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Establishment of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State

Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor issued a press release today. Following is the full text of the press release.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, committed to finding lasting solutions to the complex and delicate issues in the Rakhine State, will establish an Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. A Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed between the Ministry of Office of the State-Counsellor and the Kofi Annan Foundation.

The nine-member Advisory Commission, a national initiative

to resolve protracted issues in the region, will be chaired by former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Chairman and Founder of the Kofi Annan Foundation and noble laureate, Mr. Kofi Annan and will be composed of (3) international and (6) national persons of Eminence who are highly experienced, respected and neutral individuals. The commission members are :

- U Win Mra, Chair of

The Commission will consider humanitarian and development issues, access to basic services, the assurance of basic rights, and the security of the people of Rakhine.

the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

- Dr. Thar Hla Shwe, President of Myanmar Red Cross Society

- Mr. Ghassan Salame', Lebanese Minister of Culture (2000-2003), UN Special Advisor to Secretary-General (2003-2006)

- Ms Laetitia van den Assum,

Special Advisor to the UNAIDS (2005-2006), the Netherlands' Ambassador to the United Kingdom (2012-2015)

- U Aye Lwin, Core Member and Founder of Religious for Peace, Myanmar

- Dr. Mya Thida, President of Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of MMA, Member of the Myanmar Academy of Medical Science

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Monthly rail passes prove popular among Yangonites

THE numbers of passengers riding Yangon's circle and district lines using a monthly rail pass has nearly reached 6,000 so far this month of August alone, according to the Myanma Railways — the state-owned railway service operator.

"Quite a lot of people are riding the train with monthly passes these days. In the past, very few passengers bought them. The passes allow passengers to ride for just K100-200 per journey," said U Kyaw Soe Lin, a manager of Myanma Railways.

Previously, around 3,500 passengers would ride the circle and district line train with a monthly pass.



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A passenger reads a newspaper while taking the circular train in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.
PHOTO: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Bill amending the 2016 Union Budget Law

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved a bill amending the 2016 Union Budget Law with cuts to the budgets of some ministries.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw vote calls for a K1.02billion reduction in the budget of the Ministry of Home Affairs, a K9.24billion reduction in the budget of the Ministry of Trans-

port and Communications and a K80.11billion reduction in the budget of the Ministry of Construction recommended by the Joint Public Accounts Committee.

During yesterday's session, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win elaborated on the signing

of the second revised ASEAN comprehensive investment agreement by Myanmar and seven parliamentarians held discussions on the country's efforts to become a member of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Nuclear Facilities.—Myanmar News Agency

Four Ministries clarify undertakings in the first 100 days

FOUR ministries clarified their undertakings in the first 100 days of the new government to reporters in Nay Pyi Taw.

The press conference was held at the Ministry of Information yesterday.

Regarding the achievements of the Ministry of Information, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said the ministry conducted training and workshops for the spokespersons of the ministries in order for them to successfully carry out releasing information of their respective ministries.

"The Ministry of Information is currently carrying out to amend the Television and Broadcasting Law to turn the state-owned MRTV into the Public Service Broadcasting (PSB)," said Dr Pe Myint.

The channel logo and main titles of MRTV will be changed for the viewers, and the ministry is working with the Vizrt Company for this work, he added.

He also pledged that the Information Ministry would assist content providers to be able to participate in the broadcast industry before a television and broadcasting council is formed.

Meanwhile, the ministry has planned to give permits to broadcasters for operating five channels of the Multi Channel Play Out System of MRTV and will hold talks with them on 25 August.

The ministry's Information and Public Relations Department conducted computer training courses, English proficiency courses, sewing courses, poem recitation contests and storytelling courses at 93 libraries of the department's district and township offices.

Also, Insein District IPRD's library has been turned into a Community Centre as of 20 August in cooperation with the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, while efforts are being made to upgrade township and district offices to community centres.

Sarpay Beikman Library on Merchant Street has also been expanded, offering sales of books published by 700 publishing houses. The Monsoon Season Book



Officials answers questions from journalists at the press conference on undertakings in first 100 days of the government. PHOTO: MNA

Fair was conducted on 29 July in conjunction with the political literature and paper reading session in Yangon.

More than 108 publishing houses participated in the book fair, earning more than K130 million from the selling of books, according to the Ministry of Information.

The paper reading session and the book fair will be held every four months, and further paper reading sessions will be held to improve the translation literature and the literature of the ethnic peoples.

As of 1st April 2016, the two state-owned dailies, the Myanmar Alin and the Kyemon, have opened a new chapter by improving its content and displays.

A copy of the two papers in Burmese language costs around K131 to produce, but it is sold at K50 at the newsstand for the public good, not for profits.

Regarding the undertakings in the education sector in the first 100-days of the new government, the Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said the Ministry of Education has upgraded schools, and carried out programmes for school enrolment, sanitation, health and development. The ministry has also

assisted teachers from 17 schools near private banks and schools in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay and from universities and colleges to get access to banking systems in order to draw their salaries. Also, the ministry relaxed

"The ministry has planned to give permits to broadcasters for operating five channels of the Multi Channel Play Out System of MRTV"

some rules for the faculty members of universities and colleges to be able to attend doctorate degree courses.

The ministry also instituted Alternative Education to make assessments for teachers giving lectures at the education and training sectors.

In the 2016-2017 academic year, 3312 schools were upgraded, and it is found that 1.7 million children aged five enrolled in the academic year out of 1.11 million

school aged children, said the Union minister.

Meanwhile, the ministry worked together with 18 other ministries and 14 regional governments opening short-term vocational training schools in Nay Pyi Taw, Ywama and Mandalay.

The Permanent Representative of the Ministry of Commerce announced that the ministry has officially launched the website of the National Trade Repository, extended the validity of import licenses at border trade centres and relaxed the trade rules at border trade centres.

Also, the ministry arranged the Fully Online Licensing System for application of export licenses and relaxed the H S Code Line 4405 lines and some restrictions on 12 export products. The ministry has allowed the import of 11,463 vehicles for work up to 15th August.

During the press conference, U Ko Ko Lwin, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, said the ministry carried out work in six sectors during the first 100 days of the new government, focusing on development of the industrial sector and human resources and creating job opportunities, efficient use of energy and environmental conservation.

The production output of an anti-venom factory of the ministry has increased from 30,000 to 80,000 doses, supplying the life-saving antidote to people nationwide.

The ministry and the Myanmar Conch Cement Co opened a cement factory in Kyaukse using the Joint Venture System, aiming to produce 10,000 tons of cement per year.

The ministry has provided technology for making tea leaves to the tea leaf makers in Pindaya, technology for salt making to the salt makers in Thanbyuzayat, Sit-twe and Yangon, technology for coffee planting and producing to farmers in Mandalay and Mog-ok, technology for soap making to businessmen in 10 townships in Magway Region, technology for foundry and forging to SMEs in Bago, Mandalay and Yangon and dying technology to SMEs in Yangon and Juice and candy making technology to SMEs in Yangon.

Ministry officials answer questions from the media

Managing Director U Kyaw Soe of the News and Periodicals Enterprises said that all the contents that appeared in the papers were edited and approved for publication in accordance with the editorial policy and that reporters have received training in reporting in accordance with the code of ethics.

Regarding five new channels in the broadcast media, Director-General U Myint Htway said that detailed information about the five new channels will be given on 25 August, adding that the ministry is working together with the Union Attorney-General's Office on amendments to contracts.

The director-general also responded to a question about applying for TV channel and FM licenses. The director-general said that a council expected to be formed after enactment of the broadcast law will issue permits, but five channels will be allowed to form before the emergence of the law.

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Union Attorney-General holds talks with President of the UK Supreme Court

U TUN TUN OO, Attorney-General of the Union, held talks with Lord Neuberger, the President of the UK Supreme Court, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the participation of the Attorney General's Office in the legislative, executive and judiciary sectors, the office's works on the rule of law and scholarships

for learning law in Britain.

They also exchanged views on their experiences related to legal affairs in their respective countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*



U Tun Tun Oo, Attorney-General of the Union, receives Lord Neuberger, the President of the UK Supreme Court in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Police refute details of media reports on quadruple murder in Mingaladon Tsp

Min Thit

THE police have refuted media reports and posts on social media on a quadruple murder in Mingaladon township, saying that the information distributed by the media is inaccurate.

The Yangon Police Force said that social media reports in which a slain former police officer was discovered with six million of

Yaba pills occurred only after he resigned from the police force.

Police investigated a man living in the Lawgar Village-tract on suspicion of the murder, but released him after concluding he was not connected with the killing.

The Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Zaw Win held a meeting of the Yangon Region Police Force yesterday in Yangon

The police have distributed a

photo of three suspects in connection with the murder of the former police officer, part of a quadruple murder in Mingaladon Township. The photo was given to other police stations across Myanmar and urged the public to inform the police if they recognise the suspects in the photo.

The photo was believed to be taken by the wife of the slain policeman days before the crime.

USDP elects new chairman

U THAN HTAY was elected as chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Party on the second day of the party's second conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The lists of the names of the

members of the central committee and reserve members and central executive committee members were also approved at the second-day meeting.

According to the USDP conference, U Myat Hein was

elected as vice-chairman, U Thet Naing Win as general secretary and U Pike Htway, U Than Tun, Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay, U Tin Aung Chit and Dr San San Nwe as secretaries.—*Thura Zaw*

President U Htin Kyaw to pay State Visit to Republic of India

U HTIN KYAW, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Su Su Lwin will pay a State Visit to the Republic of India in the near future at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Establishment of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State

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• U Khin Maung Lay, Member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

• Daw Saw Khin Tint, Chairperson (Rakhine Literature and Culture Association, Yangon) and Vice-Chairperson (Rakhine Women Association)

The Commission will undertake meetings with all relevant stakeholders, international experts and foreign dignitaries to hear their views and to analyze relevant issues with a view to finding the best possible solutions to prevailing problems. The Commission will consider humanitarian and development issues, access to basic services, the assurance of basic rights, and the security of the people of Rakhine. The Commission will undertake assessments and make recommendations by focusing on conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance, rights

The Commission will be chaired by former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan.

and reconciliation, institution building and promotion of development of Rakhine State. It will also examine international aspects of the situation, including the background of those seeking refugee status abroad.

