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President U Htin Kyaw describes ASEM 11th Summit as fruitful and productive

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw attended an exclusive session of the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit under the heading “Enhancing the three pillars of ASEM” yesterday in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Following an address by Mongolia’s President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj at the retreat session the leaders of the participating countries took part in discussions which focused on regional and international issues, including counter-terrorism and migration.

A closing Press Conference commenced in Ulaanbaatar at 12:40 pm with remarks by Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, European Council President Donald Tusk, European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker, Myanmar President U Htin Kyaw, and Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico.

The President of Mongolia expressed ASEM11 leaders’ condolences for the people of France and Turkey affected by terrorism and violence, thanked the 11 heads of state, 23 heads of government, 13 foreign ministers, 3 special envoys and 2 heads of international organisations. “During this two day event Mongolia held 60 bilateral meetings,” he said, noting that the total number of bilateral meetings by all other countries was more than 100.

President Elbegdorj ac-



Closing Press Conference of 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

knowledge the reports from the ASEM Business Forum, ASEM People’s Forum, Parliamentary Forum, and for the first time, the Youth’s Forum. He remarked that “a closed discussion in the retreat session” allowed leaders to have a fruitful discussion.

President U Htin Kyaw described the discussions at the two-day meeting as fruitful

and productive, saying that the meeting discussed how to move forward into the new decade by taking stock of the achievements made over the past 20 years, while enhancing the three pillars of ASEM, which are political dialogue, economic cooperation and cultural exchange.

The president stressed the need to improve the connectivity

between Asia and Europe and cooperate in both hard and soft connectivity in various sectors.

At the meeting the leaders exchanged views on areas of common interests as well as other issues that require cooperation between the two regions in addressing common challenges of regional and international issues, including non-traditional security

challenges, particularly the rise of terrorism and violent extremism, the rule of law, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inclusive growth, poverty reduction, disaster risk management and youth development.

“In the wake of the Nice terror attack leaders offered condolences to the government and the people of France and especially to the affected families and expressed their solidarity,” U Htin Kyaw said.

He also pointed out the need to see that countries have different views and varying goals to accommodate the upholding of sovereignty as well as promoting the interest of their peoples while warning that this should not be a hindrance but a great opportunity to address differences among them.

He expressed his belief that their partnership through ASEM’s engagement would contribute to the citizens of the two continents and those of the world as a whole.

President U Htin Kyaw expressed his gratitude to the president of the host country for the opportunity to experience the Naadam festival, the national holiday of Mongolia.

Myanmar will host the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw in the second half of 2017.—*Myanmar News Agency*

DPN seeks meeting with State Counsellor, participation in peace conference



Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) holding talks with the Preparatory Committee for the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong. PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

Ye Khaung Nyunt

THE Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) met the Preparatory Committee for the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon yesterday to seek a meeting between State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the leaders of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC).

Prior to the meeting, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee Dr Tin Myo Win called for frank discussion, expressing their willingness to invite UNFC’s leaders to participate in the adoption of the po-

litical framework and the peace conference as well.

The chairman also welcomed the Maijayan conference to be held in northern Kachin State from 26 to 29 July, which is reported to have attracted the participation of 55 ethnic armed groups.

“It is time to restore peace in this country,” said DPN’s leader Khu Oo Ral, stressing that they would have a five-point agenda at the meeting.

“The onus is on all individuals involved in the peace process to show great determination and trust,” he said.

Both sides discussed a meeting with the State Counsellor,

the participation of the UNFC in the peace conference and the requirements to be fulfilled by the government for the Maijayan conference.

After the meeting, Secretary of the Preparatory Committee U Hla Maung Shwe told the media that the government was willing to render assistance to the success of the Maijayan conference.

He quoted Dr Tin Myo Win as saying that the DPN’s leaders would meet the state counsellor today in the manner of a family gathering.

The Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) is a team formed by the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC).

Dawei sees highest number of crimes in June and July

THE months of June and July within Myanmar's southern Tanintharyi Region town of Dawei have proven the highest volume of muggings and burglaries, according to local residents.

Previous years reportedly saw such crimes committed on an occasional basis, with the previous couple of months seeing a decided increase in such instances of illegal activity across the town.

"We had our charity group's donation box stolen during the night. We reported it to the police, and have opened a case of litigation," said a member of a Dawei social welfare charity group.

A total purse of K281,000 was stolen from the charity's headquarters on Tuesday night, whilst just four days prior, on 8 July, the donation box from the Shinmotti Pagoda was also pillaged.

This month also saw a string of break-ins to stores in the vicinity of the Development Committee Market and to another shop close-by the local cinema. Donation boxes were also reportedly taken from within the grounds of the Shwetaungsar Pagoda on 23 and 28 May.

"It's extremely important that the public report crimes to the police station as they happen. Only

by doing so can it ensure the culprits be caught as quickly as possible. The consecutive rise in thievery can be attributed to a lack of police patrols in the town. That's why I've told concerned district and township authorities to pay more attention to police patrols in their areas. If instances of such crime continue to happen during the time of police patrols, it means the police aren't doing their jobs properly," said Police Commander Nay Myo of the Tanintharyi Region Police Department.

Township and district level police units are under staffed, but they have reportedly been ordered

to carry out patrols on an every other day basis, with the manpower they have, between the early morning hours of 1-4am when property and monasteries are most likely to be burgled. The regional police department will also allegedly make efforts to increase its manpower capacity.

"I can only blame myself for having been burgled. That's why I haven't bothered to report it to the police. I've just made sure I've maxed out security at my shop. I don't want the hassle of being broken into again. Robbers target shops which are void of people during the night. That's why I've

got security employed around-the-clock and have put up CCTV cameras," said a store owner who was burgled.

An official from the Dawei Police Station disclosed that everyone is also aware of a rise in motorcycle muggings in the area in recent months, but that a lack of reports, by the victims of such attacks, of motorcycle serial numbers or witness statements makes arresting the perpetrators a difficult challenge for local police, stating the need for public to co-operate with local police in order to bring these criminals to justice. —Myitmakha News Agency

Ayeyawady water levels rise but deemed of no concern for Pyay

A RISE in the water levels of the Ayeyawady River, within the west of Bago Region, by approximately three feet over the last four days have seen water start to flood into low lying neighborhoods located in close proximity to the banks of river, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology for Pyay district.

The waters of the Ayeyawady had risen from 2,634cm on 10 July to 2,730cm by Thursday morning, an increase of approximately three feet.

"The current position of the river is not of as much concern as last year when water levels rose by three to four feet overnight and gushed into close-by neighborhoods. This year has seen water levels increase slowly, by about one foot everyday; not nearly as much as last year. The department of meteorology don't foresee wa-

ter levels rising over a dangerous level within the town of Pyay; water levels are just sticking around the cause for concern mark," said U Aung Kyi Myint, head of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology for Pyay district.

The official water level of concern for flooding in Pyay is 2,900cm, which the current water level would have to increase by another five and half feet in order to reach. The department expects water levels to continue to rise by another two to three feet over the coming week.

The department also made it known that water levels have reached that of concern in the town of Nyaung-U, located north of the Ayeyawady River to Pyay, while water levels in the upper town of Zalun are also hovering around levels dangerous for flooding. The continual rise of



People are riding on the boats because of flooding. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

these water levels of the coming days could see some river water trickle into neighborhoods near the vicinity of the riverbank but not enough to warrant undue concern. "Water has started to flood into our ward. The slow advance of the water has since submerged

the under sections of our houses. But, it hasn't got to the point yet where it's severe enough to permit relocating. We'll have to keep a close eye on the situation over the coming week. If it becomes too much then we'll have to move," said Ko Thein Soe, a

resident of Pyay's Nawin Ward.

Water levels of the Ayeyawady have surpassed the 2,900cm mark and flooded the town of Pyay a total of three times in recent history: in 1974, 2004 and most recently last year. —Myitmakha News Agency

Over 200 villagers flee fighting in northern Shan State

Over 200 villagers from Mongyauk village, located in northern Shan State's Mong Tung Township, have fled armed conflict in their region, seeking refuge at the Shwemyintha Monastery in the town of Namtu.

Villagers fled their homes on 9 July when fighting erupted between the Ta'ang National Libera-

tion Army (TNLA), also known the Palaung Army, and the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS).

"We know the villagers fled out of concern over the fighting between the TNLA and RCSS nearby. We'll make sure all their needs are catered for here, only once peace is obtained will they return," said U Sai Ba Nyan, vice chair of

the Shwemyintha Monastery IDP Camp Committee. The vice chairman added that the community was formed on July 10 after talks were held with concerned departments, about how best to take care of the health and educational needs of the internally displaced villagers that have sought refuge at their monastery. "Householders reportedly fled their homes after soldiers started coming into their houses to eat and drink. Some of the villagers have gone to the homes of close relatives," said U Aung Hsan Myint, a helper at the IDP camp. Villagers are reportedly continuing to arrive at the monastery from the villages of Wan Maing, Mant Nar, Mahn Kyel, Mant Kalar and Kyay Pein — all of which are located within Mongyauk village tract that sits between Namtu and Mong Tung Townships. —Myitmakha News Agency



The internally displaced villagers seeking refuge at a monastery. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Strain on Hsipaw IDP camp food rations as more villagers seek refuge from armed conflict

A continued rise of internally displaced villagers seeking refuge in shelters in Hsipaw has reportedly put a strain on food rations.

Clashes in Ohnmu township on 8 July forced villagers to flee from Lashio township.

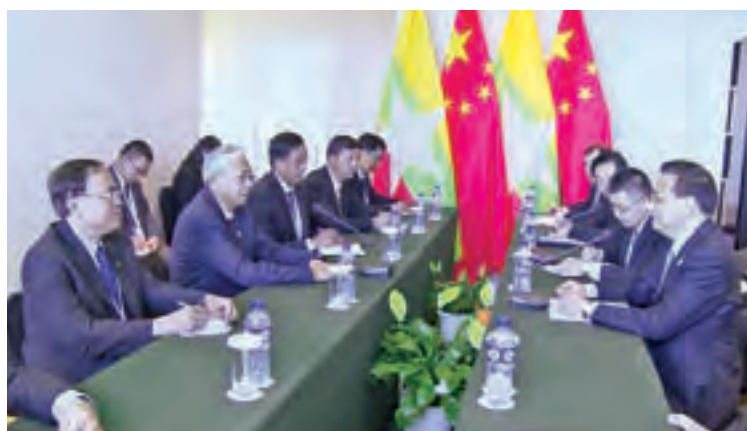
"For the time being, the primary requirement is food and drink for cooking. People need to cook to eat. We've bought the basic staples of rice, oil, salt and onions from the Ks10m donated by the Shan State Minister," said Ko Myo, member of the Zatsu Charity Group which provides assistance to internally displaced villagers.

Despite daily donations of money and equipment to shelters that cater for the displaced villagers, there is a need for more cooking items as villagers increase each day.

"Food and drink is not the main thing, we can find food and drink as we need to. I appreciate being able to live and eat here. I'm worried for the students who have had to put their education on hold," said Daw Nang Sai Nun from Malwel village.

