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joint manoeuvres of
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Try to be happy
in the good
fortune of others

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EU opts not to table Myanmar rights motion to UN

THE European Union praised Myanmar's progress from the release of political prisoners to the efforts of the government to address the challenges of Rakhine State and to holding the inclusive Union Peace Conference on Friday. The EU said that it would

not table a human rights resolution on Myanmar at the United Nations for the first time in 25 years.

Addressing the Partnership Group on Myanmar at the United Nations General Assembly, EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica

Mogherini said that the government has taken bold measures to improve human rights and re-invigorate the peace process.

She also praised Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's progress from political prisoner to State Counsellor, saying that the transforma-

tion was a "powerful testimony to the incredible change Myanmar is going through."

In recognition of Myanmar's progress, Mogherini said "Twenty five years is the measure of the incredible distance Myanmar has walked, the measure of how

much your country has changed."

Regarding the Rakhine State issue, she said "We (the European Union) understand the complexity of the situation in Rakhine State, where the European Union is present as a leading donor

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NOW IS THE TIME TO END PGM

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urges to end PGM

THE high-level meeting of the Partnership Group for Peace, Development and Democracy in Myanmar (PGM) was held yesterday morning at the UN Headquarters in New York with the opening address by United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon.

Speaking at PGM meeting, the UNSG said that good results are being seen in effectuation of the democratic system in Myanmar, that the overwhelming votes for NLD during the election have shown that the new government has won the trust of the people, that the decision of the people reflects their recognition of NLD's sacrificing spirit in the recent years, that his attendance at 21st Century Pang Long held at Nay Pyi Taw in August was aimed at UN's laying of emphasis upon Myanmar's national reconciliation process and that as there is the political progress in Myanmar, it is the time now to consider ending PGM.

Next, explaining that (latest) developments in Myanmar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin said that he thanked the UN for providing sustained support for Myanmar's democratization process, that the

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United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (L) greets Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin before the Fortieth Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 ECOSOC at the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Manhattan, New York, U.S., September 23, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS


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Tatmadaw conducts joint manoeuvres of army, air, artillery forces



Troops participate in joint manoeuvres of army, air, artillery forces. PHOTO: MNA

JOINT manoeuvres of the Army, air, and artillery forces of the Tatmadaw carried out at the Meiktila Station yesterday, with the presence of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Speaking to the troops,

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the joint military drill is aimed at preventing foreign invasion.

He also urged the troops to learn the strong and weak points during the drill in order to be strong forces.

He also presented cash

awards to the troops.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Senior General Soe win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and senior military officers also attended the joint military drill.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ayeyawady Regional Hluttaw new building design to be selected out of 35 local companies

Ayeyawady Regional Hluttaw's new building design will be selected out of 35 local companies, it is learnt.

The design of the building was put out to tender starting from 14th September and 35 local companies submitted bids.

The new building is slated to be built on 5 acres of land near Ministers' housing in the entrance of Patheingyi town. The tender was invited through the state-owned newspapers in order for the interested companies to make the assessment

of land, it is learnt from Ayeyawady Hluttaw.

The design tender will have transparency and the decision will be made as soon as possible, said U Win Htay, the minister for Electricity, Industry and Communications of Ayeyawady Region.

The tenders for construction of the building will be invited only after the design is selected, he added. To build the new Hluttaw building, the authorities concerned have already requested the Association of Myanmar Architects

(AMA). The selected committee will include architects. The submitted designs will be transparently selected according to the rules set by AMA, said a Hluttaw Representative.

Currently, Ayeyawady Regional Hluttaw meets at the Ayeyawady regional government offices. The construction of the Hluttaw building will be implemented with over Ks 5 billion and Ks2.8 billion has been allocated for the construction, it is learnt.—*Myit-makha News Agency*

28th anniversary of founding of NUP celebrated in Yangon

A CEREMONY to mark the 28th anniversary of the founding of National Unity Party (NUP) took place in the hall of the Headquarters of the Party in Bahan Township yesterday. Present at the ceremony were the Chairman of the National Unity Party U Than Tin and Central Executive Committee members, chairmen and Executive Committee members of Yangon Region, District and Township of NUPs, Patron of

the National League for Democracy U Tin Oo, the chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Party U Than Htay, Chairmen and central executive committee members of other political parties.

Chairman of the NUP U Than Tin, who presided over the ceremony, formally delivered a speech, and central executive committee member U Thein Tun read out the discussions of the members of the Execu-

tive Committee while Central Executive Committee Member U Tun Yi spoke on the attitude and values of the National Unity Party. A Press Conference was held in the meeting room of the Headquarters of the NUP. At the press conference, members of The Central Executive Committee U Han Shwe, U Thein Tun and U Tun Yi elaborated on the affairs of the NUP and responded to queries raised by reporters.—*Ko Latt (MNA)*

Presiding Monk of the Jotikarum Pali Tekkatho to be honoured in Pyay

ABHIDHAJA Maharathaguru State Ovadacariya Bhaddanta Kuntalajoti, Presiding Monk of the Jotikarum Pali Tekkatho, will be honoured by his disciples and monks at the monastery in Pyay of Bago Region on 24 November 2016.

The laypersons and monks from far and near are requested to take this news as an invitation to the ceremony, in case the invitations fail to reach them.—017



Bhaddanta Kuntalajoti.

Rural Women get Tech Savvy

MORE than a hundred rural women in Myanmar divided across two locations - Mindat, Chin State and Myitkyina, Kachin State - learnt about mobile phone technology today using role plays on the internet and lively question and answer sessions.

For some, the concept of the internet was new. For others, the differentiation between the popular social networking site Facebook and the internet was not evident.

The events were organized as part of the Myanmar chapter of the Social Good Summit. The Summit, held annually in various locations around the globe to coincide with the United Nations General Assembly, brings together people from many walks of life around a common theme. This year's theme is "Connecting Today, Creating Tomorrow".

Statistics show that in Myanmar, around 50% of the population owns phones, and smart phones are the first handsets to be owned by 80%.

"May Doe Kabar, the Myanmar Rural Women's network has already recognized the power of mobile technology. This is why May Doe Kabar and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together have created a mobile phone application, called iWomen - Inspiring Women app - to connect rural

women in Myanmar to women across the world, inspiring them to learn new things, reach new heights and develop themselves and their families further," said UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Thuy Hang Thi To, speaking to participants in Myitkyina.

"I really enjoyed today's session. I learnt a lot of new things and one of the most significant was how to search for information on the internet," said 36-year old Nin Sar.

26-year old, Bawn Nam was one of the more internet savvy participants, being a regular social media user.

"I usually use my phone for Facebook, emails and chatting. I was unaware of the iWomen app until this morning. I am glad I got to learn more about the app. It has many useful features which can help empower rural women," she said. The iWomen - Inspiring Women app is a free app co-designed by rural women. It has four broad categories - Be Inspired, Be Knowledgeable; Be Together and Talk Together. Since its launch in March, the app has attracted more than 3700 active users.

The app has been developed with funding from UNDP Innovation Fund and the Governments of Sweden and Denmark. — *Lin Aung Htet*



Participants in Myitkyina pose for a group photo. PHOTO: LIN AUNG HTET

EU opts not to table.....

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and investor. I know that you are working hard to find a sustainable solution for both communities.”

Regarding the situation in Rakhine State, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in her first address to the UN General Assembly that the Myanmar government is committed to a

sustainable solution that will lead to peace, stability and development for all communities within the country.

“Our government is taking a holistic approach that makes development central to both short and long term programmes aimed at promoting understanding and trust.” said the State Counsellor.—Aye Min Soe

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urges to end PGM

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government is being faced with challenges to realize the aspirations of both its own people and the international community, that the 21st Century Pang Long Conference based on the Union Spirit was held successfully with all-inclusiveness, that this conference is an important, first step towards achievement of national reconciliation and eternal peace, that the government has been resolved to bringing about reconciliation, peace and prosperity concerning Rakhine State, that now is the time for us to be given a chance to positively and actively participate with the UN like other nations by having a normal relation, that as there are (political) developments in Myanmar, it is no longer necessary

for UN to keep mechanisms to watch and monitor Myanmar and that it is the time now to end the UNSG's service sector inclusive of the mandate granted to the special adviser and the bill regarding human rights in Myanmar.

Afterwards, representatives from 15 members of PGM present at the meeting discussed in support of ending PGM founded to discuss Myanmar affairs. EU's foreign policy chief said that EU would not table a human rights resolution on Myanmar to the UNGA.

PGM was formed with Australia, India, Indonesia, China, European Union, France, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Thai, Britain, America, Russia and Viet Nam.—MNA

Work Committee for Regional Resettlement and Socio-economic Development holds third meeting in Sittwe



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye speaks at the meeting of the Work Committee for Regional Resettlement and Socio-economic Development. PHOTO: MNA

THE Work Committee for Regional Resettlement and Socio-economic Development held its 3/2016 meeting in Sittwe, Rakhine State, discussing projects to be implemented in Rakhine State.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairman of the committee Dr Win Mya Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, urged the ministries concerned to scrutinise and to report on their projects and the projects of the committee to the Central Committee for Rakhine State Stability and Development Implementation Committee.

The participants of the meeting discussed measures taken for resettlement, power supply, education, construction and rural area development.

Following the meeting, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye handed over 22 fibre boats worth K22 million and the Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association handed over medicines worth more than K7 million to the Rakhine State Planning, Economic and Finance minister and Rakhine State minister for social affairs.—Sittwe District Information and Public Relations Department



Vice President U Myint Swe hears report during his visit to Paunglaung hydropower project. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe tours hydropower projects on Paunglaung river

VICE President U Myint Swe went on an inspection tour of hydropower stations and their irrigation facilities on the Paunglaung river yesterday morning.

Accompanied by Electricity and Energy Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing, the vice president inspected the Paunglaung spillway at the Paunglaung multi-purpose dam project.

In the briefing hall, officials reported on the facts and functions of the project, its irrigation facilities and their health.

Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing and engineers briefed the vice president on the salient

points of the hydropower station constructed in the valley of the Sittaung river, irrigation facilities under construction and the distribution of electricity to the national power grid.

The construction of the Paunglaung dam started in 1998-1999 and was completed in 2005-2006. The dam is of rock-reinforced type, with 430 feet in height and 3,100 feet in length. The facility has a storage capacity of 549,420 acre feet of water and can annually generate 911 kilowatt hours of electricity from four 70-megawatt generators.

The vice president also vis-

ited the Upper Paunglaung hydropower station, which was constructed in 2004-2005 and completed in November 2014. The dam is of concrete-reinforced type, with 1,690 feet in length and 322 feet in height. The facility can store 1,379,231 acre feet of water to the brim, with an annual generation of 454 kilowatt hours of electricity from two 140-megawatt generators.

According to officials, plans are under way to implement the Middle Paunglaung hydropower project with a capacity to generate 100 megawatts of electricity.

—Myanmar News Agency

Peace Commission, DPN to meet in Chiang Mai

THE government's Peace Commission and the Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) will meet in Chiang Mai, Thailand, today, according to Deputy Director General U Zaw Htay of the President's Office.

