus-truck collision in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and punish those responsible.

A bus and a truck collided Saturday evening in Yakeshi City, administered by Hulunbuir City, killing 12 people and injuring 25 others, according to local authorities.

The truck was trying to avoid a horse that dashed onto the road when the collision happened, according to a statement issued by the government of Hulunbuir.

The State Administration of Work Safety urged local authorities to severely penalize those responsible for the accident and to prevent similar incidents from happening again.

It also requested full efforts in treating the wounded as well as timely disclosure of the progress of the investigation and tightened supervision of road traffic safety.—Xinhua
EU to break 25-year rights precedent

Khin Maung Aye

O ut of the six committees of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Third Committee is concerned with social, humanitarian and cultural affairs. The Third Committee of UNGA at its 71st session is presided over by HE Ms Maria Emma Mejia of Colombia. The General Assembly allocates to the Third Committee the agenda concerning a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that have impact upon the people around the world.

As in previous sessions, an important task of the Committee will focus on the examination of human rights questions inclusive of reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council established in 2006. In October and November, the Third Committee will hear and interact with over 50 special rapporteurs, independent experts, and chairs of the working groups as mandated by the Human Rights Council.

The Committee also discusses questions regarding the advancement of women, protection of children, indigenous peoples, treatment of refugees, protection of fundamental freedoms through elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. In addition, the Committee addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, international drug control.

At last year UNGA i.e. 70th session, the Third Committee considered over 65 draft resolutions, more than half of which were submitted under the human rights agenda alone. In the case of Myanmar, UNGA has submitted a UN resolution criticizing Myanmar’s human rights record for 25 consecutive years. However, this year, the European Union leaders of Myanmar’s progress on democratic transition, the revitalization of peace process and improvement of human rights.

In this regard, it is worth quoting Rafendi Djamin, the director of Amnesty International for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, as saying in a September 14 press release, "We have seen encouraging changes as Myanmar eases out from under the shadow of military rule. But there is still a lot more to do to ensure a decisive break with the country’s ugly past of human rights violations”.

The Global New Light of Myanmar welcomes EU’s decision to break 25-year rights precedent by dropping UNGA resolution this year.

Myanmar: Performing a delicate balancing act

Arakan Sein

A fter a new government led by the National League for Democracy, Myanmar has brought in power for several months, Myanmar has brought the ASEAN member countries and its dialogue partners into play. It all began with a state visit to Laos, the Chair of the ASEAN, by the President and the State Counsellor. And on 7 September, 2016 the State Counselor proceeded to Vientiane, Laos to attend the 29th ASEAN Summit (Retreat) and related summits with dialogue partners. She got a chance of meeting with dialogue partners, including leaders from world’s leading powers; she even met the Philippines’ Rodrigo Duterte and the representative from the North Korea, who invited her to visit his Communist-ruled country. World’s leading countries such as China, India and the US also invited her to pay an official visit to their countries at an appropriate time.

As a result, the State Counsellor paid a state visit to China in August, 2016 and held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, China. The State Counsellor pledged that Myanmar values peaceful friendship and will work with China for peace and stability along the common border based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. President Xi touched on Myanmar’s infrastructure development by offering one billion yuan in loans. President U Htin Kyaw’s visit to China was the first top-level engagement between India and Myanmar since the new government took office in the Southeast Asian country. Myanmar sought India’s assistance in several sectors ranging from infrastructure and education to healthcare and energy.

Across upper Myanmar at the foothills of the eastern Himalayas, where the world’s biggest democracy meets its biggest communist state, Myanmar borders to the east with China and India to the west. Myanmar holds a unique position in India’s neighbourhoods and long-standing cultural and historical linkages form a solid foundation of the bilateral relations. This is the reason why the costs of a Chinese-dominated are deemed unacceptable for India. World’s second-biggest economy China has entered Myanmar with much-needed money and skills to benefit from closer contacts with its fast-developing neighbour. Proximity to the biggest growth engine in the world could be an enormous boon to Myanmar.

Japan plans to provide 100 billion yen in loans to Myanmar for infrastructure development. Japan is eager to give assistance to Myanmar as a way to counter China’s influence in the fast-growing and resource-rich country. Other countries are also vying to strengthen ties with the first democratically elected government in Myanmar. Going to the West State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Yangon on 10 September and stopped over in London for three days en route for the United States to attend the 71st United Nations General Assembly in New York. During the meeting in London with Myanmar Ambassadors from Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the State Counsellor briefed them about priorities in Myanmar as well as the country’s foreign policy, saying that Myanmar has friendly relations with all countries in the world, practicing the non-aligned foreign policy. She held talks with Britain’s top leaders, including the House of Commons Speaker, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Prime Minister Theresa May and requested British government to help Myanmar’s agriculture, forestry, education, health and human resource development sectors.

In the United States, the State Counsellor was welcomed with open arms by the US President Barack Obama at the Oval Office of the White House. At the meeting she told the President it was time for all sanctions that hurt her country economically to be lifted. President Obama said democratic progress in Myanmar was incomplete but on the right track. She also met with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry. She also held separate talks with US Congressional Leaders in the US Capital about Myanmar’s democratic transition.

