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MUCH-ANTICIPATED SPEECH

State Counsellor attends UN General Assembly in New York

THE second day of the U.N. General Assembly annual meeting kicked off Wednesday with speeches from leaders of China, Japan, Ukraine, the European Union, Afghanistan and Pakistan, among others.

A total of 42 leaders will speak at the 71st General Assembly meeting in New York.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and long-time Zimbabwe dictator Robert Mugabe will speak during the morning session.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon cited the day as the International Day of Peace, calling on warring parties around the world to observe a 24-hour ceasefire.

On Tuesday, the State Counsellor participated in the high-level event entitled "Together for the 2030 Agenda: Partnering for Women, Children and Adolescents, to Thrive and Transform the World" at the same venue.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, together with other world leaders, then attended a luncheon hosted by Mr Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, hosted a dinner for the State Counsellor Tuesday evening. —Myanmar News Agency



The State Counsellor participating in the high-level event at the UN headquarters. PHOTO: MNA

Lawsuit filed against owners of Ava tailoring for allegedly abusing maids

THE Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and Yangon Region Social Welfare Department have filed lawsuits against the owners of Ava Tailoring, accusing them of abusing their two maids.

Following a formal complaint

on 22 June against the accused, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission asked Kyauktada Township Police to investigate the case, alleging that maids San Kay Khine, 17, and Thazin, 16, were 'tortured' by their employers,

said U Zaw Win, a member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, at a press conference in Yangon yesterday. The commission found that the two girls have been working at the house for two years and were reportedly kept

away from their relatives without being paid salaries in later month. The man who made the complaint suggested that the parents of the victims file a lawsuit against the owners of the tailor shop on 15 August. The two maids were returned

to their parents in early September after a police investigation. But during negotiations mediated by MNHRC, the victims agreed to a Ks5 million settlement instead of pursuing the case in court.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw hears answers to questions, receives proposal



Dr Aung Thu. PHOTO: MNA

THE Pyithu Hluttaw meeting continued for the 37th day with a question and answer session and the submission of a proposal yesterday.

In his response to questions regarding the agriculture sector, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu said that the distribution of quality strains, agricultural inputs and farming equipment to farmers are being carried out along with educative talks on the dissemination of knowledge

about the use of fertilisers and pesticides, the establishment of modern research farmlands and the inspection and issuance of licenses regarding agricultural inputs.

Regarding waterway improvement and maintenance works, the Union minister said that dredging operations and the repair and construction of dams and dykes for flood control are being undertaken in accordance with the ministry's priority list.

The ministry will seek technological and financial assistance from international development partners pertaining to the improvement of waterways and the maintenance of dams, added the Union minister.

On a question regarding whether a plan to change the date of Peasants' Day, held yearly on every 2 March, the Union minister stressed the need for farmers' consent and legal procedures to change the date, adding that the ministry has no plan to change

the date of Peasants' Day.

During yesterday's session, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Setotaya Constituency submitted a proposal calling for the Union government to make efforts to help and protect abused and exploited Myanmar citizen workers working abroad in cooperation with designated countries to the parliament. The Pyithu Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal following parliamentary approval.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Bill to amend the 1973 Law of Myanmar Board of Examinations to be reviewed

THE Amyotha Hluttaw decided to review a bill to amend the 1973 Law of Myanmar Board of Examinations following a debate on the bill by parliamentarians during its 35th day meeting yesterday.

In his discussion, U Soe Thein alias U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region Constituency No 10 pointed out that some words contained in the bill need to be amended and removed in order to meet legal terms and to be more meaningful.

Likewise, U Kyaw Naing of Yangon Region Constituency 12 said that there would be no changes in the Myanmar Board of Examinations if it was to be formed again with those in the education sector led by the Minister for Education as chairman in accordance with the previous law, calling for the development of syllabi and curricula and for the formation of the Board to meet international standards.

Dr Than Win of Mandalay Region Constituency 1 expressed his support for the bill, stating that the bill provides room for

action against student misconduct during exams. An education system depends upon the effectiveness of its examination system, one that can guarantee the eradication of examination malpractices, added the lawmaker.

Regarding the bill, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw said that the bill will be reviewed by the Bill Committee.

Next, the Bill to repeal Emergency Provisions Act was approved as submitted by the Bill Committee and parliamentarians were invited to discuss the third revised bill to amend the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

During yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw session, Deputy

Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing responded to questions regarding matters related to electrification.

Regarding a call for the connection of electricity to Tamu of Sagaing Region via the national power grid, the deputy minister said that budgets have been set for the 2017-2018 FY to implement construction of sub-power station projects and the installation of a 230KV Kalay-Tamu power line that will run 90 miles. Upon completion, Tamu will be provided with electricity from the national power grid.

Likewise, the deputy minister replied to questions regarding electrification in Chin State, saying that the installation of a 66KV Mindat-Matupi power line



U Kyaw Naing. PHOTO: MNA



Dr Tun Naing. PHOTO: MNA

and construction of a sub-power station are being implemented by the tender-winning Aung Myint Mo Co., Ltd.

The ministry will seek a budget to install a 66 KV power line to Yayzwa at an opportune time following a feasibility study there, added the deputy minister.

On the power supply to Lailinpi, arrangements have been made to electrify the town using a 250KVA diesel generator and plans are underway to set up a 2.75-mile power line in next financial year, said the deputy minister.

In his response to a question regarding embezzlement cases involving rural electrification activities, the deputy minister said that the ministry laid down a set of 12 points for rural electrification committees to follow, saying that action is being taken against persons including departmental personnel suspected of being involved in embezzlement cases.—*Myanmar News Agency*

The bill provides room for action against student misconduct during exams.

International Day of Peace observed in Yangon

MYANMAR as well as the whole world needs peace, said Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win during a ceremony to mark the International Day of Peace at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

A number of foreign governments and organisations have provided assistance to Myanmar's peace process, said the Peace Commission Chairman, pledging Myanmar's commitment to work towards world peace.

During the commemorative ceremony, UNHCR Resident Representative Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis read out the UN Secretary-General's message on the International Day of Peace and Dr

Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, Vice Chairman of the Chin National Front, addressed the event on behalf of the stakeholders' group of ethnic armed organisations on the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee.

Regarding the ongoing peace process, Dr Tin Myo Win said that a target has been set for the next three to five years and two committees were formed to review the political dialogue framework in cooperation with NCA signatories and to keep in touch with NCA non-signatory groups.

"I believe that honesty brings trust to the peace process," said the Peace Commission Chairman



Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win delivering a speech at the International Day of Peace. PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)/ZAW GYI (PANDITA)

Dr Tin Myo Win.

According to the Peace Commission, compromises to be

reached at national-level political dialogue set to be held before the next conference will be approved

at the second Union Peace Conference.—*Min Thit (MNA)/Zaw Gyi (Pandita)*

Myanmar hosts 2016 ASEAN Energy Ministers Meeting

THE 34th ASEAN Energy Ministers' Meeting was held in conjunction with a paper-reading session at the ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2016 and its opening ceremony at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Pe Zin Tun called for the active discussion by those present of policies and work programmes for development of the energy sector

in ASEAN nations.

Next, the 34th ASEAN Energy Ministers' Meeting and related meetings were held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel.

During an energy sector prize presentation ceremony, Rural Electrification with Micro Hydropower for Sharsebo & 3 Villages Project and Solar Rooftop System from Myanmar were awarded winner and 1st Runner-up respectively.

Altogether 700 officials and



ASEAN Energy ministers pose for documentary photos in ASEAN way. PHOTO: MNA

representatives from ASEAN countries and dialogue partners, regional and international organisations and local and foreign

energy businesses are taking part in the 34th ASEAN Energy Ministers' Meeting and related meetings and the AEBF 2016.

The 35th ASEAN Energy Ministers' Meeting is set to be held in Philippines next year.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Credentials presented

U Aung Lynn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United States of America, presented his Credentials to the Honourable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America on 16 September 2016 in Washington, D.C.—*MOFA*

Exploited woman returns home following Thai court hearing

A MYANMAR woman was allowed to return home together with her mother yesterday following a three-week hearing at Surat's court in Thailand, according to the Myanmar Association in Thailand (MAT), a social organisation helping troubled Myanmar people in the neighbouring country.

Ma Aye Aye Soe was a victim of human trafficking, working under illegal and inhumane conditions in Thailand for five years, the court heard. Thai authorities handed over the victim to her mother Daw Aye Win for repatriation.

"This is the first time that

our people standing trial in Thailand (for illegal immigration status) have been handed over," said lawyer U Aung Myo Thant, who is also an advisor to the Myanmar Association in Thailand.

Medical expert witnesses testified that Ma Aye Aye Soe was not yet 15 when she was smuggled into Thailand from her hometown of Inlaymyaung in Myeik township.

A joint anti-human trafficking squad comprising officers from Myanmar and Thailand rescued her from the hotel she was working in on 2 September.—*Soe Win (SP)*

Union Information Minister attends fifth China-Eurasia Expo



The building where the fifth China-Eurasia Expo is held is illuminated at night. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint attended the opening ceremony of the fifth China-Eurasia Expo held with its theme of 'Mutual Discussions, Joint Development and Sharing Silk Road: Opportunities and Future' in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous

Region in China.

A variety of products manufactured by 2,192 companies from 57 countries are set to be put on display at the international trade fair that will run for four days until Sunday.

According to organisers, 3,500 purchasers from various

countries are expected to be present at this year's event.

A total of 15 ministerial fora and activities were held with the participation of 200 domestic and foreign representatives before the fifth expo. The Myanmar delegation arrived back Yangon yesterday.—*Myanmar News Agency*

LUXURIOUS & TRANQUIL WEEKEND 'BUBBLY' BRUNCH AT SEDONA YANGON



Relax this weekend away from the hustle and bustle at Sedona's 'Bubbly' Brunch that serves up an indulgent spread of mouth-watering delicacies and cuisine, with seafood, sushi, sashimi, carving & 'live' cooking stations and an extensive salad bar for the health conscious!

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SEDONA
TANGKAS

Story-telling and poem recitation contests held in the Kawthaung

PRIMARY level story-telling and poem recitation contests were held in the Kawthaung District Public Library hall of Information and Public Relation Department (IPRD) on Tuesday, it has been learned.

At the ceremony, students from a post primary school of Kawthaung town performed dances to those in attendance while a staff officer of the IPRD gave words of greeting.

Next, the primary stu-

dents competed in a number of story-telling and poem recitation contests.

Officials from the township education department, Women Affairs Association and Maternal and Child welfare Association gave remarks. Officials of the District IPRD, civil society organisations and parents presented prizes to the winning students.

The Information and Public Relation Department organised the event. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)



Students participating in a contest. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG)

Crime NEWS

Police seized counterfeit notes

POLICE filed charges against four men on suspicion of using counterfeit notes in Rakhine state on Monday.

According to an investigation, police arrested U Thein Maung Aye, 46, U Tun Tun Kyaw, 34, U Ba Saw Hlaing, 28 and U Aung Shwe Thein, 28, who were reportedly using counterfeit notes in the market of Poe Shwe Pyin village.