After wide consultations, the Commission will submit its findings and recommendations to the Government of Myanmar through the State Counsellor and thereafter publish its report within twelve months of its establishment.—*Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor*

Monthly rail passes prove popular among Yangonites

>> From page 1

Changes to ticket prices on July 1 has resulted in a surge in Yangonites riding the train this rainy season, with the trains transporting roughly 75,000 people a day.

"I bought the monthly pass as it allows me to ride any type of train for just K100-200. It's about half the price of single journey ticket prices. It also negates the need to run and by a ticket from the station if you're

late to catch you're train. Many regular train passengers have switched to the monthly pass system," said U Hla Sein, a train passenger from northern Yangon's Shweyitha Township.

The 24 carriages which run along the Yangon circle and district lines make a reported 125 trips a day. A monthly pass for K100 journeys fetches K3,350 while a K200 journey monthly pass costs K6,700.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Four Ministries clarify undertakings in the first 100 days

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On establishment of community centers, Acting Director-General U Maung Pe of the information and public Relations Department said that libraries will be transformed into community centers one by one.

In his answer, Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung pledged to inform the ministries concerned of the issue of access to information.

Next, the Ministry of Commerce answered queries raised by media persons, with Permanent Secretary U Toe Aung Myint and

officials elaborating on a strategy being developed to increase exports.

Director-General U Yan Naing Tun of Trade Department said that measures are being taken to prevent illegal imports in cooperation with local authorities and the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Regarding a decline in exports, the Permanent Secretary said that exports fell slightly compared with last year, but there has been progress in four areas — agricultural produce, marine product, valued-added wood product

and animal products— of the country's seven export sectors.

On a question about a possible pay rise for educational staff, Director-General U Aung Than Oo of the Department of Basic Education replied that arrangements are being made to ensure a salary increase for more than 400,000 employees at the department.

The director-general also clarified the ministry's efforts to change the education system away from rote learning.

Regarding increased expenditures on the education

sector, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that the ministry is planning to spend one month's revenue generated from a five percent commercial tax on mobile phone top-ups on promotion of the education sector.

Director-General U Myo Nyunt of the Department of the Myanmar Board of Examinations said that separate entrance examinations are likely to be held by the universities when they are granted autonomy.

Next, Permanent Secretary U Ko Ko Lwin of the Ministry of Industry explained the situa-

tion of state-owned factories and transparent measures for leasing state-owned factories to private companies.

The country's Economic Committee is chaired by the State Counsellor and members are the Union ministers including the Union Minister for Planning and Finance as the secretary, said the Permanent Secretary.

On the Panda garment factory, the ministry will go to Pa-leik on 26 August to help both sides obtain a fair settlement in accordance with existing laws.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Police arrests suspect in murder of three family members in Taunggyi

POLICE arrested the suspect in the killing of three family members at Taungni Village in Taunggyi, the Myanmar Police Force said yesterday.

Following the murder in which Daw Shwe Yi Myo, 38, her daughter Ma Wah Wah Htwe, 12, and her nephew Ar Kyu (Sai Hlaing Han), 10, were killed on 21 August at their village home, the local police were in pursuit of the main suspect, Yo Sein (Aik Maung) Long Maung.

The 56-year-old suspect confessed yesterday that he has been in a relationship with Ma Wah Wah Htwe for the past seven years ago and admitted stabbing her when she refused to marry him, police said. Yo Sein also admitted to the killing of her 12-year old daughter and 10-year-old nephew during the dispute, police said.

He chopped the 10-year old boy with a knife as he was sleeping on his bed, he confessed, police said.—*Ko Nyi*

Healthcare Services provided to Myinmu Township



Officers of Northwest Command chatting with local people. Photo: C-in-C's Office

A military mobile medical team of Northwest Command provided medical check-ups for 407 local people in Kanphyar village

and surrounding villages in Myinmu township, Sagaing Region on Monday 22 August. The team treated some in need of surgery

and others with infections and diseases. To control the outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases the team also carried out pesticide spraying

measures at Dammabirata Sizain monastery and at the Basic Education Middle School of Kanphyar village.—*C-in-C's Office*

Crime NEWS

Five hand grenades found in Sagaing



Five hand grenades found in Sagaing being seen. PHOTO: MYO WIN (SAGAING)

THE police found five hand grenades near a teashop, Kannar road, Sagaing town on Sunday. According to the investigation, Ko Nan War, 34, from Seingone

ward, sagaing town collected the dry gourd and found a suspicious bag. Then, he informed the police station.

The police from Sagaing

district seized five hand grenades from a bag. The police handed over the five hand grenades to the Garrison Engineering battalion. — *Myo Win (Sagaing)*

Yaba, weapon seized in Tachilek



Bawsako (a) Arr Gar and Sai Shae Tit.

PHOTO: MAUNG YINKYAY

AN anti-narcotic squad comprising police from Tachilek Township seized 6,834 Yaba pills from a house of Bawsako (a) Arr Gar, 31, in Sai San-A ward, Tachilek on 21 August. Sai Shae Tit, 32, was found together with the host.

During interrogation, Bawsako admitted that he had kept a weapon at his aunt house at Arkay village, Pone Tun ward, Tachilek towns. Both of the suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Maung Yinkyay*

Fire breaks out at gas station in Pyinmana

A fire outbreak occurred at a gas station on Pyinmana- Nat Thuye road, Pyinmana township, on Monday evening.

Officials say the fire started around 7 pm. When they arrived on the scene and found heavy smoke coming from the station owned by U Thein Shwe, 42. The first started to broke out

when the shop owner was using the electric mosquito killer racket.

It took crews about 30 minutes to get the flames under control. No one was injured in the accident. The police have taken action against U Thine Shwe.—

Min Min Lat (Mandalay university)

Illegal weapon holder seized in Kyainseikkyi township

A 32-year old man was arrested on Thursday on charges of holding an arms and bullets in ward 4, Bhyarthonesu Town, Kyainseikkyi Township, Kayin state.

After a tip-off, the police raided the house of Myo Naing Oo @ Pyar Laung (a) Sauk Yang, 32. They discovered a cache of several weapons including a rifle, a pistol, bullets and a hand grenade. Action is being taken against U Myo Naing Oo for holding arms illegally. —*Tun Tun Htway (Hpa-an)*



Myo Naing Oo @ Pyar Laung (a) Sauk Yang. Photo: TUN TUN HTWAY (HPA-AN)

LOCAL Business

Trade through Myawady increased in July

THE value of trade through the Myawady trade zone shot up in July, fetching US\$71.146million, which is US\$23.195million higher than that of the similar period of last fiscal year, it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.

The trade through Myawady in July earned more than US\$2.135million from exports and more than US\$21.060million from imports. In July, agricultural products such as mung beans, peanuts, black sesame seeds, mangoes, ginger, cashew nuts, coconuts, dried pepper, garlic and herbs; and seafood such as prawns, eel and cuttle fish were exported. Also imported were cement, cars and auto parts, agricultural machinery, motorcycle and bicycle accessories, wire, fertilizer, plastic raw materials, industrial raw materials, batteries, palm oil, beverages, glasses and associated goods.

The most popular export goods in June were peanuts, onions, dried peppers, mung beans, clothes, crabs, cashew nuts, prawns, fish and sesame seeds, whereas popular imports were motorbikes, agricultural machines, beverages and mini-buses, it is learnt.—GNLM



A staff opens the boot of a car at a showroom in Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

Car showrooms without permit to have actions taken

CAR showrooms allegedly making sales without a permit will be dealt with through legal action, it is learnt.

Although there are about 200 car sale centers with permits, some car sale centers are alleged to be making sales without a permit.

Therefore, inspection teams will check automobile sale centers to see if they obey the prescribed procedures, it is learnt. Some car showrooms have sought permission to open sale centers but have not yet been granted a permit. In this event, the authorities will allow

these car centers to stay open.

If some car centers are caught to make a sale without seeking permission, they will have actions taken against them, said the official from the Ministry of Commerce.

The car sale centers that are not in accordance with the pre-

scribed rules will have to comply within a limited time period.

Japanese-made cars were mostly imported for display at car sale centers. But starting last year, some car sale centers are also displaying cars manufactured by other foreign countries.—200

Thailand Rohu fish illegally enters Yangon market

ROHU, a large fish that is a member of the carp family, illegally entered the Yangon market in early August through the Thailand border under the guise of being caught in local ponds, it is learnt from the Myanmar Fish Federation (MFF).

In June, the smuggling of rohu from Thailand into the Kyimyindine Sanpya Fish market was halted due to enforced inspection. However, Thailand rohu is flowing again into the local market by deception.

Officials said that authori-

ties need to prevent the flow of illegal rohu into Myanmar in coordination with the regional fisheries department, said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of MFF.

"The government needs to handle the illegal trade inflow not to be black market under the existing laws," said Daw Toe Nanda Tin from MFF.

"The smuggling of goods needs to be eliminated. Efforts are needed to make this a legal import. This way, revenue can be earned for the country. Be-

sides, legal import can ensure that the goods are safe for the consumers because it will require a health certificate, she added.

This illegal import of rohu was started in mid 2016. It was learnt that a six-wheel truckload of 6,000 visses of fish were being imported daily to the Kyimyintdine Sanpya Fish market. An enforced inspection resulted in suspension of the imports, but the inflow of rohu to the local market has resumed.—200

Over 400 passengers of circular railway uses ok mobile in two months

OVER 400 passengers on the circular railway used the ok mobile system over a period of two months, said U Kyaw Soe Lin, the Operation Department Manager of Division 7.

The ok mobile payment system was launched on 21st June, 2016 by Myanmar Railway so that passengers of the Yangon circular railway can easily purchase rail tickets with the ok mobile application. The experimental period of this mobile application payment system is four months. A decision

on whether to permanently use this system will be made by the head office after the experimental period is completed. Currently, efforts are being made to match the accounts of the railway with the use of this payment system, he added. Myanma railway runs 215 times with a total of 23 trains in the Yangon circular railway per day. The ticket fees are set at Ks100 for 15 miles and Ks200 for the whole route of over 15 miles. Over 70,000 passengers use the Myanmar Railway each day.—200

Purchasers at Aya Chantha luxury housing projects to receive their apartments in 2018

Those who have purchased apartments in advance at the Aya Chantha housing project are likely to receive their apartments in 2018, it is learnt from Chantha Shwe Myay Company Limited.

