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NO PEACE WITHOUT TRUST

STATE COUNSELLOR MEETS PEACE PROCESS STEERING TEAM

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the importance of trust in attaining peace at a meeting with the Peace Process Steering Team in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"We need to remember the losses suffered by our country when we have been waiting for an enduring peace" and "efforts should be made once the Union Peace Conference commences to make sure all citizens will not face further losses", State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said at the meeting.

The State Counsellor said that trust is essential for the peace process

The State Counsellor said that trust is essential for the peace process, and that other issues can also be solved through mutual trust. She also stressed the need to have openness and straightforwardness during negotiations to build trust and to strive for improvements in the peace process for all the ethnic brethren of Myanmar.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the Peace Process Steering Team pose for documentary photos. Photo: MNA

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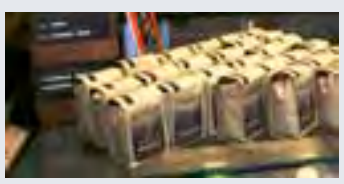

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Major earthquake strikes central Myanmar, kills four, destroys pagodas

A powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook central Myanmar yesterday, killing at least four people and damaging famous pagodas in Bagan and other regions.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw hears measures on the supply of drinking water

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

THE ministry will coordinate with departments concerned to use the water in the Pathi reservoir as drinking water for local people, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win told Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

The ministry will also cooperate with the region/state governments to ensure sustainability of the Pathi creek, which is the key water resource for the town of Thandaung, added the deputy minister.

In his response to a question about the Pathichaung reservoir in Toungoo, Bago Region, the deputy minister said that the main task of the reservoir is to irrigate farmlands in the township, adding that the ministry is ready to cooperate with the township development committee to provide drinking water to the areas that are under-served.

Regarding a call for the dredging of a lake in Pa-nga village in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, dredging operations will kick off on the lake in the next fiscal year, if the budget allows.

During the yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw session, parliamentarians also debated the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill.

The bill will be heard again by the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses educational assessment proposal

Pyithu Hluttaw

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

PYITHU Hluttaw representatives held discussions on a proposal calling on the Ministry of Education to adopt a policy addressing the evaluation of teaching and learning at the primary education level yesterday.

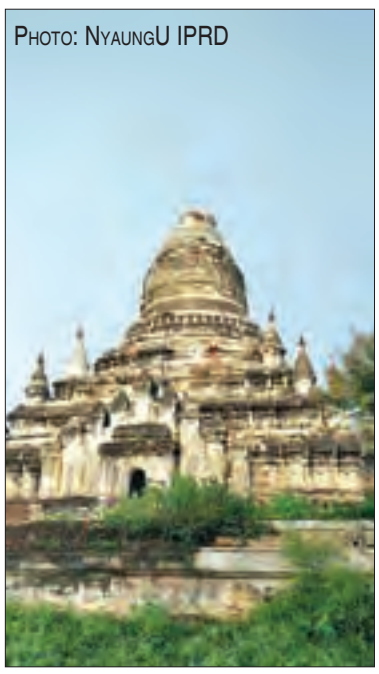
U Myint Lwin of Twantay Constituency said that the country needs a comprehensive education policy with strong goals to ensure sustainable development, adding that education is a key driver for development.

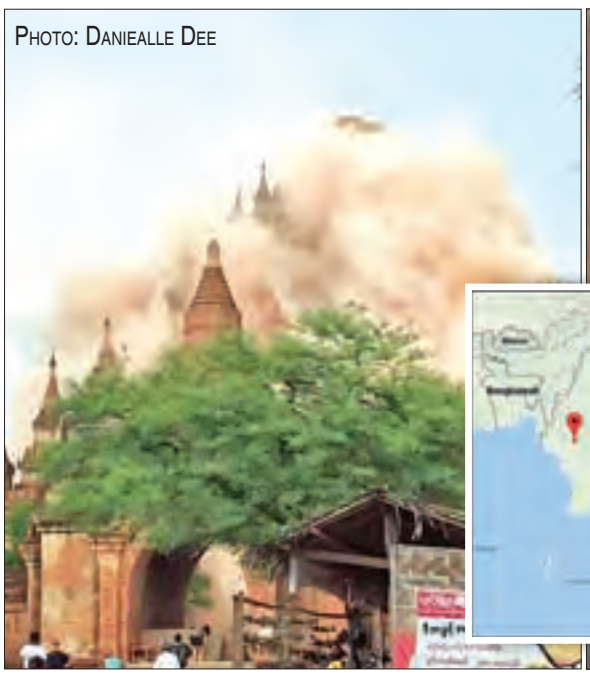
The MP highlighted the importance of continuous assessment, rather than final examinations, to translate the country's vision for building modern and developed nation through education into reality.

U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu Constituency called for education policies to be adopted not only at primary education level but for all sectors, pointing out that Myanmar's education system has been seriously weakened by decades of neglect.

He stressed the need to adopt policies to close the widening rural-urban gap in education and take necessary measures against the misconduct of educational staff. It is required that we form a National Education Commission as the National Education Law has been enacted, added the MP. In his response to a parliamentary discussion on the proposal, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi pledged to provide compulsory primary education for all and promote access to further education, saying that educational assessment will be carried out systematically. The Pyithu Hluttaw put the proposal submitted by Dr Hla Moe of Aungmyay Thasan Constituency on record. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Major earthquake strikes central Myanmar, kills four, destroys pagodas





Damaged pagodas are seen in Bagan after the earthquake on 24 August, 2016.

A POWERFUL 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook central Myanmar yesterday, killing at least four people and damaging famous pagodas in Bagan and other regions.

The earthquake, with its epicenter inside Myanmar, about 12 miles west of Chauk and about 123 miles southwest of the Mandalay seismological observatory, was recorded at 5.04 pm, according to the announcement of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. It was felt, in varying degrees, by virtually everyone in the country, officials said.

Two young girls aged seven and 15 were killed when a riverbank gave way in Yenangyoung, said an official of the local Information and Public Relations Department.

Meanwhile, following the quake, the Myanmar Fire Services Department wrote a post on its Facebook page confirming that one man and one woman were killed in Pakokku when a tobacco processing factory collapsed.

About 185 pagodas in Bagan were damaged in the disaster. Evaluation of the damage is still being carried out, said U Aung Aung Kyaw, the Director of the Archaeology Department in Bagan.

Several pagodas in Rakhine State were also reportedly damaged by the earthquake, which is considered the strongest among the 26 quakes that have jolted the country since January 2016.

The quake emanated from a depth of 84 km (52 miles), the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. The quake also shook buildings in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon and in other towns and cities.— *GNLM*

Vice President U Henry Van Thio. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Henry Van Thio talks about dangers of ineffective water resource management

Vice President U Henry Van Thio warned yesterday that poor water resource management could lead to an economic downturn caused by flooding and water scarcity and crises causing social unrest, disease and malnutrition.

In his address at a meeting of the National Water Resources Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, the Vice President, who is also the chairman of the committee, said that water policy, laws rules and regulations regarding water resources should be carefully reviewed to ensure that they conform to present situations.

He stressed the need for an institutional framework that supports a comprehensive water resources management plan involving Union and Region/State organizations, delta regions, public and private sectors and all stakeholders.

A comprehensive water management plan is critical to 'All-Inclusive Development' in the country, said the Vice-President, adding that it is the bound duty of Myanmar to implement the plan based on the National Water Policy and Integrated Water Resources Management System.

He emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to effectively realise the tasks of the national water resources committee and to development policies that can provide real benefits to the people and infrastructure needed for development of the country within a relatively short period of time.

Next, the Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, the vice-chairman of the committee, elaborated on the utilisation and management of water resources.

Regional ministers and other officials then reported on international cooperation in the country's water resources sector and water resources projects.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on NCA held in Nay Pyi Taw

A JOINT Implementation Coordination Meeting on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his extended greetings, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe said that such meetings will be held every three months.

Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win stressed the need for working together for peace, quoting the State Counsellor as saying that developmental undertakings cannot be implemented without peace.

Next, P'doh Saw Kwe Htoo Win, general secretary of the Karen National Union, called for building trust to address possible challenges to peace.

During the meeting, UPDJC secretaries elaborated on the committee's work implementation and sought the approval of the meeting. Then, a list of the names of the members of the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee-Union Level was presented to the meeting and approved.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Vice-Chairman of Arakan Liberation Party Khaing Soe Naing Aung, Peace Commission Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement is in progress. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor meets Peace Process Steering Team

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"We need to remember that our country is lagging behind other countries in the region in terms of development, and therefore we, all ethnic brethren peoples of the country should cooperate each other to achieve success in the peace making process," she said.

"The most important question in the world is 'Why?'. Why do we fail to build lasting peace? Why do we fail to bring about peace on our side? Why do they fail to bring about peace on their side? If both sides apply fair thinking to these questions, trust can be established," the state counsellor said.

The leader of PPST and the Chairman of Karen National Union (KNU) Saw Mutu Sae Phoe discussed the formation of a joint committee for peace process and cooperation with 8 non-signatory groups.

The State Counsellor also discussed rules and principles on holding the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. The chairman and the vice-chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference clarified meetings with NCA non-signatory ethnic armed organizations and formation of a central committee for the conference.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi noted that mistrust and continued ethnic strife has held back the progress of Myanmar for decades and hampered its attempts to compete on the global stage.—*GNLM*

Railroad upgrade to reduce Yangon-Mandalay travel time by 2023

MYANMAR railway will upgrade the Yangon-Mandalay line with the help of JICA, it has been learned. The project is scheduled to begin next year and expected to be complete by 2023.

Upon completion the travel time between the two cities will be 8 hours. The trip currently takes 14 hours.

The project is being undertaken with a US$2 billion loan from Japan. "The project will begin in April to save travelling time and to speed up the train service. The number of passengers is expected to rise after the train service is improved, said U Tin Soe, General Manager of the civil service engineering department of the MR Nay Pyi Taw office.

Only Myanmar- Japan joint companies will be allowed to offer tender. The first phase of the plan will be the upgrading of the line between Yangon and Taungoo, the second phase will be between Toungoo and Yamaethin and the third phase will be between Yamaethin and Mandalay.

Photo shows a train running on railroad. Railroad upgrade to reduce Yangon-Mandalay travel time by 2023. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Work on the first phase of the project will start on the Yangon-Toungoo railroad section next year following the tender process, added the general manager. The new government is planning to buy 200 new coaches from Korea. *–Aung Thant Khine*

Drunken army officers engage in brawl with patrol police

THREE army officers and a patrol police officer will be charged with a drunken brawl by their respective organisations, sources said.

The three off-duty army officers under the influence of alcohol were playing the guitar in front of a women's boarding house in Magway on 15 August, while the local police were making patrol at late night.

Police sub-inspector Ko Ko Oo, together with three other policemen, told the army officers to return home as their action might disturb others in the environs. Both sides got caught up in the drunken brawl, following a quarrel.

The army and police investigation showed that the sub-inspector opened fire at the army officers, injuring two. The clash left the patrol police too.

Action will be taken against the three army officers for the drunken brawl in accord with the military rules and regulations, with the police officer was charged with the overuse of his gun. *–Myanmar News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Yaba, firearm seized in Taninthayi

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Myeik district police station seized yaba pills, a firearm and drug-related equipment at a home in Sin Din village, Taninthayi township, on 13 August.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the home which belongs to one U Than Zaw. They discovered 11 yaba pills, a firearm and drug-related equipment. The police also arrested one Aung Tun alias Naing line for possession of a firearm and yaba. Both suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. *– Nan Thar Ye –Htein Win (IPRD)*

Aung Tun @ Naing Linn and U Than Zaw's.
PHOTO: NAN THAR YE –HTEIN WIN (IPRD)

Yaba seized in Bayinnaung market

Ma Tin Tin Nwe. PHOTO: SOE WIN

LOCAL police from Yangon (west) district seized Yaba from a woman at Bayinnaung market, Mayangone township, Yangon west district on 23 August.

Acting on a tip-off, the police arrested Ma Tin Tin Nwe from North Okkalapa township at the Bayinnaung market. Then, the police brought her to the police station for interrogation.

The police found 400 Yaba tablet weighing 40 grams and a mobile from her. Police have filed charges against her under section 15/19-A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Soe Win*

Man run over by train

A MAN was struck down by a train in Thayawady township, Bago region, on Tuesday.

The accident occurred at around 12 pm while the 30-year male victim was sleeping on the tracks, according to a police report. The man was killed on the spot.

Police are still investigation the case.— *Ko Myo (Shwe Pauk Kan)*

22-wheel vehicle overturns on Hpa-an-Thaton road

A 22- wheel vehicle overturned on Hpa-an-Thaton road, Hpa-an township, Kayin state on 21 August.

According to an investigation, the 22- wheel vehicle was being driven by one U Tun Tun, 22, with Tin Myo Tun, 28, on board when it overturned after the driver lost control. No one was injured in the accident.

The driver has been charged under sections 279 of the penal code.—*Tun Tun Htway (Hpa-an)*

Overturned 22-wheel vehicle being seen on Hpa-an- Thaton road.
PHOTO: TUN TUN HTWAY (HPA-AN)

LOCAL Business

Myanmar coffee to hit Whole Foods as economic opening continues

NEW YORK — Two shipments of coffee beans from Myanmar arrived in the United States this month, the first commercial-scale imports in over 15 years and the fruits of a US government development program for farmers in the once-isolated southeast Asian economy.

The two containers, totaling 600 60-kg bags, imported by Seattle-based Atlas Coffee Importers are a fraction of the 24.8 million bags of coffee consumed annually in the United States. But the shipments could herald a welcome diversification from traditional supply areas that are being hit by climate change.

Whole Foods Market bought 41 bags and La Colombe, a specialty chain backed by Chobani yogurt founder Hamdi Ulukaya, purchased 10 bags. The arabica beans will be on show at La Colombe cafe in Washington on Tuesday.

"It will be sold as single origin and as special coffee that we're offering," said Darrin Daniel, director of sourcing for Allegro Coffee Company, a Whole Foods subsidiary that supplies much of the food store's coffee.

Myanmar exported only modest amounts of coffee in the 1990s and a shipment of 17 60-kg bags in 2015 was the first delivery since 2000, US government data shows. Burmese immigrant Melvin Tan, who founded Austin, Texas-based Irrawaddy Coffee Roasters in 2015, said he imported 10 bags from Myanmar that year.

"I'm down to 1-1/2 bags. I would say ... I'm going to more than triple it this year from last year," Tan told Reuters.

Poor diplomatic relations between the United States and the former military dictatorship made traders and roasters cautious in conducting business up until recently, industry sources said.

Myanmar specialty coffee makes its debut in the United States during a private tasting with specialty industry professionals at La Colombe Coffee Roasters in Washington, DC, US on 23 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

USAID, the federal government's aid agency, launched a funding program to help the country's coffee farmers bolster the quality of beans two years ago as part of a shift toward open economic and political relations with Myanmar.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been running a separate program since 2014 to help farmers switch from growing opium poppy to coffee. The agency has worked with 1,280 farmers to plant 1,000 hectares of coffee, and expects its first harvest at the end of this year, said program coordinator Jochen Wiese.

James Tooill, who handles La Colombe's sourcing and roasting of single-origin coffees, said if farmers keep up quality after USAID-funded training ends in 2019, Myanmar could become a reliable origin for specialty coffee.

"The ability for it to run once the initial investment is over is a crucial turning point," Tooill said.

Further buying by roasters could encourage more production, said Craig Holt, founder of Atlas Coffee Importers.

"A lot of people that contributed this year just did a tiny portion of their harvest as an experiment to see if it was worth the money," Holt said.

Myanmar produces about 115,000 bags per year, according to Atlas, less than neighboring Laos and Thailand, which the US Department of Agriculture says produce 525,000 and 1 million bags annually, respectively.—*Reuters*

Fourteen citizen enterprises permitted to invest nearly US$56million

FOURTEEN citizen enterprises were granted permission by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) will make investments of nearly US$56million, it is learnt from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

According to Myanmar Investment Law, there are a total of 1,190 citizen enterprises granted permits by the MIC with investment worth US$7,858.879million from 1994 to as of end of March 2016. The number of Myanmar citizen enterprises reached 1,204 as of 19th August, with investments totalling US$7,914.551million, it is learnt from the statistics of DICA.

MIC scrutinizes the proposed enterprises and grants permission depending on profitability, job opportunities, revenue, local and foreign market conditions, requirements of local consumption, sharing of technology, environmental impact and the liability of the investment companies under the existing laws, it is learnt.

MIC approved nine local and foreign enterprises to make investments, according to a 19 August meeting held by MIC. Out of nine investment enterprises, the four foreign investment enterprises will make an investment of US$42.077million whereas the other five citizen enterprises will invest US$20.502million, totaling US$62.57million, it is learnt.

These newly permitted foreign enterprises will be engaged in the industrial, hotel, transportation and communication sectors whereas the five Myanmar citizen investment enterprises will make investments in livestock, fishery, hotel, electric power, transportation and communications sectors and other services, it is learnt.—*GNLM*

Singapore has invested the most in Thilawa SEZ

SINGAPORE stands at top out of 14 foreign countries currently investing in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ), with an investment of US$372.147million, it is learnt from a meeting held by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The current investments at Thilawa (SEZ) total US$830million, whereas these from 2014-2015 fiscal year to July, 2016 were US$838.305million, with 68 enterprises operating in this zone. Japan is in second place after Singapore , it is learnt from Planning and Statistics Division under DICA.

European and American companies have also come to invest in Singapore. That means they have incorporated in Singapore to enjoy the benefits of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). Most of the foreign countries make their investment in Myanmar through Singapore, it is learnt.

The 12 industries, including a garment factory and an auto parts factory, have commenced operation in Thilawa SEZ. Other enterprises produce raw materials, garments, aluminum products, plastic products, zinc products, internet service, autos and medicine, it is learnt.

Some factories began operation in early 2016 whereas three factories commenced operation last month. Other factories will be constructed after the monsoon season.—*GNLM*

Fuel oil price to be aligned with Singapore prices

THE price of local fuel oil will be aligned with that of Singapore, said U Win Myint, the secretary of the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.

Currently, the petrol used locally is being imported from Japan, South Korea, China (Taipei) and India through Singapore. The price gap is attributed to the high transportation cost, it is learnt.

But if the fuel oil is imported directly from the countries concerned, not passing through Singapore, it will decrease the transportation cost.

Foreign investments are planned in an effort to match the local fuel oil price with the world price of the petroleum and to promote the quality of the fuel oil, said U Win Myint.

The amount of fuel oil sent to Myanmar is rapidly increasing. About 2.2 million tonnes of fuel oil was imported to Myanmar in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, 2.35million tonnes in 2013-2014 and 3.47million tonnes in 2014-2015.

Import of fuel oil through the Yangon and Thilawa ports in 2014-2015 fiscal year rose by 1.12million of tonnes when compared to that in 2013-2014 fiscal year, it is learnt from statistics of Myanmar Port Authority.—*200*

North Korea fires submarine-launched ballistic missile towards Japan

SEOUL — North Korea fired a submarine-launched missile on Wednesday that flew about 500 km (311 miles) towards Japan, a show of improving technological capability for the isolated country that has conducted a series of launches in defiance of UN sanctions.

Having the ability to fire a missile from a submarine could help North Korea evade a new anti-missile system planned for South Korea and pose a threat even if nuclear-armed North Korea's land-based arsenal was destroyed, experts said.

The ballistic missile was fired at around 5:30 am (2030 GMT) from near the coastal city of Sinpo, where a submarine base is located, officials at South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defence Ministry told Reuters.

The projectile reached Japan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) for the first time, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a briefing, referring to an area of control designated by countries to help maintain air security.

An underwater test-firing of a strategic submarine ballistic missile is seen in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 24 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The missile was fired at a high angle, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported, an indication that its full range would be 1,000 km (620 miles) at an ordinary trajectory. The distance indicated the North's push to develop a submarine-launched missile system was paying off, officials and experts said.

North Korea's "SLBM (submarine-launched ballistic missile) technology appears to have progressed," a South Korean military official told Reuters.

Jeffrey Lewis of the California-based Middlebury Institute of International Studies said the test appeared to be a success.

"We don't know the full range, but 500 km is either full range or a full range on a lofted trajectory. Either way, that missile works."

The launch came two days after rival South Korea and the United States began annual military exercises in the South that North Korea condemns as a preparation for invasion, and has threatened retaliation.

Beijing is Pyongyang's main ally but has joined past UN Security Council resolutions against the North. It has been angered by what it views as provocative moves by the United States and South Korea, including their July decision to base the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence) anti-missile system in South Korea.

China opposes North Korea's nuclear and missile programme as well as any words or deeds that cause tension on the Korean peninsula, its foreign minister, Wang Yi, said on Wednesday at previously scheduled meeting with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts in Tokyo.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry condemned the launch and warned of more sanctions and isolation for its rival that "will only speed up its self-destruction."

"This poses a grave threat to Japan's security, and is an unforgivable act that damages regional peace and stability markedly," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters, adding that Japan had lodged a stern protest. *—Reuters*

Philippines Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay speaks during a news conference at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pasay city Metro Manila, Philippines, on 27 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Philippines says no shift in ties with China or US

MANILA — Philippine Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay said on Wednesday there had been no shift in the balance of diplomatic relations with either the United States and China amid a dispute over the South China Sea.

An arbitration court in the Hague infuriated China in July when it ruled that China had no historical title over the South China Sea and it had breached the Philippines' sovereign rights with various actions there.

"We want to make close friendship with China. It does not mean that we'll weaken our friendship with the United States," Yasay told Reuters during a break of a meeting of the senate foreign relations committee.

"We're just saying that in spite of our disputes, as regards China on the South China Sea, there are other aspects of our relationship that can proceed without having to touch upon the South China Sea issue." *—Reuters*

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Thai junta rules out link between latest bombings and earlier deadly attacks

BANGKOK — Thailand's military government said on Wednesday there was no connection between two bombings overnight that killed one person in the southern town of Pattani and a wave of deadly attacks on popular tourist spots in the south this month.

One Thai person was killed and 30 wounded when two bombs exploded late on Tuesday at the Southern View Hotel in the coastal town of Pattani, less than two weeks after a wave of as yet unexplained bombings hit seven provinces in the south.

No group has claimed responsibility for those bombings, which killed four and wounded dozens, including foreign tourists. Some security experts noted at the time that southern insurgent groups have a track record of carrying out coordinated bombing attacks. Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan however quickly ruled out any link between those attacks and the twin bombs in Pattani.

Thai soldiers inspect the scene of a car bomb blast outside a hotel in the southern province of Pattani, Thailand, on 24 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I am sure that the incident in Pattani last night has nothing to do with the seven provinces attacks," Prawit told reporters at Bangkok's Government House, without giving any further details.

Police said the first explosion in a carpark at the back of the hotel in Pattani caused no casualties. However, the second blast outside the hotel entrance appeared to have been a bomb placed in a stolen hospital pick-up truck that had been mistaken for an ambulance.

Since 2004, a low-intensity but brutal war between government troops and insurgents has killed more than 6,500 people in the three southern provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat that border Malaysia.*—Reuters*

India investigates damage caused by French submarine data leak

SYDNEY/NEW DELHI — India is investigating the extent to which secrets about French Scorpene submarines being built in the country have been compromised, its defence ministry said on Wednesday, after a leak of documents relating to its combat capabilities.

The leak, which was first reported in *The Australian* newspaper, contains more than 22,000 pages outlining the secret capabilities of six submarines that French builder DCNS has designed for the Indian Navy.

"I understand there has been a case of hacking," Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar told reporters. "We will find out what has happened."

The submarines are being built at a state-run shipyard in Mumbai and the first one was expected to go into service by the end of the year, the first step in the Indian navy's effort to rebuild its dwindling fleet.

The massive leak has also raised doubts about the security of DCNS's submarine project in Australia where it won a A$50 billion (28.8 billion pounds) contract to build the next generation of the submarines.

DCNS beat out Germany's ThyssenKrupp AG and a Japanese-government backed bid by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries, in a blow to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push to develop defence export capabilities as part of a more muscular security agenda.

The leaked documents cover the Scorpene-class model and do not contain any details of the vessel currently being designed for the Australian fleet.

File photo of Indian Navy's Scorpene submarine INS Kalvari being escorted by tugboats as it arrives at Mazagon Docks Ltd, a naval vessel ship building yard, in Mumbai, India, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

DCNS said it could not immediately authenticate the documents, but would not rule out that the leak was part of an "economic war" waged by the competitors it beat in the contest for the Australian contract.

"For now we don't know if the information is correct," a DCNS spokeswoman said. "The competition is more and more hard and all means can be used in this context."

"There is India, Australia and other prospects, and other countries could raise legitimate questions over DCNS. It's part of the tools in economic war," she said.

Thales, which owns 35 per cent of the shipbuilder, could not immediately be reached for comment outside normal European business hours. The French defence ministry declined to make an immediate comment.

Thales was down more than 2 per cent in early trading, while the wider French blue-chip index was down 0.75 per cent.

The breadth of detail in the documents creates a major strategic problem for India, Malaysia and Chile, all of which operate the same submarine, an Australian political source with decades of experience in the global arms industry told Reuters.

Excerpts published in redacted form on the newspaper's website contained highly sensitive details of the submarine including technical manuals and models of the boat's antennae.

"If it's 22,400 pages, it's a major stuff-up," the source said. "It's a huge deal. "It allows them to understand everything about the submarines. What speeds it can do; how noisy it is; what speeds the mast can be raised at ... all of that is just devastating."

The Indian Defence Ministry said it was investigating the impact of the leak on the submarine programme which it said had occurred from abroad. It gave no details.

"The available information is being examined at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy) and an analysis is being carried out by the concerned specialists," it said in a statement.

"It appears that the source of leak is from overseas and not in India."

Uday Bhaskar, a former naval officer, said that if the leak was established, it would amount to a significant compromise of the credibility of the submarines.

India has a fleet of 13 ageing submarines, only half of which are operational at any time, opening up a major gap with China which is expanding its maritime presence in the Indian Ocean.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull sought to deflect concern about the leak, touting the high security standards in Australia, where the submarine will be built. *The Australian* reported that the leak occurred in France in 2011. "But clearly, it is a reminder that, particularly in this digital world, cyber security is of critical importance," he told the Seven TV network.—*Reuters*

Japan, China, South Korea to urge North Korea to stop provocation

TOKYO — Japan, China and South Korea agreed to urge North Korea to refrain from provocation and follow UN Security Council resolutions, after its latest missile launch towards Japan early on Wednesday.

Foreign ministers from the three Asian neighbours also sought to soothe their often-testy relations, and have reached an understanding on a trilateral summit meeting in Japan this year, a Japanese official said. "We have confirmed that we will urge North Korea to exercise self-restraint regarding its provocative action, and to observe the UN Security Council's resolutions," Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told a news conference after hosting the meeting with his Chinese and South Korean counterparts.

A North Korean submarine fired a ballistic missile on Wednesday that flew about 500 km (300 miles) towards Japan, a show of improving technological capability for the isolated country that has conducted a nuclear test and as series of missile launches this year in defiance of UN sanctions.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (C) reads a statement after a trilateral meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) and South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-Se in Tokyo, Japan, on 24 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

In the face of the North Korean threat, cooperation among Japan, China and South Korea was more important than ever, Kishida said after his meeting with China's Wang Yi and South Korea's Yun Byung-se.

Yun promised South Korea's support to realise a trilateral summit by year's end, as well as to cooperate economically and to achieve a successful summit of the Group of 20 big economies next month in China.

Wang said China opposed North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes and any "words or actions" that cause tension on the Korean peninsula, China's foreign ministry said in a statement.

China will continue to push for the peninsula's denuclearisation, seek a resolution through talks and uphold regional peace and stability, Wang added.

The three ministers share the understanding that Japan will host a trilateral summit this year, though dates have yet to be worked out, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official told reporters.—*Reuters*

Japanese UN peacekeepers to train for rescue missions

TOKYO — Japan will begin training soldiers to conduct rescue and military escort missions during UN peacekeeping operations, the government said, potentially embroiling its troops in overseas military actions for the first time since World War II.

The training will begin this month for Self Defence Force units due to be deployed as peacekeepers in South Sudan in November, Defence Minister Tomomi Inada said on Wednesday.

"We want the Self Defence Force to contribute what it can within the constraints of the constitution so it is important that they train thoroughly," Inada said outside Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's residence following a regular ministerial meeting.

Any decision to order Japanese troops on rescue missions would be left to the Cabinet.

The widening of Japan's military role in UN missions comes after Abe's government implemented controversial security legislation in March that is seen as a step back from the post-war pacifist constitution by allowing it to come to the aid of allies under attack and giving it a broader role overseas.

The decision to train troops to go on rescue missions and to take a more active role in base security during peacekeeping operations is one of the first substantive operational changes since the new laws came into force.

Japanese troops have been part of a UN mission in South Sudan since 2012. Around 350 military engineers in the capital Juba are rebuilding roads and other infrastructure in South Sudan. Renewed fighting in July killed around 300 people, prompting Japan to evacuate some of its government aid workers civilians.—*Reuters*

Opinion

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The end of division, the start of reconciliation

Kyaw Thura

SUCCESSIVE governments have endeavoured to restore peace through a series of talks with ethnic armed groups for over half a decade. But peace remains frustratingly elusive for some reason, which is overshadowing the political reforms designed to bring about national development.

Typically, we tend to cite unity as a strength. Despite this, we still fail to integrate this reality into our actions. We have heard stories of conflicting parties trading blame with each other rather than coming together to find some common ground for mutual benefit. Strange as it may seem, the groups involved in the disagreement share the same goal, which is national development. Even then, they fail to reach a consensus about peace.

A conclusion can be made from such a standstill. Unity cannot be built on distrust and suspicion. Unity is something that has to be built through a constructive dialogue that favours mutual respect, mutual understanding and mutual trust among individual groups. Peace is not the mere absence of conflict. It is in fact a product of successful negotiation. In other words, the end of division is the start of reconciliation. Peace is a definite plus in national development, after all.

With the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference approaching, all the stakeholders in the peace process should adopt a "we agree to compromise" attitude rather than a "we agree to disagree" attitude with the intention of possible risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict. No negotiation has ever proved productive in the absence of compromise.

It is therefore necessary to create space for a wider set of peace actors and comprise a wider set of activities that can satisfy the specific needs of national reconciliation. The truth is that citizens win when individual stakeholders start to collaborate at this crucial juncture of national reconciliation for national development.

Let my love go on, Rain

Yin Nwe Ko (Linn)

AS a cold breeze blowing above the surface of the water seems to embrace Ko Kyaw Kha's body, he feels a sudden thrust of chill. Ko Kyaw Kha places the zip of his jacket together and pulls it up. The weather is cold due to drizzle of rain and the wind blowing above the surface of the water is also chilly, Ko Kyaw Kha moves from the position standing in the front part of his dwelling to the inner one where there is the lee side.

As the introduction begins with water and air, one might think that it is about a certain beach one has ever got to. No ! It is just a flood-period and Ko Kyaw Kha's dwelling is entirely surrounded by water. Since the front room and the hind room are a little lower than the principal room in his dwelling, they have already been submerged under water. Even the floor of the principal room is about five inches to be touched by the surface of the water. Even the motorized boat can be driven along Yadanarbon Street on which Ko Kyaw Kha's dwelling is situated. Boats have already been up and down the street for over a week. It is unbelievable to say that this street was once in the rise of dust.

It will be blamable for saying why the so-called 'Street' is in the rise of dust. It is right that Yadanarbon Street is one of the main streets of the town. However, as the materials used to metal it are more gravels and less tar, in spite of rainy season, whenever the cars pass by, there are much rise of dust along the street. Whoever living both sides of the street will surely support Ko Kyaw Kha's words when asked.

Now, it is enough to ask where the dusty street goes hiding. It submerges under water rising rapidly and unexpectedly. It is being tortured brutally by the rising water. It has been the sixth time that Yadanarbon Street is submerged under water like this after breaking down of 'Htein Ngu' embankment. While 'Htein Ngu' embankment was breaking down, it was the worst situation. The water level rose up hour by hour. The flash-flood was about twelve inches above the floor of the principal room of Ko Kyaw Kha's dwelling within a 24 hour period. Both bathroom and water pump were under water and those who were in flood-hit area were in abundance of trouble. It was in 1991.

Before that, Kyaunggonites had never had any dream about the water which would overflow above Yadanarbon Street. The water from Daga River, which flows from North to South through Kyaung -gon, had been over the Strand Road once in about three years. Kyaunggonites said it was the year of flood. When Ko Kyaw Kha was a High School student, water was often over the Strand Road, Ko Kyaw Kha remembered. Along the Strand Road, the portion of the road in front of the Police Station was the highest place and it was never submerged under water. But, now, the portion of the road in front of the Police Station is saluting that very water well.

Illogically, Ko Kyaw Kha remembers a sentence in the prescribed English Text for Grade X.

'Where has the water come from ? Where has the water gone to ?'

Only the technicians can give the answer for above question. As Ko Kyaw Kha is an ordinary local inhabitant, he has a sure and firm answer contemplating over his life's experience. He has been living in Kyaunggon for over sixty years now. He has also been homogeneous with the geographical status of this region for ages. The flood like this had occurred once before breaking down of 'Htein Ngu' embankment. The elders said it was under the British Rule. Ko Kyaw Kha was not born yet. It occurred due to the breaking down of 'Nga Thaine Chaung' embankment.

The year in which 'Htein Ngu' embankment broke down was during the Miltary Administration. In summer of that year,Ko Kyaw Kha together with other people from Kyanggon faced with a project to make a cross-road between Kyaunggon and Kan Ka Lay village. Within a few months , a big dyke called high-way about the length of six miles and the height of two men abruptly rose up from the ground level by the labour of public. One from each household in thirteen village tracks was forced to contribute labour to appear a big dyke without being paid any labour charges. Later that year, the big dykes also called high-ways appeared one after another in Ayeyarwady Region. Almost all of them were done with forced labour.

People from delta region relied on only water-way before. One can get to Yangon from Kyaunggon only by ship and it was a one-night trip. Now, one can get to Yangon within three hours due to the benefit of Yangon-Pathein high-way. There are many roads which are leading to Yangon and interconnecting with the towns such as Ma U Bin, Kyaik Latt, War Ke Ma, Pyapon, Dedaye etc. All these roads appeared as a network in Ayeyarwady Region. All were metaled through streams, rivers and wide deep-water fields. The places where there were wide area of waters before have already been blocked by a long big dykes. Therefore the drainage of water in those area are greatly disturbed.

In fact, many tributaries and streams are the gifts prepared by the nature which makes huge volume of hydrosphere from Chindwin River , Ayeyarwady River and the rivers in Upper Myanmar easily drain them into the sea. Only when the natural drainage system in Ayeyarwady Region is perfect, there will be free from disaster of flood in the rainy season. Now, the regular and natural drainage system from the wide deep-water fields in Ayeyarwady Region is banned by the newly born roads like big dykes. If there are heavy rain and flood in Upper Myanmar, it is sure for those living in Ayeyarwady Region to be seriously effected. Water flowing down from Upper Myanmar will surely make the Delta region flooded and devour the town, villages, paddy fields, farms and roads. If the bird-eyed view photos over the whole Ayeyarwady Delta Region is taken, the answer can be seen vividly.

In spite of making a project aiming at the advantage , one should not forget what the disadvantage will occur. It has been for over twenty years now. Ones who had had the thoughts to implement those projects might not exist in the world. They never thought it would be flooded like this while making the plan as well as it was the time that the advice of the technicians were often neglected.

The intention in which Ko Kyaw Kha thinks above situations is to take awareness for those who will grow up in coming generation. He has just goodwill to recognize that it is essential whenever the important project is planned, the advice of the technicians concerned must be requested and accepted. Whenever implementing in the hope of advantage is made, it should be calculated to get the least disadvantage. The respective ones should take lessons that they should manage how to rescue the non-benefitted people.

At present occasion, the flood victims are waiting for the humanitarian aids from well-wishers, NGOs and authorities concerned. There are many flood-hit people who are in much worse situation than Ko Kyaw Kha's and are staying in the rescue camps in disorder. There are many places which are within the reach as well as out of the reach of the providers and rescuers. In reality, it cannot be denied that rainy season is the preparation period to fill the provisions up for the whole Nation. So people of Myanmar are to love rainy season. However, for Ko Kyaw Kha, there comes a chill in his back guessing the coming rainy season.

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Garuna Gabar Home for the Aged opens in Nay Pyi Taw

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended a ceremony to open the Garuna Gabar Home for the Aged in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address at the opening of the Home for the Aged the Commander-in-Chief said that more efforts will be made to provide war veterans and their families with housing and health care services, adding that new housings are under construction in Yangon, Magway, Papun, Dawei, Myeik and Kolam.

36 elderly citizens are now living at the home.

Construction of the home began in October 2015. At this time 35 out of 38 planned buildings have been completed. Upon completion the home will accommodate 180 elderly men, 120 elderly women and 48 elderly couples. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gives words of encouragement to the female elderly. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Henry Van Thio receives US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

V-P U Henry Van Thio meets with US Ambassador to Myanmar

VICE-President U Henry Van Thio received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives discussed matters related to land policy, emergency management, internal peace, rural development and Rakhine State.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut and other officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Accreditation for 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference

THE 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference will be held at Myanmar International Convention Center (2) in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 August.

Local and foreign correspondents who wish to cover the event are to click the registration link, Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, at-www.moi.gov.mm, the website of the Ministry of Information, to fill out the media registration form. The registration must be done not later than 4 pm on28 August. Media accreditation cards will be issued at the ministry from 10 am to 4 pm on 30 August.

Foreign correspondents are to apply for visa at the respective Myanmar embassies to cover the event. Please dial 067 412002 of Research and Information Branch of the Information and Public Relations Department, 067 412125 and 067 412126 of the News and Periodicals Enterprise about news coverage of local and foreign-based news agencies and local media.

According to the ministry, arrangements have been made for local and foreign media persons to have reasonable accommodation at Sky Palace Hotel that will provide them with shuttle bus service.—*Myanmar News Agency*

USDP's second conference wraps up

THE second conference of the Union Solidarity and Development Party concluded yesterday, with U Than Htay, the party's new chairman, holding a press conference.

USDP chairman and officials hold a press conference. PHOTO: MNA

Regarding the upcoming Union Peace Conference, the USDP chairman said that the party will be present at the peace conference on 31 August and submit its stance on peace implementation to the conference.

The USDP will also strive for a successful peace process, working together with the government, he added.

Next, U Khin Yi, chairman of the party's disciplinary committee, expressed views on the federal system, saying that the USDP will support the federal system which is suitable for the country.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Workshop on investment opportunities for foreigners in Myanmar agricultural sector held in Mandalay

A workshop on investment opportunities for foreigners in the Myanmar agricultural sector organised by the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association took place in the meeting hall of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) in Mandalay on Monday 22 August.

At the workshop, the Director General U Aung Soe of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce delivered the formal opening speech. The regional head of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration gave a talk on investment laws and opportunities of investment in Myanmar in line with investment law. U Myo Thu, the director of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, gave a talk on internal and external markets and price situations in the fruit, flower and vegetable sector, the future prospects of fresh farm produce and Farmland Law. An official from the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association gave a talk on the cooperation of foreign investors and his organisation. An official from the Immigration and Population Department gave a talk on the conditions of hiring foreign experts to work in Myanmar in line with the Myanmar Immigration Law.

Officials then responded to queries from attendees.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Express and businessman discuss investment opportunities in myanmar . PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

A man is rescued alive from the ruins following an earthquake in Amatrice, central Italy, on 24 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Voices under the rubble' after quake hits Italy; at least 38 dead

ACCUMOLI (Italy) — A powerful earthquake devastated a string of mountainous towns in central Italy on Wednesday, trapping residents under piles of rubble, killing at least 38 people and leaving thousands homeless.

The quake struck in the early hours of the morning when most residents were asleep, razing homes and buckling roads in a cluster of communities some 140 km (85 miles) east of Rome.

A family of four, including two boys aged 8 months and 9 years, were buried when their house in Accumoli imploded.

As rescue workers carried away the body of the infant, carefully covered by a small blanket, the children's grandmother blamed God: "He took them all at once," she wailed.

The army was mobilized to help with special heavy equipment and the treasury released 235 million euros ($265 million) of emergency funds. At the Vatican, Pope Francis cancelled part of his general audience to pray for the victims.

Aerial photographs showed whole areas of Amatrice, voted last year as one of Italy's most beautiful historic towns, flattened by the 6.2 magnitude quake.

"It's all young people here, it's holiday season, the town festival was to have been held the day after tomorrow so lots of people came for that," said Amatrice resident Giancarlo, sitting in the road wearing just his underwear.

"It's terrible, I'm 65-years-old and I have never experienced anything like this, small tremors, yes, but nothing this big. This is a catastrophe," he said.

Accumoli mayor Stefano Petrucci said some 2,500 were left homeless in the local community, which is made up of 17 hamlets. Residents responding to wails muffled by tonnes of bricks and mortar sifted through the rubble with their bare hands before emergency services arrived with earth-moving equipment and sniffer dogs. Wide cracks had appeared like open wounds on the buildings that were still standing.

The national Civil Protection Department said some survivors would be put up elsewhere in central Italy, while others would be housed in tents that were being dispatched to the area.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said he would visit the disaster area later in the day: "No one will be left alone, no family, no community, no neighbourhood. We must get down to work .. to restore hope to this area which has been so badly hit," he said in a brief televised address. The quake hit during the summer when the area, usually sparsely populated, hosts large numbers of holidaymakers.—*Reuters*

EU enlargement chief: Turkey should address 'open question' on accession

VIENNA — EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn has called on Turkey to address the "open question" of whether it was willing to meet the criteria to join the European Union since the uncertainty was straining its relations with the bloc.

In an interview with the Austrian daily *Die Presse* published on Wednesday, Hahn said the arrests in Turkey of thousands of people after a coup attempt in early July had irked some EU members.

"The situation as it is today in Turkey, is not such as it would contribute to our need for stability, " he told the paper. Developments after the coup "caused considerable irritation in large parts of Europe regarding the extent and speed of the wave of arrests," he said. Hahn said he was nevertheless against halting accession talks with Turkey, a measure some politicians, including Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern, have called for.

Faced with Europe's criticism, Turkey has accused the EU of being fuelled by anti-Turkish sentiment and hostility to President Tayyip Erdogan, saying the bloc was making grave mistakes in its response to the coup.

"If you want to join (the EU) you have to fulfil the criteria. The rules are not negotiable," Hahn told the paper. "Turkey should soon make clear, whether it can and wants to accept those conditions. This open question puts a strain on the relations (with the EU)," Hahn said. He added that he was in favour of continuing the accession talks.

Asked about Turkey's threats to open its borders and let migrants transit to Europe — which would end a migration deal that has helped stem a major influx of people to Greece by sea — Hahn said that disarming of words and emotions was needed. "I do not think that Turkey can or wants to do without the EU's financial support in the migrant crisis."—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope, saddened by earthquake, cancels speech to pray for victims

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis, saddened by an earthquake that struck central Italy overnight, on Wednesday cancelled a speech he was to have given at his general audience and instead prayed with the crowd for victims and survivors.

"Hearing the mayor of Amatrice say that the town no longer exists and hearing that there are children among the victims, I am deeply saddened," he told tens of thousands of people who had gathered in St. Peter's Square for his general audience. Amatrice was one of the mountain towns hit by the quake. At least 20 people were believed to have died in the disaster, with many dozens still missing.—*Reuters*

Plastic explosives used in Turkish wedding party attack — minister

ISTANBUL — Professional-grade plastic explosives were used in a bomb attack on a wedding party in southeast Turkey at the weekend, Interior Minister Efkan Ala said in an interview with state-run Anadolu Agency broadcast by Turkish media on Wednesday.

Saturday's attack by a suicide bomber in the southeastern city of Gaziantep killed 54 people at a Kurdish wedding. Turkey initially said evidence suggested Islamic State was behind the attack but has not been able to verify this.—*Reuters*

Lightning kills 92 in Cambodia so far this year: spokesman

PHNOM PENH — Lightning strikes had killed 92 people in Cambodia in the first eight months of 2016, remarkably up from only 64 deaths over the same period last year, a spokesman said on Wednesday.

"Besides the fatalities, thunderbolts had injured 99 others during the January-August period this year, up from only 58 injuries over the same period in the year before," Keo Vy, spokesman for the National Committee for Disaster Management, told Xinhua.

He said the extremely hot weather before the rainy season this year was blamed for the rise in lightning casualties.

"Lightning strikes are common during the rainy season (from May to October) but this year, there have been more lightning strikes than usual because of the worst drought in April and May," he said.—*Xinhua*

Vucic, Pupovac: Remove burden, ease tension in communication

BELGRADE — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and Milorad Pupovac, president of Croatia's Serb National Council, said on Tuesday there was a need to ease tensions and remove a burden on communication between Belgrade and Zagreb.

Meeting with Pupovac in Belgrade, Vucic noted the Serbian government's and his own commitment to solving all issues in bilateral relations through dialogue between the two countries without public confrontations.

Thanking Vucic, Pupovac conveyed the support of the ethnic Serb community in Croatia for a calming of the present public tensions. He also backed Vucic's readiness to meet with Croatian officials as soon as possible, noting the political significance and benefits of his recent meeting with Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic on the position of the Serb and Croat minorities in Croatia and Serbia, respectively.—*Tanjug*

Russia opens criminal case against top Ukrainian military officials

MOSCOW — The Russian Investigative Committee said on Wednesday that it has opened a criminal case against senior Ukrainian military officials, accusing them of using forbidden means and methods of war against civilians.

"The National Guard of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Armed Forces have periodically carried out precision shelling of civilian infrastructure," the committee said in a statement.

It said that highly destructive heavy weapons were used in such operations in eastern Ukraine since 15 February when a cease-fire between the Ukrainian government and insurgents was announced.

The committee said it had collected sufficient proof that those actions against civilians were taken on the orders of Ukrainian Defence Minister Stepan Poltorak, Chief of the General Staff Viktor Muzhenko, and some other senior officials.—*Xinhua*

Turkish military, US-led coalition launch operation to sweep Islamic State from Syria town

ISTANBUL/KARKAMIS, (Turkey) — Turkish special forces units and jets supported by warplanes from the US-led coalition launched an operation in northern Syria on Wednesday to wipe out Islamic State militants along the border with Turkey, Turkish officials said.

The Turkish army began firing artillery rounds into the Syrian border town of Jarablus at around 0100 GMT and Turkish and US warplanes pounded Islamic State targets with air strikes as part of the operation, Turkish military sources said.

It was the first time warplanes from NATO member Turkey have struck in Syria since November, when Turkey downed a Russian jet near the border, and the first significant incursion by Turkish special forces since a brief operation to relocate the tomb of Suleyman Shah, a revered Ottoman figure, in February 2015.

Turkey and the United States hope that by sweeping Islamic State from the border, they can deprive it of a smuggling route which long saw its ranks swollen with foreign fighters and its coffers boosted by illicit trade.

White and grey plumes of smoke rose from atop the hills of Jarablus, visible from the Turkish town of Karkamis across the border. The boom of artillery fire was audible as tanks opened fire from just inside Turkish territory.

Turkish military sources said a ground incursion had yet to start, but a group of Turkish special forces had entered Syria while Turkish and US-led coalition jets hit four Islamic State targets and Turkish artillery struck more than 60 targets. Tanks were being positioned to secure the border, they said.

A Turkish army tank and an armoured vehicle are stationed near the Turkish-Syrian border in Karkamis in the southeastern Gaziantep Province, Turkey, on 23 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The aim of the operation is to ensure border security and Syria's territorial integrity while supporting the US-led coalition against Islamic State," one military source said, adding work to open a passage for ground forces was underway.

US Vice President Joe Biden is due in Turkey later on Wednesday, the most senior US official to visit since a failed 15 July coup shook confidence in the ability of the NATO member to step up the fight against Islamic State.

Turkey had vowed on Monday to "completely cleanse" Islamic State militants from its border region after a suicide bomber suspected of links to the group killed 54 people at a Kurdish wedding in the southeastern city of Gaziantep.

Military sources said the air strikes hit 12 Islamic State targets, while artillery fire hit 70 targets. Counter-terrorism police launched dawn raids targeting Islamic State members across Istanbul on Wednesday, the Dogan news agency said.

Turkey is also concerned about the growing influence of Syrian Kurdish militant groups along its border, where they have captured large areas of territory since the start of the Syrian war in 2011. Ankara sees them as tied to the Kurdish militants fighting an insurgency in Turkey.

At least nine mortar shells from Jarablus landed in Karkamis and nearby on Tuesday, forcing many residents to flee, a Reuters witness said. Another hit an empty field on Wednesday.

The Syria operation came as Syrian rebels backed by Turkey had said they were in the final stages of preparing an assault from Turkish territory on Jarablus, aiming to preempt a potential attempt by Syrian Kurdish YPG militia to take it.—*Reuters*

Syrian Kurdish leader says Turkey has entered Syrian 'quagmire,' faces defeat

ISTANBUL — Saleh Muslim, head of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), wrote in a tweet on Wednesday that Turkey was entering a "quagmire" in Syria and faced defeat there like Islamic State after its forces hit targets in northern Syria.

Turkey, supported by warplanes from the US-led coalition, struck Islamic State along its border on Wednesday. Ankara sees Muslim's PYD, which has also battled Islamic State with US backing, as a threat because of its links with Kurdish militants waging their own insurgency on Turkish soil since 1984.

"Turkey is in Syrian quagmire. Will be defeated as Daesh," Muslim tweeted in Turkish, Arabic and English. Daesh is the Arabic acronym for Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL.—*Reuters*

As Kerry visits Nigeria, air force says top Boko Haram fighters killed

SOKOTO (Nigeria) — Nigeria's air force said it had killed a number of senior Boko Haram fighters and possibly their overall leader, and US Secretary of State John Kerry pledged to consider ways to ramp up military assistance to Nigeria to defeat the militant group.

Government planes attacked the Islamist group inside the Sambisa forest in its northeast heartland on Friday, the air force said, adding that it had only just confirmed details of the impact of the raid. "Their leader, so called 'Abubakar Shekau', is believed to be fatally wounded on his shoulders," the statement by military spokesman Colonel Sani Kukasheka Usman added, without going into details on the source of its information.

The Obama administration has paid close attention to the fight against the militant group which has declared allegiance to Islamic State and destabilised a whole region by attacking Nigeria's neighbours.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari did not address the reported air raid on the militants and Kerry did not raise it in their meeting in Abuja, a senior State Department official said. "It didn't come up," the official said in an interview, "I don't think (Buhari) has enough information and we didn't have enough information to raise it."

On his first stop in the remote northern city of Sokoto, the top US diplomat said the struggle against Boko Haram would succeed only if it tackled the reasons why people join militant groups and gained the public's trust.

"It is understandable that, in the wake of terrorist activity, some are tempted to crack down on anyone and everyone who could theoretically pose some sort of threat. But extremism can't be defeated through repression or fear," he said.—*Reuters*

UK Labour leadership candidate says will block Brexit talks if no second vote

Labour Party leader challenger Owen Smith debates with leader Jeremy Corbyn (not pictured) in a hustings event of the Labour leadership campaign in Birmingham, Britain, on 18 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — A leadership candidate for Britain's opposition Labour party, Owen Smith, said on Wednesday he would try to get parliament to block talks on leaving the European Union unless the government promises a second referendum or election.

On 23 June, 52 per cent of Britons voted to leave the EU, but Smith has said some electors were duped into backing the Brexit campaign and may think twice due to signs that Britain's economy could slow since the vote.

Prime Minister Theresa May will wait until next year to trigger Article 50, the formal clause by which a country leaves the European Union, but it is unclear if the process can be started without a parliamentary vote.

"We will vote in Parliament to block any attempt to invoke Article 50 until Theresa May commits to a second referendum or a general election on whatever EU exit deal emerges at the end of the process," Smith said in a statement. He said there was too much uncertainty over what Brexit will involve.

"Nobody knows what Brexit looks like. It could involve trashing workers' rights and environmental protections, opening our NHS (health service) up to foreign competition, making it harder for us to trade with our neighbours and damaging our economy."

May's Conservative government has a slender working majority of 17 in the 650-seat chamber but the majority of British lawmakers supported remaining in the EU.

Labour was thrust into one of the biggest crises in its 116-year history after the referendum, when most of the party's lawmakers responded by voting to withdraw support for incumbent left-wing leader Jeremy Corbyn, prompting the second leadership contest in a year. Smith is his only challenger.

Pro-European critics blame Corbyn for contributing to the victory for the 'Leave' campaign by only offering lacklustre support to those campaigning for Britain to remain in the EU. The new leader will be declared at the party's conference on 24 September.—*Reuters*

Investors urge G20 nations to ratify Paris climate deal this year

OSLO — Investors managing more than $13 trillion of assets urged leaders of the Group of 20 on Wednesday to ratify a global climate deal by the end of 2016 and to step up efforts to shift from fossil fuels.

A total of 130 investors, grouped in six coalitions, wrote a letter to G20 leaders and also called on them to double global investment in clean energy, develop carbon pricing and phase out fossil fuel subsidies.

Among backers were the California Public Employees' Retirement System, Swedish National pension funds, Aegon, AustralianSuper, the Church of England Pensions Board and the New York City Comptroller, it said.

"The Paris Agreement provides a clear signal to investors that the transition to the low-carbon clean energy economy is inevitable and already under way," the investors wrote to G20 leaders before a 4-5 September summit in China.

The letter called on the G20 to "complete your process for joining/ratifying the Paris Agreement in 2016 if possible."

Many major emitters of greenhouse gases, led by China and the United States, have said they will formally join up to last December's Paris Agreement on climate change this year.

But no G20 nation has yet completed the process. France has ratified but is waiting to submit documents with other European Union nations.

As of Tuesday, the United Nations says that 23 small nations representing only 1.1 per cent of global emissions have completed the formalities. The deal requires at least 55 nations representing 55 per cent of global emissions to become law. The investors said that countries ratifying the Paris Agreement quickly would be "better able to attract investment in low and zero carbon energy solutions."—*Reuters*

Aussie authorities arrest 34 Malaysians for working illegally

SYDNEY — Australian authorities have arrested 34 Malaysian nationals for working illegally in Australia's agriculture sector following targeted raids on the country's east coast.

Following information from the community, authorities on Tuesday raided a labour hire syndicate alleged to be employing illegal foreign workers near Coffs Harbour on the New South Wales mid-north coast, finding 14 nationals were in Australia illegally, while 20 others were exploiting their temporary stay visas.

"Yesterday's operation sends a strong message to individuals and syndicates involved; if you are in Australia without a valid visa, if you work in breach of your visa conditions or if you are exploiting foreign workers, you will be caught," Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said in a statement on Wednesday evening.

The raids form part of an ongoing multi-agency taskforce investigating visa fraud and illegal work that so far has resulted in the arrest of three people and the detention of 95 illegal workers. Anyone convicted in Australia for facilitating visa fraud and illegal work faces up to 20 years imprisonment or fines up to 100,000 Australian dollars (75,985 US dollars).

Employers involved in the exploitation of foreign workers face civil penalties of 10,800 Australian dollars (8,207 dollars) per breach, while corporations face 54,000 Australian dollars (41,033 dollars) per breach.

All 34 are currently being detained in an immigration detention facility awaiting deportation.—*Xinhua*

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **25 August 2016** lmm@kcyangon.com

Singapore pushes for deeper engagement with Africa

SINGAPORE — International Enterprise (IE) Singapore on Wednesday announced the establishment of its third Overseas Centre in Africa during the Africa-Singapore Business Forum 2016 as the city state is pushing for deeper engagement with Africa.

The new centre, due to open in Nairobi in 2017, will give Singapore companies access to the fast-growing East Africa region, expanding IE Singapore's comprehensive in-market network to assist Singapore companies across the continent.

Lee Ark Boon, chief executive officer of IE Singapore, noted that Africa's long-term growth prospects are strong, and Singapore companies looking to diversify from traditional markets should consider options in Africa. "Our new office in Nairobi will assist Singapore companies to identify and capture business opportunities, cultivate valued local partners and strengthen the Singapore brand in the fast-growing East African region," said Lee.

The business forum also witnessed the landmark signing of Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) with Ethiopia, a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) with Mozambique and an Air Services Agreement (ASA) with Nigeria on Wednesday. These bilateral agreements are expected to clarify the taxing rights of the signatory countries on all forms of income flows arising from cross-border business activities, create greater confidence for investors, and facilitate people-to-people flows. Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) S Iswaran, who signed these agreements, said Singapore companies must venture beyond these markets to seize opportunities in untapped markets in regions such as Africa.

"Ethiopia, Mozambique and Nigeria are three fast-growing African economies and the agreements signed today signify commitment on the part of Singapore and the respective African governments to support trade, tourism and investment between our countries," said S Iswaran,"we are keen to build a long-term relationship with African countries and will continue to strengthen our economic ties with the African region." Since 2005, total trade between Singapore and Africa has grown at a compounded annual rate of 5.2 per cent, reaching 11.5 billion Singapore dollars (8.5 billion US dollars) in 2015, said IE Singapore.

Besides the business forum aimed at enhancing economic cooperation, Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan also hosted Sub-Saharan Africa High-Level Ministerial Exchange Visit from Monday to Wednesday for 10 ministers from Botswana, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, according a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday.

Themed "Singapore and Africa: Partnering for Sustainable Development", the 10 ministers called on Singaporean leaders during the visit, exchanging views on the challenges of sustainable development and share experiences in dealing with urban solutions, water management and skills development.—*Xinhua*

Dozens of wildfires rage across arid US West

Flames whipped by strong winds burn though a hillside before destroying camper vans during the Blue Cut Fire in San Bernardino County, California, US, on 17 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO — Dozens of wildfires raged in the arid US West on Tuesday, blackening hundreds of square miles of land and forcing residents from homes in California and Washington state.

At least six people have died in Western wildfires this summer.

Seven new large fires have flared up since Monday, bringing the total number of blazes burning in the region to 32, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre. Combined, the wildfires have charred more than 500,000 acres (200,000 hectares), the agency said.

In California's San Luis Obispo County, firefighters have been able to carve containment lines around about a third of the 37,100-acre (15,000-hectare) Chimney Fire by Tuesday morning.

That blaze, which started in the county's rugged coastal hills on 13 August, has destroyed 36 homes and continued to threaten nearly 1,900 more, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

Evacuation orders were in effect for about 6,000 residents on Tuesday, according to Cal Fire spokesman Aladdin Morgan, up from just 2,500 on Monday.

The historic Hearst Castle, a major tourist attraction on California's central coast, will be closed to the public through the week as a safety precaution due to the blaze.

The monumental estate, built in the early 20th century for publishing tycoon William Randolph Hearst, was no longer in immediate danger, but the Chimney Fire had crept within three miles (5 km) of the castle over the weekend before shifting direction, authorities said.

To the north, firefighters were battling a cluster of blazes that have blackened about 8,000 acres of dry brush, grass and timber in the Spokane, Washington, area.

Washington state Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency for 20 Washington state counties on Tuesday as he toured the Spokane area, his office said.

Authorities said on Monday that, due to limited resources, they had to enlist the help of local farmers to help battle flames that had destroyed more than a dozen buildings in the area.

Those blazes all erupted on Sunday, stoked by extremely hot, dry weather and gusty winds. Lower temperatures, rising humidity and diminished winds were expected to help crews gain some ground on Monday, as firefighting reinforcements arrived.

As of Tuesday, the so-called Hart Fire had been 10 per cent contained while officials were hopeful that a pair of fires, dubbed the Spokane Complex, could be contained within their existing footprints.—*Reuters*

Philippine Customs seizes illegal drugs from Germany

Members of Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF) display confiscated ecstacy tablets at the Bureau of Customs office in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 24 August 2016. The Philippine Bureau of Customs has intercepted parcels containing illegal drugs from Germany, a senior government official said onWednesday. PHOTO: XINHUA

MANILA — The Philippine Bureau of Customs has intercepted parcels containing illegal drugs from Germany, a senior government official said Wednesday.

According to Lieutenant Sherwin Andrada, Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF) Executive Officer for Operations, the two parcels, which arrived recently from Recklinghausen, Germany, were seized after they were detected by a sniffer dog.

"The parcels were found to have more or less 2,000 pieces of ecstacy, valued at around 3 million pesos (64 thousand US dollars)," he said.

The parcels, which weigh more or less 500 grams, were initially declared to contain vitamins upon entry in the country, he added.

The Filipino consignee could face violation of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, and Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

President Rodrigo Duterte has declared an all-out war against illegal drugs.—*Xinhua*

Viet Nam welcomes 6.5 mln foreign visitors in eight months

HANOI — Viet Nam is expected to welcome about 6.5 million person-times of foreign visitors in the first eight months of 2016, posting a year-on-year increase of 25.4 per cent, according to the National Administration of Tourism on Wednesday. Among the figure, the country witnessed a jump of arrivals from China's Hong Kong and China mainland with respective climb of 92.8 per cent and 57.9 per cent year-on-year.

There has also been a rise in the number of visitors from South Korea (up 37.6 per cent year-on-year), Thailand (34.9 per cent), Italy (31.8 per cent), Spain (27.6 per cent), Laos (26.6 per cent), New Zealand (26.4 per cent), Russia (25 per cent), and Sweden (24.3 per cent) among others.

Viet Nam only saw a decline of 12.9 per cent year-on-year in number of visitors from Cambodia during eight-month period, reported the state-run news agency VNA. Meanwhile, the number of domestic holiday-makers from January to August was estimated at 43.1 million.—*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TAN BINH 45 VOY. NO (0516)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAN BINH 45 VOY NO (0516) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-1 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 G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HIJAU SAMUDERA VOY. NO ( )

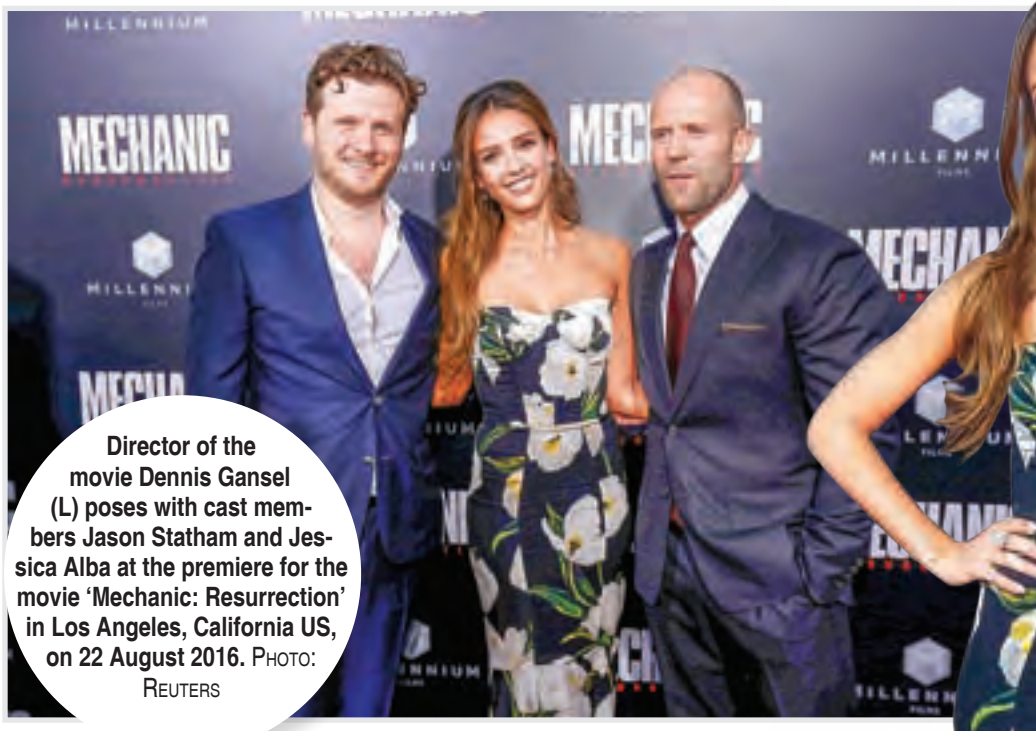
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HIJAU SAMUDERA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185



Director of the movie Dennis Gansel (L) poses with cast members Jason Statham and Jessica Alba at the premiere for the movie 'Mechanic: Resurrection' in Los Angeles, California US, on 22 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Jason Statham promises plenty of action in 'Mechanic: Resurrection'

LOS ANGELES — Jason Statham, Jessica Alba and Tommy Lee Jones join forces for action movie "Mechanic: Resurrection", a sequel to the 2011 thriller about an elite hitman.

Statham reprises his role as the lead character Arthur Bishop, and promised fans plenty of action. "People pay their money and they want to be entertained," he said at the film's Los Angeles premiere on Monday. "...If you are a fan of action movies I think you will get your money's worth out of this. It has big set pieces, good locations." The 2011 "Mechanic" attracted mixed audience reviews. But it grossed $62 million worldwide, according to Box Office Mojo website

"Mechanic: Resurrection" hits cinemas worldwide from Thursday. —*Reuters*

Jessica Alba. PHOTO: REUTERS

Can't let my kids watch my fight scenes: Jessica Alba

LOS ANGELES — Actress Jessica Alba says she doesn't want her children to watch those movies, in which she has action sequences.

Alba, who has two children, admits she also trains for her action scenes away from home as she thinks fight scenes are not "appropriate" for them right now, reported Us magazine.

"I don't even do fight training at home. I go to the gym for that. And they won't see this movie. It's not appropriate," she said.

The 35-year-old star recalled a particularly eventful day of shooting on the set of "Mechanic: Resurrection" where she accidentally punched a stunt man in the groin. "He didn't put the belt low enough in a couple of takes. It happens so quickly. You make contact. I didn't make anyone bleed," she said.—*PTI*

Actor Jennifer Lawrence. PHOTO: REUTERS

Jennifer Lawrence ranked world's highest paid-actress for second year

NEW YORK — "Hunger Games" star Jennifer Lawrence on Tuesday topped a *Forbes* magazine list of the world's highest-paid actress for the second straight year, earning some $46 million, followed by Melissa McCarthy.

Lawrence, 26, took the top spot largely through a slice of the profits from the final movie in the "Hunger Games" franchise, as well as a big upfront fee for her forthcoming space adventure movie "Passengers," *Forbes* said.

Yet Lawrence's estimated payday was likely well below that for Hollywood's leading men, Forbes said, despite the actress sparking a debate about the gender pay gap last year. She declared she was "finished being adorable" when it came to negotiating better deals for herself.

Lawrence's 2016 earnings dropped 11.5 per cent from her 2015 total of $52 million. Forbes will release its list of the world's highest-paid actors on Thursday. Last year Robert Downey Jr. topped the list with an estimated $80 million.

Neither however came close to pop star Taylor Swift, who was named the top earning celebrity of 2016 earlier this year, pulling in an estimated $170 million from record sales and her world tour.

McCarthy took home $33 million in earnings, up $10 million from 2015 in part from her payday for the controversial female reboot of "Ghostbusters."

It was the biggest annual paycheck to date for the star of television comedy "Mike and Molly." McCarthy, 45, also launched a clothing line for sizes 4 to 28 after becoming frustrated at the outfits available for larger women. Scarlett Johansson of "Captain America: Civil War" was third at $25 million, down nearly 30 per cent from 2015.

Together, the world's 10 highest-paid actresses tallied a combined $205 million between 1 June, 2015 and 1 June, 2016, before management fees and taxes, *Forbes* said.—*Reuters*

Robert De Niro gets back into the ring with 'Hands of Stone'

NEW YORK — Actor Robert De Niro has re-entered the ring in the new boxing drama film "Hands of Stone."

But this time, he's not the one throwing the punches, he's training famed Panamanian fighter Roberto Duran, portrayed by Edgar Ramirez.

Following a world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May, the film celebrated its upcoming release on the red carpet at a New York premiere on Monday evening.

De Niro, 73, who won an Oscar for the boxing movie "Raging Bull" in 1981, plays Duran's trainer Ray Arcel.

Singer Usher takes on Duran's rival as Sugar Ray Leonard and also provided the film's theme track.

"For every great movie there is a song. For every great moment there's a song," said Usher. "Music is the greatest communicator of emotion and time."

Although the film is centered around the life and career of Duran, 65, the film's star said the sport is just the context.

"It could have been golf, it doesn't matter," said Ramirez. "It's a human story, a universal story," .

Cuban actress Ana de Armas, who has the role of Duran's wife, spoke to Ramirez's point, opining that the film is rooted in love.

"This movie isn't only about boxing, it's a beautiful love story. When people see, they'll understand how important Felicidad is in Duran's life," she said. "Hands of Stone" will be released in US theaters on 26 August.—*Reuters*

Cast member Robert De Niro and his wife Grace Hightower de Niro pose on the red carpet as they arrive for the screening of the film 'Hands of stone' out of competition at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 16 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Shanghai launches tourism promotion campaign in NYC

A visitor watches a photo show on China's Shanghai during a tourism promotion event in New York, the United States, on 23 August 2016. China's city of Shanghai launched Tuesday a tourism campaign in New York City with the debut of the first VR promotional video showcasing a panoramic view of the beauty of the metropolitan city. PHOTO: XINHUA

NEW YORK — China's city of Shanghai launched Tuesday a tourism campaign in New York City with the debut of the first VR promotional video showcasing a panoramic view of the beauty of the metropolitan city.

The campaign was led by a delegation from the Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administration, who introduced new tourism products and latest policy updates of Shanghai to a room of more than a hundred New York City travel industry insiders.

The updates include new direct air routes, new landmark skyscrapers, the opening of Shanghai Disneyland, 144-hour visa-free entry for transit passengers, and the new tax refund policies.

"Shanghai is a city of rich and unique details," said Meihong Cheng, Deputy Director of the Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administration, "there is so much to explore in the city and we encourage tourists from the US to come and experience it first-hand."

The event also featured the debut of a promotional video powered by virtual reality technology. Starring Shanghai's tourism ambassador, actor Hu Ge and the rising bel canto band named Vocal Force, the video presents Shanghai as a wonderful and charming city from multiple aspects.

The US is one of the largest sources of inbound visitors to Shanghai, and it's important to promote Shanghai to potential tourists in the US, Cheng said.

Shanghai saw more than 636,000 tourists from the United States in 2015, up 0.61 per cent from 2014.

As a part of the "China-US Tourism Year" programs, Shanghai and New York City had signed an agreement for a two-year tourism partnership on 14 July. Under the agreement, both cities would promote each other and provide tailored travel products.

"Shanghai and New York City play important roles as gateways for airlift, but also as leaders for the (tourism) industry in general," said Fred Dixon, CEO of NYC & Company, the agency responsible for promoting New York City.

"We share best practices, we assist in promoting each other," said Dixon, "it makes a lot of sense and is just great to work with."—*Xinhua*

Double joy as mother of only giant panda twins in US pregnant again

ATLANTA — The mother of the only giant panda twins in the United States may soon deliver a second set of twins, Zoo Atlanta said on Tuesday, capping off an eventful month for lovers of the fluffy black and white bears across the globe.

Three years ago, mother bear Lun Lun gave birth to female cubs Mei Lun and Mei Huan, who are still at the Georgia zoo but could be returned this fall to China, which owns them, zoo spokeswoman Rachel Davis said.

An ultrasound on Monday confirmed that Lun Lun, who turns 19 years old on Thursday, is once again pregnant with twins, the zoo said.

Delivery of the new twins could be in the next few weeks, Davis said, calling the pregnancy a surprise.

Panda pregnancies, famously rare in captivity and outside of China, are notoriously hard to establish or predict.

Giant Panda Lun Lun relaxes as her twin panda cubs Mei Lun and Mei Huan sleep at her feet at the Atlanta Zoo in Atlanta, Georgia, US in November 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

The rarest member of the bear family with roughly 1,864 in the wild, pandas live mainly in bamboo forests high in the mountains of western China, where they subsist almost entirely on bamboo leaves.

News of the pregnancy comes as twin panda cubs born at a zoo in Vienna, Austria, turned 16 days old on Tuesday and were said to be fit and healthy — and very cute.

In China, twin panda cubs, a male and a female, were born at a breeding research base in southwest Sichuan province on 9 August, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

In Atlanta, Lun Lun was impregnated by artificial insemination on 28 March, the zoo said.

There is no guarantee the birth will be successful since a condition known as fetal resorption, or Vanishing Twin Syndrome, in which a fetus dies before it is born, is "not uncommon" in pandas, the zoo said.

If Lun Lun's second set of twins survive, they will be her sixth and seventh cubs, Davis said.

Newborn panda cubs are very vulnerable, being about the size of a stick of butter, according to the World Wildlife Fund. They can grow to up to 330 pounds (149.69 kg) as an adult.

While about half of all panda deliveries are twins, mothers in the wild typically only care for one cub, Zoo Atlanta said.

"Advances in animal care and veterinary care in zoos have resulted in successful rearing of twins both in the zoological population in China and in zoos outside China," Zoo Atlanta said in a statement.

While the zoo will be closely watching Lun Lun, the rest of the world can also keep an eye on her and perhaps watch her give birth over a live camera streamed at www.zooatlanta.org.—*Reuters*

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(25-8-2016, Thursday)

06 : 00 pm
- Weather Report
- MRTV Entertainment Music

06 : 20 pm
- Cartoon " Dragon Ball Z Bardock (The Father of Goku) "

07 : 10 pm
- International Drama Series

07 : 50 pm
- International Drama Series

08 : 30 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

08 : 40 pm
- A Night of Dancing With Phoe Chit

9 : 05 pm
- International Movie Songs

09 : 15 pm
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

09 : 35 pm
- Tying knot Wedding Ceremony

09 : 55 pm
- Music Programme

10 : 10 pm
- Sightseeing in Yangon: Inya Lake

10 : 15 pm
- Myanmar Video

Midnight
- Close Down

* 11 : 30 Am Live: "SMM" 2016 Yangon Aerodrome Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, NPT

From 25-8-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm
To 26-8-2016 (Friday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

(25-8-2016 07:00am ~ 26-8-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township
07:52	Am	Paper Art Creator
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Man and The Elephant (Part- I)
08:41	Am	The Man and The Elephant (Part- II)
08:55	Am	Cosplayer
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar's Secret Beautifier
09:50	Am	Sagaing: Youth Leader
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Myanmar Prehistory
10:50	Am	Tigers, Lions and The Guardians

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	To My Dream City (Part- 1)
07:49	Pm	A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-2)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts
08:41	Pm	Young Lady Musician: Nge Nge Lay

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Chelsea need to be better at killing off games, says Conte

LONDON — Chelsea must develop a ruthless mentality to kill games and not invite pressure from their opposition, manager Antonio Conte has said after his side endured a tense finale in their 3-2 League Cup win against third-tier Bristol Rovers.

Two goals from Michy Batshuayi handed Chelsea a 3-1 lead at the interval but Ellis Harrison's penalty early in the second half for Rovers ensured a nervous finish to the second-round game for the Premier League side..

"We must understand when you have the people to kill the game you must," Conte told the British media.

"When you leave it open, a situation like tonight can happen and until the game has finished you are afraid (of a draw)."

England manager Sam Allardyce recently said he would be open to hold talks with John Terry over a possible return to international football, and Conte said it would not be right for him to interfere in the situation.

"I'm a former international team coach so I know this situation and prefer it to be solved between Sam Allardyce and John Terry," the former Italy manager added. "That's the right way.

"John Terry has a great attitude during training and is working very hard. I'm very happy with his commitment. "But for the international team, it is important for it to be solved between Sam Allardyce and John Terry."

Chelsea welcome Burnley in their next Premier League fixture on Saturday.—*Reuters*

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike (4th R), Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) President Takeda Tsunekazu (3rd R), Japan's Olympic team's sub-captain Keisuke Ushiro (3rd L) and captain Saori Yoshida (4th L) pose with the Olympic flag (R) and JOC flag during a ceremony to mark the arrival of the Olympic flag at Haneda airport in Tokyo, Japan, on 24 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Olympic flag arrives in Tokyo, governor calls for unity

TOKYO — Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike brought the Olympic flag to Japan from Brazil on Wednesday and called for all parties to work together to host a successful Summer Games in 2020.

Koike, who was elected last month after two predecessors stepped down over scandals that clouded the city's Games preparations, was given the flag at the Rio Games closing ceremony on Sunday.

"Let's work together with everyone to hold a great Olympics and Paralymics as the Olympic flag, which just arrived, is a symbol of," she told reporters after waving the flag upon stepping off the flight at Haneda airport.

The Tokyo Games have been hit by series of issues including the scrapping of plans for the main stadium, which lead to delays in construction, and plagiarism allegations which forced organisers to ditch the original logo for the Games.

Koike was joined on the flight by Japanese athletes who took part in the Rio de Janeiro Games, where Japan won 12 gold medals — their best tally since 2004 — and a record 41 overall.

Keisuke Ushiro, who took part in the decathlon in Brazil, followed Koike off the plane waving a Japanese Olympic Committee flag.—*Reuters*

Nine-man Roma miss out on Champions League

PORTO (Portugal) — AS Roma missed out on the Champions League group stage after having two players sent off and losing 3-0 at home to Porto in their playoff second leg on Tuesday.

Roma, who drew 1-1 in Portugal, started as favourites but never recovered after Felipe gave the visitors an eighth-minute lead and the Italians imploded when Daniele De Rossi and Emerson Palmieri were shown straight red cards either side of halftime.

Monaco joined Porto in advancing with a 1-0 win over Villarreal, a 90th-minute penalty by Fabinho securing a 3-1 aggregate victory.

Legia Warsaw, Celtic and Ludogorets Razgrad also qualified for the group stage, although none of them won on the night.—*Reuters*

West Brom, Watford out of League Cup, Liverpool rout Burton

LONDON — Premier League West Bromwich Albion and Watford were knocked out in the League Cup second round by lower-league opponents on Tuesday as a strong Liverpool side crushed championship Burton Albion 5-0.

West Brom lost 4-3 on penalties to Northampton Town following a 2-2 draw and Watford were beaten 2-1 at home after extra time by Gillingham Town, also a third-tier side.

Premier League Chelsea, Everton, Stoke City, Crystal Palace, Swansea City and Hull City progressed.

Gillingham came from behind to upset Watford.

Substitute Odion Ighalo gave Watford the lead in the second half but Mark Byrne equalised to take the tie into extra time and striker Bradley Dack grabbed the winner.

Divock Origi and Roberto Firmino gave Liverpool a 2-0 halftime lead at Burton before a Tom Naylor own goal and two late strikes by Daniel Sturridge completed the rout.

"This was a very serious, professional display from our side," Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said.

"There were nice goals — nothing to criticise. It was humid today, not easy for either team."

Chelsea looked set to cruise into the third round when goals by Michy Batshuayi and Victor Moses gave them a 2-0 lead against Bristol Rovers.

But Peter Hartley pulled one back and although Batshuayi restored the hosts' two-goal advantage before the interval, Ellis Harrison's second-half penalty for third-tier Rovers ensured a tense finale.

Everton forward Arouna Kone scored two late goals to round off a 4-0 win over Yeovil and former England striker Peter Crouch grabbed a hat-trick in Stoke's 4-0 drubbing of hosts Stevenage. The top-flight teams qualified for European competition will enter the League Cup in the next round.—*Reuters*

Gillingham's Mark Byrne in action with Watford's Ben Watson during EFL Cup Second Round at Vicarage Road on 23 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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