THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Government invites Wa and Mongla groups to sign ceasefire

Wa Special Region 2 and Mongla Special Region 4 welcome the nationwide ceasefire agreement.—MNA

THE government has invited Wa and Mongla groups to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Accord, which is slated to be inked during the first week of October.

A peace delegation sent by President U Thein Sein extended an invitation to sign the historic peace deal to Wa Special Region 2 and Mongla Special Region 4 during a meeting in Kengtung in Shan State on Saturday.

The delegation was led by U Aung Min and U Thein Zaw, who are both vice chairs of the Union Peace-Making Working Committee. The president had instruction the delegation to clarify the NCA to the two leaders of the special regions.

U Pauk Yu Yi, Vice General Secretary of Wa Special Region 2 and U Sai Lin, Chairman of Mongla Special Region 4, in Kengtung, also attended the meeting. The delegation conveyed a message on behalf of President U Thein Sein and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing that both the government and the country's armed forces are keen to see the two armed groups participate in the upcoming signing.

The peace delegation held out the olive branch to Wa Special Region 2 and Mongla Special Region 4, inviting to sign in the nationwide ceasefire pact in order to participate in the political dialogue, which will follow the signing of the accord. The nationwide ceasefire represents a critical first step for achieving long-lasting peace, while political dialogue is the only means to solve the root causes of armed conflicts in Myanmar, U Thein Zaw said.

Wa Special Region 2 and Mongla Special Region 4 released a joint statement after the meeting to say that they welcomed the signing of a nationwide ceasefire accord and pledged to continue to engage in constructive negotiations with the government.—*GNLM*

Framework for political dialogue to be discussed

File photo of trilateral peace-talks at Myanmar Peace Centre in the last week of September, 2014.—PO HTAUNG

YANGON — A meeting will be held on 14 September to discuss developing a common framework for political dialogue after the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, which is expected to occur in early October.

The meeting will take place at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon and participants will discuss the formation of a joint committee which will come into existence after the peace accord is signed.

Informal talks on establishing a political framework have been held for five times, with ethnic armed groups and 56 political parties participating.

Vice Chairman of UPWC Union Minister U Aung Min will attend the high level meeting.

"It is expected to be attended by officials from the NLD, USDP and the Defence Services. Ethnic groups have demanded that the framework be developed within 60 days," said U Aung Naing Oo of the Myanmar Peace Centre. —*Ye Khoung Nyunt, Myat Thanda Maung*

Low pressure persists over Bay of Bengal

A low-pressure zone is persisting over the northwestern and west central Bay of Bengal, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (MHD) said on Sunday.

The bureau has forecast occasional squalls with moderate seas offshore and along the coast of Myanmar coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 to 40 miles per hour, according to an observation carried out at 3:30pm.

Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Rakhine and Mon states are likely to see isolated heavy showers on Monday, the weather bureau said.

Myanmar has been seeing low potential for floods in recent days and the southern-western monsoon is drawing back from northern Myanmar, said Dr Tun Lwin, the ex-director-general of MHD.

Water levels at some rivers are likely to reach below danger levels in the next couple of days, said the country's prominent weather expert.—*GNLM*

Areas received heavy fall.

Low flood potential.

PHOTO: NASA

Myawady District's Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo presents K4.53 million profits for members of Government Employees Cooperative Society through an official.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Government Employees Cooperative Society general meeting held

MYAWADY — The Government Employees Cooperative Society of Myawady District held its annual meeting for the 2014-15 financial on 12 September.

The chair of GEC's Board of Directors U Ye Win, District's Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and Staff Officer U Naing Oo of the township Cooperative Department encouraged relevant authorities to provide more loans to agriculture and livestock businesses. Loans of K100,000 were disbursed to 220 society members during the meeting.

The society's financial reports were also read out at the meeting, which took place at Thaungyin City Hall.

The society fetched a profit of K4.53 million over the 2014-15 financial year. A new board of directors was elected for the 2015-16 financial year during the meeting. The society has 677 members with 945 shares totalling K14.17 million (US$11,000).—*Htein Lin Aung – Myawady IPRD*

Student essay contest held in Tatkon

TATKON — No (1) Basic Education High School of Tatkon held an Essay Contest, on 13 September morning, under the guidance of Patron Dr Than Oo of Pyinyatasaung Magazine.

Sixty-three students from fourth and fifth grades at 50 basic education schools in Tatkon Township, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, participated in the competition.

The first, second and third place winners were invited to send their essays attached to the curriculum vitaes to Pyinyatasaung Magazine for consideration, according to the township education office.

The magazine conducted the essay contest with the aim of enhancing skills of basic education students.—*Tin Soe Lwin-Tatkon IPRD*

Fourth and fifth grade students in Tatkon Township sit for essay exam organized by Pyinnayasaung Magazine.—Tin Soe Lwin-Tatkon IPRD

Commander of Myawady District Police Force Police Lt-Col Moe Nyo presents first prize to a winner student in the essay, painting and cartoon contest to mark the Myanmar's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day. —Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)

Myawady Tsp marks Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

MYAWADY — Township authorities organized a ceremony to mark Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day at Thaungyin Hall on 13 September. The deputy commissioner of the district spoke on the occasion while Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Moe Nyo read the message sent by Vice President U Nyan Tun on the occasion. District and township officials presented prizes to the winners in the essay, painting and cartoon contests. After the prize presentation, township and district officials viewed prize winning works of students.— *Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)*

Meiktila observes Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

MEIKTILA — Meiktila observed Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day on 13 September, with an event held at No. 1 Basic Education High School.

District Deputy Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon gave the opening speech, while Police Captain Myo Lwin of Meiktila Anti-Human Trafficking Police Squad explained the activities that are being undertaken to prevent human trafficking and bring perpetrators to justice.

Students who won the poster, essay, painting, poem, and painting contests in commemoration of the day, were presented with prizes from the district's Hluttaw representatives and local authorities.—*Chan Thar-Meiktila*

New school and road for Tatkon township

TATKON — A new road and a new school are being built in Yeaye Village in Tatkon Township at a cost of K40 million (US$31,000), as provided by the Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and the World Bank.

Another 165 projects are ongoing in Tatkon Township, with each aimed at benefiting the local communities. Projects include building roads and bridges and improving water and electricity supplies, as well as strengthening existing infrastructure, with the total budget for the first fiscal year being K1.78 billion (US$1.38 billion) for the township's 186 villages. The people-centred project, as it is known, will last four years and prioritises input given by villagers about their needs, with decisions made by the village working committee requiring villagers' approval.

The ministry has provided training to committee members and funding allotments are determined by the local populace.

Tin Soe Lwin-Tatkon IPRD

A school building under construction in Tatkon Township with K40 million fund of Rural Development Department.—Tin Soe Lwin-Tatkon IPRD

President inspects flood prevention measures in Aphyauk

President U Thein Sein cordially meets local residents near Hinthada embankment in Zalun.—IPRD

NAY PYI TAW — President U Thein Sein inspected flood prevention measures in the town of Aphyauk in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region, on Sunday.

The president said that he understands the concerns of local residents, whose livelihoods and safety is threatened each year by the possibility of floods. He pledged to improve Ayeyawady River's waterway system as a means of assuaging these worries and said that experts would be consulted in regards to preventing river bank erosion.

Plans are underway to extend the existing height of the stone embankment by another five feet, which will provide better protection for the town's residents and the tens of thousands of acres of farmland.

President U Thein Sein also toured the Uto plantation in Taikkyi township before proceeding to Inwa monastery, where he paid homage to the presiding Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. He offered a donation of Buddha statues and solar lamps to flood victims, which will be distributed by the Sayadaw.

He also visited the Loka Mahn Aung Buddha Image and a chamber containing stone slabs inscribed with Buddhist scripture. The 98-year-old chamber holds 720 stones.

President U Thein Sein also visited the Man Aung Myin Buddha Image in Zalun, where he spoke to visitors and gave out Buddha images as gifts.—*MNA*

Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day observed in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW — Myanmar observed Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day on Sunday for the third consecutive year.

This year's theme was 'Shared Responsibility for Anti-Trafficking in Persons" and an address was given by Vice President U Nyan Tun.

Myanmar identified human trafficking as a matter of national concern in 1997, with the Preventive Working Committee for Trafficking in Persons established on 17 July 2002.

In 2003, the Federation of Myanmar Women's Affairs stepped up its mission in the fight against human trafficking by means of prevention, legal action and rehabilitation for victims. The mission launched mobile education campaigns to raise awareness of human trafficking in rural areas.

The government has been working in cooperation with ASEAN countries, as well as Australia and countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The vice president said that the anti-trafficking in persons law was promulgated on 13 September 2005, with the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons coming into existence the following year.

An anti-human trafficking police unit was set up in 2013 and the country laid down its first five-year plan for action to combat human trafficking in 2007. The second five-year plan is about to enter its fourth year.

Vice President U Nyan Tun views photos and prize winning works at Anti-Human Trafficking Day ceremony.—MNA

The vice president pointed out the need to create heightened levels of cooperation with international organisations and civil society groups to curbing trafficking. He recommend that stakeholders set up a fund for the victims of human trafficking.—*MNA*

What they stand for: campaigns aired

Campaign speeches were broadcast by the 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar), Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics and National Political Alliances League on Sunday.

88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar)

Chairman U Ye Tun said that the party stands for a true union system, sovereignty, a multiparty democracy, a free market economy, peace and development. He pledged his party's commitment to the emergence of a new era of national politics in which the entire population can take part.

Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics

Chairman U Aye Lwin said that the party believes in independent nationalism, equality, justice, liberty and a genuine multiparty democracy. He said the party is opposed to anything that undermines the national interest.

National Political Alliances League

General Secretary U Kyaw Thu Aung said that his party's aims include building a peaceful and modern nation and the subtle emergence of a government that rules constitutionally. The party also stands for liberty, equality and justice, establishing national solidarity through mutual trust, respect and recognition. The party also believes in cooperation with Myanmar's defence services and is theoretically opposed to western sanctions.—*GNLM*

ELECTION COUNTDOWN
Make your voice count. Cast your vote.
55 DAYS

Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW — MRTV, Hluttaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from Chin National Democratic Party, Wunthanu Democratic Party and Modern People Party on 15 September and 15 October.—*GNLM*

Voice commanded elevators arrive Myanmar

YANGON — Voice commanded elevators made by Kleemann Company of Greece, have reached developing Myanmar, first among ASEAN countries. The high-tech lifts are sold in over 120 countries around the world.

The elevators are produced in seven countries including Britain, Germany, Turkey, Russia and China. The products vary from home lifts, building lifts, cargo lifts, car parking lifts, 30 degree tainted and 35 degree tainted escalators and low, medium, and high speed elevators.

The most suitable elevators for Myanmar are elevators for 20-storied buildings which are priced at USD 25000 to 50000, depending on the story and frame. The under-USD 25000 elevators would depend on the construction of the rooms.—*Soe Win (SP)*

China considers special fund for China-ASEAN Internet cooperation: minister

Lu Wei, minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China speaks at the China-ASEAN Information Harbor Forum opening ceremony in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region on September 13, 2015. XINHUA

NANNING — China will set up a special fund for Internet and telecommunications infrastructure to link China and ASEAN members, said Lu Wei, minister of the State Council's Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC).

