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PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM INDIA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday after a four-day visit to India.

They were welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command and diplomats from the Indian embassy and other officials.

Before leaving India, the Myanmar delegation led by the president visited the India Gate in New Delhi yesterday morning.

The India Gate, originally called the All India War Memorial, is a war memorial located astride the Rajpath on the eastern edge of the 'ceremonial axis' of New Delhi, India, formerly called Kingsway. India Gate is a memorial to 82,000 soldiers of the undivided Indian Army who died in the period between 1914 and 1921 in the First World War.

In the Third Anglo-Afghan War, 13,300 servicemen's names, including some soldiers and officers from the United Kingdom, were inscribed on the gate.

The delegation also visited Akshardham, which is the divine abode of God. It is a Mandir — an abode of God, a Hindu house of worship, and a spiritual and cultural campus dedicated to devotion, learning and harmony.—Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin arrive back in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary - General of the UN, shakes hands with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE Oo

United Nations supports democratization process and is ready to provide assistance

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-Moon during his working visit to Myanmar paid a courtesy call on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, at five minutes past Six yesterday evening at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Discussions focused upon the United Nations' readiness to

continue to support for Myanmar's democratization process and socio-economic development, matters concerning human rights and humanitarian assistance, measures being taken for stability, peace and development of Rakhine state and the current and future co-operation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

The UNSG expressed is

overwhelming sorrow for the damages to ancient religious edifices caused by the earthquake as well as for the casualties and injuries of Myanmar people during the press briefing. He also expressed his belief that president U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be able to manage reconstruction activities.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds tenth-day meeting, releases Peace Conference statement

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's announcement hailing the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong was passed by 390 to 184 votes in parliament yesterday.

The announcement was put to a vote following representative of the Tatmadaw representative Maj-Gen Than Soe's complaint regarding the wording of the Democratic Federal Union, saying that the wording was contrary to the constitution.

During the meeting, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than documented a budget allocation of K5.6 billion for four projects.

MPs also discussed in support of Myanmar's signing of the agreement amending the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement sent by the President

to parliament.

In his discussion, U Than Soe of Yangon Region Constituency 4 expressed his satisfaction that the amended agreement guarantees opportunities and protection to the citizens of a country where investment would be made.

The parliament agreed to support the amendment.

Three MPs discussed the issue of the Union government's proposed to borrow money from the Central Bank of Myanmar to supply the deficit of the Union government's deposit, suggesting the government borrow the money only after taking measures to control currency inflation.

Following the discussion, parliament decided to seek out a final decision at the next meeting.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker arriving the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw to debate urgent proposal on Rakhine Commission

PYITHU HLUTTAW decided to debate a proposal calling for the formation of an Advisory Commission on Rakhine State with local experts in order to avoid having the country's internal affairs become an international issue due to the appointment of three foreigners to the commission yesterday.

U Aung Kyaw Zan, a representative of the Pauktaw Constituency of Rakhine State, put forward an urgent motion regarding the proposed creation of the commission with the release of a statement by the State Counsellor's Office on 24 August to Pyithu Hluttaw.

A question-and-answer session followed, with the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win responding to parliamentary questions.

The deputy minister said that Myanmar has entered into six free trade agreements, namely the



U Tun Tun Oo. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement, the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement, the ASEAN-Japan Free Trade Agreement, the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, and the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.

Myanmar has no free trade

agreements with other countries, said the deputy minister, adding that it is required to examine whether the country should sign the Rome treaty that established the International Criminal Court (ICC) in accord with its existing laws. Next, he replied to a question about allotment of budgets to government organizations for the next fiscal year, saying that the calculation of proposed budgets for 2017-2018 based on regional prices will be carried out.

The Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo then submitted a bill amending the Law Translation Commission Law to Pyithu Hluttaw, and the Bill Committee read out its report on the Bill.

During yesterday's session, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives donated their daily allowances of K15 million for restoration of quake-hit cultural heritages and pagodas in Bagan.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Better practices imperative to meet safety of increasing frozen food consumption

Thein Ko Lwin

THE Food and Drug Administration yesterday stressed the need for food safety due to the increasing consumption of frozen meat, poultry and fish.

Director-General Dr Than Htut of the FDA called for a process that ensures safe food from the point of production to consumption, pointing out that food that is improperly packaged or stored can cause food poisoning and serious long-term health problems.

The FDA organized a workshop on food safety and quality standards for importing, production, packaging and storage of frozen meat, poultry, fish, prawn, fruit and vegetables in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The workshop was aimed at seeking cooperation to ensure better food production and distribution and to monitor pesticide residue in fruit and vegetables.

Inspections of food courts at shopping malls as well as at local markets must be carried out to ensure food safety, said Daw

Mya Mya Thein, a staff officer of the Fisheries Department.

According to statistics released during the workshop, 35 of 116 cold storage factories in Myanmar have been approved as HACCP Verified Fishery Processing Plants, while the remaining 25 plants are still striving to meet requirements. The other 56 are operating under GMP guidelines. The FDA is set to make regular inspections of fish farms and fish feed plants to ensure the safety of exported fishery products, said the FDA director-general at the workshop.

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw donates toward restoration of quake-hit Bagan, questions rural development plans



Dr Tun Win. PHOTO: MNA

THE representatives of the Amyotha Hluttaw donated their daily allowances for one day toward the restoration of quake-hit cultural heritage sites and ancient pagodas in Bagan during its 23rd session yesterday.

During yesterday's session, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win responded to questions regarding rural development undertakings.

The deputy minister said that a road section on Ganaiyway-Phetkon-Linlay road in Taunggyi Township will be upgraded with the use of a budget of K192.367 million by the

ministry's rural development department and arrangements have been made to upgrade another road section in Phase II and Phase III of the KFW project, implemented with German assistance.

Next, he also pledged to upgrade Koethaung Pagoda road in Mrauk-U of Rakhine State depending on the budget allotment next fiscal year. Construction of a village-to-village road in Kyauktaw of Rakhine State will be carried out in accordance with the department's priority list, according to the deputy minister.

Despite no plan to construct a ring road linking Ngwehsaung Beach in Patheingyi Township to Ngapudaw Township in Ayeyawady Region during this fiscal year, it will be put into the department's annual priority list, he added. Regarding the question of the construction of a dyke and relief hillock in Ponnagyun Township, the deputy minister said that there is a plan to spend K888.9 million from the regional government's fund for next fiscal year on repairs to the dyke and the construction of three sluice gates in the township.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Action against speed limit violators to come into force on 1st September

LEGAL action will be taken against those who drive on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway at a speed that is greater than 100km per hour (60 miles per hour) as of 1st September this year, according to a police major from the Highway Police Force.

Action will be taken against those violating the

speed limit as the period to educate drivers on the expressway comes to a close, said the police officer.

According to the Highway Police Force, 100 express buses, 18 trucks and 1,285 cars were spotted for speed violations during the education period from 1 July to 29 August.—*Than Oo (Laymyethnar)*



Vice President U Myint Swe hosts dinner in honour of United Nations Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon and his wife. PHOTO: MNA

United Nations supports democratic. . .

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He went on to say that he has closely co-operated with Myanmar government and Myanmar people throughout his tenure, that he was delighted to have a chance to co-operate with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, that he has invariably supported her effort for achievement of democracy, that the whole world was amazed at Myanmar's reform process, that he was delighted to see Myanmar people actively participating in last November election, and that President U Htin Kyaw led government is treading on the democratic path in a peaceful manner.

He then congratulated people from business and political sectors and military and Civil Society Organizations on their co-operation. He also acknowledged the challenges being posed for peace and national reconciliation. Furthermore, he congratulated the attend-

ees of the 21st century Panglong on their patience and co-operation.

Regarding the latest development of Rakhine State, he noted that there are challenges in handling this issue as the situations in Rakhine State is subtle and confusing, that he and the state counsellor are of the opinion that everybody prefers a better socio-economic status regardless of race and religion, that the international community is concerned over the difficult living of thousands of Internally Displaced Persons, and that all people should have equal opportunity.

When asked about challenges in Rakhine State, the UNSG replied that the situations and challenges in Rakhine State are complicated and subtle, that the issues are rather deep and they are all based on social and economic matters.

He also expressed his delight

over the formation of the Rakhine commission led by ex-UNSG Mr Kofi Anan. He said to the journalist that the social-economic status of Rakhine people is rather low and that the internally displaced persons need humanitarian assistance.

This is Mr Ban Ki-moon's fifth visit to Myanmar, and his term of office expire in December, it is learnt.

He was accompanied with his wife and was welcomed upon arrival at Yangon International Airport by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and his wife Dr Mya Thida, the officials from both government departments and UN agencies.

Mr Ban Ki-moon and his wife were entertained with dinner at Park Royal Hotel last night by Vice President U Myint Swe and his wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw supports Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw released a statement supporting the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong yesterday.

"The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hails the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong, which is a strategic solution to the emergence of a democratic

federal Union through dialogue involving all stakeholders for ensuring internal peace and national reconciliation," the statement read.

The statement further said that the country's 21st century political landscape is shaping the Union Peace Conference—21st

Century Panglong, which is critical to providing a guarantee of equality to Myanmar's ethnic groups. The conference is aimed at finding a political solution through political dialogue and building a democratic federal Union after achieving internal peace.—*Myanmar News Agency*

AGIPP to present gender equality paper at Panglong

A paper highlighting female participation in the peace process and political sphere will be presented at the 21st Century Panglong Conference by the Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP), Myitmakha News Agency has been informed.

