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ADB, MYANMAR SIGN \$3M RELIEF GRANT FOR DISASTER-HIT AREAS

By Ye Myint

YANGON — The Asian Development Bank and the Government of Myanmar on Wednesday inked a US\$3 million grant agreement to help communities affected by the recent flooding and landslides in the country's 12 of 14 regions and states.

The signing ceremony of the grant agreement for Myanmar's flood emergency response project took place in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Maung Maung Win, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, and Mr. Winfried Wicklein, ADB's Myanmar Country Director, signed the grant agreement in the presence of Deputy Ministers for Finance Dr Lin Aung and Dr Maung Maung Thein.

"The ADB funds are very timely as the government and its partners are still addressing the immediate needs of the crisis, while preparing a smooth transition to the recovery phase. In addition, the risk of further monsoon rains and associated damage remains," U Maung Maung Win said.

The ADB approved the emergency grant to finance flood relief efforts in Myanmar in late August. The grant that will be issued from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund will be used to meet priority needs, restore live-saving services, and support early recovery for affected com-



A family uses a boat to pass through Yay Tar Gyi village in Kyaunggon Township in Ayeyarwady Region on 25 August.—PHOTO: OCHA/C.HYSLOP

munities, ADB said.

"We are also preparing to mobilise resources for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure," Mr Wicklein said.

These efforts will support

national and state and regional disaster responses based on damage and needs assessments and in close coordination with development partners, added ADB's Myanmar country director.

According to ADB, severe

flooding, landslides and wind have affected over 1.6 million people and damaged farmlands, roads, railroads and bridges.

Based on the government's initial assessments, sources suggested that the recent disaster

claimed more than K1.6 billion (US\$1.25 million) in losses across the country and called for the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and assisting those in affected livelihoods to get back their feet.—GNLM

Yangon's traffic lights to be upgraded

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON — Yangon City Development Committee said on Wednesday that 154 traffic lights in Yangon Municipality will be upgraded to ease traffic congestion in the commercial capital.

The new traffic lights will feature CCTV cameras and will be linked to each other via a control tower that will be constructed as part of the project, a spokesperson from YCDC's information depart-

ment told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on 2 September.

The three-storey control tower will be constructed on a 100 square foot area in Peoples' Park. Construction work is expected to begin in November and the tower is scheduled to be completed within three months.

The upgrade will ensure a smoother flow of traffic and prevent unnecessary build-ups of vehicles, the spokesperson said.

YCDC is injecting K20 bil-

lion (US\$15.6 million) of the state's reserve budget into the Design, Installation and Commissioning of Yangon Comprehensive Traffic Control System, which is targeted to be completed in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, said YCDC's Secretary U Kyaw Soe at a pre-tender meeting at YCDC with companies on Tuesday.

YCDC has almost finished laying out underground cables for the purposes of the project, he added. So far 54 companies,

including local and joint-venture firms, have bought tender forms, of which 28 attended the pre-tender meeting with YCDC.

YCDC will require the new traffic lights to have at least one hour of backup power so as to prevent traffic lights failing when electricity supplies are cut from the grid.

The spokesperson did not disclose how many companies will be selected to roll-out the project in the four municipal districts, or

the date of the tender submission deadline.

The spokesperson said that the municipality has 188 traffic lights in the municipal area, of which 11 have already been upgraded with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The Japanese technology collects traffic data, sends it to the central control system and runs traffic lights without assistance from traffic police.—GNLM

I will do my utmost to carry out the peace process, just as I have been during presidency

NAY PYI TAW — *The following is the full text of monthly radio address delivered by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.*



My fellow citizens:

As I have done previously, I would like to give you the monthly update on the work of my government and the developments that have taken place in our country in the month of August.

In July and August, many states and regions of the country were seriously affected by flooding. Despite the lack of experience and resources, the country was able to respond to these challenges because of the collective spirit and efforts of all citizens. During this time of need, it was truly an honor to see the sense of community and the Myanmar traits of compassion and altruism. Of particular note were the actions of the young people in fulfilling their duties as citizens. Through their creative ideas and tireless efforts, our young people summoned up the entire nation to respond to the floods. At the same time, we must honor and praise the relief efforts of the civil society, Tatmadaw, police, firefighters and government personnel. We must also thank the assistance provided by the international community.

In addition to rescue and relief efforts, we must begin to undertake rehabilitation work simultaneously – an effort that will require the participation and cooperation of the public.

Rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts will be prioritized and carried out comprehensively in accordance with short- and long-term plans. Long-term plans must also be drawn up and effectively implemented for all round rehabilitation of the socio-economic situation of flood victims. Immediate needs such as food, shelter, access to health, and schooling for school-age children must be prioritized. I have also been traveling to flood-impacted areas to provide words of encouragement to the victims and other necessary guidance for relief efforts. I have also instructed government agencies to work together with the public and civil society to facilitate better cooperation on issues that will require joint effort.

Additionally, it is important that all citizens living in flood-affected areas are able to exercise their right to vote. The Union Election Commission is working to recompile voter registration lists damaged in the floods and the government pursuant to its authority is doing its part including reissuing household registrations and national registration cards.

The upcoming 2015 general elections are a crucial step forward for our country's democratic reforms. Therefore, it is imperative that the elections are free and fair. The elections are also an important step for the establishment of a new Myanmar that is desired by the citizens of this country. Therefore, each member of the electorate bears a responsibility. In particular, I urge each and every citizen qualified to vote to exercise his or her rights to vote. In casting your votes, it is important to choose candidates who are qualified, accountable and will truly represent the will of the people. Only then, will a democratic, open and free society that we all envision emerge from the 2015 general elections.

I would like to say a few words about the role of political parties and candidates competing in the 2015 general elections. In a few days, campaigning will begin for the political parties and I understand that each party will campaign to the best of its abilities to succeed in the elections. We welcome any campaign that adheres to democratic principles and complies with the rules, regulations and codes of conduct set forth by the Union Election Commission.

However, our country is a multi-ethnic society with many traditions, customs and religious beliefs. Because of this, the political parties, when campaigning, must take great care to not cause damage to social harmony or harm our diverse religious beliefs. I also urge all political parties to act responsibly and avoid incitements that could harm national reconciliation and national unity. Instead of blaming each other or acting in a manner that could harm national reconciliation, I urge all political parties to campaign on their respective platforms based on how they envision bringing about the aspirations, objectives and plans for a new Myanmar desired by their constituents. In particular and despite our differences, the political forces should strive to sustain our new political culture of dialogue.

My government, under its executive authority and within the bounds of its executive powers, will ensure that the elections are free and fair. We will also strive to make sure that there is political stability before and after the elections and that there is a smooth and stable transition of power to a new political setting that will come about in accordance with the wishes of the people. I would like to let all of you know also that we have taken the initiative and made the necessary plans for civil society and international election monitoring organizations to observe and monitor the upcoming elections.

Intimately tied to the democratic transition process,

there has also been significant progress and developments made in the peace process. The representatives of the government and the ethnic armed organizations announced on August 7, 2015 that they were able to approve the final text of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

Two overriding goals and promises critical to national reconciliation and lasting peace are included in the agreement: to resolve armed conflict through political settlement and to build a union based on democratic and federal principles. To achieve this, long standing demands of the ethnic armed organizations as well as the guarantees and plans for the political dialogue process are also included in the agreement.

The immediate benefit arising from the signing of this agreement is that the people living in conflict areas will begin to see the fruits of peace and experience it firsthand. As all of you know, there have already been improvements on the ground in terms of human security and safety in some areas because we were able to reduce armed hostilities even while negotiating for peace.

Our internal armed conflict is one of the main reasons why our country has fallen behind others in terms of progress and development. And because our internal armed conflict impacts the lives of every individual living within our country, I look at the peace process as an important cause that has meaning and value for all Myanmar citizens. And since the peace process impacts the lives of each individual and the future of our country, I promise all of you again that I will do my utmost to carry out the peace process just as I have been doing during my presidency. That said, it is important to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and begin the political dialogue process as soon as possible. I have already invited the ethnic armed organizations to sign this agreement. I would like to call on them again from here and invite them to sign the NCA as soon as possible.

We have been trying to put forward poverty alleviation and socio-economic development as aims of the economic reforms since my government came into power. To achieve these aims, we have also enacted laws that fit our times and reflect our circumstances in addition to developing necessary infrastructure and investment. Through these efforts, we were able to agree on a minimum daily wage of 3,600 kyats that is in line with the current conditions of the country and this will come into effect beginning September 1, 2015.

I would like to conclude by recapping again that I will do my very best to achieve peace, promote economic development and build a better future for our young generations.

I wish you all good health and happiness.

Union Home Affairs Minister holds talks with Co-chair of APG

NAY PYI TAW—Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko received a delegation led by Mr Rajesh Chhana, Co-chair of the Asia-Pacific Group on Monetary Laundering-APG at the ministry

on Wednesday.

Both sides cordially discussed and exchanged views on assistance of APG and International Monetary Fund and their advices for implementation of the plans of Fi-

nancial Action Task Force (FATF).

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe and officials of Myanmar Police Force.—MNA



Presidential delegation in Beijing

BEIJING — President U Thein Sein travelled to China on Wednesday to attend commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the Victory of the World Anti-Facist War.

The president was seen off from Nay Pyi Taw by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and union ministers.

The president is accompanied by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Hla Tun, U Khin Maung Soe, U Zeyar Aung and U Ye Htut, as well as Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of the Office of the Com-

mander-in-Chief (Army).

On arrival in Beijing, the president and his entourage were welcomed by former Chinese Ambassador Mr Pan Guang Xue, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang and Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Linn Ohn.

Meetings were held with CITIC Co Ltd Chairman Mr Chang Zheng Min and China-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman Mr Geng Zhiyuan at China World Hotel in Beijing.

In the evening, the president attended an informal dinner hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife.—MNA



President U Thein Sein being welcomed by officials at Beijing International Airport.—IPRD

Plans underway for International Day of Democracy on 15 Sept

NAY PYI TAW — Parliament is the lifeblood of a country and an engine for democratic reform, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann told a capacity enhancement meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

on Wednesday.

The speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) spoke of plans to enable parliamentarians to en-

hance their capacities, adding that arrangements are underway to observe the International Day of Democracy at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 15 September with the theme of 'Public Participation for Democracy,' as set by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The speaker said that public participation plays a vital role in achieving democratic reforms and said he looked forward to seeing engagement among youth during this year's International Day of Democracy, which falls on 15 September.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Inter-Parliamentary Unit (IPU), the United Kingdom's House of Commons, the Hans Seidel Foundation, the Cuso International Organisation and the Myanmar Scholarship Alumni Association (MSAA) discussed plans for capacity building programmes.

