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SMOOTHER FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Amyotha Hluttaw approves bill on Myanmar Investment Law

Workers on the production line of a garment factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

A bill on the Myanmar Investment Law, which is aimed at promoting foreign investment, was approved yesterday during the 43rd session of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw.

The bill, which has been approved by the two parliaments, is expected to take effect in the near future, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission-MIC's announcement yesterday.

The new investment law, which combines the Foreign Investment Law drafted in 2012 and Citizens' Investment Law drafted in 2013, includes tax breaks which are different from those stipulated under the former government.

The existing foreign direct investment law abounds in many weaknesses such as requirements to seek permission for every proposal from the Myanmar Investment Commission, avoidance of ways to settle a dispute peacefully before going to arbitration, lack of legal descriptions on monetary policy in transfer of foreign currency, an abundance of documents to be tendered and attached herewith, the commission's monopoly of authority, the nation's loss of budget due to tax exemptions, and potential assumptions that there had been discrimination between local investors and foreign ones because of dual investment laws.

Yesterday's prompt approval of the bill was in response to exuberant foreign investors wishing to invest in the economic sphere in Myanmar, with a view to the development of Myanmar's economy.

The MIC has permitted a total of 38 foreign investment projects worth US$383.877 million in five months since the new government took office in April.

From late 1988 to August this year, total foreign investments in Myanmar amounted to over US$64.4 billion, according to MIC.

Parliamentarians yesterday also discussed the law protecting personal freedom and security of citizens.

"In countries practicing democracy, person or group-centred promulgation of the law is strictly prohibited, as they do not comply with essence of law. The present bill harms the sovereignty of the country as it protects only the benefit of a person or group, not covering the whole populace. It opposes the 2008 constitution, hence the impossibility to be promulgated", said Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, constituency 6 of Kayin State.

U Soe Thein of constituency 9, Kayah State said: "Any persons taking responsibility for protecting people from depredation are not above the law in democratic countries, including Myanmar. They are under duty, as assigned to them. For the time being, the bill should not be enacted so as not to blindfold the government's awareness on security matters."

Daw Myat Thidar Tun, constituency 5 of Mon State and U Hla U of constituency 4, Sagaing Region said: "Every individual should be able to enjoy the right to survive, freedom and acquirement of security, freedom from torture and humiliation," according to the UN Human Rights Declaration.

Major Aung Ko Min, representative for the Tatmadaw, said: "The nation's security means security of every part of the country. The state guarantees security of every individual by recognizing them as a citizen. Hluttaw should consider the eternal benefits of the country and its people."

Lt-Col Kyaw San Oo, representative for the Tatmadaw, also submitted," Had personal freedom and security been prioritised, those serving the duty of national security can find it difficult to perform their duties, and it may tantamount to protecting terror, drug-trafficking, human trafficking, cyber attack and arising of crimes by trespassing border".

The speaker decided for the Hluttaw drafting committee to hear discussion of the bill.—*Myanmar News Agency*

No plan to abolish 99 lakes project in Yinmabin Township: Dr Tun Win

Pyithu Hluttaw

Dr Tun Win. PHOTO: MNA

U Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

U Yan Lin. PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has no plan to abolish the 99 lakes project in Yinmabin Township as the ministry is currently working on the task of installing machinery at 34 lakes as part of its preparations for overcoming water shortages, if and when they arise.

Dr Tun Win, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation made the clarification in reply to a question raised by U Aung Soe of Yinmabin Township at the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

The deputy minister said, "The 99 lakes project was implemented with the aim of distributing water to low-lying farmlands through irrigation tunnels, and it is essential for the emergence of the underground water conservation law for now."

The ministry is currently conducting knowledge sharing talks on the over-flowing lakes, the installation of machinery equipments at 34 lakes with low water levels and is carrying out the project in order to stop the wastage of water and not to block wells. In response to a question raised by U Yan Lin of Kyaiklatt constituency over whether the ministry has a plan to open a research department on livestock farming including fish farming, Dr Tun Win replied that, "The newly reformed set-up of the department consists of research and development as a branch."

He added, "The set-up of the ministry had been newly reformed and there are plans to increase research works to meet our present needs. For now, there is not yet a plan to organise a new department." The deputy minister went on saying, "The ministry worked on the distribution of short-lived pedigree seeds." He also said, "If T & C company violated the contract with local farmers, the latter are to file suits against the former. As regards using 121 acres of uncultivated land in the permitted area, under the supervision of the management committees on vacant, fallow and virgin land to be reformed, the task will be carried out in compliance with procedures."

The Pyithu Hluttaw answered 8 questions, submitted one bill and read out a report in today's session. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Speaker U Win Myint receives Mr John Bercow in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Commons Speaker of Great Britain

U WIN MYINT, Speaker of Pyi thu Hluttaw, met with a British delegation led by Mr John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Great Britain, at the Zabuthiri Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the two representatives discussed strengthening of friendship between the governments, parliaments and peoples of the two countries, the development of the parliament of Myanmar, promoting capacity building for the MPs and staff of the parliament and legislation matters. Also present at the meeting were MPs of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and officials of the office of the Pyithu Hluttaw while the British delegation was accompanied by Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar Mr Andrew Patrick. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Mr John Bercow in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Commons Speaker of Great Britain

MAHN WIN KHAING THAN, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, met with a British delegation led by Mr John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Great Britain, at the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the two representatives discussed the promotion of friendship between parliaments of the two countries and giving assistance toward the development of the Amyotha Hluttaw. U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, and officials of the office of the Amyotha Hluttaw were present at the meeting. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development holds talks with Commons Speaker of Great Britain

U TI KHUN MYAT, Chairman of the Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development, held talks with Mr John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Great Britain, the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, the two representatives discussed the development of the parliament of Myanmar, promoting capacity building for the MPs and staff of the parliament and legislation matters.

Also present at the meeting Vice Chairman of the committee U Aung Kyi Nyunt, secretary and membes of the committee and Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar Mr Andrew Patrick. — *Myanmar News Agency*

The Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development holds talks with the British delegation led by Mr John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Great Britain. PHOTO: MNA

Legal Affairs and Special Issues Assessment Commission Chairman meets Commons Speaker of Great Britain

THURA U SHWE MANN, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues, met with a British delegation led by Mr John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Great Britain, at the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were vice chairmen and members of the commission and officials and Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar Mr Andrew Patrick. The British delegation also held talks with the Speakers of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues, holds talks with Mr John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Great Britain. PHOTO: MNA

Ceremony marking World Teachers' Day Held in Nay Pyi Taw

VICE President U Myint Swe praised the role of teachers in producing youths of intellect and intelligence for the country at a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw to mark World Teachers' Day.

"Teachers are the ones who are able to produce youths of mental prowess and intellectual faculty, resources which are needed for our country", U Myint Swe said yesterday

The Vice President pointed out that October 5 has been internationally recognised as World Teachers' Day since 1998, with ceremonies held worldwide.

"Teachers are endowed with responsibilities such as ensuring for the well-being of students, advising them in their careers, sacrificing for their pupils, kindness, sympathy, vicarious feeling towards their success and being void of sufferings," he added.

He continued to say that teachers are instilling young minds with the spirit of excellence, discipline and wisdom. In recognition of these accomplishments, it is not surprising that ceremonies are being celebrated across the globe.

The theme for WTD 2016 is Valuing Teachers, Improving Their Status. This recognises that the values, dignities and standards of teachers are revered in the international sphere. The quality of a student depends upon a teacher. Thus development of a teacher's quality is of great importance. Accordingly, refresher courses and sharing talks are being conducted, sending teachers for overseas learning by the government.

Dr Kyi Shwin, general-secretary of the national commission for UNESCO Myanmar, read out messages sent by 5 group leaders under UNESCO. Dr Win Tun, director-general of planning and training department, Education Research Bureau, reported a brief record of honorary doyens and outstanding teachers.

The Vice President and the First Lady presented prizes to honorable personnel. Union Ministers Thura U Aung Ko, Dr Win Myat Aye and Dr Myo Thein Gyi and U Win Thein, chairman of Union Civil Service Board, presented prizes to the winners of essay, poem and article writing competitions.

Teachers and students performed a dance featuring panpyolet song.

Present at the ceremony were chairman and members of national education policy commission, parliamentarians, representatives of the UN, UNESCO, allied organisations and invited guests.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Myint Swe presents a certificate of honour to an official. PHOTO: MNA

Govt plans to review hydro power projects, to draw new plans for hydro power production

DURING his inspection tour yesterday of the Biluchaung Hydropower Station Nos 2 and 3 in Loikaw, Kayah State, Vice President U Henry Van Thio stressed the need to review the hydropower projects and to make plans for producing more electricity as the country inevitably faces increasing demands for power as foreign investment increases.

Biluchaung Hydropower Station-2 was established in 1954 and was equipped with three generators. The station started operation in 1960, producing 84 megawatts. In 1970, the station was upgraded with three 28 megawatt generators.

Biluchaung Hydropower Station-3, which was originally equipped with two generators, came into operation in 2008 producing 26 megawatts. By 2014, Station-3 was capable of producing 52 megawatts.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio hears reports on power generation at Biluchaung Hydropower Station. PHOTO: MNA

Biluchaung Hydropower Station-3, the joint venture between the government and the Future Energy company, launched its commercial run in January, 2014, with 158 employees.

Currently, state-owned and privately owned hydro power stations are producing 3,181 megawatts; natural gas-fired stations and waste-to-energy plants can produce 1,344 megawatts and coal-fired power plants can provide 120 megawatts, for a total of 5,215 megawatts.

The total power produced by the three Biluchang hydropower stations makes up 4.7 per cent of the power production in the country.

During his tour of Kayah State, U Henry Van Thio called on local authorities to make preparation for development of eco-tourism in the State.

A maiden, four-hour boat trip from Phekon, Kayah State, to Inle Lake in Shan State is scheduled to launch in the coming season as a tourism business.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Data collection for Mandalay to help predict natural disasters

ACCORDING to Mr. Horng Dar Lim, deputy director of the New York-based Rockefeller Foundation, Mandalay is very near the Sagaing Fault, making it vulnerable to earthquakes, so it will become one of the towns that will help officials predict natural disasters. So, the authorities concerned will collect the main data.

The foundation selected Mandalay from among hundreds of towns which can help a natural disasters network. In this process, six urban centres will collect and analyse data from local sites.

The Rockefeller Foundation and the UN Habitat organisation will cooperate with Mandalay City Development Committee.—*200*

BFM's warm clothes reach ethnic people in Kalay Tsp

WARM clothes donated by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation reached local ethnic people in villages in Kalay Township yesterday ahead of the cold season which is expected to bring extreme cold weather pattern.

Members of the foundation and volunteers distributed more than 470 warm clothes to villagers door-to-door in four villages which are not easily accessible due to poor infrastructures.

BFM has planned to distribute warm clothes to internally displaced persons in Kachin State.

As part of efforts to brace for La Nina in the upcoming winter, the BFM has imported and distributed 200,000 articles of warm clothing to many Myanmar people, including IDPs who are expected to experience very cold weather in the coming winter.