The police found 268 fake K10,000 notes in a motor sampan connected to the suspects. The police said that most of the counterfeit notes were similar to central bank notes except for the width. Police have filed charges against the suspects. —Hla Baw Thu



Criminal suspects seen together with seized counterfeit notes. PHOTO: HLA BAW THU

Six-wheel vehicle overturns on Yangon-Mandalay road



Six-wheel vehicle seen overturned on Yangon-Mandalay road. PHOTO: THAN OO

A SIX-wheel vehicle carrying flowers overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay highway on Monday.

The six-wheel vehicle, en route to Nay Pyi Taw from Mandalay, was being driven by

one Kyaw Lin Htet.

The vehicle overturned between mileposts 307/7 and 308/0 when the driver lost control.

No one was injured in the accident. —Than Oo

Man wanted on fraud charge

POLICE are searching for a man and his associates in connection with a fraud case that occurred over the last two months in Bago Region.

According to investigators, on 12 September, U Myint, 49, of Pwintphyu Township, filed a lawsuit against U Kyi Lin, who allegedly took K50 million from the victim in the third week of July.

The victim offered an advanced payment of K50 million to U Kyi Lin to buy a very rare forest product from him after he made the necessary testing on the object in Yedashe Township to confirm its authenticity.

After the purchase, the victim again tested the object he bought. The results revealed it was a fake. U Myint then sued the suspect, who is still on the run. —Ko Lwin (Swa)

Police officer in Mohnyin injured while attempting arrest

A POLICE officer was injured while trying to arrest a fugitive from a labour camp of the correctional facility in Mong Naung village, Mohnyin township, Kachin state on Monday.

According to an investigation, a combined team comprising CID arrested one Aung Kyaw Win who had escaped from a labour camp near Mong Naung village. Police discovered ten soap boxes of heroin weighing 117.4 grams, 2,985 yaba pills,

K172,0800, two hand-grenades and a small knife following the arrest. At that time, Aung Kyaw Win's son arrived at the scene with 20 local villagers and attacked the police. The fugitive escaped during the fight.

One of the arresting police officers was seriously injured in the fight and is currently undergoing medical treatment at Mohnyin general hospital. Police are investigating the case. —Salai Mang Ngai



Three injured in vehicle accident on Yangon-Mandalay highway

A CAR accident occurred on Monday on the Yangon-Mandalay highway, leaving three people seriously injured.

According to an investigation, a vehicle being driven by one U Tin Kyi overturned when the driver lost control between mileposts 9/5 and 9/6.

The accident injured two men and one woman, according to police. —Than Oo



LOCAL Business

Workers catch fish at a firm in Ayeyawady Region.
PHOTO: TUN AUNG KYAW



Catch Certificates issued for 31 legal vessels for fish export

CATCH Certificates (CC) have been issued in accordance with the existing prescribed rules, for 31 legal vessels for fish intended for export to neighbouring countries and foreign countries from 1st to 14th September by Myeik and Kawthaung district fisheries department offices in Taninthayi Region, it is learnt from the Fisheries Department Head Office.

Seeking Catch Certificates require the vessel's grant, licence of fishing vessel, export declaration, invoice, document of transfer, pledge of the company, forward declaration from the fishing vessel and a high sea fishing permit. The owners of the vessels will have to pay a tax depending on the varieties and volume of the fish. The transfer of the goods to the vessels is checked on the basis of the daily record of the fishing vessels. Then the jetties will issue the Catch Certificates.

Catch Certificates were issued

to 31 vessels carrying fish from 1st to 14th September by the district fisheries offices in Taninthayi Region, with a permit for 3,306,374 kilogram of goods. To ensure the smooth flow in issuing CCs, the Fisheries Department, Myanmar Port Authority, Department of Marine Administration, the Customs Department, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Internal Revenue Department, Myanmar Economic Bank, Myanmar Police Office, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs are conducting the issue of CC at one stop service (OSS) offices.

Additionally, CCs are being issued in compliance with the procedures laid down by the European Union and Fisheries Department to be able to legally export Myanmar's fisheries products to EU countries, it is learnt.

For exporting to neighbouring countries, CCs are being issued according to the previously set rules.

The vessels have to inform the authorities at the jetty 24 hours before approaching the jetty. They have to pay US\$5 for carrying fish to export and US\$50 for GRT/Trip registration fee. The CC is issued only if the vessels are strict according to the rules.

The vessels bearing a white line are granted CCs starting from September.

These legal fishing vessels have been granted CCs since 2010. The colors of the line in the vessels are according to region and state --yellow for Rakhine State, grey for Mon State and Yangon Region and red for Taninthayi Region. Those vessels can carry over 60, over 80 and over 100 loads, respectively. The awareness campaign concerning the issue of CC was conducted starting 2nd September to those who are engaged in the business of using vessels to export fish products to foreign countries. — *Thant Zin Win*

Garment industry sector rapidly expanding

THE foreign exported value from the garment industry under the cutting-making and packing (CMP) system sits at US\$ 745.488 million for the 2016-2017 FY, representing an increase of over US\$ 500 million compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Last year, US\$ 232.808 million was earned from the garment industry. According to World Atlas Data, Myanmar exported US\$ 1.6 billion worth of garment finished products over the 2015-

2016 FY, however Myanmar will only receive 10 per cent of that due to the country's limited ability to value-add to the products.

Japan tops the list for orders of garment products from Myanmar. In 2015, Myanmar exported US\$ 580 million worth of garment products to Japan, it has been learned from the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association.

Myanmar has the potential to more than double its garment exports by exporting garments product to the USA, according to

the MGEA.

"Foreign companies are ready to implement local garment industry investment but we are still dealing with the government to get the land we need," said U Aung Naing Oo, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration is planning to lay out a local garment industry zone in Yangon and Bago regions. — *Min Thu*

Singapore major investor in hotels and tourism sector

OUT OF ten investor countries in the hotel and tourism sector, Singapore made the largest investment with US\$1,624.1944 million as of the end of August in 2016, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Singapore has invested in 22 projects, followed by Thailand with an investment of US\$445.630million in 11 projects and Viet Nam with US\$440million in one project.

Additionally, Hong Kong has made investments of US\$187.700million in 5 pro-

jects while South Korea invested US\$100million in one project, Japan put US\$73.665million in 4 projects, Malaysia spent US\$23.136million in three projects, United Kingdom placed US\$14.5million in three projects, Luxembourg paid US\$5.2million in a project and UAE invested US\$4.5million in a project, it is learnt. Investments in the hotel and tourism sector made by ten countries has totaled US\$2,918.52million with 52 projects, it is learnt. — *Mon Mon*

MPT SIM Card registry reaches over 1,700 in Lashio Township

OVER 1,700 users of Myanmar Post and Telecommunication (MPT) SIM Cards in Lashio have registered as of 19th August, it is learnt from MPT.

The registration of MPT SIM Cards commenced in 15th August free of charge. Registration of mobile phone sim cards will help trace the name and address of the users if there is a problem, said Daw Pa Pa Win from MPT Lashio.

There was a delay in registration of MPT SIM cards because of a lack of contract, checking number or unclear printed copy of the National Registration Card of the appli-

cants.

"We believe the businessmen and the serious users of mobile phones will come forward to register. It is not difficult and the service is free of charge. Some phone scammers will not make registration", said Daw Soe Soe, a businessman.

The SIM cards bought with contracts need a copy of the contract to register. Registration of the mobile SIM cards will be carried out until the end of March, 2017. SIM cards which have not registered within the set period will be deactivated, it is learnt from MPT. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Brazil and China come to invest in Myanmar's agriculture and livestock sector in 2017

BRAZIL and China will make investments in Myanmar's agriculture and livestock sector in 2017, said an official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

"We believe that we will receive the technical assistance from these countries", the official said. "The entrepreneurs from Brazil will put investments into soybean, coffee seeds and maize cultivation businesses. China will invest mainly in dairy farming businesses, plus

working in the broiler business. These two countries will reportedly make large investments, but no numbers were available.

They will help to distribute the products in the domestic market and penetrate the foreign market, officials said. Agriculture and livestock farming is the most important industry in Brazil, which is also the highest producer of meat and dairy products. China's demand for food is rising because of its burgeoning population.—200

US bombers fly over South Korea for second time since North's nuclear test

OSAN (South Korea) — Two US supersonic bombers flew over South Korea on Wednesday, with one of them landing at an air base 40 km (25 miles) south of the capital, the second such flight since North Korea's 9 September nuclear test.

US Forces Korea said the flight by a pair of B-1B Lancer strategic bombers based in Guam was a show of force and of US commitment to preserve the security of the peninsula and the region. The United States, which has about 28,500 troops in South Korea, flew two B-1 bombers on 13 September escorted by US and South Korean fighter jets in a show of solidarity with Seoul. The North condemned the earlier flight as an armed provocation that mobilised "ill-famed nu-

clear killing tools". It did not immediately respond to Wednesday's flight. The US Air Force said the Wednesday flight was the closest ever to North Korea.

"Today marks the first time the airframe has landed on the Korean peninsula in 20 years, as well as conducting the closest flight near North Korea ever," the US Air Force said on its website which also showed a B-1B bomber landing at the base in South Korea.

The South's Yonhap news agency said the aircraft flew over a US live-fire training site in the Pocheon area bordering the North.

North Korea has ignored global condemnation of its fifth nuclear test on 9 September, and this week said it had successfully tested a new rocket engine that

would be used to launch satellites, again in violation of UN sanctions.

The leaders of the United States and China, which is the North's main diplomatic ally and economic benefactor, condemned the latest nuclear test and pledged to step up cooperation at the United Nations and in law enforcement channels.

UN diplomats say the two countries have begun discussions on a possible UN resolution in response to the latest nuclear test, but China has not said directly whether it would support tougher steps against North Korea. China, which has objected to a planned US deployment of a THAAD missile defence system in the South to counter the North's missile threat, called on "all parties to exercise restraint



A US Air Force B-1B bomber lands Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

and to avoid any actions that could further escalate tensions".

South Korea's prime minister, Hwang Kyo-ahn, told parliament South Korea wanted existing UN sanctions against the North tightened by removing loopholes that allow it to trade in minerals if it is for subsistence.

North Korea has been testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles at an unprecedented rate this year, beginning with its fourth

nuclear test in January and including the launch of a satellite in February that was widely seen as a test of long-range ballistic missile technology. The North's test of a new rocket engine for satellite launchers this week was believed to be part of a long-range missile programme, according to the South's military. North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, ordered preparations for the launch of a satellite "as soon as possible" on the basis of

the successful test, its state media reported.

North Korea this month fired three missiles that flew about 1,000 km (600 miles), and in August tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile that experts said showed considerable progress. It also launched an intermediate-range missile in June that experts said marked a technological advance for the isolated state after several failed tests. —Reuters

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Philippines to suspend over ten more mines in environmental crackdown: minister

MANILA — The Philippines will suspend more than 10 additional mines in an ongoing environmental crackdown on the sector but the announcement of who will be shut has been moved to on 26 September, the minister in charge of mining said on Wednesday.

