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SPEAKER, STUDENTS, SCHOLARS, SON

STATE COUNSELLOR MEETS WITH HOUSE OF COMMONS SPEAKER

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon John Bercow MP at the Palace of Westminster in London yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the Myanmar government's efforts for peace and national reconciliation in Myanmar and the Rakhine State issue.

Also present at the meeting were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to Britain U Kyaw Swa Min and other officials.

Following the meeting, the State Counsellor visited the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) at 10 45 am local time, where she met the Commander of Joint Forces Command General Sir Christopher Deverell and Sir Tom Phillips, Commandant of RCDS.

During the visit, she also met with British and international students and Myanmar scholars Col Aung Myint Oo from the Ministry of Defence and U Moe Zaw Oo from the Myanmar Peace Commission, who are studying there.

In the afternoon, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was feted at a luncheon hosted by Britain's Foreign Secretary Mr Boris Johnson.

At the luncheon, they exchanged views on ways for promoting bilateral relations, opportunities for further investment by the Britain in Myanmar and promoting bilateral cooperation in the agriculture, health and education sectors.

In addition to meeting with politicians, generals, students and scholars during her visit to England, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi took time from her busy schedule for family.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi reportedly met with her youngest son Kim Aris, 39, on Sunday in London before she left for the United States. According to posts on social media, the state counsellor also met with her grandchildren. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi returned to Myanmar from England in 1988 to care for her sick mother. She had been living in Oxford with her husband Michael Aris and their two sons, Alexander and Kim.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon John Bercow MP. PHOTO: MNA



A photo posted on social media of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her son Kim Aris.

Her return to Myanmar coincided with the pro-democracy movement, of which she became its vocal leader. That led to her house arrest by the ruling military junta, where she remained for 15 years.

"Then of course I knew that my relationship with the family was going to change considerably because we would not be able to be in touch with each other," she told the BBC in 2012, two years after her enforced imprisonment at her villa in Yangon had been lifted.

During the time of her house arrest the

state counsellor's husband died of cancer. She decided not to travel back to England to be with her husband for fear of not being allowed back into Myanmar. Her son Kim visited Myanmar in 2010 after her house arrest was lifted, and she saw him again in 2012 on a trip to England.

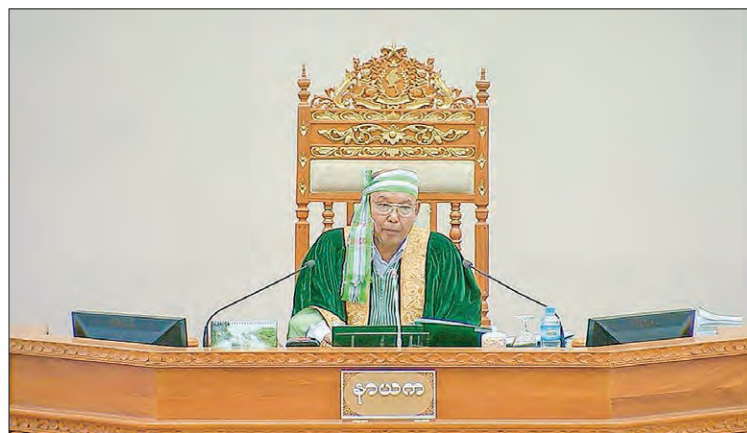
While in London she reportedly stayed at the Dorchester Hotel, the same place where her father, General Aung San, stayed when he visited the city in 1947 during negotiations for independence.—GNLM with Myanmar News Agency



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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agrees to gov't budget support plan



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.

PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW approved the government's plan to borrow K3,090 billion from the Central Bank of Myanmar for the Union Government Deposit Account for 2016-2017 FY during its 11th day session yesterday.

Daw Khin Saw Oo, Vice Governor of the CBM, said that arrangements are being made to provide the budget support to the government by buying and selling government securities and treasury bonds through a competitive bidding system. Next, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U

Maung Maung Win elaborated on the government's borrowing from the CBM for its deposit account.

The deputy minister also explained the government's report on national planning implementation for 2015-2016 FY and called on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to put the report on record. Then, U Ko Ko Nang, vice chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, presented the commission's findings on definition of the Rule of Law and prioritized laws.

Regarding loans from the

Asian Development Bank and the French Development Agency, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win and Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi explained the projects set to be implemented in agriculture, education, health and sports sectors with the use of the loans and called for parliamentary approval. During the 11th day session, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw documented President U Htin Kyaw's trip to the 11th ASEM Summit in Mongolia. —Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw hears answers to questions by relevant ministries

PYITHU HLUTTAW held its 31st day meeting with a question and answer session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Regarding a question about compensation for land grabs in Saw Township, Deputy Minister for Defense Rear Admiral Myint Nwe said that the Department of Civil Aviation will distribute compensation for 287.72 acres of land owned by 101 farmers, adding that the seized land for an airport project has nothing to do with the Defense Ministry.

Next, the deputy minister replied to a question about measures to reduce civilian harm from the use of landmines, saying that a

programme on assistance to victims of landmines has been carried out by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Ministry of Health and Sports in cooperation with local and international organisations.

Myanmar Tatmadaw has used landmines to protect state-owned factories, bridges and power towers from subversive activities and its outposts in military operations, said the deputy minister, adding that landmines were removed when the military left the outposts.

Warning signs have been set up where landmines were planted, and where security is not available - Civilian victims of landmines in

the military operational areas have been provided with health care by Tatmadaw medical teams, said the deputy minister.

Landmine awareness education programmes and landmine clearance are being implemented in Kayin State in cooperation with local people, added the deputy minister. During the 31st day session, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho also responded to questions about the return of a land plot used for the opening of the Win Thuzar shop in Mindon Township to the original owner and quicker implementation of an industrial zone project in Ponnagyun Township.



U Khin Maung Cho.

The Union minister said that the land plot will be returned to Ward-4, the original owner, in the township of K9.7 million for a building on the land. On an industrial zone project, the Union minister said that the regional government is undertaking work to compensate land grabs for the project. Groundwork has begun in the area where land compensations were distributed to the original owners.



Dr. Daw Khin Soe Soe Kyi.

Next, the Union minister replied to a question about opening a technical training school in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, saying that there is no immediate plan to open a training school that requires infrastructure, manpower and budgets, in the township.

Coordination can be made with the ministries concerned for the opening of mobile training courses, added the Union minister. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw approves Science, Technology and Innovation Bill

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW approved a Science, Technology and Innovation Bill, heard an answer to a question about the education sector and documented a proposal during its 29th day meeting yesterday.

Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye, a member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, read out the committee's report on the bill and the Amyotha Hluttaw sought approval of the Bill.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi responded to a call for narrowing the rural-urban gap in the education sector, saying that the government is implementing the National Education Sector Plan (2016-2021). The final stage of the Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) began in 2012 with an aim of leading the education reform process.

The Union minister gave



Dr Myo Thein Gyi.

his assurance that the plan is set to provide equal access to quality education, thus narrowing the rural-urban gap in education.

Next, parliamentarians debated a proposal calling for a special plan to eradicate illiteracy in ethnic areas, enable ethnic people to pursue higher education and promote ethnic literature.

The Union Education min-



Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye.

ister then elaborated on the ongoing National Education Sector Plan, calling on the parliament to put the proposal on record so there can be development in the education sector following the establishment of peace in all regions. A majority of the Amyotha Hluttaw decided not to approve the proposal. —Myanmar News Agency

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International Day of Democracy
15 September 2016
အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာဒီမိုကရေစီနေ့

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VP U Myint Swe holds talks with Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province



Vice President U Myint Swe is welcomed by Mr Chen Hao. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Myint Swe toured Nanning yesterday, observing the subway system at the train's central control center.

Later, the delegation led by U Myint Swe, went to Kunming by air. In Kunming, the vice president held talks with Mr Chen Hao,

the Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province, and Governor of Yunnan Province, over bilateral cooperation sectors between the two countries.

They exchanged views on exchange visits of the leaders of the two countries and develop-

ment of transport and communication sector in the province, which borders Myanmar.

In the evening, Mr Chen Hao hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation led by Vice President U Myint Swe.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Japan Grants Coastal Ships to Myanmar

MR. Tateshi HIGUCHI, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Union of Myanmar and H.E. U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, signed

the documents for the Economic and Social Development Programme, worth 500 million Japanese Yen (USD approx. 5 million), in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

This programme aims to

improve the ability of the water transport in Myanmar and to contribute to the Economic and Social Development of Myanmar, by donating passenger ships for the coastal transport in Rakhine State.—*GNLM*

Capacity-building course for election officers held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Union Election Commission organised a capacity-building course in cooperation with the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) at Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with an opening ceremony.

The training course is aimed

at building sustainable capacity for electoral management by election officers, said Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein in his address.

The UEC Chairman called on election officers to strive for holding by-elections for constituencies of vacant representatives

at respective Hluttaws in accord with rules and regulations.

Next, Secretary of the UEC U Tin Tun elaborated on the purpose of the course and electoral process lectures to be delivered at the course set to be held until 15 September.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the opening address. PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Ministers appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Dr Tun Naing as Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy and U Win Maw Tun as Deputy Minister for Education, in accordance with Section 234 (a) and (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 16 (b) (9) of the Union Government Law yesterday.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Fines from expressway speed violators go to Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw)

All fines collected from traffic violators on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway are going to Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) as state revenue, said Police Major Yan Naing Win of the Highway Police Force yesterday.

According to Highway Police Force, police charged 16 drivers for speeding yesterday and charges have been filed against 154 drivers during the period from 1 to 10 September.—*Than Oo (Laymyethnar)*

Myanmar, Japan ink MoU on implementation of socio-economic development projects

A Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony on Japanese aid for Myanmar was held at the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the signing ceremony, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi inked the MoU that offers a JPY 500million in aid for Myanmar to implement socio-economic de-

velopment projects.

With the signing of the MoU between Myanmar and Japan, the two countries will be able to boost bilateral relations and economic cooperation. According to the MoU, the Japanese government will provide Myanmar with vessels to be used for local people in the Rakhine coastal region, thereby contributing towards better and safer water transport services there.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win exchange notes of the MoU on Japan's aid. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar hosts 4th annual meeting of BIMSTEC anti-drug trafficking group

THE Fourth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals was held at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Aung Win Oo and Director Mr. Khuzang N. Tshering of the BIMSTEC Secretariat delivered opening addresses.

During the meeting attended by representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, My-

anmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand and officials from the UNODC and BIMSTEC Secretariat, those present reviewed decisions made at the third meeting last year and exchanged views on capacity building and technical assistance between the member countries.

The third Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals was also held in Yangon last year.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Environmental entrepreneurs to supervise sewage disposed by factories

ENTREPRENEURS will supervise sewage disposed by factories and plants in industrial zones in Myanmar, according to sources.

The move aims to avoid environmental damage.

"We have no other alternatives apart from the direct disposal of sewage water into rivers before the sewage treatment plant has been completed. We have to dispose of sewage water from 6 pm to 5 am. But they dispose of sewage all the day," said U Hlaing Min, an entrepreneur.

"There will be big problems if they dispose of sewage at times other than the designated periods. Some undisciplined factories face shutdowns. The regional government needs to issue warnings to the factories. Efforts are being made to

persuade factory owners to join the systematic sewage disposal."

The research conducted in Hlaingtharya Industrial Zone reveals that, according to the measurement of sewage disposal by eight factories with the use of an Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy machine, a high level of arsenic (6.856 PPN) has been detected in sewage near battery plants and also near seven other factories (6.080 PPN). Other metals that may cause danger to people's health have also been detected in sewage samples.

U Soe Naing, an environmental activist, said: "Locals are suffering from suffocation, headaches and vomiting. The industrial zone has been facing sewage problems for many years. Due to this, we face a

shortage of fish in the river. Some suffer from itching."

Industrial zones including Hlaingtharya and South Dagon Industrial Zones were established in 1991. In 2002 and 2003, the remaining zones were extended.

The 1,400-acre Hlaingtharya Industrial Zone, which is the biggest zone in Yangon Region, has over 700 industrial plots. Currently, a total of 660 manufacturing businesses are operating in the zone.

There are nearly 30 industrial zones in Yangon, where there are over 2,300 vacant industrial plots and about 1,300 empty warehouses in the zones, according to the official figures announced by the Yangon Region Industrial Zones Management Committee.—Zar Zar

Tourist arrivals in CLMV countries expected to exceed 24 million this year

TOURIST arrivals till the end of this year in CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam), are expected to exceed 24 million, said a spokesperson from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The four countries hosted more than 22 million visitors last year.

The number of tourists to CLMV countries over the past first five months of this year has reached over 10 million, according to official figures announced at the Four Countries-One Direction Conference.

Hosted by the Myanmar government, the three-day conference took place in Yangon last month with the aim of further strengthening economic relations among the four countries. The four CLMV countries will expand their cooperation in developing the banking industry as well as transportation facilities in the region to promote tourism.—200

Crime NEWS

Four dead, seven injured on weekend after vehicles overturn

FOUR PEOPLE died instantly while seven others were injured when multiple vehicles overturned on Yangon-Mandalay highway over the weekend, according to police.

The first case occurred on Saturday. A Toyota driven by Maung Thi with nine other people on board en route from the capital Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay skidded and overturned near mile post 252 on the highway in Pyawbwe Township in Mandalay Region after the driver lost control of his vehicle, investigators say.

The 38-year-old driver and two passengers, Daw Ohn Khin, 59, and Ma Phyu Pyar Haling, 31, all of whom reside in Nay Pyi Taw, were killed.

The remaining passengers, including two children less than five years of age, sustained serious injuries. They have been



A light truck overturns on Yangon-Mandalay road.

taken to nearby hospitals as emergency patients.

A similar case happened between mile posts Nos. 265/1 and 265/2 on Sunday, leaving one man dead and another injured.

A light truck driven by Hlaing Myint Aung overturned on Yangon-Mandalay road after a tire on the vehicle

went flat. As a result of the accident, U Ko Gyi, a passenger, died at the scene.

The driver received serious injuries and is receiving medical care at Nyaunggon station.

Action is being taken against the reckless driver by police.—Than Oo (Laymyethnar), Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

Suspect arrested on murder charge

IN COOPERATION with Karen National Union (KNU) members, local police on Thursday arrested Kyi Win (aka Kyaw Naing Oo) in connection with a murder case.

Mya Mya was killed after a serious argument with a man last Tuesday, police said.

According to investigators, the suspect killed Mya Mya by beating her with the branch of tree after she reject his proposal and hit him.

At around 8 p.m. on the same day, the dead body of the victim was found near Kadipu Village in Bilin Township in Mon State by villagers led by her father, who said that his daughter left home for the forest to cut branches of trees for firewood that afternoon



Kyi Win (a) Kyaw Naing Oo.

PHOTO: NANDA KYAW SWA and never returned.

The suspect has been charged under the Criminal Law.—Nanda Kyaw Swa

Marijuana, yaba pills seized in Yangon Region, Shan State

TWO MEN and a woman were arrested by police on Saturday after they were found in possession of a cache of marijuana and yaba

pills in separate towns.

After a tip-off, police raided a house at No. 146 Zaburitswesin Street in Dagon Myothit (North), Yangon, owned by Aye Chan Zaw. Police discovered almost 500 yaba tablets and 0.8 gram of marijuana. A similar case occurred on the same day in Shan State. Local police collected 60 yaba pills from Ma Tin Mar Cho, who resides in Loilem Township and 300 yaba pills from Zaw Zaw, who lives in the same township. All drug traffickers have been charged under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Police Information



Aye Chan Zaw.
Photo: Police Information

Ownerless hardwood seized in Sagaing

ILLEGALLY harvested hardwood weighing over 17 tonnes were seized by authorities in Yinmabin District in Sagaing Region between 8 and 9 September.

After a tip-off to authorities by a member of the public on 8 September, police and staff from the forestry department inspected border areas between Myaing

and Pale townships, where they found 99 logs of Padauk wood weighing 12.35 tonnes.

Another tip-off on 9 September led local authorities to 30 logs of Padauk wood weighing 4.6764 tonnes inside the Phayalay Lake located in the west of Phwintphyoyay Road between Mayoetone and ChaungU villages in Pale Township.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the owner of the logs.

Campaigns to raise awareness among the public on the value of forest land has been carried out by the forestry department in an effort to protect the country's natural resources and reduce illegal logging.—Min Khant Soe (Zeyamy)

LOCAL Business

Indonesia to buy 300,000 tons of rice from Myanmar

INDONESIA has entered an agreement with Myanmar to buy 300,000 tonnes of rice from the latter, more than half the volume of 500,000 tonnes that Myanmar reserves for export, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation Monday.

During the first four months of the current fiscal year of 2016-17, Myanmar exported 400,000 tonnes of rice to foreign countries, dropping by 200,000 tonnes from the

same period of the last fiscal year of 2015-16.

In a bid to boost the country's rice export, Myanmar is exploring new markets, seeking to penetrate the markets of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan and African countries.

According to statistics, Myanmar's total rice export value reached 400,000 U.S. dollars during the first four months of this fiscal year 2016-2017.—Xinhua

Sugar export to China declines in Muse

THE decline in sugar exports to China is attributed to the confiscation of these goods by Chinese authorities because sugar exporting is not legally permitted in China.

Myanmar re-exports sugar imported from India and Thailand to China. The decreased export resulted in the slowdown in the domestic sugar market, it is learnt from the sugar

businessmen. Although sugar is a legitimate export in Myanmar, China does not legally allow the sugar to import. The price of the sugar exported to China is over Ks800,000 per tonne, whereas the local sugar price is Ks4,200 per bag. About 4,000 tonnes of sugar are daily exported to China, said an official from the Commerce Ministry.—Ko Htet

Leaseholders with three-year permit to operate fish farms can start after rainy season

THOSE granted a three-year permit for fish farming in lakes in the Ayeyawady Region can begin operation only after the rainy season in this fiscal year, it is learnt.

The incumbent government can withdraw permission from the leaseholders in order to preserve aquaculture and to prevent from the extinction of fish species. Some leaseholders have been granted permission to operate fish farms since 2015. Some leaseholders have made extensions in their leases, paying more than Ks5million at the department concerned, said U Naing Lin, a fisherman.

To start, the period to operate lake fishing will be set for only one year. But those granted permission in 2015 will be allowed to continue working until the end of their agreement.

Some fishermen are being strictly monitored because some of them blocked irrigation ca-

nals, which are destroying farms. Some use illegal fishing methods which can harm the aquaculture, said a farmer from Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region. According to the Freshwater Fisheries Law laid down in 2012, fishing that causes the blockage of waterways in the ponds and lakes are prohibited. Those who violate the law are subject to a three-year jail sentence and/or a fine of Ks60,000.

If the leaseholders who have been granted a one-year permit for fishing follow the rules, they are entitled to bid for a three-year period fishing at the prescribed lakes. Additionally, they can make another three-year extension if they are in accordance with existing rules and regulations. After the permits for lake fishing are expired, bids will again be solicited, it is learnt from Ayeyawady Fisheries Department.—Zar Zar

Singapore tops in real property sector

SINGAPORE is currently ranked first in the housing industry, handling 17 projects with an investment of over US\$1.5billion, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC)

has granted permission for 22 foreign direct investment projects and Singapore has made the largest investment in the real estate sector. Additionally, Hong Kong is conducting two projects with an investment of US\$222.345million. The other three projects are being handled by

China with an investment of US\$80million, Malaysia with US\$15million and Japan with US\$6.768million.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Myanmar's real estate sector amounted to US\$440.5million in 2013-2014 fiscal year, US\$780.7million in 2014-2015 fiscal year

and US\$728.680million in 2015-2016.

The amount of citizen investment in the real estate sector constitutes over 30 per cent of the investments in various sectors, whereas FDI in this sector is about 5 per cent of FDI value in various sectors.—Mon Mon



Workers seen at Thilawa Special Economic Zone outside Yangon.
PHOTO: MYAT THANDAR MAUNG

Investment in Thilawa likely to shoot up US\$1billion

THE value of the investment in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) could possibly scale up to US\$1billion and the products from Thilawa are expected to fetch US\$350million, according to the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee.

Currently, the in-

vestment in Thilawa SEZ amounts to US\$760million, and the products from Thilawa yearly earn over US\$240million. There are a total of 73 investors from 16 countries in the Thilawa SEZ.

Textile enterprises, construction and associat-

ed factories such as steel manufacturing factories, concrete plants, a packaging materials factory, a tin manufacturing factory, a food and beverage manufacturing factory, a fertilizer plant, an agribusiness related materials factory, an auto installation and auto parts

factory and a pharmaceutical factory are being operated in the Thilawa SEZ.

Thilawa SEZ began operation in October, 2015. Myanmar owns 51 per cent of this zone while Japan constitutes 49 per cent of the investment in Thilawa.—200



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Thai authorities downplay Zika risk, worried by tourism impact

BANGKOK — Health and city officials in Thailand downplayed risks from rising infections from the mosquito-borne Zika virus, which is linked to serious birth defects, and expressed concern that disclosing information would damage its tourism industry.

On Friday the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) warned of the increasing spread in Thailand of Zika, which can cause microcephaly in unborn children.

Thailand is combating the risk by misting and spraying mosquito-infested areas, said Anuttarasakdi Ratchatat, epidemiologist at the health ministry's Bureau of Vector Borne Disease.

It has not changed or updated its Zika prevention plan since Singapore, which has a more extensive prevention campaign, began reporting a spike in cases from late August.

Twenty-two new cases were confirmed on Sunday in the upmarket Sathorn area of Bangkok, part of

the city's Central Business District, including a pregnant woman who later gave birth with no complications.

"It's concerning because I live just around the corner," said Dietrich Neu, a Canadian who works in publishing.

"It's different in Canada; the government would be all over it. There would be a center where people can get treated and leaflets about what the symptoms are."

The health ministry on Monday urged Thais not to panic as it said the virus was not deadly or contagious - though in fact it can be passed on sexually - and ministry epidemiologist Anuttarasakdi added that it did not want to deter tourists.

"The information on Zika is quite sensitive because if we say which province has infections then attention will turn on that province, and if that province is popular with tourists it will have an impact on tourism," he said.

"We don't want peo-



A worker sprays insecticide for mosquitos at a village in Bangkok, Thailand, January 13, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ple to be too alarmed." Health authorities in Thailand are not treating Zika as seriously as dengue, which is much more widespread in the country, said Assistant Professor Watcharee Chokejindachai from the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University in Bangkok, because of a perception that Zika is less dangerous.

"Dengue is perceived as more serious; it can lead to death. That's why they pay more attention to dengue than Zika," Watcharee told Reuters.

"Diagnosing Zika is also more expensive than dengue because it takes time — up to eight hours — whereas with dengue we have a rapid test which takes 15 minutes."

There have been more than 31,000 dengue cases in Thailand this year to 19 August, including 25 fatalities, according to the International Society for Infectious Diseases. Several countries in Southeast Asia have reported a rising number of Zika cases, but Thailand has one of the highest number in the region, with more than 100 confirmed

since January.

A total of 30 pregnant Thai women with the virus are being monitored, the health ministry said. Six have given birth with no complications, so far.

A map showing countries with active local transmission of Zika from the ECDC updated on Friday shows Thailand with "increasing or widespread transmission". Singapore, where homes have been inspected and communities blanketed with information leaflets, reported its first locally infected Zika patient on 27 August, and the number of reported infections has since swelled to more than 300. People there risk fines if they have even a flower pot with old water in it.

Samlee Pliangbangchang, Regional Director of the World Health Organisation's Southeast Asia Region from 2004 to 2014, said Thailand should be more transparent in reporting the Zika threat to the public and should look to Singapore as an example.—Reuters

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Duterte wants US special forces to leave South Philippines

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Monday that US special forces in southern Philippines should leave.

"The (United States) special forces, they have to go," said Duterte in a speech at the oath taking ceremony of newly appointed officials in the presidential palace.

The president said that during his attendance at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Related

Summits in Laos last week he wanted to mention the plan, but he did not raise this "out of respect."

"I do not want rift with America, but they have to go," he said.

Duterte said he wanted the US forces to leave Mindanao because they might be targeted by the kidnapping-for-ransom groups.

Earlier, the president has said the Philippines under his administration would pursue an independent foreign policy

"without any interference" from any country.

In Vientiane, controversy hounded Duterte for making "strong remarks" against US President Barack Obama in connection with comments made by US officials on drug-related extrajudicial killings in the country.

Duterte's remarks prompted Obama to cancel a scheduled meeting with Duterte on the sidelines of the ASEAN meetings.—Xinhua

Cambodian PM's trip to ASEAN-China Expo brings fruitful outcome for bilateral ties

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen's visit to Nanning in southwestern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has brought closer relations between the two countries, a Cambodian senior official said on Monday.

"The prime minister's visit to Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China ended with a fruitful result, which contributes further to enhancing rela-

tions between Cambodia and China in economics, trade, investment, tourism, and people-to-people," Kao Kim Hourn, minister attached to the prime minister, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport upon Hun Sen's return from Nanning.

"The visit has further strengthened and expanded ties and cooperation between Cambodia and China," he said, expressing his belief that, through the visit, more Chinese in-

vestors and tourists would come to Cambodia.

According to the official, Hun Sen had been in Nanning on 10-12 September and attended the opening ceremony of the 13th ASEAN-China Expo. On the sidelines of the expo, he also met with Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gao-li, and Li Jin'ge, president of Huawei Asia Pacific, as well as Wang Zhenghua, chairman of China budget carrier Spring Airlines.—Xinhua

Three workers killed in blast at Thailand ethanol plant

BANGKOK — Three workers were killed in an explosion at an ethanol plant in Thailand's northeastern province of Khon Kaen, police said on Monday.

The three workers were repairing the lid of a wastewater tank at an ethanol plant which belongs to Thai Ethanol Power Plc in the province of Khon Kaen, 390 km (240 miles) from the capital Bangkok, said Police Lieutenant Colonel Sarawut Dansuk.

"It could be that there was some kind of gas that leaked out and caused sparks when they were welding the tank lid and that set off an explosion," he said.

"An autopsy showed they were killed by the impact from the explosion." The three killed were Thai nationals, he added. Police are investigating whether the ethanol company was responsible for the accident.—Reuters

North Korea ready for another nuclear test any time: South Korea

SEOUL — North Korea is ready to conduct an additional nuclear test at any time, South Korea's Defence Ministry said on Monday, three days after the reclusive North's fifth test drew widespread condemnation.

Pyongyang set off its most powerful nuclear blast to date on Friday, saying it had mastered the ability to mount a warhead on a ballistic missile and ratcheting up a threat that its rivals and the United Nations have been powerless to contain.

"Assessment by South Korean and US intelligence is that the North is always ready for an additional nuclear test in the Punggye-ri area," the site of the North's five nuclear explosions, South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman Moon Sang-gyun told a news briefing.

"North Korea has a tunnel where it can conduct an additional nuclear test," Moon said.

South Korea's Yonhap

News Agency reported earlier that North Korea had completed preparations for another nuclear test, citing South Korean government sources who said the North may use a previously unused tunnel at its mountainous test site.

It did not elaborate on what activities had been detected at the test site.

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, formerly the country's chief nuclear negotiator, arrived in Beijing on Monday and was seen entering the country's embassy, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported.

Ri left Pyongyang to attend a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement countries in Venezuela and later the UN General Assembly, the Associated Press reported from Pyongyang without citing a source.

His trip comes amid a fresh push by the United States and South Korea for more sanctions



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un provides field guidance during a fire drill of ballistic rockets by Hwasong artillery units of the KPA Strategic Force, in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 6 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

following the nuclear test.

A US special envoy for the isolated state, Sung Kim, will travel to Seoul on Monday. Kim met with Japanese officials on Sunday and said the United States may launch unilateral sanctions against North Korea, echoing comments by US Presi-

dent Barack Obama on Friday in the wake of the test.

A push for further sanctions was "laughable", North Korea said on Sunday, vowing to continue to strengthen its nuclear power. Yonhap reported that bad weather had delayed the flight of an advanced US B-1B bomber to

the Korean peninsula, a show of strength and solidarity with ally Seoul, scheduled for Monday. The flight from the US base in Guam would now take place on Tuesday, a US Forces in Korea official told Reuters, declining to identify the type of aircraft involved.—Reuters



Firefighters extinguish a fire at a food and cigarette packaging factory outside of Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 10 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bangladesh factory owner, others being probed as toll from fire rises

DHAKA — A police case has been filed against the owner of Tampaco Foils and several others working at the food and cigarette packaging plant near Dhaka as the death toll from a fire at the factory over the weekend rose to 31 on Monday.

The blaze erupted early on Saturday resulting in Bangladesh's worst industrial accident since the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in 2013 that killed 1,135 garment workers. It also raised renewed questions about

industrial safety in Bangladesh, one of the world's top garment exporters. "Police have filed a case in relation to the fire in which 31 people have so far died," said Farid Ahmed, deputy inspector general of the country's factory inspection department.

A police official said the case had been filed by the family of one of the victims. Officials expect more cases to be filed against the owner, whom police are still trying to locate, and others when courts re-open after the

week-long Eid holiday.

Jahirul Islam, a director with the fire service department, told Reuters on Monday the Bangladeshi army had joined search efforts. "We need to move a huge amount of debris otherwise searching is not possible," he said.

Many fear the death toll could rise further as close to half a dozen people are still missing after the blaze caused a partial collapse of the factory building.—Reuters

Chinese air force carries out long-range drills in Pacific

BEIJING — Chinese bombers, fighters and early warning and aerial refuelling aircraft on Monday flew through the Bashi Channel that separates Taiwan and the Philippines to exercises in the Western Pacific, the air force said.

The air force described the exercises as part of normal, annual, planned drills, which accord with international law and practice. They come as China has been increasingly asserting itself in territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas.

"This move is to raise the air force's abilities via training, to meet the needs to maintaining national sovereignty, protecting

national security and guaranteeing peaceful development," the air force said in a statement on its official microblog.

"This is common practice for the air forces of littoral states, and a normal need for China national defence and military building," it said. The air force will organise regular exercises that fly past the "first island chain", the air force said, referring to an area that includes Japan's Ryukyu Islands and self-ruled Taiwan.

The exercises included early warning and inflight refuelling to help improve the air force's fighting ability far from home, it added.—Reuters

Australia's New South Wales universities rake in billions for state

SYDNEY — International education has surged ahead of tourism in becoming Australia's New South Wales highest service export industry by nearly 2 billion Australian dollars (15.05 billion US dollars), a Fairfax Media report said on Monday.

The number of overseas students in NSW universities had also shot up by more than 30,000 in the last two years with one in five university students being an international student.

Chinese and Singaporeans students had made the most number international students in the state, the report said.

While the University of Wol-

longong had the highest number of international students on its premises, close to 40 per cent of its total population.

"Attracting international students is a crucial driver of the NSW economy and education is our state's largest services export," NSW Minister for Trade Stuart Ayres said.

"A growing middle class in Asia has increased the number of students looking at NSW for their studies," Ayres said.