"Our aim is to secure more participation of women [in the peace process]. Ten analysts from our organization will attend [the Panglong Conference] and distribute out our report," said Mi

Kun Chan Non, central committee member of the AGIPP. The initiative was formally announced by the AGIPP at a press conference held in Yangon on August 29. The paper reportedly comprises three-sections, including a section of recommendations. But the paper's scope covers more thematic areas than just female participation in the peace process as a whole. It also focuses on female involvement in education and healthcare sectors and the narcotics industry,

with violence against women and gender discrimination also featured. "The peace process will be more successful with the participation of women. They need to be given the right to participate, and we'll continue to pressure the government. After all, it's women who'll bear the brunt of the side-effects of the peace process [if it's unsuccessful]," said Daw Khin Lay, head of the Women Organization Network.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



U Ko Ko Latt concurrently appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Myanmar to Bahrain

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ko Ko Latt, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Bahrain.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Mrs Katrin Bannach in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives the Project Director for Myanmar and Thailand of FNF

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received a delegation led by Mrs Katrin Bannach, the Project Director for Myanmar and Thailand of the

Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Freedom (FNF) of Germany at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Kachin State Constituency 5 representative ousted from Amyotha Hluttaw

THE Union Election Commission announced a verdict of its electorate to degazette U Zakaung Ting Ying as an Amyotha Hluttaw representative of Kachin State Constituency 5 yesterday.

The UEC announced his dismissal under section 75 (a)

of Amyotha Hluttaw Law, and said that U Yaw Na (5/Kha Ta Na (Naing) 011311), a candidate who stood for election in the Constituency 5, had filed an election complaint to the UEC, will act as his replacement.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Sixth press conference on government's first 100-days held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE sixth press conference on the government's work performance during its first 100 days took place at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Auditor-General U Maw Than said that the Auditor-General's Office carried out four work programmes, including an Accounting and Audit Fair 2016 in Yangon and reports on international financial reporting standards for application by the private sector and international accounting standards for application by the government during its 100-day plan.

The Accounting and Audit Fair 2016 was held at the National Theater in Yangon on 9-10 July and works are underway to release a report on international financial reporting standards for application by the private sector with the help of GIZ, he added.

Next, U Saw Valentine, a member of the Union Civil Service Board, said that the Board carried out enactment of the law and rules, reforms in the Board's examinations and teaching methods of the Central Institutes of Civil Service, curriculum review and development of course syllabus, preparation for establishment of Civil Service Academy, changing the names of the two CICSs and logos and abolition of refresher courses for faculty members and basic education teachers.

Then, U Myo Aung and U Myint Kyaing of the Ministry of



Officials hold the press conference on the government's undertakings in first 100 days. PHOTO: MNA

Labour, Immigration and Population elaborated on the ministry's 13 work programmes carried out under its 100-day plan, saying that two Migrant Resource Centers were opened in Patheingyi and Sittwe in July and 162 Myanmar workers were provided with six training courses and presented certificates.

Up to 26 August, national verification cards were issued

to 7,957 people in regions and states, 2,223 in some townships in Rakhine State, and a national verification process was carried out.

A total of 619 people — 248 Myanmar citizens and 371 foreigners — were removed from the blacklist and 185 Myanmar citizens and 3,566 foreigners remain on the list along with 4,845 passports, they said.

Afterwards, the Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin of the Attorney-General's Office said that the Office gave legal advice to 52 of 55 draft laws, 130 agreements including MoU, MoA and LoI sent by Union organizations and Region/State Law Offices and criminal cases and translated 24 of 38 laws into English.

Next, officials answered media questions.

Union Auditor-General U Maw Than replied that accounting reforms are underway and it is hard to answer when the process will be completed.

Regarding a question about transfers of Defense Services personnel to the civil service, U Saw Valentine of the Union Civil Service Board said that transfers from one department to another will continue, but there are many restrictions.

The Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population said that there is no immediate plan to change the minimum wage of K3,600 set in 2014 and the Arbitration Council was formed with employee, employer and government representatives.

Next, he responded to questions about overseas employment and formation of workers' associations.

Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin of the Union Attorney-General's Office said that the Office needs a maximum of one week and a minimum of two days to reply to complaints and petitions.

Despite instructions to dispose a legal case within six months in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Attorney-General's Office, it can take longer than the six-month period to get a judgment from the court, because of ways and means used in the process.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Rakhine's coastal waters still plagued by off-shore fishing vessels

THE illegal entry of off-shore fishing vessels into Rakhine State's shallow, coastal waters has reportedly seen a depletion in amount of fish being caught by near-shore fisherman, Myit-makha News Agency has been informed.

The Department of Fisheries has demarcated a territory ten-miles from the shore as an area exclusive to near-shore fishing vessels, but off-shore vessels are reportedly entering to fish in this area along Rakhine's coastal regions of Kyaukphyu, Sittwe, Thandwe, Gwa and Manaung, regardless.

"In fact, the area within ten-miles from the shore has been demarcated [as a no-fishing zone for off-shore vessels]. Now, though, and we're seeing a large number of local and foreign off-shore fishing vessels enter into this territory to catch fish. Such activities have reduced the size of the area for smaller, near-shore vessels to conduct their fishing activities, as well as causing instances of over fishing. I want some kind of effective scrutiny to be carried out on these trespassers," said U Thein Soe Aung, a near-shore fisherman from Kyaukphyu Township.



Fishing vessels are seen in Sittwe, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Marine experts have voiced that the off-shore fishing vessels in question originate from other parts of the country, as far south as Dawei in Tanintharyi Region, while some of the fishing vessels are reportedly Thai fishing traw-

ers, banned by the Department of Fisheries, who employ the use of fish nets with small openings - a primary cause of depleting fish stocks.

"Depending upon the weather, for sure, there are instances of

off-shore fishing vessels coming in to fish closer to shore. But, it's my belief the real culprits of depleting fish stocks are those Thai vessels who fish with dense nets; employing these nets sees smaller species of fish and tiddlers

get unnecessarily caught," said U Khin Aye Maung, a seasoned fisheries businessman from the town of Kyaukphyu.

The capacity of Myanmar's fisheries industry has visibly declined in the last decade, along with the incomes of those working within it, according to a statement released by a large-scale alliance organization concerned with Rakhine State's fisheries industry.

"Near-shore fisherman, please also only catch fish within ten-miles from the shore. A policy was passed which permitted off-shore fishing vessels to fish further out than ten-miles from the coastline. But, the Myanmar Navy are the only ones with the authority to take legal action against such off-shore fishing vessel perpetrators who clandestinely catch fish within the ten-mile territory," a staff of the Department of Fisheries for Kyaukphyu Township told Myit-makha News Agency.

According to a report published by a Norwegian organization, only 10 percent of surface-level fish and 35 percent of seabed fish remain within Myanmar's coastal waters.—*Myit-makha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Licenses for over 300 mining blocks in Lonekhin, Hpakant to expire in September

A total of 321 mining blocks in Lonekhin, Hpakant will expire next month, it is learnt from an announcement released by Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines.

The blocks in Lonekhin, Hpakant were granted a work permit for five to seven years whereas 83 blocks in Kannee were permitted starting in 2011.

Similarly, 155 blocks in Moenyin was permitted in 2011. Additionally, 32 blocks in Mogok were allowed to mine in 2013 and 13 blocks in Mong Hsu

Township was permitted in the same year.

There was no announcement relating to an extension plan for the expired blocks. The expired blocks in Hpakant will not be granted permission for extension. There will be no new permits for mining blocks, officials said.

The permits that will expire in September are for 38 mining blocks in Lonekhin, Hpakant, 83 blocks in Kannee, 155 blocks in Moenyin, 32 blocks in Mogok and 13 blocks in Mong Hsu, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*



A general view of mine dumps in Hpakant, Kachin State. PHOTO: REUTERS

Levels of overseas recruitment service agencies to be released every six months

THE levels of the overseas recruitment service agencies adhering to the Codes of Conduct will be released once every six months by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

There are currently 94 overseas employment service agencies which have signed an agreement for the Code of Conduct.

Code Compliance Monitoring Committee (CCMC) to check where the agencies are in keeping with the conduct code, said U Myo Aung, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

There are five passages in the code of conduct: the existing laws and agreements between

Myanmar and the countries to which the workers will be sent; the norms of the agencies; the demand letter from the countries concerned and the agreement between employees and employers.

The workers who want to work abroad should check whether the agencies have the official

licence granted by the labour office, whether there are training courses provided by the agencies before entering the field, whether they have a good background and whether the representatives of the agencies are responsible. They can also enquire about the agencies through the Township labour offices.—200

Licensee contractors to form an association

LICENSEE contractors reportedly will form an association to solve the difficulties being faced by the construction sector, it is learnt from construction developers.

These licensee contractors will hold a meeting on 31st August to form a contractor's association. Those interested who are engaged in the construction field can attend a meeting.

The organization is aimed at finding out solutions for current problems at construction sites. An increasing number of building projects in Myanmar have been suspended, which has threatened the job security of engineers, staff and labourers who are engaged in those projects, it is learnt from the construction businessmen.

The new organisation will submit the required rules and regulations in accordance with the city's laws to the Union government. They will also make an effort to ensure that the high-rise buildings are of good quality. The High-Rise Building Inspection Committee was formed to check the high-rise construction projects.—200

Coffee processing machines to be operational by early September

MACHINES for coffee processing in the plant owned by the Mandalay Coffee Group Company Limited will be operational in early September. Professional coffee processing services using the machines will be offered free of charge to the coffee growers, it is learnt from the Mandalay Coffee Group Company.