The Southeast Asian nation, the world's top supplier of nickel ore, has already halted the operations of 10 mines, eight of them nickel producers, for environmental lapses since it launched



Philippines Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Regina Lopez answers a question during a news conference at the department's headquarters in Quezon city, metro Manila, Philippines, on 11 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

an audit in July, stoking increases in global prices. Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez said more than 10 additional mines will "definitely" be suspended "because of the many violations."

Other details, including the identities of those to be suspended, will be announced on 26 September, she said. On Monday, Lopez told Reuters that it was "possible" that a further 10 or more mines could be suspended. —Reuters

As Mongolia teeters, bond investors bank on China for bailout

HONG KONG/LONDON — Holders of Mongolia's high-yielding dollar bonds are looking beyond a sharp rise in sovereign default risks on a bet that China or the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will help the once-booming commodity producer to stay solvent.

Mongolia, a vast country of just three million people, is perhaps the most extreme example among oil and metal-rich nations that binged on debt during the good times and were pitched into hardship when the commodity boom turned to bust.

The borrowings have left the \$12 billion econo-

my staggering under total foreign debt — public and private — of over \$20 billion, and a state debt burden that the government predicts could hit 78 per cent of annual output by the end of the year.

Other countries in Mongolia's high-risk "B" rating category have an average 50 per cent debt ratio, the Moody's agency says.

On Wednesday, the country's state-backed development bank must pay a \$16.7 million coupon to bondholders.

That is unlikely to pose a problem but over \$1 billion of bonds mature between

March 2017 and January 2018, while \$120 million in coupons are due from now to the end of this year. "In terms of Mongolia's economy these are very significant amounts.

The country is in dire need of either a debt restructuring or a Big Brother loan," said Chris Weafer, senior partner at the Macro-Advisory consultancy.

Mining firms' woes are adding to the headache — Hong Kong-listed Mongolian Mining Corp is in default and Reuters reported last week that state-controlled Erdenet was prevented from transacting metals

sales in London after a court froze its UK assets over unpaid debts.

News of acute dollar shortages within Mongolia have increased investors' unease. The tugrik currency has slumped 15 per cent since June and the government has even fallen behind on payouts to Olympic athletes.

In contrast to the panic within Mongolia, its sovereign bonds have weakened but not collapsed — the 2018, 2021 and 2022 bonds trade between 85 and 103 cents in the dollar, levels that don't imply serious default concerns. —Reuters

China's premier says US ties will develop no matter who wins election

NEW YORK — China and the United States will keep developing positive relations no matter who wins November's US presidential election, Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang told an economic forum in New York on Tuesday.

Li declined to comment on which candidate he favoured.

Republican Donald Trump has threatened to slap tariffs on Chinese goods and push for tougher trade talks if elected. His Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, has changed tack on trade, backing away from a Pacific trade pact she previously endorsed.

Both candidates have been critical of China's assertive pursuit of territory in the South China Sea, a potential flashpoint in Asia and a cause of significant friction in relations between Washington and Beijing. Li, who was attending the UN General Assembly in New York, said the US election was an internal affair for the United States, so what he could say was very limited, but he went on to remark: "No matter who gets elected in the US presidential election, I believe that China-US ties will continue to grow steadily and in a positive direction."

Li responded to complaints from foreign business leaders about restricted access to the Chinese market by saying that China was open to foreign investment, although some economic sectors were not yet mature.

"This process of them becoming more mature is also a process for them to open up and the areas of the Chinese economy open to foreign investment will only in-



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivers remarks during a meeting with former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and US business leaders at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel during the week of the United Nations General Assembly in Manhattan, New York, US, on 20 September 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

crease and China will only open its door even wider. The door will not close," he said.

Referring to a US-China Bilateral Investment Treaty that has been long in negotiation given disagreements about access to sectors the sides deem sensitive, Li said as long as both countries took a strong and pragmatic approach, they would be able to reach a mutually beneficial agreement.

As an example of China's willingness to open up its markets, Li said China had decided to designate a Chinese investment bank as a clearing bank for renminbi business in New York and welcomed foreign banks in the city which met eligibility requirements to become clearing banks for the currency.

He also said China would soon allow imports of beef on the bone from the United States, now

that Chinese quarantine procedures had been completed. Li pledged that China would not engineer a devaluation of its currency to boost exports for its economy, which is growing at its slowest rate in two decades. Some critics in Washington have charged that Beijing is still manipulating its currency, although the US Treasury says its assessment is that it is not undervalued. China's economy will continue its growth momentum this year, Li said. "I can say here that in the third quarter of this year, or until the end of this year, China's economy will maintain this momentum of steady growth." China's growth target for this year is 6.5 to 7 per cent. In the second quarter of this year, the world's second-largest economy grew 6.7 per cent from a year ago, according to official data. —Reuters

South Korea says aid to flood-hit North Korea improper

SEOUL— South Korea's Unification Ministry said Wednesday that providing assistance to flood-hit North Korea is inappropriate in the wake of Pyongyang's repeated provocations, including its claim just the previous day to have successfully tested a new rocket engine.

"North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is seen laughing heartily at the engine test site while (the North) is claiming to have suffered its largest-ever damage from flooding since national liberation," ministry spokesman Jeong Joon Hee said during a press briefing.

"With this double-dealing attitude of North Korea taken into account, I think we should ask ourselves whether moves like these are appropriate," he said, referring to a request by a South Korean civic organisation for permission to contact the North Korean side to discuss the supply of relief materials.

The ministry, which is responsible for relations with North Korea, said Monday it rejected the request.

North Korea said Tuesday it successfully tested a new high-powered rocket engine ostensibly for launching satellites, but which was seen as another step in the North's quest for an intercontinental ballistic missile.

In a photo carried Tuesday by the North's Rodong Sinmun, the mouthpiece of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, Kim is seen laughing at the engine test site.

North Korea's fifth nuclear test on 9 September and a string of launches of various types of missiles and artillery shells have drawn a storm of condemnation from the United States, Japan, and South Korea.

South Korea's opposition parties, meanwhile, have increased calls for the government to provide aid to North Korea by separating humanitarian aid from the nuclear test.

A 11 September report by the North's official Korean Central News Agency said, "recently, strong wind and heavy rainfalls, the worst-ever climatic phenomenon in Korea after its liberation, swept over several cities and counties along the River Tuman in the northern part of the DPRK, causing huge losses." DPRK is the acronym of North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"The storm and flooding left houses for tens of thousands of families and public buildings collapsed and railways, roads, electric power system, industrial establishment and farm lands destroyed or submerged," it said. —Kyodo News

Japan likely to scrap fast-breeder nuclear reactor: reports

TOKYO — Japan is likely to scrap a prototype fast-breeder nuclear reactor in the country's west that has operated for less than a year in over two decades, local media reported on Wednesday.

More than 1 trillion yen (\$9.84 billion) of mostly public money has been injected into the Monju facility, but Japan's nuclear regulator last year declared its operator unfit following years of accidents, missteps and falsification of documents.

The government is also grappling with a wave of anti-nuclear sentiment among its population in the wake of the Fukushima atomic disaster.

Tokyo believes it would be difficult to gain public support to spend another 580 billion yen on the project over the next 18 years if the reactor was restarted, the *Nikkei business daily* and *Mainichi* newspaper said, without citing sources.

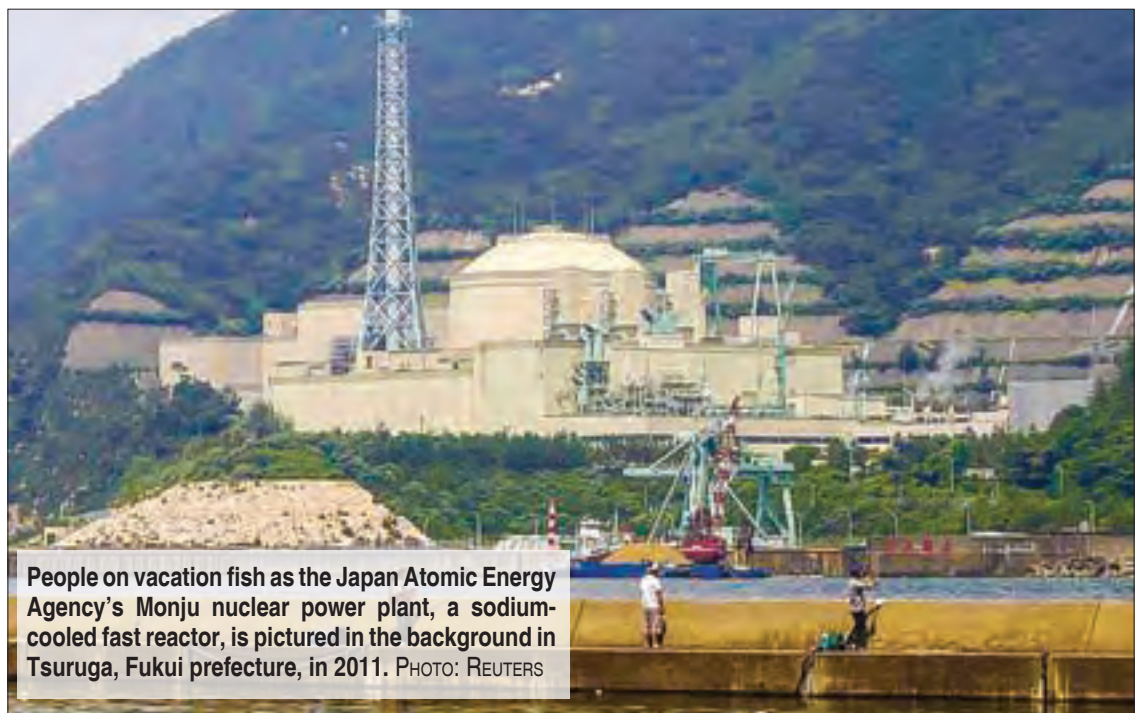
A government official did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters.

The reactor's operator, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, declined to comment.

Science Minister Hirokazu Matsuno, Trade Minister Hiroshige Seko and others will hold a meeting on nuclear issues on Wednesday, with media reporting that they will likely decide to shift policy away from developing the fast-breeder reactor.

A formal decision to decommission Monju is likely to follow by year-end after talks with local governments, the *Nikkei* and *Mainichi* added.

The call to decommission Monju has been growing in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, with scant results from using around 20



People on vacation fish as the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's Monju nuclear power plant, a sodium-cooled fast reactor, is pictured in the background in Tsuruga, Fukui prefecture, in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

billion yen of public money a year for maintenance alone.

Located 400 km (250 miles) west of Tokyo, the 280-megawatt reactor was designed to burn plutonium refined from spent fuel at conventional reactors to create more fuel than it consumes. That process that was seen promising for a country whose limited nat-

ural resources force it to rely on imports for virtually all its oil and gas needs.

With all but three of Japan's 42 commercial reactors still shut as a result of the 2011 Fukushima disaster, there is little meaning to the costly exercise of extracting more plutonium from spent fuel, critics say.

The *Yomiuri* newspaper said Japan would continue to co-develop a fast breeder technological demonstration reactor that has been proposed in France.

