

President U Htin Kyaw returns to Yangon

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Army chief, US Secretary of State discuss defence cooperation, ASEAN relations

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ENOUGH SPACE

Daw Suu, Kerry discuss sanctions, sectarian issues

DURING a meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discussed the development of democracy in Myanmar, the promotion of bilateral ties and increased US investments and cooperation in Myanmar with the top American diplomat.

During the joint press briefing, Secretary Kerry said he came to Myanmar to give a message to provide assistance to the Myanmar government, which is facing many social and economic challenges. He said the new government has done big things and is overcoming challenges by joining hands with the public.

The US Secretary of State said Myanmar's democratic transition is encouraged and supported by the US, that he was delighted to see former political prisoners in the parliament and that the results of bilateral relations are evident since the US government has set Myanmar's development as a priority.

Speaking about rising US investments in Myanmar, Mr Kerry said he would like to provide assistance to Myanmar's democracy and foreign investments, but certain sanctions will continue to be imposed to encourage all institutions, and at the same time, civil society organisations

(CSOs) to continue to support the government's reforms.

Regarding the continued sanctions, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said they are treading on the correct path, that US sanctions are understandable and do not pose a big problem. She said her government is not afraid of sanctions, and the US is still Myanmar's partner nation.

Part of their conversation touched on the persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine State and the terminology used to refer to them.

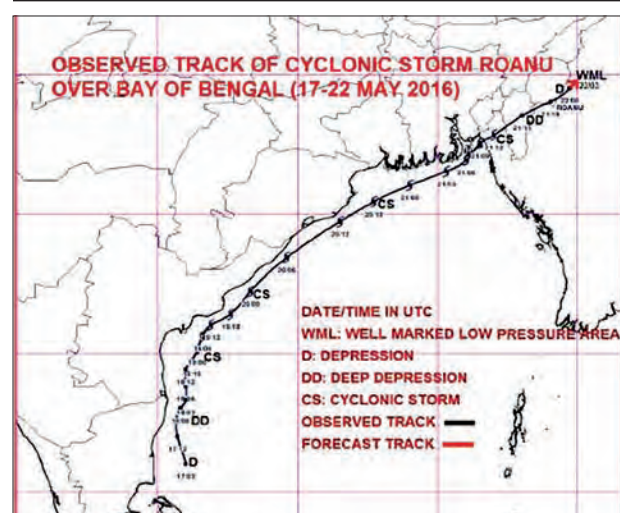
"Emotive terms make it very difficult for us to find a peaceful and sensible resolution to our problems," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told reporters, referring to the term 'Rohingya', which is highly controversial in Myanmar. Most Myanmar Buddhists believe the Muslim community to have emigrated from Bangladesh and refer to them as 'Bengalis'.

Daw Suu also urged the international community to give her administration "enough space" to address the issue of the Rohingya in northern Rakhine State.

"All we are asking is people should be aware of the difficulties we are facing and to give us enough space to solve the problem," the State Counsellor said.—GNLM



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes John Kerry in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA



Depression Roanu's trajectory as of 22 May. PHOTO: WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION

Roanu Spares Myanmar

Jaiden Coonan

The on set of Myanmar's monsoon season started with the nervous anticipation of Cyclone Roanu. Despite initial concerns, the storm created little damage. With Naypyitaw's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) citing that there are no recorded fatalities and little damage to report.

"We're still waiting to collect enough information from the affected states, but at this stage there is little to report," said Win Htein Kyaw, Director of the Union EOC. A full report of damages from Rakhine and Chin States, Sagaing and Magway Regions will be released soon.

The storm reportedly made landfall over Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar Saturday afternoon at

around 3pm.

A landslide in Chin State reportedly destroyed 19kms (12 miles) of pipeline connected to a hydroelectric dam located outside of Falam in Chin State. The Global New Light of Myanmar attempted to contact the Minister of Municipal, Electrical Power and Industry of Chin State, but was unable to reach him before time of print.

Chinland Herald Chief

Editor, Nhge Pi told The Global New Light of Myanmar that the winds had died down Saturday night and that by Sunday morning the sun could be seen, shortly disappearing behind a blanket of cloud by the afternoon.

Another source on the ground in Chin State said that the winds weren't that strong, only reporting heavy rains.

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Premier League champions Leicester City visit Shwedagon Pagoda

ENGLISH Premier League champions Leicester City made a whirlwind visit to Yangon yesterday. They were welcomed by around 500 fans at the Yangon International Airport.

Leicester City, owned by Thai billionaire Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, a Buddhist and renowned for his deeply superstitions approach to the success of the club, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda accompanied by Buddhist monks.

Before leaving Yangon that night, the team also met with the coach, instructors and players of the Premier Skills Myanmar league in Yangon.—*Ko Moe*



Buddhist monks from Thailand and Leicester City club pray at Shwedagon Pagoda.
PHOTO: THEIN ZAW

Strong wind topples tree, lamp posts in Haka

A TREE uprooted by strong wind fell onto a transformer in Haka, Chin State, at around 4:30am yesterday, cutting off power there, as Cyclone Roanu crossed the state.

Several lamp posts on the Haka-Gangaw road collapsed, and stones from the surrounding

hills fell the road, blocking traffic, according to the Haka District Information and Public Relations Department.

Local authorities and employees from the electric and road construction departments are clearing the road.—*GNLM*



The uprooted tree falls on a transformer in Haka. PHOTO: HAKA DISTRICT IPRD

Fire destroys polyna mattress factory in Mandalay

A FIRE engulfed a polyna mattress factory in Mandalay yesterday, causing more than K10 million in losses.

More than 250 fire fighters with 70 fire engines put out the fire, which started at

around 1:15pm.

The local fire department is still investigating the cause of the fire. "We heard an explosion before the fire," said a resident in Pyigyidagun Township.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



Three meat inspection laboratories to open in Taninthayi Region

MEAT inspection laboratories are to be opened at the Myanmar-Thai border crossings of Htikey and Mawtaung, located in Taninthayi Region, according to the regional Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary.

Department head Dr Nyan Lin said the opening of the laboratories will allow for the testing of meat products entering into Myanmar from neighbouring countries in the run-up to the beginning of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

"The opening of the laboratories will allow us to conduct inspections of meat-related products being imported into the country from abroad. Permission to import such products into the country will only be granted upon a letter of recommendation from the laboratories. It will allow con-

sumers to be more assured that it will be no longer be easy to import food products such as frozen chickens into the country," he said.

In order to be free of danger from food products imported from foreign countries, not only will a letter of recommendation from one of the laboratories from the meat's country of origin be required, but the products will be checked again at border point laboratories, according to the department.

This process also applies to domestic exports of meat products to foreign countries: permission for export will only be granted upon receipt of a letter of recommendation from a laboratory.

"A laboratory will also be built in Dawei simultaneously to those on the border to prevent

lengthy delays if products have to be sent to Yangon for testing should there be outbreaks of avian flu in neighbouring Thailand. There is also a need for a laboratory to be built in Thailand," Dr U Nyan Lin added.

Construction of the aforementioned laboratories this year will be financed by the regional budget and will cost K740 million, with K220 million to be used for the Htikey and Dawei laboratories and K300 million earmarked for the laboratory in Mawtaung. The building of the laboratories will be completely financed by the regional budget, while the Union government will provide financial support equipment and staff expenses. Construction of the three laboratories is expected to be completed by 2017.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Non-licensed sellers of stamps worth over K10 face legal action

LEGAL action will be taken against anyone selling stamps worth over K10 without a permit, the Bago Township Internal Revenue Department has announced.

There are roughly 130 types of stamps in Myanmar, which range in value from as little as K5 up to K500,000.

Stamp sellers will be issued with official license permits, while trainings will be given to those wishing to sell stamps with a license, according to township authorities.

Furthermore, the collection of a special duty that was enacted in January 2016 commenced

within Bago Township last month, according to the department.

The Internal Revenue Department currently collects four types of taxes and duties: income, trade, stamp and lottery. Confirmation was made in parliament on 18 January 2016, while collections continue to be made on the Special Freight Duty Law.

"Producers, foreign importers and those within the country exporting abroad must pay duties as part of the Special Freight Duty Law, with only five per cent tax being incurred on ordinary freight," said U Hla Win,

assistant director of the Bago Township Internal Revenue Department.

Penalties on those found to be selling stamps worth over K10 without a permit will range from a fine of K100,000 to six months behind bars, according to the department.

There are 16 types of special freight, which include products such as alcohol, cigarettes, beauty products, teak wood; jewellery and gems such as jade, rubies, sapphires and emeralds; oil, petroleum, natural gas and jet fuel, to name a few.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Two ASEAN-OSHNET award-winning companies honoured in Yangon

TWO local companies were honoured in Yangon yesterday with awards presented by the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET).

The ceremony was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), with managing director Dr Khin Maung Lwin of Fame Pharmaceutical Industry and chief operating officer U Than Htaik Lwin of Proven Technology Industry delivering briefs on their measures for workplace safety and health.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe described workplace safety and health standards as crucial in a resurgent Myanmar, stressing the need to adopt policies to recruit, train and retain a highly skilled and healthy workforce for the country's economic growth.

The two award-winning companies bore witness to the competitiveness of local companies in the ASEAN region, the Union minister added, en-

couraging entrepreneurs to try to win prizes in ASEAN-OSHNET's second awards ceremony, which is scheduled to be held in Cambodia in 2018.

Fame Pharmaceutical Industry Co Ltd and Proven Technology Industry (Toyo Battery) Co Ltd won the Excellent Award and Best Practice awards, respectively, at ASEAN-OSHNET's first awards ceremony in Da Nang, Vietnam, on 27 April.

ASEAN-OSHNET was established in 2000 with the aim of acting as an effective network in fostering a safe and healthy working environment to bring about a productive and competitive workforce to ensure a better quality of life.

Following its 14th meeting in Singapore in 2009, the network reached an agreement to present Excellence Awards and Best Practice Awards every two years, with an intention to deepen constructive cooperation and strengthen solidarity among occupational safety and health institutions in the ASEAN community.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Roanu Spares Myanmar

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The storm was not severe in northern Rakhine State with Maungdaw resident Maung Win Thein stating that winds weren't, "that bad."

"The internet slowed down so we had to rely on information from our radios, but the storm wasn't bad. Everyone was well prepared before hand so there hasn't been any distribution of food aid," Maung Win Thein told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Kyaw Min, Head of Rakhine State Relief and Resettlement Department said that there hasn't been any damage reported to them and no landslides in the north of the state, nor has any aid been handed out due to the lack of damage.

Saturday evening OCHA released their first report about the storm issuing a warning stating that, "relevant government departments and the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) are all on standby for search and rescue activities.

MRCS has mobilised over 100 Emergency Response Team

Members and volunteers and also disseminating early warning alerts to the communities in Chin, Rakhine, Magwe and Sagaing."

Also saying that humanitarian organisations were assessing relief stock in the country, and that in Rakhine an assessment team consisting of 75 people were ready for deployment if necessary.

Hla Tun, Deputy Director of Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) said that the storm has now dissipated over land and is regarded as a 'green' alert, meaning it is over.

The depression is moving north-east over Sagaing Region and into Kachin State. It is now currently noted as depression Roanu.

The depression is set to bring heavy rain to Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Rakhine can expect heavy coastal showers today.

A large cloud cluster sits over the majority of Myanmar with rain expected throughout the entire country today.



President U Htin Kyaw is being welcomed back by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

President U Htin Kyaw returns to Yangon

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw returned to Yangon yesterday after attending the Russia-ASEAN Summit in Sochi, Russia.