Lu made the remarks on Sunday during the China-ASEAN Information Harbor Forum in Nanning, capital city of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, to discuss building IT infrastructure to connect China and Southeast Asia.

Lu said the fund will boost the technology levels in the region and promote the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

According to China's plan, a base for the China-ASEAN Information Harbor will be established in Nanning, consisting of 34 projects worth 20.9 billion yuan (3.3 billion US dollars).

There is still a huge digital gap between developing Asia and the Western world. A total of 700 million Chinese and 400 million people in Southeast Asia today have no access to the Internet, Lu Wei said.

Accelerated infrastructure construction will bring about closer and more efficient cooperation for sharing information on finance, education, scientific research, health care and disaster prevention and relief, he said.

Cooperation cannot exist without sharing information, Lu said. The fund will play a vital role in breaking information barriers and closing the knowledge gap.

The two-day forum seeks to strengthen cooperation between governments, companies, and scholars in the fields of e-commerce, Internet security and cultural industries.

The event is jointly hosted by the CAC, National Development and Reform Commission of China and the government of Guangxi as part of the annual China-ASEAN Expo.—*Xinhua*

Vietnam leader eyes enhanced security ties ahead of Japan visit

HANOI — Vietnamese Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong, meeting Saturday with Japanese reporters ahead of his four-day visit to Japan from Tuesday, called for enhanced bilateral cooperation in such areas as defense and security.

In response to questions earlier submitted by Kyodo News, Trong also thanked Japan for being Vietnam's biggest aid benefactor and sought its continued help, particularly in developing his country's infrastructure as it strives to turn itself into a modern industrial nation.

"Vietnam looks forward to the continued high influx of ODA (official development assistance) from Japan, especially into infrastructure and human resources development, development of advanced industry and agriculture, response to climate change and environmental challenges, as well as economic management capacity building," he said, while also seeking expanded Japanese investment in such areas as hi-tech and supporting industries.

Trong's visit, in which he will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, will be his first to Japan since becoming general secretary of the ruling party in 2011.

The party chief noted that when Vietnamese President Truong Tang Sang visited Japan and met with Abe in March last year, the two countries upgraded their ties to an "Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia."

He said bilateral cooperation has expanded, mutual trust has been consolidated and economic ties continue to grow strongly, especially in terms of ODA, foreign direct investment, trade and tourism.

"Building upon that momentum, Vietnam would like its partnership with Japan to further deepen with greater efficiency and effectiveness in all areas, especially in the economic domain," he said.

The two countries, Trong said, "need to raise the effectiveness of cooperation in education and training, science and technology, culture, tourism, labor and people-to-people exchange environmental protection disaster preparedness, climate change response, as well as in defense and security."—*Kyodo News*

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Japan, China, S Korea to cooperate in ensuring stable food supply

TOKYO — Japan, China and South Korea agreed Sunday to enhance cooperation in ensuring stable food supply as they wrapped up a meeting of farm ministers that was held for the first time in nearly three and a half years.

In a joint statement adopted during the two-day meeting, the three countries, which are all net importers of food items, said, "We shared the view that sustainably increasing domestic production capacity is very important for our food security."

Touching on the stalled negotiations on a trilateral free trade agreement in the farm sector, the three countries said it is "indispensable for our agricultural development to accelerate" the FTA talks while "considering various concerns and interests of each country."

The latest meeting resumed ministerial dialogue on agriculture between Japan and its two neighbors that had been suspended since April 2012 amid disputes over perceptions of history and territory.

To flesh out the measures stipulated in the joint statement, the three countries decided to launch a senior officials' meeting. They also agreed to hold the next three-way farm ministerial meeting in China.

According to the statement and a memorandum of cooperation signed by the three countries to respond to trans-boundary animal diseases, they also agreed to work together to counter infectious diseases affecting livestock through such steps as joint research on migratory birds and movements of people to track down infection routes. In Asia, a series of outbreaks of bird flu and foot-and-mouth disease have been reported. Japanese Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said the meeting was able to produce "major results," pointing to the memorandum on animal disease response and the establishment of a working-level meeting.

His South Korean counterpart Lee Dong Phil said the trilateral cooperation has become more concrete than the first meeting in April 2012, while Chinese vice farm minister Chen Xiaohua said convening the meeting itself was "extremely significant."

In bilateral sessions held on the sidelines of the three-way meeting, Japan urged the two countries to lift bans imposed on imports of Japanese agricultural and marine products after the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex disaster, which has resulted in a massive release of radioactive material to the environment.

But there was no progress on the issue, according to Japanese officials.—*Kyodo News*

Singapore PM to form Cabinet over next two weeks

SINGAPORE — After a landslide victory in the general election by his party, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said late Saturday that he will form the Cabinet over the next two weeks.

The People's Action Party, led by Lee, won the election with 69. 86 percent of the popular votes, the highest since 2001's landslide victory of 75.3 percent.

One of Lee's urgent affairs is to decide who will assume the post of transport minister in the new Cabinet, as former Transport Minister Lui Tuck Yew decided not to contest the general election just before the election period. Transportation is a major issue during the election. Singapore' s metro system experienced a massive breakdown in July this year at peak hours on two of its major lines, affecting over 200,000 commuters.

"And so today we are reaping the fruits of work done by previous transport ministers, like Mr Lui Tuck Yew who has done a good job over the last four years. Some of the results are showing now but some of the results will not show for five, 10 (or) 15 years to come. So it's a very demanding job but I will find somebody," Lee said, adding that he still hasn't made a final decision.

Talking about how the government will interact with its people, Lee encourages Singaporeans, especially the young, to participate in diverse social issues such as social welfare and education in a more active way.

"Young people in particular have very diverse interests — some are interested in animals, pet welfare, some in people, some in education, some in arts. And we encourage them to get involved in all these and the government will work directly with them," he said.—*Xinhua*

PICTURE OF THE DAY

Children in traditional costumes are elevated as they participate in a folk performance during a non-material cultural heritage festival in Longhui county, Hunan province, China, September 13, 2015.—Reuters

India police hunt for owner of explosives after blast kills 88

NEW DELHI — Indian police said on Sunday they were hunting for the owner of illegally stored explosives which accidentally detonated in the centre of a crowded town, killing at least 88 people.

Rajendra Kaswa has been charged with illegally storing gelatin sticks and urea, a common fertiliser, next to a restaurant and busy junction in the town of Petlawad in central India, a senior police official and the divisional commissioner Sanjay Dubey said.

"He is on the run. One of his accomplices has already been arrested. He has been charged under the Explosives Act," Dubey told Reuters by telephone from the site of Saturday's blast, one of the deadliest in India in recent years.

Police initially thought the accident was triggered by an exploding gas cylinder in the restaurant, which then detonated the explosives next door, but officers now believe it originated in the warehouse next to the restaurant where Kaswa stored explosive materials and chemicals.

Kaswa held a licence for the explosives but keeping them so close to a restaurant in a densely populated part of town was illegal, senior police official Seema Alava said.

At least 88 people were killed in the explosions as the multi-storey restaurant and adjacent buildings collapsed, sending debris hurtling into the streets during the morning rush hour.

Television footage showed bodies strewn across the ground amid mangled motorbikes and chunks of concrete. Police said they had since removed all the bodies from the scene.

More than 100 were injured in the blasts.

The chief minister of Madhya Pradesh state arrived at the scene on Sunday where his convoy was blocked by angry locals waving black flags, the Times of India reported.

Local media have said residents previously complained about the location of the explosives but authorities failed to act. The state government said a full probe into the explosions would be carried out, while officials from New Delhi have been dispatched to help with the investigation.—*Reuters*

People stand near the site of an explosion in Jhabua district at Madhya Pradesh, India, September 12, 2015.—Reuters

3,000 residents of Japanese city of Joso remain evacuated after floods

TOKYO — Over 3,000 residents of the eastern Japan city of Joso remained evacuated Sunday after flood waters from unprecedented rainfall last week inundated vast residential areas and damaged critical infrastructure including power, communication and drinking water supply systems.

With a total of seven deaths confirmed, including three in neighboring Tochigi Prefecture, police and rescuers continued to search by air and on the ground for 15 people still missing.

Work was under way to restore power and water service. Tokyo Electric Power Co, the utility serving the area, said it had crews working around the clock to fix power outages.

As of Saturday night, about 11,200 homes in Joso were still without power and some 11,600 buildings in eastern parts of the city were without clean water, according to Tokyo Electric and the Ibaraki prefectural government. But it was not known how long it will take to restore water supply, according to the municipal government of Joso, a city of 65,100 located about 50 kilometers north of central Tokyo.

Volunteers provided various kinds of support to evacuees at shelters, while residents of areas where waters had receded returned home to begin the cleanup.

The Kinugawa River burst its banks Thursday due to heavy rain, leading to flooding over an estimated 40 square kilometers.

The disaster has claimed the lives of seven people. In Tochigi Prefecture, also hit by severe floods, local officials said the body of Osamu Ogura, 68, was found Sunday morning in a car submerged in a flooded field in the town of Fujioka. Local police said he had drowned. Ogura had not been reported missing.

The Ibaraki police, meanwhile, reported that the bodies of two men had been found in Joso around midday. The police are checking their identities, cause of death and whether they had been reported among those unaccounted for. Floods also ravaged other eastern areas and parts of northeastern regions.—*Kyodo News*

Confucius family tree to include more descendants

JINAN — More descendants of Chinese philosopher Confucius will have a chance to be recorded in the thinker's genealogical record books, believed to be the world's largest.

Kong Deyong, a 77th-generation descendant of the revered Chinese philosopher, and chief compiler of the family tree, said on Sunday that compilers have started updating the records in Qufu, Shandong Province, and descendants may inquire and register at any time.

"At least an additional 600,000 descendants of Confucius will be included," he said, adding that the latest revision also represents a change to an old rule that the books may only be revised every 30 or 60 years. The new additions are mainly ethnic minority members, women and people living overseas who are blood descendants of Confucius whose names had not been included in the family tree. "The lives and stories of renowned descendants will be included in the records to educate the younger generation," he said.—*Xinhua*

US, Chinese officials meet on cyber security issues : White House

WASHINGTON — Senior US and Chinese officials concluded four days of meetings on Saturday on cyber security and other issues, ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Washington later this month, the White House said.

Cyber security has been a divisive issue between Washington and Beijing, with the United States accusing Chinese hackers of attacks on US computers, a charge China denies.

US national security adviser Susan Rice had a "frank and open exchange about cyber issues" in her meeting this week with Meng Jianzhu, secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Chinese Communist Party, the White House said in a statement.

The Chinese delegation also had meetings with Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey and representatives from the Justice, State and Treasury departments and the intelligence community, the statement said.

President Barack Obama said last month he would raise concerns about China's cyber security behavior when he meets with Xi in Washington.

The Obama administration is considering targeted sanctions against Chinese individuals and companies for cyber attacks against US commercial targets, several US officials have said.

Chinese hackers have also been implicated in the massive hacking of the US government's personnel office disclosed this year. Two breaches of security clearance applications exposed the personal data of more than 20 million federal employees.—*Reuters*

Germany's Merkel sees need to cooperate with Russia on Syria

BERLIN — Germany and other western European powers need to work with Russia as well as the United States to solve the crisis in Syria, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday.

Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier met with his Russian, French and Ukrainian counterparts in Berlin on Saturday evening and said afterwards he saw growing support for creating an international contact group to solve the Syrian conflict.

Earlier, a delegation source said Steinmeier and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had a lengthy exchange about Syria on the sidelines of the meeting, with both agreeing to support the UN Syrian envoy, Staffan de Mistura's plan to create a Syrian contact group.

De Mistura has invited warring parties to take part in UN-led working groups to address matters including political and constitutional issues, and military and security issues.

Russia had called on Friday for cooperation with the United States to avoid "unintended incidents", as it stages naval exercises off the coast of Syria, where US officials believe Moscow is building up forces to protect long-term ally President Bashar al-Assad.

Syrian state media said on Saturday two Russian planes carrying 80 tonnes of humanitarian aid arrived in Syria. Russia said on Friday it had been sending military equipment to help the Syrian government fight Islamic State. In an interview with regional German newspapers, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier warned Russia against going it alone in Syria, saying: "I hope that Russia is not depending on the Syrian civil war continuing."

Separately in a guest article for the New York Times, Steinmeier said the nuclear deal struck between Iran and six world powers had created an opportunity to tackle Syria's troubles, but he was concerned that the chance to make progress was fading.

"It would be folly to continue betting on a military solution," he said. "Now is the time to find a way to bring the parties to the negotiating table.

This must include preparatory talks with and among crucial regional actors like Saudi Arabia and Turkey, but also Iran."

US President Barack Obama said on Friday that Russia's escalated military involvement in Syria indicates Assad is worried and turning to Russian advisers for help. EU diplomats are concerned that Russian military support for Assad would counter any incentives to consider a political solution in the civil war.—*Reuters*

German Chancellor Angela Merkel gives a statement after her visit to a refugee camp near the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees at Berlin's Spandau district, Germany, September 10, 2015.—Reuters

Hillary Clinton's private emails may be recoverable: Wash Post

WASHINGTON — The company that managed Hillary Clinton's private email server said it has "no knowledge of the server being wiped," indicating that tens of thousands of emails Clinton said were deleted could be recovered, the Washington Post reported on Saturday.

Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, and her aides have said she deleted her personal emails from her time as secretary of state, but unless the server has been "wiped" experts say those 31,000 emails could be recovered, the Post reported.

A representative of the Clinton campaign could not immediately be reached for comment on the report.

The controversy over her use of an unsecured private server to conduct government business while America's top diplomat has cut into her lead in opinion polls for the Democratic nomination to run in the November 2016 election.

Denver-based company Platte River managed the server.

"Platte River has no knowledge of the server being wiped," company spokesman Andy Boian was quoted as saying by the Washington Post. "All the information we have is that the server wasn't wiped."

Republican Senators Charles Grassley and Ron Johnson, chairmen of the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees, respectively, said they would push for the deleted emails to be reviewed if they can be recovered, the Post said. On Tuesday, Clinton apologized for using a private server rather than the government system. Clinton has said she sent no information via email that was classified at the time and received no material marked that way.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is examining the server to see whether any information, including classified information, was mishandled.

The State Department, under a court order, has been releasing more than 30,000 Clinton work-related emails in monthly batches.—*Reuters*

Thousands more migrants on their way into Austria: police

VIENNA— Austrian authorities said they were expecting another wave of migrants and refugees coming over the border from Hungary on Sunday, after a brief lull in arrivals gave them a chance to restock reception centres.

Austria struggled last week to cope with thousands of people entering its territory, almost all of them on their way to Germany. The train link to Hungary has been closed since Thursday in a bid to stem the flow.

Only 50 people crossed the border early on Sunday morning, but Hungarian authorities had said more were on their way and numbers could climb to 500 an hour, a spokesman for the Austrian police said.

Based on recent experience, the Austrian authorities were expecting 6,000-8,000 new arrivals through the day, the spokesman added. Thousands of refugees, many of them fleeing the Syrian conflict, are crossing into Hungary, an eastern outpost of Europe's passport-free Schengen zone, every day.

Many are traveling on to the continent's more prosperous west and north in what is Europe's worst refugee crisis since the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

The police chief for Austria's Burgenland province, which borders Hungary, told ORF radio on Saturday a lull in arrivals had let the authorities clear backlogs and clean reception centers, but he expected more arrivals soon. Hungary plans to seal its southern frontier with a fence by Sept 15. Its police said 4,330 migrants were detained on Saturday, most of them near Roszke, on the border with Serbia.—*Reuters*

Migrants walk on a highway towards Vienna, near Nickelsdorf, Austria September 11, 2015.—Reuters

New leadership of UK's opposition Labour divided on defence policy

LONDON — The deputy leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party said on Sunday he would aim to convince new Labour boss Jeremy Corbyn of the merits of the NATO military alliance, addressing a split at the top of the party over defence and foreign policy.

Left-wing anti-war campaigner Corbyn, who was elected Labour leader in a decisive victory on Saturday, opposes the renewal of Britain's Trident nuclear-armed submarine programme and has advocated withdrawing from NATO.

"I need to be honest about where I stand on things, I think NATO has kept the peace in Europe for half a century," Tom Watson, who was elected deputy leader on Saturday, told the BBC.

"I would be very, very surprised if his (Corbyn's) mandate from most members is simply on the future of NATO," Watson said, adding that a decision over such policies could be put to Labour's members.

"I aim to convince him of the merits of NATO ... These things have got to be worked out."

Watson, who backs the renewal of Trident, also said he would definitely support Britain staying in the European Union at a referendum due by the end of 2017.

The rise of Corbyn, who voted 'No' to Europe in a 1975 referendum and has been ambiguous about how he plans to campaign in the upcoming vote, has raised fears among some British pro-Europeans that he will scupper the hopes of drawing millions of Labour voters in support of the EU.—*Reuters*

Exiled Yemeni government pulls out of planned peace talks

SANAA — Yemen's exiled government said on Sunday it would no longer attend UN-mediated peace talks with its Houthi adversaries.

Loyalists of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi have been battling the Iran-allied militia across the country since late March, when the group forced him and his administration to flee to Saudi Arabia.

A mainly Gulf Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia intervened in the conflict, mounting hundreds of air strikes on the Houthis and backing ground forces they hope will force the group accept an April UN Security Council resolution calling on them to recognise Hadi and quit Yemen's main cities. The Houthis took control of the capital Sanaa in September 2014.

"(The government) confirmed it would not take part in any meeting until the coup militia recognise international resolution 2216 and accepts to implement it unconditionally," the official state news agency Saba said.

Hailing the now-scuppered talks on Friday, the UN Security Council had urged the parties to refrain from preconditions and "unilateral actions".

Peace talks in June failed to end the fighting, which has brought the country to the brink of famine, killed more than 4,500 people and led to a security vacuum that has strengthened Al Qaeda's Yemen branch.

On Saturday night, a suspected US drone strike killed at least five al Qaeda fighters gathered inside a military base outside the eastern coastal city of Mukalla, local security officials said. The group has partly controlled Mukalla since the army withdrew from the area in April.

A mid-level commander in the organisation, Othman al-Sanaani, was killed in the strike, the sources said.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has carried out attacks against the Yemeni state for years of bomb, plotted to blow up US-bound airliners and claimed responsibility for a Januray attack in Paris on a French magazine that killed 12 people.—*Reuters*

Saudi Arabia blames winds for deadly crane collapse, opens investigation

A construction crane which crashed in the Grand Mosque is pictured in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia September 12, 2015.—Reuters

DUBAI — Saudi Arabia said on Saturday that stormy winds knocked over the crane which collapsed onto one of Islam's holiest shrines in Mecca and killed 107 people on Friday.

"Heavy rain and strong winds of unusually high speed led to the uprooting of trees, the fall of panels and the collapse of the crane," General Suleiman al-Amr, director general of the Civil Defence Authority, told Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV on Saturday.

The number of deaths may increase, al-Amr said. Many of the 238 people injured in the accident were only lightly wounded, he said.

Mecca's governor, Prince Khaled al-Faisal, has ordered an investigation into the incident, Al Arabiya said. Much of the city center is undergoing construction work and many high cranes crowd the skyline. The Grand Mosque itself is undergoing an expansion and renovation.

The disaster was the latest in a series of deadly mishaps to hit the haj, one of the world's largest religious gatherings, after hundreds of pilgrims died in a stampede in 2006.

Authorities have broadened access paths and imposed limits on the millions of Muslims who converge on Mecca to perform the annual rite in an attempt to reduce accidents.

An unnamed Saudi official involved in organizing the haj was quoted by Al Arabiya as saying the pilgrimage would go ahead as planned.

"The incident won't affect the haj pilgrimage this year and repairs to the damaged section (of the mosque) will begin within days," the official said.—*Reuters*

Police, Palestinians clash at Jerusalem holy site

JERUSALEM — Clashes broke out Sunday at al-Aqsa mosque complex in East Jerusalem after Israeli forces stormed in the compound, officials said.

Dozens of policemen entered the holy site and Palestinians hurled stones and fireworks at them, a police spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said the forces arrived in early morning to clear the way for Jewish visitors to the site ahead of the Jewish New Year, which will begin at sunset. Shortly afterward, Jewish hardliners entered the site, including far-right cabinet minister Uri Arial. Al-Aqsa is the third holiest site for Islam and located in the Temple Mount Haram al-Sharif site, which Jews revered as the site of their biblical temple.

Much religious and political tensions between Israel and Palestinians occurred around the holy compound, which frequently become a flashpoint for violence. Tensions have been on the rise since Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon last week outlawed two Muslim groups that have been protesting against visits by Israeli Jews to the compound.—*Xinhua*

'Islamic State' militants say attacked Pakistan-Afghan border post

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, (Pakistan) — Pakistan militants who have pledged allegiance to Islamic State said on Sunday they had attacked a paramilitary checkpoint along the Afghan border, in the first such assault claimed by a former faction of the Taliban in several months.

A militant affiliated with the faction told Reuters the group attacked Damadola district of the Bajaur tribal area in Pakistan's northwest, where the military has been battling a militant insurgency since 2007, late on Saturday. "Our men destroyed the post, set it on fire and left it after our operation was complete," he said by telephone.

Two Pakistani intelligence officials confirmed a checkpoint had been attacked, but there were no casualties. The Pakistani government says that Islamic State, a group founded in Syria and Iraq in 2013, does not have a credible presence in the country. Several smaller militant groups and factions of the Pakistani Taliban have, however, pledged allegiance to Islamic State and its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi since last year.

So far, Islamic State has not formally accepted any of those pledges, nor has its central leadership claimed responsibility for any attacks carried out in Pakistan.

On Sunday, at least 12 militants were killed after military jets bombed the Mana area of Shawal Valley in northwest Pakistan, two security officials said. The deeply forested valley is a key Taliban stronghold and a main smuggling route into Afghanistan.—*Reuters*

PKK bomb attack kills two Turkish police, curfew declared

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey) — Kurdish militants detonated a car bomb near a police checkpoint in southeast Turkey early on Sunday, killing two police officers and wounding five others, security sources said, marking the latest casualties in the region's worst violence in two decades.

More than 100 police and soldiers have been killed, along with hundreds of militants, in renewed conflict since a ceasefire collapsed in July, shattering a peace process launched in 2012.

The sources said Turkish security forces at a nearby base in Sirnak province subsequently shelled a mountainous area to which the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) fighters had fled after the attack.

Two militants were killed in the operation, which was supported by Cobra attack helicopters. Sikorsky helicopters landed commandos in the area where the PKK fighters were and there were intermittent clashes.

PKK guerrillas also launched an attack on Sunday with rocket-propelled grenades and rifles in the Silvan district of Diyarbakir province, killing one police officer and wounding another, one security source told Reuters.

In the centre of Diyarbakir, the largest city in the mainly Kurdish southeast, a curfew was declared early on Sunday in the historic Sur district, the provincial governor's office said in a statement.

Witnesses said gunfire could be heard in the Sur area but there were no immediate reports of any casualties. It was not clear when the curfew would end.

A week-long curfew in the town of Cizre, near the borders with Syria and Iraq, was lifted on Friday. A pro-Kurdish party has said 21 civilians were killed during clashes in the town. The government said one civilian and 32 militants died.

The PKK began its separatist insurgency in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict. It is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the European Union and the United States.

President Tayyip Erdogan has promised the fight will go on until "not one terrorist is left". The conflict has flared up as Turkey prepares for a snap parliamentary election on Nov 1 after a June vote was inconclusive. —*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 14 September, 2015

Media mustn't stifle coverage

By *Kyaw Thura*

When it comes to democracy, public participation in elections is of utmost importance. It's been more than 150 years since Abraham Lincoln famously declared that democracy is "government of the people, for the people and by the people" yet it is no less apt today.

The upcoming general election should be seen as a golden opportunity for people to choose their leader. It is therefore crucial for the electorate to be cautious of exercising their franchise in favour of whoever is suited to run the country. The good of the whole ought to be our top priority.

At this decisive juncture, no media outlet should move to stifle what should be otherwise extensive coverage of the political campaigns underway. The media must take responsibility for playing a greater role in feeding voters thorough and accurate information about the various parties and independent candidates, as this will enable voters to make informed choices.

Daily coverage is ideal and it should include basic information about how to vote and when and why a vote is deemed invalid. If the media does it job properly, voter turnout will be high indeed.

The media must maintain the highest levels of professionalism, accuracy and impartiality in their coverage. It should keep its primary focus on the rights of voters to have full access to the news of parties and candidates canvassing for votes. The time has come for correspondents to play their part in leading a paradigm shift with unflagging ardour.

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.

Union minister donates to 125 monasteries

NAY PYI TAW — Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win made donations to monks and nuns at 125 monasteries in Sedoktara Township, Magway Region on 12 September.

At the ceremony, 125 bags of rice, 200 kilograms of cooking oil, 269 sets of monk robes, 36 sets of nun robes, 305 umbrellas and other equipment were donated to the monasteries and nunneries. The union minister also donated K2 million (US$1,500) towards reconstruction projects for three monasteries in the local.—*MNA*

Union Culture Minister visits archeological sites in Yamethin

513 stone inscriptions on Buddha's teachings – known as Tri-Pitakat – are being preserved in Nyaungyan village, Thazi Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW — Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu toured archaeological sites in Myohla village, Yamethin Township, on 12 September.

He was briefed on findings from excavations at ancient sites in Yamethin, Pyawbwe, Htantabin, Htonbo and Ywahtingon areas by deputy director U Aung Aung Kyaw.

The union minster instructed officials to systematically keep records for bronze-aged artifacts and earth wares. He also inspected a stone inscription chamber at Shwemokhtaw monastery in Nyaungyan village, Thazi Township, where 513 stone inscriptions on Buddha's teachings – known as Tri-Pitakat – are being preserved. The union minister called for the proper maintenance of stone inscriptions to ensure their longevity.—*MNA*

MYEA member to attend 11th Workshop on Experience of SME Development (ASEAN)

YANGON — Dr Yin Min Kyaw, member of Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurs Association, left Yangon International Airport on 9 September to attend the 11th Workshop on Taiwan's Experience of SME Development (ASEAN) in China (Taipei) from 10 to 23 September.—*MNA*

One dies of lack of oxygen in abandoned well in Mohnyin

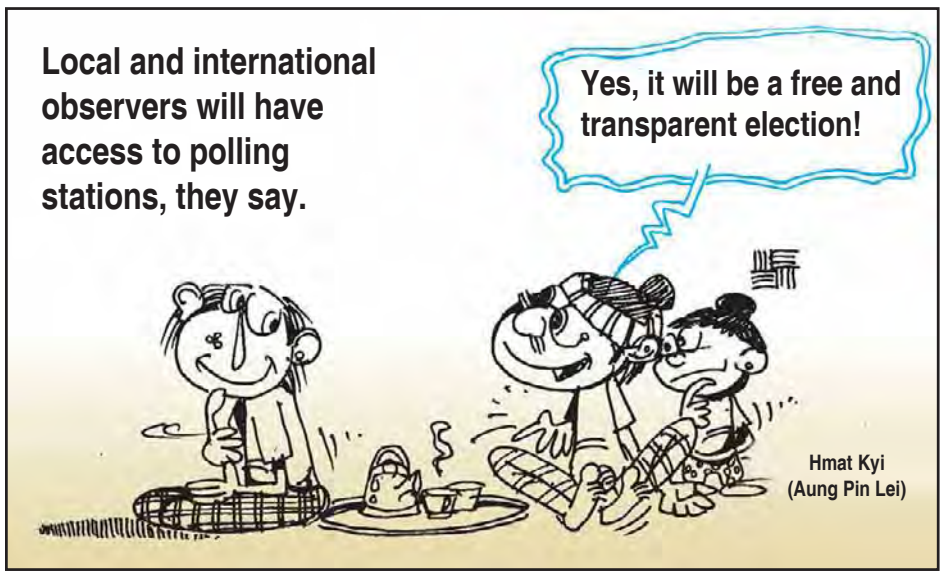
MOHNYIN — One died of suffocation in Mohnyin, Kachin State, Friday as he went down into an abandoned well to save a cow it fall into it.

Local firemen saved two men, out of three, from the well.

U Than Aung Thein, 46, was confirmed dead due to lack of oxygen in the well.

The last two men went down into the well to save the first man who could not climb up.

People nearby the scene informed the local fire station when they could not hear any voice from the three men.— *GNLM001*



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

The financial help and positive diplomacy executed by the current Indian government for supporting neighboring nations like Myanmar for several developmental and infrastructural projects should be greatly applauded. The Indian government has been working sincerely in strengthening diplomatic ties in the Asia-Pacific region and in it its supportive role extended to several dependent economies. However, a word of caution for the government in not overstepping beyond current abilities as Foreign Ministry deducted funds and promises made to Myanmar earlier due to poor economic growth, recession, corruption, domestic political turmoil and several internal economic factors. Any unfortunate failure to keep these huge financial promises made to Myanmar will reduce credibility of the Indian government and instead send a wrong signal. India needs to allocate overseas pledges with deep commitments and from a long term viewpoint. The financial allocations and commitments should be made within the limits of the government without any unnecessary overstretching playing to the gallery. The world's largest democracy carry a huge responsibility towards promises made to the immediate neighbors like Myanmar; but, if they fail to deliver that promise, India should not complain if others feel that India is not worthy of delivering anything other than showmanship and carefully engineered talk shows to misguide them with hollow promises.

Basu, Saikat

U Pein Bridge in Amarapura tops as major tourist destination

Visitors strolling along historic U Pein Bridge in Amarapura Township.—Tin Hla Maung

AMARAPURA — The historical 19th century U Pein Bridge in Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region continues to be visited daily by throngs of local and foreign visitors. The wooden bridge crosses over Taungthaman Lake from old Amarapura to Yadanabon University.

"The bridge build without any nails by ancient Myanmar architects is outstanding. Hand-rowed boats which tours around the lake can be hired for 10,000 kyat per hour accommodating 10 passengers. There are shops that sell traditionally woven cotton and silk clothes at the lake's bank located at the top of the bridge. There are about ten snack shops, too. The view from the bridge is so pleasant that I don't want to leave," says a visitor from Yangon. The milestone 3,967-foot-bridge constructed in the shape of a carpenter's square with 1,086 teak logs has four rest stops on the bridge, according to the locals.—*Soe Win-SP*

Consumer protection laws explained in Mandalay

MANDALAY — The Trade Promotion and Consumers Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce held public awareness talks about the rights and protections afforded by consumer protection laws on 10 September.

The event took place at Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Chanayethazan Township and keynote speeches were given by Mandalay Region's minister for agriculture and livestock U Myint Than and the minister for planning and economy and chairman of region consumers' dispute arbitration board U Aung Zan.

Respective officials concern explained the purposes of consumer protection laws and explained the riks associated with foods that violate the laws, such as being sold after their expiry date.

A variety of potentially hazardous food was displayed on the sidelines of the meeting.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day observed in Taungtha

TAUNGTHA — Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day was observed at the hall of General Administration Department in Taungtha, Mandalay Region on 13 September.

Chairman of the Township Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw Nyunt spoke on the occasion.

Township level officials presented prizes to winners in the high and middle school level essay and poem contests. The ceremony was attended by departmental personnel, social organization members, teachers and students totalling about 150.—*Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)*

Miss Universe Myanmar contestants visit flood-damaged Ingapu Township

20 contestants of Miss Universe Myanmar donate affordable meals to flood victims.
Man Kyaw (IPRD)

INGAPU — The 20 contestants of Miss Universe Myanmar led by national director Ma Soe Yu Wai of Miss Universe Myanmar Association, came to Ingapu of Ayeyawady Region on September 10 and donated affordable dinner meals to flood victims.

They observed the flood relief and rehabilitation tasks of the town. Township health officer Dr Nanda Win explained on health care in flooded areas.

At Thonsat, Kansae and Mezali villages they gave food and clothes to the local people. They also visited Htoogyi town where they donated 500,000 kyat to the basic education high school, 300,000 kyat to Gyatetaw rural primary school and cooking oil to Alesu villagers.—*Man Kyaw-IPRD*

Myoma Basic Education High School (Branch) inundated in Nyaung-U Township.—YeNaing Win-IPRD

Low lying areas of Nyaung-U Township in Mandalay Region flooded again

NYAUNG-U — As the Ayawaddy River has swollen again for the second time, locals living at the river banks and villagers of Saelan which is in the middle of the river in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region were evacuated to higher ground shelters and were aided with relief items.

The river water level measured this afternoon was 79 centimeter above danger level of 2120 centimeter. The water has reached Nyaung-U (Myoma) Basic Education High School (Branch) but as it is still not alarming, the school remains open, says an education official.

But the local people are facing inconvenience while going about the town. The water has also reached to the road going to Old Bagan and low lands, though the town locals say that this second tide was not as fast as the first tide. According to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, the water is to recede under one foot of the danger level in the next two days.—*Ye Naing Win-IPRD*

BOJ to stand pat even as goals depart from reality

TOKYO —Bank of Japan policymakers are in no mood to expand monetary stimulus this week, sources familiar with their thinking say, even as poor data challenges their presumption that economic recovery will boost inflation to its 2 percent target next year.

When BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda last opened the monetary taps, in October, he was backed by a razor-thin majority on the bank's board, and although subsequent changes have moved the board closer to his policy stance, a repeat looks even less likely now, the sources said.

With inflation and growth still in the doldrums despite the bank's 80 trillion yen ($665 billion) per year asset buying measures, they said the board had grown increasingly concerned about their diminishing policy options and the downsides of the stimulus, such as draining liquidity from the government bond market.

Investors mostly expect the BOJ to stand pat at least until Oct. 30, when it updates its long-term economic and growth forecasts, so a surprise move might have an outsized impact on markets.

But that looks like one of the very few incentives for it to act now, with risks to the bank's policy targets - such as weak global demand and China's slowdown - mostly beyond its control, said the sources.

"There's not much the BOJ can do to respond to overseas headwinds," said one source. "What's important is that domestic demand remains firm."

The government also does not welcome additional monetary steps that might weaken the yen further and boost import costs.

Easing now would run counter to the government's policy priorities, government officials say.

With an upper house election looming next year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration has shifted its focus to helping low-income households and pensioners hit by the rising cost of living from a weak yen.

"A lot of people are getting suspicious on what benefits there are to additional monetary easing," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute.

"Politicians don't want the yen to weaken too much."

Those betting on a surprise cite similarities to last October, when Kuroda expanded stimulus without prior warning to prevent slumping oil costs and weak consumption from hurting inflation expectations.

Kuroda's decision caught even some of the nine board members off guard, angering four of them enough to vote against him. With one of the dissenters having retired and been replaced by a former auto executive more supportive of Kuroda's views, the governor would in theory have less trouble getting his way if he sees the need to ease, the sources said.

A man walks past the Bank of Japan (BOJ) building in Tokyo, June 24, 2015.—Reuters

But many on the board hope they won't face that decision, relying on companies to use their record profits more on wages and investment.

Like last October, renewed falls in oil costs are weighing on inflation. But household income is rising and underpinning consumption, which is firmer than last October when households were feeling the direct hit from a tax hike, BOJ officials say.

Business sentiment and capital expenditure have held up even as markets have been lashed by fears of a hard landing for China, they argue, based on internal hearings they conduct on firms across Japan.

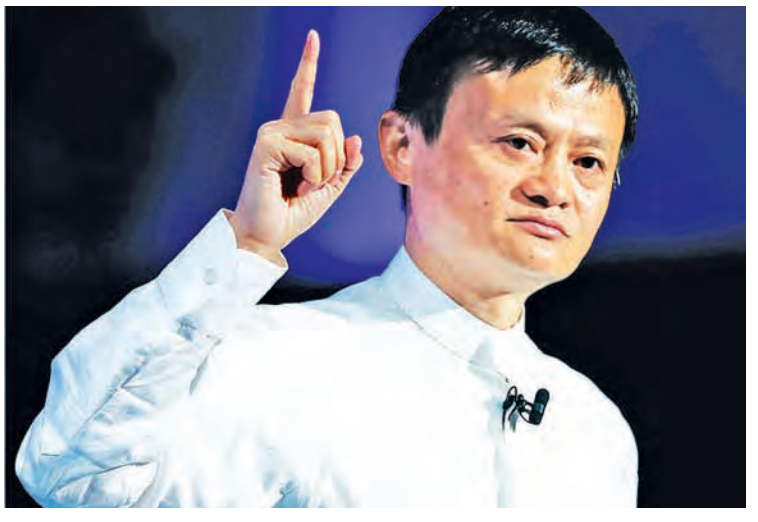
Kuroda told parliament on Thursday that while the recovery appeared "patchy", conditions were falling in place for inflation to hit 2 percent as more firms raise prices. He also signalled that any delay in hitting that target wouldn't trigger policy action if it was due mostly to oil price falls.

It has now become a near certainty that the BOJ will cut its economic and price forecasts for this fiscal year at the Oct. 30 review. But with few tools left to deploy, the BOJ will cling to its goals for as long as possible, even if they appear increasingly out of touch with reality, some analysts say.

"If you don't have many policy tools left, you don't want to use it now," said Mari Iwashita, chief market economist at SMBC Friend Securities.

"You want to save it for later, given worse things could easily happen to Japan's economy."—*Reuters*

Top 10 richest Chinese tech giants



Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.—Xinhua

BEIJING — Forbes' list of the 100 Richest People in the tech industry includes 20 from the Chinese mainland.

Jack Ma, founder of China's e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, tops the Asian tech group, ranking seventh with an estimated wealth of $22.7 billion.

In addition to Jack Ma, China's Pony Ma Huateng, founder of Tencent Holdings; Robin Li Yanhong, CEO of Baidu and Lei Jun, founder of smartphone maker Xiaomi, are also among the top 20 tech billionaires.—*Xinhua*

Over 50 Russian companies to join China-Russia expo in NE China

HARBIN — Representatives of over 50 Russian companies will arrive in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province next month for the second China-Russia Exposition, the organizing committee of the event said Saturday.

The expo, scheduled to be held from October 12 to 16 in Harbin, will attract Russian enterprises from different industries, including food and agriculture, chemicals, aviation and aerospace, banking and finance, and heavy industry and metallurgy. The results of cooperation between China and Russia, especially in equipment manufacturing, science, technology and finance, will be featured during the event, according to the committee.

The expo will also attract businessmen from other countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, India and Singapore. The first China-Russia Expo ended last July in Harbin with contracts worth 3.15 billion US dollars signed. The event's predecessor was the China Harbin Internation.al Economic and Trade Fair first held in 1990. —*Xinhua*

Probe shows FAW-Volkswagen new Sagitars unsafe

BEIJING — FAW-Volkswagen's New Sagitar compact cars with coupling rods in rear axles are defective and pose safety hazards to users, China's national consumer quality watchdog said after an investigation which began in August 2014. The trailing arms on the rear suspension may deform in the case of collision and the fatigue life of the arms will drop substantially as the deformation increases, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said in a statement.

Among 457 cases of deformation or rupture tracked by the AQSIQ, 312 cases, or 68.3 percent of the total, were caused by serious collisions, and 54 were caused by slight collisions or bumps. Following mounting complaints from Sagitar owners in China, FAW-Volkswagen announced a massive recall of Sagitar and Beetle vehicles in October 2014 and placed metal plates on the trailing arms to ensure the proper operation in case of a rupture. However, the move dissatisfied drivers who had hoped for a more thorough solution by replacing the whole rear suspension. The investigation found the metal plate raised the rods' resistance to deformation and lower the possibility of deformation, but still did not eliminate the problem.

The company claimed the metal plate would produce a "continuous warning noise" in the case of ruptures, but the AQSIQ's experiment shows the noise may be hard to detect on flat roads.

"There is a risk that drivers will lose control when the plate also ruptures if a trailing arm rupture was not detected," the statement said. The AQSIQ said the company should raise the ratio of recalled vehicles, monitor vehicles patched with metal plates and take more measures to resolve the issue. FAW-Volkswagen is a Jilin-based joint venture between Chinese automaker FAW Group and Germany's Volkswagen Group. Its Sagitar is one of the most popular compact cars in China. Late Friday, the company said in a statement that it "respects and accepts the investigation result issued by the AQSIQ," and vowed to take more measures to thoroughly eliminate car owners' worries.

It promised to replace the defective vehicles with new ones when the trailing arm in rear axles ruptures without collision within 10 years after the metal plates were installed, the statement said.—*Xinhua*

Dengue fever takes toll on Taiwan city tourism

TAIPEI — More than 80 percent of tourists planning to travel to south Taiwan's Tainan have canceled their trips over fears of a dengue fever epidemic in the city, the local sightseeing association said.

Taiwan has reported a record 8,677 dengue fever cases since May. On Friday, 617 new cases were reported, breaking the record for highest daily increase in cases, the island's health authorities said on Saturday.

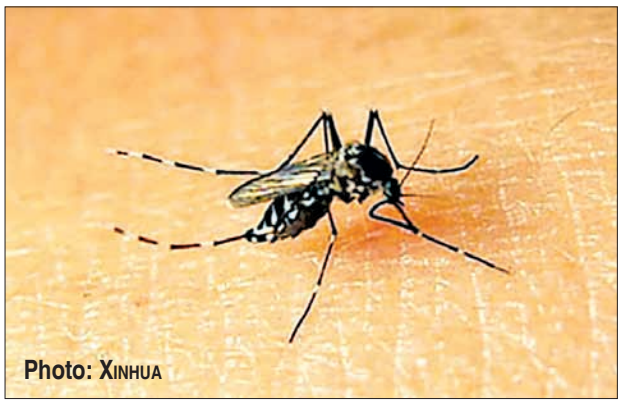


Photo: Xinhua

A total of 7,660 cases have been recorded in Tainan since May, accounting for nearly 90 percent of dengue fever cases across the island, according to the latest estimates.

Dengue-related deaths have increased to 44, 18 of which were confirmed to be caused by the disease, while the remaining 26 cases are still under investigation.

Tainan is a popular destination for camping and outdoor education. Schools in neighboring cities and counties had competed to book reservations for September and October. However, the city's camping facilities have faced an unexpected slowdown as schools have stopped arranging such activities or prevented their students from coming to the city to camp.

Six schools with more than 2,000 students and teachers from Yunlin County have canceled their camping trips to Tainan. Schools in Taichung City and Changhua County have also called to cancel or postpone activities scheduled in October.

The city's Tsou-Ma-Lai Farm, a popular recreational agriculture site, has received nearly 5,000 cancellations or postponement requests so far. An employee said the farm used to receive more than 1,000 visitors a day, but now only livestock can be seen around the facilities.

Before the dengue fever outbreak, Tainan Wanpi World Safari Zoo operated a dozen sightseeing buses every day to transport students to area attractions. But its manager said in a phone interview on Friday that at least 400 bus tours had been canceled over the next two months, which translates into a decrease of more than 2,000 tourists.

Even the city's primary and middle schools have chosen to move outdoor activities inside or to other cities from September to November due to pressure from parents, dealing another huge blow to the city's tourism industry.

The city government and related departments convened a meeting on Friday to come up with ways to save the tourism industry. But no concrete measures have been announced so far.—*Xinhua*

Europe launches two more Galileo satellites, aiming for GPS rival

BERLIN — Europe came a step closer to setting up its own satellite navigation system on Friday after successfully launching two Galileo satellites from French Guyana.

The European Space Agency's Galileo project is meant as a European Union alternative to the US Global Positioning System, or GPS. Friday's launch, in Europe's early hours, took the number of satellites sent up to 10 out of a planned total of 30.

"The day of Galileo's full operational capability is approaching," Jan Woerner, director general of ESA, said in a statement. "It will be a great day for Europe."

Galileo is due to reach full operational capability by 2020, Joerg Hahn, head of the Galileo system procurement service, said.

Hahn said the total cost of the project up to 2020 was 6.6 billion euros ($7.4 billion), which includes 2.2 billion for the initial validation phase.

The Galileo project suffered a setback last year after two satellites were set in an incorrect orbit. They were later nudged into a more viable position.

The satellites sent up on Friday were on board a Russian Soyuz launcher.

They reached their target orbit almost four hours after lift-off.

ESA plans to launch two further Galileo satellites this year.

