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PEACE EQUALS PROSPERITY PEACE CENTRAL TO DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the meeting of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee, urging efforts towards an eternal peace in Myanmar. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged efforts towards a lasting peace in Myanmar, highlighting the importance of peace in the development of the country at a meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Only when peace is achieved will all people be peaceful and happy, said the State Counsellor who is also the

chair of the UPDJC, pointing out that it is impossible to keep the country's economy stable without peace, and there is even danger of economic collapse if peace is impossible.

The State Counsellor stressed the need for finding common ground on the political landscape to build a genuine Union and highlighted the importance of the consent of all ethnic mi-

norities while building the future.

Although it is impossible to achieve a 100 percent agreement, it is required to negotiate different views to achieve positive results, said the State Counsellor, adding that dialogue should be used for the sake of all.

Next, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, vice-chairman (1) of the UPDJC, Peace Com-

mission Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win, vice-chairman (2) of the UPDJC, P'doh Saw Kwe Htoo Win, vice-chairman representing ethnic armed organizations' group, and U Thu Wai, vice-chairman representing political parties' group, spoke on the occasion, expressing hopes of positive outcomes for lasting peace.

During the UPDJC meeting, those present discussed and approved agendas for the 21st Cen-

tury Union Peace Conference, formation of a joint committee for holding the conference and matters related to the number of participants to the conference and agenda of opening ceremony and dinner.

Moreover, a review of the political dialogue framework and substitution of UPDJC representatives were also discussed.—
Myanmar News Agency



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw hears border demarcation, property ownership and submission of proposal

A Myanmar-China border agreement was ratified on 1 October 1960, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin told the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday, saying that Myanmar has a 1,384-mile border with China, a 149-mile border with Laos, a 168-mile border with Bangladesh, a 1,010-mile border with India and a 1,318-mile border with Thailand.

A Myanmar-Laos border agreement was signed with a permanent border in the Mekong River on 11 June, 1994. A Myanmar-Bangladesh border agreement with a permanent border in the Naf River was established on 21 January 1964, while a land boundary was agreed upon on 12 November in 1998, added the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

According to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, a Myanmar-India border was demarcated on 10 March 1967 but 24 miles of the 1,010-mile border with India in the Kabaw valley remains to be surveyed for the

setting up of nine border posts.

Regarding the demarcation of a trilateral border junction of Myanmar, India and China, a matter of nine border posts between Myanmar and India is expected to be resolved by exchanging land along the border but the trilateral border junction can be ratified when a dispute over the boundary between India and China is over.

Myanmar and India are set to make a field trip to plant nine border posts in Kabaw valley following a proposal given by the Indian side at a meeting of the India-Myanmar Joint Boundary Working Group on 6 January, 2016.

On a Myanmar-Thailand border, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said that the two sides have given a green light to a plan to demarcate the remaining border sections this season.

During yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw session, the Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing responded to a question about a controver-



MPs arrive Pyithu Hluttaw to attend the parliamentary meeting. PHOTO: MNA

sial sports ground at ward-9 in South Okkalapa Township, saying that the land plot will continue to exist under its current name, Union Solidarity and Development Party.

Next, U Than Soe of the Thazi Constituency submitted a proposal to the parliament calling on the Union government to strive for ending the US's economic sanction against Myanmar. U Sai

Tun Sein of the Mongpyin Constituency seconded the motion.

While seeking a parliamentary approval, the proposal was defeated by 219 votes to 151. — Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw



MPs arrive Amyotha Hluttaw to attend the parliamentary meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Ministry to allow local and foreign investment forest plantation projects

APPROVAL of the present government will be given to forest plantation projects involving local and foreign investments in forest reserves and protected forest areas, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win told Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

Establishment of private forest plantations have been allowed since 2006-2007 FY for enabling wood-based industries to acquire raw materials, fulfilling local wood demand and ensuring the development of the private forest sector, said the Union minister.

He added that the ministry has taken measures for forest conservation including establishment of state-owned and community forest plantations yearly.

During the 14th day session of



U Khin Maung Win. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win also replied to a question about measures to be taken against illegal acts of those who seek jade deposits in the blocks of jade mining companies.

The deputy minister said that combined efforts are being made by the ministries concerned and the regional government to prevent illegal acts of scavengers in the jade mining blocks in cooperation with the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force.

The deputy minister stressed the need of the rule of law for prevention of jade scavenging in Hpakant region, saying that the Ministry of Home Affairs is tackling the matter with deployment of more security members and operations to ensure the regional security in cooperation with Tatmadaw military columns. He called for coordination between authorities concerned and cooperation between local authorities, jade mining companies and local people.—Thein Ko Lwin with Myanmar News Agency

Future of Myeik Archipelago's eco-tourism sector to depend on regional govt

THE development of eco-tourism initiatives in southern Myanmar's Myeik Archipelago will reportedly depend on the standing of regional government towards the calling of investment, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has announced.

The granting of government permission to implement eco-tourism projects, with both local and foreign investment, will reportedly develop regions of the archipelago as eco-tourism ini-

atives mitigate side-effects to the natural environment.

"[Plans] are in place to promote [eco-tourism] in new holiday destinations in the Myeik Archipelago as well as in existing tourist regions of the country. Furthermore, if the eco-projects are directly beneficial to local residents, then they will be permitted by the government," said U Aung Naing Oo, director of the MIC.

Begun in 2015, the drawing up of a nationwide Eco-Tourism

Plan will be completed this year in accordance with current legislation and laws.

The Department of Forestry and Ministry of Hotels and Tourism are reportedly working together to expand eco-tourism to corners of Myanmar which presently receive little to no tourists.

"The numbers of tourists visiting Myanmar is augmenting year upon year. That's why we're expanding the eco-tourism projects. We'll also make it possible

to survey the country's flora and fauna in order to protect natural wildlife," said U Tint Thwin, director of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The pristine natural beauty of one of Southeast Asia's last untouched groups of islands is an attractive business opportunity for foreign investors as well as domestic entrepreneurs. Some other destinations around the country earmarked for ecotourism development include the Meinmahla

Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp in Yangon Region and Khakaborazi National Park in the northern most frontiers of the country which surrounds Myanmar's highest peak.

A total of 4.7 million foreign tourists streamed into Myanmar through its international airports during last year's 2015-16 fiscal year, while estimates put this year's figures at reaching 5.5 million.—Myitmakha News Agency

Luncheon to celebrate 49th Anniversary of ASEAN Day

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a luncheon to the ASEAN envoys in celebrating the 49th Anniversary of ASEAN Day at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the luncheon, the State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs had friendly conversations with the ASEAN ambassadors and recounted her experience of the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos in July 2016.

The luncheon was also attended by the Union Minister for Planning and Finance, the Union Minister for Religious and Cultural Affairs and his spouse, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and his spouse, ASEAN ambassadors to Myanmar and their spouses, permanent secretaries from the focal ministries of the three pillars of the ASEAN Community and officials.—

Myanmar News Agency



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes ASEAN envoys before luncheon in celebrating the 49th Anniversary of ASEAN Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Service personnel of the Tatmadaw loading the military plane with aid to be sent to Naga Self-Administrative Zone. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANDITA)

Food airlifted to Naga SAZ that was hit by infectious disease

FOODSTUFFS were airlifted by Y8-5189 Tatmadaw aircraft to villages that were hit with outbreaks of infectious disease in Lahe Township of the Naga Self-Administrative Zone yesterday, said an official from Yangon Region Relief and Resettlement Department.

Director U Win Shwe

said that more foodstuffs will be transported to the remote region to enable local people to have access to nutritious food with the help of Tatmadaw (Air Force).

The airlift contained 104 bags of rice, 20 containers of edible oil, 20 bags of chick peas and 33 cartons of canned fish.—

Zaw Gyi (Pandita)

Union Peace Conference to be held every six months

Thein Ko Lwin

THE Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong will be held every six months and non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement will be allowed to participate, said U Zaw Htay, Spokesperson of the Presidential Office.

Following the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, the spokesperson talked to the media confirming that the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi agreed to the decision at the meeting to allow the non-signatories to take part in the conference.

The government will hold talks with the non-signatories to the NCA on 21st and 22nd August, said U Zaw Htay. The five-day Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong is slated to commence on 31st August. Political dialogue framework will be discussed and negotiated at

the upcoming Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong until a consensus is reached, at which point the non-signatory groups would sign the NCA and be allowed to continue to participate in the conference. About 1600 participants are expected to attend the Union Peace Conference.

Reducing Road Traffic crashes and deaths on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Expressway: a multi-sector approach

AMONG Southeast Asian nations, Myanmar ranks second out of 11 countries in road traffic deaths, with 20.3 deaths per 100,000 people. This amounts to more than 10,000 deaths in 2015 due to road crashes, according to a World Health Organization report from 2015.

The increasing burden of road traffic crashes and related fatalities has become a serious public health threat in Myanmar,

which must be addressed through effective preventive and corrective measures, using a multi-sector approach.

For this reason, the Ministry of Health and Sports and WHO have initiated a multi-sectoral project on road safety in collaboration with the University of Public Health of Yangon, the Road Transport Administration Department under the Ministry of Transport,

the Expressway Maintenance Unit of the Ministry of Construction and the Traffic and Highway Police departments, as well as additional public and private partners. The project aims to assess the road safety situation of the busiest Expressway in the country – the Yangon-Mandalay Highway – in order to identify gaps and facilitate necessary corrective actions, in accordance with the policy

recommendations of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

Main causes of crashes have been identified as over-speeding, tire bursting, reckless driving habits that do not respect the rules of the road and inadequate road conditions. To address this growing problem, a series of measures are being planned for implementation by the respective sectors: —GNLM



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Thai-owned illegal fishing boat seized by Myanmar authorities

AUTHORITIES seized a fishing vessel owned by a Thailand national which entered Myanmar's territorial limit in Kawthaung District on Sunday afternoon.

According to the investigation, the boat named Lin Toe Aung carrying around seven fishermen left Yanaung in Thailand for Kawthaung last week to catch fish illegally in Myanmar territorial waters.

Under the European Union's Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing project, Thailand authorities re-

cently cracked down on illegal fishing in its territorial waters. As a result, some fishermen did not return to Thailand but instead hid in the west of Hsin Island and caught fish in Myanmar waters for export to the Thai market.

The fishermen and the illegal boat were handed over the Kawthaung District Fisheries Department. Actions will be taken against the fishermen under the relevant fisheries laws passed by the Myanmar government.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)



Thai-owned illegal fishing boat seized being seen. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG)

Crime NEWS

Over K100 million worth of Yaba pills confiscated from armed drug dealers



Tin Hlaing (a) Aung Kyi and his wife Daw Tin Aye. Myint Thu (a) Akyikaung and Ko Htoo (a) Kyaw Zin Oo.