The President was welcomed at Yangon International Airport

by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun, Commander of Yangon Region Command Brig-Gen Myo Zaw Thein,

Yangon regional ministers, NLD patron Thura U Tin Oo, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vasili Pospelove and other officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Efforts made to bring renewable energy to Myanmar industrial zones

THAI and Myanmar companies will begin to work together with relevant government departments to bring 300 megawatt solar and wind power plants to industrial zones in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

The Thailand-based Kamari Panit Ltd Partnership and Myanmar-based Won Toll Co Ltd signed an agreement of cooperation at Yangon's Summit Park View hotel on 18 May, in which they agreed to begin to work to obtain permission from relevant government departments to implement the solar and wind energy plants.

"We can see the interest of

those foreign investors who we have connections with. The reaction of the government at this time of electricity within Myanmar as an emergency requirement is interesting," said U Aung Min Zaw, managing director of Won Toll Co Ltd.

Once permission for the 300 megawatt solar and wind power plant is obtained, between 50 and 100 megawatts will produced within the first six months, with 300 megawatts to be produced within the space of a year. As such, there is a need to acquire permission from the government prior to the rainy season.

"Insufficient electricity with-

in industrial zones can have large negative implications for foreign investors [who have active business operations within the zones]. It is with this that we welcome electricity that can be obtained without damaging the environment," said U Myat Thin Aung, president of the Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone. To allow for the implementation of the 300 megawatt power plant, the Thai company will make two big bonds of US\$10 million each to a bank as instructed by Won Toll Co Ltd, which will then be utilised once permission from the Myanmar government has been obtained.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Construction entrepreneurs take home K12 billion from Housing & Lifestyle Expo

CONSTRUCTION entrepreneurs who took part in the Housing & Lifestyle Expo organised by House.com.mm took home K12 billion (US\$10 million), according to House.com.mm.

The expo drew the interest of many because of a newly approved Condominium Law, together with the real estate projects of the new government.

"The implementation of real estate projects and construction

developments are good in changing a country. Myanmar's real estate market, together with foreign investment within, has become stronger because of the enactment of the Condominium Law," said Nitesh Khirwal, managing director of House.com.mm.

The Housing & Lifestyle Expo of House.com.mm was held at Yangon's Tatmadaw Hall from 5-8 May. Housing and real estate agents, home seekers, buyers,

renters and investors were all in attendance.

It is known that Yangon Region Chief Minister U Pyo Min Thein and Yangon mayor U Maung Maung Soe also attended the expo. The House.com.mm website was started in Myanmar in 2012 and provides online real estate services in the form of homes and apartments for both buyers and sellers.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

FFI to conserve Myeik coral reefs

CORAL reef conservation efforts will be carried out in the Myeik Archipelago in Taninthayi Region by Flora and Fauna International (FFI) in cooperation with local residents.

FFI has chosen three undamaged coral reefs near Langan Island in Bokepyin, Donepalaw and Linlon villages in Kyunsu Township and plans to designate them as protected areas.

FFI will also offer education-

al programmes on environmental conservation to local residents. Since 2012, FFI has been making observations around the Myeik Archipelago and has identified several coral reefs that have been destroyed by conditions created by humans. To protect undamaged coral reefs there, FFI has decided to conserve them in cooperation with locals, planning to preserve coral reefs in other parts of the area in the future.

Technical training to be offered to farmers across Sagaing

TECHNIQUES for quality muskmelon production will be shared by the Muskmelon Producers and Exporters Association to local growers in Sagaing Region.

With the aim of boosting quality muskmelon production in the region to export them abroad, the project will begin next year, said U Naing Win, chair of the association.

Under the programme, the association will offer agricul-

tural technical education to over 3,000 farmers from 52 villages in eight townships—Chaung U, Myaung, Butalin, Ayadaw, Myinmu and Wetlet—in Sagaing Region.

“We decided to provide the training to the growers after surveying 350 local growers. During the survey, we found that 25 per cent of farmers need agricultural technology to cultivate successful muskmelon plantations,” said U Naing Win.

Millions of plants to be grown in greening campaign

A GREEN environment campaign will be carried out in watershed areas with the aim of growing between 57 million and 93 million plants during the coming monsoon season, according to the Forestry Department.

“To create a green environment, improve the natural environment and improve public awareness on conserving trees and forests, plants will be cultivated in public areas, including

hospitals, schools and religious areas, as well as watershed areas,” said Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, director-general of the Forestry Department.

He added: “We will carry out forest development activities after drawing a new 10-year plan (from 2016-2017 to 2025-2016) for 68 districts. The plan will cover 16 kinds of forest development programmes, including the establishment of teak and hardwood plantations and the

conservation of forests.”

The Forestry Department drafts a 10-year development plan every decade.

Myanmar’s forest area had decreased from 57.97 per cent in 1990 to 51.54 per cent in 2000, 49.25 per cent in 2015, 46.96 per cent in 2010 and 42.92 per cent in 2015.

The deforestation rate of the country between 1990 and 2010 was 0.55 per cent per year.

—Zar Zar

Road networks to be expanded in Sagaing, Chin, Rakhine

THE Ministry of Construction will expand road networks in Sagaing Region, Chin State and Rakhine State, with plans to finish all the works by 2019.

With a US\$500 million loan from the Indian government, local authorities have initiated the project this year in several target areas.

The major aim of the project is to promote trade relations be-

tween Myanmar and India. The project is meant to allow Myanmar products to be exported directly to India. At the moment, Myanmar products produced in the three regions are exported via Yangon.

During the project, the ministry plans to upgrade nearly 70 bridges across Chin State.

Sagaing Region is located in the north-western part of the

country. It is bordered by India’s Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh states to the north.

Chin State is situated in western Myanmar.

It is bordered by Rakhine State in the south, Bangladesh in the southwest, Sagaing Region and Magwe Region in the east, the Indian state of Manipur in the north and the Indian state of Mizoram in the west.—200

Crime NEWS

Illegal bulls seized in Banmauk Tsp

A 39-YEAR-OLD man has being charged by local police for smuggling of restricted farm animals in Banmauk Township in Katha

District, Sagaing Region.

Police on Friday arrested Poe Kyar, who was found in a possession of three bulls worth about

K900,000, while they were on patrol near Thaunggyi Village.

According to investigators, the suspect bought the bulls from

Pinleu Township, Katha District, to sell them to buyers in Kachin State through Banmauk Township.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the other people involved in the case.—U Ye

Children electrocuted by exposed wire in Singu Township

FOUR children were killed on Friday by an exposed wire in a nearby lamp post while they were playing in the rain in Singu Township, Mandalay Region.

According to the police investigation, electric power from the exposed wire travelled through some iron wire mesh surrounding a garden belonging to U Tint beside the Singu-Kyaukmyaung road.

The children, all of whom were under nine years old, were electrocuted when they touched the mesh.

An eight-year-old daughter and a four-year-old son of U Kyaw Lin Tun and the seven-year-old and six-year-old daughters of U Thiha Aung sustained serious injuries and died on the way to hospital.

Police are still investigating the case.—Win Maung

Two houses destroyed by fire

TWO houses were destroyed by a fire in Dawnoeku Ward in Loikaw, Kayah State, on Saturday morning. According to investigators, the fire started in the upper part of the home of U Aung Win. The flame quickly spread to the house owned by U Sai Htoo (aka U Kyaw Zan Nay Win).

The home fire was put under control by local firefighters with the use of five fire engines and a water tanker within 45 minutes.

Police are still investigating the cause of the blaze.—Ye Naung



The remains of two houses destroyed by a fire in Loikaw.

Elderly woman killed in road accident



A 72-YEAR-OLD woman died on the spot after a three-car collision on a road between Myawady and Kawkaeyik townships last Thursday.

A Toyota vehicle driven by a middle-aged woman collided head-on with a Toyota Fielder driven by Min Naing Oo with three passengers on board after she lost control of the car near Tatanku Village.

The Fielder car crashed into a

Toyota Hiace Commuter driven by Aung Moe Kyaw.

The collision killed Daw Khin Mya Win, one of the passengers in the Fielder and injured several others, who were taken to the Kawkaeyik General Hospital after the accident.

Police are searching for the driver of the Toyota, who fled the scene after the crash.—Tin Win Hlaing

Abe to call for G-7's help for ASEAN antiterror efforts

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to call on his Group of Seven counterparts to jointly assist members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to crack down on terrorism, a Japanese government source said Sunday.

The underlying aim is to curb the expanding influence of the Islamic State militant group in Southeast Asia and step up the fight against terrorism in the entire Asian region ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the source said.

Abe wants to incorporate joint support for ASEAN countries in an action plan for combating terrorism to be crafted at the G-7 summit, which is to take place in the central Japan prefecture of Mie on Thursday and Friday.

The G-7 members — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the European Union — are arranging to vow in the action plan that the G-7 will jointly help regions, including in Asia, that have insufficient antiterror measures in place.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have all seen cases of young people traveling to Islamic State-controlled areas in Syria and Iraq where they have received training as militants before returning home.

Acts of terrorism and violence linked to the group have also hit ASEAN countries, including a series of bombings in Jakarta and the arrest of an Islamic State member plotting a suicide attack in



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kuala Lumpur, both in January.

The Abu Sayyaf militant group, based in the southern part of the Philippines, is said to have connections with Islamic State. In southern Thailand, there has been a surge in terrorist attacks mounted by antigovernment Islamic guerrillas.

Abe believes the anti-terror know-how of G-7 nations should be shared with Asian countries, the source said.

Tokyo is also eager to prevent acts of terrorism from happening at home as a result of the growing

number of tourists from Southeast Asia visiting Japan, the source said.

The action plan would focus on preventing violent radicalism from emerging in any society.

It is also expected to include such measures as utilizing information on those wanted internationally by the International Criminal Police Organisation and cutting off funding to terrorists.

The ASEAN is made up of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.—Kyodo News

Indonesia volcano spews hot clouds of ash, kills at least seven

JAKARTA — Seven people have died and two are in critical condition after Mount Sinabung on Sumatra island erupted on Saturday, said an Indonesian disaster agency official, adding that the army and police are still searching for survivors in the area.

The 2,460-metre (8,070 foot) tall volcano is among the country's most active. When Sinabung erupted in 2014, more than a dozen people were killed and thousands were evacuated. Before recent times, its last known eruption was four centuries ago.

Since a few years ago, the government has imposed several red zones near Sinabung's crater, including the village of

Gamber where the nine people were found, National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said in a statement.

"It is not immediately clear how many people were in Gamber because when the mountain spewed clouds of hot ash, there was not supposed to be any activity in the area," Nugroho said on Sunday.

The volcano, about 1,900 km (1,180 miles) northwest of Jakarta, is still spewing hot ashes as of Sunday, making it dangerous for search and rescue, according to BNPB.

Indonesia, located on the Pacific Rim of Fire, has more than 120 active volcanoes.—Reuters

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Viet Nam's president calls for peace and stability in South China Sea

HANOI — Viet Nam's president said Saturday that his country hopes Japan and other countries will make efforts to help maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

"We propose countries in the world, including Japan, continue to make practical and constructive contributions to maintaining peace, stability," Tran Dai Quang said, answering questions in writing over the territorial disputes in the region posed by Kyodo News and other media organisations.

Quang, who took office in April, said conflicts in the contested waters are not the exclusive concern of those countries who claim territory there, but nations across the world.

"Activities that caused destabilisation, altered the status quo, violated international laws...have undermined the confidence and increased tensions," he said, adding that "many countries in the region, and the international community feel insecure, have repeatedly raised voices expressing deep concerns."

Quang did not name any particular parties in the

South China Sea conflicts, although Viet Nam's claims to territory in the region are actively contested by China, which has embarked on a large-scale land reclamation and building program on a number of islands and reefs in the sea.

As well as Viet Nam, China's claims conflict with those made by Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, and Beijing is currently involved in an arbitration hearing in The Hague, which was instigated by the Philippines over land in the Spratly chain.

While claiming that Viet Nam has "full legal and historical bases to assert sovereignty" over the Paracel and Spratly island chains in the sea, Quang demanded countries in the world "respect international laws in the South China Sea region."

"We pledge to do our best together with countries in maintaining this common target."

Japan is not a claimant in the South China Sea dispute, and has repeatedly been advised by China to refrain from becoming in-



Vietnam's president Trần Đại Quang. PHOTO: REUTERS

volved in the conflict. The United States' actions to ensure freedom of navigation and overflight in the region have also provoked stern responses from China.

Writing about Viet Nam-Japan relations, Quang expressed hope for further cooperation in a range of fields, calling Japan "one of the most important, leading, long term partners."

He said he hopes Japan will continue to grant official development assistance to Viet Nam, "especially in the fields of high

technology, supporting industry, infrastructure development."

Quang also called for cooperation in education, training, environment protection and disaster prevention.

According to statistics from Japan's Foreign Ministry, 2.4 trillion yen (\$21.7 billion) was provided to Viet Nam in the form of loan aid between 2010 and 2014, while 143.7 billion yen was given as grant aid in the same period, with 2011 seeing the highest disbursement figures for both loans and grants.—Kyodo News

Obama, bound for Viet Nam, seeks to turn old foe into new partner



An image of US President Barack Obama is seen at a tailor shop in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 21 May 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE — US President Barack Obama on Sunday headed for his first visit to Viet Nam, a trip aimed at sealing the transformation of an old enemy into a new partner to help counter China's growing assertiveness in the region.

Four decades after the Viet Nam War, Obama — the first US leader to come of age after a conflict that bitterly divided America — will seek to deepen defence and economic ties with the country's communist government while also prodding them on hu-

man rights, aides say.

Pressure has mounted for Obama to use his landmark visit, which begins on Monday, to roll back a 32-year-old arms embargo on Hanoi, one of the last vestiges of wartime animosity.

Lifting the ban — something Viet Nam has long sought — would anger Beijing, which resents US efforts to forge stronger military bonds with its smaller neighbours at a time of rising tensions in the disputed South China Sea. But there was no immediate word of a final US decision on the

issue. Viet Nam's poor human rights record remains a possible sticking point, but the Obama administration appears increasingly swayed toward giving Hanoi some leeway to build its deterrent against China.

"Nobody has any illusions," said Evan Medeiros, Obama's former top Asia adviser. "This trip sends important signals to China about US activism in the region and growing US concern about Chinese behaviour."

Closer military cooperation with allies and partners has been a

major thrust of Obama's strategic "rebalance" toward the Asia-Pacific region, a centerpiece of his foreign policy. Obama's Viet Nam visit comes just days after Chinese fighter jets carried out what the Pentagon said was an "unsafe" intercept of a US military reconnaissance plane in the South China Sea. Beijing is pursuing territorial claims there that conflict with those of Viet Nam and several other countries.

Obama will be the third consecutive US president to visit Viet Nam since diplomatic relations were restored in 1995.

"What we want to demonstrate with this visit is a significant upgrade in the relationship between the United States and Viet Nam ... even as we have areas of difference," said Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser.

Washington wants Viet Nam to open up more on the economic front and also move closer militarily, including increased port visits by US warships, possibly with access to the strategic harbour at Cam Ranh Bay, US officials say.

But even as the two sides look forward, there will be reminders of the past. Obama will be accompanied by Secretary of State John Kerry, who after a tour in Viet Nam as a young Navy officer burst onto the scene as an antiwar protester in the 1970s.

At the first stop of Obama's

three-day visit, Hanoi, the seat of communist rule, he will meet Viet Nam's new president, Tran Dai Quang, its new prime minister, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.

Obama won't be able to avoid prominently displayed images and busts of the late Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh, revered by many of his compatriots but widely reviled in the United States during the war. The conflict involving US combat forces was estimated to have killed hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and 58,000 American troops.

In the country's commercial hub, Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, Obama will meet entrepreneurs, a chance to tout Hanoi's role in a trans-Pacific trade pact he has championed.

But the name of the city, the capital of South Viet Nam during the war, evokes searing images for many Americans of a final frantic US airlift in 1975.

While Vietnam wants warmer ties, some officials are suspicious that the United States seeks to undermine their one-party rule.

Obama plans to meet dissidents amid US concerns about the government's heavy-handedness toward opponents. Hanoi released a Catholic priest, one of its longest-serving prisoners, on Friday, in a possible gesture ahead of Obama's visit.—Reuters

North Korea proposes working-level military talks with South Korea

BEIJING — North Korea put forward proposals for working-level military talks with South Korea on Saturday, according to a statement released by official state media.

An article from the Korean Central News Agency said the idea had been originally proposed at the seventh congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, a four-day event in Pyongyang which ended 9 May, and stated that the ministry overseeing North Korea's armed forces had sent a notice to the South Korean military on Saturday, which it reproduced.

"It is an urgent matter directly related to the existence of the Korean nation to defuse the military tension and prevent in advance the second...Korean war on the Korean peninsula at present," the notice read.

"We think that it is necessary for the military authorities of the north and the south to discuss in an honest and candid manner the outstanding issues related to any possible military conflict and agree on...taking practical steps for building con-

fidence between militaries," it went on.

The notice proposed that talks between the two sides should take place "at the date and place both sides deem convenient in late May or early June."

It ended by placing the ball firmly in South Korea's court, by stating, "All the Koreans in the north and the south and abroad will closely watch whether the south Korean authorities truly stand for peace."

Tensions have been high on the Korean peninsula in recent months, following North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January and its launch of a rocket using banned ballistic-missile technology a month later. Both acts were in violation of UN sanctions.

North Korea issued various threats against South Korea and its ally the United States after further sanctions were passed as a result of the nuclear test and rocket launch, and has fired a series of missiles and projectiles, usually into the Sea of Japan.—Kyodo News

Two years after coup, ousted Yingluck says Thailand's junta must speed up reform

BANGKOK — Two years to the day that Thailand's army toppled the remnants of her government, former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra called on the junta to accelerate a return to democracy, and a poll showed Thais were no happier than before the coup.

In 2014, the military staged their 12th successful coup since the

country became a constitutional monarchy in 1932, and khaki army uniforms replaced the yellow and red shirts of the protesters that had paralyzed Bangkok for months.

"It was the day that the people's rights and freedom were taken away," Yingluck said in a Facebook post.



Ousted former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra arrives at the Supreme Court for a trial on criminal negligence looking into her role in a debt-ridden rice subsidy scheme during her administration, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I can only hope that the NCPO (junta) remembers what they promised to the people... I have growing concerns because today, people are suffering from economic hardship, poverty and critical social issues including increasing drug use."

A referendum on a junta-backed draft constitution is due on 7 August, and the government has promised an election in 2017.

Yingluck is on trial in the Supreme Court on corruption charges stemming from a state rice subsidy scheme and faces up to a decade in jail if found guilty.

A leader to replace her has yet to emerge, leaving the opposition struggling to mount a campaign for a no vote to a constitution they say would enshrine military power for years.

Thailand's divisive politics has gone underground due to a junta ban on political activity. The army has moved quickly to snuff out recent small anti-junta anti-constitution protests in Bangkok. Critics say Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's national reconciliation process has made divisions worse by excluding supporters of Yingluck and her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin.—Reuters

Kerry says Taliban leader Mansour posed a 'continuing imminent threat'



US Secretary of State John Kerry adjusts his earphones during a news conference in Vienna, Austria, on 17 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NAY PYI TAW — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour posed a “continuing imminent threat” to US personnel in Afghanistan and to Afghans, and was a threat to peace. US officials in Washington said on Saturday US missile-fir-

ing drones had attacked Mansour and probably killed him in a strike in southwest Pakistan, near the Afghan border, authorised by US President Barack Obama.

“Yesterday, the United States conducted a precision air strike that targeted Taliban leader Mullah Mansour in a remote area

of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Mansour posed a continuing, imminent threat” to US personnel and Afghans, Kerry told a news conference in the Myanmar capital.

“This action sends a clear message to the world that we will continue to stand with our Afghan partners as they work to build a more stable, united, secure and prosperous Afghanistan.”

Kerry said the leaders of both Pakistan and Afghanistan were notified of the air strike but he declined to elaborate on the timing of the notifications, which he said included a telephone call from him to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

“Peace is what we want. Mansour was a threat to that effort and to bringing an end to the violence and suffering people of Afghanistan have endured for so many years now. He was also directly opposed to the peace negotiation and to the reconciliation process,” Kerry said. —Reuters

Spain's centre-right PP to strengthen position in election — poll

MADRID — Spain's centre-right People's Party (PP) is on course to increase its share of the vote in a general election next month, a poll showed on Sunday, but it may not be enough to end political stalemate in the country.

An alliance of left-wing parties led by newcomer Podemos could overtake the Socialist party as the main opposition force, the poll in *El Pais* newspaper added.

Spaniards will vote again on 26 June after an inconclusive December election failed to deliver a mandate to govern to any one party and politicians were unable to agree on a coalition administration.

The PP, in power for four years and heading Spain's current

caretaker government, topped the survey carried out by pollster Metroscopia and published in *El Pais* with 29.9 per cent.

Although the party of acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy improved its rating by 1.2 per cent points on December's percentage of the vote, such a level of support is unlikely to be enough to break the deadlock.

The alliance between anti-austerity party Podemos and former communist party United Left, Unidos Podemos (“Together We Can”), would garner 23.2 per cent of the vote, the poll showed, beating the Socialists on 20.2 per cent.

The poll showed percentage of vote and not the number of

seats parties are likely to get in parliament.

The percentage vote of the two leftist parties combined is less than each won individually in the December election but due to the way the vote is counted would likely mean more seats in parliament than if they campaigned on separate tickets, the paper said.

The PP would benefit from a predicted low turnout rate of 68 per cent, five percentage points lower than December's figure, the paper said. Market-friendly Ciudadanos would come fourth on 15.5 per cent, the poll showed.

The poll surveyed 1,200 people by telephone on 17 May and 18 May. —Reuters

Tajik leader strengthening grip on power in volatile region

ALMATY — President Imomali Rakhmon seems set to strengthen his power by referendum on Sunday as Tajikistan, on the front line against militancy and crime from neighbouring Afghanistan, sinks deeper into an economic crisis and simmering discontent.

Many of the hundreds of thousands of Tajiks working in recession-hit Russia have been forced to return home, either because they lost their jobs or

because their wages were no longer sufficient following the Russian rouble's devaluation.

There have been no major public protests in the authoritarian state, but political tensions are on the rise. In September, general and former opposition fighter was killed in a gunfight with government forces after a failed attempt to seize power from Rakhmon.

Sunday's referendum seeks the public vote on 41 constitu-

tional amendments drafted by a loyal government. In power since 1994, Rakhmon wants to scrap the limit on presidential terms to prevent his current term ending in 2020 from being his last one.

The proposals would also lower the minimum age for presidential candidates, allowing Rakhmon's elder son Rustam, who runs the state financial control agency, to run for office if he chooses to do so. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK's Cameron says Trump comments on Muslim ban 'very dangerous'

LONDON — British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Sunday US presidential candidate Donald Trump's comments on banning Muslims from entering the United States were “very dangerous”, adding to his criticism of the presumptive Republican nominee. “It's a very dangerous thing to say ... as well as a divisive and wrong one,” Cameron told ITV's “Peston on Sunday” show. However, he said he would be prepared to meet Trump if he came to Britain ahead of the US election.

In December, Cameron called Trump “divisive, stupid and wrong” for calling for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States. —Reuters

Iran's army launches war games, tests missiles

TEHRAN — Iranian Army Ground Force launched military drills in central region of the country and conducted missile tests on Sunday, Tasnim news agency reported.

Code-named Beit al-Moqaddas-28, the war game is scheduled to be performed in three stages. The first and second phases of the drill will be held on Sunday in the desert areas and the third will be carried out on Monday across Nasrabad operational zone in Isfahan province. On the first stage of the drills, the army test-fired two Neze'at-10 missiles, each with the range of 140 km, as a part of the exercise in deserts near the central city of Kashan in Isfahan province. —Xinhua

Egypt's Sisi says all scenarios possible in Egypt Air crash

CAIRO — Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi urged the media on Friday not to speculate about the cause of an EgyptAir plane crash which killed all 66 people on board, and said all scenarios are still being considered.

In a speech he gave at the opening of a fertilizer plant, Sisi said the investigation into the cause of the crash could take a long time but that no one could hide the facts. “Until now all scenarios are possible. So please, it is very important that we do not talk and say there is a specific scenario,” Sisi told assembled ministers and MPs. —Reuters

1.4 bln yen stolen from 1,400 convenience store ATMs across Japan

TOKYO — A total of 1.4 billion yen (\$12.7 million) in cash has been stolen from some 1,400 automated teller machines in convenience stores across Japan in the space of two hours earlier this month, investigative sources said Sunday.

Police suspect that the cash was withdrawn at ATMs using counterfeit credit cards containing account information leaked from a South African bank.

Japanese police will work with South African authorities through the International Criminal Police Organisation to look into the major theft, including how credit card information was leaked, the sources said. The theft at convenience store ATMs took place in the morning of 15 May in Tokyo and 16 prefectures across the country, and police believe over 100 people might have coordinated in the unlawful withdrawal. —Kyodo News

Three dead, 11 injured in concert shooting in Austria

VIENNA — A man shot dead two people and wounded 11 others before turning the gun on himself at a concert organised by a motorcycle club in western Austria on Sunday, a police spokeswoman said. The shooting took place at around 3 am (0100 GMT) at the concert in Nenzing, a market town near the border with Liechtenstein. Around 150 people attended the event.

The police spokeswoman said that after a row with his girlfriend, the 27-year-old shooter grabbed a gun from his car and fired randomly into the crowd. The girlfriend was unharmed.

Police said the full circumstances of the incident were not yet known and that investigations were ongoing. —Reuters

Opinion

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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.

Sochi Plan of Action welcomed

Khin Maung Aye

THE heads of state and government of the member states of the Associations of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Russian Federation have released the Sochi Declaration at the end of the ASEAN-Russian Federation Commemorative Summit to Mark the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Russian Federation partnership.

These heads of state and government have recognised the achievements of their countries in a wide range of areas, including political, security, trade and economics, culture, people-to-people exchange and development co-

operation. In this era, the world is changing fast, and there is an increased tendency toward multipolarity. Regional security is evolving in an open, transparent, inclusive and rule-based manner. The establishment of the ASEAN community is welcomed by the international community, and Russian Federation and ASEAN have reaffirmed their commitment to build stronger, deeper and mutually beneficial relations in order to ensure regional peace, stability and prosperity.

From among over four dozen resolutions passed at the Sochi summit, there are commitments to cooperate be-

tween ASEAN and the Russian Federation concerning narrowing the development gap and connectivity. Russia's support for ASEAN's effort to bridge the development gap within and between ASEAN member states is welcomed as appropriate.

According to the Sochi Declaration, Russia's support includes the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth as stipulated in the IAI Work Plan II and its successor document. Concerning ASEAN connectivity, the declaration involves a commitment to explore ways to cooperate on

ASEAN connectivity in line with the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and its successor document, as well as to promote enhanced connectivity between ASEAN and Russia, including more effective transport links and closer people-to-people ties.

In this regard, *The Global New Light of Myanmar* welcomes the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Action to promote cooperation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation (2016-2020) and to task relevant authorities to oversee its implementation in several sectors through appropriate ASEAN-Russia mechanisms.

Sexual Violence against Children

Dr. Khine Khine Win

EVERY day, millions of children throughout the world are subjected to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence in different ways. Sexual violence against children is a gross violation of children's rights. Yet it is a global reality across all strata of society and in all countries of the world. It can take the form of sexual abuse, harassment, rape or sexual exploitation in prostitution or pornography. It is usually a silent, hidden, indivisible crime that both boys and girls face at home or outside, often at the hands of trusted adults. Talking about sexual violence is difficult because of the many taboos that surround the issues of sexuality, abuse and exploitation. In fact, cases of sexual violence against children are even more difficult to talk about because of a culture of silence and shame suppresses any discussion of children.

The majority of children never report the abuse, and often this is because they are afraid of their parents' reactions, because they fear getting in trouble, or because they don't know how to tell. The child who keeps the abuse secret is more likely to experience severe physical and emotional consequences, both in childhood and later in life.

There are many factors that

contribute to sexual violence against children such as children's being not considered to have the same rights as adults, gender discrimination, tradition, religion, cultural practice and superstition. Because of increasing poverty, more families are either forced or deceived into selling their girls into prostitution. There are other factors like illiteracy, lack of awareness about sexual violence against children. Because of majority's receiving no sex education either at home or at school, the increasing threat of HIV, the demand for young girls who are virgins and so on.

Evidence shows that sexual violence can have serious short and long-term physical, psychological and social consequences not only for girls or boys, but also for their families and communities. This includes increased risks for illness, unwanted pregnancy, psychological distress, stigma, discrimination and difficulties at school. The consequences of violence can be devastating. Above all, it can result in early death. In these reasons, preventing and responding to violence and exploitation is essential to ensuring children's right to survival, development, participation and well-being.

From human rights perspective, all children have rights and those rights must be protected. Almost every country in the world including Myanmar has committed

to protecting the right of children by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRC. It is the most universally ratified human rights treaty in human history. Articles 34 and 35 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child say that governments should protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse and take all measures possi-

ing sold for non-sexual purposes—such as other forms of forced labor, illegal adoption and organ donation. Myanmar became a State Party of that optional protocol in 2012.

In order to address sexual violence against children issue, we have to collaborate and cooperate among many partners. In effect, preventing and responding to sex-

ual violence against children should be everybody's business. Children hopes and expectations require the State to act now with real urgency to fulfill their obligations to children as right-holders. International cooperation and public education play crucial role to combat sexual abuse on child and also public awareness, information and education campaigns help protect children from sexual abuse. Much more needs to be done to prevent sexual abuse, to encourage girls and boys to report abuse and to punish perpetrators seriously. In deed, there are many ways for guardians to deal with problem situations. For instant, if a child discloses that he/she has been sexually abused or exploited, Do support the children and explain that he/she is not responsible for what happened, Do believe the child, Do be empathetic, understanding and supportive, Don't criticize the child, Don't get angry with the child, Don't ignore the abuse, Lodge a complaint with the police immediately and Don't make the child feel guilty about the abuse. The most important thing is that your first responsibility is to the child—to protect him/her and to ensure that there is no breach of privacy or confidentiality.

Every child deserves a future and they are our legacy for the future. Again they are our future and deserve every opportunity to live full and healthy lives. If children were to grow up without being subjected to humiliation, our world will flourish. In order to save the children, our legacy for the future, we must accelerate our efforts to end the brutality of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children and to end impunity for sexual violence against children. It's the time to stop sexual violence against children.



ble to ensure that they are not abducted, sold or trafficked. And also there is an optional protocol of CRC namely Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. This optional protocol supplements the CRC Convention by providing States with detailed requirements to end the sexual exploitation and abuse of children. It also protects children from be-

ing sold for non-sexual purposes—such as other forms of forced labor, illegal adoption and organ donation. Myanmar became a State Party of that optional protocol in 2012.

Army chief, US Secretary of State discuss defence cooperation, ASEAN relations



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives US Secretary of State John Kerry in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met US Secretary of State John Kerry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to discuss bilateral cooperation in defence as well as relations with the ASEAN community.

At the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explained plans to hold the 21st Century Panglong Conference for internal peace and relations between the government and the army.

John Kerry praised the army

for its commitment to the successful holding of free and fair elections last year, describing the achievement as historic.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said great care has to be taken in conducting political reform with the country's current condition.

"We must take a lot of things into consideration, like history, culture, tradition and geographical location," the commander-in-chief said.

He said that the country has

guaranteed equality in human rights, religion and ethnic affairs, with no discrimination or oppression.

Myanmar has a population of more than 51 millions, 85 per cent of whom practise Buddhism, the army chief said, adding that Islam, Christianity and other faiths are granted freedom of worship across the country.

"There is no religious discrimination, but respect should be given to Buddhism as a majority faith," he said.—Myawaddy

Suggested Peoples' Hundred Day Plan POEM:

With advent of the Summer and El Nino in spate
one should take care, precious water not to waste.
When brushing teeth and washing face in the morn
not to waste water by keeping the tap turned on.
Washing clothes with hand to wash them clean
instead of repeatedly washing in the machine.
Not to wash the car with a hose pipe every day
but wipe it clean with a wet cloth if one may.
As for electricity, summer is the short supply season
not wasting electricity is the duty of every citizen.
Switching off lights, fans and air-cons when not using
will help lower electricity bills, increase electricity saving.
Also not to let any one, 'fix' the electricity meter
to help reduce the electricity bills in the future.
Regarding disposal of household waste reducing,
it starts at the source, like when going marketing.
To go to the market with reusable bag for shopping
not to accept plastic bags from sellers for any thing.
Packing wastes in the 'recommended' bags to throw
but not toss the bags through the backdoor window.
To never with household waste, the pavement litter
to always place it into the YCDC waste container.
If there aren't sufficient YCDC waste containers
perhaps request the YCDC's responsible officers.
As for riding into town for business or shopping
here are some rules one should be observing.
Not to chew betel while riding on a car or a taxi
and spit out betel juice to make the streets dirty.
When eating snacks in the car or taxi not to throw
packing material and used tissues out of the window.
And not to park or double park the car near shops
to eat or shop without concern about traffic blocks.
Regarding suppression of crime, to inform promptly
the Police of any crime, is every citizens civic duty.
In the plan there may be included some other thing
however the ones mentioned are good for beginning.

Lokethar

Myanmar's LGBT community comes together against discrimination

Jaiden Coonan

Left of stage a young effeminate male presses his lips, smacking them together for effect, before swiftly unlatching his longyi, retying it. To the right, his teacher melts into her chair in traditional uniform, basket placed on her desk as she scribbles at non-existent notes.

The young man swans across stage presenting his teacher with a white rose, placing it on her desk; she brushes him off - casting him to the back of the class.

Another young male enters, more masculine, striding over presenting his teacher with a red rose. She reanimates from her puddle, perks up at the sight of the masculine student ordering him to sit at the front of the class - next to her desk.

The skit ends with the masculine student and teacher walking out arm-in-arm as the effeminate young man's glowing attitude reduces to nothing, he covers his face racing off in tears.

Yangon's LGBTI community celebrated International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) at Sen Lan So Pyay gardens on 17 May, overlooking Inya Lake. The

day's event was to recognize, once again, that sexual identity is not a mental disorder.

Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS Country Coordinator to Myanmar reminded the crowd that in 1990 the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that homosexuality was not a mental disorder.