NSW Department of Industry figures based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed that the total value of international education toward the state's econ-

omy had jumped from 5.5 billion Australian dollars (4.14 billion US dollars) in 2013 to 6.96 billion Australian dollars (5.24 billion US dollars) in 2015.

NSW was now raking in about a third of Australia's total international education earnings, estimated to be at 21 billion Australian dollars (15.82 billion US dollars) per year. The value of the education sector to the NSW economy is higher than tourism which was worth 5.2 billion Australian dollars (3.92 billion US dollars) in 2015.

Nearly half of the international students enrolled in NSW universities were studying management and commerce courses.—Xinhua

Opinion

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

Literacy important to achievement of MDG goals

Khin Maung Aye

AS defined by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), literacy means "the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying context." In Myanmar, monastic education has been given emphasis since the days of ancient Myanmar monarchs, with the monasteries acting as the major institutions for education. All Myanmar kings and princes learned from the monks, whom they had high respect for. The literacy rate of Myanmar was 85 per cent throughout history until Myanmar fell under the yoke of Brit-

ish colonialists.

An impressively high rate of literacy fell to 35 per cent. But thanks to sustained efforts, which started after Myanmar wrested back its independence in 1948, the rate of literacy raised its head, reaching a high level again. In retrospect, it is found that Myanmar launched its literacy movement starting from Bast Sanpya village in Meiktila district in 1964. Then, literacy courses were conducted across the country with the result that Myanmar won the Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Prize in 1971 and the Noma Prize in 1983. This success can be attributed to the good leadership of the then government.

Moreover, the close and cordial co-operation between the volunteer teachers and illiterate people is the cornerstone of this achievement, which is worth honouring.

In a traditional interpretation, literacy is the ability to read, write and do the basic mathematical calculations. This is the reason why the then Myanmar government called the literacy campaign as three Rs movement — reading, writing and a rithmetic. It is a fact that being literate can strengthen the ability, self-confidence and critical thinking of all, serving as a basis for progress of the human society. In addition, it is always worth remembering that literacy is fundamental to

economic development, social development and environmental protection.

It is also important for eradication of poverty as well as improvement of family health. The Millennium Development Goals concerning eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and progress of a global partnership for development cannot be realised without significant advancement in the literacy dimension.

Low Cost Housing—Equitable and Transparent Policies

San Shwe Aung

THE biggest & most densely populated commercial city of Myanmar, Yangon, was just a mere 80 square kilometers wide in 1988 and by 2014, the total area reached 306 square kilometers. Around 6 million people are now living in Yangon. Now Yangon faces high costs of living, very high demand of low cost living spaces and the plight of the homeless population as well as several other social issues. Ever since 1988, migrant workers from ethnic and up country have been steadily streaming into Yangon over the years due to availability of employment, raising the population growth rate from 0.7 to 2.3 percent. With current growth rate, the people crammed into this city will reach 12 million by 2040. By then, Yangon must transform into a mega city to meet the inevitable demands brought on by essential modern needs from local people as well as foreign investors such as office spaces, adequate clean water supply, uninterrupted electricity, efficient sewage and drainage systems, affordable housing, pleasant recreation places & gardens and smooth transportation. For that, Yangon needs now to address its current problems and must plan & solve them very quickly in advance. For migrant workers, renting a place by themselves is impossible. Some share a flat or a house with co-tenants of multiple families while some rent what can only be described as "a space for put-



ting your back lying during the night" in makeshift hostels. The life in a hostel is depressing and troublesome. It is very costly to live in Yangon, many migrant workers said. The information from several sources mentions that at least 25 to 30 percent of Yangon's population are squatters. As most of the squatters are on government owned lands, they were often forcibly evicted out but every attempt simply served to chase them away to another squatter area. The so called affordable housing projects, meant to give homes to squatters and low income poor families, are given rights of purchase via lucky draws but priced beyond the reach of the middle class in Yangon with apartments going for more than Ks 10 Millions which leaves only the wealthy and property agents to

buy out the apartments. Unless practical & affordable arrangements (such as 10 to 20 years soft instalments) are made for the low income homeless citizens, it will never work out and all low cost apartments will just go into the hands of the cronies. There is another solution that was made itself known when criticisms erupted on the high price point of the affordable housing projects; rental housing projects. A total of 12,534 acres were reserved by the Yangon Regional government with a budget of Ks 20 billion. The rental rates were targeted to be at Ks 30,000 to 50,000 per month but have yet to be approved by the government.

There has been several ongoing low cost housing projects in Yangon, Mandalay & other cities in all over the country by

particularly Ministry of Construction and Regional & State governments. "The Mirror Daily" Myanmar language newspaper mentioned in its 14th August 2016 issue that 32 blocks of 4 storey buildings, with a total of 864 apartments are nearing completion. Those low cost apartments will be sold to the low income (basic level communities & families) according to a senior official from Urban & Housing Development Department. Low income communities are eagerly awaiting when and how the government will sell in accordance with which pre-subscribed conditions, rules, regulations, limitations, standing orders etc. according to the "The Mirror Daily" Myanmar language newspaper.

One, therefore, wonders what types of regulations, rules

& conditions will be applied to the buyers of the apartments of "low cost housing project" which are being implemented in several parts of Myanmar. In October 2015 Myanmar Times reported that Yangon need 75,000 new apartments each year. That figure is very likely to be real, given the fact that 300,000 people migrate to Yangon annually and existing population who have been renting houses & apartments will surely aspire to own an apartment for their families. In addition young people who are definitely the key work force & prime movers of the economy, manufacturing & service industries both in public and private sectors will need proper homes particularly having been married and have started the family life. Due to skyrocketing rent prices of houses & apartments in Yangon and other big cities, families are forced to move to more and more remote sub-urban quarters where rents are less costly than places which are closer to city center, work sites, factories, & offices. Studies revealed that almost 30 to 40% of monthly salaries have to be used for renting an apartment for the middle income young working people. All men in the street & working people are expecting a proper single government policy and transparent regulations covering the whole country for the housing development sector. The framework for the policies have to incorporate the following points but not limited to :-

See page 9 >>

World Bamboo Day to be celebrated for the first time in Myanmar



Bamboo products on display. PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)

THE first-ever celebration in Myanmar of World Bamboo Day, which will be held at the International Business Center (IBC) in Yangon on 18 September between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., according to the Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs' Association.

The Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs' Association and the Business Innovation Facility (BIF) Project sponsored by the Department for International Development (DFID) of Britain will organise the ceremony. Experts, bamboo

entrepreneurs, authors, growers, exporters, and bamboo handicraft makers including Ms. Carmelita from Europe, Ms. Rebecca Reubens from India, Jon Patric Kinzer from American and Mr. Arief Rabik from Indonesia and Ms. Diep My Hanh from Viet Nam will attend the event.

Foreign companies will sell machines for the bamboo industry, bamboo furniture and books with contents of bamboo at the event.

The event will feature a talk on bamboo growing, the bam-

boo industry, bamboo productions, prices and information of international bamboo markets, and data exchanging. Two external and two internal experts will read out four research papers, and in the evening there will be idea exchange sessions.

Chairman U Kyaw Thu of the Bamboo Entrepreneurs' Association said his organisation has arranged to observe World Bamboo Day every year in Myanmar. He added that bamboo should become a forest product alternative to wood. — Soe Win (MLA)

Jivitadana Sangha Hospital invites blood donors

A collective blood donation ceremony is set to take place at Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Bahan Township, Yangon on 8 October (Saturday).

Those wishing to donate blood are invited to register in person with the hospital or via phone appointment by calling: 01 552975, 01 542706, 01 552542, 01 558434 and 01 541795 not later than 7 October.—Myanmar News Agency

Arts competition and poem recitation held in Htantabin Township

TO improve the social position of children, to instill diligence, courage, industriousness, courtesy, thoughtfulness and creativity, an art competition and poem recitation event was held at the public library of Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) in Htantabin Township, Taungoo District of Bago Region yesterday. At the poem recitation contest, 19 Kindergarten students competed in the poem titled "Go to the Library". Twenty-four Basic Education Primary level stu-

dents participated in an art competition titled "Let's Eliminate Human Trafficking".

At the prize presentation ceremony, the administrator of Htantabin Township delivered a speech, the staff officer of Taungoo District IPRD explained the holding of the contests, and author San Lwin (Htantabin) gave remarks about the activities. The competitions were organized by local department and the Township Writers' Association.—Shwe Win (Pyay)



Children participating in Arts competition. PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

Low Cost Housing—Equitable and Transparent Policies

>> from page 8

1. To reduce the stress and burden of the cost of housing for all families
2. To subsidize the development of housing by only state/government budget
3. To include all modern utilities, social, economic, educational, transport, communication, emergency relief, health, recreational facilities in all low cost housing clusters
4. To give priority to sell to the families who do not own a house or apartment (the payments terms should be very flexible for instance 10 to 20 years, so that it will encourage the buyers to work hard to pay monthly instalment without fail)
5. To make government owned apartments available for renting, to the families or government/private sector workers,

traders, businessmen, students etc. in the cities and towns where they are assigned and/or studying/working/making business etc.

6. To ban rich people who have already owned houses and apartments to buy the low cost housing apartments with intentions to make profit in future by price speculating (The penalty of such people if found guilty must be very high)

Reducing the stress on public housing is an essential component of the current government policy of "facing towards the actual needs of the people". Housing is the single most important social need for everybody. Therefore the housing policy is on the highest list of government's policy in all countries of the world. Increase world population and urbanization are putting pressure to add more and

more housing projects in the world including Myanmar. Although a small island nation, Singapore housing programme has been exemplary for not only Asian countries but also many countries in the world. From a backwater fishing and petty trading island in 1950s & early 1960s, the island has grown to one of the most advanced and efficient economy in Asia. Infrastructure has been made the most advanced along with public housing, communication, shipping, banking and trading in parallel with free port policy. Housing Development Board (HDB) of Singapore is the focal government agency which has developed, managed and implemented what is now one of the most successful public housing programmes in the world. Between 1960 and 1965, the HDB built 54,430 housing units. Due to land constraints, high-rise and high-density flats were chosen. By 1965, HDB was able to over-

come the worst of the housing shortage by providing low-cost housing to the lower-income group within the planned period of five years. Several reasons contributed to the success of the HDB. Firstly, the HDB received very strong support from the government, which allocated a large amount of funds to public housing. The HDB was also equipped with legal powers such as the power to resettle squatters. Since the ultimate objective is for every family to own an apartment, no one is allowed to own additional apartment. However, if one person becomes rich and wants to buy a more expensive condominium, he is allowed to do so as long as he returns his previous apartment to HDB or sells back to another private person who still needs an apartment. Another interesting thing is the link of marriage register office and HDB. All newly wedded young couples are entitled to apply for an HDB apartment and

HDB will allocate the applicants in months not years, since many more HDB apartments are being built or old apartments vacated by people who move to higher end residences such as condominiums. It is an excellent policy as far as universal public housing scheme is concerned in a country. The most important matter to learn is that HDB flats are funded, built and totally owned by the government and private construction companies participated as construction contractors only not as developers who might invest and speculate the prices of apartments as has been happening in many countries including Myanmar. Therefore the government needs to allocate more budget for low cost housing projects in all over the country.

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Clinton's bout of pneumonia raises worries for Democrats



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton leaves her daughter Chelsea's home in New York, United States on 11 September, 2016, after Clinton left ceremonies commemorating the 15th anniversary of 11 September attacks feeling 'overheated.' PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Democrat Hillary Clinton's bout of pneumonia, kept secret until she nearly collapsed on Sunday, has raised an element of uncertainty about her health going into the final weeks of presidential campaigning and risks feeding a narrative from rival Donald Trump about her stamina.

The Clinton campaign was forced to admit on Sunday that the 68-year-old Democratic presidential nominee had been diagnosed with pneumonia on Friday after she complained of allergies and was seen coughing repeatedly in recent days.

The pneumonia disclosure was made public hours after her campaign said she had become "overheated" to explain why, knees buckling and unsteady, she was rushed from a ceremony marking the 11 September, 2001, attacks in New York.

Democratic donor and fundraiser Bill Bartmann later fielded calls from about half a dozen Democrats worried about how the episode would look. The callers, he said, decided to wait and see how everything plays out.

For Democrats, the incident also brought up some familiar concerns about Clinton's penchant for secrecy during an ongoing debate about her use of a private email server while serving as President Barack Obama's secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

"You've got Donald Trump promoting health conspiracy theories to begin with, so any time something even lends an air of credence to that conspiracy, it needs to be debunked right away," Democratic strategist Bud Jackson said.

The issue also put pressure

on both Clinton and Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, to reassure American voters about their health given the rigors of the presidential campaign, in which the food is often unhealthy, sleep is elusive and the packed schedule and extensive travel is stressful.

"The short term turbulence will be more about the handling of this than the substance, though I'm sure both candidates will be pressed for greater disclosure of health records," said David Axelrod, a former adviser to President Barack Obama.

Late on Sunday, her campaign canceled Clinton's trip to California scheduled for Monday morning.

The health problem was the latest blow for Clinton at a time when Trump has erased most of her lead in national opinion polls and is competitive again in many battleground states where the 8 November election is likely to be decided.

Her dismissal of half of Trump's supporters as a "basket of deplorables" of racist, homophobic people on Friday triggered a firestorm of criticism and prompted her to roll back the comment.

During the Republican primary campaign Trump dispatched rival Jeb Bush by deriding him as a "low energy" candidate. His efforts to raise questions about Clinton's stamina mirror that strategy.

Trump aides did not immediately respond to questions about whether Trump would seek to use the Clinton health incident to his advantage. Trump, normally voluble on Twitter, stayed silent on the issue on Sunday. "I expect they will milk it like crazy," Republican strat-

egist Art Hackney said of the Trump campaign. "He certainly has already indicated that she doesn't have the stamina, so I think it will be used, absolutely."

Trump is expected to discuss his own health regimen in an interview to air on Thursday with celebrity physician Dr. Mehmet Oz.

Trump, a 70-year-old New York businessman, has made no secret of his affinity for fast food, sometimes sharing photos of himself on his campaign jet or at Trump Tower enjoying fried chicken, hamburgers and a taco bowl.

He has made less information available about his health than Clinton has. Last December, he released a statement from his doctor, Harold Bornstein, that described him in excellent health with "extraordinary" strength and stamina.

The statement did not mention what medicine Trump might be on or other details typically included in such disclosures and was dramatically different from the hundreds of pages of medical records released by Republican nominee John McCain in 2008 to reassure Americans about his bouts of skin cancer.

"If elected, Mr. Trump, I can state unequivocally, will be the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency," Bornstein wrote. The Manhattan physician said in August he wrote the letter in five minutes as a Trump limo waited to pick it up.

Clinton released a two-page letter outlining her medical condition in July 2015 that sought to reassure Americans about her health after she fell and suffered a concussion at home in 2012 near the end of her tenure at the State Department.—Reuters



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“Ozone and Climate, Restored by a World United”

NEWS IN BRIEF

China says sanctions alone can't solve North Korea nuclear issue

BEIJING — China's Foreign Ministry said on Monday that sanctions alone cannot solve the North Korean nuclear issue and that unilateral action can only lead to a dead end.

The crux of the issue lies with United States not China, and China has made many efforts to uphold peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a daily news briefing in Beijing.—Reuters

South Korea says new UN resolution on North should close loopholes

SEOUL — The UN Security Council should adopt a new resolution on North Korea after its fifth nuclear test that closes loopholes left in the last resolution adopted in March, a South Korean foreign ministry official said on Monday.

The resolution should also expand the scope of North Korean entities and individuals targeted, the senior official told a group of reporters on condition of anonymity. He did not elaborate on what loopholes he was referring to.

The Security Council resolution adopted in March following the North's fourth nuclear test in January exempted North Korean exports of coal and some other minerals for "livelihood purposes" from a trade ban, which was seen as a loophole that would be difficult to monitor.—Reuters

Gulf states condemn law letting 9/11 families sue Saudi Arabia

DUBAI — The Saudi-dominated Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Monday condemned a law passed by the United States Congress last week that would allow the families of victims of the 11 September attacks to sue the kingdom's government for damages.

The head of the six-nation GCC said the law was "contrary to the foundations and principles of relations between states and the principle of sovereign immunity enjoyed by states."

"Such laws will negatively affect the international efforts and international cooperation to combat terrorism," GCC Secretary General Abdullah al-Zayani said in a statement.

The US House of Representatives passed the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," known as JASTA, on Friday but the White House has threatened to veto the measure.

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers who crashed airliners in New York, outside Washington and in Pennsylvania on 11 September, 2001 were Saudi nationals, but the Saudi government has strongly denied responsibility and has lobbied against the bill.—Reuters

Cambodia's Khmer Rouge tribunal cost passes \$260 million

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's UN-backed Khmer Rouge tribunal has cost more than \$261 million during the 10 years since its inception in 2006, a court official said Monday.

Neth Pheaktra, spokesman for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, said that, between 2006 and 2015, the ECCC has spent \$261.2 million, of which \$61.7 million was spent by the Cambodian side of the tribunal while the rest — \$199.5 million — was spent by the UN side. However, to enable the tribunal to fully operate during the whole of 2016, the ECCC needs another \$32.3 million — \$6.6 million for the Cambodian side and \$25.7 million for the UN side.—Kyodo News

Syria rebels guardedly agree on truce but battles persist

BEIRUT — Government troops and insurgents fought in several parts of Syria on Sunday, apparently seeking to strengthen their positions on the eve of a ceasefire that Free Syrian Army rebels said they would observe but with major reservations.

The Free Syrian Army groups wrote to the United States on Sunday about the deal it agreed on with Russia, saying that while they would “cooperate positively” with the ceasefire, they were concerned it would benefit the government.

Although the letter did not explicitly say the groups would abide by the ceasefire, two rebels who confirmed its text to Reuters said they would respect the ceasefire when it comes into force on Monday evening.

But according to the letter, the groups are worried by the absence of enforcement mechanisms, a lack of provision for besieged areas and clauses letting army jets fly for up to nine days after the deal comes into effect.

The influential hardline Islamist rebel group Ahrar al-Sham issued a statement late on Sunday attacking the ceasefire deal, but stopping short of explicitly saying it would not abide by its terms.

A war monitor reported clashes around Aleppo and Damascus, but pushes by the government in the mountainous northwest and rebels in the southwest indicated an effort to improve their positions before fighting is due to stop on Monday.

Syria’s five-year civil war has killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced 11 million — half the country’s prewar population — causing a refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe and inspiring jihadist attacks around the world.

Underscoring the war’s global impact, President Bashar al-Assad is backed by Russia’s air force, Iran’s Revolutionary



A fighter from the Free Syrian Army’s Al Rahman legion walks past damaged buildings in the rebel held Jobar, a suburb of Damascus, Syria on 6 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Guards and Shi’ite militias from Iraq and Lebanon, while the rebels are supported by the United States, Turkey and Gulf Arab states.

Previous peace agreements crumbled within weeks, with the United States accusing Assad and his allies of attacking opposition groups and civilians. On Saturday, air strikes on rebel-held areas killed scores of people.

“A big part of the agreement serves the regime and doesn’t apply pressure on it and doesn’t serve the Syrian people,” said Zakaria Malahifji of the Aleppo-based rebel group Fastaqim.

Syria’s government has not issued an official comment on the truce, but Syrian state media on Saturday quoted what it called private sources as saying the government had given its approval. Iran welcomed the deal on Sunday.

The ceasefire will not apply to the jihadist groups Islamic State or Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, known as the Nusra Front until it broke formal allegiance to al Qaeda and changed its name.

The rebel groups writing to the United States said the exclusion of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, which operates only inside Syr-

ia, while including Iran-backed foreign Shi’ite militias that operate across international borders showed a double standard.

They added in their letter that its exclusion from the ceasefire would be used by Russia as a pretext to bomb other rebel groups, citing their experience of a failed cessation of hostilities earlier this year.

The Syrian air force bombed Islamic State targets near Palmyra, state television reported on Sunday, while rebels clashed with the group northeast of Damascus, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based war

monitor said.

The United States warned insurgents on Saturday they would face “dire consequences” if they cooperated with Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, which fought alongside a range of mainstream and Islamist rebel groups during intense battles in recent weeks in southern Aleppo.

Ahrar al-Sham, one of the largest Islamist groups among the rebels, which has fought alongside Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, criticised the deal in a videotaped speech celebrating Islam’s Eid al-Adha festival, which falls on Monday, without rejecting it outright.

It said the deal failed to meet the minimum goals of the movement and would increase the suffering of the Syrian people. It also attacked what it called the “singling out” of particular groups, apparently a reference to the exclusion of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham.

Illustrating how widely insurgents work with the former al Qaeda affiliate, Ahrar al-Sham was one of several rebel groups to announce the launch of an offensive in the southwest in coordination with Jabhat Fateh al-Sham on Saturday.

Insurgents posted footage said to show battles on that front on Sunday which Reuters could not verify.

In Latakia province, violent clashes continued on Sunday two days after the army and its allies launched an offensive around several villages near the main coast road to Aleppo using heavy artillery fire and dozens of air strikes, the Observatory said.

More air strikes were reported in Aleppo and Idlib province on Sunday after scores of people were killed in aerial bombardment on Saturday. One in the town of Saraqeb hit a civil defence center where civilian rescuers are based, injuring several, according to the Observatory.—Reuters

Afghan president expresses hope for peace deal with notorious warlord

KABUL — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said on Monday a peace agreement with one of the country’s most notorious Islamist warlords is close to being concluded, offering hope of progress toward ending decades of conflict.

Negotiations with Hizb-i-Islami, a militant group of several hundred fighters led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a veteran of almost 40 years of fighting in Afghanistan, have been going on since May, when a draft accord was signed.

But a final agreement has been held up with many on the government side suspicious of bringing the prominent Pashtun warlord into the political fold and civil rights activists concerned about longstanding accusations of human rights abuses against him.

Hekmatyar has been allied at

various times with Pakistan, the Washington-backed anti-Soviet mujahideen in the 1980s and the Taliban, who are seeking to force the NATO-led coalition out of Afghanistan and bring in Islamic law.

“Some issues are left and those are issues that would be very important for implementing peace,” Ghani said at the start of the three-day Eid holiday. “These issues should be solved within a limited period of time.”

He thanked both Hizb-i-Islami and the High Peace Council for their efforts to negotiate a deal. “There is hope that, God willing, the agreement will be finalised soon and we will witness a major step toward the creation of peace environment and end of fighting,” he said.

Hekmatyar, who was included

on the US State Department’s Specially Designated Global Terrorist list in 2003, has played relatively little direct part in the insurgency in recent years.

But an accord would offer some encouragement that the Kabul government can persuade militant groups to move away from the battlefield and into the political process after failed efforts to start peace talks with the Taliban.

During the bloody civil war of the 1990s, Hekmatyar’s forces were accused of killing thousands of civilians in heavy bombardments of the Afghan capital and more recently, they were linked with several al Qaeda and Taliban attacks on international forces in Afghanistan and the Kabul government. Peace talks with the Taliban, the largest insurgent group in Af-



Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani speaks during a news conference in Kabul, Afghanistan on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ghanistan, have yet to get off the ground, but both sides have said they are open to the idea.

In a statement commemorating the start of the Muslim holiday of Eid-ul-Adha on Monday,

Taliban chief Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada said his group was “continuing to make diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the issue of Afghanistan alongside its military approach”.—Reuters

Counterterrorism drill held at Kyoto Imperial Palace

KYOTO — Police, the Kyoto city government and other authorities held a joint drill Monday against possible terrorist attacks at the Kyoto Imperial Palace, which began opening to the public throughout the year in late July.

The first drill was held based on a scenario in which an explosive was found in front of the Seisho-mon Gate, west of the palace, and that a suspicious car had exploded nearby.

Around 100 participants including police officers and firefighters confirmed steps for extinguishing fires, guiding evacuees and disposing of a bomb.

Munemasa Matsumoto, security chief at a local police station, said, "We want to be able to make a swift and precise response in the event (of an emergency) through continuous training."

The Kyoto Imperial Palace started accepting vis-



Photo taken on 12 September 2016, shows the first counterterrorism drill at the Kyoto Imperial Palace, which began allowing public access throughout the year in late July. Around 100 participants including police officers and firefighters confirmed steps for extinguishing fires, guiding evacuees and disposing of a bomb. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

itors without reservations this summer as part of the central government's drive to boost tourism and draw more foreign visitors to Japan. Since it scrapped

the reservation system, a daily average of 2,200 people visited the facility, according to the Imperial Household Agency, which is expecting the number to

rise to 7,000 or 8,000 during the autumn sightseeing period.

The palace was rebuilt in 1855 in the western Japan city.—Kyodo News

Germany's anti-immigrant AfD party suffers election setback in west

BERLIN—The anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party finished a distant fourth with just 7.8 per cent of the vote in local elections on Sunday in Lower Saxony state — a week after beating Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives in an eastern region.

The AfD had shocked Merkel last Sunday by winning 20.8 per cent in a state election in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern with

her Christian Democrats (CDU) falling to third with 19 per cent. That rout had sparked renewed criticism of her pro-refugee course.

But in the local elections in the neighbouring western state of Lower Saxony, the CDU was top with 34.4 per cent, according to preliminary results published on Monday. The center-left Social Democrats (SPD) were second with 31.2, the Greens third with 10.9 per cent, the

AfD at 7.8 per cent.

In local elections in the western state of Hesse in March the AfD had won 11.9 per cent.

The AfD is stronger in the former communist east. In Lower Saxony, it was below 10 per cent in most towns and cities but it did win 10.1 per cent in the state capital of Hanover — behind the SPD (31.2 per cent), CDU (29 per cent), Greens (13.6 per cent).

Last Sunday's elec-

tion in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern was the first time the CDU lost to a far-right party in a state election.

The AfD played on the public's angst that refugees, some 70 per cent of whom are Muslims, are overrunning Germany, siphoning away housing, resources and jobs from Germans. Merkel rejected that argument, saying no funds were taken away for refugees.—Reuters

North Korea's foreign minister in Beijing ahead of UN meeting

BEIJING — North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho arrived in Beijing on Monday, possibly on his way to New York to attend the UN General Assembly later this month.

A car carrying Ri, a former top nuclear negotiator who assumed his current post in May, entered the North Korean Embassy in the Chinese capital.

His overseas trip comes after North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test on Friday. It remains unclear if Ri has any plans to meet with Chinese officials before leaving Beijing.

"I have nothing to offer," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular press briefing, when asked about the possibility of Ri holding talks with senior Chinese diplomats. "I have not heard if there is any arrangement."

Along with other major countries, China, North Korea's most important diplomatic backer and economic lifeline, has voiced strong opposition to the nuclear test, which was carried out in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

The United Nations' most powerful body convened an emergency meeting following the North Korean test and has started working on "appropriate measures."

However, Hua said China believes sanctions

alone will not be able to fundamentally resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

Just pressurizing North Korea will bring the situation to a "dead end," Hua said, adding that "the crux of the Korean nuclear issue lies not in China, but in the United States."

Hua urged the United States to conduct an "overall review" of the ongoing developments and think about what would be effective ways to deal with them.

While noting that the nuclear issue boils down to the "conflict" between North Korea and the United States, she insisted that China has made relentless efforts to uphold peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.—Kyodo News



North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho gets in a car at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing on 12 September 2016.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (013N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (013N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CONTENDER VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CONTENDER VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T / 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 TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Irish PM tells Britain: No access to EU market without free movement

DUBLIN — The European Union will not give in to British demands for full access to the bloc's single market unless London allows free movement of people, Ireland's prime minister said on Monday.

Britain's minister charged with negotiating Brexit, David Davis, said last week that it was pressing for a "unique" deal with the EU to restore sovereignty, reduce immigration by controlling its borders and boost trade with the bloc after the split.

But European leaders have warned Britain it cannot cherry pick which rules it follows if it wants to con-

tinue to have unfettered access to Europe's markets.

"Let me tell you that around the European Council table, that is an issue that will not be given in on," Kenny said in an interview with Ireland's Newstalk radio station.

He said the issue had been "very directly addressed" by European leaders to the British government. Kenny said the British government did not appear to have a clear position on what form of Brexit it was trying to achieve.

"They don't have a definite horizon as to where they want to be," he said. — Reuters

North Korea flooding kills 133, displaces 107,000 — UN

SEOUL — Flooding from heavy rain in North Korea has killed 133 people in its northeast while 395 are missing, with many homes and critical infrastructure destroyed, a UN agency said on Monday.

News of the natural disaster came as North Korea looked even more isolated from its neighbours and the wider world after its fifth nuclear test last Friday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a report more than 35,500 homes were damaged, two-thirds of them completely destroyed, and 107,000 people had been displaced by the floods.

The agency said the death toll and the number of missing people were based on North Korean government data.

North Korea's state

media reported heavy rain in late August and early September caused extensive damage near the Tumen river. It did not give a death toll from the flooding in its latest report. The UN office said damage assessment was based on a visit to the region last week by representatives of UN agencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the North's Red Cross chapter and non-governmental groups.

The North's KCNA news agency said on Sunday the worst "climatic phenomenon" in more than 70 years hit the northern part of the country causing "huge losses," and recovery work was under way. Widespread deforestation for fuel and farming makes the impoverished state prone to natural disasters, especially floods. — Reuters

US to dispatch bomber to South Korea on Tuesday

SEOUL—The United States will conduct a bomber flight over South Korea on Tuesday, an official at US Forces in Korea said, a show of force against North Korea after the reclusive state recently carried out its fifth nuclear test.

The official however

declined to name the bomber's type or the fleet's size would be. South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported that bad weather had

delayed a planned US military B-1B bomber flight to the Korean peninsula that had been scheduled for Monday. —Reuters



A pair of B-1B Lancer bombers soar over Wyoming in an undated file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Thailand marks National Anti-Corruption Day

College students hold banners during a public event held by the Anti-Corruption Organisation of Thailand (ACT) to mark the National Anti-Corruption Day at the Sanam Luang square in Bangkok, Thailand, on 11 September, 2016. Thailand observes the National Anti-Corruption Day annually on 6 September. PHOTO: XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AMBERL VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AMBERL VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 COMET SHIPPING
ISTANBUL/TURKEY.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

'Sully' Flies High to \$35.5 Million US Opening

LOS ANGELES — Tom Hanks' "Sully" has taken off with a stellar \$35.5 million at 3,525 North American locations, marking a solid start to the fall box office season.

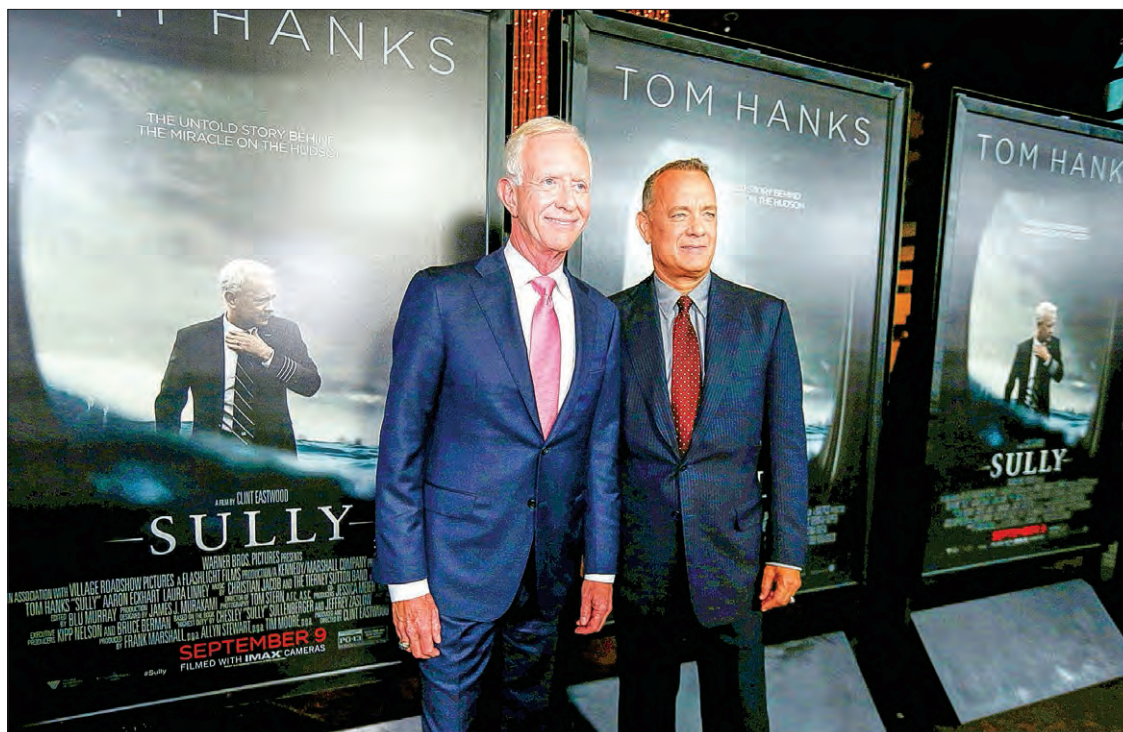
Directed by Clint Eastwood, "Sully" handily outperformed recent expectations, which had been in the \$25 million range. The action-adventure, which recreates 2009's "Miracle on the Hudson" emergency landing, generated an A CinemaScore in a strong signal that "Sully" should continue to draw well in coming weeks.

Sony-Screen Gems drama "When the Bough Breaks" opened respectably in second with \$15 million at 2,246 sites. Lionsgate's launch of European animated comedy "The Wild Life" generated only modest interest in fifth place with \$3.4 million at 2,493 locations while Relativity's horror film "The Disappointments Room" was nearly invisible with \$1.4 million at 1,554 screens for a dismal \$901 per-screen average.

"Sully" stars Hanks as Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the career pilot who successfully landed a damaged US Airways jet in the Hudson River after it hit a flock of geese following takeoff from LaGuardia Airport. Eastwood directed from a script by Todd Komarnicki, based on the autobiography "Highest Duty" by Sullenberger and Jeffrey Zaslow.

"Sully" generated the top gross for a post-Labour Day weekend and the fifth-best September opening ever after "Hotel Transylvania 2," "Hotel Transylvania," "Insidious: Chapter 2" and "Sweet Home Alabama." The film premiered at the Telluride Film Festival on 2 September and has received largely laudatory reviews with a current 84 per cent fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Audiences were 80 per cent



Cast member Tom Hanks (R) poses with Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger at the premiere of "Sully" in Los Angeles, California US, on 8 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

over 35 and 56 per cent female. Warner distribution exec Jeffrey Goldstein said strong support among older moviegoers means "Sully" will hold well in the coming weeks.

"Older audiences tend to support movies like this more over the long haul," he added.

Goldstein noted that two recent Hanks movies have generated strong holds — 2012 hostage drama "Captain Phillips," which opened with \$25.7 million on its way to a domestic total of \$107 million; and Hanks' most recent film, "Bridge of Spies," which debuted in mid-October with a \$15.4 million opening weekend at 2,811 sites and also had a strong hold as it wound up with a \$72 million domestic total.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst with comScore, noted that PostTrak audience survey stats showed that 82 per cent of the audience for "Sully" was over 25 years of age with 39

per cent listing Hanks as the reason for attending the movie and another 20 per cent giving Eastwood being the director.

"Both statistics are uncommonly strong," Dergarabedian said. "It's a perfect kick off movie for the Fall movie season of 2016. 'Sully' brings one of the world's most beloved stars and one of its great directors together in a true life drama that delivers the kind of gravitas and depth that defines the so-called 'Oscar season' that usually takes some time to ramp up, but this year gets right to work."

"Sully" generated \$4 million from 375 Imax locations for a \$10,666 average in what's touted as the first Hollywood film ever shot entirely on Imax cameras. Eastwood had announced in April that he was shooting the film using the digital Imax Alexa 65 cameras.

Aaron Eckhart stars as First Officer Jeffrey Skiles and Lau-

ra Linney plays Sullenberger's spouse Lorraine.

"Sully" has a production budget of about \$60 million, so it will need to show holdover strength in the following week-ends to make it into profitable territory. Village Roadshow Pictures is a co-producer and co-finance with Warner Bros.

"Sully" took in \$9.5 million at 3,600 screens in 39 international markets, led by \$2.3 million in Australia. It generated the top opening for an Eastwood film in Russia with \$925,000 on 882 screens.

"When the Bough Breaks," which has modest \$10 million production budget, stars Morris Chestnut and Regina Hall as a couple who desperately wants a baby. They hire a surrogate, played by Jaz Sinclair, who develops a psychotic fixation on the husband as the pregnancy progresses. "When the Bough Breaks" generated a B CinemaS-

core with an audience that was 62 per cent female and 61 per cent over 25 with Sony distribution president Rory Bruer asserting that those numbers indicate holding power in the coming weeks.

Sony's third weekend of horror-thriller "Don't Breathe" finished third with \$8.2 million at 3,384 locations to bring its 17-day total to \$66.8 million. Bruer noted that the 48 per cent decline represented an excellent hold for the genre.

Warner's sixth weekend of "Suicide Squad" followed in fourth with \$5.7 million at 3,103 sites for a domestic total of \$307.4 million. "The Wild Life," which tells the Robinson Crusoe story from the point of view of the island animals, opened somewhat under expectations at \$3.4 million.

Focus' fourth weekend of "Kubo and the Two Strings" led the rest of the pack in sixth with \$3.2 million, followed by Disney's fifth weekend of "Pete's Dragon" with \$2.9 million, STX's seventh frame of "Bad Moms" with \$2.8 million, Lionsgate's fifth weekend of "Hell or High Water" with \$2.6 million and Sony's fifth session of "Sausage Party" with \$2.3 million.

Lionsgate's second weekend of Spanish-language comedy "No Manches Frida" continued to perform well in 11th with \$2.2 million at 465 sites. "The Disappointments Room," starring Kate Beckinsale and Lucas Till, finished in 17th as the first Relativity title to hit the market since the mini-studio emerged from bankruptcy in April. The film, which carries a \$16 million price tag and was shot in 2014 by D.J. Caruso, centers on a hidden room in the attic at a rural home.

Relativity has indicated that most of its efforts on "The Disappointments Room" are aimed at the home video and VOD market. —Reuters

Hits keep coming as 'Sing' premieres at Toronto Film Festival



Actor Matthew McConaughey arrives on the red carpet for the film "Sing" during the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Toronto, Canada, on 11 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TORONTO — Comedy animation feature "Sing" premiered at the Toronto Film Festival on Sunday to an enthusiastic reception from filmgoers before Academy award winner Jennifer Hudson and singer-songwriter Tori Kelly performed songs from the movie.

The film tells the story of Buster, a Koala bear show-biz impresario voiced by Matthew McConaughey, who tries to save his struggling theater by hosting an "American Idol"-style singing competition. His idea quickly spreads throughout the animal kingdom, attracting a wide range of contestants, from a mother of 25 piglets, played by Reese Witherspoon, to a porcine punk rocker, played by Scarlett Johansson.

McConaughey said the best

part about working on the film, which is scheduled for release in December, was getting to feel like a child again. "I don't need to get serious about anything," he told reporters on the red carpet. "There's not a big statement to make here. It's very human, the story, but it's fun."

Johansson called the chance to use solely her voice in a role "kind of liberating."

"You're really just able to kind of give it everything you have and be able to be loud and proud and then pull it back and play with the vocal nuances," she said. The movie has a soundtrack to appeal to all ages, featuring more than 85 hits from the 1940s to the present day, prompting an audience of 2,000 at Toronto's Princess of

Wales Theater to clap along and applaud throughout.

Witherspoon said she expected "Sing" to be just as enjoyable to adults as to children. "I play a mom who has 25 kids, and I think a lot of parents can relate to the idea that you give up a lot of your own dreams for your children," she said. "I get to, through the singing competition, have my chance to be a singer, and it's a really sweet, wish-fulfillment moment."

Hudson and Kelly gave a joint performance following the premiere. Kelly first performed the Stevie Wonder classic "Don't You Worry 'Bout A Thing," receiving a standing ovation before being joined by Hudson to perform Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." —Reuters

Miss Arkansas crowned Miss America 2017 in pageant's 96th year

ATLANTIC CITY (New Jersey) — Savvy Shields, a college student from Arkansas, won the annual Miss America pageant on Sunday after impressing judges with a jazz dance routine and her answer to a question about her take on presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Shields, a native of Fayetteville and student at the University of Arkansas, was one of seven finalists given 20 seconds to answer highly topical questions on some controversial issues, such as immigration and Clinton rival, Donald Trump.

Asked what her take was on Clinton, Shields offered that “if you’re trying to be leader of the free world, everything you say and do matters.”

She noted that the media has sensationalized the campaign so that it was “hard to tell what is truth and scandal,” then added that “both these candidates have done a great job, but they also need to watch what they’re doing.”

Shields, who adopted “eat better, live better” as her platform for the com-



Miss Arkansas Savvy Shields, 21, reacts after winning the 96th Miss America Pageant inside Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on 11 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

petition, earlier performed a jazz dance to “They Just Keep Moving the Line” from the TV show “Smash.” The first runner-up was Rachel Wyatt, Miss South Carolina, who fielded a question about

immigration in the United States. She was followed by contestants from New York, Washington and Mississippi. Missouri’s Erin O’Flaherty, who in June became the first openly lesbian contestant in the

history of the nearly century-old pageant, failed to make the first cut of 15 selected from 52 entrants from the 50 US states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Shields went into Sunday’s live

two-hour ABC broadcast from Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, N.J. with the advantage of having prevailed earlier in the week during preliminary judging in the talent competition. —Reuters

Taiwan tourism representatives to march over Chinese tourist numbers

TAIPEI — Representatives from Taiwan’s tourism industry were set to take to the streets of Taipei on Monday afternoon, asking the government to tackle the dwindling number of Chinese tourists visiting the island since the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party took office in May.

Emphasizing the event was not a “protest” but a “peaceful and rational way of expressing the industry’s thinking,” event spokesman Ringo Lee said.

“We want survival, we want jobs, and we want food on the table,” he said.

The march is the first of its kind to be organised by the island’s tourism industry since the ban on Chinese visitors to Taiwan was partially lifted in 2008, when then President Ma Ying-jeou of the Nationalist Party (KMT) was first elected on a platform of seeking friendlier ties with China.

Since that time, the number of Chinese visitors to Taiwan for both tourism and business purposes rose dramatically in the wake of an improvement in bilateral ties. The number of Chinese tourists visiting grew from one million in 2008 to four million last year.

However, relations with China have stalled since President Tsai Ing-wen of the DPP took office in May this year. Statistics show that the number of tourists from mainland China dropped by 15 per cent in July compared to the same period the previous year, while the number from Hong Kong and Macao increased by nearly 5 per cent. —Kyodo News

Chinese best-sellers flying off the shelves at Autumn Book Fair in Viet Nam

HANOI — At the Autumn Book Fair, the largest of its kind in the country, local readers have shown great passion towards Chinese best-sellers.

The fair, which opened on Friday in Hanoi, is being held by Viet Nam’s Ministry of Information and Communications, and comprises around 60 publishers, postal, education and training organisations,

in some 70 booths.

The event has attracted thousands of book lovers of all ages and from all walks of life, who have been immersing themselves in the world of literary wonder.

Speaking to Xinhua while browsing through some choice selections at the fair, Nguyen Giang Van, 20, a student, said she liked detective stories by

Chinese authors the most, due to their thrilling circumstances.

“Chinese detective stories always attract readers, making them unable to put the book down before finishing it,” said Van, naming Ding Mo as her favorite Chinese author.

“My friends and I love works by Ding Mo, including When a Snail Falls in Love, Memory Lost, He

Neighbours with Moonlight’ among others. We wait eagerly for his latest books to be published and then devour them voraciously,” said Van.

Similarly, Van, Le Thi Thu Ha, 18, a student, said that she is considering buying “Beloved Freud”, a new book by Jiu Yuexi.

“Jiu Yuexi is among Chinese authors I admire, I also love books by Ding

Mo and Tong Hua,” Ha told Xinhua, adding that her favourite Chinese romance novels include: “The Time Never Back” by Tong Hua and “Just One Smile is Alluring” by Gu Man. Explaining why “The Time Never Back” is her favorite, Ha said “I decided to buy the book thanks to its author, Tong Hua, as I like her books so much.” —Xinhua

Entertainment Channel

(13-9-2016, Tuesday)

06:00	pm	Weather Report
	pm	International Movie Songs
06:15	pm	X Sports
06:40	pm	MRTV Entertainment Music
07:00	pm	International Drama Series
07:40	pm	International Drama Series
08:20	pm	MRTV Entertainment Music
08:25	pm	International Movie
10:25	pm	Myanmar Video
(00:00 Am ~ 06:00 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 12:00 Pm)		
(06:00 Am ~ 08:25 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 08:25 Pm)		
08:25	am	Myanmar Video
10:00	am	International Movie
(12:00 Pm ~ 04:00 Pm) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Am ~ 10:00 Am)		
04:00	am	Thi La Wa is Smiling
04:20	am	Cartoon Movie “102 Dalmatians”
06:00	am	Close Down.

From 13-9-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm
To 14-9-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm

Myanmar International

(13-9-2016 07:00am ~ 14-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	The Richly Blessed Gem Land
07:51	Am	The Art of Sand Painting
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-2) Student Life & Early Literary Career
08:51	Am	Today Myanmar: YCDC's Efforts for Granting Land Plots
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Choral Dance (Duel)
09:34	Am	Bagan Choral Dance

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:53	Pm	Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture “A Stir about of Rainbows”
08:49	Pm	Chef Life: Moe Moe Khaing

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

Wenger back on familiar ground for Champions League Group A opener

LONDON — Arsenal's long-serving manager Arsene Wenger will feel at home when he takes his team to the Parc des Princes for Tuesday's Champions League opening Group A match against Paris St Germain.

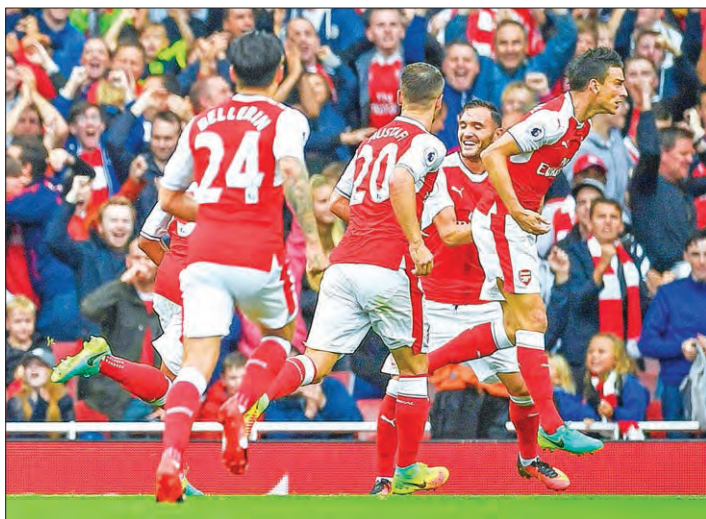
A regular visitor to the French capital, the Strasbourg-born Wenger has often been linked in the past with an executive role at PSG when he finally leaves Arsenal, the club he joined in 1996.

Since then the London side have qualified for the Champions League in every full season of his management.

For the last 16 years in succession they have reached the second stage of the competition, only to suffer the frustration of defeat in the first knockout round for six seasons in a row.

Along with PSG, they must be regarded as favourites to qualify again from a group also including Basel and Bulgarian side Ludogorets.

Arsenal, who have a good re-



Arsenal's players celebrate scoring their first goal against Southampton during their Barclays Premier League at Emirates Stadium, on 10 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

cord on recent visits to France, have recovered from taking a single point from their opening two Premier League games, winning the next two to reach sixth place in the table.

They needed a disputed late

penalty, however, to beat Southampton 2-1 on Saturday.

PSG were also involved in late drama in their weekend game, although it went against them. Visitors St Etienne scored in the final minute on Friday to

force a 1-1 draw.

That left the champions three points behind Monaco, who had beaten them 3-1 in the previous league fixture.

New coach Unai Emery, who arrived from Sevilla to replace Laurent Blanc in the close-season, lost important players to the Premier League in Zlatan Ibrahimovic and defender David Luiz but was pleased to keep influential midfielder Blaise Matuidi.

One of those recruited will be familiar to Arsenal. Hatem Ben Arfa spent four years in England with Newcastle United and Hull City.

"It's a squad that has won a lot and that has developed while winning," Emery told Uefa's official website (www.uefa.com).

"I've arrived at a club that want to keep on winning and to kick on to the next level. That's the challenge and it's a difficult one. The demands are very high."

Reuters

European football split as UEFA elects new president

ZURICH — UEFA elects a new president on Wednesday whose main task will be to stop what European officials say is an inexorable slide towards a break-away football Super League open only to wealthy clubs such as Real Madrid and Manchester City.

Aleksander Ceferin, a lawyer from Slovenia, and Dutchman Michael van Praag, an experienced football administrator, are the only candidates for a job which will essentially involve keeping European football intact in its current form. The election, which will be held in Athens, has been called after former president Michel Platini was banned last October as FIFA's ethics committee investigated allegations of unethical conduct.

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Reuters

Wawrinka seals spot in ATP World Tour Finals

NEW YORK — Stan Wawrinka's stunning defeat of top-ranked Novak Djokovic in the US Open final on Sunday booked the Swiss his place at the ATP World Tour Finals in London at the end of the year.

Australian Open and French Open winner Djokovic, Wimbledon champion Andy Murray and Wawrinka are the first three players all confirmed for the season-ender at the O2 Arena.

Wawrinka, 31, claimed his third grand slam title by defeating Djokovic in four sets, adding to the 2014 Australian crown and 2015 French Open. It will be his fourth appearance at the Tour Finals where he will be looking to better his three semi-final runs.

"At the beginning of the season, it is always my goal to be in the top eight and qualify for London," said Wawrinka.

"It is great to be able to secure a spot once again this year after a fantastic two weeks in New York. I look forward to returning to The O2. I love playing there."

Wawrinka has won four titles this year having also won in Chennai, Dubai and Geneva.— Reuters

Marcus Rashford set for Europa start after impressing Mourinho

LONDON — Striker Marcus Rashford will be handed his first Manchester United start of the Jose Mourinho era at Feyenoord in the Europa League on Thursday after impressing his manager in Saturday's Premier League defeat by Manchester City.

Mourinho, whose side lost 2-1 after a lacklustre first-half display, made a double substitution at the interval, bringing on midfielder Ander Herrera and the teenage Rashford, who had an instant impact.

The 18-year-old had a goal disallowed in the 70th minute after his shot came off Zlatan Ibrahimovic who was offside, and though his energy and pace could not secure a result for United, his manager praised him as a potential game-changer.

"For me the next big game is against Feyenoord and the next game (Rashford) is going to play," Mourinho told reporters.

"I trust him completely. I know his future will be absolutely brilliant."

"Normally, people look to the football talent but personal-

ity at his level is very important and he was showing that last season — he was showing that immediately."

Rashford, who scored on both his Premier League and Europa League debuts for United last season, is by far the most exciting graduate of United's academy in years.

The teenager also scored three minutes into his first senior start for England against Australia in May and bagged a hat-trick on his England Under-21 debut last week.

Mourinho said he viewed Rashford as an out-and-out striker, but conceded the forward had offered his team a better outlet when deployed on the wing against City than established wide players such as Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Jesse Lingard.

"I felt City had the fragility on the sides and the kid could give us in the second half on the sides what we didn't get with Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Jesse Lingard in the first half," Mourinho added.

"The kid gave us what we had needed in the first half."— Reuters



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford in action during the Barclays Premier League at Old Trafford on 10 September. PHOTO: REUTERS