The Aya Chantha housing project is jointly implemented by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development

and Chantha Shwe Myay Company Limited. It is situated in Dagon Seikkan Township next to the University of Culture. There are a total of 14 buildings in this project. There are 18 floors per building, with rooms of 600/1200 square feet. Each building has three lifts. The emergency ladders, the fire extinguishing system and the water

sanitation systems are also provided in the buildings. There are also playgrounds, swimming pools, gyms and shops in the compound, it is learnt. One luxury apartment will sell for Ks60million, said Daw Aye Aye Lat, the managing director of Chan Thar Shwe Myay Company Limited.

There are two ways of buying

the apartments. Plan A is that people have to pay a down payment of Ks12million, then pay Ks600,000 for 24 months. Those who pay in this mannerr will receive an apartment. They will also need to pay the remaining payment of Ks30 million as cash down or in installments. Plan B aims at those citizens who work abroad to be able

to purchase a quality apartment under long-term installments of up to 14 years. They have to pay in Ks780,000 in the minimum per month. The citizens who have regular income can meet this opportunity after the housing project is finished. Expatriates also have the right to own apartments there.—200

PM Lee's health scare exposes Singapore's leadership uncertainty

SINGAPORE — One of Singapore's greatest strengths is its predictability: in a region where coups and economic meltdowns are not uncommon, it has long been a haven of stability for investors and businesses.

But when Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong almost collapsed during a National Day speech on Sunday, it brought into focus concerns that have been simmering for months about the future of the wealthy city-state.

The economy has lost some of the zest it had under the open trade-oriented model created by founding father Lee Kuan Yew, whose death last year for many marked the end of an era. Doubts have also started to emerge about Singapore's position as one of the world's leading financial capitals.

Singapore is vulnerable to attacks by Islamist militants: just this month, two Singaporeans were detained before they could join Islamic State in Syria and Indonesian police foiled a plot to attack the island nation with a rocket.

And, now, Lee's stumble at the podium has exposed the apparent lack of a chosen successor, a



Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is helped off the stage after taking ill during his National Day rally speech in Singapore, on 21 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

remarkable state of affairs for a country where politics has been carefully managed since independence half a century ago under one powerful party. Lee Kuan Yew's successor, Goh Chok Tong, was identified at least five years in advance. Lee Kuan Yew's son Lee Hsien Loong

was groomed to become the next leader long before he took office in 2004.

"Singapore is indeed going through one of the toughest times with the economy faltering and the threat of terrorism," said Inderjit Singh, a former lawmaker for the People's Ac-

tion Party (PAP), which has ruled without interruption since 1965.

"It is a concern that we are quite late in putting in place the fourth-generation leadership." Few see Singapore heading into a crisis, however. In last year's election — held months after the

death of patriarch Lee Kuan Yew — the PAP won almost 70 per cent of the popular vote and swept all but six of parliament's 89 seats. It was not the ruling party's highest-ever vote. But it came as a huge relief after the 2011 polls in which the party scored its lowest vote since

independence. The vote also belied growing resentment over a widening wealth gap, a high cost of living, and a flow of foreign workers who now account for nearly a quarter of the island's 5.7 million people. Doctors say that Lee, 64, has no serious health concerns.

Still, when he returned to the stage an hour after his turn, Lee said: "what just happened makes it even more important" to talk about succession. Lee then mentioned Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat, who he said would soon resume his duties following a stroke earlier this year. Heng had been touted by local media as a potential successor, although doubts remain about his long-term health. Gillian Koh, deputy director at the Singapore think-tank Institute of Policy Studies cited other candidates, including: Chan Chun Sing, a minister in the prime minister's office; Tan Chuan-Jin, a former army chief and now minister for social and family development; Ong Ye Kung, acting minister for education and senior minister of state for defence; and Lawrence Wong, the newly appointed second minister of finance.—Reuters

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Thailand's tiger tourism expands despite raid on infamous tiger temple

BANGKOK —

Thailand's tiger tourism business is booming and the captive tiger population is growing fast, experts say, more than two months after Thai wildlife authorities found scores of dead cubs while rescuing animals from the popular Tiger Temple.

Animal rights activists called on tourists to shun Thai animal attractions, which they say are cruel and should be shut down, after the Tiger Temple in Kanchanaburi Province, west of Bangkok, closed in June.

Thai wildlife authorities vowed to inspect other tiger attractions, and confiscated 24 tigers from two venues, but the scrutiny has been short-lived.

"On the ground, nothing has changed," said Jan Schmidt-Burbach, a Bangkok-based wildlife adviser for the World Animal Protection NGO. "The Tiger Temple case has brought attention to the topic but is unfortu-



Tourists feed milk to a tiger cub at the Sriracha Tiger Zoo, in Chonburi Province, Thailand, on 7 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

nately limited to the temple itself."

A July report by World Animal Protection shows that the number of captive tigers in Thailand's tiger entertainment industry jumped 33 per cent, from 623 tigers in 2010 to 830 tigers in 2015-2016. Eight new venues also opened during the period.

Thailand offers an array of wildlife tourist attractions, from tiger "selfies" to elephant rides and orangutan boxing. Some venues

practice "speed breeding" in order to produce tiger cubs for tourist photo-ops, said Schmidt-Burbach.

The practice involves taking newborn cubs away from their mothers so that the females are ready to breed again sooner.

Schmidt-Burbach also said the rapid growth in the tiger population was not being addressed by the Thai government. Thai Department of National Parks deputy director-general Adisorn Noochdumrong

said a "population management regulation" was implemented in July to curb commercial tiger breeding. It requires venues to separate male and female tigers and request permission before breeding takes place.

Schmidt-Burbach and Edwin Wiek, director and founder of Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand, said the new regulation was inadequate and called for a complete breeding ban.

"All these tiger entertainment venues in Thailand should not breed tigers at all because they have zero conservation purpose," Schmidt-Burbach said. Wiek said high demand was fuelling tiger tourism. "People still want their tiger selfies," he said.

In July, Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen visited a Thai tiger attraction, posting pictures on Instagram of the visit just days before World Animal Protection appealed to Indian tourists not to support what it described as "the cruel industry".—Reuters

Beyond war on drugs, Philippines' Duterte seen setting up economic boom

MANILA—Less than two months in office, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is getting high marks from the business community for policies that could engineer an economic surge and companies say they are making new investments as a result.

While Duterte may be getting headlines for a bloody war against drug dealers and users, less attention has been paid to one of Asia's few economic success stories.

The groundwork was laid by Duterte's predecessor, President Benigno Aquino, who took growth above 6 percent over his six-year term, but executives are also cheering the new administration's focus on building new infrastructure and say it could spell the start of a long-term boom. Some even see Duterte's violent and highly controversial anti-drugs campaign as potentially positive.

"We are in a very good spot," said Antonio Moncupa Jr., president and CEO of East-West Banking Corp, one of the top 10 lenders in the country. "The pronouncement of government prioritising infrastructure spending, accelerating it and cutting red tape, solving peace and order, I think all point to very good prospects ahead."

Last week, the government announced that the Philippines' economy grew at 7 per cent in the second quarter from a year earlier, its highest level in three years. It makes the Philippines the fastest growing among all countries that have reported so far for the second quarter.

When Duterte won the May presidential election, there were questions marks over how he would handle the economy — Duterte, who is nicknamed "the Punisher", has been unapologetic



Labourers work at a construction site of a residential condominium building at Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines on 22 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

over unleashing the police on drug users and dealers. Philippine National Police Chief Ronald Dela Rosa said on Monday that there have been 1,800 drug-related deaths since Duterte took over as president, with 712 of those at the hands of the police.

The new president has launched a crackdown on online gambling, vowed to destroy oligarchs, warned that the country could live without a mining industry if environmental standards were not met and called the US ambassador a "gay son

of a whore".

But Duterte has a 91 per cent approval rating in the latest public survey and businesses are lining up to announce expansion plans. The mainstays of the economy — remittances and the outsourcing sector — are flourishing and boosting domestic consumption.

Jollibee Foods Corp, the biggest fastfood chain in the country, plans to open 200 more domestic stores this year. So does Robinsons Retail, taking its total to over 1,500. BDO Unibank Inc, the country's biggest lender, plans to

open 50-100 new branches this year.

"We are supportive and encouraged by the new administration's socio-economic agenda, which has a holistic approach for the benefit of all, including JFC," said Jollibee investor relations officer Cossette Palomar.

However, the Philippines has a worrying precedent of a strongman leader.

In the 1960s, when the country had one of the highest per capita incomes in Asia, Ferdinand Marcos took over as president.

Two decades of dictatorship, corruption and plunder by Marcos left the Philippines in a shambles.

"Business will be good under this administration," BDO Unibank executive vice-president Luis Reyes said of Duterte. "Concerns centre more on the extra-judicial killings."

Supporters of Duterte say even as the long-term mayor of the southern city of Davao, where he earned his reputation for busting crime, he created the conditions for business to flourish.—Reuters

One dies as political activists attack TV channel office in Pakistan's Karachi

ISLAMABAD — At least one person was killed and nine others were injured in the Pakistani port city of Karachi after activists attacked office of a TV channel, police said.

A police officer Qamar Asif said nearly 2000 activists of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement or MQM stormed the office of private ARY TV channel and nearby shops. The MQM complained that the TV channel is not giving proper coverage to its anti-gov't hunger strike.

TV footage showed the MQM angry workers entering the ARY office and destroying equipment and furniture in its office in central Karachi. The ARY Chief Executive Salman Iqbal said that the MQM workers fired inside its office located in Medina Shopping Mall.

Police said the MQM work-

ers flared up after the party leader Altaf Hussain spoke to workers by the phone from London. Hussain lives in self-imposed exile in Britain.

The MQM is observing hunger strike against the arrest of its workers.

Another TV channels Samaa and Neo also said its office came under attack.

Firing was also reported in parts of the city and Semi Jamal, spokesperson of the city's Jinnah Hospital, confirmed that a bullet-riddled body of a man was brought to the hospital. Two policemen were among the injured.