Much more financial and technical assistance from the UK and the US could be expected in the future. Under these creations and challenges, what should Myanmar do? Myanmar must be firmly prepared to face all the consequences and challenges ahead: leaders create opportunities and the people should grasp them for the development of the country.

United, we will succeed; divided, we will surely fail. It is hoped that the new government under wise and far-sighted leadership of State Counsellor will handle all issues by performing a great balancing act of diplomacy.

ASEAN energy ministers agree on swift implementation of renewable energy programme

THE 34th ASEAN Ministers for Energy Meeting (AMEM) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday reached an agreement to speed up joint efforts to implement the Renewable Energy Support Programme for ASEAN (ASEAN-RESP).

The programme is being jointly implemented by the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the German International Cooperation (GIZ) in order to reduce the risk of hitting the target of 23 per cent renewable penetration in the region by 2025.

At the meeting, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) evaluated the potentials, costs and benefits of renewable energy in Southeast Asia, with a focus on the first country to implement a scheme under the $US225 billion on the measures to deal with the costs of health and pollution hazards resulting from an increase in the production of energy by 60 per cent. IRENA suggested investing more in fulfilling 23 per cent of its energy needs from renewable sources so as to mitigate global warming.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have turned to biomass and solar energy systems to meet their energy demands in line with ASEAN’s guidelines for renewable energy.—Thanh Zin Win
Clinton server tech told FBI of colleagues’ worries about system

NEW YORK — A technician hired by Hillary Clinton to run the private email system she used while US secretary of state told investigators he tried to pass on colleagues’ concerns that the system might not comply with records laws, FBI interview summaries show.

Bryan Pagliano, the technician Clinton hired when she joined the State Department in 2009, told federal investigators he relayed the concerns to Cheryl Mills, then Clinton’s chief of staff.

Mills, whose lawyer did not respond to requests for comment, has previously testified under oath she could not recall anyone alerting her to potential problems with Clinton’s email arrangement.

The episode had not been disclosed until the Federal Bureau of Investigation revealed on Friday night nearly 200 pages of additional records from its year-long investigation into the handling of classified government documents by Clinton and her staff via an unauthorized email server in the basement of her New York home.

Clinton has said the decision to use a private email system was a mistake, but the controversy has dogged her campaign as the Democratic candidate for the presidency and raised public doubts about her trustworthiness, public opinion polls show. Republicans have criticised her for putting national security at risk.

The FBI closed the year-long investigation in July, recommending no charges, although FBI Director James Comey said Clinton and her staff had been “extremely careless” in handling classified government secrets.

Pagliano has declined to answer questions by Republican lawmakers about his work on Clinton’s server, but spoke to federal investigators after securing a form of immunity from prosecution.

He told investigators two colleagues from the technology office approached him with concerns during Clinton’s first year after learning about the email system. One said it could lead to a “federal records retention issue,” Pagliano told investigators, and urged him to raise the concern with Clinton’s “inner circle.”

A colleague also warned Pagliano “he wouldn’t be surprised” if classified information was being sent through Clinton’s unsecured system, Pagliano told the FBI.

The newly released interview summaries from the FBI investigation show government employees undercutting other aspects of the public accounts given by Clinton and senior State officials.

A State Department employee, whose name was redacted, told investigators they believed senior department officials interfered with the screening of Clinton’s emails for public release last year in a way that helped Clinton.

The employee, who worked on the screening process, said there was pressure to obscure the fact they were finding classified information in the messages.

John Kirby, a State Department spokesman, said in a statement the department “strongly disputes” the claim of interference.

Clinton repeatedly said last year she never sent or received classified information, but now says she did not do so knowingly since the release of the FBI findings.

The employee also said the Defence Department told the State Department last year it had found about 1,000 emails between Clinton and David Petraeus in its records from his time as the director of the United States Central Command.

The State Department has said that Clinton did not include any of her emails with Petraeus when her lawyers screened and returned what they said were all her work emails in 2014.

A single conversation of about 10 emails later emerged last year after the Defence Department provided it.

Spokesmen for Clinton have declined to discuss the omission, and did not respond to questions about the new interview summaries.

Kirby, the department spokesman, said he could not “speculate” whether the Defence Department had found more than just a single conversation between Clinton and Petraeus.

“We can only speak to the records in our possession,” he said. —Reuters

Suicide bomber kills seven, wounds 28 in Baghdad, police say

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber blew himself up in a commercial street of Baghdad on Sunday, killing seven and wounding 28, according to police sources.

The explosion happened in Iskan, a mostly Shi’ite district in the west of the Iraqi capital.

Islamic State has stepped up bomb attacks in government-held areas this year as it loses territory to US-backed Iraqi forces and Iranian-backed Shi’ite militias.

The hardline Sunni group continues to control vast areas in northern and western Iraq, including the city of Mosul, captured in 2014.— Reuters

UAE says Iran wasted no time in undermining regional security

DUBAI — The United Arab Emirates said on Saturday Iran had wasted no time in undermining regional security since it sealed a nuclear deal with world powers last year.

“Against all optimistic expectations, Iran wasted no time in continuing its efforts to undermine the security of the region, through aggressive rhetoric, blatant interference, producing and arming militias, developing its ballistic missile programme, in addition to its alarming designation as a state sponsor of terrorism,” UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed told the annual UN gathering of world leaders.— Reuters

UK parliament must be fully informed on Brexit strategy — opposition leader

LONDON — Britain’s parliament must be kept fully informed on the government’s strategy for leaving the European Union, Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, said on Sunday.

Prime Minister Theresa May has said parliament would play a role in Britain’s exit from the EU but that she will be leading the negotiations and will make the final decision on what deal the country gets.

Asked by the BBC’s Andrew Marr whether that was democratic, Corbyn said: “I don’t think it’s democratic and I don’t think it’s sustainable at all.”

“This is a huge political issue, it’s the most significant economic issue facing Britain in my or your lifetime and I think at the very least parliament should be fully informed.”

He said Labour had set up a Brexit team to demand information from the government and also get involved in talks.— Reuters

Britain to seek independent membership of WTO after Brexit — newspaper

LONDON — Britain intends to become an independent member of the World Trade Organisation when it leaves the European Union, trade minister Liam Fox will say next week, according to a report in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

The newspaper, without citing its sources, said Fox would use a speech at the WTO on Tuesday to say Britain would seek to be an independent member of the body so that it could negotiate its own trade deals outside of the EU.

Being an independent member of the WTO would involve Britain leaving the EU’s customs union, the newspaper said, something the government has so far refused to confirm it intends to do.— Reuters
Turkey wants to join US-led operation against Islamic State in Raqqa, says Erdogan

ISTANBUL — Turkey wants to join the United States in a military operation to push Islamic State militants away from its Syrian stronghold of Raqqa, as long as it excludes Kurdish rebel forces, President Tayyip Erdogan was quoted as saying on Sunday.

NATO member Turkey, part of the US-led coalition battling Islamic State, is backing Arab and Turkmen Syrian rebels who seized the Syrian town of Jarablus from the jihadists a month ago in an operation it has dubbed “Euphrates Shield.”

But Ankara is wary of the US-allied People’s Protection Units (YPG) and its political arm, the Democratic Union Party (PYD), Syrian Kurdish groups it sees as extensions of Kurdish militants whom it has waged a three-decade insurgency on its own soil.

“Our foreign minister and military authorities are in talks with the United States discussing the matter of Raqqa. We shared with them our conditions,” Erdogan told reporters on his plane returning from New York, where he spoke at the annual United Nations general assembly and met US Vice President Joe Biden.

“Taking a joint step is important for us,” he said, according to private broadcaster NTV. “If the United States does not insert the PYD and YPG into this business, we won’t be able to fight this battle with the United States.”

Turkey has focused much of its energy during the six-year war in neighbouring Syria on its desire tooust President Bashar al-Assad rather than fighting Islamic State. Its recent push into northern Syria came after steady advances by the YPG.

But Erdogan said Turkey had exhibited “the most effective struggle against Islamic State, despite the disinformation.” Senior US military officials said last week they were considering arming Syrian Kurdish fighters and acknowledged the difficulty of balancing this with the relationship with Ankara.

Erdogan said he asked Biden about weapons ship-ments to Kurds and that the vice president said he was not aware of any such deliveries.—Reuters

Yemen plans UN complaint over Iran weapons transfers

NEW YORK — Yemen plans to complain to the UN Security Council over what it says are Iran’s weapons transfers to Houthi allies fighting the internationally recognised Yemeni government, the foreign minister said on Saturday.

In an interview with Reuters, Abdel-Malek al-Mekhlafi also said he hoped a 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire would take effect on Monday next week.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia — which intervened in the country in March 2015 to prevent the Houthis and forces loyal to the former president from taking over — blame Shi'ite Iran for supplying weapons to the Houthis.

Tehran views the Houthis, who hail from a Shi’ite sect, as the legitimate authority in Yemen and decries accusations it supplies them with weapons.

The Iranian mission at the UN did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the latest ac-cusation.

“There are new weapons coming from Iran,” Mekhlafi said in New York where he was attending the annual UN gathering of world leaders.

“It is impossible to hide that weapons-smugg-ling is still taking place from Iran. Some of these weapons have been found on the Saudi-Yemeni bor-der and they are Iranian weapons,” he said.

Mekhlafi said his government was in the process of filing a complaint to the Security Council, with evi-dence including documents and pictures.

UN-sponsored talks to try to end 18 months of fighting that has killed at least 10,000 people collapsed last month.

The foreign minister said President Abd Rab-buh Mansour Hadi had met with US and UN officials this week and had agreed in principle to a 72-hour ceasefire.

“He (Hadi) asked that the ceasefire be taken ad-vantage of by lifting the unjust siege of Taiz and for food to enter simulta-neously,” Mekhlafi said, referring to a city in the country’s highlands. The government was waiting for the UN envoy to speak with the Houthis to secure those guarantees, he added.—Reuters

Russian and Syrian jets bomb Aleppo camp retaken by rebels

MOSCOW — Russian and Syrian forces bombed a strategic camp on the northern edge of Aleppo on Sunday after losing control of it overnight, both rebels and the Syrian army said.

Rebels said the army used more powerful weapons in an attempt to recover Handarat, a Palestinian refugee camp a few kilometres north of the Aleppo province which is on elevated ground overlooking one of the main roads into Aleppo that had been in rebel hands for years.

“We retook the camp, but the regime burnt it with phosphorous bombs ... We were able to protect it, but the bombing burnt our vehicles,” said Abu al-Hasan, a commander in a rebel operations room that includes the main bridges fighting to repel the army assault.

The army which is being helped by Iranian-backed militias, Lebanon’s Shi’ite Hezbollah militant group and a Pal- estinian militia, acknowledged rebels had taken Handarat, whose capture on Saturday briefly marked the first major ground ad-vance by the army in a new offensive to recapture rebel-held Aleppo.

“The Syrian army is targeting the armed groups positions in Handarat camp,” a military source said, quoted on state media as saying.

The army announced on Thursday the start of a major new military campaign to regain Aleppo, intensifying strikes and use of powerful weapons that rebels said was an “shock and awe” campaign aimed at creating devastation and demoralizing them.

Russian planes also targeted residential parts of Aleppo Sunday after losing control of it overnight, both rebels and the Syrian army said.

The assault on Aleppo, where more than 250,000 civilians are trapped, could be the biggest battle yet in a civil war that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and driven 11 mil-lion from their homes.

Two weeks after Moscow and Washing-ton announced a ceasefire that quickly unrav-elled, President Bashar al-Assad and his Russian and Iranian allies appear to have launched a cam-paign for a decisive battlefield victory that has buried any hope for diplomacy.—Reuters
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**Scientific experiment apparatus on Tiangong-2 put into operation**

BEIJING — Scientific apparatus carried by Tian-gong-2 began operational at around 6:41 pm Thursday Beijing Time after being on standby for nearly seven days since the space lab entered its preset orbit on 19 September.

“Most of the scientific payload will be put into operation in the next 30 hours,” said Guo Lili, director with the payload operation and application center at the Technology and Engineering Centre for Space Utilization under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Nearly 100 ground operators, including staff from the operation and application center, payload developers and subscribers to related applications, are coordinating in the operation.

The space lab of Tian-gong-2 will dock with the Shenzhou-11 manned spacecraft later this year and the country’s first cargo space ship, Tianzhou-1 in 2017, according to experts.

Its predecessor Tian-gong-1, which was launched in 2011 and docked with the Shenzhou-8, Shenzhou-9 and Shenzhou-10 spaceships, was mainly used to verify technology involved in space docking and serve as a simple platform for a number of scientific experiments, said Wu Ping, deputy director of China’s manned space engineering office.

In comparison, Tiangong-2 hosts many more experiments and is taken as China’s first space lab “in the strict sense.” Its payloads include POLAR, a collaboration between Swiss, Polish and Chinese institutions to study gamma ray bursts, and a cold atomic space clock, which scientists say only loses one second in about 30 million years.

Also piggybacking on the Tiangong-2 launch is a robotic arm that can be used for on-orbit repairs, and a micro satellite that will orbit close to the space lab and snap on to Tiangong-2 and the visiting Shenzhou-11 spacecraft crew.

—Xinhua

**Mother’s vitamin B levels during pregnancy may affect child’s eczema risk**

LONDON — If a mother has a higher level of a particular type of vitamin B during pregnancy, the infant she gives birth to will likely have a lower risk of eczema at the age of 12 months, according to a study released Friday by the University of Southampton.

The study assessed the amount of nicotinamide and related tryptophan metabolites during pregnancy in 497 women that took part in the Southampton survey.

The rates of eczema in their children at the ages of six and 12 months were studied, according to the university.

Results showed that offspring of mothers with higher levels of nicotinamide had a 30 per cent lower chance of developing atopic eczema at 12 months. There was an even stronger association with higher levels of an anti-inflammatory, a tryptophan metabolite.

Nicotinamide is a form of vitamin B3. Its level is maintained through intake of foods such as fish, meat, chicken, mushrooms, nuts and coffee as well as tryptophan, an amino acid found in most proteins.

Nicotinamide can improve the overall structure, moisture and elasticity of skin and, therefore, could potentially alter the disease processes associated with eczema, according to the study.

“Nicotinamide cream has been used in the treatment of eczema but the link between the mother’s levels of nicotinamide during pregnancy and the offspring’s risk of atopic eczema has not been previously studied. The findings point to potentially modifiable influences on this common and distressing condition,” said Dr. Sarah El-Heiss, the study’s lead researcher from the University of Southampton.

The study has been published in the journal Clinical and Experimental Allergy. —Xinhua

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**Thousands march in Dublin, abroad for Irish abortion rights**

DUBLIN — Thousands of protestors marched in Dublin, and Irish expatriates joined in demonstrations around the world on Saturday, to put pressure on the Irish government to hold a referendum to repeal restrictive abortion laws.

Regulations in the once stridently Catholic Ireland are among the strictest in the world and next month Prime Minister Enda Kenny will call a citizens’ assembly to advise the government on whether a vote should be held to boost access to abortion.

Opponents demand that the amendment, which enshrines the equal right to life of the mother and her unborn child, should remain in place to safeguard all life, and a truck carrying the slogan “Abortion is violence against babies and mothers” drove through Dublin.

