

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Czech President, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excel-

lency Mr. Milos Zeman, President of the Czech Republic and His Excellency Mr. Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic,

on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Czech Republic, which falls on 28 October 2014.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw receives EU Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura

U Shwe Mann received EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia at the hall of Hluttaw complex in

Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Also present at the call were Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw International

Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, member of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Case

Assessment Commission Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Asian Conference on Remote Sensing 2014 kicks off



Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane highlights important role of remote sensing for development of country.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct — Remote sensing technology should be applied for undertaking develop-

ment of the nation on a wider scale, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane said at the open-

ing ceremony of the Asian Conference on Remote Sensing-ACRS 2014 at the Myanmar International

Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Also present at the opening ceremony were Un-

ion Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Union Minister for Environmental (See page 3)

Housing complex in Patheingyi Township sets to complete within five yrs



MANDALAY, 27 Oct — A housing complex comprising more than 5,000 two-storey RC buildings is

being implemented on 65 acres of land in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region.

The project located near the Mandalay-Mogoke Road is being implemented by two private developers with the permission of Mandalay Region government.

Each building measures 30 ft by 40 ft on 60 ft by 40 ft plot of land and the household buildings will be completed within three years.

(See page 3)

Correction

Please read Sorrento Villa instead of sorantovila in second line in third paragraph of fifth column in the news under heading "Education is for 'wisdom': Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker" on the front page of this daily issued on 27-10-2014.—GNLM

Bangkok Airways launches new routes from Chiang Mai to Yangon, Mandalay

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 27 Oct — Bangkok Airways launched its new route from Chiang Mai International Airport to Yangon on Monday as part of four new services from Chiang Mai to Yangon and Mandalay and two domestic destinations, Phuket and Udon Thani.

The new route from the

Thai northern city to Yangon will operate four days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) departing at 11 am (TST) and arriving at Yangon International Airport at 11:55 a.m. (MST). The flights depart Yangon at 12:50 p.m. and arrive Chiang Mai at 2:45 p.m. The airline flies to Mandalay on the other three days (Tuesday, Thurs-

day and Sunday), departing Chiang Mai at 11 am (TST) and arriving Mandalay at 12:05 PM (MST). Flights depart Mandalay at 12:50 pm (MST) and arrive in Chiang Mai at 2:45 (TST).

The airline began its new service to Mandalay on 26 October.

The airline is selling a return ticket for \$232 in a promotional campaign until

the end of October.

All the services will use an ATR turboprop aircraft.—GNLM

Currently, the Bangkok Airways is operating Yangon-Bangkok flights four times daily.

PHOTO: www.bangkokbusiness-brief.com



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2014 is nearing the end

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SMEs are now looking up

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct—Union ministers and deputy ministers explained the matters related to the additional budget for 2014-15 fiscal year at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session on Monday.

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein explained the nature of original budget estimates and amended budget estimates, additional budgets, the duty and rights of the financial commission, procedures of budgets and additional budgets, management of public finance, financial policy, economic growth, government spending and requirements to include loans that have not been approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in the budget.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen

Kyaw Zan Myint briefed the representatives on financial management of the ministry and measures taken for transforming the Myanmar Police Force into a modern people's police force.

Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin explained the military spendings, measures taken for defence of the nation and the peace process.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Tin Aung Chit explained the tasks of the ministry and spendings.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan explained the efforts of the ministry to improve the lives of peasant farmers and imports of farm machinery.

MNA

Union ministers explain budgets and tasks of ministries at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw participate in discussions on additional budget for 2014-15 fiscal year.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw raised questions on safety of gas pipelines



Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct—Representatives raised questions on safety of gas pipelines and taxes on scent wood, thanaka and bee products and debated the report on appropriate electoral system for Myanmar at the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Session on Monday.

Concerning with the question on safety of gas pipelines, Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo said that standard materials were purchased for Southeast Asia gas pipeline which was designed and constructed in accordance with American Petroleum Institute Standard and American Society of Mechanical Engineers Standard for the safety of the pipeline. Leaflets about the pipeline were also distrib-



Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung.—MNA

uted to local people along the pipeline, the deputy minister added.

Regarding the question on taxes for scent wood and thanaka, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung said

that those who grow scent wood and thanaka and produce bee products on their own land are permitted to enjoy tax exemption when they have properly registered with departments concerned.

In the debate for the electoral system, Representative U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw Constituency said that it is necessary to amend the state constitution and to hold a national referendum to change from one electoral system to another and the current FPTP system should not be substituted with others. Representative Daw Lei Win Swe from Tamway Constituency said that electoral system that combines FPTP and PR systems is the most appropriate for Myanmar.—MNA

Discussions made to carry education columns in GNLM

YANGON, 27 Oct—Discussions were made on Monday on the plan to present education programme in the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The new plan will focus on widening English knowledge of children through newspaper.

U Min Zaw, direc-

tor-general of No (3) Basic Education Department and officials concerned discussed the possible means of Education programme in the newspaper with U Tin Nyunt and U Maung Maung Than, the members of board of directors, as well as U Than Myint Tun, chief editor of the English



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct—The government will not take action against property buyers and sellers if they do their business with money legally earned and pay taxes on profits from their transactions in accordance with the income tax law, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint told the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) on Monday.

Amyotha Hluttaw

No action will be taken against legal property transactions: deputy minister

The deputy minister was responding to the question on whether the government has plans to take action against speculators.

However, the deputy minister added that action will be taken against those who make property transactions with illegal money, those who evade taxes for property transactions and those who cause damage to financial operations and measures.

Ministries, state/region governments, development affairs committees and the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development allotted land to retirees, government staff and those who had to move to other places due to projects but some of them had to resell the land for various reasons including financial

difficulties to build a house on the land, according to the deputy minister.

As they sell their legally owned property of their own accord, action will not be taken against them unless they break rules and regulations for the allotted land plots, the deputy minister explained.

Afterwards, the deputy minister answered the question on alcohol licenses for new hotels, saying that alcohol licenses will be issued when new hotels apply for the licenses with the recommendation of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Myanmar Hoteliers Association in accordance with the law.

The Amyotha Hluttaw session also put the report of the relief committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw on record.—MNA



Director U Tin Nyunt of GNLM calls on Director-General U Min Zaw of BED (2).—GNLM

GNLM

NATIONAL

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Czech Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Lubomir Zaoralek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Czech Republic, which falls on 28 October 2014.—MNA

Asian Conference . . .

(from page 1)

Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun and other officials.

Experts from 26 countries will present more than 280 research papers in six chapters on environment, natural resources, forestry,

geology, agriculture and livestock breeding, minerals, gems, oil and gas, climate change, natural disasters, transport and urbanization, land survey and aerospace technology, satellite and sensing technology and related topics.

The conference will share technology and knowledge among remote sensing companies, geographical information companies, land survey and land management companies and organizations, aerospace and aviation companies and IT companies.—MNA

Two ministries cooperate in nurturing capable human resources

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct — Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Myat and Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Thar Htwe discussed cooperation of two ministries in turning out skilled electricians at Government Technical High School in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The Principal of the school reported on teaching and practical works. The union ministers and party visited the practical rooms, workshops and classrooms and coordinated fulfillment for requirements.



Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein and Dr Ko Ko Oo hears reports on future plans of Government THS in Nay Pyi Taw for turning out skilled workers.—MNA

Vocational Education Special Task Force cooperates with Ministry of Border Affairs in conducting

the tailoring course for enabling local youths to study vocational courses and turning out skilled workers

for construction sites in regions and states.

MNA

Engineers put finishing touches on Bayintnaung Bridge-2

YANGON, 26 Oct — Special Project Group-5 of Public Works is building Bayintnaung Bridge-2 across Hline River as a link between Mayangon and Hlinethaya townships of Yangon Region.

The project kicked off on 6 June 2013 and it will be completed at the end of October 2014.

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected preparations for holding the opening ceremony of the bridge and finishing works on Sunday

afternoon.

The bridge is of bored pile foundation and steel frames for the main structure, approached structure with bored pile foundation and steel plate girder/PC girder and RC concrete. The main structure of the bridge will be 1,628.03 feet long, the approach bridge on Bayintnaung Bank, 819.364 feet long and Hlinethaya bank, 4,104.53 feet long.

The bridge will have 48 feet wide motorway with four lanes flanked by six feet wide pedestrian way on either side. Water clearance will be 370 feet wide and 36 feet high. The facility can withstand 75-ton loads.—MNA

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin views round finishing works and preparation for opening of Bayintnaung Bridge-2.—MNA



MMCWA launches mobile clinic in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct — The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association set up a mobile clinic here on Saturday, aiming at promoting public healthcare services.

At the launching ceremony of the medical facili-

ty, members of CEC from MMCWA gave health education talks.

Then, the members of MMCWA delivered tonics and food to the old people, and clothes, iodine salt nutritious food to the pregnant women, before pro-

viding prenatal treatments and medical checkup to the aged.

MMCWA started its mobile medical cares around Nay Pyi Taw council area since 2010, together with healthcare talks and medical services to the locals.—MNA



Housing complex . . .

(from page 1)

The work on the project was launched on 4 October and the whole project comprising banks, hospital, playgrounds, super markets, hotels and schools is expected to complete within five years.—Min Htet Aung (Mdy Sub-printing House)

Union Minister for Sports attends sports activities in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct — The Kachin State Chief Minister's Trophy Men's and Women's Mini Marathon Race was held at the office of Kachin State government in Myitkyina in Kachin State on Sunday.

Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai and Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan launched the mini marathon.

In the men's event, the chief minister presented cash awards to first prize winner Maung Hsan Lin, second winner Maung Ngwa Chei Lo and third winner Maung Pyay Ti Nyein.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan awarded the first,



second and third prizes to Ma Thwe Thwe Win, Ma Khin Phan Nin and Ma Win Win Aye in the women's event.

Deputy Minister U

Thaung Htaik, Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Win Bo Shein and state ministers presented prizes to the winners from the fourth to the sixth

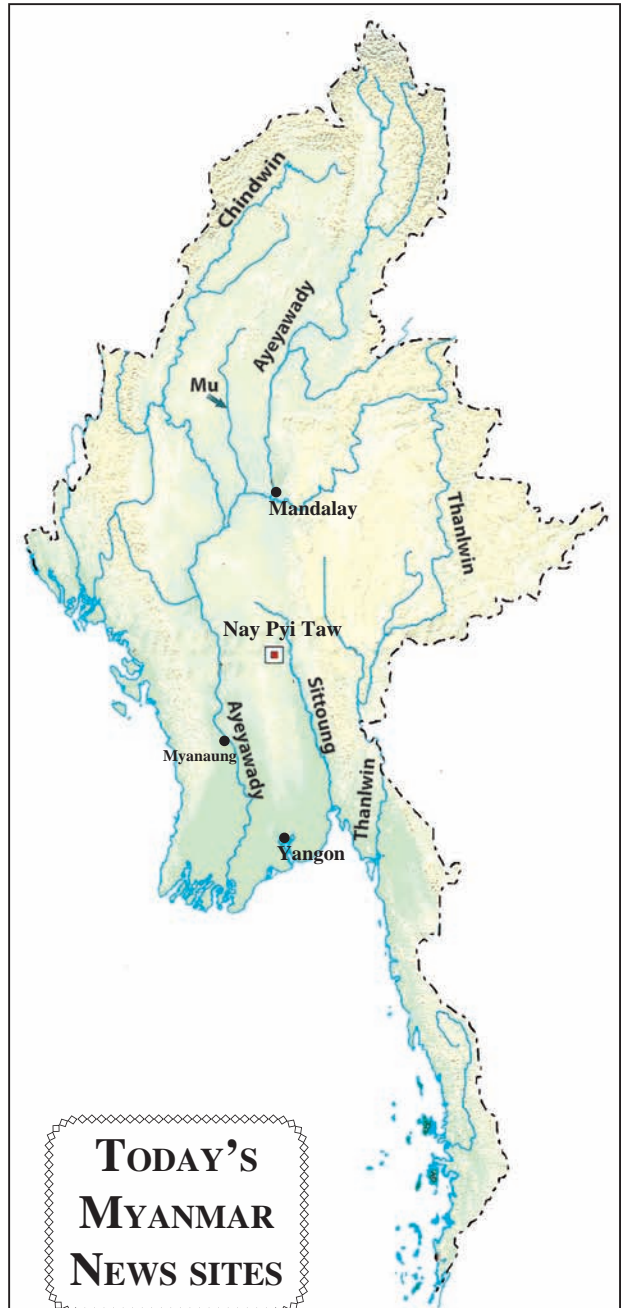
positions in the men's and women's events.

The union minister and the chief minister also enjoyed the body-building and physical culture contests at the state ground in Myitkyina.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister U Tint Hsan presented the first prize to Maung Aung Kyaw Myint of Mandalay Region, Maung Tun Tun Thant of Rakhine State and Maung Yeim Thang of Kachin State in the body-building contest.

The union minister and the chief minister also attended the prize presentation of the inter-district Sepak Takraw contest of Kachin State.

MNA



Meeting to raise health awareness held in Myanaung



MYANAUNG, 27 Oct — A coordination meeting on project of 100% use of condom was held at the hall of Myanaung Township Health Department in Ayeyawady Region on 24 October as part of efforts to raise awareness of public health.

The project is aimed at reducing the rate of outbreak of STD/AIDS at the targeted group and solving the problems on lack of knowledge in using condoms.

Medical Superintendent of the township hospital Dr

Maung Maung Chit said that achievement of the project will decline infection of STD/AIDS among the public.

Nurse Grade I Daw Moe Thu Thida Oo explained the plan to use condom at targeted groups cent per cent.

Departmental officials, health staff, members of social organizations and responsible persons of lodgings participated in the discussions.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Toll gates on expressway to apply electronic system

MANDALAY, 27 Oct — Feasibility studies will be conducted as of November 2014 for applying electronic toll collection system at the toll gates on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Deposit must be kept at the banks with the link of electronic toll collection. So, the road user needs to pay toll fee with the use of credit card.

The companies wishing to apply the new toll fee collection system may submit the applications filled with work duration, technology, applications, company register and experiences to the authorities concerned not later than 31 October.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Mobile libraries attract reader students at schools

MANDALAY, 27 Oct — Zatiman youth readers association based at Shwe Kaung Nyunt ward of Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay opens Zatiman mobile libraries at basic education primary schools in Mandalay District with the aim of broadening scope of children, raising reading skills and contributing towards learn-

ing skills.

BEPs may ask the association to open mobile libraries at their schools and wellwishers may dial 09-444035825 for the association, according to the chairman of the association.

The mobile library is formed with shelves and baskets for various subjects of books totalling over 2,000. Each library stops

over at the school for allowing students to borrow books free of charge during the two weeks period.

Two mobile libraries of the association will provide the readers and students not only with the books but with scrabble sets, chess sport equipment and chairs and tables.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



LOCAL NEWS

Entrance fee to be collected from globetrotters at ancient cultural heritage areas

MANDALAY, 27 Oct — A plan is underway to collect entrance fee for foreigners at Ohtoktan port near ancient Inwa city which is one of the ancient cultural heritages in Mandalay Region, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Region).

“Arrangements are being made to collect the entrance fee to ancient cultural heritage zones from globetrotters at Ohtoktan port. In ancient Inwa city, the department collects entrance fee at two points, namely, Mei Nu Brick Monastery and Bagaya monastery, although there are many sites of ancient cultural heritages. The department opens free for all at other ancient sites. Some foreigners enter Inwa area crossing Dokhtawady River via Ohtoktan Port. But, some foreigners do not enter the region not to pay fees for entrance.

As such, officials arrange to collect the entrance fee from globetrotters to minimize waste of income,” an official of Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Region).

The significant ancient cultural heritage sites in Mandalay Region are Mandalay Golden Monastery and Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace. Likewise, there are more ancient heritage sites, namely, Mei Nu Brick Monastery and Bagaya wooden monastery in Inwa of Sagaing Township, Bagaya monastery and Pyadalin Cave in Amarapura.

Each foreigner must buy K10,000 prepaid card for their visits to the ancient cultural areas in Mandalay Region. They may visit remaining ancient cultural heritage areas free of charge.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

**Farmers observe cultivation of organic vegetables and fruits, pollination of paddy****Arrival of migratory birds may be late in Taungthaman Lake this year**

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct — A total of 84 farmers led by Head of Monywa District Agriculture Department U Aung Myint Tun, 40 farmers led by staff of Lewe Township Agriculture Department and 100 farmers led by Bago Region

Hluttaw MPs U Ye Htut Aung and U Min Naing visited organic vegetable and fruit plantation in the Setsetyo irrigated area in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Monday.

Deputy Director-General U Naing Kyi Win, Director U Aye Ko Ko and staff officer Daw Aye Aye Nwe of Agriculture Department explained production of organic vegetables and fruits from the farm.

The farmers observed pollination at Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

MANDALAY, 27 Oct — As the water level of Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township does not subside till today, losses happen in cultivation and environmental conservation, said a local.

Arrival of migratory birds will be late at Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township this year. They may arrive there in the last week of November and leave at the end of March next year, said bird watcher U Zay Maung Thein.

In the previous year, the rain in the last week of October was one of the reasons not to subside the water from the lake. As a result, the migratory birds arrived in the lake in the first week of November. A similar occurrence happened this year, so the birds may arrive there in the first week of November, he said.

Taungthaman Lake is home to about 50 species of domestic birds and migratory birds.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Winners selected for monthly photo contest of Yaw Mingyi Monastery

MANDALAY, 27 Oct — The Upper Myanmar Photographic Society selected the winners in the monthly photo contest 8/2014 of Yaw Mingyi Monastery.

Members of the panel of judges scrutinized the photos and selected the first prize for Aung Aung (Panyanant), second Zaw Min Latt (Revati), third Htet Ko Ko Oo and three consolation prize winners in the novice class.

Tun Tun Aung (Thadda) secured the first prize, Myint Soe (Natmauk) the second, Ko Ko Oo third and three consolation winners in the senior class.

They took photos as entries for the contest at Yaw Mingyi Monastery on 19 October. They submitted 106 works for the novice class and 42 for the senior class.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Indonesia's Jokowi announces Cabinet

JAKARTA, 27 Oct — New Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Sunday announced his Cabinet that includes many professionals and eight women.

"This afternoon, the new Cabinet was set up and we called it the Working Cabinet," the president, popularly known as Jokowi, told a Press conference in announcing the lineup. The former Jakarta governor was sworn in on 20 October as Indonesia's seventh president.

"I did select the ministers carefully and thoroughly, particularly because the Cabinet will work for five years," he added.

In selecting his ministers, Jokowi involved the Corruption Eradication Commission and the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre to guarantee that his ministers are free of corruption.

"Beside their professional expertise, we chose them based on their good operational leadership and

managerial capability," he said.

Jokowi then introduced his ministers one by one, a step never done by his predecessors.

Former navy chief of staff Ret Adm Tedjo Edhy Purdijatno, 62, was named coordinating minister for political, legal and security affairs in the Cabinet, which consists of 34 ministers, including four coordinating ministers.

Sofyan Djalil, 61, and Bambang Permadi Soemantri Brodjonegoro, 48, who served under Jokowi's predecessor Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, were named coordinating minister for the economy and finance minister, respectively.

Economist Destry Damayanti welcomed the two appointments, saying they are familiar with the problems Jokowi is facing, particularly in budgeting, fiscal and monetary issues, so they can immediately "run and work."



Indonesian President Joko Widodo (C) gestures after announcing the names of his ministers on cabinet lineup at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 26 Oct, 2014. Indonesia's new President Joko Widodo unveiled his cabinet on Sunday and the inauguration will be on 27 Oct at the Presidential Palace.—XINHUA

Jokowi named Yohana Susana Yembise, 56, as minister of women's empowerment and child protection.

"She is the first Papuan woman to be installed as professor," Jokowi said

when introducing the professor in syllabus design and material development at Cendrawasih State University in Papua.

According to the president, Yembise has worked extensively for marginal-

ized groups in Papua.

Jokowi also appointed Susi Pudjiastuti to be minister of maritime affairs and fisheries. Susi, 49, is a businesswoman who owns airline company Susi Air.

"She is a hard worker,

who started her business from zero and has made a lot of breakthroughs. She started working by selling fish and I'm sure she will make some breakthrough," Jokowi said.

The president named Dwisuryo Indroyono Soesilo, 59, to be coordinating minister for maritime affairs. He currently serves as director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Puan Maharani, 41, daughter of former President Megawati Sukarnoputri, was named coordinating minister for human development and culture. She is the youngest member of the Cabinet.

More than 50 percent of the Cabinet consists of professionals rather than people from political parties supporting his presidential candidacy.

Kyodo News



Chinese books are on display during a Chinese book fair in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 27 Oct, 2014.

Cambodian students from various Chinese schools flocked to see the fifth Chinese book fair Monday, seeking for books, which are helpful to their studies.

XINHUA

China supports citizens suing government over land compensation

BEIJING, 27 Oct — China's top legislature aims to expand the people's right to sue the government if authorities fail to fulfill contracts signed with citizens over land issues.

Courts will launch administrative proceedings if the government is sued for violating agreements on land and house compensation and commercial operations franchised by the government, according to a draft amendment to the Administrative Procedure Law submitted on Monday to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for a third reading.

Acts of violence including forceful demolition and self-immolation have arisen during land conflicts in recent years.

On 14 October, six were killed during a land clash between a construction company and villagers in Jinning County of south-west China's Kunming City. The municipal government said villagers kidnapped eight construction workers, raided a construction site and fought with workers by throwing self-made explosives into the crowd after disputes over land compensation.

The village head has

been arrested for "taking bribes" and another 16 officials have been removed from their posts or suspended.

The courts should order authorities to follow contracts or give compensation for the breach if they are confirmed to have violated a contract, according to the draft revision.

Even if authorities have legitimate reasons to terminate contracts, they should offer compensation, the draft revision said, without detailing how to determine the amount of compensation.

The draft revision

made it clear that heads of the charged administrations or officials involved in the cases should be present at court for trial. Those who refuse to appear without legitimate reasons or leave the court during the trial without approval may face additional punishment.

Currently most defendants ask their lawyers or other staff to represent them in court. Participants in lawsuits, including government staff, will be fined or detained if they "force" a plaintiff to withdraw the suit through illegal means such as threats or fraud, it said.—Xinhua

Militants blow up primary school in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 27 Oct — Some unknown militants blew up a primary school in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of Khyber Agency on Monday morning, bringing the total number of destroyed schools in the area to 68, local media reported.