He also reiterated that the World Psychiatric Association released a report reaffirming to countries the fact, that people who are unable to self-identify sexually in a community, either socially or in a family setting, can suffer from mental disorders. The act of acceptance in admission to a friend was featured in a shorter skit later on, depicting a friend coming out to another. It ended with a tearful hug and a reminder, as the actors exited the stage - that regardless of whom you love, you will always be loved. Yet, despite these acts and the community coming together to celebrate these few hours on a balmy Yangon afternoon, the reality for those struggling with sexual identity in Myanmar is bleak. In the 2015 Myanmar Universal Periodic Review, listed seven cases of abuse on the one page report focusing on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression

(SOGIE) Rights.

In one of these cases a 25-year old transgender woman was arrested and held in a police station over night where she was ridiculed by other prisoners and forced to strip in front of the cells, a humiliating and degrading experience with only one escape bribery. Inevitably she did, a necessity for some and a luxury for others.

The laws allowing police to arrest transgender individuals is under the 1945 Burma Police Act, section 35 (c) and (d). Most individuals are arrested under section 35 (c) that states;

"... any person found between sunset and sunrise having his face covered or otherwise disguised, who is unable to give a satisfactory account himself."

It is assumed officers would presume transgender women are intending to hide their appearances, far from the case and allowing to the law to be practiced clearly has created prejudice. At the event the Australian Ambassador to Myanmar, H.E Nicholas Coppel, said that the Australian government will work with the Myanmar government, to assure the protection of Myanmar's LGBT community, also working towards repealing



Attendees at yesterday IDAHO event.

laws that discriminate against the LGBT community - in particular the colonial era law from 1861, Section 377 of the Penal Code.

Section 377 criminalises "voluntary carnal intercourse," this can be used to imprison individuals for up to 10 years, but despite this, there weren't any prosecutions in 2015.

"It is used more for arresting transgender women," says Hla Myat Htun the Program Manager of Colors Rainbow and the Festival Director for the &Proud Yangon Film Festival. He also told The Global New Light of Myanmar that the LGBT community is not asking for different or special rights, but for human rights.

"We are also humans fighting for our rights, we are here living in the community, the same community, sharing everything in the country. We are here and we are a part of the country, we are looking

forward to developing the country by contributing our time, effort and skills to help the government," said Hla Myat Tun.

Hla Myat Tun has helped organise previous IDAHO events in Myanmar. In 2014 the event was held at People's Park in Yangon, but for the past two years the event has been held on private property after a Minister held reservations to pride events after it was against "Myanmar culture." Despite this one instance Hla Myat Tun said that the previous and current governments have been well receptive of the LGBT community and has had meetings with them in the past. Hla Myat Tun said that in the future they would like to work with the government to hold pride parades in the street, as is the custom in many countries around the world. But, it all depends on, "the countries situation and the opinions of the government," he added.

Afghan Taliban leader likely killed in US drone strike

KABUL/WASHINGTON — The United States has carried out an air strike on the leader of the Afghan Taliban, probably killing him in a remote border area just inside Pakistan, in an operation likely to dash any immediate prospect for peace talks.

If confirmed, the death of Mullah Akhtar Mansour may trigger a battle for succession and deepen fractures that emerged in the insurgent movement after the death of its founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar, was confirmed last year, more than two years after he died.

Saturday's strike, which US officials said was authorised by President Barack Obama and included multiple drones, showed the United States was prepared to go after the Taliban leadership in Pakistan, which the Western-backed government in Kabul has repeatedly accused of sheltering the insurgents.

It also underscored the belief among US commanders that under Mansour's leadership, the Taliban have grown increasingly close to militant groups like al Qaeda, posing a direct threat to US security.

"The United States conducted a precision air strike that targeted Taliban leader Mullah Mansour in a remote area of the

Afghanistan-Pakistan border," US Secretary of State John Kerry told a news conference while on a visit to Myanmar.

Mansour posed a "continuing, imminent threat" to US personnel and Afghans, he said.

"If people want to stand in the way of peace and continue to threaten and kill and blow people up, we have no recourse but to respond and I think we responded appropriately," Kerry said.

Kerry did not confirm whether the strike had killed Mansour. A Pentagon spokesman said earlier the results of the strike were being assessed.

The Afghan government also said Mansour's death had not been confirmed though a spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani said it seemed he was dead. Top officials said privately they believed he had been killed.

The Taliban have made no official statement but two commanders close to Mansour denied he was dead.

With the report of Mansour's death, attention has focused on his deputy, Sirajuddin Haqqani, leader of a notorious network blamed for most big suicide attacks in Kabul.

"Based purely on matters of hierarchy, he would be the favourite to succeed Mansour,"



Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, Taliban militants' leader. PHOTO: REUTERS

said Michael Kugelman, a senior associate at the Woodrow Wilson Institute think-tank.

Haqqani, appointed as number two after Mansour assumed control of the Taliban last year, has generally been seen as an opponent of negotiations and if he does take over, prospects for talks are likely to recede further.

Efforts to broker talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban had already stalled following a suicide attack in Kabul last month that killed 64 people and prompted Ghani to prioritize military operations over negotiations.

Ghani's office said Taliban who wanted to end bloodshed should return from "alien soil" and join peace efforts.

Kerry said the leaders of both Pakistan and Afghanistan were notified of the strike but he declined to say if they were told before or after. He said he had spoken to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif by telephone.

Pakistan has in the past denounced US strikes on its soil, calling them a violation of sovereignty, but US officials have said Pakistan has approved some strikes, in particular on militants fighting the Pakistani state.

Pakistan, which has been trying to broker Afghan talks, was "seeking clarification" on the strike, a foreign ministry spokesman said. He repeated a call for the Taliban to give up violence and join negotiations.

Drones targeted Mansour and another combatant in a vehicle in a remote area of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, southwest of the town of Ahmad Wal, a US official in Washington said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A Pakistani official in the area said a car had been blown up and two unidentified people had been killed. It was not clear how the vehicle was blown up and the

two bodies had been taken to a hospital, said the official, who declined to be identified.

One of the Taliban commanders who dismissed the report of Mansour's killing said it had nevertheless spread alarm.

"This rumour has created panic among our followers across Afghanistan and Pakistan," the senior Taliban member said by telephone, adding he was telling his comrades to ignore the report.

In December, Mansour was reportedly wounded and possibly killed in a shootout at the house of an insurgent leader in Pakistan. The Taliban eventually released an audio recording, purportedly from Mansour, to dispel the reports.

A US intelligence analyst said Mansour had been in a power struggle with another commander whose deputy was killed last year in what officials think was a fight with Mansour's more hard-line faction.

But the US official cautioned against concluding that a shake-up might diminish the Taliban's broader sense of strength, given recent gains they had made.

"It's hard to see much incentive for them to start compromising now, with the fighting just heating up again," the official said.—Reuters

Iraqi army says preparing to retake IS-held Falluja, tells residents to leave

BAGHDAD — Iraq's army said on Sunday it was preparing to retake the Islamic State stronghold of Falluja and asked residents to get ready to leave, state TV reported.

Families who could not leave should raise white flags to mark their location in the city just west of Baghdad, the army's media unit added, according to the TV channel.

Falluja was the first Iraqi

city to fall to Islamic State in January 2014, six months before the group that emerged from al Qaeda swept through large parts of Iraq and neighbouring Syria.

The army "is asking the citizens that are still in Falluja to be prepared to leave the city through secured routes that will be announced later," the channel said.

The city on the Euphrates river 50 km (32 miles) west of

the capital, had a pre-war population of around 300,000.

It is encircled by Iraqi forces and a coalition of Shi'ite militias known as Hashid Shaabi.

Known as the "City of Minarets and Mother of Mosques", Falluja is a focus for Sunni Muslim faith and identity in Iraq. It was badly damaged in two offensives by US forces against al Qaeda insurgents in 2004.—Reuters

Islamic State calls for attacks on the West during Ramadan in audio message

BAGHDAD — A new message purporting to come from the spokesman of Islamic State calls on followers to launch attacks on the United States and Europe during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which begins in early June.

"Ramadan, the month of conquest and jihad. Get prepared, be ready ... to make it a month of calamity everywhere for the non-believers ... especially for the fighters and supporters of the caliphate in Europe and America," said the message, suggesting attacks on military and civilian targets.

The authenticity of the audio clip, purporting to be from Abu Muhammad al-Adnani and distributed on Saturday by Twitter accounts that usually publish Islamic State statements, could not be verified.

"The smallest action you do in their heartland is better and more enduring to us than what you would if you were with us. If one of you hoped to reach the Islamic State, we wish we were in your place to

punish the Crusaders day and night," Adnani said.

The militant group, which seeks to establish a caliphate across the Middle East and beyond, has claimed deadly attacks over the past year on civilians in France, Belgium and the United States.

But the message made no mention of the EgyptAir flight that crashed into the Mediterranean on Thursday in unexplained circumstances, amid speculation by Egyptian, French and American officials that a jihadist attack was the most likely cause.

A US-led coalition, which also includes European and Arab countries, launched a campaign of air strikes against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria in 2014 after the militants seized vast swathes of territory in those countries.

"Their planes do not distinguish between civilians and combatants, man or woman," the message continued, in apparent reference to the strikes.—Reuters



A tank of the Iraqi army is seen on the outskirts of the city of Falluja, Iraq on 19 May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Solar plane lands in Dayton, Ohio on latest leg of round-the-world flight

DAYTON (Ohio) — An experimental airplane powered solely by energy from the sun landed in Ohio on Saturday night on the latest leg of its historic bid by pilots and developers to fly around the globe without a drop of fuel.

The single-seat Solar Impulse 2 aircraft arrived in Dayton shortly before 10pm local time, some 17 hours after leaving Phoenix Goodyear Airport, the project team said on its official Twitter page.

“People told the Wright Brothers & us what we wanted to achieve was impossible,” said Bertrand Piccard after landing. “They were wrong!”

The locale was of special significance to the pilots, as the home base to aviation pioneers Orville and Wilbur Wright.

Amanda Wright Lane, a descendant of the brothers, neither of whom ever married, was on hand to welcome the flight.

With a wingspan exceeding

that of a Boeing 747 but an ultra-light carbon-fibre skin and overall weight of a car, the Solar Impulse cruises at speeds ranging from only 34 to 62 miles per hour (55 to 100 kph).

The four engines of the propeller-driven aircraft are powered exclusively by energy collected from more than 17,000 solar cells built into its wings. Excess energy is stored in four batteries during daylight hours to keep the plane flying after dark.

The plane can climb to 28,000 feet (8,500 metres), but generally flies at lower altitudes at night to conserve energy.

Piccard and Andre Borschberg have been taking turns piloting the plane on each leg of the journey. Both have trained to stay alert for long stretches of time by practicing meditation and hypnosis.

Borschberg set a new endurance record for the longest non-stop solo flight last July during a



Swiss adventurer Bertrand Piccard (R) in preparation prior to the take off with Solar Impulse 2, a solar powered airplane, at Phoenix Goodyear Airport in direction Tulsa International Airport, on 12 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

118-hour trans-Pacific crossing, over five days and five nights, from Japan to Hawaii. He also set new duration and distance records for solar-powered flight. Battery damage sustained during the crossing kept the aircraft grounded for nine months.

The Swiss team's ultimate goal is to achieve the first round-the-world solar-powered flight, part of its campaign to bolster support for clean-energy technologies.

The team hopes eventually to complete its circumnavigation

in Abu Dhabi, the starting point for the journey in March 2015.

The two men completed an earlier multi-flight crossing of the United States in a prototype of the solar plane in 2013 as a precursor to their globe-circling quest.—Reuters

‘ET Comes Home’ for NASA fuel tank’s ride to LA site

LOS ANGELES — A giant NASA fuel tank completed its final journey on Saturday, with crowds cheering on its parade along Los Angeles streets to a science centre where it will go on display with the US space shuttle Endeavour.

The orange tank, weighing 65,000 lb (29,500 kg) and 154 feet (47 metres) in length, is the only one of its kind. It was never used in a shuttle launch, which would have blown it to pieces.

The California Science Centre called the parade of the fuel tank, which stands about three stories tall when towed on its side by a truck, “ET Comes Home,” in a play on the “external tank” name and the 1982 movie “E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial.”

The tank, ET-94, arrived at the centre after a 16-mile (26-

km) journey, the centre said on Twitter. Its arrival capped a trip that started in New Orleans aboard a barge that passed through the Panama Canal and docked at Marina del Rey on Wednesday. The transport was a sequel of sorts to the 2012 mission to tow Endeavour from the Los Angeles airport to the science centre, a feat witnessed by 1.5 million. Crowds were smaller this time, but rows of spectators and children in homemade astronaut helmets lined the curbs along the route to see the tank pass and pose for selfie pictures with it. A dozen US astronauts, including Garrett Reisman and Sandra Magnus, made appearances along the journey.

“It’s been a very smooth ride,” said Science Center spokeswoman Shell Amega. —Reuters



A paddle boarder makes his way to the water as the space shuttle fuel tank ET-94 arrives by barge for its eventual placement at the California Science Centre in Marina del Rey, California, US, on 18 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Struggling Novartis heart drug boosted by new medical guidelines

LONDON — New global guidelines on the treatment of heart failure strongly endorse the use of Novartis’ Entresto, boosting the prospects for a drug that has struggled to gain traction since its launch last year.

US and European heart experts gave the highest “class 1” recommendation to Entresto for use in patients with heart failure, a debilitating condition in which the heart is unable to pump enough blood around the body.

The guidance in the key US market says that Entresto should replace two older types of drugs known as ACE inhibitors and ARBs in heart failure patients who have adequate blood pressure and tolerance to standard drugs.

In Europe, doctors are recommended to switch their patients to the medicine if they fit the profile of a 2014 clinical trial that proved Entresto was better than standard treatment.

“The guidelines read favourably. In fact, they are about as favourable as we could have hoped for,” said Bernstein analyst Tim Anderson.

Given Entresto’s sluggish sales, investors were watching carefully to see what the guidelines said and when they would be issued, since this will influence prescribers. There had been concerns the announcements could be staggered and might only recommend limited use.



The logo of Swiss drugmaker Novartis is seen at its headquarters in Basel, Switzerland in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

In the event, the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association and the European Society of Cardiology said they issued their guidelines simultaneously to “unify the message, minimize confusion, and improve and standardise the care of patients”.

Novartis said the new guidance, published late on Friday, would redefine the standard of care for treating reduced ejection fraction heart failure.

“We know patients with heart failure suffer reduced quality of life and remain at high risk of hospitalisation or death, and these new guidelines are a strong call to action to ensure patients receive the most effective therapies,” said Vas Narasimhan, chief medical officer for Novartis.

The guidelines do contain

some expected caveats, with experts saying that Entresto should not be given together with an ACE inhibitor or used in patients with a history of a swelling condition known as angioedema.

Experts also gave a “class IIa” recommendation to Amgen’s new drug Corlanor for use on top of beta blockers for certain heart failure patients who have a resting heart rate of at least 70 beats per minute. Servier sells the product outside the United States.

There have been few new drugs for heart failure and Novartis has touted Entresto as an eventual \$5 billion-a-year seller.

Yet first-quarter sales of the medicine were just \$17 million and Novartis now predicts 2016 sales of a modest \$200 million, well below initial analyst forecasts.—Reuters

UN: Serbia makes progress in protecting cultural diversity

BELGRADE — Serbia has recently made important steps to better anchor respect for its most stigmatized communities, the United Nations Country Team in Serbia said in a release on Saturday.

On the occasion of World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, UNCT Serbia said Serbia had adopted a new Strategy of Social Inclusion of Roma for the Period 2016-2025 in March, setting out a broad range of areas where more efforts were required.

The release said a new film on fair housing had been launched by

the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, which highlighted the case of more than 60 Roma families in Serbia saved from eviction through the use of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

“Celebrating cultural diversity means opening up new perspectives for sustainable development and promoting creative industries and cultural entrepreneurship as sources of millions of jobs worldwide — particularly for young people and especially for women,”



Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova was cited as saying in the release.

Bokova said culture was a sustainable development accelerator whose potential had been recognised in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“Culture offers the unique

opportunity to reconcile the economic and social aspects of development — cultural goods and services have identities, reference points and values, while enabling millions of creators, artists and professionals to make a living from their work,” said Bokova. —*Tanjung*

Australian climber dies while descending from Everest summit

KATHMANDU/MELBOURNE — A 34-year-old Australian woman has died while descending from the summit of Mount Everest, local officials in Kathmandu said on Sunday, the second death on the world’s highest mountain in as many days.

The death of Maria Strydom

on Saturday was also confirmed by Monash University in Melbourne, where she worked as a lecturer. Officials in Nepal said efforts were being made to take her body down from the mountain.

The fatality was the second on Everest this year and could hit mountaineering in Nepal, where a

massive quake last year killed at least 18 people at Everest Base Camp.

On Friday, Dutch climber Eric Ary Arnold died after reaching the summit of 8,850-metre (29,035 feet) Everest.

Strydom, part of the same group as Arnold, developed alti-

tude sickness while descending from Camp Four, located at about 8,000 metres (26,246 feet), the Kathmandu-based company that organised her expedition said.

“We are waiting for the expedition leader and other climbers of the group to come down to base camp,” said Pasang Phurba of the Seven Summits Treks.

“We will then discuss (retrieving) her body. It cannot be left to lie as it is there,” he told Reuters.

He also said one Indian climber suffering from frost bite was rescued from Camp Two, situated at about 6,400 metres (21,000 feet).

Last year’s earthquake forced hundreds of climbers to abandon their expeditions. The temblor, the worst in Nepal’s recorded history, killed 9,000 people across the Himalayan nation.

More than 350 climbers have reached the top of Everest this month from the Nepali side of the mountain while several people have climbed from Tibet.

Among them was 19-year-old Alyssa Azar, who on Saturday became the youngest Australian to summit Everest, and Lhakpa Sherpa, who notched a new record for woman climbers with her seventh ascent. —*Reuters*



A trekker stands in front of Mount Everest, which is 8,850 metres high (C), at Kala Patthar in Solukhumbu District on 7 May 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

White House invites ex-American POW to Obama’s Hiroshima visit

SAN ANTONIO, (Texas) — The White House has invited an American former World War II prisoner of war to accompany President Barack Obama during his historic visit to Hiroshima, a group of former POWs of Japan said Saturday.

“As you can imagine, we see this as a positive step...and that maybe, finally, (the government is) noticing,” Jan Thompson, president of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society, said at a press conference during the society’s annual convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Daniel Crowley, 94, a former US Army air corpsman, has been chosen to make the trip to the atomic-bombed city in western Japan on Friday, according to Thompson, who added, “I think it’s powerful because the victims must face each other in order to become the victors of peace.”

The society sent a letter to the White House, urging the president “to focus your remarks at the upcoming historic visit to Hiroshima on the events leading to the decision to use the bomb and recognise the effects it has had on the people of both countries.”

“The Pacific War must not be remembered simply as the legacy of one new weapon, for it is not the weapons of war, but rather the causes, conduct, and lessons of that war that matter most,” the letter also said.

Thompson pointed out that for many former POWs, Obama making a momentous visit to Hiroshima without acknowledging the pain and suffering that all victims, including the POWs, endured would only serve to further muddy the history of the war.

“I understand that he’s going to go there and remember the victims. I think that’s right. That’s morally correct,” she said. —*Kyodo News*

Israeli PM vows his future coalition to ‘strive’ for peace with Palestinians

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that his larger coalition, which he is currently attempting to build with an ultranationalist politician, will “strive” for peace with the Palestinians.

“The wider government will continue to strive for a diplomatic process with the Palestinians,” Netanyahu said at the start of his weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem.

He added that Israel will push forward with the peace process “by assisting with regional factors,” in an apparent reference to Egyptian President Adel-Fattah al-Sisi, who last week promised Israel warmer ties if it agrees to efforts to resume peace talks with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu’s right-wing government has been under growing international pressures to renew the negotiations with the Pal-

estinians after the last round of talks reached an impasse in April 2014.

His remarks came as French Prime Minister Manuel Valls arrived in Israel for a three-day visit in Jerusalem and Ramallah, in an effort to push France’s bid for an international conference to reignite the peace process.

On Sunday, Valls told the Palestinian newspaper “al-Ayam” that “Israel must stop its set-

tlements policy,” referring to the continuous expansion of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank. On Monday, Valls is scheduled to meet Netanyahu before traveling to Ramallah to meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the afternoon.

Israel’s political arena has been in turmoil over the past week over Netanyahu’s bid to oust Defence Minister Moshe Ya’alon in order to reportedly

give his post to ultranationalist lawmaker Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the Yisrael Beytenu (“Israel Our Home”) party.

Ya’alon was widely considered as a voice of moderation in Netanyahu’s cabinet.

Netanyahu said the move is necessary to enlarge his narrow coalition, which currently includes 61 members in a 120-member parliament, and achieve “stability.” —*Xinhua*

Suspect admits to stabbing pop idol after his gift, advances rejected

TOKYO — A man under arrest for stabbing a woman repeatedly has told police that the attack in western Tokyo was sparked when the victim rejected a gift from him, investigative sources said Sunday.

Tomohiro Iwazaki, a 27-year-old man, stabbed Mayu Tomita, a 20-year-old college student, more than 20 times including in the neck, chest, arms and back, shortly after 5pm Saturday in Koganei. The assault came shortly before Tomita was due to take the stage to perform with other women in an idol event.

Iwazaki, who was arrested at the site, told police, "I sent a gift (to Tomita) but it was returned. I asked her why but she gave an evasive answer, so I became mad



Media crew gather in front of a multiple-tenant building in Tokyo's Koganei on 21 May 2016, where Mayu Tomita, a 20-year-old college student, were repeatedly stabbed by Tomohiro Iwazaki, 27. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

and stabbed her numerous times."

Iwazaki also told the police that he intended to kill her and carried a knife for that purpose, indicating it was a premeditated assault.

Tomita has been appearing in pop idol shows and television programmes for children, and the police suspect Iwazaki is a fan of hers.

According to the police, the suspect intercepted Tomita in hopes of talking to her at JR Musashi-Koganei Station before the assault occurred.

Security camera footage shows a man appearing to be Iwazaki following Tomita from the station to the site of the crime.

Tomita, who remains

in hospital in a critical condition, had earlier visited a police station near her home in Musashino seeking advice after Iwazaki had harassed her online via social networking sites such as twitter. She mentioned Iwazaki by name when speaking to police.

Learning from Tomita on Thursday that she planned to appear at an idol event on Saturday, officers at the Musashino police station asked the police in Koganei to respond if they receive an emergency call on the matter.

The police will now scrutinize the perpetrator's messages to confirm his link with the attack while also assessing whether the police handled the incident appropriately.—Kyodo News

Egypt sends submarine to hunt for crashed EgyptAir jet

CAIRO — Egypt deployed a submarine on Sunday to hunt for the EgyptAir plane that crashed in deep Mediterranean waters, President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said, warning investigations into the disaster would take time.

In his first public remarks on Thursday's crash of the Airbus 320 jet, which killed all 66 people on board, Sisi also said all possible scenarios were still being considered and cautioned against rushing to conclusions.

"Search equipment has moved today from the oil ministry, they have a submarine that can reach 3,000 metres under water," he told assembled ministers and members of parliament at the opening of a fertiliser

plant in the port city of Damietta.

"It moved today in the direction of the plane crash site because we are working hard to salvage the black boxes".

Egypt has said its navy has so far found human remains, wreckage and the personal belongings of passengers floating in the Mediterranean about 290 km (180 miles) north of Alexandria, but is still searching for the plane's two black box recorders that could provide valuable evidence on the cause of the crash.

Waters in the area of the Mediterranean under search could be 3,000 metres deep, which would place the black box locator beacons on the edge of

their detectable range from the surface.

Shortly before it disappeared off radar screens, the plane sent a series of warnings indicating that smoke had been detected on board, French investigators said on Saturday.

The signals did not indicate what caused the smoke or fire but they offered the first clues as to what unfolded in the moments before the crash.

"Until now all scenarios are possible. So please, it is very important that we do not talk and say there is a specific scenario," Sisi said.

"This could take a long time but no one can hide these things. As soon as the results are out people will be informed."—Reuters

60,000 have died in Syrian government jails during war

SYRIA — A monitoring group has said that at least 60,000 people have died in Syrian government jails during the five-year conflict.

Syrian government officials could not be reached for comment on the report by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which cited sources in the security apparatus for the toll. The government has rejected similar reports in the past.

"No fewer than 60,000

detainees were martyred ... either as a result of direct bodily torture, or denial of food and medicine" the Observatory said in a written statement on Saturday.

The Observatory's director, Rami Abdulrahman, said it had arrived at the number by adding up death tolls provided by sources in several Syrian jails and security agencies.

He said more than 20,000 of them had died at Sednaya prison near Damascus. The Observatory

said it had been able to verify the deaths of 14,456 people, 110 of them under the age of 18, since the start of the Syrian uprising in 2011.

Abdulrahman said his sources were serving officials seeking to expose what was going on, and the Observatory had been gathering the information since the start of the year.

UN investigators said in February that detainees held by the Syrian government were being killed on a massive scale.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (7 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-008(16-17)	Piston Rubbers for F-1600 Rig Pump Ex ZJ 70 L Drilling Rigs (3) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-009(16-17)	4" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5 L, Grade A 10,000 MTR	US\$
(3)	DMP/L-007(16-17)	Server Computer (DAQ) and UPS (2 KW) (2) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-6-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 23TH May, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

TENDER NOTICE

The Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed the Exchange of Notes dated February 17th, 2016, concerning the Japanese grant assistance for the Project for the Reconstruction of Flood-Affected Schools. Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) is acting as the procurement agent for and on behalf of Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education for procuring the products and services in accordance with the E/N. Interested bidders are invited to submit the tender as follows.

Services to be procured	: Reconstruction of Schools
Target Region	: Sagaing Region
Place of Distribution for Tender Document	: JICS Myanmar Project Office
Date of Distribution	: May 20th, 2016- May 26th, 2016
Pre Bid Meeting	: 14:00 on May 26th, 2016
Tender Submission	: 14:00 on June 18th, 2016
Bid Opening	: 14:00 on June 18th, 2016

Further information is available on JICS's website (http://www.jics.or.jp/jics_html-e/index.php) or contact to JICS Myanmar Project Office (Room No.904 La Pyat Wun Plaza, Alan Pya Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar)
Email address: myanmarschool27.jics@gmail.com.

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DiCaprio slammed for taking private jet to pick up award

LOS ANGELES — Actor Leonardo DiCaprio has been termed hypocrite by many for taking a private jet to collect an environmental award in New York.

A representative for the 41-year-old “Revenant” star has responded to the criticism, saying he only hitched “a ride with flights that were already planned,” reported Aceshowbiz.

“He was asked to speak at both Riverkeeper and amfAR events, but the only way to attend the two fundraisers was to hitch a ride with flights that were already planned. Leo helped both events raise millions, donated his own funds, auctioned off his house and had speaking roles in both programmes,” his rep said. During the amfAR Gala at the Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc on Thursday, 19 May in Cap d’Antibes, DiCaprio auctioned off a one-week vacation at his home. The lucky winner would stay in his Palm Springs residence but he wouldn’t be there.—PTI



Actor Leonardo DiCaprio delivers his remarks during the Paris Agreement on climate change held at the United Nations Headquarters in Manhattan, New York, US, on 22 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Director Nicolas Winding Refn (C) and his wife Liv Corfixen (R) and cast member Elle Fanning (L) arrive on the red carpet ahead of the screening for the film “The Neon Demon” in competition at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 20 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Denmark’s Refn targets teens with cannibal horror film

CANNES (France) — Some critics stood up and booed at cannibalistic horror movie “The Neon Demon” when it screened at Cannes Film Festival this week, but they weren’t its target audience, said Danish director Winding Refn.

The 45-year-old, known for his 2011 breakthrough hit “Drive,” says he has made a teenager’s movie, one that does not belong in the adult world of good taste

and morality.”

“Teenagers love graphic, they love counter-culture ... they love anti-establishment and I made a movie about a 16-year-old girl who probably knows more about what a teenager wants than you and I,” he told Reuters in an interview on Saturday.

The film tells the story of aspiring model Jesse, played by teenage actor Elle Fanning, arriving in Los Angeles where

she quickly become a designer’s muse, an object of desire and jealousy.

Its scenes of lesbian necrophilia, blood and cannibalism have won it outrage and headlines, helped by the presence of mainstream Hollywood star Keanu Reeves as motel owner Hank.

“We didn’t make a movie for the parents. We made a movie for the teenagers because they’re the

ones who are interesting,” Refn said.

“The more extreme art is, the more interesting it becomes. We don’t make films because we’re nice and want to do good or bad for that matter. We want to experience,” he added.

The Neon Demon, given a 15 rating by the British Board of Film Classification, is due out next month in many markets.—Reuters

Amitabh Bachchan reaches 21 million fan following on Twitter

MUMBAI — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has become the first Bollywood celebrity to have 21 million followers on popular micro-blogging site Twitter.

The 73-year-old megastar beaten his contemporaries Shah Rukh Khan (19.6 million), Salman Khan (17.8 million), Aamir Khan (17.6 million) and Priyanka Chopra (14 million) with his new milestone.

Bachchan’s Twitter account became live in May,

2010 and ever since has been a one stop destination for his fans to connect, interact and engage with the actor.

“#AB21Million ... Yohohohohohohohhhooooooooo ...,” he tweeted.

On Twitter, the “Wazir” actor is followed by stars like Mukesh Bhatt, Sridevi, Dilip Kumar, Madhuri Dixit Nene among others. Bachchan has so far made over 49 thousand tweets.

He will be next seen in “Te3N” and “Pink”.—PTI

DJ Calvin Harris suffers minor injuries in Los Angeles crash

LOS ANGELES — Scottish musician Calvin Harris, one of the world’s top earning DJs, sustained minor injuries in a car crash in Los Angeles and was taken by ambulance to a hospital, police said on Saturday.

Harris, 32, was a passenger in a sport utility vehicle late on Friday when it was struck by a car that had crossed over the center line, Los Angeles police spokeswoman Norma Eisenman said.

Harris has been released from the local hospital, Eisenman said.

A passenger in the oncoming car was ejected from the vehicle and suffered a broken pelvis, but her injuries are not

life-threatening, Eisenman said.

Harris, who is also a record producer, was on the 2015 *Forbes* magazine list of top earning DJs with an estimated \$66 million in annual income. His public profile has risen since he was seen dating pop star Taylor Swift beginning last year. He was being driven to the airport when the accident happened, according to a post on his Facebook page.

Harris had been scheduled to perform on Friday night at the Omnia nightclub in Las Vegas, according to the website for the venue where the DJ is a regular performer.

He had to cancel the appearance and his show scheduled for Saturday night at the Hangout Festival in Gulf Shores, Alabama,



DJ Calvin Harris poses at the 2016 iHeartRadio Music Awards in Inglewood, California, on 3 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

his spokeswoman Dvora Englefield said in a statement, confirming that Harris had suffered minor injuries. Harris, whose top recordings include the songs “We Found Love” and “Summer,” has worked with singers like Rihanna and Ne-Yo. His 2014 album “Motion” debuted at the top of the US dance charts.—Reuters

Italian official calls for Italy-China cooperation in film-making

CANNES, (France) — An official from Italy's motion picture association Anica has called for more co-productions between China and Italy in the film industry.

Roberto Stabile, head of the International Department and Events of Anica, the umbrella organisation for Italian film, audio-visual and multimedia industries, said at the ongoing 69th Cannes Film Festival that the combination of Italy's creativity and China's high technology could yield nice results.

Stabile underlined the importance of China's market, both for Italy's audio-visual sector

and the "made in Italy" products.

However, he believed that there were challenges to enter the Chinese market as it requires great patience and professionalism.

He proposed cooperation models which will bring Chinese films to shoot in Italy or make Italian movies starring Chinese actors and actresses. Such models, he believed, would help Italian movies enter the Chinese market. Stabile also wants to promote vintage Italian movies in China, saying he believed many Chinese audience were attached to some Italian film masters of the past.—*Xinhua*

Award-winning Chinese film kicks off bicultural festival in Indonesia

JAKARTA — An internationally acclaimed Chinese movie on Saturday kicked off a week-long film screening festival in Indonesia's capital as part of efforts from both nations to boost cultural ties.

Award-winning drama-romance "A Mongolian Tale" by movie director Xie Fei mesmerized over a hundred Indonesian movie lovers attending the Chinese Film Screening Master Class 2016, which will run until 30 May at different venues across Jakarta.

"I'm very happy that my movie gets the opportunity to be seen by the Indonesian audience," said Fei at the press conference on Saturday. He said he wanted to introduce other sides of China, particularly the Mongolian ethnic group, which is at the center of the movie, to the people of Indonesia, which also comprises of over a thousand ethnic groups across the vast archipelago.

Eros Djarot, an Indonesian movie expert who was present at screening, praised the film for

its ability to depict Asian values and atmosphere throughout.

"Hopefully the movie can be an eye opener for the young generation of Indonesian film practitioners," Eros noted.

Chin Hung Liaw, the cultural attaché at the Chinese embassy for Indonesia, said the film screening event would boost the ongoing discussions between the governments of both countries about a partnership agreement in the movie industry, and culture and arts sector at large.

"The Indonesian movie industry should be booming soon like other major countries," he said. "My hope is for the relationship between Indonesia and China will last forever and strong," he adds.

Shelvy Arifin, chairwoman of the state-owned movie company Produksi Film Negara (PFN), said movie makers from Indonesia and China are working on three projects starting from December. "We're trying to make movies that will be legacies for the future generations," she said.—*Xinhua*

India-Pak student exchange programme gets innovation award

NEW DELHI — For some years now, school students from India and Pakistan have been connecting with each other through handwritten letters besides a few audio and visual recordings that are reflective of a shared history of the two neighbours before Partition.

The 'Student Exchange Program', a year-long dialogue comprising a sustained exchange of written, visual and oral histories connecting school children aged between 10-14 years across the cities of India and Pakistan was initiated by city-based NGO 'Routes 2 Roots'.

The NGO has recently been awarded the "The Inter-cultural Innovation Award 2016" from United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in Baku, Azerbaijan for this programme.

In its first year in 2010 the programme attracted between 2400 children from 10 schools

across four cities of India and Pakistan. Students hailing from diverse socio-economic backgrounds from selected schools participate in the five-phased programme that is aimed at improving ties between the two countries and the exchange of letters, postcards, pictures, artwork and videos encourage children to form their own opinions and have a clearer understanding of history, culture and lifestyle through cross cultural communications.

"The endeavour enables students to familiarise with each other with the history, culture and lifestyle of their neighbouring country," says Rakesh Gupta, founder, Routes2Roots.

The first phase 'Letters Writing' engage students in writing letters, where they share their thoughts, values, hobbies and interests.

In the next 'Postcard Series,'

students click pictures of their favourite monument, family, pet etc and write about the picture and subsequently the postcards are then sent to schools across the border and shared among the children.

In the third phase, students are given four themes namely school life, food, festivals and marriages and historical monuments under the "Collage Series".

Students can make decorative collages on any of the given themes which are shared with schools across the borders thus creating a bond between the two countries. The 4th phase is the 'Oral History' series which adds an audio-based dimension to the project. Students interviewed their grandparents, collecting historical narratives about various cities across Pakistan and India as well as their recollections of the early years.—*PTI*

Buddhists celebrate annual Vesak Day in Magelang, Indonesia



MAGELANG — People fly lanterns during the Vesak Day celebration at Borobudur temple in Magelang, Indonesia, in the wee hours on 22 May, 2016. Buddhists in Indonesia celebrate the annual Vesak Day to honour the birth, enlightenment and the passing away of Gautama Buddha. PHOTO: XINHUA



Entertainment Channel

(23- 5-2016, Monday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:30 pm

- Cartoon Programme " Tales from Earth Sea " (Part- 3)

7:10 pm

- International Drama Series

7:50 pm

- International Drama Series

8:40 pm

- Music Programme

9:00 pm

- Those Who Never Give Up(Ep-6)-In Pursuit of a dream

9:30 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:40 pm

- Music Programme

10:00 pm

- Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Win Pe

10:20 pm

- Myanmar Video

From 23-5-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm
To 24-5-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(23-5-2016 07:00am ~ 24-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:27 | Am | Tapestry- A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship |
| 07:45 | Am | Dhamma School |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-1) In Memory of Him & His Childhood |
| 08:51 | Am | Tea Leaves |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: In-Leaf |
| 09:43 | Am | Five-Stars Ocean Liners in Myanmar Water |

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|-------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 10:03 | Am | News |
| 10:26 | Am | A Street Vendor "Spreading Knowledge" |

(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 |
| 07:27 | Pm | Food Trip (Ep-8) (Part-1) |
| 07:53 | Pm | Temple Stalls |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Taste of Myanmar (Lashio Noodle) |
| 08:44 | Pm | A Life In The Ring |

(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)

Sublime Lingard volley seals Man United FA Cup win

LONDON — Manchester United substitute Jesse Lingard's superb volley in extra time secured a 2-1 win over Crystal Palace in the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium on Saturday for their first major trophy in three years.

However, their Dutch manager Louis van Gaal was left wondering whether it would be enough to preserve his job two seasons into a three-year contract amid British media reports that Jose Mourinho would be offered the job next week.

The game was locked at 1-1 after 90 minutes, Jason Puncheon coming off the bench to put London side Palace ahead 12 minutes from time before Juan Mata equalised three minutes later.

United central defender Chris Smalling was sent off in the extra period for a second yellow card but Lingard's moment of class gave them the Cup for the first time since 2004.

"It's fantastic to win this title for the club, the fans and also for me," Van Gaal said. "Now I have won a Cup in four countries. Not many managers can say that so I am very happy. 'I don't want to talk about leaving the club.'"

Underdogs Palace took the lead when Puncheon, who had only come on six minutes earlier, deftly controlled a long ball

into the area and fired past United goalkeeper David de Gea.

But within three minutes Wayne Rooney went on a brilliant run across the edge of the Palace area and crossed for Marouane Fellaini to set up the equaliser for Spaniard Mata.

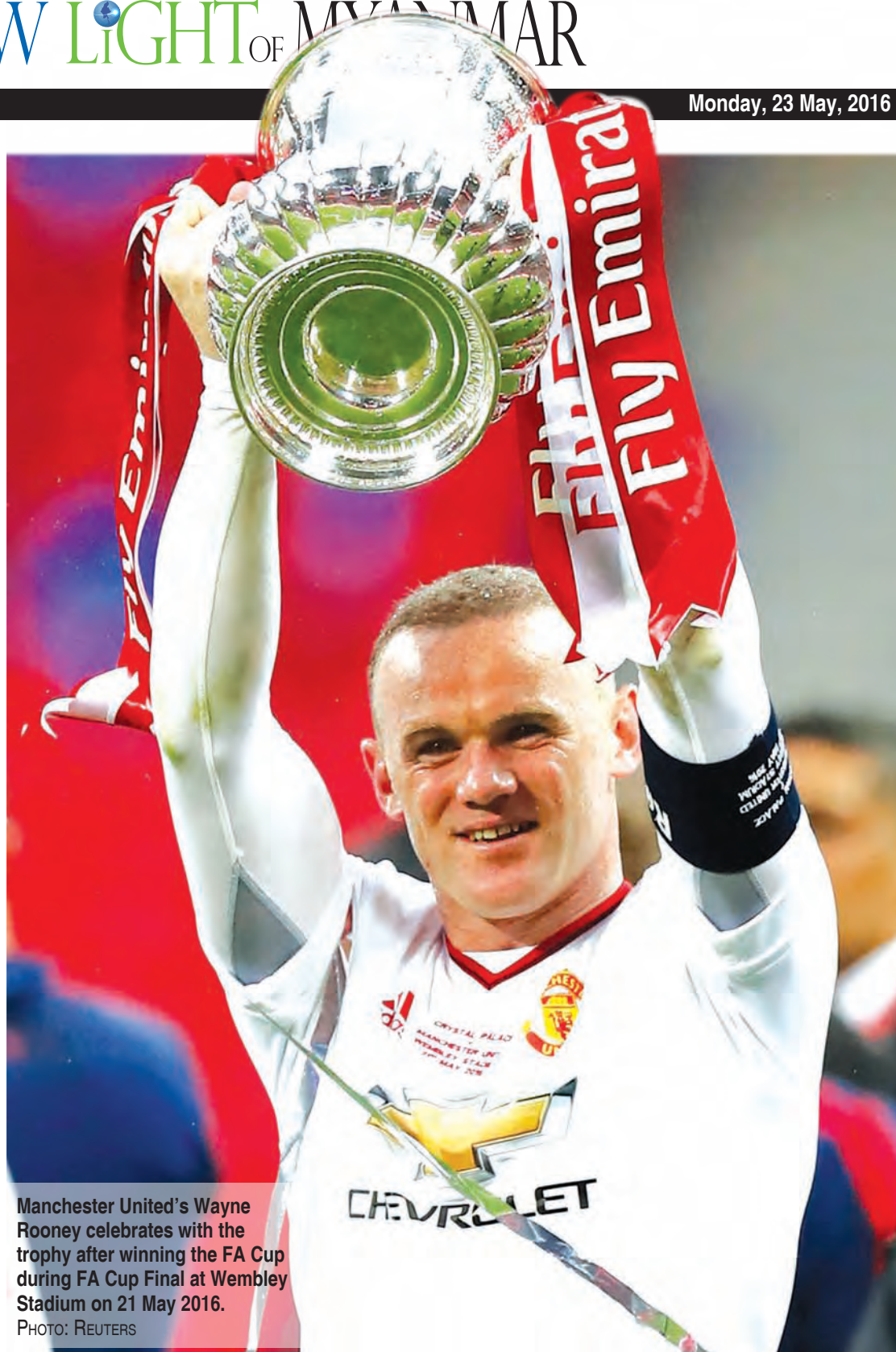
Despite playing the second period of extra time with 10 men after Smalling's dismissal, United poured forward and Lingard's goal secured a 12th FA Cup triumph, equalling Arsenal's record.

"I saw it come across and it landed nicely for me, all I had to do was hit it sweet and luckily I did that. As a sub you always have to be ready. Thankfully I was," Lingard said.

Van Gaal, who arrived for his news conference carrying the trophy, added: "It was a super goal when we needed it."

"It was unbelievable that we had injuries again but in spite of going down to 10 players we showed the spirit we have shown on the road to the final."

Palace manager Alan Pardew, who played when the London club lost the replayed 1990 final against United, was frustrated by two refereeing decisions from Mark Clattenburg, who will be in charge of next weekend's Champions League final.—Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney celebrates with the trophy after winning the FA Cup during FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium on 21 May 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

I could not take things any further with Murray — Amelie Mauresmo

RIO DE JANEIRO — Amelie Mauresmo ended her coaching relationship with Andy Murray because she felt she could not improve the world number two any further, the former world number one said on Saturday.

The Frenchwoman and Murray announced the end of an almost two-year partnership this month, but Mauresmo said the decision had been made some time ago.

"Andy is complex. On court, he can be opposite of what he is in life. It can be confusing. I was here to help. I had the feeling I could not take things further anymore," Mauresmo told *L'Equipe* Magazine.

"I had the feeling that we were at the end of what we could

do professionally. We came to the conclusion that it would be complicated to continue."

With Mauresmo, Briton Murray won seven ATP titles, claiming his first two trophies on clay in Madrid and Munich.

"It was a beautiful adventure. A woman coaching a man, it breaks a few barriers in the world of men's tennis," she said.

"I liked the way Andy works, I liked to work with his team. He's very curious, always in research. That's what makes great champions." The 29-year-old Murray, a former US Open and Wimbledon champion, is seeded second at the French Open which starts on Sunday.—Reuters

Mourinho set for United, Van Gaal won't discuss leaving

LONDON — Jose Mourinho will be appointed Manchester United manager next week to replace Louis van Gaal despite Saturday's FA Cup final victory over Crystal Palace, British media have reported. The 53-year-old Portuguese will take over at United, according to the reports, even though Van Gaal, who steered United to a 2-1 extra-time win over Crystal Palace at Wembley, has a year left on his contract. Mourinho, sacked by Chelsea in December after his second spell in charge of the west London club, has also managed Porto, Inter Milan and Real Madrid. *The Daily Telegraph* reported on its website that the deal to bring Mourinho to Old Trafford was reached at the end of last week with an official announcement due in the next few days.

The BBC ran the same story but added that some senior figures

at United were known to have serious reservations about the prospect of appointing Mourinho, with some preferring Van Gaal's assistant, Ryan Giggs, as an alternative. Asked about his future at a news conference after the final, the Dutchman pointed at the FA Cup in front of him.

"I show you the Cup," he said. "And I don't discuss it with my friends of the media, who already sacked me for six months. Which manager can do what I have done? I don't want to talk about leaving the club." Van Gaal preferred to dwell on the positives from a season in which United won their first trophy since 2013 and brought in some promising young players but came one place lower in the Premier League, finishing fifth behind Manchester City on goal difference and missing out on the Champions League.

There has also been regular criticism from the club's supporters about a style of play that brought only 49 goals in the Premier League — their lowest total since 1989-90. "I said when I started that we were in transition," Van Gaal added. "I had to refresh my squad and I've done it. In spite of the many injuries this season we were still in the (Premier League) race and now we have lifted the Cup. That's a title." "I'm very proud that I'm the first manager after the period of Sir Alex Ferguson (to do it)." The defiant Dutchman suggested he was already planning new signings for next season. "Every year we want to improve. It is not so easy when United come for a player. When United come the price is double or much more." Whether he is given the chance to do so remains in serious doubt.—Reuters