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MYANMAR & INDIA: BUILDING BRIDGES

The third day of President U Htin Kyaw's visit to India included ceremony as well as substance.

The day started with a welcoming ceremony for U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, India yesterday.

Indian President Mr. Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi cordially greeted the President and his wife at the ceremony.

After posing for photos together with the Indian President and the Prime Minister, U Htin Kyaw inspected the honour guard.

Next, the President and wife paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the Raj Ghat and signed the visitors' book.

The President then received the Indian External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj at Taj Palace Hotel.

Afterwards, the President attended a working luncheon hosted by Modi at Hyderabad House.

During their talks at the luncheon, Modi and U Htin Kyaw witnessed the exchange of several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) which included four major deals including one for the construction of as many as 69 bridges on the Tamu-Kyee-kon-Kalewa Road section, which is considered a trilateral highway in Myanmar.

The two sides also exchanged MoUs on construction of Paletwa-Yargyi road section on the highway, cooperation in traditional medicine and renewable energy sectors.

Modi said Myanmar holds a unique position in India's neighbourhood, adding that the long-standing cultural and historical linkages between the two countries form a solid foundation of the bilateral relations.



President U Htin Kyaw is welcomed by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, India. PHOTO: MNA

This is the first top-level engagement between India and Myanmar since the new government took office in Myanmar.

U Htin Kyaw is on a four-day visit to India seeking support in the ongoing rebuilding efforts in Myanmar. Myanmar wants India to step up its role in several sectors ranging from infrastructure and education to healthcare and energy.

The two sides also discussed further cooperation in economic, cultural and trade sectors, projects being implemented by the two countries, India's technology assistance and training to Myanmar, border security and development, demarcation of the remaining boundary sections, promotion of cooperation between the two Parliaments, technology and necessary assistance for restoration of quake-hit religious edifices and matters related to India's support for Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation process and the exchange of support between the two countries in the international arena were discussed.

Then, the President and the Indian Prime Minister held a joint press briefing on bilateral cooperation. A joint statement was released afterwards.

In the afternoon, the President and his wife visited National Museum in New Delhi and a handicraft and housewares exhibition.

In the evening, the President held talks with his Indian counterpart on bilateral relations and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The last official event of the day was a dinner hosted by Mukherjee for the President and wife. The two presidents exchanged toasts during the dinner. —Myanmar News Agency



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Pyithu Hluttaw holds Q & A session, discussions on proposal

PYITHU Hluttaw continued for its 22nd day with a question and answer session yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win responded to a call for construction of a bridge in Gwa Township of Rakhine State, saying that there were no plans to build a 1,200-foot reinforced concrete bridge over a creek between Gwa and Magyi Ngu village at the moment because time is required to test the soil and develop a structural design in cooperation with the Ministry of

Construction.

On behalf of the Rakhine State government, the deputy minister replied to a call for construction of a retaining wall in Taungup Township, saying that it will be built in accordance with the regional government's priority list in a supplementary budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

He also answered a question about Tintate-Padu road in Sagaing Township, pledging that roadwork and repair of box culverts will be carried out by the ministry's rural development de-



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

partment during the open season.

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives debated a proposal calling on the Union government to review monthly allowances

and expenses granted to members of election sub-commissions.

Then, member of the Union Election Commission U

Hla Tint replied to discussions of the lawmakers and Pyithu Hluttaw approved the proposal to be put on record. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw approves Elders Draft Law

AMYOTHA Hluttaw approved the Elders Draft Law at its 22nd day session yesterday, with the Bill Committee reading out its report regarding the draft law and Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye submitting a proposal to approve the bill to the parliament.

During a question and answer session, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye elaborated on the natural disaster management fund of K20 billion, saying that more than K3 billion was spent on disaster preparedness measures, water supply, rehabilitation of victims and socio-economic development undertakings.

Regarding dams and reservoirs in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region, the Union minister assured that spillways were constructed to provide safe release of floodwaters from the dams and arrangements have been made for release of water from the dams before reaching its maximum storage levels.

Regular dam inspections for ensuring durability were being undertaken in accordance with rules and regulations, added the Union minister.

Next, he responded to a call for flood prevention measures to be installed in MraukU of Rakhine State, saying that the regional government will spend K248

million on dredging of Kan Hla creek to ensure the proper flow of water in the township.

Studies and necessary measures are being conducted by teams of experts from the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Border Affairs to protect the township from flooding, he added.

A report was submitted to the government through the national disaster management committee to implement the projects to develop rivers and ensure durability of dams and irrigation facilities with the help of international assistance, said the Union minister. — Myanmar News Agency

ASEAN to enhance weather information

THE 38th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Meteorology and Geophysics took place in Yangon yesterday, in order to support the requirements of ASEAN member countries in the field of meteorological and geophysical environmental issues.

The participants of the meet-

ing will discuss and adopt the 'Work Plan of SCMG from 2016 to 2025, to share the knowledge on Monitoring Network of the Tsunami Early Warning System in ASEAN, member countries to share technological information on Weather Radar Basic & Routine Maintenance and Real-Time

Radar Rainfall Estimation & Forecasting, to be discussed on the possible technical cooperation between ASEAN countries and International Organizations.

The meeting will end on 31st August.

In her opening remarks, Director-General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Dr. Hrin Nei Thiam, said through this ASEAN meeting, stakeholders can receive technology and all other knowledge for weather forecasting and also for geophysics. She added that it is also quite beneficial to our country. Myanmar is conducting training and technology exchange programmes in cooperation with international organisations to enhance the capabilities of services in meteorology and geophysics. ASEAN member countries and entities outside of ASEAN such as the World Meteorology Organization and the Japan, China and Korea meteorology agencies joined the meeting that will last until the end of the month. — Aung Thura



The 38th Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Meteorology and Geophysics commences in Yangon. PHOTO:TRANSPORT



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Mrs. Katrin Bannach. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets FNF project director

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Mrs. Katrin Bannach, project director for Myanmar and Thailand of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they discussed matters related to the FNF's assistance to development of Hluttaw.

Also present were Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials of Amyotha Hluttaw Office. — Myanmar News Agency



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Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong

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နေပြည်တော်



President U Htin Kyaw is accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the presidential palace in New Delhi, India on 29 August 2016. PHOTO: MNA

Union Peace Conference— 21st Century Panglong joint organizing committee meets

A JOINT organizing committee for the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong met at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his address, Dr Tin Myo Win, Vice Chairman of the joint committee, said that he was inspired by the people and proud to have joined ethnic brethren, political leaders and officials of the government for the Union Peace Conference. Next, P'doh Saw Kwe Htoo Win, another Vice Chairman of the committee, said that all people want the conference to proceed and the onus is on the joint committee to make the conference successful.

He went on to say that political dialogue is set to begin after-

wards, expressing his belief that compromise would be reached to put an end to armed conflicts.

He called for participation of those present in the approval process for successfully holding the conference.

Likewise, U Thu Wai, also a vice chairman of the committee, said that the main aim of the committee is to successfully organize the peace conference, expressing his hope that peace would be possible after the conference.

Next, those present held discussions on decisions of the first joint organizing committee and reports presented by the political dialogue organizing working committee.— *Myanmar News Agency*



The organizing committee for the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong holds its meeting. PHOTO: MNA

United Nations Secretary-General on working visit to Myanmar

AT the invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, will pay a working vis-

it to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 30 to 31 August, 2016. Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, wife of the United Nations Secretary-General, will accompany him.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Opening ceremony of Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong to be broadcast live

THE opening ceremony of the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong will be broadcast live on 31st August morning by the Myanmar Radio and Television.

The conference will commence at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw and the live broadcast will be launched at 9.45 am on 31st August.—*GNLM*

State Counsellor enjoys music concert by Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi enjoyed a music concert by the 95-member Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra (TPO), celebrating the friendship between Myanmar and Thailand at Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union minis-

ters, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Thai ambassador to Myanmar and guests.

The TPO's international musicians performed both Myanmar and Thai songs at the concert.

At the end of the concert, the State Counsellor presented a bouquet of flowers to the musicians of the TPO.

The concert tour of the TPO is a cooperative project of Mahidol

University, the Royal Thai Embassy, the Embassy of Germany and the Goethe Institute, the German Cultural Center in Myanmar, representing a mission of friendship as well as an activity to celebrate two auspicious occasions: His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand's Accession to the Throne and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's Birthday Anniversary on 12 August 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by diplomats as she arrives to enjoy the music concert. PHOTO: MNA

10,000 people to receive free healthcare by Shweparami Health Foundation

MORE THAN 10,000 needy people across Kyaukpadaung Township in Mandalay Region will receive free medical care provided by Shweparami Health Foundation next month.

Under its programme, the foundation plans to offer healthcare services at Shwenadi Monastery in the township between 1 and 5 September to poor residents.

A total of 60 specialists will take part in the programme to treat a wide range of diseases including head and neck diseases,

diabetes, cleft lips, cleft palates and women's diseases.

"If the medical team find patients who need surgery, the foundation will take them to Yangon as well as the Mandalay region to treat their diseases at general hospitals equipped with modern surgical machines," said a member of the foundation.

From Our Heart Group, a philanthropic organization, also donated 27 million kyats to the SHF to successfully implement the public health programme.—200

People-Centred Research Camp, technical distribution forum opened

THE opening ceremony for the People-Centred Research Camp on Agriculture, along with discussion about a technical distribution forum, was held at the Myoma Camp, Paukhaung Township, Pyay District, Bago Region on Friday 26 August.

At the ceremony, the Region Hluttaw representatives and township administrator

delivered formal speeches and agricultural experts elaborated upon insects, pests and soil to the attendees. They then responded to queries raised by attendees.

Present at the ceremony were departmental officials, members of Agriculture and Livestock and Rural Development Committee and farmers.—(017)

Myanmar, Asia Foundation ink MoU



A Aung Lynn and Mr Gordon Robert Hein exchange notes of MoU. Photo: MWA

A signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and The Asia Foundation was held in Yangon yesterday.