The coffee machines in the plant are being installed with the

assistance of Winrock International, funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Winrock International has been assisting Myanmar in their efforts to produce high-quality coffee since 2014. Myanmar began exporting quality coffee to America in June.

To penetrate the American market, Myanmar coffee was in-

troduced during a promotional event held in Washington D.C on 23rd August, it is learnt from the Myanmar Coffee Association. The samples of coffee offered at this event drew very positive reviews. An American coffee import company recognised the higher quality of the Myanmar coffee and offered a premium price compared to coffee from other countries. The high-quality coffee from Myanmar

is US\$7,000 per tonne, whereas ordinary coffee costs US\$4,000 per tonne.

Previously, coffee processing machines in Myanmar were all state-owned and provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The recently installed machines were set up by the private sector, said U Ye Myint, the managing director of Mandalay Coffee Group Limited.—200

Amended laws on food, drugs and cosmetics to be enacted in mid-2017

AMENDED laws regulating food, drugs and cosmetics could be enacted next year, it is learnt.

Efforts have been made to amend the National Food Law and Drug and Cosmetic Law since 2015 to more effectively control the quality and efficacy of food and drugs. Officials said these two improved laws can now be enacted in the middle of next year.

The methods of storage and distribution of the drugs have been included in the National Food Law. The amended legislation adds that legal action can be taken against those who sell the products by counterfeiting the trademark, it is learnt.

Amendments to the National Food Law are in keeping with the original intent to prevent consumers from harmful food and

beverages, officials said

Cosmetic products in the marketplace are also being monitored. There are four inspection categories: whitening cosmetics, cosmetics with excessive advertising, cosmetics with excessive complaints and the background of the manufacturing companies, said Dr. Thazin Yee Hlaing, the deputy director-general of the Drug Administration Department.

ment.

Cosmetics made with prohibited chemicals will be seized and destroyed. Public warning of those products is being issued in state-owned newspapers.

The discussion about the laws is still ongoing, with over 50 health organizations involved. Officials in Myanmar are cooperating with foreign lawmakers to promulgate the law.—200

Australia, Taiwan, South Korea issue travel warnings for Singapore

SINGAPORE — Australia, Taiwan and South Korea advised pregnant women and those attempting to get pregnant to avoid travel to Singapore after an outbreak of the Zika virus infected more than 50 people in the city-state.

The outbreak and the warnings come as a potential blow to tourism in one of the world's busiest travel hubs, which is already struggling to recover from a slump amid tepid global growth.

Singapore reported its first case of locally-transmitted Zika at the weekend, and the number of reported infections of the mosquito-borne virus has since jumped to 56. At least three dozen of those have since made a full recovery.

The Zika virus 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 1,800 cases of microcephaly, a rare birth defect where babies are born with abnormally small heads and brains.

The 56 confirmed cases in Singapore include only one woman.

Taiwan, Australia and South Korea advised pregnant women and those plan-



Airplane passengers walk through fever scan camera system used to detect human temperature shortly after arriving from Singapore at the Soekarno-Hatta airport in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 30 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ning pregnancy to postpone trips to Singapore. Those returning from the country should avoid pregnancy for two months. South Korean travellers will receive text messages with the warning when they arrive in Singapore. Malaysia and Indonesia, Singapore's closest neighbours, have stepped up protective measures following the outbreak, introducing thermal scanners at airports and border checkpoints.

Singapore's Tourism Board said it was monitoring

developments, adding the city state remained a "safe travel destination", and it was premature to consider any impact.

More than 55 million people pass through Singapore's Changi airport every year. In the first half of this year, tourism arrivals reached almost 8.2 million, compared with around 7.3 million in the same period of last year.

Online retailer Lazada Singapore said on Tuesday it has seen sales of mosquito

repellent and other deterrent products rise fivefold over the past three days compared to a week ago.

Authorities continued to inspect thousands of homes in seven parts of Singapore, including five foreign worker dormitories, on Tuesday. Officials sprayed insecticide and removed potential mosquito breeding habitats such as stagnant water and moist dirt from drains.

The majority of those infected with Zika in Singapore were foreign workers,

but the government has not disclosed their nationalities. The High Commission of Bangladesh, which represents the largest community of foreign workers, said none of the workers were Bangladeshis.

The Chinese and Myanmar embassies in Singapore said they had not been notified by Singapore whether their citizens were among those infected. The Thai embassy did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Foreign workers in Singapore, employed mostly in the construction and marine industries, can earn as little as S\$2 (\$1.47) an hour, often work 12-14 hours a day and take few days off. They are unlikely to travel often.

The GuocoLand construction site, where the infected workers were found, remained closed on Tuesday morning, according to a Reuters photographer at the scene. It was ordered on Sunday to halt work and rectify the conditions that allowed mosquitoes to breed.

Regional health experts said the Zika virus is likely to be significantly under-reported across tropical Southeast Asia as local health authorities fail to conduct adequate screening. —Reuters

North Korea publicly executes two officials

SEOUL — North Korea publicly executed two officials in early August for disobeying leader Kim Jong Un, a South Korean newspaper reported on Tuesday, in what would be the latest in a series of high-level purges under the young leader's rule, if confirmed.

Kim took power in 2011 after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, and his consolidation of power has included purges and executions of top officials, South Korean officials have said.

Citing an unidentified source familiar with the North, the JoongAng Ilbo daily said former agriculture minister Hwang Min and Ri Yong Jin, a senior official at the education ministry, had been executed. The report could not be independently verified, and South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles North Korea-related matters, did not have immediate comment.

Some previous media reports of executions and purges in the reclusive state later proved inaccurate. The report of the executions comes soon after the South said North Korea's deputy ambassador in London had defected and arrived in the South with his family, dealing an embarrassing blow to Kim's regime.

North Korea rarely announces purges or executions, although state media confirmed execution of Kim's uncle and the man widely considered the second most powerful man in the country, Jang Song Thaek, in 2012 for factionalism and crimes damaging to the economy.

A former defence minister, Hyun Yong Chol, is also believed to have been executed last year for treason, according to the South's spy agency. The JoongAng Ilbo said the two men were executed by anti-aircraft gun at a military academy in Pyongyang. North Korean state media described Hwang, one of the officials named, as agriculture minister in 2012, and referred to him as a vice minister of agriculture in 2014. —Reuters

Philippines says China must recognise South China Sea ruling

MANILA — China will be the "loser" if it does not recognise an international court ruling against its territorial claims in the South China Sea, Philippine Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay said on Tuesday.

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

China has ignored the ruling that none of its claims in the disputed Spratly Islands entitled it to a 200-mile (320 km) exclusive economic zone. Its construction work on reefs there has alarmed other claimants, as well as the United States and Japan.

"We are trying to make China understand especially when the dust settles that unless they respect and recognise the arbitral tribunal, they will be the losers at the end of that day on this matter," Yasay told a congressional hearing. Prior to



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

starting bilateral talks, the Philippines plans to seal a deal for China to allow Philippine fishermen to access the resource-rich waters, Yasay said. China seized Scarborough Shoal in 2012, denying Philippine fishermen access, one of the factors that prompted Manila to seek arbitration. "When we start formal negotiations or bilateral engagements with China, we will have to do it within the context of the arbitral decision. There are

no buts or ifs insofar as our policy on this matter is concerned," Yasay said. China claims almost the entire South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims in the sea, believed to be rich in energy deposits. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said last week he expects talks with China to start within a year. —Reuters

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Philippines may open mothballed Marcos-era nuclear power plant

MANILA — The Philippines is looking into operating the country's only nuclear power plant, built four decades ago at more than \$2 billion (1.53 billion pounds) but never used, to ensure the long-term supply of clean and cheap electricity, its energy minister said.

The Southeast Asian country is joining more than two dozen other countries looking to add nuclear power to their energy mix, including neighbours Indonesia, Viet Nam, Malaysia and Thailand.

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said on Tuesday reviving the mothballed 620-megawatt nuclear plant in Bataan province, northwest of Manila, will require a \$1 billion investment.

Nuclear generation is one of the options for the Philippines to meet its growing power needs, with annual electricity demand expected to rise by an average 5 per cent until 2030, he said.

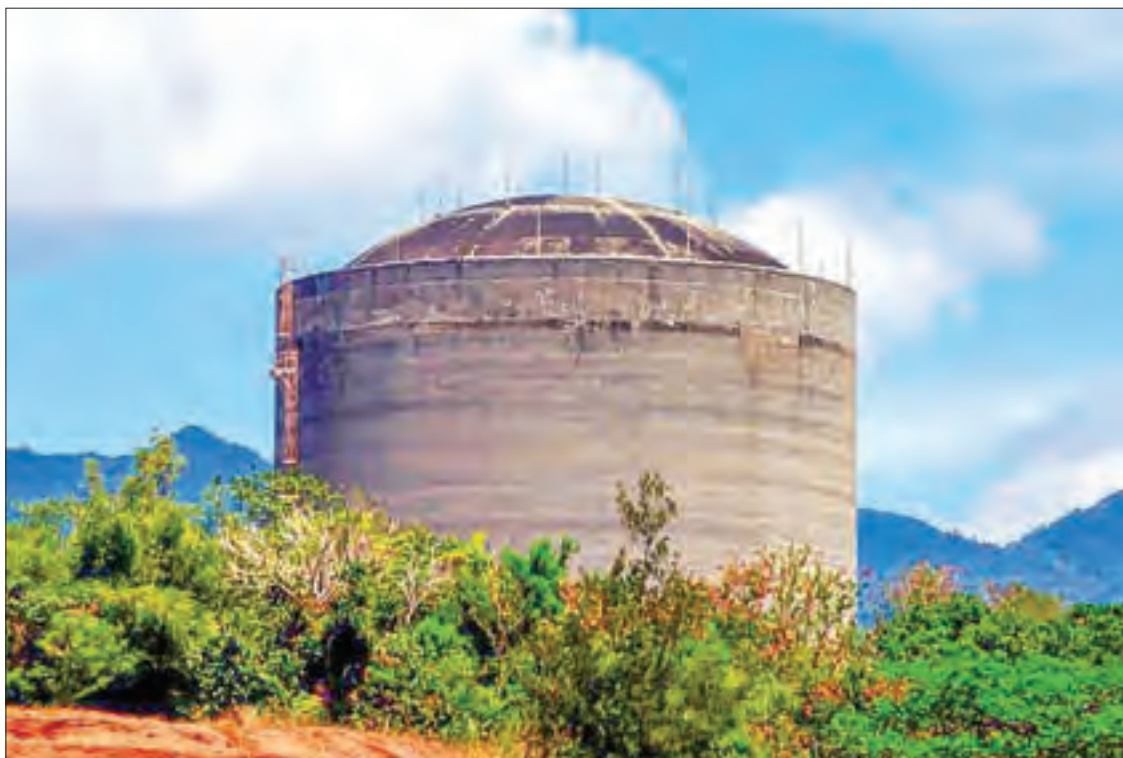
"We have to weigh all our

options, with emphasis not just on meeting capacity requirements, but sustainability and environmental obligations as well," Cusi said, speaking at the opening of a three-day international conference on nuclear power in Manila.

Cusi will revive a government task force created in 2007 to study nuclear power as an alternative to imported fuel oil and coal, which currently provide more than half of the country's energy mix.

He said technical experts, including those from the International Atomic Energy Agency, have been invited to help the country identify the next steps and come up with a "well-informed" decision.

Cusi is not committing any timetable for the study, but he expects the move to reignite protests against the project, especially by environmentalists and the Catholic Church arguing restarting the plant is unsafe and



A view of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) in Morong, Bataan, north of Manila in 2011.

PHOTO: REUTERS

expensive.

"We need to move away from fossil fuels like coal but nuclear energy is not safe and will also harm the people and environment," said Zaira Patricia Baniaga of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice in a statement issued before the conference.

The late Philippine dictator

Ferdinand Marcos order the plant built in 1976 in response to rising energy prices and it was finished in 1984.

The facility never started generating electricity after it was declared unsafe because it sits on a major earthquake fault line and lies near the Pinatubo volcano, which was dormant at that time.

Pinatubo's 1991 eruption had no effect on the Bataan plant, 70 km (45 miles) away, but the project was mothballed in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.

A decade ago Manila looked into reopening the plant but the 2011 Fukushima nuclear incident renewed concerns about safety.

Support for Australian PM hits all-time low



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (R) and Leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten arrive at a traditional smoking ceremony marking the start of Australia's new Parliament session at Parliament House in Canberra, on 30 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Support for Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has fallen to an all-time low, according to a poll by *The Australian* newspaper on Tuesday. The poll of 1,696 Australian voters found satisfaction with Turnbull has fallen to 34 per cent, the lowest level since he ousted former Prime Minister Tony Abbott in September 2014.

Turnbull enjoyed record-high approval ratings after securing the leadership but his numbers have waned significantly as the government failed to chalk up legislative victories.

The make-up of Austral-

ia's new Parliament threatens to continue Turnbull's struggles. Turnbull called early elections in July to break a deadlock in the Senate, the upper house, where a handful of independents has blocked the government's agenda of corporate tax cuts and workplace reforms for more than two years. But the election backfired, leaving the ruling Liberal-National coalition with a one-vote majority in the lower house and dependant on either the opposition Labour Party or eight to 10 independents or minor party senators to pass legislation.—Reuters

Bangladesh Islamist leader loses final appeal against execution for war crimes

DHAKA — Bangladesh's top court on Tuesday rejected a final appeal by the leader of an Islamist party against a death sentence for atrocities committed during the 1971 war of independence, lawyers said, meaning he could be hanged at any time.

The verdict comes amid a spate of militant attacks in the Muslim-majority nation, the most serious on 1 July, when

gunmen stormed a cafe in the capital, Dhaka, and killed 20 hostages, most of them foreigners.

The rejection, by a panel of five judges headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, comes a day after a visit by US Secretary of State John Kerry during which he urged Bangladesh to uphold democratic principles.

In March, the Supreme

Court upheld the death penalty for Mir Quasem Ali, 63, a media tycoon and key financier of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, for murder, confinement, torture and incitement to religious hatred during the war to leave Pakistan.

"Now it is only a matter of time to execute the verdict, unless he seeks clemency from the president," Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters.—Reuters

Putin's Japan visit could be firmed up at Abe meeting

TOKYO — The schedule for a visit to Japan by Russian President Vladimir Putin could be decided when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets Putin later this week, Japan's top government spokesman told Reuters on Tuesday.

Abe is expected to meet Putin on the sidelines of a 2-3 September Eastern Economic Forum business conference in the port city of Vladivostok. He has travelled to Russia several times and met Putin since taking office in December 2012 but the Russian leader has not been to Japan during that time.

The schedule for Putin's visit "has not been decided. The leaders will meet and in that context, the schedule will probably be firmed up", Suga said.

Japan has been eyeing clos-

er ties with Russia to counter China's growing clout and from interest in its natural energy resources, but earlier attempts to schedule a visit by Putin were derailed by Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region, which prompted Tokyo to join other Western countries including the United States in imposing sanctions on Moscow.

A dispute over four sparsely populated islands in the Pacific, known as the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kuriles in Russia, has prevented the countries from signing a peace treaty ending World War II.

The islands were seized by the Soviet Union after it declared war on Japan on 8 August, 1945, just days before Japan surrendered. They are near rich fishing grounds and close to oil and gas

production regions of Russia.

Suga also said a so-called "new approach" to Japan-Russia relations was to focus on economic issues. He sidestepped a question as to whether Japan could accept a compromise in which all four islands were not returned to Japan, saying only that the question of the four islands must be "made clear". Abe last met Putin at the Russian president's Black Sea residence in Sochi and has said he hopes to invite him to his home constituency of Yamaguchi prefecture in southern Japan during a visit that could take place by the end of this year. Suga also said nothing had been decided yet about a meeting between Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of a Group of 20 (G20) summit in China on 4-5 September.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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

To be able to live in unity

Khin Maung Aye

A genuine Democratic Federal Union and Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong are two concepts that are famous among the people of Myanmar and beyond. And these two concepts are directly connected with the Panglong Pact signed in 1947 with the ethnic races inhabiting the mountainous regions. The original objective was to wrestle back the independence from the British colonialists who exercised the divide-and-rule policy to separate Burma Proper led by General Aung San from Federated Shan States, Kachin Hill Tracts and Chin Hill District led by ethnic leaders.

In this regard, it is relevant to

discuss the spirit of Panglong, the commitment of Panglong and the Panglong Pact. The very essence of the Panglong Pact is to regain independence and to establish a federal union. Nevertheless, the establishment of a federal union is easier said than done. The over 60-year armed conflicts have demonstrated the sensitivity and subtlety of the right to secede from the mainland, which was incorporated into the constitution of 1947. Despite this right, the very essence of the Panglong Conference and the Panglong Pact was the unification of the mainland and the hilly regions. This is in fact the spirit of Panglong.

Such being the case, it is of utmost importance for all those attending the 21st century Panglong to find the ways and means to be able to build a federal union based on the spirit of Panglong. In this function, it is worth noting that the principle of federalism has eight basic characteristics – the self-rule or state constitutions for all states; investment of three powers in all states; the right to enact the constitutions of the states in such a way as not to be contrary to the federal constitution; division of powers between the federal union government and state governments according to the federal constitution; bicameral system with the upper

house being composed of an equal number of members of parliament for all states; foreign relations, defence and monetary policy and union transportation being entrusted to the federal union whereas the residual powers, to the states; a combination of self-rule and shared rule; and establishment of local governments.

The Union Peace Conference – 21st century Panglong is firmly believed to be able to seek the ways and means to build a genuine democratic federal union where all our national races can reside together in unison, with all races and all entities being able to enjoy equal status and equal development.

Clarification

A statement published on pages 8 and 9 in yesterday's edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar on the occasion of the state visit of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to India contained a headline that should have read "Joint Statement" instead of "Draft Joint Statement."

The full text of the Joint Statement is mentioned again.

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, Pres-

ident 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 cooperation, which is crucial for maintaining peace and stability along the long common border. They reaffirmed their shared com-

mitment 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 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 satisfaction 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.

See page 9 >>

"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"



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 licence 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”.

Final Judging & Awarding Ceremony: Startup Israel 2016 Competition



Group photo - Judging Committee, EC of MCF & Contestants.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE final judging and awarding ceremony of the "Startup Israel 2016 Competition", was held at Conference Hall, MICT Park, Yangon on 29th August 2016, which was organized by Myanmar Computer Federation - MCF in collaboration with the Embassy of Israel in Yangon. The ceremony was attended by U Thein Oo (Patron, MCF), U Khon Oo (President, MCF), H.E. Mr. Daniel Zonshine (ambassador of Israel to Myanmar), honorable Judges and the contestants, as well as professors, teachers and students from Computer University.

Among top 4 finalists (SER Disinfectant System- Ko Swan Htet Kyaw & Ko Win Htet), (Su-

zakar- Ko Ye Yint Aung), (Production Management System - Ms. Lei Yi Soe) and (Management System, Ko Zin Naing Lin Tun), the judge committee has chosen "Ms. Lei Yi Soe" as the winner of "Startup Israel 2016 Competition" with her project "Production Management System" intended to help production in garment industries.