IDPs in Hsipaw camps rose from 200 on 8 July to 339 on 11 July. —Myitmakha News Agency

President U Htin Kyaw holds separate talks with foreign leaders



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw held talks separately with Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang, Prime Minister of Netherlands Mr Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of Luxembourg Mr Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Finland Juha Petri Sipilä, Prime Minister Estonia Mr Taavi Rõivas

and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Wazed yesterday in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

During the meetings, President U Htin Kyaw discussed matters related to bilateral friendship with them.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Labutta's most vulnerable village to receive weather shelter worth K100 million

CONSTRUCTION of a shelter, to protect against the adverse affects of extreme weather fronts worth K100 million, within the Labutta Township village of Laygwagyi is to break ground during the last week of this month, it is reported.

The Laygwagyi village, which sits beside a river, is reportedly the most vulnerable in the region to weather damage.

As such, the Share Ayeyarwaddy organisation will construct the shelter with finances supported by the Korean Buddhist Foundation and on 1.04 acres of land donated by local resident Ko Nang Zaw Min.

"Laygwagyi village bears the full brunt of weather damage throughout the entire stretch of the rainy season. Isolated and with a large population, villagers are left with no place to reside in the event of flooding. Villagers

have been included in discussion process on the construction of the shelter," said Ko Myo Htun, director of Share Ayeyarwaddy.

The building in question will reportedly measure 60 feet in length, 30 feet in width and 21 feet in height, and will have the capacity to house over 300 people.

"We've no place in our village to take refuge in the event of a natural disaster; the local monastery doesn't have the space for everyone. The construction of the shelter by these groups will provide a place of refuge for children and the elderly," said Daw Khine Khine Lwin, a resident of Laygwagyi village.

Ayeyawady Region's Labutta Township boasts a total of 36 villages, within which approximately 20 weather shelters have been built by various organizations and the government.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Border trade earns over K24 trillion using ITC system within three years

BORDER trade earned over K24 trillion using the Individual Trade Card (ITC) system within three years, it has been learned from the Ministry of Commerce.

"When border trade was first started by ITC, only K1 million per day was allowed for trade but at the moment K3 million per day

is allowed. Export values over the last three years have amounted to K6,199 billion and import value amount to K18,204 billion" said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

The ITC system began in December 2012. There are 1,024 ITC cards in use as of 7 July.—200



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offers Waso robes to Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee at Sasana Beikman, Upatasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Waso robe offering ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's Waso Robe offering ceremony 2016 was held at Sasana Beikman, Upatasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw, at 9 am on the 12th waxing of Waso, 1378 Myanmar Era.

The chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (SSMNC) and members attended the ceremony.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid homage to Buddha in the beikman and offered food, fruits, flowers, water and candle lights.

Next, the State Counsellor and visitors observed nine precepts administered by the chairman sayadaw of SSMNC and listened to the parittas recited by members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor, Daw Su Su Lwin, the wife of the president, vice president U Myint Swe and his wife, speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and his wife, the wife of the speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Union Chief Justice, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and his wife, the chairman of the constitutional tribunal and

his wife, the chairman of Union Election Commission and his wife, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and his wife, the deputy speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw and his wife, the chairman of the Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues and his wife, Union Ministers and their wives offered Waso Robes, alms and offertories to the chairman sayadaw of the SSMNC, members of the SSMNC and other prominent members of the Sangha.—*Myanmar News Agency*

VP U Henry Van Thio provides relief assistance

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, accompanied by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, deputy ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Myo and officials met with people from Ann and Thandwe townships who have suffered due to recent flooding. The groups met to confer consolation and aid.

The Vice President spoke words of encouragement to the flood victims from Ann Township at Shwe Ann Taung Hall in Ann and to victims from Thandwe Township at the Town Hall in Thandwe Township.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye explained the preventive measures being carried out against flooding in the region, plans to provide necessary relief assistance to flood victims hit by natural disasters, the carrying out of long-term plans for disaster prevention and the providing of supplies and aid to flood victims. Chief Minister U Nyi Pu reported on regional development.

The Ann Township Administrator and district Administrator of Thandwe District ex-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents cash assistance to local authority. PHOTO: MNA

plained the causes of flooding, relief measures being carried out and the need for regional development.

The Vice President, the Union Minister, Chief Minister and Deputy Ministers provided relief supplies to officials concerned for the flood victims.

The Vice President said "Rakhine State is the state worst hit by natural disasters but we have always overcome problems through co-operation between the people and offi-

cials. We always organise the National Natural Disaster Management Committee whenever there takes place a natural disaster. The government and the State Counsellor emphasise the carrying out of development in Rakhine State, which has good opportunities for businesses and can contribute a lot towards the development of Rakhine State."

The floods affected 4,659 people in Ann and 850 others in Thandwe.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Staff quarters for government employees to be built in Rakhine

THE Ministry of Construction has formed a master plan to build staff quarters to house 1,000 employees in Rakhine State within five years. The ministry has already started constructing 210 rooms in Sittwe, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe, Taungup, Buthitaung, Maungtaw and Myebon, said U Kyaw Lin, permanent secretary for the Ministry of Construction.

The ministry is also constructing low-cost housing and roads for the convenience of the public.

The ministry has town plans and master plans for the urban development of 80 developing cities and has plans to upgrade roads and bridges in Rakhine state within a five year period.

The government has so far implemented development plans

in Sittwe, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe, Maungtaw and Buthitaung region as part of the first 100-day project.

Despite housing requirements calling for the construction of 100,000 flats the ministry, in cooperation with private entrepreneurs, has only the capacity to build 30,000 flats a year, it has been learned.—*Zar Zar*

CCTV cameras to be installed on BRT Lite buses

FOUR CCTV cameras will be installed on each BRT line bus to keep an eye on passengers' activities from a central control room. Some passengers are taking the bus without paying the fare, said an official from YBPC Co Ltd.

"We are going to implement the new system because we have

had reports of people who are riding the bus without paying the fare.

There are also passengers who destroy our bus stops. We have put up warning signs telling passengers to not eat, chew beetle or gum and not to smoke while riding in order to improve the quality of our services and

the cleanliness of our vehicles but some passengers don't heed the warnings.

We will now monitor the buses." He added.

YBPC Co Ltd has made a public request for passengers to co-operate with the company to improve public transportation.—*200*

Anti-erosion defences of Ngawun River on their last legs



Local people carries out an anti-erosion defence.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

THE daily collapsing of the stretch of the Ngawun riverbank which runs through the Ayeyawady Region town of Kangyihtaung, between 3 July and Thursday, has created a situation which could see the destruction of anti-erosion defences, according to the town's riverbank conservation group.

The breaking of the anti-erosion defenses would reportedly see neighborhoods within the town, as well as schools and rice

mills, become submerged under water.

"The holes in the defence walls, made by rats, which were patched up last year have expanded from the rising waters. The battering of the river with the rising and falling of the tide is slowly eroding the sides of the riverbank. As such, we're at a point now whereby we could see the anti-erosion defences being swept away by the river. If this befalls us, around 50 houses by the side of the river will have to be relocated," said U Bo Bo Htun, from the riverbank conservation group.

The gradual collapsing of the banks of the river since 3 July has already reportedly claimed three dwellings and forced families of two other households to up sticks and relocate after concerns their properties would suffer a similar fate.

"We patched up the holes in the defense wall last year caused by the rats. Now, though, and they've become increasingly bigger. If this defense falls, all

the fields will be flooded and it will claim all the households along the stretch of the river," said U Sithu Aung, a resident of Kangyihtaung.

A 1,500 feet stretch of the riverbank has reportedly already been swept away, prompting a regional development fund of Hluttaw MPs to be utilised in order to protect an important 900 feet section of the side of the river from following suit, according to the administrator of Kangyihtaung Township.

Efforts were made to build a defence system to mitigate riverbank erosion within the town of Kangyihtaung back in 2014, but within a period of just five months it had collapsed. A submission, made to union government requesting additional support, was then answered with an initiative to build up a proper defence to the section of the river included within 12 enterprises to be carried out with financial assistance from the union level natural disaster protection fund.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Night market to be opened in Nyaungshwe

A NIGHT bazar will be opened before the next tourism season in a compound of Kyauktinekin of Nyaungshwe, Shan State, according to Ministry of Hotels and Tourism Department.

"The KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar foundation will donate toilets for the night bazar. Arrangements have been made for the shops to sell hygienic and fresh food. To ensure they sell

food of a good quality they need to hold a certificate from the Myanmar Restaurateurs Association" said a representative of the ministry.

The new tourism destination will be opened in Lwe Kaw, Inn Ni and Koikku villages, said U Htin Aung Naing, Director of the Hotels and Tourism Department in Taunggyi.

Tourists will be able to try

Myanmar food and observe traditional crafts when the night market is opened.

Plans are currently being made to establish an information counter at the Hotels and Tourism Department in Nyaungshwe. There are around 84 hotels now operating in the town with last year seeing a total of 137,861 tourists visiting Nyaungshwe.—*Zar Zar*

Crime NEWS

Yaba seized in Pyigyidagun and Meiktila townships

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Mandalay city confiscated yaba and heroin from a house in ward-B, Pyigyidagun township on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the home of one Ahmad Dullah and discovered 21,330 yaba pills and heroin weighing 0.2 grams.

According to a connected investigation, police searched Ahmad's home in Aung Thar Myauk village, Meiktila township and discovered 3,090,000 yaba pills.

Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*MNA*



Ahmad Dullah is seen together with yaba pills seized from him. PHOTO: POLICE

Fugitive arrested after escape from prison

Police captured a fugitive who was on the run from authorities after escaping from prison where he serve his life imprisonment for the murder of three people.

The suspect reportedly escaped from Taung-Oo prison on 6 June and hid out in Lewe township where he was arrested this week by local police for acting suspiciously. Once in custo-

dy the man's true identity was uncovered.

The man claimed to police that he did not intend to commit the three murders but was discovered burglarising a home in Taung-Oo and so murdered the three victims in order to make good his escape.

The police have handed the fugitive over to the Tuang-Oo police station.—*Min Min Lat*

Brown opium seized in Loilem

A COMBINED police squad comprising policemen from Loilem seized brown opium from a vehicle on Loilem- Nam Hsan road on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off police stopped a vehicle heading for Loilem being driven by one Yan Hsam Hod and made a search. The police discovered brown opium weighing 88 kilograms. The police have filed charges against the suspect under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*MNA*



Yan Hsam Hod. PHOTO: POLICE

Discord over South China Sea clouds Asia-Europe summit

ULAANBAATAR — A key summit between Asian and European leaders in Mongolia ended on Saturday without direct mention of the South China Sea dispute in its closing statement, with diplomats describing intense discord over the issue between Europe and Asia.

China has refused to recognise Tuesday's ruling by an arbitration court in The Hague invalidating its vast claims in the South China Sea and did not take part in the proceedings brought by the Philippines. It has reacted angrily to calls by Western countries and Japan for the decision to be adhered to.

China had flagged ahead of the Ulaanbaatar get-together that it did not want the South China Sea to be discussed, saying it was not an appropriate venue.

The closing statement said leaders reaffirmed a commitment to promote maritime security, safety and cooperation, freedom of navigation and overflight and to refrain from using threatening force.