Quoting political administration, local Urdu TV channel Dunya reported that the militants destroyed the school by

fixing explosive materials inside the building and later blowing them up with remote controlled device in Akka Khel area of Khyber Agency, a restive tribal area at Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

The school was closed at the time of explosion. No casualty has been reported yet.

The militants fled the scene following the incident.

No group has claimed responsibility for the incident yet. The militancy in the area has taken a toll on kids' education. Thousands of children are out of schools in Khyber agency as militants frequently blow up educational institutions in the area.

Earlier on 8 October, two schools were blown up by insurgents in two separate villages of the agency.—Xinhua



Japan Air Self Defence Force parades during the Air Review at Hyakuri air base, north of Tokyo, Japan, on 26 Oct, 2014. Japan Air Self Defence Force celebrated the 60th anniversary of its foundation.—XINHUA

Brazil's Rousseff re-elected by grateful working-class, country divided

SAO PAULO, 27 Oct — Despite opposition from nearly half of Brazil's voters, leftist President Dilma Rousseff won re-election on Sunday and will have another four years to try to revive growth in a once-booming economy gone stagnant.

The 66-year-old Rousseff, who was a Marxist guerrilla in her youth, overcame growing dissatisfaction with the economy, poor public services and corruption to narrowly clinch a second term for herself and the fourth in a row for her Workers' Party.

After a bitter, unpredictable campaign that pitted poorer Brazilians grateful for government anti-poverty programmes against those exasperated with a stalled economy, Rousseff must now seek to continue flagship social services even as she tweaks economic policies to restore growth.

Speaking to a relieved crowd of supporters on Sunday night in Brasilia, the capital, Rousseff acknowledged the close race and the call for change ex-



Brazil's President and Workers' Party (PT) presidential candidate Dilma Rousseff reacts during news conference after the disclosure of the election results in Brasilia on 26 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

pressed by many voters.

"I know that I am being sent back to the presidency to make the big changes that Brazilian society demands," she said after winning the runoff election with 51.6 percent support.

Her slim, three-point margin over centrist candidate Aécio Neves came largely thanks to gains against inequality and pov-

erty since the Workers' Party first came to power in 2003.

Using the fruits of a commodity-fueled economic boom in the last decade, Brazil's government expanded welfare programs that helped lift more than 40 million people from poverty despite the current economic woes.

The "Brazilian model" has been adopted by cen-

tre-left parties across Latin America and Rousseff's victory, however narrow, is a blow for conservatives in the region.

It also means there will be no dramatic improvement in ties with the United States, hit in recent years by trade disputes and US government spying programs that infuriated Rousseff.

About 40 percent of

Brazil's 200 million people live in households earning less than \$700 a month, and it was their overwhelming support that gave Rousseff victory on Sunday.

Now, she pledges to deepen social benefits while working to revive an economy that fell into recession in the first half of this year.

She has already promised to replace her finance minister, part of a pledge to rethink economic policies that she has so far been known to all but manage herself.

"Such a tight result reduces her capacity to radicalize policies," said Alberto Bernal, a Miami-based economist with Bulltlick Capital Markets. "Pretty much half of the country is against what she has been doing."

So unhappy are investors with Rousseff that Brazil's stock market and its currency both slumped

in recent weeks whenever opinion polls showed her gaining ground in the race. They could take another hit on Monday.

Still, Rousseff and aides consistently shrug off market pessimism as little more than tantrums by speculators. As her camp celebrated victory late on Sunday, longtime foreign policy advisor Marco Aurelio Garcia told reporters that investors should relax and "take tranquilizers."

Rousseff's victory came just a year after massive street protests swept Brazil because many advances of the past decade had stalled. The slowing economy, rising prices and anger over a lack of investment in public services prompted many to ask whether the Workers' Party had exhausted its ability to improve the lives of people in a country still plagued by vast gaps between rich and poor.—Reuters

Parl't discusses amendments to budget review



Serbian parliament

BELGRADE, 27 Oct — The Serbian parliament is considering on Sunday a total of 70 amendments to the bill modifying the 2014 budget law and accompanying laws, and after the close of the debate MPs will vote on the regulations.

The Serbian parliament will vote on the budget review and the proposed decisions on giving consent to the decision amending the 2014 financial plan of the national pension and disability insurance fund, then to the decision on the changes to the 2014 financial plan of the national health insurance fund, and the decision amending the financial plan of the national employment service.

MPs will also vote on the bills introducing temporary cuts to public sector salaries and pensions and the bill modifying the law on the central register of

mandatory social insurance.

Finance Minister Dusan Vujovic said during the debate in principle that the budget revision is being adopted to lay solid foundations for pending reforms.

"This budget review is introducing a key element of future reforms — reductions in government expenditures," Vujovic said.

Near the end of the debate on Friday that took 12 hours, Vujovic said that the government opted for the smallest possible cuts to pensions and public sector salaries. On the other hand, the opposition, including the Democratic Party (DS), the New Party (NS) and the New Democratic Party (NDS), criticized the proposed budget review and made it clear that they will not vote for it, their main objection being the announced reduction in salaries and pensions.—Tanjug

Russia's State Duma respects choice of Ukrainian voters

MOSCOW, 27 Oct — Russia's State Duma, the lower house of parliament, respects the choice of people who took part in the vote at Sunday's elections to Ukraine's unicameral parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, a senior Russian lawmaker said on Monday.

"We respect the choice of those who took part in the voting," Leonid Slutsky, the head of the State Duma committee on CIS affairs, Eurasian integration and ties with compatriots, said.

At the same time, Slutsky said, Moscow "realizes that the elections were not free and democratic because the east and south-east of Ukraine did not take part in the vote or took part by an extremely small percent of the voter list."

"Over a million voters are beyond the country's borders, hostilities in Donbass [Donetsk and Lugansk regions] continue, media freedom is lacking. On each of these parameters, the elections cannot be recognized as democratic," he said.

At the same time, he said, Russia "does not rule out possible cooperation with those deputies of the

Verkhovna Rada who will be set for constructive interaction with Russia in the bilateral format or at international parliamentary sites," Slutsky said.

CIS stands for the Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose association of former Soviet republics.

According to data of the Ukrainian Central Election Commission (CEC) as of 04:00 Moscow Time, with 7.45% of the ballots counted, the Pyotr Poroshenko Bloc led by the

president gained 22.09% and People's Front led by Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk has 21.66%.

More than 34.6 million people in Ukraine have the right to vote. Some 30,000 polling stations were open for voters in the country, and another 112 were open for Ukrainian nationals in 72 other countries.

Kiev's military operation designed to regain control over the breakaway Donetsk and Lugansk regions in Ukraine's south-east, which call themselves

the Donetsk and Lugansk People's republics, has killed thousands of people, brought destruction and forced hundreds of thousands to flee.

The parties to the intra-Ukrainian conflict agreed on a ceasefire during talks mediated by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on 5 September in Belarusian capital Minsk. The ceasefire took effect the same day but has reportedly occasionally been violated.—Itar-Tass

About 40 percent of



Election commission members at a polling station in Kiev on 25 Oct, 2014. ITAR-TASS

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 28 October, 2014

2014 is nearing the end

By Aung Khin

Years seem to rush past fast. Challenges hit us from various directions. Whether sweet or bitter, life is pulling us in to a last breath. We have passed times knowingly or ignorantly. Some people turned a blind eye to a reality, focusing on their selfishness, while some others consider the welfares of others.

We will try not to involve in the situations of previous years again, but the present year is still in our hands, even if it is nearing the end. We

still have chances to grasp the opportunities of present time. It is not too late to avoid bad deeds or to do good.

Every our action has its consequence. Good action reflects fruitful results, while the bad deed may turn into unpleasantness. A good reputation may appear after many good deeds, but a single bad deed can knock down one's reputation. As many actions follow thoughts and thinking, we need to bear righteous thoughts in mind.

This is very important for everyone, whether a certain thought is virtuous or not. We should review our past actions and improve ourselves to better and more humane behaviour.

Evil deeds result in hardships, while good deeds turn into blessings. Doing a good deed can lead many people to more kind acts. Our daily actions should be checked to be able to abstain

from evil deeds. There might be some different norms in deciding good and bad, but the decision or assumption should be not based on one's desire or interest. Judgment should be made on the basis of consideration in which if we don't want to suffer from something, others will also be afraid of feeling it. Therefore, doing good is more important than the numbers of years, which is not within our control.

Write for us

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

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

SMEs are now looking up

H Aung

(from 27-10-2014)

In 1953, Sayar Gyi Dr. Kyaw Htin, as Superintendent of Cottage Industries, was in-charge of Technical Assistance Administration Projects, namely, Mawlamyine Pottery Works, Bamo Pan-boiling Sugar process, Lashio Mongkai Handmade Paper, Maymyo (PyinOoLwin) Mulberry Cultivation and Silkworm Rearing. Foreign expertise brought in from abroad, were, around 1953 technical expertise for silk-wear (exportable) under ECAFE; expertise for textile-wear dyeing and printing for the period from 1954 to 1956; expertise from Japan-lacquer-ware techniques somewhere about that time. New concept could be absorbed by local technicians from these programs.

Around 1957, Cottage Industries Department was dissolved and transferred to Directorate of Industries which continued caring for cottage industries. According to Sayar Gyi (the then Superintendent Director of Industries), in 1959 caretaker regime year and in 2 successive years, there were Industrial Emporium in Bogyoke Market, grandiose industrial exhibitions near Kandaw Gyi Lake. Private Industries numbering only just over 2000 received yearly kyat 2 crore worth of import-licenses for import of raw materials and machineries. The textile manufacturers were given yearly separate kyat 2 crore worth of dyes and chemicals.

Myanmars were in the lowest rung of industrial ladder of that time, most probably for such causes as (1) they had no unity (2) they were not entrepreneurship-minded (3) they had non-confidence in themselves compared with Chinese and Indians who had years-long experience in how to cleverly manage business. Nonetheless, whoever

created business in Myanmar, larger percentage of job opportunities were in hands of Myanmarers. One chronicle of Myanmar industrial history is, in 1958, Rangoon Institute of Technology (R.I.T), Gyogone, (now YTU) was established by Government with assistance of Russia.

Days of Socialist Government

Private industries had no room on Socialist Economic ground. Worse than that, small and self-employed cottage industries got cornered and helpless. Along with political climate change, private-industrial sky overcast. Private industries got downgraded. Issue of industrial import licenses came to end in 1974. Government threw all weights on planned industrial structure, and Cooperative sector became second pillar of Socialist economy. One statistical data for Yangon Division in 1962-63 revealed there were 1615 industries, made up of 127 categories. (Foreigner owned 173 and Myanmar owned 1442) with employment of 41841 workers.

As statistical data is root of a planning, registration of industries was launched country-wise in 1963. Criteria used for classification were (1) mechanized large industry with above 2 lakh kyat capital and above 100 workers; (2) mechanized medium industry below 2 lakh kyat capital and workers between 50 and 100; (3) small industries with mechanical power or not with below 2 lakh-capital, workers under 10. As of 1963 December, registered industries numbered about 21919, 75% of which accounted for small industries with over 100,000 workers. This number did not yet include cottage industries of about 4995 still under registration process. Data collection in 1964-65 expressed over 23000 industries in the country. This data collection was aimed neither for SMEs nor cottage industries in private sector, but only for nationalization of large ones and planning of new projects some of which we are seeing today as toddling factories.

It so seemingly happened that only Ministry of Coop-

eratives cared for small industries within its capacity and cooperative means. In 1972, merging of Industrial Development Corporation and Directorate of Industry was followed by formation of corporations, covering textile, food stuff, metal, ceramic, paper, and chemicals, pharmaceuticals and household materials, general industries one of which became Cottage Industries Corporation. Sayar Gyi Dr. Kyaw Htin was in-charge of this Corporation. In 1974, Ministry of Cooperatives absorbed C I C for resuscitating and helping convalescent small industries have regular production. In 1976, CIC was renamed CID (Cottage Industries Department).

Industrial cooperatives were formed starting with primary societies, in a way of creating new productive forces, in mechanical, electrical, civil, textile, chemical engineering sectors. Township cooperatives are assigned to set up diversified production enterprises, such as edible oil processing, rice mills, ice mill, textile weaving, milk factory, pig breeding, slaughter house, fish breeding, vehicle repairing, agricultural mechanized farming, etc. Cooperatives run these cooperatives as branches of enterprises. But, it turned out only very few of these cooperatives remain sustainable and why it is so should be studied as case studies by SME developers of today. There were also industrial development projects implemented with assistance of UNDP/ILO, for the period from 1982-1984, namely, Small Scale Industries Development in the Cooperative Sector (Bur 78/015) and Development and expansion of Skills for the Cooperative Small Scale Industries Workers (Bur 85/007); Cooperative Small Scale Industries Promotion Project implemented with German aid. Through these projects not only cooperative industries, but also entrepreneurs from private sector gained knowledge of metal fabrication and wood-based products, operating machineries and hand tools.

(See page 9)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that yours is the only daily newspaper published in English, at present. When it first came out I was one of those who rushed to get hold of one but unfortunately, I failed as all the copies at the road side vender where I used to patronize were sold out. My endeavors to get a copy in the following few days met with the same fate.

After about a week or so, I finally could lay my hands on the coveted daily and was overjoyed. However, my joy turned to disappointment when I flipped through the pages. The standard of English used in writing the local or the domestic news are not up to par with the dailies of our neighbouring countries. The vast difference in the quality of English writing between the domestic news reports and the international ones in the same paper were quite glaring, indicating the need for improvement on the parts of our reporters.

I would like to point out to you that most of my acquaintances who had rushed along with me to buy

your newspaper, early on, had stopped buying it, citing the low quality of writing and lack of class or prestige. You are losing readership even at this early stage.

As the only English language paper, it represents the image of our country on the international scene. Though it may be in circulation only at home there are many foreigners in the country nowadays, who might be regularly reading it. Thus, great care should be taken to avoid becoming a laughing stock among the international community by publishing a sub-standard newspaper.

What I would like to suggest to the editorial staff is to scrutinize the reports sent in by your staff reporters and also the articles and essays contributed by the freelance writers. Most of the articles, perspectives, opinions and essays I had read so far lacks substance and style. I also noticed that most of them were written with Myanmar sense, meaning the author thought out what he wanted to write in Myanmar and then translate into English. This is the tendency of the non-native speakers of English. This sort of writing led to the use of unnecessary words, for instance "enjoy the fun" should be "have fun" and in another instance the word "vocabularies"

alone would be sufficient, but the author wrote "vocabulary words", which a native speaker would never do. That same person wrote "you is" in one of his article. I tried to be optimistic, so I just shrugged off that usage as a printing error. However, my conscience and my training would not accept that reasoning. It must definitely be a grammatical error on the part of the author, and what a grave error at that, which is unthinkable coming from a person with such credentials. Another freelance writer, a regular contributor of yours, wrote "countries on the world", indicating his ignorance of the use of prepositions. The word "of" should be used in place of "on". These are just a few examples and there are many more such blunders. However, to save space I will leave that issue here.

I do not mean to offend anyone with my comments, but my sincere desire is to see your newspaper to gain prestige and respectability and increase the readership.

Khin Maung Myint
Retired Deputy General Manager (Admin)
Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

ARTICLE

SMEs are now . . .

(from page 8)

State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) period

As a way of recognizing the small industries and mini-scale industries out of national plan, Cottage Industries Promotion Law was promulgated in 1991 and CID was assigned to undertake the promotion of these industries practicing the law. The majorities are sparsely located in wards and sub-urban areas of Yangon and Mandalay and some are in local towns. Despite being promotion oriented, only narrow scope of functions could be accomplished due to inadequate support to small industries. As regards the registration purpose, industries can apply for it voluntarily. Relaxation like this is made lest the industries in impoverished economic conditions should be overburdened with compulsory registration. CID provided courses on processing of preserved fruits, food and household uses, furniture making, sheet metal works, etc. at times of their needs. However, this activity could enhance working knowledge of industries at grass root level. Detailed activities are not mentioned here for fear that this article will be too lengthy and boring for the reader.

In 1995, MIDC (Myanmar Industrial Development Committee) with Working Committee and 9 subcommittees exerted its all-out effort for industrial development including SMEs. One epoch-making pillar could be built by establishing Industrial Zones in major cities and towns. Another mile stone was establishment of MIDB (Myanmar Industrial Development Bank). These became actually invaluable assets of present day's Government for taking further forward looking steps for SME sector.

Under aegis of Ministry of Cooperatives, in partnership with its sister department, Cooperative Department, contemporary relevant organizations, CID could hold or participate in SME related workshops, exhibitions and seminars during this period, as follows-

- North-Okkalapa Cottage Industries Industrial Show and Seminars, (CID HQ, 1990)
- Yangon Division, Industrial Exhibition on Local products (Yangon, 1991)
- Industrialists Technical Meetings and Products Show (CID, HQ, 1992)
- Cooperative Industrial Exhibition (Tatmadaw Hall, 1993)
- Packaging Show (Tatmadaw Hall, 1993)
- Myanmar Traditional Folk-art Exhibition (Tatmadaw Hall, 1992)
- Seminar on Import Substitution Products (Ministry of Cooperatives, 1995)
- Seminars on lacquer-ware, recycling of cotton-wastes, Kyaukar lacquer-ware, weaving, in Bagan, Pakokku, Monywa, Amarapura (from 1995 to 1996)
- Myanmar Handicraft Show and Business Talks (Trader Hotel in Yangon and Sedona in Mandalay (2001)

- International Lacquer-ware Seminar (National Museum Yangon, 1996)
- Cottage Industries Products Show and Seminar (CID HQ, 1997)
- Lacquer-ware Festival, (Bagan, 2002)
- Cottage Industries Import Substitution Products Exhibition and Seminar (CID HQ, 2004)

Packaging Show held in collaboration with J.K Gold Co. Ltd, Singapore, in Tatmadaw Hall from 9th to 14th of November could open the door to packaging technology for local industries. Today's luminaries in Myanmar Business Circle must admit this packaging show introduced them with how their products can be transformed into more durable, fascinating, and value-added items with use of efficient packaging machines, sealing machines and material.

One other memorable show is Myanmar Handicraft Exhibition and Business Talks, held in partnership with JETRO, Ministry of Commerce and UMFCI, in 2001. It was arranged from 27-11-2001 to 31-11-2001, in Yangon and Mandalay to showcase exquisite Myanmar crafts and to hold talks between Japan buyer mission and local businessmen. 38 businessmen from Yangon and 20 from Mandalay joined the show and talks putting a total of over 2000 items on show. One prominent activity of CID for industrial development was that it took part in Upper Myanmar (Mandalay) and Lower Myanmar (Bago) Industrial Exhibition in 1996, conducted under guidance of MIDC, and undertook technical paper reading session organizing technical resource persons pertinent to the subject matter at Seminars on Myanmar Industrial Development from October, 2002 to January, 2003.

Present era (2011 - up to present)

CID (now Small Scale Industries Department) under guidance of Ministry of Cooperatives is carrying on with its service to its utmost, for promotion of Cottage and Small Industries from private sector whose products are fulfilling the daily basic needs of commoners. It could make amendment of Cottage Industries Promotion law with permission of Government. Although it is not within its capacity to provide "hard-ware assistance, like raw materials, equipment, finance, it could fulfill its duty by providing "soft-ware" assistance like technical skill upgrading courses, production process courses, nurturing handcraft human resources through regular classroom education, analysis services for quality food items, technical services and consultancy works in fabrication of machinery parts for manufacturing of soap, tooth-paste, animal feed, natural fertilizer, edible oil, rice etc. from private and cooperative sector. SSID has over 14000 cottage industries registered with it, nearly 70% of which is from Yangon and Mandalay. Other than these, Cooperative sector provided micro-financing to village-dwellers for start-up or investment in income generating enterprises through UNDP funded Microfinance Project started in

1997. As this program is benefitting over 600,000 members, the reader can guess amazing measure of job opportunities for rural people.

However, SMEs are now laced with better advantages, having better opportunities and brighter future compared with SMEs in the past which did not get favored by enabling environment. They have Central Committee for Development of SMEs, led by President as Chairman; working committee for Development of SMEs led by Vice President (2) as chairman, with agencies under it at National, Regional and local level. This committee concentrates its attention mainly on SME development activities in terms of financing, technology upgrading and human resource development. SMIDB has opened branch offices across the country offering financial access to industries of eligibility. Industries can borrow loans at reasonable rate from SMIDB. And it is also learnt the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank Group's private sector arm has agreed to provide Yoma Bank Ltd with a \$ 5 million loan help finance capital-starved SMEs. President, in his talks with US-ASEAN Business Council, expressed the need of cooperation for SMEs and human resource development. Vice President also highlighted the fact, at the meeting of Work Committee for Development of SMEs on 30 August, that SMEs are key to economic boost and more jobs, stressing the need to enhance entrepreneurial skills through a strong and complete policy that will guarantee the continuous growth of enterprises. He expressed the need of technical assistance and cooperation from development partners and international organizations, **pledging government's full support** for smooth operation of SMEs. SME Bill is now being prepared for submitting to Pyihdaungsu Hluttaw and will appear very soon. As intellectuals from local Departments and organizations concerned in consultation with international partners, are participating in drafting the bill, taking sufficient length of time, thoroughly digesting the lessons learnt, replicating the best practices from other countries, it is certain the bill will serve, as reliable regulatory tool, for SME sector not leaving aside cottage industries. If SMEs are metaphorically named "economic engine", cottage industries should be named "injection pump of it."

It is our high hope SMEs gaining all round support under stronger leadership of SME-centered-committees, will be able to demonstrate phenomenal growth sooner or later.

The author of this article got B.E (Mechanical) from R.I.T, Gyogone, in 1974. Starting 1980, he served Cottage Industries Department, Ministry of Cooperatives, as Assistant Engineer. After working for almost 30 years, in 2010, he retired from CID (now Small Scale Industries Department) as Deputy Director General, and now he is working for Pact Global Micro finance Fund as an adviser.

MPC organizes Conflict Transformation workshop



Workshop on Conflict Transformation for Civil Servants focuses on ways how to make peace in the nation.

DAWEI, 27 Oct—The Workshop on Conflict Transformation for the Civil Servants, jointly organized by Myanmar Peace Center (MPC) and Center for Peace and Con-

flict Studies (CPCS-Cambodia), kicked off at Diamond Crown Hotel in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on Monday.

Region Minister for Security and Border Af-

fairs Col Zaw Lwin made an opening address. On behalf of the director of CPCS-Cambodia, Swela Velpillay of Peace Process Program Coordinator explained purpose of con-

ducting the workshop.

Departmental officials of Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung districts participated in the workshop up to 1 November.—*Taninthayi Region IPRD*

Sitagu International Meditation Centre under construction on Sagaing Hill

SAGAING, 27 Oct — Under the auspices of Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Dr Ashin Nyanissara, the Sitagu International Meditation Centre is under construction at the foot of Padamya Hill between Umin Thonhse Pagoda and Taungphila Pagoda in Thawtapan Village-tract on Sagaing Hill since 2010.

The building is located on 70.26 acres of land. So far, Sitagu Dipakara Pagoda, Shwezigon Pagoda, the building for meditation abbot, the building for assistance abbot, Vipassana Beikman for 300-person-cap-

acity meditation centre, 100 small chambers for men's devotees, 100 small chambers for women's devotees, office, two 5,000 gallon water tanks, mess halls and kitchens have been completed at the place.

Upon completion of all buildings, the Sitagu Sayadaw will lead the discourses of meditation to the devotees. Dr Ashin Nyanissara established the Sitagu International Meditation Centre in 1996 on Sagaing Hill and Sitagu Buddhist Academy (Mandalay) in 2009.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

No direct combat for Iraqi Kurds in Kobani, ISIS loses ground in Iraq

ARBIL / BAGHDAD, 27 Oct — Iraqi Kurdish forces will not engage in ground fighting in the Syrian town of Kobani but provide artillery support for fellow Kurds fending off Islamic State militants there, a Kurdish spokesman said on Sunday.

Islamic State fighters have been trying to capture Kobani for over a month, pressing on despite US-led air strikes on their positions and the deaths of hundreds of their fighters.

The Kurds prepared to help their comrades in Syria as Iraqi government forces and Shi'ite militias advanced against the al-Qaeda offshoot that wants to redraw the map of the Middle East.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors violence in Syria's three-and-a-half-year-old conflict, said on Sunday it had con-



Smoke rises over Syrian town of Kobani, as seen from the Mursitpinar crossing on the Turkish-Syrian border, on 26 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

firmed that 815 people had been killed in the fighting for Kobani over the last 40 days — more than half of them Islamic State fighters.

The Kurdish region's parliament voted last week to deploy some of its pesh-

merga forces, which have been fighting their own battle against Islamic State in northern Iraq, to Syria.

"Primarily, it will be a back-up support with artillery and other weapons," Kurdistan Regional Gov-

ernment (KRG) spokesman Safeen Dizayee told *Reuters*. "It will not be combat troops as such, at this point anyway."

Islamic State militants shelled Kobani's border post with Turkey over-

night but were repulsed by Kurdish fighters, Kurdish officials and a monitoring group said on Sunday.

"Of course they will try again tonight," said Idris Nassan, a local Kurdish official. "Last night they brought new reinforcements, new supplies, and they are pushing hard."

Iraqi security forces backed by Shi'ite militias gained some momentum at the weekend in their bid to loosen the grip of Islamic State, which controls large swathes of territory in the north and west of the major OPEC oil producer.

Iraqi government forces backed by Shi'ite militias retook four villages on Sunday near the Himreen mountains overlooking Islamic State supply lines some 100 km (60 miles) south of the oil city of Kirkuk, security officials said.

They also drove Is-

lamic State militants out of Jurf al-Sakhar, just south of Baghdad, while Kurdish fighters regained control over the town of Zumar in the north.

Sunni insurgents have been moving fighters, weapons and supplies from western Iraq through secret desert tunnels to Jurf al-Sakhar, Iraqi officials have said. Now it appears government forces may be able to disrupt that network.

Roadside bombs and booby-trapped houses hampered their progress near the Himreen mountains, security officials. "We have decided to make slow advances."

We hold the ground, set up watch towers, clear the explosives and build sand barriers to prevent the armed men from returning," army major Ahmed Nu'aman told *Reuters* by telephone.

Reuters

More heavy fighting in Libya's Benghazi, death toll rises to 130



A view of the damaged home of a member of Ansar al-Sharia, after it was destroyed by armed groups loyal to former general Khalifa Haftar, in Benghazi on 26 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

BENGHAZI, 27 Oct — Heavy fighting flared on Sunday between Libya's army and Islamist militias apparently trying to retake one of their largest camps in the eastern city of Benghazi, military officials said.

At least 130 people have been killed in the past 10 days during street fighting in Libya's second-largest city — part of a wider picture of chaos gripping the major oil producer three years after the downfall and death of Muammar Gaddafi.

The nascent army, backed by forces of a former general and armed youths, launched earlier this month an offensive against Islamists in Benghazi, expelling them from the airport area and the 17 February camp, one of their strongholds in the port city.

But fresh fighting between the army and Ansar al-Sharia — blamed by Washington on a 2012 attack on the US consulate that killed the American ambassador — erupted at the university campus and other areas next to the camp. A fire broke out in the university's main building, a security source said.

Army units also battled Islamists in other parts of the city, residents said. Families were seen packing up and fleeing, a familiar sight in Benghazi which has been a battlefield since former general Khalifa Haftar declared war on Islamists in May. He has allied himself with the army.

The struggle is part of a wider conflict in the north African state where former rebels use their guns to fight

for power and a share of the country's oil revenues.

Libya is divided between rival tribes and political factions with two governments vying for legitimacy since an armed group from the western city of Misrata seized Tripoli in August, forcing the internationally-recognized Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni to move to the east.

Western powers and Libya's neighbours fear the conflict is dragging the major oil producer towards civil war.

The situation in Benghazi and other parts of Libya has been fluid as the army is unable to control militias which often have better arms. Haftar's forces have planes from Libya's outdated air force though his opponents say he is backed by Egypt, which is worried about the spread of militants. Haftar denies this. Most foreign embassies withdrew their staff in the summer when the Misrata-led forces expelled a rival group from Tripoli. — *Reuters*

Second British man in days charged with preparing terrorism acts

LONDON, 27 Oct — A British man has become the second in three days to be charged with preparing acts of terrorism and will appear at a London court on Monday, police said.

Britain raised its international threat level to the second-highest classification of "severe" in August and police chiefs say counter-terrorism operations are running at an exceptionally high pace not seen in years. Mustakim Jaman, 23, from Portsmouth, southeast England, was charged on Sunday and is due at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Monday, Thames Valley Police said in a statement. On Friday 26-year-old Tuhin Shahensha, also from Portsmouth, was charged with the same offense. The court heard he had intended to travel to Syria and fight in the country's civil war. Both men were arrested by the South East Counter Terrorism Unit in a series of raids earlier this month. — *Reuters*

At least 17 killed in suspected Boko Haram attack in Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, 27 Oct — Suspected Boko Haram militants have killed at least 17 people and abducted dozens in a series of attacks in the central region of Nigeria's northeast Borno State, the head of a local administration said on Sunday.

The killings happened on Thursday and mark the latest in a number of assaults by suspected Boko Haram insurgents despite the announcement of a ceasefire by the Nigeria government and ongoing negotiations with the group in neighbouring Chad.

"Seventeen persons were killed by the assailants after last Thursday's attack on Ndongo community," Alhaji Shettima Maina, head of the local government in Mafa district, told journalists. "We buried the remains of the victims in Mafa on Friday." Chadian and Nigerian officials have attributed the attacks to dissident factions within the group and bandits posing as Boko Haram respectively.

Officials of both governments say they are confident of reaching an

agreement with the militant Islamists which could end the conflict in Nigeria's restive northeast and free over 200 Nigerian schoolgirls who were kidnapped in April. But the continued killings and abductions have cast doubts over the ceasefire. Maina said about 30 youths had been abducted over the last couple of days.

"Once they invade a community, they abduct all boys aged 13 years and above and take them to their base," Maina said. "The insurgents also abduct all girls aged 11 years and above."

Mafa resident Malam Ashiekh Mustapha confirmed the killings to journalists. He said the insurgents had also carted away about 300 cows. The Nigerian insurgent group, which has fought a bloody five-year revolt mostly in the northeast, has said it wants to carve out an Islamist enclave in the religiously-mixed nation, Africa's top oil producer and biggest economy.

The group has also carried out attacks in northern Cameroon and Niger. Fears

that it could destabilize the region have prompted the leaders of Chad, Nigeria, Benin, Niger and Cameroon to set up a multinational force to tackle the insurgents.

Cameroon's defence ministry spokesman said separately in a statement on Sunday that Cameroon troops had killed 39 Boko Haram militants during three different incidents on Friday in the far north region near the border with Nigeria.

Lieutenant-Colonel Didier Badjeck said about 30 Boko Haram insurgents attacked Glawi village during one incursion, killing four Nigerian refugees and wounding a Cameroonian.

"Our defence forces chased them to the border, killing 12 members of the group and destroying some important military equipment," Badjeck said.

He added that another heavily armed column tried to enter Cameroon through Amchide and Kolofata, but were intercepted, with 27 attackers killed and several vehicles with heavy machine guns destroyed. — *Reuters*

Thousands of Hungarians protest against tax on Internet traffic

BUDAPEST, 27 Oct — Thousands of Hungarians protested in Budapest on Sunday against a planned new tax on Internet data transfers, which they said would not only increase the tax burden but would also curb fundamental democratic rights and freedoms.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government, which has been widely accused of adopting anti-democratic policies, first unveiled plans for the new tax late on Tuesday in the draft 2015 tax bill submitted to parliament.

The draft tax bill contains a provision for Internet providers to pay a tax of 150 forints (0.38 pounds) per gigabyte of data traffic, though it would also let companies offset corporate income tax against the new levy.

The rally on Sunday was organized by a Face-

book group which has over 210,000 supporters. The protesters, which some local websites estimated as numbering over 10,000, gathered in front of the Economy Ministry.

"The move... follows a wave of alarming anti-democratic measures by Orban that is pushing Hungary even further adrift from Europe," the organizers of "100,000 against the Internet tax" said in a press release.

"The measure would impede equal access to the Internet, deepening the digital divide between Hungary's lower economic groups, and limiting Internet access for cash-poor schools and universities," they added.

At one point, protesters held up their mobile phones, lighting up the square in front of the ministry. Then they walked to the city's



People hold up their mobile phones as they protest against a new tax on Internet data transfers in the centre of Budapest on 26 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

historic Heroes Square. Some of them also went to the nearby headquarters of the ruling Fidesz party and threw outdated computer parts at the building, breaking some windows, local

Internet website Index.hu reported.

The organizers gave the government 48 hours to withdraw the tax legislation and said there would be a fresh protest on Tuesday if

this does not happen.

Fidesz said in a statement on Sunday that on Monday it would submit an amendment to the legislation in parliament, which would set a maximum level on the tax payable by individuals. It said monthly payments would be capped at 700 forints, and Internet providers would pay the tax.

But some protesters said the new tax was an epitome of the government's mistaken economic policies.

"This would be a double tax on us, as I have already paid a sky-high VAT when I bought the gadgets, computer and router," said Attila Sos, 43, who came to the protest with his family.

"This is a good occasion for a lot of people to come here to show that they are discontent with the government's tax and economic

policies. This was only the icing on the cake."

"The Internet connects people and it should not be limited," said Krisztina Nagy, 21, who wants to be a Web programmer, and fears that companies would push the costs of the new tax onto customers.

Orban's government has in recent years imposed special taxes on the banking, retail and energy sectors as well as on telecommunications providers to keep the budget deficit in check, jeopardising profits in some sectors of the economy and unnerving international investors.

At the same time, it has cut personal income taxes. The Association of IT, Telecommunications and Electronics Companies has said the tax would force them to raise prices.—Reuters

Canon third-quarter profit slides by a fifth as demand for cameras tumbles

TOKYO, 27 Oct — Japan's Canon Inc reported a 21 percent drop in operating profit for the July to September quarter as a slump in the global digital camera market outweighed a boost from a weaker yen.

The consumer shift to smartphones for casual photo taking has pummelled demand for compact cameras, while the growing popularity of lighter mirrorless cameras has taken away market share from higher margin single-lens reflex cameras.

Operating profit came in at 71.8 billion yen (\$665 million), down from 90.6

billion yen for the same period a year ago and not far off figures flagged by the Nikkei business daily earlier this month. Revenue fell 4.5 percent to 872.2 billion yen.

But bolstered by sales of printers and other office equipment, the export-reliant company lifted its full-year operating profit forecast for the year ending 31 December to 370 billion yen, up from a prior prediction of 365 billion yen. The new forecast would mark an 9.7 percent increase on the year. Canon's shares closed up 0.8 percent on Monday ahead of results.—Reuters

Historical relics unearthed in C China's Henan



Photo taken on 17 March, 2014 shows an archaeologist working at a tomb in Jiaozuo City, central China's Henan Province. China's central province Henan, an important location of the Shang and Zhou Dynasty in ancient China, has a lot of historical relics, which need to be unearthed, protected and relocated from the middle route of the south-to-north water diversion project started since 2003.—XINHUA

MAXICO, 27 Oct — A Space Exploration Technologies Dragon cargo ship ended a monthlong stay at the International Space Station on Saturday and splashed down on schedule in the Pacific Ocean near Mexico.

Reid Wiseman and Barry Wilmore, astronauts with US space agency NASA, used the station's robotic crane to release the capsule, built and operated by California-based SpaceX, as the company is known, at 9:57 am EDT (1357 GMT) as the two vehicles soared 260 miles (418 km) over the northwest coast of Australia.

"Dragon is free," mission commentator Rob Navias said during a live broadcast on NASA TV.

The capsule made a parachute descent into the Pacific Ocean, splashing down at 3:38 pm EDT (1938 GMT) west of Mexico's Baja California.

The capsule returns with about 3,800 pounds (1,724 kg) of science experiments and equipment no longer needed aboard the station.

It blasted off aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on 21 September with more than 5,000 pounds (2,268



With the Earth in the background, the SpaceX Dragon commercial cargo craft is seen as it is grappled by the International Space Station's Canadarm2 robotic arm in this photo provided by NASA and taken on 25 May, 2012.—REUTERS

kg) of food, supplies, experiments and equipment, including a prototype 3D printer and 20 live mice that will be used in medical experiments to assess bone and muscle loss during long-duration space flights.

Dragon also delivered a \$26 million NASA science instrument called RapidScat that was attached to the outside of the station to measure

wind speeds over the oceans.

The mission is the fourth of 12 under SpaceX's \$1.6 billion contract with NASA for station cargo runs. The company is one of two recently selected by NASA to also develop capsules to fly astronauts to and from the station, a \$100 billion research laboratory owned and operated by a partnership of 15 na-

tions.

SpaceX's next resupply mission to the station is targeted for 9 December. On Monday, NASA's second station cargo shipper, Orbital Sciences Corp, is slated to launch its Antares rocket and Cygnus freighter from the Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. Launch is scheduled for 6:45 pm EDT/2245 GMT.

Reuters

Washington state rampage baffles Native American community

MARYSVILLE, 27 Oct — Members of a tight-knit Native American community in Washington state were struggling on Sunday to comprehend how a life-long friendship among cousins ended with one of them gunning down the other two, along with three friends, in a high school cafeteria.

The shooter and one girl, identified by a family friend as Zoe Galasso, were killed, while the other freshmen students were gravely wounded in the Friday morning shooting at Marysville-Pilchuck High School, an hour's drive north of Seattle.

Another victim, 14-year-old Gia Soriano, died on Sunday evening, an area hospital said.

"We are devastated by this senseless tragedy. Gia is our beautiful daughter and words cannot express how much we will miss her," Soriano's family said in a brief statement.

The rampage, the latest in a string of violent incidents that have prompted national debate about school safety and gun control, sent shock waves through the Tulalip Tribes, a Native American organization that operates two casinos and an outlet mall, and beyond to Marysville, a town of about 63,000.

On Sunday afternoon,

hundreds of students and their families packed a campus gym for speeches by school and area leaders in a mood marked by somber reflection, nagging questions, and a desire for solidarity between the neighbouring but interwoven communities.

"Our community has taken a real hard kick in the belly," said Tony Hatch, a relative of one of the victims. "Our kids have all grown up together. Our communities are building that bond together. We're really damaged right now."

After he spoke, the crowd stood in unison as some two dozen tribal members, one beating a hand-held drum, sang a traditional honour song for the victims.

While police have not officially identified the gunman or discussed possible motives, family members told *Reuters* 14-year-old Jaylen Fryberg was the shooter, and the two male victims were his cousins, Nate Hatch, 14, and Andrew Fryberg, 15.

Hatch, in serious condition with a gunshot to the jaw, improved on Sunday, while Andrew Fryberg was in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the head, hospital officials said.

Female victim Shaylee Chucklusk, 14, remained in critical condition



A makeshift memorial is seen outside Marysville-Pilchuck High School the day after a school shooting in Marysville, Washington on 25 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

at a different hospital, officials said. The shooter carried a .40 caliber handgun which he used to kill himself, police said.

Family and tribal members recalled that the boys, especially Jaylen Fryberg and Hatch, seemed like best friends, growing up doors away from each other near Marysville.

They rode four-wheelers along back roads near the Puget Sound just months ago, played video games after school, went to the movies and played basketball and football together, family members said.

The boys also were

often together with the victims, attending the ceremonial First Salmon festival in June and, on the Saturday before the shooting, Jaylen Fryberg and all the victims went to a high school dance together.

Formally attired, they went out for dinner and posed for photos near the swimming pool at a tribe casino, said Don Hatch, Nate's grandfather.

"You would think there was some animosity that caused it, but they were the best of friends, they were like brothers," he told *Reuters*. "All of us wonder why, but we are trying to pray

together and heal and forge on."

Details about the shooting are still emerging, including the heroics of Megan Silberberger, a young, first-year social studies teacher named.

According to a statement provided by her union, Silberberger said she rushed into the cafeteria when she heard gunfire and "confronted the shooter" and "did everything possible to protect students" until on-campus security arrived.

The school will be closed on Monday.

"For our generation, we couldn't have even fath-

omed something like this," said Marysville resident Frank Ripley, standing near a makeshift memorial of flowers and notes near the school. "For some of these kids, they've now heard about it so many times ... they almost in a way are desensitized to it."

Jaylen Fryberg, from a prominent Tulalip Indian Reservation family, was described by classmates and parents as a popular member of the football team who was also homecoming prince.

"Jaylen was always outgoing, an athlete," Brandon Hatch, a 26-year-old cousin, said, adding that there was no indication of trouble between the cousins before the incident. "He was a funny guy at times, too, a joker."

Others saw some troubling signs. Classmates and parents said Jaylen Fryberg had recently been in a fight with another high school football player over a disparaging remark made during practice.

And Jaylen Fryberg himself hinted on social media at a disappointment of some sort, with messages suggesting heartbreak and anger. "There is a disconnect," said Jay Napeahi, executive director of Tulalip Housing. "We're trying to make sense of it."—*Reuters*

Air Serbia marks its first anniversary



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic (C)

BELGRADE, 27 Oct — The national airline Air Serbia marked on Saturday evening one year since its foundation, and now it flies to over 39 destinations from the home airport Nikola Tesla, offering passenger and freight transport services.

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic congratulated the Air Serbia workforce in his own name and on behalf of the Serbian government at the celebration in

the Belgrade City Hall.

"You represent Serbia in the best possible way and in just a year you managed to turn a near bankrupt company into a firm that we take pride in," Vucic said.

In August 2013, Etihad Airways and the Serbian government signed a strategic partnership agreement on the formation of a new national airline as the successor of the public enterprise Jat Airways.

Vucic said that he also sees the progress that Air Serbia made in the fact that Belgrade Airport is today two-three times more expensive than it was just a year ago, and that world companies are competing to win a concession for it.

Air Serbia CEO Dane Kondic said that Serbia's national air carrier is on the right track to become a profitable company by the end of the year.

"The business results for the third quarter are truly impressive. In August, we had record results so far," Kondic said.

This is a special day as it also marks 87 years since the foundation of the JAT airline, he said.

Kondic noted that Air Serbia now flies to 39 destinations in 29 countries, and that there are 20 additional destinations in the Middle East, Asia and Australia that

are realized with partners.

With the latest delivery of Airbus A319 in September, the first phase of the fleet upgrade was completed, and the provision of airplanes will be continued in 2018 when the delivery of the new Airbus generation, A320neo, is set to begin, Kondic said.

Sinisa Mali, the chairman of the Air Serbia supervisory board and Belgrade mayor, said that in just a year the company turned into one of the largest in Europe.

"We will achieve the objective that the Serbian government set for us," Mali said, adding that this is an example of the most successful consolidation in the history of the European air industry.

The first Air Serbia plane set off for Abu Dhabi on 26 October, marking the official beginning of the company's work.—*Tanjug*

Iwakuni election unlikely to affect transfer of US aircraft to base

YAMAGUCHI, 27 Oct — Opponents of the planned transfer of carrier-based aircraft to the US Iwakuni base remained a minority in Sunday's assembly election in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

Of the 32 people elected, only 10 have explicitly expressed opposition, meaning a majority of the assembly is expected to support Iwakuni Mayor Yoshihiko Fukuda's policy of accepting the central government's plan for the transfer and other measures leading to the enhancement of the base.

There was little debate over the issue during the campaign. Voter turn-

out was 57.4 percent, 5.9 percentage points down from the previous election four years ago.

Under the plan, 59 carrier-based aircraft will be moved to Iwakuni from the US Navy's Atsugi base in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo around 2017.

Separately, 15 US military KC-130 air refueling tankers were transferred to the Iwakuni base this summer from Okinawa Prefecture.

Located around 300 kilometres from South Korea's Busan, the Iwakuni base is considered strategically important given the nuclear and missile threats from North Korea.

Kyodo News

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From Dr. Eiichi Hirai and the staff at the Hirai Dental Clinic, Ibaraki, Japan.

Dr. Masao Horie and the staff at the Horie Dental Clinic, Saitama, Japan.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (374N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (374N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2014 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

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

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING CO LTD.**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1023)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1023) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2014 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (019N)

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims 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
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Vietnam to reduce import of electricity from China in 2015

HANOI, 27 Oct — Vietnam's electricity imports from China will continue to be reduced in 2015 with new power supply in northern Vietnam, said a Vietnamese official on Monday.

Ngo Son Hai, director of National Load Dispatch Centre under Vietnam's national electricity group, made the announcement during an interview with local Bao Dau Tu (Vietnam Investment Review), an online newspaper un-

der Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment.

Hai said in 2015, many coal-fired thermal power plants in Vietnam will come into operation including those in northern localities of Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, as well as central Thanh Hoa and Ha Tinh provinces, bringing large power output to meet the country's demand.

Currently, Vietnam's electricity imports from China are implemented through two voltages in-

cluding 220kV via northern Lao Cai and Ha Giang provinces and 110kV via Lao Cai, Ha Giang and Quang Ninh.

Vietnam started buying electricity from China in October 2005 at a price of 4.5 US cents per kWh, said the official.

Due to changes in foreign exchange rates between Vietnamese and Chinese currencies, price of electricity imported from China to Vietnam was adjusted to 5.1 US cents per

kWh in 2009 and 6.08 US cents per kWh in 2012, Hai told Bao Dau Tu.

China-originated electricity is joining Vietnam's national power grid to supply for 13 northern localities.

Hai quoted a report on operation of electricity market in Vietnam in 2014 as saying that in the third quarter this year, electricity imported from China did not exceed 1.5 percent of total domestic consumption.—Xinhua



FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 28th October, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, isolated in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Brad Pitt didn't fly until 25



Brad Pitt

LONDON, 27 Oct — Superstar Brad Pitt has revealed that he had never been on a plane until he was 25.

The 50-year-old actor — who raises children Maddox, 13, Pax, 10, Zahara, nine, Shiloh, eight and twins Knox and Vivienne, six, with wife Angelina Jolie — is keen for his kids to get an education by seeing as much of the world as possible while he and his spouse are working,

reported Contactmusic.

“Travel is the best education there is. I had never been on a plane until I was 24 or 25 so when I started to travel abroad, whether it was to Netherlands or Tokyo or Belgium, it was all such an experience.

“Angie and I travel a lot for work and that’s great but you’re always on a schedule. So — especially with the kids — we always try to carve out days where we aren’t working where we experience more of the culture of the country,” he said.

PTI

Stefanie Sun holds last concert of 2014 Asian Tour



Singapore singer Stefanie Sun held concert in Fu Zhou, China as the end of 2014 Asian tour “Kepler” on 25 Oct, 2014. XINHUA

Meg Ryan to star in comedy ‘Fan Girl’



LOS ANGELES, 27 Oct — Actress Meg Ryan has joined the starcast of indie high-school comedy ‘Fan Girl’.

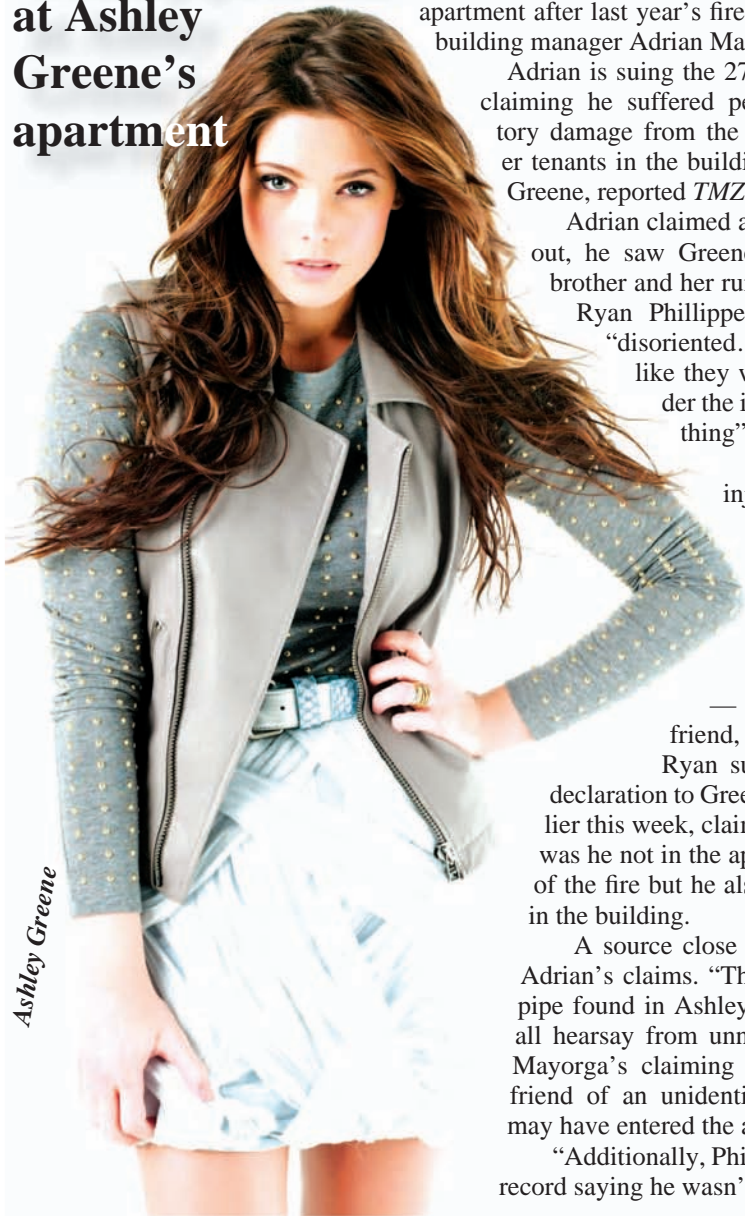
The film centres on a post-millennial 15-year-old (Kiernan Shipka) whose two obsessions are making movies and the real-life alternative rock band All Time Low.

She gets a chance to see the band live and film the concert for a class project, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Kara Hayward, the female lead in ‘Moonrise Kingdom’, features her as smart-mouthed best friend, with Ryan, 52, Scott Adsit (‘30 Rock’), Bill Sage (‘The Boy’) and newcomer Joshua Boone rounding out the cast.

Reuters

Crack pipe found at Ashley Greene’s apartment



Ashley Greene

LOS ANGELES, 27 Oct — A crack pipe was found at ‘Twilight’ actress Ashley Greene’s apartment after last year’s fire, according to her building manager Adrian Mayorga.

Adrian is suing the 27-year-old actress, claiming he suffered permanent respiratory damage from the fire. Several other tenants in the building are also suing Greene, reported *TMZ* online.

Adrian claimed after the fire broke out, he saw Greene along with her brother and her rumoured boyfriend Ryan Phillippe appeared to be “disoriented... they looked like they were drunk or under the influence of something” in the hallway.

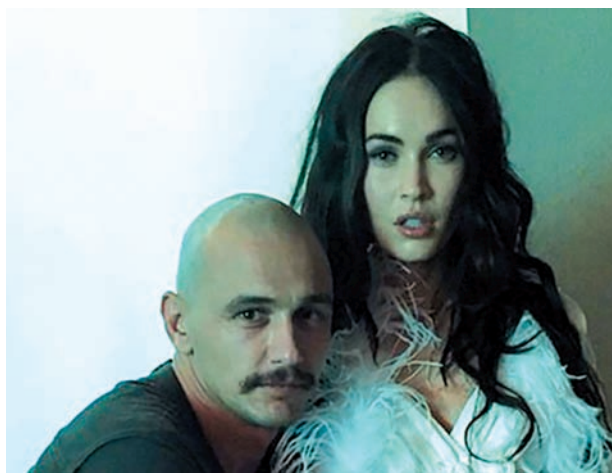
Despite his own injuries, Adrian said, “The only people I saw getting treated was Ashley Greene, her brother Joe Green, and her — the current boyfriend, Ryan Phillippe.”

Ryan submitted a sworn declaration to Greene’s attorney earlier this week, claiming that not only was he not in the apartment the night of the fire but he also has never been in the building.

A source close to Greene denied Adrian’s claims. “There was no crack pipe found in Ashley’s apartment. It’s all hearsay from unnamed sources — Mayorga’s claiming he heard from a friend of an unidentified worker who may have entered the apartment.

“Additionally, Phillippe went on the record saying he wasn’t there.”—PTI

Seth Rogen, Megan Fox, Will Ferrell join ‘Zeroville’



‘Zeroville’ is an adaptation of the Steve Erikson 2007 novel set in the late 1960s. The story centers around a 24-year-old architecture student and film obsessive with a print of Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift in *A Place in the Sun* tattooed on his head.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 27 Oct — Actors Seth Rogen, Megan Fox and Will Ferrell have joined James Franco’s ‘Zeroville’. Danny McBride, Dave Franco, Craig Robinson, Joey King and Horatio Sanz have also been added to the film, reported *Screen Daily*.

‘Zeroville’ is an adaptation of the Steve Erikson 2007 novel set in the late 1960s. The story centres around a 24-year-old architecture student and film obsessive with a print of Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift in *A Place in the Sun* tattooed on his head. He travels to Hol-

lywood and finds himself swept up into the film business after being mistaken for a member of the Charles Manson Family.

In addition to a starring role, Franco will also be directing the feature with Caroline Aragon and Vince Jolivette set to produce. Jacki Weaver was recently added to the lineup. Rogen and Franco are longtime collaborators on projects including ‘The Interview’, ‘This is the End’ and ‘The Sound and the Fury’. Franco shot the first scenes for ‘Zeroville’ last month on the red carpet at the Venice Film Festival.—PTI

‘The Lego Movie’ directors to pen its sequel



LOS ANGELES, 27 Oct — Phil Lord and Chris Miller, who directed and wrote the hit film ‘The Lego Movie’, will pen its sequel. Whether they direct the new film or not, is yet to be known, said *The Hollywood Reporter*. The next film in the ‘Lego’ franchise will be ‘Ninjago’, opening 23 Sept, 2016. Warners is said to be eyeing a 2017 release for its in-development ‘Lego Batman’ spinoff, with two currently untitled ‘Leg’o movies set for 2018 and 2019 release.—PTI

Phil Lord and Chris Miller, who directed and wrote the hit film ‘The Lego Movie’, will pen its sequel.—PTI

GENERAL

Locals mourn victims 1 month after central Japan volcanic eruption

NAGANO, 27 Oct — Local authorities and residents mourned the loss of victims in the eruption of Mt Ontake in central Japan on Monday, a month after the nation's worst postwar volcanic disaster claimed the lives of 57 people and left six others missing.

Municipalities in the area meanwhile launched campaigns to woo visitors back, with repercussions being felt in the local tourism industry.

At 11:52 am, the time the eruption occurred on 27 September, officials of Nagano Prefecture, the town of Kiso and the village of Otaki at the foot of the mountain respectively observed moments of silence.

Kiso and Otaki put up stands for floral tributes. In Otaki, a memorial service was held at the initiative of local residents. Yoko Kotani, the 61-year-old organizer of the event, said, "We wanted to sympathize with family members of the victims and use this as an opportunity to pray that the volcano will calm down."



A woman wipes her tears in the village of Otaki, Nagano Prefecture, in front of flowers to mourn for 57 climbers killed in the eruption of Mt Ontake in central Japan on 27 Oct, 2014, one month after the 3,067-metre volcano erupted. Six people remain missing on the mountain following the eruption.—KYODO NEWS

Search efforts for those listed as missing were called off on 16 October for the remainder of the year. The Nagano prefectural government deemed it too risky to continue the search as snowfall made conditions even more difficult on the 3,067-metre peak, which straddles Nagano and Gifu prefectures. Search opera-

tions are expected to resume next spring.

Facing concerns about the impact of the eruption on the tourism industry, the Nagano prefectural government launched a post-disaster reconstruction team to mainly provide support for local communities living at the base of the mountain.

Parts of the skiing

grounds in Otaki have been included in the restricted area, jeopardizing operations in this year's skiing season. Many guests have also cancelled their reservations at inns and other lodging facilities.

In a bid to help municipalities located at the foot of the mountain, Aichi Gov. Hideaki Omura and Nagoya

Mayor Takashi Kawamura took part in an event to distribute fliers to promote tourism outside Nagoya Station together with Nagano and Gifu officials.

About 60 people joined the efforts to pitch the tourist attractions of Mt Ontake and its surrounding area, including officials of local governments in Aichi Prefecture with close ties to Otaki, Kiso and other municipalities.

The Japan Meteorological Agency maintains its eruption alert for Mt Ontake at three on the scale of five, which restricts entry to the mountain and those around it.

"Volcanic activity is decreasing but there is still the possibility of an eruption," an agency official said.

The volcano, popular with hikers during the fall due to autumn leaves, last experienced a major eruption in 1979, a minor eruption in 1991 and multiple volcanic earthquakes in 2007.

Kyodo News

Over half of Filipino families consider themselves poor: survey

MANILA, 27 Oct — Some 55 percent of the respondents, or about 12.1 million Filipino families, considered themselves poor, according to a survey released on Monday.

In its third-quarter survey on self-rated poverty, private research institute Social Weather Stations

(SWS) said the rate is unchanged from the June survey.

It said more families in northern Philippines claimed they are poor. In the capital region of Manila, 43 of respondents said they are living in poverty, up from 37 percent recorded in the June survey.

The latest SWS survey also showed that those who said they are "food-poor" rose to 43 percent, from 41 percent in the second quarter.

The survey, conducted on 26 to 29 September, involved face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults nationwide.—Xinhua



People participate in a tsunami drill at Ule Lhuee beach in Aceh, Indonesia, on 26 Oct, 2014.—XINHUA

Streb seals maiden PGA Tour win in playoff

GEORGIA, 27 Oct — Robert Streb held his nerve to win his first PGA Tour title in a playoff with fellow American Will MacKenzie and Zimbabwe's Brendon de Jonge for the \$5.6 million McGladrey Classic at Sea Island in Georgia on Sunday.

As the afternoon shadows lengthened to end a day of unbroken sunshine on the Seaside Course, Streb sealed victory by sinking a four-foot birdie putt at the second extra hole, the par-three 17th, where de Jonge narrowly missed his attempt from 18 feet. After retrieving his ball from the cup, the 27-year-old Streb removed his cap to acknowledge the cheers from the crowd before being congratulated by the burly de Jonge, who had also been bidding for his maiden victory on the PGA Tour.



Robert Streb

MacKenzie, seeking to end a six-year title drought on the US circuit, was eliminated from the playoff at the first extra hole, the par-four 18th, where he bogeyed after failing to get up and down from a greenside bunker.

The trio had finished the 72 regulation holes on 14-under-par 266, de Jonge closing with a five-under 65,

MacKenzie carding a 68 and early starter Streb firing a best-of-the-day 63.

"The wait was a little nerve-racking because they (the final groups in regulation) had the par-five (15th to come)," Streb, who finished his round an hour-and-a-half before MacKenzie, told Golf Channel.

"And then obviously those last two short putts I was pretty shaky," he added, referring to his four-footer for par on the first extra hole and his birdie putt for victory. Asked if he could put his emotions into words, Streb replied: "Not yet but I am very thrilled."—Reuters

Church collapse kills 2, injures 19 in central China

ZHENGZHOU, 27 Oct — Two people died and another 19 were injured after the wooden roof of a village church collapsed in central China's Henan Province on Sunday afternoon, local authorities said on Monday.

The accident happened at about 2 pm on Sunday when some 30 people at Jinhutuo Village, Yichuan County were praying at the church, according to the county government. Among the 19 injured, four were seriously wounded. The cause of the accident is being investigated.—Xinhua



Egyptian soldiers sit on an armored vehicle on the border between Egypt and the southern Gaza Strip, on 26 Oct, 2014. Egypt on Saturday shut down Rafah border crossing with the Gaza Strip following the deadly attack in Sinai on Friday, officials said.—XINHUA

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Chelsea denied by Van Persie but go four points clear



Manchester United's Robin van Persie (3rd R) shoots to score during their English Premier League soccer match against Chelsea at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 26 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

LONDON, 27 Oct — Chelsea went four points clear at the top of the Premier League on Sunday but felt it should have been six after Manchester United captain Robin Van Persie scored a dramatic late goal to deny them victory in a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

“We are not happy with a point,” said Chelsea’s manager Jose Mourinho after a strong second half performance in which Didier Drogba, playing from the start because Diego Costa was unfit, headed the visitors in front in the 53rd minute.

With Thibaut Courtois keeping out Van Persie’s best efforts, Chelsea seemed likely to hold out but just before the final whistle Branislav Ivanovic

was sent off for a second yellow card.

From the free kick Courtois saved from Marouane Fellaini but could not stop Van Persie’s fierce follow-up.

The draw extended Chelsea’s lead to four points over second-placed Southampton and six over champions Manchester City.

It was only the second time this season Mourinho’s side have failed to take all three points, both games being in Manchester, where they also drew 1-1 with City.

Seven wins and two draws from nine games nevertheless leaves them in an enviable position.

United, meanwhile, having briefly reached

fourth place, find themselves back in eighth after a second successive draw.

The consolation for them is having equalized right at the end again, just as they did in a 2-2 draw at West Bromwich Albion last Monday.

A year ago Mourinho had been criticized for Chelsea’s negative approach at Old Trafford when he played without a recognized striker and achieved a goalless draw.

Without Diego Costa and Loic Remy, there might have been a temptation to adopt the same tactics but starting with Drogba just in front of Willian, Oscar and Eden Hazard reflected the London side’s confidence after their impressive start to the season. “My team



Didier Drogba

played a fantastic game,” Mourinho said. “It was not the result we came for, but acceptable.”

United’s manager Louis van Gaal was pleased with the way his team kept going, saying: “We showed again that we believe until the end in making a goal.”

They face a tough assignment next, in the Manchester derby away to City next Sunday.

Elsewhere, Newcastle United moved out of the relegation places with a 2-1 win at Tottenham Hotspur but winless Burnley stayed there after losing 3-1 at home to Everton.

Sammy Ameobi scored within eight seconds of coming on as a halftime substitute in Newcastle’s first away win of the season.

It was another boost for manager Alan Pardew, whose job was reportedly under threat after failing to win any of his first seven league games of the season.

Since then they have beaten Leicester City and Tottenham to ease the pressure, moving out of the bottom three and leaving their north east rivals Sunderland there instead.

Emmanuel Adebayor gave Tottenham the lead after 18 minutes with a header from Ryan Mason’s cross as the home side controlled the first half.

Spurs, who paid tribute to their former manager Bill Nicholson before the game on the 10th anniversary of his death with a minute’s applause, created several chances but were unable to add to their lead.

They were pegged back right at the start of the second period when Ameobi equalized with his first touch after replacing Gabriel Obertan at the interval.

Ayoze Perez, a 21-year-old from Tenerife, then scored on his full debut for Newcastle, glancing a header into the top corner from a precise left-wing cross by Remy Cabella, the other half-time substitute.

Cameroonian veteran Samuel Eto’o scored twice as Everton’s second successive win took them into the top half of the table.

In only the third minute he headed powerfully home from a cross from Leighton Baines.

Everton’s Belgian international Romelu Lukaku was guilty of a loose pass that allowed Danny Ings through to go round Tim Howard and score his first Premier League goal.

Lukaku soon made amends, however, restoring the visitors’ lead in the 28th minute. His first shot after taking a pass from Steven Naismith was blocked, but he was able to scoop the rebound past Tom Heaton.

Five minutes from the end Eto’s scored his second, curling a fine shot into the top corner of the net from 20 metres, and in added time he was denied a hat-trick when his effort from an acute angle hit the inside of the far post.

Everton’s manager Roberto Martinez was particularly delighted with Lukaku and Eto’o.

“What Samuel Eto’o brings is incredible experience but with that is also a great hunger,” he told the BBC.—Reuters

Federer wins Basel title, eyes world top spot

BASEL, 27 Oct — Roger Federer has his sights set on ending the year as the world’s top-ranked player after the 33-year-old claimed his fifth title of the year in his home town on Sunday.

The 17-times grand slam champion outclassed David Goffin 6-2, 6-2 to win the Swiss Indoor tournament in Basel for a sixth time, moving ever closer to Serbian Novak Djokovic at the top of the rankings in the process.

A strong finish at the Paris Masters and the ATP World Tour Finals could see him end the year as number one for the first time since 2009 — proof that his skills are not in decline despite the advancing years and two sets of twins.

“It would be very special, you can’t say it’s not



Tournament director Roger Brennwald (L) stands beside as Switzerland’s Roger Federer holds the trophy after winning his final match against Belgium’s David Goffin at the Swiss Indoors ATP tennis tournament in Basel on 26 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

important, world number one, it’s what it’s all about really, together with some tournaments you really care about,” Federer told the ATP’s official television channel after his 51-minute thrashing of Goffin.

“With the year I’ve had and the amount of fi-

nals I’ve played, the level of tennis I’ve played, I’m really pleased that I have a shot at being there.

“But I’m sure Novak will be very motivated. It’s going to be interesting weeks ahead.”

Federer, whose 302 weeks as world number

one is a record, as is his streak of 237 consecutive weeks atop the rankings, is less than 500 points behind Djokovic with a combined 2,500 points up for grabs in Paris and London.

Djokovic won both of those titles last year and therefore cannot signifi-

cantly add to his haul as he will be defending points, while Federer lost in the semi-finals at both events and can potentially close the gap. Federer was at his majestic best at times against Goffin, the Belgian who has rediscovered his best form since Wimbledon, winning 43 out of 45 matches, including on the Challenger Tour, to rocket up the world standings.

He was never in with a chance against Federer though as the local boy delighted his fans with a faultless display to take his career title tally to 82 and extend his winning streak to 12 matches after his title in Shanghai.

The first two of those wins came as Federer helped steer Switzerland into the Davis Cup final against France.—Reuters

Nakamura may have season-ending ankle surgery

KAWASAKI, 27 Oct — Kawasaki Frontale captain Kengo Nakamura could have season-ending surgery to remove a bone spur in his left ankle, the 2010 World Cup midfielder said on Monday.

“People are telling me to get it out,” Nakamura said at Frontale’s training ground. “I’m not saying I’m definitely having surgery right away, but it’s an option.” Kawasaki lost 2-1 away to Ventforet Kofu in the J-League on Sunday, a painful defeat that left them seven points behind first-place Urawa Reds with four games to go. The 33-year-old Nakamura was a half-time substitute, his second straight appearance off the bench.—Kyodo News