Members of the foundation presented more than 600 IDPs sheltering at a monastery and a temple in Namtu on 1 October.

They went to IDP camps in Namkham, Kutkai, Namtu and Muse townships in Shan State (north) and presented warm clothes to the people and students totaling 7,652.

Ethnic people from villages in Kalay Township in warm clothes donated by BFM. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

BFM presented 3,000 pieces of imported warm clothes and 10,080 packs of dried instant noodles to IDPs in Myaing Gyi Ngu and Maethawaw in Kayin State, on 17 September.

The foundation donated over 36,500 articles of warm clothing through the Mandalay Region Government on 28 August to the people in areas in Mandalay Region who are also expected to experience very cold weather.

Meanwhile, the BFM's 3,500 pieces of warm clothing were given to the Naga ethnic people in Lahe, Naga Self-Administrative Zone in mid-August. BFM is planning to send warm clothing to the IDPs in Shan State and Kachin State and aged people in Sagaing Region soon.—*Thura Lwin (Eco)*

Leopalace 21 Myanmar Open to be staged next January

THE 2016 Leopalace21 Myanmar Open, a major golf tournament on the Asian Tour, will take place in Yangon next January with a top prize of US$750,000, said Asian Tour Chairman U Kyi Hla Han.

The international tournament is scheduled to be held between 26 to 29 January at Yangon's Pun Hlaing Golf Course under the supervision of Asian Tour and Japan Golf Tour Organization in cooperation with the Myanmar Golf Federation. Japanese company Leopalace21 continues to be the title sponsor for the Myanmar Open under a three-year agreement.

This will be the 14th time the Myanmar Open has been held as part of the Asian Tour since 1997. No Myanmar golfer has ever won the championship. In last year's contest, Shaun Norris of South Africa won the championship among over 100 athletes.

The event is aimed at inspiring young golfers to excel in the professional game as well as to develop the country's tourism industry, organisers say. They added local golfers will have opportunities to play against international players in the contest. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

PHOTO: SHAUN NORRIS, WINNER OF LAST YEAR'S CONTEST.

90 % of Myanmar citizens suffer from dental caries

NINETY per cent of Myanmar people, including children and young adults, have had dental caries, according to Dr Aung Than, chairman of the Dental Health Care Foundation.

Dental caries, the most common type of oral disease in Myanmar, are mostly found in young people, especially in women. But 60 per cent of adults over 40 years old are found to have periodontal disease. As part of their projects to prevent and reduce oral disease in the country, the Myanmar-Japan Socio-economic Development Association, in cooperation with the DHCF, conducted a free oral care programme in conjunction with health talks at a monastic education school in Dagon Seikkan Township in Yangon on Monday.

Specialists provided necessary information to over 1,500 children during the one-day programme, sharing knowledge about good oral health care. According to a local survey, over 80 per cent of five-year-olds in Myanmar have dental caries. The result comes from a small-scale survey conducted by the Myanmar Dental Association. —*Myint Maung Soe*

Crime NEWS

Raw opium, ice, yaba seized

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Loilem seized Yaba and ice from a vehicle at Tar Kaw checkpoint on Kwin Hein- Kengtung road on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, police stopped and searched the vehicle being driven by one Kyan Lauk with Yawna, Kyan Tin Phoo and Shork Yoo on board and found 104,000 yaba pills and ice weighing 4 kilograms.

Similarly, police stopped and searched a vehicle being driven by one Saw Kyaw Lin with Chauk Pouk and Yee Yin on board and discovered 176,000 yaba pills. While police were searching the vehicle, Yee Yin escaped from the scene.

The suspects seen together with durgs seized. PHOTO: MPF

On the same day, a combined investigation team comprising an official and staff from Lashio township searched motorcycle rider Ai Lu near the cement factory bridge, Lashio township and discovered raw opium weighing 3.5 kilograms. All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — *Myanmar Police Force*

49 cattle confiscated in Kachin state

POLICE from Mansi Myoma police station on Monday seized 49 cattle, which were transported illegally to Kachin state, according to police.

According to an investigation, police stopped and searched a vehicle being driven by one Aung Phyo alias Tot Paw, 19, with another eleven people onboard and found 34 oxen and 15 buffalo being transported. The driver was unable to provide documentation explaining the animals. Police have filed charges against all on board.—*MPF*

Yaba seized in Kawthaung

LOCAL police from Kawthaung police station seized yaba from a motorcycle rider on Lone Paw - Aye Chanthar village road, Kawthaung township on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police stopped and searched rider identified as Zaw Ko Ko alias Mar Ji with Zaw Lat on board and discovered 5,910 yaba pills inside the three plastic bags. Police have filed charges against both suspects under section 15/19(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)*

Woman, men charged with Buddha image theft

SEVEN men were arrested for stealing a Buddha images in Meiktila township, Mandalay region on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, police stopped two suspects while they were on a motorcycle. When interrogated, Aung Naing Myo alias Pwa Gyi and Ko Ko Naing admitted that they had stolen the Buddha images from the monastery of Ank Htoo village together with Khin Maung Hsint and another four men.

While the search continued, police stopped a Toyota Probox en route from Meiktila being driven by Aung Ko Win with Ma Aye Aye Thin, Nay Win, Aung Kyaw Oo on board and found the Buddha images. Local police have filed charges against them under sections 380/295 of the Penal Code.—*Myanmar Police Force*

A woman and men seen together with the Buddha images they stole. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

Exploration of jade with machinery and illegal trade channels needed to ban

Aung Thant Khaing

EXCESSIVE exploration of jade using of machinery and illegal trade channels should be banned in order to maintain the jade market, which is currently dropping, said U Aung Gyi from the Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs' Association.

A volume limit for exploration of jade should be set, U Aung Gyi said. When an excessive volume of jade that has been mined with machinery is introduced into the market, it is hard to control the market, he added.

Jade companies also need to pay their fair share of taxes, he said.

"There are illegal stone miners who do not pay tax. The legal exporters cannot compete with these miners on the price. Therefore, illegal trade channels need to be blocked", U Aung Gyi said.

"Currently, those companies which do not strictly obey the rules excessively explore the jade and then pay the tax only when they wish to", said U Aung Gyi. "The tax should be paid on the basis of the volume exploration".

A jade stone is appraised at the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

The departments concerned should closely monitor the jade exploration business and taxes should be strictly imposed on the basis of the volume. This can earn more revenue and maintain the natural resources for the future generations, U Aung Gyi said.

The market improved three times in 2012, when the exploration of the jade was suspended.

Myanmar exported 1,412.887 tonnes of raw jade stones worth US$305.779 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year and 475.096 tonnes of raw jade stones worth US$53.016million in the 2016-2017 fiscal year through Muse 105th Border trade zone.

Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs' Federation is still required to ensure greater transparency in spending of budget for social development, said U Aung Gyi.

The association's funds at 6million euros are deposited into CB Bank and KBZ Bank. The allocated money for the sub-associations should be transparent. Besides, Ks250million for each area in Kani and Mawlu was requested when the flood hit these areas. However, there was no contribution, he said.

Six million euros will be spent on social development activities, with 2million euros to be spent in HpaKant, 1 million euros in Moegok, 1 million in Maingshu, 1 million in Mawlu/Mawhan and 1 million in Kani.

Stable Growth Outlook for Myanmar, East Asia & Pacific in 2016-18

GROWTH in developing East Asia and Pacific, including Myanmar, is expected to remain resilient over the next three years, according to a new World Bank report.

However, the region still faces significant risks to growth, and countries need to take measures to reduce financial and fiscal vulnerabilities. Over the longer term, the report recommends that countries address constraints to sustained and inclusive growth, including by filling infrastructure gaps, reducing malnutrition and promoting financial inclusion.

The newly released East Asia and Pacific Economic Update expects China to continue its gradual transition to slower, but more sustainable, growth, from 6.7 percent this year to 6.5 percent in 2017 and 6.3 percent in 2018. In the rest of the region, growth is projected to remain stable at 4.8 percent this year, and rise to 5 percent in 2017 and 5.1 percent in 2018. Overall, developing East Asia is expected to grow at 5.8 percent in 2016 and 5.7 percent in 2017-2018.

In Myanmar, economic growth in 2016-2017 remains strong, though inflation has been high. Growth is projected to rise to 7.8 percent during this period, whilst inflationary pressures are expected to ease to 8.5 percent. Myanmar faces emerging challenges to short-term macroeconomic stability. A combination of continued fiscal prudence, enhanced monetary operations, exchange rate flexibility and strengthened banking supervision capacity could help manage these pressures.

"The outlook for developing East Asia and Pacific remains positive, with weakness in global growth and external demand offset by robust domestic consumption and investment," said Victoria Kwakwa, World Bank Vice President for East Asia and Pacific. "The long-term challenge is to sustain growth and make it more inclusive, including by shrinking gaps in income and access to public services, especially in China; improving infrastructure across the rest of the region; reducing persistent child malnutrition; and harnessing the potential of technology to stimulate financial inclusion."

The report offers a comprehensive analysis of the outlook for East Asia and Pacific against a challenging global backdrop, including sluggish growth in advanced economies, subdued prospects in most developing economies and stagnant global trade. The report expects domestic demand to remain robust across much of the region. Continued low commodity prices will benefit commodity importers and keep inflation low across most of the region.

In China, growth will moderate as the economy continues to rebalance toward consumption, services and higher-value-added activities, and as excess industrial capacity is reduced. Nevertheless, tighter labor markets will support continued growth in incomes and private consumption.—*World Bank*

Dhaka wants New Delhi to facilitate gas imports from Myanmar

BANGLADESH has sought India's help in importing natural gas from Myanmar, the paper Daily Sun reported October 5.

Country's state minister for power and energy Nasrul Hamid will meet Indian oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi on October 5 to discuss the issue. "Bangladesh will propose four-nation consortiums to import gas from Myanmar at the meeting on Wednesday," senior government official Mir Mohammad Aslam Uddin told Daily Sun.

A Bangladeshi delegation will hold a series of meetings on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline, setting up an LNG re-gasification as a joint-venture between Petrobangla and Petronet LNG; and LNG imports from a private-sector Indian firm, Adani, the paper reported.

Myanmar's gas exports to Thailand and China, its two main customers, have dropped in recent months and Dhaka feels Bangladesh could be a replacement as domestic demand is rising steadily. The government is working to meet the deficit by importing LNG and has begun work on building import infrastructure. In July, Excelerate Energy, Petrobangla, and the Government of Bangladesh signed the final agreement for the construction and operation of Bangladesh's first LNG import terminal – Moheshkhali Floating LNG.—*naturalgas-europe.com*

Twenty one companies seeking approval to form Bus Public Co to be combined as six

TWENTY one companies seeking approval to become part of Bus Public Company will instead be formed into six companies because some have been found to be weak in maintaining themselves, it is learnt from Yangon Transport Authority.

"Most of the companies that requested to be part of the Bus Public Company are not that strong, especially the companies from All Private Bus Line Control Committee", said Dr. Maung Aung, the general secretary of Yangon Transport Authority. The formation of Bus Public Company, operators of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, aims to ensure that the passengers feel safe and sound while taking public transport.

"We are glad to hear this plan. We would like to encourage the authority to implement this plan as soon as possible", said Ko San, a passenger of BRT. BRT was launched in 2016 and there are a total of 65 buses en route for two lines: Kabar Aye Pagoda Road and North Okkalapa.—*200*

India tries to hasten US defence deals amid election uncertainty

NEW DELHI — India is trying to hasten a deal with the United States to buy Predator drone aircraft for military surveillance, one of several defence and nuclear projects the two sides are pursuing in the final months of the Obama administration.

India's request for 22 Predator Guardian drones made in June is in an advanced stage of negotiations. The two sides hope to make enough progress so only administrative tasks remain by the time President Barack Obama leaves office, government officials in New Delhi said.

"It is progressing well. The aim is to complete the main process in the next few months," said one of the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has built personal ties with President Barack Obama, whose signature foreign policy move has been a strategic pivot to Asia from the Middle East.

The United States has dislodged Russia as the top arms supplier to India. New Delhi is also on the cusp of sealing a US nuclear reactor deal worth billions of dollars.

In return, Washington has given New Delhi access to high-end military technology, such as a new system to launch planes off aircraft carriers, and leaned on other countries to give India membership in the Missile Technology Control Regime, which cleared the way for the sale of the unarmed Predator.

India's military has also asked for the armed version of the Predator to help target suspected militant camps in Pakistan but US export control laws prohibit such a transfer.

US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter, who visited India in April, is expected to make a final trip there toward the end of the year.

US President Barack Obama (R) meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the climate change summit in Paris, on 30 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The administration is eager to get as much done as is humanly possible. They believe the conditions and the personnel in both capitals are uniquely favourable at the moment, and are eager to consolidate and institutionalise the progress," said Jeff Smith, director of Asia Security Programmes at the American Foreign Policy Council.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's "America First" foreign policy statements have raised questions in India and other Asian nations about a US pullback from Asia.

Trump has said US allies, such as Japan and South Korea, should pay more toward their defense. He told the *New York Times* in an interview in March he could withdraw US troops from bases in Japan, and raised the idea of letting Japan and South Korea develop their own nuclear arsenals.

"It is a serious concern, and may lead to Chinese pre-eminence in Asia far sooner than expected," said Dhruva Jaishankar, a specialist on India-US ties at Brookings India.

But Trump adviser Walid Phares, an American scholar and expert on Islamist radicals and counter-terrorism, said India had no reason to worry.

"With India, there is the ongoing partnership against terror and both countries have suffered from jihadi urban attacks. One can only project cooperation," Phares said.

Modi's office set up a six-member research group in July to help identify ways to engage with Trump, an aide said.

India's diaspora in the United States, led by the Overseas Friends of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, has also opened a line to both presidential campaigns.

The comfort level is much higher with the Democratic candidate, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, said a member of the Overseas Friends of BJP who is based in New Delhi.

Manoj Ladwa, a London-based political strategist who served as communications director for Modi's 2014 campaign, said Trump had sent contradictory messages to India. "On the one hand, he says he values business relations with India, but then mimics Indian call centre workers, and disregards the competitiveness that a partnership with India could provide the US," he said.

"His unpredictability is worrisome in a world that requires steady and mature statesmanship."—*Reuters*

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Diver killed by stingray at Singapore aquarium

Diver Philip Chan, dressed as Santa Claus, feeds fish during Christmas festivities at the Underwater World Singapore aquarium on the island of Sentosa, in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

SINGAPORE — A diver has died after being stung in the chest by a stingray at a Singapore aquarium, the aquarium's owner said on Wednesday. Philip Chan, 62, head diver at Underwater World Singapore (UWS), was preparing the animals for transfer to another aquarium on Tuesday when he was injured.

The 62-year-old was taken to hospital where he died later in the day.

"This was a tragic accident," Haw Par Corporation, which owns UWS, said in a statement.

UWS had been closed to the public since June with Chan, who had worked at the aquarium since it opened in 1991, one of 10 staff kept on to care for the animals until suitable homes had been found.

Haw Par said they had suspended the animal transfer programme and were "supporting the authorities in the investigations".

Most stingrays, common in coastal tropical waters, have one or more stingers on their tail which they use in self-defence.

Australian conservationist and "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin died in 2006 after being stung multiple times by a stingray off the Great Barrier Reef.—*Reuters*

Typhoon Chaba batters South Korea, disrupts port, factories; three dead

SEOUL — Typhoon Chaba battered southern parts of South Korea with violent wind and heavy rain on Wednesday, killing at least three people and flooding the country's main port and industrial sites and disrupting production at some factories.

The storm hit the island of Jeju overnight and one person was reported missing amid widespread power outages and damage to homes and other buildings. Twenty-six flights linking the holiday island to the mainland and to China were canceled.

The port in the city of Busan was shut for a second day as Chaba whirled past and headed east towards Japan. An official at the country's biggest port said it was expected to reopen later in the day.

Work at Hyundai Motor's two factories in the city of Ulsan, which produce the Accent cars and Sante Fe sport utility vehicles, was suspended because of "inflow of water", a company spokeswoman said.

Operations were also suspended at some shipyards along the south coast, including at Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co Ltd. in Geoje city, Yonhap news agency said.

Five people were killed in Busan and Ulsan, media reports said. The Ministry of Public Safety and Security put the death toll at three with three missing.—*Reuters*

Philippine defence chief says Duterte may be 'misinformed' on US alliance

MANILA — The Philippine defence minister sought to patch up cracks in a military alliance with the United States on Wednesday, saying President Rodrigo Duterte, who has appeared intent on scrapping joint programmes, might be misinformed about their value.

Referring to recent strongly worded comments by Duterte, in which he has declared that the Philippines military gained little from US security ties, Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the armed forces were still weak and the country got a lot out of the US relationship.

"That's why I said the president was misinformed, because I think the information he is getting is incomplete," Lorenzana told reporters, a day after the launch of the latest round of PHIBLEX military exercises involving troops from both sides.

"Maybe, the defence ministry and the armed forces were remiss in providing him the correct information. This, we will address in the coming days."

The United States has been on the receiving end of a torrent of hostility from Duterte, who was angered by US expressions of concern over his war on drugs.

On Tuesday, Duterte said US President Barack Obama should "go to hell" and that in his time, he might "break up" with Washington, with which Manila has had a security treaty since 1951.

Last week, he also caused a stir when he said the PHIBLEX exercises would be "the last one" and on Sunday said a US-Philippines Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement would be reviewed.

That deal includes setting up storage facilities for maritime security, humanitarian and disaster response operations and grants US troops some access to Philippine bases.

Lorenzana said the ongoing exercises gave Philippine troops exposure to new guns, technology and body armor and training in warfare tactics, marksmanship and quick responses to natural disasters.

"According to him, only the American troops are benefiting from those exercises," he said, referring to his president.

"But based on what we gathered from the GHQ (general headquarters) and army, there are (benefits)." US officials have played down Duterte's remarks, focusing instead on the decades-long alliance which they have sought to bolster in recent years in response to China's moves to enforce its claims over the South China Sea.

The White House said on Tuesday the United States had not received any formal communications from Duterte's government about changing the relationship.—*Reuters*

Kem Sokha (C), leader of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), leaves after he registers for next year's local elections, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 5 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cambodia opposition leader leaves headquarters for first time in five months

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's main opposition party on Wednesday welcomed a sign of cooling political tension after authorities refrained from arresting its leader, Kem Sokha, on his emergence from months of being holed up in party headquarters.

Tension between the country's two main political parties has risen in recent months, with the opposition complaining of a crackdown on critics in a bid to intimidate it before a general election in 2018.

The top leader of the main opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) is in self-exile to avoid arrest over a case he says was raked up for political reasons, while Sokha, the acting leader, had stayed in the headquarters since 6 May, to avoid what he said were separate trumped-up charges.

Last month, Sokha was sentenced to five months in jail in absentia, on charges of failing to appear in court as a witness in a case against two opposition legislators accused of procuring a prostitute for him.

In a speech on Wednesday, Sokha called for an end to political hostilities.

"The CNRP wants the environment to return to normal, a political environment that is equal for all, to ensure elections that will reflect the people's will," he said.

The party hoped all political parties would be allowed to compete in free and fair elections, he added. The fact that Sokha was able to leave the headquarters without being arrested signaled a cooling of the tension between the rival parties, a party member told Reuters.

"The situation is less tense now," said Yem Ponhearith.

Members of Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party could not immediately be reached for comment.

Following a wave of prosecutions of opposition members and rights workers, Hun Sen last month declared a political "ceasefire", saying rivals should put aside differences.

Since then, the CNRP, which has been boycotting parliament since last year, said it would return to the assembly to promote dialogue.

Soy Sopheap, a newspaper publisher and longtime political negotiator for Hun Sen, said he had mediated a resolution between the two political rivals.

"Any development will depend on how the opposition party behaves," Sopheap said, adding that the ruling party would watch the CNRP's behavior.—*Reuters*

Swiss request further assistance from Malaysia in 1MDB case

ZURICH — Switzerland's Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has requested further legal assistance from Malaysian authorities as part of its investigation into scandal-hit state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

"On analysing the evidence obtained, the OAG identified further suspect transactions involving the Swiss financial sector," the OAG said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Firstly, the sum of $800 million appears to have been misappropriated from investments in natural resources made by the SRC sovereign fund. Secondly, it is suspected that a 'Ponzi' scheme fraud... was committed to conceal the misappropriations from both the SRC fund and from 1MDB." At this stage of its criminal proceedings in connection with 1MDB and SRC International, a former 1MDB subsidiary, four people and one bank are under investigation, the OAG said.—*Reuters*

Another aging reactor passes safety checks to operate beyond 40 yrs

TOKYO — Another aging nuclear reactor in Japan passed a key safety assessment on Wednesday as a step toward going back on line, signaling a weakening of the force of a rule introduced after the 2011 Fukushima disaster to limit reactors' operations to 40 years in principle.

The No. 3 unit at Kansai Electric Power Co.'s Mihama plant in Fukui Prefecture is the latest reactor seeking to continue in service beyond the 40-year limit to pass the screening, after two such units at the utility's Takahama complex, also in Fukui.

The No. 3 unit went offline in May 2011 for a regular checkup and has not been restarted since due to inspections to meet tougher safety requirements introduced after the Fukushima disaster.

But hurdles remain before the Mihama reactor can restart. It will have to obtain further permission from the Nuclear Regulation Authority on details of equipment design and other issues by the end of November, when it will reach 40 years since entering service.

Missing the deadline would require the utility to scrap the reactor.

Even if the deadline is not missed, resumption of the reactor is not expected before the spring of 2020 to allow time for the operator to finish preparing all the required safety measures, according to Kansai Electric.

Kansai Electric plans to spend about 165 billion yen ($1.6 billion) to upgrade the facilities to meet the new regulations, which reflect the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster.

The 40-year operational limit has been included in the regulations with the aim of encouraging the retirement of aging reactors that could be prone to accidents.

File photo taken in May 2013 shows the No. 3 reactor at Kansai Electric Power Co.'s Mihama plant on the Sea of Japan coast. It is expected that the reactor will pass a key safety assessment for its resumption on 5 October 2016, although it will still face additional hurdles. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Although operation for an additional 20 years is possible, nuclear regulators initially indicated that it would be extremely difficult to actually get approval for an extension.

Some utilities have decided to scrap their aging reactors due to expensive safety costs. Kansai Electric has also given up restarting the Nos. 1 and 2 reactors of the three-unit Mihama plant.

But the 40-year-old limit has come to look as if it lacks teeth because utilities are still seeking extensions where they see it as economically viable, with nuclear regulators acknowledging that technical issues could be overcome with sufficient investment. —*Kyodo News*

Opinion

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

For organisations not to be left behind

Khin Maung Aye

CONSTANT innovation of technology accompanied with the process of globalisation has caused an ever-evolving business environment. What's more, phenomena like social media and mobile adaptability have revolutionised business. The effect is an ever-increasing need for change, and this is where change management comes in. The growth in technology has a secondary effect of increasing the availability and therefore accountability of knowledge. Easily accessible information has resulted in unprecedented scrutiny from stockholders and the media, and this puts much pressure on management.

As the business environment experiences so much change, organisations have to learn to be comfortable with change as well. This being so, the ability to manage and adapt to organisational change is an essential ability required in the workplace these days. Yet, major and rapid organisational change is profoundly difficult because the structure, culture and routines of organisations often reflect a persistent and difficult-to-remove "imprint" of past periods, which are resistant to radical change even as the current environment of the organization evolves rapidly.

On account of the growth of technology, modern organisational change is largely motivated by exterior innovations rather than internal factors. When these developments occur, the organisations that adapt the quickest create a competitive advantage for themselves, whereas the business firms which refuse to change are left behind, with the result that there are drastic profit and/or market share losses.

In this regard, it is worth noting that organisational change has a direct impact upon all departments as well as upon employees at all levels. Such being the case, the entire company has to learn how they should handle changes to the organisation. And it is also necessary to keep in mind that the effectiveness of change management can have a strong positive or negative impact upon employee morale.

It is relevant here to make suggestions to those involved in the management of business firms to have a look at organisational change management (OCM) principles and practices so they can cope with rapid changes effectuated by technological innovation and globalisation.

Inlay Lake, the Venice of the East

Maha Suddhamma Jotikadhaja Sithu, Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

A traditional fisherman in Inlay Lake. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

VISITORS and tourists metaphorically call Inlay Lake the Venice of the East. In pi ovt. that case, Venice in Italy deserves the metaphor "Inlay Lake of the West". Marco Polo, a Venetian adventures-travellor of renown, who accompanied the Tartar warriors and Mahayana Buddhist monks sent to Tampadipa [Ancient Bagan Kingdom] by Emperor Kublai Khan of China, wrote in his travelogue his wonderful eye witness account of the glory and greatness of Bagan monuments. If he had stretched out his legs Inlay Lake that time he would have metaphored the Lake "Venice of the East".

The writer of this article who had been to Inlay Lake in his country and Venice in Italy no less than five times would like to share with the readers his knowledge and experience of the "two Venices" or "the two Inlay Lakes".

After Indaw Gyi Lake in Kachin State Inlay is the second largest water body created by falls, streams and rivers of surrounding mountains to the East and West. Geologists say that the Lake used to be a hundred square mile big, but due to climatic, geographical and human impacts the Lake to-day measures 9miles long and 3 1/2 miles wide. It is 2915 feet above sea level. Its depth varies from 20 feet in high monsoon and 12 feet in summer. It is not a still lake. Many streams flow into it and many flow out of it, of which the Bilu Chaung is the principal out let to operate Lopita Hydro-electric Power Plant in Loikaw in Kayah State.

Recently both Indaw Gyi Lake and Inlay Lake have received their deserving place in the List of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage of wetlands.

These two places of nature-man creations have the following commonalities:—

Firstly, Venice and Inlay are amphibious-aquaticterrestrial towns. Just as Venice was founded on islets on a cluster of lagoons connected with the sea, so also was Italy town founded on man-made islets in the Lake. Early settlers of Venice were from mainland Italy who skillfully made firm foundations on the islets, with wood stones and any available materials to withstand storms, sea waves and quakes or any natural disasters. Venetian friends of the writer showed him some original foundations of Venice, now gradually eroded due to centuries of decadence, therefore suffering from frequent inundation [aqua altar]. Early Venetians made lands on lagoons and built Venice.

Similarly, original settlers on Inlay Lake were not local native, but from Dawei, a sea port town far out to the south, on the Taninthayee coast line. These Dawei sea borne people chanced to come up a long way to Inlay Lake and created floating islets on the Lake's surface for habitation and cultivation. The ingenuity and method of creating a living space on water of early settlers of Venice and those of Inlay Lake were strikingly similar.

Secondly, life styles that these two peoples developed were also strikingly similar if not totally identical. It is an amphibious life. They both are water borne as well as land based. In Inlay Lake their animals in fields and on farms, as well as pets at home live like them, amphibious life. Caltles, buffaloes, pigs, chicken occupy below their stilt houses and pets especially feline live with their masters. Though cats by their feline nature do not like water, they know how to live on water surface and how to travel on water. Both Venetian cats and Inlay Lake cats have clever sense of direction in their watery journeys. As water crafts are the only means of communication and transport these feline creatures of Venice and Inlay Lake know how to travel especially in their mating seasons. They jump into the gondolas in Venice or into the leg rowed boats in Inlay Lake that go to their chosen destinations. They return home by jumping onto the boats bound for their home islets.

Thirdly both gondoliers of Venice and leg-rowers of Inlay Lake are cat lovers. They always welcome their free, cat passengers. They treat them kindly, feed them and think that these stray cats are lucky "mascot". Little cat houses are seen at some jetties in Venice where traveller cats can rest overnight: Cushions of hey and food and water also provided. Fourthly in Inlay Lake, there is one big monastery, famous for circus performance of cat acrobats. It is said that generations of acrobatic cats live at that monastery-not at other places. Visitors and tourists throng that monastery to watch circus of these cats perform their acrobatic acts at the signals of their masters. They even make jumps through fire rings. The writer noticed that venetian cats are music lovers. With the family of their master they come to enjoy Promenade, Philhamonic Concerto out in the open till late night. Feline pets seemed entrapped in music perhaps dreaming sweet dreams.

May we now turn to the interesting legends and history of Inlay Lake. Myanmar word Lay stands for number 4 as well as for Kalay meaning small. Because we have the largest natural Lake called Indaw Kyi in Kachin State, the second largest Lake in Southern Shan State came to be called In Kalay [Small Lake]. But its legends and history tell us that it was four villages founded by the earliest settlers on the Lake. So it was called In Lay Ywa [Four villages on the Lake]. In course of time In Lay Ywa corrupts into Inlay which comes to acquire the meaning Small Lake. The four villages of the earliest settlers on the Lake are —

1. Namt Pan
2. Wampt Long
3. Naung Taung and
4. Haing Ya (Hè Ya).

You can still see and visit them to-day.

Two legends tell that in days of yore some adventurous Dawei people came up to this Lake for trade. Dawei is a sea port town on the coast of Taninthayee, southern most of Myanmar. These early arrivers liked the environment of the Lake which is similar to that of their native town.

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Defence Deputy C-in-C holds talks with US military delegation

Deputy Commander-in-Chief General Soe Win posing for a group photo with US military delegation. PHOTO: MNA

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice- Senior General Soe Win received Deputy Commander Lt-Gen Anthony Crutchfield of the US Pacific Command-PACOM at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the two representatives discussed reforms in Myanmar and the role of the Tatmadaw, relations between the military and the civilian government, the peace process and current armed conflicts in Kachin State, the situation of IDP camps and relations between the armed forces of the two countries.

Senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services were present at the meeting while the US military delegation was accompanied by US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel, Military Attaché for the US Army Colonel James McAden, Military Attaché for the US Airforce Lt Col Rachel Smith and officials.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Medical teams give treatment to patients in Naga Self-Administrative Zone

MEDICAL teams from the Ministry of Health and the Tatmadaw have been providing medical care to patients suffering from the flu at Dagar Village in Naga Self-Administrative Zone following five deaths from the viral disease.

The medical team disclosed yesterday that the patients suffered from high fever due to malnutrition, a weakness in personal hygiene and lack of immediate medical care. The medical team said there was no outbreak of infectious disease.

A local resident told Nanyun People's Hospital on 29 September that about 300 villagers were suffering from fever, headaches, coughing and blisters on their skin.

A medical team from the hospital went to the area the next day and provided medical care.

On 4 October, a combined medical team from the Tatmadaw joined the team from the hospital.

So far, 146 patients—60 men and 86 women—have received medical care.— *Myanmar News Agency*

A military doctor taking the history of a boy patient from his mother. PHOTO: MNA

Inlay Lake, the Venice of the East

>> From page 8

So with the permit of the local chief they founded four villages on the Lake by creating floating islets. Their houses were stilt, built of light natural materials of the locality such as bamboo, soft timber, cane and thatch. Aquatreplants afloat on the Lake were gathered together and affixed to the ground by poles and layers and layers of soil and silt were heaped on them. On firmer islets they built stilt houses and on weaker ones they did agriculture horticulture and animal husbandry. So began In Lay Ywa (Four Villages) on the Lake.

The next legend is connected with the history of Bagan. King Alaungsithu [1112-1167 A.D] of Bagan dynasty was a traveler king. With his royal Barge and a flotilla of water crafts he made inspection tours of his domains. He visited seaports on Myanmar coast line. It is said that his voyage reached out to some archipelagoes in high seas. Sakka deva Thunder god appeared before him and presented him sandal wood, out of which five sacred statues were carved, inside them sacred relics of Lord Gotama Buddha were encased. The four statues represent the four Buddhas already revealed — Kaukusanda, Konagamana, Kasapa and Gotama. The smallest fifth status represents the future Buddha Meteya. The King kept them in a shrine at the bow of his Barge for daily worship. These statues came to be known as Phaung taw Oo phayars.

The King sojourned for some time at Dawei seaport, finding that Dawei people were sea borne and brave fighters on sea, the King began recruiting them into his flotillas. Thus emerged in Myanmar navy of old days,

1. Myauk Dawei Yey Kyaung [North Branch of Dawei Navy because the recruits were from the north part of Dawei and
2. Taung Dawei Yey Kyaung [South Branch of Dawei Navy because the recruits were from the south part of Dawei.

When the King returned home, on the way he stayed for a long time in Inlay Lake area. He allowed his followers to settle down on the Lake. Dawei settlers built their houses facing south direction where their native town was because they felt very nostalgic. In-thas speak with Dawei dialect and tone. Shans call them "Mant Naung" meaning Myanmars living on the Lake. Similarly some archers of the King's army settled in the areas Pintaya Pwe hla Ywa Ngan Yey U. Baw Saing which we now call Danu autonomous state. Danu were warriors of archery [fighters with bows and arrows] in royal infantry. To the east of Inlay Lake there is a Pagoda named Kwe Chan Mwe daw Paya. It was a sort of monument where the King gave order and royal permit to his followers to settle at the places they liked. There used to be a stone inscription at this Pagoda.

The King's plan to enshrine the five images in a pagoda on the hill did not succeed because the chosen site was inauspicious. Therefore the images were left in the custody of a head monk named Ariyadhajadhamma Yanthi of Mahagama Village.

In 1359 A.D four images were discovered in a Cave, when villagers cleared the wild vegetation for reclaiming land. How and why these four images were moved to the cave is not known. The Sawbwa of Nyaung Shwe built a pavilion in his palace compound to shelter the four images for public worship, every year on the 7th Waxing moon of Thadingyut [October].

Due to political unrest the four images were moved to lntein village in 1515 A.D. A Board of Trustees was formed in charge of the Images. The fifth image left in the monastery in Maha gama village was also brought to join the four Images Every year in October on the 7th waxing moon of Thadingyut, public homage festival was held at the pavilion in the palace compound of the Sawbwa. Then the Images were conveyed on a ceremonial Kara Weik Barge for tour, with overnight stop at each of six stations in the Lake.

During the tour of one year a strange phenomenon took place. On the way to Nyaung Shwe, to the east of Lin Kin, Village, the Barge was capsized suddenly by an unexpected storm and the Barge was sunk. Only four images were salvaged. But when the four images were restored to the Shrine, the missing fifth image covered with under water moss was found in its original place. This strange happening was repeated in the following year. So the belief was established that fifth image presenting future Buddha [Meteya] was the guardian and it should never be moved from its place in the shrine.

Year by year pilgrims and Visitors increased. Festival days and tour stations also increased year by year- from 6 days to 15 days and from 6 stations to 21 stations. The temples at Mahagama Village and at Bant pon village were destroyed by fire in 1771 and 1881 A.D respectively. In 1890 A.D a one story temple was built at Nant Hu Village. After over six decades of existence the temple fell into ruin. The present two story grand Temple was built of brick and cement concrete in 1951 and completed in 1956.

Over two week long Inlay Phaung Daw U Pagoda Festival in October yearly attracts visitors and pilgrims far and near, at home and abroad not only to watch but also to participate in the festive activities in and around the Lake. Pilgrims gild the images with gold foils. Believers donate yellow pieces of cloth as robes to the Images and take them to keep as amulets to protect them from all dangers.

Visitors and tourists are attracted by the spectacular sight of the ceremonial tour of the four Images conveyed on the decorated Kara Weik Barge followed by a long retinue of colorfully arranged water crafts laden with devotees and performing artists displaying their best, boat races by leg rowers, on water bazaars selling fresh fruits, vegetable, flowers, local snacks and sweets, clusters of shop houses of different sizes and designs built on stilts where you may buy at bargain prices a variety of utility and vanity goods, ranging from clothings or cloths of pure cotton or pure silk, T shirts, jeans, jerkins, jewellery of artificial, semi-precious or precious stones, bronze and silver wares, facial make up or cream of local thanakha or forcing cream and all sorts of souvenirs.

Floating islands of agri, holti and vege and floral cultivations, the leg rowers of slim boats, and whirling clouds and hovering white gulls are the most eye-catching sights for the snap-shooters. You are reminded of gondolars and gondoliers in Venice. Given a good mood, the leg rower of Inlay, like gondolier of Venice sings old folk song or even amorous song if a newlywed couple is on his boat.

Star less hotels and inns of any type await you in the hotel zone both on land and on water where you find comfortable accommodation and good meal and beverages governments' delight but not cheap in peak season.

Inlay Lake is an all season centre of attraction for visitors. Of course, festival days in October it is crowded. If you want to avoid noises and voices and enjoy only 14/ relaxation open seasons in Summer and Winter are recommended. Warm sunshine, cool breeze, blue sky, blue mountain ranges, green foliage and clear lake water will largely reduce you stress and strain. Above all inlay Phaung daw Oo Yeylai Phaya beacons you to the bliss of solitude and peace.

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Voting for UN chief moves to key stage with Guterres top pick

UNITED NATIONS — A sixth secret ballot by the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday will signal whether former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres is likely to be the next UN Secretary-General, or whether one of the five permanent Security Council members might veto his bid.

Guterres has come out atop the five closed-door polls since July. The 15-member council is aiming to reach consensus on a replacement for Ban Ki-moon of South Korea, who will step down at the end of 2016 after two five-year terms.

However, amid a push for a woman to lead the 71-year-old world body for the first time, European Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva of Bulgaria was a last-minute entry a week ago. It remains to be seen how great a threat she will pose to Guterres, with several diplomats saying her candidacy is too late.

She is the 13th candidate to enter the race and the seventh woman. Two women and a man have already withdrawn, leaving 10 candidates in the running.

The ballots the five veto powers — the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia - cast on Wednesday will be a different colour to those of the other 10 council members, though they will remain anonymous. The vote is informal but it will allow the candidates to see if they could be facing a veto.

Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), arrives for a news conference at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 18 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Security Council casts ballots for each candidate with the choices of: encourage, discourage or no opinion. In the fifth secret poll on 26 September, Guterres received 12 encourage, two discourage and one no opinion.

British UN Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said on Tuesday that he hoped, "Russia will join others, and there will be a consensus candidate, and if so then it would be possible to move very quickly to a formal vote."

When the council is ready to recommend a candidate to the 193-member General Assembly for election, it will adopt a resolution behind closed doors. The resolution needs nine votes in favour and no vetoes to pass.

Russian UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, president of the Security Council for October, said on Monday there was a "good chance" the body would hold a formal vote a few days after Wednesday's secret ballot.

Even if Wednesday's ballot reveals that Guterres is facing a veto, it may not mean the end of his bid.

In late 1996, Kofi Annan of Ghana emerged as a candidate after the United States blocked Egypt's Boutros Boutros-Ghali from serving a second term. France then blocked Annan several times, but eventually backed down. Annan then appointed a Frenchman head of UN peacekeeping.—*Reuters*

May to woo Labour voters in pitch for Britain's centre-ground

BIRMINGHAM — Prime Minister Theresa May will make a bid for the centre ground in British politics on Wednesday in a speech calling for a new approach to government, based on serving "ordinary working-class people".

In her closing address at the Conservatives' annual conference, May will call on members to appeal to the millions of traditional Labour voters who defied the opposition party's pro-EU stance by voting to leave the European Union in June.

With Labour struggling to unite after the re-election of leftist leader Jeremy Corbyn, May will say it is time to become "the party of the workers".

"I want to set our party and our country on the path towards the new centre ground of British politics — built on the values of fairness and opportunity," she will say in her speech, according to pre-released excerpts.

"So let's have no more of Labour's absurd belief that they have a monopoly on compassion ... Let's make clear that they have given up the right to call themselves the party of the NHS (National Health Service), the party of the workers, the party of public servants."

May has a long record of trying to push the Conservatives to adopt a more caring image — in 2002, she famously told them that some voters called them the "nasty party",

Since she was appointed prime minister almost three months ago following the resignation of her predecessor David Cameron over the EU referendum, the Conservatives have maintained an opinion poll lead of around 8 percentage points over Labour.

May's approval ratings as a leader dwarf Corbyn's. A poll late last month said only 16 per cent of voters thought Labour was likely to win the next election under Corbyn, compared to 65 per cent for the Conservatives under May.

Some critics say she is enjoying a political honeymoon, but at the annual conference in Britain's second city of Birmingham, May has wooed some of the most critical members in her party by promising to return sovereignty from Brussels and restore control over the flow of people into Britain.

Hoping to press her advantage before an election due in 2020, May will say she wants to put "the power of government squarely at the service of ordinary working-class people", to tackle injustice and make sure everyone has a chance to succeed.

"It's time to remember the good that government can do," she will say, adding Britain can no longer be governed for the privileged few — a veiled criticism of Cameron, who was educated at the elite Eton public school.

"And if we do — if we act to correct unfairness and injustice and put government at the service of ordinary working people — we can build that new united Britain in which everyone plays by the same rules, and in which the powerful and the privileged no longer ignore the interests of the people."—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Some 4,650 migrants saved, 28 die trying to reach Italy: coast guard

ROME — More than 4,650 migrants were saved on Tuesday and 28 bodies recovered in more than 30 rescue missions off the Libyan coast, Italy's coast guard said on Wednesday.

This brings the total rescued in the last 48 hours to more than 10,000 refugees, and the death toll to 50 as people smugglers take advantage of relatively calm weather to push boats to sea.

The coast guard said the migrants on Tuesday were rescued from 33 boats, including 27 rubber dinghies.

At its closest, Libya is some 290 km (180 miles) from the Italian island of Lampedusa.

Some 13 ships from the coast guard, the Italian and Irish navies, private merchant vessels and humanitarian organisations were involved in the rescues. The coast guard gave no details about the deaths or about the nationalities of those saved.—*Reuters*

Attack on Aleppo aid convoy last month was air strike — UN expert

GENEVA — Analysis of satellite imagery of a deadly attack on an aid convoy in Syria last month showed that it was an air strike, a UN expert said on Wednesday.

Some 20 people were killed in the attack near Aleppo on the UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy. The United States blamed Russian aircraft. Moscow denies the charge.

"With our analysis we determined it was an air strike and I think multiple other sources have said that as well," Lars Bromley, research adviser at UNOSAT, told a Geneva news briefing.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on Friday that he would establish an internal UN board of inquiry to investigate the attack and urged all parties to fully cooperate.—*Reuters*

Singapore wants to protect nature reserves from Pokemon Go

SINGAPORE — A Singapore government agency said on Wednesday it has requested the developer of Pokemon Go, a location-based augmented reality game, to remove so-called "Pokestops" located in the small city-state's nature reserves.

"In view of the rich biodiversity and diverse range of habitats found within the nature reserves, NParks has requested for Niantic, developer of the Pokemon Go game, to remove Pokestops at designated sites within" three nature reserves, Wong Tuan Wah, group director for conservation at the National Parks Board, said in a statement.

The three reserves are the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, and the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.

"This is to avoid situations of Pokemon Go players walking off trails while playing the game, inadvertently trampling the vegetation, disturbing wildlife and causing damage to the environment, and endangering themselves," said the statement, a copy of which was e-mailed to Kyodo News.—*Kyodo News*

Rocket from Gaza Strip hits Israeli border town: police

JERUSALEM — A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip hit the Israeli border town of Sderot on Wednesday, causing no casualties, police said.

Militants in the Gaza Strip last fired a rocket into Israel on 21 August in an incident that also caused no casualties and drew an Israeli air strike and tank shelling.

Israel has a declared policy of responding militarily to any attack from the enclave. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Wednesday's attack, which triggered warning sirens in the town. The rocket struck an open area and no one was hurt, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said on Twitter.—*Reuters*

Ivanisevic: 6,000-7,000 migrants in Serbia

BELGRADE — Serbia does not want to change its current policy towards migrants and it will continue to help people in distress — currently, there are 6,000-7,000 migrants in our country, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour Nenad Ivanisevic said on Tuesday.

At the regional conference "Migration, Displacement and Community Resilience", organised by the UNDP European office, Ivanisevic underlined that the Balkan route is not closed and that currently there are 6,000-7,000 migrants in Serbia, mainly from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Morocco. Ivanisevic thanked the UNDP for the help provided to municipalities and cities affected by the migrant crisis.

The regional conference brought together representatives of local authorities from Croatian, Serbian, Macedonian, Greek and Turkish municipalities with large numbers of migrants and refugees to improve coordination.—*Tanjug*

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi of Iraq. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iraq warns Turkey of 'regional war' if doesn't withdraw troops

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi warned Turkey that keeping troops in northern Iraq could lead to a "regional war," according to comments broadcast on state TV on Wednesday.

Abadi, who spoke at news conference Tuesday evening, was reacting to the Turkish parliament's decision last week to extend a mandate that allows military operations against terrorist organisations in Iraq and Syria for another year.

"We have asked more than once the Turkish side not to intervene in Iraqi matters and I fear that the Turkish adventure could turn into a regional war," Abadi said.

"The Turkish leadership's behaviour is not acceptable and we don't want to get into a military confrontation with Turkey."

The Iraqi parliament also voted on Tuesday a text that condemns the Turkish parliament's decision.

Turkey says it deployed troops at a base in northern Iraq late last year as part of an international mission to train and equip Iraqi forces to fight against Islamic State which controls vast territory south of the border region, around the city of Mosul, and also in neighbouring Syria. The Iraqi government says it never invited such a force and considers the Turkish troops as occupiers. —*Reuters*

Rebels fend off Aleppo assault as nations seek to rebuild peace process

AMMAN/BRUSSELS — Syrian rebels said on Tuesday they had repelled an army offensive in southern Aleppo as Russian and Syrian warplanes pounded residential areas, while nations spoke of rebuilding a peace process the United States broke off this week.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who announced on Monday that Washington was suspending talks with Moscow due to Russia's role in the offensive, said peace efforts must carry on.

Turkey, long one of the main foes of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad but which has lately repaired its damaged ties with his ally Russia, said it planned to make a proposal to Washington and Moscow to resurrect a ceasefire that collapsed last month.

But on the ground there was no sign of peace with potentially the biggest and most decisive battle of the five-and-a-half year war unfolding as pro-government forces sought to drive anti-Assad rebels from their last major urban stronghold.

Assad's government, with Russian air support and Iranian ground forces, launched the assault on Aleppo last month, a week into a ceasefire agreed by Washington and Moscow.

The United States and other Western countries say Moscow and Damascus are guilty of war crimes for deliberately targeting civilians, hospitals and aid deliveries to crush the will of more than 250,000 people trapped under siege in Aleppo. The Syrian and Russian governments say they target only militants.

Rebels said they inflicted losses on pro-government fighters after hours of clashes on the fringe of Sheikh Saed district, at the southern edge of the rebel-held eastern half of Aleppo city.

"We repelled their attempt to advance in Sheikh Saed and killed 10 regime fighters and destroyed several vehicles," said a fighter from the Failaq al-Sham rebel group who gave his name as Abdullah al-Halabi.

Pro-government media said the Syrian army was pressing ahead in a major campaign supported by Iranian-backed militias and Russian air power to take full control of Syria's largest city, divided between rebel and government zones since 2012.

In the 15 days since the collapse of the ceasefire, war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it had documented the deaths of 293 civilians in besieged east Aleppo as a result of air strikes and shelling, including 20 on Tuesday. It has documented 25 deaths in government-held west Aleppo from rebel shelling during the 15 days.

Opposition sources give higher death tolls in the besieged rebel-held sector, under attack from bombing described as unprecedented in its ferocity. Many hundreds of wounded people have been brought to a handful of functioning hospitals, which are short of supplies and have themselves come under attack.

Aid group Médecins Sans Frontières said four of the last eight functioning hospitals in eastern Aleppo had been damaged by air strikes in the past four days. "Doctors are performing brain and abdominal surgeries ... on the floors of the emergency rooms, for lack of available operating theaters," said Pablo Marco, MSF's Middle East operations manager.

The collapse of the ceasefire last month left US policy on Syria in tatters and was a personal blow for Kerry, who negotiated the truce over months of intense diplomacy with Moscow despite scepticism in Washington, including from other senior figures in the Barack Obama administration.

Last month Republican Senator John McCain called Kerry "intrepid but deluded" for relying on Moscow.

Kerry suspended talks with Russia on Monday, accusing Moscow of failing to live up to its commitments to halt fighting and assure aid reached besieged communities.

"We are not giving up on the Syrian people and we are not abandoning the pursuit of peace," Kerry said on Tuesday in a speech in Brussels.

He accused Moscow of turning a blind eye to Syria's use of poison gas and "barrel bombs" — oil drums packed with explosives — to kill civilians.

"Where they make a desert, they call it peace," Kerry said, quoting the Roman historian Tacitus.—*Reuters*

World powers seek more dollars to keep Afghanistan running

BRUSSELS/KABUL — World powers convened in Brussels on Tuesday to raise billions more dollars for Afghanistan to keep the country running until 2020, but hopes for a new start to peace talks were overshadowed by a surge in Taliban insurgent violence.

Fifteen years after the US invasion that ousted Taliban rulers who harbored jihadists behind the attacks on New York and Washington, Afghanistan remains reliant on international aid and faces resurgent militants that threaten its progress.

The two-day, European Union-led donor conference is seeking fresh funds, despite Western public fatigue with their governments' involvement in Afghanistan. Around 70 governments, including the United States, Russia, Iran, China and India, are attending, with pledges to be made on Wednesday.

"We're buying four more years for Afghanistan," said EU Special Representative for Afghanistan Franz-Michael Mellbin.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini may try to bring together China, Iran, Russia, the United States, Pakistan and India on the sidelines of the conference in what would be the first concerted peace push since 2013.

"If we don't achieve peace, it's going to be extremely costly for the foreseeable future," Mellbin told Reuters.

US Secretary of State John Kerry met separately with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and chief executive Abdullah in Brussels on Tuesday, a day after Taliban insurgents briefly entered the center of the northern city of Kunduz, raising questions about Afghan defences.

US State Department spokesman John Kirby said Kerry and Afghan leaders discussed ways to strengthen the government and efforts by the United States and its allies to improve the capabilities of the country's security forces.

They also spoke about the need for continued reform to fight corruption and promote security, Kirby said.

A senior US State Department official said the United States was prepared to restart a peace process "without any pre-conditions", and noted that after forty years of conflict, Afghans were tired of war.

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani walks with European Union Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini during the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan, Belgium, on 4 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US and EU officials have been encouraged by a smaller peace agreement last month between the Afghan government and a local warlord.

But a senior Indian diplomat questioned whether the Taliban was ready to make peace. The West wants Pakistan to do more to strike remaining militants. "The fact remains that at least the Afghan Taliban continue to enjoy safe havens in Pakistani territory," the US official said.

Afghanistan remains one of the world's most dangerous countries, with 1.2 million Afghans forced to live as refugees in their own country and another 3 million living in Iran, Pakistan or seeking asylum in Europe.—*Reuters*

India, Singapore leaders agree to promote smart cities development

NEW DELHI — The leaders of India and Singapore agreed Tuesday to boost economic ties, including enhanced cooperation in urban rejuvenation and developing high-tech infrastructure as part of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Smart Cities" vision.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who arrived Monday for a five-day official visit, said after talks with Modi in New Delhi that he is "confident that our two countries can do more together in urban solutions and smart cities development across India."

Lee noted that Singapore has already helped India come up with a master-plan to build Amaravati, a new capital city in Andhra Pradesh, in response to Modi's vision to develop more than 100 citizen-friendly, sustainable cities with high-tech infrastructure.

The southern state is due to lose its current capital, the IT hub of Hyderabad, to the new state of Telangana carved out of it in 2014, and a Singapore consortium is bidding to develop the core of the new capital.

Modi, speaking alongside Lee, said they "undertook a detailed review of the shape and substance of our strategic partnership," which "aims to combine the strengths of Singapore with the scale of India, and dynamism of Singapore with vibrancy of our states."

During Modi's visit to Singapore last November, the two sides upgraded their relationship to the level of strategic partnership, while drawing up a road map to realize their cooperation agenda.

Lee said he and Modi also discussed facilitation of investment flows, noting that Singapore last year was one of India's largest sources of foreign direct investment, while more than 8,000 Indian companies are present in Singapore.—*Kyodo News*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HIJAU SAMUDERA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HIJAU SAMUDERA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.10.2016 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

Trio wins Nobel chemistry prize for 'world's smallest machines'

STOCKHOLM/LONDON — A trio of European scientists has won the 2016 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for developing molecular machines that could one day be injected to fight cancer or used to make new types of materials and energy storage devices.

Frenchman Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Scotland's J. Fraser Stoddart and Dutchman Bernard Feringa developed molecules that produce mechanical motion in response to a stimulus, allowing them to perform specific tasks, the Nobel Academy said on Wednesday in awarding the 8 million Swedish crown ($931,000) prize.

Pictures of the winners of the 2016 Nobel Chemistry Prize: Jean-Pierre Sauvage, J Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L Feringa are displayed on a screen during a news conference by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden, on 5 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Such molecular machines can be developed in smart medicines that seek out disease or damage and deliver drugs to fight or fix it, and in smart materials that can adapt in response to external triggers such as changes in light or temperature. "There are endless opportunities," Feringa, a professor of organic chemistry at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, told reporters when asked to predict what his work could eventually be used for.

"Think of a tiny micro-robot that a doctor in the future will inject into your blood and that goes to search for a cancer cell or goes to deliver a drug, for instance."

Goran Hansson, a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences which conferred the award, said this year's recognition was "all about the world's tiniest machines".

"The sky's the limit," he said when asked where the discovery could lead.

The Nobel committee's statement said the science of molecular machinery was now "at the same stage as the electric motor was in the 1830s" - when scientists displayed various spinning cranks and wheels, unaware that they would lead to electric trains, washing machines, fans and food processors.

"We can still only guess at the thrilling developments ahead of us," it said. "However, we do have a definite answer to (the) initial question - how small can you make machinery?: At least 1,000 times thinner than a strand of hair."

Sauvage is professor emeritus at the University of Strasbourg and director of research emeritus at France's National Centre for Scientific Research.

Stoddart, born in Edinburgh and now professor of chemistry at Northwestern University in the United States, said the prize was "quite unexpected".

"When it happens, it takes your breath away," he said in a phone interview as he watched the ceremony live from his home outside Chicago.—*Reuters*

Video in Los Angeles police shooting shows black teen with a handgun

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles police, seeking to quell protests over the fatal weekend shooting of an African-American teenager, released surveillance video on Tuesday in which the youth is seen holding a handgun moments before he is shot by officers.

The video, taken from a security camera outside a nearby store, was made public by Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck a day after he held a news conference to give a detailed verbal account of how Carnell Snell Jr, 18, was shot by officers during a foot chase on Saturday.

Beck said Snell was fleeing what police believed to be a stolen vehicle and was gunned down by officers as he turned toward them holding a pistol he had pulled from his waistband.

Snell's death, and the fatal police shooting on Sunday of a Hispanic male wielding what turned out to be handgun replica, ignited three days of angry rallies in Los Angeles, including a Sunday night protest in which demonstrators pelted Mayor Eric Garcetti's house with eggs.

A still image taken from closed-circuit TV provided by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) on 4 October 2016 shows a suspect fleeing police pursuit on 1 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Similar protests flared following the police slaying on 27 September in the San Diego suburb of El Cajon of another black man, Alfred Olango, an unarmed Ugandan refugee said by friends and family to have been mentally disturbed. Olango was shot when he aimed an electronic tobacco "vaping" pipe at police and assumed what police said was a "shooting stance."

Public outrage was further inflamed in California over the weekend with the release of video from July that captured two Sacramento officers discussing how they might run down a fleeing black man with their patrol car before they fatally shot him more than a dozen times. Police said that man, Joseph Mann, 51, was carrying a knife. In the Snell video, the teenager can be seen running through a strip mall parking lot and then walking past storefronts as he approaches the surveillance camera.

Snell is holding a handgun in his left hand and briefly stands behind a parked vehicle before tucking the firearm into his waistband as he runs back along the sidewalk away from the camera with his left hand at his waist. He exits the camera's frame as two police officers run after him.

The shooting is under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department and will be reviewed by the local district attorney.

Activists with the Black Lives Matter movement said on social media they planned further demonstrations on Tuesday at a meeting of the Los Angeles Police Commission.—*Reuters*

Hurricane Matthew takes aim at Bahamas, US after pummeling Haiti, Cuba

LES CAYES, (Haiti)/ GUANTANAMO, (Cuba) — Hurricane Matthew, the fiercest Caribbean storm in almost a decade, powered toward the Bahamas and Florida early on Wednesday after battering Haiti and Cuba with torrential rains and killing at least 10 people.

The hurricane, which the United Nations said created the worst humanitarian crisis to hit struggling Haiti since a devastating 2010 earthquake, whipped Cuba and Haiti with 140 mile-per-hour (230 kph) winds on Tuesday, pummeling towns, farmland and resorts.

Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated from the storm, which caused severe flooding and killed four people in the Dominican Republic as well as at least six in Haiti, the two countries that share the island of Hispaniola.

Matthew was a Category Four hurricane through Tuesday but was downgraded to Category Three early on Wednesday, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

The eye of the storm was about 115 miles (185 km) south of Long Island in the Bahamas on Wednesday morning and it was expected to be very near the east coast of Florida by Thursday evening, the NHC said.

Maximum sustained winds eased to around 115 mph (185 kph) by Wednesday morning but the NHC said it was likely to strengthen again slightly in the coming days.

A woman walks on a highway blocked by rocks after the passage of hurricane Matthew on the coast of Guantanamo province, Cuba, on 5 October 2016.PHOOT: REUTERS

It was difficult to assess the severity of the impact on Haiti because Matthew knocked out communications in many of the worst-affected areas, including the main bridge that links much of the country to the southwest peninsula.

There was particular concern about Haiti as tens of thousands of people are still living in tents and makeshift dwellings due to the 2010 earthquake, which killed more than 200,000 people.

Authorities said on Wednesday two people in Haiti were crushed by trees and two were swept away by swollen rivers.

Mourad Wahba, the UN secretary-general's deputy special representative for Haiti, said much of the population had been displaced by Matthew and at least 10,000 were in shelter.

"Haiti is facing the largest humanitarian event witnessed since the earthquake six years ago," he said.

Heifer International, a nonprofit organisation working with farming families in Haiti, said farmland and businesses caught in Matthew's path had been devastated.

The US government said it was ready to help the afflicted and about 300 US Marines set off on the USS Mesa Verde to provide disaster relief in Haiti, the Marines said in a tweet.

There were no immediate reports in Cuba of deaths, casualties or major damage.

Cuba's government has traditionally made extensive efforts to cope with hurricanes and authorities spent days organising volunteers to get residents to safety and secure property.

Matthew thrashed the tourist town of Baracoa in the province of Guantanamo, passing close to the disputed US Naval base and military prison. It was on track to mow over the central and northwestern Bahamas, the NHC forecasts showed.

Santiago de Cuba, the second largest city, which lies in the southeast of Cuba, was not badly hit, state media said.

Officials in the Bahamas urged residents to evacuate to higher ground and the Ministry for Grand Bahama said on Facebook that government offices in New Providence and Grand Bahama had been closed until further notice.

Hurricane and tropical storm warnings were extended along the east coast of Florida as the storm moved north.—*Reuters*

Turkey suspends 13,000 police officers, shuts down TV station

ANKARA/ISTANBUL — Turkish authorities suspended nearly 13,000 police officers, detained dozens of air force officers and shut down a TV station on Tuesday, widening a state-ordered clampdown against perceived enemies in the wake of July's failed coup.

The police headquarters said 12,801 officers, including 2,523 chiefs, were suspended because of their suspected links to US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara accuses of orchestrating the attempt to overthrow the government.

Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania, denies any link to the coup attempt, which led to the deaths of more than 240 people.

The suspensions were ordered hours after Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus announced that the cabinet had approved a 90-day extension to a state of emergency, renewing President Tayyip Erdogan's powers to govern by decree at least until January. The emergency extension, which parliamentary is likely to wave through, means Erdogan can take decisions without oversight of the Constitutional Court, Turkey's highest legal body.—*Reuters*

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Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **6 October 2016** lmm@kcyangon.com

Colombia government, rebels in crisis talks after 'no' to peace deal

HAVANA/BOGOTA — Colombia's government and Marxist guerrillas went back to the drawing board on Tuesday after a peace deal they painstakingly negotiated over four years was rejected in a shock referendum result. In a vote that confounded opinion polls and was a disaster for President Juan Manuel Santos, Colombians narrowly rebuffed the pact on Sunday as too lenient on the rebels.

Lead negotiators Humberto de la Calle and Sergio Jaramillo were back at a Havana convention centre on Tuesday meeting counterparts from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) to see what the rebels are willing to do, the government said.

The Cuban capital had been the venue since 2012 for talks between the two sides that reached an accord to end Colombia's 52-year war, which has killed around a quarter of a million people.

All sides, including "No" voters, who carried the day on Sunday by less than half a percentage point, say they want an end to war, and the two parties have kept their ceasefire.

But there is vehement opposition — led by hardline former President Alvaro Uribe — to major planks of the previous deal, including guaranteed congressional seats for the FARC and immunity from traditional jail sentences for leaders.—*Reuters*

AT&T signs Taylor Swift to multiyear partnership deal

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — AT&T Inc (T.N) has signed pop star Taylor Swift to an exclusive, multiyear partnership that includes a performance at a party the wireless and pay-TV service provider will host the night before the 2017 Super Bowl, the company said on Tuesday.

The partnership includes exclusive performances and other content, AT&T said in a statement. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Swift will headline the AT&T DirecTV Super Saturday Night concert in Houston on 4 February, the night before the 2017 Super Bowl. The National Football League has said that Lady Gaga will perform during the halftime show of the game.

Exclusive content and portions of Swift's concert will be made available to AT&T's U-verse video and DirecTV customers after the show, AT&T spokesman Brett Levecchio said.

AT&T plans to enter the crowded online TV market, now dominated by Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) and Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O), later this year. It is preparing to launch its online streaming TV service, DirectTV NOW, as it seeks to woo viewers who want a less expensive alternative to cable and satellite TV services.

Levecchio declined to say whether Swift, as part of the deal, will help AT&T market DirecTV Now or offer exclusive content for the service.

AT&T bought DirecTV for $48.5 billion last year to become the largest US pay TV provider. DirecTV brought in pop singer Rihanna to perform at its Super Saturday Night event in 2015 and rock band Red Hot Chili Peppers to perform at the event in 2016.

Swift, 26, is a 10-time Grammy Award winner. She topped this year's Forbes list of the world's highest-paid celebrities, earning $170 million. —*Reuters*

'Wolverine 3' will be very different in tone: Hugh Jackman

LOS ANGELES — Actor Hugh Jackman has said fans can expect some sort of first look of the final "Wolverine" movie in the coming weeks, adding that the film is going to be very different in tone.

Jackman, 47, also revealed that the filming has wrapped and director Jim Mangold is busy editing the movie.

"We've finished shooting. I just saw Jim Mangold today. He's editing away and finishing that," the Logan depicter told Entertainment Tonight.

"There's going to be some stuff coming out in the next week or so. That's all I'll say. I'm not good. I'm the kind of person who tells everybody everything. Basically, it's going to be very different. Very different in tone and hopefully different to anything we've done."

Written by "Green Lantern" scribe Michael Green, the final Wolverine solo film will reportedly be based on "Old Man Logan" comic book series.

It will be set in the future, where supervillains have taken control over the world.

Patrick Stewart is back to reprise his role as Charles Xavier aka Professor X in the third "Wolverine" film.

Set to hit US theatres on 3 March 2017, it also stars Boyd Holbrook, Richard E Grant, Stephen Merchant and Elise Neal. —*PTI*

Actor Hugh Jackman. PHOTO: REUTERS

I'd marry Justin Bieber: Britney Spears

LONDON — Singer Britney Spears, in an appearance on a chat show, quipped she would marry pop star Justin Bieber.

The 34-year-old singer has been single since she split from film and TV producer Charlie Ebersol in June 2015, but she has now admitted she would tie the knot with the 22-year-old star if given the chance, reported Female First.

Appearing on UK TV show "Loose Women", Britney played a game of 'Snog, Marry, Avoid' with Justin Bieber, Simon Cowell, and Madonna.

PHOTO: REUTERS

After a long pause, the "Toxic" hitmaker said, "Justin Bieber, marry."

She then changed her mind and said she would rather "snog" (kiss) the "Sorry" musician.

The 'Piece of Me' star declined to comment on whether she'd marry Simon or Madonna, who she famously shared a kiss with at the MTV Video Music Awards in 2003, and instead claimed she'd avoid them both.

The "Make Me" musician admitted that although she is enjoying being single, when it comes to dating she has a preference toward "younger guys".

"I'm not [dating]. I'm happily single right now...I like younger guys...I like spur of the moment things, I don't like it to be so planned like let's go on a date, I just like things to happen.—*PTI*

Actor Ben Stiller reveals past cancer diagnosis

NEW YORK — Actor and director Ben Stiller said on Tuesday that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer two years ago, and said a controversial early screening test had saved his life.

The "Zoolander" star, 50, said he was diagnosed in June 2014 and that after surgery he was declared cancer free three months later.

"So, I had cancer a couple of years ago and I wanted to talk about it. And the test that saved my life," tweeted Stiller linking to an essay on Medium.com about his experience.

He described the three months between his diagnosis and treatment as "a crazy roller coaster ride with which about 180,000 men a year in America can identify." Stiller said he felt lucky that he had taken an early blood test called the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test, which has proved controversial among the medical profession because it can give false-positive or false-negative results and lead to invasive treatment.

"Taking the PSA test saved my life," wrote Stiller. "Literally. That's why I'm writing this now."

"I am not offering a scientific point of view here, just a personal one, based on my experience," he added.—*Reuters*

Documentary 'We Are X' profiles Japanese rock band

LOS ANGELES — Heavy metal comes to the big screen in a new documentary looking at successful rock band X Japan.

"We are X" goes behind the scenes to look at the Japanese group, formed in 1982, which defied professional setbacks and personal losses and won admirers in the likes of rock band Kiss and comic book creator Stan Lee.

"It was like a very sad story, almost too sad to be true," X Japan co-founder and drummer Yoshiki said at the film's Los Angeles premiere on Monday. "It was very hard for me to even say yes to create this film but now it's kind of over...It was a very therapeutic process."

"We Are X" will have a limited US cinema release.—*Reuters*

Army of black statues stands guard at African art show in London

LONDON — An "army" of 2-metre-high (6.5-foot) statues has been assembled in the courtyard of a former royal palace in London to welcome visitors to an African art fair.

Something of a cross between China's terracotta warriors and the Easter Island monoliths, the 40 stern-faced black figures dominate the neoclassical entrance to Somerset House which is hosting the 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair.

The work of London-born artist Zak Ove, the installation "Black and Blue: The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness" is meant to recall a play performed at Somerset House when it was the home of the wife of King James I in the 17th century that featured players in blackface makeup.

An assistant poses with the sculptures "Black and Blue: The invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness", by artist Zak Ove, at Somerset House in London, Britain, on 4 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The installation comments on the relationship between power, beauty, identity and skin colour," according the organisers of the show, which includes paintings, sculptures and photography by a range of artists.

The 1:54 exhibition, named after the number of countries in Africa, runs from 6 October to 9 October. —*Reuters*

Vienna zoo appeals for help to name panda cub

VIENNA — Vienna's Schoenbrunn Zoo has picked a name for a female panda and is asking animal lovers to help it choose one for her male twin.

Giant Panda Yang Yang gave birth to the cubs on 7 August. In keeping with a tradition that stems from the high death rate among baby pandas, the twins will be named once they are 100 days old, after 15 November, the zoo said.

"We have already found a name for the female panda but we are not giving it away," zoo director Dagmar Schratter said.

"After three males we were particularly pleased at the arrival of a female and we have always said that if it is a female it should have a special name." The zoo is now appealing for suggestions for a name for the male. A shortlist of three names will be drawn up and put to an online vote. —*Reuters*

Giant Panda twin cubs which were born on 7 August 2016, are seen in a breeding box inside their enclosure at Schoenbrunn Zoo in Vienna, Austria, on 28 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

A malnourished boy lies on a bed outside his family's hut in al-Tuhaita district of the Red Sea province of Hodaida, Yemen, on 26 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Yemen central bank crisis raises new famine fears

LONDON/DUBAI — Intensive care wards in Yemen's hospitals are filled with emaciated children hooked up to monitors and drips — victims of food shortages that could get even worse due to a reorganisation of the central bank that is worrying importers.

With food ships finding it hard to get into Yemen's ports due to a virtual blockade by the Saudi-led coalition that has backed the government during an 18-month civil war, over half the country's 28 million people already do not have enough to eat, according to the United Nations.

Yemen's exiled president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, last month ordered the central bank's headquarters to be moved from the capital Sanaa, controlled by Houthi rebels in the north, to the southern port of Aden, which is held by the government.

He also appointed a new governor, a member of his government who has said the bank has no money.

Trade sources involved in importing food to the Arab peninsula's poorest country say this decision will leave them financially exposed and make it harder to bring in supplies.

Diplomats and aid officials believe the crisis surrounding the central bank could adversely affect ordinary Yemenis.

"The politicisation of the central bank and attempts by the parties in the conflict to use it as a tool to hurt one another ... threaten to push the poorest over the edge," said Richard Stanforth, humanitarian policy adviser with Oxfam.

"Everything is stacked against the people on the brink of starvation in Yemen."

The effects of food shortages can already be seen. At the children's emergency unit at the Thawra hospital in the port of Hodaida, tiny patients with skin sagging over their bones writhe in beds. Hallways and waiting rooms are crowded with parents seeking help for their hungry and dying children.

Salem Issa, 6, rests his stick-thin limbs on a hospital bed as his mother watches over him. "I have a sick child, I used to feed him biscuits, but he's sick, he won't eat," she said.

A nurse said the ward began taking in around 10 to 20 cases in April, but now struggles with 120 patients per month.

The World Food Programme says half Yemen's children under five are stunted, meaning they are too short for their age because of chronic malnutrition.—*Reuters*

MITV Myanmar International

(6-10-2016 07:00am ~ 7-10-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-1)
07:50	Am	Myanmar's Export: Mango
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
08:51	Am	Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products Of Myanmar- Seashells Products
09:44	Am	Temple Stalls
09:50	Am	Black Gold (P- I)
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Elegant and Exquisite Myanmar Cotton Fabrics
10:39	Am	Pet Fish Biz
10:51	Am	Sagaing: Guitars

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake
07:47	Pm	A Star for Great Achievement
07:56	Pm	Dances of Myanmar "Lisu Traditional Dance"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Tapestry- A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship
08:45	Pm	Entrepreneur: Nan Ei Ei Zar

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

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

Sewer warmth to heat Paris swimming pool

PARIS — A Paris swimming pool on Wednesday inaugurated a new heating system using warmth recovered from sewers in a bid to cut costs and reduce carbon emissions.

The Aspirant Dunand pool in Paris' 14th arrondissement is the latest in a series of French public buildings to use heat pumps to recycle residual warmth from showers, dishwashers and washing machines in its sewage pipes.

French waste and water group Suez, which has a 30-year contract to run the installation, already operates a dozen such heating systems around the country, including in pools in Paris suburb Levallois and in Annemasse, near the Swiss border, and in schools, apartment blocks and administrative buildings.

It is building three to four new installations per year.—*Reuters*

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Memphis demands more playing time at Manchester United

LONDON — Manchester United forward Memphis Depay is unhappy at being relegated to a bit-part role under new manager Jose Mourinho and has demanded more playing time after failing to start a Premier League game this season.

The 22-year-old has dropped down the pecking order behind Anthony Martial, Marcus Rashford, Juan Mata and Jesse Lingard at Old Trafford, making just three appearances from the bench in the current league campaign.

The Dutch international, who joined from PSV Eindhoven in June last year, also endured a difficult debut season under former boss Louis van Gaal, scoring twice in 29 league appearances, 13 of which came as a substitute.

"I am the same person and I know what I want. A supporting role is not for me," Memphis, who scored 22 league goals to fire PSV to the Dutch championship in the 2014-15 season, told Dutch newspaper *Metro Nieuws.*

"I'm not a player who is happy with the fact that he is under contract with Manchester United. This is my dream club, but I want to play."

Memphis said United had made progress following Mourinho's arrival in May, adding that the former Chelsea boss has expressed his faith in his abilities.

"The training sessions are going well, I'm sharp and fit, but that applies to everyone. The level has become higher. Jose Mourinho is a top coach," he added. United, sixth in the league after seven games, next travel to Liverpool on 17 October. —*Reuters*

Stoke City's Erik Pieters in action with Manchester United's Memphis Depay. PHOTO: REUTERS

Murray and Nadal ease into second round of China Open

BEIJING — World number two Andy Murray overwhelmed Italy's Andreas Seppi 6-2, 7-5 and second seed Rafael Nadal crushed veteran Italian Paolo Lorenzi 6-1, 6-1 to reach the China Open second round on Tuesday.

Briton Murray, three-times a grand slam champion, showed no signs of fatigue having just recovered from a thigh injury and wrapped up the match in under an hour and 30 minutes.

"I thought I did okay considering I hadn't played much the past couple of weeks. I think I can do better," Murray told reporters. "There was some good stuff in there. With each match, I'll play better hopefully. No injuries. Felt fine. Just need matches now," the top seed added.

Murray will play the winner of the all-Russian clash between Andrey Kuznetsov and Konstantin Kravchuk in the next round.

Nadal, who won the China Open in 2005, won 79 per cent of his first-serve points to breeze past the 34-year-old Lorenzi.

The 30-year-old Spaniard will next face compatriot Albert Ramos-Vinolas or French qualifier Adrian Mannarino.— *Reuters*

Andy Murray of Great Britain plays against Andreas Seppi of Italy during China Open Men's Singles First Round in Beijing, China, on 4 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Deschamps backs Pogba to come good given time at United

LONDON — Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba needs to be given more time to demonstrate his quality in England as his hefty price tag has raised expectations to a very high level, France coach Didier Deschamps has said.

Pogba, who helped France reach the Euro 2016 final in July, has endured a mixed start at Old Trafford since making a world record 89 million pound move back to Manchester from Juventus in August. Pogba was anonymous in last month's defeats to Manchester City and Feyenoord but scored his first goal for the club in an improved display in a 4-1 win over Leicester City before another lacklustre performance in Sunday's 1-1 draw with Stoke City. "He has changed his club team and needs to find his bearing with his new team mates," Deschamps told reporters in France. "With Paul, we always expect more. When he does something neutral, often it is not enough. He is someone we expect to make assists in every game... there is an expectation that is too large. Paul is okay in his own head. He knows what he wants."—*Reuters*

Sponsors hail Sharapova's reduced ban

LONDON — Maria Sharapova's reduced suspension for a doping violation is set to provide a healthy boost to her bank balance with corporate sponsors reaffirming their commitment to the Russian player.

The 29-year-old can return to the court next April after the Court of Arbitration for Sport reduced her two-year ban by nine months on Tuesday.

Sharapova's stunning admission in March that she had tested positive for meldonium at the Australian Open, and her subsequent ban by the International Tennis Federation, saw a number of sponsors distance themselves from her.

Swiss watchmaker Tag Heuer cut ties with the former world number one while Porsche, a unit of Volkswagen AG, was among those to suspend its relationship with the Russian.

However, in the wake of Tuesday's verdict the German luxury carmaker confirmed it would discuss its tie-ups with Sharapova.

"We welcome the CAS verdict and are delighted for Maria," Porsche said in a statement published by Russian news agency TASS.

"No contracts have been terminated. We will be discussing a future collaboration over the next days and weeks."

Nike Inc, the world's biggest sportswear brand, initially suspended its partnership with Sharapova after her admission in March but said it would continue to work with the player after her two-year ban was announced in June.

"We are pleased that Maria will be back playing the sport she loves in April and look forward to partnering with her and enjoying her continued success on and off the court," Nike said in a statement published by ESPN.

Mineral water brand Evian and racket maker Head, long-time backers, also released statements hailing the reduction.

Head chairman and CEO Johan Eliasch, a robust supporter of Sharapova throughout the scandal, said "justice" had been served.

"We are very proud to have stood by Maria for the right reasons throughout these difficult and testing times," he said in a statement posted on the company's social media accounts. —*Reuters*

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