It also said disputes should be resolved via international law, the United



Leaders and head of delegations pose for a family photo during the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit just outside Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 16 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nations charter and UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS.

European Council President Donald Tusk told reporters he hoped the court's decision would create positive momentum in finding a solution to the dispute.

"Still, it's not so easy to agree with our Chinese partners when it comes to these issues but our talks were difficult, tough but also promising," he said.

On Friday, the Europe-

an Union issued a statement noting China's legal defeat but avoided direct reference to Beijing, reflecting discord among EU governments over how strongly to respond to the court ruling.

While the European Union is neutral in China's dispute with its Asian neighbours in the South China Sea, Britain, France and Germany want to make clear that Beijing must uphold international law as it seeks a bigger global role.

But speaking with one European voice has become difficult as some smaller governments, including Hungary and Greece, rely on Chinese investment and are unwilling to criticise Beijing.

The panel ruled Beijing's actions in the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually, had interfered with the Philippines' sovereign rights. Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Viet

Nam also have claims to the strategic waterway.

There was no bilateral meeting between the Chinese and Philippines foreign ministers, a Philippine diplomatic source told Reuters, though the Chinese initially requested a meeting at the beginning of the summit.

Chinese officials did not speak to foreign reporters during the summit. China's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on

the summit and the South China Sea.

State news agency Xinhua quoted Chinese Premier Li Keqiang as saying on Saturday in Ulaanbaatar that the court's decision would have "no impact whatsoever" on Chinese sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea.

Li had told Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe the previous day that Japan should stop interfering in the issue. Japan met with several countries including the Philippines and Viet Nam and told them Japan would cooperate with them to enforce the decision, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

A diplomat from Russia, which has close ties with China and has supported its position over the arbitration case, said the West was hectoring.

"If you understand how the other side lives, you're more tolerant," he said. "The West always starts with teaching. Asians never do that." A Mongolian diplomat said negotiations over the closing statement were "intense". "The Europeans wanted lots on the South China Sea but the Asians didn't." —Reuters

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Pakistani PM praises Turkish people for resisting military takeover

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday praised the people of Turkey for backing their elected government and resisting a military takeover.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said at least 161 people were killed and 1,440 wounded in the coup attempt that swept the country on Friday night but was foiled by Saturday morning.

Turkey's acting Army Chief Gen. Umit Dundar has said that 104 coup plotters were among the dead.

"I strongly condemn the attempt to undermine

democracy by a failed coup in the brotherly country of Turkey," the Pakistani prime minister said.

"We deeply admire the resolve of the brave and resilient Turkish people, who stood up against the forces of darkness and anarchy to express their support and commitment to democracy," Nawaz Sharif said in a statement.

He expressed complete support and solidarity with President Erdogan, the democratically elected government of Turkey and the democratic institutions of Turkey.

"Pakistan reaffirms

its abiding interest in a democratic, peaceful and stable Turkey.

We wish to convey our prayers and good wishes for President Erdogan's well-being and welfare of the people of Turkey as well as the unity of the Islamic Ummah (nations)," he further said.

Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan deeply appreciates President Erdogan's steadfast support and the support of the people of Turkey to Pakistan on all occasions, whenever the need arose.

"I wish to reaffirm full support of the government and people of

Pakistan to the elected leadership and government and the people of Turkey," the prime minister said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had earlier blamed the movement led by Turkey's Islamic scholar Fethullah Gulen now living in the US state of Pennsylvania for the coup. Gulen reportedly denied the charge.

In remarks delivered early Saturday in Istanbul, Erdogan vowed to finish the operation against the military plotters, saying "Our army is clean and no one can harm it." —Xinhua

Princess Hanako undergoes hip replacement surgery

TOKYO — Princess Hanako, the 75-year-old sister-in-law of Emperor Akihito and wife of Prince Hitachi, underwent a hip replacement surgery at a Tokyo hospital on Saturday, ac-

cording to the Imperial Household Agency.

The operation lasted for two and a half hours. She is likely to stay at Nissan Tamagawa Hospital for about a month, including rehabilitation.

The princess had been experiencing hip pain for some time and was diagnosed with osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease that mostly affects middle-aged and elderly people.

She is honorary president of the Japan Equestrian Federation and the Japan Animal Welfare Society. She is known for her interest in animal welfare. —Kyodo News

Modi urges states to work together with central gov't

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spelt out the need for all states to work together with the central government for the country's development.

"India's development is possible only when states and the central government work together," Modi said, addressing Chief Ministers of all Indian states in the national capital.

He added "The Inter-State Council will not just enshrine the values of cooperative federalism, but will ensure a better future for our citizens."

The council was set up in

1990 for better coordination among states and the central government, and it met for the first time in the past 10 years.

The meeting was attended by Delhi's Chief Minis-

ter Arvind Kejriwal, known as Prime Minister's outspoken critic, and Chief Ministers of some opposition Congress-ruled states. —Xinhua

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urges respect of democracy in Turkey unrest

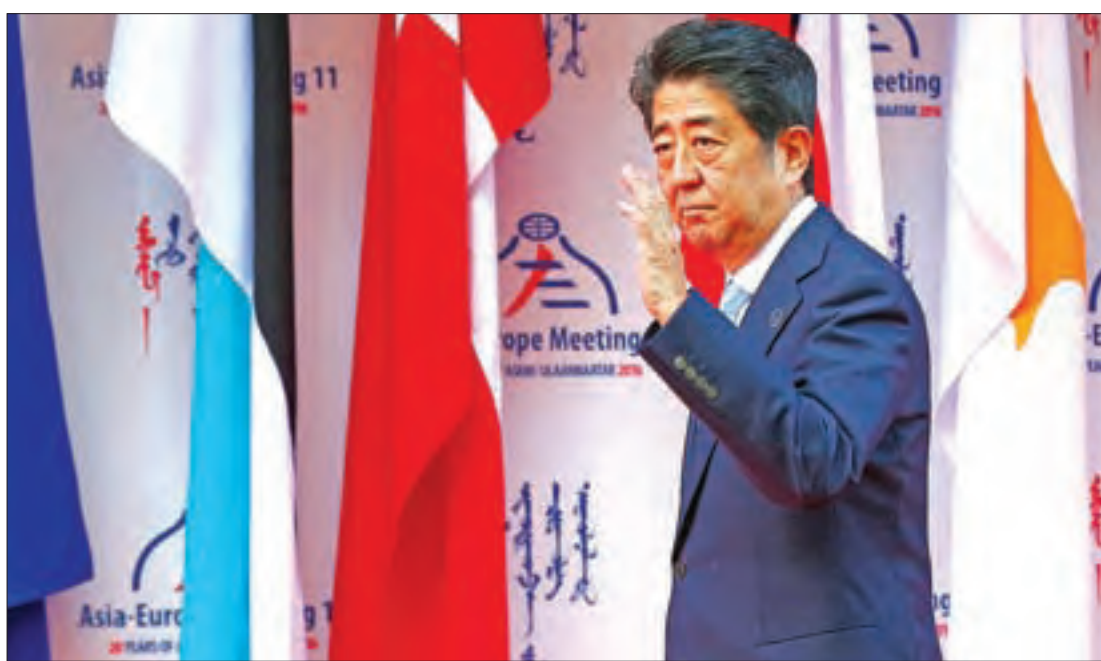
ULAN BATOR — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Saturday that democratic institutions should be respected in Turkey following reports of an attempted military coup there.

"We strongly hope that the situation will return to normal, and that order and peace will be restored as soon as possible," the premier said in a statement.

In the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator for a summit of Asian and European leaders, Abe called the situation in Turkey "worrying."

Abe told reporters he has instructed Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga to ascertain the safety of Japanese nationals in Turkey and work with relevant countries to gather information on the situation.

In Tokyo, Suga told reporters that the government has not received any information that any Japanese people have been affected by the unrest.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives for the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit of Heads of State and Government (ASEM11) in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, on 15 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The government set up a task force at the prime minister's office Saturday morning to gather information. The Foreign Minis-

try said it has requested Japanese nationals stay indoors. The Japanese Embassy in Ankara sent emails to Japanese resi-

dents and travellers in the country advising them to use caution until the situation calms. —Kyodo News

At least one killed in a prison riot in southern Thailand

BANGKOK — A prison riot broke up on Friday in the southern Pattani Province of Thailand, leading to at least one death in the melee.

Police force are trying to take back control of the prison, Thai media reported.

A melee happened between the prisoners, and they also attacked guards, set fire the buildings inside the prison, Thairath reported.

A 23-year-old prisoner, who worked as an assistant for authorities, was killed in the melee, three guards and a volunteer from the local Volunteer Defence Corps were injured.

Prison guards applied for local police and the army for reinforcement around 4:30pm this afternoon as soon as the prison riot early began.

Rioters complained that they are suffering the alleged overly strict rules in the prison and asked for improvement as the capitulation.

Until 23:50 local time, authorities have removed some prisoners to other prisons, and they are still trying to regain their control of the prison. —Xinhua

Sri Lankan investigators arrest army officer over editor's killing

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan investigators on Saturday arrested an army officer, attached to the Sri Lanka Army Intelligence Unit, over the murder of popular editor and journalist, Lasantha Wickremetunga, the police said.

The arrest came months after police sought public as-

sistance in tracking down the suspects in connection with Wickremetunga's murder after the police, in February, released sketches of two persons who were suspected to be involved.

Wickremetunga was the founding editor of the privately-run *Sunday Leader* newspa-

per. He was shot dead in January 2009 by a group of unidentified men, in a high security zone, while he drove to work in broad daylight.

He was a staunch critic of the former government of Mahinda Rajapaksa, who have denied any role in the editor's kill-

ing. The Sri Lankan government led by Maithripala Sirisena, who came to power in January 2015, had reopened investigations into Wickremetunga's murder, vowing to commence a thorough investigation and arrest all those involved in the killing. —Xinhua

Preliminary results from Flight MH17 forensic probe expected later this year — minister

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's transport minister said on Saturday preliminary conclusions from the forensic investigation into the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 two years ago could be received later this year.

The Boeing 777 (BA.N) was shot down over eastern Ukraine by a Russian-made Buk missile, the Dutch Safety Board concluded last year in its final report on the crash in July 2014 that killed all 298 people on board, most of them Dutch.

"With the joint investigation team's criminal investigation on-

going, we hope to receive the preliminary conclusions on the forensic research conducted, including on the type of weapon that was used and other pertinent details, by the later part of this year," Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said in a statement on second anniversary of the tragedy.

He said the investigation team, comprising representatives from Malaysia, the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium and Ukraine, remained "committed and determined in our pursuit to bring justice" to those responsible. —Reuters



The reconstructed cockpit of the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 is seen after the presentation of the final report regarding its crash, in Gilze Rijen, the Netherlands, on 13 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

White House candidate Trump announces Pence as his running mate

WASHINGTON — Republican Donald Trump's choice of Indiana Governor Mike Pence as his vice presidential running mate on Friday helped bolster support among some conservatives skeptical about his policies, a crucial step as he prepares to accept the party's nomination next week.

Some conservatives who had fought against Trump's ascendancy in the Republican nominating race welcomed his announcement that he had picked Pence, a well-known social and evangelical conservative.

The Club for Growth, a conservative economic group, had sharply criticised Trump's support for protectionist trade policies. On Friday, the group noted that as a member of the House of Representatives, Pence had been a strong voice for "free markets and economic liberty" at a time when the Republican leadership had been weak on these issues.

"Today's news gives a similar hope that Mike Pence will be effective in pulling the Republican ticket toward economic conservatism and limited government," the group said.

Other conservatives were also heartened by Trump's VP pick, which the businessman announced in a tweet ahead of a joint appearance in his hometown of New York on Saturday.

"Pence is a principled conservative, man of faith, and talented messenger for Republican ideas," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. "His addition to the ticket will bring even more excitement to the voters who are eager to put a Republican in the White House and



Indiana Governor Mike Pence arrives at Trump Tower in Manhattan, New York, US, on 15 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

deny a third term for President Obama's liberal agenda."

Trump, 70, chose Pence, 57, over two politicians he considers friends and close advisers, former House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, 73, and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, 53.

Pence is viewed as a safe choice for Trump. The Indiana governor's low-key demeanor is a contrast to that of the bombastic real estate developer. And he could take the fight to the Democrats in the months leading up to the 8 November election without upstaging Trump.

He and Trump will have to smooth over some policy differences. Pence has said he does not support trade protectionism or a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States, two policies that are central to Trump's campaign message.

In his first public remarks after Trump announced his run-

ning mate, Pence appeared to soften his opposition to a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country after he called it "offensive and unconstitutional" in a tweet last December.

"I am very supportive of Donald Trump's call to temporarily suspend immigration from countries where terrorist influence and impact represents a threat to the United States," Pence told conservative Fox News commentator Sean Hannity.

"We have no higher priority than the safety and security of the American people," Pence said, adding that he suspended a Syrian refugee programme in Indiana after a shooting rampage last year in San Bernardino, California. Pence also said he "absolutely" backed Trump's promise to build a wall between the United States and Mexico to stem illegal immigration and make Mexico pay for it.—Reuters

Paris attacks suspect refused end to 24/7 jail cell surveillance

PARIS — A French judge on Friday rejected a demand that jail guards stop round-the-clock video surveillance of the only known survivor of a group of Islamist militants who killed 130 people in Paris last November. The request

was lodged by a lawyer for Salah Abdeslam, who has been held in solitary confinement and monitored 24-hours-a-day by camera at a high-security jail near Paris since he was captured in Belgium and shipped to France earlier this

year. The judge at the court in Versailles, west of Paris, rejected the demand for an emergency ruling to bring the surveillance to a halt on human rights grounds.

"Salah Abdeslam is not in a position to declare that he is subject of a manifest and clearly illegal breach of respect for his privacy," the judge said in a statement. Abdeslam was spirited out of France and back to Belgium, his country of residence, by car in the hours after the multiple attacks by the militants.

The French authorities suspect him of playing at least a part in their logistical organisation.

Abdeslam was transferred to France several weeks ago but refused to talk to investigators in a first hearing about the attacks.

The court's ruling came hours after a Tunisian resident of Nice killed at least 84 people by ploughing a truck into Bastille Day crowds.—Reuters



Handout file picture shows Belgian-born Salah Abdeslam on a call for witnesses notice released by the French Police Nationale information services on their twitter account on 15 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nice cancels jazz festival after Bastille Day killings

NICE — A five-day jazz festival in Nice has been cancelled following the killing of at least 84 people in the city by a truck driver, organisers said.

The festival, which had lined up acts such as Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour and British trip hop act Massive Attack, was scheduled to run from 16 July until 20.

"Cancellation of the Nice Jazz Festival after the terrible attack which hit Nice on 14 July," the festival website said without giving further details.—Reuters

Blast targets police van in Kabul

KABUL — A bomb blast targeted a police vehicle in Bagrami district on the outskirts of Kabul city on Saturday.

The incident, according to a local official, occurred in the morning rush hour after a magnetic bomb went off inside a police vehicle, probably leaving casualties.

Interior Ministry has yet to comment on the incident.—Xinhua

Pakistan's famous model shot dead

ISLAMABAD — A famous model in Pakistan, Qandeel Balooch, was shot dead in her home district in Multan in Punjab province on Saturday, family and police in the region said.

Qandel Balooch, whose real name was Fouzia Azeem, had been the centre of a controversy last month after she posted photographs online with a religious scholar Mufti Abdul Qavi. Balooch said she had met the scholar at his hotel room.

Police said that brother fired at Qandeel because of the release of photographs on social media.

The brother had asked her to quit modeling, a police source said. The brother fled after the incident, police officer Azhar Akram said, adding that the brother was upset at the "disrespect" Qandeel had caused to the family.

Qandeel's father also confirmed the incident. There were conflicting reports about the nature of the murder. One police source said the brother had strangled Qandeel, who was living in Multan for a week. Police said Qandeel had approached the interior ministry for security because of threats to her life.—Xinhua

Government panel recommends five artists as living national treasures

TOKYO — A government panel has recommended that five artists be named living national treasures, paving the way for their official designation around September.

The Council for Cultural Affairs suggested to culture minister Hiroshi Hase on Friday that the government recognise two Noh actors, a Kabuki actor, a musician and a weaver as national treasures.

The Noh actors are Nomura Shiro, 79, and Otsuki Bunzo, 73. The Kabuki actor is Nakamura Tozo, 78. The Japanese "biwa" lute player is Okumura Kyokusui, 65, and the silk pongee weaver is Ryoko Murakami, 66. The addition of the five will bring the total number of people certified as living national treasures to 116.

Including those who have died, the total stands at 356, the government said.—Kyodo News

Hearn's museum reopens with more exhibition space

MATSUE (Japan) — A museum in Matsue, Shimane Prefecture reopened on Saturday, with more space to exhibit personal effects and books of naturalized Japanese writer Lafcadio Hearn, also known as Yakumo Koizumi.

The Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum had been closed since January for renewal work. Its exhibition space has now doubled to about 220 square metres.

The museum added a multipurpose room and a booth where visitors can listen to Hearn's ghost stories recorded by Matsue-born actor Shiro Sano. The number of items in the collection has also increased to some 1,500, including first editions of Hearn's books.

Born to an Irish father and Greek mother in 1850, Hearn arrived in Japan in 1890 and married a Japanese woman in Matsue on the Sea of Japan coast, where he lived for more than a year.

Hearn helped introduce Japan's traditional culture to the world before passing away in 1904 at the age of 54.

His representative works include "Kwaidan," a collection of old Japanese ghost stories.—Kyodo News

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

What makes our children distance themselves from school

Kyaw Thura

It is undeniable that chronic racial conflicts and smouldering communal violence have dragged down the standard of our country's education to a lower level, resulting in a profoundly negative impact on all aspects of social development. In other words, armed conflicts in border areas have triggered internal displacement, cross-border displacement and mass migration, all of which account for instability and insecurity.

It is widely accepted that education is the lifeblood of the country's development in areas of good governance, clean government, health, economy, security, stability and gender equality. This highlights that education enables people to enhance their potential and talent and take part in nation building.

It is encouraging to witness that the government is committed to easy access to free and compulsory basic ed-

ucation to all children. Despite this, the number of children who are destined to distance themselves from education is not negligible. Free education does not guarantee that all children will come to school in their happy mood. Children from the working class are still trapped in cafes and construction sites, emotionally gazing at other children of their ages going to school with their parents.

A few days ago, I was

moved by a cartoon in which a little boy says, "Before you put the future responsibility of the country on us, feed us first". Judging from these words, no child will be able to take interest in education on an empty stomach. Something should be done for the children of the destitute.

An informed decision to keep all children at school is a stitch in time in the inclusive reform of the country's educational system.

Peace through Understanding

Dr. Khine Khine Win

ACCORDING to the 2015 Global Peace Index, the intensity of internal armed conflict has increased dramatically, while the cost of violence around the world reached a staggering US\$14.3 trillion in 2014. Armed conflict often leads to forced migration, long-term refugee problems, and the destruction of infrastructure. Social, political and economic institutions can be damaged. Indeed, we have many problems like poverty, sickness, illiteracy, racial and religious rivalry, child mortality etc. And it is of utmost importance that we have peaceful environment to deal with them. Then, for all aspects of progress and human development we need

peace and harmony around the world.

There is a saying "Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be attained through understanding" by an American essayist and lecturer Ralph Waldo Emerson. It is precocious saying for everyone around the world who loves peace. If we desire a society of peace, we need understanding each other. We cannot achieve such a society through violence.

Love and understanding: what do you think which one is more important? There is no exact answer. Different people have different answers for different reasons. For me, I prefer understanding. Understanding is more important as love without understanding won't last. For instance, we love our family, spouses, wives but sometimes we confront

each other when we lose understanding. Even if love is there conflicts and misunderstanding always exists in family. Without doubt absence of understanding pushes family to no peace zone. If we want to live in peace zone, we need not only love but also understanding.

Peace and understanding: many people believe peace is important in order to avoid unnecessary conflicts that might hinder the progress of human being. Peace creates progress and happiness. The United Nations defined peace as the collection of attitudes, beliefs and actions that demonstrate a concern for worldwide human rights and a positive regard for life. Peace involves turning the other cheek when necessary, and aiming to understand others. I totally agree understanding can

create peace and I believe that peace can only be achieved when humanity has reached a level of mutual understanding and tolerance. No one would fight if they understand the other's point of view.

The question is how to create peace and understanding. The question of real, lasting peace concerns human beings. So, basic human feelings are also at its roots. There is a peace within understanding when a person knows why something is occurring in their life. Only a peaceful mind can lead a family, society, a community, a nation and the world to better prospects and progress. There is a question. How to create peace of mind? It is easier said than done. But we have to cultivate peace of mind if we really want to lead our family, society, community and let our beloved people live in peace zone.

Peace is not a one-time act. True peace is built over time, with

many different processes and approaches that move conflict into lasting, peaceful relationships. It requires action at many different levels, by different people, in different ways, and at different points in a conflict. Increased understanding – of different cultures, languages, and concerns – can go a long way toward reducing conflict. There can be no peace without understanding.

We can make peace and we can try to keep it. But to foster non-violent peace is a primary goal. To foster peace is to move toward a just peace, which fosters nonviolent peace. If we want to develop like any other developed country, we need to find peace. No country can develop without peace.

References: Understanding conflict and war Vol.5: the Just peace, R.J.Rummel
:http://www.idealware.org/articles/building-peace-through-information-and-communications-technologies

ASEM11 Summit concludes, leaders announces its resulting documents: Chair's Statement and Ulaanbaatar Declaration on July 16

ASEM11 Summit leaders announced its resulting documents *Chair's Statement and Ulaanbaatar Declaration* on July 16, concluding the Summit.

ASEM11 Chair's Statement and Ulaanbaatar Declaration ASEM11 are available at <http://www.asem11.mn>.

President of Mongolia Mr. Elbegdorj, thanked the international delegates and the media, saying "People of Mongolia enjoyed the ASEM delegates' presence. Also, through the hard work of media delegates, ASEM-related online content reached more than 1 billion people around the world. It was a great exposure for our country".