Police said that several persons were arrested in connection with the firing that was widely condemned. Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister of Sindh, of which Karachi is the capital, vis-

ited office of the ARY. Head of the paramilitary forces also went to the ARY office and assured its workers that the culprits will not be spared.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has strongly condemned the attack on ARY, SAMAA and NEO offices in Karachi.

It is an attack on freedom of Press and expression, the Prime Minister said in a statement.

The Prime Minister directed the concerned authorities at the Federal and Provincial levels to bring the culprits to task on immediate basis.

The Prime Minister while directing the relevant authorities to ensure the safety and security of the civilians in general and journalists fraternity in particular also sought report on the incident from concerned quarters.

— Xinhua

Bangkok bombing trial postponed as court appoints new interpreter

BANGKOK — The trial of two men accused of involvement in the deadly bombing of a shrine in Bangkok in August was postponed Tuesday for more than three weeks to allow for a new interpreter to be appointed.

Omer Kanat, the vice president of the World Uyghur Congress, was named to replace the previous interpreter, who was relieved of his duties due to a drugs charge against him, said lawyer Chuchart Kanpai. "I have asked the World Uyghur Congress for the translator, and they are willing to help and will send Omer Kanat to help, with all expenses being the responsibility of the organisation," Chuchart said.

Both men standing trial in the case are ethnic Uyghurs from China. Bilal Mohammed, also known as Adem Karadak, 31, from China's Xinjiang autonomous region,

was arrested 12 days after the 17 August blast at Bangkok's Erawan Shrine, with 27-year old Yusuf Mieraili seized on 1 September in Sakaeo Province on the Thailand-Cambodia border.

Both men have denied involvement in the explosion, which killed 20 people and injured more than 100. A second explosion occurred at a Bangkok pier the following day, with no casualties.

Chuchart said it would take around seven days for the court to consider the new interpreter's background, and said he feels a ruling on the case will be made by the end of next year.

The previous interpreter was arrested on 1 June after being found to be in possession of marijuana and crystal methamphetamine. He also told the court he had been threatened and ordered not to assist in the case.—Kyodo News

Opinion

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Man-made social and environmental impacts are preventable

Aye Min Soe

THE Sagaing Region Government has suspended the operation of jade mines for failing to follow rules and regulations for disposing of mining waste. Environmentalists and local residents welcomed the decision of the government.

There are more than 1,000 mining companies — legal and illegal — in Kachin State and Sagaing Region, creating job opportunities for migrant workers.

However, irresponsible dumping of waste soil by the companies near rivers, combined within forest depletion in the areas, has caused the deposit of a large amount of silt in the rivers, resulting in frequent floods during the rainy season.

In addition, silt brought by the rivers has increased the deposits in the dams, lowering the water storage capacity.

Experts have found that dams released water through

their spillways in the face of rising water levels because their storage capacity has become inadequate to control flooding. The cause is not faulty design but because of the silt brought by the rivers.

The worst flood in 100 years that hit the country last year has highlighted the deterioration of the environment and can be considered a degradation of our natural resources. Internationally, wildfires, slash-and-burn agriculture

practices, mining, industrialization, development projects and the over-extraction of timber, legally or illegal, are being blamed for the depletion of the forests.

But man-made causes are preventable.

Those who are taking part in this business should take responsibility for their actions to prevent the detrimental social and environmental impact of their activities in this largely unregulated industry.

Seventy Plus Counts

Khin Maung Myint

THE United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO) and most countries recognized persons over sixty years of age as elders. As for our country, I presume that seventy is the number, judging by the fact that the age of eligibility to get admitted to the homes and the day care centers for aged are set at seventy. I have no objection to that, as I assume the sixties are still active and capable of fending for themselves, but the seventies are starting to get frail, so that is the right choice.

In some countries, the elders or the senior citizens enjoy some privileges that help to eradicate or ease the pains of the miseries and distresses of aging. Old age is the time when you realize that not only your health is declining, but also your authority and hence your prestige, usefulness to the society, ability, respectability, agility and memory, etc, are starting to wane. By then, you may or may not realize that you are becoming burdensome, not only to your family, but also to the society. Such situations lead one to become more distressed and misery sets in.

The above statement may not be true for every senior citizens. Those who are healthily, wealthy, stress-free and anxiety-free can age gracefully and may be spared from those woes. However, such privileged or fortunate persons may account for a very small percentage of the senior citizen population in any country.

We must bear in mind that



these elderly persons are once energetic, industrious and most of them had served in various capacities and had contributed much to the society and the country, in one way or the other, during their younger days. Thus they shouldn't be ignored or neglected when they are unable to fend for themselves and have no dependents to rely on and are in dire need of help. I had seen many elderly persons, including pensioners, begging on the streets of Yangon.

Many people of all ages in our country are living under the poverty line. As for the younger people they could overcome that situation if given the opportunities, that is job opportunities. As

for the elderlies, though they may want to work they do not have the energy and even if they have that, they don't have the chance due to the age criteria set for job appointments. Today there are many who are living a meager existence and some are even starving.

I understand that in some developed countries, they grant elderly pensions to the senior citizens. As for our country the state alone may not be able to afford to provide every needy elders all the things they might need, thus the civil societies and individual donors need to pitch in their support. Even in the developed countries the roles of the civil societies and individual donors are vital.

Recent news of the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry's proposal to the Hlutaw to grant elderly stipends or pensions to those who are 90 and above, is very welcoming. Though I have nothing to say concerning the amount, I would like to suggest the age criteria set is a bit high, given the estimated life expectancy of our citizens. Our life expectancy ranking is 126 in the world with 64.5 for males, 68.5 for females and 66.6 overall average, according to the WHO rankings published in 2015. (We are behind Cambodia and Laos.)

Very few people would live up to the ripe old age of 90, thus I hope that criteria would be relaxed somewhat. Anyhow, something is better than nothing. We must be content with whatever the outcome of that proposal might be. Here, my opinion, based on my logic is; longevity depends on wealth, health, foods, lifestyles and the environment. Thus apart from the monetary support, necessary arrangements, such as: free healthcare, free shelters and free foods—the most basic needs of all the destitute—should also be considered depending on the availability of the funds.

Here, I would like to mention about the elderly or old age pensions in Australia. According to some friends, who migrated there in their late fifties, once they became citizens they were entitled to the elderly pension when they reached the prescribed age. Although I didn't ask how much they are getting, I learned from a friend of mine that the

pensions he and his wife are receiving are enough for them to live without any financial worries and had no need to depend on their children. He added that they could even save enough money to travel the world. They had visited Myanmar many times and had been to England to visit friends and relatives there.

Another noteworthy fact is that a couple, who are old friends of mine are now staying at a nursing home in Australia. The nursing home charges money to cover the expenses incurred for looking after them. However, my friends don't have to worry as their old age pensions easily cover the costs, even leaving enough for them as pocket money. I am not suggesting that the same must be introduced here, but just citing them as good examples. However, hopefully, when our country is well developed and become prosperous this would become a reality.

At this juncture, I would like to discuss other privileges the senior citizens are enjoying in other countries, including some of our neighbours. Even casual foreign travellers to those countries are entitled to some of the basic privileges. To cite some such basic privileges, there are separate lanes to queue at the airport immigration passport inspection counters, priority seats at the departure lounges, separate toilets at almost every public places, concession rates or exemptions from entrance fees to the national parks and some other places of interests and many more, for the elderlies.

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Thai Philharmonic Orchestra to perform in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw



Thai Philharmonic Orchestra. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

ORGANIZED by the Thai and German embassies to Myanmar and the Goethe-Institute, the Thai Philharmonic Orchestra (TPO) with its 95 international musicians from 15 countries who teach at Mahidol University Musical College will perform three concerts under the baton of its chief conductor, Maestro Gudni Emilsson of Tuebingen, Germany, accompanied by pianist Oliver at the National Theat-

er in Yangon on 26 August, the Mandalay National Theatre on 27 August, and the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 August.

The TPO is considered one of the best ensembles in South East Asia.

Over the past 10 years, TPO, which was founded by Director Dr. Sugree Charoentra of Mahidol University Musical College in Salaya near Bangkok,

is under the patronage of the Royal Thai Government.

The TPO had its first international appearance at the Asian Orchestras Festival in the Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall in 2009. Its second appearance was at the gala concert for the 15th ASEAN Summit in Thailand. It has since performed in New Zealand in 2012, and Vientiane, Laos in 2013.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

10,000 free coffee plants to be distributed to farmers in Ywagan

THE Myanmar Coffee Association will give about 10,000 free coffee plants to the coffee cultivators from Ywagan in Southern Shan State this fiscal year, according to U Ye Myint, the chairman of Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA).

“There is a limitation to giving coffee plants free of charge. This year, they will give freely about 10,000 good qualitative coffee plants to the villages. Currently, Chin State requested for it. Then, they are buying coffee from the cultivators with high payments.

In this function, the MCA accepts to buy the raw materi-

al with high payments from the coffee cultivators and besides, they will help technology to produce finished products according to their willingness,” said U Ye Myint. The representatives of MCA will provide both coffee plants and technology not only to cultivators of Ywar Ngan but also to the farmers from other regions, it is learnt.

The coffee seeds are exported with 50 Kg bags and the price is \$USD3400 per tonne. Ywagan is the main place where coffee is being cultivated because the weather is fair and the quality of natural neutralizers is good. Thus, the coffee from

that region is qualitatively better than others. There are 125 villages and 6600 acres of coffee plantation area, it is noted.

In Myanmar, about 7,000 tonnes of coffee is produced per year and about 50 per cent is exported. Coffee experts from the United States are providing technologies and techniques of coffee plantation and marketing to Myanmar.

There is an opportunity to export Myanmar coffee to European countries because of sample testing done by coffee entrepreneurs in an International coffee exhibition held in April, it is learnt.—*Zarni*

Consultative Workshop on Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan to be held

THE Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is organising a Consultative Workshop on Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan from 25-26 August in Nay Pyi Taw at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC II), it has been learned.

The consultative workshop is being organised with the aim of developing the Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan which will reportedly serve as

a blueprint for establishing a modern and competent civil service.

The event will be officially opened by U Myint Swe, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Dr. Win Thein, Chairperson of the Union Civil Service Board and Ms. Renata Dessallien, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.

