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WWII-era C-47 aircraft to land in Mandalay on way to Flying Tiger Heritage Museum
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Food, medical supplies airlifted to Naga SAZ
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CHINA: PEACE, AID

State Counsellor welcomed by Chinese Premier in Beijing

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was welcomed by Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

During the welcoming ceremony, the state counsellor and the Chinese premier reviewed the honour guards before the bilateral meeting.

At the meeting, their discussions focused on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, enhancement of bilateral relations and closer cooperation in transportation. China offered 1 billion yuan in assistance to the development of health, education, agriculture and border areas. It also promised technical assistance in response to disasters like flooding, expressing its enthusiasm for cultural cooperation.

Premier Li Keqiang reaffirmed China's support for the country's peace process, calling for commemoration of the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-China relations, the establishment of the ASEAN-China Economic Community and further enhancement of the Lancang-Mekong cooperation. The state counsellor and the Chinese premier also discussed the setup of an investigative committee to look for an appropriate resolution to the Myitsone dam project. They also talked of exchange of visits among political parties and the peoples of the two countries.

After the discussions, the two countries agreed to a deal on further promotion of bilateral economic and technical cooperation. The deal was signed by Finance Union Minister U Kyaw Win and Chinese Commerce Minister Mr



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang review the honour guard during a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, 18 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gao Hucheng. China pledged its assistance to the construction of a bridge in Kunlong in the north-eastern part of the country.

State Counsellor invited Premier Li Keqiang to visit Myanmar and he accepted the invitation

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction U Kyaw Lin signed a memorandum of understanding with Mr Gao Hucheng to launch a feasibility study for construction.

After the signing ceremony, China's Premier Mr Li Keqiang

hosted a dinner in honour of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her entourage.

In the morning, Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi hosted a breakfast in honour of the state counsellor at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing.

After the breakfast, the state counsellor went to the Embassy of Myanmar in Beijing, where she met embassy staff and their families and attended a luncheon hosted by Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn.—
Myanmar News Agency



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် ပြန်မအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Amyotha Hluttaw holds Q&A session on health sector

THE Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for the 17th day with Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htway responding to questions on the opening and upgrading of health facilities in regions and states yesterday.

The Union minister pledged to build a 16-bedded hospital in Hopong Township, Mongpyin region next fiscal year. Regarding a proposal to upgrade a hospital in Yedashae Township of Bago Region into a 50-bedded facility, the Union minister replied that the 25-bedded hospital in an easy accessible town will be upgraded in the future based on the number

of patients treated. Despite rising hospital admissions between 2011 and 2015, it would be difficult to increase the number of health staff there if the hospital were upgraded, added the Union minister.

Likewise, the Union minister responded to a question regarding the 50-bedded Paletwa Township hospital and a 16-bedded Hsabee station hospital, saying that there are no immediate plans to upgrade those hospitals into 100-bedded and 50-bedded health facilities respectively.

He vowed, however, to provide manpower and medical equipment to Paletwa Township

hospital as soon as possible.

Answering a call to upgrade a 100-bedded hospital in Myingyan District into a 200-bedded facility and appointment more doctors and health staff, the Union minister replied that there is no plan to upgrade the hospital as it did not meet the basic principles of the upgrading process.

The Union minister stated that an anaesthetist will soon be appointed at the hospital where a dental doctor has been on staff since 2013 and that there will be more fresh doctors and nurses appointed there in the future. — Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw hears answers to parliamentary questions, discusses proposal



MP U Myat Lay Oo. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win. PHOTO: MNA

THE Pyithu Hluttaw meeting entered its 17th day with a question and answer session and discussions on a proposal calling for measures to combine farming with livestock breeding that can

help rural farmers improve their per acre yield, thereby contributing towards poverty alleviation and better living standards.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi responded

to questions regarding the construction of a new school building for Nyaung Shwe BEHS-1 and apartments for academic and admin staff being developed on a land plot owned by the ?

ministry in Yangon.

The Union minister said that a new school building will be constructed for the school as their old building has been earmarked as dangerous. This will occur next fiscal year.

On apartments for staff of the Higher Education Department (Yangon), the Union minister replied that the ministry will receive 2,390 apartments under a contract signed between the education ministry, construction ministry and Myanmar Imperial Vega Co Ltd, saying that university teachers have been allowed to stay at 122 apartments as the construction of three buildings has been completed.

Moreover, the ministry will also get 16 buildings that include universities, community centres, markets, scientific device factories and others in accordance with the contract, added the Union minister.

Next, parliamentarians expressed their support for the agriculture sector development proposal and held discussions on it.

Defence Services personnel Hluttaw representative Major Zin Myo Lat highlighted the importance of measures to be taken for per acre yield and called for a green project (meat sector) that can help ensure one village, one product promotion leading farmers to generate more income.

U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin Constituency stressed the need for the government's commitment to assisting the country's agriculture sector with foreign investment and technology.

Regarding the proposal, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win called on the parliament to put the proposal on record and so the Pyithu Hluttaw documented the proposal.—Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw

Over 100 landmine fatalities since January 2015

A TOTAL of 101 people throughout Myanmar have lost their lives since the start of 2015 from landmine related injuries, according to the Ministry of Health.

The vast majority of landmine fatalities are located in Kachin State, totaling 74, while those who died from landmine related injuries in Shan and Chin States number 14 and 11 respectively. Kayah and Rakhine States also each saw a death in over the last 18 months.

"Landmine victims are given emergency treatment when they arrive at hospital. Injuries are sustained to the face and chest, while many injuries also sustained to the victims legs. Most of the time leg amputation is the better option. Some must have the leg amputated below the knee, while for others it's above the knee. Efforts are being made to improve the knowledge of emergency surgery; training

courses in emergency surgery have been opened in hospitals," explained Dr Myint Han, director general of the Ministry of Health's Department of Treatment.

The list of landmine fatalities is one compiled by the Ministry of Health from records sent by hospital across the country.

"Internal displaced villagers daren't return home, despite that fact that fighting has subsided, because of the presence of landmines planted within their villages. This is compounded by the absence of mine clearing professionals," said U Aung Myat, a staff of an IDP Camp in northern Shan State's Kutkai Township.

The records of landmine fatalities reportedly reveal the victims died as a result of the initial explosion as well as passing away from injuries sustained by pieces of shrapnel.—Myitmakha News Agency

Tuberculosis screening being conducted at Monywa Prison

THE MINISTRY of Health and Sports has accelerated its programme to prevent and control the spread of tuberculosis.

As part of the project, the healthcare providers in Sagaing Region on Tuesday visited Monywa Prison, which is under the auspices of the Myanmar Correctional Department, to find out the TB infection rate among prisoners, with the aim of protecting those not infected from the serious communicable disease.

"According to its plan, tuberculosis screenings and necessary medical examinations have been carried out in the prison between 16 and 19 August," said Dr Nyein Nyein Aye of Sagaing Region TB Control Department. "The health staff also conducted a public awareness campaign during the second week of August, sharing knowledge about tuberculosis and associated health-seeking behaviours to the prisons". According to the WHO report, there

are about 500,000 people with MDR-TB around the world. In Myanmar, it is found that about 5 per cent of new TB patients have MDR-TB. Myanmar is one of the 27 high MDR TB burdened countries worldwide. "TB cases are reported mostly in peri-urban areas. The outbreaks of the cases are linked to the living standards. A decline in poverty rate may reduce the outbreak of the disease," a medical specialist for TB said. —Min Wai (Monywa)

Awareness of reproductive health raised in Sittwe

THE HEALTH and Sports Ministry will conduct several health training sessions to promote knowledge about reproductive health issues among a rural community in Ponnagyun, a township in Sittway District, Rakhine State.

Under the long-term plan (2012-2017) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Myanmar Medical Association and the Public Health Department will implement a programme to spread knowledge

about reproductive health so as to reduce sexually related health problems.

Plans are underway to open training courses on reproductive health in six townships across the country, including two townships in Rakhine State — MyaukU and Ponnagyun.

Birth control methods, prevention of sexually transmitted infections and family planning knowledge will be disseminated to women in Kwantaung and

Yoetayoke villages in Ponnagyun Township during the training courses, said Dr Khin Thida of the reproductive health improvement project.

Reproductive health includes a broad range of topics such as birth control, sexually transmitted infections, your ability to become pregnant and infertility. A person's reproductive health depends on many factors such as age, lifestyle, and overall health, physicians say. —Danyathu

Food, medical supplies airlifted to Naga SAZ

A SECOND airlift of food and medical supplies has reached virus-affected Lahal township in the Naga Self Administrative Zone, officials at Mingaladon Air Base said yesterday.

As the region is difficult to access military aircraft have been relied on to deliver relief supplies.

Villagers in the township were diagnosed with measles in July and August and as a result children are in need of vitamin-enriched rice and other nutritious food. The second batch of food supplies included 104 bags of vitamin-enriched rice, edible oil, beans and pulses, canned fish, mosquito nets, and some dried foods.

A military aircraft will drop the food supplies in Homelin, from which point military helicopters will distribute the goods to needy villages.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Taninthayi Region, Mon State to see isolated heavy rainfall

RAIN with thunder is expected to fall over Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Shan State and Kayah State and Kachin State and isolated heavy rain fall is expected over Taninthayi Region and Mon State due to the Tropical Storm Dianmu which will cross the coast of Vietnam within 36 hours, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The degree of certainty is a hundred percent, according to the weather bureau's observation at 6.30 pm.—*GNLM*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang held talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 18 August, 2016. During the meeting, they also discussed the setup of an investigative committee to look for an appropriate resolution to the Myitsone dam project. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Fifth Media Development Conference set for November in Yangon

FOR the fifth time, a media development conference will take place in Yangon in November, according to a Media Development Thematic Working Group (MDTWG) that met in Yangon yesterday.

The outcomes of the MDTWG meeting will be brought to the 5th media conference which is expected to be held on 7 or 8 November, said Mr. Sandar Umar Alam, Head of the UNESCO Yangon Office, adding that the conference involving the parliament, Ministry of Information and local and ethnic media is set to hold discussions on a wide range of matters including security and safety of media professionals and development of community-based media.

During the MDTWG meeting, those present discussed legal matters, the Information Minis-



Participants discuss at the Media Development Thematic Working Group (MDTWG) in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

try's plan to launch an English version e-newspaper, access to authentic information, measures to facilitate communication channels between the govern-

ment's spokespersons and the media and preparatory works for the November conference.

Dr Ma Thida, chair of Pen Myanmar, expressed her view

that the meeting paved the way for further discussions to produce better results.

Deputy Director-General Dr Daw Thida Tin of the Information and Public Relations Department elaborated on the Information Ministry's efforts for media development, saying that the ministry will cooperate with DW, the German broadcaster, to enable viewers to visit the MRTV website via iPhone, sign an agreement on the establishment of libraries with Myanmar Book Aid and organize a Book Fair near the IPRD Office.

An online newspaper in English will be launched, added the deputy director-general.