The winner will have an opportunity to participate in one week "OLD Tel Aviv Innovation Festival 2016" in Israel by sponsorship of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 30 winners from around the world will meet in Israel in this startup event to be held in September. DLD will



Israeli ambassador giving award to Winner - Ms. Lei Yi Soe. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

celebrate Tel Aviv as a city of Innovation, and will bring together key level figures from all fields — digital, financial, computing, telecom and more. DLD Tel Aviv Innovation Festival will include over 50 co events and conferences plus cultural and social events by industry leaders such as: OLD Tel Aviv Digital Conference, Cities Summit Tel Aviv.

The ceremony that was also covered by number of local journalists and TV Channels, gave an excellent opportunity to young people from Myanmar, to expose their talent and express the special relation and friendship between the people of the two countries.—GNLM

Young Dream organizes Arts Exhibition in Mandalay

AN arts exhibition organized by Young Dream took place at the Jack Pherson Center, Information Division, of the US Embassy in Chanayethazan township, Mandalay on 27 August.

At the event, U Saw Kyin Sein, in charge of the Jack Pherson Center, delivered formal words of greeting before organiser and female artist Ma

Chuu Wai Nyein explained the purpose of the exhibition. The well-known author Sayar Nyi Pu Lay and artist Sue Myint Thein then demonstrated their work, as did graffiti artists Mc. Prince and Arkar Soe. The event featured over 60 works of art—watercolour, oil, and acrylic paintings — by over 40 Artists.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Arts Exhibition in Mandalay. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

Crime NEWS

Man killed as wall collapses at Taunggyi

THE landslide hit by heavy rain at the early morning on 19 August, a man was killed and a house was destroyed at Taunggyi town, Shan state.

According to the investigation, the wall collapsed in the house when the house owner U Aung Naing, 72, and his wife Daw Than Than Myaint, 66, were sleeping at the room.

The accident killed Daw Than Tha Myint while U Aung Naing sustained minor injuries. The police still investigating the case.— *Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)*



Rescuers clear rubble from the building. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THAN

Suspected murderer in Bahan homicide nabbed by Mawlamyine police



Aung Zin Bo (a) Zin Bo. PHOTO: YANGON POLICE

MAN suspected in Monday's murder of a woman in Yangon's Bahan Township was taken into custody on that night following his arrest by Mawlamyine police near Daiwunkwin in Mon State, said Bahan Township police station yesterday.

Bahan police earlier in the day shared a photo of the suspected killer in the Bahan homicide on the Facebook

page of the Yangon Police and asked for the public's help in identifying the person shown.

Aung Sin Bo (a) Zin Bo, the murder suspect, was spotted and arrested near a traffic light in Mawlamyine by police officers on patrol at around 9.30 pm on Monday.

Mawlamyine police transferred the homicide suspect to Bahan police. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Yaba seized in Tamwe Township

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising Policemen from Yangon Police Force seized yaba from a an apartment in the Min Ye Kyaw Swar housing building, Laydaungkan road, Tamwe 4 ward, Tamwe township on Monday. Acting on a tip-off authorities searched the home of one Moe Aung Yin. Lu Lu Than Oo and Phone Myint Aung ere found at the scene. Police discovered marijuana weighing

1.3 kilograms, 13 hypodermic needles and nine heroin 'powder boxes'.

According to a connected investigation police also searched Moe Aung Yin's other home on Thayargone road in Pazunthaung township. Police discovered methamphetamine weighing one gram. All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

Yaba seized in Katha and Hpa-an

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Katha seized 19,770 Yaba tablets from a motorbike driven by Soe Moe Win and Aung Khant on board at Kannar road, Katha town on 29 August.

Similarly, the police from Hpa-an township seized raided a house of one Maung Bu at Aung Nan 4 street, ward 5, Hpa-an town and found 453 Yaba tablets. According to the connected investigation, the police searched a house of Aung Hswe Myint at Ward 4, Tayouthlasanpya village, Hpa-an township and discovered 1,120 Yaba tablets.

The police also discovered 3,800 Yaba tablets from a house of Chit Win at Naung Kayaing village, Hpa-an township. All of



Soe Moe Win and Aung Khant. PHOTO: MPF

the suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — *Myanmar Police Force*

In Asia, Obama faces trade pact test amid US opposition

WASHINGTON — When President Barack Obama travels to Asia next week, he will try to reassure leaders in the region that he still has the clout to deliver US approval for the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership, even though the two candidates vying to succeed him and a congressional leader have said the 12-nation trade deal should not move forward.

The trade pact is the economic pillar of Obama's broader plan to shift US foreign policy toward Asia and counter the rising economic and military might of China.

"It would be a real setback for Obama's legacy and for the rebalance strategy if TPP were not to be ratified," said Matthew Goodman, a former Obama foreign policy adviser now at the CSIS think-tank in Washington.

Domestic politics have put the deal's future in doubt. US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Thursday

the Senate would not vote on the pact this year, punting it to the next president, who will take office on 20 January.

Both Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton have said they oppose the TPP, citing past trade deals that have cost Americans jobs. As Obama's Secretary of State, Clinton backed the Pacific trade deal.

Obama has said the TPP will boost labour and environmental standards — fixing some of the problems seen in past trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement — and give both large and small US companies access to the world's fastest-growing markets.

The White House said failure to approve the TPP would hurt US interests in Asia, where some leaders made politically tough decisions to advance the deal.

"In this part of the world, which is the largest emerging

market in the world, TPP is seen as a litmus test for US leadership," Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, told reporters on Monday.

"We would be stepping back from that leadership role, we would be ceding the region to countries like China who do not set the same types of high standards for trade agreements were we to not follow through with TPP," Rhodes said.

Estimates of the potential economic impact of TPP vary, but most show little meaningful growth for the US economy. Estimates from the Peterson Institute, an economic think-tank in Washington, suggest that TPP would raise growth by 0.5 per cent after 15 years.

Even those estimates, which amount to a rounding error in US economic output, have been criticised as being too optimistic due to their treatment of so-called non-trade measures that are included in the analysis. —Reuters

Portugal's Guterres still leads race for UN chief after third ballot

UNITED NATIONS — Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres still leads the race to become the next United Nations Secretary-General after a third UN Security Council secret ballot on Monday, diplomats said.

The 15-member council cast a ballot for each of the remaining 10 candidates, and the choices were: encourage, discourage or no opinion. Guterres received 11 encourage, three discourage and one no opinion, diplomats said.

The Security Council will hold secret ballots until a consensus is reached on a candidate to replace UN chief Ban Ki-moon of South Korea who steps down at the end of 2016 after serving two five-year terms.

Guterres, who was prime minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002 and served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015, also won the first two rounds of secret ballots by the Security Council.

In the second ballot on 5 August he picked up 11 encourage, two discourage and two no opinions, while in the first poll on 21 July, Guterres received 12 encourage and three no opinions.

"Some favourites are emerging," British UN Ambassador Matthew Rycroft told reporters on his way in to the poll on Monday, adding he would encourage some candidates to consider dropping out. "The whole point of the straw polls is to gradually winnow down



Antonio Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees, pauses during a news conference for the launch of the Global Humanitarian Appeal 2016 at the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on 7 December, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

the field," he said.

In Monday's poll Slovakia's Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak jumped to second spot with nine encourage, five discourage and one no opinion, followed by Irina Bokova of Bulgaria, who is director-general of UN cultural organisation UNESCO, and former Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic, who both had seven encourage, five discourage and three no opinion, diplomats said.

Argentinian Foreign Minister Susana Malcorra dropped to fifth spot from third, followed by former Macedonian Foreign Minister Srgjan Kerim, and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, who heads the UN Devel-

opment Programme.

Former Slovenian President Danilo Turk, Moldova's former Foreign Minister Natalia Gherman and former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica filled the last three spots.

Former Croatian Foreign Minister Vesna Pusic dropped out of the race prior to the second ballot, while Montenegro Foreign Minister Igor Luksic withdrew last week. Civil society groups and nearly a third of the 193 UN member states, led by Colombia, have pushed for the first woman secretary-general. But hopes for a woman to lead the United Nations appear to be fading. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain, EU need new, 'fair and binding' rules for post-Brexit ties — Germany

BERLIN — German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Britain's decision to leave the European Union would have long-term consequences that were still difficult to estimate, and said both sides needed new, fair and binding rules for their future ties.

Steinmeier told over 1,000 German diplomats and business executives at a foreign ministry conference that it was in Britain's interests to start the process quickly given economic effects that were already becoming evident. —Reuters

Second British backpacker dies week after attack at Australian hostel

SYDNEY — A second British backpacker died on Tuesday a week after he was stabbed trying to protect a fellow traveller during an attack at a hostel in northern Australia, police said.

A 21-year-old woman, Mia Ayliffe-Chung, was killed last Tuesday when she was attacked by a 29-year-old Frenchman who shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) as he stabbed her at the hostel in Townsville in the state of Queensland.

Thomas Jackson, 30, was stabbed in the face, head and body while trying to protect Ayliffe-Chung.

Queensland police said they would charge the Frenchman with two counts of murder. —Reuters

Mexico fires head of federal police after report of executions

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's government on Monday dismissed the head of federal police, Enrique Galindo, after a recent report that detailed grave human rights abuses by officers serving under him. Earlier in August, an investigation by Mexico's National Human Rights Commission concluded that some 22 suspected drug gang members were "arbitrarily executed" in a confrontation with federal police in western Mexico in May 2015.