European Council President Donald Tusk thanked the host country, expressed ASEM11

leaders' condolences for the people of France and Turkey affected by terrorism and violence, and stressed the importance of global dialogue, cooperation, mutual respect and understanding. "Let the message of solidarity of our entire community in the face of terrorism be an important message to the world. Turkey is a key partner for Europe. The EU fully supports democratic election and the constitutional government," said H.E. Mr. Tusk.

President Donald Tusk's Press Statement

Going back to the ASEM results, President Tusk emphasized on the importance of collaboration between Asia and Europe, and the opportunity to make a difference together. President Tusk also announced that Bel-

gium was selected to host the ASEM12 in 2018.

President Jean-Claude Juncker's Press Statement

European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker thanked the host country, remarking that it was his third time in Mongolia, and since his first visit to the country in 1998, "the progress of this country has been marvelous". He complimented the President of Mongolia for hosting and chairing the Summit.

Myanmarian President U Htin Kyaw thanked Mongolia for its hospitality, expressed condolence and solidarity for the people of France, and remarked the ASEM's formal and informal discussion of the past two days have been fruitful and that new ideas, including enhancing the ASEM's

three pillars, were presented.

President U Htin Kyaw's Press Statement

"Areas of common interest in regional and international scale included non-traditional security issues of terrorism and extremism, rule of law, and inclusive growth," said President Kyaw.

U Htin Kyaw also announced that Myanmar will host the next ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2017.

Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico remarked that the traumatic events in Turkey and France had touched all the leaders and said, "Last two days showed us how turbulent times we live in, and how important the Asia-Europe community is needed". He thanked the government of Mongolia for its hospitality

and mentioned that leaders discussed important topics in the Summit sessions, including climate change, 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and disaster risk management.

Prime Minister Robert Fico's Press Statement

H.E. Mr. Fico said, "Candid and constructive discussion on number of issues of shared concern for Asia and Europe" was important for the leaders.

After the remarks, journalists asked questions about maritime issues, topics important for Mongolia that were discussed, President Juncker's impression on Mongolia's Chairmanship, and whether the coup attempt in Turkey would change its candidacy and relationship with the European Union.—GNLM



People demonstrate outside Ataturk international airport during an attempted coup in Istanbul, Turkey, on 16 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkish forces fight to crush coup remnants after Erdogan returns

ISTANBUL/ANKARA — Forces loyal to the Turkish government fought on Saturday to crush the remnants of a military coup attempt which crumbled after crowds answered President Tayyip Erdogan's call to take to the streets and dozens of rebels abandoned their tanks.

More than 90 people were killed in violence that erupted late on Friday after a faction of the armed forces attempted to seize power using tanks and attack helicopters, some strafing the headquarters of Turkish intelligence and parliament in Ankara, others seizing a major bridge in Istanbul.

Erdogan appeared to accuse the coup plotters of trying to kill him, and promised to purge the armed forces which in the past have staged a number of successful coups. "They will pay a heavy price for this," he said. "This uprising is a gift from God to us because this will be a reason to cleanse our army."

Turkish authorities have al-

ready detained around 1,500 members of the armed forces, officials said. Chief of staff Hulusi Akar, who had been reported held hostage by the rebels, has been rescued, a senior official said.

A successful overthrow of Erdogan, who has ruled Turkey since 2003, would have marked one of the biggest shifts in the Middle East in years, transforming a major US ally while war rages on its border.

However, a failed coup attempt could still destabilise a NATO member that lies between the European Union and the chaos of Syria, with Islamic State bombers targetting Turkish cities and the government also at war with Kurdish separatists.

Erdogan, who had been holidaying on the southwest coast when the coup was launched, flew into Istanbul before dawn on Saturday and was shown on TV outside Ataturk Airport.

Addressing a crowd of thousands of flag-waving supporters at

the airport later, Erdogan said the government remained at the helm, although disturbances continued in Ankara.

Erdogan, whose Islamist-rooted ideology lies deeply at odds with supporters of modern Turkey's secular principles, said the plotters had tried to attack him in the resort town of Marmaris.

"They bombed places I had departed right after I was gone," he said. "They probably thought we were still there."

The death toll has risen to 90, state-run Anadolu Agency reported, with 1,154 people wounded.

Turkish authorities have detained 1,563 military personnel across the country.

In a night that sometimes verged on the bizarre, Erdogan used social media to speak to the Turkish people — even though he is an avowed enemy of such technology when his opponents use it, frequently targetting Twitter and Facebook.

At one point Erdogan effec-

tively addressed the nation via a video calling service, appearing on the smart phone of a CNN Turk reporter who held it up to a studio camera so that viewers to the network could see him.

The pro-coup faction said in an emailed statement from the Turkish military General Staff's media office address that it was determinedly still fighting. Calling itself the Peace at Home Movement, the faction also called on people to stay indoors for their own safety.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said rebel soldiers who had taken control of military aircraft had fired from the air and fighter jets had been scrambled to intercept them.

Gunfire and explosions had rocked both Istanbul and Ankara in a chaotic night after soldiers took up positions in both cities and ordered state television to read out a statement declaring they had taken power. However, by dawn the noise of fighting had died down considerably.—Reuters

Serbian police, army to form joint border patrols to stem illegal crossings

BELGRADE — Serbian police and army will form joint patrols to protect the country's borders from illegal crossings of migrants mostly coming from Afghanistan and Pakistan, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said on Saturday.

Around 100,000 migrants from Middle East, Asia and Africa have passed through Serbia so far in 2016 despite the closure of the so-called "Balkan route", which hundreds of thousands used last year to reach Western Europe.

"Serbia does not want to become a collective centre for migrants," Vucic said following a meeting of the country's top security body.

Vucic said most of the migrants enter Serbia from Bulgaria. "Majority of them come from Pakistan and Afghanistan and they have no chance to cross to Hungary," he said.

Last month Hungary, Serbia's northern neighbour and an EU member, adopted a law that allows police to send back illegal migrants detained within eight kilometres (five miles) of its razor wire-fenced southern frontier with Serbia.

Hungary has also limited the number of daily admissions to the transit zone to a maximum of 30. The move created a bottleneck, with migrants creating makeshift camps near the transit zones between the two countries.

More than 650,000 people, many of them fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and elsewhere, passed through Serbia last year on their way to the European Union.

This route was largely shut down in March after a series of border closures by EU states.—Reuters

Russian help fighting IS welcome, but not at cost of keeping Assad

WASHINGTON — Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said on Friday the kingdom would welcome effective Russian participation in the fight with Islamic State in Syria but not at the expense of keeping the Syrian president in power or further attacks on moderate rebels.

Al-Jubeir, speaking at a news conference in Washington,

said Saudi Arabia was following US Secretary of State John Kerry's talks with his Russian counterpart.

Kerry was talking to the Russians about closer military and intelligence cooperation against Islamic State and al Qaeda in Syria.

"Anything that can be done to bring the Russians into the fight

against Daesh in an effective way is something that I think people would welcome," al-Jubeir told reporters, using another name for Islamic State.

"But it cannot be at the cost of keeping Bashar al-Assad in power and it cannot be with the Russians continuing to attack the moderate Syrian opposition."—Reuters



Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir. PHOTO: REUTERS

EU and US seek trade deal this year, knowing large hurdles remain

BRUSSELS — EU and US negotiators said on Friday that they still needed to overcome large differences for a transatlantic free trade deal to be sealed this year, and factor in the impending exit from the European Union of Britain, one of the United States' biggest export markets.

The two sides are trying to agree on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), which supporters say could boost each economy by some \$100 billion (£75.9 billion) at a time when growth in China and emerging markets is slowing.

Chief EU negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero and US counterpart Dan Mullaney told a news conference after a 14th round of talks that both sides were committed to sealing a deal before US President Barack Obama leaves office at the turn of the year.

The partners have made progress on tariff elimination and on regulatory cooperation.

However, they are stuck over EU demands including greater access to public sector tenders; Garcia Bercero described the US offer as a serious cause of concern.

Likewise, Washington is unhappy with the EU offer on services.

"Given the importance of this sector to both of our economies ... progress here has been noticeably and painfully slow," said Mullaney.

He also said that, while the economic rationale for TTIP remained strong, Britain's exit from the European Union would force a rethink as it was the largest market anywhere for US services, and took 25 per cent of US exports to the EU.

"Imagine if the United States said, for instance, 'Well, maybe TTIP will not apply to California'. There is a certain reflection that the parties need to have on those kind of developments."

The two sides had previously planned to produce a single consolidated TTIP text by the end of July. Garcia Bercero said that was now more likely to come by the end of September after further meetings between US trade chief Michael Froman and EU commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom.

Garcia Bercero acknowledged that the political environment was becoming more challenging.

The environmental group Greenpeace echoed the view of many anti-TTIP campaigners on Friday by saying that it was time



The flag of the USA flutters over a hall of the Hanover Fair decorated with a banner supporting the free trade agreement TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) in Hanover, Germany, on 25 April 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

to hit the 'Stop' button.

But the EU negotiator said TTIP was instead a positive response to concerns about globalisation.

"If we want to have a shot at

shaping globalisation, we need a like-minded partner that shares largely our views," he said.

Mullaney talked of a "unique window of opportunity" to complete TTIP this year that should

not be allowed to slip away.

"After this year, with one political transition after another over the next few years, it could be quite a while before we pick up negotiations again."—Reuters

Boeing aims for supersonics and Mars at outset of second century

SEATTLE — The Boeing Co marked its centennial on Friday with plans to sharpen its focus on innovation, including ambitious projects for supersonic commercial flight and a rocket that could carry humans to other planets.

But innovation at Boeing will be "disciplined" and not endanger the future of the world's biggest plane maker, Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg told reporters at an event marking the company's founding on 15 July, 1916.

The enterprise established by William Boeing in a Seattle boathouse has faced numerous "bet the company" moments over its 10 decades to bring out new planes such as the 707 and 747.

"We have won for 100 years because of innovation," Muilenburg said. "The key is disciplined innovation. We'll take risks. We'll invest smartly."

Chicago-based Boeing has managed to stay ahead of European rival Airbus in plane production and is a major defence and space contractor, producing fighter jets, aerial refueling tankers, communications satellites and rockets. The company is exploring the possibilities of commercial supersonic and hypersonic planes, Muilenburg said. It also is at work on a manned mission to Mars. Though those



The Stratocruiser, a long-range propeller airliner which entered production after World War II, is shown in this publicity photo from the Boeing Company, on 14 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

are perhaps many decades away, "I'm anticipating that person will be riding on a Boeing rocket," Muilenburg said.

More immediately, Boeing is pressing for licenses to conclude sales of 109 aircraft to Iran, including leased jets, despite opposition from some in Congress. "This is a significant opportunity," he said. "It does represent significant US manufacturing jobs."

The company also is still working on plans for a so-called "middle of the market" aircraft that could fill a gap in its product line between the 737 and the 787. Muilenburg said it might use "existing products, derivatives

of existing products or an all new airplane" to fill the gap.

"If it's an all new airplane, we think that would probably be in the 2024-2025 time frame in terms of when it would be introduced into service," he said.

Muilenburg spoke with reporters at the beginning of a celebratory weekend of events for an estimated 100,000 employees, families and retirees at Boeing Field in Seattle. Muilenburg said Boeing is arguably stronger now than at any point in its 100-year history. It has a backlog of 5,700 plane orders, enough to keep its factories humming for six or seven years.—Reuters

Man vs machine — computer-driven hedge funds win on Brexit night

LONDON — As hedge fund manager Buford Scott sat at home, watching the TV in shock as it emerged Britain had voted to leave the European Union, his computer-based trading models were quietly boosting his business by 1.5 per cent.

Scott's algorithm-driven fund, and others like it, beat hedge funds run by humans on Brexit night, not because the computers had correctly predicted the results of the 23 June referendum, but because they followed trends already in place.

Computer-driven funds placed bets on safe-haven assets like the yen and gold, which had performed well in the six months leading up to the vote, against riskier currencies like the Mexican peso — a play yielding a more than 7 per cent return JPYMXN= on 24 June. Hedge funds on average were down 0.18 per cent on the day of 24 June, while trend-following machine-based strategies gained 0.71 per cent, according to data from industry tracker Hedge Fund Research (HFR).

Some of the biggest hedge funds' computer-run strategies — also known as systematic or quantitative — made huge gains in the aftermath of the vote for Brexit.

British systematic firm Winton Capital, which manages more than \$30 billion (£22.7 billion),

made a gain of 3.1 per cent on 24 June, while Greenwich, Connecticut-based AQR's \$13.3 billion computer strategy returned 5.2 per cent — about \$700 million.

Polls had shown the Leave and Remain camps neck-and-neck before the referendum. But partly on the view that undecided voters tend to opt for the status quo, bookmakers and betting exchanges had largely predicted Remain would win comfortably. Most players in financial markets agreed.

"Almost no one was betting on the actual outcome of Brexit," said GAM portfolio manager Anthony Lawler in London, a hedge fund investor whose firm recently bought systematic investment manager Cantab Capital Partners, which made 4.1 per cent in the year to 27 June.

"Man chose to reduce risk given the unknown. Machines chose to be long safe-haven assets because that trend was already in place. Machines won."

This does not necessarily mean machines would tend to outperform during big global events — a Remain vote might well have seen humans come out top — or during unexpected twists. Machine models were down 2.42 per cent in 2015 while hedge funds on average were down 1.12 per cent, according to HFR. —Reuters

New York reports first female-to-male Zika transmission via sex

CHICAGO — New York City's health department on Friday reported the first documented case of sexual transmission of Zika from a woman to her male partner, raising new concerns about the spread of the virus, which is typically contracted through mosquito bites.

Scientists say it may take years to fully understand how long individuals who are infected with Zika are capable of transmitting the virus, the first mosquito-borne disease ever shown to cause birth defects after a pregnant woman becomes infected. US researchers have begun studying how long the virus can survive in semen to gauge the risk.

All previously reported cases of sexual transmission were spread from men who had traveled to a Zika outbreak area to a female or male sex partner who had not. Such cases have been reported in at least 11 countries,



An anti Zika virus kit, including a bug net, mosquito repellent, condoms, literature and anti mosquito dunks, is pictured on 29 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

including the United States and France.

The ability of Zika to spread through sex could help it gain a foothold outside of the tropical climates that are home to the

Aedes aegypti mosquito, which carries Zika as well as dengue, chikungunya and Yellow Fever.

The current Zika outbreak was first detected in Brazil last year and has spread through the

Americas by mosquito, but has yet to reach the continental United States in that manner.

In the New York case, transmission of the virus occurred on the day that a woman in her 20s

returned to the city from an area with active Zika transmission and had a single encounter of unprotected sex with a male partner, according to a report published by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. The man had not traveled outside of the United States in the prior year.

The woman developed fever, fatigue, a rash and body aches the next day, and sought treatment. Health department officials then confirmed her infection.

When her male partner developed symptoms seven days later and sought treatment from the same caregiver, he, too, was diagnosed with Zika. New York and CDC health officials reported the case in the CDC's weekly report on death and disease.

They said the circumstances support the idea that Zika can pass from women to men through unprotected vaginal sex. —Reuters

NASA says ready to build Mars 2020 rover

WASHINGTON — US space agency NASA said on Friday it's ready to begin final design and construction of its next Mars rover, which is set to look for evidence of past life on the Red Planet.

The Mars 2020 rover has gone through "an extensive review process" and passed "a major development milestone," NASA said in a statement.

If everything goes smoothly, the six-wheeled robot will be launched in summer of 2020, arrive on the Red Planet in February 2021, and then begin to investigate a region where the ancient environment may have been favorable for microbial life, it said.

Throughout its investigation, the rover will collect samples of soil and rock, and cache them on the surface for potential return to Earth by a future mission.

"The Mars 2020 rover is the first step in a potential multi-mission campaign to return carefully selected and sealed samples of Martian rocks and soil to Earth," said Geoffrey Yoder, acting associate administrator of NASA's

Science Mission Directorate in Washington.

"This mission marks a significant milestone in NASA's Journey to Mars — to determine whether life has ever existed on Mars, and to advance our goal of sending humans to the Red Planet."

To reduce risk and provide cost savings, the 2020 rover will look much like its six-wheeled, one-ton predecessor, Curiosity, but with an array of new science instruments and enhancements to explore Mars as never before, NASA said.

For example, the rover will conduct the first investigation into the usability and availability of Martian resources, including oxygen, in preparation for human missions.

Mars 2020 will carry an entirely new subsystem to collect and prepare Martian rocks and soil samples that includes a coring drill on its arm and a rack of sample tubes.

About 30 of these sample tubes will be deposited at select locations for return on a potential

future sample-retrieval mission.

In laboratories on Earth, specimens from Mars could be analysed for evidence of past life on Mars and possible health hazards for future human missions.

The rover will also carry two science instruments on its robotic arm that will search for signs of past life and determine where to collect samples by analysing the chemical, mineral, physical and organic characteristics of Martian rocks.

On the rover's mast, two science instruments will provide high-resolution imaging and three types of spectroscopy for characterizing rocks and soil from a distance, also helping to determine which rock targets to explore up close.

A suite of sensors on the mast and deck will monitor weather conditions and the dust environment, while a ground-penetrating radar will assess sub-surface geologic structure.

The Mars 2020 rover will use the same sky crane landing system as Curiosity, but will have the ability to land in more challenging

terrain with two enhancements, making more rugged sites eligible as safe landing candidates.

"By adding what's known as range trigger, we can specify where we want the parachute to open, not just at what velocity we want it to open," said Allen Chen, Mars 2020 entry, descent and landing lead at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). "That shrinks our landing area by nearly half."

There also will be a suite of cameras and a microphone that will capture the never-before-seen or heard imagery and sounds of the entry, descent and landing sequence, said NASA.

Microphones have flown on previous missions to Mars, including NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander in 2008, but never have actually been used on the surface of the Red Planet. "This will be a great opportunity for the public to hear the sounds of Mars for the first time, and it could also provide useful engineering information," said Mars 2020 Deputy Project Manager Matt Wallace, also of JPL. —Xinhua

Suspected Congo yellow fever cases up 38 per cent in last three weeks: WHO

KINSHASA — The number of suspected yellow fever cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo has jumped 38 per cent in the last three weeks, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Friday, as health officials prepare to launch a vaccination campaign next week.

Congo's government last month declared a yellow fever epidemic in the capital Kinshasa and two provinces that border Angola, where the worst outbreak of the disease in decades has killed about 350 people.

As of 11 July, Congo had recorded 1,798 suspected cases since the start of the outbreak in January, WHO said in a weekly report, up from 1,307 on 24 June. Seventy-five people are believed to have died from the disease in Congo, it said. Officials have confirmed 68 cases. But they have not been able to confirm or rule out any additional cases for the last three weeks due to a technical problem shipping a chemical used in the tests, said WHO's resident representative in Congo, Yokouide Allaranger.

However, the issue has now been resolved and new test results will be available in the coming days, Allaranger added.

Health authorities plan to administer 1 million doses of yellow fever vaccine during a 10-day campaign beginning on Wednesday in the Kinshasa district of Kisenso and the neighbouring Kwango Province.

Due to a global shortage of vaccines, plans to inoculate some 10 million more people in Kinshasa and along the Angolan border have been put on hold until August, when newly-manufactured doses from Brazil are expected to begin arriving. —Reuters

Lucky bug eluded eternal entombment in 50 million-year-old amber

WASHINGTON — A chunk of amber found along the Baltic Sea in Russia provides evidence roughly 50 million years old of an extremely fortunate bug.

An Oregon State University scientist on Thursday described a remarkable piece of amber -fossilized tree sap — containing a mushroom, a strand of mammalian hair and the recently shed exoskeleton of an insect that got away from the oozing sticky stuff in the nick of time, escaping eternal entombment.

The tiny bug looks similar

to insects alive today known as walking sticks, whose stick-like appearance provides camouflage that helps keep them safe from hungry birds and other predators.

The amber memorialized a little scene that unfolded in an ancient subtropical forest of evergreen trees roughly 15 million years after the dinosaurs went extinct and mammals began to assume their new position as Earth's dominant land animals.

"The mushroom was growing at the base of a tree," Oregon State entomologist and amber ex-

pert George Poinar said. "The insect was exploring the mushroom and getting ready to feed on it. A rodent came along, bit off the stem of the mushroom at the same time some resin from the tree was flowing down toward the mushroom."

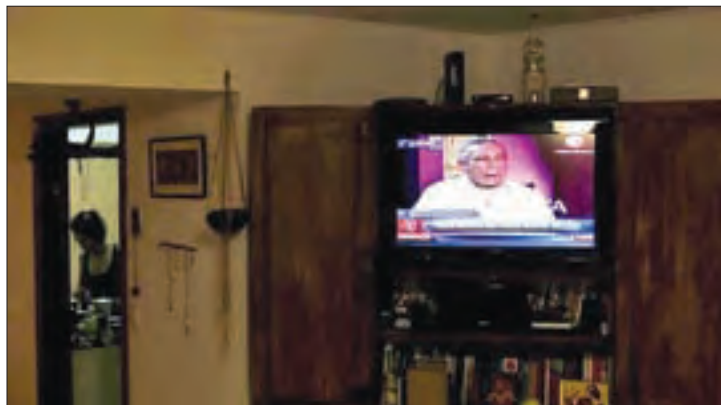
"The resin caught the feet of the insect that was probably ready to molt and decided that this was a good time to leave its skin and flee. So now we have the rodent hair and the skin of the insect together with the prize mushroom in amber," he added. "Gourmet chefs should not get too excited about

this find since the mushroom is way too small for an omelet."

Numerous creatures been found entombed in amber including insects, lizards, amphibians, mammals and birds, as well as plants including flowers.

They are sometimes beautifully preserved and offer unique insight into ancient animals and plants. "Finding insects and plants together creates a mini-event and shows interactions of the past that we couldn't determine by finding them separately," Poinar said. —Reuters

Panama's ex-dictator Noriega to have surgery on brain tumour



Panama's former dictator Manuel Noriega is seen on a television screen in Panama City on 24 June 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

PANAMA CITY — Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega will undergo surgery to remove a benign brain tumour, his doctor said on Friday.