Japan will also continue research at its first experimental fast-breeder reactor, Joyo, a predecessor of Monju, the *Nikkei* said. —Reuters

Opinion

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No excuse for abuse

Kyaw Thura

THE number of people affected by humanitarian crises has almost doubled in the past decade, with more than 76 million people from 31 countries in urgent need of assistance, according to the United Nations. The persistent, sometimes blatant, violation of human rights includes the abuse of housemaids, which is inexcusable in every sense. There is a critical need to prepare for and respond to such inhumane treatment to housemaids who

are living in the most deplorable conditions.

Despite the existence of government's bodies like ministries and departments, committees and commissions are formed at different levels of administration. In this respect, there arises a question as to whether they have been institutionalised to pass a verdict over a horrendous abuse that can be considered a criminal case.

Following a Myanmar Now 19 September news report of two

young girls tortured for over five years as housemaids in Kyauktada township, Yangon, the police launched an investigation under the anti-human trafficking law. The news went viral on social media within minutes, with users commenting that the case can be interpreted as a challenge to the country's judicial power.

The girls, who are from a village in Kawhmu township, had suffered gruesome torture throughout their bondage at Ava tailoring shop in Kyauktada

township until they were returned to their parents. According to reports, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission brokered a compensation of K5 million between the abusers and the abused.

Now that MNHRC's name is mud across social media, activists, as well as the legal community, have called for justice by denouncing the commission's handling of the domestic abuse case as a monetary victory over legal protection.

THE FIRST RUSSIA-ASEAN UNIVERSITY FORUM

Professor Chaw Chaw Sein

MY trip to Vladivostok, located in Far East, Russia is to participate in Russia-ASEAN University Forum, which was organized by two Russian top universities—the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) and the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU). It was a two-day forum and was held in Vladivostok, Russia Far East from 1st September to 2nd September 2016. The campus, FEFU was chosen as a venue since the APEC Summit was hosted by Russia in 2012. The campus has become the traditional location for the Eastern Economic Forum, the annual Pacific International Tourism Expo (PITE) and other international event. The forum was held together with Eastern Economic Forum, which was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin and high-level officials and business communities around the world.

Let me share some interesting points about Far East. Since 2000, the term, "Far East" has been increasingly used to signify the Far Eastern federal district, which is made up of nine territories with the constitutional status of federal subject. Although the Far East occupies more than one-third of Russia's total area, it has only about six million residents. Under the former Soviet Union, the region had very limited economic and human ties with the outside world. Nikita Khrushchev (the then President of Soviet Union) visited to Sakhalin in 1959 and Vladivostok was a chance in the context of his attempt to decentralize the Soviet economy. He famously promised that Vladivostok would be the second San Francisco someday. For

most of the Soviet period, the Far East existed virtually isolated from the international environment. However, the situation changed in 1990s when the Soviet Union collapsed. In 1990s, the Russian Far East enjoyed almost full liberalization in its external relations, especially in trade. While in the 1990s, Moscow almost completely neglected the Russian Far East, largely leaving the region to its own devices.

However, under President Putin, the central government began to reassert its influence, including in the area of the region's external links. The government even adopted a special program under the title "Vladivostok City as a Center for International Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific." In May 2012, President Putin created a special government ministry for the development of Far East. Three bridges appeared in Vladivostok before the APEC Summit 2012. A high level bridge over the Golden Horn connected the Center of Vladivostok with the Mys Chukin District and became one of ten largest cable bridges in the world. New bridges decorated seaside city, coughs the fancy of local residents and becomes a new symbol of Vladivostok. The Eastern Economic Forum was first held in 2015. It welcomed more than 15,000 officials, representatives of business and expert communities from 26 countries of Southeast Asia, Europe and America.

After exploring about the Far East, one thing come to my mind is about the Rakhine State, which is periphery of Myanmar. Why can't Myanmar develop the periphery of its own country like Far East of Russia? The answer is very simple. The Rakhine State of Myanmar has ethnic armed rebel-

lion as well as communal violence. Without peace and stability in this area, it is impossible to develop like Far East of Russia. People in Myanmar should take lessons and experience from Russia and China as well. In April 2015, I had an opportunity to participate the study tour on "A Belt and A Road" organized by Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, a think tank of China. The new inland Free Trade Zones of Ningxia (Silk Routes) and Fujian Province (maritime Silk Road) are remarkable showcases of what the "A Belt and A Road" that could mean for neighboring countries that brought into China's new Silk Road diplomacy. Ningxia is a showcase of the effectiveness of China's domestic policy to integrate its Muslim communities. Integration and prosperity are the best solutions to prevent radicalization and extremist movements. The Ningxia Free Trade Zone also combines into Roman, Arabic and Chinese architecture, symbolizing Silk Road Trade between China and Europe via Central Asia.

Let me continue to share information about FEFU campus. It is situated in Vladivostok on scenic Russky Island and was founded only in 2011. However, under the Russia Government Special Program, it quickly became the main educational institution of the region. Over 300,000 students study in 468 majors and courses and beautiful dormitories accommodate 11,000 students and teachers. During the forum, it was also a great opportunity for me to explore the big campus where all the delegations from ASEAN member countries were accommodated.

It was such an exciting trip for me to explore "Far East". It

was a long trip; it took five and half-hours from Yangon to Incheon with Korean Air, nearly two hours from Incheon to Vladivostok with Siberian Air. There were altogether nine delegations representing Myanmar, seven from Ministry of Education and two from Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Permanent Secretary from Ministry of Education led the delegations of education. Let me also share my view on this Russia-ASEAN University Forum. The participants who were invited by Russian government were from ministerial level to director level. All the education ministers of ASEAN member countries were invited to participate. The aim of holding such kind of forum is to establish network between the ASEAN and Russian universities. Ministers for education from Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia participated very actively and discussed future collaboration with Russian universities. This is a good opportunity for all ASEAN universities to grab full scholarships offered by Russian government. The forum is the first ever of Russia-ASEAN University Forum and is also a follow up Russia-ASEAN Summit, held in Sochi in early June 2016 to which our president U Htin Kyaw attended. The Russian government encouraged and funded their Universities to extend research collaborations and exchange of faculties and students.

Although my mother ministry is education, I participated this forum as a representative and member of the Myanmar ISIS, a think tank under Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As representing Myanmar ISIS, I have to speak in special session on "Second Track Dialogue on Security Issues: Contributions of ASEAN and Russian

Experts and Scholars". There were ten speakers in this sessions and I am only a female speaker. I felt honored to conduct as a speaker in representing my country and my University. Almost all the speakers discussed about the role of Russia in the South China Sea, how Russia view on security in Asia-Pacific, the role of think tank in contributing policy recommendation to the respective governments. It was a great opportunity for me to meet with these officials and shared my view on security issues. They are also amazed and impressed with the changes in Myanmar.

I came back with full thought on how can I bridge the Universities in Myanmar with Russia. As a follow up, two delegations from MGIMO visited Myanmar ISIS and my University for future collaboration. Universities in Myanmar are collaborating with many universities around the world especially with China, Japan and Korea. Now it is an opportunity for us to network with another major power country in Far East, Russia. Not to loose the opportunity comparing with other ASEAN universities, voice of Myanmar should also be aired and not to hesitate to participate in the forums hosted by Far East, Russia.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my Ministry and my country for giving me a chance to participate Russia-ASEAN University Forum. My special thanks go to MGIMO and FEFU for providing all the necessary requirements and taking care of me during my stay in Far East. Finally, I would like to put on record the gratitude I owe to the Ministry of Education and University of Yangon as well as Myanmar ISIS for every single arrangement to visit Vladivostok.

Myanmar steps up efforts to develop drug control policy



Officials posing for a group photo at the consultation on Drug Control Policy. PHOTO: MNA

THE first Inter-governmental Consultation on Drug Control Policy, jointly-organised by the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, Chairman of the CCDAC Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe said that the narcotic drugs problem is a national security

challenge for world's nations.

Expressing his hope for the successful adoption of the country's drug control policy, the Union minister stressed the need for the participation of CSOs, academic institutions, practitioners, experts and drug victims in the fight against drug abuse.

Next, the CCDAC made a presentation of an action plan to develop drug control policy and

UNODC presented a talk on the role of stakeholders in drafting the policy. This was followed by suggestions of those present.

Also present at the ceremony were Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, members of the policy drafting leading committee, deputy ministers, the Chief of the Myanmar Police Force, officials from UN agencies and guests.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Mandalay Brokerage House introduces guaranteed sale program for rice trading



Rice sold with guarantee system being seen. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

THE Mandalay Brokerage House, which facilitates trading in the rice market in Mandalay, will provide rice traders with a guaranteed sale program, said U Kyaw Min Htay, secretary of the brokerage house.

According to the executive committee of the trading centre, the commission fee is set at K50 per half bag of rice to process the trade.

As the House guarantees the seller will receive the money from buyers, possible money problems between buyers and sellers will be avoided, said the secretary. According to sources, it is difficult for rice sellers from rural areas, out of Mandalay, to get a guarantee on their rice sales.— *Aung Thant Khaing*

Japan, UNICEF team to strengthen protection of women and children

THE Government of Japan has contributed approximately US\$ 2.2 million to UNICEF to assist women and children's protection throughout Myanmar, it has been learned.

Using the contribution, UNICEF, in partnership with the Union government, will work to both prevent and respond to cases of gender based violence, as well as contribute to the on-going development and capacity building of key government departments and civil society groups, namely through the provision of quality social work.

"The prevention of violence against children based on gender is challenging Myanmar dramatically". The training and capacity building for social workers will help tackle this challenge. I also believe these measures will benefit the whole of society long after the completion of the programme," said Tateshi Higuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar.

Activities to be undertaken

through this partnership will also enhance the capacity of law enforcement and justice systems to provide child friendly and gender sensitive approaches when working with children in contact with the law.

The contributions from Japan will also reportedly reach out to the most vulnerable adolescent girls and boys in conflict areas to promote their life-skills and their capacity to address the risks they face on a daily basis.

"Important efforts are made by the Government and civil society to respond to violence against women and children. However, there are important gaps that require urgent technical and financial assistance. This contribution will help bridge those gaps, transforming the lives of thousands of children, and empowering girls so that they can better protect themselves from increased risks, including in conflict-affected areas," said Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF Representative to Myanmar.— *GNLM*



Japanese ambassador presenting donations to UNICEF Representative. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Lawsuit filed against owners of Ava tailoring...

>> From page 1

The settlement of the case through compensation has sparked public debate and the MNHRC has been criticised for not taking serious action.

"The agreement that came out from negotiations between the two sides was done in accordance with the right vested in the commission. The duties and rights of the human rights commission are to investigate cases accordingly, to report some cases to the ministries concerned, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, to probe into some cases, and to give suggestions to authorities. The commission has no right to make decision over the cases," said U Zaw Win.— *Zaw Gyi*



The abused maids seen with the scars. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

Mobile medical teams provide health care to people in Shan State

THE Ministry of Health has sent its mobile medical teams to remote areas to provide health care service to the people.

The mobile medical team in Shan State is currently touring two villages per month, providing medical care to villagers.

According to the mobile team, the major problem of the villagers is that they can not easily access to health care centres due to poor infrastructures.

"The route is very bad during rainy season often with dangerous landslides," a villager.

Dr Maung Maung Thein, Medical Officer of Hopone

Township, said the most common cases for adults are kidney problems due to unpurified water consumption and high blood pressure, and for children is seasonal cold.

The team has provided the basic medical care to the villagers and disseminated the knowledge on health and advised them to change their lifestyles such as using adequate salt, less oil and a diet without artificial sweeteners.

Local authorities have already sent a request letter to the Ministry of Health for opening rural health care center in the village.— *Kay Khaing*



London rabbi Julia Neuberger poses for a photograph with the old German passport of her grandmother, Hermine Sara Rosenthal, at the West London Synagogue in London, Britain, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brexit prompts some Jewish Britons to reconcile with German roots

LONDON — For London rabbi Julia Neuberger, Britain's vote to leave the European Union has had a very personal impact: she has decided to seek German citizenship, laying to rest her family's painful legacy of the Nazi era.

Neuberger is among a significant number of Jewish Britons whose dismay over Brexit has led them to invoke a German law allowing people stripped of German citizenship by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945, and their descendants, to have it restored.

"It was Brexit that tipped me off, but now in my mid-60s I feel like I've made my peace with Germany and this step will only take me closer," said Neuberger, whose mother left Germany for Britain in 1937 to escape Nazi persecution of the Jews. Now, a German passport

holds the promise of a future with full access to the EU and its practical benefits such as freedom to travel, live and work anywhere in a bloc that has 27 other nations — rights that Britons may no longer enjoy after Brexit is enacted.

Some of Britain's estimated 260,000 Jews remain implacably opposed to the idea, and for Neuberger too the decision to apply for German citizenship taps into deep emotional baggage due to the weight of history.

"My daughter asked 'why would you want to do this after all they did to us?'," said Neuberger, senior rabbi at the West London Synagogue and a member of the House of Lords, the upper chamber of the British parliament. "But there is some German in me after all and it goes very deep."

Neuberger, whose application is being processed, still has her maternal grandparents' old German passports. Their covers bear a black eagle with outstretched wings perched on a swastika, and the first inside pages are stamped with a red "J" for Jew. It is a remarkable twist of history that Jews who lost family members in the Holocaust are now using such old documents to obtain modern Germany's maroon-coloured passports. Germany's Foreign Ministry said that since the Brexit referendum in June, the London embassy had received about 400 inquiries about how to apply for German citizenship under article 116 of the country's post-war Basic Law, and about 100 applications. That compares with about 20 inquiries per year previously.—*Reuters*

G-7 countries vow to take steps in response to North Korean provocations

NEW YORK — The foreign ministers of the Group of Seven countries pledged on Tuesday to coordinate and take effective measures in responding to a series of North Korean provocations, including its fifth nuclear test earlier this month despite international opposition.

"Cooperation by China and Russia are important. I want to make use of the G-7 joint statement and call on" the two countries for their support in seeking a new UN Security Council resolution to impose tougher sanctions on North Korea, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters after chairing a meeting with his G-7 counterparts in New York.

The joint statement released after the G-7 meeting said, "Sharing deepening concerns over the recent developments in North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programmes, we stress our determination to take further significant

measures in effective response to provocations by North Korea."

They condemned "in the strongest terms" North Korea's latest nuclear test conducted 9 September. The nuclear test followed one in January and came on the heels of more than 20 ballistic missile launches this year. The foreign ministers of the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, as well as the European Union — issued the statement as they gathered on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

Aside from North Korea, the G-7 foreign ministers also voiced "opposition to any unilateral actions that raise regional tensions" and expressed "concern over recent incidents that have occurred in the East China Sea," in an apparent reference to the heightened presence of Chinese government vessels around the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands.

Some of the vessels, spotted along with hundreds of Chinese fishing boats, entered Japanese territorial waters around the uninhabited islets, claimed by China which calls them Diaoyu.

Regarding the situation in the contested waters of the South China Sea, where China is proceeding with land reclamation and building outposts for military purposes, the ministers expressed "strong opposition." The ministers said a UN-backed tribunal's decision on 12 July that invalidated China's claims to almost all of the waters is a "useful basis for further efforts to peacefully resolve disputes in the South China Sea."

China rejects the decision and says the dispute in the South China Sea with five other smaller claimants should be resolved bilaterally, not multilaterally, and without the interference of non-claimant countries such as the United States and Japan.—*Kyodo News*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air raid kills several medical workers, insurgents near Aleppo: monitors

BEIRUT — An air raid carried out overnight by Syrian or Russian warplanes killed four medical workers and at least nine rebel fighters near Aleppo, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said on Wednesday.

The raid hit the town of Khan Touman southwest of Aleppo city, an area controlled by insurgents. The British-based Observatory said the rebels killed were from the Islamist alliance Jaish al-Fatah.

The medical staff killed were working for the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organisations (UOSSM), it said. UOSSM confirmed in a statement that four of its staff had been killed.—*Reuters*

Moscow says Russian and Syrian planes did not strike Aleppo aid convoy

MOSCOW — The Russian Defence Ministry said on Tuesday that neither Russian nor Syrian war planes had struck a humanitarian convoy near Aleppo the previous day, saying the convoy's whereabouts had only been known to militants on the ground.

The Syrian Red Crescent said the head of one of its local offices and "around 20 civilians" were killed in the attack. The US State Department said it was "outraged" by the bombing and would be raising the matter directly with Russia.

Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for the Russian military, denied any Russian involvement in the attack in a statement read out on the state-run Rossiya 24 TV channel on Tuesday however.

"All information on the whereabouts of the convoy was available only to the militants controlling these areas," Konashenkov said.

That appeared to contradict a statement by UN humanitarian aid spokesman Jens Laerke, who told reporters in Geneva earlier on Tuesday, that Russia had been notified about the convoy in advance.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier on Tuesday made a series of gloomy comments on Syria, saying the situation was "a source of great concern" and that there was little hope for a renewal of a ceasefire there.—*Reuters*

Flash floods in Indonesia kill 20; rescuers hunt for missing

GARUT (Indonesia) — Indonesian search and rescue teams worked on Wednesday to find victims of flash floods that killed 20 people and damaged hundreds of homes, authorities said.

The floods hit the Garut area, about 200 km (125 miles) southeast of the capital, Jakarta, on Tuesday after torrential rain.

"We've reported that we found 20 bodies and we've identified 15 of them," said Endah Trisnawati, a member of a police disaster victims identification unit. It was not clear how many people were missing but some officials in the area said it could be up to 15. Some media reported 20 people were unaccounted for. Authorities said search and rescue operations would go on.—*Reuters*

Vucic meets with Stoltenberg, soon to visit NATO headquarters

NEW YORK — Serbian PM Aleksandar Vucic will soon visit NATO's Brussels headquarters, Vucic and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg agreed on Tuesday.

Vucic and Stoltenberg met on the fringes of a UNGA session in New York to discuss the situation in the Western Balkan region.

Reacting to a statement by NATO General Petr Pavel that the Balkans remained a potential source of war conflicts, Vucic had said on Sunday he wanted to speak with Stoltenberg as soon as possible.

In an interview to the RTS, Vucic said he was disappointed with Pavel's statement because Serbia was not threatening anyone.

Serbia does not want any fighting or conflicts, but to develop as a country, Vucic said.—*Tanjug*

India to merge rail budget with union budget — govt source

NEW DELHI — The cabinet on Wednesday approved the merger of the railway budget with the annual budget, a government source said, ending almost a century-long practice.

India's use of a railway budget separate from the national one is a relic of its colonial past, when the network was the country's major industrial asset and a major revenue earner.

Separately, the cabinet has given its approval to merge the plan and non-plan expenditure distinctions in the annual budget, Steel Minister Birender Singh told reporters.—*Reuters*

US portrays NY bomb suspect as jihadist who praised bin Laden

NEW YORK — Federal prosecutors on Tuesday charged the Afghan-born man suspected of weekend bombings in New York and New Jersey with 10 counts including use of weapons of mass destruction, portraying him as a jihadist who begged for martyrdom and praised Osama bin Laden.

The suspect, Ahmad Khan Rahami, bought bomb components on eBay, made a video of himself testing out homemade explosives, and kept a journal expressing outrage at the US “slaughter” of mujahideen in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Palestine, federal officials allege.

“Inshallah (God willing), the sounds of bombs will be heard in the streets. Gun shots to your police. Death to your oppression,” Rahami, who came to the United States at age 7, wrote in a journal he was carrying when arrested.

Rahami was apprehended on Monday in Linden, New Jersey,



A still image captured from a video from WABC television shows a conscious man believed to be New York bombing suspect Ahmad Khan Rahami being loaded into an ambulance after a shoot-out with police in Linden, New Jersey, US, on 19 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

after a shootout with police that left him with multiple gunshot wounds. He was listed in critical but stable condition on Tuesday, and police had not yet been able to interview him in depth, New York Police Commissioner James O’Neill said. Federal prosecutors

from separate districts in New York and New Jersey charged him with four and six counts respectively.

In addition to leaving the bomb that exploded on Saturday evening in the Manhattan district of Chelsea that wounded 31 peo-

ple, they allege he planted a pipe bomb on the New Jersey shore that injured no one when it exploded on Saturday morning.

He also is accused of planting another pressure-cooker bomb in Chelsea that failed to explode, and multiple devices at a train station in Elizabeth, New Jersey. One of those exploded as a bomb squad robot attempted to defuse it.

The charging documents and accompanying sworn statements from Federal Bureau of Investigation agents offer the first official explanation of what they believe to be the bomber’s motive.

As the charges were made public, the White House for the first time said it appeared the attacks were an act of terrorism. Earlier in the investigation, officials had withheld such an assessment until they could discern a motive.

“It does appear this was an act of terrorism,” White House

spokesman Josh Earnest said during a press briefing in New York City.

At least one victim in the Chelsea blast was knocked unconscious and another hospitalised to remove ball bearings from her body, metal fragmentation from her ear and wood shards from her neck, the charging documents say.

Surveillance video from the bomb scenes and fingerprints on unexploded devices also point to Rahami, according to the documents.

The three counts of using weapons of mass destruction, one from New York and two from New Jersey, each carry a maximum sentence of life in prison. In addition to the federal charges, New Jersey state prosecutors from Union County have charged Rahami with five counts of attempted first-degree murder for firing at police officers and two second-degree weapons counts.—Reuters

Russian aircraft believed to hit Syria convoy, US officials say

UNITED NATIONS/BEIRUT — The United States believes two Russian aircraft attacked an aid convoy near Aleppo in a strike that shattered a one-week truce, US officials said on Tuesday, but Russia denied involvement.

Despite the military blame game over Monday’s deadly attack, diplomats struggled to save the US-Russian ceasefire agreement that took effect on 12 September. The incident, in which 18 trucks from a 31-vehicle convoy

were destroyed, looked likely to deal a death blow to diplomatic efforts to halt a civil war now in its sixth year.

Two Russian Sukhoi SU-24 warplanes were in the skies above the aid convoy at the exact time it was struck late on Monday, two US officials told Reuters, citing US intelligence that led them to conclude Russia was to blame.

Russia’s foreign ministry spokeswoman denied the assertion, telling reporters at the Unit-

ed Nations the US administration “has no facts” to support the claim, adding: “We have nothing to do with this situation.”

Ben Rhodes, a deputy US national security adviser, said the White House held Russia responsible for what he called an “enormous humanitarian tragedy” but he did not address whether the attack was carried out by Russian aircraft.

Earlier Russia, which denied its aircraft or those of its Syrian

government allies were involved, had said it believed the convoy was not struck from the air at all but had caught fire because of some incident on the ground.

The Syrian Red Crescent said the head of one of its local offices and “around 20 civilians” had been killed, although other death tolls differed. The attack prompted the United Nations to suspend all aid shipments into Syria.

Senior officials from 23 nations emerged from a one-hour

meeting on Syria at a New York luxury hotel with little more than an agreement to meet again, on Friday, about how to end a conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands and driven millions from their homes.

They also differed on the chances of renewing the ceasefire.

“The ceasefire is not dead,” US Secretary of State John Kerry said after the meeting, which he hosted with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.—Reuters

As peace nears, Colombia’s FARC rebels reunite with lost families

YARI PLAINS, (Colombia) — Tatiana, her pregnant belly bulging beneath a T-shirt decorated with the FARC rebel group’s logo, leans down to stroke her teenage son’s hair, as if to reassure herself he is really beside her.

The 36-year-old mother-to-be is a 19-year veteran of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) which will sign a peace deal with the government next week to end a 52-year war.

As rebel delegates from across the country gather on the Yari Plains in southern Colombia for a meeting to ratify the accord, the rank and file are preparing to hand in their weapons and return to families many have not seen for decades.

Tatiana’s baby boy, due in December, will have a very different life from his 17-year-old half-brother, who was able to visit his mother for the first time since he was two.

“Things have been much more joyful this time,” said Tati-

ana, as she sat in her camp lean-to next to Omar, her 28-year-old partner. “I am very happy.”

Tatiana had her first son, who declined to be interviewed, at 19, two years after joining the FARC. He was raised by her brother away from military bombing raids and ambushes.

The shy teenager, who often touched his mother’s hand or put an arm around her, grinned ruefully when Tatiana urged him to go back to school. She joined the rebels in part because her poor parents could not fund an education.

Her current pregnancy was unintentional. Rebel couples must seek permission from their commanders to have sexual relations, and guerrilla doctors often perform abortions. Babies can usually only be carried to term if a relative will take them in.

Now a final signature on the deal is near, FARC couples have begun to look forward to once-forbidden parenthood.



Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia’s (FARC) Tatiana, 36-year-old and six months pregnant, sits next to her husband and gifts for the baby at a camp where the FARC will ratify a peace deal with the Colombian government, near El Diamante in Yari Plains, Colombia, on 17 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

“It’s only now we’re thinking of it as possible,” said Yefferson, 36, who has been with his partner Patricia for six years. “We want a family where we can educate our children, where they can be pro-

fessionals. We don’t want them to live through what we have lived through.”

Despite his first child’s impending arrival, Omar said he is still committed to the Marxist

cause and would return to fight if the peace accord falls through.

“If the government does not hold its part of the deal and we have to leave our son, then we will leave him.”—Reuters

Protest erupts after police kill black man in North Carolina

CHARLOTTE (N.C.) — Protesters blocked a highway and clashed with police in Charlotte, North Carolina, early on Wednesday morning after officers fatally shot a black man they said had a gun when they approached him in a parking lot.

About a dozen officers and several protesters suffered non-life threatening injuries during an hours-long demonstration near where Keith Lamont Scott, 43, was shot by a policeman on Tuesday afternoon, police and local media said on social media.

Early Wednesday morning, protesters blocked Interstate 85, where they stole boxes from trucks and started fires before police used flash grenades in an attempt to disperse the angry crowd, an ABC affiliate in Charlotte reported.

Earlier in the evening, police in riot gear reportedly used



Police officers wearing riot gear block a road during protests after police fatally shot Keith Lamont Scott in the parking lot of an apartment complex in Charlotte, North Carolina, US on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tear gas on protesters who threw rocks and water bottles at them as they wielded large sticks and blocked traffic. One officer was

sent to the hospital after being struck in the head by a rock, police said.

Charlotte Mayor Jennifer

Roberts urged for calm.

"The community deserves answers and (a) full investigation will ensue," she said on Twitter, adding in a subsequent post, "I want answers too."

Scott was shot by officer Brentley Vinson earlier in the day, according to Charlotte-Mecklenburg police. The shooting occurred when officers were at an apartment complex searching for a suspect with an outstanding warrant and they saw Scott get out of his vehicle with a firearm, the department said.

Vinson fired his weapon and struck Scott, who "posed an imminent deadly threat to the officers," the department said in a statement. Vinson, who joined the Charlotte police force in July 2014, is black, according to the department. He has been placed on paid administrative leave.—Reuters

World leaders must show us the money to hit goals on poverty, inequality

LONDON — World leaders need to ramp up investment to achieve a set of global goals agreed a year ago to combat poverty, inequality, and make the world a safer place by 2030, according to a key adviser on the United Nation's blueprint for the future. Jeffrey Sachs, a Columbia University economist, is special adviser to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) signed by the UN's 193 member states in a blaze of publicity with backing from the Pope to Shakira. But a year on and studies are giving poor progress reports to the ambitious, broad set of 17 goals with 169 targets that were adopted after three years of brainstorming.

A UN report this month warned the world was set to miss the 2030 deadline to ensure all children had access to secondary education by more than 50 years due to a lack of funding.

A series of modeled estimates published by medical journal *The Lancet* said unequal access to health services and poor quality care for pregnant women threatened to sideline a goal to cut maternal deaths by 68 per cent to 70 per 1,000 live births.

Sachs said the knowledge was there to solve some of the world's most pressing problems — to bring maternal deaths down to near zero, save millions of children every year, and to decarbonize the energy system — but not the investment.

"What we don't have is the attention span, the systems, the politics, to shift a modest amount of our annual output in the direction needed," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview.—Reuters

Pope Francis and world religious leaders vow to oppose terrorism in the name of God

ASSISI, (Italy) — Pope Francis and leaders of other world religions said "No to War!" on Tuesday, vowing to oppose terrorism in God's name and appealing to politicians to listen to "the anguished cry of so many innocents".

Francis flew by helicopter to the central Italian hilltop city that was home to St. Francis, the 13th century saint revered by many religions as a patron of peace and nature and a defender of the poor.

The head of the Roman Catholic Church closed a three-day meeting where about 500 representatives of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism and other faiths discussed how their members could better

promote peace and reconciliation.

Francis, who delivered two addresses and shared meals with the leaders, said indifference to suffering had become "a new and deeply sad paganism" that caused some to turn away from war victims and refugees with the same ease as changing a television channel.

Near the end of the gathering, members of each religion prayed in a separate locations and then joined each other in a square outside the famous pink stone basilica where St. Francis is buried.

Prayers were said for the victims of war, including in Syria and Afghanistan, and for the refugees fleeing the conflicts. A woman refugee from Aleppo now living in Italy told the pope at final

gathering "my heart is in tatters".

"Only peace is holy, and not war," the Argentine-born pontiff said.

Francis, leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics, prayed in the basilica with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, spiritual leader of the world's 80 million Anglicans, and Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual leader of up to 300 million Orthodox Christians around the globe.

In a final appeal that key representatives signed and gave to children from around the world, they vowed "to oppose every form of violence and abuse of religion which seeks to justify war and terrorism."

"No to war! May the anguished cry of the many innocents

not go unheeded. Let us urge leaders of nations to defuse the causes of war: the lust for power and money, the greed of arms' dealers, personal interests and vendettas for past wrongs," the appeal said.

The narrow, cobblestone paths of Assisi echoed with the sound of different languages when Shinto priests in red-and-white robes crossed paths with rabbis in black and Muslims in white as each group converged outside St. Francis Basilica to join the Christians.

Speaking during the Christian service, Francis said the world could not ignore "our brothers and sisters, who live under the threat of bombs and are forced to leave their homes into the unknown, stripped of everything".—Reuters

South African police clash with protesters at Wits University

JOHANNESBURG — South African police fired stun grenades and arrested 31 students in clashes at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand on Tuesday, as countrywide protests demanding free tertiary education entered a third week.

Demonstrations this year and in 2015 over the cost of university education — prohibitive for many black students — have highlighted frustration at the inequalities that persist more than two decades after the 1994 end of white minority rule.

The current protests were

triggered by a government recommendation that 2017 tuition fee increases be capped at 8 per cent — above South Africa's current inflation rate of 6 per cent.

Critics have said the increase would further disadvantage black students already under-represented.

Several students hurled rocks at the main building of the university known as "Wits", shattering windows, after they were prevented from entering by private security guards who retaliated by throwing rocks back at the students.—Reuters



Students take part in a protest at University of the Witwatersrand as countrywide protests demanding free tertiary education entered a third week, Johannesburg, South Africa, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Suzlon wants to raise \$3 billion for Australian wind farms by 2020

MELBOURNE — India's Suzlon Energy Ltd is seeking Australian partners to develop local wind farms as it taps a surge in global investor appetite for green energy assets after the Paris climate agreement, its managing director said on Wednesday.

The wind-turbine maker plans to raise \$3 billion to co-develop the projects in Australia out to 2020, as global investors like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley look to ramp up exposure to geographically diverse renewable assets.

"Our plans for the next five years is to join hands with the local developer and we will start co-devel-

opment with them, then we need a local partner for the construction. Then we will offer to the customer the total solution," Suzlon's Chairman and Managing Director Tulsii Tanti told Reuters.

"Over the next five years we target to build in Australia a minimum of 2 gigawatt (GW)....the total investment will be \$3 billion (A\$4 billion)."

Global investors' thirst for renewable projects has grown since the Paris agreement in December that obligates states to take concrete measures to curb emissions that contribute to climate change. The agreement was ratified by the US and China

earlier this month.

Suzlon, which already has a footprint in 19 countries, anticipates it will attempt a similar strategy in Canada, Brazil, New Zealand and parts of Eastern Europe, to boost exports of turbines and gain exposure for its investors in a broad array of renewable assets, said Tanti.

"Everybody has a target of at least five countries," he said. In Australia, Suzlon has installed 764 megawatts of wind energy generation, around a fifth of the market share. Globally it has around 15 GW, which it expects to expand to 35 GW by 2020, he said. —Reuters



Maintenance engineers work on top of a power generating wind turbine at Suzlon wind farm in Surajbari village, about 275 km west of Ahmedabad, on 14 December, 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS



British Prime Minister Theresa May addresses the United Nations General Assembly in the Manhattan borough of New York, US, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

UK not turning away from world after Brexit vote, PM May tells United Nations

UNITED NATIONS — British Prime Minister Theresa May told leaders on Tuesday that her country will not turn away from the world after the shock vote to leave the European Union, seeking to allay fears over the future unity of the West.

In her maiden speech to the United Nations General Assembly, May sketched her views on how to deal with terrorism, mass migration and modern slavery while also calling for modernisation of the 71-year-old organisation.

"When the British people voted to leave the EU, they did not vote to turn inwards or walk away from any of our partners in the world," May told the General Assembly.

"The United Kingdom has always been an outward-facing, global partner at the heart of international efforts to secure peace and prosperity for all our people. And that is how we will remain."

The 23 June vote took many investors and chief executives by surprise, triggering the deepest political and financial turmoil in Britain since World War II and the biggest ever one-day fall in sterling against the dollar.

Britain's allies fear that its exit from the EU could mark a turning point in post-Cold War international affairs that will weaken the West in relation to China and Russia, undermine efforts towards European integration and hurt global free trade.

Britain retains its role in the NATO military alliance as the EU's biggest defence spender, its permanent veto-wielding seat on the UN Security Council and four submarines armed with nuclear ballistic missiles. But some diplomats and CEOs are worried that Brexit could torpedo Britain's economic interests and clout, a suggestion that riles British ministers.—Reuters

New Zealand posts record migrants, but key sectors missing out

WELLINGTON — New Zealand's immigration boom struck a record with 125,000 newcomers landing in the 12 months through August, yet shortages of skilled labour in hot sectors like tech and construction is fuelling criticism of government policies.

The latest data, released on Wednesday by the statistics office, will likely

add to the growing calls for the government to do more to attract the right kind of workers needed to fill jobs in the Pacific nation.

The country's centre-left opposition party, rather than conservatives, has led that criticism, and in July even the central bank called for a review of migration policies. "The key issue around migration is

what is the — for want of a better word — the quality of the people that we bring in," Reserve Bank of New Zealand governor Graeme Wheeler told a news conference last month, reinforcing the call for a review.

"What are the skills they're bringing in and can they add value to the economy?" he added.

Foreigners with expe-

rience in areas on the country's skill shortage list had a better chance of gaining a work visa and residency, which offered benefits such as the country's free public health services.

However, only eight per cent of work visas went to people on that list, according to Immigration Minister Michael Woodhouse.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HIJAU SAMUDERA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HIJAU SAMUDERA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NOBLE SW VOY. NO (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE SW VOY. NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

Pitt expresses sadness over Jolie divorce filing as Hollywood power couple splits

LOS ANGELES — Actress Angelina Jolie has filed for a divorce from actor Brad Pitt, her husband of two years and romantic partner since 2005, her attorney said on Tuesday, signalling the end of one of Hollywood's most glamorous and powerful couples.

"This decision was made for the health of the family. She will not be commenting, and asks that the family be given its privacy at this time," attorney Robert Offer said in a statement.

The Oscar-winning actress filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday, citing irreconcilable differences, court documents showed. Jolie sought full physical custody of their six children ages 8 to 15 with visitation rights for Pitt but did not seek spousal support. Jolie cited their separation date as 15 September.

"I am very saddened by this but what matters most now is the well-being of our kids," Pitt told *People* magazine. "I kindly ask the press to give them the space they deserve during this challenging time."

Jolie and Pitt, known collectively as "Brangelina," were one of the entertainment world's most visible couples, due to their



Actor Brad Pitt and actress/director Angelina Jolie pose at the AFI Awards 2014 honouring excellence in film and television in Beverly Hills, California, US, on 9 January 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

good looks, successful films and activism. They married in 2014 after a decade together.

Their relationship was steady fodder for tabloids with reports focusing on what role Jolie played in the breakup of Pitt's marriage to actress Jennifer Aniston and, more recently, possible trouble in the marriage.

Media commentators react-

ed with surprise and sadness to the news. "Today shall go down as the day love died," *Vogue* magazine said in an online report on the couple's split.

Social media buzzed with #brangelina mentioned roughly 720 times per minute on Twitter, more than triple mentions for the United Nations General Assembly, according to analytics firm Zoomph.

Jolie, 41, who won a best-supporting actress Oscar for "Girl, Interrupted" in 2000, was previously married to actors Jonny Lee Miller and Billy Bob Thornton.

Pitt, 52, was married to Aniston in 2003 when he and Jolie filmed "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," the story of assassins unknowingly assigned to kill each other. There were reports of an affair, but Jolie told *Vogue* they were only "very, very good friends" until Pitt and Aniston split in 2005.

Before their August 2014 wedding at their French estate, Jolie and Pitt had said they would not wed until same-sex couples were allowed to marry.

While Pitt and Jolie won praise for their on-screen chemistry in "Mr. & Mrs. Smith,"

their most recent film collaboration, "By the Sea," last year was about a married couple drifting apart. Jolie wrote and directed the latter.

Jolie has been estranged from her father, actor Jon Voight, but he told "Inside Edition" he was concerned about the divorce filing. "It's very sad," he said. "Something very serious must have happened for Angelina to make a decision like this."

Peter Walzer, a California attorney who represented actress Katie Holmes in her divorce from superstar Tom Cruise, said in a phone interview it was unusual Jolie sought sole physical custody of the children and it was equivalent to saying Pitt was not competent to be a parent. "It's an insult," Walzer said.

Jolie had an offbeat reputation early in her career but has taken on humanitarian causes and was named a special envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

She travelled to Afghanistan, Sudan, Tanzania, Iraq and Jordan to

call attention to the plight of refugees and the underprivileged.

The couple started a foundation to finance reconstruction of homes in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Together they started the Jolie-Pitt Foundation in 2006 to help charities worldwide.

Their children include sons adopted from Cambodia and Viet Nam and a daughter adopted from Ethiopia, as well as three biological children. To encourage other women, Jolie spoke out publicly about elective surgeries in 2013 and 2015 to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes as a preventive measure due to a family history of cancer. —Reuters



'L.A. Confidential' director Curtis Hanson found dead at California home

LOS ANGELES — Movie director Curtis Hanson, who won an Oscar for "L.A. Confidential", was found dead in his California home on Tuesday, the Los Angeles Police Department said. He was 71.

Paramedics found Hanson at his Hollywood Hills home at about 5 pm local time (0000 GMT). Hanson, who was pronounced dead at the scene, died of natural causes, a police spokeswoman said.

He had retired in recent years due to Alzheimer's, according to Variety.com.

Hanson, along with Brian Koppelman, won an Oscar in 1997 for best writing for their adapted screenplay of the novel of the same name by James Ellroy.

As a producer of the stylish 1997 period film, Hanson also shared the nomination for best picture and was nominated for best director. "L.A. Confidential" won an Oscar for actress Kim Basinger and was nominated for its cinematography, art direction, sound, editing and score.

The film reproduced '50s Los Angeles, from the streets to the costumes, and Hanson used an ensemble cast that also included Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce, James Cromwell,



Curtis Hanson. PHOTO: REUTERS

Danny DeVito and David Strathairn.

"Curtis Hanson's resplendently wicked 'L.A. Confidential' is a tough, gorgeous, vastly entertaining throwback to the Hollywood that did things right," *The New York Times* said. The film was a popular success, grossing \$126 million worldwide, according to Variety. Hanson followed "L.A. Confidential" with the popular comedy "Wonder Boys," adapted by Steve Kloves from the novel by Michael Chabon about an English professor, played by Michael Douglas, who is under pressure to finish his book amid a literary festival in Pittsburgh. —Reuters

Blunt embraces dark, damaged protagonist in 'Girl on the Train'

LONDON — Happily married with two young children, actress Emily Blunt relished the opportunity to play a divorced, alcoholic, damaged protagonist in her latest thriller, "The Girl on the Train."

Blunt, married to actor John Krasinski and known for embracing comedy in "The Devil Wears Prada," "The Five-Year Engagement" and "Into the Woods" told Reuters that she wanted the challenge of portraying something darker.

"It's just to do something else and something incredibly damaged and unsettling," the actress said on the train track-themed carpet at the film's London premiere on Tuesday. In "The Girl on the Train," based on Paula Hawkins' novel of the same name and out in theaters on 7 October, Blunt plays Rachel Watson, a lonely woman devastated by divorce and battling alcohol addiction. Infatuated by the seemingly perfect couple (Luke Evans and Haley Bennett) she sees from her daily commuter train that runs past their house, Rachel sees something shocking one day and becomes enraged. Driven by intrigue, passion and suspense, Rachel has a chance to engage

in the lives she has only watched from afar, but the lengths she goes to uncover the truth could lead her to a dangerous situation. "It's a story full of broken people suffering with their own demons and addictions and betrayal and loss and love," Evans said.

Director Tate Taylor, best known for 2011's "The Help," said he was drawn to the exploration of "humanity and the human condition at its worst," and wanted to portray an accurate representation of addiction. "I felt like I had a duty to represent (addiction) properly for all those affected by it," he said. —Reuters

Emily Blunt poses as she arrives at the World premiere of "The Girl on the Train" at Leicester Square in London, Britain, on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lawyer for JonBenet Ramsey family vows to sue CBS over documentary

DENVER — The lawyer for the family of slain child beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey denounced a CBS documentary theorizing she was killed by her brother, Burke, as a “false and unprofessional television attack” and threatened to sue the network for libel.

L. Lin Wood, an Atlanta attorney who said he had successfully other media outlets over similar accusations against Burke Ramsey, branded the programme as a broadcast riddled with “lies, misrepresentations, distortions and omissions.”

“I will be filing a lawsuit on behalf of Burke Ramsey,” Wood told Reuters in a telephone interview. “CBS’ false and unprofessional attacks on this young man are disgusting and revolting.”

The network responded



File photo of Patsy Ramsey and her husband, John Ramsey producing a picture of Jon-Benet Ramsey during a press conference in Atlanta where they released the results of an independent lie detector test in 2000. PHOTO: REUTERS

to Wood with a terse statement: “CBS stands by the broadcast and will do so in court.”

The two-part, four-hour programme aired amid a wave of media coverage surrounding the 20th anniversary of the JonBenet Ramsey case, one of the most sensational unsolved murders in the annals of

American crime.

The body of the blond, blue-eyed girl, who had been beaten and strangled, was found in the basement of her parents’ Boulder, Colorado, home on 26 December, 1996, hours after her parents reported the 6-year-old child missing and a ransom note left in the house.

No one has been charged with her murder. A grand jury voted in 1999 to indict the parents, John and Patsy Ramsey, but then-District Attorney Alex Hunter declined to file charges, citing a lack of evidence.

In the conclusion of the CBS show that aired on Monday, a panel of experts said it was its opinion that Burke Ramsey, who was 9 at the time of the homicide, struck his sister in the head with a heavy object, perhaps

not intending to kill her. The girl’s parents then staged a crime scene to make it appear that an intruder was the culprit, the group of law enforcement, forensic pathologists and other experts concluded.

Wood called CBS “corporate profit mongers” who aired the programme during the September “sweeps” for maximum ratings benefit.

In a recent interview on the “Dr. Phil” talk show, Burke Ramsey, now 29, denied that he harmed his sister, and said he suspected a pedophile who stalked child beauty pageants was the killer.

Wood said a written disclaimer that CBS aired with its show, saying the opinions “represent just some of a number of possible scenarios,” did not go far enough.—*Reuters*

UK’s famed red phone boxes get revamp — as mini-offices

LONDON — Britain’s famous red telephone boxes may no longer be used for their original purpose in an age of smartphones but one company is giving them a makeover — as small offices.

Pod Works is hoping to lure those who sit in coffee bars to work on their laptops to its revamped booths, which boast wifi, plug sockets, a phone, printer, scanner and free coffee and tea.

Once dotting British cities, towns and villages, the red telephone boxes have dwindled in number over the years, replaced by modern booths or simply removed. Some have been turned into libraries or coffee shops.

“We thought it was

a good idea to repurpose these and take them into the 21st century,” Pod Works UK managing director Lorna Moore said.

“The sheer volume of tourists who come and stand by the box and take selfies and photographs indicates just how iconic and important they are.”

Pod Works launched its first such work station in central London’s Russell Square this month and is opening others across the capital, for which membership costs 25 pounds a month. It plans to expand to other British cities in October.

“We’re hoping to have 50 out by Christmas and then this time next year we will have 300 out,” Moore said.

—*Reuters*



A traditional public red phonebox is illuminated by the sun in London in February 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

SMAP to release greatest hits album before farewell

TOKYO, — SMAP, one of Japan’s most popular and longest-lived pop groups, will release a greatest hits album on 21 December — 10 days before its breakup, the group’s record company said Wednesday.

The three-CD boxed album, called “SMAP 25 YEARS,” will consist of around 50 songs chosen by fans through online voting, out of about 400 the group has released since its CD debut in 1991, Victor Enter-

tainment Corp. said.

The voting opened early Wednesday and ends on 4 October.

SMAP will also release a Blu-ray and DVD of its music video and live clip collection on 28 December,

without planning to release a new song, according to Victor. The group caused a brief media frenzy in January when the news of their potential breakup surfaced, before band members said later that month they would stick together.

At the time, fans launched a campaign to express their support through the purchase of CDs of “Sekai ni Hitotsu Dake no Hana” (The Only Flower in the World), SMAP’s best known song, and as a result pushed the 2003 hit song to No. 1 again on a Japanese hit chart. But in August, talent agency Johnny & Associates Inc. said that SMAP will break up on 31 December and all the members — Masahiro Nakai, Takuya Kimura, Tsuyoshi Kusanagi, Goro Inagaki and Shingo Katori — will remain with the agency and focus on solo careers starting next year.

—*Kyodo News*



Photo taken in January 2016 shows pedestrians in Tokyo watching news that pop group SMAP is on the verge of breaking up. SMAP is scheduled to release a greatest hits album on 21 December 2016 — 10 days before its breakup. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

mitv

Myanmar International

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Caves
10:41	Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- II)
10:54	Am	Paper Flower

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

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	To My Dream City (Part- 2)
07:45	Pm	Village Belle
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
08:41	Pm	The 110 th Anniversary of Yangon Zoological Garden
08:53	Pm	Writer

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

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

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

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

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Worth Studying Site for Ancient Myanmar Heritages
07:44	Am	The Eel Business
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
08:47	Am	Myanmar Weaving
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	“Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture” Myanmar Pottery
09:49	Am	Dances of Myanmar
09:53	Am	“Muun Traditional Dance” Kayah

Milan building momentum after 2-0 win over Lazio

MILAN — AC Milan beat visitors Lazio 2-0 to claim consecutive Serie A wins for the first time since February thanks to Carlos Bacca's fifth goal of the season and an M'Baye Niang penalty on Tuesday. Bacca scored before half-time on the break, while Niang converted from the spot late on after handball by Stefan Radu.

New coach Vincenzo Montella's Milan side are gaining momentum having lost twice this season and move up to third on nine points after seeing off Lazio, who are seventh on seven. "The solid spirit we've had for the last two matches is what we need going forward," Milan captain Riccardo Montolivo told Mediaset Premium.

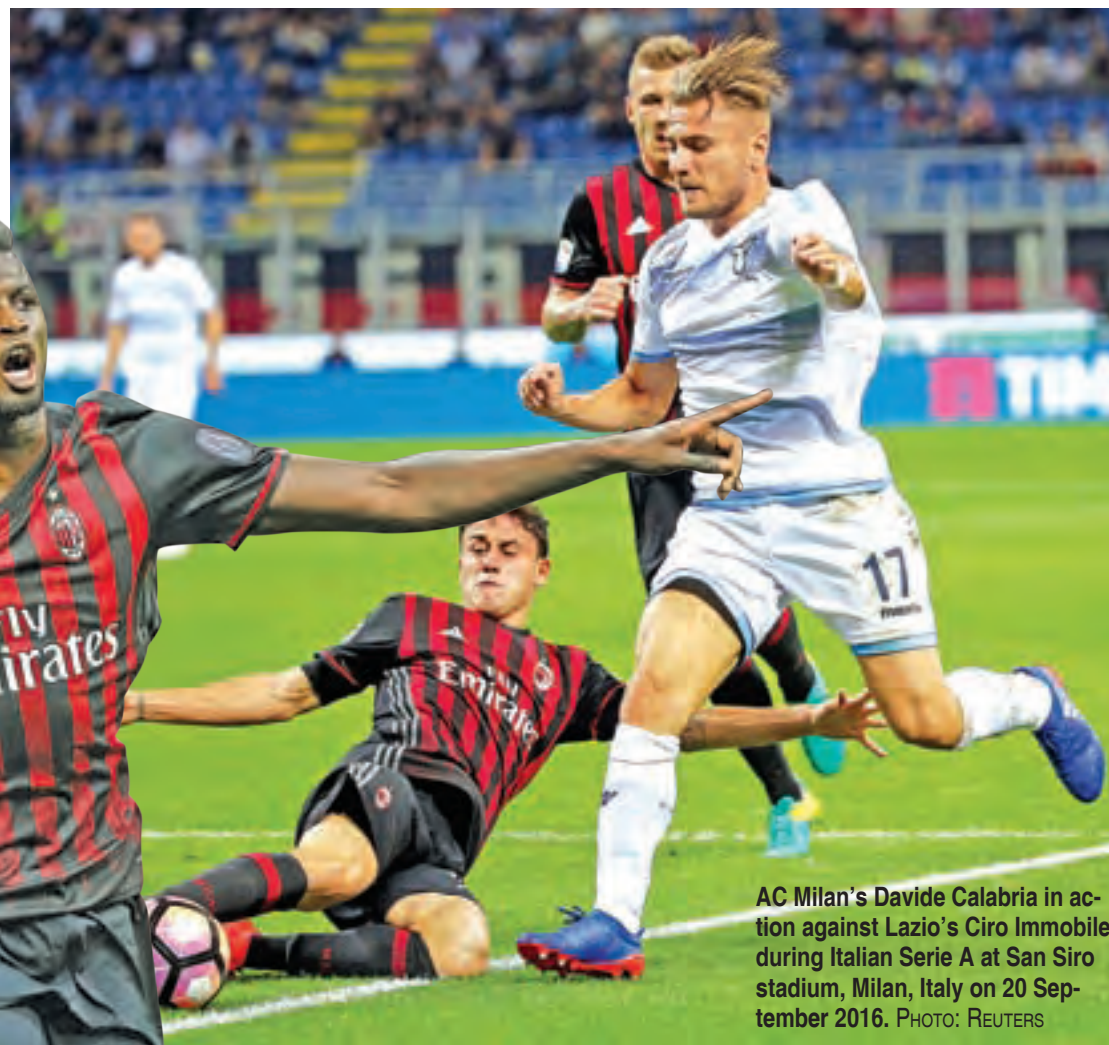
"We did well to be clinical and efficient."

The unerring Bacca stroked the ball past stand-in debutant keeper Thomas Strakosha in the

37th minute after being released through the middle by Juraj Kucka, who quickly capitalised on Marco Parolo's poor control as a Lazio attack broke down.

"We should have taken the lead but instead we conceded a silly goal," said Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi. "We tried to recover the situation but weren't as organised after the break."

Milan could have doubled their lead before halftime when Lazio's backline was exposed by the fleet-footed Suso and the nervous Strakosha was forced to parry the ball clear after the



AC Milan's Davide Calabria in action against Lazio's Ciro Immobile during Italian Serie A at San Siro stadium, Milan, Italy on 20 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Spaniard's cross was deflected goalwards by defender Bastos.

Lazio made two changes at halftime and substitute Keita fired over early on after outmuscling two defenders.

However, the Rome side's wait for a first Serie A win against Milan at the San Siro since 1989 continues.

"We came here and made

Milan play badly, they didn't have any fluid passing moves," Inzaghi added. "We played with character but still lost."

Milan extended their lead through Niang's 74th-minute penalty as the 21-year-old sent Strakosha the wrong way after his cross had been handled by Radu. "(The match) against Fiorentina at the weekend will

be a vital game for European qualification," Montolivo added, "which is an objective we're keen to achieve."

Champions Juventus, beaten 2-1 by Inter Milan on Sunday, host Cagliari in one of nine Serie A matches on Wednesday, while early leaders Napoli visit Genoa and Crotone travel to AS Roma.—Reuters

Fabregas gives Chelsea win at Leicester, Norwich beat Everton

LONDON — Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas gave his manager a reminder of his talents by scoring twice in extra time as they fought back from two goals down to knock Premier League champions Leicester City out of the League Cup 4-2 on Tuesday.

Spaniard Fabregas has played a bit-part role in Antonio Conte's Chelsea side since the start of the season, but produced two neat finishes in the space of two minutes to turn the third-round tie on its head. Record eight-times winners Liverpool eased past Derby County 3-0, while Arsenal enjoyed a 4-0 stroll at Nottingham Forest.

It was a bad night, however, for Premier League sides Everton and Bournemouth, who exited the competition at the hands of second-tier opponents. Everton were dumped out 2-0 at home by Norwich City, while Bournemouth suffered a 3-2 home defeat by Preston North End. In the stand-out fixture, Chelsea seemed to be heading out when Leicester's Shinji Okazaki twice capitalised



Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas celebrates scoring their fourth goal with Gary Cahill during EFL Cup third round at King Power Station, on 20 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

on poor defending to put the Foxes ahead.

But the Chelsea fightback began when Fabregas's corner was headed back across goal and over the line by defender Gary Cahill just before halftime and they equalised with a stunning volley

from Cesar Azpilicueta four minutes after the restart. With extra time approaching, Leicester defender Marcin Wasilewski was sent off for a second yellow card after a clumsy charge into Diego Costa, swinging the momentum Chelsea's way.—Reuters

Tottenham put no time frame on Kane injury

LONDON — Premier League high-flyers Tottenham Hotspur declined to put a time frame on Harry Kane's ankle injury on Tuesday amid speculation that the England striker could be out for two months.

The 23-year-old scored the winner against Sunderland on Sunday but was carried off in the 87th minute after turning his ankle while tackling Papy Djilobodji.

"He has injured his ankle ligaments. We will continue to assess him every day but don't want to put a time frame on it," Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino said on the club's Twitter feed.

Tottenham are third in the league standings, with three

wins from five games, and travel to promoted Middlesbrough on Saturday.

They are also competing in the Champions League again after a five-year absence, with group-stage matches against CSKA Moscow and Bayer Leverkusen on 27 September and 18 October.

A prolonged absence for Kane could also hit England, who have a World Cup qualifier against Scotland at Wembley on 11 November.

Kane ended last season as the Premier League's top scorer with 25 goals, the first Englishman to achieve the feat since Sunderland's Kevin Phillips in 1999-2000.—Reuters