Demonstrations were also organised by Ireland’s large diaspora in over 20 cities around the world, from Wellington to Montreal, and pictures were posted on social media ahead of the march from protestors in Melbourne, London, Berlin and Kathmandu.

In Dublin, many had traveled from around Ireland, including Paula Dennan, 32, who made the eight-hour round trip from the southern county of Kerry.

“We’re marching in solidarity with the 56 women who we know for a fact traveled in 2015 to England for abortions and gave Kerry addresses,” said Dennan, who set up the “Kerry for Choice” group this year.

She was referring to some of the 3,500 women who traveled across the Irish Sea for a termination last year.

“They left Kerry to receive what is essentially basic healthcare and we came to show them that people are with them. We just need the government to catch up.” —Reuters

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A woman holds her stomach at the last stages of her pregnancy in Bordeaux. PHOTO: REUTERS

Demonstrators take part in a protest to urge the Irish Government to repeal the 8th amendment to the constitution, which enforces strict limitations to a woman’s right to an abortion, in Dublin, Ireland on 24 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Threats of possible atopic eczema may be occurring to a child who is born to a mother with higher levels of nicotinamide during pregnancy. PHOTO: Xinhua

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Regulations in the once stridently Catholic Ireland are among the strictest in the world and next month Prime Minister Enda Kenny will call a citizens’ assembly to advise the government on whether a vote should be held to boost access to abortion. PHOTO: Reuters
Finns protest against racism after man assaulted at neo-Nazi rally dies

HELSINKI (Finland) — More than 15,000 people gathered in Helsinki on Saturday to protest against racism and violence, after the death of a man assaulted during a neo-Nazi rally in the city earlier this month.

Following an influx of asylum seekers last year, anti-immigration sentiment has been on the rise in the small Nordic country, which has little experience of taking in large numbers of refugees.

Police a week ago detained a member of a far-right movement on suspicion of attacking a Finnish national in central Helsinki who died of his injuries a few days later.

Holding placards showing peace signs and red lines crossing out swastikas, demonstrators said it was time to break a silence that they said had allowed racism and far-right violence to grow in the country. Similar events were held in other towns.

“People really feel that there’s not enough talk about racism here. There’s too much neglect. We should all speak more about racism here,” said a demonstrator who gave her name as Rosa.

Prime Minister Juha Sipila, who has been criticised for being cautious on his comments about far-right movements, joined a similar anti-racism rally in the city of Kuopio.

“People are here for a just cause. Actions by violent extreme movements are a worry to the silent majority of the nation,” Sipila told public broadcaster YLE.

He said the government was planning to tighten legislation regarding extremist movements and hate speech. The 26-year-old man arrested has been charged for aggravated manslaughter.

In Helsinki, a small group of people on Saturday gathered for a counter-demonstration they titled “Close the borders”, saying that critics of immigration policy should not be called racists.

Police said all demonstrations on Saturday went ahead peacefully.

About 32,000 asylum seekers, mostly from Iraq, came to Finland last year. As in other Nordic countries, the government has subsequently toughened up its immigration policies, such as by tightening the asylum criteria for people coming from Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

—Reuters

Charlotte protesters keep marching after police release shooting video

CHARLOTTE, (N.C.) — Nearly a week of protests over the police killing of a black man in Charlotte, North Carolina showed no signs of abating on Sunday, after police released videos showing the victim being shot but did not answer the question of whether he had a gun.

Hundreds marched through the centre of Charlotte on a fifth night of demonstrations that stretched into Sunday morning, including white and black families protesting police violence.

One sign read “Stop police brutality” and another showed a picture of a bloody handprint with the phrase RAMPD NEXT, a social media tag about the police shooting made no mention of the weapons used.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney acknowledged that the videos themselves were “insufficient” to prove that Scott held a gun but said other evidence completed the picture.

“There is no definitive visual evidence that he had a gun in his hand,” Putney said. “But what we do see is compelling evidence that, when you put all the pieces together, supports that.”

Police said officers trying to serve an arrest warrant for a different person caught sight of Scott with marijuana and a gun, sitting in a car in a parking lot.

“They look in the car and they see the marijuana, they don’t act. They see the gun and they think they need to arrest him,” Putney said.

Both Scott’s family and protesters have disputed the police statements.

—Reuters

Blast rocks Hungary’s capital, two injured

BUDAPEST — An explosion rocked central Budapest late on Saturday, injuring two police officers, Hungarian police said on Sunday.

Police have yet to identify the cause of the blast, they said in a statement.

“The local and expert examination of the origins of the explosion and review of the damage is under way,” the statement said.

The blast was next to an unused storefront on a one of the busiest thoroughfares in central Budapest. Images on local news media showed a ruined doorway. Nearby windows and cars were damaged in the blast, witnesses said. Police said there were no further injuries caused by the explosion, which occurred at 10:36 pm local time (0836 GMT).

A government spokesman showed a ruined doorway.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has been a vocal opponent of immigration into Europe and is urging voters to reject EU quotas for resettling migrants in Hungary in a referendum next Sunday, arguing immigration increases security risks.

—Reuters
TOKYO — Transport ministers from the Group of Seven advanced economies agreed Sunday to strengthen cooperation in the railway and airline sectors as they wrapped up their three-day meeting in the resort town of Karuizawa, northwest of Tokyo.

Prior to the conclusion of the gathering, ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States plus the European Union adopted a declaration on Saturday, pledging to reinforce international cooperation in creating safety regulations to promote self-driving cars.

On the sidelines of the ministerial talks, Japanese Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Keiichi Ishii held bilateral meetings with his Canadian, British and German counterparts.

In the talks with Chris Grayling, British transport secretary, Ishii expressed hope to deepen bilateral cooperation in the railway business, a Japanese official said.

Graying told Ishii that the British vote in June to leave the European Union will not have adverse effect on Japanese firms, according to the official.

While electronics and machinery maker Hitachi Ltd. has increased its presence in Britain with robust sales in the rail sector, it has voiced concern over the impact of Brexit on its business.

The conference in Nagano Prefecture was the last of the ministerial meetings related to the G-7 leaders’ Ise-Shima summit in Mie Prefecture, central Japan, in late May.

—Kyodo News

Obama says new US black history museum tells story of America

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Saturday expressed hope that a new national museum showcasing the triumphs and tragedies of the African American experience will help to bring people together as the nation reels from recent racial upheaval.

Speaking at a dedication ceremony for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Obama said that the story of black America is the story of America.

“This national museum helps to tell a richer and fuller story of who we are,” said Obama.

“Hopefully, this museum can help us to talk to each other. And more importantly, listen to each other. And most important, listen to each other. Black and white and Latino and Native American and Asian American — see how our stories are bound together,” he said standing on a stage outside the bronze-coloured, 12-sided museum.

The museum, located on the National Mall, officially opened its doors on Saturday. It contains 36,000 items that trace the journey of African Americans from slavery in the 1800s to the fight for civil rights in the 20th century and lauds modern icons, such as media mogul Oprah Winfrey and tennis champion Serena Williams.

With a ring of a bell, Obama and wife Michelle and four generations of an African American family inaugurated the $540 million museum designed by Ghanaian-British architect David Adjaye, who was inspired by Yoruban art from West Africa.—Reuters

UK doctors call off strike action

LONDON — A union representing British doctors on Saturday called off a series of strikes scheduled for the next three months, citing concerns about patient safety.

The British Medical Association (BMA) had planned a full withdrawal of labour by junior doctors on 5-7 and 10-11 October, 14-18 November and 5-9 December, which would have been the longest stoppages in the nearly 70-year history of the National Health Service.

Junior doctors — a term covering recent medical school graduates right through to doctors who have been working for well over a decade — have staged a series of walkouts over a new work contract the government plans to impose next month.

The BMA said its decision to suspend the action follows feedback from doctors, patients and the public, and discussions with NHS England about the ability of the NHS to maintain a safe service if industrial action were to go ahead. “Following a passionate, thoughtfull and wide-ranging debate amongst junior doctors, the BMA has taken the decision to suspend planned industrial action,” said Ellen McCourt, the newly elected chair of the BMA junior doctor committee.

“We still oppose the imposition of the contract and are now planning a range of other actions in order to resist it, but patient safety is doctors’ primary concern,” she said.

The BMA staged several strikes earlier this year, which escalated in April when junior doctors walked out of all services, including accident and emergency, for a day.

A deal was reached in May between the BMA and the government, but junior doctors voted in July to reject the new contract.—Reuters

UN Security Council to hold urgent session on Syria

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council is scheduled to have an emergency meeting on the current situation in Syria on Sunday morning, diplomatic sources told Xinhua Saturday night.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 11:00 EDT (1500 GMT) at the request of the United States and France, two of the five permanent members of the 15-nation UN body, the sources said.

UN officials also confirmed that the emergency council meeting is to be an open one, at which ambassadors are expected to air their views on the latest developments on the ground in Syria. The council meeting is unusual on Sunday as the annual high-level debate of the UN General Assembly is going on at UN Headquarters in New York.

The last emergency council meeting was held last Saturday evening at the request of Russia in response to the airstrikes staged by the US-led coalition on Syrian military positions. The Sunday council meeting will be held to discuss the latest military escalation in Syria’s northern city of Aleppo.

Earlier on Saturday, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that he was appalled by the latest escalation in Aleppo, saying that the northern Syrian city is facing “the most sustained and intense bombardment since the start of the Syrian conflict.”—Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMAR OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(12 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No. Tender No. Description Remark
(1) IFB-055(16-17) 5" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade X42
(3) IFB-057(16-17) S evaluate for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No. Tender No. Description Remark
(1) IFB-055(16-17) 5" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade X42
(2) IFB-056(16-17) S evaluate for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

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Angelina Jolie moves into rental house with kids?

LOS ANGELES — Actress-filmmaker Angelina Jolie and her children have reportedly moved out of the house she shared with her estranged husband Brad Pitt.

According to People magazine, the actress now lives in a rental house in Los Angeles with her six children amid her divorce from Pitt, 52.

A real estate source said the 41-year-old “Maleficent” actress rented the home during the second week of September for USD 95,000 a month before she filed for divorce.

It was apparently secured the house even before she viewed the property.

“You could tell Angelina was in a rush to find a new house,” the source claimed. “Her people signed a lease very quickly. They only seemed concerned about if it was an appropriate house for kids.”