U Aung Lynn, Permanent

Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Gordon Robert Hein, Senior Vice President of The Asia Foundation, signed the MoU.

Also present at the signing ceremony were the director-gen-

eral, the deputy director-general and officials from the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives from The Asia Foundation.— Myanmar News Agency

Crime NEWS

No injuries reported after vehicle overturns



The 12-wheel truck being seen overturned. Photo: Maung Lwin (Tatkho)

A TRUCK driver and conductor escaped injury after a cargo truck skidded off the road between Yangon and Mandalay and overturned on Sunday.

The truck loaded with agri-

cultural machinery being driven by 37-year-old Than Myo Aung overturned near mile post Nos. 265/3 and 265/4 on the old Yangon-Mandalay highway in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi

Taw after the driver lost control.

No casualties or injuries were reported, police say.

Police are still investigating the case.—Maung Lwin (Tatkho)

One of two prison escapees arrested by police

ONE of two jail breakers who escaped from the men's jail in Khamti Township in Sagaing Region has been rearrested by local authorities, police confirmed on Sunday.

Nine inmates escaped from the prison after a window was broken at Khamti Myoma Prison on Friday, seven of whom were immediately seized by police. An eighth inmate, Soe Naing Lin

(aka Hse Ni or Kyaw Htoo), 26, of Homalin Township, was arrested by police on Saturday.

Ya Pop, 27, of Khamti Township, remains at large. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

Murder case occurred in Bahan Township in Yangon

A WOMAN in Bahan Township was killed and her nine-year-old daughter injured at around 1.30 a.m. on 29 August.

Aung Zin Bo, the first cousin of the victim's husband, is believed to be connected to the murder because he was found near the victim, Ma Khaing Marla, on the first floor of the two-story house by Daw Tin Tin Aye, who lives on the ground floor.

Daw Tin Tin Aye said she heard the screams of a children from the upper floor of the house. She encountered Aung Zin Bo, who said that no problems had occurred on the first floor.

After Aung Zin Bo left, Daw Tin Tin Aye went upstairs and discovered the victim's dead body and her injured daughter



Aung Zin Bo, the suspect for the murder. PHOTO: POLICE

Ma Khaing Zin Kyaw. The child is being treated at Yangon General Hospital.

Police are still investigating the case.—GNLM

Man charged with murdering his wife

A WOMAN on Friday was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband in Pyay, a town in Bago Region, with police arresting the suspect the next day.

According to investigators, a quarrel occurred between the victim, Ma Kay Kay (aka Ma A La Win) and her husband Poe Tha Htoo (aka Myo Nyunt) at around 3.30 p.m. on 26 August. The victim left her home for her sister's residence after the quarrel

but agreed to return home when her husband apologized.

She was allegedly killed by her spouse on the way back to her home near a fuel station located on a bypass road in Ywabaw Ward in Pyay Township at around 7 p.m. on that day, police say.

Township police arrested the suspect at his home in Khattaya Myothit Ward the next day. The suspect has been charged under the Criminal Law.—Ko Lwin (Swa)

LOCAL Business

Industrial zones deal with electricity challenges

THE industrial zones which are currently operational are faced with an insufficiency of electricity, even though there are new industrial zone projects being opened across the nation, said entrepreneurs who have invested in the industrial zones.

Although efforts are being made to launch the new industrial zones, the old industrial zones need to be improved, they said. Small-and-medium sized enterprises comprise the majority of businesses in the zones and are facing monetary difficulties. The lack of reliable electric power has made them dependent on the manual labour force in the manufacturing process instead of machines that require electricity. The infrastructures in the zones are seriously under-developed, said U Ko Lay, an industrial entrepreneur.

Assistance with this problem is a must for promoting manufacturing in the industrial zones, entrepreneurs said.

Although there are over 1,300 acres of land in the Shwe Pyitha industrial zone, only half of factories are operational. Some plots of land are vacant.

"I would like to re-

quest the government to intervene in the land price in this zone and the government's subsidy is required to bring better transportation system," said U Min Thu Myint, an entrepreneur from the Shwe Pyitha industrial zone.

According to announcements released by the Ministry of Industry, there are a total of 19 industrial zones which are currently operational and six industrial zones under construction in Myanmar. Yangon is the biggest city in Myanmar and consumes about half of the country's electricity. But the electricity supply for the industrial zones is still insufficient, said the entrepreneurs.

The industrial zones which are under construction are Yadanarpon and Naypyitaw industrial zones in Mandalay, the Ponna Kyun industrial zone in Rakhine State, the Phaya Thonezu and Myawady industrial zones in Kayin State and the Nant On industrial zone in Shan State. Special economic zone projects were scheduled to open in Yangon, Dawei, Taninthayi Region and Kyauk Phyu in Rakhine State in the previous government's period.

—Zar Zar

Import costs for vehicles below 1350cc engine power set at US\$5,000

NEW Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) values for imported automobiles with below 1350CC engine power will be set at US\$5,000 starting next year, it is learnt from the Customs department.

This action will come into force after the model year of imported cars is officially fixed. The CIF values on import of 1350CC cars will be submitted to the vehicles import supervisory committee.

Only cars with an approved slip are entitled to pay the prescribed val-

ue of US\$5,000. The CIF prices will be levied on brand new, left-handed cars on the basis of car invoice price.

To be able to fix the CIF values of new 2017 cars, the CIF values will be set depending on the car prices set by the manufacturer.

The change will not be dramatic, officials said.

"CIF values won't change very much. We will set reasonable prices," said an official from the Customs Department.

—Mon Mon



Terminal 1 seen at Yangon International Airport on 13 June 2016. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Singapore Airlines and Silk Air started to run from New YIA

TWO Singapore-based airlines, Singapore Airlines and Silk Air, are moving their operations to New Yangon International Airport (YIA) Terminal 1 starting 26th August, it is learnt.

"We decided to move to Terminal 1 to facilitate our passengers because the New YIA can handle more travelers and offer services such as the restaurants," said Mr. Clive Quek from Singa-

pore Airlines. "We can offer the best service to arriving and departing travelers at Yangon International Airport Terminal 1," said Mr. Sulaiman Zainul Abidin, the chief executive officer

of the Yangon Aerodrome Company, which operates the new airport. Singapore Airline and Silk Air are currently offering flights from 36 countries to 98 destinations.—Min Thit

KFC to open new branch in Mandalay within six months

THE world-renowned Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) fast-food restaurant chain plans to open a new branch in Central Myanmar within six months, it is learnt.

KFC has already opened several branches in Yangon, with others planned in the country's major cities. It takes a

minimum of six months to open a new branch, enough time to train new employees, KFC officials said.

Since the American fast-food chain opened its first restaurant on Bogyoke Aung San Road in downtown Yangon in June 2015, some consumers have criticised KFC for being too ex-

pensive. But KFC officials said their prices in Myanmar are actually cheaper when compared to KFC restaurants in other countries.

The opening of the first restaurant attracted large crowds that queued for hours. To meet continued consumer demand,

KFC made a decision to open more outlets in Myanmar. Officials said KFC and competitors such as Lotteria have changed the eating habits of Myanmar residents.

KFC is the first major US fast food chain to open in the country.—Union Daily



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Indonesian church attacker 'obsessed' with Islamic State leader — senior minister

MEDAN — A knife-wielding Indonesian teen who tried to attack a priest at a church during a Sunday service was “obsessed” with extremist group Islamic State, a senior minister said on Monday.

Indonesian authorities are increasingly worried about a resurgence in radicalism in the world’s largest Muslim-majority country, driven in part by a new generation of jihadis inspired by Islamic State (IS).

“From the cellphone that was seized by security forces, this youth was obsessed with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi,” Chief Security Minister Wiranto told reporters, referring to the leader of the Middle Eastern militant group.

Wiranto, who goes by one name, said a note was found in the attacker’s backpack that said “I love al-Baghdadi” but added the suspect had no known links to existing militant networks.

There were no serious casualties in the latest attempted attack, which happened in a church in Medan, northern Sumatra. Police said the attacker had attempted to stab the priest, who suffered minor injuries, and detonate a crude home-made bomb but failed after being restrained by other worshippers.

The suspect, identified as 17-year-old Ivan Armadi is under interrogation. Police seized bomb-making materials from his home after the attack and said he had learned to assemble a bomb through online research.

Counter-terrorism officials have said there are hundreds of IS sympathisers in Indonesia, where the vast majority of Muslims practice a moderate form of the religion. The country suffered its first IS-linked attack in January, when four people died in a gun and bomb assault. — *Reuters*

Singapore mass sprays residences as Zika expected to spread



A worker fogs the corridor of a public housing estate in the vicinity where a locally transmitted Zika virus case was discovered, in Singapore on 29 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Officials sprayed insecticide and cleared drains of stagnant water in residential areas of Singapore at high risk of further Zika infections on Monday after 41 locally transmitted cases were confirmed in the city state.

Workers wearing fumigation masks traveled methodically through high-rise public housing estates in seven separate areas of the island, inspecting plant pots closely as they sprayed insecticide via thermal fogging machines.

The health ministry on Saturday confirmed Singapore’s first locally-transmitted case of Zika, with the tally rising to 41 just a day later. All of the infected people were either residents of the Aljunied district or workers at a construction site owned by GuocoLand in the area.

“We expect to identify more positive cases,” the ministry said on Monday in its latest update on the outbreak.

“Given that the majority of Zika cases are asymp-

tomatic or mildly symptomatic, and mosquitoes in the affected areas may already have been infected, isolation of positive cases may have limited effect to managing the spread,” it added.

Singapore, a major regional financial centre and busy transit hub, which maintains a constant vigil against the mosquito-borne dengue virus, reported its first case of the Zika virus in May, brought in by a middle-aged man who had been to Brazil.

GuocoLand, which is headquartered in Singapore and has developments across Asia, was ordered on Saturday to stop work on the building site where 36 of the infected people worked. It will remain closed until the company rectifies the conditions that allowed mosquitoes to breed and steps up preventative measures, the health ministry said.

The Zika virus, carried by mosquitoes, was detected in Brazil last year and has since spread across the Americas. It poses a risk to pregnant women because it can cause severe birth defects. It has been linked in Brazil to more than 1,600 cases of microcephaly, where babies are born with abnormally small heads and brains.

The World Health Organisation said on Sunday it did not know “which lineage of Zika is circulating” in Singapore or “what the level of population immunity is to this lineage of Zika in Asia.” Singapore’s health ministry said some 19 mosquito breeding habitats were detected and destroyed in its first sweep of the Aljunied area on Sunday when it fumigated around a third of the 6,000 homes. — *Reuters*

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Philippines' Duterte offers reward for corrupt police linked to drugs

MANALA — Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday promised rewards running to tens of thousands of dollars for information leading to the capture of police officers protecting drug syndicates and warned corrupt officials they would face “a day of reckoning”.

In a National Heroes Day speech, Duterte said there would be no let-up in a “war on drugs” in which — according to police figures — more than 1,900 people have been killed since he came to power two months ago. Police say the toll of about 36 people a day is a result of drug dealers resisting arrest or gang feuds.

Duterte railed against critics who have complained that the poor who trade drugs to make a living are being targeted by the police, but added that army generals, city mayors, governors and police involved in the drug trade must also be stopped. “I consider the fight against

drugs a war, there is a crisis in this country, it is drugs ... it has infected every nook and corner,” he said in the speech to retired and serving soldiers, government officials and foreign diplomats.

Singling out corrupt policemen known as “ninjas”, who take pay-offs from drug lords, Duterte said he was placing a 2 million peso (\$43,000) bounty on their heads, telling their colleagues to “squeal on your friends”.

Duterte, who won a May election on a promise to wipe out drugs and dealers, last month named about 160 officials, judges, police and soldiers who he said were protecting drug traffickers or selling drugs in their communities.

The United States, a close ally of the Philippines, said last week it was “deeply concerned” about the reports of extra-judicial drug killings and it urged Duterte’s government to ensure that law-enforce-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte takes part during a National Heroes Day commemoration at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Heroes' Cemetery) in Taguig city, Metro Manila in the Philippines on 29 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ment efforts “comply with its human rights obligation”. The crackdown and some strongly worded criticism Duterte has made of the United States since coming to power present a dilemma for Washington, which has been seeking to forge unity among allies in Asia in the face of an increasingly assertive China, especially in the strategic South China Sea. This month, two

UN human rights experts urged Manila to stop the extra-judicial executions and killings. Duterte responded by threatening to leave the United Nations. In his speech on Monday Duterte scoffed at accusations that he was trampling on human rights and said law enforcers should not worry about criminal liability while acting on his campaign. — *Reuters*

China's Xi reshuffles key party posts ahead of congress

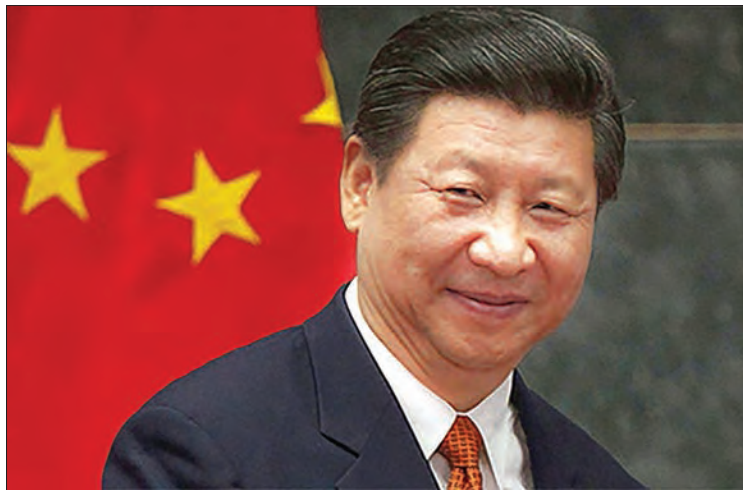
BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping has reshuffled three top provincial-level Communist Party posts as he seeks to place his men in key positions ahead of a once-every-five-years congress next year, and more new appointments are likely soon.

The party congress, expected to be held next autumn, will see Xi further cement his hold on power by appointing close allies into the party's ruling inner core, the 25-member Politburo and the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee.

Xi, who doubles as Communist Party and military chief, is ranked No 1 in the Standing Committee – the apex of power in China.

The year leading up to that will focus on Xi appointing more new people into major provincial party and government positions, sources with ties to the leadership say.

In a brief dispatch on Sunday, the official Xinhua news agency named two people with whom Xi had previously worked as the new party chiefs in the strategically located southwest-



Chinese President Xi Jinping makes a speech at the celebration of the 95th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on 1 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ern province of Yunnan and the populous southern province of Hunan. The provincial party chief outranks the governor.

In Yunnan, bordering Myanmar, Laos and Viet Nam, Chen Hao replaced Li Jiheng, while in Hunan, Du Jiahao had assumed the party's top job, Xinhua said.

Both Chen and Du worked with Xi when he ran China's commercial capital, Shanghai, as

its Communist Party chief for a year in 2007, according to their resumes.

"Xi is close to both of them due to their time together in Shanghai," a source with ties to the leadership told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Tibet, considered one of the country's most politically sensitive positions due to periodic an-

ti-Chinese unrest in the devoutly Buddhist Himalayan region, also has a new party chief, named by Xinhua as Wu Yingjie.

Wu has spent almost his entire career in Tibet, according to his official resume, having previously served as a deputy governor and propaganda chief, among other roles.

Wu, like his predecessor Chen Quanguo, belongs to China's majority Han Chinese ethnic group.

China says its rule has brought prosperity and stability to Tibet, rejecting claims from Tibetan exiles and rights groups of widespread repression.

Xinhua said on Monday that Chen would move to Xinjiang as its party boss, another unruly part of the country, due to what the government says is a concerted Islamist-backed campaign of violence in a region with a large ethnic minority Muslim population.

The current party boss, Zhang Chunxian, is expected to move to Beijing to take over a senior role in a party building committee that Xi is overseeing as part of his efforts to instil greater discipline in

the corruption-racked party, the source added.

Xinhua said Zhang would be given another post, but did not say what.

A second source said the governor in Shanxi, a coal-rich northern province beset by corruption scandals, would move to Beijing to take over as transport minister.

Li Xiaopeng is the son of former premier Li Peng, who was deeply involved in the military crackdown on student-led demonstrations for democracy around Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

The second source said Xi ally Lou Yangsheng, currently a deputy party boss in Shanxi, would be named acting provincial governor, pending approval by the local legislature.

Xi and Lou worked together when Xi was party boss in the eastern province of Zhejiang from 2003 until early 2007.

The State Council Information Office, which doubles as the party's spokesman's office, did not respond to a request for comment. —Reuters

Pakistan Supreme Court dismisses civilian appeals against military convictions



A man walks past the Supreme Court building in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 27 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday upheld verdicts and death sentences in the cases of 16 civilians convicted of terrorism-related offences by military courts, the first time the highest court has ruled on the legality of cases tried by the military.

A five-member bench ruled that the appellants had not proved the military violated their constitutional rights or failed to follow procedure, in a blow to some activists who contend the courts routinely violate people's rights.

Pakistan's government empowered military courts to try ci-

vilian terrorism suspects in January 2015, following an attack by Pakistani Taliban militants on a school in Peshawar that killed more than 130 pupils.

The military has so far convicted 104 civilians in the secret tribunals. Of those, 100 have been sentenced to death, and four to life imprisonment. All but six are said by the military to have confessed.

Those whose appeals were dismissed on Monday included nine members of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and two al-Qaeda members, according to Pakistan's military. Two convicts are said

to have been involved in the Peshawar school killings.

Pakistan has been battling the TTP, an umbrella organisation of militant groups fighting to impose strict Islamic law, and its allies including al-Qaeda since 2007.

Lawyers for all 16 convicts contended their clients had been tried in secret, without access to legal counsel of their choice, and that their confessions had been recorded illegally. They also claimed they were denied access to military court records when preparing their appeals.

The complaints echoed those made by lawyers and families of those convicted by the courts to Reuters. Two families and one lawyer said they had been threatened after filing appeals. Several told Reuters that confessions were "coerced" by the military.

Sajid Ilyas Bhatti, the deputy attorney general representing the government, denied the appellants' claims, saying they had been accorded their rights.

He argued that military court proceedings were "immune from challenge on the ground of any alleged violation of the fundamental rights".

In its 182-page judgment, the court concluded that the appellants failed to prove wrongdoing on the part of the military authorities. —Reuters

Thai police link beach-town bombings to Muslim insurgency

BANGKOK — Thai police identified on Monday a third suspect wanted in connection with a wave of bombs in tourist towns this month that killed four people and for the first time linked the attacks to Muslim separatists operating in the far south.

Thailand's tourist industry had been largely spared a spillover of violence from a decades-old insurgency in the far south and authorities had at first dismissed any connection between the 11-12 August bombings and the separatists.

But police issuing an arrest warrant for a third suspect on Monday said all three of the people they wanted to question had links to previous attacks blamed on the Muslim insurgents.

"The three suspects for which we have obtained an arrest warrants are known to have ties to other previous attacks in the southern provinces," deputy national police spokesman Kissana Phathanacharoen told Reuters.

Police identified the third suspect as Asamin Katemadi and said he was also wanted in connection with a 2015 bomb attack on the tourist island of Samui.

Four Thai people were killed in the coordinated bomb attacks in various tourist town

south of Bangkok this month and dozens were wounded, including foreigners.

The military government, apparently loath to spread alarm in the tourist industry, the one bright spot in a generally flat economy, at first dismissed any suggestion the Muslim separatists battling the predominantly Buddhist country's government might be to blame.

Authorities even hinted that supporters of ousted populist premier Thaksin Shinawatra might have been responsible. He denied any link.

Thailand's three far-south provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat are majority-Muslim and resistance to central government rule has existed there for decades, resurfacing violently in 2004.

More than 6,500 people have been killed in the largely ethnic Malay region since then in bombings and shootings that take place almost daily, according to Deep South Watch, a group which monitors the conflict. Peace talks between the government and shadowy insurgents group began in 2013 under the civilian government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's sister, but have stalled since the military overthrew her in 2014. —Reuters

Opinion

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Co-operation between Myanmar and India

Khin Maung Aye

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw has reached an agreement with the Indian government during his state visit to India that co-operation between Myanmar and India needs to be enhanced in order that inclusive growth and development can be further effectuated. Also, peace, prosperity and stability in the two countries and also in the region as a whole can be promoted. In this function, the leaders of the two countries have expressed their support for the continuation and restrengthening of dialogue within the framework of existing bilateral institutional mechanisms.

It is also worth mentioning at this juncture that the Indian government has expressed support for the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panlong. This is an indication of India's being a good neighbor. In regard to security and defence co-operation, India has reaffirmed its commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism and insurgent activities in all their forms and manifestations. Both countries have reiterated their commitments to have respect for the sovereign power and territorial integrity of India and Myanmar, as well as to continue to practise the policy of not

allowing any insurgent organizations to exploit their land for launching of hostile activities against the other side.

Concerning the development and prosperity of the people residing in areas bordering the two nations, the two leaders have come to an agreement to promote bilateral co-operation to effectuate overall socio-economic development in the border areas. In addition, it is heartening to learn that India has expressed its support for the progress in the reform process inclusive of Myanmar's effort regarding national reconciliation.

In this function, the two countries have agreed that the delegation of India and Myanmar will continue to work together closely during the deliberations in all relevant UN forums. In regard to regional co-operation, Myanmar side has informed the Indian side that State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will participate in the forthcoming Outreach Summit between BRICS and BIMSTEC partners to be held in India on 16 October of this year. India has welcomed her visit, which is a sign that Myanmar is now better participating in both regional and global activities.

Draft Joint Statement Issued on the Occasion of the State Visit of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to India

1. At the invitation of H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, H.E. U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, paid a State visit to India from 27-30 August, 2016. He was accompanied by his wife Daw Su Su Lwin. Apart from his official engagements in New Delhi, President U Htin Kyaw visited places of historical and cultural importance, including Bodhgaya and Agra.

2. President U Htin Kyaw was accompanied by a high level delegation including the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, the Union Minister for Transportation and Communication, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Manpower, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and other senior officials. He was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 29, 2016. The President of India hosted a banquet in his honour.

3. President U Htin Kyaw paid tribute and respect to the memory

of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

4. H.E. Smt Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India, called on President U Htin Kyaw in New Delhi.

5. The Indian leadership congratulated the President of Myanmar on the victory of the National League for Democracy after general elections in Myanmar in November 2015. They expressed support to the new Government in all its endeavours for the well-being of the people of Myanmar, including in development of democratic institutions. The India side also offered to share India's own experiences in evolving parliamentary rules, procedures and practices as well as in managing Union-State/Region relations, allocation of powers and resources between the Union and States etc.

6. President U Htin Kyaw held wide-ranging discussions with H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India and H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual

interest. While reviewing bilateral issues, both sides agreed that greater bilateral cooperation between India and Myanmar is required in order to promote inclusive growth and development and to contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in both countries and in the region as a whole. They expressed support for the continuation and reinvigoration of dialogue within the framework of existing bilateral institutional mechanisms, namely Joint Consultative Commission, Foreign Office Consultations, Joint Trade Committee, National Level Meeting, Sectoral Level Meeting, Regional Border Committee, Border Liaison Meetings, Heads of Survey Department Meeting etc.

7. The Indian leadership also expressed support to the national reconciliation and peace process of the Government of Myanmar under the "21st Century Panglong Conference".

8. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral security and defence co-operation, which is crucial for maintaining peace and stability along the long common border. They reaffirmed their shared commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism and insurgent activity in all its forms and manifestations. Both sides reiterated their commitments to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the other and to continue practicing the policy of not allowing any insurgent groups to use their soil

"They reaffirmed their shared commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism and insurgent activity in all its forms and manifestations".

for hostile activities against the other side. They also emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation between security forces and border guarding agencies for securing peace, security and stability in the border areas, which is crucial for overall development.

9. The two sides alluded to the importance of sound border management as an intrinsic part of maintaining border security, peace and stability along the entire length of their common border.

10. Referring to the ongoing discussions between the two sides on maritime security, both sides agreed that Maritime Security Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal is vital for both countries.

11. The two sides reviewed ongoing development cooperation initiatives being undertaken with technical and financial assistance from the Government of India, including in the areas of connectivity and capacity building, health and education infrastructure, agriculture, information technology, industrial training, and various training programmes.

12. The two sides expressed sat-

isfaction at the progress made in the implementation of Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project. The two sides agreed that the completed facilities at Sittwe and Paletwa should be operationalised by December 2016 and the modalities of their operation and maintenance be finalized by the two sides at the earliest. The two expressed satisfaction at the signing two MoUs pertaining to the implementation of India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway project.

13. Identifying the need for special focus on the development and prosperity of the people in bordering areas, both sides agreed to enhance their cooperation to bring about overall socio-economic development in the border areas by undertaking both infrastructure development and micro-economic projects, including the upgradation of roads and construction of schools, health centres, bridges, agriculture and related training activities in accordance with the MoU on India-Myanmar Border Area Cooperation.

"Both sides agreed to enhance their cooperation to bring about overall socio-economic development in the border areas by undertaking both infrastructure development and micro-economic projects"

See page 9 >>



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Draft Joint Statement Issued...

>> from page 8

14. The two leaders noted with appreciation the substantial progress made in upgrading the Yangon Children's Hospital and the Sittwe General Hospital with technical and financial assistance from India. The Myanmar side thanked India for this important partnership initiative with state-of-the-art medical equipment. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the functioning of the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) as well as on the establishment of the Rice Bio-Park at Yezin University in Nay Pyi Taw. They reviewed progress in establishing the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) in Nay Pyi Taw. These institutes will emerge as centres of excellence that will be able to address the capacity building needs of Myanmar's IT and agricultural sector respectively. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the successful upgradation of the India-Myanmar Centre for the Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS) in Yangon, which has emerged as a premier ICT training centre in Myanmar, Language Laboratories at Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, e-Resource Centre at Nay Pyi Taw as well as the computerisation of the Central Land Records Development Training Centre (CLRDT) at Taikkyi in Yangon region. The Indian side offered assistance for undertaking small development projects in areas and sectors considered priority by Government of Myanmar. The Indian side also offered assistance to the Myanmar side to enhance agricultural productivity by undertaking initiatives such as programme on germplasm enhancement, development of seed models, training private seed entrepreneurs in Myanmar, training and demonstration of improvised agro-techniques and other capacity building projects. The two sides agreed to exchange information on skill development initiative that could be undertaken to provide useful employment opportunities while

meeting the needs of industry of both countries.

15. The two sides agreed to promote trade and expand cooperation especially in agriculture, banking, power and energy sectors. Both sides expressed satisfaction that the trade between the two countries has shown resilience to the global trends. They agreed that both Governments would work to identify and remove various impediments to bilateral trade. In this context, both sides appreciated the useful deliberations at the India-Myanmar Business Conclave held in Yangon in May 2016 which was attended by a high-level business delegation led by Indian Minister of Commerce Smt Nirmala Sitharaman. Indian side conveyed that leading Indian companies are prepared to invest in Myanmar's hospitality and automobile sector, and requested that this may be facilitated.

16. The Indian leadership thanked Myanmar for accepting its request and giving allicence to the State Bank of India to open a bank branch in Myanmar, and sought support while it sets up its office in Myanmar. Both sides expressed confidence that the commencement of direct banking operations would help greatly to expand bilateral trade and commerce.

17. The two leaders also expressed their hope that the modalities of operation of border haats may be finalised soon so that trade can also start taking place through border haats.

18. Both sides agreed that an arrangement for supply of pulses from Myanmar to India would be in the mutual interest of Myanmar farmers and Indian consumers. They encouraged Indian companies to cooperate with Myanmar farmers in order to improve the quality of pulses production and thus ensure better marketability of the produce in India.

19. The President of Myanmar thanked India for the power supply that commenced from India across the Moreh-Tamu border on April 8, 2016. Both sides agreed that this

is a small but critical step towards further integrating our countries and economies for the mutual benefit of the two peoples. Both sides will consider infrastructure strengthening of the transmission network to increase supply in future.

20. In order to provide a framework for bilateral cooperation in this key sector, the Indian and Myanmar leaders resolved that the proposed MoU between India and Myanmar on Cooperation in the field of Power should be negotiated at the earliest.

21. The Indian side invited Myanmar to participate in the International Solar Alliance Initiative, which is intended to allow solar resource rich countries to address their special needs and collaborate to reduce costs and improve generation capacity.

22. The two sides recognised the presence of Indian companies in the oil exploration and hydrocarbon pipeline sectors and agreed to further expand this collaboration. Myanmar side agreed to invite Indian companies to participate in competitive tender for petrochemical and petroleum products marketing infrastructure and setting up LPG terminals.

23. Reviewing ongoing bilateral cultural exchanges and cooperation, both sides agreed to further promote cultural and academic exchanges. The Myanmar side requested India to provide financial and technical assistance in restoring of pagodas damaged by the recent earthquake in central Myanmar. They expressed satisfaction at the ongoing pace of work on the project for conservation and restoration of the Ananda Temple in Bagan, Myanmar, by the Archaeological Survey of India. The Indian side confirmed that a project to preserve and conserve stone inscriptions and temples of King Mindon and King Bagyidaw of Myanmar in Bodhi Gaya would be undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India with financial support from Government of India. The two sides also agreed on joint technical support for preservation and conservation of the stone inscription. The two sides noted with

satisfaction that the 'Festival of India' in Myanmar that was held with popular support and participation.

24. The two sides agreed to encourage people-to people contact and facilitate movement of people across land borders of the two countries. The two sides also discussed on setting up immigration facilities at the Tamu-Moreh and Rhi-Zowkhathar border crossing points at an early date.-

25. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together in international multilateral organizations and, in this context, agreed to make efforts to coordinate national positions on important issues that figure high on the international fora. Recognising that terrorism is one of the most serious threats to the international peace and security, and underscoring that there can be no justification whatsoever for acts of terrorism, the two sides called for further strengthening of the international legal regime to combat terrorism, and in this context, called for early finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism presently being negotiated in the United Nations. Both sides recognised that early reform of the UN Security Council is an essential element in the overall effort to reform the United Nations to make it more representative, effective and better adapted to the needs of the 21st Century. Myanmar reiterated its support for India's efforts to become a permanent member in an expanded and reformed UN Security Council.

26. India expressed its support for the progress made by Myanmar in its ongoing reform process under difficult circumstances including its efforts towards achieving an inclusive and broad based national reconciliation. In this context, both

sides agreed that the delegations of India and Myanmar will continue to work together closely during deliberations in all relevant UN fora. 27. During the visit, the following documents were signed:

(i) MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine

(ii) The MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy.

(iii) The MoU on Cooperation in the Construction/Upgradation of the Bridges and Approach Road in Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa section of the Trilateral Highway in Myanmar

(iv) The MoU on Cooperation in the Construction/Upgradation of Kalewa-Yagyi road section of the Trilateral Highway in Myanmar, and

28. Both sides welcomed the various steps taken to strengthen regional cooperation under BIMSTEC. The Myanmar side informed the Indian side that State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will participate in the forthcoming Outreach Summit between BRICS and BIMSTEC partners to be held in India on 16 October 2016. The Indian side welcomed this.

29. The President of Myanmar thanked the President of India for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to him and to the members of his delegation during their stay in India.

30. The President of Myanmar extended an invitation to the President of India and the Prime Minister of India to visit Myanmar at mutually convenient dates. The invitations were accepted, and it was agreed that dates for these visits would be decided by mutual consultations through diplomatic channels.

New Delhi
August 29, 2016

“The Myanmar side requested India to provide financial and technical assistance in restoring of pagodas damaged by the recent earthquake in central Myanmar”.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Theresa May address a news conference following talks at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany on 20 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Options sought as Merkel's radio silence complicates path to soft Brexit landing

BERLIN — Triggering the procedure for Britain to exit the European Union is like turning off the engines on an airplane, a top European diplomat says: best only do it if you can see a landing strip. Otherwise, all parties risk a messy outcome.

When Britain makes its exit move — by invoking Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty — it will set the clock running on a two-year deadline to leave the EU. Keen to avoid a crash landing, officials on both sides are scoping out how to proceed.

Options include the 'neverland' possibility of simply not invoking Article 50, trying back channel talks to sharpen Britain's sense of what scenarios are possible, and hopping from an interim outcome to a more permanent post-Brexit landing site.

The first option is a non-starter for German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Europe's most powerful leader and the first one Theresa May met after becoming British prime minister last month.

"The EU can't accept that," said a source close to Merkel, who has no desire to see Britain leave but has a pragmatic focus on holding the rest of bloc together, and does not believe Britain will hold a second referendum on its EU membership.

Even if the British economy's resilience in the immediate aftermath of the country's June 23 vote to leave the EU eases the economic pressure on Britain to press ahead with Brexit, May herself has said "Brexit means Brexit".

She has, however, said Britain will not trigger the exit procedure this year.

For the British government, the dilemma of when and how to make a Brexit landing is complicated by a refusal on the

part of EU leaders, led by Merkel, to discuss potential outcomes until Britain invokes the exit procedure.

"We won't talk beforehand," said the source close to Merkel, speaking on condition of anonymity. Another German government official stressed the strict ban in Berlin on any pre-negotiating: "We won't talk about substance."

In the absence of formal pre-negotiations, the British government must work through the second option: peering through gaps in the clouds of European officialdom to try to work out what its post-Brexit 'landing' options are.

Such back channelling could help the British work out what is realistic in order to avoid EU negotiators balking at their position, and the clock running down on the two-year deadline.

"You can only nail it down if you are in the realm of the possible," said one European official.

A likely trade-off between EU market access (which Britain would prefer) and the free movement of people (which it does not want) will probably leave a few achievable 'landing points', leaving British officials to try to identify these in informal meetings with cagey counterparts.

Here, they may yet find a way forward. There have been indications from at least one government that there may be room for discussions, rather than negotiations, in advance of Britain triggering Article 50.

German officials have also signalled they are ready to make some concessions to strike a deal with Britain. European Affairs Minister Michael Roth has held out the possibility of London achieving "special status" in its ties with the EU after Brexit.

But European leaders do not want Britain to hold the bloc hostage by horse trading on the terms of an exit before it commits to leave. So even if British officials sharpen their sense of the kind of deal they can strike, they still face a tight timeframe to clinch a post-Brexit settlement with the EU.

Behind the scenes, there has been a growing realisation in Europe's capitals that the two-year window for negotiating Brexit is far too short.

This raises the third option being mooted by some European officials: an interim framework for Britain's ties with the EU, based on an existing model similar to that of Norway or Switzerland.

"That might be a temporary solution," said one.

Further talks could then result in another landing spot beyond the two-year negotiating window offered by Article 50.

A spokeswoman for May said the prime minister and her government were going for a "British deal", to get the best for the country.

The trickiest area is the crunch trade-off between market access and the free movement of people, which is sacrosanct to EU leaders. "The price on free movement for prosperity is high," the European official said.

One option to reduce the flow of people to Britain is for it to firm up rules around benefits such that only people from other EU countries with a firm job offer can move to the UK.

Merkel has cut May some breathing space to work out her negotiating position, resisting calls from Paris and Brussels - in the days immediately after the Brexit vote — for Britain to leave the EU "as soon as possible".—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

US drone enters Iran's airspace, leaves after warning — Tasnim

ANKARA — Iran's military detected a US drone entering Iranian airspace on Monday and warned it to leave, which it subsequently did, Iran's Tasnim news agency reported.

"Iran's army air defence detected and warned an American drone in the eastern airspace of the country. It was coming from Afghanistan. The drone left the area," Tasnim quoted the Iranian military as saying.

Tasnim gave no details on how the Iranian authorities had warned the unmanned drone to leave its airspace. —Reuters

Australia seizes record cocaine haul on cruise ship, arrests three Canadians

SYDNEY — Australian customs officers seized a record 95 kg (210 lb) of cocaine from a cruise ship docked in Sydney Harbour following a joint operation at the weekend and leading to the arrest of three Canadians, they said on Monday.

It was the biggest drug seizure at an airport or a cruise ship in Australia, Tim Fitzgerald, a regional commander at the Australian Border Force, said.

Customs officers boarded the vessel and searched cabins with the help of sniffer dogs, they said in a statement.

"It was during the search of the cabin ... that we identified a number of suitcases in the cabin itself that were locked. Itemizer or trace technology was used to scan the outside of those suitcases and as a result a number of tests came positive for the presence of cocaine," Fitzgerald said.

The Canadians were charged with importing a commercial quantity of cocaine, for which the maximum penalty is life imprisonment.—Reuters

Job placement office for people aged 50 or older opens in Kitakyushu

KITAKYUSHU, (Japan) — Local and labour authorities opened a job placement office Monday for people who are 50 years old or older in the southwestern Japanese city of Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture.

The office named "Senior Hello Work Tobata" is the first public employment security office targeting the older generation in Japan, the authorities said.

Statistics show the ratio of people seeking jobs who were at least 45 years old was 45.5 per cent among job seekers across Japan as of May.

"We are aiming to create a city where seniors can work. We would like to build a successful model for the vitalization of the local economy by accepting many people," Kitakyushu Mayor Kenji Kitahashi said at an opening ceremony for the office run by the city government of Kitakyushu and the Fukuoka labour bureau of the labour ministry.

The opening of an employment support office targeting a specific age group became possible under a strategic special zones programme.

Seigo Nakano, 65, who visited the office, said, "They kindly showed me how to write a resume. I hope I can land a job that I want."—Kyodo News

A-Bomb Dome fragments to be given to dome designer in Czech Republic

HIROSHIMA — Hiroshima University said Monday it will donate fragments of the so-called Atomic Bomb Dome it found in a nearby river to relatives of a Czech architect who designed the building that barely survived the US atomic bombing in World War II.

Rebun Kayo, a researcher at the university, has been working with others for several years finding fragments of irradiated buildings as part of efforts to highlight the horrors of the atomic bombing, according to the university.

Some decorations and fragments of the Atomic Bomb Dome have been discovered in the Motoyasu River that flows just in front of it. Kayo and others plan to visit Czech Republic in mid-September to meet with relatives of architect Jan Letzel and donate some of the items they found.

The dome was originally a building that was completed in 1915. It was used as an industrial promotional hall until the atomic bomb detonated about 160 metres away. All of the people inside died, but parts of the building remained intact. The skeletal structure, which has become a symbol of peace, was inscribed into UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites in 1996.—Kyodo News



Turkish armoured personnel carriers drive towards the border in Karkamis on the Turkish-Syrian border in the southeastern Gaziantep Province, Turkey, on 27 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

KARKAMIS, (Turkey) — Turkey’s army and its allies thrust deeper into Syria on Sunday, seizing territory controlled by Kurdish-aligned forces on the fifth day of a cross-border campaign that a monitoring group said had killed at least 35 villagers.

Turkish warplanes roared into northern Syria at daybreak and artillery pounded what security sources said were sites held by the Kurdish YPG militia, after the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported fierce overnight fighting around two villages.

Turkey said 25 Kurdish militants were killed in its air strikes and denied there were civilian casualties.

There was no immediate comment from the YPG, but forces aligned with the group have said it had withdrawn from the area prior to the assault.

Turkey, which is also battling Kurdish insurgents at home, sent tanks and troops into Syria on

Wednesday to support its Syrian rebel allies. The Turkish-backed forces first seized the Syrian border town of Jarablus from Islamic State militants before pushing south into areas held by Kurdish-aligned militias. They have also moved west towards Islamic State areas.

Turkish officials say their goal in Syria is as much about ensuring Kurdish forces do not expand the territory they already control along Turkey’s border as it is about driving Islamic State from its strongholds.

However, the Turkish offensive has so far focused on forces allied to the Kurdish-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a coalition that includes the YPG, an Observatory source said.

The SDF has support from the United States — which sees the group as an effective Syrian ally against Islamic State, putting Turkey at odds with a fellow NATO member and further complicating

Syria’s five-year-old civil war.

The conflict began as an uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and has since drawn in regional states and world powers.

The Observatory, a Britain-based monitoring group with a network of sources in Syria, said Turkish-allied forces had seized at least two villages south of Jarablus, Jub al-Kousa and al-Amarna, that were held by militias loyal to the SDF.—Reuters

Suicide bomber kills 45 in Aden attack: medical charity

ADEN — A suicide bomber killed at least 45 people when he drove a car laden with explosives into a compound run by local militias in Aden on Monday, Medecins Sans Frontieres said, in one of the deadliest attacks in the southern Yemeni port city.

The official said at least 60 other people were brought into a nearby hospital run by the medical charity in Aden’s Mansoura district.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but it resembled previous suicide bombings which Islamic State said it carried out in the city. A security source said the attack targeted a school compound where conscripts of the Popular Committees, forces allied to the internationally recognised President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, were gathered for breakfast. The blast rocked the area and sent debris flying, sending residents fleeing, one witness said.

Islamist militants have exploited an 18-month-old civil war between the Houthis and Hadi’s supporters and launched a series of attacks targeting senior officials, religious figures, security forces and compounds of the Saudi-led Arab military coalition which supports Hadi.—Reuters

Syrian Kurdish spokesman says Manbij reinforced, but not by YPG

ALEPPO — A spokesman for the autonomous Kurdish region in Syria said on Monday that local military forces in the Syrian cities of Manbij and Jarablus are being reinforced, but not by Kurdish YPG militia.

The spokesman was re-

sponding to comments from regional security sources that YPG fighters appear to be reinforcing Manbij, captured this month from Islamic State, with weapons and personnel.

Manbij and Jarablus lie to the west of the Euphrates

river, an area of northern Syria which Turkey and the United States have told the Kurdish YPG forces to withdraw from.

“There are reinforcements, but not by the YPG. Because the YPG are east of the Euphrates, not in

Manbij or Jarablus,” said Ibrahim Ibrahim, head of the Rojava Media Office. Rojava is an autonomous political federation in northern Syria run by Syrian Kurdish parties and their allies.

He did not identify the

forces being sent to Manbij and Jarablus, but he said military councils in both cities are made up of local fighters and some Free Syrian Army rebel groups which are allied to the US-backed anti-Islamic State alliance the Syrian Demo-

cratic Forces (SDF).

The Kurdish YPG militia, which makes up a large part of the SDF, said it had withdrawn east of the Euphrates in line with US and Turkish demands after the SDF drove Islamic State out of Manbij.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKACHAI VOY. NO (147)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (147) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-5 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2016 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV AYSAN VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV AYSAN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

Brazil's Dilma Rousseff takes stand in impeachment trial

BRASILIA — Suspended President Dilma Rousseff will make a last stand in Brazil's Senate on Monday in an impeachment trial that is widely expected to remove her from office and end more than a decade of leftist rule by her Workers Party.

Rousseff, who is being impeached on charges of breaking budget laws, has denied wrongdoing and denounced the nine-month impeachment process that has paralyzed Brazilian politics as a conspiracy to overthrow her and roll back policies that have favoured Brazil's poor during 13 years of Workers Party governments.

But a deep recession that many Brazilians blame her for and a huge corruption scandal involving state-run energy company Petrobras [PETR4.SA] have undermined Rousseff's popularity since she was re-elected in 2014.

Her vice president, Michel Temer, has been interim president since mid-May, when Rousseff was suspended after Congress decided it would continue the impeachment process that began in the lower house.

If the Senate convicts Rousseff on Tuesday or Wednesday as expected, Temer, 75, will be sworn in to serve out the rest of her term through 2018. His business-friendly government vows to take unpopular austerity measures to plug a growing fiscal deficit that cost Brazil its investment-grade credit rating last year.

"She will appeal to un-



People walk next to an official photo of Brazil's suspended President Dilma Rousseff, at a camp in support of Rousseff, in Brasilia, Brazil, on 28 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

decided senators to respect democracy and stop the coup that is under way," a spokesman for Rousseff told Reuters. "She is in good spirits."

In her 30-minute speech, the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Rousseff, 68, would point to a lifetime fighting for democracy, from her arrest and torture by a military dictatorship for belonging to a left-wing guerrilla group to election as Brazil's first female president.

Twenty of her former Cabinet ministers will support her from the Senate gallery, along with her political mentor and former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, founder of the Workers Party.

With the odds stacked against her, Rousseff's testimony appears to be aimed at making a point for the

history books that her impeachment was a travesty rather than a bid to sway the 81-seat Senate to block her eviction from office.

Temer is confident he has the two-thirds of the chamber needed to remove Rousseff, and he has planned an address to the nation on Wednesday before heading to China to attend the summit of the G20 group of leading economies.

"We need 54 votes, and we expect to get at least 60," Temer's press spokesman, Marcio de Freitas, told Reuters.

He said the more votes Temer got, the stronger would be his mandate to take the difficult measures needed to restore confidence in Brazil's economy, caught in a two-year recession.

A survey published by O Globo newspaper on Sunday showed 53 senators

would vote against Rousseff and only 18 would back her — 10 short of the 28 she needs to avoid being ousted. Ten senators have not stated a position or were not polled.

Even senators not convinced the accounting charges brought against Rousseff warrant her impeachment have decided to vote against her because they see her return to the presidency prolonging Brazil's political crisis.

"I will vote against her even though I think it is a tragedy to get rid of an elected president, but another 2-1/2 years of a Dilma government would be worse," centrist Senator Cristovam Buarque said in a phone interview. Rousseff has lost her base of support in Congress and can no longer run the country effectively, he said.—Reuters

Trump to give speech on illegal immigration on Wednesday

PHOENIX — US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump tweeted on Sunday night that he would make a major speech on illegal immigration in Arizona on Wednesday.

The announcement came a day after Trump said he would crack down on illegal immigrants who overstay their visas, as he sought to clarify his views on how to overhaul the US immigration system. Last week, Trump had said he was "softening" on his plan to deport all 11 million illegal immigrants.

That stance had aroused criticism from conservatives who wanted him to stand fast after he won the Republican presidential nomination in large part with a hard-line position that called for building a wall along the US border with Mexico.

"I will be making a major speech on ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION on Wednesday in the GREAT State of Arizona. Big crowds, looking for a larger venue," Trump, who had postponed an immigration speech originally planned for last Thursday in Denver, said in his tweet on Sunday.

In another tweet on Sunday night, Trump said both he and Hillary Clinton, his Democratic rival for the 8 November election, should release

detailed medical records. "I have no problem in doing so! Hillary?"

In his speech on Saturday in Iowa, Trump said he would seek to institute a tracking system to ensure illegal immigrants who overstay their visas are quickly removed, and would propose an e-verify system to prevent undocumented residents from gaining access to welfare and other benefits.

"If we don't enforce visa expiration dates, then we have an open border — it's as simple as that," he said.

Trump said his first priority on taking office next January would be the immediate deportation of thousands of undocumented immigrants who remain in the United States despite having committed crimes.

"These international gangs and cartels will be a thing of the past," he said. "Their reign of terror will be over. In this task, we will always err on the side of protecting the American people — we will use immigration law to prevent crimes, and will not wait until some innocent American has been harmed or killed before taking action." Trump did not explain how his plan would affect undocumented residents who have been in the United States for decades and obeyed US laws.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T / M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2016 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ()

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

Kim asks youth to be 'death-defying corps' in defending North Korea

BEIJING — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called on young people to be a "death-defying corps" in defending his regime, official media said Monday.

Kim's request was made in his speech delivered at a rare congress of North Korea's main youth association in Pyongyang, at a time when his regime is keen to secure strong support across the board.

The congress of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, which is governed by the ruling Workers' Party of Korea and plays an important role in the country's social system, held its first congress in 23 years over the weekend.

In his speech, Kim stressed the need for the youth league to "strengthen its organisations and increase their militant function and role in every way," according to the Korean Central News Agency.

Kim was also quoted as saying that the organisations and North Korean young people should become "vanguards and shock brigades in building a socialist power."

The two-day congress



Photo shows young North Koreans taking part in a "torch party" in Pyongyang on the night of on 28 August 2016. Thousands of torch-carrying participants made slogans in the gathering held by the country's youth organisation. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

of the youth league, formed in 1946 by the country's founder, adopted a decision to rename the association Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, according to KCNA.

The congress, the ninth of its kind, was not held while the current leader's late father Kim Jong Il was in power. A torchlight gala was held at Pyongyang's May Day Stadium on Sunday to mark the latest convention, which was also attended by the current leader, who is in his early 30s.

The plane weighs about 590 kg, and has a top speed of some 290 km per

hour and a mileage of 644 to 724 km.

After passing all technical evaluations by the US Federal Aviation Administration, the plane made its maiden flight in June this year.

"I have flown airplanes most of my life, this is one of the best airplanes I have

North Korean society. The country's major organisation for women, the Democratic Women's Union of Korea, is scheduled to hold its first congress in 33 years in November. North Korea's official media had earlier said the congress of the youth league would kick off on Friday. However, it seems it did not and the reason behind the delay of the opening remains unclear.—Kyodo News

One died, three injured in shooting at Wakayama construction firm

WAKAYAMA (Japan) — A man shot four people on Monday morning inside a construction company in the western Japan city of Wakayama, leaving one dead and three others injured, police said.

The attacker, believed to be in his 40s or 50s and associated with the constructor, fled the scene with his weapon, prompting the police to warn local residents.

The man killed in the attack around 8:50 am was identified by the po-

lice as Junsuke Ishiyama, 45. The other three were also men, aged 43 to 46.

The attacker reportedly pulled out a gun from his bag while the five men were holding talks and began shooting.

The construction company, founded in 1979, has about 10 employees and has received orders for public works projects from the city and prefecture of Wakayama, according to a credit research company.—Kyodo News



Photo taken on 29 August 2016 shows a construction company in Wakayama, western Japan, where a shooting incident took place earlier in the day. The attacker shot four people, leaving one died and three injured, before fleeing the scene. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Chinese-American engineer builds his own plane

CHICAGO — In a community in the western suburbs of Chicago live a group of aviation enthusiasts who turn the backyards opening into a mini airport and park small airplanes in garages.

Among those planes, one was built by a Chinese-American engineer.

Being an engineer of

Nokia, David Hu started to make an airplane in 2006. For the past 10 years, from drawings, buying materials and parts, polishing, assembling to testing, David worked all by himself in his spare time.

The plane weighs about 590 kg, and has a top speed of some 290 km per

hour and a mileage of 644 to 724 km.

After passing all technical evaluations by the US Federal Aviation Administration, the plane made its maiden flight in June this year.

"I have flown airplanes most of my life, this is one of the best airplanes I have

ever flown. Mechanically it is perfect, sound," John Musgrave, instructor of Blue Sky Aero Inc., told Xinhua.

He also said the plane is "very safe," adding that "everything in the airplane is certified aircraft parts."

Since its June maiden flight, the plane has so

far flew 32 hours in two months, averaging two to three hours per week. And no problem has occurred.

"This is a 10-year journey. There are a lot of challenges for my families to support me, a lot of problems along the way, emotionally, physically, financially. Like any kind of

big project, but I am glad that we made it," said Hu, after flying his plane from nearby Morris Airport back home Sunday.

"I have done this flying. So I can now turn the page of my life to a new page, looking forward to the next step," Hu said.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY. NO (156)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (156) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO ()

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2016 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Beyonce storms Video Music Awards, Rihanna gets lifetime award

NEW YORK — Beyonce dominated the MTV Video Music awards on Sunday, prowling the stage with a 15 minute medley from her powerful “Lemonade” album and taking home eight statuettes, including the top prize — video of the year.

On a night when women ruled, Britney Spears returned to the VMA stage for the first time in a decade, and Rihanna performed four times to mark her lifetime achievement award.

Beyonce brought the house down at New York’s Madison Square Garden, stringing together five of her “Lemonade” album tracks about betrayal, revenge and female empowerment in a song and dance routine that brought a long standing ovation.

VMA organisers had announced only three hours before Sunday’s show began that Beyonce would perform. The singer arrived on the red carpet accompanied by the mothers of three African-American men who have died at the hands of US police in the past two years.

Her politically charged “Formation” beat Adele’s 2015 comeback single “Hello,” Drake’s “Hotline Bling,” Justin Bieber’s “Sorry” and Kanye West’s sleeping nude celebrity look-alikes in “Famous” for video of the year.

She also won best female



Beyonce accepts the Female Video of the Year award during the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards in New York, US, on 28 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

video and prizes for choreography, editing, and long form video in the awards that are voted on by fans.

Where Beyonce was angry

and bold, Spears, 34, dressed in a sparkly gold leotard and matching over the knee boots was slinky retro pop. It was the “Toxic” singer’s first time on the



Rihanna accepts the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award during the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards in New York, US, on 28 August. PHOTO: REUTERS

VMA stage since her humiliating 2007 performance when her personal and professional life was falling apart, and follows the release of a new album last week.

Rihanna, 28, sang 13 of the biggest hits in her 13-year career, including “Rude Girl,” “Diamonds” and “Only Girl in the World.” She was presented with the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award by Canadian rapper Drake - with whom she has often been romantically linked.

“She’s someone I’ve been in love with since I was 22 years old. She’s one of my best friends in the world. All my adult life, I’ve looked up to her even though she’s younger than me,” said Drake.

Fifth Harmony, the five-girl group that won TV talent show “The X Factor,” took home 2 “Moonman” awards.

Kanye West, who has often hijacked the live VMA show, presented a new video for his single “Fade.” West preceded the video with a rambling, improvised speech that touched on poverty, his wife Kim Kardashian, his long-running feud with Taylor Swift, and violence in black neighbourhoods.

“We are undeniably the influencers, the thought leaders,” he said, before screening what he called a “piece of my art.”

Many of pop music’s biggest names, including Justin Bieber, Britain’s Adele and Taylor Swift were absent on Sunday.—Reuters



Mexican singer Juan Gabriel performs at the 10th annual Latin Grammy awards in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mexican singer Juan Gabriel dies of heart attack at 66

MEXICO CITY — Mexican singer Juan Gabriel, a musical icon across Latin America for more than 40 years, died on Sunday of a heart attack at age 66, broadcaster Televisa reported.

The prolific songwriter and performer, who was known for his powerful love ballads, died in Santa Monica, California, Televisa reported. He was due to sing at a concert in El Paso, Texas, later on Sunday.

Gabriel, whose real name was Alberto Aguilera, was born in 1950 into a poor family in the western Mexican state of

Michoacan and rose to sell millions copies of his albums and have his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Gabriel, who lived much of his young life in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, entertained generations of Latin Americans with his energetic performances of songs such as “Querida” and “Amor Eterno” in glittering mariachi outfits.

“A voice and a talent that represented Mexico,” Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said on Twitter. “His music, a legacy for the world.”—Reuters

Thriller ‘Don’t Breathe’ tops North American box office

LOS ANGELES — New thriller “Don’t Breathe” opened in the number one spot at the North American box offices this weekend, with 26.1 million US dollars in ticket sales.

As a small budget film, “Don’t Breathe” was made for just 9.9 million dollars, delivered 2.6 times its budget in North America and received a “B+” from first-night moviegoers on CinemaScore.

“Don’t Breathe” is an R-rated

ed suspense horror flick, shot on a modest budget, said comScore analyst Paul Dergarabedian. He credited a “terrific” trailer for drumming up attendance.

Out of America and Canada, “Don’t Breathe” brought in an estimated 1.9 million dollars from seven international markets.

“Suicide Squad” was in second place after three consecutive weekends leading, with 12.1 million dollars weekend and nearly 283 million dollars in receipts

over four weeks.

Focus and Laika’s “Kubo and the Two Strings” dropped 37 per cent in its second weekend for an estimated 7.9 million dollars.

Rounding out the 10 most-popular movies this week were “Sausage Party” (3.1 million dollars), “Mechanic: Resurrection” (7.5 million), “Pete’s Dragon” (7.3 million), “War Dogs” (7.3 million), “Bad Moms” (5.8 million), “Jason Bourne” (5.2 million) and “Ben-Hur” (4.5 million).—Xinhua

Hollywood stars pose for 2017 Pirelli Calendar

LONDON — Nicole Kidman, Penelope Cruz and Lupita Nyong’o have posed for the 2017 Pirelli Calendar, which features a host of Hollywood’s biggest names.

The likes of Uma Thurman, Kate Winslet and ‘House of Cards’ actress Robin Wright are also among the 15 stars who appear in the calendar.

The photos were taken by the German fashion photographer Peter Lindbergh, who has shot for



PHOTO: REUTERS

Pirelli twice before. Other movie greats featured include Alicia Vikander and Helen Mirren, with the photos taken in Berlin, London, Los Angeles, Le Touquet and New

York. The first Pirelli Calendar was published in 1963, and the publication has since featured many of cinema’s best known performers.—Reuters

Argentina's school gardens teach kids to care for environment, eat right

BUENOS AIRES — Argentinian schoolchildren are learning where the lettuce in their salads comes from, because they helped to plant and pick it.

But that's not all.

By caring for organic gardens set up at their schools and similar projects, kids are also learning about environmental sustainability, proper nutrition and even earth sciences.

The innovative programme, called Green Schools, has created nearly 500 organic gardens at schools throughout the capital Buenos Aires.

The programme is a departure from the traditional school field trips to farms or greenhouses to teach urban schoolchildren about where foods come from, said education official Damasía Ezcurra.

"Via the Green Schools programme, we promote everything having to do with sustainability at the school itself," Ezcurra told Xinhua.

Ezcurra, who heads the Special Projects Unit (UPE) for Sustainable Education at the city's Education Ministry, said the programme instills interest in preserving the environment among elementary school students.

To see the programme at work, Xinhua reporters visited the Hermanos Latinoamericanos public school No.19 in the city's southern Villa Lugano district, which established a hydroponic garden in September 2015.

"We maintain about 470 school gardens," said Ezcurra, adding the programme provides "guides

and training with three levels of complexity."

Children learn everything there is to know about growing your own vegetables, from planting the seeds to caring for the plants, the need to rotate crops and, finally, harvesting.

They also learn about different types of soil, recycling organic waste and composting, and how to naturally protect against pests.

Kids at the school said they additionally learned "to eat different kinds of vegetables."

Once the vegetables, including lettuce and other leafy greens, are ready to consume, "we take them home, prepare them and we know where they came from, because we picked them," the children said.

Rosana Ursino, who heads the school since it was inaugurated in 2011, said the initiative "happily turned out to be important for the kids, the families and the teachers".

"The kids can learn about science" through hydroponics, "where they see the plants grow from a seed," she said.

"The lower grades observe like scientists, they draw and write down the names (of the plants), and the older students take care of maintaining" the garden, said Ursino.

Parents are invited to take part as well.

Some 476 Buenos Aires schools have created similar gardens, and more than 1,670 teachers have received training in setting them up, while as many as 10,000 students take part in their upkeep.—Xinhua

2nd Guizhou (Anshun) Int'l Stone Expo kicks off



People view stone sculptures during the 2nd Guizhou (Anshun) International Stone Expo in Anshun, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 28 August 2016. Exhibitors from 29 countries and regions participated in the stone expo. More than 300 stone sculptures were displayed at the event. PHOTO: XINHUA

Another 'long night of museums' celebrated in Berlin

BERLIN — The 38th "Long Night of Museums" has been celebrated in Berlin from Saturday night to Sunday early morning.

A number of 77 participating museums have remained open until 2:00am

on Sunday and organised hundreds of activities for the event.

Mayor of Berlin Michael Mueller kicked off the "Long Night" at 6:00pm on Saturday in front of the prestigious Old

Museum on the Museum Island.

Chinese doctor candidate Lv Yanhong from Berlin's Charite teaching hospital started his visit from the Pergamon museum nearby, which is famous for its Islamic culture exhibition.

"It's my first time to take part in this event. I'm interested in history and military, so I plan to make full use of tonight to visit some museums with related themes," Lv told Xinhua.

The traditional cultural event of the city has been celebrated twice a year since 1997. Visitors can access to all exhibitions in these museums with one common entrance ticket, also take free shuttle buses between different museums.

Not only the conven-

ience, but also some special programmes prepared by different museums for the event help attract more visitors than in ordinary days.

In German history museum, a music band called Cherry Bandora was performing Greek-Turkish style songs. The museum has made it as recommendation for the "Long Night". The night became deeper, but the Moellers were still in high spirits.

"We have just visited the New Museum, because my son Damian is interested archaeology. The items on display are great. We will go to another three later," said Mr. Moeller outside the Berlin Cathedral.

Berlin has been lightened tonight by these museums' lights, also history, culture and art they represent.—Xinhua



Visitors look at candles during the "Long Night of Museums" at the Berliner Dom in Berlin, capital of Germany, on 27 August 2016. The 38th "Long Night of Museums" was celebrated in Berlin from Saturday night to Sunday morning. PHOTO: XINHUA



Entertainment Channel

(30-8-2016, Tuesday)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 06 : 00 pm | 08 : 20 pm |
| • Weather Report | • MRTV Entertainment Music |
| 06 : 20 pm | 8 : 30 pm |
| • Cartoon "Ice Age; Continental Drift" (Part-1) | • Adventurous Young Photographer |
| 07 : 05 pm | 09 : 05 pm |
| • International Drama Series | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 07 : 45 pm | 09 : 30 pm |
| • International Drama Series | • Kayah |
| | 09 : 40 pm |
| | • Horse Cart Driver |

From 30-8-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm
To 31-8-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm



Myanmar International

(30-8-2016 07:00am ~ 31-8-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:26 | Am | History Of Wishfulfilling Mai-Lamu Pagoda |
| 07:44 | Am | Mobile House |
| 07:54 | Am | Parents' Day |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM) |
| 08:50 | Am | Maha Muni Pagoda |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Archery Session (from Ramayana Play) |
| 09:47 | Am | Myanmar Charitable Labour Association |

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 10:03 | Am | News |
| 10:26 | Am | Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-1) |
| 10:44 | Am | Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-2) |

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

Prime Time

- | | | |
|-------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 07:03 | Pm | News |
| 07:27 | Pm | A Day Out With Sarah (EP-5) |
| 07:52 | Pm | Independent Filmmaker |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Sons of the lake |
| 08:49 | Pm | Entrepreneur - Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung |

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

Man City go top with win over West Ham

LONDON — Manchester City, Premier League champions in 2012 and 2014, went to the top of the table with a 3-1 victory over West Ham United on Sunday.

Superior goal difference took them above Chelsea and neighbours Manchester United, who have also won their three opening games.

Having scored twice in the first 18 minutes through Raheem Sterling and Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho, Pep Guardiola's team appeared set for an easy three points, only to be pegged back as the London side improved after halftime.

Michail Antonio reduced the deficit in the 58th minute but Sterling scored his second goal in stoppage time from an acute angle.

City could have leading scorer Sergio Aguero banned for the derby match against United next month if retrospective action is taken after he appeared to swing an arm at West Ham's Winston Reid, who had to go off after taking a blow to the throat.

"I did not see the incident," Guardiola told reporters and neither did West Ham's manager Slaven Bilic.

"Reid got a little injured so we took him off," Bilic said.

For his third league game in charge of City, the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich manager again picked Willy Caballero



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero misses a chance to score during their Premier League at Etihad Stadium on 28 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in goal rather than Joe Hart, and the Argentine was not troubled for almost an hour until Antonio's unexpected intervention.

In the meantime, Sterling scored his first goal of the season following a fine move and Fernandinho added his first in the league since the same weekend last year.

He was left completely unmarked to head in Kevin de Bruyne's free kick as goalkeeper Adrian glared at his defence.

Bilic's side, again weakened by injuries and unable to use new loan signing Simone

Zaza from Juventus, employed three centre halves plus wing backs, but defended poorly against City's fluent attacking.

In the second half, Bilic pushed Antonio further forward and he headed in a cross by Arthur Masuaku.

City briefly looked nervous but in the last few minutes David Silva hit a post and Sterling made the victory safe.

"You have to win 3-0 or 4-0 to think the game is over," Guardiola told Sky Sports.

"We played a good game. Our fans enjoyed it and we

are happy. "I don't know how many shots we had but the performance in general was real good."

West Ham stayed 12th in the table after their second defeat.

"I wasn't happy at half-time," Bilic said.

"I asked the guys to show character and spirit and a different mentality which they did. Praise for the team for the second-half performance.

"A few will be back after the international break." — Reuters

McEnroe ends coaching partnership with Raonic

NEW YORK — Seven-time major winner John McEnroe has ended his coaching role with Canada's Milos Raonic ahead of the year's final grand slam, the US Open.

McEnroe joined Raonic's coaching entourage in May as a consultant ahead of the grass-court season, and the world number six reached his first ever career grand slam final in Wimbledon, losing to Andy Murray in straight sets.

The American said his media commitments had become an "issue" at Wimbledon.

"When the US Open starts on Monday, he's got his people. I'm pulling for him and want him to do well," McEnroe told reporters.

"I'd love to see all the guys play their best because I think it's better for tennis. But it's best to sort of separate at this stage. It will just make life easier for everyone."

Raonic, who also has former world number one Carlos Moya among his coaching ranks, will begin his US Open campaign against Germany's Dustin Brown. — Reuters

Confident Nishikori has good feeling about another Open run

NEW YORK — Kei Nishikori is brimming with confidence heading into the US Open starting on Monday, despite acknowledging the presence of a flock of title contenders at Flushing Meadows.

Nishikori, who surged into prominence with his run to the US Open final two years ago, said he is a better player now and buoyed by his strong showing at the Rio Olympics where he defeated 14-times slam winner Rafa Nadal to claim the bronze.

"I think I'm little more patient and playing much better than last year, two years ago. You know, I'm really excited for next week," the 26-year-old Japanese



PHOTO: REUTERS

told reporters at Flushing Meadows.

"I feel a lot of special feeling here in the US Open, a good memory from two years ago."

One year after he became the first Asian to reach a men's grand slam final, Nishikori in 2015 suffered a stunning first-round, five-set loss to 41st-ranked Benoit Paire of France.

Nishikori took the US National Tennis Centre by storm in 2014, beating Canada's Milos Raonic and third seed Stan Wawrinka in successive five-set struggles before ousting Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals.

He fell short of lifting the winner's trophy, however, as he fell

to big-serving Croat Marin Cilic in the final.

Nishikori has enjoyed a fine hardcourt season, highlighted by a trip to the Toronto final and his appearance on the podium at the Rio Games to collect a bronze medal after a three-set win against 14-times slam winner Nadal.

"I had a great experience," he said. "Olympic games, it's something special, and especially the last match against Rafa I played good tennis."

"He almost came back, but played a great match. I had a lot of confidence from that match."

While Nishikori feels good about his game, he knows other prominent players are also hitting top form for the year's last grand slam championship, starting with top seed Djokovic and Wimbledon and Olympic winner Andy Murray, the second seed.

"I think those two guys are doing really well. I think Andy has a lot of chance to beat Novak," said sixth-seeded Nishikori. — Reuters

Olympic champion Puig sets sights on grand slam victory

NEW YORK — Put the rubbish out, get the shopping done, win an Olympic gold medal.

That was the to-do list of Monica Puig, the 22-year-old whose victory in the women's singles in Rio earlier this month made her the first ever Puerto Rican to win Olympic gold.

It was an unlikely but fully-deserved win for the world number 34, catapulting her to hero status and making her a role model for young people in the island Commonwealth that is enduring tough economic times.

Now Puig wants to capitalise on her victory, both on and off the court. "I know that there's no doubt in my mind that I can probably win a grand slam because the Olympics was one," she told Reuters at Flushing Meadows on Sunday, on the eve of the US Open. "It just doesn't have the title grand slam but the best players in the world were there, including Serena (Williams).

"I won the biggest thing on my to-do list and I just want to keep knocking off other ones, and that would be to win a grand

slam." Confident but at-ease despite all the new-found attention, Puig is still coming to terms with her stunning victory in Rio.

"I don't think it's really sunk in," she said. "It's a little bit difficult to process. I was by no means the favourite. It was such a surreal ride."

In floods of tears during the medal ceremony, Puig and her gold medal have been virtually inseparable ever since.

"I remember waking up several times in the middle of the night and just looking at my night stand to actually see if my medal was there because I didn't believe it," she said.

"I wasn't able to sleep very much for three, four or five days. It was the most surreal feeling in the world to be an Olympic champion that morning."

Along with congratulations from her fellow players, Puig has been subjected to abuse on social media, with many people expecting a let-down at the US Open, where she faces Saisai Zheng of China in the first round. — Reuters