AROUND 20,000 yaba pills worth over K100 million were confiscated on Sunday by local police from armed drug traffickers in Taungoo, a township in Bago Region.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched a vehicle suspected of carrying drugs being driven by Janjay (aka Zaw Lwin Oo) with three others on board en route from Loikaw to Taungoo at the

town's checkpoint at around 1 a.m. on that day.

Police discovered about 2,000 WY variety yaba tablets, an air gun and two long swords. Two of four suspected drug carriers, including the driver, escaped when police tried to catch them. Police are still investigating the cases in an effort to arrest the suspects on the run.

A similar case occurred

on 12 August. Police collected over 2,300 yaba pills and related equipment from a married couple residing near mile post No. 184/1 beside Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Road in Myohla, a town in Bago Region.

All suspects involved in the cases have been charged under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Ko Lwin (Swa)

Young driver escaped after lorry overturned in Kyaukdaga

A 24-YEAR-OLD driver escaped without serious injuries after his 12-wheel truck overturned in Kyaukdaga, a township in Bago Region on Sunday.

The cargo truck loaded with cement bags heading from Mandalay to Yangon turned on the right side of the former Yangon-Mandalay highway road between mile post Nos. 117/4 and 117/5 three miles far from the Kyaukdaga Myoma Police Station after the driver lost control of the vehicle.

The truck and cement were destroyed as a result of the road accident.

The truck driver, Nyi Nyi, was deemed guilty of careless driving by local police.—Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)



Overturned truck being seen at the incidence. PHOTO: KHIN KO (KYAUKDAGA)

Three arrested on drug-related charges

THREE people, including an 18-year-old girl, have been arrested by Yangon police after they were found in a possession of a cache of stimulant tablets and illegal knives on Saturday.

After receiving a tip-off from a member of the public who had phoned the 199 call center, police for Yangon's eastern district staged a raid on a house in Sithu along with two others at Ayenanda Housing in Thakayta Township.

Police found 90 yaba pills and related accessories, K32,000, three mobile devices and weapons including seven long swords, a knife and a spear with a steel handle from Bo Bo (aka Phyto Wai), Maung Maung Thet and Honey Soe.

Police are still investigating in an effort to arrest the house owner Sithu.

All suspects are facing legal charges in accordance with the anti-drug law.—Kyemon



Bo Bo (a) Phyto Wai, Maung Maung Thet and Honey Soe.

Police, prisoners sustain injuries when police van overturns

TWO POLICE and six prisoners suffered moderate injuries when a prisoner transport vehicle overturned on the road between Yangon and Mandalay near TadaU Township in Mandalay on Sunday.

Heading from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay, the police van being driven by police surgeon Thuang

Htike carrying police members from the Pinyinana Myoma Police Station and six prisoners skidded and overturned on the right side of the earthen road on a rainy day.

Authorities from relevant departments inspected the scene.

Those with injuries received medical care at a nearby hospital.—Ye Tint (IPRD)

LOCAL Business

Suspended timber extraction no harm to furniture businessmen

THE freeze in timber extraction has not harmed to furniture businessmen yet because they are not faced with the shortage of raw materials to operate the business, it is learnt from the furniture businessmen.

The reason why there is no problem with the freeze in timber extractive industry is that many hardwoods previously extracted in local are still remained. Therefore, the furniture manufacturers do not need to be concerned about shortage of raw materials.

Although there are criticisms of some businessmen concerning the suspended timber extraction in the forests across

the nation, this action was enormously received approval by the locals and those who are engaged in the environmental conservation.

The free will last a year and the timber extraction in the forests will be resumed in 2017-2018 fiscal year, except the Bago mountain ranges. The logging in Bago mountain ranges will be banned for a decade, it is learnt.

The illegal timber production and illegal firewood and timber collection have increased along the mountain ranges in Bago region in the previous years, causing Myanmar to be third-worst country for



A woman arranges teak parquet in a factory in Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

deforestation in the world. The reason of the freeze in Bago mountain ranges for a decade is to prevent the forest from extinction. The forestry conservation and reforestation will be con-

ducted in those stricken areas in cooperation with the organizations concerned.

About 300,000 tonnes of teaks and 1.5million tonnes of hardwoods are yearly produced over the

past five years. However, about 15,000 tonnes of teaks and 35,000 tonnes of hardwoods will be allowed to produce starting from the following fiscal years.

The import of the

whole logs were halted starting from March, 2014. Currently, only the furniture, the plywood and other finished wood products are allowed to export to the foreign countries.—200

Thailand offers lower price of fish than market price

THAI merchants are offering a lower price for fish than the market price these days, local fishermen from Kawthaung town discovered when they went to sell their fish legally at the Thai market.

Myanmar fishermen sell their fish at the Thai market with permission after paying a tax at the Myanmar Fisheries Department. However, Thailand merchants ask for the local fishermen to present documents certifying that their fish are not caught by illegal fishing methods like electrocution and health certificates to ensure that those fish are free from chemical liquids like formalin for preserving the fish. If the local fishermen fail to provide these certificates, Thai merchants will not purchase the fish.

Some merchants

purchase the fish only if the local fishermen mention unreasonable reason to them that the aqua products caught in Myanmar water territory are actually caught in Thailand boundary. They are purchasing the fish at a lower price than the market price because of a so-called reason, it is learnt.

The United States and the European Union imposed a sanction on Thailand to curb illegal fishing practices. The locals are not doing well, earning only a small profit even though they go fishing under unfavourable weather conditions. Efforts are needed to create more international fishery markets in the areas where the fishery business prospers, said U Nyein who is involved in the protection team for fishermen.—
Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)

Mandalay gold entrepreneurs request lowering 5% commercial tax on gold buyers

Aung Thant Khaing

MANDALAY gold entrepreneurs, meeting at the Hotel Wilson, were united in signing a proposal on 14th August to lower a 5% commercial tax levied on gold buyers because imposing a commercial tax on gold purchasers might adversely affect the gold market.

The gold merchants sent this signed proposal to the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association on 15 Au-

gust. The gold entrepreneurs attempted to negotiate the taxation rate down to 0.25 or 0.5% but were unsuccessful. Therefore, they have requested to impose a taxation rate at 1%. If there are virtually no buyers, the taxation will also end in vain, said U Tin Tun, the chairman of the Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

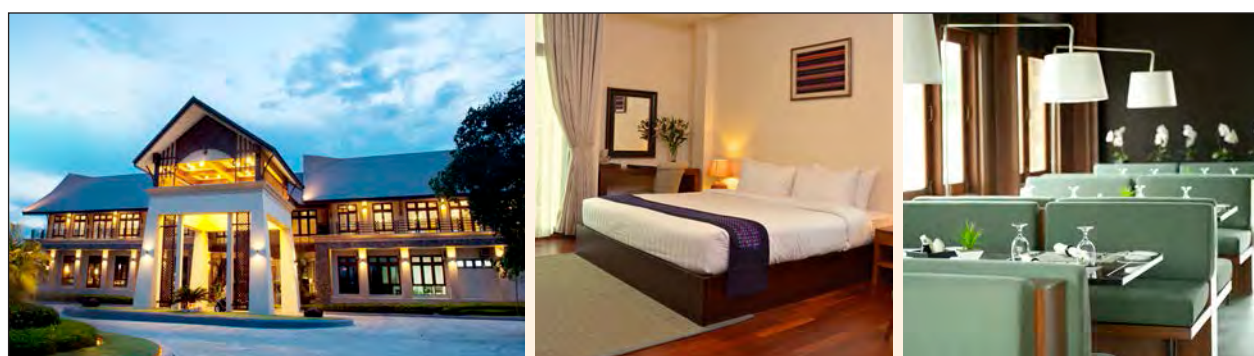
According to the commercial tax law, the gold purchasers have to pay a tax of Ks40,000 per tickle if the

gold price is Ks8 lakhs per tickle. Currently, the gold price hit a record high up to Ks850,000, causing the goldsmith's workshops and the gold foil businesses to stop working, he added.

Although the law has been approved by the Union Government, the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association has been planning to request the parliament to reduce the rate of taxation on gold trading since there is no by-law yet.

The legislators should have initially observed the gold market. And the tax rate should have been fairly levied to make the gold purchasers not evade the taxation, said U Maung Ko from Shwe Oak Aw goldsmiths.

An awareness campaign explaining commercial tax is also required to reach the public. The signed proposals by the gold entrepreneurs in regions and states will be submitted to the parliament at the end of this month.



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Thailand detains several people for questioning over deadly blasts

BANGKOK — Thailand's army said on Monday it had detained several people for questioning over a wave of deadly bombings in some of the country's best known-beach resorts that killed four people and wounded dozens, including tourists.

Last week's blasts came days after Thais voted to accept a military-backed constitution that paves the way for an election at the end of 2017.

No group has claimed responsibility, although police and the government have ruled out ties to foreign groups, linking the bombings to an unspecified domestic issue.

Analysts say suspicion would inevitably fall on enemies of the junta aggrieved by the referendum results, or insurgents from Muslim-majority provinces in the south of the predominantly Buddhist country.

Several people are being held at army facilities, but none have been charged, military government spokesman Colonel Winthai Suvaree told Reuters.

"Ever since the incident



Injured person receives first aid after two bombs exploded in the Thai seaside resort of Hua Hin, Thailand, on 12 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

on 11 August, the army has used Article 44 to summon people who the state think can give useful information," Winthai said.

The legislation gives the military government absolute power to take any

steps needed to protect the public peace and detain people for up to seven days without a court warrant.

"They were sent to various army camps," added Winthai, who declined to say how many were

detained, although rights groups fear the number runs into the dozens. "Nobody has been charged so far."

On Sunday, a deputy national police chief said the attacks were carried

out simultaneously by one group on the orders of one person, but gave no further details.

Police on Sunday said they had arrested one person for arson but did not elaborate.—Reuters

Plumes of smoke at Singapore station caused by fault

SINGAPORE — Billowing smoke that spread alarm at an underground train station in central Singapore on Monday was apparently caused by a technical fault, media reported.

Authorities have called for vigilance since Indonesian police arrested six suspected Islamist militants on 5 August on suspicion of plotting an attack on Singapore.

Videos on social media showed commuters rushing out of a train at the Tanjong Pagar station, covering their noses to protect themselves from grey smoke. Some of them were seen taking pictures on their phones.

"Once the train doors opened, smoke was billowing out from the gap between the platform and the train. There was not much of a smell, but my first thought was 'what if there's a terrorist attack?'," the *Today* newspaper quoted 38-year-old commuter Jason Wang as saying.—Reuters

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi

ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye

ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Proof Reader & Translator - Ye Myint

Expatriate Consultant Editors

Alec Wilmot

cconsultanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Mark Angeles

markangeles@gmail.com

Chief Translator & Editor

Kyaw Thura,

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor

Ye Htut Tin (Local News)

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon, Tin Nwe Lynn

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw, reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Reporters

Soe Soe Yu, Thein Ko Lwin (Nay Pyi Taw Bureau),

Khin Mg Win (Mandalay Bureau)

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

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San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Can Singapore's labour crunch spark a robot revolution?

SINGAPORE — Sherine Toh says her best days at work are when none of the 600-or-so staff at Singapore's Tung Lok Restaurants (TGLK.SI) quits, though such days are rare.

The Chinese restaurant group is one of the thousands of businesses struggling with a labour crunch caused by foreign worker curbs, that threaten the city-state's already feeble growth rates.

"It has gotten much more tougher compared to the old days, five years back," said Toh, who has at least 20 vacancies to fill at any one time as head of human resources. The group closed some outlets because of the shortage.

The city's restaurants, hotels and retailers have become the biggest casualties of the labour crunch since Singapore accelerated restrictions on foreign workers in 2011 as political disquiet about immigration grew. But its highly-educated locals largely shun the late hours and unglamorous work.

To address the constraints, Singapore is pushing businesses to look to



A robot collects dishes to be cleaned at Chilli Padi Nonya Cafe in Singapore, on 6 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

non-human solutions for their human resource challenges, including greater use of automation and robotics.

At Chilli Padi Nonya Cafe near a leafy university enclave, a tray-wielding robot roams the eatery, offering to collect plates from patrons in a childlike voice. Navigating its way through customers, it delivers the dirty dishes to the kitchen.

While tech powerhouses such as Japan, the US and Germany invest billions in robotics to compete commercially in the emerging sector, Singapore's robots push is

driven by a much more urgent need: the survival of some labour-strapped small and medium sized businesses may depend on them.

In the food and beverage industry, 90 per cent of the businesses face the shortage and about a third are "really struggling," according to its lobby group.

"There is an increasing number of businesses that are up for sale," said Lim Rui Shan, executive director at the Restaurant Association of Singapore, which represents 2,200 outlets. "Some of them just shut down."

To encourage adop-

tion, Singapore this year announced plans to spend S\$450 million (\$333 million) over three years to fund robot development and deployment.

Andrew Khaw, Info-comm Development Authority's senior director of productivity growth through information and communications technology, admits the take-up of robots is slower than he would like.

But he says the lack of manpower is a new operating reality businesses now need to accept.

"It's a bit of 'let's see who blinks first'. As far as the government is concerned, we can't go back on this policy," Khaw said.

Service robots can be found in Singapore — in hospitals and restaurants, as waiters or cleaners — but are less ubiquitous than might be expected for the aggressively tech-oriented economy. James Xia, director at Unitech Mechatronics, which built the busboy robot Chilli Padi uses, sees export potential in his product but says development outlays mean commercialisation is slow.—Reuters

New Nepal PM sends envoys to woo China, India

KATHMANDU — Nepal's Maoist Prime Minister Prachanda sent one of his trusted lieutenants from the insurgency period as a special envoy to China on Monday, seeking to clear confusion over the future of agreements signed by his predecessor.

The envoy, Krishna Bahadur Mahara, who is a deputy premier in charge of finance and a China expert, will carry a message from Prachanda that his new government is keen to develop cordial relations with China despite recent political changes.

Prachanda, 61, who led a decade-long insurgency that ended a feudal monarchy, replaced communist K.P. Oli this month amid uncertainty about a slew of deals made by Oli during a visit to Beijing in March, including allowing Nepal to use Chinese railways, roads and ports to trade with third countries.

Those deals signalled a shift by the landlocked Himalayan nation away from its traditional re-

liance on overland trade with its southern neighbour India, which grew increasingly frustrated with Oli's rule.

"There is no doubt that the new government will continue all positive agreements signed by the previous government," Mahara told Reuters before his departure.

Prachanda led the uprising in the name of the Chinese revolutionary leader, but it did not enjoy the overt backing of Beijing. The conflict ended in 2006 when the rebels laid down their arms under a peace deal.

Instability in the young republic — Prachanda is the eighth prime minister in as many years — has also raised doubts over a planned visit by Xi Jinping in October, which would be the first by a Chinese president in two decades.

Mahara said he was carrying an invitation from President Bidhya Devi Bhandari to the Chinese leader to come as planned.



Nepal's newly elected Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also known as Prachanda, waves towards the media after he was elected Nepal's 24th prime minister in 26 years, in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 3 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Officials said Prachanda would send another deputy, Bimelendra Nidhi, a member of the Madhesi minority community, as an emissary to India this week to give reassurances that closer ties with Beijing would not come at the cost of New Delhi.

Nepal's relations with India have remained frosty since it

adopted its first republican constitution in September, triggering deadly protests by minority Madhesi in the south and leading to a border blockade that caused acute fuel shortages.

Officials said Nidhi would extend an invitation to President Pranab Mukherjee of India to visit Nepal before Xi is due to

come. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited twice in 2014 but no Indian president has come since 1997.

"Prachanda wants to balance ties with neighbours at the same time show to India that Nepal has not slipped out of its hands," said Guna Raj Luitel, editor of the *Nagarik* daily.—Reuters

Park calls for efforts toward 'future-oriented' ties with Japan

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Monday called for efforts to forge a "future-oriented relationship" with Japan while squarely looking at the past.

"As for the relations between South Korea and Japan, we should try to establish a future-oriented relationship anew while squarely looking at history," she said in a speech marking the 71st Liberation Day, which celebrates the end of Japanese colonial rule in 1945.

The absence of critical words directed at Tokyo is a sign of improved ties between the two neighbours following last year's landmark deal over Korean women forced into wartime brothels for the Japanese military.

On Friday, Seoul and Tokyo reached a basic agreement on the implementation of the deal, specifying the details of 1 billion yen (about \$9.8 million) that Japan plans to disburse to help the aging women.

During the speech, Park called on North Korea to "immediately" halt its development of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and cease its threats of provocations against South Korea.

"Any attempt at threatening our people and the Republic of



South Korean President Park Geun-hye gives a speech during a ceremony marking the 71st Liberation Day, which celebrates the end of Japanese colonial rule in 1945, in Seoul on 15 August, 2016. Park called for efforts to forge a "future-oriented relationship" with Japan while squarely looking at the past. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Korea will never succeed," she said.

In addition, she defended the planned deployment of a controversial US antimissile system as a "self-defence" measure to protect the nation from North Korea's "reckless" provocations.—Kyodo News

South Korea expresses regret as Japan leaders pay tribute to wartime shrine

TOKYO — South Korea expressed deep regret and China's state-run news agency called on Tokyo to repent its wartime past on Monday after dozens of Japanese lawmakers visited a shrine for war dead, which Seoul and Beijing see as a symbol of Tokyo's wartime militarism, on the anniversary of Japan's World War II defeat.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a ritual offering but did not go to the Yasukuni Shrine. Visits to the shrine outrage Beijing and Seoul because it honours 14 Japanese leaders convicted by

an Allied tribunal as war criminals, along with war dead.

Ties between China and Japan, Asia's two largest economies, have been strained in recent days after a growing number of government ships sailed near disputed East China Sea islets.

Territory disputes and historical issues also periodically chill relations between Japan and South Korea.

"(We) express deep concern and regret that responsible political leaders ... are again paying tribute to the Yasukuni Shrine that glorifies the histo-

ry of the war of aggression," South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

China's Xinhua news agency urged Japan to repent its wartime past or risk steering the country down a dangerous path.

"It's in the interests of both Japan and its neighbouring countries for the former military power to truly reflect upon its past wrongs," Xinhua said in a commentary.

Abe has not visited the shrine in person since December 2013, sending ritual offerings instead.—Reuters

Thailand risks losing 200,000 visitors after blasts — tourism office

BANGKOK — Thailand could lose up to 200,000 foreign visitors and \$293 million in tourism revenue this year, the head of its tourism authority said on Monday, after a series of deadly blasts in tourist towns last week.

The wave of attacks in places including the seaside town of Hua Hin and the island of Phuket, is the biggest challenge to an industry that has weathered more than a decade of instability and bounced back from violence

over recent years.

Yuthasak Supasorn, governor of the state Tourism Authority of Thailand, said the attacks could result in long-term losses in terms of tourist revenue and arrivals, mainly from other Asian countries.

"By the year end, there could be about 100,000 to 200,000 travel cancellations," he said in a statement.

"That would cost about 5.08 billion baht (\$146 million)

to 10.16 billion baht (\$293 million)." Tourism accounts for 10 per cent of Thai gross domestic product and is one of the few bright spots in an economy that has struggled under the stewardship of a military government that seized power in a bloodless coup two years ago.

The Southeast Asian nation had been expecting a record 32 million visitors in 2016, with expected revenue of 2.41 trillion baht (\$70 billion).—Reuters

Opinion

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

Let's work together with government for saving our innocent children

Aye Min Soe

AN outbreak of measles which scourged some remote villages in far northwestern Myanmar's Naga Self-Administrative Zone (SAZ) is now finally under control. Medical teams are taking further steps to prevent tuberculosis in the areas as the measles virus also attacks the lungs and respiratory system.

The outbreak brought back some of my childhood memories. I contracted measles at the age of around four and was rushed to the hospital at the last minute because my parents did not distinguish measles from an ordinary fever. I narrowly escaped death.

In truth, measles is very rare in most of the rest of the

world. In the case of the outbreak in Naga SAZ, it seems clear to me that vaccination coverage did not reach all the remote areas.

Medical teams rushed to the areas and gave treatment to the children suffering measles, and administered vaccines to the children in the high risk zones.

However, the battle is not yet over. We should learn a lesson from the measles outbreak in Naga SAZ. We should find the root cause and prepare to prevent such an outbreak in other parts of the country in the future and to provide quick response even if it happen.

According to ground reports from medical teams, local children are suffering from

malnutrition and the homes traditionally constructed by the ethnic peoples do not have adequate ventilation.

After the outbreak in Naga SAZ, locals have come to understand that they need to inform authorities at once when such an outbreak happens.

But, it is difficult in remote areas like Naga SAZ. How can people in these areas inform the authorities when the next emergency or outbreak of disease occurs? There is no telecommunications and not internet.

This makes it difficult to get ground reports in remote areas. The time has come to provide the far-flung and inaccessible areas with mobile telecommunications.

In the meantime, the rural health sector, which plays an important role in providing quick response to the outbreak of diseases, should be improved.

To achieve these objectives, it is the duty of the government to adopt short-term and long-term plans to improve the health standards in remote areas.

However, we, citizens who are close to battlefields, are obliged to share information with the authorities so that the government can plan accordingly. For the country's people, charity should begin with the neediest people. Let's work together with the government to save the lives of our innocent children.

Pokemon GO: Entertainment or Nuisance?

Khin Maung Myint

POKEMON GO craze took Yangon by storm. A few days ago there were photos and video clips on the social media of males and females, both young and middle-aged people walking around, without paying attention to other pedestrians, with smart phones in their palms. They were trying to catch the virtual creatures from a make-believe world, created by computer simulations, in the real-world. Every player seemed to be oblivious to the surroundings, which in fact is the real-world, where real accidents can happen any moment.

So what is Pokemon GO? According to the Wikipedia, it is a free-to-play, location-based augmented game developed by Niantic, Inc., of USA for iOS and Android devices. It was initially released in selected countries in July 2016. In the game, players use a mobile device's GPS capability to locate, capture, battle, and train virtual creatures, called Pokemon, who appear on the screen as if they were in the same real-world location as the player. The game became a global phenomenon and one of the most used mobile applications instantly. In the first month of its launching, in July 2016, over 100 millions had downloaded the game application worldwide. The companies, which hold shares in it are already making lucrative

business out of it and I am sure our local Internet servers too are definitely going to see significant surges in their revenues.

As the main objective of my article is to point out the impact of Pokemon GO on the players, I will not be going into detail, describing the technical aspects, and would shift my attentions to discuss its pros and cons. On the advantage side, some think the game is very enjoyable and may be the most entertaining Internet game invented so far. On the downside, it is very addictive. Of course most of the Internet games are addictive; so addictive that many youngsters' dreams were crushed.

To cite one such example, about ten years ago I met a young man in his twenties. I came to learn that he dropped out of the Medical Institute from the final year. He is from a well-to-do family and financial problem was not the cause of his dropping out, but he couldn't pass his examination within the limited number of times allowed to sit for it. He told me, he passed his examinations every year until he got addicted to the computer games in his final year. He spent most of his time at the computer game shop close to his Institute. He missed his classes very often, playing the computer games. There may be many more like him.

So just imagine what could happen to the youths of today with far more advanced and interesting online games readily available on the Internet at present. Before the Pokemon GO, the Candy Crush game was very popular. Even some elderly persons were addicted. Judging from the intensity of the Pokemon GO craze that hit Yangon in the last few days, it was unprecedented. Thus it is needless to say that the consequences of this game would be far more damaging, given the fact that with the better accessibilities to the Internet and the mobile devices, more people would become addicted.

Though the game is supposed to be free, the expenses for the players could shoot sky high. Recently there was the news from Rio, where the Olympics games are underway, of a Japanese gymnast who was surprised that his phone bills hit \$5000 in a day. Though the game application and playing it may be for free, the phone bills and the data usage costs would soar, especially if played on a roaming mobile phone. In the case of the young Japanese athlete, I presumed he had not noticed that his phone was on roaming mode.

In another such case, the phone bill of a street food vendor in a small district town in Thailand, listed over a hundred thousand Bhats in one month. As the usual average never ex-

ceed two thousand, the woman complained to the telephone company. The company checked and found that the majority of the airtime was used in playing online games. When they investigated, they found out that her only son, who is in his preteens, confessed he took his mother's phone without her knowledge to play online games. The telephone company generously exempted the bill for that month, for once, after warning that there wouldn't be a second time.

Apart from the financial effects that could cost the player a fortune in phone bills, accidents are bound to happen. During the first month of its introduction, starting in July 2016, accidents are starting to happen in Thailand resulting in deaths and injuries. If similar scenes like the one in front of the City Hall should continue during rush hours, accidents would happen sooner or later. In some countries there are also incidents of trespassing and causing of annoyances to the public, where the residents threw water balloons at the players entering their neighbourhoods. It is becoming an intolerable nuisance even in its infancy.

Thus the young players should use their discretions so as not get caught in a situation like that of the medical student mentioned above and avoid being in heavy debts due to exorbitant phone bills and last but



Gameplay screenshot of Pokémon Go. PHOTO : WIKIPEDIA.ORG

not least, not to become a victim of an accident. I would also like to caution the parents of the teenagers and some pre-teens, who are starting to be attracted to the game, to have a tight discipline on them if they love them. I had seen some parents and even grand parents who are very pleased and even boasting about their off-springs playing that game. They shouldn't indulge themselves in false-pride. In conclusion, I would like to suggest to the authorities to impose some sort of restrictions at places of worship like the Shwe Dagon Pagoda, office complexes, museums, hospitals, schools, important landmarks, cemeteries and other places that need security or privacy.

K100 million-fund for disaster preparedness established in 12 regions/states by BFM



Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Le Le Maw accepting K100 million-fund for disaster preparedness to be established in 12 regions/states. PHOTO: THURA LWIN-ECO

WITH the establishment of a K100 million fund for disaster preparedness in Taninthayi Region, there are now 12 regions and states that have been provided for in this way by the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation.

Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Dr Le Le Maw accepted the donation at the ceremony to establish the fund for preparedness and quick response to disasters held at the office of the

regional government yesterday in Dawei.

Daw Phyu Mar Aung, In-charge of KBZ Bank-branch in Dawei, handed over K100 million to the government on behalf of the BFM.

From June 2016, BFM has set up the fund in Kachin, Kayah, Chin, Rakhine and Shan states, and Magway, Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions to allow authorities to better respond to

disasters.

BFM and other philanthropic groups carried out evacuation and relief operations in areas which were badly hit by floods and landslides last year. They did, however, face delays in sending relief aid to some areas due to poor infrastructure.

The foundation's chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham established the fund in the regions and states to quickly respond to disasters.— *Thura Lwin-Eco*

Vietjet wins award for Asia's best employer 2016

VIETJET won an award for Asia's best employer brand 2016 this week because of the airline's innovative solutions in recruitment and for creating an internationally standardized, professional work environment.

The award presented by the Employer Branding Institute (EBI), CHRO Asia, World HRD Congress and Asian Confederation of Business intended to honour Asian businesses' efforts and achievements through the development and ability of human resources.



Vietjet representatives at the awarding ceremony. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY VIETJET

"During their five-year operation, Vietjet has become one of the most favoured working places for people from more than 40 countries including Myanmar ... and those have been contribut-

ing positively to make air travel a popular means of transport among passengers not only in Viet Nam but also in regional markets," Vietjet said in a statement.— *GNLM*

Conservationists to accelerate public awareness on bird preservation

THE MYANMAR Bird and Nature Society plans to accelerate its education programme to spread awareness about the preservation of birds among general public, according to its spokesperson.

This is part of the MBNS's mission to protect native species of birds from extinction, said the MBNS's Chairman Dr Thein Aung.

Raising public awareness through photography exhibitions tops the list of his bird conserva-

tion programmes, to be implemented during the term of the current government administration, he added.

"Hunting, commercial selling and consumption of birds including quail, snipe and some water birds create scarcity of birds and extinction," he said. "Actions need to be taken against the bird hunters and sellers."

According to one survey, Myanmar is the natural habitat of more than 1,000 rare species of birds, reptiles, amphibians,

mammals and fishes.

In early 2015, conservationists identified over 20 new species of birds including the Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*), the White-browed Crake (*Porzana cinerea*) and the Little Curlew (*Numenius menutus*), all of which can be found in Myanmar.

Seven species of them were identified as new species for South East Asia, 13 for Myanmar and nine for the region, said bird observers.— *Zar Zar*

Appointment of Estonian Ambassador agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Riho Kruuv as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Estonia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.

Mr. Riho Kruuv was born on 14 June 1972. In 1995, he obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics from University of Tartu, Estonia. In 1996, he attended the Programme on International Relations and European Integration at Estonian School of Diplomacy in Tallinn, Estonia. In 2003, he obtained a Master of Arts in International Com-

merce and Policy from George Mason University in Virginia, United States of America. Mr. Riho Kruuv joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia in 1996 and served in various capacities including Director and Deputy Undersecretary. He served at the Embassies of Estonia in Washington DC and Ottawa in various capacities. He has been serving as Counsellor, Security Policy and Arms Control Division, Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia and Chair of Estonian Export Control Authority since 2013.

Mr. Riho Kruuv is married and has two children. —*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

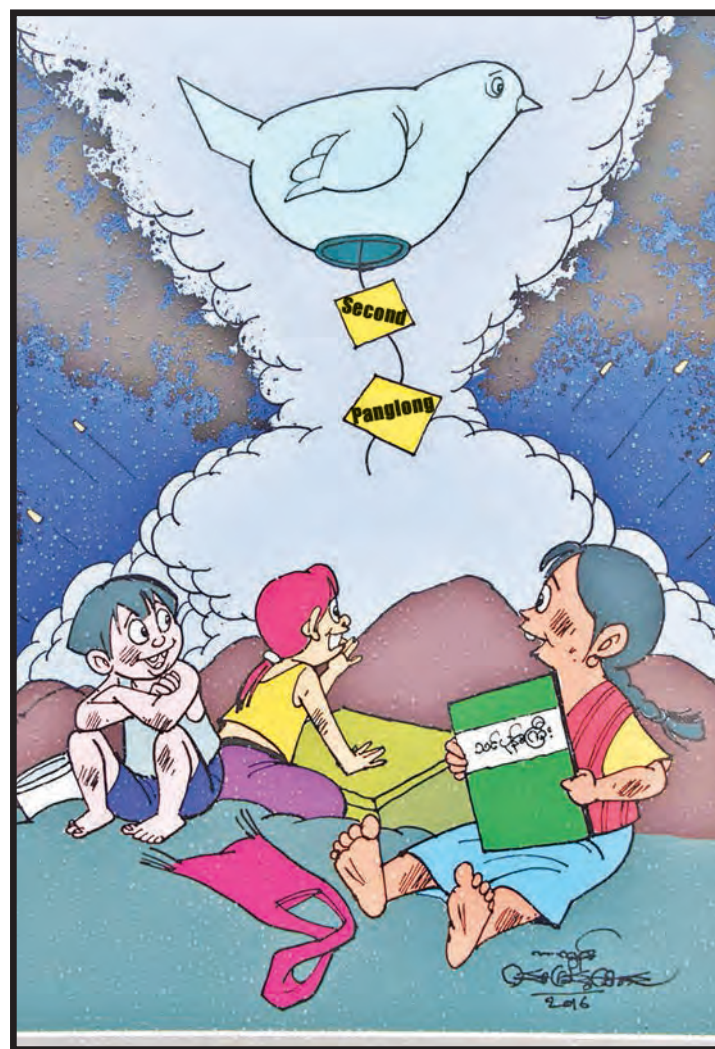
Appointment of Canadian Ambassador agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Ms. Karen Anita MacArthur as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Ms. Karen Anita MacArthur joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1998. She served as Counsellor and Head of the Political Section in Tokyo from 2006 to 2009, Senior Departmental Advisor of the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade from

2009 to 2011 and Director of Southern and Eastern Africa Relations Division from 2011 to 2015. She served at Canadian Embassies in Australia and India in various capacities. She attended the National Security Programme at Canadian Forces College in Toronto (2015-2016) for senior military and public service leaders as Trade and Development's participant of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Ms. Karen Anita MacArthur is married and has two children.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*





Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks during a campaign event in Fairfield, Connecticut, US, on 13 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Talk of shifting funds away from Trump premature — Republican official

WASHINGTON — A senior official with the Republican National Committee on Sunday played down the prospect that the party would cut off cash and logistical support to White House nominee Donald Trump in order to shift resources toward congressional races.

Last week 70 Republicans wrote a letter urging the RNC to stop helping Trump and to focus instead on candidates for the US Senate and House of Representatives. The letter, signed by former members both of Congress and RNC staff, said Trump's actions were "divisive and dangerous" and posed a threat to the party and the country.

Sean Spicer, RNC communications director, said in a telephone interview that abandoning Trump with nearly three months to go to the 8 November election "doesn't make logical sense."

In October 1996 the RNC moved money from the presidential race to congressional candidates after Republican nominee Bob Dole fell far behind Democratic President Bill Clinton in opinion polls.

But Spicer said giving up on Trump could be harmful to other Republican candidates and there was still time for him to rebound in opinion polls against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"Number one, you need a strong top of the ticket. That's number one. Number two, we're only six points down," Spicer said, referring to the gap that Clinton has opened up against Trump in some national polls.

Clinton led Trump by more than five percentage points in a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Friday.

Clinton has strong leads in hotly contested states such as

Pennsylvania and New Hampshire and some polls show her within a few percentage points of Trump in some states such as Georgia that normally lean strongly Republican.

Any discussions of cutting off funds to Trump in August would be "ridiculous," Spicer said.

Trump has polarized the party with his vow to build a wall on the US-Mexico border and his plan to impose a temporary ban on Muslims seeking to enter the country.

Trump has been criticized by both Republicans and Democrats for a prolonged feud with the Muslim family of a fallen US Army captain and his assertion last week that President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton had co-founded the Islamic State militant group.—Reuters

Minsk deal must stay Ukraine peace process focus — Germany to Russia

MOSCOW — German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on Monday that the Minsk deal must remain the focus of the Ukrainian peace process despite a spike in tensions in annexed Crimea, RIA news agency reported.

The two men met in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg after Russian President Vladimir Putin last week accused Ukraine of using terrorist tactics to try to provoke a new conflict and

destabilise annexed Crimea. Ukraine flatly denied that.

Putin said at the time he saw no point in holding a new round of talks about the troubled peace process in eastern Ukraine on the sidelines of a G20 summit in China next month, stoking speculation Moscow might be preparing to abandon the troubled Minsk process.

But RIA on Monday cited Steinmeier as saying the Minsk deal must continue to

be the mainstay of the process and Lavrov as telling university students in Yekaterinburg that Russia would fulfil its part of the accords.

Russia has repeatedly accused Ukraine of not honouring its obligations under the peace deal.

Ukraine says for its part that Moscow is the one stirring trouble in eastern Ukraine by backing pro-Russian separatists there. Moscow denies that.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

One wounded in Cologne attack; no sign of terrorism

BERLIN — One person was wounded in an attack in Cologne city centre in the early hours of Monday, a police spokeswoman said, adding that there were no signs of a terrorist motive.

Local newspaper *Express* described it as a knife and gun attack. The police spokeswoman said she was awaiting clarification from the hospital the injured person was taken to before confirming what type of weapons were used.

She said police received emergency calls at 3.45 am (0145 GMT) reporting that several people were involved in an argument and police found blood and broken panes of glass at the scene.

There has been a spate of indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Germany in recent weeks, two claimed by the Islamic State group, and a mass shooting in Munich initially seen as terrorism-related.—Reuters

Search at New York's JFK airport finds no signs of gunfire

NEW YORK — A preliminary investigation found no evidence of gunfire in a terminal at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on Sunday, despite earlier reports of shots being heard, the airport's operator said. No gun casings were found after a search of Terminal 8, where reports of gunshots in the departures area prompted an evacuation, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said in a message on social network Twitter.

"The terminal was evacuated out of an abundance of caution," the agency said. "Travellers should contact their carriers."

Video and photos posted on social media showed hundreds of people streaming out of Terminal 8, used by Air Berlin, Alaska Airlines, American Eagle, American Airlines, Finnair and other carriers.—Reuters

Earthquake shakes buildings in Tokyo, no danger of tsunami

TOKYO — An earthquake shook buildings in the Japanese capital on Monday, but there was no danger of a tsunami and no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The centre of the 5.5 magnitude earthquake was located under the sea on Japan's northeast coast, not far from the site of a magnitude 9 quake in 2011 that touched off a massive tsunami and left nearly 20,000 dead. The tsunami also set off the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl in 1986.

Earthquakes are common in Japan, one of the world's most seismically active areas. Japan accounts for about 20 per cent of the world's earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater.—Reuters

Taliban capture key district in Afghan north

KABUL — Taliban insurgents, seeking to force the NATO-led coalition out of Afghanistan and bring in Islamic law, captured a key district in the northern province of Baghlan after days of fighting, officials said on Monday.

Fighting has escalated in Afghanistan as the Taliban insurgency spreads from its traditional strongholds in the south and east of the country to once peaceful regions in the north.

Despite air support from US and Afghan warplanes, government troops are struggling against the resilient Taliban, with senior government officials saying the insurgents are becoming better trained and equipped. Amir Gul Hussainkhil, deputy police chief of Baghlan, said Dahan-e-Ghori district was under siege for days and the Taliban managed to seize it late on Sunday as dozens of Afghan forces made "a tactical retreat".—Reuters

Bus carrying over 40 falls down from road in Nepal: media

KATHMANDU — A bus carrying over 40 passengers have fallen 150 meter down from the road in Birtadeurali village of Kavrepalanchowk District, Nepal, local media reported on Sunday.

It has so far been no report on death and injury in the accident, the police was quoted as saying.

The bus was heading from capital Kathmandu to Koshihari area of Kavrepalanchowk District. —Xinhua

Boko Haram video claims to show missing Nigerian school girls

BAUCHI (Nigeria) — Nigerian militant group Boko Haram has published a video apparently showing recent footage of dozens of school girls kidnapped two years ago, and saying some of them have been killed in air strikes.

Boko Haram seized more than 270 girls from their school in Chibok, northeast Nigeria, in April 2014, part of a seven-year-old insurgency to set up an Islamic state in the north that has killed some 15,000 people and displaced more than two million.

Dozens of the girls managed to flee to safety in the initial melee, but more than 200 are still missing.

In the video published on social media, which was seen by Reuters on Sunday, a masked man stands behind dozens of girls.

“We want to send this message first to the parents of these girls for them to know that these girls are still with us, some of them, and secondly they should tell the Federal Government of Nigeria, to with immediate ef-



A still image from a video posted by Nigerian Islamist militant group Boko Haram on social media, seen by Reuters on 14 August, 2016, shows a masked man talking to dozens of girls the group said are school girls kidnapped in the town of Chibok in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

fect, release our imprisoned brothers,” the man said.

“Some of the girls, about forty of them with God’s permission have been married, some of them have died as a result of bombing by the infidels,” he said.

One veiled girl could be

seen holding a baby. Parents have accused Boko Haram of having married off some of the girls against their will.

At the end of the video unidentified bodies could be seen on the ground.

“Military jets have killed some of the girls,”

said one of the girls, who was identified by her father, Yakubu Kabu, as his daughter called Dorcas.

“When I heard her voice, I realise she is my daughter,” he told reporters in Abuja. “we are pleading with the government to

help...The children are suffering. Some of them could be very sick.”

Information Minister Lai Mohammed said in a statement the government “was on top of the situation” to free the girls.

“Since this is not the

first time we have been contacted over the issue, we want to be doubly sure that those we are in touch with are who they claim to be,” he said. Army spokesman Rabe Abubakar was quoted as saying by PR Nigeria, an official government agency, that the military disputed the claims that the air force had hit the girls.

“We are nevertheless studying the video clips to examine if the victims died from other causes rather (than) from the allegation of airstrike,” he said.

Authorities said in May that one of the missing girls had been found and President Muhammadu Buhari vowed to rescue the others.

Boko Haram, which last year pledged loyalty to the militant group Islamic State, has kidnapped hundreds of men, women and children.

Under Buhari’s command and aided by Nigeria’s neighbours, the army has recaptured most territory once lost to Boko Haram, but the group still regularly stages suicide bombings.—Reuters

Kurdish forces launch fresh thrust to retake Mosul from Islamic State

WARDAK (Iraq) — Kurdish Peshmerga forces launched a fresh attack on Islamic State (IS) forces early on Sunday as part of a campaign to capture Mosul, the militants’ de facto capital in Iraq, Kurdish officials said.

The advance began after heavy shelling and air strikes by a United States-led coalition against IS forces, a Reuters correspondent reported from Wardak, 30 km (19 miles) southeast of Mosul. The militants fought back, firing mortars at the advancing troops and detonating at least two car bombs.

A Peshmerga commander said a dozen villages had been taken from the ultra-hardline Sunni militants as Kurdish forces headed towards Gwer, the target of the operation, 40 km (25 miles) southeast of Mosul.

Repairing a bridge that the militants destroyed in Gwer would allow the Peshmerga to open a new front around Mosul. The bridge crosses the Grand Zab river that flows into the Tigris. IS said in a statement on its Amaq news service that two car bombs driven by suicide fighters were detonated in one of the villages to block

advancing Kurdish forces, causing casualties among the Peshmerga.

Authorities in autonomous Kurdistan gave no toll for the fighting, other than confirming the death of a Kurdish TV cameraman and the injury of another journalist. Clouds of black smoke rose from the scene of fighting and dozens of civilians fled in the direction of Peshmerga lines, brandishing white flags. The Iraqi army and the Peshmerga forces of the Kurdish self-rule region are gradually taking up positions around Mosul, 400 km (250 miles) north of the capital Baghdad.

It was from Mosul’s Grand Mosque in 2014 that

Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a “caliphate” spanning regions of Iraq and Syria. Mosul is the largest urban centre under the militants’ control, and had a pre-war population of nearly 2 million.

Its fall would mark the effective defeat of Islamic State in Iraq, according to Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who has said he aims to retake the city this year. The Iraqi army is trying to close in from the south. In July it captured the Qayyara airfield, 60 km (35 miles) south of Mosul, which is to serve as the main staging post for the anticipated offensive.—Reuters



Kurdish Peshmerga forces fire a rocket toward Islamic State militants on the southeast of Mosul, Iraq, on 14 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia reported eight ceasefire violations in Syria

MOSCOW — Eight ceasefire violations were registered in the Syrian provinces of Damascus and Latakia in the past 24 hours, the Russian Ministry of Defence said in a daily bulletin posted on its website on Sunday.

“Within the last 24 hours, five ceasefire

violations have been registered in Damascus and three in Latakia,” the ministry said.

The ministry added that the Russian Aerospace Forces and the Syrian Air Force did not make strikes on opposition armed formations which follow the ceasefire regime and

informed Russian and US reconciliation centers about their location. A ceasefire brokered by Russia and the United States came into force in Syria on 27 February. It was recognised by the Syrian government as well as dozens of opposition groups.—Xinhua

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Opened Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from reputed manufacturers or their bona fide agents from the Republic of India for the supply and delivery of the following:-

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Tender Issuing Date	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Document Fee (per Set)
1	12/MR/INDIA (E)2016-2017	Automatic Levelling Lining and Tamping Machine (1) No	15.8.2016	2.11.2016 (14:30)Hr	US\$ 100
2	13/MR/INDIA (E)2016-2017	Track Geometry Measuring Trolley (4) Nos	15.8.2016	2.11.2016 (14:30)Hr	US\$ 100
3	14/MR/INDIA (M)2016-2017	Diesel Rail Crane (60)Tons(Complete with Standard Tools and Accessories(5) Nos	15.8.2016	2.11.2016 (14:30)Hr	US\$ 100
4	15/MR/INDIA (E)2016-2017	Rail Road Excavator with five type of Attachments (3) Nos	15.8.2016	2.11.2016 (14:30)Hr	US\$ 100

Tender Documents are **Only** available at the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar during office hours on payment of non refundable fee as stated above. Further enquiries about tender can be made to Deputy General Manager (Supply), Supply Department, Myanmar Railways by fax to (Fax No.95-1-291994, 95-67-77016) or by phone to (95-1-291991, 95-1-291985) during office hours.

Bids are to reach the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar on or before the Closing Date and Time.

All Bid not accompanied by earnest money (Bid Bond) will not (not) be considered. No Telegraphic/Telex/Fax/email proposal will be considered or accepted.

Myanmar Railways reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without furnishing reasons. Tender will be accepted only from Bidder who has purchased Tender Documents officially.

The above Goods are to be purchased by the proceeds of the loan from the Government of the Republic of India.

Managing Director, Myanmar Railways
Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

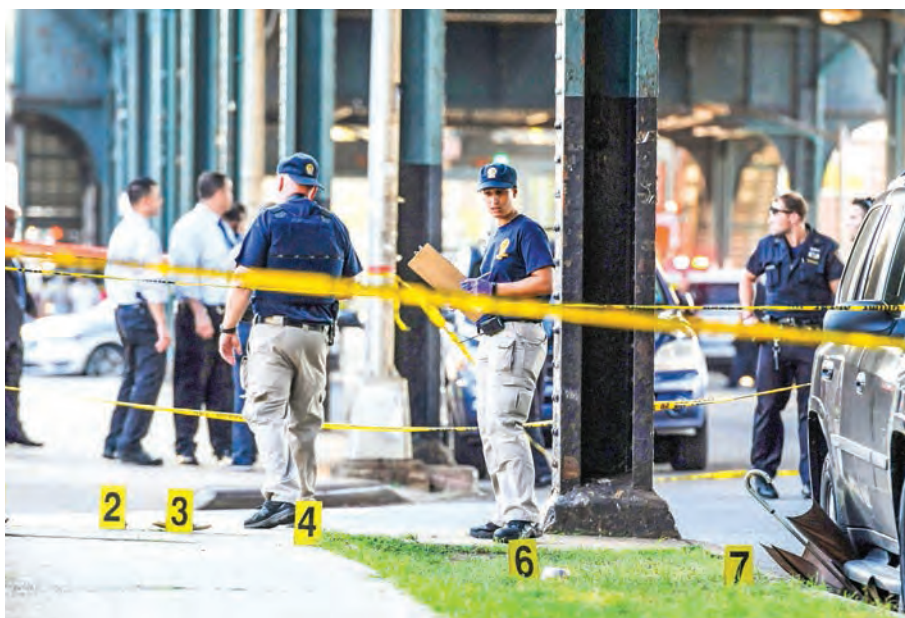
Gunman sought in killing of New York Muslim cleric, associate

NEW YORK — New York City police searched on Sunday for a gunman who killed a Muslim cleric and his associate as they left prayers at a mosque in the borough of Queens on Saturday, a crime that sowed fear and sadness in their Bangladeshi community.

A possible suspect had been detained and was being questioned, but has not been charged, NBC News reported early on Monday, citing unnamed sources. A police spokesman could not confirm the report.

Police had yet to establish a motive and said there was no evidence the men were targeted because of their faith, but nothing was being ruled out. Residents demanded authorities treat the brazen daylight shooting as a hate crime.

The gunman approached the men from behind and shot both in the head at close range about 1:50 pm (1750 GMT) in the Ozone Park neighbourhood of Queens, one of the city's



Members of the New York City Police Department establish a crime scene at the spot where Imam Maulama Akonjee was killed in the Queens borough of New York City, on 13 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

five boroughs, police said in a statement.

The victims, identified as Imam Maulama Akonjee, 55, and Thara Uddin, 64, were wearing religious garb, police said. Police found them bleeding in the street and took them to a

hospital where they were pronounced dead.

"While we do not yet know the motivation for the murders of Maulama Akonjee and Thara Uddin, we do know that our Muslim communities are in the perpetual crosshairs of

bigotry," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a statement. "Rest assured that our NYPD will bring this killer to justice."

The men were attacked about two blocks from the Al-Furqan Jame Mosque where they had

just left afternoon prayers. Ozone Park, a diverse, largely working-class area, is home to a growing number of Muslims of Bangladeshi heritage.

Millat Uddin, 57, an Ozone Park resident not related to the imam's associate, said both men were born in Bangladesh. He said he was close to Akonjee, describing him as a "docile, calm" father of seven who was beloved in the neighbourhood.

"What matters most is harmless people have been shot dead, regardless of whether this was a hate crime," he said. "Our community's heart is broken."

Akonjee was carrying \$1,000 with him at the time of the attack but the money was not taken, the New York Times reported. "I have never felt this kind of tension," said Nizam Uddin, 57, a taxi driver who said he knew both the cleric and his associate. He also was not related to the associate.—Reuters

Dubai to grow a rain forest in the middle of a desert

DUBAI — Even with the world's tallest building and the one-of-a-kind palm-shaped islands Dubai is unsatisfied with its uniqueness, that's why it's building the world's first hotel with its own rain forest.

The in-door rain forest is designed with waterfalls, an artificial beach, a pool and legions of tropical plants. Set to open in 2018, the Rosemont Hotel & Residences is reported to cost 300 million US dollars, adding another brush against the luxurious setting of the Emirati city.

The five-star hotel will be located in two adjacent 47-story towers, offering 450 guest room to holiday makers or business travelers from around the world.

To add to the thrill, the hotel also has a pool that extends beyond its edge, where guest can enjoy the Dubai skyline while relaxing in the water.—Xinhua

Give us EU visa freedom in October or abandon migrant deal, Turkey says

BERLIN — The European Union should grant Turks visa-free travel in October or the migrant deal that involves Turkey stemming the flow of illegal migrants to the bloc should be put aside, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told a German newspaper.

Asked whether hundreds of thousands of refugees in Turkey would head to Europe if the EU did not grant Turks visa freedom from October, he told *Bild* newspaper's Monday edi-

tion: "I don't want to talk about the worst case scenario — talks with the EU are continuing but it's clear that we either apply all treaties at the same time or we put them all aside."

Visa-free access to the EU — the main reward for Ankara's collaboration in choking off an influx of migrants into Europe — has been subject to delays due to a dispute over Turkish anti-terrorism legislation and Ankara's crackdown after a failed coup. Before conced-

ing visa liberalisation, Brussels wants Turkey to soften the anti-terrorism law. European Commissioner Guenther Oettinger has said he does not see the EU granting Turks visa-free travel this year due to Ankara's crack-down after the failed military coup.

Cavusoglu said treaties laid out that all Turks would get visa freedom in October, adding: "It can't be that we implement everything that is good for the EU but that Turkey gets nothing in return."

A spokesman for the European Commission was not immediately available to comment on Cavusoglu's comments.

Last week Selim Yenel, Turkey's ambassador to the EU, said efforts were continuing to find a compromise with the EU on visa liberalisation and he thought it would be possible to handle this in 2016. He rejected the idea that visa-free travel may be pushed back further beyond October, after missing an initial June deadline.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has said he would approve the restoration of the death penalty if parliament voted for it, a move which would sink any hopes of European Union membership. In the *Bild* interview Cavusoglu said Europe was acting as if Turkey had already introduced the death penalty. He said he was against introducing it but there was a lot of emotion among the Turkish people at the moment and that could not be ignored.

Asked if Turkey would leave NATO, Cavusoglu said anti-Turkish groups were talking about this but Turkey was one of the biggest supporters of the 28-nation Western defence alliance.

"But it's clear that we also need to cooperate with other partners on buying and selling weapon systems because some NATO partners refuse to allow us to sell air defence systems for example or to exchange information," he said.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC S'PORE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC S'PORE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T / 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.8.2016 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 COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Disaster declared for Louisiana floods that have killed five

BATON ROUGE, (La) — US President Barack Obama issued a disaster declaration on Sunday for flood-ravaged Louisiana, where at least five people have died and emergency crews have rescued more than 20,000 people stranded by unprecedented flooding.

Governor John Bel Edwards said residents had been pulled from swamped cars, flooded homes and threatened hospitals across the southern part of the state. The already soaked region is expected to get more rain from a storm system stretching from the Gulf Coast to the Ohio Valley.

While the brunt of the storm that brought torrential rains was moving west toward Texas, Louisiana residents should remain cautious, the governor said at a news conference.

“Even with the sunshine out today intermittently, the waters are going to continue to rise in many areas, so this is no time to let the guard down,” Edwards said, calling the flooding unprecedented.

Obama issued the disaster declaration after speaking



A truck pulling ATVs drives through the remaining floodwaters on Liberty Road in Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, US, on 14 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

with Edwards, the White House said in a statement.

The initial declaration makes federal aid available in the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Livingston, St. Helena and Tangipahoa. Edwards said in a statement that other parishes could be added to the list.

Edwards told a later

news conference that more than 20,000 people had been rescued from flood waters in southern Louisiana.

In Livingston Parish, phone service was spotty due to the high waters and most shelters were full. A Greyhound Bus traveling from Memphis, Tennessee, to Baton Rouge was diverted

to a shelter because of flooded roadways.

About 5,000 people had been forced to sleep in shelters overnight around the state, said Marketa Walters, head of Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services.

Louisiana State Police Colonel Michael Edmonson

said helicopters were transporting food and water to those still trapped by floods. Helicopters were also transporting some seriously ill people to areas outside the high waters.

Some 1,700 members of the Louisiana National Guard have been deployed for rescue efforts.

Even as the state grappled with high waters, the National Weather Service forecast heavy rain from the Gulf Coast as far north as the Ohio Valley through Monday, with a threat of flash flooding.

A flash flood watch was in place until Monday morning for Houston, where rains killed at least eight people in late April.

At least five people had died in Louisiana from the high water. Ronda Durbin, a spokeswoman for Tangipahoa Parish, said by telephone that searchers on Sunday recovered the body of a man reported swept away on Friday.

The body of a woman was also recovered from a submerged vehicle in the parish, she said.

On Saturday, the body of a woman was recovered from the Tickfaw River, in St. Helena Parish northeast of Baton Rouge, after a car in which she was riding was swept away. A 54-year-old man in Greensburg in the northern part of the state died when his vehicle was swept off the road, state police said.—Reuters

Canada's largest Airshow attracts more than a hundred thousand visitors

VANCOUVER — The skies above the Canadian city of Abbotsford in the outskirts of Vancouver came alive on Sunday as super-sonic metal birds ripped through the air at the Abbotsford International Airshow.

The three-day annual event which began on Friday has become the largest show of its kind in Canada and attracts more than 125,000 people to see some of the world's historic and most famous planes in full flight.

Among the aviation fans on Sunday was Jerry Vernon, who has attended the show for more than 50 years.

“It's great now, well with digital for one thing. You can take thousands of shots now as opposed to the old days of taking it with film. And just take a lot of pictures and hope you get some good ones,” Vernon told Xinhua.

The airshow first took flight in 1962, launched by a local flying club to draw attention and business to the town's airport. It later be-

came one of the most important aviation shows in North America, drawing top pilots and airplanes from around Canada, the United States and Europe.

Jadene Mah, Abbotsford Air Show spokeswoman, said the air show has built a great reputation over the past half century.

“We've seen a lot of firsts here at the Abbotsford International Air Show. And this is the only place where you can see an F-35, and a Boeing Super Hornet on the ramp side-by-side and we are very excited that we were the first place in Canada to display an F-35,” she said. Lockheed Martin's F-35 fighter jet has been in the Canadian headlines in recent years, as the government had been mulling a purchase of the stealth fighter as a replacement for its aging CF-18 fleet. The show organisers say the event has become a major showcase for the aviation industry to introduce their latest models to the government and the air force.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ALAM SINAR VOY. NO (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ALAM SINAR VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 TOKO KAIUN KHISHA LTD
Phone No: 2301191, 2301178**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T / 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MARENS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARENS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.8.2016 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185**

Rocco Ritchie celebrates birthday inside a volcano

LOS ANGELES — Rocco Ritchie, the son of Madonna and Guy Ritchie, reportedly spent his 16th birthday inside a volcano. The son of Madonna and Guy Ritchie, who was stuck in the middle of a custody battle earlier this year, travelled to the Thrihnukagigur volcano in Iceland with his step-mother Jacqui Ainsley to celebrate his big day, reported TMZ.

Jacqui, 34, posted photographs taken from 120 metres inside the volcano on Instagram, saying it was a “magical experience to journey into the Earth’s womb”.

Allied to the volcano visit, Rocco was also gifted a Kabbalah protection bracelet by his famous father, which is supposed to keep him safe.

“Guy and Jacqui had a Kabbalah wedding and they wanted something based on belief and spirituality for Rocco’s present,” a source said.

“It’s a silver and gold protection bracelet with his star sign birth stones, moonstone and topaz.”—PTI

‘I won’t perform at 2017 Super Bowl halftime show’

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning singer Adele has revealed she has declined to perform at the 2017 Super Bowl halftime show, saying it is not a programme about music.

There had been rumours that the National Football League (NFL) was eyeing Adele for next year’s halftime performance, reported Billboard.

“First of all, I’m not doing the Super Bowl,” Adele said during her tour in LA.

“I mean, come on, that show is not about music. And I don’t really I can’t dance or anything like that. They were very kind, they did ask me, but I said no.”

The NFL and halftime show sponsor Pepsi responded to Adele’s comments in a joint statement denying that they had presented a formal offer to the 28-year-old singer. “The NFL and Pepsi are big fans of Adele. We have had conversations with several artists about the Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show. However, we have not at this point extended a formal offer to Adele or anyone else. We are focused on putting together a fantastic show for Houston and we look forward to revealing that in good time.”—PTI



Cast members (L-R) Viola Davis, Will Smith, Margot Robbie, Jared Leto and Joel Kinnaman attend the world premiere of “Suicide Squad” in Manhattan, New York, US, on 1 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Suicide Squad’ tops foreign box office with \$58.7 million

LOS ANGELES — “Suicide Squad” topped foreign box office charts for a second consecutive week. The super villain adventure picked up \$58.7 million from 15,600 screens across 62 territories, pushing its global gross to \$465.4 million.

That’s a big haul, but Warner Bros. spent lavishly on the film, shelling out \$175 million to produce the movie and north of \$100 million to market it. It needs to be one of the year’s biggest hits for the studio to turn

a profit. To that end, the film is fighting bad reviews and poor word-of-mouth as it tries to keep bringing in crowds.

It also has been denied an entry into China, depriving it of as much as \$100 million in revenue from the world’s second biggest market for film. “Suicide Squad” opened in Argentina and Italy over the weekend, picking up \$2.5 million and \$2.2 million, respectively. Among holdover territories, the film nabbed \$6.7 million in Brazil, \$5.5 million in

the United Kingdom, \$4.4 million in Australia, \$4.3 million in Mexico, and \$4.3 million in Russia. Domestically, the film slid a painful 67% in its second weekend, earning \$43.8 million.

In second place, Illumination Entertainment and Universal’s “The Secret Life of Pets” racked up \$40 million from 48 territories. The animated hit centers on what animals do while their masters are at work, and has made \$592.6 million globally on a \$75 million budget. It opened

in first place in Japan this weekend with \$10 million. After its second week of release in China, “The Secret Life of Pets” has generated \$49.1 million.

“Line Walker,” a Hong Kong-Chinese crime film, took third place, earning \$26 million. Universal’s “Jason Bourne” picked up \$18.6 million from 60 foreign territories, bringing its global gross to \$246.2 million. “Love 020,” another Chinese release, rounded out the top five, earning \$17.5 million.—Reuters

B-town wishes love, strength for country on Independence Day

MUMBAI — Bollywood stars Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Priyanka Chopra and Farhan Akhtar, among others have wished freedom and lots of love to their fans on the occasion of 70th Independence Day.

The actors took to social media to share various pictures and videos of Indian tricolor.

Bachchan shared a short video of a group of deaf and mute school kids reciting National Anthem through signs. “Not a dry eye after seeing this... Happy Independence Day,” the actor captioned the video.

Shah Rukh posted a small clip on his Instagram and caption it, “Happy Independence Day to my country women and men 15th August 2016. A day of Pride, Happiness, Love and Living freely.”



PHOTO: PTI

The 50-year-old “Fan” actor, who is currently outside India, dedicated a sweet message to all the people back in home country.

“I’m away from home but wishing everyone back home in India a very happy Independence Day... May we have lots of freedom, lots of love... May our country grow from strength to strength,” he said in the clip.

Meanwhile, his “Dilwale” co-star Kajol tweeted, “We are a country that was born with diversity. Today let us celebrate it and make it our strength. Happy Independence Day! Priyanka, who is in LA shooting for the second season of “Quantico”, wrote on Instagram, “And how much I miss being home today. Happy Independence Day to the country that is my identity, my being.”

Veteran actress Shabana Azmi asked people to take a pledge on this day to not create any kind of problems for others.

“On our 70th Independence day lets all take a pledge that we will attempt to be part of the solution Not part of the problem.”

Actor-director Farhan posted a video of late poet Rabindranath Tagore on his Twitter along with a message, “Happy Independence Day.”—PTI

Liv Tyler can’t befriend anyone with ‘bad taste’ in music

LONDON — Actress Liv Tyler says she can’t be friends with someone having bad taste in music.

The 39-year-old actress, who is the daughter of Aerosmith front Steven Tyler, she likes being with people sharing similar interests, reported Femalefirst.

“A thoughtful, considerate person melts my heart. Someone who pays attention and notices the little things And I can’t be friends or love someone who has bad taste in music,” Tyler said.

The “Incredible Hulk” star doesn’t get embarrassed easily, but says her parents always manage to leave her red-faced with their outrageous comments.—PTI



Gold medalist Wayde van Niekerk (RSA) of South Africa points to the board showing his new world new record at Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 14 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brilliant Van Niekerk smashes 400m world record

RIO DE JANEIRO — South Africa’s Wayde van Niekerk ran the fastest single lap in history to win the Olympic 400 meters gold medal in 43.03 seconds and break Michael Johnson’s 17-year-old world record on Sunday.

Running an extraordinary race in lane eight, the 24-year-old world champion got off to a flier and was streaking clear on the back straight before upping his pace even further to better American Johnson’s 1999 mark of 43.18 seconds.

“I believed I could get the world record,” Van Niekerk told reporters. “I’ve dreamed of this medal since forever. I am blessed.”

The South African flew across the line a good five meters ahead of 2012 champion Kirani James and held his hands to his head in disbelief before being embraced by the Grenadian, who took silver in 43.76.

“I’m happy to be part of a race that made history,” James said. “We have put this sport on a pedestal.”

LaShawn Merritt of the United States, the 2008 Olympic champion, claimed bronze in 43.85, the first time the top

three had run under 44 seconds in the one-lap Olympic final.

“It was a crazy race, a great moment in history,” said Merritt, who was unable to defend his title in London after suffering a hamstring injury in the heats.

“The world record was broken, the best man won.”

American Johnson, who won back-to-back Olympic titles in the event in 1996 and 2000 and is considered one of the greatest sprinters of all time, was dumbfounded by the quality of Van Niekerk’s finish.

“Oh my God! From lane eight, a world record,” Johnson said on the BBC. “He took it out so quick. I have never seen anything from 200 to 400 like that.”

Van Niekerk marked himself as the leading contender for Rio when he led home Merritt and James with an exceptional run to win gold at last year’s world championships in Beijing, where the podium again all ran under 44 seconds.

This year, he became the first sprinter to run the 100 below 10 seconds, 200 under 20 seconds and 400 in less than 44 seconds before deciding to concentrate on the longest distance in Brazil. —Reuters

Mourinho wants Ibrahimovic to influence teammates with experience

LONDON — Jose Mourinho believes veteran Zlatan Ibrahimovic’s vast experience will help to inspire Manchester United’s young players.

The 34-year-old Swedish striker made an impressive introduction to English football as he stormed a 25-yard strike past Bournemouth goalkeeper Artur Boruc to secure United a 3-1 win at Dean Court on Sunday.

With vast and successful experience in world football, Ibrahimovic soon appears to be a crucial figure in the Old Trafford dressing room.

“The first thing I can tell you is at his table for breakfast and for meals he is surrounded by the kids, the younger ones like (Marcus) Rashford and (Luke) Shaw,” Mourinho said.

“He knows what he can be for them as well as what he does with his performances.” —Xinhua



Manchester United’s Zlatan Ibrahimovic scores their third goal against AFC Bournemouth during Premier League at Vitality Stadium, on 14 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Banned Sharapova could return in January — tennis chief

MOSCOW — Five-times grand slam winner Maria Sharapova, banned in June for two years for doping offences, may be allowed to return in January, according to Russian Tennis Federation (RTF) president Shamil Tarpishchev.

“Everything will be decided in September. It is impossible to say for certain but I think she will start playing again by January,” Tarpishchev was quoted as saying by the TASS news agency on Monday.

Former world number one Sharapova, 29, was suspended following a positive test for the banned drug meldonium during January’s Australian Open.

In July, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said a ruling on her case would be held on 19 September.—Reuters

MRTV

Entertainment Channel

(16-8-2016, Tuesday)

06 : 00 pm

- Weather Report
- Music Programme

06 : 20 pm

- Cartoon “ Arthur Christmas “ (Part-I)

07 : 10 pm

- International Drama Series

07 : 50 pm

- International Drama Series

08 : 30 pm

- remier League (High Light Review)

9 : 20 pm

- MRTV Entertainment Music

9 : 35 pm

- Chief Cho Wut Yee (Chef)

09 : 40 pm

- International Movie Songs

09 : 50 pm

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

10 : 10 pm

- MRTV Entertainment Music

10 : 25 pm

- Myanmar Video

Midnight

- Close Down

From

16-8-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm

To

17-8-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm

mitv

Myanmar International

(16-8-2016 07:00am ~ 17-8-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03

Am

News

07:26

Am

Myanmar Game Changers (Ep- III)

07:51

Am

Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater

08:03

Am

News

08:26

Am

Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-2)

08:50

Am

Today Myanmar: Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong)

09:03

Am

News

09:26

Am

Life In NightArt In Life (Ep-2) (Part-1)

10:03

Am

News

10:42

Am

Kyauk Gu Umin Cave Gu Pha Ya

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

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

Prime Time

07:03

Pm

News

07:26

Pm

A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)

07:52

Pm

Soft Drinks without Vendor

08:03

Pm

News

08:26

Pm

Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture “A stir about of Rainbows”

08:50

Pm

Entrepreneur: Chaw Khin Khin

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat

(09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

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

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

Imperious Bolt completes amazing 100m treble

RIO DE JANEIRO — For 9.81 glorious seconds on Sunday all the ills that have dogged athletics were forgotten as Usain Bolt stormed to victory in the 100 metres final to become the first man to win three successive Olympic titles on the track.

The Jamaican trailed arch-rival Justin Gatlin, roundly booed by the Rio crowd for his doping past, until the 70 metre mark but then swept past the tightening American, finding time to pat his chest as he crossed the line a metre clear.

Gatlin, the 2004 champion who came into the race with the season's fastest time of 9.80, took second in 9.89. Canada's Andre de Grasse claimed bronze in 9.91 seconds — the same finishing order as in last year's world championships.

Victory took Bolt a step closer to his goal of winning a historic "triple-triple" combination of gold in the 100m, 200m and the 4x100m relay in three consecutive Olympics.

"Stay tuned, two more to go," Bolt said. "Somebody said I can become immortal. Two more medals to go and I can sign off. Immortal.

"It wasn't perfect today but I



Usain Bolt (JAM) of Jamaica wins the gold medal in the men's 100m final at Olympic Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 14 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

got it done and I'm pretty proud of what I've achieved — nobody else has done it or even attempted it."

Other than the 2011 world championships, when he was disqualified for a false start, Bolt has won every global championship individual sprint race since 2008.

That equates to five Olympic golds and seven in the world championships. Throw in two more Olympic and four world championship 4x100m relay golds and the world record in all three events and that is total and utter domination

Already assured of his leg-

endary status on the track, Bolt also added to his reputation as sport's number-one crowd pleaser as he took a leisurely circuit of the stadium, posing for pictures and shaking a thousand hands before taking time to satisfy the demands of the world's media.— Reuters

Murray outlasts Del Potro to land gold

RIO DE JANEIRO — Britain's Andy Murray beat Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 in a compelling Olympic tennis final on Sunday to become the first player to win two men's singles gold medals.

The world number two and his Argentine opponent shared a long hug at the net, with both man trying to hold back the tears, after a punishing, see-sawing, four-hour contest played out in front of a boisterous crowd at the Olympic Tennis Centre.

Murray's consistency proved decisive. He was able to wear down Del Potro's weaker backhand and frequently drew the fatigued Argentine into the net with deftly placed drop shots as the contest wore on.

Del Potro served for the fourth set at 5-4 but Murray broke the Argentine in consecutive games to claim the match, his 18th straight victory following his second Wimbledon title in July.—Reuters

Arsenal loss has Wenger bemoaning effects of Euro 2016

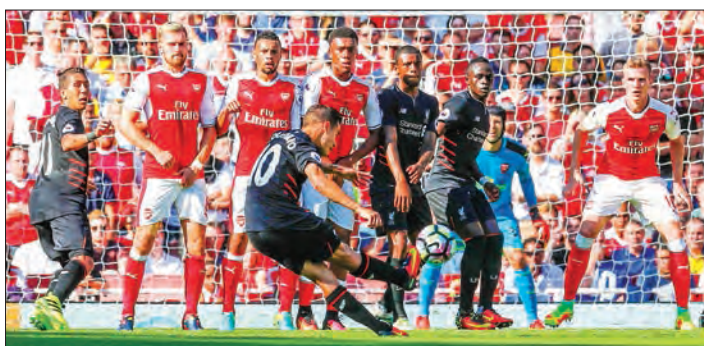
LONDON — Liverpool's 4-3 win at Arsenal might have been the highlight of the opening weekend of the Premier League in terms of drama, but there were plenty of deficiencies for the managers to ponder.

Arsenal's Arsene Wenger, bemoaning the ill effects of the European championship on his pre-season, will hope returning players give his squad a lift, even as he was given new injury headaches.

Wenger had to field an inexperienced centre-back pairing of Calum Chambers and debutant Rob Holding, with Laurent Koscielny given an extended rest after reaching Euro 2016 final with France little more than a month ago.

While the makeshift defence conceded four goals, the decision to play Euro 2016 semi-finalist Aaron Ramsey also backfired, as the Wales midfielder was substituted early with a hamstring injury. Alex Iwobi also left with an injury.

Ramsey succumbed to exactly the sort of injury that Wenger had sought to avoid in leaving out Koscielny, midfielder Mesut Ozil and striker Olivier Giroud, and Wenger admitted the squad was undercooked for



Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho scores their first goal with a free kick at Emirates Stadium, on 14 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the season.

"Physically, we are not ready. You are in a catch 22 situation with the Euros," Wenger told reporters.

"When they are not ready and they play this kind of game, they get injured, like Ramsey today. Or you give them a needed rest and you start the season without many of your players."

Wenger has been working to get new players in to solidify the defence. But he also pointed to bad luck after Per Mertesacker and Gabriel, two other options in the centre of defence, were injured in pre-season training.

Despite coming out on top of the seven-goal thriller, Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp

also said there was room for improvement.

He would not be drawn on questions over the implications of the result for two of the biggest contenders for the title and focused on his team's tactical shortcomings.

While he did not rule out a foray into the transfer market to improve the team, Klopp said he would look to get more out of the players he already had.

"Improvement in my understanding is about training and using the quality you have. We were far away today from showing our whole quality," he said.

"We showed a few nice signs, a few not so nice signs, that's all."—Reuters

Suarez, Munir strikes give Barca Super Cup advantage

MADRID — Barcelona took a big step towards lifting the Spanish Super Cup after second-half strikes from Luis Suarez and Munir El Haddadi sealed a 2-0 win at Sevilla in the first leg on Sunday.

Suarez, La Liga top scorer last season, broke the deadlock with a low finish in the 53rd minute and substitute Munir doubled the lead in the 81st barely five minutes after coming on to put Barca on top before Wednesday's return at the Nou Camp.

"It's a very good result, it's not definitive, but the second leg is mapped out for us," said Barca coach Luis Enrique.

"I feel very positive and not just because of the result. We knew what Sevilla were capable of and how intense they were, and they are even stronger at their own stadium.

"We played well in the first half but were better in the second half. We created more danger, more chances and our build up play was better."

With Neymar on Olympic Games duty with Brazil, Luis Enrique fielded Arda Turan behind Lionel Messi and Suarez in an otherwise familiar looking Barca side.

Despite a bright start, Barca

struggled for long periods at the Sanchez Pizjuan and Luis Enrique was forced to make first-half substitutions as defender Jeremy Mathieu and midfield maestro Andres Iniesta were forced off with injuries.

Luis Enrique's opposite number Jorge Sampaoli made his home bow after coming so close to beating Real Madrid to the UEFA Super Cup last week in his first competitive game in charge.

There were further signs that Sevilla have adapted quickly to the former Chile coach's intense brand of football, although they could have fallen behind early on.

Sergio Busquets carved a pass into the path of Suarez, who turned his marker effortlessly but drilled his shot straight at Sevilla goalkeeper Sergio Rico.

That chance aside, the hosts controlled the first period, overpowering Barca in midfield and winning several corners although also struggling to produce clear-cut chances.

Iniesta's injury allowed former Sevilla player Denis Suarez to make his first competitive appearance for Barcelona after rejoining the club from Villarreal.—Reuters