Jolie filed for divorce on 20 September, ending her two-year-old marriage to Pitt. She said her separation from Brad Pitt was for “the health of the family.”

She asked for physical custody of their children and demanded judge give her estranged husband visitation rights only.

Recently, the FBI confirmed that it is gathering information into allegations against Brad Pitt regarding his children.

It has been reported that the actor misbehaved with his kids on a private flight.

Jolie and Pitt have three adopted children and three biological kids.—PTI

Indian films’ box office collection to be USD 3.7 bln in 2020

NEW DELHI — Indian film industry’s gross box office collection is likely to be USD 3.7 billion (Rs 24,684 crore approximately) in 2020 from the current level of USD 2.1 billion, said Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (DTTILLP) in a report.

“In terms of revenue, the Indian film industry has gross realization in the US and Canada stand at USD 11 billion whereas these countries produce significantly lower number of films (about 700 films),” the report said.

According to the report, the main challenges facing the film industry are low infrastructure, slow growth in average ticket price (ATP), complicated tax regime, rising costs and lack of access to funding, piracy, multiple layers of bureaucracy and prevailing strict censorship norms.

The domestic box office contributes a majority of the revenue, representing 74 per cent of the total industry.

Cable and satellite rights and online/digital aggregation revenues are the fastest growing segments, and are expected to grow at a CAGR of about 15 per cent over the period FY15-FY20.

Further, the industry is dominated by Bollywood, the Hindi film industry, contributing 43 per cent of the revenue while the regional films contribute the remaining 57 per cent.

International films is currently a small, but growing segment, driven by rising numbers of English (and other foreign language) speakers, as well as increasing numbers of international movies witnessing dubbed releases in India.

It said that the other trends in the industry include foreign films gaining share in the Indian industry and entry of international studios through acquisitions.

Going forward, the industry needs to focus on film tourism, skill enhancement, shortening window of release through better planning, updating current technology, countering piracy and growth of multiplexes, to ensure growth and profitability.—PTI
Museum opens in Nara to display Kitora tomb murals

KASHIHARA (Japan) — A museum opened Saturday in the ancient Japanese capital Nara to display murals from the ancient Kitora tomb in the village of Asuka, Nara Prefecture. About 400 archeology fans selected by lot were the first visitors allowed into the “Kitora Kofun Hekiga Taikenkan Shishin no Yakata” museum opened near the tomb to preserve and exhibit the paintings.

One of the paintings from the late seventh century to early eighth century was discovered inside the tomb in 1983 and others were found later. Due to the growth of mold since their discovery, the paintings have been removed from the walls of the tomb and undergone repair.

The museum plans to display the paintings of Suzaku (red phoenix), Byakko (white tiger) and signs of the Oriental zodiac until late October. The other two of the four gods of Chinese mythology — Sutetsu (blue dragon), and Gembu (black turtle and snake) — will be displayed from January.

Second edition of Chinese Book Fair 2016 kicks off in Nepal

KATHMANDU — The second edition of Chinese Book Fair 2016 with the theme Tibet in Development’ kicked off here in Nepal’s capital on Saturday.

Around 750 types of Chinese books are being displayed in the fair covering a broad range of topics including politics, culture, history, and philosophy.

Most of the products displayed in fair have focused on new development, new changes and new lives of Tibet Autonomous Region.

The five-day exhibition, which is organised by Newspaper and Periodicals Publishing House of Tibet, features books from four publishing houses of Tibet along with audio visual materials.

Speaking during the inaugural session, the Nepalese Minister for Education Dhani Ram Poudel said that Nepal should learn from the rapid development of China, claiming that the book exhibition can be very helpful to gain information.

“China has gained rapid success in development despite of having such large population. Nepal has so many things to learn from China so books can be very helpful”, Nepalese Minister Poudel said while addressing the function.

He further said that the book exhibition can enhance the people-to-people relation between the two neighbours.

Addressing the function, Qiu Dongfang, who is leading the delegation of Publishers from Tibet said, “This book exhibition is a symbol of Sino-Nepal friendship and will contribute in enhancing the bilateral relationship and promoting the cultural exchange between Nepal and Chinese people.”

Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Wu Chuntai said that the books and art can help Nepal and Nepalese people know Tibet closer covering economic, social and other issues.

Beside books, the fair features video products displaying excellent traditional Tibetan culture, literature, science and technology, social science, arts, religion and entertainment.

Painting and Calligraphy about beauty of Tibet have also been put on display.

Meanwhile, China and Nepal public relations agreements have also been signed during the inaugural event among the two publishing houses each from Nepal and China.

Furthermore, representatives from publishing institutions, specialists and scholars of both sides shared about development status of publications in their respective countries.

The first edition of Chinese Book Fair was held in October 2014 in Nepal.

The event to be concluded on 28 September has attracted hundreds of book lovers of all ages and from all walks of life.

New commercial building ‘Ginza Place’ opens in Tokyo

TOKYO — A group firm of Sapporo Holdings Ltd. opened a new commercial building in Tokyo’s Ginza shopping district on Saturday.

People queued up before the opening of the “Ginza Place” which houses shops and restaurants as well as showrooms of Nissan Motor Co. and Sony Corp. Electric cars are currently displayed in the Nissan showroom while Sony is showcasing such products as its 4K high-resolution televisions.