The two -day consultative workshop offers a mix of ple-

nary and group discussions and will be attended by a broad range of government and non-government stakeholders, including Members of Parliament, Parliament staff, Union ministries and government institutions, State and Region Governments, civil society organisations, academia and think tanks, the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) and Central Institutes of the

Civil Service (CICS), donors and development partners and the media.—*GNLM*

Heads of service organizations approved

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointments of Director-General U Myint Htway of Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information, Director-General Dr Soe Lwin Nyein of Public Health Department under the Ministry of Health and Sports, Rector Professor Dr Win Htay Aung of University of Medicine (Taunggyi) of Department of Health Profession-

al Resources Development and Management under the Ministry of Health and Sports, Managing Director Daw Cherry Lwin of Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank under the Ministry of Planning and Finance and Director-General U Khin Maung Win of Pension Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance on expiry of the one-year probationary period. — *Myanmar News Agency*

One kind of pig oil came from China through border to Muse food market

A kind of edible oil produced from pigs reached the Muse food market from China through the border recently. This oil is used in China for food products, but the oil is treated with chemicals so as not to smell of pig and not to freeze, it is learnt.

A translation of the Chinese characters on the oil tins shows it can be used for food products. It is recognised by the green logo bearing the likeness of a pig.

In the market, 5 kg and 25 kg tins were sold, but the retail price in the Myanmar market is

only Ks 1,800 per viss, it is noted from the buyers who exported the pig oil to Myanmar.

The large amount of pig oil is exported via the traders from Kyae gaung town and ShweLi town, which are near the border of Muse, it is noted.

According to a food businessman from Kyae Kaung town from China, pig oil is fair in price and colourful so that it is used mostly in making oily Chinese snacks eaten by children. The oil is also recommended by FDA. — *Sayar Maung (Muse)*

Fourth soybean drying machine to be started to operate

THE fourth drying machine which is useful for soybean sector will be operated in September at Laikha township, Shan State (south), said Dr. Myo Aung Kyaw, deputy chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation.

The soybean drying machine is running in the place of Kyauktalonge, Yetsaut, Mong pon region. The fourth machine will be started to run during September after training the farmer in its use in Laikha township.

As well, most of the local people from Yetsaut township dried over ten thousand visses of soybean as well as paddy. The Myanmar Rice Federation is planning to fix new machines in Pindaya and Namhsan township. The drying machine will be fixed depend on the township needs and local farmer ability to handle the machine. The drying machine can dry not only soybean but also the other crops.—*200*

Seventy Plus Counts

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The elderlies are treated equally with the sanghas, clergypersons of other faiths, the disabled, the pregnant women, the infants and are given priority in boarding the planes at Thai air ports. They are allowed to board the planes ahead of other passengers after the sanghas, clergies, disabled, infants and pregnant women. Thus they are spared from being pushed or elbowed by unruly passengers, who would scramble to board the plane as though they would miss the flight.

In conclusion, I would like to request the authorities concerned to educate our people to show regards and respect towards the elderlies. Although,

some used to boast that the Myanmarers are the most polite and generous people in the world, I had been experiencing disregards and dis-respects shown to me by strangers on the streets and other public places. No one bothered to give up their seats on the crowded buses or trains in Yangon, but I had been offered seats, many a time on the Sky Trains in Bangkok, very polite and generous gestures, which are really praiseworthy. Our new generations should show more regards and respects towards the elderlies as most of us had contributed much to the society and the country in our younger days. They should be mindful that seventy plus counts.



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton tapes an appearance on the Jimmy Kimmel Show in Los Angeles, California, on 22 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Clinton says US presidential election an 'alternative reality'

LOS ANGELES — Democrat Hillary Clinton said on a late-night television show on Monday that sometimes she feels she is in an "alternative universe" in the US presidential race against Republican Donald Trump.

"I do feel sometimes like this campaign has entered into an alternative universe," Clinton said on ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live. "I have to step into the alternative reality, answer questions about am I alive, how much longer will I be alive."

Clinton was for the first time responding to allegations made by Trump and some of his backers that she is suffering health problems that could be problematic in the White House should she win the 8 November election.

Both Clinton and Trump have released notes from doctors declaring them physically fit for

the presidency.

Kimmel asked Clinton to open a jar of pickles as a test of her strength. She did so successfully.

"This has become one of their themes. Take my pulse while I'm talking to you — make sure I'm alive," Clinton said to Kimmel of the health rumours.

Clinton said that sometimes Trump's remarks about her — such as a recent charge that President Barack Obama and Clinton co-founded the Islamic State, which he later said was sarcasm — go beyond personal attacks and become harmful to US national security.

"There's enough evidence now that when Trump talks the way he talks it actually helps the terrorists," Clinton said. "I think it's crazy, but I think it's also harmful."

Clinton said she had begun preparing for the three presidential debates scheduled in September and October.

"I want to take it seriously," Clinton said. "But you've got to be prepared for, like wacky stuff that comes at you and I am drawing on my experience in elementary school."

Clinton brushed off the possible release of an additional 14,900 emails that the FBI found when investigating her use of a private email server as secretary of state.

"My emails are so boring," Clinton said. "What's a few more?"

The US State Department has already reviewed some 30,068 emails from her 2009-2013 tenure and released most of them, amounting to some 55,000 pages. —Reuters

Germany, France, Italy say Europe must move forward after Brexit vote

ABOARD ITALIAN WARSHIP GARIBALDI — The leaders of the euro zone's biggest economies held talks on Monday in the aftermath of Britain's shock decision to leave the European Union and said Europe had to turn its back on populists who blamed Brussels for all its problems.

Speaking on an aircraft carrier off the Italian island of Ventotene, Germany's Angela Merkel, France's Francois Hollande and Italy's Matteo Renzi issued calls for closer security cooperation and better opportunities for young people. In a meeting heavy on symbolism, the three leaders visited Ventotene to lay a wreath on the tomb of Altiero Spinelli, an Italian intellectual seen as a founding father of European unity.

They then boarded the Garibaldi, which is in the front line of an EU mission to combat people traffickers who have carried hundreds of thousands of migrants to Europe across the Mediterranean.

"For many populists, Europe is to blame for everything that goes wrong," Renzi said at the joint news conference before the leaders sat down for talks aboard the ship.

"Immigration, it's Europe's fault, the economy is bad, it's Europe's fault. But that is not the case." The meeting was designed to lay the groundwork for an EU summit in Bratislava next month.

Monday's talks marked the beginning of a week of meetings for Merkel with other European governments that will see her trav-

el to four countries and receive leaders from another eight.

"We respect Great Britain's decision but we also want to make clear that the other 27 (member states) are banking on a safe and prospering Europe," the German chancellor said.

But questions of how to bring about prosperity have divided the three countries. Heavily-indebted Italy, whose economy has barely grown since the introduction of the euro currency in 1999, has repeatedly chafed against stern EU budget rules, and both Renzi and Hollande want greater flexibility to help boost growth.

Germany is keen for rules to be respected, and Renzi and Merkel sidestepped a question on deficit limits. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

OSCE rights group requests 500 international observers to monitor US presidential vote

WASHINGTON — The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe aims to send 500 international observers to observe November's US presidential election, a tenfold increase from the number the group deployed in 2012.

A coalition of more than 200 US civil rights groups urged the OSCE in a letter released on Tuesday to provide even more than the 500 observers the OSCE requested based on an assessment it conducted in May. The actual observers will be dispatched by the international security and rights organisation's 57 participating states. —Reuters

Kiev remains committed to peaceful settlement of conflict

KIEV — Kiev remains committed to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine despite a recent escalation of tensions, Ukrainian Deputy Defence Minister Igor Dolgov said here on Monday.

"The actions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces are aimed at a strict adherence to the Minsk agreement and at the fulfillment of Ukraine's commitments," Dolgov said during his meeting with Ertugrul Apakan, the head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Kiev attaches great importance to its cooperation with the OSCE in settling the situation in the eastern region, Dolgov said, stressing that a political solution is the only way out of the crisis. —Xinhua

Gas leaks from Bangladesh fertiliser plant, 50 people ill

DHAKA — About 50 people fell ill in Bangladesh after inhaling gas that leaked from a fertiliser factory in the port town of Chittagong, an official said on Tuesday.

Police and the fire brigade were trying to contain the spread of ammonia that began on Monday night, said Mesbah Uddin, the district's deputy commissioner.

The state-owned factory producing diammonium phosphate fertiliser is on the bank of the Karnaphuli river, across the water from Chittagong, but wind has pushed the gas towards the city.

The gas had leaked from a pipeline, Uddin said. Residents in the affected area have been told to stay indoors. —Reuters

Military search on for missing civilian chopper in Philippines

MANILA — An Army officer said on Tuesday that a search and rescue operation continues for a civilian helicopter that went missing in Quezon Province, south of Manila on Monday.

Lt. Col. Ramil Anoyo, commander of the Army's 48th Infantry Battalion, said the military has sent a Sokol helicopter to the crash site, but so far no wreckage of the four-seater chopper has been found. Also missing were the pilot and the co-pilot, he said.

Eric Apolonio, a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, said the helicopter had been deployed to fetch some rescuers sent to a tunnel project that was flooded on 13 August. According to reports, six workers died in the 13 August flash flood that caused the dam to collapse, trapping seven workers. One of the workers was rescued. —Xinhua

Over 70 garment, shoe factories in Cambodia shut down this year

PHNOM PENH — More than 70 garment and footwear factories in Cambodia has closed down in the first eight months of 2016 due to on-going political dispute, illegal protests and tough competition, the local Khmer Times reported on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference before a garment industry exhibition here on Monday, Ly Tek Heng, the operations manager of the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC), painted a worrying picture of the first eight months of the year.

"I think the political situation has affected business, both businessmen and investors. When one country has instability in politics, it is difficult to make investments and there are concerns, especially from buyers," he was quoted as saying by the newspaper. —Xinhua

In Iraq, Nigeria and now Turkey, child bombers strike

ISTANBUL — The boy looked scared and younger than 16 when Iraqi police grabbed him on the street in the northern city of Kirkuk. Pulling off his shirt, they found a two-kilogram bomb strapped to his skinny frame.

That was last Sunday. Less than a day earlier, Turkey was less fortunate: a teenage bomber detonated his suicide vest among dancing guests at a Turkish wedding party, officials say, killing 51 people, nearly half of them children themselves.

Saturday's attack at the wedding in Gaziantep marked not only Turkey's deadliest this year, but also the first time in Turkey that militants may have deployed a child bomber in a way already used to deadly effect in wars from Africa to Syria.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban has long used children. One 14-year-old bomber on a bicycle hit the Kabul NATO base in 2012 killing six people; two years later a teenager blew himself up at French cultural center in the Afghan capital.

Researchers and officials say Islamic State and other militants are now increasingly using the same tactics, perhaps to build ranks depleted by losses, preserve adult fighters or simply catch security forces off guard.

In West Africa, Boko Haram has preyed on displaced children or young girls it kidnapped to force them to become bombers. In Iraq and Syria, activists say Islamic State took in children from towns it captures or recruited families to its territory, and indoctrinated their children in its schools and camps.

Islamic State in particular, highlights its child recruits for its "Cubs of the Caliphate" brigades, publishing images and videos on



Iraqi security forces remove a suicide vest from a boy in Kirkuk, Iraq, on 21 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

social media of children receiving training and indoctrination, and carrying out bombings or executions.

"Child recruitment across the region is increasing," said Juliette Touma, a UNICEF regional spokesperson. "Children are taking a much more active role ..., receiving training on the use of heavy weapons, manning checkpoints on the front lines, being used as snipers and in extreme cases being used as suicide bombers."

Little has been publicly released about the attacker in the Gaziantep bombing. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that the bomber was between 12 to 14 years old, and said Islamic State was probably responsible.

The blast tore into celebrations at a Kurdish wedding on the street late at night. As many as 22

of the dead were under the age of 14. No one claimed the attack, but Islamic State in the past has targeted Kurdish gatherings to stir ethnic tensions.

Turkey's prime minister was more cautious on Monday, saying it was too early to say who carried out the attack, though security sources say witnesses reported the bomber was a child.

Turkish authorities are also investigating whether militants may have placed the explosives on the suspect, without his or her knowledge before detonating them long distance.

That tactic has been used before in Iraq, where children or even mentally disadvantaged adults have been dispatched as unwitting bomb couriers into markets and checkpoints before they are blown up from afar.

In the failed attack in the

northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk a day later, local television images and photographs showed the boy crying and screaming as he was grabbed by Iraqi security forces near an interior ministry building.

Security officials said the boy is 16 years old, though local media reports said he was much younger. He is an Iraqi national from Mosul, the largest urban center still under militant control, which Iraqi and Kurdish Peshmerga forces backed by US air strikes are moving to liberate.

Hisham al-Hashimi, an analyst and author who advises the Iraqi government on Islamic State, says militants this year had reactivated their Heaven's Youth Brigade, in reaction to the group's battlefield losses in Iraq and Syria.

"Teenagers are easier to recruit for suicide missions, especially in moments of suffering or

despair having lost loved ones," he said. "They also attract less attention and less suspicion than male adults."

Child recruits who have escaped from Islamic State ranks in its base in Syria's Raqaa have described how they were taught to handle weapons, and also how to detonate suicide belts.

A study in February for Combating Terrorism Centre at West Point military academy that examined Islamic State propaganda on child and youth 'martyrs' between January 2015 and 2016, found three times as many suicide operations involving children over the year.

"They represent an effective form of psychological warfare—to project strength, pierce defences, and strike fear into enemy soldiers' hearts," the study said. "Islamic State is mobilizing children and youth at an alarming rate."

Those tactics are mirrored in West Africa where UN officials have tracked a rise in attacks like the one carried out by a girl as young as ten who last year exploded a bomb in a busy market place in the Nigerian city of Maiduguri, killing 16 people.

Security sources at the time said the explosive device was wrapped around her body.

In an April report, UNICEF said attacks involving child suicide bombers between 2014 and this year rose four-fold in northeastern Nigeria, where militant group Boko Haram is based, and neighboring Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

A 12-year-old Nigerian girl captured with explosives in Cameroon in March told police she had been abducted by Boko Haram after the group overran her village a year earlier.—Reuters

British man admits 'confrontation' with Bali policeman, but says did not kill him

JAKARTA — A British man arrested over the killing of a policeman on Indonesia's holiday island Bali says he was involved in a "confrontation" with the officer over his girlfriend's missing purse, but denies killing him, his lawyer said on Tuesday.

The body of Wayan Sudarsa, a traffic police official, was found in the early hours of 17 August, face-down in the sand on popular Kuta beach, with wounds to his head and neck, according to media reports. David Taylor, 33, and his Australian girlfriend Sarah Connor, 45, were arrested last week over the killing. The pair are suspects in the case, according to police. Under Indonesian law, charges are only laid once the case gets to court. "David maintains that he did not kill the victim, only that he was looking for (his girlfriend's purse)," Taylor's lawyer Haposan



Police escort a British man into a police headquarters for questioning over the death of a police officer in Denpasar on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, Indonesia on 19 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Shimbing said. "He approached the victim, checked the victim's pockets and there was a confrontation but David did not hit the victim." However, Connor has told police that she saw Taylor beating the officer as she searched for her purse, according to her lawyer Erwin Siregar.

"When she tried to find her lost purse, she saw David sitting on the back of the victim. And as Sarah looked past David and saw that he was beating the victim. Because she only saw him from behind, she didn't clearly see if he used his bare hands or had a tool," Siregar said late on Monday.—Reuters

Turkish military returns fire in Syria after shells hit border town

ISTANBUL — Turkey's military returned fire at Islamic State targets in northern Syria on Tuesday, after two mortar shells from Syria hit a Turkish border town, broadcaster NTV said, citing the military.

The military fired 40 shells at four Islamic State targets in Syria, NTV said.

The two mortar shells, which hit the town of Karkamis but did not cause casualties, were apparently fired during clashes between Syrian rebels and Islamic State militants in northern Syria, state-run Anadolu Agency said.

Karkamis neighbours the Syrian town of Jarablus, which Turkish-backed Syrian

rebels are preparing to attack and seize from Islamic State, according to a senior rebel official, a move that would frustrate Kurdish hopes to expand there.

The mortar shells hit the garden of a property linked to a mosque in Karkamis after striking power lines, Anadolu said. Security forces subsequently sealed off the area and warned people over loudspeaker to stay at home, it said.

On Monday, Turkey's military launched howitzer attacks on Islamic State while artillery pounded Kurdish YPG militants in Syria, whom Ankara sees as an extension of its own Kurdish insurgency.—Reuters

Trump calls for special prosecutor to investigate Clinton Foundation

AKRON, (Ohio) — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump urged the Justice Department on Monday to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate if donors to the Clinton Foundation got special treatment from the State Department when it was run by his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

Trump made the appeal at a rally before thousands of cheering supporters in Akron, Ohio, as he tries to rebound from a slide in national opinion polls with little more than two months to go until the 8 November election.

Trump accused former President Bill Clinton and his wife of turning the Clinton Foundation charity into a “pay-for-play” scheme in which wealthy donors, foreign and domestic, got favors from the State Department during Hillary Clinton’s 2009-2013 tenure as the country’s top diplomat.

Trump faulted both the Justice Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation for not indicting



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks onstage during a campaign rally in Akron, Ohio, US, on 22 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Clinton over her use of a private email server as secretary of state. FBI Director James Comey cited her careless handling of classified emails but opted not to prosecute her.

“The Justice Department is required to appoint a special prosecutor because it has proved to be, sadly, a political arm of the White House,” Trump said. “No-

body has ever seen anything like it before.” Trump’s appeal came the same day a conservative watchdog group, Judicial Watch, released 725 pages of State Department documents, including some it said were examples of preferential treatment provided to donors at the request of former Clinton Foundation executive Douglas Band.

Trump’s call for an independent investigation followed an announcement by the Clinton Foundation that it would no longer accept foreign donations should Clinton be elected president.

The Clinton campaign fired back at Trump, saying the foundation had already laid out “the unprecedented steps the charity will take if Hillary Clinton be-

comes president.” Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said in a statement that Trump “needs to come clean with voters about his complex network” of businesses that are in debt to big banks, including the state-owned Bank of China, after a *New York Times* report on the subject.

“Donald Trump should stop hiding behind fake excuses and release his tax returns and immediately disclose the full extent of his business interests,” Podesta said.

While keeping up the attack on Clinton, Trump in his speech also outlined some agenda items, as Republicans have been urging him to do for months. The more disciplined Trump followed a campaign shake-up last week that brought in veteran pollster Kellyanne Conway as campaign manager.

But in a sign that organisational challenges remain, Trump canceled a rally planned for later this week in Las Vegas and postponed an immigration speech in Denver.

Earlier on Monday, Trump insisted he was not “flip-flopping” on immigration, despite a comment by Conway on Sunday that his plan to deport 11 million illegal immigrants was still under review.

In his Akron remarks, Trump, struggling to broaden his support beyond the white working-class voters who have been his base of support, again urged blacks and Hispanics to give him a chance, saying: “What the hell do you have to lose?” repeating a line he delivered on Friday that was criticised by Clinton as “ignorant.”

Trump said Democratic politicians had not been able to stem crime and poverty in inner cities despite pledges to do every election year.

“I say it and I’m going to keep saying it and some people say: ‘Wow that makes sense’ and some people say: ‘That’s not very nice,’” Trump said. “And I say it with such a deep-felt feeling, what do you have to lose? We’ll bring jobs back. We’ll bring spirit back. We’ll get rid of the crime.”—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (011N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CRUSADER VOY NO (011N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Venezuela president orders public worker sackings over referendum call

CARACAS — President Nicolas Maduro has set a 48-hour deadline for ministers to dismiss some public workers who requested a recall referendum against him, a Socialist Party spokesman said on Monday.

Hundreds of public workers have already said they were dismissed for signing a petition for a referendum against the unpopular president, according to testimony seen by Reuters, human rights groups and local media.

“Today, by order of the party president Nicolas Maduro, five ministries ... cannot have people that are against the Revolution and the president in management positions in ministries, public institutions, local government and municipalities,” said Jorge Rodriguez, the leader of the Socialist Party in Venezuela.