The tumor, called a meningioma, was detected several years ago and has kept growing, his doctor Eduardo Reyes said by telephone.

Noriega, 82, would be transferred from prison to a hospital on Monday and was scheduled for surgery on Thursday, Reyes said.

Noriega, who ruled Panama from 1983 to 1989 and is currently serving time in prison on murder charges, asked Panamanians last year to forgive him and his former colleagues.—*Reuters*

Three UC Berkeley students wounded, one missing in Nice attack

NICE — Three students on a study abroad programme in France were wounded and another was missing in Thursday's Bastille Day attack in Nice, the University of California, Berkeley, said on Friday.

The university identified the missing student as Nicolas Leslie, 20, one of 85 Berkeley students on a 15-day study abroad trip on entrepreneurship in Europe.

Two of the other students who suffered broken bones have been released after medical treatment, while the third injured student remains at a hospital, the university said.

"May Nicolas Leslie be found safe," the University of California's flagship campus posted on Facebook Friday, along with the hashtag #PrayforNice and the image of a heart painted like the tri-colour French flag.

A Texan and his 11-year-old son on a family vacation were also among at least 84 people killed when an attacker crashed

a heavy truck through crowds celebrating Bastille Day in the French seaside city, officials said on Friday.

The Berkeley students were studying at a programme affiliated with the international European Innovation Academy in Nice, the university said. The programme was suspended temporarily as France marks three days of mourning, and students will be given the option of returning home early, the university said.

Leslie, a junior in the university's College of Natural Resources, was not listed among the dead in the attack, but family members have not been able to reach him, a woman who said she was a family friend said in an interview.

"The last thing that we heard from one of his friends is that he was seen running off," said the woman, who gave only her first name, Antonella.

Leslie, who was born in Italy and grew up in the San Diego area, was a US national, univer-

sity spokesman Roqua Montez said.

The injured students were Vladyslav Kostyuk, 23, a computer science major who suffered a broken leg, and Diane Huang, 20, who studies environmental economics and suffered a broken foot in the attack. Both students were back in their dormitories in Nice.

The third student, Daryus Medora, 21, whose leg was broken, remains at a hospital.

In the attack, a man identified as Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel plowed into a crowd of some 30,000 local people and tourists attending a fireworks display to celebrate Bastille Day.

At least 84 people were killed, 10 of them children, and 202 more were wounded.

French officials said Friday that Bouhlel, a 31-year-old Tunisian resident of Nice, was known to police for petty crime and violence, but had not been suspected of Islamist militancy.—*Reuters*

Pages of US 9/11 report detailing possible Saudi ties made public

WASHINGTON — The US Congress on Friday released a long-classified section of the official report on the 11 September attacks describing an array of potential links between some of the hijackers and officials in Saudi Arabia.

The 28 pages of the report on the 2002 investigation focus on potential Saudi government ties to the 2001 aircraft attacks on the United States, in which nearly 3,000 people died.

The report said the alleged links had not been independently verified.

The pages were released by the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee after years of wrangling in Washington between Congress and different administrations, Republicans and Democrats, and urging by families of those killed.

"The matter is now finished," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir told a news conference in Washington. Asked whether the report exonerated the kingdom, he replied: "Absolutely."

The release of the previously classified pages is unlikely to end the controversy over the role of Saudi Arabia, an important US partner in the Middle East. Many US officials who opposed their release had worried they would damage diplomatic relations.

Fifteen of the 19, 11 September hijackers were Saudi citizens.

"According to various FBI documents and CIA memorandum, some of the 11 September hijackers, while in the United States, apparently had contacts with individuals who may be con-

nected to the Saudi Government," the report said, giving a catalog of alleged links.

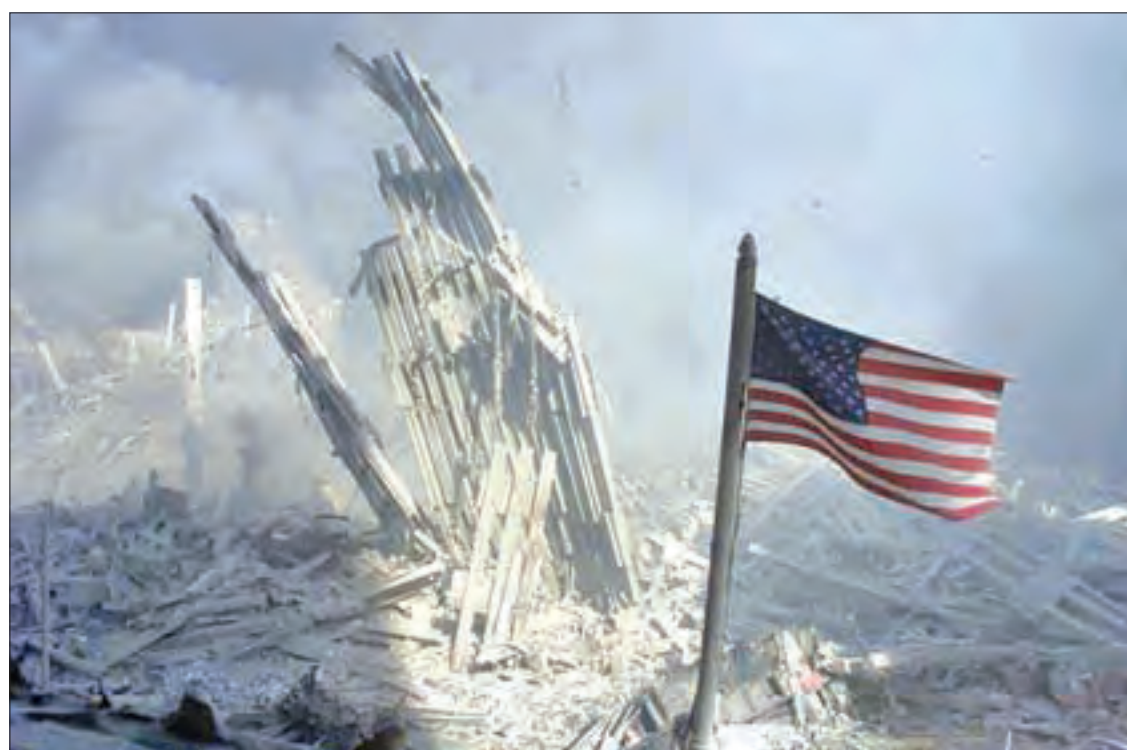
They included reported contacts between Saudis in California, money possibly sent from the Saudi royal family to the hijackers and even a statement that a reported Saudi Interior Ministry official stayed at the same Virginia hotel as one hijacker in September 2001.

One section said Omar al-Bayoumi, said to be a Saudi intelligence officer, met with two hijackers at a public place after they arrived in San Diego. Citing Federal Bureau of Investigation files, it said his salary rose to \$3,700 a month from \$465 two months after two of the hijackers arrived in California.

Another described how two of the hijackers asked flight attendants technical questions during a trip in 1999 from Phoenix to Washington to attend a party at the Saudi embassy. One tried twice to enter the cockpit. The plane made an emergency landing and the FBI investigated, but did not prosecute.

The newly declassified pages also say a telephone number found in a telephone book of Abu Zubaydah, a Saudi-born al Qaeda operative captured in Pakistan, was for a Colorado corporation that managed the affairs of the residence of Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the former Saudi ambassador to Washington.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence said its agreement to the release is not an indication that the intelligence community agrees with the pages'



An American flag flies near the base of the destroyed World Trade Centre in New York, on 11 September 2001, taken after the collapse of the towers. PHOTO: REUTERS

accuracy or concurs with the information it contains.

The office also on Friday released a declassified summary of an assessment of whether Riyadh may have supported al Qaeda before and after the attacks, saying the Saudi government and many of its agencies had been infiltrated and exploited by individuals associated with or sympathetic to Osama bin Laden's militant network.

Several members of Congress said they were pleased the pages had finally been released. Representative Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the intelligence panel, said he hoped the release would quiet rumours.

"The Intelligence Community and the 9/11 Commission, which followed the Joint Inquiry that produced these so-called 28 pages, investigated the questions they raised and was never able to find sufficient evidence to support them," he said.

Legislation that would allow families of 11 September victims to sue Saudi Arabia, was passed unanimously by the US Senate and is making its way through the House, despite President Barack Obama's veto threat.

"While the pages do not reach a conclusion regarding Saudi involvement in the 9/11 attacks, they provide more than enough evi-

dence to raise serious concerns," said Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut. His state was home to many people killed when planes hit the World Trade Centre in neighbouring New York.

11 September families made clear the pages' release would not stop their push for the legislation. "Congress has to stand up for the interests of the thousands of innocent Americans who lost loved ones on 9/11," one group said in a statement.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters before the pages were released that they would show no evidence of Saudi complicity.—*Reuters*

Wary Mideast states warn of Pokemon GO security dangers

DUBAI — Authorities in the Gulf Arab states of Kuwait and United Arab Emirates on Friday warned of security dangers to playing the wildly successful new smartphone app Pokemon GO.

Users must resist the urge to point camera phones at Pikachu popping out in front of the Kuwaiti Emir's palace, mosques, oil facilities or military bases, Kuwait's Interior ministry said.

"The danger in dealing with this game is that it involves the user photographing areas nearby with ... smart phones which transfer the pictures of the sites to third parties," Kuwait interior ministry undersecretary Suleiman al-Fahd said.

"The interior ministry has informed security men to show zero tolerance to anyone approaching such prohibited sites, deliberately or not," Fahd said in a statement.

Officially launched in only five Western countries, Nintendo Co Ltd's (7974.T) Pokemon GO is set to be released to 200 more "relatively soon," according to the company.



A virtual map of Bryant Park is displayed on the screen as a man plays the augmented reality mobile game "Pokemon Go" by Nintendo in New York City, US, on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Accessing the app by a VPN connection or foreign app stores, Mideast users too have become addicted to Pokemon, which involves walking in search of the "pocket monsters" which

emerge superimposed on the phone screen via the camera.

Now the colourful creatures have been sighted at landmarks such as Egypt's pyramids and Jerusalem's

al-Aqsa mosque. Relatively wealthy and phone-obsessed, Gulf Arabs are no exception but ply their devices under the wary eye of states keen to prevent sectarian or seditious ideas.

The UAE's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority said in a statement that waiting for the game's official launch in the country would save budding Pokemon traders' from "vi-

olation of user privacy."

"Criminals (can) deploy malicious software posing as these applications ... before their release in app stores, using this technology to damage smart phone operating systems or spying on their owners," the statement said. A main driver of 2011 pro-democracy uprisings in 2011 dubbed the "Arab Spring", social media and its widespread use by the region's growing youth population has vexed traditional Arab authorities, both secular and spiritual.

Egypt's cabinet spokesman said on the news show "90 minutes" on Wednesday that authorities were investigating Pokemon GO and sought to "minimize the dangers of these games."

Abbas Shoman, undersecretary of Cairo's Al Azhar mosque, the foremost seat of Sunni Muslim learning, despaired.

"It's the utmost kind of manic harm for the future of those people enamoured with this game, searching for Pokemon through the streets ... like drunkards," he told Youm7 newspaper.—Reuters

Police arrest three in Nice as Islamic State claims truck attack



A man covered with a towel (R) is apprehended by French police as the investigation continues two days after an attack by the driver of a heavy truck who ran into a crowd on Bastille Day killing scores and injuring as many on the Promenade des Anglais, in Nice, France, on 16 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CAIRO/NICE (France) — Islamic State claimed responsibility for the truck attack on the French city of Nice on Saturday as French police arrested three people there in connection with the carnage that claimed the lives of at least 84 people.

"The person who carried out the operation in Nice, France, to run down people was one of the soldiers of Islamic State," the news agency Amaq, which supports Islamic State, said via its Telegram account.

"He carried out the op-

eration in response to calls to target nationals of states that are part of the coalition fighting Islamic State," the statement said.

French authorities said they were checking the claim. The 31-year old Tunisian driver of the truck drove at a Bastille day crowd on the waterfront of the French riviera city on Thursday night. Authorities had been working to find out whether his motives were indeed connected to radical Islam.

He was not known to French intelligence sources

for radicalization.

The arrests, which came on top of two on Friday including the attacker's wife, concerned the attacker's "close entourage", the sources said. They were made in two different areas of Nice.

A Reuters reporter saw about 40 elite police raid a small apartment near the central station, where one individual was arrested.

Thursday night's attack plunged France into new grief and fear just eight months after gunmen killed 130 people in Paris.

The truck zigzagged along the city's seafront Promenade des Anglais as a fireworks display marking the French national day ended.

It careered into families and friends listening to an orchestra or strolling above the Mediterranean beach toward the century-old grand Hotel Negresco.

The attack is the third of its kind in France since the beginning of 2015, and a state of emergency in place since 130 people were killed in and around Paris last November is to be extended for another three months.

The driver, Mohamed

Lahouaiej Bouhlel, was shot dead by officers at the scene. He was known to police for petty crimes but was not on a watch list of suspected militants. He had one criminal conviction for road rage, having been sentenced to probation three months ago for throwing a wooden pallet at another driver.

Ahead of the claim by Islamic State, the militant Islamist group which grabbed control of swathes of Iraq and Syria but which is now under military pressure from forces opposed to it, French officials had not disclosed any direct evidence linking Bouhlel with the jihadism.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, asked on Friday if he could confirm the attacker's motives were linked to jihadism, said: "No. ... We have an individual who was not known to intelligence services."

Relatives and neighbours in Bouhlel's home town of Msaken outside the coast city of Sousse said he was sporty and had shown no sign of being radicalized, including when he last returned for the wedding of a sister four years ago.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (554N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (554N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

Pitbull says he is not supporting Trump

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Pitbull had harsh words for Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump on Friday, telling reporters that he is not supporting the candidate and describing his campaign as a “joke.”

“I think the [Trump’s] campaign is a joke to be honest with you. I think that it’s unfortunate the way we’re being viewed around the world due to some people’s approaches,” the Cuban-American rapper said. Pitbull, real name Armando Perez, was speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, where he was honored with a star plaque for his contributions to the music recording industry.

Pitbull’s comments on Trump came after a report in *Vanity Fair* magazine that the Miami-born rapper had met with the Republican nominee in Florida.

“Am I supporting Donald Trump? No I am not supporting Donald Trump. You all know this already very well,” said Pitbull.—Reuters



Recording artist Pitbull poses on his star after it was unveiled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California, US on 15 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



PHOTO: REUTERS

Mick Jagger, 72, to become father for eighth time

LONDON — Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger, 72, is to become a father again for the eighth time.

A spokesman for the veteran rock band on Friday confirmed media reports saying that Jagger’s girlfriend, 29-year-old American ballerina Melanie Hamrick, was pregnant.

Jagger, who turns 73 on 26 July, already has seven children. He became a great-grandfather in 2014.

Jagger’s band mate Ronnie Wood became a father again at the age of 68 in May, when his wife Sally, 38, gave birth to twin girls.—Reuters



Johnny Depp. PHOTO: REUTERS

Johnny Depp selling Venetian mansion

LONDON — Hollywood star Johnny Depp is reportedly selling his Venetian mansion for USD 10.9 million.

The 53-year-old actor, who is in a bitter legal battle with estranged wife Amber Heard, has put the seven-bedroom palace on the market five years after purchasing the plush property which overlooks Venice’s Grand Canal, reported *Female First*.

The Black Mass star’s decision to offload the picturesque pad is apparently connected to his ongoing divorce from the 30-year-old actress.

Depp splashed out USD 10 million on the property when he was in the area filming *The Tourist* alongside Angelina Jolie in 2011.

The Italian mansion comes complete with nine bathrooms and is ideal for sailors or water lovers as it even features a private area to dock boats.—PTI

Relationship with Taylor Swift not publicity stunt: Tom Hiddleston

LOS ANGELES — Thor star Tom Hiddleston has addressed rumours surrounding his whirlwind romance with Taylor Swift, saying their relationship is not a publicity stunt.

Ever since the duo started to date each other, fans have been less-than-impressed, accusing the pair of staging their romance for the cameras. Some also

suggested that the relationship between the two stars was fake and was actually part of her new music video.

“Well, um. How best to put this? The truth is that Taylor Swift and I are together, and we’re very happy. Thanks for asking. That’s the truth. It’s not a publicity stunt,” Hiddleston, 35, told *The Hollywood Reporter*.

There were also reports that the actor was “planning to propose very soon” to the 26-year-old pop star.

And Hiddleston might even do “it on a whim,” because “everything has been so random and spontaneous” with the couple so far.

However, the actor did not comment on those reports.—PTI



Singer Taylor Swift and actor Tom Hiddleston arrive at Gold Coast airport in Australia, on 8 July. PHOTO: REUTERS



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Real Madrid versus Barcelona 'El Clasico' set for December

MADRID — Spanish football's 'El Clasico' encounters between Barcelona and Real Madrid will happen in December and April, two of the most anticipated games of the 2016-17 Primera Division season whose fixtures were announced on Friday.

Defending champions Barca host Real on 4 December at the Camp Nou. The reverse fixture will take place on 23 April, at the Bernabeu stadium, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) confirmed after the draw.

As the La Liga season kicks off, Barca will begin their title defence at home to Real Betis on 21 August.

Prior to that, the Catalan giants take on Sevilla in the two-legged final of the Spanish Super Cup. That trophy pits the league champions against the King's Cup winners, or in this

case the runners-up, since Barca won that title, too.

The opening leg will be played on 14 August at the Sanchez Pizjuan stadium while the return match will happen three days later in Barcelona.

League runners-up Real Madrid kick off their campaign, in what will be Zinedine Zidane's first full season in charge, away to Real Sociedad. Deportivo Alaves will mark their return to Spain's top flight

after a 10-year absence with a clash against Atletico Madrid at the Calderon stadium.

Atletico visit Barcelona in round five, on 21 September, and Barca will travel to the Calderon stadium on 26 February.

The first Madrid derby will take place on 20 November at Atletico while Real will host their city rivals on 9 April.—*Reuters*



Former French soccer player and current Real Madrid's coach Zinedine Zidane.
PHOTO: REUTERS



Rafael Nadal of Spain.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Nadal gets green light to play at Rio Olympics

LONDON — Rafael Nadal has been given the green light by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to compete at next month's Rio Olympics despite not fulfilling the qualification criteria.

The 2008 Beijing gold medalist's participation had been in doubt as injury had prevented him from appearing in the minimum number of Davis Cup ties required in a four-year Olympic

cycle to qualify for the Games.

The Spaniard, who has been out of action since pulling out of the French Open following his second round match with a wrist injury, won his appeal to compete in the 5-21 August Games and was named in the final list of participants issued by the ITF on Friday.

The 30-year-old, who missed the 2012 Games through injury, has been named as his

country's flag bearer in the opening ceremony and will be one of four Spaniards competing for the men's singles gold medal.

He will also compete in the men's doubles with Marc Lopez.

Nadal has not travelled with the Spain team to Romania for the Davis Cup Euro/Africa zone playoff as he continues his recovery from the wrist injury.—*Reuters*

Raonic and Halep withdraw from Rio tennis over Zika

LONDON — Wimbledon finalist Milos Raonic and women's world number five Simona Halep of Romania have pulled out from next month's Rio Olympics due to fears over the Zika virus.

They, along with twice Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, who is pregnant, will not be making the trip to Rio even though they were included in the final list of participants issued by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Friday.

The big-serving Raonic, who lost to Andy Murray in the men's championship match at the All England Club on Sunday, was the first tennis player to pull out of the 5-21 August Olympics due to concerns over the mosquito-borne Zika virus.

"It is with a heavy heart that I am announcing my withdrawal from participation in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games," world number seven Raonic, 25, said in a statement issued by Tennis Canada.

"After much deliberation with my family and coaches, I am making this decision for a variety of health concerns including the uncertainty around the Zika virus."

The Zika virus, which the World Health Organisation says is spreading rapidly in the Americas, has been linked to severe birth defects in infants born to infected women, and possible neurological problems in adults.

Halep, who last month told Reuters she was "very worried" about the long-term effects of the Zika virus, consulted with many doctors before issuing her decision shortly after Raonic.

"I regret to announce that I have decided I will not compete in the Olympic Games. The reason for my decision is the concern regarding the danger posed by the Zika virus," Halep, a runner-up at the French Open in 2014, said on her Facebook page.

"After several talks with doctors and my family, I con-

cluded that the risks are too high for my career and for my health, especially as a woman. Family is much too important for me and I can't risk not being able to have one of my own after my career in tennis is over.

"I know the Olympics are a very important event and I truly regret these circumstances. I hope the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee and all Romanians will respect my decision."

"I will continue to play, to proudly represent Romania in as many tournaments as possible."

Raonic and Halep joined a growing list of athletes to have pulled out of the Rio Games over health concerns triggered by the outbreak of the Zika virus in Brazil, including a number of high-profile male golfers. Belarussian Azarenka also robbed the Olympics of some star power as the world number six said earlier on Friday that she will miss the rest of the season because she is having a baby.—*Reuters*

Nani looks to spark success at new club Valencia

MADRID — Nani, who was recently crowned European champion with Portugal, wants to help bring the good times back to new club Valencia.

The Spanish side struggled this past season and ended the La Liga campaign with just 44 points and in 12th place, their worst finish in three decades.

Valencia have paid Fenerbahce Nani's 8.5 million euro buyout clause and he has moved to Spain on a three-year deal, just 12 months after leaving Manchester United.

"People think that when you win an important championship, you relax," Nani said at his unveiling at the Mestalla stadium, which was attended by 12,000 fans.

"But that is not my thinking. I'm very eager. This is a big club, with great fans. I want to be a part of this great club."

"My aim is to contribute in the best possible way, to help in every game I play and



Portugal's Nani celebrates after winning Euro 2016 Final match.
PHOTO: REUTERS

try to achieve our aims."

Valencia are accustomed to finishing high in the standings and playing in Europe, with back-to-back appearances in the Champions League final in 1999 and 2000 and a 2004 UEFA Cup success, among their notable achievements.

Their disappointing 2015-16 campaign has meant they will not play in a continental competition this season.—*Reuters*