The Peace Commission left for Chiang Mai yesterday at the invitation of DPN's leader Khu Oo Ral. The agenda of the meeting between the two sides in Chiang Mai is unknown.

The Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) is a body formed by the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) to

facilitate the peace talks between ethnic armed organisations and the Tatmadaw.

According to U Zaw Htay, national-level political dialogue will be followed by the second 21st Panglong Conference, which he said would come six months from now.

The deputy director general expected good outcomes from the peace conference, stressing the government's commitment to making the peace process as inclusive as possible.

On the government side to talk with the DPN in

Chiang Mai are U Aung Kyi, leader of the advisory board to the Peace Commission and members Dr Min Zaw Oo and U Aung Soe.

Last month, the UNFC made an eight-point proposal at a meeting in Yangon to review the framework for political dialogue, but it did not appear at the next meeting on 16 September.

The UNFC joined the first 21st Panglong Conference last month and was granted equal rights to have their say on par with the NCA signatories.—Ye Khaung Nyunt

Weak enforcement, adherence to the law leads to negative impact on Mandalay, regional parliament hears

THE presence of social and environmental issues associated with development projects and manufacturing facilities in Mandalay Region is due to weak adherence to and poor enforcement of environmental legislation, said a regional parliamentarian.

“Such laws have been enacted but no implementation has taken place.” said U Tin Aung of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw, adding that the legal framework is very good but there exists a common lack of

adherence to the law.

The Environmental Conservation Law was enacted in 2012 and rules and regulations were adopted after its enactment but the policy has suffered due to either poor implementation or none at all, said the regional lawmaker.

During a regular session of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw on Thursday, parliamentarians unanimously approved a proposal calling for measures and assessments of the impact of development projects

and factories on the people and the environment.

It is required that the authorities make social and environmental impact assessments of environmentally sensitive projects, said U Aye Khaing, another regional parliamentarian.

According to sources, plans are underway to form an environmental appraisal committee with the aim of taking prompt actions against environmental violations.—Aung Thant Khaing

Heavy rains, flooding destroy pagoda enclosure in Sagaing

OVERFLOWING of the Chindwin River and heavy rains caused a religious enclosure at Su Taung Pyae pagoda in Kani Township, Sagaing, to collapse on Wednesday, it has been learned.

Heavy rains on Tuesday and Wednesday reportedly caused the collapse of about 15 feet of riverbank next to the pagoda, causing the enclosure to collapse as a result.

According to U Myo Oo, chairman of the Gayu Nar Let Social Welfare Association in Oak village, where the pagoda is located, villagers are currently building a makeshift protection wall along the river using sandbags. Representatives of the Regional Hluttaw and the Depart-

ment of General Administration have checked the site and spoke of plans to build a dam. Officials warned the working villages to take great care around the river, which may yet swell again.

According to local sources there are further two enclosures in danger of being destroyed out of a total of sixteen located around the main pagoda. Villages have so far used 700 sandbags to protect against further floodings.

The Chindwin River in August destroyed over 170 local houses during a similar episode of heavy rains and floodings. It was later determined that around 1,800 feet of river bank had been lost.—Nanda (Myintmakha)

Myitkyina-bound train derails, two drivers injured

A LOCOMOTIVE travelling to Myitkyina from Mandalay derailed at a bridge between the Intaw and Nabar stops yesterday morning, injuring two drivers.

The train left Mandalay for Myitkyina on Friday, officials said, adding that the passengers were safe as the carriages of the train remained on the tracks. The cause of the derailment remains unknown; an investigation is under way.

Officials are making arrangements to transport the stranded passengers of the derailed train as well as those from other trains which arrived to the derailling



Train is seen after derailed. PHOTO: MAUNG CHITLIN

point to their destination.

Rail officials and civil engineers are at the sight inspecting the tracks to determine the reason for the rail accident.

“There should be regular

railroad track inspections. I have witnessed how a driver stopped his train just in time to save it after seeing a track chain link had come loose.” a passenger said.—Aung Thant Khaing

Crime NEWS

Fire destroys four houses in Pyigyidagun township

A FIRE devoured four houses between 54 and 55 streets, Ward F, Pyigyidagun township, Mandalay on Friday. The cause of the fire and the exact value of the lost properties is still being investigated by the fire department.

It took over 50 fire engines and over 190 firefighters to the control the blaze with the assistance of neighbours. Police have filed charges against a house owner identified as Ma Naing Naing Maw.—Min Htet Aung



The scene of the outbreak of fire. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Parado overturns on Yangon-Mandalay road

A PARADO vehicle carrying three passengers overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay highway yesterday.

The vehicle, en route to Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon, was be-

ing driven by one Win Hlaing. The vehicle overturned between mileposts 27/3 and 27/4 when the driver lost control.

Four people including the driver sustained minor injuries

in the accident. The vehicle was badly damaged.

Police have charged the driver for careless driving under section 337/338 of the Penal Code.—Than Oo

Vehicle plunges into drain



Vehicle seen being plunged into a drain.

PHOTO: MIN THU/TUN TUN HTWAY (HPA-AN)

A VEHICLE carrying two tonnes of teak plunged into a drain in Hpa-an township on Thursday, leaving two people injured.

The vehicle, being driven by one U Win Myint Thein, 35, with U Aung Yin, 50, on board, plunged into the drain between mileposts 20/1 and 20/2 when the vehicle's breaks failed.

U Win Myint Thein and U Aung Yin were seriously injured in the accident. The two were rushed to Hpa-an general hospital by traffic police.

The highway police handed over the teak on board to the Hpa-an Township Forestry Department office. The driver has been charged by police.—Min Thu/ Tun Tun Htway (Hpa-an)

Illegal logs and logging elephants seized in Sagaing

FORESTRY Department staff seized illegal logs and logging elephants near Chaung Sout village, Kyun Hla township, Sagaing region on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from the Forestry Department searched the forest near Chaung Sout village and found 65 illegal teak logs as well as two logging elephants. The Forest-

ry Department identified the head of the operation as one U Yin Maung from Chaung Sout village. The Forestry Department said the seized logs weighed 32.3 tonnes. Suspects Saw Kyaw Say, Saw Tat Lat, Saw Tun Tun Lin, Naing Lin Oo and U Yin Maung are being charged under section 6(1) of the public property protection law by police.—Myo Win Nyo (Kyaung Hla)

Illegal logs confiscated in Madaya



Illegal logs seized being seen.

PHOTO: SOE KYAW THU HTWE (MADAYA)

AUTHORITIES confiscated illegal logs weighing 17 tonnes on Thursday in Madaya township, Mandalay region. The logs were discovered without any suspects present.

Acting on a tip-off, a com-

bined team comprising officers and staff from the Madaya Township Forestry Department discovered the 957 unregistered logs. Further investigations are being made.—Soe Kyaw Thu Htwe (Madaya)

LOCAL Business

Mandalay sees more insured vehicles

WITH an increase in the number of vehicles in Mandalay, comprehensive motor insurance undertakings are increasing more and more, said Myanmar Insurance (Mandalay).

Not only units of motor insurance but also motorbike insurance are sold, said an official from the Mandalay MI, adding that insurance undertakings can be registered at respective local offices.

Myanmar Insurance (Mandalay) have been asked to

sell more than 10 units of comprehensive motor insurance per month this year, compared to last year when one or two units were sold a month.

Drivers were not interested in the purchase of motor insurance units before because of delays in taking out car insurance, Ko Aye Chan Moe of Chanaye Thasan Township.

More drivers hold motor insurance as vehicle crashes have increased at present, he added. —Htet Myat (Myitmakha)

PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING



New trade centres to be established in regions, states

THE MINISTRY of Commerce plans to open nine branches of new trade centres across Myanmar to distribute commerce information to boost the country's trade sector.

The new centres will be in Dawei and Meyik in Taninthayi Region; Pyaw in Bago Region; Tamu in Sagaing Region; Myawady and Hpa-an in Kayah State; Taunggyi and Aungmye in Shan State and Hakha in Chin State.

Under the National Export Strategy, promotion of trade is the first priority of the ministry. To that end, authorities have put forth a concerted effort to open new trade centres across the country. Ten trade centres have been opened by the government in commercial cities including Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Myittha, Monywa, Loileik, Patheingyi, Muse, Mawlaikine and Sittoung in an attempt to bolster trade and share information. The first trade centre in Yangon was opened in 2014. To reap economic benefits by promoting trade relations with the 11th largest economy in the world, the country established its first overseas trade centre in Seoul in the Republic of Korea earlier this year. The ministry plans to expand more branches in other countries.

The centre aims to provide consultancy services for exporters and importers. Local exporters can display their products at the centre.

Myanmar exports garments and some agricultural goods to South Korea and imports machinery, mobile handsets, farming implements and medicines.—200

Tax relief to be given to businesses of prioritised sectors only

ONLY businesses in the sectors that the government wants to improve will be given tax relief in accordance with the new investment law expected to be enacted soon, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission.

An income tax holiday of up to five consecutive years is currently provided for an enterprise in Myanmar as an incentive to attract more foreign investments for development of the country's economic sector.

The new law will not allow all businesses to enjoy exemption from income tax for up to five consecutive years, said MIC Secretary U Aung Naing Oo.

But, firms making investments which are really needed for the betterment of the country, in line with national policy, will be provided an income tax holiday, added the secretary.

According to sources, exemption from income tax for up to three consecutive years is set

for investments made in developed regions while a five-year tax holiday is set to be granted to investments in regions with moderate development and a seven-year tax holiday to investments in the least developed regions.

U Aung Myint, secretary of the Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders' Association, expressed his view that possible changes in income tax exemption would decrease foreign investments.

It should be reconsidered at a time when the United States has prepared to lift sanctions against Myanmar as the possible changes can make it less attractive for foreign investors to invest in Myanmar, he added.

The new Myanmar Investment Law that combines the Foreign Investment Law and the Myanmar Citizens Investment Law has been submitted to parliament. —Yamon (Myitmakha)

Authorities warn entrepreneurs to pay taxes on time

ENTREPRENEURS have to pay their taxes to the relevant revenue authorities within the set time frame to help support the development projects for the state, said Daw Cho Cho Oo, deputy director of Mon State Revenue Department.

The country earns money for such projects mainly from the taxpayers to carry out the national development schemes, she added.

The state revenue department, under the Internal Revenue Department, collects revenue including income tax, commercial tax and state lottery and stamp duty.

The department started collecting a special goods tax this fiscal year.

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Mon State revenue department collected nearly K7billion in income tax, over K5billion in commercial tax, K822million in lottery tax and around K1billion stamp duty. According to the new policy, 15 per cent of total revenue income received from collection of commercial tax and special goods tax and 5 per cent of total income tax will be directly handed over by the state revenue department to the Mon State government this fiscal year. — Myitmakha News Agency

Housing and Building expo 2016 kicks off

THE Housing and Building expo 2016 was opened yesterday at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon with staging booths for both local and foreign real estates, home decoration and construction materials, banking and insurance for real estate.

The exhibition was formally opened by Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Region Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung and prominent personnel from the real estate sector.

Modern decoration items for homes are on display at the exhibition which will end today. Experts from the real estate sector and banking sector will give talks during the exhibition daily. — Soe Soe Naing



Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and dignitaries visit the Housing and Building expo 2016 in Yangon. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Inada seeks support from Okinawa governor over US base relocation

NAHA (Japan) — Defence Minister Tomomi Inada on Saturday sought support from Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga over a plan to relocate a US air base within the southern island prefecture, even as the dispute between Tokyo and Okinawa over the issue is set to be contested at the Supreme Court.

“Moving the base to the Henoko area is the policy of Prime Minister (Shinzo) Abe’s government,” Inada told Onaga in the prefectural capital Naha, referring to the site where the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is scheduled to be relocated despite intense opposition from Onaga and many local people.

Inada’s trip to Okinawa, her first since assuming the defence post in early August, came a day after Onaga appealed a court ruling that backed the relocation plan. A US fighter jet also crashed off Okinawa on Thursday, the latest in a series of accidents involving

US military aircraft in the prefecture, which hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan.

In the upcoming trial following the high court ruling issued 16 September, Inada said the central government will examine Okinawa’s arguments and make clear its position. But she also said it is “important to exchange opinions” along with the trial.

Onaga told Inada that he wants the central government to “sincerely” work to reduce the burden that Okinawa bears in hosting US troops, touching on the Futenma relocation issue and the crash of the US Marines AV-8 Harrier jet.

“I want you to understand the actual situation of Okinawa and sincerely work to alleviate the excessive base burden,” he said.

Under the relocation plan, which is based on a deal agreed between Japan and the United States in 1996, the Futenma base is expected to be transferred



Defence Minister Tomomi Inada (L) meets with Okinawa Gov Takeshi Onaga at the prefectural government office in Naha, on 24 September 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

from a crowded residential area in Ginowan to the less-populated Henoko coastal area of Nago.

Onaga and many Okinawans want the base to be relocated outside the prefecture, but the central government has maintained that the plan is “the only solution” to address safety and

noise problems at the base, without undermining the deterrence of the Japan-US alliance.

Inada told Onaga that the existing relocation plan would “remove the dangers” that will remain unless the Futenma base is moved.

Inada told reporters after the meeting, “We re-

mained apart on the (Futenma) issue.”

Prior to the talks with Onaga, Inada met Maj. Gen. Charles Chiarotti, deputy commander of the US Forces Japan, in Nago to ask for thorough investigation into the cause of the fighter jet crash and effective steps to prevent such accidents.

“It would have been a catastrophe if the accident happened in a residential area,” Inada said.

The Harrier jet, after taking off from the US Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, crashed around 1:55 pm Thursday about 150 kilometres east of Cape Hedo at the north end of Okinawa. The pilot was picked up by a US Air Force rescue aircraft.

The US Marine Corps announced on Friday the temporary grounding of all AV-8 Harrier jets in Okinawa.

Chiarotti said the operational pause was part of measures to prevent a recurrence of similar accidents and he hopes to respond to the questions of the Japanese government as soon as possible.

Inada also observed from a helicopter the Henoko coastal area and the construction site of helipads for the US military in the north of the main island of Okinawa.—Kyodo News

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Indonesian troops train in Australia for first time in two decades

SYDNEY — Members of Indonesia’s armed forces have wrapped up their first training exercise in Australia since bilateral ties soured over the East Timor crisis two decades ago, local media reported on Friday.

Over the past two weeks, Indonesian and Australian soldiers trained together in Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory, as part of Exercise Wirra Jaya — the first joint activity on Australian soil since 1995, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The infantry exercise involved the Australian Army’s 1st Brigade and

the Kostrad Strategic Reserve Command of the Indonesian armed forces, the 1st Brigade said on social media.

Defence relations between the two neighbours collapsed in 1999 when an Australian-led international force deployed to East Timor to restore peace in the wake of the Indonesian-led violence that engulfed the occupied territory after its people voted for independence.

Australia’s generous assistance to Indonesia after the December 2004 earthquake and tsunami that devastated Aceh brought about a thaw in relations, however, and

the two sides signed a security cooperation framework agreement in 2006.

Since then, they have held a multitude of army, naval and air force exercises; counter-terrorism, counter-hijack and hostage-recovery exercises; humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises; and coordinated security patrols near their shared maritime borders.

During Australian Defence Minister Marise Payne’s visit to Jakarta last March, she indicated the two sides will renew their defence cooperation arrangement, signed in 2012 and due to expire in 2017.

According to Australia’s 2016 Defence White Paper, it intends to provide even more sophisticated training to Indonesia in the future as the neighbouring country modernizes its military.

“A secure Indonesia is in Australia’s interests and its growing military capabilities will offer Australia and Indonesia opportunities for more effective cooperation to respond to regional challenges, including terrorism, transnational crime such as people smuggling and humanitarian disasters as well as search and rescue operations,” the document says.—Kyodo News

Magnitude 6.3 quake shakes Philippines’ Mindanao island

DAVAO (Philippines) — A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.3 struck off the Philippine’s Mindanao island on Saturday, sending hotel guests and construction workers running from buildings in Davao, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

The US Geological Survey said the quake, initially reported as a magnitude 6.5, struck at 6:53am (23:53 BST on Friday) and was centered 114 km (71

miles) east of Davao on Mindanao.

It was a deep tremor, 69 km (43 miles) below the seabed, and was not expected to cause a tsunami, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said.

A magnitude 6.3 quake is considered strong and is capable of causing severe damage, but Renato Solidum, head of the Philippines’ seismic agency, said the effects of this one would be mitigated by its

location and depth.

“The quake is offshore and relatively deep and shaking is reported to be maximum of Intensity V, hence we expect no significant damage,” Solidum told Reuters.

Dave Cabrera, a security guard at Hotel Uno in downtown Davao, said the quake was felt strongly in the city. “Many guests left their rooms and rushed downstairs,” he said. “That is the strongest I have felt

for this year.”

Around 1,000 construction workers building the 23-storey Avida Towers nearby also evacuated, said Junrey Quiroa, a security guard on the site.

“That earthquake was strong. We were worried things might fall off so everyone got out of the site.” The Philippines is on the geologically active Pacific Ring of Fire and experiences frequent earthquakes.—Reuters

US says THAAD not negotiable, but confident on North Korea sanctions

NEW YORK — The planned US deployment of the THAAD anti-missile system in South Korea is not negotiable as part of efforts to agree new UN sanctions on North Korea after its fifth nuclear test, but Washington is confident tougher steps will be agreed before long, the senior US diplomat for Asia said on Friday.

China, whose full backing is widely seen as crucial for sanctions on North Korea to be effective, is strongly opposed to the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence system and some experts have argued it should be part of talks on new UN measures.

Asked whether THAAD was negotiable, Daniel Russel, the US assistant secretary of state for East Asia, referred to a US-South Korean agreement on the deployment.

“No. The two countries have made a decision,” he told Reuters.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, meeting Southeast Asian leaders in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, said the United States would “do whatever is necessary to defend our own citizens and to honour our security commitments to our allies.”



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test, in this undated handout photo provided by the US Department of Defence, Missile Defence Agency.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Discussions are under way on a possible new UN sanctions resolution on North Korea after it conducted its fifth and largest nuclear test on 9 September.

Russel later told a news briefing discussions were still at an early stage, but he was confident that a new UN resolution would be agreed before long, imposing further sanctions and tightening existing ones.

Among the aims, he said, would be to prevent North Korea's abuse of international infrastructure, including banking and shipping, to further its nuclear programme.

China is North Korea's main ally, but has been angered by its repeated missile and nuclear tests and backed tough UN sanctions on Pyongyang in March.

Beijing has said it will work

within the United Nations to formulate a necessary response to the latest nuclear test, but questions remain as to whether it is willing to agree tough enough steps to force North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons.

Two experts from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Centre for International Studies last week argued that if China were to agree to serious

graduated sanctions on North Korea, the United States could agree to freeze the number of ground-based missile interceptors on the Korean Peninsula.

Eric Heginbotham and Richard Samuels said that as part of a set of incentives to China, Washington “might also agree, after consulting South Korea, to withdraw THAAD from the peninsula when North Korean nuclear weapons no longer pose a threat.”

On Monday, Washington said US President Barack Obama and China's Premier Li Keqiang agreed in a meeting on the sidelines of the UN assembly to step up cooperation in the UN Security Council and in law enforcement channels.

China's Foreign Ministry later said a Chinese conglomerate, the Liaoning Hongxiang Group was under investigation following the provisions of the sanctions agreed in March.

In his General Assembly speech on Thursday, South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se accused North Korea of “totally ridiculing” the United Nations through its nuclear and missile tests and said it was time to reconsider whether it was qualified for UN membership. —Reuters

Mayors of A-bombed cities hail UN nuclear test ban resolution

HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI — The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, devastated by US atomic bombings in 1945, welcomed on Saturday a UN Security Council resolution calling for swift global implementation of a 20-year-old treaty banning nuclear weapons tests.

In a statement, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui called the resolution, adopted on Friday, “a clear determination toward nuclear abolition,” while Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue also hailed it in a separate statement as “a step forward” for a world without nuclear weapons.

“We hope the international efforts will take shape further,” the Hiroshima mayor said, call-

ing on all countries to take part in constructive discussions on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

The United States had been pressing for adoption of the resolution to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the CTBT's opening for signatures on 24 September, 1996, although it has not ratified the pact.

Nagasaki Mayor Taue noted the US-led drafting of the resolution in an attempt to flesh out the message issued by US President Barack Obama when he visited Hiroshima in May.

“Ratification of the CTBT is a difficult task but an act of wisdom,” he said. —Kyodo News

Thai police raid on suspected foreign forgery gang uncovers body in freezer

BANGKOK — Thai police on Saturday said they will charge three foreign members of a suspected passport forgery gang with concealing a dead body after a raid on a Bangkok compound discovered the dismembered remains of a man in a freezer.

Thai police raided the compound late on Friday and arrested three men. One police officer was shot during the raid but remains in a stable condition, Sathien Witanamala, police deputy commander of the Phrakanong precinct in central Bangkok, told Reuters.

“An investigation of the compound revealed a dismembered body of a foreign man hidden in plastic bags in a freezer,”

he said.

Police also found hundreds of forged passports at the Phrakanong compound. Sathien described the three arrested men as English-speaking foreigners but said police did not know their nationalities as they had been grueling on forged US and British passports.

Sathien also described the body found in the freezer as that of a foreign man with blonde hair but said his identity and nationality were not known.

Suwat Jangyodsuk, deputy commander of Metropolitan Police, said the men will be charged with attempted murder for shooting the police officer as well as

forging illegal documents and hiding a dead body.

The men will be taken from Phrakanong police station in Bangkok on Saturday and moved to holding facilities at a local court where they will be officially charged.

With a high number of visitors every year, Thailand has a booming black market for fake identity documents with authorities struggling to track the thousands of lost or stolen passports each year.

Passports are known to be sold on to drug traffickers while others are suspected to have ended up in the hands of Islamist militants. —Reuters

Defying UN, North Korea vows to strengthen nuclear capability

UNITED NATIONS — North Korea vowed on Friday to further strengthen its nuclear weapons capability, in spite of UN condemnation and sanctions, and said it would never abandon its deterrence while it was threatened by nuclear-armed states.

In an address to the United Nations General Assembly, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho described his country's nuclear weapons as “a righteous self-defence measure” against “constant nuclear threats of

the United States.”

“Going nuclear-armed is the policy of our state,” he said. “As long as there exists a nuclear-weapon state in hostile relations with the DPRK, our national security and peace on the Korean peninsula can be defended only with reliable nuclear deterrence,” he said, using the acronym for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name.

Ri said North Korea “will continue to take measures to strengthen its national nuclear

armed forces in both quantity and quality.”

Ri said the Korean peninsula was the world's “most dangerous hotspot, which can even ignite the outbreak of nuclear war,” and the blame lay “squarely” with the United States.

He accused the United States and South Korea of conducting massive “nuclear war exercises” aimed at “decapitation” of the North Korean leadership and occupation of its capital Pyongyang, while a call last year by North

Korean leader Kim Jong Un to replace the 1953 Korean War armistice with a peace agreement had been ignored.

North Korea's nuclear and missiles tests have been condemned worldwide and have resulted in several rounds of UN sanctions, the most recent of which were adopted in March. Discussions are already under way on a possible new UN sanctions resolution after North Korea's fifth and largest nuclear test on 9 September.

Ri said that by imposing sanctions on North Korea, the UN Security Council was “playing the role of covering up the highhandedness and arbitrariness of the United States.”

He accused the United States of threatening North Korea by flying B1-B strategic bombers over the military demarcation line on the Korean peninsula and warned: “We will never remain onlookers at it and the United States will have to face tremendous consequences beyond imagination.” —Reuters

Opinion

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Try to be happy in the good fortune of others

Khin Maung Aye

IN her statement delivered to the general debate of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said *inter alia* that she has seen too much anger and hatred and resentment, demands, not offer of services and that she would like the world to be a kinder world—a world that gives places giving above receiving. In addition, she emphasized that Myanmar has experienced over six decades of internal armed conflict and that nothing is, therefore, more important than lasting peace and national reconciliation. This is the reason why she is exerting her utmost effort to achieve peace through

the union peace conference—the 21st century Pang Long.

Regarding the situation in Rakhine, the State Counsellor said Myanmar does not fear international scrutiny, saying "We are committed to a sustainable solution that will lead to peace, stability and development for all communities within the state. Our government is taking a holistic approach that makes development central to both short and long-term programmes aimed at promoting understanding and trust. In this regard, ex-UNSG Kofi Annan has been appointed to lead a commission to foster these efforts. It is worth noting that the state counsellor said the issue of migration can only be

solved by tackling its root causes, the two most important of which are lack of peace and lack of development.

Discussing corruption, the state counsellor told the general assembly that corruption is not only concerned with taking and offering of bribes. She explained to the audience that anger, greed, fear and ignorance corrupt human nature and it also corrupts the whole world. In fact, she avoided using the four *Pāli* terms—*dosa*, *chanda*, *bhaya* and *moha*, which are called the four *agatis*—i.e. wrong course(s). According to this *dhamma*, people tend to be corrupt on the basis of anger, wish, fear and ignorance. She was clever enough to

avoid *pali* words when addressing a multilingual audience with diversified cultures, religious faiths and customs. While extending the interpretation of corruption and corrupt practices, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called on the international community to stand up against anger and hatred, against fear and ignorance and find a way to a better world through people's capacities for compassion, for loving kindness and for the ability to be happy in the good fortune of others. Again, compassion, loving kindness and the ability to be happy in the good fortune of others are three of the four *dhammas* of *Brahmacariya*—*mettā*, *Karunā*, *mudītā* and *upekkhā*.

A PLACE OF FANTASTIC CREATURES AND FANCIFUL CREATIONS

Nwe Nwe Tun

(Continued from 24-9-2016)

On the third day, we left the hotel in Ninh Binh and traveled for a few hours with a short break on the way throughout the countryside and paddy fields before reaching Halong Bay. This pleasure trip is intended to search for a unique adventure.

Halong Bay is a spectacular natural wonder through the emerald waters of this UNESCO World Heritage site. The dramatic scenery dotted with hundreds of limestone islands and islets on the bay, makes this an excellent semi-sheltered, open water location for kayaking.

There are a lot of Halong Bay day-cruises leaving every day, most being quite similar and then we embarked with a Paradise Luxury cruise ship. All cabins on the boat are nearly the same; you just need to specify in advance whether you need twin or double. We can choose from a variety of activities like hiking, biking, swimming and kayaking to round out our stay. You should be careful while you are kayaking because it might have half-broken paddles.

Delicious traditional Vietnamese meals and fresh seafood lunch are served on board while cruising among hundreds of islets to discover wonderful places and

caves of Halong Bay. Here, observe beautiful spots like Soi Sim Beach, Coconut Tree Island, Cua Van floating Village, Tien Ong Cave, Trong Cave, Ho Dong Tien, Luon Cave, Dau Nguoi (Man Head) and Ti Top Island.

Next, we explored the Ti Top Island. It is located in the heart of Halong Bay, only 8 kilometres away from the Southeast of Bai Chay Harbour. Ti Top Island is also regarded as one of the most attractive sites for both international and domestic tourists to Ha Long.

In 1962, this tiny island had the honour of receiving a visit from astronaut Ghermann Titov, a hero of the former Soviet Union, accompanied by President Ho Chi Minh. To perpetuate the remembrance of their visit, Uncle Ho named the place Ti Top Island. It has now become an attractive beach for tourists and has several of tourist services.

Thirty-five years afterwards, in 1997, Ti Top returned to the island having his name. Deeply moved, he wrote in the souvenir book of the Management Board of Halong Bay: "My deepest thanks to destiny, which has allowed me to come back to this tiny island." It has become a beach attracting many visitors.

Most visitors make a beeline for the beach, where swimming

and kayaking are the main things, but adventurous types can also climb the 427 stone steps to the mountaintop pagoda, where they'll be satisfied with amazing panoramic views over the Halong Bay and take wonderful photos. The view is worth the climb! Ti-top is also home to a number of resort hotels, restaurants, bars and souvenir shops, making it a good choice for a break in visitors' journey.

Ti Top Island does not only own breathtaking romantic landscapes, but also has a fantastic beautiful beach called Ti Top which is great for any beach activity. So, it is different from other popular tourist sites in Halong. Although its size is not too big when compared to other beaches in Halong, Ti Top Beach is especially famous for its fresh atmosphere and cool water that create a great ambiance for tourists to relax. It's a striking sight from a distance—a swooping tower of limestone rising out of the sea and blanketed with thick rainforest, but the main highlight is the crescent of pristine white sand that lines its shore which make it ideal for leisure activities like swimming and other sea sports. Therefore, Ti Top Beach attracts a huge number of travelers during summer of special occasion.

At present, there has a Ti Top

Beach bar in the island which also provides swimming costumes, floats and lukewarm shower. Fresh water was carried to the island from inland. Swimming at Ti Top Beach is really enjoyable. After swimming, you can enjoy fresh sea food specialties in an ideal environment of immense sky and sunshine. This beach is very beautiful and is well worth a visit to cool off when the heat starts to get to you.

We have enjoyed some local wine, relaxed on the sundeck for fantastic views at sunset. We have also joined a Vietnamese cooking demonstration on the cruise in the evening. After dinner, some of us went squid fishing while some enjoyed a relaxing massage and some watched classical movies on the cruise. In the early morning, we enjoyed sunrise over the bay and took part in a Tai Chi session on cruise sundeck and relaxed with complimentary tea/coffee and enjoyed breakfast. We enjoyed a delicious lunch served on board with Vietnamese cuisine.

On the last day on the Halong Bay, our group's boat stopped for a visit to the Halong Bay's largest cave of Sung Sot (Amazing Cave).

Sung Sot Cave is one of the most stunning caves in Halong Bay which is in the centre of the UNESCO World Heritage area. Sung Sot cave means Surprised Cave or Amazing Cave which is on Bo Hon Island and is one of the most spectacular and largest grottoes of Ha Long Bay. The mouth of the grotto is reached by ascending about a hundred stone steps.

There are two partitions in Sung Sot cave. The first one is similar to a theater hall with many stalactites hanging from the high ceiling. A narrow passage leads to the second chamber, where a flow

of natural light bathes the surfaces. The light is filtering in from above, through a large opening creating a natural skylight; this opening also serves as the exit from the cave. The deepest point of this chamber of a "royal garden" appears with a clear pond and a fascinating landscape of small mountains.

Sung Sot cave covers some 10,000 square metre. There are thousands of stalactites and stalagmites along the 500-metre paved passage. Light posts line the passage and illuminate the amazing scenery. Spotlights of varied colours are placed in such a way to be inconspicuous and add to the enchantment of the grotto.

Sung Sot cave is about 30 metres high with the walls and innumerable cracks and crevices being evidence of millions of years of spectacular natural creation. Close to the exit is there a mammoth formation which stretches from floor to ceiling, tapering at the center to form a concave pillar that appears to be keeping the ceiling in place. Walking through the cave, one's imagination can run wild conjuring up all kinds of fantastic creatures and fanciful creations. A lot of the reviews stated that the caves are crowded with hundreds of tourists getting off the boats at the same time.

Afterwards, we observed the wonderful Sung Sot cave as well. Next, we checked out from the cruise and visited a Pearl farm, where we have learned the process of pearl making in Halong. At the Pearl Village we have seen how they raise the cultivated pearls. After the presentation by a manager from the pearl factory, we bought some pearl jewelry at a competitive price. After lunch, we proceeded to Hanoi.

SpaceX blast investigation suggests breach in oxygen tank's helium system

DALLAS — A SpaceX rocket that burst into flames on its launch pad at the beginning of this month likely suffered a large breach in its upper-stage helium system, the company said on Friday.

SpaceX, owned and operated by technology entrepreneur Elon Musk, was fueling a Falcon 9 rocket on the launch pad in Florida on 1 September in preparation for a routine test-firing when a bright fireball suddenly emerged around the rocket's upper stage.

"At this stage of the investigation, preliminary review of the data and debris suggests that a large breach in the cryogenic helium system of the second stage liquid oxygen tank took place," SpaceX said in a statement posted on its website.

SpaceX spokesman Dex Torricke-Barton declined to speculate on what triggered the breach of the helium system, saying the

company was still investigating a range of possible causes. No one was hurt in the explosion, which could be heard 30 miles (48 km) away from SpaceX's launch pad 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

SpaceX said it had learned enough to conclude that whatever triggered the fireball was not related to a June 2015 accident that occurred about two minutes after liftoff. That accident destroyed a load of cargo heading for the International Space Station.

The company traced that problem to a faulty bracket that was holding a bottle of helium in the oxygen tank of the rocket's upper stage. SpaceX replaced thousands of brackets throughout its fleet and resumed flying six months later. "We have exonerated any connection with last year's ... mishap," SpaceX said



An explosion on the launch site of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket is shown in this still image from video in Cape Canaveral, Florida, US, on 1 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in Friday's statement.

The 1 September launch pad fire damaged "substantial areas" of SpaceX's primary launch site but key areas were unaffected. The company did not provide an estimate of what repairing the damage would cost, nor how long it would be out of service. Pad 40 would be repaired, Tor-

ricke-Barton said, adding it was too early to say when it would be completed.

The California-based firm said it would shift some missions to a new launch site at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, adjacent to the Air Force base. SpaceX also operates a launch site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in

California, which it uses for high-inclination and polar-orbiting missions.

The company is aiming to resume flights in November. SpaceX has more than 70 missions on its manifest, worth more than \$10 billion, for commercial and government customers.—*Reuters*

US, Russia send mixed signals on Syria as bombing goes on

UNITED NATIONS — The United States and Russia sent mixed signals on whether any headway was made on reviving a moribund Syria truce amid intense bombardment of Aleppo on Friday suggesting the effort was dead.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said he made "a little progress" on halting the violence in talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who cited no progress and accused the United States of failing to honour the latest ceasefire deal.

"I met with the foreign minister, we exchanged some ideas and we had a little bit of progress. We're evaluating some mutual ideas in a constructive way," Kerry said on the sidelines of the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations.

At a news briefing a short time later, Lavrov said little to suggest there had been any forward movement.

Instead, he reiterated Moscow's view that Washington was failing to keep its end of a 9 Sep-



US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during the International Syria Support Group meeting at the Palace Hotel in Manhattan, New York, US, on 22 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tember ceasefire agreement, one element of which was to separate fighters of al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front from Western-backed opposition rebels.

The ceasefire collapsed on Monday with an attack on a humanitarian aid convoy near Aleppo that killed about 20 people. The United States said Russian aircraft made the attack, while

Russia denied involvement and the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad, whom Russia supports, blamed "terrorists."

On Thursday, the Syrian army declared an offensive to fully capture Aleppo and warplanes bombed the city, Syria's largest, with what residents described as unprecedented ferocity on Friday.

At his briefing, Lavrov accused the opposition of having violated the truce hundreds of times while Western officials have blamed Russia and Syria for its collapse.

"We want to see any signs which would prove that the coalition has influence on those who are on the ground facing the government," Lavrov said. "Any truce, seven days, three days would be senseless," he said, adding that in any case the US-led coalition had proved its inability to control rebels.

In veiled criticism during his UN General Assembly speech earlier, Lavrov quoted George Orwell's book "Animal Farm" to accuse Washington of saying all animals are equal but acting as if some are "more equal" than others. The United States and Russia are on opposite sides of the 5-1/2-year-old Syrian civil war in which more than 400,000 people have died and 11 million displaced.

Diplomats have said that much of the focus of an interna-

tional meeting on Thursday to break the US-Russian impasse was to persuade Russia to renew a seven-day ceasefire, but that Lavrov had shown no inclination to accept it. Lavrov said the US had originally asked for three days on Wednesday, which Moscow had accepted, before on Thursday asking for a seven-day ceasefire.

"My fear is that the bombings of the last few hours in Aleppo show that the regime is actually playing the card of partitioning Syria and its backers are letting it happen," French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayraud told reporters.

A member of the Syrian opposition voiced frustration at US efforts to revive the ceasefire.

"Kerry and Obama's administration are going in circles ... talking to the Russians, thinking that Russians will have any solutions and can contribute to the ceasefire," said Mutasem Alsyofi of the Syrian Civil Society Declaration Initiative. "It's clear that the Russians will not do this," he added.—*Reuters*

Boko Haram violence leaves families 'teetering on edge of famine' — aid groups

NEW YORK — More than 6 million people in Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon face severe hunger, including 1 million on the edge of famine, as a result of Boko Haram violence, aid agencies said on Friday as they appealed for more money to tackle the regional crisis.

The Islamist group's seven year insurgency to create an Islamic state in northeast Nigeria has killed 15,000 people and forced 2.4 million to flee their homes.

More than 65,000 people

are living in famine in pockets of northeast Nigeria, and over one million others are "one step away" from famine, a coalition of 15 aid groups including Oxfam, the International Rescue Committee and Catholic Relief Services said.

"What we are seeing is families teetering on the edge of famine," Yannick Pouchalan, country director for Nigeria for Action Against Hunger, said in a statement.

"We see families who have

not eaten for days, many are begging for food."

In some areas of Nigeria's Borno state, more than half of children under five suffer acute malnutrition — similar to the rates seen in Somalia in 2011, when the scale and severity of hunger led to a declaration of famine, the aid groups said.

They said the conflict and counter-insurgency operations had led to farmlands, rivers and lakes being cut off from communities

in and around the Lake Chad area that rely on agriculture and fishing to feed themselves.

"Civilians have paid a high price for policies of cutting off Boko Haram's food and supplies," said Oxfam's Lisa Bay in a statement. "We have seen hugely generous communities welcome people who have fled their homes — but now they have nothing to give. They too are hungry and need access to aid."

The coalition appealed for

money to respond to the emergency, noting that a UN appeal for \$740 million (571 million pounds) to help those displaced by Boko Haram violence was less than a quarter funded.

It called for \$90 million by the end of the year on top of \$53 million received this year.

On Tuesday, US President Barack Obama said he and Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari had discussed ways of countering the militant group.—*Reuters*

UN Security Council adopts resolution on nuke test ban

NEW YORK — The UN Security Council on Friday adopted a US-led resolution calling for swift global implementation of a 20-year-old treaty banning tests of nuclear weapons.

“Our action today can give people everywhere (hope) that a world without nuclear weapons might actually be possible and that we’re going to do everything responsible in our capacity to be able to make that day a reality,” US Secretary of State John Kerry said before the vote was cast.

He said the adoption also signaled that “We will remain committed to moving in the direction of ending the threat of nuclear war.”

The resolution was adopted with 14 votes in favour and one abstention by Egypt, whose opposition was linked to the absence of any commitment to further cut down the number of nuclear warheads.

The United States, although

it has signed but not ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, has been pressing for adoption of the resolution to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the CTBT’s opening for signature on 24 September, 1996.

The resolution urges all states that have not signed or ratified the treaty, “to do so without further delay” and encourages state signatories to “promote the universality and early entry into force.”

The treaty has reached near universality, with 183 countries having signed it. One hundred and sixty six states have also deposited their instruments for ratification. Myanmar became the 166th state to do so with Aung San Suu Kyi signing in New York on 21 September following Swaziland. Besides the United States, China is the other permanent Security Council member to have signed but not ratified the pact.

While North Korea, India

and Pakistan have never signed it, Egypt, Iran and Israel have signed, but not ratified it.

The text also emphasizes that such moratoria are “an example of responsible international behavior that contributes to international peace and security.”

Although the last century saw more than 2,000 tests, only North Korea has conducted tests in the 21st Century. Pyongyang claimed its latest test earlier this month was the largest to date.

“North Korea’s latest nuclear test is a challenge to this Council’s leadership,” Kerry said. “It is a dangerous and reckless act of provocation, which we have to summon a determined and effective answer to.”

Egypt, along with Senegal and Venezuela had aired objections in the last stages of the negotiations on the text before its adoption, but only Egypt wound up abstaining from it in the end.—*Kyodo News*



NEWS IN BRIEF

Viet Nam to move military flights out of three int'l airports

HANOI — The Vietnamese government has agreed with the Defence Ministry’s proposal on relocating its frequent training flights at Noi Bai, Da Nang and Tan Son Nhat international airports to other airports, local media reported on Saturday. The 921st Air Regiment will move from Noi Bai airport in Hanoi to Yen Bai airport in the northern province of Yen Bai which is under construction and will become operational from the second quarter of 2018, daily newspaper *Giao Thong (Transport)* reported. The 929th Air Regiment will move from Da Nang airport in the central city of Da Nang to Chu Lai airport in the central province of Quang Nam. The 917th Air Regiment will move from Tan Son Nhat airport in Ho Chi Minh City to Can Tho airport in the southern city of Can Tho which is scheduled to open in the second quarter of 2017. —*Xinhua*

Antony Blinken says relations with Serbia significant to US

BELGRADE — The relations with Serbia, the key country in the region, are very significant for the United States, US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at a meeting with PM Aleksandar Vucic in New York on Friday. Blinken commended all the reforms conducted by the Serbian government, noting a continuation of Serbia’s European path was significant to accelerate the progress of the entire region, the Serbian government said in a statement.

Vucic and Blinken discussed Serbia-US bilateral relations, the situation in the region, Serbia’s European path and the dialogue with Pristina. Vucic briefed Blinken on the economic reforms conducted by the Serbian government, noting that Serbia had invested much in its progress and that it would do everything to maintain stability in the Western Balkans as that meant economic prosperity for all countries in the region.—*Tanjug*

Bombardment of rebel-held Aleppo areas kills 70 — Civil defence chief

BEIRUT — Heavy bombardment of rebel-held areas of eastern Aleppo has killed more than 70 people and has destroyed at least 40 buildings since Friday morning, Ammar al Selmo, the head of civil defence there, told Reuters.

Warplanes targeted rebel-held districts of Aleppo in a second day of intense bombardment on Friday after the Syrian army declared an offensive to fully capture what was Syria’s biggest city before the war.—*Reuters*

Taiwan ex-intelligence officer gets 18 years for spying for China

TAIPEI — A Taiwanese court has sentenced a former intelligence officer, accused of working as a double-agent for mainland China, to 18 years in prison, local media reported on Friday.

The reports said retired Major Wang Tsung-wu was sentenced Thursday by the High Court after being found guilty leaking state secrets to Chinese authorities and providing the identities of Taiwanese agents in the mainland.

According to the Taipei Times, Wang worked for Taiwan’s Military Intelligence Bureau and carried out covert missions in the mainland in the 1990s.

But his cover was blown and he was recruited by a Chinese intelligence agency in 1995, after which he worked as a double agent until his retirement in 2005.—*Kyodo News*

Obama vetoes 11 September Saudi bill, sets up showdown with Congress



The Tribute in Light shines on the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in Manhattan, New York, US, on 11 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Friday vetoed legislation allowing families of victims of the 11 September attacks to sue Saudi Arabia, which could prompt Congress to overturn his decision with a rare veto override, the first of his presidency.

Obama said the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act would hurt US national security and harm important alliances, while shifting crucial terrorism-related issues from policy officials into the hands of the courts.

The bill passed the Senate and House of Representatives in reaction to long-running suspicions, denied by Saudi Arabia, that hijackers of the four US jet-

liners that attacked the United States in 2001 were backed by the Saudi government.

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudi nationals.

Obama said other countries could use the law, known as JASTA, as an excuse to sue US diplomats, members of the military or companies — even for actions of foreign organisations that had received US aid, equipment or training. “Removing sovereign immunity in US courts from foreign governments that are not designated as state sponsors of terrorism, based solely on allegations that such foreign governments’ actions abroad had a connection to terrorism-related injuries on US soil, threatens to undermine these longstanding

principles that protect the United States, our forces, and our personnel,” Obama said in a statement.

Senator Chuck Schumer, who co-wrote the legislation and has championed it, immediately made clear how difficult it will be for Obama to sustain the veto.

Schumer, the No. 3 Democrat in the Senate, issued a statement within moments of receiving the veto, promising that it would be “swiftly and soundly overturned.” He represents New York, home of most of the 11 September victims. Both the Democratic and Republican candidates for president, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, said they would have signed the bill into law if they were in the White House.—*Reuters*



Word List

bring [v]

To bring means to take someone or something to a person or place.

* Oscar will bring in all the boxes.

castle [n]

A castle is a building with strong walls where royalty usually lives.

* The castle was built many years ago.

command [v]

To command someone is to tell them to do something.

* The general commanded his army to attack.

counsel [v]

To counsel someone is to listen and give advice about a problem.

* The teacher counseled the girl about her troubles.

ensure [v]

To ensure is to make certain that something happens.

* Eating good food ensures that we stay healthy.

explosion [n]

An explosion is a violent burst, usually with a loud sound.

* A nuclear explosion can cause great damage.

jewelry [n]

Jewelry is something that people wear like earrings or necklaces.

* The woman looked beautiful with her nice dress and jewelry.

land [v]

To land means to come to the ground usually from a ship or aircraft.

* The parachutist landed safely on the ground.

meteor [n]

A meteor is a rock from outer space that falls to Earth.

* We saw a meteor in the sky last night.

monster [n]

A monster is any imaginary frightening creature that looks strange.

* The monster scared everyone in the village.

northern [adj]

If something is northern, it is in the direction of north.

* It is much colder in **northern** countries than it is here.

remote [adj]

If something is remote, it is very far away and difficult to get to.

* It took many days to get to the **remote** island.

southern [adj]

If something is southern, it is in the direction of south.

* Taegu is located in the **southern** part of the Korean peninsula.

Statue [n]

A statue is an image of a person or animal made of stone or metal.

* I saw a beautiful **statue** of a lion today.

steam [n]

Steam is water that has become hot and has turned into a misty gas.

* I could see the **steam** rise from the boiling water.

submit [v]

To submit to someone is to agree to do what they tell you to do.

* She **submitted** to her mother's wishes and did her homework.

temple [n]

A temple is a building that is used for religious purposes.

* The people visited the **temple** to pray.

upper [adj]

Upper means higher in position or place.

* A home's attic is at the **upper** part of the structure.

weed [n]

A weed is a plant, especially one that is not useful or wanted.

* The yard of the house was full of ugly **weeds**.

wing [n]

A wing is the part of an animal that lets it fly.

* The bird used its **wings** to fly across the water.

Exercise 1

Circle two words that are related in each group.

1. a. counsel b. explosion c. meteor d. bring
2. a. northern b. remote c. meteor d. southern
3. a. land b. steam c. castle d. temple
4. a. northern b. wing c. upper d. meteor
5. a. statue b. command c. weed d. submit

Exercise 2

Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

1. The bird hurt its body part that helps it fly.

wi__

2. There are many stone images in the museum.

sta__

3. The fire made the water turn into hot misty air.

st__

4. The teacher told me to listen to and follow his rules.

s ____ to

5. Go to the higher part of the building and clean the windows.

u__

Read this passage.

The Dragon

An evil dragon lived in a castle in the remote southern mountains.

One day the monster landed in a town. The dragon commanded the people, "Give me food now, or I will eat you!" The dragon lifted its wings so that its lungs could be completely filled with hot steam, and breathed it upon the people. A man turned into a stone statue!

The people submitted and brought food. The dragon ate all of it and left.

The people sent a boy to ask for help from a wise old

man. He resided in a temple.

The boy told the old man about the dragon. Then, the old man counseled the boy. "A meteor will fall in the northern sky. It will make a huge explosion. Find the meteor and bring it to me. I will use it to make a sword for you."

The boy did as the old man said. Soon, the sword was ready.

"Use this to kill the dragon. But be careful. You must cover yourself with weeds that smell bad. That will ensure that he does not smell you," the man said.

The boy traveled for many days to find the castle. He went to the upper level and opened a door. He could see the dragon's tail. It was sleeping, so the boy killed it. Then, he took the dragon's gold and jewelry and returned to his town. The people were happy.

Answer the questions.

1. What is this story about?
 - a. How a dragon met a boy
 - b. Why dragons live in castles
 - c. Why a boy killed an evil dragon
 - d. How a boy found a remote place
2. How did the dragon turn the people into statues?
 - a. It breathed steam on them.
 - b. It hit them with its wings.
 - c. It covered them with weeds.
 - d. It touched them with its tail.
3. What can be assumed about the old man?
 - a. He enjoyed commanding the townspeople.
 - b. He resided in the temple all his life.
 - c. Other dragons submitted to him in the past.
 - d. He counseled the townspeople when they had trouble.
4. According to the passage, all of the following are true EXCEPT
 - a. a meteor fell in the northern sky
 - b. a boy killed the dragon with a golden sword
 - c. a boy took the dragon's jewelry
 - d. a dragon lived in the southern mountains
5. How did the boy ensure that the dragon would not smell him?

Answers for Reading Passage.

Exercise 1

1. b, c
2. a, d
3. c, d
4. a, c
5. b, d

Exercise 2

1. wing
2. statues
3. steam
4. submit to
5. upper

Reading Comprehension

1. c
2. a
3. d
4. b

5. The boy covered himself with weeds to hide his smell. Targeted learners : Pre-Intermediate in General English By HSU ENGLISH SCHOOL : No. 20, Bo Hmu Aung Street, Bo Sein Hman Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon

To contact : 0973111696, 095020226

Police search for gunman who killed five at mall in Washington state

WASHINGTON — Police in northwest Washington state searched for a gunman on Saturday who opened fire in a shopping mall, killing five people, according to media reports and the state's police force.

A man walked into the Cascade Mall in Burlington, Washington, about 65 miles (105 km) north of Seattle and began shooting at about 7 pm local time on Friday, Washington State Patrol spokesman Mark Francis said on Twitter.

Four women were killed in the attack in the mall's Macy's store cosmetics department, Francis told the New York Times. A man who was taken to a local hospital with serious injuries died overnight, Francis said in a statement early on Saturday morning.

Local and state police officials were not immediately available for comment but were expected to hold a news conference later on Saturday morning. Francis said on Twitter that police and rescue



Medics wait to gain access to the Cascade Mall after four people were shot dead in Burlington, Washington, US, on 24 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

workers carefully worked their way through the mall, clearing stores and evacuating shoppers, some of whom, according to local media, locked themselves in dressing rooms. He also said police were searching the area for the shooter, who was described as a "Hispanic male wearing gray" and was last seen walking toward a nearby highway away from the mall. Local authorities searched throughout the night for the gunman, believed to be armed with a rifle, and warned residents

to remain inside. "Tragedy has struck in Washington tonight. Our hearts are in Burlington," Governor Jay Inslee said on Twitter.

The shooting comes less than a week after a man stabbed nine people at a mall in central Minnesota before being shot dead. The FBI is investigating that attack as a potential act of terrorism.

"At this time, the FBI has no information to suggest additional attacks planned in WA state," the Washington State Patrol said on Twitter.—Reuters

Clinton leads Trump by four points ahead of first US presidential debate

NEW YORK — Democrat Hillary Clinton had a four-percentage point advantage in support over Republican Donald Trump ahead of their first U.S. presidential debate, according to the latest Reuters/Ipsos national tracking poll released on Friday.

The 16-22 September opinion poll showed that 41 per cent of likely voters supported Clinton, while 37 per cent supported Trump. Clinton has mostly led Trump in the poll during the 2016 campaign, though her advantage has narrowed since the end of the Democratic and Republican national conventions in July.

With just six weeks before the 8 November election, Monday's debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York will be the first of three between the White House rivals. It presents a major opportunity for them to appeal to voters who have yet to commit to a candidate after a mostly negative race in which Clinton and Trump have sought to brand each other as untrustworthy and dangerous for the country.



Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's attends the taping of "The tonight Show" with Jimmy Fallon in New York, US, on 16 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The live, televised matchup is expected to draw a Super Bowl-sized television audience of 100 million Americans, according to some commentators.

Among those watching will be people who so far remain on the fence. This could be a sizable group: Some 22 per cent of likely voters said in the latest poll

that they do not support either major-party candidate. That was more than twice the proportion of uncommitted voters at the same point in the 2012 election between Democratic President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney.

These uncommitted voters appear to be leaning more toward Trump

than Clinton, according to the latest poll, though they have not been convinced enough to say they will vote for him in November. It was also possible that some of these voters would pick an alternative-party candidate like Libertarian Gary Johnson or the Green Party's Jill Stein.

Clinton led a separate

four-way poll that included Trump, Johnson and Stein. Among likely voters, 39 per cent supported Clinton, 37 per cent favoured Trump, 7 per cent picked Johnson and 2 per cent supported Stein.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll is conducted online in English in the continental United States, Alaska and

Hawaii. It included 1,559 respondents who were considered to be likely voters given their voting history, registration status and stated intention to show up on Election Day. It has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3 percentage points, meaning results could vary by that much either way.

National polls have produced varying measurements of support for Clinton and Trump during the 2016 campaign. The differences are partly due to the fact that some polls, like Reuters/Ipsos, try to include only likely voters, while others include all registered voters. The Reuters/Ipsos tracking poll gathers responses every day and reports results twice a week, so it often detects trends in sentiment before most other polls.

Polling aggregators, which calculate averages of major polls, have shown that Clinton's lead over Trump has been shrinking this month. The most recent individual polls put her advantage at 3 percentage points.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.9.2016 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.9.2016 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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Haiti tells UN October election may help ease migration crisis

UNITED NATIONS — Haiti's October presidential election will be important to easing poverty, acting President Jocelerme Privert told the United Nations General Assembly on Friday, as the United States toughens its stance toward a wave of Haitian immigrants.

More than 5,000 Haitians have entered the United States without visas this fiscal year through 1 October, according to Department of Homeland Security officials, up from 339 in fiscal year 2015.

"The credibility of the upcoming election is vital to break with the cycle of instability and uncertainty which has beset my country for too long," Privert said.

He said the government was aware of the many Haitians leaving to seek a better life elsewhere and that the Caribbean nation would need more international support after the 9 October election.

"The new leaders will urgently need to address the structural problems which persistently undermine Haiti's effort to move out of underdevelopment,"



Haitians migrants wait to make their way to the US and seek asylum at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana, Mexico, on 15 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Privert said.

The United States, responding to a surge in Haitian immigrants, will end special protections for them dating back to a devastating earthquake there in 2010, the Department of Homeland Security said on Thursday.

If conditions improve at home, fewer Haitians would risk the hazardous journey to the United States and Canada.

In February, Michel Martelly stepped down as

president of Haiti without a successor, but only after a deal was reached for a provisional government. In the running next month is Maryse Narcisse, a medical doctor and longtime activist who could become the first woman to be elected Haiti's president.

US immigration authorities along the Mexico-California border are struggling to find enough resources to interview and temporarily detain Haitian migrants, most of whom are

travelling from Brazil.

Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela said this week that stability in Haiti is the best way to ease the flow.

"We have to pay attention to the electoral process in Haiti, to support its institutions and its economy. If not, there will be the new crisis in America. It's not going to be people from Central America or Mexico any more. It will be Haiti," Varela said in an interview.—Reuters

Colombia's FARC rebels ratify peace accord to end 52-year war

YARI PLAINS, (Colombia) — Colombia's FARC rebel group voted unanimously to approve a peace deal with the government on Friday, declaring an end to the five-decade war as it prepares to transition into a new political party.

After four years of negotiations in Havana, the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia reached a final peace accord last month that will end a war that has left a quarter of a million people dead.

"Peace is the most beautiful of victories," rebel leader Rodrigo Londono, who uses the nom de guerre Timochenko, told a crowd of hundreds of FARC fighters at the close of the guerrillas' congress on the southern Yari Plains.

"We yearn that no Colombians will ever again have to take up arms to make their voices heard and their demands felt, as has been required of us," Timochenko said to cheers and applause, as thunder roiled the sky overhead.

As part of the agree-

ment, the FARC will continue to push for social change as a political party, receiving 10 unelected seats in congress until 2026. FARC's leaders have been coy on policy details but are expected to morph the group into a party rooted in Marxist ideals.

Another congress to officially found the party will be held no later than May 2017, FARC commander Ivan Marquez said at the ceremony.

Two-hundred delegates from FARC units around the country gathered at the Yari site, five hours by rutted road from the nearest provincial town, to review the accord and discuss re-organisation in peacetime.

"We inform the country and the government and the governments and people of the world that the rebel delegates of the congress have given unanimous backing to the final accord," Marquez said.

The peace accord is due to be signed on Monday by President Juan Manuel Santos and Timochenko.



Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) commander Ivan Marquez receives applause from Carlos Lozada, Pablo Catatumbo and Joaquin Gomez during a news conference at the camp where they prepare to ratify a peace deal with the Colombian government, near El Diamante in Yari Plains, Colombia, on 23 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Colombians will vote on the deal in an 2 October plebiscite, the final go-ahead for rebels to demobilise. Polls show the accord will easily pass.

The congress, the first ever open to media, marks the group's final meeting as a guerrilla army and will end with a music concert with non-FARC performers.

Previous congresses, to decide battle strategy, were sometimes held via internet due to military offensives that prevented leaders from meeting.

Although both leadership and rank-and-file fighters say they will prioritise political activism as civilians, the group has so far not provided examples of specific policies.

"Our initial platform is the implementation of the Havana accords," Pastor Alape, a member of the FARC's secretariat, told Reuters at the congress. "Our political proposals will have to come from the suggestions of our base."

"We started our political efforts clandestinely and now we aspire, legally, to open our initiatives, togeth-

er with all sectors of society, to concretely cultivate the political space we are given," Alape said.

The five-point peace accord covers agricultural reform, an end to the illegal drugs trade, victims' reparations, FARC political participation and demobilisation.

Policies are being drafted and will be revealed in due time, FARC commander Bertulfo Alvarez told a news conference during the congress, when asked by Reuters to give examples of policy initiatives.

One mid-level rebel fighter said the group wants to decentralise Colombia's government, including halving the size of Congress, in a bid to combat corruption and ensure communities have control over distribution of royalties from oil and mining projects.

The FARC may find an electoral foothold among poor farmers and committed leftists, but many Colombians are worried that ex-fighters will join criminal gangs.—Reuters

Police open murder case over elderly man poisoned at Yokohama hospital



Photo taken on 23 September 2016, shows Oguchi Hospital in Yokohama, near Tokyo, at which an 88-year-old man died from poisoning after a medical drip was attached. Police have launched an investigation into the suspected murder. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

YOKOHAMA — An investigation is under way into the suspected murder of an 88-year-old man who died from poisoning at a Yokohama hospital earlier this week after a medical drip was administered, police said on Saturday.

The police are also investigating the recent deaths of three other elderly patients, suspecting some of them did not die of illness as concluded by the hospital earlier, investigative sources said.

Nobuo Yamaki died about an hour after his falling heart rate triggered an alarm at Oguchi Hospital in Yokohama's Kanagawa Ward around 4 am on

tember. A woman in her 90s also died on Tuesday but a medical drip was not attached in her case.

The police are conducting autopsies to determine the causes of the deaths, believing some were not due to illness given the condition of the bodies.

Yamaki had been hospitalised since Sept. 14 in a room on the fourth floor of the hospital, which was shared with five other patients, the police said, adding the three elderly patients who died from 18 September to Tuesday also stayed on the fourth floor.

Since the hospital gates are locked by 9 pm, entry from outside is restricted during night time. No security cameras are installed in patients' rooms.

According to the Yokohama municipal government, a number of troubling incidents have taken place at the hospital.

In early July, the municipal government received an e-mail tipping it off about an incident in which a nurse's apron was slashed.—Kyodo News

Landmark deal to curb airline emissions expected in Montreal

MONTREAL/NEW YORK — The world's first deal to curb pollution from commercial flights is expected after United Nations-led talks kick off next week in Montreal, although European lawmakers remain skeptical that it would be tough enough.

The agreement, backed by the United States, China and the United Arab Emirates, aims to limit rising airline pollution to 2020 levels after it takes effect in 2021, but has been watered down by being made voluntary for the first five years. It only becomes mandatory from 2027 for the world's largest emitters, and would cost airlines less than 2 per cent of industry revenue.

Although they have the option of later opting out, 55 countries now say they will join the first phase of the deal under discussion at the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) assembly from 27 September to 7 October.

While the European Commission supports the deal, European lawmakers are torn between backing the diluted version, or imposing their own tougher emissions trading scheme on foreign carriers and risking a trade war with China and India.

"We would like a very ambitious (deal)," said European Union Climate Action Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete in New York. "The proposal on the table is not as ambitious as we would like but if there are sufficient numbers of countries participating in the beginning, we can work on ambition."—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(12 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-055(16-17)	5" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade X42 (13000) Meter	US\$
(2)	IFB-056(16-17)	Spares for Cummins Engine Ex Kenworth Truck (16) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-057(16-17)	Spares for 3 Ton Fork Lift (48) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-058(16-17)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipe (5) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 24-10-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 23RD September, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Daniel Radcliffe not interested in revisiting Harry Potter role

LONDON — Pottermania may be alive and well thanks to upcoming Harry Potter spinoff film “Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them” and a hit London play, but actor Daniel Radcliffe says he has no interest in revisiting his role as the boy wizard.

Asked about speculation that there could be a movie version of the London play “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child,” Radcliffe, 27, said no-one had contacted him about a new film.

“Nobody has said anything to

me about ... revitalizing the films, so I don’t know,” Radcliffe told Reuters in London on Friday.

“It’s not something I think I’d be interested in, and also if they do it now I feel they should just cast the people from the play,” said Radcliffe, who was just 11 years old when he was cast as Potter. Radcliffe was in London to open a three-day entertainment festival of films and family activities, including screenings of his two most recent indie movies “Swiss Army Man” and “Imperium.”—Reuters



Actor Daniel Radcliffe poses during a ceremony honoring him with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cowboys, heat and rain: ‘Magnificent Seven’ talk challenging shoot



The cast poses on the red carpet for the film “The Magnificent Seven” during the 41st Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), in Toronto, Canada, on 8 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Bringing the American Wild West to life was no easy task, just ask the cast of “The Magnificent Seven,” who endured scorching heat and torrential rain in wool costumes in

the Louisiana summer.

“We had a lot of lightning, thunder issues where we had to shut (production) down, but the heat was just constant,” Denzel Washington, who plays bounty

hunter Sam Chisholm, told Reuters. “The Magnificent Seven,” a remake of the 1960 classic, is directed by Antoine Fuqua and opens in theaters on Friday. It’s a remake, with an ethnically diverse cast, of John Sturges’ 1960 Western of the same name which in turn was adapted from Akira Kurosawa’s 1954 Japanese-language film “Seven Samurai.

The movie about a rogue band of outlaws and hired hands who come together at the behest of a widow to protect a small gold mining town from a murderous baron took five months to shoot.

“It was raining and we were wearing all these clothes and we’re in the middle of nowhere... There’s nowhere to hide and we were all on set because if we’re not in the scene then we’re in the background of the scene so were all around all the time,” said Ethan Hawke, who plays sharpshooter Goodnight Robicheaux.

“Byung-Hun Lee and I spent five weeks up in that church steeple, every day, it was blazing hot, sitting up there shooting bad guys day after day,” he added. Lee, who plays the knife-throwing Billy Rocks, said temperatures reached 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 Centigrade), with 90 per cent humidity. “Now we can say it’s a good memory but at the time it was so hard,” the actor said. “It was kind of hell,” said Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, who plays Mexican outlaw Vasquez. Other cast members include alcoholic gambler Josh Farraday (Chris Pratt), bear-like hunter Jack Horne (Vincent D’Onofrio) and Native American warrior Red Harvest (Martin Sensmeier). “These are all people that would not typically be cast in this type of movie fifty years ago. The original ‘Magnificent Seven’ save for maybe Charles Bronson were all white dudes,” Pratt said.—Reuters

Jagran Film Festival in Mumbai to open with ‘Road To Istanbul’

MUMBAI — The 7th edition of Jagran Film Festival will travel to Mumbai where it will open with highly acclaimed “Road To Istanbul” on 26 September and also feature an array of popular Indian movies of recent past, providing a visual treat to cinema aficionados.

The festival, after travelling to several Indian cities, will conclude in the country’s film and entertainment capital.

“Road To Istanbul”, an Algerian film, is a 92-minute movie that talks about the issue of young Europeans converting to Islam and taking up the Jihadi cause. It will be screened at a theatre in suburban Andheri.

“We are really excited to start the film festival in Mumbai with one of the most critically-acclaimed and appreciated movies of the recent times, ‘Road to Istanbul’,” a spokesperson of the film festival said in a statement here.

Produced by John Brehat in association with 3B Productions, Tassili Films, Arte France and Scope Pictures and directed by Rachid Bouchareb, the film stars Astrid Whettnall, Pauline Burlet, Patricia Ide and Abel Jafri.

“Road To Istanbul” has been screened at various international film festivals this year, including Berlin and Eurasia, among others.

The 7th edition of Jagran Film Festival started from New Delhi on 1 July and went to several cities, including Lucknow and Kanpur.—PTI

‘Monty Python’ actor-director Terry Jones diagnosed with dementia

LONDON — Actor and director Terry Jones, a founding member of Britain’s zany Monty Python comedy team, has been diagnosed with a form of dementia that restricts his capacity to speak, his representative said. Jones, 74, is a member of “Monty Python’s Flying Circus,” formed in the late 1960s with John Cleese, Eric Idle, Graham Chapman, Michael Palin and Terry Gilliam. A spokesperson for Jones said the comedian had been diagnosed with primary progressive aphasia, which is a variant of frontotemporal dementia.

“This illness affects his ability to communicate and he is no longer able to give interviews,” the representative said in a statement on Thursday. The National Apha-

sia Association describes primary progressive aphasia as a neurological disorder of language that commonly progresses to a near total inability to speak. It is not a form of Alzheimer’s disease.

“Most people with PPA maintain ability to take care of themselves, pursue hobbies, and, in some instances, remain employed,” the association says on its website. The Monty Python television shows, with sketches about dead parrots and the Ministry of Silly Walks, were revered for their originality and are now ranked among the best TV shows of all time. Jones went on to direct the team in the irreverent Python films “Life of Brian,” and “The Meaning of Life.”—Reuters

A R Rahman gave me an identity in music industry: Neeti Mohan

NEW DELHI — She has sung several hits since making her debut with Ishq Wala Love in 2012 and singer Neeti Mohan credits Oscar-winning music director A R Rahman for helping her establish a name in the industry.

The 36-year-old singer feels that it was Rahman’s composition Jiya Re from the 2012 Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Jab Tak Hai Jaan that made her well-known in Bollywood.

“I have sung ‘Jiya Re’ with A R Rahman and it is one of my biggest hits. People know me as the ‘Jiya Re’ girl. He has given me an identity and I’m extremely grateful to him and always will be,” Neeti told PTI on the sidelines of Naropa festival 2016.



Neeti Mohan credits Oscar-winning music director A R Rahman for helping her establish a name in the industry. PHOTO: PTI

“In 2007, I had auditioned to be one of Rahman’s singers for a concert that he was doing in America and I got through. Since then I have been part of his concerts and it has really been a great

experience.”

Neeti said working with Rahman was a dream come true for her and she considers the 49-year-old composer as her guide.—PTI

Naomi Campbell leads bold Versace runway in Milan

MILAN — On a catwalk featuring Naomi Campbell, Gigi Hadid and Irina Shayk, Italian design house Versace presented a bold, multi-faceted collection for women on Friday.

As she had done for the men's collection, artistic director Donatella Versace opened the spring and summer show, with airy windbreaker jackets in green, purple and blue.

They were matched with leggings and rucksacks and parachute-like dresses in high-tech fabrics, giving a sports flair to a part of the collection, mostly in black purple and green.

Other parts of the

show included thinly pleated creations with knitted details or fluid silk dresses and skirts with optical patterns which included the brand's fret motif.

In a rare cameo, Naomi Campbell walked in a athleisure look with a layered blue and red wrap-around skirt with matching cropped blouse with a zipper.

She wore knee-high laced blue and red boots and carried a rucksack.

For a complete change of style for the evening, Versace woman changed into clear-cut, black designs, with short dresses and skin tights suits, embellished by crystal details



Models Gigi Hadid and Naomi Campbell present creations at the Versace fashion show during Milan Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2017 in Milan, Italy, on 23 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

giving off metallic reflections.

A red net dress with sequins stood out from the total black looks on show on the third day of Milan fashion week.

The models strutted

along a zig-zag shaped catwalk to the beat of electronic music. "This show is for women taking chances. Take a leap," spoke a women's voice over the pounding rhythm.

—Reuters

Lost toddler survives three days in Siberian taiga alone

MOSCOW — A Russian toddler who went missing in the Siberian taiga was found three days later, alive and healthy, Russian media and the emergencies

ministry reported.

Three-year-old Tserin disappeared from his home in a remote village in Tyva in southern Siberia last weekend.

Left unattended, he had chased after his dogs, who led him into the taiga - a forest between the tundra and the steppes populated by wild animals ranging

from bears and wolves to lynx and foxes.

Three days of searches by more than 100 police and rescue workers, sniffer dogs and a helicopter yielded no result. Eventually, the boy heard his uncle calling and replied.

He was just a few kilometres from his house.

The first thing the little boy asked for was his toy car, a rescue worker said, according to local media.

Tserin probably survived because he didn't panic, a local emergency worker was quoted as saying.

The first thing he did after he got lost was finish some chocolate in one of his pockets.

Then he laid down in a dry spot under a larch tree and fell asleep.

Quite predictably, he has already been nicknamed Mowgli.—Reuters



A picture, released by the Russian Emergencies Ministry on 23 September 2016, shows a three-year-old boy Tserin, who went missing in the Siberian Taiga area and was found three days later, inside a helicopter in Tyva region, Russia. PHOTO: REUTERS

Reagan auction items sell for 10 times estimate in New York

NEW YORK — A chunk of the Berlin Wall and a pair of cowboy boots that belonged to late US President Ronald Reagan sold for 10 times their estimated value at a New York auction that brought in more than \$5.7 million dollars.

Christie's auctioneers said on Friday that more than 1,200 bidders from all over the world registered for the two-day sale of items from the private collection of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. The 25 inch (63 cm) long, graffiti-covered fragment of the Berlin Wall, signed by Reagan, sold for \$277,500 to an undisclosed buyer. It had been expected to fetch up to \$20,000.

The wall fragment was considered to have particular significance because of Reagan's 1987 speech in West Berlin, in which he famously urged then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

Nancy Reagan died in March of congestive heart failure at the age of 94, 12 years after Ronald Reagan, one of the most popular US presidents, succumbed to Alzheimer's disease.

Their personal items were sold by the family trust to benefit the Ronald Reagan Presidential foundation and library in California.

Reagan's cowboy boots, a gift from Western movie actor Rex Allen, sold for \$199,500 compared to a pre-sale estimate of \$20,000, while at \$319,500, the top lot was a Bulgari diamond, sapphire and ruby ring inspired by the Stars and Stripes national flag that Nancy Reagan wore on 4 July, 1986.

"The market's response to this landmark collection sale has been remarkable, with the overall results far exceeding pre-sale expectations," said Brook Hazelton, president of Christie's America.—Reuters



A graffiti-covered fragment of the Berlin Wall signed by US President Ronald Reagan is shown in this image released by Christie's Auctions in New York, US on 23 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(25-9-2016 07:00am ~ 26-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Atuladhipati Mahamunisacca Koe Htat Kyee Pagoda
07:42	Am	Myanmar Charitable Labour Association
07:53	Am	Sticky Shan Snack
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Discovering Tribes "Rvwang (Part-2)"
08:54	Am	Graffiti: Portraiture
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Precious Lands of Myanmar (Mandalay Region)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Clam Farming

10:42	Am	Gemstone Sculptor
10:54	Am	Myanmar Harpist

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday 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
07:25	Pm	MOYINGYI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
07:43	Pm	Art Students: Their Dream
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar: Community Centre and Mobile Library
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part- II)
08:47	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass "Artist Win Pe Myint"

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

MRTV News Channel

(25-9-2016, Sunday)

6:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none">Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	4:15 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions
7:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none">Business News	4:35 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mono Classical Songs
8:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none">Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions	5:15 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gitadagale Phwintbaohn
8:45 am <ul style="list-style-type: none">Towards All Sector Development	6:15 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">KARAOKE World Chanpionships (KWC) Myanmar 2016 (Leval-1, Group-8)
9:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none">People' Talks	7:15 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Myanmar Series (Part-24)
10:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none">Women in Myanmar Society	8:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">News/ International News/ Weather Report
11:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none">Week Characterful News	8:35 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Life Struggles
11:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none">Documentary (Weather)	9:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">News
12:35 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">This Week's Special Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions
12:50 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Myanmar Movie (Part-1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pyi Thu Ni Ti
3:35 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Myanmar Movie (Part-2)	

Note/Hourly News Bulletns (Local + International)

Wozniacki ends Radwanska reign to reach Tokyo final

TOKYO — Caroline Wozniacki outlasted Agnieszka Radwanska 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 in a dog fight of a semi-final at the Pan Pacific Open on Saturday to end the Pole's reign at the Ariake Coliseum.

The former world number one prevailed in two hours and 50 minutes of hard-fought tennis and will meet local wildcard Naomi Osaka or Ukraine's Elina Svitolina in Sunday's final.

World number four Radwanska served for the match in the second set but then lost five straight games as Wozniacki levelled up the contest and took an early break in the decider.

There were 13 breaks of serve in the topsy-turvy encounter, however, and it was not until a fourth match point, which Radwanska slapped into the net for her 43rd unforced error, that the Dane was certain of her place in the final.

"I think every time I play her we play really tough matches," Wozniacki said in a courtside interview.

"She played really well today and I was lucky to win that second set and then we just fought really hard, both of us, in the third."



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark returns a ball to Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during Pan Pacific Open Women's Singles Semifinal match at Ariake Coliseum, Tokyo, Japan, on 24 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Reduced to 28th in the world rankings after a string of injuries, Wozniacki reached the semi-final of the US Open earlier this

month and should be confident of clinching her second title in her third Pan Pacific Open final on Sunday.

Japanese teenager Osaka takes on Svitolina in her first tour semi-final later on Saturday.—
Reuters

FIFA appoint van Basten to technical development role

ZURICH — FIFA named Marco van Basten as their chief officer for technical development on Friday, with president Gianni Infantino tasking the 1992 World Player of the Year to help "protect" the sport.

In his new role, which he will start next week, the Dutchman will head up all technical

areas from football technology innovation to refereeing.

"Marco van Basten is football," said Infantino in a statement.

"Discussing with him the last few months and hearing his visions for the game, knowing of course what he has done for the game, for me it was immediately

clear that Marco van Basten is a fantastic asset for FIFA, for the whole technical area of FIFA.

"We have to cherish football, we have to protect football and develop football.

Marco is a great expert, not only a legend. There is a lot he can do for football, for the game and around the pitch

in the world."

The 51-year-old former Ajax and AC Milan striker was previously working as Dutch assistant coach.

He had said last month that he had agreed with Dutch coach Danny Blind to stay on as assistant until the end of the year.—
Reuters

Polished Pogba leads United's rout of Leicester

MANCHESTER — Jose Mourinho's reshaped Manchester United destroyed Premier League champions Leicester City 4-1 with a performance that thrilled Old Trafford on Saturday and justified his decision to leave out Wayne Rooney.

The shake-up seemed to liberate Paul Pogba who led the way with a polished display, heading his first goal for the club on 42 minutes and starting the clever move that led to Juan Mata firing home United's second after 37 minutes.

Mata also played a ma-

jor part in United's third, firing across goal for Marcus Rashford to convert from close range. Chris Smalling had begun the rout with a header after 22 minutes.

Three of the goals came via Daley Blind corners from the left as Leicester headed for their third league defeat.

Claudio Ranieri responded by replacing Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez at halftime with substitute Demarai Gray looping a 20-yard shot over David de Gea for a 59th-minute consolation.—
Reuters



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford scores their third goal during Premier League at Old Trafford, on 24 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ten-man PSG slump to second league defeat of season

PARIS — Paris St Germain suffered their second defeat of the Ligue 1 season when they lost 2-0 at Toulouse after being reduced to 10 men on Friday.

The champions succumbed to second-half goals by Yann Bodiger and Jimmy Durmaz as they dropped to third in the table with 13 points from seven games. Toulouse are now second on 14 points, trailing Nice on goal difference before the leaders travel to Nancy on Sunday.

PSG, without Hatem Ben Arfa after the forward was omitted from the squad for the fourth match in a row by coach Unai Emery, were nervy after having Serge Aurier sent off in the 46th minute.

The visitors made a cautious start to the game but soon upped the pace and went close three times before the break.

Keeper Alban Lafont denied Edinson Cavani from point-blank range with a superb save on the half-hour.

Cavani then connected with Maxwell's 41st-minute cross following a sweeping move but Lafont parried the Uruguayan's header. Three minutes later Aurier's header was cleared from just under the bar by defender Christopher Jullien.

Toulouse were the stronger team at the beginning of the second half and Bodiger converted a penalty in the 48th minute after Aurier fouled Ola Toivonen and picked up his second yellow card.

PSG forward Javier Pastore went on for Brazilian Lucas in the 57th minute but made little impact.—
Reuters