From next year, Galileo satellites will take off on board a European Ariane rocket launcher that can send up four, rather than two, satellites with a single launch.—*Reuters*

Scientists shift medicinal properties from one plant to another

WASHINGTON — A number of important drugs come from plants, but some medicinal plants are endangered or tricky to grow. For some scientists, finding ways to ensure ready access to these drugs has become a priority.

Researchers on Thursday said they have identified the genes that enable an endangered Himalayan plant to produce a chemical vital to making a widely used chemotherapy drug, and inserted them into an easily grown laboratory plant that then produced the same chemical.

The endangered plant, called the mayapple, produces a precursor chemical to the chemotherapy drug etoposide, which is used in many patients with lung cancer, testicular cancer, brain cancer, lymphoma, leukemia and other cancers.

The researchers genetically engineered the easily grown laboratory plant Nicotiana benthamiana, a wild relative of tobacco, to make the chemical.

"Many plant-based drugs are not found in large quantities in nature and are difficult to make in the lab," said Stanford University chemical engineering professor Elizabeth Sattely, who led the study published in the journal Science.

"Mimicking the way nature makes these molecules is a promising alternative, but to do that we need to find the genes. This can be a major challenge because plant genomes can be very large and genes are hard to find," Sattely said.

The researchers said they discovered six genes from the mayapple plant that in combination with four previously known genes produce the chemical needed to make the chemotherapy drug.

"We used these genes to engineer a wild relative of tobacco to make the drug precursor and think we could also use these genes to make the drug in other easy-to-grow organisms such as yeast," Sattely said.

Stanford chemical engineering professor Elizabeth Sattely explains how she produced a common cancer drug in a laboratory plant, in this undated handout picture courtesy of Stanford University.—Reuters

The tobacco plant or yeast would provide the ability to produce the drug in a controlled laboratory setting. Researchers led by another Stanford scientist last month unveiled a new method to make potent painkilling opioids using bioengineered baker's yeast instead of poppies.

"Producing plant-derived drugs in easy-to-grow plants or baker's yeast in many cases will be a much more efficient way to make these drugs," Sattely said.

"This is currently being done for artemisinin (a malaria drug derived from the sweet wormwood plant), and will likely be the way we make morphine (derived from poppies) in the future."—*Reuters*

Origin of Saturn's Fring and satellites found

TOKYO — Saturn's F ring and its shepherd satellites are natural outcome of the final stage of formation of the planet's ring-satellite system, a new study has found.

Saturn, which is the second largest planet in our solar system, is known to have multiple rings and satellites. In 1979, Pioneer 11 discovered the F ring located just outside the main ring system that extends tens of thousands of kilometres.

The F ring is very narrow with a width of only a few hundred kilometres, and has two shepherd satellites called Prometheus and Pandora, which orbit inside and outside the ring, respectively.

Although the Voyager and Cassini spacecraft later made detailed observations of the F ring and its shepherd satellites, their origin has not been clarified.

According to the latest satellite formation theory, Saturn used to have ancient rings containing many more particles than they do today, and satellites formed from spreading and accretion of these particles.

During the final stage of satellite formation, multiple small satellites tend to form near the outer edge of the ring.

On the other hand, observations by Cassini indicate that the small satellites orbiting near the outer edge of the main ring system have a dense core. In their simulations using in part computer systems at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Hyodo Ryuki, a second-year student in the doctoral programme, and Ohtsuki Keiji, professor at the Graduate School of Science at Kobe University showed that the F ring and its shepherd satellites formed as these small satellites with a dense core collided and partially disintegrated. In other words, the system of the F ring and its shepherd satellites is a natural outcome of the formation process of Saturn's ring-satellite system.

This new finding is expected to help elucidate the formation of satellite systems both within and outside our solar system.

For example, the above formation mechanism can also be applied to the rings and shepherd satellites of Uranus, which are similar to those of Saturn. "Through this study, we were able to show that the current rings of Saturn reflect the formation and evolution processes of the planet's satellite system," said Ryuki.

"We will continue to unravel the origin of satellite systems, which is key to understanding the formation process of planetary systems," said Keiji. The study was published in the journal Nature Geoscience.—*PTI*

Iran says finds unexpectedly high uranium reserve

DUBAI — Iran has discovered an unexpectedly high reserve of uranium and will soon begin extracting the radioactive element at a new mine, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said on Saturday.

The comments cast doubt on previous assessments from some Western analysts who said the country had a low supply and sooner or later would need to import uranium, the raw material needed for its nuclear program.

Any indication Iran could become more self-sufficient will be closely watched by world powers, which reached a landmark deal with Tehran in July over its program. They had feared the nuclear activities were aimed at acquiring the capability to produce atomic weapons — something denied by Tehran.

"I cannot announce (the level of) Iran's uranium mine reserves. The important thing is that before aerial prospecting for uranium ores we were not too optimistic, but the new discoveries have made us confident about our reserves," Iranian nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA.

Salehi said uranium exploration had covered almost two-thirds of Iran and would be complete in the next four years.

Uranium can be used for civilian power production and scientific purposes, but is also a key ingredient in nuclear weapons.

The July deal between Iran and world powers will lift international sanctions on Iran in exchange for at least a decade of curbs on the country's nuclear activity.

The US State Department said any new reserves of uranium discovered in Iran will be under the same monitoring as existing mines under the nuclear agreement. "Any violation of that commitment would be met with the appropriate response," State Department spokesman John Kirby said in a statement. After decades of effort, Iran — which has consistently said its program is for peaceful purposes — has achieved a full nuclear fuel cycle, ranging from the extraction of uranium ore to enrichment and production of fuel rods for nuclear reactors.

> *"Any violation of that commitment would be met with the appropriate response,"*
> *— John Kirby*

Sanctions on companies taking part in Iran's uranium mining industry will be lifted when the agreement is implemented.

Salehi said uranium extraction was set to begin at a new mine in the central province of Yazd, according to IRNA. Some Western analysts have previously said that Iran was close to exhausting its supply of yellowcake — or raw uranium - and that mining it domestically was not cost-efficient.

A report published in 2013 by US think-tanks Carnegie Endowment and the Federation of American Scientists said the scarcity and low quality of Iran's uranium resources compelled it "to rely on external sources of natural and processed uranium".

It added: "Despite the Iranian leadership's assertions to the contrary, Iran's estimated uranium endowments are nowhere near sufficient to supply its planned nuclear program." Iran has repeatedly denied overseas media reports that it has tried to import uranium from countries like Kazakhstan and Zimbabwe.—*Reuters*

Air bag makers eye boost from new India road safety rules

NEW DELHI — The world's largest air bag suppliers are setting up plants and ramping up capacity in India, eyeing a $2 billion opportunity thanks to tougher rules aimed at improving one of the world's worst road-safety records.

In India, a person is killed in a road accident every four minutes — 141,000 in 2014 — yet less than a third of the 2.6 million cars sold each year have air bags in this cost-conscious market.

But a planned law that will impose crash test standards by 2017 is creating an opportunity for makers of safety equipment, as cars without air bags will achieve only the lowest safety ratings after tests. That, for the first time, will force consumers to directly consider the risks they run by buying cheap.

By 2020, overall revenues from airbag sales in India are set to rise 11 percent a year to hit $2 billion, outpacing the 9 percent growth expected in China, according to data from Transparency Market Research. By then, India is expected to be selling over 5 million cars a year.

Some of the world's largest air bag makers — Autoliv Inc , Takata Corp, TRW Automotive Inc and Toyoda Gosei Co — are already gearing up to cash in.

"(This is a) good time to build capacity and the right time to invest to grow the business," said Harish Lakshman, managing director of air bag maker Rane TRW Steering Systems Ltd, a joint venture between US-based TRW and India's Rane Holdings Ltd.

The company opened a new air bag assembly plant in August in southern India with capacity to make 500,000 units a year, investing 180 million rupees ($2.7 million).

It expects revenues from the air bag unit to hit 3.5 billion rupees by 2020, from 400 million rupees today.

Toyoda Goesi Minda India, a joint venture between the Japanese company and India's Uno Minda, which has a 25 percent market share, plans to increase its capacity by up to six times to 150,000 air bags over the next two to three years, group chairman NK Minda told Reuters.

Analysts say others will follow, setting up in India to keep costs as low as possible.

"We expect that within five years the large airbag makers will have a manufacturing hub in India," said Ayay Bandopadhyay, automotive research analyst at Transparency Market Research.

Air bags in India are expensive mainly because most of the parts, such as inflators, are imported. And without rules imposing their use in a country of poorly maintained vehicles and overcrowded, badly lit and potholed roads, carmakers often opt not to add a costly component that could drive up prices.

"I think we have made automobiles in India too cheap," said Vijay Chhibber, secretary for the road transport and highways ministry.

"In trying to make everything cheap, if we are going to reduce our safety standard it is not worth it."

The new rules, part of the Road Transport and Safety Bill, do not directly propose airbags, but instead make crash tests mandatory for new models sold in India from October 2017.

"An air bag is only an instrument of road safety," Chhibber said. The new rules will be discussed in India's upper house of parliament this year before they become law.

Quality issues will be a concern for carmakers, however.

Japan's Takata hit headlines after carmakers recalled millions of cars to replace air bags made by the company after some exploded too violently, spraying shrapnel into passenger compartments. Eight deaths and more than 100 injuries have been linked to faulty Takata inflators.

In India, makers including Honda, Toyota and Nissan recalled cars after the Takata defect was reported.—*Reuters*

Four firefighters injured in Northern California wildfire

Flames from a backfire tower over a fire engine battling the Butte fire near San Andreas, California September 12, 2015.—Reuters

SAN ANDREAS — Four firefighters were injured on Saturday in a fast-moving wildfire in Northern California that forced the evacuation of thousands of people, officials said.

The firefighters suffered second-degree burns as they battled the so-called Valley Fire, in Lake County, north of San Francisco, said Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant.

The Valley Fire broke out on Saturday afternoon and quickly spread to 10,000 acres (4,047 hectares), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) said on its website.

The firefighters had been dropped off by helicopter to build containment lines. They were airlifted to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento where they were listed in stable condition, Berlant later said on Twitter.

The explosive growth of the Valley Fire forced authorities to order mandatory evacuations of a number of communities, including all of Hidden Valley Lake which has about 5,500 people, according to a Lake County Sheriff's Office statement.

About 100 miles (161 km) to the southeast, the so-called Butte Fire has destroyed 86 homes and 51 outbuildings in rural Amador and Calaveras counties, where it covers an estimated 65,000 acres (26,305 hectares), officials said. It is only 15 percent contained.

Thousands of residents in the area were required to evacuate on Friday, and the blaze threatened more than 6,000 structures, officials said.

More than 3,800 firefighters were working to contain the fire, which erupted on Wednesday near the former gold mining town of Jackson.

Flames from a larger blaze, dubbed the Rough Fire which is burning in Kings Canyon National Park in central California, had forced officials to order about 3,500 to evacuate by Friday, said Jim Schwarber, a spokesman for the team handling the blaze.

Firefighters on Saturday intentionally set low-intensity fires in a famed grove of giant sequoia trees in Kings Canyon National Park to remove vegetation and protect the grove from the wildfire, Schwarber said. The giant sequoias themselves are naturally flame-resistant, officials said.

More than 2,900 firefighters were on the front lines of the blaze on Saturday, with containment listed at 29 percent, officials said.

Ranking as California's largest active fire, the Rough has scorched about 128,800 acres (52,000 hectares).—*Reuters*

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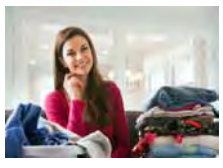

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At least 7 killed in twin bomb attacks in north Cameroon

YAOUNDE — At least seven people were killed in two bomb attacks on Sunday in the northern Cameroon town of Kolofata, according to government officials, in what appeared to be the latest attack by the Boko Haram Islamist militant group from nearby Nigeria.

At least three people were killed in the first explosion, which struck near a well in the town, while at least four people were killed by a second bomb near a church, according to the local deputy prefect.

"According to the information I have, there were seven killed in two attacks in Kolofata," Communication Minister Issa Tchiroma Bakary told Reuters.

Kolofata lies close to the border with northeast Nigeria and has repeatedly been the target of attacks by Boko Haram. Cameroon is a major contributor to a regional force expected to start operations against the Islamist group this year. —*Reuters*

French dad jailed for killing son, 3, in washing machine

MELUN — A French father who stuffed his son into a washing machine and then surfed the internet as the toddler died was jailed for 30 years.

Christophe Champenois, 36, rammed three-year-old Bastien into the device and switched it on, allegedly as punishment for misbehaviour.

The child's 29-year-old mother, Charlene Cotte, told investigators she did a puzzle with her daughter, and Champenois used the internet while their son screamed inside the whirring washing machine.

She was jailed for 12 years, for "aiding and abetting murder and violence".

Cotte said that when her ex-husband removed Bastien from the machine and noticed he was no longer breathing, he said: "At least he won't bother us anymore."

It was Champenois himself who called emergency services in the town of Germigny-l'Eveque, east of Paris, in November 2011, saying he had a "small problem" as his son had fallen down the stairs.

Champenois said he had given his son a bath and that the child must have drowned because he had water coming out of his nostrils.

But the victim's older sister, then five, told the doctor: "Daddy put Bastien in the washing machine because he was naughty at school" — a version she maintained throughout the investigation.

A neighbour who came to the apartment to help described the child as "frozen, completely naked. He was all white, limp, practically like a toy.

Cotte's lawyer Gerard Zbili described her as a "broken woman who lost the child that she loved" but who was unable to protect him out of fear of her husband.

During the investigation it emerged that the golden-haired Bastien was not wanted by his father, who meted out harsh punishments for his increasingly agitated behaviour at home and at school, such as locking him in a cupboard.

Social services had been repeatedly alerted to the family's case.

"This is not an isolated act... it is not a fit of rage or madness, it is the final act of violence against a child who was always mistreated," said Isabelle Steyer, lawyer for a child protection group, who said Bastien has "fallen through all the cracks."

Champenois was told he would not be eligible for parole for at least 20 years.—*AFP*

Missouri mother jailed after children, 4 and 6, found in cave crate

KANSAS CITY — A Missouri woman faces charges of endangering the welfare of her two children, ages 4 and 6, after they were found in a cave, apparently living in a crate among disassembled vehicles, in a suspected illegal "chop shop."

Brittany Mugrauer, 24, was taken into custody Friday in Kansas City after deputy sheriffs discovered the children while searching the cave as part of investigation into a possible auto parts "chop shop," which moves stolen parts, the Jackson County prosecutor's office said.

The barefoot children found in the wooden shipping crate were covered in dirt, had no drinking water and were eating from a cup of dirty dried noodles, the office said Saturday in a probable cause statement.

The 8-by-10-foot crate, with one side missing, contained two automobile bench seats, two small blankets, trash and some thin wires, the statement said.

The crate was at the rear of the cool, damp cave near some disassembled cars and ground soaked with vehicle fluid, the statement said.

The children told investigators they lived in the cave with their mother, had no toys or other clothing and that there was no place to cook.

Mugrauer was not in the cave when detectives found the children alone Thursday and later told them she had been living in the cave for several days, the statement said.

She remained in jail Saturday, and the prosecutor's office said it will seek a $75,000 bond. The children were taken to hospital for examination and to get bathed and dressed in clean clothing.—*Reuters*

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (15:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin and Shan States, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, Rakhine and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th September, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Jerry Aaronson (C) a member of a First Nations Organisation touches the stones of the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, September 13, 2015.—Reuters

Latin America wins big at 72nd Venice Film Festival

Actress Valeria Golino holds the Coppa Volpi for the Best Actress during the award ceremony at the 72nd Venice Film Festival, northern Italy September 12, 2015.—Reuters

Director Lorenzo Vigas holds the Golden Lion prize for his movie 'Desde Alla' (From Afar) during the award ceremony at the 72nd Venice Film Festival, northern Italy September 12, 2015.—Reuters

VENICE — Films from Latin America won two of the top prizes at the 72nd Venice Film Festival on Saturday, with Venezuelan director Lorenzo Vigas getting the Golden Lion best film award for "Desde Alla" (From Afar).

Vigas, who won for his first feature film, about a murky homosexual affair between a tough street hustler and a man who has a successful business making dentures, dedicated his award to his country.

"This is a bit of a surprise but I know it's going to be very well received in the country where we've had some problems in the last years ... I hope it is going to help," Vigas said as he accepted the Golden Lion on the stage of the main festival cinema.

He added that he hoped his film's victory might be a clarion call for greater cooperation among the region's filmmakers. "I think that this is something we should do in South America," he said.

Best director award went to Argentina's Pablo Trapero for "El Clan" (The Clan), about the real-life Puccio family of kidnappers who operated in Buenos Aires during the 1980s. The runner-up Grand Jury prize went to American director Charlie Kaufman and co-director Duke Johnson for stop-motion animation "Anomalisa", which uses puppets instead of drawings.

Kaufman, whose last movie was the live action "Synecdoche, New York" in 2008, said he was pleased that an animated feature had won recognition in Venice.

"It's basically stop motion animation but it's not a kids' movie," said Kaufman, whose film co-directed with Duke Johnson features a puppet sex scene.

"We were looking to make a movie that was emotionally real and true and affecting, which is I guess an unusual thing in animation features currently," Kaufman said. French actor Fabrice Luchini won the best actor prize for his role as a judge in "L'Hermine" (Courted) and Italy's Valeria Golino took the best actress prize as a woman married to a Naples loan shark in "Per Amor Vostro" (For Your Love).

Abraham Attah of Ghana won the prize for best new young actor starring alongside Idris Elba in "Beast of No Nation".

Turkish film "Abluka" (Frenzy) won the Special Jury Prize and "L'Hermine" also took the prize for best screenplay. Film specialists noted that the jury was headed by Mexican director Alfonso Cuaron, whose "Gravity" opened the Venice festival two years ago, and suggested the awards might have reflected his support for films from his region of the world.

"I think Alfonso Cuaron wanted to put a spotlight on the films of Latin America, he's kind of promoting these films that wouldn't have been so heard of otherwise," said Ariston Anderson, a film reporter based in Italy for The Hollywood Reporter trade publication. "It shows ... changes in the talent coming out of Latin America," she said.

At a press conference, Cuaron rejected suggestions he had favored Latin American films or that he had been able to convince the other eight members of the nine-person jury to vote his way.

"I didn't have that kind of power," he said.

Jay Weissberg of trade publication Variety noted the jury had not awarded prizes to some renowned directors in competition but said the choices made sense.

"The awards in a way reflect the diversity of the (film) selection itself, with a little bit in there for everyone," he said.

A total of 21 films were screened in competition for the main prizes at the Venice Film Festival, which opened on Sept. 2 with the premiere of the 3D mountain disaster film "Everest", shown out of competition.—*Reuters*

Shortlists of Myanmar's beauties. The beauties will compete in 3rd Miss Universe contest. Enthusiasts may vote for them through Facebook, Website and mobile as of 15 September.—By Min Khit; Photo: Min Htet

'Steve Jobs' to release early in New York, Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Filmmaker Danny Boyle's biopic, "Steve Jobs", based on the late Apple co-founder, will release in New York and Los Angeles theatres on October 9.

Earlier, Universal had planned on a nationwide release on October 9 but decided it will expand the movie to additional North American markets on October 16 and then go nationwide on October 23, reported Variety.

The biopic, penned by screenwriter Aaron Sorkin, stars Michael Fassbender in the titular role. The film recounts the ups and downs Jobs had during his career which encouraged him to revolutionise the computer, music and mobile industries.

"Steve Jobs" stars Kate Winslet as ex-Macintosh marketing chief Joanna Hoffman, Seth Rogen, as Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, Jeff Daniels as former Apple CEO John Sculley, along with Katherine Waterston, Michael Stuhlbarg.

"Steve Jobs" premiered at the Telluride Film Festival on September 5 and will play at the New York Film Festival on October 3.—*PTI*

Filmmaker Danny Boyle's biopic, "Steve Jobs", based on the late Apple co-founder, will release in New York and Los Angeles theatres on October 9.—Reuters

Liam Payne promises One Direction will reunite after hiatus

LONDON — Liam Payne revealed One Direction have plans to continue working together after their hiatus.

Speaking in a recent interview with a magazine, Payne, 22, addressed rumours that the band — which consists of Payne, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson and Niall Horan — are planning on permanently separating, reported Contactmusic.

"I realize now this is the time to start branching out and exploring.

This won't last forever, and there will be a point when we will break off and do our own things, but... We will work together again," he said.

The departure of Zayn Malik from the group back in March prompted the first wave of rumours about the state of the band and if they would continue.

After Malik's departure, each One Direction member was keen to emphasise they would be staying together.—*PTI*

Flamboyant designer fashion collections from Pakistan

NEW DELHI — Top designers from Pakistan and India showcased traditional and contemporary collections on the final day of the 'Shaan- e-Pakistan' lifestyle expo here.

The colour gold dominated the theme for the event last evening, which marked the culmination of the three-day expo aimed at bringing the people of the two countries together through fashion, food and music.

Glamorous, elegant and flamboyant collections in bright colours inspired by the swadeshi movement and the orient made an appearance at the fashion show, which began with a delay of four hours. "Gold is the main colour of the night. A lot of gold zardosi work is being used. My Braahti collection is based on Wagha which is a Pakistani cut. Pakistani Zardosi along with Indian handwork and it's a completely gold collection with fantastic colours like nude, beige and magentas," Huma Nassr, the founder of the design label Braahtii and the curator of Shaan-e-Pakistan said.

Umar Sayeed, a top designer from Pakistan presented a diverse and colourful collection on the runaway. Sayeed's collection had opened the show.

"I have showcased formal as well as bridal wear. It's a very small collection. Warm colour palette has been used for my collection which essential consists of yellow, orange, maroon and gold. I have basically got marodi work to this platform which is called resham here," Sayeed said.

Collections from the various designers included silk jackets, embroidered shirts, gararas, lehengas, smart formals and bridal wear, the evening bedazzled the audiences with a wide range of designs, cuts, materials and embroidery work. "The collection opens with a pearl palette followed by topaz and slowly turns into deeper richer more passionate jewel tones. Alexandrites, rubies and garnets vie with sapphires and turquoise to finally transform into ebony. Each outfit is delicately embellished with burnished gold or silver through intricate embroideries and appliques," designer Poonam Bhagat said.

Bhagat was one of the leading Indian designers to showcase her collection at the expo.

"The silhouettes are layered and sheers mix delightfully with solids. Gossamer chanderis twirl and swirl under silk jackets and robes, some quilted and appliqued in gold, others merely appliqued. The pairing is interesting and complimentary. The anarkalis flirt outrageously with volume and a burst of colours while the linear robes try to keep them in check," Bhagat said. Re-entering the pret market this season with a striking shoot featuring Indian model and actor Lisa Haydon, Sahar Atif set the stage on fire with her exquisite hand-crafted bridal wear creation with exotic embroideries like dabka, zarodsi, mukaish, tulle and their variants.—*PTI*

Record entries received for international children's film festival

NEW DELHI — The Children's Film Society of India (CFSI) has received a record number of entries from across the world this year for the International Children's Film Festival it is organising in Hyderabad from 14th to 20th November.

CFSI CEO Shravan Kumar said the 19th International Children's Film Festival of India has already received over 1,204 entries. 894 and 748 entries had been received for 18th and 17th ICFFI respectively.

"We have received 1,204 entries this year which includes those for the coveted offering Little Directors section, and this number doesn't include country-focused entries.

In the 19th ICFFI, Little Directors section has been expanded to International Level.

"Entries for this section were called from all over the world.

For this year's edition, we have received 21 entries from 7 countries including Argentina, UAE, Russia, Taiwan, Belgium, Australia and Slovakia," Kumar said.

In the Little Directors section, the CFSI invites films made by children upto 16 years of age.

The CFSI CEO said that the growing number of entries reflected the increasing popularity and recognition of the festival.

Officials said that the CFSI is also exploring the possibility of marketing Indian children's films abroad. It had recently participated in the Berlin Film Festival with this aim in mind.

They said it was at the Berlin Film Festival where 'Gattu', a CFSI production, was given a Special Mention by an international jury at Generation Berlinale 2012. 'Gattu' was the first commercially released film of CFSI.

CFSI has been making films for the Indian market since its inception in 1955 and continuous efforts are on to reach international markets with cinema that is as entertaining as it is educative, officials said.—*PTI*

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(14-9-2015 07:00 am~15-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- The Making Procedure Of Goldsmith
07:43 Am Ancient Shwe-San-Taw Pagoda
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Licuala Palm Leaf
08:35 Am Myanmar Women Football Champions (Myanmar National Team)
08:51 Am Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Myanmar Traditional Toys
09:41 Am A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Myanmar Classic Cars Rally 2015 (Episode-1)
10:39 Am Myanmar Classic Cars Rally 2015 (Episode-2)
10:51 Am Myanmar Classic Cars Rally 2015 (Episode-3)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Sunday 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
07:26 Pm Food Trip (Ep-5) (Part-1)
07:45 Pm Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
07:51 Pm Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin
08:48 Pm Director: Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Pyit)

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

Beijing to host World Leisure Congress in 2020

BEIJING — Beijing will host the World Leisure Congress in 2020 to build itself a world tourism and leisure center, Beijing's tourism development commission announced Saturday.

The congress, which will be held in Pinggu District at the eastern end of Beijing, is expected to invite more than 1,000 delegates from universities, academic institutes and enterprises at home and abroad, according to the commission.

The city will organize 16 leisure activities involving water sports, gourmet festival and folk culture exhibitions at that time, it said.

Beijing's tourist industry has grown rapidly to become an important sector of the city's economy in recent decades, thanks to the historical and cultural attractions.

The city hopes to take the chance of hosting this congress to learn experience to improve its tourism industry and keep tourists more entertained throughout their stay.

The World Leisure Congress has been held once every two years in different cities since 1988.—*Xinhua*

Lanterns bring Montreal Botanical Gardens' Chinese Garden to life

Chinese lanterns are seen in Montreal Botanical Gardens' Chinese Garden in Canada, Sept. 12, 2015. Every year Chinese lanterns bring the Montreal Botanical Gardens' Chinese Garden to life at night. About 900 lanterns will light up the Chinese Gardens from Sept 4th until Nov 1st and will attract thousands of visitors.—Xinhua

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Chinlone contest to be held in Mandalay in Dec

YANGON — Myanmar Chinlone Federation will host its annual chinlone competition in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, from 3 to 8 December.

"The federation has been holding the contest every year for some time now. However this year's competition will include a new category — the under-15s mixed doubles event," said the federation's president U Soe Naing.

Players perform a chinlone skills demonstration during last year's competition in Mandalay.—Min Htet

The federation will cover all the expenses of chinlone clubs competing in the contest, which is expected to amount to more than K50 million (US$39,000).

Chinlone enthusiasts need to register with the federation within the month of September to be eligible to compete.

The competition will have several categories, including the men's 10-stroke event, the mixed doubles 4-stroke event, the men's and women's skill demonstrations, the mixed doubles senior event, and the U-15 mixed double event.

The federation will also host the Asian Traditional Chinlone Championship on 27 December.—*Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)*

Myanmar to play against Jordan in football qualifiers

MANDALAY — Second round qualifiers for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament 2016 in Rio will take place at Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay from 14 to 22 September.

Tickets for the matches are available at Bahtoo Stadium and the Sports and Physical Education Institute in Mandalay. Grandstand seats costs K3,000 each, while general seating is K2,000 and the tickets are valid for a total of two matches.

The Myanmar women's team will play against Jordan's on 14 September, Thailand on 16 September, Vietnam on 18 September and China (Taipei) on 22 September.

Myanmar women's team won the Asia Football Federation Championship in 2004 and 2007 and was runners up in 2011, 2012 and 2015.

The team also won the silver medal in SEA Games in 1997, 2003 and 2005 and the bronze medal in 1995, 2001, 2007, 2009 and 2013.—*GNLM*

Mayweather beats Berto in farewell, ends 49-0

FLOYD Mayweather Jr. cemented his place among the pantheon of boxing greats with a unanimous decision over fellow American Andre Berto on Saturday in what he has repeatedly said would be the final fight of his career.

Mayweather, 38, easily outboxed his younger opponent over the 12 rounds to retain his WBC and WBA welterweight titles and improve his perfect career record to 49-0, matching the benchmark set by former heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano.

Five-division world champion Mayweather dominated most of the exchanges in the MGM Grand Garden Arena with his lightning jabs, control of space and agile movement about the ring to finish well ahead on all three judges' scorecards.

Berto, a 30-1 underdog against one of the best defensive fighters of all time, dropped to 30-4 as he suffered his fourth loss in his last seven fights. "Andre Berto has heart, a tremendous chin, he wouldn't lay down," Mayweather said in a ringside interview after sinking to his knees after the final bell sounded before looking up at the rafters as the fans snapped pictures with their cell phones.

"It was a good fight. I knew he would be a tough competitor. Experience played a major role tonight. He is a very athletic boxer. What can I say? I was the better man tonight."—*Reuters*

Martial scores stunner as United down Liverpool

MANCHESTER — Anthony Martial introduced himself to Manchester United fans with a superb goal to complete a 3-1 win over bitter rivals Liverpool and cap a much-improved performance from Louis van Gaal's side on Saturday.

Martial, a 36 million pounds signing from Monaco this month, danced past three defenders in the 86th minute and sidefooted the ball home on his debut to put the finishing touches to a well-deserved victory.

After a dire first half that would have dampened the enthusiasm of even the most die-hard fan, a fired-up United emerged after the break to take the game by the scruff of the neck.

Daley Blind curled them ahead from the edge of the area four minutes after the restart before Ander Herrera slammed a penalty into the roof of the net after Liverpool's 18-year-old full back Joe Gomez clumsily felled the Spaniard. Liverpool hit back with six minutes remaining when Christian Benteke pulled off an acrobatic overhead kick but he was spectacularly upstaged when Martial, a second-half substitute, had the United fans drooling in anticipation of his potential.

The result gave second-placed United 10 points from five Premier League matches, five adrift of leaders Manchester City. Liverpool are three points further back after a match that exposed some familiar defensive flaws as well as a lack of attacking spark.

Pundits and fans alike had questioned the huge fee United paid for Martial, a 19-year-old who Van Gaal said was signed more for the future than the present.

For those who did not know a lot about him, including United striker Wayne Rooney, missing from Saturday's match through injury, the Frenchman announced himself in dynamic fashion.

United, however, were already in the box seat before he arrived on the pitch in the 65th minute. Blind's brilliant finish brought the fixture to life after a first half when United hogged possession but had nothing to show for it.

The Dutchman shot home when a Juan Mata free kick from the left was cut back into his path.

United doubled the advantage with 20 minutes remaining when Gomez showed his inexperience, diving into a clumsy tackle on Herrera.

Herrera's penalty looked like being enough for United but Benteke's memorable effort gave Liverpool brief hope before Martial's moment of magic stole the show.—*Reuters*

Messi lifts Barca, five for record-breaker Ronaldo

MADRID — Lionel Messi came off the bench to earn Barcelona a 2-1 victory at Atletico Madrid on Saturday while Cristiano Ronaldo hit five goals in a 6-0 romp at Espanyol to become Real Madrid's record La Liga scorer.

Champions Barca, who started with talisman Messi as a substitute following the birth of his second son on Friday, fell behind after a tight first half at the Calderon when Fernando Torres sped clear to score in the 51st minute.

Neymar levelled four minutes later when he curled a sumptuous free kick into the top corner and the Brazil forward should have made it 2-1 in the 67th when his point-blank shot was cleared off the line by Diego Godin.

Neymar was also involved in the winner before the ball fell to Luis Suarez, who had struck the crossbar in the first half, and he slipped a pass into space for Messi to dink it past goalkeeper Jan Oblak with 13 minutes remaining.

The victory preserved Barca's perfect start to the season and they lead on a maximum nine points from three matches, three ahead of 2013-14 champions Atletico who are fifth.

"We played very well after going behind and we're very happy," Neymar told Spanish television.

"Messi is the best player in the world and when he comes on to the pitch everyone plays better."

Real have seven points in second place after Ronaldo, who like great rival Messi had drawn a blank in the opening two games, ended his early-season drought in emphatic style.

The Portugal captain turned in a blistering performance that took his tally in Spain's top flight to 230, overtaking former Real striker Raul's total of 228.

The 30-year-old FIFA Ballon d'Or winner scored in the seventh, 17th (penalty), 20th, 61st and 81st minutes while Karim Benzema struck in the 28th as Real put a hapless Espanyol to the sword.

Ronaldo, who hit five against Granada in La Liga last season, raced clear and finished calmly to set Real on their way before converting a penalty won by Gareth Bale.

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo scores a penalty against Espanyol during their Spanish first division soccer match in Cornella de Llobregat, near Barcelona, Spain, September 12, 2015.—Reuters

Bale's centre from the left set up Ronaldo to volley in his third, equalling Messi's Spanish record of 32 hat-tricks, before he turned provider by crossing for Benzema to make it 4-0 inside half an hour.

Wales playmaker Bale set Ronaldo up again after a swift counter attack and substitute Lucas Vazquez made the assist for the former Manchester United man's fifth and Real's sixth.—*Reuters*

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