Galindo was removed from his post at the behest of President Enrique Pena Nieto to help facilitate a fast and transparent investigation of the case, Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong told a news conference. In the bloody encounter last year, federal police ambushed suspected members of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) holed up at a ranch near the small town of Tanhuato in the violent western state of Michoacan, killing 42.

Just one police officer died in the fight. —Reuters

Swiss Air Force jet goes missing, search launched

ZURICH — The Swiss military has launched a search for a pilot and his plane after a fighter aircraft belonging to the country's air force went missing during a training exercise on Monday.

The plane, a one-seater F/A-18C, disappeared near Susten in central Switzerland on Monday afternoon, the Swiss defence ministry said.

The suspected accident site in the mountainous Alpine region was difficult to access, with bad weather and darkness hampering the search efforts, it added.

Swiss Air Force commander Aldo Schellenberg told a media conference he was deeply shocked by the incident.

When asked about the survival chances of the pilot, he said: "We hope and pray," Swiss news agency SDA reported.

The incident began when the aircraft took off from the air base at Meiringen at 1401 GMT as the second plane in a training exercise. Radio contact with the base was lost at around 1405 GMT, and the plane was logged as missing.

A search mission was launched with helicopters, but was later abandoned due to bad weather. Two ground-based search teams have also begun looking for the pilot and the aircraft, while an investigation into the suspected crash is now underway.

Family members of the pilot, who has not been named, have been informed and were being cared for by the military.

The incident is the third time the Swiss Air Force has lost one of its F/A 18 jets in the last three years. A pilot was injured when an aircraft crashed in October 2015 in southeast France, while another F/A 18 crashed in 2013.

Earlier this year a Swiss F-5E air demonstration fighter jet collided with another plane and crashed into a pond in the northern Netherlands ahead of an air show. —Reuters

Migrant arrivals to Greek islands jump to highest in weeks



A member of the Spanish NGO Proactiva rescues a Somali migrant that fell from an overcrowded dinghy, during a rescue operation off the Libyan coast in Mediterranean Sea, on 28 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ATHENS — More than 460 migrants and refugees arrived on Greek islands from Turkey on Tuesday, the highest in several weeks, despite a European Union deal with Ankara agreed in March to close off that route.

Greek authorities recorded 462 new arrivals between Monday and Tuesday morning, up from 149 the previous day. Most entered through the Aegean islands of Lesbos and Kos.

The numbers are small compared to the number of those try-

ing to reach Italy from Africa — some 6,500 migrants were saved off the Libyan coast on Monday, the Italian coast guard said — and far fewer than the thousands a day arriving in Greece last summer.

Daily arrivals fluctuate, ranging from a couple of hundred migrants and refugees a day to just tens, but indicate a steady inflow five months after the deal with Turkey was agreed. Under the accord, those who cross to Greece without documents from

20 March will be sent back to Turkey unless they apply for asylum and their claim is accepted.

The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) said it recorded a rise in arrivals toward the end of August but it was too early to say if there had been a change in trends.

“So far it doesn’t look like that but we are following the situation very closely,” UNHCR spokesman William Spindler told a UN briefing in Geneva.— *Reuters*

France, joining German Econ Min, urges halt to trade talks with US

PARIS — Current transatlantic trade talks should be halted and a new set started, France’s trade minister said on Tuesday, adding his voice to some calls from Germany for an end to the negotiations.

Matthias Fekl said he would request a halt to negotiations with the United States over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on behalf of France at next month’s meeting of European Union trade ministers in Bratislava.

“There should be an absolute clear end so that we can restart them on good basis,” he said on RMC Radio, adding he would suggest that course to fellow ministers.

German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel said on Sunday that TTIP negotiations had effectively failed after Europe refused to accept some US demands.

Gabriel is the chairman of Germany’s Social Democrats (SPD), who share power with Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservatives. Many Social Democrats have serious reservations about TTIP but Merkel backs the talks.

Her spokesman insisted on Monday that talks should continue, while Germany’s Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier — also a member of the SPD — said on Tuesday that both sides were still far away from agreeing on standards and procedures.

Fekl’s and Gabriel’s highlighted discrepancies between the views in the EU’s two biggest economies and the official line from both the European Commission, the bloc’s executive, and the US Trade Representative Michael Froman. Three years of talks have failed to resolve multiple differences, including over food and environmental safety, but the USTR’s spokesman told German magazine *Der Spiegel* the negotiations “are in fact making steady progress”.

The White House has said this week it aims to reach a deal by the end of the year. “It’s going to require the resolution of some pretty thorny negotiations, but the president and his team are committed to doing that,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters in Washington. The Commission also remains upbeat. “Although trade talks take time, the ball is rolling right now and the Commission is making steady progress in the ongoing TTIP negotiations,” the executive’s spokesman, Margaritis Schinas, told a news conference in Brussels on Monday.

Supporters say the TTIP could deliver more than \$100 billion worth of economic gains on both sides of the Atlantic, but critics say the pact would hand too much power to big multinationals at the expense of consumers and workers.— *Reuters*

Car explodes at Chinese embassy in Kyrgyzstan in suspected suicide bombing

BISHKEK — A suspected suicide bomber rammed the gates of the Chinese embassy in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek on Tuesday, killing himself and wounding three others, officials said.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said the car exploded inside the compound and quoted Deputy Prime Minister Janysh Razakov as describing the blast as “a terrorist act”.

Police, who cordoned off the building and the adjacent area, and the GKNB state security service said they were investigating the incident, which occurred

around 1000 local time (0400 GMT).

Authorities in Kyrgyzstan, a mostly Muslim former Soviet republic of 6 million people, routinely detain suspected Islamist militants accused of being linked to the Islamic State, which actively recruits from Central Asia.

An anti-Chinese militant group made up of ethnic Uighurs is also active in the region. In 2014, Kyrgyz border guards killed 11 people believed to be members of that group who had illegally crossed the Chinese-Kyrgyz border.— *Reuters*



A police car is parked near the place of bombing, near the Chinese embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 30 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Typhoon Lionrock makes landfall in northeastern Japan

TOKYO — Powerful Typhoon Lionrock made landfall in northeastern Japan on Tuesday evening after once moving away from the archipelago and then circling to return, Japan’s weather agency said.

It marked the first time a typhoon from the Pacific has made landfall in Tohoku since the Japan Meteorological Agency began taking records in 1951.

The typhoon has prompted some municipalities in Aomori, Iwate and Miyagi prefectures to issue an evacuation advisory to a total of around 177,000 people due to possible landslides and high waves.

Power outages affected a total of 15,000 households in the Tohoku region, according to Tohoku Electric Power Co.

Major carriers canceled more than 100 flights, most of



High waves triggered by Typhoon Lionrock crash against a “torii” gate on a coast of the city of Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, in this photo taken by Kyodo on 30 August 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

them bound for or departing from northern parts of Japan, including Hokkaido.

Train operators also cancelled services, with shinkansen operations affected.

The season’s 10th typhoon made landfall in Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture, around 6pm, and was moving north at a speed of about 45 kilometres per hour, packing winds of up to 180 kph with an atmospheric pressure of 965 hectopascals near its cen-

tre, according to the agency.

Precipitation is expected to reach up to 250 millimetres in the hours through noon on Wednesday in Tohoku, and up to 200 mm in Hokkaido and 100 mm in the Hokuriku region, according to the agency.

The agency has warned of floods and landslides caused by the heavy rain, saying some areas may log rainfall in one day equal to a typical month of August.— *Kyodo News*

Freak lightning storm kills 323 reindeer in Norway



Dead wild reindeer are seen on Hardangervidda in Norway, after lightning struck the central mountain plateau and killed more than 300 of them, in this handout photo received on 28 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

OSLO — A freak lightning storm has killed 323 reindeer in a remote mountainous area of Norway, officials said on Monday.

Dead animals were found lying on top of each other, many with their antlers entangled, after the thunderstorm on the Hardanger plateau in southern Norway on Friday.

“We’ve never had anything like this with lightning,” Kjartan Knutsen of

Norway’s nature surveillance agency said, adding there were sometimes isolated cases of sheep or reindeer struck down.

Reindeer tend to group together when in danger. It was unclear whether the herd had been killed by a single lightning bolt or several.

Hardanger was extremely wet on Friday, helping conduct lightning.

“The high moisture in

both the ground and the air was probably an explanation for why so many animals died,” Olav Strand, a senior researcher at the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, wrote in a statement.

Experts flew in by helicopter to take samples of the dead reindeer, amid a rising stench of decay, as part of a project to monitor elk and deer for diseases. Five of the 323 animals

were found alive but badly injured and were shot by wildlife officials.

It was unclear what would happen to the bodies. One option is to leave them to decay.

“It’s part of the natural ecology, this is far from where people live,” Knutsen said. Hardanger has about 12,000 reindeer and hunters are allowed to shoot 2,000 a year for their meat.—Reuters

Tsukiji fish market’s relocation plan to Toyosu to be postponed

TOKYO — Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike has decided to postpone the plan to relocate the aging Tsukiji fish market to the capital’s Toyosu waterfront in November, a metropolitan government source said on Tuesday.

The local government will make a decision about the date of the relocation after assessing in January the result of a groundwater survey conducted in the Toyosu area, a former plant site for gas production where contaminated soil has been found.

Koike is expected to announce the decision soon at a press conference.

The postponement of the plan could affect the construction of a highway connecting the central area of Tokyo with the athletes’ village of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The decision could also entail compensation for businesses that were preparing for the earlier plan to relocate the market on 7 November.

