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MOTHERS AT HIGH RISK

New census report: 2,800 women die each year in childbirth and pregnancy

CENSUS data released yesterday showed that about 2,800 women in Myanmar die each year in childbirth or during pregnancy, underlining the need for better maternity care and family planning.

Put into sobering perspective, the statistics show that one in five deaths among young women in Myanmar is a maternal death.

“We need to put more effort into providing access to better health care services for pregnant women, both during pregnancy and after childbirth,” said U Myint Kyaing, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The Permanent Secretary made his remarks yesterday at a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw to launch the first set of thematic analysis reports compiled from 2014 census data.

“The government is starting a programme to respond to maternal deaths with the assistance of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and providing training to health staff,” he added.

“The findings reveal the suffering of women and the anguish of the surviving families. A significant decline in maternal mortality rates could be achieved if women had the choice to give birth to fewer children”, says Janet E. Jackson, the UNFPA Representative for Myanmar. At 282 per 100,000 live births, Myanmar’s maternal



Phoo Ngun with her family in 2016: In the wake of last year’s floods, she gave birth safely to a baby daughter.
PHOTO: UNFPA

mortality ratio (MMR) is the second-highest among ASEAN countries. Every day, eight women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy, childbirth and care in the early weeks after birth. The findings come from the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census Thematic Report on Maternal Mortality.

The most important factors contributing to maternal mortality are isolation and deprivation, the report said. Maternal mortality is

higher among poor and uneducated women who have limited ability to recognise pregnancy complications and to access care. The MMR differs between states and regions. It is significantly lower in urban areas and for women who give birth in a facility that can provide basic and emergency obstetric care. Most maternal deaths are caused by treatable conditions such as bleeding and infection.

Fertility also plays an important role. Mortality is higher among

women who give birth frequently; among very young women, whose bodies are not ready for childbirth and among women over 40. Women over 45 are four times more likely to die in childbirth. But age itself is not the only factor. Early, late and frequent pregnancies indicate social and economic disadvantages that hinder access to contraception and reproductive health information. The findings show that maternal health care does not reach everyone. The report calls

for policies and interventions that support safe motherhood, especially in deprived communities and in remote areas.

To reduce maternal death, the Government of Myanmar, with the support of UNFPA and WHO, is launching the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response action programme. Training of health staff is already underway. Mandatory recording of maternal deaths will start in December.

“Each maternal death is a tragedy. Each maternal death has a story to tell. This is the tool that will ensure that every maternal death is counted. Once we know the true magnitude of maternal mortality and its causes, the Myanmar health system will be more able to employ practical ways to address its causes”, said Janet E. Jackson, UNFPA Representative for Myanmar.

Regarding the infant mortality rate, the report showed that the infant mortality rate has declined in Myanmar for three decades. However, the rate is still high when compared with other ASEAN countries.

“It’s found that the infant and adult mortality rate are still high in Ayeyawady Region, Magway Region and Chin State compared with other regions and states. Surveys need to be conducted on infant and adult mortality rates there to know whether the findings in the census are correct,” said U Myint Kyaing.—GNLM

Press conference on seizure of K2.8 billion worth of fake, expired drugs held

UNION Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho vowed to eradicate the circulation and manufacturing of fake and expired medicines in the country during a press conference on the confis-

cation of K2.8 billion worth of counterfeit drugs and materials used in the production of fake drugs yesterday.

The new government will not tolerate the fake drug busi-

ness. It has harmful effects on society, said the Union minister, adding that punitive action will be taken against those involved in the business.

According to the press con-

ference, 14 people have been charged for their alleged involvement in the creation and distribution of imitation drugs following police raids at 11 chemists and 22 warehouses

during the period from 31 August to 12 September based on information delivered from the Ministry of Industry to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses proposal to protect Myanmar workers in foreign countries



Dr Aung Thu. PHOTO: MNA



Dr Kyi Moh Moh Lwin. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw representatives discussed a proposal calling for the Union government to make efforts to help and protect abused and exploited Myanmar citizens working abroad in cooperation with host countries yesterday.

U Thaung Htay Lin of Patheingyi Constituency called on the Union government to cooperate with host countries to take the necessary measures to help and protect Myanmar workers in foreign nations where many of them are facing a variety of difficulties.

In her discussion, Dr Kyi Moh

Moh Lwin of Singaing Constituency stressed the need to facilitate a legal channel for migration with the relaxation of restrictions and called for the adoption of plans to register legal and illegal Myanmar workers in foreign countries. During the 41st day meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw, a question and answer session was also held.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu replied that 12 farmers with farming permits in Moehnyin Township will not be allowed access to agricultural loans

as the issuance of Form 7 to them did not meet the proper rules and procedures and they were not on the list to receive loans in the first place.

Regarding the upgrading of a road in Wetlet Township, the Union minister said that the 12-mile and four-furlong road will be upgraded with the pouring of concrete along with the construction of drains on both sides of the road next fiscal year under an emergency relief plan financed by the World Bank. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw sets out rules for contractors on government projects

CONTRACTORS who have won tenders for government projects shall be responsible for repairing any damages that are discovered within two years following completion of the project and penalties for missed completion dates will be collected depending on the works, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing told the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

As a framework for guidelines to be adhered to for contractors of the government's projects, action will be taken against com-

panies for any failures to meet set standards by a supervisory committee formed by the Union Ministries or regional governments in accordance with the terms of the contracts, added the Union minister. On the issue of upgrading a road in Kayah State, the Union minister replied that the road linking Bawlakhe to Phahsaung Township will be built next fiscal year, extending it to 30 feet and building RC and wooden bridges and box culverts along it.

It is planned that the earth

road will be upgraded into a gravel road during the 2018-2019 FY, he added.

During the 39th day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, lawmakers continued debating the third revised Bill to amend Ward or Village-tract Administration Law sent back from the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Regarding the bill, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw decided to have it reviewed by the Bill Committee. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes International Labour Organization-ILO DDG Mr Greg Vines. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives ILO official

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization-ILO Mr Greg Vines yesterday at the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ninth batch of detained Myanmar workers returns from Malaysia



Workers receive immigration checks on their arrival at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

THE ninth batch of detained Myanmar citizens in Malaysia arrived back to Yangon yesterday via chartered flight.

The return of the group comprising 136 Myanmar citizens was sponsored by Mother Trad-

ing and Construction Co Ltd and Miba Gonyi philanthropic association. The two donors also provided K50,000 each to the workers. Meanwhile, International Organization for Migration also provided travel expenses for their

return home, clothing and health care to them. According to sources, 1,235 citizens, out of 2,294 who were detained for various reasons in 11 camps in Malaysia, have been brought back home up to date.—*Myanmar News Agency*

KIC requests 8,000 acres for industrial zone in Bago

THE Korea Industrial Complex (KIC) Company Ltd has requested the Bago regional government to grant them 8,000 acres of land to implement an industrial zone in Bago region, it has been learned.

The KIC called on the chief minister of the Bago regional government on 24 September to discuss the implementation of the industrial zone.

"The Korean company said that they need 8,000 acres of land to implement the industrial zone in Bago region. They have selected the site already. But, as for our government, we haven't scrutinised the plan yet. We hope that this project can develop Bago region." said Bago re-

gional government Agriculture and Livestock Minister U Aung Zaw Naing.

The KIA company CEO visited to discuss development of the industrial sector. They also said that they will implement a housing project, added Minister U Aung Zaw Naing.

The KIC company CEO emphasised that they can reduce their initial investment costs if the land is rented at a lower price, with the result that they will be able to offer employment packages, salaries and wages for employees. He added that only then will they be able to create more job opportunities for over 400,000 local people. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw receives Chinese Public Security Minister

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Mr Guo Shenkun, Member of the State Council and Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting they discussed matters related to promoting bilateral cooperation, security, rule of law and conservation of environment along the border

between the two countries and cooperation for socio-economic development of Myanmar.

Mr Guo Shenkun also conveyed the message of Chinese President Xi Jinping to President U Htin Kyaw to visit China. Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win and officials. — *Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Chinese Public Security Minister Mr Guo Shenkun. PHOTO: MNA

Press conference on seizure of K2.8 billion worth of fake, expired drugs held

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In his clarification, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe said that measures are being taken to uncover a network of counterfeit medication sales and distribution chains.

U Ko Ko Lwin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, said that the ministry spotted fake drugs in the market while conducting market research on pharmaceutical product development.

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that medicines were sold under the name of BPI with fake packing and labeling in the market. In response, the Food and Drugs Administration under the Ministry of Health seized counterfeit medicines at Bogyoke Market and Shwe Pyae Sone Market in Yangon Region in co-operation with the Home Affairs Ministry as of 31 August, added the Permanent Secretary.

U Ko Ko Aung, general manager of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory which was formerly known as Burma Phar-

maceutical Industry (BPI), said that anti-counterfeit packaging measures are being taken in the production of medicines by the factory. A market surveillance team will be formed to undertake inspections of drugs on the market, he added.

According to officials who answered media questions, 44 types of fake drugs and 18 types of drugs with fake labelling and 98 types of expired drugs were confiscated during raids at the two markets and 21 types of suspicious medicines which were stored and materials used for faking drugs were seized.

The seizure of the fake drugs and materials amounted to K2.807 billion and 14 suspects that include seven possible sellers and distributors, four manufacturers, two fake label makers and one person who stored expired medicines were arrested, said officials. The seized fake and expired drugs will be destroyed in the presence of the media, added the officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Tablets and injections produced by MPF. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Vice President U Henry Van Thio meets with Dutch Special Envoy for International Water Affairs



Vice President U Henry Van Thio holds talks with Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio received Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, at the Presidential

Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the two representatives discussed matters related to further bilateral cooperation in works on Myan-

mar Integrated Water Resources Management. Also present were Deputy Ministers Dr Tun Win and U Kyaw Myo and officials. —*Myanmar News Agency*

SEANF holds 13th Annual Meeting

THE 13th Annual Meeting of the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman acted as an alternate chairman of the annual meeting, with participation of chairmen and members

of the Human Rights Commission from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste. At the meeting, the representatives discussed matters related to laying down the strategy of SEANF for the 2017-2021 FYs, sustainable development goals and the rights of aged persons.

The meeting continues today.

A statement is expected to be released at the conclusion of the meeting addressing the rights of aged persons.

At the end of the meeting the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, which is the current chair of the SEANF, will hand over the chairmanship to the Philippines.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Participants in the 13th Annual Meeting of the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum pose for documentary photos before the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Motorbikes and four-wheeled vehicles to be banned in Chaung Thar Beach in October

ACCORDING to U Min Kyaw Oo, the secretary of Chaung Tha hotel zone, riding motorbikes and four-wheeled vehicles will be forbidden within the Chaung Tha Beach area to maintain the natural beauty around the beach and to not disturb visitors.

In addition to banning motorised vehicles at Chaung Tha beach, selling food, alcohol and drugs will also be restricted.

“Those above vehicles will not be allowed to ride at the beach, and the authorities will discuss the riding of horses. Bikes will be permitted. Street vendors can sell but not around Chaung Tha beach. Authorized persons will prohibit the selling of alcohol, beer and drugs,” added U Min Kyaw Oo.

During the third week of September, a three-day workshop on the preservation of nature and long-term development around Chaung Tha beach was held, with participation from representatives of Ayeyawady region government, the ministry of hotels and tourism, representatives of regional Hluttaw, private businessmen, authorities of the hotel zone, administrators of wards and villages and locals.—200

Myanmar hosts Climate Outlook Forum, Climate Services Users Forum for Agriculture



The Climate Outlook Forum and Climate Services Users Forum for Agriculture in progress. Photo: MNA

THE ninth South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF 9) was held in conjunction with Climate Services Users Forum for Agriculture (CSUF-Ag2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.

Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) expert

Dr Govindarajulu Srinivasan and the head of the World Climate Application and Services Division (WCAS) of the World Meteorological Association (WMO) Dr. Rupa Kumar Kolli also spoke on the occasion.

The SASCOF-9 and CSUF-Ag2 were jointly organized by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Transport and Communica-

tions and Thailand-based RIMES under the sponsorship of the WMO.

The forum was aimed at holding discussions on seasonal forecasts and releasing climate change projections and seasonal climate outlooks, which are very important to those in the agriculture sector and for water resource users.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Crime NEWS



Somnidriving plunges car into a roadside ditch: A car plunged into a roadside ditch when one Kyaw Win Thin, 25, drove in sleep. The car was en route from Mandalay to Muse. The accident took place just beyond an OHC toll gate near Mile Post 8/0 on Myoshaung Lan in Lashio. The driver is from Taungtha Township. PHOTO: MNA

Couple charged with theft by deception

A MAN who is a member of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry Association and his wife were charged with the theft over K6 million on Monday.

According to an investigation, on 28 July, the suspect, one Win Myint Oo, 30, asked Ma Hnein Nwe Aung, 35, to sell him K51,111 worth of white sesame and K1,633,507 worth of regular sesame on credit. He made a verbal agreement with her at that time to pay the bill in full on 19 August.

The suspect further asked for K51,666 worth of white sesame and K5,356,110 worth of regular sesame on 15 August, again on credit to be paid back on 19 August. When payment day arrived, the suspect did not materialise.

Upon contacting the suspect's wife, Ma Hnein Nwe Aung was told that she would be paid in full on 24 August.

On 24 August, Ma Hnein Nwe Aung returned to collect the payment and found that the couple had fled. It was not made clear whether they had absconded with the stockpile of pilfered sesame.

Local police were contacted and opened an investigation under section 420 of the Penal Code. An official from the Chambers of Commerce and Industry Association confirmed the suspect's membership. As a result of the criminal investigation Win Myint Oo has been ejected from the association, a representative said. —*Kyaw Zayya*

Illegal logs and machinery confiscated

A COMBINED investigation team comprising an official and staff from Sagaing police station confiscated illegal logs and machinery near the creek of Thin Ngar village on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the creek and found illegal logs weighing 0.3 tonnes and a Chinese made machine used in the col-

lection of logs.

The combined team continued to search the creek and further discovered illegal teak logs weighing 4.6 tonnes and agricultural machines.

Further investigations are being made by the forestry department of Phaung Pyin township.— *IPRD (Phaung Pyin)*

Man dies following quarrel in Ayeyawady Region

A MAN witnessed fleeing a murder scene is wanted by police for questioning in the case of the death of one Saw Kan Do Htoo in Pok Hla Gyine village, Shwe Thauang Yan township, Ayeyawady Region on Saturday. According to an investigation, Win Hlaing and Saw Kan Do Htoo were drinking alcohol together when an argument broke out between them. Win Hlaing is suspected of striking the victim in the skull with an alcohol bottle. The victim was sent to Yakhin general hospital but died shortly after. Local police are searching for the suspect Win Hlaing. —*Ko Ko Maung*

Police find female corpse in Yesagyo

POLICE from Yesagyo discovered the corpse of a woman in a drain in Bo Pin village and Pho Lon village, Yasagyo township, Magwe region on Sunday following a report by a neighbour.

Police sent the corpse to the township general hospital for post mortem.

Local ward authorities were unable to identify the remains as anyone known to the community.

Police have opened a case under section 302 of the Penal Code. An investigation is ongoing.—*U Tun Tun Hlaing*

LOCAL Business

Efforts exerted to formulate a zoning law in Yangon

CONCERTED efforts are being made for a zoning plan in Yangon Region to go from draft to law, it is learnt from the City Planning and Land Administration Department under the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The city plan was first drawn up in 2012 in coordination with the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction, the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA) and city planning experts to legislate proper use of land and limit high-rises, it is learnt.

High-rise buildings are to cover only 35 per cent of the town, as is written in the draft, in keeping with the directive of United Nations. The limits of construction in each town, green spaces such as parks and gardens and industrial zones are also delineated in the plan.

Any building construction in Yangon will have to be in compliance with the zoning law after it is approved by the Yangon Regional Hluttaw.—200



High-rise buildings are seen in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KWAR

Myanmar Automobile Development Public Co., Ltd to register at YSX

MYANMAR Automobile Development Public Company Limited will soon register at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in hopes of becoming a publicly listed company, it is learnt from the company's second annual general meeting held at UMFC-CI on 24th September.

Public companies are allowed to sell and trade shares of stock. There are currently three companies listed on the YSX: First Myanmar Investment (FMI); Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited (MTSH) and Myanmar Citizens Banks (MCB).

"Our company will make efforts to be listed at YSX", said Dr. Soe Tun, the chairman of Myanmar Automobile Development Public Company Limited.

The company has already received opinions from shareholders at the meeting. There

are 58 shareholders and over 100 outside shareholders in the company, it is learnt.

Currently, the company is negotiating with Yangon regional government to establish an automobile centre in Hlegu Township, calling on the opinions of local and village administrators.

"We will register to be listed at YSX only after the construction of automobile centre is permitted", said Dr Phyto Zin Oo, the chief executive officer of this company.

The listed companies at YSX are FMI, MTSH, MCB, Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO), First Private Bank and Great Horkan Public Company. Yangon Stock Exchange was opened at Myawady old bank quarter on 9th December, 2015.—Myitmakha News Agency

Automobile centre planned for Hlegu Township

AN automobile centre featuring car showrooms and car services is being planned for Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, it is learnt from Myanmar Automobile Public Limited.

"We have a plan to provide one-stop service for automobiles to facilitate the car owners", said Dr. Soe Tun, the chairman of Myanmar Automobile Development

Public Company Limited. "This center is not currently approved yet. The negotiations are still being carried out".

This centre will include car showrooms, auto parts shops and car repair services. The automobile centre is slated to be implemented in three phases under a 10-year project. The centre will be built on 204.55 acres of land, it is learnt.

Currently, the company is negotiating with locals and village administrators and the Yangon regional government.

"We will cooperate with the developers to implement this project after being approved", said Dr Phyto Zin Oo, the CEO of Myanmar Automobile Development Public Company Limited.—Myitmakha News Agency

India introduces nature-based chemicals and medicines for livestock farming

INDIA introduced nature-based chemicals and medicines for livestock farming to facilitate fish and prawn farmers at an event promoting those medicines at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation office on 25th September.

U Han Tun, the minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Energy in Yangon Region,

said that the nature-based livestock breeding medicines are needed to boost saltwater and freshwater fish production while having minimal impact on the aquaculture system.

The nature-based chemicals and medicines imported from India can help to keep the fish healthy. Also, the medicines can maintain the quality of water in commercial

breeding lakes, said Daw Thin Aye Maung Maung, the chairman of Myanmar Pioneer Star Company Group of Companies.

Additionally, U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the livestock experts negotiated the matters concerning livestock breeding methods.—200

Myanmar coin collectors association formed to facilitate antique coins sale

THE Myanmar Coin Collectors Association was formed on 25th September to facilitate the sale of antique coins in Myanmar, it is learnt from the founders of the association.

The formation of the associ-

ation aims to connect sellers and coin hunters without any profit motive, said Ko Sai Lin, a founder of this association.

There are shops which sell silver coins and old notes in Yangon. Similarly, there are coin

hunters and sellers in the rural areas.

Some are fond of collecting the coins. The price of old notes vary depending on the beautiful numbers, he added.

The association was founded

with 20 members. They will seek approval from the government.

"The good thing is that trading can add to the value of the goods", said Ko Arkar Soe, a local from Yankin Township.

Myanmar has Pyu silver

coins and antique coins produced in colonial times, during the Konboun dynasty and during the Yadanabon dynasty. Coins from foreign countries are also reportedly traded.—Myitmakha News agency

Ceremony held to mourn victims on 2nd anniversary of Mt. Ontake eruption

NAGANO (Japan) — Bereaved families and local officials gathered Tuesday to mark the second anniversary of the eruption of Mt. Ontake, which claimed 58 lives and left five people unaccounted for in the nation's deadliest postwar volcanic disaster. Attendees at the ceremony in the town of Kiso in Nagano Prefecture observed a moment of silence at 11:52 am, the time of the eruption in 2014. Some climbers also took part in the ceremony.

Family members also paid floral tributes near the entrance of the mountain climbing trails.

Koichi Inooka, 54, from Tokyo, who lost a younger brother and his wife in the disaster, climbed the mountain after the ceremony, carrying the camera his brother had used to take pictures of the scenery until immediately before the eruption occurred. Meanwhile, another group of people held a memorial service separately in the village of Otaki in the prefecture.

The Japan Meteorological Agency currently maintains an alert level of 2 for the volcano on a scale of 5, warning people not to get close to the crater. —Kyodo News

Third typhoon of the month hits Taiwan, 32 injured

TAIPEI — Strong wind and rain lashed Taiwan on Tuesday as the third typhoon to hit the island this month made landfall, injuring more than 30 people, ripping signs off buildings and knocking down trees.

Most schools and offices were shut and the north-south bullet train suspended services as Typhoon Megi, packing winds of well over 160 kph (100 mph), roared in from the Pacific and hit eastern Taiwan.

At least 32 people were injured and more than 5,300 evacuated, the government's Central Emergency Operation Center said, while more than 950,000 households had lost power, according to the main power supplier, Taiwan Power Co.

Taiwan's financial markets were closed because of the storm.

Television footage showed people, who ig-



A motorcyclist takes cover from strong winds as Typhoon Megi hits Hualien, eastern Taiwan, on 27 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

nored warnings to stay indoors, scurrying along city streets clutching umbrellas to try to fend off the rain, which grew heavier as the storm approached.

Bus and subway services were mostly suspended in the capital, Taipei, while hundreds of international flights were cancelled.

Jen Li-yu, an official with the Central Weather Bureau, said the storm would lose strength after it made landfall though flooding and strong winds would continue.

The typhoon is expected to move across Taiwan and head into the Taiwan Strait and on towards China on Wednesday. This

month, super Typhoon Meranti killed 28 people in China and Taiwan and cut power to more than a million homes. Typhoons are common in the region at this time of year, picking up strength as they cross warm Pacific waters and bringing fierce wind and rain when they reach land. —Reuters

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Thai police say suspected passport gang members are US citizens



A foreign member of a suspected passport forgery gang is escorted by police officers after a raid in Bangkok, Thailand, on 23 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Three foreign members of a suspected passport forgery gang charged with concealing a dead body in a freezer are Americans, police said on Tuesday.

The men were arrested after a raid on a residential

compound in the Thai capital Bangkok on Friday. One police officer was shot and wounded in the raid.

A search of the compound revealed the dismembered body of a man in plastic bags in a freezer. Police also found hundreds

of forged US, British and French passports.

"The FBI attached in Bangkok has confirmed to us that all three people arrested on Friday are American citizens," Thai Immigration Police Chief Nathorn Phrosunthorn

told Reuters. Nathorn said that the men did not have criminal records, though one had been charged with credit card fraud in the United States in 1979 but not convicted.

The men have been charged with creating illegal documents, illegal entry and hiding a dead body. All three deny the charges.

Police have so far been unable to identify the dismembered body which they described as belonging to a blond-haired foreign male.

With a high number of visitors every year, Thailand has a booming black market for fake identity documents. Authorities struggle to track the thousands of lost or stolen passports each year with some known to be sold on to drug traffickers while others are suspected to end up in the hands of Islamist militants. —Reuters

At least 14 people killed in road accident in Nepal

KATHMANDU — At least 14 people were killed in a road accident in Dhading, a district bordering Kathmandu on Tuesday afternoon.

Dinesh Yadav, a police officer deployed at the accident site, told Xinhua that

14 persons have died after a passenger bus met an accident at Marpak village in Dhading district.

"We have recovered 14 bodies in total including ten males and four females so far. A rescue operation is under way. I am worried

that the death toll may rise," Yadav said over phone.

The ill-fated passenger bus was en route from Dhading district headquarters Dhading Besi to Darkha Village Development Committee. The bus reportedly fell some 60 me-

tres down the highway in a landslide-hit road section. "Among the nine rescued alive, seven are in critical conditions," Yadav said.

How many passengers were on board and what caused the accident are still unclear. —Xinhua

Philippines' Duterte wants to 'open alliances' with Russia, China

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Monday he would visit Russia and China this year to chart an independent foreign policy and "open alliances" with two powers with historic rivalries with the United States.

Duterte said the Philippines was at the "point of no return" in relations with former colonial ruler the United States, so he wanted to strengthen ties with others, and picked two global powers that have been sparring with Washington on the international political stage.

Last week, he last declared he would visit China, with which ties remain frosty over a South China Sea arbitration ruling won by the Philippines in July. He said Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev was expecting him in Moscow.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam have rival claims.

An arbitration court in The Hague in July invalidated Chi-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte arrives at the military's Camp Tecson to talk to soldiers in San Miguel, Bulacan in northern Philippines on 15 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

na's claims to the waterway in a case brought by the Philippines, a ruling Beijing refuses to recognise.

"I am ready to not really break (US) ties but we will open alliances with China and... Medvedev," Duterte told reporters, adding he would open up the "other side of the ideological

barrier".

He welcomed investment and shrugged off rating agency Standard and Poor's concerns last week about the Philippine economy on his watch.

"Never mind about the ratings," he said. "I will open up the Philippines for them to do business, alliances of trade and

commerce."

The peso fell on Monday to its lowest since 2009, and foreign investors have dumped local shares for six straight weeks, worried about Duterte's anti-US rhetoric and brutal war on drugs, which has alarmed rights groups at home and abroad.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the Philippine government had not contacted the United States about the comments made by Duterte.

US cooperation with the Philippine government remains strong and the United States has not seen anything that would indicate a shift by Manila, Toner said at a daily news briefing.

"They're a sovereign nation and we're certainly not going to hold them back from pursuing closer relations with either of those countries. ... It's not a zero-sum game," he said.

Duterte also said he would open up telecoms and airlines, two domestic sectors long controlled by local players and criticized for being uncompetitive. He did not elaborate.

His vitriol against the United States has become a near-daily occurrence, sparking both amusement and concern. On Monday he accused Washington of "hypocrisy" and "lording it over us".

His latest swipe included ruling out participation in any maritime conflict initiated by the United States, despite a 1951 treaty which Duterte said required Manila to back Washington.

"I am about to cross the Rubicon between me and the US," he said, "without elaborating. 'It's the point of no return.'"

Toner said he would dispute Duterte's premise that the United States might start a maritime conflict. "The United States has a strong security presence in the Asia-Pacific region, but we're certainly not looking to start a military action against anyone," he said.

It was unclear whether Duterte's outbursts will affect relations between the two countries, whose militaries have scheduled joint exercises in October.—Reuters

China's Communist Party to hold key meeting from 24 to 27 October

BEIJING — China's ruling Communist Party will hold a key meeting from 24 October to 27 October, the official Xinhua news agency said on Tuesday, a session likely to focus on revising rules of party discipline as President Xi Jinping keeps up a battle on corruption.

Formally called plenums, such meetings are typically held annually as the party's most important event and tend to map out major policies for the years ahead.

The October gathering is likely to be the final plenum be-

fore the party holds its five-yearly congress, expected some time in the autumn of 2017, where Xi will cement his power and possibly anoint a successor.

Xinhua announced the dates of the "sixth plenary session of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee" without giving further details, though in July it said the secretive meeting would focus on amending rules for supervision in the party.

Since assuming power almost four years ago, Xi has waged an ambitious campaign against corruption, in which

dozens of senior officials have been jailed, including the powerful former domestic security chief Zhou Yongkang.

The last plenum before the party congress is typically used to discuss ideological issues, and other plenums under Xi have focussed on economic matters and the rule of law.

At last year's meeting the party announced a landmark easing of family planning restrictions, to allow all couples to have two children, after decades of a strict one-child policy.—Reuters



A man holds his smartphone which displays the Google home page, in this picture illustration taken in Bordeaux, Southwestern France, on 22 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Google launches service to take internet to India malls, cafes

MUMBAI — Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc, said on Tuesday it launched Google Station in India, a service that aims to deepen its reach across the country, as the search giant seeks to bring more people on to its Google platform.

Under the service, Google will roll-out Wi-Fi hot spots in places frequented by a large number of people, such as malls and transit stations, and in social hangout locations such as cafes and universities, the company said on Tuesday.

"The goal is to give people many hot spots within a few minutes walk from their home, uni-

versity, or workplace, unified by a simple login process that works across all of them," Caesar Sengupta, Vice-President, Next Billion Users at Google was quoted as saying in the statement.

Google currently offers free Wi-Fi access at 53 railway stations across India and plans to scale up the service to 100 by year-end, the company said.

Sengupta also said the company is also looking at monetizing the service it offers at railway stations. Google Station will also be launched in Indonesia and Philippines in future, the company said.—Reuters

South Korea hopes Japan's constitutional reform keeps regional peace

SEOUL — The South Korean Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that it wants any amendment by the Japanese government of the country's pacifist Constitution to be made in a direction contributing to regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

"We want (such moves in Japan) to be going on within the basic framework of the pacifist Constitution and to be helpful for peace, stability and prosperity in the region," ministry spokesman Cho June Hyuck told reporters during a press briefing.

"We are watching discussions related (to constitutional revision) with interest," he said, adding South Korea is "aware there are various opinions in Japan regarding the constitutional amendment."

His remarks came in an answer to a question on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's call for lawmakers from both the ruling and opposition parties to participate in constitutional review commission discussions in each house of the Diet.

In a policy speech made on Monday at the start of a 66-day

extraordinary Diet session, Abe said, "The way the Constitution should be, the kind of country Japan should aim to be — these things are not decided by the government, but by the people, and it is our responsibility as Diet lawmakers to make a proposal to the people."

South Korea, colonized by Japan from 1910-1945, has raised concerns over Japan's move to amend its Constitution, with the particular source of concern being Article 9, which "renounces" Japan's right to wage war.—Kyodo News

Opinion

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All countries, especially rich ones, should admit refugees

Khin Maung Aye

WHAT is frequently missed in formulation of the policies concerning immigration is that the issue of migration is considered to be merely a matter of managing an influx of people. In fact, migration is a matter that requires taking into account social perspective. According to Dr Wander Jager and Rocco Paolillo, a social complexity perspective contributes to a more systematic view of the migration issues.

It is worth noting that 19.5 million people across the world have been forced to seek sanctuary in another nation. Although the governments have a duty to help the refugees, most rich nations are still treating refugees as somebody else's problem. In this regard, it would not be improper to quote State Counsel-

lor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as saying, in her speech to the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly, that the world is not owned by one country and that nations are sharing the world, suggesting that migrants or refugees should have the right to live in every country if they find it impossible to live in their country. The rich countries, hiding behind closed borders and terrified of being flooded with refugees, have conveniently allowed poorer, chiefly middle eastern, African and south asian countries, to host an incredible 86 per cent of refugees.

And what is more, the rich nations, neglecting most appeals for humanitarian aid, have rendered the United Nations Agencies so broke that they cannot even care for many refugees

properly any more. This has to change, now. Amnesty International has set forth eight solutions for how the world's leaders, particularly the rich nations, can begin to tackle this massive humanitarian crisis together.

To start with, one important solution is the opening up of safe routes to sanctuary for refugees. Secondly, resettlement is a vital solution. Thirdly, states are required to invest in search-and-rescue operations as well as in helping people in distress. And fourthly, whether they travel by land or by sea, people fleeing persecution or wars should be allowed to cross borders both legally and illegally. Pushing people back and putting up massive fences will only compel them to take more dangerous routes to safety. In the fifth place, all nations ought to investigate and

prosecute the trafficking gangs. Governments are needed, in the sixth place, to stop blaming refugees and migrants for economic and social problems, and instead fight all kinds of xenophobia and racial discrimination in the seventh place. Last but not least, governments ought to set up strong refugee systems that will allow people to apply for asylum, treat refugee claims fairly, resettle the most vulnerable of all and provide basics like education and health care.

In conclusion, as long as the aforementioned are not easy solutions, they will not cause big problems in the long term, and as long as there is the political will on the part of the governments of the rich nations, the issue of refugees can be solved through solidarity and compassion.

The importance of Rabies in public health

Kaung Htet Thar

TO revive the country and build a civilized, developed nation-state, it is necessary to have enough individual incomes, availability of food, accessibility of safe food. Nowadays, researchers reveal that the origin of currently prevailing human infectious diseases originated from animals. Among them, some are under effective concerns for the prevention and control but some are still neglected not only in Myanmar but also in many countries. The disease which should not be on the list of neglected disease in this modern era is rabies which can cause 100% fatality despite its being 100% preventable. That is the main reason of celebrating world rabies day every year on 28th September since 2007 with the main goals of reducing risk of rabies through dog bites to zero risk by 2030.

Rabies is an infectious viral disease which occurs in all warm blooded animals with up to 6 months incubation periods in animals. After clinical signs have been developed in animal victim, it is not curable and nervous signs are the most prominent clinical features follow by death. Basically, there are two forms in clinical rabies: furious forms showing sign of salvation, aimlessly movement, unprovoked

attack to all moving objectives and other susceptible animals; dumb form known as silent rabies has no clinical signs which can be overseen by the owners.

It has been reported that the major cause of rabies in human originated from the dog rabies which is threatening to at least 150 countries among 180 OIE members. The key points which have been addressed by OIE for the control and eradication of rabies are prevention, controlling stray dog population by reducing and promoting diagnosis and surveillance activities. With the ultimate goal of effective rabies eradication across the globe, it is necessary to report all outbreaks transparently and rabies control program have to be on the top priority list as one of the national needs. Even the disease is fully preventable by using vaccine but the threat of the disease risk is still huge within the community of developing countries. Myanmar people are very much aware of rabies but the number of rabies victims who take systematic treatment after post exposure with any rabies suspected animals are not in the satisfactory figure. Approaching traditional treatment, charmers and remedies cause temporary manias and believe to recover are still practicing at rural areas of Myanmar. It is strongly suggested to take more and more effective meas-

ures for the education, prevention and control at both animal and human sectors to reduce the risk of the disease.

The occurrence of the disease is notorious among Myanmar community with a traditional saying "time of 'lat pan' (Bombax Flower - Bombay buonopozense) blossoming is a time of rabies". It means that rabies occurrence is high in summer time when "lat pan" tree blossom. The suggestion of at least 7 to 10 days watch after you suspected a dog as rabies is not reliable in this situation any more and it is strongly recommended to take appropriate post exposure treatment as soon as possible (within 24 hours) after exposed with any suspected rabies. There are some medical evidences that human victims expire earlier than the dog which bit the victim and has not developed rabies for long time. Therefore, the victims must take post exposure prophylaxis treatment which has very least side effect even the dog is not stray, even dog is under close observation of an owner and vaccinated. It is crucial to see medical attendants or visit government hospital for receiving safe treatment. Killing suspected animals is not a humane manner and it is an unnecessary brutal action to an animal.

It was estimated an approximation of dog population in My-

anmar in 2003 was 3.48 million by WHO survey whereas in 2016, the figure would be at double after a research study has done in a township located at central Myanmar. As a consequence, systematic depopulation of stray dog, applying mass vaccination and immediate reporting of rabies suspected animal at community areas are very much needed to combat the disease for aiming reduction of rabies risk. Even World Rabies Day campaign (talk and vaccination) has been launched for 10 years around the world, it should not be a nice performance only for show celebrating with attractive decoration. The ongoing action must be in place for the whole year round to fight against the risk of rabies. Stray dog are considered as higher risk group which is basically out of control; high probability to get and to spread the infection to other susceptible animals and no one cannot predict unprovoked attack from that group. It was best guessed that more than 6 million of victims were bitten and among them child and woman are a larger proportion. Private and government veterinarian could vaccinate approximately 10% of the dog population in Myanmar and that is not a satisfactory prevention activities. Rabies is reported not only in dogs, but also in cat, pig and

horses in Myanmar. Donors and international organizations are currently focusing on the global hot issue like avian influenza which is not a crucial important disease in line with the country's situation which has human death case like in Rabies. It is strongly suggested that relevant department must convince their primary duty and to make a priority for those neglected diseases to improve the national health as much as they can.

Finally, in the World Rabies Day which falls on 28th September of this year, all citizens must pay attention to the unnoticeably threatening neglected disease, Rabies, to be aware of the unprovoked risk of rabies. To have better prevention and control of the disease, immediate reporting on any suspected cases in time, prompt action to be taken any relevant treatment after exposed with rabies suspected or confirmed case, examining all suspected cases at veterinary department's laboratory are duty of all citizen to prevent and control rabies in Myanmar. Therefore, with the slogan of "Educate, vaccinate and eliminate rabies" for 2016, all citizens must be aware of the risk of the disease and let's participate in the campaign for the prevention of rabies by vaccinating to the all available dogs.

Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Chinese Public Security Minister

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a Chinese delegation led by Mr Guo Shenkun, Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting the two representatives discussed matters related to fighting against narcotic drug production and trafficking, prevention of terrorism, prevention of illegal business in border areas damaging environmental conservation and bilateral cooperation including exchange of information for security and the rule of law for both countries. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chinese Public Security Minister and officials posing for a group photo. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar athletes to train in China, Japan and South Korea for 29th SEA Games

ACCORDING to the Sports and Physical Education Committee, athletes from Myanmar will train in China, Japan and South Korea to increase their chances of success in the upcoming 29th SEA Games in Malaysia.

Athletes will go to China to train for swimming, shooting and wushu; to Japan for swimming, karate and judo; and to South Korea to train for shooting and taekwondo.

“There is cooperation among the governments to send the athletes to the above countries. At the moment, the authorities asked for the lists of the athletes from the sports organizations,” said U Kyaw San Oo, the assistant director of sports and physical education.

The Ministry of Health and Sport is preparing for the 29th Sea Games and is in continued discussion with the sport federations

to determine who will be chosen for the competition.

“They had already submitted the names of ten athletes who were prepared to participate in the SEA Games. This is the plan, but the arrangement can be changed,” said U Myat Khine, secretary of Myanmar Golf Federation. Myanmar won 11 gold medals at the 28th Sea Games held in Singapore in 2015.—*Myint Hein (Myintmakha)*

Train derailment injures one

A cargo train derailed at 6.45 am yesterday between Namkham and Gyohtaung stations in Wuntho Township, Sagaing region, resulting in the injury of an assistant locomotive driver.

No passengers were injured in the accident, which was

the second train derailment in a week.

Engineers and volunteers were able to move the coach of the train, which was enroute from Myitkyina to Mandalay, and repaired the tracks.

The tracks were reopened

around 9 pm yesterday and train operators were warned to slow down when crossing the repaired section.

Engineers are investigating the accident to determine the cause of the accident.—*Maung Chit Lin*



The cargo train being seen after derailment. PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN

Myanmar Retailer Association of Mandalay annual meeting and economics talk held in Mandalay



Myanmar Retailer Association of Mandalay annual meeting and economics talk in progress. Photo: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

THE Myanmar Retailer Association (Mandalay Region) organised the annual meeting of the association and an economics talk at the Mandalay National Theatre in Mandalay on 25 September. At the ceremony, the chairperson of the Myanmar Retailer Association Daw Win Win Tint formally made an opening speech, and Mandalay Retailer Association chairperson Daw Khin Hsan Yi spoke words of greeting.

Next, the secretary of the association elaborated on the activities of the association and future plans of the asso-

ciation and read out the 2015-2016 financial report.

Then, he responded to queries raised by members of the association.

In the afternoon, U Tin Zan Kyaw gave a talk entitled “New Opportunities in Retailing”. And then, led by U Tin Zan Kyaw, the secretary of the Myanmar Retailer Association U Thurein Nyein, Daw Wai Thit Lwin, U Zarni Win Htet of Sumsung and U Zaw Lin Shein of Coca Cola held a round table discussion on the topic of successful marketing.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Clinton assails Trump in blistering US presidential debate

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.— Republican Donald Trump vowed on Tuesday to hit rival Democrat Hillary Clinton harder in the next US presidential debate after she put him on the defensive by accusing him of being racist, sexist and a tax dodger during their first matchup.

Trump, a real estate mogul making his first run for public office, praised himself for not attacking Clinton about the marital infidelity of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, but said in a Tuesday morning interview with Fox News that he may take up the attack line going forward.

"I may hit her harder in certain ways," Trump said in a telephone interview with "Fox & Friends." Trump added that when Clinton criticized him for his treatment of women, he resisted. "I was going to hit her with her husband's women. And I decided I shouldn't do it because her daughter was in the room."

Clinton was under pressure to perform well on Monday night after a recent bout with pneumonia and an erosion in recent weeks in her lead over Trump in opinion polls. One line of attack was Trump's past remarks about women, a message designed to resonate with women who have not yet decided who to vote for and who could prove pivotal in deciding the 8 November White House election.

Trump, a former reality TV star who eschewed a lot of debate practise, was assertive and focused early on, interrupting Clinton repeatedly. As the night wore on, he became testy and less disciplined in front of the crowd at host Hofstra University and a televised audience that

may have reached upwards of a record 100 million people.

Clinton's campaign manager, Robby Mook, said on CNN on Tuesday that Trump wanted to steer the political debate away from the policy issues that Clinton is better prepared to discuss.

"Trump wants to talk about anything but the actual issues that people care about and that's because he didn't prepare. He didn't show up ready to talk about the things that matter in people's lives," Mook said.

A CNN/ORC snap poll said 62 per cent of respondents felt Clinton won and 27 per cent believed Trump was the winner.

Trump complained on Tuesday that issues from Clinton's 2009-2013 tenure as secretary of state were not addressed on Monday night, including topics he has assailed her on such as her use of a private computer server for government emails, a deadly attack in Benghazi, Libya, and the Clinton Foundation charity. In signs that investors awarded the debate to Clinton, Asian shares recovered after an early bout of nerves while the Mexican peso jumped on Tuesday.

US equity markets kicked off their session with a modest gain but the advance was restrained by weakness in energy stocks as oil prices fell 2.5 per cent. Clinton's chances in the election also improved in online betting markets.

Clinton, the first woman to win the presidential nomination of a major US political party, seemed to pique Trump when she brought up how Trump has insulted women. She pointed to Alicia Machado, a former Miss Universe, saying Trump had repeatedly insulted her.

"He loves beauty contests, supporting them and hanging around them and he called this one 'Miss Piggy' and then he called her 'Miss Housekeeping,'" she said.

Trump, former owner of the Miss Universe pageants, was asked on Tuesday morning about Clinton's comments. He said he knew Machado and defended his insults of the woman.

"She was the winner and she gained a massive amount of weight," Trump said of Machado. "And it was a real problem. We had a real problem. Not only that - her attitude - and we had a real problem with her." Venezuelan-born Machado was Miss Universe in 1996.

"You feel good tonight?" Clinton asked supporters afterward. "I sure do. We had a great debate." Trump, 70, declared himself the winner to reporters at the debate site.

The 68-year-old Clinton relentlessly sought to raise questions about her opponent's temperament, business acumen and knowledge.

Trump used much of his time to argue the former first lady and US senator had achieved little in public life and wanted to pursue policies begun by President Barack Obama that he said have failed to repair a shattered middle class, with jobs lost to outsourcing and excessive government regulation.

Trump suggested her disavowal of a trade deal with Asian countries was insincere. Her handling of a nuclear deal with Iran and Islamic State militancy were disasters, he argued. Trump said Clinton had spent her "entire adult life" fighting the Islamic State, a group that has existed for less than a decade. —Reuters



Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks as Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton listens during their first presidential debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, US, on 26 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Thai capital Ayudhya recommended as riverine tourist spot

BANGKOK — An official of central Thai province of Ayudhya, where the former national capital is located, on Tuesday urged authorities to promote their hometown as a riverine tourist spot to attract more visitors.

Provincial Chamber of Commerce chairman Kriangkrai Danchaivichit said besides being a World Heritage site, the province could attract a large number of tourists, especially foreign visitors.

There are historical sites, ancient Buddhist temples and cultural values for visitors to see at many riverine spots along Chao Phraya River, which is the country's largest river. There are also other waterways and canals which run through the central province, about 75 kilometres north of Bangkok, Kriangkrai said.

Many people travel by boat throughout Ayudhya where those riverine spots can become tourist spots, he said. He said provincial authorities had not done enough to publicize local tourism potentials, especially in the eye of foreign tourists. —Xinhua

Volcano erupts in central Indonesia, potentially disturbing flight

JAKARTA — Mount Barujari, child of Mount Rinjani, in Lombok Timur of central Indonesia, erupted on Tuesday with ashes potentially enveloping a nearby city and disturbing flight, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster management agency told Xinhua via phone. —Xinhua

Philippines' Duterte seeks China's help in anti-drug crackdown

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday he wants China to control its citizens' involvement in the illegal drug trade in his country.

In a public address delivered at a seized drug laboratory in the central Luzon province of Pampanga, Duterte said many Chinese criminals are involved with local drug syndicates, while materials used for producing illegal drugs are also from China.

"So we want them also to control their people and increase the focus on their criminals," he said.

"If you consider us your friend, you want to help us, but most of the materials, all of it, and the machines and the boilers, are from China, what does that mean?"

Duterte had previously suggested that major drug lords involved in the profitable illegal industry in the Philippines are operating from China.

Since he came to power in June, the president has been waging a brutal anti-drug crackdown, targeting producers, dealers and users.

More than a thousand drug suspects have been killed in police shootouts and other law enforcement operations, while more than 2,000 others have died in still unclear circumstances. —Kyodo News

One dead, many trapped in China colliery explosion

YINCHUAN — One person was killed and several others were trapped Tuesday morning after a suspected gas explosion underground a coal mine in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, local authorities said.

The suspected explosion occurred at a coal mine in Baijigou of Shizuishan City. A rescue operation is under way. No further details of the accident are immediately known. —Xinhua

Gulf may arm rebels now Syria truce is dead — US officials

WASHINGTON — The collapse of the latest Syria ceasefire has heightened the possibility that Gulf states might arm Syrian rebels with shoulder-fired missiles to defend themselves against Syrian and Russian warplanes, US officials said on Monday.

Still, the US administration continues to maintain that negotiations are the only way to end the carnage after Russian-backed Syrian forces intensified their bombing of Aleppo, the last major urban area in rebel hands.

The latest US attempt to end Syria's 5-1/2 year civil war was shattered on 19 September when a humanitarian aid convoy was bombed in an attack Washington blamed on Russian aircraft. Moscow denied involvement.

On Monday, medical supplies were running out in rebel-held eastern Aleppo, with victims pouring into barely functioning hospitals as Russia and its Syrian ally President Bashar al-Assad ignored Western pleas to stop the bombing.



A rebel fighter of 'Al-Sultan Murad' brigade arranges weapons inside a warehouse in the northern Syrian rebel-controlled town of al-Rai, in Aleppo Governorate, Syria, on 26 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

One consequence of the latest diplomatic failure may be that Gulf Arab states or Turkey could step up arms supplies to rebel factions, including shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, something the United States has

largely prevented until now.

One US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss American policy, said Washington has kept large numbers of such man-portable air defence systems, or MANPADS, out

of Syria by uniting Western and Arab allies behind channelling training and infantry weapons to moderate opposition groups while it pursued talks with Moscow.

But frustration with Washington has intensified,

raising the possibility that Gulf allies or Turkey will no longer continue to follow the US lead or will turn a blind eye to wealthy individuals looking to supply MANPADS to opposition groups.

"The Saudis have always thought that the way to get the Russians to back off is what worked in Afghanistan 30 years ago — negating their air power by giving MANPADS to the mujahideen," said a second US official.

"So far, we've been able to convince them that the risks of that are much higher today because we're not dealing with a Soviet Union in retreat, but a Russian leader who's bent on rebuilding Russian power and less likely to flinch," this official said, referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Asked if the United States was willing to do anything beyond negotiations to try to stop the violence, State Department spokesman Mark Toner did not outline other steps, but stressed that Washington does not want to see anyone pouring more weapons into the conflict. "What you would have as a result is just an escalation in what is already horrific fighting," Toner said. "Things could go from bad to much worse."—Reuters

EU launches programme to issue cash cards to migrants in Turkey

ANKARA — The European Union launched a programme on Monday to issue monthly electronic cash grants to benefit a million refugees in Turkey, as part of a deal under which Ankara will curb the numbers trying to enter Europe.

The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) will give refugees pre-paid cards for food, housing, schooling or medical expenses in Turkey.

Earlier this year, EU countries approved a fund

of 3 billion euros (\$3.37 billion) to help Turkey improve living conditions for some 3 million Syrian migrants on its territory. The ESSN is part of that deal.

"Today we launch the biggest and largest humanitarian project the EU has ever supported. It will provide a basic source of income for 1 million Syrian refugees," Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides said at a news

conference. "The ESSN is perfect proof of the EU's commitment to tackle the challenge posed by the refugee crisis," he said. The EU is also funding other humanitarian projects in Turkey. But President Tayyip Erdogan has accused the bloc of not following through on its financial pledges.

More than a million migrants entered the European Union after crossing from Turkey to Greece by boat last year. Since Turkey agreed to



A general view of the Harran refugee camp is seen in the Sanliurfa province, Turkey, on 6 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

prevent people from setting sail from its shores, the numbers taking that route have fallen dramatically.

On Turkey's criticism that the promised EU aid for

refugees was slow to arrive, Stylianides said he held discussions with Turkey's EU Affairs Minister Omer Celik on the issue.

"I think now minister

Celik recognises and realises that this process for all European funding is going well and I think day by day the situation is getting better," he said.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (150)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (150) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO (1627)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO (1627) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY. NO (025)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY. NO (025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.9.2016 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 YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

Colombia, Marxist rebels sign accord ending 52-year war

CARTAGENA (Colombia) — Colombia's centre-right government and the Marxist FARC rebel group signed a peace deal on Monday to end a half-century war that killed a quarter of a million people and once took the Andean country to the brink of collapse.

After four years of peace talks in Cuba, President Juan Manuel Santos, 65, and rebel leader Timochenko — the nom de guerre for 57-year-old Rodrigo Londono — warmly shook hands on Colombian soil for the first time and signed the accord with a pen made from a bullet casing.

A crowd of dignitaries chanted: "Long live Colombia, long live peace" as Santos handed Timochenko a white dove pin. One man waved a large Colombian flag that had an extra white stripe in homage to the peace deal.

"The horrible night of violence that has covered us with its shadow for more than half a century is over," Santos said through tears. "We open our hearts to a new dawn, to a brilliant sun full of possibilities that has



Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (L) and Marxist rebel leader Rodrigo Londono (R), better known by the nom de guerre Timochenko, shake hands after signing an accord ending a half-century war that killed a quarter of a million people in Cartagena, Colombia on 26 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

appeared in the Colombian sky."

Colombians will vote on Sunday on whether to ratify the agreement, but opinion polls show it should pass easily.

Attendees at the event, many of whom also wept, observed a minute of silence in memory of those killed,

maimed, raped, kidnapped and displaced during the war.

The end of Latin America's longest-running war will turn the FARC guerrillas into a political party fighting at the ballot box instead of the battlefield they have occupied since 1964.

"No one should doubt

that we will conduct politics without arms," said Timochenko, who asked for forgiveness from FARC victims. "We are all prepared to disarm in our minds and our hearts."

Guests at the ceremony in the Caribbean coastal city of Cartagena were asked to wear white and includ-

ed United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Cuban President Raul Castro and US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Showing its support for the peace deal, the European Union on Monday removed the FARC from its list of terrorist groups.

Kerry said Washington would also review whether to take the FARC off its terrorism list, and has pledged \$390 million for Colombia next year to support the peace process.

"Anybody can pick up a gun, blow things up, hurt other people, but it doesn't take you anywhere. ... Peace is hard work," he said of a rare diplomatic good news story for the Obama administration as it contends with the seeming intractable war in Syria and other conflicts.

In the worst days of the war, attacks shook the capital, Bogota, which rebels threatened to overrun, and battles between the guerrillas, paramilitaries, drug gangs and the army raged in the countryside, parts of which remain sown with landmines.

Thousands of civilians were killed in massacres, especially in rural areas, as the warring sides sought to prevent people from collaborating with or supporting enemy forces.

Despite widespread relief at an end to the bloodshed and kidnappings of the past 52 years, the deal has caused divisions within Latin America's fourth-largest economy.

Former President Alvaro Uribe and others are angry the accord allows rebels to enter parliament without serving any jail time.

In Cartagena on Monday, huge billboards urged a "yes" vote in the referendum, while Uribe led hundreds of supporters with umbrellas in the colours of the Colombian flag urging voters to back "no."

The FARC, or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which began as a peasant revolt, became a big player in the cocaine trade and at its strongest had 20,000 fighters. Now, its some 7,000 fighters must hand over their weapons to the United Nations within 180 days.—Reuters



Thilawa Property Development Ltd.

No. 1103, 11th Floor, UMFCCI Office Tower, No.29,
Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: (+95-1) 230 1772, 230 1773, 230 1853
E mail: info@tpdmyanmar.com

THILAWA PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

INVITATION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

INVESTMENT, DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATION OF HOTEL PROJECT AND SERVICE APARTMENT LOCATED IN THE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREA OF THE THILAWA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

Request for proposals are invited from well reputed, financially sound, having experience of similar work and international and local experienced company for the following projects:

- (1) Investment, Design, Development, and Operation of Hotel Project
- (2) Investment, Design, Development, and Operation of Service Apartment Project

Investors, interested in request for proposal, may obtain further information, acquire the proposal documents from the office at Rooftop Floor, UMFCCI Office Tower, No. (29), Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

- (a) Security deposit US\$100,000 (UNITED STATE DOLLARS ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ONLY) is required to submit request for proposal. Security deposit will refund back to non-winning bidders.
- (b) Project location map, project layout map and project scope will be attached with request for proposal document.
- (c) The proposal document shall be ready for collection from 29th September 2016 onwards. Request for proposal will be closed at 14:00 hours on 15th November 2016.
- (d) Request for proposal can be collected with kyats 100,000 (KYATS ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ONLY) at below address during office hours.

Rooftop Floor, UMFCCI Office Tower,
No. (29), Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street,
Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Office Tel: (+95 1) 2301772, 2301773, 2301853
Email: sales.mtsh@gmail.com

France, Germany put EU defence plan to sceptical partners

BRATISLAVA — France and Germany made the case for the European Union's most ambitious defence plan in almost two decades on Tuesday, aiming to persuade sceptical eastern members and avoid a showdown with Britain over its military future outside the bloc.

In a concert hall in Bratislava, EU defence ministers including Britain's Michael Fallon discussed the Franco-German proposals for the first time, searching for a coherent strategy that their leaders can formally back at a summit in December.

The proposals include increasing spending on military missions, jointly developing assets such as helicopters and drones, expanding peacekeeping abroad and building stronger defences against state-sponsored hackers in cyberspace.

Britain, which retains full voting rights until it leaves the European Union, is adamant the plans must not weaken NATO and has some support from wary Poland and the Baltic nations.

"We are going to continue to oppose any idea of an EU army or EU army



Britain's Defence Secretary Michael Fallon speaks during a press conference at the British embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, on 21 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

headquarters," Fallon told reporters as he arrived for the meeting. "We agree Europe needs to do more ... but simply duplicating or undermining NATO is the wrong way to do it," he said.

Standing together on arrival, Germany's Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen and her French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian were at pains to stress there were no plans for army of European soldiers wearing the same uniforms.

"On the contrary," von der Leyen said. "It is

about bundling the various strengths of European countries to be ready to act together quickly."

She cited how Europe had struggled to coordinate support during the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa. In 2011, the British and French air campaign in Libya also showed Europe's limits, as the operation quickly became reliant on the United States for refuelling planes, logistics and military know-how.

Building on stop-start initiatives dating back to the late 1990s, the plans could strengthen the bloc's ability to respond without the help of the United States to challenges on its borders, such as failing states or a more aggressive Russia.

European military spending is a fraction of the United States' and only a handful of countries, including Britain, Estonia and Greece, spend generously on defence.

France is a major European military and Germany has many military assets but has traditionally been cautious given its history in the 20th century's two world wars.—Reuters

WHO calls for safe routes to evacuate east Aleppo sick, wounded

GENEVA — The World Health Organisation (WHO) called on Tuesday for sick and wounded people in the embattled eastern part of the Syrian city of Aleppo to be evacuated through safe corridors for treatment.

A massive Russian-backed assault is under way on the besieged rebel-held sector of Aleppo, where the WHO said only 35 doctors remained to care for at least 250,000 people.

“WHO is calling for the immediate establishment of humanitarian routes to evacuate sick and wounded from the eastern part of the city,” WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib told a news briefing in Geneva. “We are talking about only 35 doctors left in east Aleppo to take care of hundreds of wounded people, and the number is increasing,” she said.

Syrian doctors said on Monday they were in dire need of medical and surgical supplies to treat hundreds of wounded people among a

trapped population of some 300,000.

The Syrian doctors said at least 40 wounded people in eastern Aleppo needed to be evacuated, but most wanted to be sent to rebel-held areas or abroad, not to the government-controlled western side of the city.

“We are waiting to evacuate them safely, to the hospitals in Idlib governorate, and some of them need to be evacuated to Turkey,” said Dr. Abd Arrahman Alomar of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS).

Jessy Chahine, spokeswoman for UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, told Tuesday’s briefing: “We do remind always all parties that evacuation operations have to be in accordance with IHL (international humanitarian law) and protection standards. One of the principles of IHL is ‘non-refoulement’, meaning that the person cannot be evacuated against their own will.”—Reuters



Damaged buildings are seen in the 1070 Apartment Project area in southwestern Aleppo, Syria on 5 August. PHOTO: REUTERS

Man charged with holding girl captive for 2 years denies part of charges

SAITAMA — A man charged with abducting a teenage girl and holding her captive for two years from 2014 denied part of the charges during the first court hearing Tuesday, saying he had not kept watch over her for the entire two years.

“I watched her for the first days or weeks, but I don’t think I kept her under watch afterward,” Kabu Terauchi, 24, said at the Saitama District Court, while admitting to kidnapping the girl, now 15.

The girl, who managed to escape in March, is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, prosecutors said.

In an opening statement, a prosecutor said Terauchi abducted the girl in

Asaka, Saitama Prefecture, telling her, “I’ll protect you as your parents are trying to pay off a debt by selling your organs.”

The prosecutor also quoted the girl as saying, “I would like him to go to jail and stay there for the rest of his life.” Lawyers for Terauchi claimed he is not mentally competent to stand trial and the court accepted their request for a psychiatric examination.

According to the indictment, Terauchi kidnapped the victim in a car on 10 March, 2014, and held her captive first at his apartment in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, and later in another apartment in Tokyo’s Nakano Ward until 27 March this year.—Kyodo News



Undated photo shows Kabu Terauchi, charged with abducting a teenage girl for two years from 2014. During the first court hearing on 27 September 2016, he denied part of the charges, saying he had not kept watch over her for the entire two years. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Viet Nam to host ASEAN Broker Conference and Networking in October

HANOI — The third ASEAN Broker Conference and Networking event will be held in Viet Nam’s capital Hanoi on 6-10 October, said the Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX), the organizer, on Tuesday.

The event is expected to draw participation of 28 securities companies in ASEAN, 42 local companies and 133 delegates. Meanwhile, as many as 71

pairs of companies have registered for bilateral meetings to discuss cooperation at the event.

The ASEAN Broker Conference and Networking event, an initiative on collaboration among trading floors in the region, is organised alternately among the bloc’s country members. The event aims to share experience and boost business and invest-

ment cooperation, said the HNX.

First held in Thailand in 2011 with 62 securities companies participating in last year’s edition in Indonesia’s Bali, the event drew participation of 116 companies. ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. —Xinhua

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (PROCUREMENT OF GOODS / WORKS)

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
NCDDP – NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:H-814MM

Contract Title: PC, LAPTOPS, SERVERS, PORTABLE HARD DISK DRIVES AND UPS
Reference No. : ICB G 63

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of tablets with power bank and high protection carry case.

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of:

- Lot 1: 150 Desktop Computers with preinstalled O/S and MS Office
- Lot 2: 135 Laptop Computers with preinstalled O/S and MS Office
- Lot 3: 63 Budget PC’s for MIS Data Entry with Portable UPS 1200W
- Lot 4: 17 Servers
- Lot 5: 84 Portable Hard Disk Drives

This IT equipment will support the daily operations that the DRD will deploy in 20 new townships and 15 regional offices, in various geographical areas spread over the national territory. Part of the IT equipment will be delivered in the DRD central warehouse in Nay Pyi Taw (CIP Nay Pyi Taw). The other part will be delivered to the DRD regional premises in Yangon (CIP Yangon) from where it will be distributed to the townships and regional offices. The delivery time is limited to 45 (forty five) days to be counted from the date of signature of the contract. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Mr. Kyaw Swa Aung, Director of the Procurement and Logistic Section, (ksaung@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 16.00 Hrs at the address given below.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be sent by e-mail only.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Monday 31 October 2016 at 10:00 Hrs (10.00 am) Myanmar time**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **Monday 31 October 2016 at 11:00 Hrs (11.00 am) Myanmar time**. All bids must be accompanied by a “Bid Securing Declaration”.

The address referred to above is:
Department of Rural Development
Attn: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General
Office No 14, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

For Detailed information please contact:
Mr. U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section
Tel: +95(0)67.40.94.13 (office) or +95(0)9.43.43.33 (mobile)
Web site: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org

Drake returns to Billboard No1 for 13th time with 'Views'

LOS ANGELES — Canadian rapper Drake returned to the top of the Billboard 200 album chart with "Views" on Monday after a seven-week break from the top spot. "Views" first took the No.1 spot in April and has now topped the Billboard charts for 13 non-consecutive weeks. About 53,000 units of the album were sold last week, according to Nielsen Soundscan, which tracks sales of music and music video products.

Billboard said "Views" now has the longest non-consecutive run at No. 1 on the album chart since the soundtrack for the animated Disney movie "Frozen" in 2014.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

The enduring popularity of "Views" meant hip hop artist Mac Miller's new release, "The Divine Feminine," had to settle for second spot on the Billboard 200, with 48,000 units sold.

New releases from country singer Aaron Lewis ("Sinner") and Usher ("Hard II Love") debuted in the No.4 and No.5 spots respectively. On the digital songs chart, which measures online single download sales, summer hit "Closer" by American duo The Chainsmokers reigned once again with some 162,000 sales for the week.—Reuters

Drake performs during the iHeartRadio Music Festival at The T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada, US on 23 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

David Bowie's art collection arrives in NY ahead of November sale

NEW YORK — Sotheby's on Monday previewed the contemporary art collection of late rock star David Bowie at their gallery headquarters in New York ahead of its auction in November.

"Overall, we will be selling over 350 items. The low estimate is 10-15 million pounds (\$13-\$19.5 million). We divided it into three sales: two sales of modern and contemporary art and then a whole sale of post-modern Italian design," Simon Hucker, a senior specialist in modern and British Post-War Art at Sotheby's, said about the auction, to be held in London on 10-11 November. Bowie, who died in January at age 69, amassed a huge collection of art for which he was well known.

Among the top lots in the sale is a piece by the late New York painter Jean-Michel Basquiat titled, "Air Power," estimated at \$3.3 million to \$4.6 million.

The painting titled, "Head of Gerda Boehm" by Frank Auerbach, would affect Bowie's mood and inspire him to make sounds that reflected the way the painting made him feel, according to Hucker. "I think it's more to do with his wider interest in creativity, in the way that artists work, in the artistic process," explained Hucker about the music pioneer's attraction to art.

Bowie was deeply engaged in the world of art, especially in modern and contemporary British art, as an artist, critic, patron, publisher and magazine editor.

He joined the editorial staff of Modern Painter magazine, where he interviewed artists like Jeff Koons, Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin. As an actor, Bowie played Andy Warhol in Julian Schnabel's 1996 biopic "Basquiat," also starting Jeffrey Wright, Gary Oldman and Dennis Hopper. The collection will move to Sotheby's in Hong Kong next month before Bowie's entire private collection is put on public display in London in November in the week leading up to the auction.—Reuters

Actors Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber separate after 11 years together

LOS ANGELES — Actors Naomi Watts and Liev Schreiber are splitting up after 11 years together, the couple said in a statement on Monday.

Watts, 47, and Schreiber, 48, said that "the best way forward for us as a family is to separate as a couple."

"It is with great love, respect and friendship in our hearts that we look forward to raising our children together and exploring this new phase of our relationship," they said, asking for privacy for their two young sons.

Their separation follows on the heels of Hollywood power

couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's sudden divorce announcement last week. Australian actress Watts, who has been nominated or two Oscars, and Schreiber, the star of "Ray Donovan" have been involved since 2005 and have never been married. Watts had previously dated Australian actor Heath Ledger.

Watts and Schreiber star together in the upcoming boxing drama "The Bleeder."

Schreiber will also star on Broadway in "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," opening next month, in which he plays a promiscuous Frenchman.—Reuters



Actors Naomi Watts and husband Liev Schreiber. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Peter Rabbit' coming to big screen, James Corden in voice cast

LONDON — British stars James Corden and Daisy Ridley will help to bring the classic children's tales of "Peter Rabbit" to the big screen, Sony's Columbia Pictures studios said on Monday.

Corden, host of CBS's "The Late Late Show," will voice Peter Rabbit and actress Rose Byrne will voice a character named Bea in the

live-action CGI production directed by Will Gluck. The film is due to be released in April 2018.

Announcement of the film coincides with the 150th anniversary of the birth of author Beatrix Potter, whose "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" was first published in 1902. It was followed by 23 stories of involving such characters as Mrs. Twig-

gy-Winkle, Jemima Puddle-Duck and Squirrel Nutkin.

Potter's stories were inspired by the English and Scottish countryside and are a global merchandising franchise.

"Star Wars" actress Ridley and "The Night Manager" star Elizabeth Debicki will also be part of the voice cast.—Reuters



Assistant Yui Takeda looks at the first edition of 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' at the Beatrix Potter Museum in Higashi Matsuyama, Tokyo in 2007. PHOTO: REUTERS

At 50, Botswana discovers diamonds are not forever

GABORONE (Botswana) — When David Magang opened Botswana’s first domestic law firm shortly after independence in 1966, he and his country were starting from scratch.

Since then, both he and the former British protectorate, which celebrates its 50th birthday this week, have traveled a huge distance based largely on Botswana’s vast diamond wealth. With those riches running low, the outlook is less rosy.

Trained in London, Magang was one of only two local lawyers — the rest being British or South African — while Botswana, an expanse of arid scrubland the size of France, had just 7 km (4 miles) of tarred road and a capital that amounted to little more than a railway station. “On the face of it Botswana was very poor — good for hunting

and not much else. It was basically an agrarian, subsistence society,” Magang told Reuters. “All we had was a railway, and that was owned by South Africa and Rhodesia.”

The 77-year-old is now chairman of a luxury golf and housing estate on the outskirts of Gaborone — still known by some as ‘The Station’ — while Botswana is the world’s biggest diamond producer and one of Africa’s richest and most stable countries.

Its road network stretches for nearly 7,000 km, the government’s credit rating is the highest on the continent and per capita income has risen 13-fold to \$7,000 thanks to growth averaging 8.2 per cent a year, according to the World Bank.

Over the past half century, only South Korea and China boast such dramatic increases in national wealth.—Reuters



A visitor holds a diamond during a visit to the De Beers Global Sightholder Sales (GSS) in Gaborone, Botswana on 24 November, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Surfing spaniels hit the waves in California



LOS ANGELES — More than 60 dogs gave cats a rest and instead chased waves during the eighth annual Surf City Surf Dog competition at Huntington Beach near Los Angeles.

Dogs and their owners came from as far away as Australia and Brazil to compete in California on Sunday, with more than 2,000 spectators, as the pets wore lifejackets and tried to avoid wiping out in the unusually high waves.

The dogs competed individually or in tandem with their owner and were judged on a variety of skills, including the length of their ride and their confidence on the board.—Reuters

Asian elections for FIFA council postponed

PANAJI, (India) — Asia’s top football officials delivered a major snub to FIFA on Tuesday, forcing the postponement of an election for three spots on the world body’s new governing Council in a row over the disqualification of a Qatari candidate.

With FIFA President Gianni Infantino watching on, delegates to an Asian Football Confederation extraordinary congress in Goa, called to conduct the election, voted down the agenda. World governing body FIFA banned Qatari Saoud Al-Mohannadi from the election on Sunday because of an ongoing ethics investigation, leaving insufficient time for new candidates to join the six remaining in the field.

“There were a lot of people who hoped to file their own nominations,” Praful Patel, AFC vice president and president of the All India Football Federation, told reporters.

“Whether somebody was barred or banned, I wish this process had been done earlier. The others could have also had the opportunity to stand and that’s why it got cancelled.”

Forty two of the 44 members who had voting rights at Tuesday’s meeting raised a “No” card when AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa called for the agenda of the meeting to be passed.

“This is probably the shortest congress I have ever chaired. The message is clear,” Shaikh Salman said less than half an hour after the meeting was opened. “I declare the AFC congress closed.”

The AFC will set a new date for an extraordinary congress in consultation with FIFA, AFC secretary general Windsor John said. FIFA had set a 30 September deadline for elections to the Council, which replaces the Executive Committee under reforms instituted in the wake of the corruption scandal which has engulfed football’s world governing body over the last 16 months. “I think it’s democracy and we need to look forwards anyway,” Infantino told Reuters.

“There’s still a lot of work ahead.” Al-Mohannadi, a vice-president of the Qatar Football Association who denies any wrongdoing, was one of the favourites to win a seat on the new body and had cleared the necessary FIFA integrity check.

A FIFA ethics investigator last month recommended Al-Mohannadi be banned from the game for at least two-and-a-half years for refusing to cooperate with an inquiry.

FIFA did not give details on the subject of the investigation but said it was not related to the 2022 FIFA World Cup, to be hosted by Qatar.—Reuters

MRTV

(28-9-2016, Wednesday)

6:00 am

- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:35 am

- Money Talk Myanmar

8:35 am

- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

8:45 am

- The Farmer

9:35 am

- Documentary

10:35 am

- Documentary

11:35 am

- MRTV Education

12:50 pm

- TV Drama Series

1:35 pm

- TV Drama Series

2:20 pm

- Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

2:35 pm

- Teleplay

3:35 pm

- Money Talk Myanmar

4:15 pm

- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

4:35 pm

- Football Magazine (Yangon United)

5:15 pm

- Traditional Boxing

5:35 pm

- NHK Programme Quiz Me! Science! ‘Understanding Weight’

6:35 pm

- Real Story Real Movies

6:55 pm

- Documentary

7:15 pm

- TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

- News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

- Teleplay

9:00 pm

- News
- Sunday Talk
- TV Drama Series
- Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic performance

Note/Hourly News Bulletns (Local + International)

mitv

Myanmar International

10:26 Am Family of Toys

10:46 Am Dhamma School

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

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep-1)

07:43 Pm The Recycle Art: Tyre

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1) The Culture of Pennant Pillar

08:40 Pm Dances of Myanmar “Lisu Traditional Dance”

08:44 Pm We’ll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board

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

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

(28-9-2016 07:00am ~ 29-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:25 Am Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre- Chaw Dwin Gone

07:41 Am All About Orchids

07:54 Am Parents’ Day

08:03 Am News

08:25 Am Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory of Bago City

08:51 Am Colourful Threads

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Lady Pilot

09:36 Am Lacquerware Technology College

09:51 Am Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay

10:03 Am News

Bayern braced for another bruising battle with Atletico

MUNICH — Carlo Ancelotti's perfect start with Bayern Munich will be put to the test against Champions League runners-up Atletico Madrid at the Vicente Calderon on Wednesday in a re-run of last season's scintillating semi-final tie.

The Bundesliga leaders have won eight games out of eight under the Italian coach

face. What we've achieved up to now could all fall apart in 90 minutes," Alonso told Spanish newspaper Marca on Monday.

Atletico knocked Bayern out of the competition last season on away goals in a thrilling two-legged tie and Alonso is expecting more of the same from Diego Simeone's side.

"I think they are a very similar team to last year, they are competitive, hard working, always well organised. They have positive aggression, they always compete to the limit."

Ancelotti has won a joint-record three Champions League titles, his 2014 triumph coming at the expense of Atletico with local rivals Real Madrid. The Italian also oversaw Atletico's elimination at the quarter-final stage the following season.

For Alonso, the Italian coach, who also had two Champions League triumphs with AC Milan, has not altered much since succeeding Pep Guardiola in the summer.

"The base has been here since the team won the triple (Bundesliga, German Cup and Champions League in 2013)," Alonso said, "There's a very important nucleus in the team and everyone who comes to the team works alongside that core.—Reuters



Bayern Munich's coach Carlo Ancelotti.
PHOTO: REUTERS

in all competitions, with five league victories accompanying glory in the German Super Cup and an easy win in the German Cup.

Bayern thrashed Rostov 5-0 in their Champions League Group D opener but midfielder Xabi Alonso warned they will come under much greater scrutiny against Atletico, who have conceded two goals in seven games in all competitions.

"We're happy with the start we have made but we know that this is the first really powerful team we're going to



Burnley's George Boyd in action with Watford's Kenedy during Premier League at Turf Moor on 26 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Burnley beat Watford 2-0 in first top-flight meeting

LONDON — Burnley struck either side of halftime with headers from Jeff Hendrick and Michael Keane to claim a 2-0 Premier League home win over Watford on Monday in the first top-flight meeting of the two clubs.

Forward Hendrick broke the deadlock before defender Keane scored to lift the Clarets into 13th spot where they joined five clubs on seven points from six games, including Watford and champions Leicester City who they trail on goal difference.

Steven Defour laid on both goals with Hendrick heading home his corner in the 38th minute and Keane rising to nod in the winger's left wing cross five

minutes into the second half.

Belgian international Defour was man of the match with Keane and manager Sean Dyche saying he gave Burnley extra quality.

"He's played brilliantly ever since he came into the team, you can see the quality he's got," said Keane.

Dyche, a former Watford player and manager, said Burnley had worked hard to sign Defour, who is closing in on 50 caps, for a club record 8 million pounds (\$10.38 million) in August.

"His quality rubs off on others, he's got a bit more of an assured manner in possession," said Dyche. Watford were aim-

ing for a third straight league win but could not find the form that helped them comfortably beat Manchester United 3-1 and West Ham United 4-2.

Burnley defended well, in contrast to Watford's poor marking at set pieces, and kept Etienne Capoue and captain Troy Deeney, who forced a fine point-blank save from Heaton, in check.

"We got bullied to a man all over the pitch," a disappointed Deeney said. "Burnley set up and we couldn't handle it."

"We played so well against Manchester United recently but it never really looked like it was going to happen."—Reuters

Quota on foreign players could harm England team — Reed

MANCHESTER — A quota on foreign players in the Premier League could hinder rather than help the England team, according to former FA technical director Les Reed.

Andy Burnham, the opposition Labour Party's home affairs spokesman, opened the Soccerex Global Convention by suggesting one of the advantages of Britain's exit from the European Union could be the introduction of limits on foreign players, which would provide greater playing time for English talent.

But Reed, now director of football at Southampton, believes that would stunt the development of English players.

"I disagreed with what Andy

Burnham said about Brexit and that quotas could be better for the England team," Reed, 63, told Reuters.

"We supply more players to England at every age group than any other club and part of their development is training with the first team.

"England Under 21s captain James Ward-Prowse — who has trained with them since he was 16 — has to cope with Jordy Clasie, Oriol Romeu and Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg in centre midfield every day.

"There is a big risk that quotas would not enrich the experience of English youngsters.

"Players in the (second tier) Championship would be promot-

ed to replace the foreign players and that would alter the menu of training and not be beneficial to England."

Reed believes Southampton's strategy is one of the reasons their academy has groomed the likes of Theo Walcott, Luke Shaw, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Calum Chambers in recent years.

"There is a continuous debate about what clubs get from academies," added Reed, who has coached England at every age-group level from Under 15s to the first team.

"My analogy is this: would people who invest in vineyards and orchards not make wine or pick the fruit?—Reuters



England assistant manager Sammy Lee talks to the players during training at St. George's Park, on 30 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS