THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. III, No. 179, 11th Waxing of Thadingyut 1378 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Wednesday, 12 October 2016

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RAKHINE: DEEP-SEATED ISSUES

Government deals with aftermath of violent attacks in Rakhine State with caution

THE Union Government is dealing with issues related to the recent violent armed attacks in Rakhine State seeking a long-term solution, because the issues seem to be rooted in long-simmering controversies, a Union Minister said.

At a meeting with local authorities in Sittwe, Rakhine State, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint stressed the need to find ways to solve such a "deep, sober and vulnerable issue".

"Generally, it can be assumed that such an occasional instability was attributed to subversive efforts of destructive elements", said Dr Pe Myint, who heads the governmental mission that arrived in Sittwe yesterday to inform residents of the essential facts about the attacks as part of an effort to maintain peace and stability.

The Union Government responded effectively and promptly to carry out security matters, considering the current situation to be a national concern, the minister said.

Union ministers, Rakhine State Chief Minister meet with Sittwe's Town-elders and departmental personnel. PHOTO: MNA

The government also took a cautious approach to the violent armed attacks that occurred in the small hours of 9 October not to cause panic among the people and to prevent viral rumours and exaggeration over the issue by individuals and organisations who do not want to see stability in Rakhine State, he said.

Despite concerns that arose due to the violent armed attacks, a restrained response was required so as not to cause undesirable consequences, he added.

Union Minister U Thein Swe said the government would release news and information coverage in the coming days and take legal action against law violators.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu clarified matters to lessen public anxiety and said the Union Government is cooperating with the Rakhine State cabinet to make arrangements in achieving tranquility in the State by the newly formed Central Committee for the Rakhine State's Peace and Development.

Police Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin of the Myanmar Police Force clarified that the attacks happened on 9th October. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Tatmadaw troops capture four suspected attackers during area clearance operation in Maungtaw

TATMADAW troops captured two suspected armed attackers during an area clearance operation yesterday upon receiving information that there were armed individuals hiding in some villages of Maungtaw Township following incidents which occured in Maungtaw and Rathetaung Townships.

Andra Mular Kein and Mawlawi Fordita Laung, whom the Tatmadaw suspects were involved in attacks in Ngakhuya Village in the township on 9 October, were captured alive in Ngakhura Village at 8.30 pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, Tatmadaw soldiers, while carrying out an area clearance operation in Taung Paing Nyar Village at 9 am on Monday, came under surprise attack by eight armed villagers and engaged in a firefight.

After the incident, troops found seven bodies. Swords and sticks were found with the bodies.

It was reported that there were two armed individuals hiding near Maung Hnama Ale Village who took part in the attack on Kyikanpyin Headquarters and took away immunition. Two men were arrested in connection with the attack.

They, according to the Tatmadaw, admitted their involvement in the attack on Kyikanpyin outpost.

The four attackers are currently being interrogated to aid the Tatmadaw in locating further weapons and fighters. —*Myawady*

Tatmadaw attacked by 300 armed men, four soldiers killed

WHILE conducting an area clearance campaign in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, Tatmadaw troops were attacked by about 300 violent armed men yesterday. Four soldiers were killed in the fighting.

The troops were under fire by attackers who took position in advance near Pyaungpit Village in Maungtaw Township.

The troops were attacked from the north and the west by hundreds of men armed with pistols, swords and knives, it is learnt.

After fighting back, troops found the body of one attacker and two loaded guns.

The troops also lost two guns and one soldier was injured in the fighting.

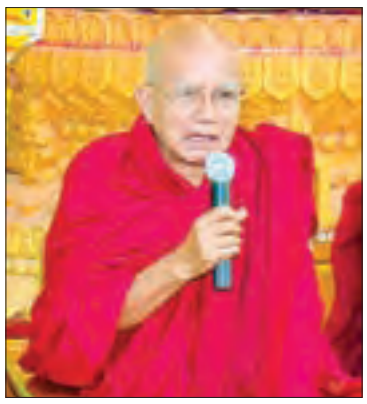
The troops are continuing to conduct clearance campaigns in nearby villages.—*Myawady*

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and party seek guidance from venerable monks on Maungtaw and Yathedaung attacks

UNION Ministers Dr Pe Myint, and U Thein Swe and Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu sought guidance from venerable monks at Maniyadana Monastery in Sittway yesterday.

First, union ministers, the chief minister of Rakhine State and party received the five precepts from the Sittway Dekhina-Yama Monastery Padana Nayaka Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhamma Jotika Suddhmajotika Daja Bhaddanta Sanda.

Sayadaw of Dekhinayama Monastery Bhaddanta Sanda.



Sayadaw of Maniyadana Monastery Bhaddanta Soma.

Sayadaw of Thaddamagaru (Pathein) Monastery Bhaddanta Pandita

Sayadaw of Dhammathukha Monastery Bhaddanta Soma.

Then, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint told the monks that he had already heard the reports, opinions and attitudes of the public on 9 October attacks in Maungtaw and Yathedaung and he was going on a field trip to seek guidance from the State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, saying that he would follow the guidance of the Sayadaws. Then the union ministers, the chief minister and officials donated offertories to the monks.

Afterwards, Ovadacariya Sayadaws gave guidance on the incidents that they were unhappy with the incidents and would like to urge all to prevent such incidents with due diligence. The Sayadaws also expressed their satisfaction with the visit of the union ministers and reinforcement of troops as the recent incidents were very dangerous. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives ambassadors

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U Win Myint received Ms Tone Tinnes, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, and Mr Nikolay Listopadov, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, separately at the Pyithu Hluttaw hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meetings, the Speaker discussed with the newly-accredited ambassadors matters relating to friendly relations and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Speaker U Win Myint receives Ms Tone Tinnes in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker holds talks with Russian Ambassador

SPEAKER of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Nikolay Listopadov yesterday at the reception hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the two representatives discussed issues related to the promotion of bilateral friendship and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung and officials of the office of the Amyotha Hluttaw.—*GNLM*

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Mr Nikolay Listopadov in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Governmental mission holds talks with representatives from political parties, leaders of Islam religious organizations

Union Minister U Thein Swe talking to leaders of Islam religious organizations after meeting with them in Sittway to clarify the true situation of violent armed attacks . PHOTO: MNA

A GOVERNMENTAL mission comprising union ministers and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu separately met with representatives from political parties and Islam religious organisations at the office of the Rakhine State Government in Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday.

Meeting with representatives from the political parties, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu clarified that measures are being taken to deal with the 9 October deadly attacks in accordance with the law, paying attention to prevalence of peace and stability in Rakhine State.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said that the issue in Rakhine is a national concern, calling for solving the issue in order to improve the image of the country.

Chairman of the Rakhine state Union Solidarity and Development Party Dr San Shwe has urged the government to make long-term plans not to make the issue more serious, denouncing the attacks posing threats to the rule of the law in the state.

U Thar Tun Hla, Member of the Arakan National Party, expressed the party's willingness to cooperate with authorities in assisting in rule of law enforcement, stressing the need to provide full security to ethnic villages.

U Aung Pann Thar, Executive Committee Member of the Rakhine State National League for Democracy, suggested the governmental mission take the attacks into serious consideration, calling for systematic scrutinising of citizenship processes.

An ANP's State secretary-general also questioned the education and health staff of the state.

Member of the National Unity Party also questioned the security of the coast of Maungtaw and measures being taken by the community. Union Minister U Thein Swe replied to their questions by saying that the government has discharged its duties in a timely manner with full accountability.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said that he was glad to learn that it was necessary to cooperate with all and pointed out the need to cooperate with the government on national issues including the security problems.

In the evening, the union ministers and the chief minister and party met with Islam leaders from IDP camps in Sittway at the Western Regional Command Headquarters.

The leaders of Islam organizations said that they were ready to abide by the law and denounced the recent attacks, urging the government to take deterrent action against anyone who are involved in the violence. They also said that people in Sittway, Maungtaw and Mrauk-U are just victims of violence in 2012. —*GNLM*

State Counsellor receives Norwegian, Indian ambassadors

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Ms Tone Tinnes, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, and Mr Vikram Misri, the Ambassador of the Republic of India to Myanmar separately in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the calls were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr Vikram Misri, the Ambassador of the Republic of India to Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe arrives back after participating in 2nd ACD Summit

VICE President U Myint Swe arrived back in Yangon after attending the 2nd Asian Cooperation Dialogue—ACD Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday.

The Myanmar delegation led by Vice President U Myint Swe was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein and officials.

At the Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, the delegation was seen off by the labour minister of Thailand, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Win Maung and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Myint Swe arrives back in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

EU calls for investigation into violent attacks in Rakhine State, expresses sympathy to families of victims

The European Union expresses its sympathy to the families of the victims who lost their lives in attacks on three border posts in Rakhine State.

A formal police investigation into the incident should be conducted and the perpetrators of the attack brought to justice in line with the rule of law, said EU on its European Union in Myanmar Facebook yesterday.

"In the meantime, we call on all parties to act responsibly, exercise restraint and let the investigation run its course.The EU stands with Myanmar in these difficult moments," said the statement of EU.—*GNLM*

Myanmar Investment Commission allows 14 foreign firms to invest US$ 278 million in Myanmar

THE Myanmar Investment Commission decided to permit 14 foreign companies to invest US$ 278.958 million during its meetings on 23 September.

The firms include 13 manufacturing firms and one transportation company. Their ventures will create 8,895 job opportunities, according to the Directorate of Investment and Companies Registration.

In addition, the commission permitted the investment of a local manufacturing company worth US$ 3.825 million and about 6 billion MMK. Their venture will create 85 job opportunities.

"The MIC considers economic benefits, job creation, environmental impacts and accountability in permitting investment in Myanmar," Director-General U Aung Naing Oo said at a press conference held at the directorate on Monday.

The commission has permitted 52 foreign firms to invest US$ 662.835 million in Myanmar up until mid-October. The commission also gave the green light to 22 local companies to invest about US$ 100 million and MMK 175 billion, according to the directorate.—*Ko Moe*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission

Announcement on date and vacant constituencies for by-elections

11th October, Nay Pyi Taw

The Union Election Commission will hold by-elections for the following vacant constituencies for respective Hluttaws on 1 April 2017 (Saturday).

Vacant Constituencies for Pyithu Hluttaw	Townships
(1) Monywa Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Monywa
(2) Chaungzon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Chaungzon
(3) Ann Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Ann
(4) Hlinethaya Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Hlinethaya
(5) Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)
(6) Dagon Myothit (East) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Dagon Myothit (East)
(7) Kawhmu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Kawhmu
(8) Kehsi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Kehsi
(9) Mongshu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Mongshu

Vacant Constituencies for Amyotha Hluttaw	Townships
(1) Chin State Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 3	Thantlang
(2) Bago Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 4	Kyauktaga, Nyaunglebin
(3) Yangon Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 6	Kamayut, Kyimyindine, Seikkan, Latha, Hline, Lanmadaw, Ahlone

Vacant Constituencies for State Hluttaws	Townships
(1) Phruso Township State Hluttaw Constituency	Phruso
(2) Kengtung Township State Hluttaw Constituency	Kengtung
(3) Kehsi Township State Hluttaw Constituency 1	Kehsi
(4) Kehsi Township State Hluttaw Constituency 2	Kehsi
(5) Mongshu Township State Hluttaw Constituency 1	Mongshu
(6) Mongshu Township State Hluttaw Constituency 2	Mongshu

Union Election Commission

Inmate brawl breaks out in Myingyan Prison

PRISON authorities had to negotiate with the representatives of inmates to keep order in Myingyan prison as prisoners protested restrictions imposed by authorities due to the breaking out of brawls.

An inmate, Kyaw Ko Ko alias Kaunglay alias Nyein Thu complained about over-crowdedness in Hall 1 of the prison with disciplinary inmate Hsan Kyaw alias Kyaw Gyi and was moved to an isolated cell. At the same time, another inmate from Hall 2, Kyaw Kyaw Min alias Kyaw Gyi had an argument with a disciplinary inmate named Kyaw Moe Lin. Prison authorities took action but inmates from Hall 1 aggressively protested the handling of the situation by authorities for around 45 minutes.

The Myingyan Police Chief and party, the District Judge and party and temporary district commissioner arrived at the prison and met with representatives. Authorities were able to control the situation at 11 am, according to prison authorities.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Isman (Left) and Abu Kalam (Right) captured by the troops of Tatmadaw during fighting with armed attackers on October 11, 2016. The two admitted that they were involed in the Kyikanpyin outpost.
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Talk on Zika virus, MDR TB and Japan encephalitic diseases held in Taungoo

Talk on Zika virus, MDR TB and Japan encephalitic diseases being held in Taungoo. Photo: Shwe Win (Pyay)

AN educative talk on the Zika virus, MDR TB and Japan encephalitic diseases took place in the meeting room of Taungoo District Public Health Department on 10 October.

At the talk, the head of the District Health Department gave an opening speech, and assistant director Dr. Win Phyo Thein talked about the Zika virus and Japan encephalitic diseases. Dr. Khine Sanda Aung of the Anti-TB department gave a talk on MDR TB. Officials responded to numerous queries raised by attendees. *–Shwe Win (Pyay)*

Singapore festival held in Myanmar Plaza earned over US$100,000

THE first Singapore festival held in Myanmar Plaza earned US$100,000 with over 4,000 visitors, offering promotions for air tickets, attraction tickets and travel packages to Singapore. The festival offered an array of events, showcasing Singapore's iconic landmarks, food, games and performances.

This two-day festival aims at promoting the tourism between Singapore and Myanmar. This festival organized by Singapore Tourism Board (STB) meant to commemorate a 50-year diplomatic relation between Singapore and Myanmar, it is learnt from an announcement released by STB.

Special travel promotions were offered by nine Myanmar travel agencies, three international airlines and two Singapore attractions at the event. With a minimum spending of US$50 at the Singapore festival, festival-goers stood a chance to win a range of prizes to Singapore.

Singapore is famous for shopping, tourist attractions and delicious food and is one of the most visited destinations by Myanmar people.

Additionally, the visa exemption for normal passport holders from Singapore and Myanmar will come into force starting from 1st December, it is learnt from the oversea tour agencies. *– Mon Mon*

Htwe Oo Myanmar Puppet artists to perform in ASEAN Puppetry Exchange in Malaysia

HTWE OO Myanmar veteran puppeteers will promote Myanmar's traditional marionette artistry through the ASEAN Puppetry Exchange (APEX), which will be held from 14th to 22ndOctober in Malaysia.

The puppet artists will share their culture and exchange their arts in APEX. The artists will discuss the matters related to performance in "One ASEAN Puppet Performance". Myanmar puppeteers will try to attract more interest from the ASEAN countries with a beautiful Myanmar marionette performance, said U Khin Maung Htwe, the art director of Htwe Oo Myanmar.

The artists in this year's APEX will unite to perform a dramatic play. Myanmar's traditional marionette has already caught the attention of foreigners, some of whom have expressed an interest to learn more about Myanmar's puppet traditions.

The ASEAN Puppets Exchange programme (APEX) was initiated in 2014 to develop and strengthen a united yet diverse community and cultural identity among ASEAN's puppet artists.

APEX's goals include developing an inclusive workshop for all ASEAN member countries' puppet traditions and heritages; growing an artist network that embraces all ASEAN languages, skills, crafts, cultural influence, technologies and audience; and introducing ASEAN's communities and artists to APEX's model of intercultural growth for the development and progress of a One ASEAN community, it is learnt.*–200*

Crime NEWS

18,000 yaba pills seized in Shan State

IN separate incidents on 10 October, a total of 18,000 yaba pills were confiscated in Shan State.

Anti-Drug Squad Unit No. 24, based in Lashio, confiscated 8,000 yaba tablets in Nawnghkio on 10 October.The team searched a GI Group passenger bus near the Oriental toll gate at the access to Nawnghkio and found 2,200 yaba tablets in the handbag of Ma Sone Phaung, 56. Another 5,800 yaba tablets worth Ks 11.6 million was found in a plastic basket belonging to Ma Wun Mein Kyu, 28.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of Anti-Narcotic Task Force Unit No. 30 based in Tachilek found a man, Ahr Phaung, 18, near the Meisai creek in Makarhokham Ward of Tachilek, Shan State (South) on 10 October and searched him. Police seized 10,000 yaba tablets worth Ks15 million.

Police have filed charges against the suspects under the psychotropic substances law and Anti narcotic drug laws.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Ma Sone Phaung and Ma Wun Mein Kyu. Photo: MPF

LOCAL Business

Local gold price slumped by Ks50,000 per tickle

THE local pure gold price, which hit a record high of Ks900,000 per tickle at the end of September, has scaled down to slightly over Ks850,000 per tickle on 10th October, it is learnt from the local gold market.

The domestic gold market has been unstable lately because gold buyers are mulling over the gold price before purchasing.

The record gold price in September resulted from the high exchange rate of the US dollar. Since then the price of gold price has declined in slightly.

The decline is attributed to the slight decrease in dollar price and the sharp plunge in the world gold's price, said one goldsmith.

Worldwide, the gold price has taken a downward trend. The local gold price is likely to follow the same pattern, experts said.

The gold price needs to be stable so that the market can raise its head during the Thadingyut festival period.—*Ko Htet*

Gold bracelets are displayed at a gold jewellery in Yangon on 14 July 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Yangon to become a mega city by 2040

YANGON, the commercial centre of Myanmar, is expected to turn into a mega city by 2040 judging by its burgeoning population, said urban experts.

In addition to expatriates, Yangon is constantly receiving new residents who are migrating from rural towns. As a result, the population of this metropolitan city could possibly reach 10 million by 2030, making it one of the largest cities in Southeast Asia, experts said.

But Yangon will have to deal with the requirements of accommodation for its accumulating migrants. Air pollution, traffic congestion and infrastructure issues will also have to be addressed. Environmental conservation organisations, city development committees and residents need to make concerted efforts to accommodate its growing population but still keep Yangon a peaceful and pleasant city.

With the constant influx of new residents, new townships are planned in Dala, Thanlyin, Hlegu, Thantapin, Hmawby, Eastern, Northern, Western and Southern Yangon. The authorities concerned are maintaining historic and significant buildings, controlling the growth of high-rise buildings and supervising construction to ensure minimal environmental impact.

Currently, 70 cent of Myanmar's population is living in rural areas and only 30 per cent in urban cities. But the urban population is expected to scale up to 58 per cent by 2050, leaving only 42 per cent of the country's resident in rural areas, according to World Urbanization Prospects.

Yangon was awarded The 3rd ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award by ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC). —*200*

Myanmar's dried tea leaf export to Germany delayed at Yangon Port

A tonne-and-a-half of Myanmar dried tea leaf destined for export to Germany was reported to be delayed at Yangon Port for lack of German FDA certification.

"We expected to export the tea leaf in September. However, shipping is required to present FDA certificate approved by Germany", said Daw Nilar Oo from Myanmar's Tea leaf Association.

The Pindaya tea leaf association from Shan State initially exported a viss of Myanmar's tea leaf processed by machine to a German company with a price of Ks 15,000.

Myanmar's tea leaf association is making efforts in seeking FDA certification. And there is no need to be concerned about the quality of the tea leaf because of the delay, she added.

Pindaya tea leaf association established factories to manufacture quality tea leaves with the assistance of GIZ. There are five quality tea leaf manufacturing factories in Pindaya: one was set up with the assistance of GIZ, one was established by the tea leaf growers and other three are individually owned. —*Ye Lin Htet (AMIA)*

Button mushrooms cultivation to be extended

PHOTO: MYAWADY

THE cultivation of button mushrooms, which can be preserved by canning, will be expanded after successful experimental cultivation, it is learnt from Myanmar Agri-Tech Limited.

This canned mushroom variety was experimentally cultivated in Taunggyi and Heho townships in November, 2015, resulting in a successful harvest.

A total of five mushroom farms will be cultivated this month with the technical assistance from Chinese experts, said Dr. Maung Maung Myint from Myanmar Agri-Tech Limited.

This type of mushroom can be grown in the winter, preserved in cans, and used in many recipes and for making sauce. This is also one of the few types of mushrooms that can be eaten raw in a salad or for dips, experts said.

There is currently no commercial button mushroom cultivation in Myanmar. Canned mushrooms are imported from Thailand into Myanmar.—*200*

CBI to contribute to enhance various peas and oil crops sector

THE Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries, internationally known by its Dutch acronym CBI, will contribute to maximising the development of the various pea and oil crops sector, it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.

A project to increase the export revenue in the oilseeds value chain in Myanmar is slated to begin between October 2016 and April 2018. During the project period, courses and workshops will be conducted to ensure the quality and security of oil crops, to adopt good cultivation practices, quality processing methods, good practices of storage and improvement of purifying practices.

Farmers in Myanmar lack the technical know-how in processing quality seeds because they have limited knowledge on the use of the seeds. Improper use of pesticides and fertilizer has been observed, and the lack of implementation of good agricultural practices in the oilseeds value chain also leads to poor quality of production. The project will help to increase the income for farmers and stakeholders in the value chain.

The project to improve food safety and compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures is being carried out with the assistance of the International Trade Center, the Standards and Trade Development Facility and the World Trade Organization.—*200*

South Korean, Japanese and US armed forces to discuss North Korea

SEOUL — The top officers from the armed forces of South Korea, Japan and the United States will meet in Washington on Friday to discuss how to respond to concerns over North Korea, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said on Tuesday.

The trilateral meeting will come amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula, with North Korea having carried out rocket launches and nuclear tests in recent months, despite international condemnation, sanctions and UN Security Council resolutions.

Attending the meeting will be Gen. Lee Sun Jin, chairman of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Katsutoshi Kawano, chief of the Japanese Self-Defence Forces' Joint Staff, and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. Lee and Dunford will separately hold a meeting on Thursday to study the security situation on the peninsula, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Pyongyang is believed to be preparing to carry out a sixth nuclear test or a test-launch of a long-distance rocket, according to observers.—*Kyodo News*

South Korean residents rally near US embassy to oppose THAAD deployment

SEOUL — Residents living in and near a Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) site in southeastern South Korea rallied in front of the US Embassy in central Seoul on Tuesday, calling for retraction of the agreement between Seoul and Washington to install the US missile defence system.

About 500 residents from Seongju county and Gimcheon city gathered near the US embassy in Seoul, carrying a placard that reads "Desperate opposition to THAAD deployment."

South Korea and the United States jointly announced their decision in July to deploy one THAAD battery at a missile emplacement in Seongju county in North Gyeongsang province by the end of next year.

Faced with the bitterest opposition from Seongju residents, President Park Geun-hye said in early August that she would reconsider the THAAD site to minimize damages from the THAAD's X-band radar which is known to emit super microwave detrimental to human body and environment.

On 30 September, Seoul's defence ministry said it would alter the US missile shield site into a golf course in the Seongju county's far northern area that faces the Gimcheon city with a population of about 140,000.

The golf course is reportedly owned by Lotte Group, the country's fifth-largest conglomerate. Lotte's founding family, including group chairman Shin Dong-bin, has been under prosecutors' investigation for slush funds, embezzlement and tax evasion.

Online signature campaign, which demands the withdrawal of the THAAD deployment decision, started on 15 July, a week after the THAAD deployment decision.

More than 100,000 residents and other THAAD objectors signed the online petition via the "We the People" website, calling on the White House to retract the agreement on the US anti-missile battery installation.

The White House is required to officially reply to an online petition garnering more than 100,000 signatures within 30 days.

The US government replied on Monday that the two allies are making efforts to realise the THAAD deployment as the US missile defence system is a "purely defensive measure" against nuclear and missile threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), according to local media reports.

Seongju and Gimcheon residents denounced the US government for its decision to deploy the super microwave-emitting radar at a densely populated area, asking whether there has been any other case in the past to place THAAD in a populous region.

They criticised the White House reply as it was just a repetition like a parrot of what South Korea and the US have reiterated.—*Xinhua*

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Thais wear auspicious pink to help hospitalised king recover

Well-wishers wear pink shirts as they pray in front of a picture of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, on 11 October, 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Thais on Tuesday wore pink for 88-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej, a colour they believe will help improve the monarch's health, two days after the palace said he was in an unstable condition.

King Bhumibol, the world's longest reigning monarch, is widely revered in Thailand. During his seven decades on the throne the king, who is also seen as a unifying force for the country, has intervened when events threatened to plunge Thailand into crisis.

The palace said on Sunday the king's health was "not stable" following hemodialysis treatment in hospital, a process to purify the blood. It said a ventilator was deployed after the monarch's blood pressure dropped.

It is unusual for the palace to state that the king's health is not stable. Statements on the king's are usually issued after the monarch's condition shows improvement.

Many Thais are highly superstitious and some believe brightly coloured clothes can attract good luck.

Messages shared on social media since the palace statement have urged Thais to wear pink, a colour which first became important a few years ago when royal astrologers said it was good for the king and would promote wellbeing. Since then, the king has sometimes been seen in public wearing pink.

In Bangkok's Silom district, Chay Chinapairot, 46, a government employee, was among those wearing pink.

"I'm very concerned. I might wear pink every day," he said.

One Facebook page called 'We Love Thai King', which has more than 2.5 million members, used the social media hashtag #wishthathismajestyrecoverssoon in the Thai language.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and members of his cabinet were expected to sign a get-well book for the king at Bangkok's Grand Palace on Tuesday. Wat Pathum Wanaram, a temple in the city's main shopping district, said monks would chant prayers for the king.

Well-wishers on Tuesday flocked to Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok where the king has spent much of the past year.

News about the king's health is closely monitored and the wording of palace statements on the king's health is intensely scrutinised. Strict laws protecting the royal family suppresses any public discussion of the king's health.—*Reuters*

Inada denies higher risks in SDF's new tasks in UN peacekeeping

TOKYO — Defence Minister Tomomi Inada on Tuesday shrugged off concerns that Self-Defence Forces members will face higher risks by engaging in rescue and other new missions they could be given during UN peacekeeping operations in South Sudan.

"There wouldn't be increased new risks," Inada said at a parliamentary session after returning from her trip to South Sudan to assess the situation in the unstable country, where SDF members have been sent to build road and other infrastructure since 2012.

The government is considering whether SDF members to be sent to South Sudan from November should be assigned to fresh tasks they are now allowed to perform under Japan's new security legislation, which include going to rescue UN staff and others under attack. The new security legislation took effect in March. Inada reiterated that a decision regarding the new assignments will be "considered by the government as a whole," but added that rescue missions will only be conducted in "unavoidable cases in response to requests" and "to the extent possible" in terms of what the troops can do.

Japanese Defence Minister Tomomi Inada attends a budget committee meeting at the House of Councillors in Tokyo, on 11 October 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Inada visited the South Sudan capital of Juba on Saturday to have a firsthand look at the activities of the Ground Self-Defence Force unit currently deployed there and the security situation.

The fledgling country, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011, has been mired in conflict between government and opposition forces. A peace deal was signed in August 2015, but renewed fighting in Juba in early July killed more than 270 people.

In the latest sign of continuing clashes, the South Sudan government said Monday that rebels attacked trucks carrying civilians on a main road to Juba, killing 21 people, according to Reuters news agency.

The Japanese minister told reporters she believes the incident was one of a number of "sporadic" clashes taking place in the country but maintained that the situation in Juba is "relatively calm."

Sending SDF troops to foreign countries where they could engage in combat activities and assigning them to new missions that involve the use of weapons is a sensitive issue in Japan due to its postwar pacifist Constitution, which bans the use of force to settle international disputes.—*Kyodo News*

Philippines set to roll out tough no-smoking law

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is set to sign a regulation this month banning smoking in public across Southeast Asia's second-most populous country, rolling out among the toughest anti-tobacco laws in the region.

Public health campaigners who have long battled against the country's hefty tobacco lobby welcomed the push to end smoking in public places and said they believed Duterte, with his tough anti-vice record, was the man to do it.

Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial told Reuters on Tuesday she hoped the president would sign the ban, which expands the definition of public places, into law before the end of October and that it would come into effect next month.

She was quoted by newspapers as saying that no smoking would be allowed in public places, whether indoor or outdoor.

"Parks, bus stations, and even in vehicles. All these are considered public places," she said, according to media. She later clarified the law would apply only to public vehicles.

Designated smoking areas will be set up, at least 10 metres (33 feet) outside buildings, according to a draft of the executive order seen by Reuters.

Around 17 million people, or nearly a third of the adult population, smoke in the Philippines, according to a 2014 report by Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance, — the second highest in the region after Indonesia. Nearly half of all Filipino men and 9 per cent of women smoke and experts say the habit costs the economy nearly $4 billion in healthcare and productivity losses every year. The proposed smoking ban replicates on a national level an existing law in Davao City, where Duterte ruled as mayor for 22 years until his rise to the presidency earlier this year.

Penalties for breaking the anti-smoking law in Davao can include a 5,000 Philippine peso ($103) fine or four months in prison.—*Reuters*

Crunch choice on new jet fighter looms over Tokyo air show

TOKYO — Faced with a growing North Korean threat and expanding Chinese power, Japan's military and aerospace industry will use this week's airshow in Tokyo to push the case to develop a highly advanced, and costly, stealth fighter jet.

The new fighter, dubbed the F-3, will serve as a key component of Japanese air power in the coming decades and could cost Asia's second biggest military as much as $40 billion, depending on its specifications.

Tokyo faces a crunch choice between ordering an industry-pleasing advanced stealth fighter or opting for a cheaper conventional combat jet that will deliver a bigger bang for taxpayers' yen.

In March, Japan's Ministry of Defence issued a request for information (RFI) to gauge interest among foreign aerospace companies for jointly developing the F-3, which would operate alongside Lockheed Martin's new F-35s and older F-15s.

"It cuts to the core of the future of Japanese defence industry," said an industry source, who asked not to be identified because he is not authorised to talk to the media. "The rising threat from China and most immediately North Korea no longer supports a relaxed industrial base. There is now a premium on actual capability." North Korea's nuclear tests and recent rocket tests, particularly the apparent successful launch in June of an intermediate-range Musudan ballistic missile, have spooked Japan.

A prototype of the first Japan-made stealth fighter is pictured at a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' factory in Toyoyama town, Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 28 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tokyo is also dealing with record encounters with Chinese military jets in the skies around disputed islands in the East China Sea.

A final decision on the project is expected by early 2018.

The strongest supporters of a cheaper conventional aircraft are officials close to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, said the sources. Abe's government has reversed a decade of defence cuts with spending reaching record levels. However, those increases are a fraction of the extra China is spending every year on its military.

A cheaper fighter programme would free up funding for other purchases and a lower cost jet that other nations could afford opens up the prospect of overseas sales that would further lower unit costs for Japan's Self Defence Force.

Pushing for a more advanced fighter are defence ministry bureaucrats and local companies seeking to secure jobs, underpin defence industry supply chains and compensate for business lost to US defence industry suppliers.

Proponents aim to build a jet more advanced than the US Lockheed's F-22 Raptor stealth fighter, said another of the industry sources.

A decade ago, the US government refused to sell the Raptor to Japan after it deemed the technology too sensitive even for its closes Asian ally. Japan's last domestic fighter jet, the F-2, which the F-3 will replace, is widely regarded as an expensive failure. Based on F-16 it was built two decades ago by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Lockheed.

It was the world's first production aircraft built with composite carbon fiber wings, but cracks in the composite plagued the programme.

An initial plan to produce 141 jets was pared down with less than 100 entering service, costing around four times that of an equivalent off-the-shelf fighter.

Ahead of the defence ministry's RFI, Mitsubishi Heavy tested a prototype jet, dubbed the ATD-X, showcasing numerous stealth technologies. The RFI, however, does not specify what type of aircraft Japan wants, said the sources. "The request is very vague," said another industry official who saw the document. It may be an attempt by Japan to fish for ideas while it mulls its choice between an expensive stealth programme and a lower cost fighter, he added.

His company will join almost 800 other commercial aerospace and defence firms that are exhibiting at Japan Aerospace 2016, the four-day show which begins in Tokyo on Wednesday.—*Reuters*

Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ***ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com*** *with your name and title.*

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.

Zero tolerance to violence and be cautious not to cause further conflicts

Aye Min Soe

VIOLENT attacks occurred on the western border at a time when a human rights report on Myanmar was scheduled at the third committee meeting at the UN.

The deadly attacks were also coincided with the third committee meeting on human rights report on Myanmar at the United Nations General Assembly.

Recently, the EU decided not to submit the human rights report on Myanmar because of the progress Myanmar has made recently with its emerging democracy. The US also lifted economic sanctions imposed on Myanmar. It is undeniable that the recent actions have painted the rosy pictures of Myanmar on the international stage. Generally, there are several challenges for the government to tackle in Rakhine State.

The first is the citizenship scrutinisation process and human rights. The authorities faced a tough situation when they worked for citizenship scrutinisation in Rakhine State in accordance with the 1982 Citizenship Law.

Meanwhile, political activities arose in protest of the advisory committee on issues in Rakhine State led by former UN Secretary-General Dr Kofi Annan.

Illegal buildings are another issue in Rakhine State. The local authorities announced they would settle the problem of illegal buildings that now number over 3,000. Following the announcement, eleven international Bengali organisations released a statement objecting to the plan on 23rd September. In order to maintain stability in the state, the authorities suspended the plan, but carried on systematic scrutiny of the illegal buildings.

The drug trafficking issue in Rakhine State also poses a threat to stability. Under the campaign of fighting illegal narcotic drugs nationwide in 2016, local authorities seized more than 6 million yaba pills in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. The attacks might be related to drug trafficking, according to the nature of the terrorism.

We, all the people, have no tolerance to any form of violence and actions should be taken against those who involved in the attacks.

Meanwhile, we should fight violence with the utmost caution not to cause other conflicts.

We need cooperation from all communities and religious leaders to bring those who were involved in the violent armed attacks to justice.

Who Were Our Real Ancestors?

Khin Maung Myint

AFTER reading the news of the discovery of the evidence of human settlements in the early bronze age in the Butalin township in the Sagaing Region, a thought came to my mind. Could they be our ancestors? During my school days I wasn't interested in history. So, I chose the science combination. However, as I grow older I become more and more interested in history and more curious as to who our ancestors were and where our aboriginal peoples were now.

Since our younger days we learned from the elders, very vaguely, that we Bamars are the descendants of the Pyus. As for the Mons, there is no issue or any doubt about their ancestry or their identity as they are still the same Mon race. However, for us Bamars, who are we really?

If we really are the descendants of the Pyus, we are not indigenous to this land and for that matter, neither the Mons too are. My reasoning is, the Pyus and the Mons were originally from the north, which is China today, who migrated to our land over two thousand and four hundred years ago or around 400 BC. This date was much later than the bronze age, thus it can be assumed that our real ancestors were already living on our land millenniums earlier than the Pyus and the Mons. This assumption is based on the fact that the bronze age was estimated to span a period roughly from 3000 to 500 BC in this region, which is the South East Asia today.

Before the discovery, mentioned at the beginning of the article, according to the records of the archeological finds at Nyaunggan, the bronze age in Myanmar is thought to have existed between 3500-500 BC. Although this dating was quite broad, if the discovery of the evidence of human settlements in Butalin could be ascertained that it was from that same period, we can safely presume that our ancestors were already settled on our land three millenniums before the Pyus came. If that can be proved beyond doubt, we can boast that our civilization was contemporary to those of our neighbours, if not earlier.

However, our historical records before the Bagan period were very sketchy, also the history of the Pyu period wasn't properly recorded. Whatever informations we know about the Pyus are from the conjectures based on the archaeological finds. As I'm not a scholar but just a history buff, I hope that our scholars and archaeologists would be able to shed more light on our distant past and our distant ancestors.

Our archaeologists should endeavour to dig deeper into our past to reveal our ancestry and our true identity, instead of accepting the fact that we descended from the Pyus. Ours' is not the same as the case of the Mons. Though their ancestors might have migrated from China, like the Pyus did, their identity is still intact, as they remain as Mons throughout the history until today. However, for us, our identity as Bamars emerged only round about the Bagan period. Thus the Bamars could be of mixed bloods, between the Pyus and the Mongolians who invaded our land during 800 AD, putting an end to the Pyu City States, as some foreign historians suggested. I don't want to accept that their suggestions are totally correct. I believe that some of the Bamars are descendants of the aboriginal people who dwelt on our land in the early bronze age, or even during the stone age that preceded it.

I wonder whether the bronze age people who once settled in Nyaunggan and Butalin were our real ancestors. I must admit that I'm neither a scholar of history nor an anthropologist, but I sometimes fantasized that some of us are descendants of an aboriginal race who first settled on our land long before the arrival of the Pyus. This belief is based on the fact that there are some aboriginal people still in existence in our neighbouring countries, but where had our aboriginal people or our real ancestors or their descendants disappeared?

They must have been pushed south by the marauding Pyus and later by the Mongolians are were dispersed to the numerous West Pacific islands. I have a reasonably strong point in speculating thus. I had met many natives of such places and the similarity of their facial features, physical structures and complexions to some natives of our country intrigued my curiosity. Thus I told them that they looked very similar to some people who we used to call the ***Anyarthars*** (အညာသား), natives of the upper region.

Most of them agreed that could be possible. I was surprised to learn that according to their history, their forefathers were initially from the Asian mainland. They were forced to flee from their homelands by the people migrating from the north, and moved on to the south and eventually out to the ocean islands, where they now live. Some of those who remained behind on our land could be the ancestors of the ***Anyarthars*** of the present day.

To prove my theory, I would like to explain very briefly about the ***Anyarthians***. I first came to learn about that term in the mid-nineteen fifties, during my university days. Dr. Htin Aung, the then Chancellor of the Rangoon University mentioned it in his speech at the prize distribution ceremony after the annual Inter-University and College Sports Meet in Rangoon. The Mandalay University College team won the championship trophy. He praised the Mandalay student athletes by comparing them to the ***Anyarthians*** , a name given to the ancient people who once dwelled in the Sagaing region. According to him, some extraordinarilly large human skeletons were found during an archaeological excavations. The size of the skeletons and the bones indicated that they were much taller and larger than the average present day peoples of Myanmar.

As such large skeletons were never found anywhere before, a new name had to be chosen for them. Thus, "**The Burma Theosophy Club**" of the old days coined a new English word, the ***Anyarthians***, referring to the ***Anyarthars*** who lived in the ***Anyar Daetha*** (upper regions). Thus it can be assumed that some of he ***Anyarthars*** of today are our aboriginal people, but as they had been integrated into the later day societies since time immemorial, their identity had long dissipated. Whereas in other places like the Andaman Island, Australia, Borneo, Indonesia, the Philippines, and many other West Pacific islands, their aboriginal people who have similar features to our ***Anyarthars*** still exist today.

I may be wrong, but I think I have the right to conjecture like most historians did in their scholastic works. Though it may not be a scholastic work, I'm floating this idea for our learned historians, archaeologists and anthropologist to look into its possibility. If I may give my opinion, it could be a possibility because about two decades ago I had read an interesting article about a tribe living on one of the remote islands of Indonesia, who had the same features and similar lifestyles to one of our ***Karen*** ethnic races. The author, as far as I can remember, was an anthropologist, who was adamant in his belief that the ancestors of those people migrated from a region on the Asia mainland, what is Myanmar today, via the Malay peninsular. Thus it could be deduced that the ancient ***Anyarthians***, the real ancestors of some of us, had been driven to the West Pacific islands in the same way along the same route.

I would like to conclude thus: as the theory that the human race originated in Africa and dispersed all over the globe and continued to evolve into different races is becoming more and more evident and accepted, I'm confident that my ideas are plausible. According to one authoritative TV documentary, the migration of the prehistoric humans from Africa to Australia was via the overland route, that was thought to have passed through the Middle East, South and South East Asia. Thus our ancestors must be stragglers who stayed behind as the others continued to push on. However, they too have to move further millenniums later, due to the new migrants from the north. Naturally, they too would have used the same route and ended up on some islands in the West Pacific.

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A new worry for Clinton: Trump's struggles may depress Democratic voter turnout

US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton speaks at a voter registration rally at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, US on 10 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton's campaign is confronting an emerging risk to her presidential ambitions — if Donald Trump continues to trail her in opinion polls many Democrats may simply stay at home on Election Day.

Without enough popular support, Clinton would enter the White House lacking the political capital she would need to drive through her agenda. In the worst-case scenario it could cost her the presidency if Republicans turn out in big numbers on 8 November.

Clinton, the Democratic nominee, has spent much of her campaign sounding the alarm over the prospect of a President Trump. She has struggled to lay out a compelling vision for her presidency and has failed to excite key constituencies, including millennials, minority voters and liberal Democrats.

Opinion polls show that many voters are backing Clinton primarily to stop Trump, the Republican nominee, from getting into the White House. If they believe he has no hope of winning, then what would their motivation be to turn up at the polls?

In a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll about half of all Clinton supporters said they were backing her to keep Trump from winning. By contrast, just 36.5 per cent said it was because of Clinton's policies and just 12.6 per cent said it was because they like her personally.

"Turnout is correlated with levels of competition," said Michael McDonald, an elections expert at the University of Florida. "The higher the competition, the higher the turnout."

The young Americans, blacks, Latinos, and low-income voters who make up much of the Democratic base often need to feel motivated by a particular candidate or issue to turn out, McDonald said, as was the case with President Barack Obama's candidacy in 2008.

Clinton's campaign has long worried about voter complacency and has at every turn pushed the notion that the race is close and that Trump is unfit to be president. With her lead growing, that task grows more difficult.

A Reuters/Ipsos 50-state survey (carried out before Friday's release of a video tape in which Trump makes vulgar remarks about women) gave the Democratic nominee a 95 per cent chance of winning the election. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll on Monday showed Clinton with an 11-point lead nationally over Trump.

Low Democratic voter turnout could leave Trump an opening in swing states. And should Clinton win the election, a slim margin of victory could compound the challenge she will face in trying to govern a deeply divided nation.

Clinton's campaign, however, will be able to rely on an extensive and well-funded voter mobilisation effort, one that is expected to give her an edge over Trump's smaller organisation.

The Clinton campaign insisted on Monday the race will remain tight. It sent out a new fundraising pitch to supporters, contending that Trump is "an authoritarian threat" for saying at Sunday's presidential debate that she would be in jail if he was president. Clinton must also contend with anger among liberal Democrats over leaked excerpts of paid speeches she made to banks and big business. The excerpts appeared to confirm their fears about her support for global trade and tendency to cozy up to Wall Street.—*Reuters*

Merkel's conservatives fall to lowest level in INSA poll

BERLIN — Support for German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives has dipped below the 30 per cent mark for the first time, a poll showed on Tuesday, with her Social Democrat (SPD) coalition partners gaining slightly a year before a federal election.

The INSA survey in Bild newspaper put Merkel's conservatives down 0.5 per centage points at 29.5 per cent, the lowest level measured for the bloc by that polling institute.

The SPD gained 1 per centage point but was still far behind at 22 per cent and the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) was unchanged on 15 per cent.

Merkel's popularity waned after she launched her open-door migrant policy last year, although it has recovered somewhat in the last few months. She is widely expected to stand for a fourth term in September 2017.

The AfD has gained ground in regional elections this year and pollsters say many voters are disillusioned with Merkel's right-left ruling coalition.

The SPD's preferred partner is the Green Party, down 0.5 per centage points at 11 per cent. The radical Left party, which some in the SPD view as a possible partner, was up by the same amount at 12 per cent.

"Germany is looking at the most exciting election in its history," INSA chief Hermann Binkert told *Bild*.

Other surveys show similar trends but INSA tends to show higher support for the AfD than other pollsters.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

ANA warned after plane nearly takes off with passenger in aisle

TOKYO — All Nippon Airways Co. received a strong warning from the transport ministry Tuesday after one of its planes nearly took off on 30 September with a passenger standing in an aisle.

ANA Flight 256, a 405-passenger Boeing 777 service from Fukuoka to Tokyo's Haneda airport, started proceeding to a runway with a passenger who did not have a seat, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

A man and his son checked in for the flight and went aboard using the same QR code by mistake, the ministry said, adding security staff failed to identify the error.

Immediately after the aircraft left the gate at Fukuoka airport in southwestern Japan, a cabin attendant found a man standing in an aisle and the plane was forced to return.

The man and his son disembarked and the plane departed after a delay of around 45 minutes.

The two passengers secured two seats and needed to check in with separate QR codes, but the son downloaded the father's electronic boarding pass to his smartphone by mistake.—*Kyodo News*

Guex: Strong SME sector can ensure Serbia's economic growth

BELGRADE — Switzerland wants to expedite and increase investment in Serbia, which is very attractive to investors, as well as help the SME sector to become the backbone of Serbia's economy, Swiss Ambassador Philippe Guex said on Monday.

At a conference on SMEs organised by the Swiss-Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Guex said that a strong SME sector is very important for the economic growth of any country.

He highlighted that SMEs are the backbone of the Swiss economy, considering they make up 99 pct of all enterprises and that they have ensured the prosperity of the middle class.

A very important condition for the development of the SME sector in Serbia is a predictable regulatory framework for their operation, as well as good conditions for financing and innovation, said Guex. Serbia must adapt its education system to the needs of the labour market, he said. —*Tanjug*

One killed, 43 rescued after ship capsizes in central Viet Nam

HANOI — A cargo ship carrying 44 people sank in waters off Viet Nam's central Quang Tri province on Tuesday, leaving one dead.

According to the Border Guard Command of Quang Tri, some 480 km south of capital Hanoi, the ship sailed from Quang Tri's Cua Tung port to Con Co island.

At 10:30 am (0330 GMT), in waters 5 km away from the island, the ship suddenly sank, reported local VNExpress online newspaper.

The incident killed one victim while some 43 others were rescued by three local fishing boats.

Local authorities are looking into reason of the incident, said VNExpress. —*Xinhua*

Two killed in plane crash in Iran

TEHRAN — A reconnaissance plane belonging to Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards has crashed in the southeast of the country, killing two people, Tasnim news agency reported on Tuesday.

The plane crashed near Iranshahr in Sistan-Baluchistan province, which borders Pakistan, on its way back from a reconnaissance mission. Both its pilot and co-pilot were killed.

The cause of the crash is not known. —*Xinhua*

Spanish police arrest three suspected of Islamist militant links

MADRID — Spanish police have arrested two men accused of belonging to Islamic State and a third man accused of spreading Islamist militant messages on social media, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

Police detained a Spaniard of Moroccan origin and a Moroccan national said to have been communicating with leaders of the jihadist group and distributing recruitment material on social networks from their homes in Gijon and San Sebastian, it said.—*Reuters*

Yemen's Houthis respond to air strike with missile attack

SANAA — Yemen's Houthi movement launched a ballistic missile deep into Saudi Arabia and may have also fired on a US warship, two days after an apparent Saudi-led air strike killed 140 mourners at a funeral attended by powerful tribal leaders.

Saturday's air strike ripped through a wake attended by some of the country's top political and security officials, outraging Yemeni society and potentially galvanizing powerful tribes to join the Houthis in opposing a Saudi-backed exiled government.

On Monday, a Saudi-led coalition waging war in Yemen said it had intercepted a missile fired by the Houthis at a military base in Taif in central Saudi Arabia, striking deeper then ever before in the latest in a series of more than a dozen missile attacks. A missile was also fired at Marib in central Yemen, a base for pro-government militiamen and troops who have struggled to advance on the Houthi-controlled capital Sanaa. A US military spokesman said two missiles were fired from Houthi-held territory at the USS Mason, a guided missile destroyer sailing north of the strategic Bab al-Mandab strait. Neither missile hit the ship. —*Reuters*

UN chief: little action on South Sudan pledge to allow more peacekeepers

United Nations peacekeepers ride in their armored personnel carrier (APC) as they patrol the perimeter of the protection of civilians site hosting about 30,000 people displaced during the recent fighting in Juba, South Sudan, on 22 July 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS — A pledge by South Sudan's government to allow the deployment of more UN peacekeepers and to improve access for UN troops already on the ground in a bid to avoid an arms embargo is yet to translate into action, UN chief Ban Ki-moon said on Monday.

President Salva Kiir agreed during a UN Security Council visit to South Sudan last month to accept 4,000 extra peacekeepers and to allow some 12,000 peacekeepers already on the ground to move around freely in order to protect civilians.

In an August resolution — after heavy fighting in July in the capital, Juba — the 15-member council had threatened to consider a possible arms embargo within five days of a report by Ban that Kiir's government was not fulfilling both measures.

In a letter to the council on Monday, seen by Reuters, Ban said "while the public commitments and relative improvements ... are a welcome sign, it will take some time to evaluate whether these commitments translate into improved freedom of movement on the ground or amount to business as usual."

It was not immediately clear if Ban's letter would trigger a consideration by the council of an arms embargo on South Sudan.

Political rivalry between Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, and his former deputy Riek Machar, a Nuer, sparked a civil war in 2013 that has often followed ethnic lines. The pair signed a shaky peace deal a year ago, but fighting has continued and Machar fled the country after the July violence. He is now in Khartoum.

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011.

Ban said that, while the deployment of more peacekeepers and the improvement of access for UN troops and aid workers already on the ground "would help alleviate some of the suffering of the people of South Sudan, they will not resolve the conflict."

He said the war was "a direct result of serious shortcomings in governance and the instrumentalization of ethnicity to further political objectives" and expressed concern about a recent call to arms by Machar.

Ban said Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda had agreed to provide peacekeepers for the 4,000-strong regional protection force, charged with enforcing peace in Juba and protecting the airport and other key facilities, but that the South Sudanese government had not yet given its approval.

Ban said a note verbale had been sent to the South Sudanese mission to the United Nations in New York, naming the troop-contributing countries and stating that, if a response was not received from Kiir's government by 26 September, the United Nations would begin preparing the deployment.

However, the South Sudanese government said it never received the note verbale from its mission and that "the lack of a response could therefore not be considered as consenting to the deployment of the aforementioned troops."—*Reuters*

Colombia to start peace talks with ELN rebels on 27 October

BOGOTA/CARACAS — Colombia's government and second-biggest rebel group announced on Monday they will start formal peace talks on 27 October in a boost for President Juan Manuel Santos after the rejection of his deal with the larger FARC guerrilla group.

The negotiations with the 2,000-strong National Liberation Army (ELN) will begin in Ecuador, according to an agreement signed in Caracas by both sides under the auspices of Venezuela's government.

"We are a special nation that grows despite adversities," Santos said in a speech after the announcement. "Peace won't slip through our fingers. On the contrary, it will be stronger, and now that we will advance with the ELN, it will be complete."

Santos won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize last week for his efforts to end a 52-year-old war with the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia: a surprising choice given voters narrowly rejected a deal he signed with them last month.

At war for five decades after being founded by radical Catholic priests and inspired by Cuba's revolution, the ELN has been in on-and-off closed-door talks with the government since January 2014 on how the two sides would conduct peace negotiations and what would be on the table.

It has remained active during that time, kidnapping and bombing oil installations, though in recent months it has released some captives. Monday's agreement said proceedings would begin to release two remaining hostages by 27 October. The ELN has sought peace before, holding talks in Cuba and Venezuela between 2002 and 2007.

While Santos' peace accord with the FARC was internationally lauded, it was narrowly rebuffed in a plebiscite as too lenient on the rebels, who formed in 1964 as a peasant rebellion.—*Reuters*

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(13 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-059(16-17)	Spares for SAFE Daughter Compressor, 3rd & 4th Stage SAFE Compressor (170) Items	US$
(2)	IFB-060(16-17)	Spares for HDD Rig (13) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-061(16-17)	Spares for BF 8M 1015CP & BF 6M 1015 CP Deutz Engine Ex HDD Rig (18) Items	US$
(4)	IFB-062(16-17)	Spares for BF 4L 2011 Deutz Engine Ex HDD Rig (28) Items	US$
(5)	IFB-063(16-17)	Spares for UD Quester Tractor (41) Items	US$
(6)	DMP/L-012(16-17)	Assorted Kinds of Engineering Hand Tools (3) Groups	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-013(16-17)	Assorted Kinds of Engineering Workshop Tools (3) Groups	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 10-11-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 12TH October, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Gene therapy may treat Alzheimer's disease

LONDON — Injecting a specific gene directly into the brain may offer a potential new therapy for halting the progress of Alzheimer's disease, especially when treated at an early stage, a new study has claimed.

Scientists from Imperial College London in the UK used a type of modified virus to deliver a gene to brain cells in mice.

Previous studies by the same team suggest this gene, called PGC1 — alpha, may prevent the formation of a protein called amyloid-beta peptide in cells in the lab.

Amyloid-beta peptide is the main component of amyloid plaques, the sticky clumps of protein found in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease. These plaques are thought to trigger the death of brain cells.

Worldwide 47.5 million people are affected by dementia — of which Alzheimer's is the most common form, researchers said.

There is no cure, although current drugs can help treat the symptoms of the disease.

Magdalena Sastre, senior author of the research, hopes the new findings may one day provide a method of preventing the disease, or halting it in the early stages.

"Although these findings are very early they suggest this gene therapy may have potential therapeutic use for patients," said Sastre.

"There are many hurdles to overcome, and at the moment the only way to deliver the gene is via an injection directly into the brain. However this proof of concept study shows this approach warrants further investigation," she said.

An Alzheimer's patient has her hair done inside the Alzheimer foundation in Mexico City in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

The modified virus used in the experiments was called a lentivirus vector, and is commonly used in gene therapy, said Professor Nicholas Mazarakis, co-author of the study.

In the new study, the team injected the virus, containing the gene PGC-1 — alpha, into two areas of the brain in mice susceptible to Alzheimer's disease.

The animals were treated at early stages of Alzheimer's, when they still had not developed amyloid plaques.

After four months, the team found that mice who received the gene had very few amyloid plaques, compared with the untreated mice, who had multiple plaques in their brain.

The treated mice also performed as well in memory tasks as healthy mice. The tasks included challenges such as replacing a familiar object in the mouse's cage with a new one. If the mice had a healthy memory, they would explore the new object for longer.

The team also discovered there was no loss of brain cells in the hippocampus of the mice who received the gene treatment.

The treated mice had a reduction in the number of glial cells, which in Alzheimer's disease can release toxic inflammatory substances that cause further cell damage.

The team suggests injections of the gene would be most beneficial in the early stages of the disease, when the first symptoms appear.

The finding was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.—*PTI*

'Sensing skin' detects cracks, harmful chemicals in structures

WASHINGTON — Researchers have developed a multi-layered "sensing skin" to detect cracks and other structural flaws that are invisible to the naked eye, including corrosive or otherwise harmful substances.

"We have created a skin that can be applied to the surface of almost any structure and be used to monitor the structure's integrity remotely and in real time, identifying potential problems long before they become catastrophic," said Mohammad Pour-Ghaz, assistant professor at North Carolina State University in the US.

The sensing skin consists of three layers, which can be painted onto the surface of a structure or pre-assembled and attached to the surface like wallpaper, researchers said. The first layer is electrically conductive and is used solely to detect cracks. The second layer serves as a buffer between the first and third layers. The third layer detects cracks, but is also engineered to detect specific chemicals of interest, they said.

This third layer incorporates metal nanoparticles whose conductivity changes in the presence of specific ions. By changing the composition of the metal nanoparticles, this layer can be engineered to respond to any particular chemical.—*PTI*

Mangosteen fruit could help cure schizophrenia: Aussie researchers

SYDNEY — Aussie researchers say Asia's mangosteen fruit could hold the key to treating patients with schizophrenia, an illness that effects the normal functioning of the human brain.

Researchers from the University of Queensland have begun a two-year clinical trial involving extracts from the native tropical fruit from Indonesia after previous studies showed that antioxidants found inside the mangosteen rind could help treat schizophrenia patients with no side-effects at all.

Lead researcher Professor John McGrath from the Queensland Brain Institute said the clinical trial was done to determine the role of mangosteens in easing the symptoms of psychosis.

"This is a gentle and safe intervention which evidence so far suggests could improve symptoms, and it's important we investigate its potential as a matter of urgency," McGrath said in a statement on Tuesday.

"We aren't suggesting this is a wonder drug, but we must investigate potential new treatments which are safe, effective and don't have the current medication's side-effects like weight gain, which can lead to other major health problems."

"Finding better treatments for schizophrenia is difficult, it will take decades, so let's start now," he said. Mangosteen is a tropical evergreen fruit and can be found in several Southeast Asian countries.

The thick purple rind of the fruit contains compounds called xanthones which are often used in herbal teas and traditional medicines.

The trial run will involve 150 schizophrenia patients in Brisbane and Geelong, Victoria in which participants will receive two tablets (that have mangosteen extracts) a day for 24 weeks, followed by a four week follow-up.—*Xinhua*

Trip to Mars could cause dementia in astronauts

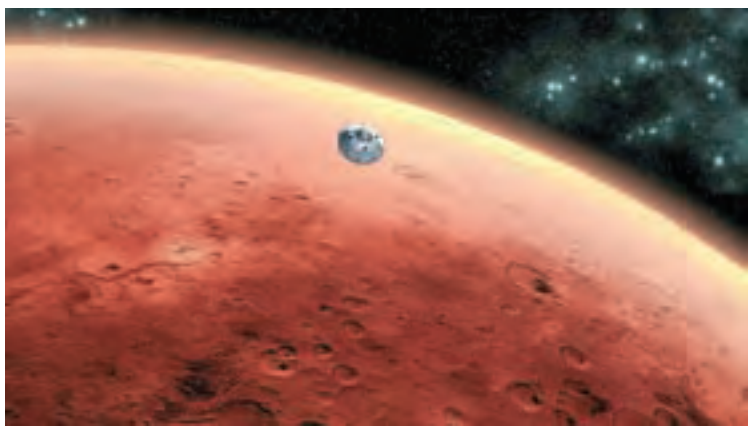
WASHINGTON — Astronauts traveling to Mars might be at risk of long-term brain damage and even dementia due to galactic cosmic ray exposure, a new study said Monday.

To explore a phenomenon called "space brain," researchers from the University of California, Irvine (UCI) exposed rodents to highly energetic charged particles — fully ionized oxygen and titanium — at the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory at New York's Brookhaven National Laboratory.

These particles are much like those found in the galactic cosmic rays that will bombard astronauts during extended spaceflights, according to the study published in the journal Scientific Reports, which is part of NASA's Human Research Programme.

Six months after exposure, the researchers still found significant levels of brain inflammation and damage to neurons, said Charles Limoli, professor of radiation oncology in UCI's School of Medicine.

Imaging revealed that the brain's neural network was impaired through the reduction of dendrites and spines on these neurons, disrupting the transmission of signals among brain cells.



An artist's concept of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory spacecraft approaching Mars. PHOTO: REUTERS

These deficiencies were parallel to poor performance on behavioral tasks designed to test learning and memory.

In addition, the Limoli team discovered that the radiation affected "fear extinction," an active process in which the brain suppresses prior unpleasant and stressful associations, as when someone who nearly drowned learns to enjoy water again.

"This is not positive news for astronauts deployed on a two-to-three-year round trip to Mars," Limoli said.

"The space environment poses unique hazards to astronauts. Exposure to these particles can lead to a range of potential central nervous system complications that can occur during and persist long after actual space travel — such as various performance decrements, memory deficits, anxiety, depression and impaired decision-making. Many of these adverse consequences to cognition may continue and progress throughout life."

As a partial solution, Mars-bound spacecraft could be designed to include areas of increased shielding, such as those used for rest and sleep, Limoli noted.—*Xinhua*

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Russia and Turkey sign gas deal, seek common ground on Syria as ties warm

ISTANBUL — Turkey and Russia signed an agreement on Monday for the construction of a major undersea gas pipeline and vowed to seek common ground on the war in Syria, accelerating a normalization in ties nearly a year after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan hosted Russia's Vladimir Putin at an Ottoman-era villa in Istanbul for talks which touched on energy deals, trade and tourism ties, defence and the conflict in Syria, where the two leaders back opposing sides. "Today has been a full day with President Putin of discussing Russia-Turkish relations ... I have full confidence that the normalization of Turkish-Russian ties will continue at a fast pace," Erdogan told a joint news conference.

The warming relations between NATO member Turkey and Russia comes as both countries are dealing with troubled economies and strained ties with the West.

Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) and his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan arrive for a news conference following their meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, on 10 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Putin said Moscow had decided to lift a ban on some food products from Turkey, imposed after the Turks shot down a Russian fighter jet near the Syrian border last November, and that both leaders had agreed to work toward the full-scale normalization of bilateral ties. They signed a deal on the TurkStream undersea gas pipeline, which will allow Moscow to strengthen its position in the European gas market and cut energy supplies via Ukraine, the main route for Russian energy into Europe.

The plan for TurkStream emerged after Russia dropped plans to build the South Stream pipeline to Bulgaria due to opposition from the European Union, which is trying to reduce its dependence on Russian gas.

Erdogan also said plans for a Russian-built nuclear power plant in Turkey would be accelerated. Time lost on the Akkuyu project because of strained relations would be made up, he said.

In 2013, Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom won a $20 billion contract to build four reactors in what was to become Turkey's first nuclear plant, but construction was halted after the downing of the Russian jet.

Putin received Erdogan in a Tsarist-era palace outside his home city of St Petersburg in August, when the two leaders, both powerful figures ill-disposed to dissent, announced plans for an acceleration in trade and energy ties.

But progress on Syria, over which they remain deeply divided, has been more problematic. Erdogan described the topic as "very sensitive", but said he had discussed Turkey's military operations in Syria with Putin on Monday.— *Reuters*

Shooting deaths, school closures worsen Rio crime wave

RIO DE JANEIRO — Police killed at least two suspected drug traffickers on Monday during a day-long shootout in the hills overlooking one of Rio de Janeiro's wealthiest districts, the latest in a wave of violent clashes that elsewhere in the city caused 8,000 children to miss school.

The shootout, in the Pavão-Pavãozinho slum above the beachside neighbourhoods of Ipanema and Copacabana, highlighted what many Rio residents fear is a sharp decline in security just two months after the city hosted the Olympics and as public security budgets have been slashed because of Brazil's worst recession in nearly a century. After several weeks of confrontations between police and suspected criminals, the neighbourhood erupted early on Monday in shooting that lasted until late afternoon. Police vehicles blocked nearby roads and police helicopters circled overhead.

A video posted online by local media showed one of the drug trafficking suspects plummeting from a stone hillside after being shot in one exchange. A police spokesman said two suspected criminals had been killed and that the commander of a police squad for the neighbourhood had been injured.

Policemen patrol the Pavao-Pavaozinho slum after a shootout during a police operation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 10 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

In Cidade de Deus (City of God), a slum whose violent history was profiled in a 2002 Oscar-nominated film of the same name, confrontations between police and local gangs led to the closure of 21 schools on Monday. At least two policemen working in the area have been killed recently.

The violence comes as criminals seek to retake territory that police occupied during the recent economic boom, the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics. It coincides with a recent uptick in robberies, assaults and homicides across metropolitan Rio.

Security experts said the economic downturn, rising unemployment and enfeebled public finances had emboldened criminals and many of the drug trafficking gangs that in recent years had been in retreat.

Pavão-Pavãozinho, a community of more than 10,000 residents, was one of the first neighbourhoods to benefit from a now-struggling effort by the state government to "pacify" long-violent favelas, as the slums are known in Rio.—*Reuters*

Japanese researchers repair monkey hearts with artificial stem cells

TOKYO — A team of Japanese researchers has succeeded in restoring some cardiac functioning in monkeys that have suffered heart attacks by transplanting tissues grown from artificially derived stem cells of the primate, according to a study published in the British science journal *Nature*.

The study, dated Monday, by the team including Yuji Shiba, an associate professor at the Institute for Biomedical Sciences at Shinshu University, could pave the way to clinical application of the results to regeneration procedures for humans.

"Although we have to address such challenges as rejection, canceration and other side effects, we aim to realise clinical application within several years in cooperation with other research teams," Shiba said.

Shiba's team has grown so-called induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells, from skins of cynomolgus monkeys. They were then converted into cardiomyocytes, or cardiac muscle cells, and injected into the hearts of five other cynomolgus monkeys subjected to myocardial infarction. In 12 weeks, the transplanted cells became part of their hearts and pulsative, improving the functioning of the hearts by 5 to 10 per cent, according to the study.

The team's data show that the transplantation procedure is sufficient to regenerate the post-infarct nonhuman primate heart, according to the study.

In the recipients, adverse effects of a surge in the number of irregular heartbeats were observed within four weeks of the cell transplantation. While none of them was serious, the study noted the need for further research to manage post-transplant arrhythmia.

The research employed a type of monkey known to be less susceptible to graft rejection. Kyoto University is building a stockpile of iPS cells derived from humans born with cells with a lower risk of rejection. The latest study points to the potential efficacy of the procedure in humans.—*Kyodo News*

Police, students clash as South Africa's Wits university reopens

JOHANNESBURG — South African police clashed with student protesters demanding free education on Monday at the University of the Witwatersand (Wits) which had reopened after demonstrations forced its closure last week.

Demonstrators hurled rocks at shield-wielding private security guards while police fired rubber bullets and teargas to disperse the crowd at the Wits Johannesburg campus.

Protesting students took to the streets of Braamfontein district, where the university is located, police said. Television footage showed several people trying to topple a bus in downtown Johannesburg and later set it on fire.—*Reuters*

An aerial view shows a neighbourhood that was flooded after Hurricane Matthew in Lumberton, North Carolina on 10 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hundreds stranded in North Carolina floods after Hurricane Matthew

LUMBERTON, (N.C.) — Hundreds of people were rescued by boat and helicopter as floodwaters inundated North Carolina towns on Monday in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, and officials warned that life-threatening flooding from swollen rivers would continue for days.

Matthew, the most powerful Atlantic storm since 2007, was downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone on Sunday.

The hurricane killed around 1,000 people in Haiti and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday some Haitian towns and villages had just about been "wiped off the map."

In the United States, the number of fatalities rose to at least 23, with nearly half in North Carolina.

North Carolina's skies were clear on Monday after the state received as much as 18 inches (39 cm) of rain from Matthew over the weekend, but raging rivers and breached levees posed major problems.

"This storm is not over in North Carolina," Governor Pat McCrory told reporters in Fayetteville. "It's going to be a long, tough journey."

Eleven people have died in the state, officials said. With rivers rising, the governor said he expected deaths to increase.

The flooding prompted President Barack Obama to declare a state of emergency in North Carolina on Monday, making federal funding available to affected individuals in 10 counties hit by the storm, the White House said in a statement.

Some 2,000 residents were stuck in their homes and on rooftops in Lumberton, off the Lumber River, after the city flooded suddenly on Monday morning, McCrory said. Air and water rescues would continue throughout the day, he said.

Many of the homes and businesses in Lumberton were flooded with several feet of water on Monday afternoon and residents were seen paddling about the town in small skiffs. Major flooding was expected this week in central and eastern towns along the Lumber, Cape Fear, Neuse and Tar rivers. The National Weather Service said the Neuse River would crest on Friday night and forecast "disastrous flooding."

Emergency officials in North Carolina's Lenoir County issued a mandatory evacuation order on Monday afternoon for residents and businesses along the Neuse River.

Many coastal and inland communities remained under water from storm surge or overrun rivers and creeks.

McCrory told reporters that he had met an elderly woman at a shelter on Monday who lost everything to floods.

"She's sitting in a school cafeteria at this point in time crying and wondering what her life is going to be all about," he said. "It breaks your heart."

In neighbouring South Carolina, Governor Nikki Haley warned that waterways were quickly reaching capacity around the state.

"What might not be flooded today could be flooded tomorrow," Haley told a news conference.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.10.2016 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 MCC (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FORTUNE EPOCH VOY. NO (109)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORTUNE EPOCH VOY. NO (109) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD.
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Drake tops American Music Award nominations, beats Jackson record

LOS ANGELES — Canadian rapper Drake dominated nominations for the American Music Awards, earning a leading 13 nominations and beating the record set by Michael Jackson more than 30 years ago, the organisers of the awards announced on Monday.

Drake's latest album, "Views," has spent 13 weeks at the top of the US music charts this year, and his single "One Dance" was chosen as Billboard's 2016 song of the summer.

R&B artist Rihanna got seven nominations, followed by Britain's Adele and Canadian heartthrob Justin Bieber with five apiece. Beyonce, who in August took home eight statuettes at the MTV Video Music Awards, got just four nods.

Drake, Beyonce, Rihanna, Adele, Bieber, Selena Gomez, Ariana Grande, The Weeknd, Carrie Underwood and Twenty One Pilots will compete for the top prize of artist of the year.

Drake's 13 nominations smashed the record set by Jackson in 1984 when he received 11 American Music Award nods at the height of the success of his album "Thriller."

The American Music Awards are entirely fan-voted and nominees are based on album and digital song sales, touring, radio airplay, social media activity and fan interactions through *Billboard* magazine and Billboard.com.

Winners will be announced at a live ceremony and television show on 20 November in Los Angeles. This year organisers added new categories for tour of the year, and video of the year. The crowded song of year race was split into different categories for pop/rock, country, R&B/soul and rap/hip-hop and renamed favourite song.—*Reuters*

Canadian rapper Drake.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Solange Knowles takes seat at top of Billboard chart

PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Singer Solange Knowles, sister of R&B star Beyonce, topped the weekly US Billboard 200 chart on Monday for the first time, with her latest album, "A Seat at the Table," edging out new records from Bon Iver and Van Morrison.

Knowles' third record, "Seat at the Table," sold 46,000 albums, 26,000 songs and was streamed 35.7 million times in the week ended 6 October, totaling 72,000 album units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The album has garnered strong praise from critics, and features 21 tracks that touch on race and femininity, fusing R&B, soul and funk sounds.

Grammy-winning Bon Iver's latest album, "22, A Million," came in at No. 2 with 58,000 albums, 10,000 songs and 17.5 million streams, totaling 71,000 album units.

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

While Bon Iver's record sold more physical albums, it was edged out by Knowles' album on the strength of streaming. Veteran Irish singer-songwriter Van Morrison was the only other new entry in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart this week, debuting at No. 9 with "Keep Me Singing."

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, The Chainsmokers' catchy summer song "Closer" featuring Halsey continued to reign as No. 1, selling 123,000 copies in the past week.—*Reuters*

Actress Emma Watson condemns child marriage during Malawi trip

NEW YORK — British actress Emma Watson condemned child marriage during a visit to Malawi on Monday, calling on authorities across Africa to end the practice that can put young lives as risk as well as stopping girls get an education and a better future.

Watson, 26, a goodwill ambassador for UN Women, was visiting the southeastern African nation a day ahead of the International Day of the Girl Child.

In 2015, Malawi passed a law to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 with UN Women working with traditional chiefs to change local practices.

"Meeting with young girls, who like many in their country, are struggling with poverty and were pressured into early marriage ... made me realize just how important it is for women to be able to make their own choices," Watson said in a statement.

"It's so encouraging to see how such a harmful practice can be stopped when communities work together," added the actress who rose to fame as Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter series.

UN data shows that globally, one-third of girls in developing countries, excluding China, are married before the age of 18, denying them their childhood and right to go to school.

Even though Malawi has now made child marriage illegal, campaigners have voiced concerns that marriages regulated by custom can occur informally.

During her visit, Watson met with traditional leaders who have championed the annulment of child marriages in their communities.

Worldwide, 15 million girls are married as children every year, according to UK-based campaign group Girls Not Brides.

Campaigners say child marriage deprives girls of an education, increases the risk of domestic violence, death or serious injuries if they have children before their bodies are ready.—*Reuters*

Emma Watson.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Shia LaBeouf live streams his Elvis-themed Vegas wedding

LOS ANGELES — "Transformers" actor Shia LaBeouf, known for quirky stunts in the name of art, on Monday live streamed his wedding to actress Mia Goth in a ceremony officiated by an Elvis Presley impersonator.

The unconventional wedding was live streamed by celebrity website TMZ, which reported that it was performed at the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel, which hosts Elvis-themed weddings.

Representatives for both actors did not respond to Reuters for comment.

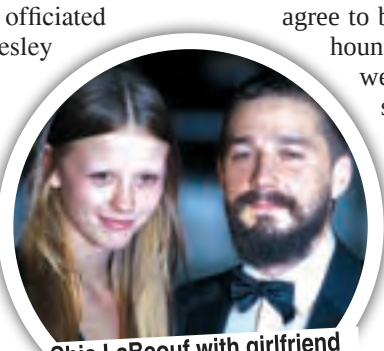
British actress Goth, 23, who met LaBeouf, 30, while they filmed Lars Von Trier's 2013 film "Nymphomaniac," wore a simple white dress with a veil. LaBeouf opted for a suit paired with sneakers.

An Elvis impersonator wearing a black rhinestone-studded jumpsuit and sunglasses officiated the short ceremony, quipping "This is a great trip to Vegas" as the pair exchanged rings and vows.

"Mia, Shia, do you both agree to be each other's hound dogs? Not to wear your blue suede shoes in the rain, to always be each other's teddy bear and to give each other a hunk, a hunk of burning love?," the impersonator asked, using lyrics from some of Presley's most famous songs.

The ceremony ended with the couple's first kiss as newlyweds while Bruce Springsteen's "Hungry Heart" played in the background.

LaBeouf, who rose to fame as a fast-talking child star in the Disney Channel comedy "Even Stevens" and became a franchise leading man with the "Transformers" films, has transitioned into more artistic fare, such as this year's indie film "American Honey."—*Reuters*



Shia LaBeouf with girlfriend Mia Goth. PHOTO: REUTERS

Refugee children start lessons at Greek schools amid mixed reactions

ATHENS— The first 1,500 refugee children started lessons in six camps and 20 public schools across Greece on Monday, amid mixed reactions by locals.

In most cases, the children were welcomed with warm smiles, big hugs and pastries by their Greek classmates, teachers and parents' associations, according to an Education Ministry press statement.

However, there were also reported incidents of Greek parents who padlocked entrance gates to keep the refugee children away citing health reasons and lack of information by authorities, according to the Greek national news agency AMNA.

Under the pilot refugee schooling programme launched on Monday, refugee children will initially attend afternoon classes and will be taught separately from Greek students the Greek language, math, arts, sports and other foreign languages, while they integrate.

According to authorities, about 20,000 children out of the more than 60,000 refugees and migrants currently stranded in Greece after the closure of borders last year, are eligible for the program.

By the end of October, more refugee students are expected to be enrolled in the school system once their vaccination is completed.

Refugee children reach a public elementary school in central Athens, Greece, on 10 October 2016. The first 1,500 refugee children started lessons in six camps and 20 public schools across Greece on Monday, amid mixed reactions by locals. PHOTO: XINHUA

With the support of the Greek government and society, as well as international organisations, the overwhelming majority of refugee students returned to school in a positive climate.

At the 81st elementary school of Kato Petralona in Athens, for example, 30 children refugees from the camp of Eleonas, attended classes.

They were transported from the reception center by buses commissioned from the Greek chapter of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which has commissioned 12 buses nationwide and provided refugee children with a school kit.

The children will be taught by teachers paid by the Greek state, as well as volunteers, school officials told Xinhua. According to Education Ministry officials, another part of the cost for the program will be covered with European Union funding.

"We welcome the refugees' children to our schools. We embrace them. Education is a fundamental human right. We cannot accept any discrimination. Society must isolate xenophobic calls and show its solidarity with actions," a statement issued by the Union of Parents and Guardians Associations of schools of the Athens Municipality read.

The Education Ministry also downplayed as "isolated exceptions" incidents of parents who opposed the introduction of refugees in school, stressing that all kids who attended classes on Monday had been inoculated and that health concerns were unjustified.

About 30 parents waving Greek national flags tried to block the entrance of 41 refugee students to a primary school at the suburbs of Thessaloniki in northern Greece.

Another group protested outside a high school in central Athens which opened its gates to about 30 refugee children.

On Sunday another group of parents padlocked the entrance of a primary school on Lesvos island, while similar protests were reported ahead of the launch of the programme in two other schools in the mainland.

A press release by the Greek branch of UNICEF warned that without education, a generation of children living in countries affected by conflict, natural disasters and extreme poverty will grow up without the necessary skills to contribute to their countries and their economies, making their plight even worse.

On average, according to humanitarian groups, children refugees stranded in Greece have been out of school for one-and-a half years or missed out entirely on education. —*Xinhua*

Dubai says starts building world's tallest tower

DUBAI — Dubai said on Monday it had started building what would be the world's tallest tower, another record for the city that is already home to the highest skyscraper — the Burj Khalifa.

The Tower at Dubai Creek Harbour — a joint venture between Emaar Properties and Dubai Holding, the investment vehicle of the emirate's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum — will be completed in 2020, Dubai's government said.

Its statement did not say how high the tower would be nor how much it might cost.

Guinness World Records defines a tower as a structure in which less than 50 per cent of the total height is useable floor space. The world's tallest tower is the Tokyo Sky Tree, a 634-metre-high broadcasting, restaurant and observation tower.

Dubai, a major tourism and entertainment centre, is continually laying plans for new attractions. Its new tower, part of a plush new residential area next to a waterfront, will feature several garden-themed observation decks, it said.

The Burj Khalifa is 829.8 metres (2,722 feet) high.—*Reuters*

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09:26	Am	Bollywood Actress "Laila Khan" (Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-I)
09:47	Am	Bollywood Actress "Laila Khan" (Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-II)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Prehistory

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	A Visit To San-Taw-Shin Kyike-Hti-Yo Pagoda
07:43	Pm	The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations- Gem Stone Painting
08:44	Pm	A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas

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

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

China National Peking Opera Company returns to London with classical Chinese Operas

LONDON — The China National Peking Opera Company has returned to London for the second visit in two consecutive years, with two classical operas: The General and the Prime Minister and The Legend of White Snake.

During a press conference held Monday in London, the local organizer of the performances, Sinolink Production's Director Kevin Zhang introduced the content of the two operas.

The General and the Prime Minister is a great piece of stage play and is based on true historical accounts of what happened in the Warring States period of ancient China.

The play is filled with drama and entertainment: determination against hesitation, lust for power and struggle for survival, and selfish envy vs self-restraint. Some phrases from this story, such as "Returning the Jade Disc intact to Zhao", and "Pleading guilty with a shamble on the back" have become widely known idioms in China till today.

The Legend of White Snake is a famous Chinese folklore, and Lady White is a house known name in China. In the long history of suppression and obedience that people had in generation, Lady White is a symbol of rebellion, bravery and quest for true love.

Zhang said in comparison to last year's performances, Farewell My Concubine and Warrior Women of Yang, the operas of this year will be more complicated and put more focus on Chinese traditional culture and value.—*Xinhua*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

11th Waxing of Thadingyut 1378 ME | Wednesday, 12 October 2016

Britain's Andy Murray gestures during his match against his compatriot Kyle Edmund during China Open Men's Singles quarterfinal at Beijing, China, on 7 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Edmund has to be selfish and do things his way — Murray

BEIJING — World number two Andy Murray has urged his British compatriot Kyle Edmund to become more "self-centred" and do things his own way after the 21-year-old broke into the world's top-50.

Edmund has been Murray's training partner during the off-season, with the three-times grand slam champion inviting him to training blocks in Miami and most recently Dubai.

"Kyle really deserves what he is now achieving because he has never shirked from the hard work," Murray told British media. "Being selfish, I would be delighted if he continues to link up with me in my winter training block.

"He is the perfect practice partner. He will always be welcome but I think it's time he started thinking about himself and what his specific needs are from a training block in the off-season, rather than happily going along with mine.

"He has an excellent coach in Ryan Jones and a good back-up team. Now Kyle is a top-50 player he's got to become more self-centred in his outlook and really identify what he personally needs to work on."

Murray, who beat Edmund en route to his 40th career singles title at the China Open in Beijing on Sunday, is bidding for his third Shanghai Masters title when he faces American Steve Johnson in the second round of the tournament.—*Reuters*

Pogba willing to do the hard yards to help Man United

LONDON — Paul Pogba feels more comfortable in an attacking midfield role but is willing to work on the defensive side of his game in order to adapt to manager Jose Mourinho's tactics at Manchester United.

Pogba, who joined the Premier League club for a world record fee from Juventus in August, has been utilised in a deeper role by Mourinho and is yet to produce his best form at Old Trafford.

"I try to adapt. I am a player who would rather go forward. The coach gave me instructions, I try to follow them," Pogba told reporters after scoring the winner in France's 1-0 victory over the Netherlands in a World Cup qualifier on Monday.

Pogba, 23, has played as one of two holding central midfielders for United, scoring one goal in eight matches and failing to control games in the way Mourinho would have hoped after paying 89 million pounds ($111 million) to sign him.

"I have to retrieve balls and make defensive efforts," he said. "It cost me a bit to play differently, much like (former Juventus team mate Andrea) Pirlo. I have to play, be there to recover and play more for the team."

Sixth-placed United take on arch-rivals Liverpool, who are fourth in the league standings, at Anfield on Monday.—*Reuters*

Japan hold Australia to 1-1 draw in Melbourne

MELBOURNE — Genki Haraguchi scored an early goal and gave away a second-half penalty as Japan drew 1-1 with Australia in a World Cup qualifier in Melbourne on Tuesday.

Japan got off to a flying start when Haraguchi scored in the fifth minute in front of 48,460 fans at Docklands stadium but their celebrations were tempered when the 25-year-old made a clumsy challenge on forward Tomi Juric shortly after the break.

Mile Jedinak slotted home the spot-kick in the 52nd minute and both teams were left to rue a number of missed chances in a high-tempo match.

Japan protected their seven-year unbeaten record against Australia but they have not beaten the Socceroos in five consecutive World Cup qualifiers.—*Reuters*

Tiger Woods pulls out of PGA Tour event in Napa, delays comeback

NAPA — Tiger Woods has withdrawn from this week's Safeway Open and will not play at next month's Turkish Airlines Open, delaying his comeback after 14 months out following back surgeries.

The 14-times major champion announced on Monday on his website (www.tigerwoods.com) that his game was not sharp enough for him to compete in the PGA Tour event starting in Napa, California, on Thursday or the European Tour event in Turkey.

"After a lot of soul searching and honest reflection, I know that I am not yet ready to play on the PGA Tour or compete in Turkey," he said. "My health is good, and I feel strong, but my game is vulnerable and not where it needs to be."

Woods, 40, said the comeback delay was not due to back-related issues.

"I practiced the last several days in California, but after a lot of hours, I knew I wasn't ready to compete against the best golfers in the world," he said.

"I will continue to work hard, and plan to play at my foundation's event, the Hero World Challenge, in Albany (Bahamas in December)."

His friend, former tour player Notah Begay, said Woods' preparation had been hindered last week by Hurricane Matthew, which passed not far offshore from his south Florida residence.

Tiger Woods of the US hits off the fourth tee during final round play of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Course in Augusta, Georgia in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We had a candid conversation this morning and he was extremely disappointed," Begay said on Golf Channel.

"He has a standard of performance like no one else and he just doesn't feel like it's ready.

"At the end of the day, the player has to feel comfortable with the skill set that they take to the first tee.

"(He was) trying maybe to get out of the starting blocks a little too soon. In order to hit this window at Safeway, everything had to fall in place and at this point it didn't."

Begay said Woods was optimistic about the state of his game before taking a week off from his preparation to be an assistant captain on the victorious United States team at the Ryder Cup. "His game was starting to progress and mature and move in the right direction," Begay said. "I've been there, trying to cram it in at the last minute.

"It's definitely nothing to be ashamed of. It's a natural progression a lot of players face, the subtle precisions you have to have in the in-between shots."—*Reuters*

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Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

"Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629."