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Exchange of ideas at high-level disaster recovery forum

Aye Min Soe

A DISASTER recovery forum was held in Yangon on Tuesday, inviting post-disaster needs assessments from those in front-line flood relief efforts.

Vice President U Nyan Tun urged participants at the forum to share ideas for inclusion in the government's disaster recovery framework.

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

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

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

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Air crew and volunteers unload aid from a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) transport plane carrying donated aid for Myanmar's flood victims at Yangon international airport in Yangon on August 10, 2015.—REUTERS/SOE ZEYA TUN

Third emergency aid to be extended from Japan to Myanmar

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

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

Based on the request to Japan from U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Government of Japan has decided to continue rapidly extending necessary support of up to approximately 5 billion Japanese Yen (approximately 40 million USD) for recon-

struction of schools, provision of water purification vehicles and wellborers.

On 4th August, the Government of Japan decided to provide emergency relief goods such as blankets, sleeping pads and plastic sheets worth 18 million Japanese Yen (approximately 150,000 USD) through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). On 14th August, the Government of Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of 2.6 million US Dollars (approximately 325 million JPY) for emergency humanitarian assistance in such areas as food, water and sanitation, shelter, and Non Food Items (NFIs), to be extended in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).—GNLM

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

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

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

Phaungdaw-U Pagoda's Buddha images to begin ceremonial tour on Oct 14



Buddha Images of Phaungdaw-U Pagoda being conveyed on waterway of Inlay Lake.—NAY MYO THUREIN

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

They images will be tak-

en to 21 different locations surrounding the lake, which is the country's second largest and a top tourist destination. The images will arrive in Nyaungshwe on October 20 and will begin the journey back to the pagoda on

October 31, according to the pagoda's trustees.

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

Civil society organizations exchange views on internal peace

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

A total of 34 CSOs including religious leaders from four major religions in Myanmar, Sayagyi

Thakin Ko Daw Hmine Peace Network, national races and democratic forces participated in the discussions.

After discussions, an eight-point statement was issued to announce that wars are basically political issues and armed conflicts break out as the highest

form of conflicts when political issues cannot be settled successfully.

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

Ayadaw locals warned of risks from chemically-enhanced foods

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

Students also attended the public awareness talks.

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

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



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

MONYWA

Chindwin river rises dangerously high in Monywa Township

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

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

During the first high tides

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

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

River transport services closed on Chindwin River

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

River boats will not be permitted to dock at Homalin,

Hkamti and Mawlaik towns in northern Chindwin region until authorities determine that conditions improve.

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



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

Myanma Railway technicians receive training in China

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

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

Upon the completion of the courses, the Myanmar attendees will partner with Chinese experts in manufacturing pas-

senger coaches at the assembly factory in Myitnge, which is located about 13 kilometres from Mandalay.

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

At present, Myanma Railways, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, is building locomotive factory and passenger coach factory in Nay Pyi Taw using loans from the People's Republic of China.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to DPRK

NAY PYI TAW—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Ex-

cellency Mr. Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, First Chairman of the National Defense Commission of the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army of DPRK, His Excellency Mr. Kim Yong

Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of DPRK, and His Excellency Mr. Pak Pong Ju, Premier of the Cabinet of

DPRK, on the occasion of the Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which falls on 9 September 2015.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief visits Israeli naval base



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits FAC Super Dovra MK3 vessel.—MYAWADY

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

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

The senior general, together with Vice President of IAI

RAMATA Mr Nitzan Shaked, rode the FAC Super Dvora MK3 vessel, which has been ordered for the use of the Myanmar Navy.

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

On 7 September, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Israel Aerospace Industrial (IAI) in

Tel Aviv. After watching presentation about IAI 3D War Scenario by an official of IAI, the senior general and party visited IAI.

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

Political parties launch TV campaigns



Emblem of Mro Ethnic Development Party.—mna

YANGON—The Mro Ethnic Development Party, National Unity Party and Lahu National Development Party launched television campaigns on Tuesday.

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

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

NUP said it also stands for a liberalised trade and commerce sector, with an emphasis on transparency and increased participation of citizens in the private sector. The broadcast also said that wealth should be more



Emblem of National Unity Party. MNA

evenly distributed and that it would work to prevent cronyism and monopolisation and would promote entrepreneurship.

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

The Mro Ethnic Development Party explained that it changed its name from Khami National Organisation (Party),



Emblem of Lahu National Development Party.—MNA

that it was formed 27 years ago and has represented the interests of Mro nationals in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun, Buthitaung, Pauktaw and Yathedaung townships in Rakhine State and Paletwa in Chin State. The party will field six candidates in the general elections in constituencies in Rakhine State. The party places emphasis on equal rights for ethnic minority groups.

The Lahu National Development Party is fielding 29 candidates in townships where the majority of the ethnic group reside. Policies of the party place emphasis on the conservation of languages and traditions of Lahu nationals as well as equal rights for all ethnic groups.—GNLM

UCSB member resigns

NAY PYI TAW—President U Thein Sein accepted the resignation of Union Civil Services Board member U Ngun Moun to resign from his post, as stipulated under sub-section (b) of Section 15 of the Union Civil Services Board Law.—GNLM

UEC Chairman meets Communist Party of China

NAY PYI TAW—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye met with the Deputy Director-General of the Communist Party of China's International Department Mrs RAO Huihua at UEC's office on Tuesday.

In response to the queries raised by the Chinese delegation, the UEC chairman said that Myanmar's constitution provides for

a multi-party democratic system.

Political parties and individual candidates must abide by the prescribed laws and codes of conduct, as do local and international election observers, the chairman said. He added that the media should act swiftly to disseminate information related to the election to the public.—MNA

REBUILDING AFTER...

(from page 1)

The Swanee Foundation, which distributed aid in Rakhine State, suggested that farmers in badly-hit areas in Rakhine State be provided with seeds for winter crops, as it is now too late to grow rice for the current season.

U Phone Swe, Secretary of the National Disaster Management Committee and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, stressed the importance of financial assistance for preventing labour forces in flood-hit areas from moving to other areas to find work.

"We need to inject at least K200 billion [US\$156 million] urgently into revitalising the livelihoods of those in flood-hit areas so

that we don't see the existing poverty rate of 26 percent switch to 62 percent," he said.

Taking lessons during the time of Nargis Storm which devastated the Ayeyawady Delta in 2008, U Phone Swe also stressed the need for prevention against human trafficking in the wake of the disaster.

Infrastructure, such as roads and bridges in Kalay, Sagaing Region, and the areas between the Kalay and Haka, Chin State were badly hit by the recent floods, said U Kyaw Lwin, the Union Minister for Construction. He said the ministry has temporarily re-opened bridges and roads in the worst-hit areas and that it will upgrade these structures to permanent ones in winter.—GNLM

Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW—MRTV news channel and Myanmar Radio will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from Kokang De-

mocracy and Unity Party, Pa-O National Organization (PNO) and Democratic Party (Myanmar) on 9 September and 9 October.—GNLM

Myanmar Human Rights Commission shares knowledge with Information Ministry

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

Commission Chairman U Win Mra and member U Khin Maung Lay gave talks on the prin-

ciples of human rights, as well as the laws governing them, and explained the functions of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe along with other officials attended the talks, which were held in the ministry's offices.—MNA

Thailand frees British man blacklisted in plagiarism spat

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

Wyn Ellis, a long-term resident of Thailand with British and Thai citizenship, was freed late on Monday after he was detained shortly after arriving from Europe last Thursday.

Ellis is working on a sustainable rice program for the United Nations in Thailand. He discovered just a few days ago he had been blacklisted, apparently because of a 2009 letter written by the man he had accused of copying his work.

"I am out and I am off the blacklist," Ellis told Reuters on Tuesday after spending four days in a cell with 15 other people.

"It's a relief to be back in my own home. We had a glass of

wine last night to celebrate," he said.

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

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

The NIA told the immigration department last week that it had revoked Supachai's letter.

Ellis said he had been coming and going to Thailand without any problem, but had lost his Thai passport on a recent trip to Britain and Norway. He was using his British passport when he returned to Thailand on Thursday.—Reuters

Modi asks billionaires if China's pain can be India's gain

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Narendra Modi called bankers and billionaires to his residence on Tuesday to brainstorm on how India can manage global economic turbulence, including opportunities for Asia's third-largest economy in China's market and growth woes.

The morning meeting in New Delhi was attended by tycoons including India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, central bank governor Raghuram Rajan, economists and state and private bank chiefs.

At the gathering, industry chamber ASSOCHAM told Modi policy makers needed to act fast to "bullet proof" India from global jitters — calling for a deep cut in interest rates and new duties to stop dumping of Chinese products such as steel.

India's macroeconomic situation has improved considerably since the "taper tantrum" of 2013, not least thanks to lower prices for the commodities it imports. Then, inflation, for example, was at double digits — it has since halved.

The International Monetary Fund considers India's economy a rare bright spot among emerging markets and Modi sees a chance to attract more foreign investment as money flows out of China.

But it will not be easy to turn



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

China's pain into India's gain. Investors and corporates increasingly worry that Modi has not moved fast enough since taking office. Annual growth slowed to 7 percent in the June quarter.

"Mr. Modi ran a successful state. He campaigned for 2 years saying he knew what to do. He has been there 15 months with the largest majority since independence yet little has happened," US investor Jim Rogers told Reuters Trading India on Tuesday.

Rogers recently announced he had sold his India investments.

After farmer protests forced the government to drop a major land reform and opposition parties delayed a growth-boosting tax overhaul, expectations are growing

that Modi will soon unveil new measures to make it easier for foreign money to enter India.

The government predicts India's economy will grow at 8 percent or more in 2015/16, prodded by government spending. Yet private investment has been slow to pick up, with banks and businesses hobbled by bad debts and high lending rates. In the real economy, there are few signs of an major economic recovery. In the construction and diamond polishing industries, for example, there have been large layoffs. ASSOCHAM called on central bank chief Raghuram Rajan to slash interest rates by up to 1.25 percentage points by March to help revive investment and growth.—Reuters

S Korea, Japan, China to hold talks on Sept. 15 over summit

SEOUL — South Korea, Japan and China plan to hold talks on Sept. 15 in Seoul to discuss realizing a trilateral summit and other issues of interest, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

"The talks among deputy director-general level officials will be held at the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat in Seoul on Sept. 15 to discuss preparing for the sixth trilateral summit among South Korea, Japan and China," ministry spokesman Noh Kwang Il said during a news briefing. The announcement follows the agreement by China and South Korea last week at a summit in Beijing to realize a trilateral summit with Japan by late October at the earliest. The annual three-way summit has been suspended since the last one was held in Beijing in May 2012, mainly because China and South Korea perceive Japan as not having done enough to atone for its atrocities before and during World War II. South Korea currently holds the rotating chair of the trilateral framework. As for the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, it was officially launched in September 2011 as an inter-governmental organization to bolster efforts for trilateral cooperation as a result of an agreement reached at the third South Korea, Japan and China summit held in 2010 at South Korea's southern island of Jeju.—Kyodo News



Secretary-General of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) Lee Hsien Loong greets supporters after a lunchtime rally at the central business district in Singapore September 8, 2015. Singaporeans will go to the polls on September 11.—REUTERS

Singapore suspends horses import from Malaysia to protect horse industry

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

The suspension, which takes effect on Tuesday, is due to an outbreak of equine influenza (EI), a highly contagious viral disease in horses in its neighbor.

Singapore is free from EI,

which can have devastating effects on the horse industry, AVA therefore advises the public who may have come into contact with horses in Malaysia to avoid visiting horse establishments in Singapore.

AVA said it will work closely with Malaysia's Department of Veterinary Services to allow the movement of horses between Singapore and Malaysia to resume once the outbreak in Ma-

aysia is resolved.

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Director - Maung Maung Than
mnmnthn2@gmail.com

Chief Editor - Than Myint Tun
wallace.tun@gmail.com

Deputy Chief Editor
Than Tun Aung
thantunaungnlm@gmail.com

Chief Reporter - Aye Min Soe
koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

Senior Consultant Editor
Jessica Mudditt
jess.mudditt@gmail.com

Editors
Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,
Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,
Myint Win Thein
journalist.sss@gmail.com

International news
Ye Htut Tin
mryehtuttin@gmail.com

Tun Tun Naing
tunyaing@gmail.com

Reporters
Khaing Thanda Lwin
juniorlwin25@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw
tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

Translator
Khaing Minn Nyo
khingminn@gmail.com

Proof reader
Nwe Nwe Tun

Layout designers
Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Kyin Shwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin
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thantunaungnlm@gmail.com

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

PHNOM PENH — The government of India has advised its Indian trust, Mahavir Mandir, to make change to its original plan to build a near replica of Cambodia’s famed Angkor Wat temple, Cambodian foreign ministry spokesman Chum Sounry said Tuesday.

New Indian ambassador to Cambodia Naveen Srivastava made the remarks while paying a courtesy call on Cambodian deputy prime minister and foreign minister Hor Namhong, he said.

“The ambassador told the deputy prime minister that the government of India had advised the private company to change the style and structure (in the original blueprint) in order to avoid

copying from the Cambodia’s Angkor Wat temple,” the spokesman told reporters after the meeting.

He said the Indian side has planned to invite Cambodia to check the revised blueprint when it is completed.

The ambassador assured that the Indian government would not allow such a replica plan to happen because it could affect niceties between the two countries, according to the spokesman.

The ambassador’s remarks came after Hor Namhong renewed his call on the Mahavir Mandir, a Hindu trust based in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, to completely stop the plan to construct the replica of An-

gkor Wat temple.

Hor Namhong said Angkor Wat temple is the “heart and soul of the Cambodian people.”

Mahavir Mandir delayed in June its plan to construct a near-replica of the world famous Angkor Wat temple in Bihar in India after Cambodia’s protest.

Located in Cambodia’s Siem Reap province, Angkor Wat temple is the country’s most popular tourist destination.

According to government figures, the 12th century site attracted 1.4 million foreign tourists in the first eight months of 2015, earning 39.8 million US dollars from ticket sales.—*Xinhua*

UK lawmakers pass EU referendum legislation to upper house

LONDON — Prime Minister David Cameron’s planned referendum on Britain’s membership of the European Union moved a step closer after legislation paving the way for the vote was passed to parliament’s upper house.

Lawmakers in par-

liament’s House of Commons voted early on Tuesday by 316-53 to back Cameron’s plan to hold a referendum by the end of 2017, meaning it will now be considered by members of the upper house, the House of Lords.

On Monday, Camer-

on suffered an embarrassing defeat in parliament at the hands of his own Eurosceptic lawmakers, who joined forces with opposition parties to vote against proposed rules on government activity in the run-up to the referendum.—*Reuters*

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

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

The agreement to hold reunions, which would be the first since 170 families embraced in emotional scenes in February last year, follows the negotiated end to a recent armed confrontation across the border.

“The South and the North shared the view that we will work to fundamentally resolve humanitarian issues,” the South’s Unification Ministry said, quoting from the agreement which followed almost 24 hours of talks between Red Cross officials from both sides at the border village of Panmunjom.

The reunions will be held from Oct. 20 to 26 at Mount Kumgang resort just north of the border, where previous reunions have been held, with 100 participants from each country.

Nearly 130,000 South Koreans looking for family



A woman who said she has family members living in North Korea gets help to prepare documents for reunion at the Red Cross building in Seoul, South Korea, September 8, 2015.—*Reuters*

members in the North have registered with the government in Seoul since 1988, but only about 66,000 are still alive, with most aged 70 or more, according to Unification Ministry data.

Some critics say the reunion program works too slowly and involves too few families. Many elderly people on both sides die before they can reconnect with loved ones. South Korea seeks the reunions as a top priority, but the North has been reluctant.

Tuesday’s agreement called for more talks to pave the way for further

reunions, beyond those scheduled for next month.

Seoul and Pyongyang have remained technically in a state of war since the 1950-53 war ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

Last month, tensions boiled over into an exchange of artillery fire, after Seoul blamed Pyongyang for land mine explosions that wounded two South Korean soldiers.

North Korea denied the accusations, and the confrontation was finally resolved after marathon talks between government officials.—*Reuters*

Abe returned unopposed as LDP leader, vows to boost economy

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

The result came as potential rival and senior LDP lawmaker Seiko Noda did not file candidacy for the top party post after failing to muster the support of 20 party lawmakers required to run in the race to challenge Abe.

Abe’s current term as LDP president expires on Sept. 30. With his retaining the post, his term will last three more years until the end of September 2018.

In a list of policy priorities announced Tuesday, Abe vowed to put his highest emphasis on the economy toward the goal of getting Japan out of deflation and ensuring robust growth.

He also vowed to

deepen public debate on revising the nation’s Constitution.

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

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

Dubbed “Abenomics,” the prime minister’s economic policies feature aggressive monetary easing, hefty fiscal spending and a growth strategy.

Abe, 60, became the first LDP president to be reinstalled without a vote since Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in 1997.

With a House of

Councillors election next summer in sight, the premier plans to reshuffle his Cabinet and LDP executive posts possibly in early October as part of efforts to push forward his economic policies.

Noda, 55, a former chairwoman of the LDP General Council, told a news conference Tuesday morning that she had given up filing candidacy, though declining to say how many party lawmakers had backed her candidacy.

“I wanted to realize a presidential election where candidates can discuss issues freely and frankly,” Noda said.

Even if Noda had run, Abe was certain to be re-elected LDP president because all seven LDP factions had expressed their support.

Noda had opposed Abe being re-elected without a challenge, saying a vote would lead to political stability in the LDP.

Ruling and opposition lawmakers said a challenge by Noda could have hampered Diet debate on controversial security bills



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with Natsuo Yamaguchi, leader of the Komeito party, the junior ruling coalition partner of the Liberal Democratic Party, at the Diet building in Tokyo on Sept. 8, 2015. Abe was re-elected unopposed as president of the LDP earlier in the day.—*Kyodo News*

the LDP and its coalition partner the Komeito party aim to enact as early as next week despite objections from opposition parties.

Abe previously served as LDP president in 2006 and 2007 when he first held

office as prime minister. He was elected LDP president for the second time in September 2012. A president cannot assume a third term in a row.

Under Abe’s second leadership, the LDP has

won two House of Representatives elections and one upper house election.

Its landslide victory in the December 2012 lower house election brought the party back to power.—*Kyodo News*

Clinton to propose US campaign finance overhaul

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

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

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

"We have to end the flood of secret, unaccountable money that is distorting our elections, corrupting our political system, and drowning out the voices of too

many everyday Americans," Clinton said in a statement issued by her campaign.

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

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

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

Clinton also plans to call for an overturning of the controversial 2010 Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court. It allowed corporations and individuals to spend unlimited money for political advocacy through independent political action committees so long as they do not coordinate with candi-

dates. That ruling has become a flashpoint on the campaign trail, drawing criticism from other candidates as well, such as Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who has pressured Clinton on her left.

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

While Clinton remains the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, edging out Sanders 46 percent to 24 percent in a five-day rolling poll dated September 4 by Reuters/IPSOS, the progressive senator has been eating away at her lead. In an NBC News/Marist Poll released on Sunday, 41 percent of Democratic voters in New Hampshire would back Sanders while 32 percent would cast a vote for Clinton if the poll were held today and Vice President Joe Biden were on the ballot.—Reuters



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

Russia says truce holding in Ukraine but little progress on peace plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Syrian refugees reach Greek mainland, fleeing chaos of Lesbos

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

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

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

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

He told state TV on Monday the government planned to move 12,000 refugees from Lesbos by Saturday by increasing the num-

ber of ships to Piraeus from three to four or five.

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

The vast majority of those arriving at Piraeus, which is part of the Athens conurbation, are hoping to move on to other European countries and, once disembarked,

almost immediately head north, creating a second bottleneck at the border with Macedonia.

Coping with an economy already stretched close to breaking point, Greek authorities on Monday asked the European Union to help tackle the crisis on Lesbos by activating its crisis-response body to provide staff, medical and pharmaceutical supplies, clothes and equipment. Greece has also applied for 9.6 million euros (\$10.7 million) in emergency EU funding.—Reuters



Syrian refugees try to protect themselves from gusts of wind and dust as they cross Greece's border with Macedonia, near the Greek village of Idomeni, September 8, 2015.—REUTERS

Officials deny Syria oil field captured by Islamic State

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

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

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

Turkish warplanes hit PKK targets in northern Iraq



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

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey) — Dozens of Turkish warplanes struck militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) targets in northern Iraq overnight, killing tens of the group's fighters, a security source told Reuters on Tuesday.

Two government officials said more than 40 jets took part in the strikes, which came after the PKK killed 16 Turkish soldiers in southeast Turkey on Sunday in their deadliest attack since the collapse of a two-year-old ceasefire in July.

The clashes, weeks before polls the ruling AK Party hopes will restore its majority, has left in tatters a peace process which President Tayyip Erdogan launched in 2012 in an attempt to end a three-decade insurgency that has killed more than 40,000.

The security source said F-16 and F-4 jets took part in the air operation which began around 10 p.m. on Monday and continued until 4 a.m., hitting areas around the PKK's bases in Qandil, Basyan Avashin and Zap. There was no immediate confirmation from the Turkish general staff of the strikes, which the source said hit weapons and food stores as well as gun positions of the PKK. The PKK, which launched its insurgency in 1984, is designated a terrorist organization by Turkey, the European Union and United States.—Reuters

Syrian army, Islamic State battle for central oilfield

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

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

The Observatory, which monitors Syria's conflict through a network of sources on the ground, had said on Monday the

militants had seized all of the facility - a report denied by the government.

But Abdulrahman said on Tuesday the army had managed to keep Islamic State out of parts of the complex.

Jazal is a medium-sized field that lies to the northwest of the rebel-held ancient city of Palmyra, part of a region that holds Syria's main natural gas fields and multi-million-dollar extraction facilities.

Islamic State, which also controls large parts of neighbouring Iraq, took Palmyra in May, and the army has been bat-

ting to retake it and other areas ever since.

Talal al-Barazi, governor of surrounding Homs province, was quoted by al-Watan newspaper on Tuesday as saying Islamic State fighters had seized five positions in the area on Saturday, but these had since been recovered by the Syrian army.

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

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

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

TEHRAN — Iran is willing to sit down with its rivals to discuss the crisis in Syria, President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday, but suggested Tehran would not debate the future of President Bashar al-Assad until peace is achieved.

The world's attention has once again turned to Syria in recent weeks as tens of thousands of refugees have poured into Europe. Russia and Iran continue to back Assad while Western countries insist he must go if peace is to be restored.

"We will sit down at any table with countries inside and outside the region," Rouhani said when asked if Iran would discuss Syria with adversaries Saudi Ara-

bia and the United States.

"The Syrian people are being killed and losing their homes ... our first priority is to stop the bloodshed, bring security and let people return to their homes, then we can talk about the future," he said.

Speaking at a joint news conference in Tehran with Austria's President Heinz Fischer, the first European Union leader to visit Iran in more than a decade, Rouhani called on the EU and Middle Eastern powers to find a solution to the Syria crisis.

"If one day Syria is more secure, that will be in the interest of the whole region and the world," he said.—Reuters



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani

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

DUBAI — A Saudi-led alliance has deployed 10,000 troops to Yemen, Qatari news channel Al Jazeera said on Tuesday, in an apparent sign of determination to rout Iran-allied Houthi forces after they killed at least 60 Gulf Arab soldiers on Friday.

Yemen's neighbours ramped up air strikes on the capital Sanaa on Tuesday and hope to launch a decisive assault soon on the city which the militia seized last year.

"The number of coalition soldiers who have already entered Yemen has risen to 10,000," Jazeera correspondent Abdul Mahsi al-Sheikh reported from southern Saudi Arabia.

"A second contingent of Qatari soldiers will arrive today to Yemen after entering the al-Wadee border crossing (with Saudi Arabia) ... as coalition forces have added to their military equipment with 30 Apache helicopters, armoured vehicles

and rocket launchers," he added.

Qatari and coalition officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Yemen's government fled to Riyadh in late March as Houthi forces, who say they are fighting a revolution against them, closed in on their last redoubt in Aden, triggering the foreign intervention and fighting which has killed over 4,500 people. The Arab alliance states see their campaign as a fight against creeping Iranian influence in their backyard, but the Houthis deny being beholden to Tehran and say the exiled government in Riyadh and the coalition are American puppets.

Loyalist Yemeni forces and Gulf soldiers took back Aden and most of Yemen's south in July, but battle lines have barely moved since as the allied forces face stiff resistance in the Houthis' northern redoubts.

Houthi militiamen and their allies in

Yemen's army fired a Soviet-era ballistic missile at an army base in the central province of Mareb on Friday, killing dozens of Emirati, Saudi and Bahraini troops.

The attack was the deadliest yet for Gulf soldiers in the war, and may herald a turning point in the conflict as countries appear to be committing to a ground war they had so far avoided.

Saudi-owned newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat quoted coalition sources saying that some Egyptian and 6,000 Sudanese troops would soon join the fight inside Yemen. Their governments did not immediately comment.

But a source close to the Qatari military confirmed that the Gulf emirate was sending "mechanised infantry and armoured vehicles" and that Sudan had committed to send 6,000 troops. "The operation in Sanaa ... will use extensive bombing, air power, to support the ground offensive," the source added.—Reuters

Sandstorm engulfs Lebanon

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

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

Kettaneh said 130 people complaining of respiratory difficulties in the eastern Bekaa Valley and northern district of Akkar were taken to hospitals on Mon-

day night and early Tuesday.

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

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

Bomb attack in eastern Turkey kills 10 police officers

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 9 September, 2015

What makes peace so elusive?

By *Myint Win Thein*

PEACE seems to be the most elusive thing in the world. Almost every politician has at some point said in their career that they are try-

ing to restore peace in a particular corner of the world. Every leader of a world power says it too, as do the regional heads.

Perhaps needless to say, the leaders of smaller countries which are engulfed by civil wars say they want to be architects of peace. The ordinary person on the street will tell you they love peace. Yet despite the rhetoric, our world is still ravaged by wars and human rights abuses.

In the Middle East, Africa and Asia, wars are tragically common. As war is a continuation of politics by another means, as a famous German philosopher once said, it is essential to address the political issues that provide the root cause of

the problem in order to restore a genuine and sustainable peace. Otherwise, peace will remain elusive as ever.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor

BANGLADESH, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal are adjacent countries in the vast subcontinent with long historical, cultural and socio-economic ties and distinct biogeographical continuity. All these nations represent similarities in terms of their extremely rich biodiversity and vulnerability of both their forest and wildlife resources due to enhanced anthropogenic pressures. The vast wilderness areas that spread across international boundaries of these adjoining nations need modern management and scientific planning necessary for developing a long term, sustainable and comprehensive conservation strategy for the biogeographically and geologically connected region. Recently four of these nations (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) have become joint signatories in the free transportation treaty between them for better connectivity and to boost regional trade and commerce as part of an appreciable SAARC agreement. However, leaving adjoining Myanmar out of this formal equation is a great loss for the entire Indian subcontinent. I wonder how long it will take SAARC to include Myanmar as a full partner in the process of economic development. Without Myanmar's participation, the South Asian economic dream cannot take a full flight as both economic blocs have so much to offer to one another.

Similarly, a Joint Conservation Initiative (JCI) between these five nations could successfully contribute towards the conservation of the regional wildlife and forests due to enhanced surveillance and security measures, reduce poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the region, repopulation of suitable habitats with breeding stocks of similar and/or related species from adjoining biogeographically continuous region, protect international animal corridors for cross border moving species such as rhinoceros, elephants and tigers, support cap-

itive breeding programs for successfully releasing endangered species into their natural habitats and in indigenous species exchange programs (like tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, green pea fowl etc) between adjoining biodiverse regions for conserving several local endemic and endangered species and protecting vulnerable regional forest ecosystems. All these nations need to sincerely explore the JCI approach through their respective parliaments to formulate a comprehensive policy; and finally negotiate a treaty for developing a joint consortium or forum to prevent cross border illegal wildlife trade and poaching, to work on necessary fund allocations for the different joint programs, provide advanced joint training of forest and border guards, share intelligence, protect regional wildlife and ecosystems.

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

*Thanking you
Sincerely yours*

Saikat Kumar BasuApt 6-409, 43 Street South,
Lethbridge AB Canada T1J 4B3

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

Axel van Trotsenburg

UNPRECEDENTED economic growth in the last three decades propelled East Asia into an economic powerhouse responsible for a quarter of the world's economy.

Hundreds of millions of people across the region, including in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, lifted themselves out of extreme poverty and enjoyed greater prosperity, largely because of more labor-intensive and inclusive growth.

The success didn't come without challenges. As of last year, 100 million people in East Asia still live on \$1.25 a day. About 260 million still live on \$2 a day or less, and they could fall back into poverty if the global economy takes a turn for the worse or if they face health, food and other shocks at home. Their uncertain future shows the increasing inequality of East Asia's galloping growth.

The income divide was exacerbated by the 2008 global financial crisis. Income inequality has worsened in China, and Indonesia and stagnated at high levels in countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

The broadening income gap reflects challenges for economic policy making, including adopting a more inclusive approach that promotes job creation, improves education and skills training, and builds environmentally sustainable infrastructure. The lack of adequate social protection programs also play a role.

Amid the current climate of slowing global growth and market instability, it becomes increasingly clear that inequality presents a long-term challenge, and failure to address it means more people are at risk of being

left behind, weakening economic prospects for the region.

How can East Asia sustain strong growth and create better opportunities and more prosperity for everyone?

The topic will be a central theme at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) finance ministers meeting to be held from Sept. 10-11 in the Philippines. The organization, with 21 member countries from North and South America, Asia and the Pacific region and Russia, will discuss strategies for structural reforms and integrated approaches to build resilient and sustainable economies.

At the World Bank Group, we believe the way forward is to take steps to ensure that the poor – and those on the margins of impoverishment – share the benefits that come with economic prosperity. We can do this by creating more income and prosperity for the bottom 40 percent of the population, or this group runs the risk of falling behind again.

That means focusing on bolstering economic growth while helping people get the education and skills they need – beginning in early childhood – so they can compete globally.

That means countries should provide equal economic and social opportunities to everyone, not just the elite.

It also means better governance and fiscal policies, more infrastructure development and building stronger resilience to the financial risks of increasing climate change. After all, dealing with inequality needs long-term solutions and always centers on human development.

To address inequalities we need comprehensive and sustainable solutions to address income inequality. We can learn from the experience of other countries and also seek better cooperation through multilater-

al platforms such as APEC, ASEAN and various Latin American organizations.

This cooperation should include knowledge sharing and policy action that supports economic growth, trade, direct investment and other financial cooperation. It can also create a level playing field to support competition, markets and trade across the Pacific region.

In addition to an overall supportive macro-economic environment, direct support may be needed to provide immediate stimulus to those left behind. APEC's Latin American members like Mexico (Oportunidades and Prospera), Peru (Juntos), and Chile (Chile Solidario) have used conditional cash transfers to expand school attendance, preventative health care and nutrition programs among the poor and vulnerable. We also have seen how successful conditional transfers have improved lives for the better in countries like the Philippines.

It is encouraging that at its meeting in the Philippines, APEC finance ministers are taking on this issue and plan to finalize the Cebu Action Plan. It ultimately aims to improve the lives of all of the people in member countries through improved coordination on financial integration, fiscal transparency, infrastructure financing, and disaster resiliency, among others.

In a period of volatility in economies around the world, the plan sets the APEC region in the right direction – helping people rise out of poverty and share in the benefits of growth.

Axel van Trotsenburg, the World Bank Regional Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific.

Pobbathiri villagers prepare maize for markets



Maize growers in Pobbathiri Township sell their produce at an average price of K10,000 per basket.—SHWE YE YINT

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

Farmer U Thein Htay Aung said he has cultivated three acres of corn in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area since late May. He said that a bag of corn seedlings costs K23,000 kyats and is enough to

cover an acre. After harvesting, he uses machines to dry the corn and turn it into maize.

He says that he goes to sell the produce to nearby townships and that sometimes brokers might

come to his house to purchase the maize. As well as selling the corn at markets, he also sells his produce to brokers at an average price of K10,000 per 33.3kg basket.—Shwe Ye Yint

Red Cross members undergo advanced training

NAY PYI TAW — The Red Cross Supervisory Committee of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory kicked off a first-aid course for trainers on 7 September at the people's hospital in Dekkhinathiri Township.

Supervisory committee chairperson Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi introduced the course, whose aim is to turn out competent trainers for Red Cross brigades throughout Nay Pyi Taw.

Township medical officers and qualified Red Cross members offered practical and theoretical training to 30 trainees from Nay Pyi Taw's eight townships.

The course, which is scheduled to take place from 7 to 14 September, includes subjects such as medical check-ups, stemming bleeding, general patient care and the history of the Red Cross in Myanmar.—District IPRD

Training course for rural youth begins in Ottarathiri

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

Assistant Director of Rural Development Department of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area U Tin Soe gave the opening address and called on 50 trainees to effectively apply their new skills

after completing the Rural Youth Capacity Enhancement Training Course.

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

Solar panels given to Lewe Township

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

Officials from the Rural Development Department presented village representatives with the panels, which were purchased under the 2015-2016 budget allocation set by the

Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

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

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



Officials hand over solar panels to local residents for electrification. District IPRD

Preparations underway for Phaungdaw-U Pagoda Festival



Rowers vigorously competing in boat race in Meiktila Lake.—Chan Thar (Meiktila)

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

A traditional boat race will be held on Meiktila Lake, which faces the pagoda. Marker posts

along the waterways in the lake are being set up ahead of the boat race. According to local lore, the pagoda was constructed in the 12th century after the Bagan-era monarch King Alaungsithu disembarked from his famous royal vessel on the banks where the pagoda stands today. The festival is

now in its 132nd year.

The festival will begin with Buddhist devotees giving offerings to monks and paying their respects to the Buddha images.

About a thousand individual stores are expected to display their wares at the famous festival.—Chan Thar (Meiktila)

Meiktila Election Sub-commission holds coordination meeting

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

The township election sub-commission chairman U Than Win pointed out that campaign of all candidates of the township's constituencies for Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House), Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), and Region Hluttaw must be in line with its rules and

regulations and that the voters' lists are to be announced at respective constituencies by September 14. He and committee members discussed for a free and fair General Elections which is scheduled to be held on November 8.—Chan Thar (Meiktila)

Oil prices stabilise on strong German data, but slowing Asia still weighs

Amazon plans to sell \$50 tablet: WSJ



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

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

German exports and imports hit record highs in July despite a slowdown in China. Exports climbed by 2.4 percent on the month to 103.4 billion euros (75.33 billion pounds) while imports grew 2.2 percent to 80.6 billion euros, the highest values on record.

Traders said that the strong German data had

helped counter a further darkening of Asia's economic outlook.

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

US markets were closed on Monday for a holiday.

Brent futures, unaffected by the refinery closure, added 66 cents to \$48.18 barrel, although the global benchmark was still down

\$1.09 cents from its opening value on Monday.

Japan's economy shrank an annualised 1.2 percent in April-June despite ongoing measures to support growth. In China, crude oil imports fell 13.4 percent in August to 26.59 million tonnes (6.29 million barrels per day) from the previous month. Yet Igor Sechin, chief executive of Russian oil-major Rosneft said during the Financial Times' Commodity Retreat in Singapore this week that Asia's slowdown "has a controllable character" due to a firm-

ing Chinese real-estate market, while unlike during the 1997/98 crisis most Asian countries now had significant currency reserves.

Sechin also said that he expected China's oil demand to continue to boom in the long-term: "In 15 years, according to our estimates, China will consume 850 million tonnes of oil, i.e. 350 million tonnes of oil more than now."

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

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

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

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

The company was not immediately available for comment.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Uber also welcomes

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

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

After the Baidu slot, Kalanick spoke of the importance of Uber's relationship with the Internet firm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

to shareholder lawsuits.

For the past financial year, it reported a 37.8 billion yen (\$318 million) net loss. It had at one time expected a 120 billion yen net profit before pulling that estimate in May when it announced the accounting probe was being expanded.

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

All in all, Toshiba said it had overstated profits going back to fiscal 2008/09 by 155 billion yen (\$1.3 billion).

The accounting probe found in July that Toshiba suffered from dysfunctions in governance and a culture of discouraging employees from questioning their superiors, prompting previous CEO Hisao Tanaka and sev-



Pedestrians walk past a logo of Toshiba Corp outside an electronics retailer in Tokyo, Japan, June 25, 2015.—REUTERS

eral other board members to step down.

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

The company also announced on Monday that

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

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

Low emission biogas also produces fertilizer

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

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

According to White, "the greatest asset of biogas is that it's capturing methane that would otherwise be going into the atmosphere where it's 22 times worse than carbon dioxide for

global warming, so a great story, but the same bacteria that make biogas also make hydrogen sulfide which is toxic, corrosive, and causes a lot of maintenance cost in the industry. So we really need to get it out of the gas so that gas can be used."

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

He says SulfaCHAR is unique. "One of the unique aspects of what our process does is that it catalytically converts the sulfide into sulphur. Sulphur is a fertilizer product and because the feedstock we're making it out of is a fiber that's almost a compost when we're done with it we're left with a carbon compost that's already in the fertilizer form, so we don't have to any reprocessing. As soon as we take it out of

the tanks where it's been used for gas cleaning we can apply it directly to the fields," said White.

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

White says his is also the most cost-effective biogas product on the market, based on cost per kilogram of H₂S removed. "It's the most cost competitive in terms of dollars spent per contaminant removed and that's sim-

ply because we've been able to generate such a high capacity for this toxic hydrogen sulfide," he said.

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

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

Japan to deploy developing nations' microsatellites without charge

TOKYO — Japan's space agency said Tuesday it will start deploying microsatellites for developing nations without charge at the country's Kibo laboratory at the International Space Station.

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

Microsatellites measuring 10 centimeters by 10 cm and weighing around 1 kilogram will be carried to Kibo aboard unmanned cargo transporters to be launched with Japanese rockets.

Since 2012, Japan has deployed a total of 88 microsatellites of other countries, according to JAXA.—Kyodo News

Planned Parenthood faces unexpected challenge from Obamacare



A man walks past the entrance to a Planned Parenthood building in New York August 31, 2015.—REUTERS

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

Away from the headlines, however, the group is facing other major challenges, including one from a far different source: the Affordable Care Act, which it avidly supports.

Many formerly uninsured women who once depended on Planned Parenthood for low-cost access to birth control, abortions and other reproductive healthcare have gotten coverage under President Barack Obama's healthcare law, making them less reliant on the organization's 700 clinics.

In many states, Planned Parenthood is losing clients as newly insured patients turn to medical providers included in their health plan's networks, according to data provided to Reuters and interviews with more than two doz-

en of its affiliates.

"Some people relied on us because they were uninsured prior to the Affordable Care Act. Now they can go anywhere for care, and some of them have been," said Lori Carpentier, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Mid and South Michigan, which expects to treat 58,000 patients in 2015, down about 15 percent from the 68,000 it treated in fiscal 2012, before major parts of the law went into effect.

The ACA has also brought some benefits to the organization, its leaders say. In interviews, affiliates all reported a significantly larger percentage of insured visitors among their remaining patients. Some locations — including Ohio, New York City, Chicago and the Northwest — are even adding clients as they expand services to better compete for women with medical coverage. Still, Planned Parenthood client numbers nationwide are on the decline.

Part of the drop in patient numbers can be traced to deci-

sions by legislatures in Republican-leaning states like Texas to cut funding to affiliates beginning in 2011.

The declines then accelerated after Obamacare took full effect in 2014, when Planned Parenthood served 2.68 million patients, down about six percent from 2.84 million a year earlier, according to numbers last updated in July.

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

Some declines are considered positive. The US abortion rate is down, for example, and Obamacare has increased contraceptive coverage, making it easier for women to afford long-lasting birth control methods such as IUDs, which require fewer office visits. "Data about health centers and patients will fluctuate," said Kim Custer, executive vice president of health care, Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "But at the end of the day, Planned Parenthood has a unique relationship with our patients, some of whom would not be able to get healthcare anywhere else." The National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund, an arm of one of the nation's biggest anti-abortion groups, said the numbers could suggest that women are acting on their beliefs once they have a choice of provider.

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

Polio resurfaces in Mali from Ebola-hit Guinea: WHO

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

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

Preliminary tests showed the 19-month-old was paralyzed on July 20, seven days before being brought to Mali for treatment. The strain is the same as one found in Siguiri in Guinea's Kankan region in August 2014.

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

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

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

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

WHO figures show Guinea's

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

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

A global vaccination campaign has largely stamped out the virus, and only Pakistan and Afghanistan have reported cases of wild polio virus this year.

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

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

One way of combating that risk is to switch from using live oral polio vaccines (OPV) - which are highly effective, cheap, easy to deliver but contain live virus strains - to "inactivated" vaccines (IPV), which carry no live virus.

Unlike OPV, however, IPV is expensive and difficult to deliver because it has to be injected by trained health workers in clinics.

While most wealthy countries used OPV to stop wild polio transmission then switched to IPV when they were sure they had the virus beaten, that is not easy in poor countries with limited health services, infrastructure and resources.—Reuters

UN General Assembly chief visits Hiroshima before session next week



Mogens Lykketoft, president-elect of the UN general assembly, places flowers at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims in the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima on Sept. 8, 2015.—REUTERS

HIROSHIMA — Mogens Lykketoft, president of the upcoming 70th session of the UN General Assembly, on Tuesday visited the city of Hiroshima, devastated by a US atomic bomb in 1945, before the session begins next week.

Lykketoft was reminded “all about the unbelievable consequences of nuclear weapons and the urgent need to disarm and destroy the stockpiles of these weapons,” he wrote in a visitors’ register after meeting Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui and a sur-

vivor who talked about the day the atomic bomb was dropped.

Japan’s Foreign Ministry invited Lykketoft to deepen his understanding of the devastation caused by the atomic bombing, ahead of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly beginning Sept. 15. It was his second visit to the city.

Lykketoft, from Denmark, told reporters that he will do everything he can to get nuclear powers to the negotiating table to pursue the elimination of nuclear weapons. Earlier in the day, he offered flowers at a memorial cenotaph for atomic bomb victims at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. He also visited a museum in the park where items left after the attack, such as a scorched lunchbox and burnt girl’s school uniform, are displayed.

He held a meeting with Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo on Monday, the first day of his trip through Wednesday. Lykketoft served as foreign minister and finance minister in Denmark before being elected in June as president of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.—Kyodo News

Professor allegedly leaks bar exam questions, prompts criminal probe

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

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

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

The case came to light just before the Tuesday announcement of the exam results. The student was among the 8,016 people who took the exam, but the ministry decided to remove her from grading.

She is the only person who received the leaked in-

formation, from Aoyagi, the ministry said. She will be barred from taking the same exam for five years.

“It is truly regrettable,” Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa said at a press conference. “We take this seriously and will set up a working team to get to the bottom of this.”

The ministry said another exam committee member, whose field is the Constitution, brought the possible leak to its attention, saying the student could not have formed the answers she did without a certain amount of leaked information.

Appointed by the minister, Aoyagi was one of 130 part-time government officials in charge of preparing questions and grading for this year’s examination.

A constitutional scholar who has written a number of books and papers, Aoyagi is one of the star professors at the university’s Graduate School of Law and had served as a member of the ministry’s bar exam committee since 2002, according to people who know him.

Last year, a total of 365 students from the university’s law school took the na-

tional examination, with 63 of them passing. The passing rate was 17.26 percent, lower than the overall rate of 22.58 percent.

In 2007, a then Keio University professor involved in preparation of bar exam questions was found to

have lectured to his students on subjects similar to those chosen for the national test. The incident led to reform of the test preparation process, barring question-preparing professors from teaching their students for certain periods.—Kyodo News



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

Pacific island nations unsatisfied with Australia, NZ action on climate change

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

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

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

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

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

“I think it’s appropriate for (Abbott) to face a cold shoulder,

because he’s dealing with cultures and nations and people facing an existential threat and he’s not treating them respectfully or responsibly,” Titter said.

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

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

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

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

“However, the two ‘big brothers’ of the Pacific have largely ignored their neighbors’ calls for stronger emissions reduction targets and greater support to meet the challenges of climate change,” said Szoke.

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

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

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

US seeks early accord with Japan on mutual military logistic support

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

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

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

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

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is seeking to get the controver-

sial legislation enacted during the current Diet session through Sept. 27. The bills are now under deliberation in the upper chamber of the Diet after passing the lower house in July.

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

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

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

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

Kyodo News

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2 current, former Osaka police officers nabbed over gang rape

OSAKA — A current and a former officer of the Osaka prefectural police have been arrested on suspicion of gang-raping and confining a woman in her 20s, the police said Monday.

The suspects were identified as Daisuke Umemoto, a 36-year-old sergeant in the criminal investigation division at Mino Police Station, and Yu Mizobata, a 32-year-old former officer living in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture.

Umemoto and Mizobata are alleged to have conspired with several others in gang-raping a female acquaintance of Mizobata at a hotel in Osaka city on Dec. 17, 2014, and confining her there until she escaped the following morning.

Mizobata had solicited conspirators on an Internet bulletin board two weeks before the alleged rape, according to investigators. He was arrested on Aug. 31. Umemoto's alleged involvement surfaced as the police investigated the case, they said. Umemoto has admitted to the allegation, saying that the victim had not consented to sex, while Mizobata has partially denied the allegation, saying the woman was able to escape, according to the police. Mizobata left the police in March 2013 as a senior officer at Shijonawate Police Station after the police took disciplinary action against him for having an inappropriate relationship with a woman.

The victim had intend-

ed to meet with Mizobata at the hotel in person. After escaping from the hotel, she consulted with a hospital in Osaka Prefecture but did not report the case to the police until May. She has said she was raped by about six men, according to the police.

Umemoto and Mizobata were among the about 700 personnel who joined the prefectural police in April 2006. But Mizobata has told investigators that he had not met with Umemoto prior to the alleged crime.

"I remember his name because I added it to the contact list on my mobile phone as a participant, but he is not my acquaintance," Mizobata was quoted by the police as telling investigators.—Kyodo News



A car carrying Daisuke Umemoto (C in back seat), a 36-year-old sergeant in the criminal investigation division at Mino Police Station, leaves the Osaka prefectural police headquarters on Sept. 8, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

Colombia seizes over 3.7 million US dollars worth of fake money

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

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

The police also captured five people, including the ring leader, along with the fake money, which included 2.3 million euros, 1.1 million US dollars and 11 million Colombian pesos (around 3,600 US dollars).—Xinhua



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

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

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

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

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

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th September, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

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

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

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

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

He and Shimon Peres — his then foreign minister and later Israel’s president — knew they were targets, Gitai told Reuters at the festival,

where his film is in competition for the top Lion d’Or prize to be awarded on Saturday.

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

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

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

Rally participants hold up posters showing Rabin dressed like PLO leader Yasser Arafat in a traditional Arab keffiyeh headdress, or caricatured as a

member of the Nazi Gestapo.

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

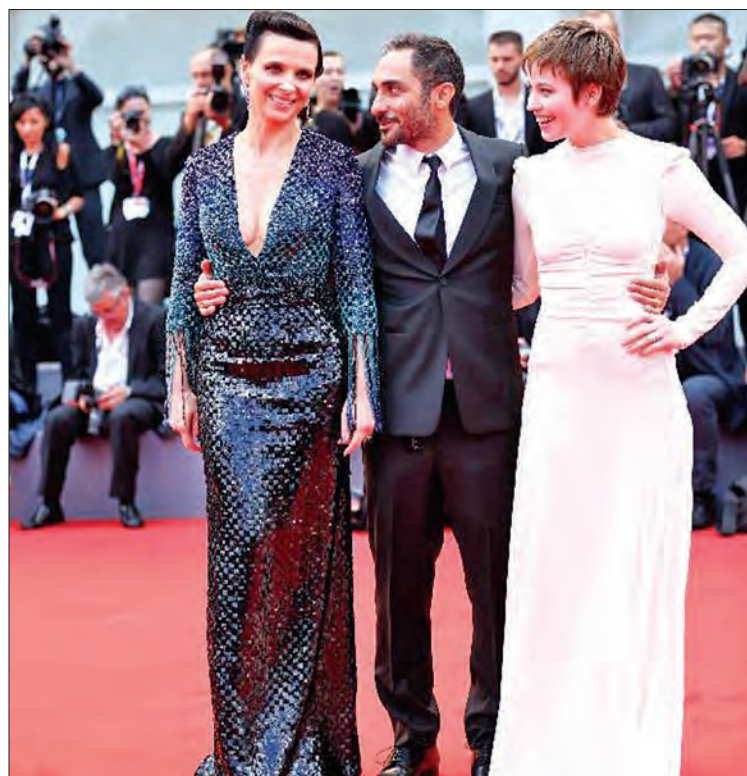
Gitai said his film will not set to rest persistent theories in Israel that the right arranged Rabin’s assassination, or that the left did it to discredit the right.

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

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

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

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



French actresses Juliette Binoche (L) and Lou de Laage (R) pose with director Piero Messina during the red carpet event for the movie “L’Attesa” (The Wait) at the 72nd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Sept. 5, 2015. —XINHUA

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

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

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

Binoche won an Oscar for best supporting actress for her work in *The English Patient* (1996) and received an Oscar nomination for best actress for *Chocolat* (2000).

She received three Golden Globes nominations and won the best actress award at the Venice

(1993) and Cannes (2010) film festivals.

In the feature film *L’attesa*, by debut director Piero Messina, showing at the Venice film festival, Binoche plays the role of a mother who doesn’t want to admit her son has died and instead waits for him with his girlfriend in an old Sicilian villa. Binoche said: “When I read the script and met with Piero, I saw a great director, and felt it would be exciting to work with somebody new.” The subject and the character were interesting for Binoche.

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

China box office revenue hits \$4.7 billion, speeds past 2014 total

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

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

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

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

Box office receipts in the

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

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

ported SARFT as saying.

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

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



Children watch a 3D war movie at a community theatre in Hefei, Anhui province, March 29, 2015. Picture taken March 29, 2015. —REUTERS

Film supporting Japan dolphin hunts draws mixed reaction

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

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

Yagi, who called for “un-

derstanding differences in food cultures and religions,” filmed the documentary in the Japanese town of Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture, questioning the Oscar-winning 2009 US film “The Cove,” which criticized fishermen in the town for capturing dolphins in drive hunts.

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

“Japanese people tend not to argue back (even if criticized) but we can win understanding by sending out messages,” Yagi told the around 160 people who watched her first film.

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

Taiji whale museum quits Japan aquarium body over dolphin hunt ban

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

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

The season for Taiji drive hunting, which is approved by the prefectural government of Wakayama, started this month, with an annual quota set by the national government.

The museum says it will continue to obtain dolphins caught by the method despite the ban, imposed after the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums threatened to expel JAZA.

"We maintain our position that (the drive hunts) are conducted appropriately," said Tetsuo Kiriha, deputy chief of the museum, which keeps around 40 dolphins and small-sized whales captured by drive hunts.—Kyodo News

Whale entangled in fishing wire in California spotted in Mexican waters

LOS ANGELES — A blue whale that was spotted last week entangled in fishing wire off the Southern California coast might have moved hundreds of miles south to Mexico, still towing a line and a red buoy, officials said on Monday.

The US Coast Guard said a vessel reported seeing a blue whale tangled in fishing line near the Coronado Islands, off the coast of Mexico just south of the California border, according to Jim Milbury, a spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

Last week, a blue whale was

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

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

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

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

Fowler wins Deutsche Bank as Stenson has late double-bogey

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

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

Fowler finished at 15-under 269, while Swede Stenson (70) claimed second on 14-under after finding a hazard with his tee shot at the par-three 16th.

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

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

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

Unlike his late-round birdie binges at the Players Championship and Scottish Open, a steady bogey-free back nine got the job



Sep 7, 2015; Norton, MA, USA; Rickie Fowler holds the Deutsche Bank Championship trophy after winning the tournament at TPC of Boston.—REUTERS

done for Fowler this time.

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

"I obviously pulled the wrong club out at 16," Stenson said.

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

"I'm a little disappointed, but all in all the game is headed in the right direction."

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

"I'm a sneaky fourth," Fowler

er said, referring to fellow American Jordan Spieth, Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy and Australian Jason Day.

Spieth, despite missing the cut, regained the world number one ranking, one week after being displaced by McIlroy.

"Those three have been playing some pretty insane golf with what Jordan did earlier this year, with Rory playing really well for a couple of years and made his number one status for a while, and what Jason has been doing with some big wins of late," Fowler said. "I'm just trying to sneak in as maybe the fourth member."—Reuters

Oil train risks affect many US schools, group says

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

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

case of crashes.

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

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

They say oil train speeds should be made even slower, even though many trains crawl through some neighborhoods, and that older cars should be tak-

en off the rails right away.

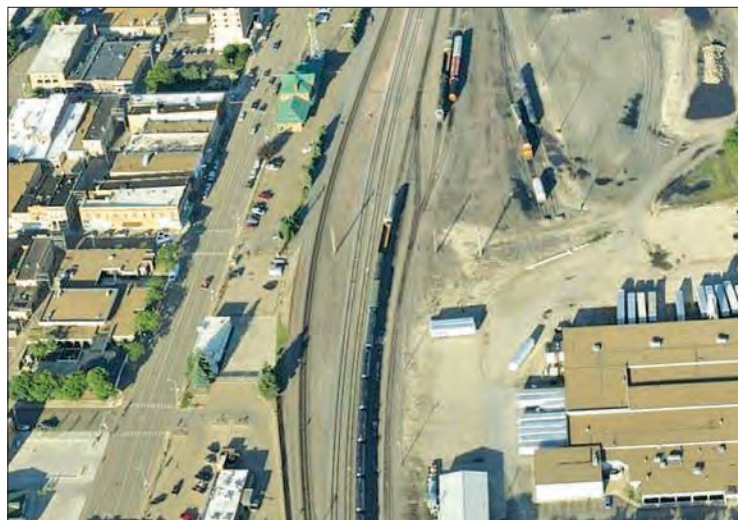
They also want railroads to make public where and when they are running trains with toxic substances so local emergency responders can better prepare for accidents.

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

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

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

And the amount of oil leaving North Dakota by rail has fallen as new pipelines get built. Pipes now carry around 41 percent of North Dakota's oil, up from a third last summer, according to the state, which produces about 1.2 million barrels per day. Houston, a center of the US refining and chemicals industry, topped the list of cities with schools in the blast zone at 267.—Reuters



An oil train is seen in Dickinson, North Dakota June 26, 2015.—REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(9-9-2015 07:00 am~10-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

- 07:03 Am News
- 07:26 Am Image Of The Monks
- 07:42 Am A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-1)
- 08:03 Am News
- 08:27 Am Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Win Pe Myint
- 08:39 Am Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry
- 09:03 Am News
- 09:26 Am Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar
- 09:37 Am The Caves
- 09:52 Am Inspiration
- 10:03 Am News
- 10:27 Am Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
- 10:42 Am Pictures Decorated With Seashells And Gemstones
- 10:54 Am Kid's Home

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

- 07:03 Pm News
- 07:25 Pm A Trip To The City Of Rakkhita, Rakhine
- 07:49 Pm Today Myanmar: Election 2015
- 08:03 Pm News
- 08:26 Pm Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
- 08:42 Pm Up Against The Tide

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

New Zealand vs Myanmar football match raises K163 million for flood

YANGON — A fundraising football match between Myanmar and New Zealand raised more than K163 million (US\$133,000) on 7 September, with funds to be donated to flood-hit communities in Myanmar.

Myanmar's national football team drew 1-1 against New Zealand in the match held at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna.

Myanmar Football Federation collected more than K43 million (US\$33,737) in ticket sales, while another US\$5,000 was donated by spectators. MFF Patron Aung Ko Win and MFF President U Zaw Zaw each donated K30 million (US\$23,500), while the head of the Fundraising Match Organising Committee U Hla Htay donated K20 million (\$15,600) and U Htet Naing Win, managing director of Rose Rood Company Ltd donated K10 million. Myanmar Golden Rock (Canon) company donated US\$5,000. Arrangements for distributing the funds across flood-affected areas are now underway.—GNLM

Cricket course for Lower Myanmar completed

Ko Moe

YANGON — A cricket coaching and umpiring course jointly conducted by the Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Education and Myanmar Cricket Federation came to an end on 8 September.

Trainers from the federation gave lectures on techniques and cricket rules to 20 teachers from basic education in Lower Myanmar during the six-day course held at Yangon's Aung San

Stadium, which began on 3 September.

"The federation is conducting training courses as part of its goal to encourage broader participation in the sport ahead of the upcoming National Sports Festival," U Michael Kyaw Min of the federation said.

MCF launched the same course in Upper Myanmar in May this year and will continue to provide annual cricket courses for youths.—GNLM



An official of Myanmar Cricket Federation presents completion certificate to a trainee in coaching and umpiring course for cricket sports.—TUN AUNG KYAW

Messi, Tevez look set to renew partnership five years on

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

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

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

Atletico Madrid's Correa, who made his debut against Bolivia, Messi and Tevez were all substitutes on Friday.

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

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

Mueller's Germany double puts Scots on the rocks

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

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

Ireland, who beat Georgia 1-0 and next face Germany in October, are third with 15 points. Scotland have 11 following their second defeat in four days.

The top two automatically reach the finals in France. Mueller underlined his fine form, he has scored five times in three Bundesliga games this season, by netting in the 18th minute with a deflected effort.

The red-hot forward added his second

with a close-range header after Scotland had levelled with a Mats Hummels own goal.

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

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



Football - Scotland v Germany - UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifying Group D - Hampden Park, Glasgow, Scotland - 7/9/15 Thomas Muller celebrates with team mates after scoring the first goal for Germany.—REUTERS

Anderson stuns Murray, Federer in quarters

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

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

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

Seven times before the six-foot, eight-inch (2.03m) Anderson had progressed to the fourth round of a grand slam but never beyond until his 7-6(5), 6-3, 6-7(2), 7-6(0) victory over third seeded Scot Murray.

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

"Also to lose a match like that, that was over four hours, tough obviously after a couple of tough matches earlier in the tournament, as well. It's a hard one to

lose, for sure."

Second seed Federer also came face-to-face with one of the ATP Tour's biggest hitters and coolly defused six-foot, 10-inch (2.08m) Isner's booming serve to claim a 7-6(0), 7-6(6), 7-5 victory.

Federer held his own from the service line to thwart Isner, never losing his serve, and used his returning skills to derail a pair of long streaks enjoyed by the American.

The 34-year-old Federer closed out the two hour, 39 minute fourth-round match by breaking Isner's serve, ending the American's string of 108 consecutive service holds at the US Open.

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

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

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

Waiting for the Romanian in the last eight is two-time US Open finalist Victoria Azarenka, who advanced with a comfortable 6-3, 6-4 win over American Varvara Lepchenko. After a couple of days of relief, the heat returned to Flushing Meadows turning the fourth round clash between Halep and Lisicki into a test of survival.—Reuters