“They have a deadline of 48 hours,” said Rodriguez.

The ministries cited by Rodriguez were food, basic industries and finance among others.

Venezuela’s constitution allows a recall ref-

erendum halfway through a president’s six-year term. The opposition is pushing for a referendum against Maduro, blaming him for an economic and social crisis. Supermarket queues are in the hundreds or thousands, with looting and food riots a daily occurrence. Shortages, triple digit inflation and a deep recession have pushed Maduro’s approval ratings to near its lowest since he was elected president in 2013.

The opposition accuses the electoral council of stalling the process for a referendum so that it takes place next year. If that happens and Maduro loses, his Vice President would become president, keeping the Socialist Party in power.

In 2004, during the campaign for a referendum against former president Hugo Chavez, government lawmaker Luis Tascon published a list of more than 2.4 million Venezuelans who signed in favour of a referendum.

Many lost jobs and were marginalized from state services and the “Tascon List” became notorious.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

Japan's first lady makes first visit to Pearl Harbour

LOS ANGELES — Japan's first lady Akie Abe made an unofficial visit to Pearl Harbour on Sunday where she paid tribute to Americans killed in Japan's surprise attack on the US naval base in Hawaii on 7 December 1941.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Monday the first lady made her visit as a private individual, and it was not an indication that Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe would visit Pearl Harbour, the *Japan Times* reported.

A visit by Abe would mark the first time an incumbent Japanese prime minister had gone to the Pearl Harbour memorial.

The attack on the naval base by Japanese torpedo planes, bombers and fighter planes drew the United States into World War II when it declared war on Japan.

In May, Barack Obama became the first sitting US president to visit Hiroshima, one of two cities the United States hit with atomic bombs in 1945. The other was Nagasaki.

Since Obama's visit there has been speculation over whether Abe would visit Pearl Harbour.

Akie Abe posted photographs on Facebook and wrote that she had gone to the Arizona Memorial offering flowers and prayer. No previous first lady has visited the site while her husband was in office.

More than 1,100 sailors and Marines were killed on the US Arizona in the Japanese attack. The sunken battleship, at Pearl Harbour



The twisted remains of the destroyer USS SHAW burning in floating drydock at Pearl Harbour after the 'sneak Japanese attack' on Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on 7 December 1941. PHOTO: REUTERS

in Honolulu, is the resting place of almost all of them.

"I have been to Hawaii many times but I have never been to Pearl Harbour," Japanese publication *Gendai Business* quoted the first lady as saying. "Over the past year ... I have had many chances to think about (World War II), and I felt a strong urge to visit at least once in my lifetime," she said.

Last year marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Katina Adams, a spokeswoman for the US State Department's bureau of East Asian and Pacific affairs, said, "We are aware of First Lady Akie Abe's visit to Pearl Harbour." She declined further comment.

"The fact that Akie Abe has gone is a tremen-

dous step forward for Japan to come to terms with its past," Shihoko Goto, senior Northeast Asia associate for the Asia programme at Woodrow Wilson Centre, a Washington, DC, think tank, said in a telephone interview. "This is certainly a balloon test to see what the public reaction will be."

Japan's embassy in Washington said in an email, "As Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga stated, First Lady Akie Abe visited Pearl Harbour as a personal visit, and we would like to refrain from making further comments on this subject."

More than 2,400 US service members were killed in the attack on Pearl Harbour, which President Franklin D. Roosevelt described as a date that would

"live in infamy."

In April, Prime Minister Abe spoke to the US Congress and expressed "deep repentance" over Japan's role in World War II.

Japan is America's staunchest Asian ally. Japanese Emperor Akihito has expressed remorse over the war.

"Looking back at the past, together with deep remorse over the war, I pray that this tragedy of war will not be repeated and together with the people, express my deep condolences for those who fell in battle and in the ravages of war, and pray for world peace and the further prosperity of our country," Akihito said at a memorial service on the 70th anniversary of the day his father, Hirohito, announced Japan's defeat.—*Reuters*

Russia says future use of Iran air base depends on Syria circumstances

DUBAI — The Russian military said on Monday its aircraft operating from an Iranian air base to conduct strikes in Syria had completed their tasks, but left open the possibility of using the Hamadan base again if circumstances warranted.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said Russia had stopped using the base for strikes in Syria, bringing an abrupt halt to an unprecedented deployment that was criticised both by the White House and by some Iranian lawmakers.

"Russian military aircraft that took part in the operation of conducting air strikes from Iran's Hamadan air base on terrorist targets in Syria have successfully completed all tasks," a Russian Defence Ministry spokesman, Major-General Igor Konashenkov, said in a statement.

"Further use of the Hamadan air base in the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Russian Aerospace Forces will be carried out on the basis of mutual agreements to fight terrorism and depending on the prevailing circumstances in Syria," Konashenkov said.

Last week, long-range Russian Tupolev-22M3 bombers and Sukhoi-34 fighter bombers used Nojeh air base, near the city of Hamadan, in north-west Iran to launch air strikes against armed groups in Syria.

It was the first time a foreign power had used an Iranian base since World War II. Russia and Iran are both providing crucial military support to President Bashar al-Assad against rebels and jihadi fighters in Syria's five-year-old conflict.—*Reuters*

Viet Nam's coffee export volume to hit record high in 2015-2016 crop year: association

HANOI — Viet Nam is estimated to export some 1.7 million tons of coffee in 2015-2016 crop year, up 41 per cent year-on-year, hitting a record high in export volume, according to Viet Nam Coffee-Cacao Association (Vicofa) on Tuesday.

The country is expected to earn around 3.1 billion US dollars from coffee exports during the crop year, up 19.2 per cent year-on-year, local *Viet Nam Economic Times* quoted the Vicofa as saying.

Including at least 102,000 tons of coffee do-

mestically consumed, Viet Nam's total coffee consumption in 2015-2016 crop year will hit a new record of over 1.8 million tons, said the association.

In the past, Viet Nam had set a record of 3.4 billion US dollars in coffee export revenue in 2013-2014 crop year as shipping 1.66 million tons of the item to world market.

The figures went down in 2014-2015 crop year with around 1.2 million tons of coffee worth 2.6 billion US dollars, said Vicofa.—*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SSL TRUST VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SSL TRUST VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THE SHIPPING CORP. OF
INDIA LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATANA THIDA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Actress Lily James swaps corsets for perfume as Burberry model

LONDON — British fashion brand Burberry has added another celebrity to its list of models — actress Lily James.

The “Downton Abbey” and “Pride and Prejudice and Zombies” star fronts a new advertising campaign for fragrance “My

Burberry Black”.

Burberry, known for its trench coats, has previously cast Oscar winner Eddie Redmayne and Romeo Beckham, son of footballer David Beckham and his designer wife Victoria Beckham, in its adverts.—Reuters



Actress Lily James.
PHOTO: REUTERS



Contestants prepare backstage during the Salon Tango style qualifier round at the Tango World Championship in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 22 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dancers aim to qualify for Argentina's World Tango Championship

BUENOS AIRES — Salon tango dancers glided onto a dance floor in Buenos Aires on Monday in the hopes of qualifying for the World Tango Festival and Championship held every year in the Argentine capital.

“My expectation is to have the experience of being here, of having personal growth in dance,” said Uruguayan tango dancer Maria Poggio, 38.

“If everything goes our way and we qualify ... that would be great, but the most important thing is to participate and prepare for this, an expectation to grow,” she said.

Andre Magro, 35, who is originally from Brazil, said dancing was about having fun.

“There are more than 400

couples dancing, participating and it is very difficult if you want to go through to the finals because there are people who dance very well, around the world,” Magro said.

He said anyone who reached the semifinal would be very happy, but “the result is what least matters because people are here to meet other people, to dance and have fun.”

The tango originated in the early 19th century in the working-class port areas of Buenos Aires.

Now a ballroom dance popular around the world, couples still can be seen passionately dancing the tango on the streets of Buenos Aires neighbourhoods like San Telmo.

Chilean Omar Aguilera, 30, spoke about being transported to another world while dancing.

“Well, it’s a championship, so the (skill) level is always very high. You’re always watching championships and you realise the level grows even more every year,” Aguilera said.

“During the round we danced in, one could feel the powerful energy of tango, so I get lost in that. I can’t see but you feel it when you’re on the floor dancing in full swing.”

The World Tango Festival and Championship opened on 22 August and is scheduled to run until 31 August at Usina del Arte, a cultural center in the neighbourhood of La Boca.—

Reuters

Mislabeled pills seized at Prince's home after his death

LOS ANGELES — Mislabeled pills were seized at the home of musician Prince after his death from an overdose of the powerful opioid fentanyl, according to media reports on Monday.

Prince died on 21 April at his home and studio outside Minneapolis, and investigators are trying to establish how he ingested fentanyl, with one theory being that he may have accidentally taken the drug because it was not properly labeled.

Pills containing fentanyl were seized at his home, but they were marked hydrocodone, the Star Tribune said, citing an unnamed source. The source also told the newspaper that Prince did not possess a prescription for fentanyl.

Among medications found in a dressing room, and in suitcases and bags, was an Aleve bottle that contained pills stamped “Watson 385,” which is used on hydrocodone-acetaminophen pills. But at least one of those pills contained fentanyl, the Associated Press reported, also citing an anonymous

source with knowledge of the investigation.

A spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office that has investigated Prince's death did not confirm or deny the reports.

Fentanyl, which is often sold illegally and has caused an epidemic of overdose deaths around the United States, is the most potent narcotic known, 50 times stronger than heroin.

The megastar did not leave a will when he died unexpectedly at age 57. A flood of individuals have tried to make claims on his estate, which some have valued at more than \$500 million. A judge excluded 29 would-be heirs in July, bolstering the claims of his sister and surviving half-siblings.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

World’s largest indoor theme park to open in Dubai

DUBAI — The world’s largest indoor theme park is set to open in Dubai this month to lure back some of the tourists and residents who often flee abroad during the scorching desert summer.

In a sandy suburb beyond Dubai’s concrete jungle and pockets of artificially green spaces, IMG Worlds of Adventure’s boxy exterior belies a 140,000-square metre (1.5 million-square foot) air-conditioned cathedral of entertainment teeming with animatronic dinosaurs, roller coasters, Marvel superheroes and Cartoon Network characters.

Zombies pop out from dark corners of a haunted house and the Velociraptor coaster throttles passengers within a misty simulated rain forest dubbed the Lost Valley.

As it stands now, stir-crazy families in Dubai - a tourism and financial hub which already

boasts the world’s tallest building — have few places to stretch their legs beyond expensive malls while temperatures outside can approach 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit).

Even an indoor ski slope, complete with real-life penguins, has not been enough to stanch the exodus that leaves roads and public spaces eerily quiet through the hot months.

“Dubai still suffers from a certain amount of seasonality during the June, July, August period,” Lennard Otto, CEO of the new \$1 billion attraction, told Reuters.

“We will hopefully drive tourism in those periods to make Dubai an all-year-round destination,” he said, ahead of the theme park’s 31 August opening.

“Today there’s a gap in this market and in the region. People are actually travelling to the far



Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest tower, is seen in a general view of Dubai, UAE on 9 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

east and the far west to experience theme parks,” Otto said.

Both the United Arab Emirates, which includes Dubai, and Saudi Arabia have launched initiatives this year to create more fun for their car and smartphone-obsessed people. As part of a plan to diversify its economy away from oil, Saudi Arabia announced in June that it was in talks with Six Flags Entertainment Corp (SIX.N) to build theme parks, and the UAE created a “Happiness Ministry” in February to look at ways of measuring and improving quality of life.

Happiness in Dubai may soon be in no short supply, as a government-backed rival by Dubai Parks and Resorts DUBA.DU will open by year’s end, while a Fox-branded (FOXA.O) theme park, with attractions based on TV and film titles such as “Ice Age” and “The Simpsons”, is set to open in 2020.—Reuters

Thousands flock to Mexico City streets for Pokemon Go

MEXICO CITY — Thousands gathered in Mexico City’s Chapultepec Park on Sunday (August 21) to play Pokemon Go and celebrate the worldwide app phenomenon.

Mexicans of all ages, some in costume, descended on the park early in the day, phones and tablets in hand, ready to capture Pokemons. Pokemon player Julio Cesar said he wasn’t a fan at first. “When the app came out, the truth is that I spoke very badly of it as did those who play conventional video games. But I had the chance to try it and it is very addictive and I like it a lot and I see that it can bring people

together to meet each other,” he said. A little girl named Diana came with her family.

“It is very cool, a very cool experience. You get exercise walking, you have fun catching Pokemons and it’s a lot of fun to spend time with your family,” she said.

Mexico received unrestricted access to the Pokemon Go app at the beginning of August.

Following the Pokemon hunt in the park, many players went to a Mexico City cultural center to watch the finals of the Pokemon World Championship being held in San Francisco.— Reuters

Yugos, Corvairs and Vegas: the Cream of the Clunkers at the Concours d’Lemons

SEASIDE, (Calif.) — David Swan nicknamed his car Wilma, after Fred Flintstone’s wife.

That’s because his 1964 Corvair 500 had floor holes so big that his feet stuck through when he bought it for \$500 last year. After repairs, “it’s now my daily driver,” says Swan, a recent college graduate who lives near San Francisco. “Well, that and the bus.”

Such was Saturday’s Concours d’Lemons in this working class town on California’s Monterey Peninsula. The other events during Monterey Car week celebrate, with great reverence, multi-million-dollar Ferraris and Delahayes. Each year the Lemons, in contrast, celebrates Corvairs, Yugos, Gremlins and other vintage automotive junk.

The spoof event, in its eighth year, is the brainchild of Alan Galbraith, a promoter of car exhibitions. “It involved a lot of drinking one night,” he explained. “And the realization that Monterey Car Week had gotten so serious.” The Concours d’Lemons is anything but serious. The judging categories include Unmitigated Gaul for the worst French car, Rueful Britannia for the worst British automobile and Rust Belt American Junk. Cars in those and other classes compete for the coveted (or not) Worst in Show award.

The event drew a record 150 cars this year. Some participated in a Lemons road rally early in the week to Las Vegas, traversing Death Valley en route. All the drivers, with their cars, made it back to Monterey. Alive.

Mike King and Mike Percy brought a 1974 Chevrolet Vega station wagon — called the Estate model because of its fake wood side paneling — from their home in Fresno, Calif. The kitschy wood grain aside, the Vega’s prodigious oil leaks and other woes made it one of America’s worst cars ever. Despite that, or maybe because of it, King and Percy say their car evokes lots of smiles.

“Once two sisters were looking at the car and getting emotional talking about their mother, who owned one,” Percy said. “Cars can be big in people’s lives.” The Lemons, he added, offers a respite from the tensions of Car Week’s big-money auctions and high-stakes judging contests.—Reuters

MRTV

Entertainment Channel

(24-8-2016, Wednesday)

06 : 00 pm

• Weather Report

• Music Programme

06 : 20 pm

• Cartoon “Dragon Ball Z Bardock (The Father of Goku)” (Part-I)

07 : 10 pm

• International Drama Series

07 : 50 pm

• International Drama Series

08 : 30 pm

• Premier League (Review)

09 : 20 pm

• MRTV Entertainment

Music

9 : 30 pm

• Next Generation “Thin Wai Khaing (Golfer)”

09 : 40 pm

• International Movie Songs

09 : 55 pm

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

10 : 15 pm

• Myanmar Video

Midnight

• Close Down

From

24-8-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm

To

25-8-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm

mitv

Myanmar International

(24-8-2016 07:00am ~ 25-8-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory of Bago City

07:53 Am Myanmar Harpist

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am Traditional Thatch Roof - Thet Nge

08:40 Am Village Belle

08:54 Am A Traditional Doctor

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Up Against The Tide

09:43 Am Image of The Monks

Prime Time

10:03 Am News

10:26 Am Gemstone Sculptor

10:39 Am Paper Products... Plain but Pretty

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

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

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm A Famous Pagoda in the Sea

07:52 Pm One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)

08:41 Pm Kayah

08:49 Pm Lady Pilot

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday 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)

Aguero cannot 'disappear' when City lose possession — Manager Pep Guardiola

LONDON — Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has urged striker Sergio Aguero to help his side maintain pressure on opponents and not “disappear” when his side do not have possession of the ball.

The Argentine scored twice in City's 4-1 win against Stoke City on Saturday to take his season's tally to six goals in all competitions.

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich manager said Aguero must help his team mates with his movements off the ball.

“It's not enough to receive the ball from his team mates, he has to help us in the first pressure and run a lot and help us a lot with movement,” Guardiola told British media.

“You cannot be brilliant when you disappear when you (don't) have the ball. It's

impossible.

“Until now he's doing it and, when that happens, you are involved in defensive tasks and the offensive.”

Guardiola also praised young striker Kelechi Iheanacho, who came off the bench and proved influential in City's third and fourth goals against Stoke.

“He (Iheanacho) is always ready,” Guardiola added. “We will need him. Sergio can't play all season and Kelli is going to play.

“We can't achieve anything with just 11 or 12 players. We need everybody and I hope they realise that.”

City next face Steaua Bucharest in the second leg of their Champions League playoff on Wednesday, before hosting West Ham United in their next league clash on Sunday.—Reuters



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. PHOTO: REUTERS

Manchester United defender Blackett joins Reading

LONDON — Manchester United defender Tyler Blackett joined Championship club Reading on Monday, signing a three-year contract.

The 22-year-old England under-21 spent last season on loan at Celtic, where he won a Scottish League winner's medal.

Reading manager Jaap Stam, formerly a defender with United, said Blackett's versatility was a key factor in the move.

“He can play as a left-back or a left-sided centre-back; he has got great potential in the sense that he is quick and athletic, defensively he is strong and he is good at set pieces,” Stam told Reading's website (www.readingfc.co.uk).

“As a defender he can go and play high up the pitch as well, and that is what we need in the squad.”—Reuters

Williams and Kerber qualify for Tour finals

LONDON — Serena Williams and Angelique Kerber, battling it out for the world number one ranking, are the first two women to qualify for the season-ending WTA Tour Finals in Singapore, the WTA said on Monday.

World number one Williams, who leads Kerber by 190 ranking points, has won the title five times but missed last year's event through injury.

Kerber, who won her first grand slam title at the Australian

Open in January and who reached the final at Wimbledon, will be making her fourth appearance in the 23-30 October event, reserved for the top eight-ranked players of the year. “I'm very proud and excited to qualify for the BNP Paribas WTA Finals in Singapore,” said American

Williams, who will try to break the Open-era record

of 22 grand slam singles titles she shares with Steffi Graf by winning the US Open which starts next week.

“It is one of the most important events of the year and we all fight to qualify in the top eight,” Germany's Kerber said in a statement released by the WTA.

“I have great memories from my other experiences at the tournament and I hope to play some great matches and win the title.”—Reuters



Angelique Kerber (GER) returns a shot against Karolina Pliskova (CZE) in the finals during the Western and Southern tennis tournament at Linder Family Tennis Centre, Mason, OH, USA, on 21 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Allardyce open to talks with Terry over England return

LONDON — England manager Sam Allardyce has said he may consider holding talks with defender John Terry on a possible return to international football, but added he was not aware of the “political” issues that may arise as a consequence.

Terry won the last of his 78 England caps in 2012, before quitting the national team after the Football Association pursued a case against him following accusations of racially abusing Queens Park Rangers defender Anton Ferdinand.

The Chelsea defender was subsequently banned for four matches by the FA, despite being cleared of the allegation in a London court.

Allardyce did not rule out a return for the former England captain.

“Maybe so. I think it depends on what John said. Maybe if I get the opportunity, I might have to give him a ring,” he told British media.

“But until I come to that selection or that process, we'll wait and see.”

“I don't know what the political side of that might mean, if there is a political side. I'll have to have that conversation if I feel that John Terry may be a possibility.”

Allardyce said John Stones will benefit from working under manager Pep Guardiola at Manchester City and the defender has a great opportunity to cement his place in England's defence.

“Potential is something that's going to be great in the future. I want it right now and he's (Stones) got a great chance of becoming it right now with working with Manchester City,” he added.

Allardyce will name his squad on Sunday for their first World Cup qualifier against Slovakia on 4 September.—Reuters