The MDTWG meeting brought together responsible persons from more than 30 local and foreign media.—*Myat Sandi Thin Zaw*



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Youth invited to participate in UNICEF's U-Report programme

“U-REPORT, an innovative social messaging programme, will encourage adolescents and young people to contribute to shaping the present and the future of their environment at historic times for their country,” said Mr Bainvel, UNICEF Representative to Myanmar.

The United Nations Children's Fund on Thursday officially launched the new programme in Myanmar, which allows adolescents and young people across the country to speak out on issues that matter to them, respond to polls, support child rights, and work as positive agents of change in the country.

Ma Pwint Phyu Thant, a member of the Youth Content Group, said, “As U-Reporters, we speak out on the issues impacting our lives and those around us whether it is climate change, peace and

social cohesion, health of children or access to education for all.”

“We improve accountability, we highlight injustice and we protect the most vulnerable, particularly children, by making sure we contribute to polls, debates and by reporting on the tough conditions faced in our communities and those around us,” she added.

Starting in late July, U-Report Myanmar already has more than 1000 U-Reporters, mainly from youth associations. It is expected to reach 100,000 by the end of 2017.

The platform provides decision makers with a forum to listen to many voices across the country, giving them a unique insight into the challenges that affect young people in Myanmar.

The results from the polls are used by UNICEF and partners in their advocacy with

governments, incorporated within development debates, and even shared directly with elected leaders as messages for further action.

Myanmar adolescents are often seen but rarely heard, especially girls, adolescents with low education levels, those from rural communities and ethnic groups,” said Bertrand Bainvel.

With this launch, Myanmar adolescents join more than 2 million young ‘U-Reporters’ from 25 countries who are sending or receiving messages every week — shaping their futures and those of their countries.

In Myanmar U-Report currently works on social media through Facebook Messenger - <https://www.facebook.com/UReportMyanmar>. It will be available soon via SMS on even a basic mobile phone.— GNLM



Myat Saydana philanthropic association from South Okkalapa Township donate cash and kind to flood victims at Maydaing village in Taikkyi Township, Yangon on 7 August. PHOTO: LAKE PU

Crime NEWS

Vehicle collision kills one man

A PASSENGER bus collided head on with a motorcycle on Payagon road, Thanlyin town on Wednesday, leaving one man dead.

According to an investigation the Kayan-Yangon passenger bus, being driven by one Wai Lin Maung, 37, with passengers on board crashed into the motorcycle which was being ridden by one Tun Zani Kyaw, 29, from Konchangone village when the passenger bus lost control.

The motorcycle rider succumbed to his injuries at the scene while two passengers from the passenger bus sus-



People gather after one man was killed in the crash between a passenger bus and a motorbike in Thanlyin. PHOTO: THET KHINE (THANLYIN)

tained minor injuries. They are undergoing medical treatment at Thantlang general hospital. The drivers have been charged by police.— Thet Khine (Thanlyin)

Vehicle overturns in Nawngkhio



A vehicle overturns on Mandalay-Muse road. PHOTO: THIPAW KO LATT

A VEHICLE overturned on the Mandalay-Muse Pyihtaungsu road near Yaywine village, Nawngkhio township on Tuesday.

According to a witness, a small vehicle en route to Pwin-Oo-Lwin from Nawngkhio overturned when the driver lost control of the vehicle between mileposts 64/1 and 64/2 due to speeding. No one was injured in the accident. Police have filed charges against the driver.— Thipaw Ko Latt

Two drug dealers arrested in Yangon

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Insein police station seized 888 yaba pills from a vehicle being driving by one Aung Pyat Sone, 32, with Naing Lin Tun alias Naing Gyi alias

Ah Pho Gyi, 35, on board in Insein township, Yangon on 13 August.

Police have filed charges against both suspects under section 15/19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Law.— 684

Police car skids into ditch, injures driver

A POLICE patrol car skidded into a ditch near a Gems Museum in Zambuyuthiri township, Nay Pyi Taw Council area on Wednesday.

Traffic police said the officer lost control of his car when its right tyre burst in front of the

gems museum. The driver was seriously injured and taken to the General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.

The local traffic police station said it would file charges against the driver for reckless driving.—Thein Ko Lwin



A police car plunges into a gorge in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: THEIN KO LWIN

LOCAL Business

With condo law, expatriates shaking up Yangon real estate market

WITH a condominium law enacted in January, expatriates can now own apartments in Myanmar, which has had a positive impact on the condominium market, it is learnt from the real estate dealers.

The real estate market became more attractive after the general election was held on 8 November 2015. At that time, the condominium law was not yet formulated.

The sellers outnumber the purchasers in the Yangon real property market. Apartments that rent for under Ks2 lakhs are quick-

ly taken, said U Kyaw Kyaw Soe from Win real estate business.

But the rent for apartments on Pyay Road and in Mayangon Township is exorbitant because of the popularity of the area for many foreigners. But the demand has made the real estate market in each township better, dealers said.

Some condominium proprietors would like to rent their apartments only to foreigners, said the one who is engaged in the real property business.

Yangon is a vibrant metropolitan city as well

as Myanmar's commercial centre. Therefore, the real estate market is better than other towns in Myanmar. The price of real estate has also risen from the improved economic relationship with foreign countries.

In Asia, Hong Kong, Singapore and China are considered the top places to invest in real property. However, the slowdown in China's economy affected the real estate market, prompting investors consider other countries in the region to make investments.—Zar Zar

The real estate market in Yangon is better than other towns in Myanmar.
PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE



Mung bean and pigeon pea prices plunge by Ks40,000 per 3-tonne bag

Aung Thant Khaing

THE prices of mung beans and pigeon peas has plunged by Ks40,000 per 3-tonne bag on 16th August while India is waiting to purchase the pulses produced in Myanmar, said U Soe Win Myint from the Soe Win Myint pea depot.

The price of mung beans

and pigeon peas soared to Ks180,000 per three-tonne bag in early June. However, the prevailing market price of mung bean on 16th August was Ks145,000 per three-tonnes bag whereas that of pigeon peas decreased from Ks148,000 to Ks107,000. The pea prices have been on the decline starting from July.

The drop in price has caused problems for local merchants, who have purchased and stored large amounts of the peas because prices were high in previous years. The peas are not in farmers' hands because it is the time of pea cultivation and their mature peas have been already sold to the merchants. The result is a sur-

plus of peas in the hands of the merchants.

The pea prices are likely to continue to decline because the peas are stranded at the merchants' hands and have not been sold. Also, the cultivation season of the pulses kicks off again. The pulses are mostly cultivated in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magwe regions, said U Soe

Win Myint.

India is the exclusive buyer of Myanmar's pigeon peas and mung beans. India produced over 19 million tonnes of peas in 2013-2014 fiscal year and 17.15 million tonnes in 2014-2015 fiscal year. Pea production dropped to 17.06 million tonnes in 2015-2016 fiscal year. India imported nearly

six million tonnes of peas in the previous fiscal year.

India has decided to purchase two million tonnes of peas this year as buffer stock so that they can control the price. India has been negotiating with pea cultivating countries, including Myanmar, to purchase the peas under Government to Government (G to G) system.

Industrial Collaboration Department issues requirements of chemical and associated materials imports

THE Department of Industrial Collaboration has released an announcement concerning the requirements to import chemicals and associated materials.

According to the Prevention from Danger of Chemical and Associated Materials Law, the Union Government has formed a unit that will formulate a policy to reduce the danger of chemical and associated materials. And it will also be engaged in manufacturing, utilizing, storing, distribution, transportation and import. They will also prescribe the types of chemicals and associated materials and the volumes of chemicals which will be prohibited from export.

When a company seeks permission to im-

port chemicals and associated materials, they will have to submit an application bearing the letterhead of the company to the Industrial Collaboration Department, attaching a copy of the National Registration Card (NRC) of their managing director or a member of the Board of Directors.

To import and export the chemicals and associated materials, the companies have to apply as prescribed rules. They will present the trading contract copy, a pro forma Invoice and Certificate of Analysis (COA) of the chemical and associated materials. They will also provide the letter mentioning how and where they will use these materials.—GNLM

Trade with ITC earns over US\$1 billion

THE trade with individual trading card (ITC) has fetched over US\$1.67 billion in this fiscal year and a total of 1,035 ITCs have been issued from the border trade camps of Myanmar, it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.

The individual cards were issued starting in the

2012-2013 fiscal year with the aim of increasing the legal trade volume and eliminating illegal trade. Using the card, exports worth over US\$271 million were made, while import with ITCs has amounted to US\$1.4 billion.

Trading with the card kicked off in November,

2012 at the Tamu border trade camp, in December, 2012 at Muse 105th Mile and Myawady border trade zones and in February, 2013 at Tachilek border trade camp.

Similarly, use of the card started on 1st March, 2013 at Lweje trade border camp, on 1st April at Sit-

two and Maung Taw border trade camp and on 1st July at Maw Taung and Htee Khee border trade camps. The ITC system was practiced in Mandalay, Keng Tund and Myitkyina in 2014 whereas Kyaing Lat and Mese border camps received the ITC users in 2015, it is learnt.—200



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Malaysia will take action if proven that 1MDB funds embezzled — minister

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia will take legal action against individuals named in civil lawsuits filed by US prosecutors last month if there is proof that they defrauded a Malaysian state-owned fund, a government minister said on Thursday.

More than \$3.5 billion was allegedly misappropriated from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), founded by Prime Minister Najib Razak, according to civil lawsuits filed by the US Justice Department.

Minister Senator Paul Low, whose portfolio covers governance and integrity, said criminal prosecution “must be instituted” against all involved if funds were “stolen from us”.

“Our enforcement agencies and the attorney-general must cooperate fully with all international agencies to deal with the matter in an appropriate manner in order to allay negative perception and restore the trust and confidence of the people for the government,” he said, according to the official text



A construction worker walks past a 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) billboard at the Tun Razak Exchange development in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 3 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

of a speech at a function on Thursday.

The US lawsuits named several individuals, including Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho, popularly referred to as Jho Low.

The civil suits also seek to seize \$1 billion

in assets believed to have been bought using money stolen from 1MDB, the largest case to date in the US Justice Department’s Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative.

Prime Minister Najib has weathered persistent calls for him to step down

over his handling of the 1MDB scandal, which is also being investigated by at least five other countries.

Najib has denied any wrongdoing and has said the US Department of Justice lawsuit does not involve him.—Reuters

Australia, Hanoi at odds over 50th anniversary of Viet Nam War battle

SYDNEY — An Australian ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a Viet Nam War battle has soured into a diplomatic spat after the Vietnamese government restricted access to the site at Long Tan.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull made an 11th hour appeal to his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc on behalf of about 1,000 Australian veterans and their families who had travelled to Viet Nam but found themselves barred by authorities, who said the ceremony might offend residents.

“I thank the prime minister of Viet Nam for agreeing last night to arrangements which will, after all, enable our veterans and their families who have travelled to Viet Nam, reverently to commemorate the battle as they honour all those who fought and died in those fields so many years ago,” Turnbull said in an address in Canberra on Thursday.

The commemoration had long been planned in coordination with Viet-

namese authorities but was cancelled on Wednesday.

Australian Veterans’ Affairs Minister Dan Tehan said the formal ceremony at the Long Tan site remained cancelled but Nguyen had agreed to ease the restrictions so that smaller groups of veterans could visit the site. Tehan called the cancellation “a kick in the guts”.

More than 60,000 Australians served in Viet Nam between 1962 and 1972 and more than 500 Australians were killed during the deeply unpopular war between the Soviet-backed Communist government of North Viet Nam and South Viet Nam’s US-backed regime. The war ended with the fall of the former Saigon in 1975.

The 1966 battle of Long Tan, fought in a rubber plantation in South Viet Nam, was Australia’s costliest of conflict. Eighteen Australian soldiers were killed and 24 wounded. North Vietnamese and Viet Cong casualties numbered about 245 killed and 350 wounded.—Reuters

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Singtel pumps \$1.8 billion into Thai, Indian partners in emerging markets bet

SINGAPORE —

Singapore Telecommunications (STEL.SI) is investing S\$2.47 billion (\$1.8 billion) for bigger slices of the top mobile operators of Thailand and India, as Southeast Asia’s largest telecoms firm raises its bet on emerging markets to spur growth.

Singtel said on Thursday it is buying 21 per cent of Thai telecoms firm Intouch Holdings PCL (INTUCH.BK) for S\$1.59 billion and 7.39 per cent of India’s Bharti Telecom for S\$884 million. The stakes are being bought from Singapore state investor Temasek [TEM.UL], which owns more than half of Singtel.

Intouch is the largest shareholder in Advanced Info Services PCL (AIS) (ADVANC.BK), Thailand’s biggest mobile operator, in which Singtel already holds 23.3 per cent. Bharti Telecom is the holding company of Bharti Airtel (BRTI.NS), India’s largest telecoms firm and Singtel’s existing partner.

The stake purchases will increase Singtel’s exposure to the high growth telecom sectors in Thailand and India that are being driven by rising mobile data usage. India is the world’s second-biggest mobile phone market by customers, after China. “Strategically, they are positioning to be a natural buyer of any other stakes that could potentially come into play,” said Daiwa analyst Ramakrishna Maruvada.

Singtel, Singapore’s most valuable company on the stock market, has assembled over more than a decade a portfolio of stakes in regional mobile associates outside its small home market, as a result of which overseas businesses now contribute 75 per cent to its revenues and core earnings.

The company also operates in Australia through subsidiary Optus. In an attempt to speed up growth, Singtel has been broadening its sphere of operations, spending more than a \$1 billion since 2012, mainly



People look at mobile handsets at a Singtel retailer shop in Singapore on 11 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

to build its cybersecurity and digital businesses.

The new deals will help boost its growth pace. Singtel’s economic interest in AIS will rise to 31.8 per cent and in Bharti Airtel to 36.2 per cent. The deals will be funded by issue of 386 million Singtel shares to Temasek totaling S\$1.605 billion, and cash and short-term debt. Singtel said the acquisitions and share placement are interdependent. Temasek’s stake in Singtel will rise to 52.27 per cent from 51.1 per cent prior to the share issue.

“This is a package deal that we have negotiated with Temasek that gives us the additional exposure to India and Thailand, financed in a way that allows us to maximise our capital structure,”

Singtel group CEO Chua Sock Koong told reporters.

The Thai stake has stoked controversy for Temasek. In 2006, a Temasek-led \$3.8 billion investment in the firm, then owned by the family of former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, triggered a prolonged political crisis in Bangkok that led to Thaksin’s ouster in a bloodless coup. Shin Corp later became Intouch Holdings. Singtel said it will appoint an independent financial adviser on the deals. They require shareholder and regulatory approvals, and are expected to be completed by December, 2016, it said. Singtel shares rose 1 per cent in a flat market, while both AIS and Intouch were up 1.2 per cent.—Reuters

Australian state leader offers to house stranded asylum seekers

SYDNEY — The premier of Western Australia state, a member of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's Liberal Party, has offered to accept refugees from Australian-funded detention centres amid growing concern about conditions for the 1,350 people held in the camps. Under Australian law, anyone intercepted trying to reach the country by boat is sent for processing to asylum seeker camps on the tiny Pacific island of Nauru or to Manus Island off Papua New Guinea. They are never eligible to be resettled in Australia.

Australia and Papua New Guinea said on Wednesday that they would close the Manus Island facility, but gave no timeline, and did not say where the people held there would be sent.

"We would certainly accommodate a number of them in Western Australia and we'd certainly support them as a state government," Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett told the Australian Broadcasting Corp on Wednesday night.

Barnett has taken a similar position in the past, and his stand demonstrated a rare public split in the conservative Liberal Party over the government's controversial detention policy.

A spokeswoman for New

Zealand Prime Minister John Key on Thursday said that an offer made in 2013 to accept 150 refugees, which Canberra has rebuffed, still stood. Harsh conditions and reports of rampant abuse at the camps have drawn wide criticism at home and abroad. Australia says its hardline policy is needed to stop deaths at sea during the dangerous boat journey from Indonesia to Australia.

Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton on Thursday stood by the government's policy ruling out settling the detainees in a third country, casting doubt over the fate of the remaining 850 refugees on Manus and 500 in Nauru.

"It's never been about tearing down the fences, it's about what to do with the people trapped behind them," Daniel Webb, director of legal advocacy at the Human Rights Law Centre, told Reuters.

"There's absolute clarity about what should happen but no clarity whatsoever about what will happen." There are no plans to close the Nauru camp, which is under renewed scrutiny after a newspaper published leaked documents detailing reports of more than 2,000 incidents of sexual abuse, assault and attempted self-harm, many involving children.—*Reuters*



File picture of Philippines communist party founder Jose Maria Sison, 68, poses in front of a poster of the National Democratic Front (NDF), the political arm of the Maoist rebels, in Utrecht on 16 July 2007. PHOTO: REUTERS

Philippines frees communist leaders before peace talks in Norway

MANILA — The Philippines has freed 12 communist guerrilla leaders, police said on Thursday, days before a new round of peace talks with the Maoist-led rebels resumes in Norway to end nearly five decades of conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people.

New President Rodrigo Duterte has a reputation as an implacable and ruthless enemy of drug traffickers but he came to power after winning a May elec-

tion promising to negotiate the end of long-running insurgencies.

Talks brokered by Norway between the government and the rebels' National Democratic Front stalled in 2012 over the refusal of the government to free communist leaders who had been in jail for decades.

National police chief Ronald dela Rosa told reporters the temporary release of the 12 by courts was a consequence of the presi-

dent's peace offer and was "one of the most positive developments" in years. "They were only allowed to post bail," he said. "But they continue to face criminal cases in courts".

Renato Reyes, secretary-general of the left-wing Bayan (Nation) group, which is allied with the communist movement, said the releases boded well and raised hopes the talks would begin on 22 August "on a positive note".—*Reuters*

South Korea to oppose trade protectionist moves through diplomacy



South Korea's Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho (L) and Japan's Finance Minister Taro Aso attend a group photo session during the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in Shanghai, China on 27 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — South Korea's finance minister said on Thursday the country is planning to oppose all kinds of trade protectionist moves through diplomatic measures such as bilateral talks and high-level meetings with other countries.

Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho

said in a speech the global economy faces growing risks from increasing tendencies of trade protectionism, Brexit and the US presidential election campaign.

He did not name any countries as getting more protectionist, though he noted results of a survey by the country's biggest

business lobby group this month.

"Two out of three exporters in key industries have said they can tangibly feel protectionism from antidumping measures taken by the US and India on products like steel and chemicals," said Yoo, citing the survey.

The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) said 10 out of 15 major industry associations said they were being affected either directly or indirectly by trade protectionism.

Protectionism is likely to grow globally in the near future, the survey said, while the election of either US presidential candidate would likely exacerbate the situation.

The finance minister said the government will use planned talks with other countries and high-level meetings to oppose all forms of protectionism and aim to create more projects involving cooperation with different countries.

Yoo will meet his Japanese counterpart on 27 August while President Park Geun-hye will have a summit meeting in Russia in early September.—*Reuters*

Oil tanker taken over by crew due to 'management dispute'

KUALA LUMPUR — A tanker carrying 900,000 liters of marine gas oil that was earlier reported to have been hijacked was instead found to have been taken over by its crew following a "management dispute," the Malaysian and Indonesian maritime authorities said on Wednesday.

First Adm. Mohd. Taha Ibrahim, director of enforcement and exercise at the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency, said in a statement that a preliminary investigation showed that the disappearance of the Indonesia-flagged MT Vier Harmoni was due to "problems between the owner, the leasee, and the crew."

He said they managed to establish contact with the ship's captain around noon and were informed that the tanker was on its way to Batam, Indonesia, and that all 10 Indonesian crew are safe.

MT Vier Harmoni is registered in Batam and the owner is PT Vierline. It is leased to a Malaysian company.

The tanker was reported missing at 5pm Tuesday while

anchored in waters off Kuantan Port in Malaysia's east coast state of Pahang. It was carrying 900,000 liters of marine gas oil with an estimated value of 1.57 million ringgit (about \$392,800).

The MMEA was only informed of its disappearance early Wednesday and immediately deployed three vessels and a helicopter to search for it along waters bordering Indonesia.

The MMEA also sought the assistance of Indonesia and Singapore to track the ship.

In a separate statement, the Indonesian navy's Western Fleet Quick Response Commander Vice Adm. Suprianto Irawan concurred that it was not a case of hijacking.

He said the captain had contacted its agent twice to notify that they were bringing the tanker back to Batam due to "the company's internal management problem."

Taha said the MMEA will conduct a thorough investigation to determine the cause of the incident.—*Kyodo News*

Opinion

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Start small to grow big

Kyaw Thura

ALMOST every government promises to enhance economic growth before and after they are voted to office. Economists have suggested that governments should adopt strategies that focus on the promotion of competition, innovation and entrepreneurship and encourage measures to help tackle unemployment.

Economic growth and job security are entwined. Being rich in natural resources is no guarantee of wealth. Natural resources are exhaustible and non-renewable. We need hu-

man resources with innovations in the sustainable use of natural resources with due regard for environmental conservation.

Researchers have argued it is not large companies but small enterprises that offer a high level of employment. It is therefore necessary for the government to formulate policies designed to empower small and medium businesses. It is strongly recommended that the government should create an entrepreneurial ecosystem to bring

people together and foster economic growth.

The government's economic policy makers have a critical role to play in working with other agencies to develop effective policies and programmes. Another important thing for decision makers is to learn to provide dynamic leadership and delegate responsibility whenever possible. Unfortunately, it is typical that most government officers are under the illusion that they know better than their subordinates, thereby

forcing themselves to effect change through direct personal involvement.

All in all, it is imperative to foster small and medium enterprises in order to stimulate economic growth. However, encouraging new businesses to start is one thing, but encouraging them to successfully grow is quite another. It remains a challenge to both. However, it should be noted that every successful business starts small with a dream of growing big.

Good Governance

Tin Shein

THERE has been much talk about good governance (GG) in the media. GG encompasses two levels: corporate level and Government level. GG at the corporate level means that corporate bodies need to practice GG.

It is all the more necessary for public companies in which the public has invested their money by buying their shares. So public interests are involved in the public companies. Now that the stock exchange has come into existence, public-listed companies have now started selling their shares on the stock exchange. Thus the fate of their shareholders hinges on the financial performance of those companies.

If their performance is good, i.e. if they rack up profits, the value of shares in their hands will rise. But if their performance is poor, i.e. if they run into losses, the value of their shares will fall on the stock exchange, and holders of their shares shall suffer economically thereby. Thus the rise and fall of shares on the stock exchange will depend on the twists and turns of the fortunes of such companies.

Now the role of GG comes in here. We may need to explore what is meant by GG, what elements or factors constitute GG and how to implement GP.

GG means absence of corrupted practices, use of accounting gimmicks to doctor their financial statements either to evade income tax by deflating profit or to project a good image of their financial health by inflating their profits beyond what they actually are. To start with the corporate bodies, they must carry out their

business operations and manage their financial affairs with complete transparency and accountability. That is, they must manage their financial affairs economically, efficiently and effectively, putting the company's interests above theirs. Management of those companies must observe their respective professional ethics. They must follow Myanmar Accounting Standards (MAS) and Myanmar Financial Reporting Standards (MFRS) that are prescribed by the Myanmar Accountancy Council since 2009 in preparing their financial statements, so that they will show a true and view of their financial results and the financial position at the fiscal year-end. Their financial statements must be free from misstatement of facts, accounting or financial errors, manipulation of accounts to mislead the shareholders and stakeholders. It is the responsibility of management of corporate bodies to do whatever they can to safeguard their assets, properties and financial interests on behalf of shareholders and stakeholders.

Toward that end, there must be put in place an effective control system, including internal audit and internal check, whose job it is to ensure that all day-to-day transactions involving both cash, stocks and assets are carried out in accordance with the procedures, rules and regulations, directives, etc. prescribed by management. Only then will misuse of financial powers, accounting errors, frauds, misappropriations of money and stocks, etc. could be minimized, if not eliminated altogether. Thus, GG will prevail in the corporate bodies much to the advantage of shareholders, stakeholders and the country, too.

Moreover, they must also

recognize their legal obligations to pay taxes—income tax, commercial tax, withholding tax, etc.—due on their profits, sales, services, etc. to the Internal Revenue Department (IRD). Here it will not be wrong to say that tax is to the Government what rice is to our people. Unless the Government receives the taxes due from the public, corporate entities, joint ventures, state-owned enterprises, etc., it will surely find it difficult to carry out its functions and responsibilities as mandated by the Constitution for the welfare of the people and development of the national economy. In the same way, without rice which is the staple food of our country, our people will not be able to have adequate supplies of rice for their comfortable day-to-day living.

Therefore, it is a 'must' for the authorities to take strong measures to enforce effective collection of all kinds of taxes from top to lowest levels of sources where taxable incomes can be located. There are many Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and family-run convenience stores in big cities and small towns around the country whose incomes might have reached taxable levels. If only we could tap those sources for tax collection through the different levels of IRD tax offices across the country, it wouldn't be too much to say that we would have no deficit budget and no need to resort to borrowings from anybody. Even surplus budget may result thereby. However, most important of all, the mind-set of IRD personnel should change in line with the spirits of the times. They can't be allowed to do their job in the old way they collect taxes by making secret deals with the taxpayers at the cost of the country. Strict en-

forcement of anti-corruption law is indispensable; severe punishment, including imprisonment and fines, should be meted out to both the bribers and the bribe-takers as well as those who misuse power for own benefits as a deterrent to future corrupted persons.

But the good news is that with the financial and technical assistance of IMF, a tax reforms program has been launched. Under that program the tax payers have to fill up the tax forms prescribed by IRD with the accounting and financial data, the correctness of which has to be certified by the tax payers themselves. As far as is known, those data are keyed into the computer that checks them against its built-in criteria on the correctness of the financial statements submitted to IRD by taxpayers in line with the self-assessment system. That program aims at ensuring that no direct contact between the tax officer and the taxpayer can take place to make secret deals regarding the tax assessment. However, human ingenuity and greed are so great that it is difficult to take it for granted that such a system itself will be fool-proof enough to prevent cheating the accounts to evade tax. If I may be allowed to venture the opinion, almost every businessman knows full well that corruption and bribery exist to a lesser degree at some levels of administration of departments like, for example, Customs, Immigration, Port(s), Trade, etc. where the maxim "no machinery operates smoothly and efficiently without grease" is likely to be applicable. The implication is that no prompt transactions involving clearance certificates from Customs and Port(s), import or export permits from Trade, etc. can be done within a reasonable period of time unless some forms of payoffs and kickbacks are given to those who handle the processing of the required documents. On the Government side, too, in my humble

opinion, it is most important that GG should be put on the top of the agenda of the Government, as it involves vital wellbeing of the whole nation. So every effort needs to be made to launch a program to implement GG in the Government administration, so that there will emerge an inclusive clean Government over time. If ever it comes about, we will have created a Government where there will be no corruption, bribes, misuse of power, much-talked-about cronyism, favoritism, impartiality, injustice, etc. that have been the rule rather than the exception even now at the lower levels. All Government personnel or, shall I say, servants as they were called when we were in public service shall bear in mind all the time they are in service that their salaries and costs of facilities provided for them are paid out of the state budget which is nothing but the funds contributed by the public in terms of taxes and other dues. They must realize that they from top to down to the lowest clerk have been appointed to their respective posts of trust, power and responsibility to serve the interests of both the public and the country, complying with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Government. In spite of the reforms being undertaken by the new Government within the 100-day work plan, GG can't be accomplished completely overnight, as malpractices have been deep-rooted. It may take time to remedy this situation. It need not be overemphasized that corruption is the bane of human society as a whole, because it can disrupt or impede the flow of trade and commerce that contribute much to the economic growth of the country and the well being of the people. After all, we may say that these malpractices—corruption, cronyism, etc.—are stumbling blocks that stand in the way of achieving good clean governance that we all hope for.



WWII-era C-47 aircraft which will land in Mandalay on way to Flying Tiger Heritage Museum in Guilin, China on 20 August. PHOTO: US EMBASSY FACEBOOK

WWII-era C-47 aircraft to land in Mandalay on way to Flying Tiger Heritage Museum

A historic C-47 aircraft will land in Mandalay on 20 August before flying “across the hump” to reach its final destination in Guilin, China where it will go on permanent display at the Flying Tiger Heritage Museum.

The museum chronicles the critical contributions made by the pilots known as the “Flying Tigers” and the people in the region who traveled the route in an

effort to bring victory and peace to the region during World War II.

Following the aircraft’s landing by pilot and war veteran Tom Claytor, 53, a press conference will be held at the Mandalay International Airport.

The aircraft will leave for Guilin, China, the next day.

“Across the hump” refers to flying over the Himalayas

before entering China — one of the most dangerous air routes of its time used by U.S. pilots during World War II. The flight will be conducted to honour the brave pilots who flew the route and acknowledge the friendships between nations today — like the United States and Myanmar — who continue to work together to maintain peace in the region.— *Aung Thant Khaing*

Aid for 2,000 families in Naga SAZ provided by Brighter Future Myanmar

KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation (BFM) yesterday sent aid worth more than K130 million and K50 million in cash to the Naga Self-Administrative Zone, which urgently needs effective health care and nutrition.

The move comes after civil society organizations, ethnic young people and activists on 16 August in Yangon called for more assistance in the self-administered zone, which has poor health infrastructure, a lack of transport facilities and a dearth of nutritious food.

The aid includes 3,500 sets of warm clothes, 2,000 dry ration packages for 2,000 families and 3,500 packages of cow milk powder.

Under the arrangement of Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of the BFM, Deputy Executive Director of the KBZ Ltd U Tin Tun handed over the aid to Chief Minister of Sagaing Region Dr Myint Naing yesterday.

Between 1 June and 12 August, 42 people in Lahe and nearby villages in the Naga Self-Administered Zone in northern Sagaing Region were killed by communicable diseases including measles, diarrhea, malaria and seasonal flu, according to official figures released by the



Volunteers from the KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation transports aid to Sagaing Region Government to send them the people in Naga Self-Administrative Zone. PHOTO: THURA LWIN

Ministry of Health and Sports.

There are nearly 9,000 people from 1,503 households in 15 villages in Nanyun and Lahe townships in the Naga Self-Administered Zone.

The foundation, which has established a K100-million fund for disaster preparedness and relief in 12 regions and states, is also providing relief aid including food and water to the people in flood-hit areas nationwide.

Following the warning by

weather experts that the country could face an extreme cold season due to La Nina, BFM sent warm clothes worth more than US\$2 million to the internally displaced peoples living at the camps.

Since its founding, BFM has spent more than K107 billion on religion, education, health, social welfare, sports, regional development and disaster preparedness and relief nationwide. — *Thura Lwin*

U Tha Aung Nyun presents credentials to Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Commonwealth of Australia, presented his Credentials to His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on 17 August 2016, in Canberra.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Rakhine fishery entrepreneurs rebuke use of Thai fishing nets



A fishing boat is seen in Kyaukpyu, Rakhine.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

ENTREPRENEURS of fishery businesses along the Rakhine State coastline have voiced favor over the pressing of legal charges against fishing vessels and trawlers which employ the use of Thai-produced drag nets and fishing nets with small openings.

The local fishery entrepreneurs have said the Department of Fisheries should upscale its inspections of vessels using the non-environmentally friendly Thai fishing nets.

“The use of drags nets, and those with small net openings, is a contributing factor towards depletion of the ocean’s fish stocks; they pick up smaller fish which haven’t matured and had the chance to reproduce. As such, it’s ever important that people be educated that the utilization of such fishing nets is beyond the bounds of the law,” said U Khin Aye Maung, chair of the Fish and Shrimp Producers Association for Kyaukphyu Township.

U Kyaw Lwin, a local fisherman from Kyaukphyu, says that off-shore fishing vessels, as well as those which ply waters close to the shore, catch fish using nets with openings of only one inch or less, highlighting how fishing with these nets should especially be avoid-

ed during the fishes’ reproductive season. It seems as though a lack of knowledge over the existing fishing net regulations extends even as far as the Department of Fisheries itself, as a member of the department candidly told Myitmakha News Agency, “I’m not certain as to whether regulations stipulate fish must be caught with net openings of two inches, three inches, two-and-a-half inches or one-and-a-half inches.”

According to a report on research by a Norwegian organization into the state of Myanmar’s coastal waters, only ten percent of surface-water fish, and 35 percent of fish which dwell close to the seabed, remain.

Rakhine State’s shrimp farming sector is also reportedly in decline. One acre of a shrimp farm used to produce around 50 viss (80 kilograms) of shrimp in the past, but as of 2014 this has plummeted to between just three to ten viss. The sector’s demise is also reflected in the acreage of shrimp farms throughout the state, reducing in size from a sum of over 155 acres in 2001 to just 110 acres a decade later, according to a statement released by a local civil society organization.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

FBI documents viewed in secure areas of the US Capitol



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton tours John Marshall High School before holding a rally in Cleveland, Ohio on 17 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — FBI documents about the agency's investigation into Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state were being reviewed on Wednesday in secure rooms of the US Capitol.

Lawmakers and select staff from some congressional committees could page through the material, parts of which are redacted, in large binders labeled "secret" that the Federal Bureau of Investigation turned over to Congress on Tuesday.

Republican lawmakers requested the information last month after the FBI recommended no criminal charges against Clinton.

"Last I heard, my colleagues had their turn with the documents at 1:30 pm," said a Senate Judiciary committee aide. "There's only one set of documents for all the interested Senate committees,

as I understand it." She said those viewing the material were allowed to take notes. But if notes were taken on the classified parts, those notes had to be left in the secure area with the documents.

Clinton has been dogged for more than a year by questions about her use of a private email account while she was the nation's top diplomat from 2009 to 2013.

Republicans have repeatedly hammered Clinton over the issue, helping to drive opinion poll results showing that many US voters doubt her trustworthiness. She faces Republican nominee Donald Trump in the 8 November election.

The FBI said on Tuesday it had provided "relevant materials" to congressional committees looking into the matter.

"The material contains classified and other sensitive information and is being provided with the expectation it will not be dissem-

inated or disclosed without FBI concurrence," the agency said in a statement.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, a Republican, said in a statement on Tuesday an initial review of the material showed most of it was marked unclassified.

Grassley, who has called for unclassified parts of the documents to be made public, wrote on Wednesday to the Senate Security Office, which has custody of the documents, asking them to provide his committee with an unclassified version.

Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon in a statement also called for the public release of the documents, "rather than allow Republicans to mischaracterize them through selective, partisan leaks."

The documents on the Senate side of the Capitol are under the control of the Office of Senate Security, Senate aides said. In the House of Representatives, another set was being viewed in a "Secure Compartmented Information Facility," an aide with the House Oversight and Government Reform committee said.

"Our investigators with (security) clearances have gone down there and looked at the documents," the Oversight committee aide said.

It was unclear how many lawmakers had actually seen the material so far. Most members of Congress were not in town because of a congressional recess.

The documents were made available to the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Appropriations committees in the Senate, and the Oversight, Judiciary and Appropriations committees in the House, aides said. The Intelligence committees on both sides of the Capitol also have copies, so they do not have to join the line with the others.—Reuters

UN Secretary-General's Message on World Humanitarian Day

19 August 2016

A record 130 million people are dependent on humanitarian assistance to survive. Grouped together, these people in need would comprise the tenth most populous nation on Earth.

These figures are truly staggering, yet they tell only a fraction of the story. Hidden behind the statistics are individuals, families and communities whose lives have been devastated. People no different to you and me: children, women and men who face impossible choices every day. They are parents who must choose between buying food or medicine for their children; children who must choose between school or working to support their families; families who must risk bombing at home or a perilous escape by sea.

The solutions to the crises that have plunged these people into such desperate hardship are neither simple nor quick. But there are things we can all do – today, and every day. We can show compassion, we can raise our voices against injustice, and we can work for change.

World Humanitarian Day is an annual reminder of the need to act to alleviate the suffering. It is also an occasion to honour the humanitarian workers and volunteers toiling on the front lines of crises. I pay tribute to these dedicated women and men who brave danger to help others at far greater risk.

Today, I urge everyone to sign on to the United Nations "World You'd Rather" campaign. As well as raising awareness and building empathy, the campaign has a concrete goal: to raise money for the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund and to enrol the support of individuals everywhere as Messengers of Humanity. We need everybody to demand that their societies and governments put humanity first.

Earlier this year, 9,000 participants gathered in Istanbul for the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit. World leaders committed to transform the lives of people living in conflict, disaster and acute vulnerability. They rallied behind the Agenda for Humanity and its pledge to leave no one behind.

This promise is also at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals. With their focus on human rights, resilience and poverty eradication, these 17 global goals offer a 15-year plan to reduce needs and vulnerability and promote a world of peace, dignity and opportunity for all. To succeed on this collective journey, we need everyone to play their part. Each one of us can make a difference. On this World Humanitarian Day, let us unite in the name of humanity and show that we cannot and will not leave any one behind. —UNIC/Yangon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hong Kong shipping group calls for aid to crew on arrested coal ship

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) on Thursday called on the city's authorities to provide assistance to the crew of a Hong Kong-flagged coal ship off the east coast of Australia that is running out of food and fuel.

Local Australian media and Great Britain's *Guardian* newspaper reported this week that the Five Stars Fujian, a 180,000 dead-weight tonne capsize class coal carrier, has been sitting in the middle of the Great Barrier Reef for the past month with supplies diminishing and salaries going unpaid.

The HKSOA said in a statement that the ship was under detention by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), off the port of Gladstone, for breaches of the Maritime Labour Convention relating to lack of provisions and unpaid wages.—Reuters

Six wounded in train accident in southern France

PARIS — Six people were injured, one seriously, on Wednesday after a French regional train TER crashed into a fallen tree on track in the southern region of Montpellier, railway company SNCF said.

Violent storm in the region uprooted the tree, which caused the accident, according to the state-run railway company.

The train, carrying about 200 passengers, ran at a speed of 140 km per hour when the accident happened in Saint-Aunes, east of Montpellier, BFMTV news channel reported.

According to preliminary reports, the train's engine, bumper and windshield were damaged.

Emergency services including ambulances, helicopters were immediately dispatched to the accident scene, according to the report.—Xinhua

US assessing if Russian use of Iran base violates UN resolution

WASHINGTON — The United States is looking at whether Russia has violated a UN Security Council resolution on military dealings with Tehran by using an Iranian air base to carry out strikes inside Syria, the State Department said on Wednesday.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said US government attorneys had not yet decided whether they think Russia's use of the Iranian base is a violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which was passed as part of the Iran nuclear deal.

The resolution governs some military interactions between Iran and other countries, including the supply, sale or transfer of military technologies or the provision

of training or financial assistance related to the acquisition of new technologies.

"As I understand it, it's not just supplying the Iranians certain weapons or certain offensive weaponry. It's more complex than that," Toner told a news briefing. "Our lawyers are looking at it. We haven't made an assessment," he added. Moscow first used Iran as a base from which to launch air strikes in Syria on Tuesday, deepening its involvement in the five-year-old Syrian civil war and angering the United States. Russian officials on Wednesday rejected US criticisms of its use of the base.

Toner said that beyond the question of Russia's use of a base in Iran, its air strikes often "indis-

criminately" hit civilian targets and moderate Syrian opposition groups. "It's not helpful because ... it continues to complicate what is already a very dangerous situation," Toner said.

"And so our concerns remain very vivid," he added. "We're trying to remain focused on ... trying to get a cessation of hostilities back in place in Syria. And this doesn't help it." Toner said the United States was still open to coordinating with Russia in the fight against Islamic State, but "we have certain issues that we want resolved" before entering into such a deal.

"We need full humanitarian access immediately ... and we don't have it," he said.—Reuters

Bomb attacks kill seven, wound 224 in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey) — Two bomb attacks blamed on Kurdish militants killed seven members of the security forces and wounded 224 people in southeast Turkey on Thursday, officials and security sources said, in a renewed escalation of violence across the region.

A car bomb ripped through a police station in the city of Elazig at 9:20 am (0620 GMT) as officers arrived for work. Three police officers were killed and 217 people were wounded, 85 of them police officers, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said.

Offices in the police station were left in ruins and filled with smoke after the bomb exploded in front of the complex, destroying part of the facade, CNN Turk footage showed.

Less than four hours later, a

roadside bomb believed to have been planted by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants tore through a military vehicle in the Hizan district of Bitlis province, security sources said.

They said the blast killed three soldiers and a member of the state-sponsored village guard militia and wounded another seven soldiers.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombings, but Yildirim said there was no doubt they were carried out by the PKK, deemed a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

"The (PKK) terror group has lost its chain of command. Its elements inside (Turkey) are carrying out suicide attacks randomly wherever they get the opportunity," Yildirim told reporters in Elazig.



People rush to the blast scene after a car bomb attack on a police station in the eastern Turkish city of Elazig, Turkey on 18 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We have raised the state of alarm to a higher level," he said at the scene of the attack, where a crowd chanted "Damn the PKK!"

The PKK has carried out dozens of attacks on police and mili-

tary posts since 2015 in the largely Kurdish southeast in its fight for greater autonomy for Turkey's 15 million Kurds.

Elazig, a conservative province that votes in large numbers for the ruling AK Party, had been spared violence until now.

Video footage showed a plume of black smoke rising above the city after the blast, which uprooted trees and gouged a large crater outside the police complex, which is situated on a busy thoroughfare in the city of 420,000 people.—Reuters

Syrian refugees in discarded holiday homes dream of anything but Greece

MYRSINI, (Greece) — A small house close to the beach in western Greece is replete with a small rose garden, flowers in a vase, a thatched roof and a kennel, all created by its newly arrived refugee occupants.

It may sound ideal, but for all the cosiness, they say it will never be a home.

And here's why. A sign scrawled in green paint on a piece of plywood propped against the window shutter says: "My son is very happy in Germany. We hope to share that happiness".

Before fighting drove Ahmad Berajikli away from Aleppo, in Syria, he had a rose garden there too, and a dog and a family — hence some of the home-from-home comforts he has created.

But half of his family are now in Germany while the other half are in Greece, victims of the vicious war devastating his country and a Europe still deeply divided on how

to handle the biggest humanitarian challenge in generations.

"My son, brother, sister and father are in Germany. Why am I here?" he asks.

After squatting in a tent for weeks near Athens, Berajikli, his wife and his other son were moved along with about 340 other Syrian refugees to an abandoned holiday resort in the western Peloponnese.

For five months, they have been living at LM Village, a beachside resort 280 km (174 miles) west of Athens which fell into disuse six years ago amid disagreements between its administrators.

The idea came from Nampil-iosif Morant, the Syrian-born mayor of the Andravida-Kyllini municipality, who suggested accommodating some refugees as a stop-gap to get them out of overcrowded camps. He thought it would be a temporary fix.

There is a Greek proverb,

however, that nothing is more permanent than the temporary.

"I thought that Europe would stand by, would show a lot more support to Greece than what I have seen so far," said Morant, a doctor who moved to Greece in 1991 and was elected mayor in 2014.

"I expected Europe to help solve the crisis. Not shut down borders."

Since border shutdowns in the Balkans earlier this year, about 57,000 migrants and refugees have been stuck in Greece, straining a country suffering the worst economic crisis in generations.

Morant, a 54-year old married to a Greek and who considers both Greece and Syria as his home, said it was difficult not to be moved by the plight of refugees. "Granted, I am from Syria. But I think it would be very difficult for anyone to say 'I don't care', if they saw the squalor these people lived in at the camps."—Reuters

Israeli army arrests 5 Palestinians, seizes weapons in overnight raid

JERUSALEM — Israel's security forces arrested five Palestinians and seized weapons in an overnight raid in the West Bank, the Israeli army said Thursday.

An Israel Defence Forces (IDF) spokesperson said in a statement that the five Palestinians were wanted on various "terrorism-related" charges, and that some weapons, including a homemade grenade, a shotgun-type weapon and ammunition, were also found in the raid.

The weapons and ammunition were discovered in the houses of the suspects in the Palestinian village of Jaba, north of Hebron, and in the Palestinian villages of Bani Naim and Kifl Haris near Nablus.

The raids and operations are part of efforts by Israeli security forces to curb an ongoing wave of violence which started in October, and has since claimed the lives of 34 Israelis and 220 Palestinians.

While the attacks against Israelis became less frequent in recent months, sporadic attacks still take place, specifically in the West Bank and East Jerusalem area. Israeli security forces arrested Hussein Abu-Kweik, a high-ranking official of the Hamas Islamist movement, on the night between Tuesday and Wednesday in a similar West Bank raid.

He was arrested by Israeli security forces near Ramallah for alleged "involvement in security related activities" as well as "presenting a threat to the security of the area," the Shin Bet security agency said. On Tuesday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said a Palestinian teenager, Mohammed Abu Hashash, was killed and dozens more were injured in clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians at the al-Fawar refugee camp near Hebron, following an overnight Israeli operation.—Xinhua



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Haiti to fund \$55-million new try at elections after results scrapped

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Haiti said on Wednesday it would spend \$55 million (£42 million) on a new election after the results of the last vote were scrapped, with most of the money to be drawn from the poor Caribbean nation's own coffers as foreign donors are reluctant to pay again.

The United States, which contributed \$33 million to the last election, strongly opposed aborting the results and said in July that no aid would be forthcoming for the repeat. Washington also asked Haiti to return nearly \$2 million.

Haiti's electoral council said the new budget would cover a period from June 2016 to March 2017, by which time both rounds of the presidential vote are due

to be completed.

Finance Minister Yves Romain Bastien told Reuters the polls would be largely paid for through funds collected from a port, the central bank and Haiti's National Credit Bank.

"The only way for us to have these elections is to get our own financing in place," Bastien said.

Funding of other government programmes would be largely unaffected because the port and two banks were providing profits they ordinarily do not share with the state, he added.

Budget cuts this year for education and health have had no link to the election costs, he said.

About 50 presidential contenders vied to succeed former President Michel Martelly in October 2015,



Residents walk next to ripped electoral signs in a street of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 22 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

but after protests and multiple postponements of a runoff, a non-binding investigation said the vote had been marred by fraud. Subsequently, the electoral council said it should be started from scratch.

Haiti has been led by interim president Jocelerme Privert since February to

avoid the prospect of Martelly leaving office without a replacement.

Privert's 120-day mandate expired in June but parliament has not yet voted on whether he can stay in office. In June, he told Reuters he intended to stay in office until the elected president took office in March.—Reuters

Venezuela crushes 2,000 guns in public, plans registry of bullets

CARACAS — Venezuelan police crushed and chopped up nearly 2,000 shotguns and pistols in a Caracas city square on Wednesday, as the new interior minister relaunched a long-stalled gun control campaign in one of the world's most crime-ridden countries.

Interior Minister Nestor Reverol said the event marked the renewal of efforts to disarm Venezuelans, through a combination of seizures and a voluntary programme to swap guns for electrical goods.

Venezuela has the world's second highest murder rate and the street gangs that plague its poor neighborhoods have be-

come increasingly heavily armed in recent years, at a time when a deep recession has reduced resources available to police.

Gangs often get weapons from the police, either by stealing them or buying them from corrupt officers, experts say.

With inflation of 185 per cent in 2015 and a currency collapse, police salaries have fallen far behind rising prices creating more incentives for corruption.

President Nicolas Maduro promoted Reverol this month, days after the United States accused the former anti-drugs tsar of taking bribes from cocaine traffickers.—Reuters

More than 500 rescued from burning ferry fire off Puerto Rico



A passenger ferry with hundreds of passengers has caught fire off Puerto Rico and the US Coast Guard and local crews were rescuing people aboard, officials said, on 17 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SAN JUAN (Puerto Rico) — Hundreds of people were rescued from a smouldering passenger ferry ship that caught fire off Puerto Rico on Wednesday, the US Coast Guard said.

The Coast Guard and local police brought ashore all 512 passengers and crew from the American Cruise Ferries vessel that was burning about two miles (3.2 km) off of San Juan, Puerto Rico's capital, the Coast Guard said in a statement.

Rescue crews worked for hours to remove passengers and ferry employees, the last of whom disembarked just after 2 pm EDT (1900 London time), the Coast Guard said. They were transported to San Juan.

The fire, which was reported at about 7:40 am EDT, began in the engine

room of the ship and spread to other compartments on board, the Coast Guard said.

"Everyone has been safely removed from the ship," the Coast Guard said.

Smoke billowed from several parts of the large white ferry as an inflatable orange rescue slide was activated, images posted by Puerto Rico police on social media showed.

The 561-foot-long (171-metre-long) ferry, en route to the Dominican Republic, eventually ran aground about 800 feet offshore, the Coast Guard said.

American Cruise Ferries takes tourists from San Juan to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, according to the travel company's website. Coast Guard officials could not be reached for further comment.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.8.2016 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.

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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.

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Glen Picard (2nd L), Ted Stevens, and Terrell Stevens (R) throw out flood damaged household belongings as Hannah Stevens (L) looks on after heavy rains in Denham Springs, Louisiana, US on 17 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Louisiana assesses flood damage as residents return to soaked homes

GONZALES, (La.) — Ron Allen set out electric fans at his rental property in southeastern Louisiana on Wednesday, hoping to dry floors that had been swamped by nearly a foot of water.

“We’ve got to pull out the wood, pull out the vinyl. But first we gotta get the water out,” said Allen, 66. “This has never happened before.”

Record floods have been blamed for at least 13 deaths and damage to about 40,000 homes. Authorities have only begun assessing the devastation. Rains that started last Thursday have dumped more than 2-1/2

feet (0.76 meters) of water on parts of Louisiana.

The American Red Cross has called the flooding the worst disaster in the United States since Super Storm Sandy hit the US East Coast in 2012. “Thousands of people in Louisiana have lost everything they own and need our help now,” Brad Kieserman, vice president of disaster services operations and logistics for the Red Cross, said in a statement.

As of Wednesday afternoon, shelters across the state were housing 5,435 people, according to the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Ser-

vices. US President Barack Obama signed a Louisiana disaster declaration on Sunday and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local efforts.

The White House said on Wednesday that Obama had directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to “utilize all resources available” in responding to the flooding.

Swollen creeks and bayous were still overflowing on Wednesday in downstream communities such as Gonzales, as recovery efforts were beginning around Baton Rouge.

In Livingston Parish, east of Baton Rouge, at least

75 per cent of homes were flooded, the sheriff’s office said on Facebook. The parish includes Denham Springs, where about 90 per cent of the homes and every local school took in water, Mayor Gerard Landry told local radio station Talk 107.3. Landry said he thought it could take two to three months to reopen schools. “These folks that have flooded, they don’t have shoes. They don’t have underwear. They don’t have shirts. They don’t have toilet paper,” he said in the radio interview on Wednesday. “All the basic essential needs, they don’t have.” —Reuters

Iran resumes to swap Caspian crude oil via Persian Gulf ports

TEHRAN — Iran will resume to swap the Caspian crude oil through Persian Gulf ports, which was halted in 2010, an Iranian energy official was quoted as saying by Press TV on Wednesday.

Iran will swap at least 100,000 barrels per day, and the volume will increase in the future, said Pirouz Mousavi, the managing director of the Northern Oil Terminals Company of Iran (NOTCI).

Russia and Kazakhstan have voiced readiness to deliver their crude oil to

Iran in its northern terminals and receive equal volumes in the south, Mousavi said, adding that talks with other Caspian Sea countries over the project are underway. European oil companies active in Central Asia are interested in the swap scheme with Iran to sell their oil to international markets, he said.

According to the report, Iran’s contracts with Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, to swap their crude were halted in 2010 after Iran raised its operating fees. —Xinhua

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for Cooperation Public Private Partnership (PPP) in No.(17) Heavy Industry (Malun), No.(1) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

No. (17) Heavy Industry (Malun) under No.(1) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry intend to cooperate with Local (or) Foreign Tractor Companies which produce the modernized Tractor in the international market and the local companies that can operate with under approval for products and technical supervision from these Companies to produce modernized Tractor as PPP (JV, Lease etc:)

As a first step, Companies who interest in those cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) not later than 4PM (Myanmar Standard Time), on September 15th 2016 to Planning Department, No.(1) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No.(30), Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entitles can inquiry and take over the (EOI) Form and other indications at above office commencing from (19.8.2016) by presenting document of company profile.

Document of Company profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
 - Records and Regulation of Company
 - Name of Foreign’s Technical Cooperator
- (For more information:
Phone no: + 95+ 67 405159
+ 95+ 67 405322

App unites diners and restaurants in fight against food waste

LONDON — More than 100,000 meals in Europe have been saved from the rubbish bin over the past 10 months thanks to an app that allows hungry diners to buy leftover food from restaurants at a fraction of the price, its founders said on Wednesday.

The app, Too Good To Go, was launched in Denmark in October last year and has since expanded to Germany, Switzerland, France, Norway and Britain on the back of a growing global effort to cut food waste.

Between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of food produced around the world is never eaten because it is spoiled after harvest and during transportation, or thrown away by shops and consumers.

Yet almost 800 million people worldwide go to bed hungry every night, according to UN figures.

The problem has become so serious that halving world food waste by 2030 was included as a target in global development goals adopted by world leaders in 2015. Chris Wil-

son, co-founder of Too Good To Go UK, said his team hoped to play its part in ending food waste by “putting food into bellies instead of bins”, while raising awareness over the issue.

App users can search for meals that restaurants would otherwise throw out and put in an order to collect before closing time.

“It’s a win-win concept,” Wilson told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“From a user perspective it is extremely af-

fordable. From a restaurant point of view ... they are attracting a new market.”

In Britain, where the app features a variety of eateries ranging from bakeries to high end Japanese restaurants, prices vary from 2 pounds to 3.80 pounds (\$4.95).

Wilson said since its launch, Too Good To Go, a social enterprise, has amassed more than 350,000 users across Europe and is planning to launch in the United States before the end of the year. —Reuters

The Cooperation of Myanmar Radio and Television for the Promotion of TPO Asian Tour.

“The “Thai Philharmonic Orchestra” (TPO) from Bangkok with its 90 international musicians will come to Myanmar to perform three concerts in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw under the baton of its Chief Conductor. Maestro Gudni Emilsson (Tuebingen, Germany) and Guest Conductor, Maestro parteep Suphanrojn (Bangkok, Thailand) together with the world-renowned pianist Oliver Kern (Hamburg, Germany). In addition, 8 dancers and 2 Myanmar traditional musicians from Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra will join this concerts and bring a unique music experience to all.

The concerts will take place at National Theatre of Yangon on August 26th 2016 at 07.00p.m; National Theater of Mandalay on August 27th, 2016 at 07.00 p.m; and, Myanmar International Convention Centre II (Nay Pyi Taw) on August 29th, 2016 at 06.30 p.m; Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Ministry of Information will broadcast live coverage of the concert in Yangon. SKY-NET will brocast live for Mandalay concert and MRTV-4 will broadcast live for Nay Pyi Taw concert.

'Love Story' director Arthur Hiller dies at 92

LOS ANGELES — Versatile and prolific Canadian film director Arthur Hiller, whose sentimental "Love Story" starring Ali MacGraw and Ryan O'Neal was the biggest hit of 1970 and stands as one of the most popular romantic movies ever made, died on Wednesday at the age of 92, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences said.

Hiller, whose work also included successful collaborations with playwrights Neil Simon and Paddy Chayefsky, died of natural causes in Los Angeles, the Academy said in a statement.

The director was the president of the Academy, which hosts Hollywood's annual Oscars ceremony, from 1993 to 1997, and served as a longtime member on the organisation's Directors Branch.

Current Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs said the organisation was "deeply saddened" by Hiller's death.

"I was a member of the Board during his presidency and fortunate enough to witness firsthand his dedication to the Academy and his lifelong passion for visual storytelling," Boone Isaacs said.

Hiller directed more than 30 films from 1957 through 2006 covering a range of genres including comedies, dramas, tearjerkers, war stories, satires and musicals. He guided five different actors



Arthur Hiller (C) holds his Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award while standing with Ryan O'Neal (L) and Ali McGraw (R) during the 74th annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, US, on 24 March 2002. PHOTO: REUTERS

— O'Neal, MacGraw, George C. Scott, Maximilian Schell and John Marley — to Oscar-nominated performances.

His films were nominated for 15 Academy Awards, winning two. Hiller's adventure comedy "Silver Streak" marked the first screen pairing of Gene Wilder

and Richard Pryor and became one of the top box office hits of 1976.

Hiller also collaborated with Chayefsky on two notable films — the anti-war comedy "The Americanization of Emily" (1964) starring James Garner and Julie Andrews and the dark satire

"The Hospital" (1971) starring Scott.

He joined forces with Simon for the comedies "The Out of Towners" (1970) with Jack Lemmon and "Plaza Suite" (1971) with Walter Matthau.

"Love Story," Hiller's biggest success, was nominated for

seven Academy Awards, including best picture and Hiller as best director. It won only one Oscar, for best original score, as "Patton," starring Scott, swept the top awards.

"Love Story" was a tale of ill-fated lovers — privileged Oliver (O'Neal) and working-class Jennifer (MacGraw). It featured one of the most famous movie lines of the 1970s: "Love means never having to say you're sorry."

It was uttered twice: once by MacGraw to O'Neal and then at the end of the movie by O'Neal to his judgmental and disapproving father, played by Ray Milland.

Hiller said "Love Story" nearly did not get made.

"Paramount (film studio) was in rocky financial shape," he told the *Los Angeles Times* in 1991. "They'd sold off part of the lot and moved their offices to Beverly Hills — although I never understood how they figured to save money that way."

"But Bob Evans, who was running the studio then, loved the project. And he said we could make it if I would swear — and I literally had to swear — that I would bring it in for under \$2 million," Hiller added, noting that he finished the movie under budget.

"Love Story" was a colossal hit, generating more than \$100 million at the box office. —Reuters

'Baar Baar Dekho' spins Bollywood twist on time and love

NEW YORK — It is not easy fusing a cocktail of genres including music, comedy and time travel into a movie, but the leading stars of new Bollywood film "Baar Baar Dekho" hope to convey a multi-faceted love story.

"Baar Baar Dekho," which translates as "Look Again and Again," centers on Jai (Sidharth Malhotra) and Diya (Katrina Kaif), two childhood sweethearts now grown up and getting ready for their wedding. Jai gets cold feet as he wonders how to balance his personal and professional life.

Through time travel, Jai is able to see what his future may look like in a few days, years and decades, and comes to a realization about his present.

"Imagine that you get a chance to see the future of your love story and whether you want to fix things, change things and learn some things from that or what you're doing at present," Malhotra told Reuters. "It might look confusing in the trailer. But once you go through the journey, by climax it has a very nice message." "Baar Baar Dekho," out in theaters 9 September, marks the feature film debut from director Nitya Mehra and

the first time that Kaif and Malhotra have worked together. Kaif, 33, known for Bollywood films such as 2009's "New York" and 2011's "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara," said she and Malhotra, 31, forged a connection during casting exercises where they were made to sit opposite each other and look into each other's eyes.

"These things are funny but they work. These ideas exist for a reason because they help you break the barriers which are there," Kaif said.

After filming, Malhotra, known for films such as 2014's "Ek Villain," was romantically linked to Kaif. However, the actors said dating rumors are always to be expected when they are single.

"If you're not in a relationship, which most people are aware of, or know about, then these kind of stories come. But they come and they also go the next day, they don't really live a long life," Kaif said.

"They just can't believe we're really, extremely good actors. There has to be something," Malhotra added. —Reuters



Bollywood film stars Katrina Kaif (R) and Sidharth Malhotra pose for a portrait while promoting the film "Baar Baar Dekho" in New York, US, on 17 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hollywood classic 'Ben-Hur' gets modern remake

LOS ANGELES — "Ben-Hur", the 1959 movie epic that won 11 Oscars, has received a Hollywood revamp — but its makers say the famed chariot race still relies on humans and horses, not special effects.

"Boardwalk Empire" actor Jack Huston takes on the role for which the late Charlton Heston was named Best Actor, playing the young Jewish noble Judah Ben-Hur, who is sent into slavery by Roman occupiers but returns to take his revenge.

"If you think about the climate of the world today — and this movie is set 2,000 years ago — you realize the world hasn't changed that much," Huston said at the film's Tuesday premiere.

"Being a beautiful action movie with all of the thrills and excitement, it's still a very serious movie for our time."

Producer Mark Burnett said that for the chariot-racing sequence — nine minutes long in the original — special effects had been used only for crash scenes. —Reuters

OBITUARY DAW KHIN THANT 97 years

Daw Khin Thant of Moulmein, beloved wife of U Thein Han (Retired Director of Defense Accounts, Myanmar, Deceased) and much loved mother of Dr. Than Maung Han (Retired Dermatologist, RIPAS Hospital, Brunei) and Mrs. Nyein Nyein Thein; Dr. Aye Maung Han (Retired Rector, University of Medicine 1, Yangon) and Dr. Thiri Tun Myint; Dr. Victor Khin Maung Han (Chair, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Western University and Director, Children's Health Research Institute, Lawson Health Research Institute, London, ON, Canada) and Mrs. Winsome Han; Dr. Thazin Winnie Han of Kaiser Permanente and Dr. Thant Zin of Corona, CA, USA; and Dr. Robin Han (Nyi Nyi Han) (Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy, UniKL-RCMP, Ipoh, Malaysia) and Mrs. Win Mar Lwin of Toronto, ON, Canada; and beloved grandmother of Mr. Myo Kyaw Swar Han, Signal Engineer, Ansaldo Co., and Mrs. Tin Nay Zar Win of Brisbane, Australia; Dr. Thet Thiri Aye and Dr. Byinnya Kyaw Kyaw of Southend-on-Sea, UK; Mrs. Phyo Thiri Aye and Mr. Wade Guyitt of Kingston, ON, Canada; Mrs. Kay Khine Jarand and Mr. David Jarand of Calgary, AB, Canada; Dr. Thida Han of New York, NY, USA; Dr. Ei Phyu Han and Dr. Andrew Smith of Boston, MA, USA; Dr. Khine Zin Htet and Dr. James Lish of Fort Myers, VA, USA; and Dr. Pwint Phyu Zin of Fort Myers, VA, USA; and much loved great grandmother of Caleb Smith and Theodore Smith of Boston, MA, USA; Suu Yatti Aye Kyaw of Southend-on-Sea, UK; and Cole Jarand of Calgary, AB, Canada, passed away peacefully at 7:00 pm on 17 August, 2016, Wednesday, at her family home at 29 (D) Padonmar Road, Yangon, Myanmar. Funeral services and cremation will be held at 5:00 pm on 19 August, 2016, Friday, at Yay Way Crematorium and Funeral Home, Yangon.

Brazil's Neymar nets fastest Olympic goal at 15 seconds



Neymar of Brazil celebrates scoring past goalkeeper Luis Lopez of Honduras. PHOTO: REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's Neymar has not yet won his country a gold medal, but on Wednesday he at least pocketed an Olympic record -- the fastest goal, at a dazzling 15 seconds into the game against overwhelmed Honduras.

The men's semi-final had barely kicked off when Barcelona forward Neymar intercepted the ball, charged towards the Honduran side, challenged the goalie and bundled the ball into the net, sending the Maracana stadium into a frenzy of

cheers.

"It was amazing to just arrive in the stadium and watch a beautiful goal," said Filipe Deliza, a 19-year-old law student from Rio at the packed Rio venue.

"I was expecting Brazil to win but I was not expecting it would be so easy," added Deliza, wearing a yellow Brazilian shirt.

Hurt Honduras were shaken by the goal and never recovered, going on to lose 6-0.

"We didn't expect this," Honduran keeper Luis

Lopez told Reuters about Neymar's goal. "Honestly, it hurts."

But soccer-mad Brazilians were delighted, chanting "Neymar!" during much of the match -- including when he netted a penalty at 90 minutes to put the icing on the cake.

Neymar will have to keep the magic going to allow Brazil to finally hoist the only international title that has so far eluded it. The South American powerhouse has lost three Olympic finals, including at London 2012.

If he can lead his squad to triumph in Saturday's final, the team captain would cement his status as one of Brazil's greatest ever players.

He has already drawn lighthearted comparisons to other Olympic greats.

"Neymar's goal, 15 seconds in, is the fastest in the history of Olympic football, 5.42 seconds more than Usain Bolt," the Rio 2016 Spanish-language account tweeted in reference to the Jamaican sprinter. — Reuters

Japan flag Tokyo 2020 threat with Rio medal haul

RIO DE JANEIRO — Japan showed they could be the biggest threat to China's quest to continue their table tennis domination in Tokyo 2020, after their young team achieved the country's best-ever medal haul in the sport in Rio.

Japan's men, who never made the Olympics podium in the sport before, are leaving this year with a team silver medal and an individual bronze while their women are heading home with a team bronze medal. They won a silver four years ago.

China's supremacy over the sport is well accepted by players and coaches alike who say the country's national team, all of whom dominate world rankings, possess skills and strength that far outclass their opponents.

The country has swept the table tennis gold medals at the Rio Olympics, and has now won 28 out

of 32 golds awarded since table tennis became an Olympic sport in 1988.

But the growing strength of the Japanese was apparent at certain instances during the Rio tournament.

During the men's team final, individual bronze medalist Jun Mizutani snatched one set from world number three Xu Xin, breaking the Chinese team's winning streak through the tournament and past Olympics. China eventually won the game 3-1. In the women's team battle for the bronze against Singapore, 15-year-old Mima Ito overcame world number four Feng Tianwei in a 3-1 match, helping her country to third place and becoming the youngest ever player to win a table tennis medal.

"The fact we lost to China may even be more valuable to us than the medal itself. This game

has given us confidence in playing the Chinese team," said Mizutani.

"I can look forward to Tokyo 2020 and the notion of beating the Chinese team there will not just be a dream."

The Chinese women's team coach, Kong Linghui, also spoke of the strength of their Japanese opponents, saying that their early exposure to such high-level international competitions at a young age would likely help them become an even tougher force to be reckoned with in four years.

Compared to the Chinese men's and women's teams in Rio, who are all in their mid-to-late twenties, half of the Japanese six player-strong team is in their early twenties alongside the teenage Ito. Ai Fukuhara and Mizutani are considered the team veterans at the age of 27. —Reuters



Team Japan celebrates winning the silver medal in the men's table tennis team event at Riocentro, Pavilion 3 during the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 17 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Entertainment Channel

(19-8-2016, Friday)

06 : 00 pm	08 : 45 pm
• Weather Report	• Because of You
• Music Programme	09 : 30 pm
06 : 25 pm	• Waso Charity Feast
• Cartoon "The Missing Lynx" (Part-II)	09 : 50 pm
07 : 10 pm	• International Movie
• International Drama Series	Songs
07 : 50 pm	10 : 05 pm
• International Drama Series	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
08 : 30 pm	10 : 25 pm
• MRTV Entertainment Music	• Popa Trip
	10 : 40 pm
	• Myanmar Video

From 19-8-2016 (Friday) 6:00 pm
To 20-8-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 pm



Myanmar International

(19-8-2016 07:00am ~ 20-8-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Highland with Peace and Charm
07:45	Am	Well-Trained Elephants
07:54	Am	Paper Flower
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-5)
08:38	Am	Elephant Catching and Scaring Trip
		Mile Stone 26
08:52	Am	Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-6) In Pursuit of a dream
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas

10:58 Am Goldsmith

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	A Trip To The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine
07:45	Pm	Myanmar Agarwood
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part- 1)
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Dr. Ko Ko Gyi

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

Marvellous Turan fires Barcelona to Super Cup glory

MADRID — Two goals from Arda Turan and one from Lionel Messi gave Barcelona a 3-0 win over Sevilla in the Spanish Super Cup second leg on Wednesday to seal a 5-0 aggregate victory.

The La Liga and King's Cup champions led 2-0 after the first leg in Seville and Turan's opening goal early in the first half set Barca on their way to a big win at a packed Nou Camp.

The Turkish midfielder picked up a pass from Messi in the ninth minute, ran in on goal and drove a left-foot shot past goalkeeper Sergio Rico.

Sevilla's Vicente Iborra had a 30th-minute penalty kept out by Claudio Bravo after Samuel Umtiti was penalised for a hand-ball.

Turan's second came

one minute after the re-start when he launched an audacious curled shot from 30 yards to stun the Sevilla keeper and send the ball into the top corner. Messi made sure of Barca's first trophy of the season when he headed Lucas Digne's pass out of

Rico's reach.

"To win a title before the start of La Liga is great," Barca midfielder Sergio Busquets told Telecinco TV. "We did a fantastic job last season and we are hungry for titles."

Barca were without Neymar, who was on Olympic duty with Brazil, and injured trio Marc-An-

dre Ter Stegen, Jeremy Mathieu and Andres Iniesta.

But coach Luis Enrique handed new signings Umtiti, Denis Suarez, Andre Gomes and Lucas Digne their first competitive starts.

A minute's silence was observed before kick-off in honour of former FIFA president Joao

Havelange, who died this week.

Jorge Sampaoli's Sevilla, who lost the UEFA Super Cup 3-2 to Real Madrid last week, made a strong start and in the third minute Wissam Ben Yedder forced Bravo into a full-stretch save to clear his diagonal shot from inside the box.

But just when Sevilla were playing at their best, Turan scored.

The night got worse for the visitors when Bravo denied Iborra the equaliser and on the stroke of halftime, Gabriel Mercado's header from Mariano's cross hit the right post.

"It's always difficult to play against Barcelona and more so when you have a 2-0 deficit from the opening leg," Sevilla's Luciano Vietto told Telecinco. "We did our best but it was not to be."

Barca dominated the second half and had to play the last 11 minutes of the game down to 10 men after Javier Mascherano picked up an injury with Luis Enrique having made all his substitutions.

The Super Cup is Spain's traditional season opener between the winners of the league and King's Cup. Barca won both last season and have now lifted 12 Super Cups.—Reuters



Barcelona's soccer team pose with the Spanish SuperCup trophy at Camp Nou stadium, Barcelona, Spain, on 18 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bolt through to 200m final, Gatlin out

RIO DE JANEIRO — Jamaica's Usain Bolt and Canadian Andre de Grasse set up an Olympic 200 metres showdown after crossing the line laughing together in their semi-final on Wednesday, but 100m silver medallist Justin Gatlin missed out after easing up too soon.

Bolt, now one step away from securing an incredible third Olympic sprint double, crossed in 19.78 seconds with De Grasse clocking a Canadian record 19.80.

"He was supposed to slow down," said Bolt. "I said, 'What are you doing, it's a semi-final?' But I think he wanted to push me. 'I was a bit lazy, I don't why, but I executed and got through.'"

While Bolt got away with taking his foot of the gas, Gatlin was not so fortunate. Once he realised he had eased off prematurely it was too late to recover as Dutchman Churandy Martina and Panama's Alonso Edward swept past him.

Gatlin, who said he had been hampered by an ankle injury, finished in 20.13, enabling Briton Adam Gemili and Turkey's Ramil Guliyev to edge him out of the fastest loser slots.

American LaShawn Merritt, who, like Gatlin, has served a doping suspension, was the only other athlete under 20 seconds and he looked strong and com-

fortable going into Thursday's final.

"My body felt good," said the former world and Olympic 400m champion, who took a bronze in the 400 in Rio. "It's tougher than I thought it was going to be but I'm handling everything pretty well mentally and physically."

Frenchman Christophe Lemaitre produced his fastest run for four years, 20.01, to take his place in the final, but Yohan Blake, the only man to beat Bolt over 200 in a final in the last nine years, was off the pace and missed out.

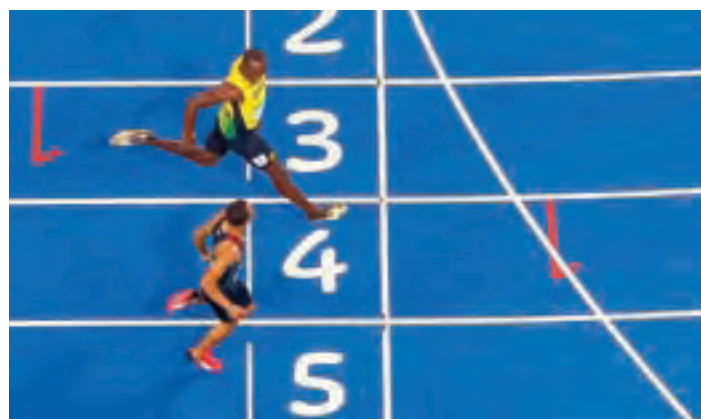
Bolt has won the last two Olympic titles and four successive world championships over

his favourite distance.

The last time he lost a major 200m race was in the 2007 worlds when he was edged by American Tyson Gay, though training partner Blake did take him down in the 2012 Jamaican trials.

"I definitely think I can try for the world record," said Bolt, who set the current mark of 19.19 in the 2009 world championships.

"I need to run efficiently and get into the straight and run the perfect race. If I can run a little more efficiently on the turns. I will be hoping for lane six or seven maybe to be able to run as smooth as I can."—Reuters



Usain Bolt (JAM) of Jamaica crosses the finish line ahead of Andre De Grasse (CAN) of Canada to win the semifinal during Men's 200m Semifinals at Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 17 August. PHOTO: REUTERS

Murray and Nadal roll, Raonic outslugs Isner

CINCINNATI — Olympic and Wimbledon champion Andy Murray picked up where he left off in Rio by drubbing Argentina's Juan Monaco to take his place in the third round of the Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati on Wednesday.

Murray, who with his gold medal triumph at the Rio Games became the first player to repeat as Olympic singles champion, notched his 19th successive match victory by a 6-3, 6-2 margin in what amounted to a nice workout for the 29-year-old Scotsman.

The Wimbledon winner scored the first break of the opening set in the eighth game and served out the set.

After seemingly enjoying the long rallies, Murray had his right shoulder massaged on the change-over before the second set and rattled off four games in a row from 1-1 to turn it into a rout.

His victory set up a third-round match against South African Kevin Anderson with a berth in the quarter-finals at stake.

Top-seeded Murray's victory was in contrast to numerous big battles in the US Open run-up event and a slew of tiebreakers.

Third-seeded Spaniard Rafa Nadal, winner of gold in the Olympic men's doubles, avenged

a defeat to Pablo Cuevas in February with a 6-1, 7-6(4) win over the Uruguayan.

Fourth seed Milos Raonic of Canada won a heavy artillery battle with John Isner 7-6(5), 7-6(5) for his first win after three career losses to the American.

Raonic said he had just spent 10 days in New York working with John McEnroe.

"John makes fun out of the practice, he challenges you in many ways," Raonic said. "He finds ways to point out things that I tried to bring to the match today."

Seventh seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France enjoyed his own double tiebreaker win over American Reilly Opelka 7-6(5), 7-6(3).

Second-seeded Swiss Stan Wawrinka overcame 18-year-old American wild card Jared Donaldson 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a match carried over from rainy Tuesday and will next face his doubles partner Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria.

Tiebreakers decided two three-set encounters.

Borna Coric, 19, of Croatia came back from 2-5 in a climactic decider against Australian Nick Kyrgios by winning five of the last six points to claim the tiebreak 8-6.—Reuters