Before the meeting, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann had met with Cuba's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Victor Daniel Ramirez Pena.—MNA



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Cuban Ambassador Mr Victor Daniel Ramirez Pena.—MNA

UEC takes questions from media on election

YANGON — The Union Election Commission held a press conference in Yangon on Wednesday to answer questions from the media.

The press conference was led by UEC Chairman U Tin Aye and attended by around a hundred journalists from 61 media groups.

Questions raised included the eligibility of voters, voter education, a code of conduct for candidates and parties, the formation of a monitoring committee and

issuing voter registration certificates.

Journalists raised questions about how corrections can be made to voters' lists, the number of candidates rejected, the regulations for covering election news for local and foreign journalists, using public property for the purpose of campaigning, the issuance of voters' registration cards, inviting international observers to elections, arrangements for elections in flood-hit areas and voting booths in army areas.—MNA

Signing ceremony for TVET Teacher Training Institute

NAY PYI TAW — Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo attended a signing ceremony of a Record of Discussion between Korea International Cooperation Agency KOICA and the Department of Technical and Vocational Education at the ministry on 1 September.

The director general of the department and chairman of KOICA Mr Nam

Kwon-Hyoung signed the Record of Discussion and exchanged notes.

The Record of Discussion allows for plans to set up a technical and vocational education (TVET) teacher training institute to enhance capacity building among teachers and coordinators, and to work on research surveys and development for technical and vocational education.—MNA

Government plans old-age annual payment

YANGON — The government plans to introduce a nationwide annual payment for those aged over 65 in the next fiscal year of 2015-16, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

During a ceremony on Wednesday in Yangon, Deputy Minister Daw Su Su Hlaing and ministry personnel provided financial assistance to 35 senior citizens aged 100.

According to official statistics, there are 25,000 senior citizens aged between 90 and 100 across Myanmar.

The government has so far provided

sums of K200,000 each to the 1,179 people over 100 years of age, in addition to certificates of honour signed by President U Thein Sein. The funds for the payments have come from a pooled fund that receives 25 percent contributions from the monthly emoluments of the president and his cabinet members.

Meanwhile, a pilot project is underway in Kachin, Mon and Kayah states to provide financial assistance to women who are over six months pregnant. The deputy minister said on Wednesday that the support will be provided until children reach two-years of age.—Win Win Maw

Free vaccinations and medicines for infants and pregnant women



A senior nurse vaccinates a pregnant woman in health care service activity in Tatkon Township.—TIN SOE LWIN

TATKON— Pregnant women and children under 18 months old received medicines and vaccinations at Tatkon Township’s Saya San general administrative ward office on 2 September. Mothers expressed thanks for the life-saving free medical care provided to their children.

Nurse Thin Thin Hlaing said that preventive vaccines against BCG, whooping cough, tetanus, Hepatitis B, pneumonia, polio and measles are administered every month to 42 children and 14 pregnant women in Saya San ward.—Tin Soe Lwin

Agricultural staff collectively broadcast fertilizers, spray farmlands

NAY PYI TAW— Zabuthiri Township Agriculture Department organized a demonstration on systematic use of fertilizer and spraying at the model plot of Korea International Cooperation Agency in Tegyigon village-tract on 31 August.

Before the demonstration, Head of Township Department of Agriculture U Aung Din explained dissemination of agricultural

techniques suitable for nature of target areas to the local farmers while staff of the department gave lectures on collective spraying in the paddy field and systematic use of fertilizers to grow up the paddy plants. The staff together with local farmers broadcast fertilizers and sprayed the farmlands at the demonstration.—Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Election guidance given in Kyaukme

KYAUKME —Guidance on the upcoming general election was provided at the General Administration Office in Kyaukme of Shan State on 1 September.

Township Election Sub-commission Chairman U Soe Tun together with officials explained various aspects of the election, including rules, regulations and penalties, advance voting, the counting of votes and rules governing the conduct of political parties.

Approximately 200 ward and village administrators attended the session.

Myint Aung (Ka-Ma)

Workshop brainstorms ways to increase pass rates

MANTONG—A workshop was held to discuss ways to increase pass rates during the 2015-2016 academic year at Mantong’s Basic Education High School in the Palaung Self-Administered Zone in Shan State recently.

The township’s assistant education officer U Lamar Tha led discussions on boosting pass rates, with input given by teachers on matters such as timetables, the monthly syllabus, the number of exams and questions per exam, after-school classes and devising project plans.

The three-day workshop was attended by 315 education personnel.—Myint Aung (Ka-Ma)

Donations given to flood-hit schools

NAY PYI TAW —Donations for flood-damaged schools across Myanmar were made by staff and students from Kyitaungkan Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 1 September.

The headmistress of the school in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Daw Than Htay, said in her speech that K700,000 had been donated by the school council secretary Maung Pyo Wai Aung.— Shwe Ye Yint

World Breastfeeding Week launched in Zeyathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW —World Breastfeeding Week and Nutrition Development Week were launched at Zayathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in cooperation with the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Department of Public Health on 1 September.

At the township’s General Administration Department, township MCWA Chairperson Daw Hla Hla Win shared nutrition and nursing tips. Awards were given to the students who won an essay writing competition on nutrition. Township Health Officer Dr Tin Tin Moe Win handed out gifts to mothers, Vitamin A to children and vitamin supplements and iron tablets to pregnant women.— Soe Thu Aung



Officials of MMCWA provide nutritious foods and medicines to pregnant women in Zeyathiri Township as part of Nutrition Development Week activities.—SOE THU AUNG

Mandalay Region steps up police security for general elections

MANDALAY — In preparation for the general election on November 8, the Mandalay Region government has enforced tighter security measures across the region since July 6.

Police patrols have been intensified by adding 557 police personnel in the region, which has resulted in lower rates of petty theft.

Between January and the end of July this year, 27 cases of robbery were solved in the region, according to the region's police department.—*Thiha Ko Ko*



Police and volunteers discharging security duty.—*THIHA Ko Ko*

165 public-works carried out in Takon's rural areas

TATKON — World Bank delegate Mr Nodoka and a delegation met with the Department of Township Rural Development under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development. The meeting was held to discuss implementing public-centered works in rural areas and was held at the department's Tatkon township office in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Township officer U Soe Min Latt explained his department's public-centered works, which involve 186 villages. Locals prioritised the 165 projects to be carried out within the first-year plan's funds of 1.78 billion kyat as follows: 65 for building roads and bridges, 75 related to other infrastructure, 22 rural water supply projects and three electricity supply works.

Mr Nodoka and the delegation discussed plans for choosing next year's projects and aid distribution.

Tin Soe Lwin

Illegally imported chicken destroyed in Dawei



Township officials check sales of goods at Strand Market in Dawei. *Po SHWE THUN (DAWEI)*

DAWEI — Deputy Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw Myint and departmental officials checked 10 chicken shops, five pork shops and seven dried fish shops at the Strand Market of Township Development Affairs Committee in Dawei, Tanin-

thayi Region, on 1 September.

They gave talks on avoiding sales of inappropriate goods.

The officials destroyed 11.57 viss of illegally imported frozen chicken from the market.—*Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)*

Electricity supplies to improve in Meiktila and Wundwin

MEIKTILA—Mandalay Region's Electric Power Corporation started works for improving power supplies to Wundwin and Meiktila townships from 29 August.

The project involves moving lamp posts and cables from clearing the extended road between Wundwin and Thedaw townships of trees and installing new equipment at the 33 KVA sub-power station in Meiktila.

Electricians led by Meiktila District electrical manager U Zaw Win Naing are carrying out the installation of power lines under the supervision of Meiktila District electrical manager U Mon Aung Zay.—*Chan Thar*

Police security training ahead of general elections

MEIKTILA — A Security training course will be held in preparation for the upcoming November 8 general election, according to Meiktila township police force commander police Major Maung Shwe. A total of 293 special policemen have already been

assigned security duties during the elections.

Scheduled from October 20 to 31, the 11-day course will include basic military training, police manuals, lectures on criminal law and electoral procedures.

The middle-school

passed special policemen aged between 18-45 were recruited for their special police service at their respective native areas. They will be on duty from October 15 to November 13 with a salary of K150,000, the police commander said.—*Chan Thar*

New asphalt road links Shantae model village with highway

MEIKTILA — An asphalt road stretching 5,400-foot and connecting Yangon-Mandalay Highway with the Shante model village in Meiktila Township of Mandalay Region was completed on 1 September.

Construction works be-

gan in early July, with the project being financed by the region's K58 million aid fund.

The construction of the road was supervised by the township office for rural development. Locals donated an additional K4.5 million

to extend the road to the village's monastery.

The new road is located on a critical junction to villages in nearby Thazi township and will allow for a smoother transport route for the area's products to reach Meiktila.—*Chan Thar*



A newly-paved asphalt road stretching in Meiktila Township.—*CHAN THAR*

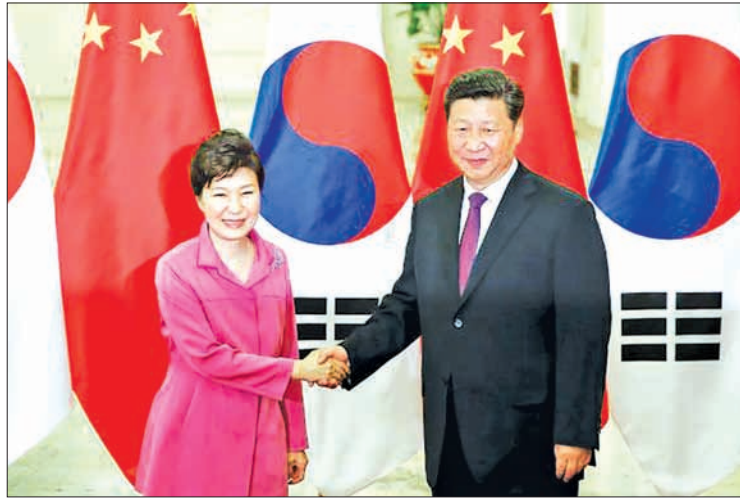
China's Xi urges resumption of North Korea nuclear talks

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping called for a resumption of multilateral nuclear talks with North Korea on Wednesday and said he opposed any move to worsen tension.

North and South Korea averted a full-on military confrontation last week and reached an agreement to improve ties following a rare exchange of artillery fire over their heavily fortified border.

