THE deputy minister for Home Affairs has revealed that the Union has made extensive efforts to combat terrorism in country and beyond, including surveillance of suspected terrorists and specially trained anti-terrorist combatants, it was learnt yesterday.

The revelation came from Maj-Gen Aung Soe, the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, in his response to a question from MP U Tin Aye about whether Myanmar was prepared for a possible terrorist attack.

“The Ministry has world terrorist organizations and their members recorded, international mercenary fighters registered, having terrorist suspects kept under constant surveillance, and is concurrently making arrangements to be able to take prompt action against them”, Maj-Gen Aung Soe said yesterday.

The deputy minister said Myanmar is collaborating with local, regional and international organisations in the fight against terrorism.

The State has made following tasks to give prompt response to destructive elements, according to the Ministry for Home Affairs:

1. Organizing Counter-Terrorism Department in the Police Force Special Branch to carry out relief and operations missions.

2. Deploying specially trained anti-terrorist combat groups in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

3. Having security guards stationed at religious edifices, bridges and factories of importance, and guarding of dignitaries under a special security programme.

4. Exchange and collection of terrorist attack information and linking with INTERPOL, ASEANAPOL, neighbouring countries, and allied organizations and other sources.

5. Establishing an Administration Centre for National-Level Emergency Cases at Nay Pyi Taw, equipped with advanced technology for use on the central, state and regional levels.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has also made efforts to eradicate money laundering in the Union to prevent the funding of terrorist groups. The Money Laundering Eradication Law and the related MLE centre has been formed, according to the ministry.

At international border gates, up-to-date equipment and databases such as the MIND/ FIND Device (Mobile/ Fixed Interpol Network Database have been installed for security, surveillance and linking with Interpol.

And at border areas abutting China, Thailand, India and Laos, Border Liaison Officers are watching those who go in and out of the country, according to the ministry. At international Airports, CCTVs are installed and a Police Command Centre is watching around the clock.

As soon as it is learnt that there is a potential terrorist entering the country, the deputy minister said, police who are linked to departments concerned immediately commence gathering intelligence. From this information, the terrorism threat is categorised into 5 levels, ranging from level 1 (wanted list) to level 5 (on record).

“If necessary, terrorist attacks will be fought hand-to-hand with Tatmadawmen” the deputy minister said.—Myanmar News Agency
Three currently suspended fertiliser factories to resume operations when natural gas production increases

THREE fertiliser factories which have been temporarily suspended due to lack of raw materials will return to normal operation when inland and offshore blocks produce further quantities of natural gas, it has been learned.

At an Amyotha Hluttaw meeting yesterday, Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr Tun Naing clarified that old equipment and a shortage of natural gas forced three fertiliser factories to temporarily halt production.

The Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise of the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy remains the governing body of the factories.

—Myanmar News Agency

14th Yangon International Lifestyle Furniture Fair held from 6 to 10 Oct

UNDER the arrangement of Thousand Islands Business Group, Yangon International Lifestyle Furniture Fair was opened yesterday at the Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road in Yangon yesterday.

The event was formally opened by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Planning and Finance Minister U Myint Thein and U Min Thein, Managing Director of Myanmar Timber Industry Enterprise U Saw John Shwe Ba, President of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Saw Min Win and Chairman of Thousand Islands Business Group U Min Thein.

The fair has attracted 38 companies, staging 176 booths for five days from 6th to 10th October. Local and foreign made modern furniture are being displayed at the fair.—GNLM

Legal talks to be held in January in major cities

A SERIES of legal talks are planned to take place in commercial cities next year, aiming to distribute useful legal knowledge among residents, with organisers inviting law graduates to participate in the discussions.

U Ba Tin Swe, chairman of a local organization formed with law graduates, said the events are scheduled to be held in January in both Yangon and Mandalay in collaboration with legal experts from home and abroad as well as law-related professional associations.

The moves aim to promote legal knowledge and practice among people by sharing useful legal information at seminars, with organizers planning to provide training to members of the organisation with the support of the International Trademark Association.

Formation of a monitoring committee on legal affairs will be finalized before the end of this month by the organization, said U Ba Tin Swe, who plans to accept the assistance of the Law Department in Yangon University for a legal seminar in Yangon, Nan Dar & Association, Law and Audit Services Co Ltd will provide necessary support to successfully hold the legal talks in Mandalay.

—Khin Maung Thaw (Kamayut)

17 human trafficking cases in Sagaing over 11 years

THE NUMBER of human trafficking cases in Sagaing Region between 2005 and 2016 has reached 17 cases, according to anti-trafficking officials.

Over the past 11 years, the majority of human trafficking cases happened in Kalay, with five cases, followed by Shwebo, Sagaing and Monywa with two cases each. Htigyaing, Indaw, Yinmabin, Homalin, Katha and Bhamauk have one case each.

Police Major U Khin Maung Kywe said traffickers usually attract their target persons, particularly women and children, with money. The victims of human trafficking are frequently lured by false promises of traffickers.

Police are facing difficulties at uncovering more human trafficking cases because of unregistered phone numbers, U Khin Maung Kywe said.

Ma Thanda Htwe, a child rights activist, said Sagaing Region sees very few human trafficking cases compared with other regions such as Shan State, Yangon and Mandalay regions. The region also has few child-related cases.

She added that if any one fails to abide by the law, rules and regulations relating to child rights, they will be charged under the existing laws by activists in cooperation with local authorities.

—Myitmyukha News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds talks with EU Ambassador

Speaker U Win Myint receives Mr Roland Kobia in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, received Ambassador of the European Union Mr Roland Kobia at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker U Ti Khun Myat and officials of the office of Pyithu Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency

Maid-abuse trial postponed due to difficulty in hiring lawyers for the accused

THE trial for the widely publicised maid-abuse case involving Ava Tailoring came to a halt yesterday as some accused have had difficulty finding lawyers to represent them, it is learnt.

The accused, all family members of one household, were charged by the No (6) Human Trafficking Unit (Yangon) and brought to trial yesterday however the trial had to be adjourned as some of the accused reported that they had been encountering difficulty in hiring a lawyer, according to the Yangon West District Court.

According to authorities, six accused, including Daw Tin Thu Zar, were told on 29 September that they should hire lawyers to defend themselves and that the trial would begin on 6th October.

However, one of the accused, Daw Thi Latt, told the court that they had difficulty hiring a lawyer and that she had not had enough time to talk to her family. The accused claimed that she would try to hire lawyers before the next trial.

The judge responded that it was impossible to hear a trial as serious as the case before him without the accused lawyers being present. The trial has been postponed until 13 October.

“Such procedural rules are in place to protect the people. I will try to get my client a fair trial,” said Lawyer Daw Hnin Su Aung. The accused are being charged under three sections of the human trafficking law, four sections of the criminal code and one section of the juvenile law.—Zaw Gyi (Panita)

More than 61 billion kyats collected from foreigners as tax in 2015-2016 FY

YANGON REGION Government collected taxes amounting to more than 61 billion kyats from foreigners employed in worksites in the region in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

U Zaw Aye Maung, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs, disclosed the collected tax in his reply to the question raised by U Aung Myo, of constituency 1, San Chaung Township at the 43rd session of Yangon Region Parliament yesterday.

During the financial year, alien workers numbering 6,596, in all, were assessed and 61,298 billion kyats were levied as tax, it was learnt.

According to the minister, it is said that there a foreigners granted with 12 kinds of entry visa and among them 3,928 entered holding business visa.

Foreigners are required to apply for work permit with the approval of respective companies they will work for, attached.

Following the receipt of work permit, they must undergo the immigration department’s investigation process.

If he is found to be needed for the company and dutiful in paying tax, he will be granted 3-month visa the first time. On expiry of the first 3-month tenue, he must undergo the similar process to get 2nd time 6-month stay visa. For the third time, he will be granted 12-month visa, he added.

Foreign employers are now working in eight working sectors—industrial, construction, hotel and tourism and sports sectors. In today’s session of Yangon Region’s parliamentary meeting, regional cabinet members replied to queries raised by parliamentarians, and some proposals were submitted, it is learnt.—Ko Moe
Appointment of heads of service organizations

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Appointment</th>
<th>Republic of the Union of Myanmar</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) U Soe Lin Han</td>
<td>Director-General Strategic Studies</td>
<td>President U Htin Kyaw</td>
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<td>Deputy Director-General</td>
<td>and Training Department</td>
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<td>Political Affairs Department</td>
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<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>(2) Police Brg-Gen Thein Oo</td>
<td>Director-General Correctional</td>
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<td>(3) U Kham Aung</td>
<td>Managing Director</td>
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<td>(4) Dr Daw Tin Tin Lay</td>
<td>Director-General</td>
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<td>Deputy Director-General</td>
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<td>Ministry of Health and Sports</td>
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<td>(5) Prof Dr Daw Mya Mya Aye</td>
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<td>Professor/Head of Department</td>
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<td>(6) Dr Daw Khin Thei Wai</td>
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Resignation from membership of MNHRC permitted

Under the provision of Section 17 of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, the following members of the MNHRC are permitted to resign from the membership of MNHRC, of their own will.

(1) U Zaw Win
(2) Dr Nyan Zaw
(3) Dr Daw Than Nwe
(4) Daw Mya Mya

President gives guidance to newly appointed Myanmar ambassadors

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Myanmar ambassadors who have been assigned to Ottawa, New Delhi and Pretoria, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the president clarified government policies and gave guidance to the ambassadors.

U Kyaw Myo Htu has been assigned as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Canada; U Maung Wai to India and U Myint Swe to South Africa.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor and Indonesian envoy discuss trade, investment

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Ms Rini Mariani Soemarno, the special envoy of the President and Minister of State Owned Enterprises of the Republic of Indonesia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the two representatives discussed matters pertaining to state-owned enterprises and the enhancement of economic cooperation between the Republic of the Union Myanmar and the Republic of Indonesia, including trade and investment cooperation. —*Myanmar News Agency*

US$ 98 million loan from AGD Bank to be used in education sector development

ACCORDING to a representative from the Ministry of Education, the authorities concerned will promote processes for the education sector with a loan of over US$ 98.5 million.

That loan will be used for upgrading processes in the middle and high school level education sector, technologies sector and professional education sector. Curricula will be reviewed, classrooms will be extended and industrial schools will be upgraded. —*260*
Over 2,000 IDPs not allowed to return home as Tatmadaw clashes with RCSS/SSA

An IDP camp Mongkai, Shan State. Photo: Naung (MMK)

FIGHTING between Tatmadaw and Restoration Council of Shan State/ Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) at Banpwe village, Mongkai township, Shan State (South) on 1st October has caused over 2,000 villagers to flee the violence and seek shelter at a monastery in Mongkai.

“The clashes has been occurring within Banpwe village on the evening of 1st October, thus, all the villagers and teachers from the village moved to Tone Lot village,” said U Myint Naing, the headmaster, who has taught in Banpwe village for over 20 years.

According to U Thar Aung, a helper at the Tone Lot IDP camp, some villagers had to run while they were doing good deeds at a monastery.

At Tone Lot (South) monastery, villagers from Banpwe can be found. At Tone Lot ward 2 and at Tone Lot (North) monastery, villagers from Kone-sar and the locals from Tone Lot ward 1 are being housed. The total number of IDPs from those two monasteries is over 2,000.

Tatmadaw and RCSS/SSA have already signed Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), and they also have formed Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee. —Naung (MMK)

Dutch citizen receives 3-month sentence and K100,000 fine for violating tourist visa rules/insulting religion

Aung Thant Khaing

ONE Mr Klaas Haytema, who has been visiting Myanmar on a tourist visa from the Netherlands, was sentenced to 3 months’ imprisonment and fined K100,000 by the Maha Aungmyay Township Judicial Court yesterday.

The man was found guilty by the court of trespassing onto the groups of a religious building whilst wearing shoes in order to unplug the cables of an amplifier that was blaring Buddhist chants in the middle of the night. The event occurred in Yadanabummi East Ward of Maha Aungmyay Township in Mandalay on 23 September.

“I wanted to sleep desperately. I couldn’t stand the noise and checked outside the hotel. I saw that children were playing. I thought that they were playing it (the sermon) and disconnected the amplifier,” Mr Haytema reportedly told the court.

It was reported that police had to be called to protect the man from an angry mob which formed once his actions became known.

After six hearings in court, the judge handed down his verdict under Section 296 of the Penal Code and the fine under Section 131 (violation of visa regulations).

“The section under which he was sentenced is for disturbing religion. The Section he was charged for was intentionally damaging a religion,” said U Hla Ko of the Myanmar Legal Aid Network.

Mr Haytema, 30, was staying at the Four Rivers Hotel situated near the hall at the time of the incident.

He said that he did not deliberately ‘insult religion’ by unplugging the offending speaker and that, in fact, he did not know that the hall was a religious building. “I did not notice that it was a religious building. I am really sorry and I really apologise,” Mr Haytema reportedly said at one of his hearings.

The accused arrived in Mandalay on 20 September via Kunming, China, using a visa he had applied online, said the head of the Maha Aungmyay Township Immigration Department.

Waterpark built in North Okkalapa Kathayana Park

A WATERPARK is being built by the Phyo Pyat San Company within Kathayana park, which is located on the corner of Thudamar road and Khay Mar Thi road, North Okkalapa township, it is learnt. Construction of the waterpark will be completed in March, 2017.

Permission for the park was granted by the Yangon City Development Committee. The park will use water from the municipal supply but treat it using a Singaporean-made machine.

The waterpark will be subject to security tests and checks. The estimated cost of the whole project is over US$ 3 million.

“If visitors don’t want to play in the water, they can play some of the thirteen games in the park. In addition, visitors can go shopping at the shopping Mall. They can also see films at Kathayana Recreation Center,” said U Nyi Nyi Aung, Managing Director of Phyo Pyat San.

Entrance to the park and car parking is free. —200

Construction, Power & Mining

Myanmar 2016 convention to be held

AN open convention, titled the Construction, Power & Mining Myanmar 2016 Show, will be held within the Myanmar Event Park from 13 to 15 October, it has been learned.

The event will include three international trade exhibitions, with over 190 leading businesspeople from 120 countries participating in the event.

There will be five international shows from China, Germany, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

“We will provide awareness of Myanmar’s mining sector at this event. Currently, mining entrepreneurs are formulating the rules to implement the new mining law,” said an official from the Myanmar Mining Entrepreneurs’ Federation. —200

Crime

Yaba seized in Maha Aungmyay township

A COMBINED investigation team comprising members and staff of Mandalay police station seized yaba from a motorcycle rider on Thidar Myint street between 68-69 street, Maha Aungmyay township, on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, police stopped and searched one Kyaw Kyaw with Kyaw Sein on board and discovered 80,000 yaba pills.

Similarly, an anti-narcotic police team from Muse seized 1,000 yaba pills during the search of a vehicle being driven by one Paik Law with Kyaw Kyaw on board at Kuttai Kau-ngkhar road on Wednesday.

And, police from Taunggyi town seized 565 yaba pills from a motorcycle rider Kyaw Zeya on Taunggyi-MongPin road, Taunggyi township. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws. — Myanmar Police Force

Crime

Yaba seized in Maha Aungmyay township

Kyaw Kyaw and Kyaw Sein seen together with the drugs seized. Photo: MPF
Detached houses worth Ks40million to be sold at Ngwe Saung

The detached houses worth over Ks40million developed by iMyanmarHouse and I Green Construction can be purchased with a down payment of Ks500,000, said U Nay Min Thu, the managing director of iMyanmarHouse.com.

“Ngwe Saung is a famous beach in Myanmar, attracting tourists and locals alike”, said U Nay Min Thu. “We plan to sell the houses for those who want to buy a relaxing house near the beach”.

The real estate expo that will feature these houses, among others, will be held on the 8th and 9th of October from 9am to 5pm at Myanmar Culture Valley. The buyers have to pay a deposit of Ks500,000, for which they will receive an ownership land certificate. They will then have to pay Ks1.2million per month until the balance is met. After six months of payments, they will receive the keys to the house.

This project in Ngwe Saung is situated between the beach resorts of Chaungtha and Ngwe Saung. Developers said there are plans for offering similar housing in Ngapali Beach. —200

India-Myanmar border gate closed after explosion, shootings

INDIA shut down the border crossing between India and Myanmar on 3rd October after an explosion in the town of Moreh, Manipur State, India and a shooting near Namparlon market in Tamu, Sagaing Region on 2nd October. Both towns are near the border.

After the explosion and shooting, authorities in India closed the gate where goods normally flow in and out of the Namparlon market for the security of the local people living in the border area, said U Tin Wai, the Police Superintendent from Tamu District’s Police office.

The closure of the gate between India and Myanmar renders trade difficult and makes businesses suffer, said local residents.

At least three explosions have occurred at the border area this year. Authorities from the two countries are still investigating these cases.—Myanmar News Agency

Undisciplined sales representatives of MPF prompts warning

THE selected five sales representatives of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (MPF) need to strictly follow the rules laid down by the Ministry of Industry, said U Ko Ko Lwin, the permanent secretary of the Industry Ministry. If they fail to obey the rules, their deposits of Ks100million each will be confiscated.

The sales distributors of MPF are not engaged in a large profit-making business, U Ko Ko Lwin said. That means a profit of only 2 to 5 per cent of the value of the drugs is allowed. If they break the rules once, they will be given a warning. The deposit will be confiscated if a second offense is committed, he added.

Previously, there was an exclusive sales representative of MPF. Exploiting the requirements in the market, fake drugs were found to be produced and sold at the market. The fake drugs of MPF worth over Ks2,000 million were seized when a surprise check was done.

The MPF drugs are distributed through the selected five representatives, who have to deposit Ks100 million each in the bank. They have to comply with the rules set by the Industry Ministry. —200

Floor price of FMI share drops under Ks10,000

THE floor price of First Myanmar Investment (FMI)’s shares slumped to under Ks10,000 at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) on 5th October, it is learnt.

The price of FMI’s shares was Ks16,000 per unit at the beginning of the day on 5th October. A total of 6,339 units of FMI’s shares were traded, with a total share value of over Ks99 million.

The shares trading volume of FMI from 3rd to 5th October reached 15,344 units, amounting to over Ks242 million.

The drop has not yet caused investors to panic, but one shareholder said he would watch the market very closely.

“As far as I am concerned, I will not resell my shares yet,” said U Hla Aung, an FMI shareholder. “I will trade my shares once the price jumps.”

FMI announced it would pay dividends of Ks135 per share for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, in contrast to shareholders of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co., Ltd (MTSH), who enjoyed dividend payments of Ks2.50 per share. After the companies released the announcements, the shares of FMI began to decline.

The volume of share trading at YSX was 23,480,013 shares traded by FMI, 3,892,915 shares of MTSH and 10,400,986 shares of Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB).

The share trading is open at YSX two times a day, 11am and 1pm. It was learned from YSX that trading times will be extended.—Myitmaka News Agency
Duterte rated ‘very good’ in first 90 days — Philippines poll

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has been rated “very good” in an opinion poll on his first 90 days in office, which has been defined largely by his deadly war on drugs and vitriol against Western leaders.

Only 11 per cent of 1,200 Filipinos surveyed by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) agency said they were dissatisfied with his performance. That gave Duterte a net satisfaction rating of 64 per cent, getting him off to a better start than predecessors Benigno Aquino and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, but short of the 66 per cent achieved by Fidel Ramos in 1992.

The rating, announced on Thursday, was calculated by deducting the 11 per cent from the 76 per cent of respondents who said they were satisfied with Duterte’s presidency, then rounding it off. Thirteen per cent were undecided.

The SWS survey did not ask respondents to give a reason for the rating. It was conducted in face-to-face interviews held from 24-27 September, after Duterte had a spat with President Barack Obama over criticism of his anti-drugs campaign but before he said he was seeking new alliances with China and Russia.

A survey by Pulse Asia, another polling agency, less than a month after he took office on 30 June said Duterte had a record 91 per cent trust rating. The two polls are not comparable.

Duterte won the May election by a substantial margin after promising to expand a ruthless anti-crime campaign he started while mayor of Davao City, which had earned him nicknames like “the Punisher” and “Duterte Harry”.

Political analyst Nelson Navarro said the SWS survey suggested Filipinos felt safer because Duterte had followed through with his promised war on crime and drugs, in which over 3,400 people have been killed.

He said Duterte’s abrasive style and his sometimes profane outbursts against the United States, European Union and United Nations were not discrediting him either, and supporters would rally in his defence amid criticism at home and abroad.

“This is not going to be good manners and right conduct,” Navarro said. “Everyone likes to dump on President Duterte for the extra-judicial killings but... there is a kind of backlash on the perception of the West.”

The SWS poll considers a net approval rating of over 70 per cent as “excellent” and 50-69 per cent as “very good.” —Reuters

Abortion legal in Thai birth defect cases linked to Zika, officials say

BANGKOK — Predominantly Buddhist Thailand will relax its rules against abortion to cover fetuses with proven birth defects linked to the Zika virus, health officials said on Thursday, doubling to 24 weeks a deadline for the procedure.

Thailand last week confirmed its first known cases of microcephaly linked to the mosquito-borne virus. The two cases of the birth defect marked by a small head were the first in Southeast Asia, following Zika outbreaks in the Americas.

Health experts who met this week to draft guidelines for expectant mothers with Zika concluded that abortions can be carried out up to 24 weeks in case of serious birth defects.

“The difficulty with Zika is to determine microcephaly. It is usually found later in pregnancy,” Pisek Lumphikankan, president of the Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, told Reuters.

“Legal medical abortions can be done up to 24 weeks,” he added. “The reason is that at 24 weeks and after the baby already has a good chance of survival.”

Abortion is illegal in Thailand, except in cases of rape or to save a woman’s life or preserve her health, and if carried out in up to 12 weeks of pregnancy. Beyond that time, hospitals must decide on a case-by-case basis.

There are no specific tests to determine if a baby will be born with microcephaly but ultrasound scans can identify it in the third trimester of pregnancy, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says.

Thailand has said it is considering testing all pregnant women for Zika.

Adequate screening by health authorities across Southeast Asia is likely to lead to significant under-reporting of the spread of Zika, regional experts say.—Reuters

Abe to ‘study’ issues around dual nationals in top gov’t roles

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Thursday he wants to study the issues presented by the possibility of dual nationals serving as Cabinet ministers or in other high-ranking government positions, amid controversy after two lawmakers admitted to holding foreign citizenship.

“We must figure out what is at issue,” Abe said in a House of Councillors budgetary committee session, without specifying what he will do next.

Japan’s diplomats are forbidden by law from holding foreign citizenship, but there are no such rules for Cabinet ministers, Self-Defence Forces personnel or police officers, who are required only to prove their Japanese citizenship.

Heated debate has followed the admission by main opposition Democratic Party leader Renho last month that she had retained, apparently unknowingly, Taiwanese nationality obtained through her father. Renho was born in Japan prior to a law change granting citizenship to children of Japanese mothers. Kimi Ono, an upper house lawmaker with Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party, admitted Tuesday to retaing US citizenship and said she has begun the procedure of renouncing it. “It’s natural to choose the appropriate people to deal with state secrets and diplomatic negotiations, but there is a possibility of things not operating that way,” Abe said.

Abe made the remarks in response to a question from LDP lawmaker Haruko Ari-mura, who pointed out that a dual national had worked in the highly secret environment of the prime minister’s office, apparently referring to Renho’s term as a prime ministerial aide during the Democratic Party of Japan’s 2009-2012 term at power. —Kyodo News
Thai students mark university massacre amid junta rule

BANGKOK — Thai students on Thursday marked the 40th anniversary of a campus massacre by state forces in the military-ruled country amid what one rights group said was a “deep-rooted culture of impunity” that has emboldened the army to intervene in politics.

Political upheaval, caused by urban and rural protests, destabilised Thailand between 1973 and 1976, prompting the military to intervene, saying it needed to save the country from what it called the “red menace” of socialist-leaning students, academics and farmers.

On 6 October, 1976, state forces and loyalist mobs attacked a group of about 2,000 students inside Thammasat University in Bangkok and hanged, shot or beat to death dozens, accusing them of sympathizing with revolutions sweeping through Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos at the time.

In recent times, Thailand has weathered more than a decade of political upheaval since the army ousted populist Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in 2006.

Eight years later, the army removed his sister, Prime Minister Yingluck, in a May 2014 coup, saying it acted to end months of political instability.

Since then, Thailand has faced a deepening rights crisis with political activity banned.

“The military has never been held accountable for political violence,” Sunai Phasuk, Thailand researcher at Human Rights Watch, told Reuters.

“A deep-rooted culture of impunity has emboldened the military to intervene in politics, violate human rights ... and overthrow an elected government again, and again,” Phasuk said.

Around 200 students gathered at Thammasat University to remember the 1976 massacre and laid wreaths at a memorial.

Surachart Bamrungsak, a political science professor and survivor, said it was important to remember 1976 because Thailand had “come full circle”.

“It’s important the younger generations know what happened,” Surachart told Reuters.

“We need to remember because we have come full circle. Once again we have a military government like 40 years ago,” he added.

The military government declined to comment on the 6 October anniversary.

“Forty years later we are still fighting against dictatorship,” said Srisawat Sethiwhat, a student activist.

The anniversary comes a day after Thailand barred entry to Hong Kong student activist Joshua Wong, a key figure in the 2014 Umbrella Revolution protests in the city, who was due to speak at two university events in Bangkok.

Last month, international rights group Amnesty International accused Thailand’s military government of allowing a “culture of torture” to flourish since 2014, accusations the junta rejected.—Reuters

US and Australia to share cost of US military’s Australian deployment

SYDNEY — Australia and the United States have agreed to share the cost of the US military’s presence in Australia’s tropical north, a critical part of President Barack Obama’s “pivot” to Asia, Australian Defence Minister Marise Payne said on Thursday.

Payne met US Defence Secretary Ash Carter in Washington this week to discuss plans to double the number of US Marines in the northern city of Darwin from the current 1,250 by 2020, a goal that was delayed earlier this year from 2017 as originally planned.

Australia and the United States signed a “force posture agreement” in 2014 to provide for joint exercises and for US naval and air force deployments. Operational costs until now had been split on an ad-hoc basis, with infrastructure spending withheld.

In March, they discussed basing US long-range B-1 bombers in Darwin, bolstering US military presence close to the disputed South China Sea. Darwin is closer to Indonesia than it is to the Australian capital, Canberra.

However, in charting a course between its most important ally the United States and its biggest trading partner China in the contested region, Australia has drawn rebukes from both superpowers.

India arrests 70 call-centre workers accused of duping US citizens

MUMBAI — Police in India said they arrested 70 call-centre workers on Wednesday on suspicion of tricking American citizens into sending them money by posing as US tax officials.

A total of 772 workers were detained earlier on Wednesday in raids on nine call centres in a Mumbai suburb, a senior police official told Reuters. Seventy were placed under formal arrest, 630 were released pending questioning over the coming days, and 72 were freed without further investigation.

“The motive was earning money,” said Parag Manere, a deputy commissioner of police.

“They were running an illegal process, posing themselves as officers of the (US) Internal Revenue Service.”

The police official did not identify the company where the call centre workers were employed, or any of the main players involved in the alleged scam.

He also declined comment on whether Mumbai police were investigating in conjunction with US authorities, or comment on what prompted the inquiry.

Manere said the alleged scammers asked Americans to buy prepaid cash cards in order to settle outstanding tax debts and also used the threat of arrest against people who did not pay up.

Last year, a Pennsylvania man who helped coordinate a fraud in which India-based callers preyed on vulnerable Americans by pretending to be US government agents was sentenced to 14-1/2 years in prison.

—Reuters
We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send your email to: sales@globalnewlightmyanmar.com with your name and ID.

Due to the overwhelming number of letters, we ask “Letters to the Editor” that are not received 100 words to be submitted at a time to: sales@globalnewlightmyanmar.com with your name and ID.

Dr. Than Phyo Thet

Tie welfare benefits to work responsibilites

Khin Maung Aye

A LONG with the recognition of cultural con-

sciousness as a“citizens’ rights”, the republicans ideals of civic virtue and good
citizenship have also revitalised the ideal of good
citizenship. Defined by civic culture as well as civic
virtue, patriotic spirit and participatory
citizenship have come into existence in classical antiquity, and been revived as an ideal in Renaissance
18th century America and France. From the late
18th century the civic republican tradition gave way to liberalism. The revitalisation of civic republican
liberalism has emerged as an alternative to liberal
citizenship, taking various guises depending upon spe-
cific contexts.

Broadly identified, notions of active citizenship
come into existence in classical antiquity,
non-liberal as well as liberal articulations of citi-
izenship have also revitalised the ideal of good
citizenship, providing the space where individuals as part of diverse
groupings and movements can participate in voluntary organizations of the civil so-
ciety and be desired by the state. According to Walzer, citizenship provides a

clear if you do not.

So, what is active citizenship, then?

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**Trump backs off praise of Russia’s Putin after debate**

HENDERSON, (Nev.) — US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump backed off from praising Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, saying he was unsure of his relationship with the Russian president who he has described as a better leader than President Barack Obama.

The day after running mate Mike Pence appeared to break ranks with Trump during a vice presidential debate and called Putin “a small and bullying leader,” Trump adjusted his own previously warm rhetoric towards the Russian.

“I don’t love (Putin), I don’t hate. We’ll see how it works. We’ll see,” Trump told supporters during a campaign stop in the swing state of Nevada. “Maybe we’ll have a good relationship. Maybe we’ll have a horrible relationship. Maybe we’ll have a relationship right in the middle.”

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has criticised Trump, who often praises Putin, as being too cozy with the Russian leader and questioned the Republic’s business interests in Russia. Those charges were repeated by her vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine during a debate with Pence on Tuesday.

In response, Pence denounced Putin for his interference in Syria’s civil war and support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. “The small and bullying leader of Russia is now dictating terms to the United States,” Pence said. “The greatest nation on earth just withdraws from talks about a ceasefire, while Vladimir Putin puts a missile defence system in Syria.”

The vice presidential encounter set the table for a second presidential debate on Sunday in St. Louis between Clinton and Trump, who needs to rebound from a rocky performance in his first debate, one that gave Clinton a boost in national opinion polls with the 8 November Election Day only five weeks away. In Nevada, Trump suggested Russia could be a valuable ally in the fight against Islamic State, also known by the acronym ISIS.

“I will say if we get along with Russia and Russia went out with us and knocked the hell out of ISIS, that’s okay with me, folks,” he said. Trump celebrated a strong debate performance by Pence, the governor of Indiana, and said his running mate had won on style and on the issues.

“He’s getting tremendous reviews from me and everybody,” Trump told a group of pastors and leaders gathered at a Christian academy in Las Vegas.

—Reuters

**Greek islanders tipped for Peace Nobel stoic about nomination**

LESBOS, (Greece) — For months Greek fisherman Stratis Valamios would steer his boat out to sea, only instead of fish, he pulled out people.

Day after day, rubber boats packed with refugees and migrants would attempt the short but dangerous crossing into Greece from Turkey, even as winter set in and the seas turned rough and winds grew violent.

“It was like a war zone,” Valamios, now a co-nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, said of his tiny seaside village of Skala Sikamnias on Lesbos, the island where more than 800,000 people escaping war and conflict in the Middle East and beyond arrived in 2015.

“You had the wounded, the dead,” he said matter-of-factly. “We brought in many babies out here on the concrete, on the tables, and they died in our arms.”

No one knows how many people Valamios and other locals saved from drowning, but it is believed to be in the hundreds. Together with other islanders, Valamios has been nominated by Greek academics and the Hellenic Olympic Committee for the Nobel Peace Prize. They have been chosen symbolically to represent all Greeks and volunteers who helped rescued refugees. The award will be announced in Oslo on Friday.

Far to the south, Lesbos, Greece’s third-biggest island and just over four miles from the Turkish coast, was the frontline of Europe’s refugee crisis last year. At its peak, as many as 3,000 people were arriving on its shores a day.

The dinghies often collapsed under the weight of three times as many people as they were designed to hold, crammed in by smugglers eager to make an easy profit by charging some $1,500 per head. Hundreds drowned and many bodies are still missing.

“Imagine being here and seeing drowned children on the beach, or saving a father whose baby has drowned, or saving a baby whose mother and father have drowned,” Valamios said.

The headless body of a baby washed ashore on a nearby beach earlier this year. One mother lost two of her children, he said. One washed up in Greece, the other in Turkey.

Some days, Valamios would fit 20 people in his 3-metre (less than 10 foot) long motorboat. Its railing is still broken and wobbly from when one Syrian man tried to desperately cling onto it, he said.

—Reuters

**Bomb kills at least 25 Turkish-backed rebels in north Syria — monitors, witnesses**

BEIRUT — A bomb blast at a Syria-Turkey border crossing killed at least 25 Turkish-backed rebel fighters and wounded dozens more on Thursday, witnesses and a monitoring group reported.

The blast took place on the Syrian side of the Atme crossing, west of Aleppo. A photo sent by a witness in the area, purportedly of its aftermath, showed the bloodied corpses lying on the ground.

Most of the rebels were from a group called Failaj al-Sham, witnesses said. Turkey is backing the rebels in an offensive against Islamic State further to the northeast, along a separate stretch of border.

The rebels use the Atme crossing to move between Idlib Province, through Turkey, to areas of Aleppo Province along the border where the fight against IS is taking place, the Observatory said.

Residents told Reuters they also use it to evacuate wounded fighters.

Ankara’s operation, dubbed “Euphrates Shield”, has also targeted Kurdish militants.—Reuters

**Russia despatches one more missile corvette to Mediterranean — agencies**

MOSCOW — A Russian missile corvette left its Black Sea Fleet base of Sevastopol on Thursday and is heading to join a group of Russian warships in the Mediterranean, Russian news agencies cited a fleet spokesman as saying.

The Mirazh, armed with Malakhit cruise missiles, follows another two Black Sea Fleet missile corvettes, The Serpukhov and The Zelyony Dol equipped with Kalibr long-range cruise missiles, which had been due to reach the Mediterranean on Wednesday.—Reuters

**Hurricane Matthew death toll rises to 65 in Haiti, total toll 69**

MEXICO CITY — Hurricane Matthew has killed at least 69 people, the death toll in struggling Haiti alone rising to 65, local officials said, as the storm headed northward on Thursday battering the Bahamas en route to Florida.

Haiti’s civil protection service put the toll in the impoverished Caribbean nation at 23 dead, many killed by falling trees, flying debris and swollen rivers. The interior ministry, a local mayor and other local dialects confirmed 42 other deaths to Reuters across Haiti.

That included a group of 24 people killed in the coastal town of Roche-a-Bateau.

“I’ve never seen anything like this,” said the town’s delegate Louis Paul Raphael.

Four people were killed earlier in neighboring Dominican Republic.—Reuters
WASHINGTON

Forty-four Afghan troops visiting the United States for military training have gone missing in less than two years, presumably in an effort to live and work illegally in America, Pentagon officials said.

Although the number of disappearances is relatively small — some 2,200 Afghan troops have received military training in the United States since 2007 — the incidents raise questions about security and screening procedures for the programmes. They are also potentially embarrassing for US President Barack Obama’s administration, which has spent billions of dollars training Afghan troops as Washington seeks to extricate itself from the costly, 15-year-old war. The disclosure could fuel criticism by supporters of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, who has accused his Democratic rival of failing to properly vet immigrants from Muslim-majority countries and has pledged to engage in more racial profiling to curb the threat of attacks on American soil.

After Omar Mateen, whose father was born in Afghanistan, killed 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando in June, Trump said an immigration ban would last until “we are in a position to properly screen these people coming into our country.”

— Reuters

Afghan Uniform Police and soldiers from the US Army 4th Brigade Combat Team provide 360-degree security outside a compound during training at National Training Centre at Ft. Irwin, California, US, on 18 September 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dozens of Afghan troops missing from military training in US

 CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MALACCA STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALACCA STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T.M.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)

PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

 INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Medical Services, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of Cancer Drug. Tender documents are available during office hours at the Central Medical Stores Depot office, Commencing from (7.10.2016).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (4.11.2016) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Phone No. 01-371969, 01-372362, 01-371284

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Medical Services
Colombia’s Santos, rival Uribe willing to work on peace deal

BOGOTA — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and opposition rival Alvaro Uribe met on Wednesday in a bid to resolve differences over a peace deal with Marxist FARC rebels that was unexpectedly rejected in a plebiscite, leaving the country in limbo.

The two expressed willingness to seek an end to the 52-year war that has killed more than 220,000 people and displaced millions more.

Sunday’s shock referendum result, which confounded pollsters and was a political disaster for Santos, plunged the country into uncertainty over the future of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels, who had been expected to disarm once the deal was passed by voters.

After more than three hours of talks, former President Uribe emphasized the need for “adjustments and proposals” to ensure the deal includes all Colombians.

Without giving any concrete proposals, Uribe, 64, said Santos had shown he was disposed to changes. Uribe, a former lawyer and cattle rancher, opposed Santos’ peace talks from the start and said the final deal, which was reached in August after four years of painstaking negotiations in Havana, gave too many concessions to the rebels.

He spearheaded the “no” campaign, urging Colombians not to approve the accord, which would have given the FARC guaranteed congressional seats and immunity from traditional jail sentences. “No” carried the day by less than half a percentage point.

“We identified that many of their worries come from points that need clarification or precision. Today we began to work with them to firm up those points and resolve their doubts,” Santos said in a brief statement.

The future of the deal seems to hang on whether the FARC will accept tougher conditions for demobilization, perhaps combined with a softening of Uribe’s hard-line demands.

Santos once served in Uribe’s cabinet, but the two have not met since late 2010.

The government has said the decision to reopen talks lies with rebel leadership.

Government negotiators are in Havana to confer with guerrilla commanders who have said they will remain “faithful” to the accord.

Thousands, many wearing white, marched in cities across the country in support of the deal on Wednesday. Members of Santos’ cabinet joined marchers in Bogota’s main square.

A senior US State Department official said both sides are committed to dialogue.

“They have made it clear they want the peace process to continue and they want to negotiate a settlement,” the official, who met with both sides, told reporters.—Reuters

Brazil police seek more charges against Lula in graft case

BRASILIA — Brazil’s federal police have requested formal corruption charges against former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in a case involving contracts obtained by building and engineering conglomerate Odebrecht [ODES.UL] in Angola, a source said on Wednesday.

The source, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitive nature of the information, said Lula was among 10 people that police have requested be charged in a document sent by police to prosecutors.

Under Brazilian law, only prosecutors can formally charge someone after a police investigation and those charges must then be approved by a judge.

Lula has already been charged twice in connection to a massive anti-corruption investigation centered on state oil company Petrobras and will stand trial before anti-corruption judge Sergio Moro. The trial date has not been set.

In an emailed statement, lawyers representing Lula “repeated” on Wednesday that the police document was leaked.

They said they asked police for a copy of the document, but were told it was already in the hands of federal prosecutors. The lawyers said their request to see the document was denied by the prosecutors.

“It’s strange, to say the least, that the day after the police inquiry was referred to prosecutors, the press obtained it first … and at the same time it is denied to the defense,” read the statement from Sao Paulo-based Teixeira, Martins & Advogados firm that represents the Lula family.

Prosecutors did not immediately respond to after-hours requests for comment.—Reuters

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

No.(2) Mining Enterprise
Invitation for Opening Tender

1. No. (2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites to submit the tender quotation for the following materials.

2. No.(2) Mining Enterprise could provide necessary documents to interested companies and contact under mention address within office hours.

Tender Invitation Committee
No.(2) Mining Enterprise
Australians dressed down for stripping down at Malaysia F1, but case dismissed

KUALA LUMPUR — A Malaysian court on Thursday dismissed a case against nine Australians arrested for stripping down to their swimwear at last Sunday’s Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix.

Photos and videos of the men drinking beer from their shoes while wearing swimming trunks printed with the Malaysian flag prompted an outcry on social media and in the Malaysian press, with one official deeming it an “indecent act”.

The men had initially pleaded guilty to a public nuisance offence, but judge Harith Sham Mohamed Yasir of the Sepang Sessions Court dismissed the charge with a stern warning.

Stripping down in public at an international event had “provoked the sensitivities of Malaysians” and the symbols of the Malaysian national flag represented not only its people but also Islam, Harith said.

“Let this serve as a reminder to all of you to learn about our local cultures and customs,” he said. “What is perfectly acceptable in your country is not necessarily acceptable in other countries.”

Defence counsel Muhammad Shafee Abdullah had argued in mitigation that some of the nine were part-time beach lifesavers and that stripping down to their swimming trunks was “second nature” to them.

One of the men, Thomas Whitworth, 28, also read out a letter of apology on behalf of the group. “We are remorseful of our actions on that day. We had no idea that our conduct would be deemed to be inappropriate, crass or even downright offensive to the citizens of this country,” he said.

The group had been celebrating after Australian Daniel Ricciardo claimed his maiden Formula One win of the season, imitating the driver’s famous “shoey” manoeuvre by drinking from their footwear.

Last year, four Western tourists were fined and deported from Malaysia after posing naked on Mount Kinabalu in Sabah, angering locals who consider the mountain sacred. —Reuters

WSHINGTON — A National Security Agency contractor has been arrested and charged with stealing highly classified information, authorities said on Wednesday, a data breach that could mark a damaging new leak about the US government’s surveillance efforts.

Harold Thomas Martin, 51, who worked for Booz Allen Hamilton, was taken into custody in Maryland in August, said a US official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Booz Allen is the consulting firm that employed Edward Snowden when he revealed the collection of metadata by the NSA in 2013.

Booz Allen said in a statement that when the company “learned of the arrest of one of its employees by the FBI,” they immediately fired the employee and offered full cooperation to the FBI.

The same month Martin was arrested, some of the NSA’s most sophisticated hacking tools were dumped onto public websites by a group calling itself Shadow Brokers.

The company’s stock was down 3.7 per cent to $30.33 a share, following the report.

The US Justice Department charged Martin, who had top secret national security clearance, with theft of classified government material, according to a criminal complaint unsealed on Wednesday.

Word of the arrest followed a New York Times report that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was investigating whether he stole and disclosed highly classified computer “source code” developed to hack into the networks of Russia, China, Iran, North Korea and other countries.

It was the latest disclosure of details of cyber spying by the US government since Snowden stole and released a vast trove of documents that exposed the reach of the NSA’s surveillance programmes at home and abroad. It comes at a time of growing concerns over the cyberhacking of federal agencies and American political parties.

According to the complaint, documents found in Martin’s possession contained sensitive intelligence.

“These six documents were produced through sensitive government sources, methods, and capabilities, which are critical to a wide variety of national security issues,” the complaint said. It said Martin had the ability to access US government property that was not permitted to leave its authorisation location.

Martin’s lawyer could not immediately be reached for comment.

The Justice Department’s chief national security prosecutor, John Carlin, declined to comment on the specifics of the case.

He said, however, that insider threats have long posed a challenge to the government.—Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — South African President Jacob Zuma approved a new anti-graft watchdog on Thursday, hours before the outgoing investigator will question him about allegations his wealthy business friends influenced political appointments.

Zuma signed off on parliament’s choice of Bulelani Madonsela as the next public protector, replacing Thuli Madonsela, whose high-profile investigation into improper state spending on Zuma’s private home has won her popular respect. Her term ends this month.

Madonsela will quiz Zuma on Thursday over accusations the Gupta family played a role in selecting cabinet members and used their relationship with the president to gain favour in terms of government tenders, payments and licenses.

The Gupta family became household names in South Africa after Deputy Finance Minister Mcebisi Jonas said they had offered to secure him his boss’s job. Mcebise Jonas, a lawyer who recently held a position at the State Security Agency, was nominated by 60 per cent of lawmakers in a vote last month.—Reuters
Not just a thriller, ‘Girl on the Train’ plumbs women’s struggles

NEW YORK — It’s a thriller, a whodunit, a story of loneliness, alcoholism and voyeurism. But “The Girl on the Train,” the movie version of the best-selling novel, is also a tale of female empowerment, the filmmakers say.

After selling 15 million copies worldwide since its 2015 release, Paula Hawkins’ story of murder, in which a woman’s emotional abuse gets a dark twist in the movie that opens this week.

Emily Blunt plays Rachel Watson, an alcoholic who has lost her job and her marriage and who spies from the train on her cheating ex-husband (Justin Theroux) and his new wife Anna (Rebecca Ferguson). Rachel turns amateur detective when another woman with disturbing secrets, Megan (Haley Bennett), goes missing and turns up dead.

“I feel like this film represents women’s right to be bad and flawed and wrong and messed up,” said Blunt.

“All three women are subject to jealousy, controlling behaviour and gaslighting as to why they are going to applaud that,” Blunt said.

“I was raised by a single mom. She was pretty much my belly of domestic life in all its darkness,” said Blunt. “It’s incredibly brutal to watch at times and unsettling, and I am thrilled that even for lovers of the book, it still shocks.”

Emily Blunt poses as she arrives at the World premiere of ‘The Girl on the Train’ at Leicester Square in London, Britain, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rolling Stones expected to announce first studio album in a decade

LOS ANGELES — The Rolling Stones are expected on Thursday to announce their first studio album in a decade after teasing new music for days on Twitter.

The British rock band this week released on Twitter a 10-second snatch of a bluesy track and video of them playing in studio, with the message “Coming 6 October.” On Wednesday, the band’s official Twitter feed said, “Tomorrow. 2 PM GMT/6 PM EDT.”

The veteran rockers last released an album of new material in 2005 with “A Bigger Bang,” but have toured the world relentlessly. In March, they staged the first major concert by a Western rock band in Cuba, playing free for an estimated 500,000-strong crowd.

Lead guitarist Keith Richards said a year ago that he and bandmates Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Ron Wood planned to get back into the studio in 2016.

A new album would mark the longest interval between new studio sets for the band, which formed in London in 1962.

The Stones are due to perform at a three-day outdoor festival in southern California this weekend dubbed “OnChella” because the lineup includes other stalwarts of rock and pop music including Paul McCartney, The Who and Bob Dylan.—Reuters

Diversity in focus at this year’s London Film Festival

LONDON — The BFI London Film Festival kicks off 12 days of movie premieres, screenings and talks on Wednesday with organisers this year focusing on promoting diversity.

“A United Kingdom,” based on a true story about a British woman marrying an African prince in the 1940s and facing opposition, will start the proceedings when its stars Rosamund Pike and David Oyelowo walk the red carpet in Leicester Square later on Wednesday.

Oyelowo will also headline the festival’s Black Star Symposium, which will look at the challenges black actors face in Britain and the United States, a topic in the spotlight after the outcry over the lack of diversity at this year’s Academy Awards.

All of this year’s acting Oscar nominees were white for a second consecutive year, leading to criticism with the social media hashtag #OscarsSoWhite.

In June, the awards’ organisers invited 683 new members to join, with a focus on female and minority talent.

“We need to see more films that reflect the society we actually live in,” Oyelowo told Reuters in an interview to promote “A United Kingdom”.

“The estimation of who we are, what we believe in as human beings is very much rooted in the films we see because they are supposedly a reflection of the lives we live and the societies we live in but I would argue that they are not.”

Other movies showing at the festival include “Birth of a Nation” about an 1831 Virginia slave revolt and “Queen of Katwe”, about an Ugandan chess player Phiona Mutesi, in which Oyelowo also stars alongside Oscar winner Lupita Nyong’o.

Oliver Stone’s “Snowden”, about former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, and fashion designer Tom Ford’s “Nocturnal Animals” will also be screened at the festival which runs until 16 October.

“We have a very diverse audience and the stories we bring to the screen should be reflecting that audience,” the BBC quoted festival director Clare Stewart as saying.

“12 Years a Slave” director Steve McQueen will be honored at the festival with the British Film Institute’s highest accolade, the BFI Fellowship.—Reuters

France’s Isabelle Huppert to receive AFI festival tribute

LOS ANGELES — French actress Isabelle Huppert, known for films such as “La Ceremonie,” “The Piano Teacher” and “Amour,” will receive a tribute honoring her career from the American Film Institute (AFI) at this year’s festival, the organisation said on Wednesday.

Huppert, 63, will be honored at a gala ceremony on 13 November in Hollywood that will include a screening of her latest film “Elle,” directed by Paul Verhoeven. It will mark part of the AFI’s annual film festival in Hollywood, which showcases key films in contention for awards.

Nominated for a record 15 Cesar Awards, France’s top acting honor, Huppert won best actress for 1995’s thriller “La Ceremonie.” Her English-language films include 2004’s “I Heart Huckabees,” 2013’s “The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby” and last year’s “Louder than Bombs.”

Actress Rosamund Pike. PHOTO: REUTERS

Members of the Rolling Stones. PHOTO: REUTERS

daenicat/rgi2016/
Ripe old age: humans may already have reached maximum lifespan

WASHINGTON — When she turned 120 years old in 1995, plucky Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment was asked what type of future she expected.

“A very short one,” she replied.

But Calment lived two more years, dying at age 122 with the longest documented lifespan of any person in history. Scientists who examined statistical trends regarding maximum lifespans said on Wednesday Calment’s record may last a time.

An analysis of mortality and population data covering about 40 countries indicated humankind may already have hit its longevity ceiling, they said.

Average life expectancy continues to increase and more people are reaching extreme old age. But, the researchers said, people who reach 110 today have no greater life expectancy than those who lived to 110 in the 1970s. The age at death of the world’s oldest person has not increased since Calment died in 1997.

The trend since then has been for the world’s oldest person to reach around age 115, and the researchers predicted this would remain stable for the foreseeable future.

“It is possible that someone might live slightly longer, but the odds of anybody in the world surviving to 125 in any given year is less than one in 10,000,” said molecular geneticist Brandon Milholland of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, who helped lead the study published in the journal Nature.

“Despite any gains in the average life expectancy, there is a limit beyond which the maximum lifespan of humans cannot be extended,” Milholland added.

Since the 19th century, life expectancy increases have been driven by factors including vaccines, antibiotics, improved treatments for cancer and heart disease, and better sanitation and nutrition. Infant and child mortality has fallen worldwide and life expectancies in developed countries now reach into the 70s and 80s.

“We suspect that the accumulation of damage with age, especially mutations in the individual cells of the body, somatic mutations, ultimately places a limit on lifespan,” Milholland said.

Medical research generally focuses on individual diseases, which does not extend maximum lifespan because lifespan-limiting damage affects all organs, Milholland said. So, for example, a treatment improving cardiac function would not prevent neurodegeneration.

“The odds are very slim that we will ever see a person who lives longer than Jeanne Calment,” Milholland said. “And if we do, they would probably not exceed her record by very much.”

Italian woman Emma Morano, 116, is recognised as the world’s oldest living person.—Reuters

Classes instruct Japanese businesswomen how to act, dress like leaders

TOKYO — For Japanese businesswomen looking to get ahead in the country’s male-dominated corporate world, a range of classes and seminars aim to help them succeed by advising how to project an image of self-confidence and leadership.

At the end of May, President Inc., a publisher of business magazines, organised a leadership seminar in Tokyo for women in managerial positions, lecturing them on how to behave like a leader.

Koeri Yano, a speech instructor, told some 40 participants, mainly in their 30s and 40s that “In a business meeting, aren’t you cowering with your hands on your lap? That makes you only look like a doll.”

“You should bring your arms up and square your elbows on the table just like a TV anchor does,” Yano said. “That makes you look greater and more dignified.”

“In a male-dominated society, it’s not easy for women to get their opinions heard,” she said. “In important meetings, they need to work out what’s best for their views to go through.”

A 32-year-old woman who heads a business section at her company said, “A man’s ideas will always be adopted, even when I have already made a similar proposal. It’s so frustrating.” Another woman, a 59-year-old company executive, said of the seminar “I have learned how people think and how they behave” in certain business situations. “I want to reflect what I have learned in my marketing job.”

Keiko Ishikawa, director of the Risk Managers and Consultants Association of Japan, said, “A hairstyle, outfit, standing posture, and how to walk and sit tend to be considered secondary in business. But if you make a mistake in important situations, such as extending an apology, the business will be endangered.”

Fashion experts say one’s outfit could be an important business tool for women.

“What is important both for men and women is choosing clothing in business is not wearing what they like to wear but choosing it from the client’s view,” said Iseko Takano, a stylist who works for corporate executives and TV celebrities. “How they want to look to the client is important.”

Takano recently gave a styling lesson to a woman working at I-mam Inc., a Tokyo-based business consulting firm. Takano suggested the woman wear a tight skirt to highlight her vertical physical line and make her look capable.—Kyodo News

Picasso works go on display at London’s National Portrait Gallery

LONDON — Pablo Picasso’s family, friends and lovers are the subjects of a new exhibition of the artist’s work at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

More than 80 works by Picasso go on display at the gallery in the heart of the British capital from Thursday until February.

“Picasso’s portraits epitomise the astonishing variety and innovation of his art,” the gallery said on its website.—Reuters
**The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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**Svitolina stuns Kerber to reach China Open last eight**

BEIJING — Elina Svitolina stayed calm in the face of adversity to secure a surprise 6-3, 7-5 win over German world number one Angelique Kerber as the Ukrainian advanced to the China Open quarter-finals in Beijing on Thursday.

The 16th-seed saved nine of 10 break points in the opening set, six of them coming in a topsy-turvy ninth game, before unleashing a forehand winner past the stranded Australian and US Open champion to secure the first set after 45 minutes.

Svitolina, who stunned former world number one Serena Williams at the Rio Olympics, rallied from an early loss of serve in the second set to break Kerber twice more on her way to a fourth win against a top-10 opponent in 2016.

The 22-year-old Ukrainian will next face Australian Daria Gavrilova, who beat Caroline Garcia 6-4, 6-3, in the last eight.—Reuters

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**Arsenal could win three trophies this season, says Hleb**

MINSK — Former Arsenal star Alexander Hleb says he made a mistake by leaving the Emirates to join Barcelona in 2008, and expressed regret at turning his back on managerial “great” Arsene Wenger.

The Frenchman has been in charge of the Gunners for more than two decades and Hleb believes this could be one of his most successful seasons yet, with Arsenal capable of winning three trophies.

“Wenger always sets the highest goals. He has managed to keep his key players and they are playing great football. They are tearing everyone apart,” Hleb told Reuters, as he prepared for Belarus’ World Cup qualifier against the Netherlands.

“I hope the team will win three trophies this season — the Premier League, the FA Cup and the Champions League. This Arsenal side certainly has the ability and I will really be supporting them.”

After three years at the Emirates, where Hleb established himself as a key figure after joining from Stuttgart, the Belarusian decided to move to Barcelona.

The midfielder, who is now 35 and on the verge of winning another Belarus title with BATE Borisov, says his career never hit the same heights after leaving the British capital.

“I was playing at the top of my game in London and it was the best moments of my career,” said Hleb, who never won a trophy with Arsenal.

“In my first season we got to the Champions League final. We lost, but I remember this final more than the other one when I won with Barcelona in 2009, but I didn’t play.”

His move to the Catalans did not work out and he was sent out on loan by manager Pep Guardiola.

“On the one hand I regret that I did not stay at Arsenal. Wenger was like a father to me and trusted me. I get sad when I start to think about this,” he said.

“On the other hand, Barcelona was and still is the strongest club. I did not play that often, but I still got game time.”

In a frank appraisal of his time at Barcelona, Hleb said that he only had himself to blame.

“I was behaving like a bloke. Guardiola was young and had only just taken over the club. He could not find the right words,” he said.—Reuters

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**Tiger Woods named an assistant captain for 2017 Presidents Cup**

NEW JERSEY — Tiger Woods, who plans to make his PGA Tour return next week after more than a year on the sidelines, has been appointed as one of three vice captains to US skipper Steve Stricker for next year’s Presidents Cup in New Jersey.

Woods will join Fred Couples and triumphant US Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III as assistants for the biennial team competition against the Internationals to be played at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City from 28 September - 1 October.

“Tiger’s decision to appoint me as an assistant captain for the Presidents Cup is greatly appreciated,” Stricker said in a statement on Wednesday after being formally appointed.

“We’ve been friends for close to 20 years now, and we’ve been on teams together ... so for him to have the confidence in me, to be part of the crew and help him in any way I possibly can — I’m thrilled to be his assistant.”

Former world number one Woods, who got his first taste as a vice-captain during last week’s Ryder Cup in Minnesota where the United States beat Europe 17-11, could still play his way on to the US Presidents Cup team.

“If that happens, replacing him as a captain’s assistant will be a great problem for me to have,” said Stricker. “But if he doesn’t, I’m honoured he accepted this role for the first time in his impressive Presidents Cup career.—Reuters

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**Klitschko says Briton Fury dragging boxing ‘through the mud’**

BERLIN — Wladimir Klitschko has accused world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury of throwing boxing into disrepute after the Briton twice called off a fight against the Ukrainian, briefly retired from the sport and admitted to substance abuse.

Fury, WBA and WBO champion, had been due to defend his titles against Klitschko in July but pulled out with an ankle injury. The fight was then rescheduled for October — and waved on to next year, has been waiting for almost 12 months for a rematch.

“Just how unfair is it,” Klitschko’s manager Bernd Boente told the newspaper. “He stalks with Wladimir. He blocks the world title.”

Fury has also been charged with an anti-doping rule violation by UK Anti-Doping after a urine sample from February 2015 — nine months before his victory over Klitschko, showed traces of the banned stimulant nandrolone. He has denied doping.

The 28-year-old on Monday announced his retirement from the sport in an expletive-laden tweet, only to abruptly reverse the decision hours later, saying he planned to carry on fighting.—Reuters

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**Tyson Fury in action against Wladimir Klitschko during the fight for IBF & WBO Heavyweight Title’s at Esprit Arena, Dusseldorf, Germany on 29 November 2015. Photo: Reuters**

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**Elina Svitolina of Ukraine. Photo: Reuters**

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**Former Arsenal star Alexander Hleb. Photo: Reuters**

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**Team USA captain Davis Love III greets Team USA vice captain Tiger Woods on the 18th hole during the afternoon four-ball matches in the 41st Ryder Cup at Hazeltine National Golf Club, Chaska, MN, USA, on 1 October 2016. Photo: Reuters**