“We want to help increase the vibrancy of Ginza,” Sapporo Real Estate Co. President Toshiyuki Ikoma said at the opening ceremony.

The 11-story building with two underground stories has a total floor space of around 7,350 square metres.

New memorial of ancient Chinese playwright opens

NANCHANG — A new memorial of renowned ancient Chinese playwright Tang Xianzu opened on Saturday in his hometown to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Tang and his two contemporaries, William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes.

The memorial of Tang in Fuzhou, east China’s Jiangxi Province, has also two display areas for Shakespeare and Cervantes.

The items for Shakespeare include 40 offprints of his works published between 1897 and 1905.

A three-day commemorative event kicked off on Saturday in Fuzhou to mark the 400th anniversary, with drama performances, an art festival and a seminar about Chinese culture. Tang was born in Fuzhou in 1550.

His masterpiece, “The Peony Pavilion,” tells of a romance between Du Liniang, a daughter of a local official, and scholar Liu Mengmei, and depicts youthful pursuit of love and freedom.
Arsenal beat Chelsea 3-0 after first half blitz

LONDON — Arsenal cruised to a 3-0 win over Chelsea on Saturday, scoring all three goals in the first half to claim their first Premier League victory over their London rivals in 10 attempts.

Arsenal gave their manager Arsene Wenger something to celebrate as he marked 20 years in charge of the club, punishing Chelsea for poor defending to race into a 2-0 lead within 15 minutes.

First, Alexis Sanchez pounced on a feeble attempt at a back pass by Chelsea defender Gary Cahill to beat the advancing Thibaut Courtois with a neat chip in the 11th minute.

Three minutes later, Arsenal were 2-0 up as Hector Bellerin found himself in space on the right and picked out Theo Walcott who blasted home from close range.

Chelsea's attempts to claw their way back were effectively finished in the 40th minute when Mesut Ozil picked up a loose ball deep in the Arsenal half and raced forward to exchange passes with Sanchez and volley the hosts into a 3-0 lead.

The emphatic win was Arsenal's first over Chelsea in the league since October 2011 and left Wenger applauding a performance of “style and steel” from his team.

He felt Arsenal's first-half performance was “nearly perfect” but was not about to make much fuss about their special anniversary gift to him.

“Ideally, you want the perfect game and you never get it. We got nearly the perfect first half and that is not bad. Football doesn’t care for history and the anniversaries, just the result on the day. Today we had a good performance,” said Wenger.

His delight was in sharp contrast to the furrowed brow of Chelsea boss Antonio Conte, who oversaw his heaviest league defeat for six years since he was manager of Italian side Siena.

“I think that we didn’t have the right attitude from the first minute,” he said.

“After today we are thinking we must work a lot because we are a great team only on paper.”

He refused to single out an out-of-form Gary Cahill, whose dawdling led to Sanchez stealing the ball off him and opening the scoring.

“I don’t want to talk about the mistake. It is not right for the player. We win and lose as a team,” said Conte.—Reuters

Nagoya, Aichi prefecture to host 2026 Asian Games

TOKYO — Japan will host the Asian Games for the third time in 2026 after Aichi prefecture and its capital Nagoya were confirmed as the venue for the multi-sport event by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) on Sunday.

The Japanese bid was the only one put forward to host the continental gathering, which will be staged in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia in 2018 and the Chinese city of Hangzhou in 2022.

Japan, hosts of the 2017 Asian Winter Games, 2019 Rugby World Cup and 2020 Summer Olympics, also staged the AsianGames in Tokyo in 1958 and Hiroshima in 1994.

“The road map of our main event is very stable,” OCA president Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah said after the decision of the general assembly in Danang, Viet Nam.

“Together with our three Asian Games in 2018, 2022 and 2026, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the next two Winter Olympics in Korea and China..., the sports calendar of Asia will be very busy with continental and international events.” Organisers said in a presentation to the OCA assembly on Sunday that the Games would cost $842 million.—Reuters

Wozniacki downs Osaka to win Pan Pacific Open

TOKYO — Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki continued her revival by brushing aside Japanese teenager Naomi Osaka 7-5, 6-3 on Sunday to win the Pan Pacific Open for the second time and secure her first title of the year. Hampered by injuries, the 26-year-old Dane slumped to number 74 in the world at the end of August and looked like going for Osaka — proved decisive.

She again looked in trouble after losing her serve for the second time in the opening set on Sunday but proved almost unstoppable after receiving treatment on her upper thigh and wrapped up her 24th career title in 106 minutes.

“It's a final, both of us have experienced the big moments — she converted five of her six break points in the match compared to three of nine for Osaka — proved decisive. While Osaka, who will move into the top 50 on the back of her run at the Ariake Coliseum, was crestfallen, Wozniacki predicted great things for the teenager. “She’s been playing really good and is going to be a great player and is already rising up the rankings so fast,” she said.

“I have no doubt we’re going to see her in many, many more finals.” Wozniacki, who rose to number 28 in the world after reaching the semi-finals of the US Open earlier this month, will move another four or five spots closer to the top 20 on the back of her first title since Kuala Lumpur in March last year.—Reuters