Xi made his call during a meeting with South Korean President Park Geun-hye in Beijing.

“China has all along upheld the aim of a denuclearised Korean peninsula, the maintaining of the peninsula’s peace and stability and resolving issues via dialogue and consultations,” Xi said, according to China’s Foreign Ministry. China believed previous agreements reached during so-called six-party talks with North Korea - which include the United States, Japan, Russia and South Korea - should be fulfilled, along with relevant UN resolu-



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) shakes hands with South Korean President Park Geun-hye at The Great Hall Of The People on September 2, 2015 in Beijing, China.—REUTERS

tions, he added. Numerous efforts to restart the talks since they were last held more than six years ago have failed. China “opposes any actions which may cause tensions” and all sides should work hard to resume talks, Xi said.

Park told Xi she appreciated China’s help in defusing tension

with North Korea that had pushed the neighbours to the brink of conflict. “I hope to share candid opinions with President Xi about the Korean peninsula’s political situation today as tensions continue to remain on the peninsula,” Park said at the meeting, according to a report provided by her office.

Park began a three-day trip to China to attend its commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two in Asia, and is scheduled to attend a military parade on Thursday.

Park’s sixth summit meeting with Xi highlighted the growing ties between the neighbours, as China has grown increasingly frustrated with North Korea.

China, North Korea’s sole major ally, backed it in the 1950-53 Korean War, with late leader Mao Zedong’s eldest son dying in the conflict with the South and its allies. China, the world’s largest exporter, is now South Korea’s biggest trading partner. South Korea is one of the few developed countries that runs a surplus with China.

Choe Ryong Hae, secretary of the Central Committee of North Korea’s Workers’ Party, will also attend China’s military parade, but it is unclear whether Choe will meet the South Korean leader.

Choe is close to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.—Reuters

Thai police say closer to cracking Bangkok bomb case

BANGKOK — Police claimed significant progress on Wednesday towards finding the mastermind of Thailand’s deadliest attack after an arrested man admitted being near the Aug. 17 shrine blast and fingerprints tied him to the room of a suspected bomber.

The unidentified man arrested less than a kilometer from the Cambodian border on Tuesday had told police he was not the bomber, but was in same area the night when a massive explosion killed 20 people. “It’s natural that the suspect will deny he did it, but we still have to continue to look into that,” deputy national police chief Chakthip Chaijinda told reporters. “Right now the case has progressed about 70 percent already.” The latest suspect was “definitely connected” to the attack and had stayed in the same Nong Chok area of Bangkok as another man arrested in a raid on Saturday that found stacks of fake passports, TNT, C4 and fertilizer. Police have received a torrent of criticism for leading a patchy probe and statements from top officials about possible perpetrators, motives and information extracted from suspects have been contradictory, speculative and often cryptic.

Police spokesman Prawut Thawornsiri said the latest suspect’s prints were found on explosives in the same room.

“The man... may be the person who took the bomb out of the room or brought the bomb to the location of the incident,” Prawut said on TV. The investigation has gained momentum since the weekend raids, before which the authorities had little more than a low-resolution surveillance camera video of a man in a yellow shirt leaving a rucksack at the popular Erawan Hindu shrine moments before the blast. With no claim of responsibility, speculation has centered on sympathizers of Uighur Muslims, opponents of the military government, southern ethnic Malay rebels and foreign extremists. Thailand’s forced repatriation of 109 Uighurs to China in July caused international outrage and saw protesters smash windows and ransack parts of its consulate in Istanbul. Many Uighurs transit through Southeast Asia to try to get to Turkey, which has a large diaspora.—Reuters

Malaysia police to question ex-PM Mahathir on anti-government comment

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian police want to question former premier Mahathir Mohamad about anti-government comments, a spokeswoman said on Wednesday, in what appeared to be a bid to stifle the veteran leader’s campaign to bring down the prime minister.

Mahathir, still a hugely respected and influential figure, made surprise appearances at a protest in Kuala Lumpur on the weekend, calling for a “people’s power” movement to topple Prime Minister Najib Razak over a financial scandal.

“Tun (Mahathir) made several allegations in his speeches .. that warrants police action,” police spokeswoman Asmawati Ahmad said. Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar would take a statement from Mahathir, she said.

It was not clear if Mahathir would face any charges.

Mahathir, known as a tough prime minister with an authoritarian bent for 22 years until 2003, is on a private trip to Jordan and was not expected back until Sept. 9, an aide said.

“As far as I am aware, he has not been approached by the police yet. We will comply with the police on whatever is needed,” the aide, Sufi Yusoff, told Reuters.

Mahathir, 90, was once Najib’s patron but has become his



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (C) waves as he attends a rally organised by pro-democracy group “Bersih” (Clean) near Central Market in Malaysia’s capital city of Kuala Lumpur, August 30, 2015.—REUTERS

fiercest critic in recent months after reports of a mysterious transfer of more than \$600 million into an account under Najib’s name.

Najib has denied any wrongdoing says he did not take any money for personal gain but, nevertheless, faces the biggest crisis of his political career.

He has tightened his grip on power through a series of steps to sideline dissenters and muzzle critical media. Many Malaysians were stunned by Mahathir’s decision to join the protests, organised by an-

ti-corruption activists, in an unprecedented act of defiance of the prime minister.

The two are stalwarts of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the party that has led coalition governments since the country’s independence in 1957, and their antagonism has raised fears of a split. One UMNO leader said Mahathir had “crossed over the line”. The police questioning of the country’s longest-serving leader would appear to raise the political stakes for both sides.—Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Director - Maung Maung Than

mnmn2@gmail.com

Chief Editor - Than Myint Tun

wallace.tun@gmail.com

Deputy Chief Editor

Than Tun Aung

thantunaunglm@gmail.com

Chief Reporter - Aye Min Soe

koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

Consultant Editor - Jessica Mudditt

jess.mudditt@gmail.com

Editors

Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,

Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,

Myint Win Thein

journalist.sss@gmail.com

International news

Ye Htut Tin

mryehtuttin@gmail.com

Tun Tun Naing

tunyunaing@gmail.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin

juniorlwin25@gmail.com

Tun Aung Kyaw

tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

Translator

Khaing Minn Nyo

khingminn@gmail.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Layout designers

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,

Kyin Shwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,

Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,

Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

thantunaunglm@gmail.com

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S Korea's Park thanks China for help easing tension with North



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with South Korean President Park Geun-hye at The Great Hall Of The People in Beijing, China September 2, 2015.—REUTERS

BEIJING — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Wednesday thanked China, during a summit meeting with President Xi Jinping, for help in defusing recent tension with North Korea that had pushed the neighbours to the brink of an armed conflict.

The rivals averted a full-on military confrontation by reaching an agreement last week to improve ties following a rare exchange of artillery fire over their heavily fortified border.

“I appreciate China for playing a constructive role in easing the recent tense situation on the Korean peninsula by closely communicating with us,” Park said at the meeting, according to a pool report provided by her office.

“I hope to share candid opinions with President Xi about the Korean

peninsula’s political situation today as tensions continue to remain on the peninsula.”

Park began a three-day trip to China to attend its commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two in Asia, and is scheduled to attend its massive military parade on Thursday.

Park’s sixth summit meeting with Xi highlighted the rapidly growing ties between the Asian neighbours, even as Beijing has grown increasingly frustrated with North Korea.

China, Pyongyang’s sole major ally, backed North Korea in the 1950-53 Korean War, with late leader Mao Zedong’s eldest son dying in the conflict with the South.

China, the world’s largest exporter, is now South Korea’s biggest

trading partner. South Korea is one of the few developed countries that runs a surplus with China.

In his opening remarks at the meeting with Park, however, Chinese President Xi Jinping did not directly address the recent tension but highlighted the growing ties between the South and China particularly in trade and financial cooperation.

“China and the Republic of Korea are good friends and strong promoters of regional and world peace. Looking at history, our two peoples’ struggle has been very similar in our quest to liberate our people,” Xi said.

North Korea’s top defence body urged the South to be “discreet in words and deeds” over the pact to end the military standoff, accusing Seoul of claiming victory.—Reuters

Online advertising shines in sputtering Thai economy

BANGKOK — Unfazed by Thailand’s faltering economy, businesses are pencilling in bigger budgets for digital advertising as they target Thai consumers via smartphone apps, social networking forums and video-sharing websites.

Digital advertising spending this year is forecast to jump by two-thirds to a record 9.9 billion baht (\$277.47 million) in Southeast Asia’s second-largest economy, according to the Digital Advertising Association (Thailand) (DAAT). While that lags the 44 percent and 53 percent growth in 2014 and 2013, respectively, the near-term outlook for online advertising looks sharp as advertisers increasingly target Thai consumers in the virtual

world.

DAAT, which gathers data from 17 agencies that represent 80 percent of spending in the market, has recently upgraded its growth forecast for digital ad spending to 62 percent from its previous estimate of 33 percent. Social media like Facebook and video ads on Google’s YouTube account for the biggest share of online advertising spending.

Stocks in Thailand’s new media companies have soared. Diversified media firm Plan B Media PCL has more than doubled since its February debut, and analysts expect earnings growth to top 50 percent this year. In contrast, the overall media and publishing sector index has

slumped. It is one of the worst performers on the Thai stock market this year.

Overall advertising spending dropped 2 percent in the first seven months, dragged down by a decrease in ad spending in newspapers and magazines, Thakol Banjon-gruck, analyst at KK Trade Securities, wrote in a note to investors. “Advertising spending is expected to rise 3 percent this year based on the country’s GDP growth forecast of 2.5 percent.

However, there is some risk that growth may be weaker, because slower-than-expected economic growth and political uncertainty could prompt advertisers to hold off their advertising budget,” Thakol said.—Reuters

China, Vietnam vow to work for long-term stable relations

NEW YORK — China and Vietnam have pledged to properly handle their differences and work for the long-term stable and sound development of their relations.

“China is willing to work with Vietnam to consolidate our traditional friendship, promote our strategic mutual trust and properly handle our differences so as to push forward the long-term stable and sound development

of our bilateral relations,” said China’s top legislator Zhang Dejiang.

Zhang made the remarks while meeting with Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Sinh Hung on the sidelines of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which kicked off on Monday and runs through Thursday.

Zhang, chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s

Congress (NPC), said the NPC is willing to carry out various kinds of exchanges with the Vietnamese National Assembly to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

Vietnam values its “comradely and fraternal” relations with China, stands ready to boost friendly cooperation with China and properly manage their differences to preserve the overall health of bilateral ties, Nguyen said.—Xinhua

N Korea warns S Korea not to damage accord of improving ties

BEIJING — North Korea on Wednesday criticized South Korea for making “dishonest” comments over their recent hard-won agreement aimed at defusing tensions, urging it to prevent their relations from turning for the worse again.

A statement released by the North’s powerful National Defense Commission said that its expression last week of “regret” does not mean an apology for a landmine explosion in the heavily-fortified demilitarized zone on Aug. 4 that maimed two South Korean soldiers and triggered the tensions.

It said South Korean officials “should not make

a foolish misinterpretation” of the agreement and “refrain from such act as threatening the hard-won peace.”

After four days of marathon negotiations, the two Koreas reached a six-point agreement on Aug. 25 that called for more high-level dialogue between them and pulled themselves back from the brink of serious military confrontation.

In exchange for the regret, South Korea stopped blasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda messages via loudspeakers positioned at their border areas, which it had resumed for the first time in 11 years in retaliation for the explosion.

The statement reported by the North’s state-run Korean Central News Agency warned South Korea that improvement of their relations requires efforts of both sides.

South Korea should stop “dishonest demeanors” of ceaselessly floating a story that North Korea is responsible for the crisis, it said. The announcement was made by an unidentified spokesperson of the defense commission ahead of South Korean President Park Geun Hye’s talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, during which North Korea was expected to top the agenda.—Kyodo News



A tourist holding a parasol walks by a barbed-wire fence decorated by South Korean national flags at the Imjingak pavilion near the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas in Paju, South Korea, August 22, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 3 September, 2015

Making the case for inflation-adjusted salaries

By Myint Win Thein

THE salaries of government employees were raised recently in a bid to meet the rising costs of living. However, raising salaries can actually have a negative impact on the market because it causes costs to spike further.

It's common knowledge that a few months after pay scales go up, the immediate benefits are wiped out by ever-increasing costs of living. Meanwhile government employees cannot enjoy the benefits of a raise and may even be negatively affected by the drawbacks that arise. It is clear that one of the main reasons for rising commodity prices is inflation, which is the greatest enemy of low-income earners such as low-level government employees. And although it's not been long since the government upped the salaries of its employees, rising prices caused by inflation due to a strengthening US dollar and the calamity of the floods have cancelled out the pay rise.

This is a scenario that has been playing out in Myanmar for decades, yet no one seems to have

found a solution. It is therefore advisable that low level government employees should be given inflation-adjusted salaries rather than raising their salaries frequently and causing price volatility.

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.

Start Your Own Enterprise

Htun Tin Htun

BEFORE we start our enterprise, we must have two eyes, one is Economic Eye and another one is Dhamma (Moral) Eye. Mind-centred religion will make balanced economic enterprises to gain profit and to give (generosity/charity)(sharing the Profit) for the benefits of all human beings (to the People) in this Planet.

The entrepreneurs need to learn more on the Buddha's teaching to make the planet peace, progress and prosperous. Supreme Blissful Peace is the highest stage of purity of mind which can be obtained only by the highest degree of morality, concentration and insight wisdom. Hence, there is no attachment to life or existence, no selfhood, no desire for passion and lust. On the whole, not a single taint of craving is found in supreme blissful peace and ultimate happiness.

Avoid all evil things. Strive on with diligence. It is, in actuality, the most supreme state of peace and happiness where there is no rebirth and as a result all suffering, pain, sorrow grief, lamentation, etc. exist no more. It is absolute peace, tranquillity and fulfilment: no anguish is there for him who has ended his journey and is free from all sorrow who is emancipated in every way and has destroyed all attachments.

One should give up anger, renounce pride, and overcome all fetters. Suffering never befalls him who clings not to mind and body and is detached. Truly, "it is to avoid the taking of life, to avoid theft and misappropriation, to avoid sexual intercourse with women under the protection of their father, mother, brother, sister or relatives, married women, and women under the ban of the king, engaged women and women who are the temporary wives of others (avoid altogether 20 types of women). Now avoidance of killing, of theft and of sexual in-

tercourse with the prohibited classes of women is called mundane Right Action: it results in good worldly fruits in this life or another. And the complete rejection of these actions with pure mind intent upon the Path is deliverance - that is called transcendental Right Action and has its results in the Paths and Fruits of Purity." And what now is Right Livelihood?

One should first establish oneself in what is proper; then only should one instruct others. Thus the wise man will not be reproached. The right mindfulness is truly the contemplation of the Body, of Feeling, of Consciousness and of Mental-objects.

Well done is that action doing which one repents not later, and the fruit of which one reaps with delight and happiness. The Nobel Eightfold Path is conveniently divided into three parts, namely Right Understanding (View) and Right Thought (Intention) belonging to (Panna) (Wisdom), Right Speech, Right Action and Right Livelihood to (Sila) (Morality), and Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration to (Samadhi) (Concentration). In order to realize the Four Noble Truths, an aspiring person must find them out within himself, i.e., one must meditate to fully understand the true nature of the aggregate of Mind and Matter within one self.

Efforts (Woking hard) makes the impossible possible. According to the Buddha's Teaching, we should follow the Four Guidelines of prosperity and successful enterprise. The first one is Strenuous and Concerted Efforts in which three requisites are included. Perseverance is one of the essential requisites in undertaking any business enterprise. Knowledge and Skills (Conceptual, Technical, Managerial and Human Relations skills) are another essential requisite for sustainable and successful and significant business undertakings. Next req-

uisite is Technology (Production, Banking, Insurance and Investment, Information, Communication, Market, Management, Financial, Human Development).

"Putting Morality (Character/Discipline) First" or "Make Our Moral Conduct Clean" is an important practical guide in our responsible enterprises for the peace, progress prosperity, freedom and security of the people, and planet. First thing in the process of taming the mind is restraint. One has to restrain from eye, ear, nose, tongue, body and mind.

Result-Based Management is now popular in Modern Business Environment. Peter Drucker makes a distinction between the

"The entrepreneurs need to learn more on the Buddha's teaching to make the planet peace, progress and prosperous"

"moral mission" and the "economic mission" in his book "Managing for Performance. "Non-profit institutions generally find it almost impossible to abandon anything. Everything they do is "the Lord's work" or "a good cause." But nonprofits have to distinguish between moral causes and economic causes. A moral cause is an absolute good. Preachers have been thundering against fornication for five thousand years. Results, alas, have been nil, but that only proves how deeply entrenched evil is. The absence of results indicate only that effort have to be increased. This is the essence of a moral cause. In an economic cause, once asks. Is this the best application of our scarce resources? There is so much work

to be done. Let's put our resources where the results are. We cannot afford to be righteous and continue this project where we seem to be unable to achieve the results we've set for ourselves. To believe that whatever we do is a moral cause, and should be pursued whether there are results or not, is a perennial temptation for non-profit executives—and even more for their boards. The non-profits are human-change agents. And their results are therefore always a change in people—in their behaviour, circumstances, vision, health, hopes, above all, in their competence and capacity.

"Start Your Own Enterprise" encourages us to implement the motto "Earn while you learn, learn while you earn". There are many books online and offline. Here is just intro for the people

who are interested in "Be Your Own Boss". Value-added agriculture offers entrepreneurial farmers an opportunity to identify and pursue new crops and new markets. This rapidly growing segment of (USA's North Carolina's or else) agricultural economy offers both the established and the new farmer a variety of ways to develop a business and take advantage of its profit potential. Like any business venture, value-added agricultural opportunities carry risk. That risk varies with the size of the investment, the type of product(s) selected to grow, and the market potential. Other factors that affect risk are the entrepreneur's expertise, or access to expertise, in the areas of marketing, business management and financial manage-

ment. This overview, (which is the first of a series entitled Value-Added and Alternative Start-up Tool Kit), offers a broad look at each of the areas to consider when researching the possibility of undertaking a value-added agricultural enterprise. **"Personal"**: 1). Do you have prior business experience of any kind? 2). How many hours a week can you devote to managing and operating the enterprise? 3). What skills and experience do you possess that relate directly to the proposed enterprise? 3). Does your family understand that there may be financial hardships while the business is being developed? 4). Do you have an available support system? **"Marketing"**: 1). Have you identified a viable niche market? 2) Have you researched this market to determine its growth potential? 3). Have you identified key marketing components to help you define your product? 4). Do you have an understanding of what will affect your product's price? 5). Have you looked at the volume potential for your niche? 6). Have you determined how you will reach your customers? 7). Have you adequately evaluated your competitive environment? 8). Have you assessed what will be needed to promote your product? 9). Have you determined that you can differentiate (i.e., brand) your product?

"Management": 1). What experience do you have in making day-to-day business decisions? 2). What experience do you have in hiring and directing the work of other people? 3). Do you have a framework, or methodology, that you use to evaluate situations in order to determine a course of action? 4). Do you assess situations with both a short-term and a long-term perspective? 5). Do you have a basic understanding of the laws and regulations that affect the type of enterprise you are considering? 6). Have you reviewed your insurance needs? 7). Do you understand the different types of business legal structures, how to set them up and the tax impact (See page 9)

Myanmar hosts annual ASEAN Defence meeting

NAY PYI TAW — Myanmar hosted the 19th ASEAN Regional Forum-Heads of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM) in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

An address was given by Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Army Commander-in-Chief.

The two-day meeting drew defence services delegates from Brunei, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor, Vietnam, China, India, Japan, South Korea,

Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Russia, Mongolia, the United States and Australia.

Topics discussed included enhancing strategic cooperation in the region, enhancing cooperation through military education and building regional security cooperation. The meeting was also attended by senior military officers of Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Myo Moe Aung and officials.—*Myawady*



Vice-Senior General Soe Win poses for documentary photo with Heads of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions from ASEAN countries.—*MYAWADY*

Public donates relief supplies for 119 flood-hit monasteries in Monyo

YANGON — Relief provisions were donated to 119 monasteries in flood-hit areas of Monyo Township in Bago Region on Wednesday.

A donation ceremony was led by Union Minister

for Religious Affairs U Soe Win, who presented donations of rice, cooking oil, robes, umbrellas, slippers, alms bowls, fans, steel bowls and spoons and juice from well-wishers. A sum of K10 million was also donated to a

fund for the monasteries.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has also sent donations from the public to monasteries in flood-affected areas in Pwintbyu, Kalay, Sittway and Monywa townships.—*MNA*



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin being welcomed by Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Thanh Dung at the reception to mark 70th Anniversary of National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at Sule-Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on 2 September.—*MNA*

Two police killed, fugitive captured

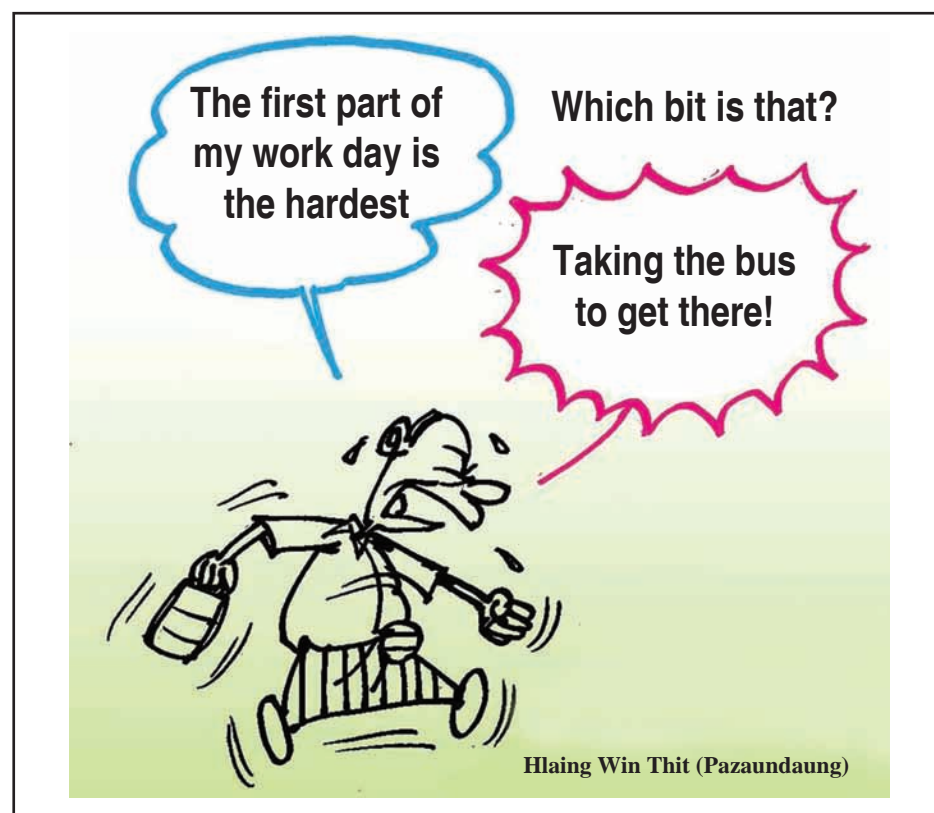
YANGON — A Fugitive who stabbed two policemen to death in Thanlyin on Wednesday has been apprehended and is now in police custody.

Tin Myint killed the

unarmed policemen as they tried to arrest him at a local guest house. In addition to double murder charges, he also faces charges of robbery, stealing and assault dating back to 2014.

Another policeman

was killed by two men in Insein Township in July while in pursuit of a fugitive. Myanmar Police Force arrested 3,564 fugitives between September 2014 and July 2015.—*GNLM*



Hlaing Win Thit (Pazaundaung)

Start Your Own Enterprise

(from page 8)

on your business of each structure? **“Financial”**: 1). Have you evaluated your personal financial situation? 2). Have you researched the start-up costs of your business? 3). Have you evaluated the capital and human resource investment requirements to begin your enterprise? 4). Do you have a working knowledge of financial statements? 5). Do you have access to business capital at an affordable interest rate and workable terms? 6) Have you developed

profit projections for the first three years of your business? 7). Can your family continue to pay its monthly obligations if your business sustains a loss during its start-up year? 8). Do you understand the basics of record keeping? Other enterprises can follow these hints by adding some requirements it may be necessary.

Embody values (value respect and relationship) is the quality of a great leader. The leader is the one who knows the way, who goes the way, who shows the way

and who leads the way. Social enterprise is a different way of doing business. A social enterprise is a business that trades for a social purpose. The social aims of the business are of equal importance to its commercial activities, and this combination is often referred to as the ‘double bottom line’. Like any business, a social enterprise focuses on generating an income through the sale of goods and services to a market but the added value of a social enterprise comes from the way in which it uses its profits to maximise social, community or environmental

benefits. Both social enterprise and business planning come with their own sets of jargon and terminology. Wherever practical, we have attempted to explain the meaning of any jargon that you should expect to encounter. The social enterprise sector is both vibrant and developing. If you are unfamiliar with social enterprise,

you can find out more by consulting various websites about social enterprises which will direct you to further sources of information. The journey of your enterprise start from Motivation, Preparation, Assessment, Test Your Idea, Exploration, Business Planning and then Start Up. Have a good start.

About the author:

U Tin Htun

Freelance Management and Development Consultant, former International UNV UNCHS/ILO/UNIDO Cooperative and Small Business Specialist in Malawi and Kiribati /UNDP Community Empowerment and Development Specialist in Bangladesh

Hundreds of migrants protest at Budapest station, want to go to Germany

BUDAPEST — Hundreds of migrants protested in front of Budapest's Eastern railway station on Wednesday, shouting "Freedom, freedom" and demanding to be let onto trains bound for Germany but the station remained closed to them.

More than 2,000 migrants, including families with children, were waiting in the square at the station in sweltering heat.

Asked if Hungary would again let migrants board trains to Germany as it did on Monday, a spokesman for the government said it would observe European Union rules.

"In the territory of the EU, illegal migrants can travel onwards only with valid documents and observing EU rules," he said. "A train ticket does not overwrite EU rules."—Reuters



Migrants rest outside the main Eastern Railway station in Budapest, Hungary, September 2, 2015. —REUTERS

Big guns in east Ukraine fall silent, two more die from wounds in Kiev protests

KIEV — A fragile truce between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists appeared to be holding on Tuesday as both sides made a renewed effort to silence their guns and make the much-abused ceasefire work.

Sporadic shelling and shooting, which each side has blamed on the other, had ensured a steadily mounting death toll despite the ceasefire called as part of a peace plan worked out in Minsk, Belarus, in Feb-

ruary. Government and separatist representatives agreed last week to strive to end all violations from Tuesday.

A Kiev military spokesman said first signs were that parties to the Minsk deal were adhering to the call for a more effective truce to mark the start of a new school year.

"As of 12 p.m. there were no reports of violations by the illegal armed groups. Now the situation is calm," the spokesman, Oleksander Motuzyanyk,

said. No soldiers had been killed or wounded over the past 24 hours, he said.

However, two more guardsmen have died from wounds sustained in violent protests outside Ukraine's parliament, the national guard said.

The Minsk agreement, brokered by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France, is regarded as the bedrock of international efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine's eastern regions. More than 6,500 people have been killed since a separatist rebellion erupted there in April 2014.

But violent nationalist-led protests outside parliament on Monday and political opposition inside to reforms indicate that President Petro Poroshenko may struggle to win broad support for the Minsk deal.

Several explosive devices, including smoke bombs and one grenade, were thrown from the crowd at the parliament during a rowdy debate on constitutional amendments that would give greater self-governance to rebel-held areas in the east. One guardsman was reported on Monday as having been killed in the unrest and nearly 90 wounded. Police detained 18 people, including a person who had thrown a grenade. Police say he is the member of nationalist Svoboda political party.—Reuters

Biden is top choice of Democrats if Clinton falters

WASHINGTON — US Democratic voters would choose Vice President Joe Biden as their preferred candidate for president in 2016 if current frontrunner Hillary Clinton shows signs of faltering, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday.

More than 38 percent of Democrats polled said they would vote for Biden in the Democratic Party nominating contest, if polling indicated that Clinton would lose to a Republican candidate.

Thirty percent of Democratic voters said they would back liberal Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders should Clinton, a former secretary of state, run into trouble, according to the tracking poll conducted from Aug. 28 through Sept. 1.

Fewer than a quarter of voters said they would stick by Clinton. The survey suggested that while Clinton's support is broad, voters are far from committed, which could indicate risks for her if Biden were to jump into the race.

Biden has been consulting with advisers over whether he should launch a 2016 presidential bid. With the first Democratic presidential primary debate planned for Oct. 13, Biden is under pressure to make a decision within the next few weeks.

A total of 499 people who identified themselves as Democrats took part in the poll, which had a credibility interval of plus

or minus 5.1 percentage points.

Clinton remains the top choice for Democratic voters, with more than 44 percent favoring the former first lady, according to Tuesday's Reuters/Ipsos polling data. Sanders had the support of a quarter of those surveyed, and Biden almost 17 percent.

But Clinton's lead narrowed in recent days as her polling numbers fell below 50 percent in August and as Sanders, a self-described socialist, drew a bit closer.

Sanders' campaign has focused on wealth inequality and the economic struggles of the middle class. He has drawn large crowds and has appeared to gain traction especially among students, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling. Voters in various polls have said they lack trust in Clinton as she struggles with a controversy over her use of a private email server for official business during her tenure as the top US diplomat. The FBI is investigating the security of the private server and any classified information on it. Clinton says she did nothing wrong and only used the private account out of convenience.

An August interview survey of 22 voters who had participated in Reuters/Ipsos polling and supported Biden found many of them describing the vice president as "honest," "genuine" and "trustworthy."—Reuters



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (R) greets Austrian diplomat and OSCE Ambassador Martin Sajdik after their meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, in this September 1, 2015, photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Service.—REUTERS

Congo militia leader goes on trial in test of international court

THE HAGUE — A Congolese militia leader goes on trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Wednesday accused of crimes including murder and the rape of his own child soldiers during the early 2000s.

Rwandan-born Bosco Ntaganda is the fourth person to face trial at the court in connection with a series of brutal conflicts that have for decades afflicted the mineral-rich province of Ituri in Congo's northeast.

The trial will be the first test of a new team assembled by court prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, who has promised to ensure that cases are investigated and prepared more rigorously after a series of high-profile failures.

Known as "The Terminator" during his time commanding the Patriotic Forces for the Liberation

of Congo, and indicted in 2006, Ntaganda remained on the run for years, fighting in a series of conflicts on and around Congo's border with Rwanda.

"We believe he ordered his troops to attack, pillage, rape, persecute and kill civilians belonging to

Lendu, Ngiti and other ethnic groups," Bensouda said on Tuesday.

"We believe he recruited hundreds of children into the UPC (Union of Congolese Patriots) and used them to kill and to die in the fighting; and girl soldiers to be

routinely raped."

In 2013, alone and fearing for his life, Ntaganda became the first person to surrender to the court voluntarily, handing himself in at the US embassy in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

Set up in 2002 to prosecute the most serious international crimes, the ICC has until now convicted only little-known warlords from the Ituri conflicts. Other cases, like that against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, have collapsed after witness withdrawals undermined already brittle cases.

Many of its highest-profile indictees, from Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to Saif al-Islam, son of late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, remain at large, their governments refusing to hand them over.—Reuters



Congolese militia leader Bosco Ntaganda sits in the courtroom of the ICC (International Criminal Court) during the first day of his trial at the Hague in the Netherlands September 2, 2015.—Reuters

Turkish warplanes attack PKK targets after soldier killed in attack

ISTANBUL — Turkish F-16 warplanes bombed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) firing positions in southeast Turkey on Wednesday after the militants killed a soldier in the area, Turkey's armed forces said.

Clashes between Turkish troops and the militants, who have bases in the mountains of nearby northern Iraq, have become a daily occurrence since a two-year-old ceasefire fell apart last month, leaving

peace negotiations in tatters.

PKK fighters armed with rifles opened fire at 7:05 a.m. (0405 GMT) on troops conducting searches on a road in the Semdinli district of Hakkari province, near the borders with Iran and Iraq, the general staff said on its website.

In the ensuing clash, one soldier was killed and two were wounded and flown to hospital.

Two F-16 jets then destroyed PKK firing po-

sitions in the area, where attack helicopters, drones and military reinforcements were also operating.

Some 70 members of Turkey's security forces have been killed since PKK attacks began in early July. The state-run Anadolu Agency says more than 900 PKK militants have been killed in southeast Turkey and in Iraq since July 22.

The PKK, designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and European Union, took

up arms in 1984, and more than 40,000 people have since been killed.

The violence had halted after Ankara began talks with the group's jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan in 2012.

There appeared to be progress towards a peace deal, but it was undermined before June's parliamentary election by domestic politics and Kurdish involvement in the civil war in neighbouring Syria.—Reuters

Three Pakistani police killed in raid targeting Taliban

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), — Militants killed three police officers and wounded several more on Wednesday in a botched police operation on a Pakistani Taliban hideout in the northwestern city of Peshawar, police and residents said.

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of 190 million, is plagued by a Taliban insurgency, sectarian violence and militancy.

The police ran into trouble during a pre-dawn raid, when one of the militant suspects inside a home

opened fire with a semi-automatic weapon, Peshawar police chief Mian Saeed said.

Another suspect fired rocket-propelled grenades at the team, according to a second police official in the city's Urmar area.

"Overall, three police personnel were martyred and seven officers were wounded, and one sniffer dog also sustained injuries," Saeed said.

One of the attackers was killed by police returning fire and the rest escaped, he said.—Reuters

Friendly fire from Saudi-led coalition kills seven in Yemen

ADEN — Seven supporters of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi were killed on Tuesday by friendly fire from a Saudi-led air strike in north Yemen, tribal sources said, as pro-Hadi forces converged on Marib in preparation to attack Houthi fighters in the region.

In the southern port city of Aden, unidentified gunmen on motorcycles shot dead two leaders of a local force allied with Hadi in separate attacks on Monday, regional officials said.

Saudi-led forces have been waging an air cam-

paign against the Iran-allied Houthis since March to try to halt the Zaydi Shi'ite group's expansion and restore the exiled Hadi to power.

Tribal sources said two members of a local force allied with Hadi were also wounded when Saudi-led jets targeted them by mistake in an area known as al-Khazzan, east of the capital Sanaa, during a clash with Houthi fighters.

Hadi supporters had been reinforcing local tribal fighters with newly-trained recruits and armoured vehicles supplied by the Saudi-led coalition

South Africa may increase nuclear power — newspaper

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's future energy mix could include an even higher share for nuclear power than the 9,600 megawatts (MW) already planned, the Business Day newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing an interview with a government official.

It said a new version of South Africa's integrated resources plan, which projects its electricity requirements and suggests the energy generation mix needed, will be released in March. "Given that we have a climate change commitment to fulfil, it should not surprise people that the viability of a much larger nuclear contribution in the long term should be tested alongside all other options," Omphi Aphane, deputy director general in the Department of Energy, told the newspaper.

Africa's most advanced economy is gripped by an electricity shortage and regular power cuts are hurting economic growth and tarnishing investor confidence.

The government aims to procure nuclear reactors to generate 9,600 MW by 2030 but the newspaper said that could be "enhanced further", as the government aims to fulfil its targets to mitigate climate change. Analysts have estimated that the current nuclear building plans could cost as much as \$100 billion, making it the country's biggest ever infrastructure project.

However, Energy Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson said neither the price nor the contractor had been determined.

Opposition parties have expressed concern about the cost and that agreements to build the nuclear plants will be made behind closed doors, without proper public scrutiny.

China, France, Russia, the United States and South Korea, as well as Japan and Canada, have all expressed interest in the project and have signed or are close to signing cooperation deals with South Africa on trade and technology exchange.—Reuters

Turkish construction firm says 18 workers kidnapped in Baghdad

ANKARA — Eighteen Turkish workers were kidnapped from a sports stadium they were constructing in northeast Baghdad on Wednesday morning, the head of their firm, Nurol Holding, told Reuters.

"People dressed in

military uniforms broke down the door at 3 am (0000 GMT) and abducted all these people," Nurol chief executive Ugur Dogan said. A spokesman for the Iraqi interior ministry had earlier said 16 people were taken.—Reuters

in what regional media had said were preparations for an assault to retake Sanaa from the Houthis.

Hadi supporters, who had been on the retreat since the Houthis seized Sanaa a year ago, have made gains in recent weeks with Saudi-led support, capturing Aden and advancing on the strategic southwestern city of Taiz.

But the United Nations says the fighting has often targeted civilians.

In a Geneva, the United Nations said on Tuesday that 95 civilians had been killed in the past two weeks in Taiz, where a collapse in

health care services and an outbreak of dengue fever are compounding a dire humanitarian situation.

"We are alarmed by the steep increase in the number of civil casualties in Taiz in recent weeks," U.N. human rights spokeswoman Cecile Pouilly told a news briefing.

Taiz, Yemen's third-largest city, has become the latest front line in a five-month war between Houthi militiamen from the north and supporters of Yemen's exiled government, which is backed by the West and Saudi Arabia.—Reuters

Hundreds of Eurostar passengers stranded by migrants trying to get through tunnel

CALAIS, (France) — Hundreds of passengers were stranded for hours on five Eurostar high-speed trains after reports that migrants were blocking the tracks leading to the tunnel under the English Channel and were attempting to climb aboard.

According to the Eurostar Twitter feed, three of the trains then went on to London early on Wednesday, while two others returned to their original departure stations in London and Paris.

Eurostar had announced on Twitter late on Tuesday that it was holding its trains “whilst authorities deal with trespassers” and then said the trespassers had been spotted on the tracks at the station in Calais. The trains stayed in place as the trespassers were removed from the tunnel and away from the tracks, it said.

Local media reported that the trespassers were migrants attempting to cross into the United Kingdom through the Eurotunnel, also known as the Chunnel. So far this year, thousands of refugees have attempted to make the dangerous crossing.

Passengers on one of the London-bound trains, which stopped less than a mile (1.6 km) from the tunnel, were told at one point to be very quiet and listen for the sound of people climbing on the roof. A helicopter with a searchlight then circled the train as guards walked the tracks looking for migrants, but seemingly none were spotted.

With the power out,



Passengers wrapped in thermal foil blankets given out by emergency services after their Eurostar train was stranded at Calais Station, after intruders were seen near the Eurotunnel, in Calais, France September 2, 2015. —REUTERS

passengers on that train sat in the dark for nearly four hours. The heat and mugginess in the cars rose as conductors walked the aisles with wind-up torches. A woman in business class wept and many passengers said they could not breathe in the stifling air.

Eurostar then pulled the train back to Calais, where passengers disembarked for

fresh air and bottled water. But when some attempted to leave the station to cross the English Channel by ferry, French gendarmes stopped them, saying that customs and immigration laws required that the passengers return to Paris. However, Eurostar tweeted that the train, ES9055, “is unable to be used to take passengers in Calais back to Paris and alternative options are

being sought.”

“We’ve been abandoned on a platform somewhere in the cold with NO INFORMATION,” tweeted one of the passengers, Danny Bell. “And enlighten me - at 4am in the middle of nowhere what are those options? For hundreds and hundreds of people?”

Eurostar has offered to exchange tickets.—Reuters

Obama pushes for more US ice-breaking might in Arctic

SEWARD, (Alaska) — President Barack Obama said on Tuesday the United States needs to quickly acquire at least one new heavy icebreaker for the US Arctic, where melting sea ice has spurred more traffic and the United States has fallen far behind Russian resources.

The move, part of a push to convince Americans to support Obama’s plans to curb climate change, has long been urged by Arctic advocates as climate change opens up the region to more shipping, mining and oil drilling.

In the first step of Obama’s new timetable, the government would buy a heavy icebreaker by 2020 instead of the previous goal of 2022.

The United States used to have seven icebreakers. Russia currently has 40, with another 11 planned or under construction.

“Technically, we have three. Operationally, we really have

only two,” Obama told reporters in the coastal town of Seward, named after Secretary of State William Seward, who negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867.

Obama will have to convince Congress to pick up the tab for any new icebreakers, each of which comes with a price tag of about \$1 billion.

“The devil, as always, will be in the funding and procurement details,” said Heather Conley of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, who has studied the need for more Arctic icebreakers.

The region also needs enhanced navigation aids, satellite communications, deep water ports and other related investments not mentioned in the White House announcement, Conley noted.

At a time of dwindling big-ticket weapons programs, Obama’s announcement lays the

groundwork for the US Coast Guard to launch a competition to build a new icebreaker.

“Great powers should have the capabilities for playing a role in the theatre,” said Malte Humpert, the head of the Arctic Institute, a think tank. “Russia is ready for anything that happens in the Arctic, and China is getting ready to have those capabilities.”

As the Arctic opens tourism and oil drilling, the United States risks not having enough capacity to carry out search and rescue and oil spill response missions.

Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc, which built the newest US ice breaker and delivered it in 1999, said it was keen to bid on new hardened ships for the Coast Guard.

General Dynamics Corp, the other large US military shipbuilder and a possible bidder in an ice breaker competition, said it was also very interested,

and touted its expertise in manufacturing heavy- and medium-weight steel commercial ships.

The company that built the other existing U.S. icebreakers, Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction, has exited the business and its shipyard was shut down in 1988.

It usually takes up to 10 years to build an icebreaker. It was not immediately clear when any proposed new vessel might be ready.

The White House also said the government should start planning for additional vessels. The Coast Guard has previously recommended it needs eight icebreakers, although no administration budget has yet included the huge funding request.

Coast Guard officials have said other agencies will have to chip in to help finance the purchase of new icebreakers.—Reuters

French president pledges to do everything to identify Paris fire’ causes

PARIS — French President Francois Hollande on Wednesday vowed to dig out the causes of a fatal blaze in Paris northern suburbs, according to his office.

“Everything is done to shed light on the cause of this drama and get all the necessary information about what happened,” Hollande said.

A fire broke out at around 5 a.m. local time (0300 GMT) in the 18th district of French capital in a private building, killing eight people, including two children. It started on the ground floor before spreading into the stairwell, local medias reported.

A hundred firefighters were mobilized to contain the blaze that was under control, the Elysee said.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said an investigation is ongoing, adding “it’s too early to determine the cause of the fire.”—Xinhua

Greek coast guard seizes ship with weapons bound for Libya

ATHENS — Greek authorities have seized a freighter carrying an undeclared shipment of weapons en route from Turkey to Libya, coast guard officials said on Wednesday.

A coast guard patrol boat raided the vessel on Tuesday, 20 nautical miles northeast of Crete. The freighter, with a crew of seven and which had sailed from the Turkish port of Iskenderun, was escorted to Heraklion port on the island.

The United Nations has imposed an embargo on weapons shipments to Libya.

“The ship’s crew is being questioned and the content of its containers will be checked,” a coast guard official said, declining to be named.

The coast guard provided no further details of what kind of arms the freighter had on board, or its ownership.

Libya is divided between two rival governments battling for control, leaving a security vacuum being exploited by migrant smugglers and Islamic militants.—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (138)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (138) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(4) 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV LINDAUNIS VOY NO (0011S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LINDAUNIS VOY NO (0011S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J039R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J039R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN
VOY NO (TPN-655)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-655) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)**

(14/2015)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-044(15-16)	Well Servicing Equipment (15) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-045(15-16)	Well Control Accessories (9) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-046(15-16)	Spares for Mack Oil Field Truck (17) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-047(15-16)	Spares for Well Servicing Truck (1) Item	US\$
(5)	IFB-048(15-16)	Spares for 50 Ton Hitachi Sumitomo Hydraulic Crawler Crane (10) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-049(15-16)	Ariel Compressor JGK-4 and Cooper MH64 with Waukesha P-9390 GL Spares (11) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-050(15-16)	AJAX DPC 600 Spares (25) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-051(15-16)	NKK Compressor KJB2 & KB2 with Waukesha L7G042GU & H 2475 Engine Spares (10) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-052(15-16)	Cementing Head and Accessories (11) Items	US\$
(10)	DMP/L-007(15-16)	SAE 15 W 40 Diesel Engine Oil (1) Lot	Ks

Tender Closing Date &. Time - 29-9-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1st September, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph.+9567-411097 /411206

**Moderate
quake strikes
off eastern
Indonesia**

JAKARTA — An earthquake measuring 5.6 Richter scale jolted eastern parts of Indonesia earlier Wednesday, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency reported here.

The quake rocked at 08:18 a.m.Jakarta time (0118 GMT) with epicenter at 111 km north-west Sangihe Island of North Sulawesi and with the depth at 256 km under sea bed, an official of the agency told Xinhua by phone.

Indonesia is prone to quake as it lies on a vulnerable quake- hit zone so called "the Pacific Ring of Fire."—Xinhua

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 3rd September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Chin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



People gather at the art installation Serpent Mother during the Burning Man 2015 "Carnival of Mirrors" arts and music festival in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada, September 1, 2015. Participants are still arriving from all over the world for the sold-out festival to spend a week in the remote desert to experience art, music and the unique community that develops.—REUTERS

Venice film fest on a roll with Oscar-lucky openers

VENICE — The Venice Film Festival is having a good run with opening films winning Oscars, including best picture last year for “Birdman”, and hopes to stay on a winning streak when the mountain disaster film “Everest” kicks off the 72nd edition on Wednesday.

“Everest” is directed by the relatively unknown Baltasar Kormakur from Iceland but boasts an all-star cast, including Jake Gyllenhaal, Keira Knightley and Josh Brolin re-enacting a real-life disaster that befell several expeditions on the world’s highest mountain in 1996 -- filmed in 3D to boot.

It is not competing for the “Lion d’Or” top prize, but it is just the kind of film that Alberto Barbera, the festival’s director, is looking for as an opener -- having scored a hit not only with “Birdman” but also with the space thriller “Gravity” the year before.

“The most difficult thing is to identify the film for the opening night because it’s a sort of a special category of film,” Barbera told Reuters in an interview. “It has to be spectacular enough, not too violent because the audience of the opening night is different from the rest of the festival.

“It’s made of guests, representatives of the public institutions, authorities,



Italian model and actress Elisa Sednaoui poses for photographers a day before the 72nd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, September 1, 2015. Sednaoui will be hosting the opening and closing ceremonies of the film festival.—REUTERS

whatever, not cinephiles, so you have to find a mix of elements that combine the many expectations of the audience,” he said.

Barbera is proud not only of grabbing “Everest”, showing out of competition, but also for luring a raft of prestigious films, directors and actors for a festival that in some film circles, before Barbera took the reins a few years ago, was said to be sinking into the lagoon, with the rest of Venice.

Some of the top movies in the competition strand include Eddie Redmayne playing the title role in the transgender film “The Danish Girl”, Israeli direc-

tor Amos Gitai’s biopic on Yitzhak Rabin, “Rabin, the Last Day”, and “Beasts of No Nation”, which stars Idris Elba (“Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom”) and is based on a novel about a child soldier in Africa.

Out of competition, the festival will host the premiere of “Black Mass”, with Johnny Depp portraying the Irish-American gangster Whitey Bulger, and “Spotlight”, starring Michael Keaton as an editor involved in the Boston Globe’s Pulitzer-Prize winning investigation of pedophile priests serving in the Roman Catholic church in Boston.

“Venice has been do-

ing a really good job in the last couple of years of focusing the lineup,” said Scott Roxborough, a European-based critic and reporter for The Hollywood Reporter trade publication.

“It’s not as big as the Toronto Film Festival, and it doesn’t have the sort of aura of Cannes or Berlin, which are just massive. Venice is much more limited...but they do a good job of balancing a handful of films that will be interesting later in the year for Oscar nominations.”

There are 21 films in the main competition strand this year, and the prizes will be awarded on Sept. 12. —Reuters

‘Take On Me’ singers A-ha reunite with new album

LONDON — Norwegian band A-ha, whose “Take On Me” track remains one of the most popular songs from the 1980s, are reuniting temporarily, releasing their first new material in six years.

The band split after a worldwide tour in 2010 and vocalist Morten Harket, keyboardist Magne Furuholmen and guitarist Paul Waaktaar-Savoy went on to pursue solo projects.

The trio are now back together for a two-year reunion to write new material. Their 10th studio album, “Cast In Steel”, is out Sept. 4 and a European tour will follow next year. A-ha will first perform at the Rock in Rio music festival this month.

“It’s incredible how quickly you fall back into where you left off,” Harket told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday.

“One of the good things about being away is to digest things and maybe learn from

things and see if there are better ways to get to where you want to be.”

A-ha formed in 1982 and this year marks 30 years since the release of their debut album “Hunting High and Low”, which has sold more than 10 million copies.

“For us you have to make peace with that song because it’s stronger than you in a way. It’s not going away,” Harket said when asked about the continued popularity of “Take On Me”.

“We played it to death ... but the public don’t get sick of it somehow.”

Harket said the band now are getting to grips with the popularity of social media — especially within the music industry — a big change from when they started out. “I have always been a recluse really and to bring me out in the open like that is not easy,” he said. “I think it has a lot of good things to it.”—Reuters

Rita Ora looking for house in Los Angeles?

LONDON — Singer Rita Ora is reportedly looking to buy her own pad in LA.

The 24-year-old “Body On Me” hitmaker, who is hoping to crack the US with her upcoming album, plans to spend much more time in the US and wants a base other than a hotel, reported Female First.

“Rita spends a lot of time in America and normally either stays in a ho-

tel or rents a place with her team. But she’s been going back and forth so much recently promoting her new single that she’s decided it makes more sense to get her own place.

“Her album is due out in November and she’s desperate for it to be a success in the US. She has been looking at houses over the past month but is still in the early stages of finding somewhere.”—PTI

Cupcakes & time travel: Changing cities explored in Berlin show

BERLIN — If you could go back in time to change your city, what would you do? What kind of a place do you want to live in? Would you try to stop gentrification?

These are some of the questions being posed by a Berlin-based collective of artists, called copy & waste, in a performance inspired by the way Hill Valley changes during the 1980s “Back to the Future” science-fiction comedy films.

Titled “Knick-Knack to the Future”, by day the artists run a fictional “concept store” selling coffee, cupcakes and “Back to Future”-themed bags, shoes and T-shirts in a bid to encourage people to discuss how much they’re willing to

pay for products.

At night the group uses the space to offer “time travel workshops”, theatrical performances in which the audience follows the cast from room to room as they use English and German in music, speech, clips from the movie trilogy, and filmwork to explore issues of gentrification.

“First come the artists and studios, followed by the students and the cupcake cafes and then the well-to-do and boutiques. And this process takes place over increasingly shorter periods of time,” the group says on its website. Gentrification is a hot topic in Germany, and especially Berlin. A sharp increase in rents of as

much as 30-40 percent in cities such as Berlin, Munich and Frankfurt since 2007 prompted the government to act, introducing a cap on rent rises to prevent tenants being priced out.

The location of the copy & waste project near the Kottbusser Tor underground station in an up-and-coming area of the city is no accident. Once an almost-forgotten area home to Turkish immigrant workers, just a couple of streets away from the Berlin Wall, the area is surging in popularity, causing rents to rise.

“Here, the process of gentrification is so obvious, it’s so in your face,” Steffen Klewar, director and actor at copy & waste, told Reuters

ahead of a performance last week. The artists decided to make a fancy store part of the production to highlight the changing nature of the neighborhood, where concept stores selling sweaters for hundreds of euros (dollars) sit across from stores selling items for a euro apiece.

“We’re not here to make money, we want to talk to people, see how they react,” writer Joerg Albrecht said.

American actor Daniel Brunet, who is Producing Artistic Director of the English Theatre Berlin, said affordable housing was a basic right. “I can barely picture what New York will look like in 2045,

could it be like the worst version of Hill Valley, with some people living in luxurious penthouses and others cramped in on the edge of town and just not given enough?” he said.

After a run in Berlin

until Sept. 12, the artists will take their performance to the rundown former industrial town of Muelheim in der Ruhr in western Germany, and then to wealthy Graz in Austria in September and October.—Reuters



The director and actor at copy & waste Steffen Klewar (L) and actor Daniel Brunet pose behind a car model of a DeLorean DMC-12 at the concept store “Knick-Knack to the Future” in Berlin, Germany, September 1, 2015.—REUTERS

Los Angeles named US bid candidate for 2024 Games



The Los Angeles downtown skyline is pictured August 22, 2011. —REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles was officially selected on Tuesday as the American candidate city that will bid to host the 2024 Summer Olympics after Boston pulled out of the race in July, the US Olympic Committee said.

Los Angeles, which has hosted the Summer Games twice before, in 1932 and 1984, will be among the front-runners and joins a race that includes heavy favourite Paris, Rome, Budapest and Hamburg. "It is my distinct honour today to formally name the city of Los Angeles as the US bid city to host the 2024

Olympics," USOC Chief Executive Officer Scott Blackmun told a news conference held just off the beach front in Santa Monica.

The final obstacle facing the city's candidacy was cleared earlier Tuesday when the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to pursue a bid for the 2024 Games, giving Los Angeles the chance to become the only city besides London to host the Olympics three times.

The resolution adopted on a 15-0 vote by the council allows the city to negotiate financial terms of a hosting deal and bow out if it cannot reach agreement

with Olympic officials.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will elect a winning bid in September 2017.

"LA has the proven experience in hosting the Games, and knows how to deliver world-class events for athletes and an extraordinary experience for fans," Blackmun said in a statement. "Coupled with the city's culture of creativity and innovation, we are confident LA can deliver an outstanding Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2024." Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said: "Today, I am proud to officially launch our bid in partner-

ship with the USOC as we aim to bring the Olympic and Paralympic Games back to the US for the first time in 28 years.

"It is an honour for any city to host the Olympic Games, and Los Angeles is uniquely prepared for this task. With the unanimous support of our City Council, we are ready to serve and strengthen the Olympic Movement and build a new Olympic legacy." The USOC had been under pressure to find another potential host with the IOC having set a Sept. 15 deadline for interested cities to submit a letter of intent.—Reuters

West Brom's Berahino angry as dream move joins failed deals

LONDON—West Bromwich Albion's Saido Berahino has suggested he will never play for the club again after failing to secure a last-minute transfer to Tottenham Hotspur as several players did not get the moves they wanted on a frenetic deadline day.

England under-21 striker Berahino was the subject of four failed bids from the London club and reacted angrily on Twitter, saying he would not play for the Midlands outfit again under chairman Jeremy Peace.

"Sad how I can't say exactly how the club has treated me, but I can officially say I will never play (for) Jeremy Peace," he said.

While Peace responded by saying he made it clear to Spurs that West Brom would not accept a bid for Berahino so late in the window, he admitted the player had been unsettled by what he called Tottenham's "antics".

Berahino's was among a number of high-profile deals that failed to get over the finish line, including goalkeeper David De Gea's transfer from Manchester United to Real Madrid and Everton defender John Stones' proposed move to Chelsea.

The breakdown in De Gea's deal has led both teams to blame each other for a bureaucratic failure to file all the documents in time for the transfer to be processed.

Stones put in a transfer request and was the subject of three bids of 20, 26 and finally 30 million pounds (\$45.91 million), which were all rejected by Everton who held firm and insisted that the player was not for sale.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(3-9-2015 07:00 am~4-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Novitation Ceremony in a Rural Township
07:52	Am	Orchid Lover
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	School for the Blind (Kye Myin Dine)
08:51	Am	A Star for Great Achievement
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products of Myanmar - Pottery Business
09:43	Am	Tigers, Lions and The Guardians
09:53	Am	Guiding Star of Song Birds
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Gold: King of All Metals

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Beauties of Makyee Island - Island of Tamarind Tree
07:38	Pm	Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar
07:48	Pm	ABU Song Festival
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
08:38	Pm	A Traditional Doctor
08:45	Pm	We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board

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

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(3-9-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am	• Mono Classical Songs	8:30 am	• Musical Programme
6:25 am	• Myanmar Series	8:50 am	• Myanmar Video
7:00 am	• TV Drama Series	9:55 am	• ASEAN Cultural Fair (2014)
7:45 am	• TV Drama Series	10:15 am	• Myanmar Video
		12:00 noon	• Close Down

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(3-9-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am	• Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	9:35 am	• Beautiful ASEAN
6:25 am	• Physical Exercise	10:30 am	• Head Line News
6:40 am	• Documentary	11:35 am	• Science and Technology Programme
7:00 am	• News/ Weather Report	12:00 noon	• News/ International News/ Weather Report
7:35 am	• Weekly Entertainment	12:35 pm	• Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance
8:00 am	• News/ International News	1:20 pm	• Teleplay (Part-1)
8:35 am	• Documentary	2:35 pm	• Teleplay (Part-2)
9:30 am	• Head Line News		

3:00 pm	• News
4:35 pm	• University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Physics)
5:30 pm	• Head Line News
6:35 pm	• People's Talks
7:35 pm	• Current Affairs
8:00 pm	• News/ International News/ Weather Report
8:35 pm	• Talk Show
9:00 pm	• News
	• Clever
	• Talk on Old Film (Part-2)

MIC Club wins AYA Bank Futsal Open Cup



MFF President U Zaw Zaw awards championship trophy to Futsal champion team.—MFF

YANGON — Myanmar Imperial College's Futsal Club won the championship trophy after defeating Khittaya Club 10-2 in the final match of AYA Bank Futsal Open Cup 2015 held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Yangon's Thuwunna Township on 1 September.

Winner Club took the third position with a 5-3 win over VUC at the same venue.

The President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw presented the championship trophy to MIC club and a K3 million (\$2350) cash prize. Players received individual gold medals. Cash prizes of K2 million went to second prize winning club, K1.5 million to the third prize and K1 million to the fourth.

A prize of K500,000 for the best and fairest team award went to VUC Club, while K300,000 went to the best goalkeeper, Kyaw Htet Aung of Winner Club, as well as best all-round player of the championship, Nyein Min Soe of Winner Club.—MFF

Myanmar and New Zealand to play football fundraiser

YANGON — Myanmar and New Zealand will play a fundraising football match on 7 September at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, Yangon.

All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to Myanmar's flood victims, said a Myanmar Football Federation spokesperson during a press conference held on 1 September.

Grandstand tickets will cost K5,000 and K1,000 will be charged for general admission. Tickets are available to purchase from Myanmar Football Federation, YTC, Aung San Stadium and Padonma Stadium between 9.30am and 5pm from 3 to 6 September.

Extra tickets will be available on the day from 10 am to 5pm on 7 September. The match will kick off at 6pm.

A friendly match between Myanmar's former national players, film stars and singers will take place from 3.30 pm to 4.20pm on the day of the fundraiser.

MRTV, For Sports and 4HD will broadcast the football match live.—MFF



Myanmar youth golfer Hein Sithu won the second prize with 220 strokes in the Hungarian Crown Junior Golf Tournament at the Pannonia Golf and Country Club in Hungary from 26 to 28 August.—GNLM

Berto 'on a mission' to unseat Mayweather Newcastle's new boys will take time to gel, says Wijnaldum

LOS ANGELES — Andre Berto will go into his welterweight title fight against Floyd Mayweather in Las Vegas next week as a heavy underdog but also as a man "on a mission" as he bids to end his fellow American's perfect 48-0 record.

Berto, 31, he has blinkered himself from all the hype and hoopla that usually surrounds the build-up to a Mayweather bout and claims he has never been fitter as he prepares to step into the ring at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sept. 12.

"I've had a tremendous training camp, a long camp but a tremendous camp," twice former welterweight world champion Berto told reporters on a conference call on Tuesday. "I've never run harder. I'm definitely in the best shape that I've ever been in."

"I've worked with a lot of different sparring partners. Floyd is a very skilled fighter but I think I bring a combination of speed and power to the table. I think I have a better athletic ability. I can keep up with Floyd." Mayweather, widely regarded as one of the best defensive fighters ever, will put his unbeaten record on the line against Berto, a man who has lost three of his last six fights and is



Aug 6, 2015; Los Angeles, CA, USA; Andre Berto speaks to the media as Floyd Mayweather, Jr. listens during a press conference to announce the upcoming fight on September 12, 2015 at J.W.—REUTERS

viewed by some as an easy opponent for their welterweight clash.

Should five-division world champion Mayweather win the WBC and WBA welterweight title bout as expected, in what he has said will be the final fight of his career, he would match the 49-0 record of former heavyweight great Rocky Marciano. "It would be something huge, not just for me but for the sport," Berto said, when asked how much

value he would place on a surprise victory over Mayweather. "Floyd has been an icon for quite some time now and he's on his way to try to match a record. So for me, being the gym-hungry fighter coming in to take that away from him, that would be huge."

Mayweather, who improved to 48-0 by beating Manny Pacquiao in a 'mega-fight' in May that took five years to finalise and became the richest bout in box-

ing, is known for his trash talking and his flamboyant approach to life outside the ring. Berto, however, prefers to leave all the hype to others while preparing for fights. "I don't get caught up in all that," said the American, who has a 30-3 record with 23 knockouts. "I don't get caught up in all the hoopla and all the crazy shit. "I don't want to get caught up and caught off guard. I'm on a mission."—Reuters

Newcastle's new boys will take time to gel, says Wijnaldum

LONDON — Newcastle United's new boys will take time to gel but the side will be a force going forward in the Premier League, summer recruit Georginio Wijnaldum has said. Newcastle have reportedly spent over 50 million pounds (\$76.55 million) this summer on Chancel Mbemba, Wijnaldum, Florian Thauvin, Aleksandar Mitrovic and Ivan Toney.

"We have good players but now we must make sure we show we are a good team," the 24-year-old Wijnaldum, the third most expensive signing in the club's history, was quoted as saying by the Chronicle. "When a lot of players come to a club it can be difficult to gel because you don't know each other properly. "However, we are going to train hard to make sure we do know each other. Then we can be a big team going forward," the Netherlands international added.—Reuters