The metropolitan government decided in 2001 to relocate the aging Tsukiji market and it has been taking measures to clean the soil in the Toyosu area, where Tokyo Gas Co. used to operate a plant.

Koike had said earlier



File photo taken in January 2016 shows the year’s first auction of tuna being held at Tokyo’s Tsukiji fish market. Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike has decided to postpone the planned relocation of the aging fish market to the capital’s Toyosu waterfront in November and will make a decision about the date of the transfer after assessing in January the results of a groundwater survey conducted in the Toyosu area, a former plant site for gas production where contaminated soil has been found, a metropolitan government source said on 30 August 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

that she has big doubts about opening the new market before seeing the results of the water survey.

The new buildings of the Toyosu market are

already completed and the total cost for the project now stands at 588.4 billion yen (\$5.7 billion).

The Tsukiji market began operating in 1935.—Kyodo News

Samarco dam failed due to poor drainage and design: investigation

BELO HORIZONTE/ RIO DE JANEIRO — The deadly collapse of a tailings dam last November at the Samarco mine, owned by Vale SA and BHP Billiton, was caused by drainage and design flaws, a report into Brazil’s worst-ever environmental disaster showed on Monday.

The 76-page report commissioned by the companies responsible for the spill, which killed 19 people, attributed the dam burst to a chain of events dating back to 2009, but did not assign blame or highlight specific errors in corporate or regulatory practice.

Norbert Morgenstern, a geotechnical engineering professor who headed the investigation, repeatedly told reporters he could not answer their questions when quizzed on whether there was negligence or malpractice on the part of the companies involved.

A separate police investigation has accused Samarco of willful misconduct, saying the company ignored clear signs the dam was at risk of collapsing. Samarco denies any wrongdoing.

BHP Billiton’s chief commercial officer, Dean Dalla Valle, said cost-cutting since 2012 was “absolutely not” a factor and there was no evidence anyone had prioritized production over safety.

“We have no reason to believe that anyone at BHP had any information that indicated that the dam was in danger of collapsing,” Dalla Valle told reporters in Australia on a conference call from Belo Horizonte.

The report stressed

that a change in the dam’s design between 2011 and 2012 led to less efficient water drainage that saturated sand in the dam and resulted in liquefaction.

Liquefaction is a process whereby a solid material such as sand loses strength and stiffness and behaves more like a liquid. It is a common cause for the collapse of dams holding mining waste, known as tailings, because the walls of these dams are mostly built with dried tailings which consist of a mixture of sand and clay-like mud.

“There was a fundamental change in the design concept whereby more widespread saturation was allowed and accepted,” the report said, adding “this increase in the extent of saturation introduced the potential for sand liquefaction.”

Liquefaction was triggered by increased weight on the tailings as the height of the dam was raised, reaching 100 metres (109 yards) at the time of collapse.

This weight pushed the clay-like mud in the dam outwards “like toothpaste from a tube,” resulting in a loosening of the sand which had more space to spread and ultimately caused it to flow like a liquid and cause the dam’s wall to collapse.

A small earthquake on the day of the dam burst may also have “accelerated” the failure, the report said.

Carlos Eduardo Pinto, a prosecutor in the case against Samarco, said much of what was in the report had already been shown in the police investigation.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ILIANA VOY. NO (1608)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ILIANA VOY. NO (1608) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-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.

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Bieber wins eight titles in Guinness World Records 2017 edition

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Justin Bieber has topped the music section of the Guinness World Records 2017 edition book with set of eight record titles.

The 22-year-old Canadian singer-songwriter's tally of achievements in this year's edition of the annual include, most streamed track on Spotify in one week for "What Do You Mean," most simultaneous tracks on the US singles chart and most simultaneous new entries in the Hot 100 by a solo artist.

Other categories were; the most followers on twitter (male), First act to occupy all

top three positions simultaneously on UK singles chart, most viewed music channel on YouTube (individual) and most subscribers on YouTube for a musician (male).

The official website of Guinness World Records recently made the announcement after presenting the "Sorry" hit-maker with his certificates before he performed at one of his "Purpose World Tour" concerts at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The Guinness World Records 2017 Edition is due out on 8 September.—PTI



Pop star Justin Bieber.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Gene Wilder, star of 'Willy Wonka,' 'Blazing Saddles', dead at 83

LOS ANGELES — Gene Wilder, whose wild curls and startling blue eyes brought a frantic air to roles in the movies "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," "Young Frankenstein" and "Blazing Saddles," died on Monday at the age of 83, his family said.

Wilder, whose best work included collaborations with director-writer Mel Brooks and actor-comedian Richard Pryor, died at his home in Stamford, Connecticut, from complications of Alzheimer's disease, the family said in a statement.

Wilder's nephew, Jordan Walker-Pearlman, said the actor had chosen to keep his illness secret so that children who knew him as Willy Wonka would not equate the whimsical character with an adult disease.

Wilder's barely contained hysteria made him a go-to lead for Brooks, who cast him in "Blazing Saddles," "Young Frankenstein" and "The Producers" in the 1960s and '70s.

"Gene Wilder — one of the truly great talents of our time. He blessed every film we did with his magic & he blessed me with his friendship," Brooks said on Twitter.

Besides his classic collaborations with Brooks, Wilder paired memorably with comedian Richard Pryor in hits "Silver Streak" and "Stir Crazy."

Wilder also was active in promoting ovarian cancer awareness and treatment after his wife, "Saturday Night Live" comedian Gilda Radner, whom he married in 1984, died of the disease in 1989. He helped

found the Gilda Radner Ovarian Cancer Detection Centre in Los Angeles and co-founded Gilda's Club, a support organisation that has branches throughout the United States. Born Jerome Silberman to Russian immigrants in Milwaukee, Wilder studied at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre in Bristol, England, and then studied method acting at the Actors Studio. A leading role in a play that also starred Anne Bancroft, who was dating her future husband Brooks, led to Wilder becoming a top member of Brooks' stock company of crazies, some of whom branched out with Wilder into other film ventures.—Reuters



Singer Taylor Swift.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Madonna, Usher pay tribute to Michael Jackson on his birthday

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood friends and family remembered King of Pop Michael Jackson on his 58th birthday.

Madonna shared a throw-back photo collage of her and the iconic singer.

"Happy Birthday to this wonderful and glorious creature!! The King! Gone too soon!" the "Rebel Heart" hit-maker wrote alongside some heart emojis.

Usher tweeted, "Happy birthday #WeMissYouMichael." Jackson's sister La Toya Jackson also posted a throw-back photo of them, captioning it, "Happy birthday to the most #loving #kindhearted #talented #brother in the #world! Love U #KingOfPop #MichaelJackson."

The legendary singer's children, Prince and Paris Jackson, also paid

tribute to their father. Prince penned a sweet sonnet for his father, captioning it, "Happy birthday to the Man who was more than a legend. I love you."

Paris reposted Prince's sonnet and wrote, "Love this.. proud of you big brother. And happy birthday to the man that means more to us than anything and anyone ever could."

"Happy birthday to The King Of Pop! After he passed I was asked to sing on his record Behind The Mask.. At first I couldn't sing because I felt too emotional but I'm so glad I got through it.. This recording is something I can hold to for life.. We Love You Michael RIP," wrote Grammy-nominated singer Shanice.—PTI

Taylor Swift poses with fans at jury duty a day after VMA snub

NEW YORK — Taylor Swift was the most high-profile absence at the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) but on Monday but the singer happily took photos with fans after reporting for jury duty in Nashville.

26, was graphed by potential jurors she was waiting to be selected as a jury member ahead of a trial in a Nashville court, according

to Twitter user Tracy Bates (@TracysActivism).

Bates had initially tweeted, "I am on jury duty with @taylorswift13" and said at first Swift's security personnel initially would not let her take a picture. But later she posted a video and numerous photos, including a selfie with Swift, who was wearing a simple black dress and smiling, in the waiting room.

Bates said Swift was happy to pose with other potential jurors and she also posted an autograph from the pop star that said "So nice to meet you!!"

While Bates was happy to snap the star doing her civil duty, she said she did not consent for any media to use her photos,

saying they were not for sale. Another user who posted a photo of Swift with her mother on jury duty made her account private.

Swift, named Forbes' top-earning female celebrity this year with \$170 million in earnings, did not receive a single nomination at Sunday's MTV's VMAs and did not appear at the New York show. She was however mentioned on stage by rapper Kanye West, with whom she has a long-running feud, as he rambled about asking her for permission to use her in an explicit lyric in his song "Famous." A representative for the singer did not respond for comment on Swift's jury duty or on West's VMAs speech.—Reuters

Old machiya houses in Japan’s Kyoto given new lease of life by niche loans

KYOTO — For generations, artisans and merchants in Japan’s ancient capital of Kyoto lived in thousands of traditional “machiya” townhouses that are steadily disappearing or falling into disrepair.

To help restore the wooden-and-tile-roof structures, banks in Kyoto have tailored loans to help contribute to the preservation of architecture in a city that was once Japan’s ancient capital and boasts a number of World Heritage sites.

While borrowers are encouraged to preserve classic machiya features, such as latticed wood exteriors, they are allowed ample leeway in renovating their homes.

Thanks to a loan from Kyoto Shinkin Bank, Sae Cardonnel and her French husband Sylvain outfitted their machiya with a modern kitchen and heated floors, as well as ample open space inside for their family of five.

“We wanted to live in a home, not a history museum,” she said. “The neighbourhood children gather here to play on rainy days.”

The Cardonnel’s nearly century-old home is now flanked by modern structures. While Kyoto survived World War II bombings as the city was spared, many machiya were wiped out afterward by modernization and development.

Machiya were included in both the 2010 and the 2012 Watch lists of most at-risk assets compiled by the World Monuments Fund, a US non-profit organisation aimed at preserving and protecting endangered architectural and cultural sites.

Derelict machiya are common in Kyoto neighbourhoods. About 13 per cent of Kyoto’s machiya were destroyed between 1996 and 2003 alone, and the number has declined since then. Over 80 per cent of the surviving buildings have lost at least some aspect of their traditional appearances.

“There are more and more empty machiya in Kyoto. We’d like to preserve them, and the historic townscape,” said Kazuhiro Waki, executive director of retail banking at Bank of Kyoto. —Reuters



The traditional Kyoto ‘machiya’ townhouse belonging to Sae Cardonnel and her French husband Sylvain, which was restored with a specialized loan from a Kyoto Shinkin Bank, is pictured in Kyoto, Japan, on 26 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fall from a tree may have caused death of ‘Lucy’ the famed fossil



Lucy’s distal radius undergoes computed tomographic scanning. Lucy, one of the best known ancestors of humans to ever roam the earth, may have died after a fall from a tree, University of Texas researchers said on 29 August 2016, after studying her 3.18-million-year-old fossilized remains. PHOTO: REUTERS

AUSTIN (Texas) — Lucy, one of the best known ancestors of humans to ever roam the earth, may have died after a fall from a tree, University of Texas researchers said on Monday after studying her 3.18-million-year-old fossilized remains.

A high resolution X-ray CT (computed tomography) study of Lucy, a female hominid, indicates she suffered fractures to her right humerus not typically seen in fossils. There were also less severe fractures on the left shoulder and other compressive fractures throughout the skeleton, they said.

The injuries were consistent with those “caused by a fall from considerable height when the conscious victim stretched out an arm in an attempt to break the fall,” according to the research from John Kappel-

man, a University of Texas anthropology and geological sciences professor, who consulted with Stephen Pearce, an orthopedic surgeon at Austin Bone and Joint Clinic.

“This compressive fracture results when the hand hits the ground during a fall, impacting the elements of the shoulder against one another to create a unique signature on the humerus,” Kappelman said in a statement.

Lucy’s skeleton was unearthed in 1974 in Ethiopia and since then researchers around the world have been looking at the fossil of the hominid to find its links to modern humans.

Kappelman speculated Lucy, who was about 3 feet, 6 inches (107 cms) in height, foraged and sought nightly refuge in trees. Her injuries indicate she fell from a height of about of more than 40 feet (12 metres).

University of Texas researchers, including Kappelman, in 2009 completed the first high resolution CT scan of Lucy when the fossil toured the United States. The study resulted in some 35,000 CT electronic slices, which were then studied by university researchers. “When the extent of Lucy’s multiple injuries first came into focus, her image popped into my mind’s eye, and I felt a jump of empathy across time and space,” Kappelman said. “Lucy was no longer simply a box of bones but in death became a real individual: a small, broken body lying helpless at the bottom of a tree.” —Reuters

New test could help early detection of Parkinson’s disease

LONDON — A team of researchers has demonstrated in trials that a new test can detect Parkinson’s disease in the early stages of the illness, according to a study published Monday by the University of Edinburgh.

Parkinson’s disease is a progressive brain condition caused by the loss of nerve cells. The causes of the condition are still not known. The new test targets a protein molecule called alpha-synuclein, which forms Lewy bodies, sticky clumps usually found inside the brain cells of people with Parkinson’s and some types of dementia, said the team led by the University of Edinburgh.

With this test, researchers can identify tiny differences in the properties of proteins in the brain, which may tell them whether the individual has the disease or not.

Early trials have seen researchers accurately identify 19 out of 20 samples from patients with Parkinson’s disease, and three samples from people deemed at risk of the condition, according to the study.

“We hope that with further refinement, our approach will help to improve diagnosis for Parkinson’s patients,” said one of the study authors Dr Alison Green from the University of Edinburgh. The test still needs to be validated with a larger sample group but the team say they are optimistic that it could one day help to improve diagnosis of the disease. —Xinhua

MRTV

Entertainment Channel

(31-8-2016, Wednesday)

06 : 00 pm

- Weather Report
- MRTV Entertainment Music

06 : 20 pm

- Cartoon “ Ice Age; Continental Drift ” (Part-2)

07 : 10 pm

- International Drama Series

07 : 45 pm

- International Drama Series

08 : 25 pm

- Premier League (Review)

09 : 10 pm

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

09 : 25 pm

- MRTV Entertainment Music

09 : 35 pm

- Unique Pattern of Myanma...A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress)

From

31-8-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm

To

1-9-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm

mitv

Myanmar International

(31-8-2016 07:00am ~ 1-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03

Am

News

07:26

Am

Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1) Mingalar Byuha

07:51

Am

Pretty Play Things From Pakokku

08:03

Am

News

08:25

Am

Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises

08:49

Am

Sightseeing in Yangon: Inya Lake

09:03

Am

News

09:26

Am

Bollywood Actress “Laila Khan” (Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-I)

09:45

Am

Live: Opening Ceremony of Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong

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

(03:00 Pm ~ 05:45 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 09:45 Am)

05:46

Pm

Bollywood Actress “Laila Khan” (Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-II)

06:03

Pm

News

06:26

Pm

Interesting Features of Rakhine

06:47

Pm

Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns

Prime Time

07:03

Pm

News

07:26

Pm

Dawei -Tavoy, Travel To The Southern Part of Myanmar

07:44

Pm

Chinlone and the dreams of the player

08:03

Pm

News

08:26

Pm

Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung

08:38

Pm

Kayah Style

08:46

Pm

Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (05:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)

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

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

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

Djokovic advances but new concerns rise over fitness

NOVAK Djokovic opened the defence of his US Open title with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 win over Poland's Jerzy Janowicz on Monday, but the laboured performance gave rise to fresh concerns about the world number one's fitness.

After a sizzling start to the season that brought grand slam wins No.11 and 12 at the Australian and French Opens, Djokovic's form has plummeted, with a third-round loss to Sam Querrey at Wimbledon followed by a first-round exit at the Rio Olympics. The Serb might have been in trouble on another day at Flushing Meadows but Janowicz, ranked 246 places below Djokovic, has advanced from the first round just once in four

previous US Open visits and looked unlikely to do it again on Monday.

Djokovic, a US Open finalist five of the last six years, next faces Czech Jiri Vesely, a five-set winner over Indian qualifier Saketh Myneni.

Djokovic arrived in New York having been hampered by a left wrist injury and distracted by undisclosed "private matters" and on Monday trainers were called out early in the opening set to work on his right forearm.

Several times during the two hour, 37 minute match, Djokovic could be seen grimacing when hitting his powerful forehand, while his serve rare-

ly looked threatening, stuck at around 100 mph.

"It was just prevention, it's all good," Djokovic told reporters. "Look, each day presents us some kind of challenges that we need to accept and overcome."

"After all I've been through in the last couple of weeks it's pleasing to finish the match and win it." Up 3-2 in the opening set, Djokovic called for a medical time out during the changeover as Janowicz took a seat in the stands while the world number one had his forearm massaged.

When play resumed, Djokovic immediately broke the Pole and held serve on way to taking the first set.

But in the second frame Djokovic's discomfort became even more evident as he double faulted and then sent a wild forehand long as Janowicz broke to take control and level the match.

Normal service was resumed in the third and Djokovic moved in for the knockout punch, breaking Janowicz to open the fourth before wrapping up the match.—Reuters



Novak Djokovic of Serbia.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Hamstring injury leaves Messi in doubt for qualifiers



Barcelona's Lionel Messi reacts during match at San Mames, Bilbao, Spain on 28 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BARCELONA — Barcelona striker Lionel Messi has returned home to Argentina but remains doubtful for World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay and Venezuela with his club confirming the 29-year-old is struggling with a sore left hamstring.

Messi played in Sunday's 1-0 league win at Athletic Bilbao but underwent tests on Monday after admitting that the injury was causing him pain.

"Tests conducted have confirmed that Lionel Messi has a sore left adductor muscle. Both the medical services of FC Barcelona and the AFA (Argentina Football Association) have agreed on this report," Barcelona said in a statement.

"The player will travel to Argentina to join the national team and the evolution of the discomfort will decide his availability to play in the games scheduled."

Argentina sit third in the 10-team South American qualifying group on 11 points from six matches, two points behind leading pair Uruguay and Ecuador.

Edgardo Bauza will take charge of Argentina for the first time when they host Uruguay in Mendoza on Thursday before the side travels to Venezuela for another qualifier in Merida five days later.—Reuters

Energized Nadal completes straight-sets win in opener

NEW YORK — Rafa Nadal was worn out from his Rio Olympics exertions after emerging from an injury absence to win doubles gold, but the Spaniard perked back up with his trip to New York for the US Open.

Nadal, who said his injured wrist is improving daily, beat Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in his first-round match on Monday's opening day of the year's last grand slam.

"I think I played a solid match for a lot of time, then was a tough moment in the middle of the second set but I think I resisted well and very

happy for the victory," Nadal said on court.

"He's a really dangerous player, so I'm very happy to be through."

Nadal said he is re-energised being in New York after feeling fatigued two weeks ago in Cincinnati, where he lost his second match after flying in from Rio.

"The most important thing is I'm here in New York and that makes me happy," said Spain's 14-times grand slam winner, who could not continue through the French Open and also missed Wimbledon and the Toronto event due to his wrist injury.—Reuters



Rafael Nadal of Spain after beating Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan on day one of the 2016 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre, New York, NY, USA, on 29 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS