

President U Thein Sein attends commemorations in China

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STRENGTHENING SMEs

Boosting competitiveness through planned incubation centre

Aye Min Soe

MYANMAR'S Small and Medium Enterprise Development Department is planning to form an incubation centre to help SMEs become more competitive when the ASEAN Economic Community comes into force.

The move is aimed at overcoming common weaknesses among Myanmar's SMEs, such as a lack of a systematic approach or long-term vision, said a department official on Thursday.

About 80 percent of Myanmar's SMEs operate without business plans or balance sheets, said Daw Aye Aye Win, the Deputy Director-General of the Central Department of SMEs Development, which lies under the Ministry of Industry.

Singapore will provide assistance to Myanmar to strength its SME sector, which will also include boosting the efficiency of government personnel in the SME sector, said Daw Aye Aye Win, the Deputy Director-General of the Central Department of SMEs in July during the 5th Singapore-Myanmar Joint Ministerial Working Committee meeting.

The Small and Medium-sized Industrial Development Bank has allocated K20 billion (US\$15.6 million) worth of loans for SMEs for the 2015-16 financial year, of which K9 billion kyat (US\$7 million) has already been disbursed.

According to a new report from Asian Development Bank (ADB), SMEs across the board in



A worker reinforces a ploughing mechanism in Kawa, Bago Region.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Asia need greater financing to help them grow into dynamic, internationally competitive companies.

"Asia has millions of SMEs but few of them are able to grow to the point where they can inno-

vate or be part of the global supply chain. To do this, they need more growth capital and opportunities to access various financing channels," Noritaka Akamatsu, Senior Advisor in ADB's Sustainable

Development and Climate Change Department said in a press release dated 3 September.

The Asia SME Finance Monitor 2014, which assesses 20 countries in developing Asia, not-

ed that SMEs make up an average of 96 percent of all registered firms and employ 62 percent of the labour force, yet contribute only 42 percent of total economic output.—GNLM

Ethnic minorities aim for greater representation

A coalition of 23 ethnic political parties comprising 710 candidates is looking to ensure greater ethnic representation in the next Parliament, said the director of the Nationalities Brotherhood Federation on Thursday.

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UEC sets campaign period, urges candidates to respect laws

PAGE 2



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UEC sets campaign period, urges candidates to respect laws

NAY PYI TAW — The Union Election Commission has set the campaign period from 8 September to 6 November and has urged candidates to share responsibility for holding free and fair elections.

The commission has called on individual candidates and political parties contesting the general election on 8 November to follow its directives, rules, regulations and code of conduct while canvassing votes.—MNA

Union Home Affairs Minister holds talks with UNDP

NAY PYI TAW—Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko received a UNDP delegation led by UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative Ms Renata Lok-Dessallien at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Both sides cordially exchanged views on holding workshops on security matters in regions and states ahead of the general elections of November 8, with assistance to be provided by UNDP.

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



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko receives UNDP delegation led by UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative Ms Renata Lok-Dessallien.—MNA

Ethnic minorities aim for greater representation in 2016 parliament

Ye Myint

YANGON— A coalition of 23 ethnic political parties comprising

710 candidates is looking to ensure greater ethnic representation in the next Parliament, said the director of the Nationalities

Brotherhood Federation on Thursday.

The coalition party is hoping to gain more parliamentary seats

than it did in the 2010 elections: it has targeted three-fourths of its candidates to win seats, Daw Chin Chin, the NBF's director told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

In the 2010 general elections, the NBF was comprised of 12 political parties of ethnic minorities and won 160 seats— 94 in state parliament, 24 in Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) and 42 in Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House).

“If we gained our target seats in the 2016 parliament, the support of elected ethnic minority MPs could play a crucial role in electing the next president of Myanmar,” said the NBF director.

The alliance of ethnic political parties announced on Wednesday that the 710 nominated candidates will not limit themselves to contesting only ethnic

minority constituencies.

Of the NBF candidates, 381 will seek seats in local parliaments, 300 in the national parliament— 116 for the seats in the Amyotha Hluttaw and 184 in the Pyithu Hluttaw — and 29 seats for ethnic affairs ministers.

Looking ahead to the 2015 general elections, Daw Chin Chin emphasized the role of ethnic minorities in the country's reform and democratization process and said she hoped for greater representation of ethnic minorities in the next parliament through free and fairs polls.

According to preliminary candidate lists announced by the Union Election Commission last month, 93 political parties will field 5,866 candidates in 330 constituencies across the country.—GNLM



Nay Pyi Taw's parliamentary complex. The Nationalities Brotherhood Federation, an alliance of ethnic minority political parties, will field 710 candidates in the 2015 general elections, with an aim to ensure greater representation in the 2016 Parliament.— PHOTO: YE MYINT

Photo exhibition captures Yangon Circle Line scenes

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON—Yangon Gallery will host a photo exhibition entitled “Yangon Circle Photography Project,” which will document the comings and goings at train stations.

The exhibition will run from 5 to 9 September and will feature 50 colour and black-and-white works by a 17-member group led by photographer Kyaw Kyaw Winn.

According to exhibition coordinator Lynn Whut Hmone, the group also includes a Japanese photographer called Mr Takashi Koike. He will share his experiences of railway photography during workshops and a lecture scheduled to be held from 2pm to 4pm everyday during the exhibition period, Kyaw Kyaw Winn said.

He added, “The participating photographers took pictures of commuters, trains and the sur-

rounding environment by riding the circle line throughout the project. The aim is to document the old Yangon railway as it will soon be replaced with modern facilities.”

Kyaw Kyaw Winn said: “All the money raised from the event will be donated to victims of the floods, as well as the rehabilitation of school buildings which were destroyed.”

Donors can make contributions by buying the artworks displayed at the gallery for US\$200 per photograph. Donors will receive a photo book with 150 pages provided by the exhibitor.

The Yangon Gallery is located within the compound of People's Park, near the Planetarium Museum on Ahlone Road. It plans to host a wide range of arts events during its second Monsoon Art Festival, which will run from 28 August to 28 October.—GNLM



Work by photographer Kyaw Kyaw Winn will be on display at Yangon Gallery.— PHOTO: KYAW KYAW WINN

SEZs critical to job creation, exports – Vice President

NAY PYI TAW — Vice President U Nyan Tun said on Thursday that Myanmar must create a favourable environment to attract foreign investment by adopting a legal framework that is in accordance with international norms.

He made the remarks to members of the Central Work Committee for Myanmar Special Economic Zones, which he chairs.

During his speech, he said that the three SEZs in Thilawa, Dawei and Kyaukpadaung are being developed with the aim of promoting exports, creating jobs and establishing markets for small and medium enterprises. He said that the success of the SEZs in attracting foreign investment will rest to a large extent on simplifying existing rules and regulations, which he said are more complicated in Myanmar than other ASEAN countries.

In addition to following in-



Vice President U Nyan Tun delivers speech at Myanmar's SEZ central committee meeting.—MNA

ternational legal norms, 'one-stop service centres' for investors will increase Myanmar's attractiveness, the vice president added.

He urged participants to adopt international practices as standard operating procedures and to abide by environmental laws and international laws.

The Vice Chairman of the work committee Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and Secretary Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein briefed the vice president on the issuance of rules for SEZs and the notifications and measures made to date.

The chairmen of each SEZ updated the vice president on the work being carried out at the respective project sites.

Around 90 percent of the first phase of Thilawa SEZ, which covers 400 hectares, has been completed and will open shortly. A feasibility study for the second phase is currently being carried out.

The chairman of Dawei SEZ said that a number of agreements have been signed with Thailand and Japan for the development of the SEZ.

The secretary of Kyaukpadaung SEZ said that tenders have been called to develop the SEZ and that proposals are being scrutinised by a team of 16 experts.

The meeting concluded with the vice president reiterating the need for all involved to make a concerted effort to develop the SEZs in the interests of the people.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends dinner for ASEAN Defence Forum

NAY PYI TAW — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended a dinner in honour of participants of the 9th ASEAN Regional Forum Heads of Defence Universities, Colleges and Insti-

tution at Thingaha Hotel on Thursday.

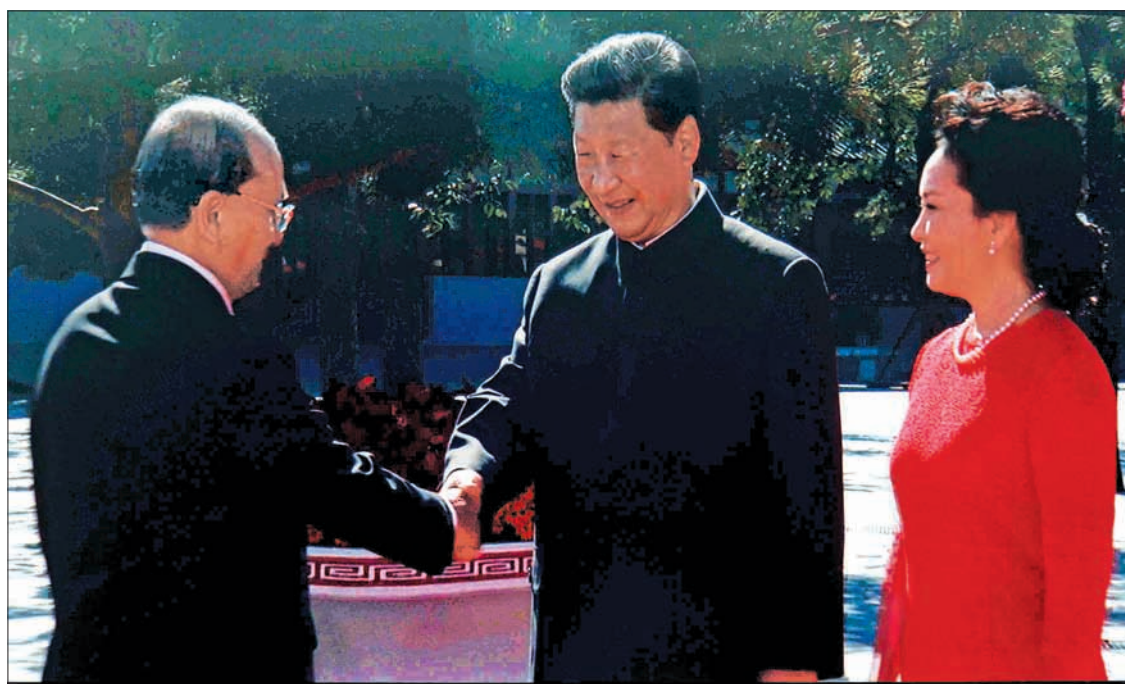
Vice-Senior General Soe Win gave the opening address while the Co-Chairman and leader of India's delegation expressed thanks. Guests were entertained by the Myawady Band during dinner.—Myawady

U Aung Tha Nyun concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Nigeria

NAY PYI TAW — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.—MNA

mar to the Republic of South Africa, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.—MNA

President U Thein Sein attends commemorations in China



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping.—IPRD

BEIJING — President U Thein Sein and a delegation on Thursday attended commemorations at Tiananmen Square to mark the 70th anniversary of the Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War.

The President of the People's Republic of China welcomed the heads of state and together they stood for an official photograph.

Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the ceremony and observed the parade.

President U Thein Sein attended a luncheon hosted by the Chinese President and wife at the Great Hall of the People at the square.

In the afternoon, President U Thein Sein met with Myanmar Embassy staff and their families and the military attaché office and scholarship students presented gifts.

The president received Chairman Mr Wang Binghua

and party of China Power Investment (CPI) at China World Hotel. Also present at the meeting were union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Hla Tun, U Khin Maung Soe, U Zeyar Aung, U Ye Htut and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

In the evening, the president and party enjoyed a cultural show at the theatre near Tiananmen Square.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw speaker meets US Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW — Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann held a talk with US Ambassador to My-

anmar Mr. Derek Mitchell at the Pyithu Hluttaw hall on Thursday.

Also present at the meet-

ing were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials.—MNA



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with US Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell.—MNA

UEC urges election officials to understand electoral process

NAY PYI TAW — The Union Election Commission started its election officials training programme at its building here on Thursday, with its chairman urging returning officers and election staff to familiarize themselves with each step to be taken at every stage of the

election process.

U Tin Aye said that returning officers should equip themselves with the ability to deal with arguments likely to occur inside and outside the polling stations.

Speaking of the voting rights, the chairman emphasized that voters can secure their rights

at the production of the voter ID or other personal identities, or on the recommendation of an advocate.

He stressed hands-on training for election officials new to the election processes, pointing out the need to provide voter education to the electorate.—MNA

Checkups at BEHS in Pobbathiri

NAY PYI TAW—Students at the Basic Education High School (branch) in Yepya Village in Pobbathiri Township were given free dental and medical check-ups on 2 September. The check-ups were provided by the township Public Health Department's dentist Dr Thit Thit Ko, nurses and staff from the village health branch.

A total of 323 students were also provided with free medicines.

Dr Thit Thit Ko said they had come to help prevent a variety of diseases and to teach better hygiene habits to students. Talks were given about oral health, HIV/AIDS and the need for regular hand washing.—*Shwe Ye Yint*



Nurses of Township Public Health Department perform medical checkups at basic education students in Pobbathiri Township.
SHWE YE YINT

Jam and jelly making course begins in Yinmabin

YINMABIN—With the cooperation of Yinmabin's township rural development department and region small-scale industries department, a fruit foodstuffs training course was launched at the Township Rural Development Department in Yinmabin, Sagaing Region, on 1 September.

The course is the first of its kind to boost locals' vocational skills.

The 8-day course will teach participants how to produce jam, juice, jelly and other foodstuff with the area's local produce of tomatoes, papaya, lemon, plum and other fruits. The 30 trainees from nearby villages were also provided with course uniforms.—*Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)*

Kyangin villagers evacuated to safer places as river rises

KYANGIN — Due to the rising tides of Ayeyawady River from erosion, 13 families from four villages in Yelekyun village in Kyangin Township were evacuated to safer locations

on 3 September.

A total of 162 families have so far been moved to shelters and are being provided with assistance from township officials, volunteers, members of

social organisations and local elders.

Look-out sentries are also on stand-by at the township's embankment areas.

Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)



Ayeyawady River eroding bank in Kyangin Township.—*Win Bo (Township IPRD)*



Teachers and students from monastic education school seen in a group photo.—*Myint Aung (Ka-Ma)*

MANTONG — A monastic education school was opened at Aungchantha Mantauk Monastery on 31 August in Mantong Township in the Palaung Self-Administered Zone in Shan

State, with blessings from Mantong's chief abbot Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kelasa.

Headmaster Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sunanda said that the objective of opening the school

was to provide new educational opportunities to the next generation of ethnic minority students. He said that students from all religions are welcome to enroll.

Myint Aung (Ka-Ma)

Donors provide paddy seeds to re-cultivate crops in Myanaung

MYANAUNG—The flood-damaged delta township of Myanaung has re-cultivated nearly 3,000 acres of monsoon paddy as of 1 September, according to officials from the township agriculture department.

The township was hit by heavy rains in August. As part of the rehabilitation tasks, Htoo Company, local departments, entrepreneurs' associations and members of the public have donated a total of 1,060 baskets

of seeds of Theehtetyin paddy strain weighing 35,329 kilograms to devastated farmers. The seeds were distributed at seven flood rehabilitation camps.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Donations flood in to Relief and Resettlement Department

YANGON—The Relief and Resettlement Department in Yangon has been accepting donations for flood victims on behalf of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw (Parliament) U Sein Tin Win and representatives donated K1.72 million on Thursday to flood victims via the department and the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw Su Su Hlaing provided an honor certificate for the donations.

On the same day, K100,000 was donated by staff from Special Team No. 2 for Construction, US\$1,000 from U Min Nyunt of North Dagon Township and K900,000 from local police officer trainees.

To date, the total amount of funds donated to the department in Yangon for flood-hit victims is K1.3 billion (approx US\$1 million) as well as 390 tonnes of relief supplies.—*MNA*

Government helps farmers in Bilin replant damaged crops

BILIN — Incessant rains during July and August have damaged 2,220 acres of monsoon paddy in Bilin Township and 74 acres in Paung Township in Mon State. A total of 13,010 acres have been affected state-wide.

The state government has distributed 450 baskets of paddy seeds, 555 bags of urea fertilizer and 16.7 million kyat to the 748 farmers of 11 villages in Bilin Township.

The assistance is aimed at helping the township meet its 2015-2016 monsoon paddy yield target.—*Township IPRD*

Officials provide bags of rice to victim of erosion



Local residents seen with bags of rice for their rehabilitation in Minbu Township.—*TIN TUN Oo (MINBU)*

MINBU — Well-wishers and officials of Township Development Supporting Committee on 2 September provided 50 bags of rice and clothes to residents from the villages that faced erosion

of Ayeyawady River in Minbu Township.

A total of 59 houses of 210 have been removed in Htonmagyi village due to overflow of Ayeyawady River. The flesh flood of

the river caused erosion at the bank where 19 houses were located.

Thirty houses were eroded by the river in Kyaunggon village and 13 houses were removed. Local victims are being accommodated

in the precinct of monastery in the village. Local authorities are taking care of erosion that is close to Padethakyun, Neikbankyun and Ngwethaungkyun villages.

Tin Tun Oo (Minbu)

Mandalay Region stakeholders prepare for free and fair election

MANDALAY — A wide range of stakeholders met on 3 September to discuss security arrangements and preparations to ensure free and fair general elections on 8 November.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint led the meeting, which involved departmental officials, region/ district/ township election commission members,

district/township administrators, social organizations and members of the police.

The Chief Minister emphasised that cooperation between various stakeholders will be key to the success of the 2015 elections.

Manadaly Region has 4.1 million eligible voters out of its population of 5.9 million. There will be 5,410 polling booths across the

region and training for booth staff is already underway.

A total of 96 seats will be contested in the region. These include 10 seats in Amyotha Hluttaw, 28 for Pyithu Hluttaw, 56 for the Regional Hluttaw and one Shan national seat. Over 390 candidates from 20 political parties and four independents will be campaigning the election.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Region minister provides cash assistance for trainee teachers



Taninthayi Region Minister U Than Aung presents cash assistance to trainees of special refresher course.—*Po SHWE THUN (DAWEI)*

DAWEI — On behalf of the Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region, minister for finance U Than Aung gave instructions to the teachers bound for the special refresher course to be conducted by Central Institute of Civil Service, at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Dawei, Thursday.

The minister presented K100,000 each to 135 trainees from the region.

Deputy Director Daw Myint Sein of Taninthayi Region Education Department reported on arrangements for trainees to attend the special refresher course.—*Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)*

Japanese architect shares preservation techniques

MANDALAY — Visiting Japanese architect Mr Yoshihiko Yamashita of Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties gave a presentation at the US Consulate's Jefferson Centre on preserving the wood sculptures of the Golden Monastery at Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay. He explained the delicate process of preserving wooden sculptures.

The Myanmar-US cooperation project, with the coordination of Department of Archaeology and National Museum of the Ministry of Culture, will spend US\$500,000 from the US Ambassador's Aid Fund on preserving the 19th century monastery. This will include ensuring adequate drainage around the surrounding areas and fire prevention systems. The project will receive input from international architects.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Rains cause heavy flooding in Hkamti

HKAMTI — Continuous heavy rains in Hkamti District and northern parts of Chindwin River since August 30 are still inundating low-area villages and Hkamti town in Sagaing Region.

The sandbags and water control walls have not been able to prevent water spilling out of

the lake and river.

A total of 353 households in low areas of the township were inundated and 1,803 flood victims are sheltering in a camp with assistance of accommodation and foods at the town's Myatheintan Pagoda.—*District IPRD*



A volunteer of Thai medical team spraying building.—*WIN BO*

Royal Thai Army medical team visits flood-hit Kyangin

KYANGIN — Major General Parinya Khoonnasee and members of the Royal Thai Army medical delegation provided free orthopedic and general medical treatment to patients at Kyangin township hospital in Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, on 2 September.

The Thai Army's medical team was accompanied by Ministry of Health officials and assisted by Township Admin-

istrator U Phyo Min Htaik and departmental officials.

A total of 516 flood victims were treated by the medical team.

The medical team of Royal Thai Army also visited Aungmyinkaing village and donated mosquito repellants and water purification tablets to the village school, monastery and 217 dwellings.—*Win Bo-Township IPRD*

Malaysia's economy in stronger position to meet any incoming storms - Najib

KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian economy is in a stronger position than it was during the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis to bear any “incoming storms”, Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Thursday.

Local companies now have stronger balance sheets and governance, while structural reforms to the financial and banking sector has strengthened it against “intense bouts of volatility”, Najib said at the World Capital Markets Symposium, an event organised by the country's Securities Commission.

“We are on track to achieve our goal of becoming a high income status nation by 2020,” Najib said.

The ringgit, Asia's worst-performing currency this year, has been hit by China's slowing economy and the ongoing political crisis in the country.

Najib established a special economic team last month to ensure continued growth and boost confidence in the ringgit and the country's stocks.—Reuters

China, Vietnam agree to “properly handle” disputes

BEIJING — The leaders of China and Vietnam agreed on Thursday to “properly handle” their disputes, China's official Xinhua news agency reported, amid tension over a territorial spat in the South China Sea.

China's increasingly assertive moves to press sovereignty claims in regional waters have

rattled its neighbours and aroused concern in the United States, though Beijing says it has no hostile intent.

China's deployment of an oil rig last year, in what Vietnam called its exclusive economic zone and on its continental shelf, about 120 nautical miles off its coast, led to the worst breakdown

in relations since a brief border war in 1979.

“We are in favour of properly handling disputes between both sides through dialogue, and expanding cooperation and common interests,” Chinese President Xi Jinping told Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang, Xinhua said.

Both are socialist countries led by communist parties, and it “is a requirement for the two countries to enhance strategic coordination, exchanges and cooperation”, Xi added.

Sang is in Beijing to attend a military parade marking 70 years since the end of World War Two in Asia.—Reuters

Troops of India, Pakistan trade fire in Kashmir

SRINAGAR — The military of India and Pakistan exchanged fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in the restive Kashmir region by targeting each other's positions, officials said Thursday.

Troopers on the two sides fired small arm fire towards each

other in Krishna Ghati of frontier Poonch district, 185 km south-west of Srinagar city.

The Indian side has not suffered any casualty or damage in the fire exchange, officials said.

Security talks between India and Pakistan were cancelled last month.—Xinhua

China's Silk Road Fund purchases shares from Russian company

BEIJING — The Silk Road Fund Co., Ltd., an investment fund to finance China-proposed “Belt and Road” initiatives, on Thursday bought 9.9 percent of shares of an liquefied natural gas project from Russian company Novatek.

Novatek owned 60 percent of the Yamal Peninsula-based project's shares before the pur-

chase, while French company Total and China National Petroleum Corporation held 20 percent of its shares respectively.

In total, the three companies had invested over 10 billion U.S. dollars on the project.

The purchase is the Silk Road Fund's first investment in Russia.—Xinhua

Toshiba to post annual net loss of about 54 million pounds

TOKYO — Japan's Toshiba Corp (6502.T) is likely to post a net loss of about 10 billion yen (54.24 million pounds) when it reports its financial 2014/15 earnings as early as this week, the Yomiuri daily reported, amid a probe into improper accounting at the company.

Toshiba was already expected to report a loss after an independent probe found it had overstated its profits by \$1.2 billion over several years, but the figure cited by Yomiuri was the first indication of how deep that loss would be.

There was no immediate comment from Toshiba. On Monday, Toshiba postponed its annual results for a second time,

citing the discovery of new accounting errors, but said it would announce the earnings by Sept. 7 as missing that deadline puts it at risk of becoming delisted.

Shares in Toshiba were up 2.5 percent on Thursday morning, while the broader market . TOPX rose 1.9 percent.

Toshiba's improper book-keeping has become Japan's biggest accounting scandal since 2011 when Olympus Corp (7733.T) was found to be involved in a \$1.7 billion scheme to conceal investment losses.

The Yomiuri said there was still a possibility that Toshiba could miss the Sept. 7 deadline if further irregularities are found.—Reuters



The logo of Toshiba Corp is pictured at its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, August 31, 2015.—REUTERS

Arrest warrant for a man in Bangkok blast investigation

BANGKOK — A Thai court Thursday issued an arrest warrant against a Chinese national in connection with a deadly explosion in Bangkok in August.

Yusufu Meerailee, 25, is wanted on a charge of illegally possessing an unauthorized explosive ordnance device, according to an investigator from northern Bangkok's Nong Chok district.

However, the Thai junta spokesman Winthai Suwaree named Meerailee on the same day as the suspect who was arrested Tuesday evening by army personnel at Thailand's eastern border in Sa Kaeo province.

The explosion at Bangkok's Erwan shrine on Aug. 17 killed 20 people and injured more than 100. A second explosion occurred at Bangkok pier the following day, causing no injuries.

Local media earlier published a photo of the arrested man's passport, which appeared to identify him as a Chinese national from

Xinjiang region, although police have stated that they are unsure whether the passport is genuine or not. Xinjiang province is home to a large percentage of the Uyghur people, although it remains unconfirmed whether any of the suspects are Uyghur.

Thai police spokesman Prawut Thavornsiri said in a press conference Thursday that police could not confirm at this stage whether the suspect is the same man captured on CCTV in a yellow t-shirt at the site of the blast, but said “he is the main suspect related to the incident”.

On Wednesday Prawut told media the fingerprint of a suspect who was taken by authorities from Sa Kaeo to Bangkok for interrogation had been matched with a print found with explosives-making equipment by police. The findings led to the following day's arrest warrant.

Since the fatal explosion hit central Bangkok, Thai courts have

issued arrest warrants for nine people -- one Thai woman, four Turkish men, one Chinese man and three foreign men whose nationalities were not identified.

Winthai also clearly identified a foreign man who was arrested last week in his apartment in Nong Chok district as “Adem Karadak”. No nationality of his was mentioned by the junta spokesman.

In response to media speculation on a “Turkish link” regarding the Erawan shrine bombing, the Turkish Embassy to Thailand released a statement Thursday saying it had received verbal note from Thai authorities the previous day that the investigation is ongoing and the nationalities of the suspects are not yet verified.

A Turkish militant group, the Grey Wolves, was named by an analyst from defense analysis group IHS-Jane's as potentially being behind the attacks. The analyst said the group was angered by the deportation of 109 Uyghur

people from Thailand to China in July. The Thursday morning editions of several Thai newspapers reported that a Thai man, Kamarudeng Sahoh, 38, was detained Tuesday by army personnel in his hometown in Thailand's southernmost province of Narathiwat and was taken to the capital for questioning in connection with the Bangkok blast.

A police spokesman would neither accept nor deny reports saying authorities have conducted several “secret operations” nationwide regarding Bangkok bombing cases. Asked about a female Thai suspect, Wanna Suansan, 26, who claims to be residing in Turkey, Prawut said police contacted her through a chat application on Wednesday, learning that she is with her Turkish husband Emrah Davutoglu, who is also a suspect. However, police would not confirm her and her husband's whereabouts, nor whether she was willing to surrender.—Kyodo News

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France optimistic about Malaysia Rafale warplane deal

PARIS — France is confident it will sell 18 Dassault-built fighter jets to Malaysia after submitting a formal proposal, a senior diplomatic source said on Wednesday — extra firepower for one of China's neighbours in the South China Sea.

While Malaysia has traditionally played down any tensions with China over the contested waterway, it has long expressed concern about piracy and security along its land and coastal borders and wants to replace its ageing MiG-29 fighter jets.

"We have the feeling that there is a clear preference (for the Rafale) because they have not made the same type of announcement for the other manufacturers being considered," the source said. "We are entering concrete discussions."

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian was in Kuala Lumpur on Monday and his counter-

part Hishammuddin Hussein said any future purchase would depend on affordability.

Fiscal troubles due to low commodity prices might delay any decision to buy fighter jets, although Malaysian military sources expect the armed forces to push for more procurement funds in the next five-year plan starting in 2016.

Malaysia's top priority is to replace its ageing Russian MiG-29 fighters with 18 modern jets that would join a fleet of Boeing F/A-18Ds as well as Russian-made Sukhoi Su-30MKM warplanes.

Malaysian defence officials have said they are assessing Boeing's newer F/A-18E/F, the Dassault-built Rafale, Swedish manufacturer Saab's Gripen, and the Typhoon from European consortium Eurofighter.

"We can't rule it out happening quite quickly," the diplomatic source said.

China claims most of the potentially energy-rich



Rafale fighter jets

South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in shipborne trade passes every year. Malaysia's public response to China's shows of strength has been low key, unlike fellow Southeast Asian countries the Philip-

ines and Vietnam, which have been more outspoken.

Dassault received a boost after a long-awaited first export deal for the Rafale to Egypt earlier this year was quickly followed by a sale to Qatar.

It is also finalising the sale of 36 jets to India, a deal that could be rubber-stamped soon. New Delhi is keen to modernise its ageing air force, with military officials warning of a major capability gap open-

ing up with China and Pakistan without new Western warplanes.

"We're expecting that things go relatively quickly in the coming weeks. The dynamic is very good," the source said.—Reuters

Australia keen to join India, US naval drills

NEW DELHI — Australia wants to join India, the United States and Japan in joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean, widening participation in multilateral drills as China's influence in the region grows.

Australian Defence Minister Kevin Andrews said expanding the exercises to include more countries would help avoid military mistakes in a region where China and India are increasingly competing.

"Exercising together is one way to avoid some kind of miscalculation happening," he told reporters on the second day of a visit to New Delhi.

"India shares our interest in the wider free passage of international trade."

India and the United States hold the so-called Malabar exercises in the Indian Ocean every year.

This year, Japan will take part, the first time since 2007 the exercises have included a third country - and a sign of closer military ties between allies worried about Chinese activity in the region.

China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea has angered

neighbours there as well as Japan and the United States, two of the major maritime powers in Asia.

China also shocked India last year with two Chinese submarine visits to Sri Lanka, India's island-nation neighbour to the south.

Andrews said on Wednesday Australia was concerned about escalating strategic rivalry in the South China Sea, saying it put Asia at the risk of a military blunder.

His visit to New Delhi comes as India and Australia prepare to hold their first bilateral naval manoeuvres next month, where they will showcase their anti-submarine warfare capability.

Andrews said defence ties with India would deepen.

"Gradually we will expand the range of exercises. We are looking at air force to air force and army to army exercises over the next year or two," he said.

India last hosted a multilateral exercise in 2007 when it invited Japan, Australia and Singapore to join drills with the United States in the Bay of Bengal, prompting disquiet in Beijing.—Reuters

Tamil chief appointed as opposition leader in Sri Lanka's new parliament

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's main Tamil political party, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) was recognized as the main opposition in the country's new parliament after Speaker Karu Jayasuriya appointed TNA Leader R. Sampanthan as the Opposition Leader on Thursday.

The TNA which won 16 seats in a parliamentary election last month became the second largest party to hold the most number of seats after several mem-

bers from the main opposition United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) agreed to join hands with the ruling United National Party (UNP) to form a national government.

Despite a group of UPFA members including former president Mahinda Rajapakse opposing the national government concept and agreeing to sit in the opposition benches, they remained outnumbered as they held lesser seats than the TNA.

A debate was held over the post of the opposition leader when the new parliament convened for the second time on Thursday with both the TNA and the UPFA demanding for the post, but later Parliament Speaker appointed Sampanthan to the post.

Sampanthan contested the Aug. 17 parliamentary elections from Trincomalee, in eastern Sri Lanka and received over 33,000 preferential votes to enter parliament.

He was appointed the Leader of the TNA in October 2001 and is the second Tamil politician since A. Amirthalingam to be appointed to the post of Opposition Leader in Sri Lanka.

The TNA has been demanding for the rights of the minority Tamils who suffered the most in a 30 year civil war between the government forces and the Tamil Tiger rebels which ended in May 2009.—Xinhua

Int'l panel to formulate rules to control bluefin tuna catches

TOKYO — An international panel agreed to formulate a rule in 2016 aimed at controlling bluefin tuna catches in the northern Pacific as an emergency measure to address the sharp decline of animals younger than one year old, officials said on Thursday.

The Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission reached the agreement in line with a Japanese proposal in a four-day meeting in Sapporo, northern Japan, as the resources of bluefin tuna — a pricy delicacy served

as sushi — have fallen in the Pacific due to overfishing.

The WCPFC will study details of the envisioned rule, including concrete regulations and conditions, in about a year. The rule is aimed at getting an emergency measure ready before the species is in any danger of exhaustion.

The panel will hold another meeting to make a formal decision on the agreement as the number of attending countries at the meeting failed to meet its stipulations, the officials

said. Countries such as Japan, the United States and South Korea took part.

The WCPFC decided last year to halve the catches of bluefin tuna of less than 30 kilograms in the Pacific from the 2002-2004 average. That measure was started this year.

Separately, the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, a new international panel, held its first meeting Thursday in Tokyo to discuss measures to conserve saury resources in the North Pacific, according to Japan's Fisheries Agency.

Saury resources in the

North Pacific are feared to be dwindling as China and Taiwan have sharply increased their catches on the high seas.

The meeting was attended by Japan, Canada, Russia, China, South Korea and Taiwan, while the United States joined as an observer.

The Tokyo-based commission was set up in accord with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, which went into effect on July 19.—Kyodo News

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 4 September, 2015

Why your vote deserves careful thoughtBy *Kyaw Thura*

IT has been almost half a decade since Myanmar's democratically elected government took office. Our country is about to face a critical moment, with the official start of election campaigning just a few days away. It must be a thrilling and busy time for political parties as they ready themselves to canvass the public

for votes and air political broadcasts.

The majority of Myanmar people are social introverts and politically inept; we prefer to shy away from politics and just abandon ourselves to our fate when bad things happen.

But with the passage of time, we should no longer exercise so much self-restraint. Now is the time for the younger generation to get involved in national politics. The Inter-Parliamentary Union has made its view on this issue clear by calling for 'public participation in democracy' when marking International Day of Democracy on 15 September.

Public engagement is critically important to the process of democratic reform because it means that we are all helping to shape the future of our country. As citizens, it is both our right and

our responsibility to engage.

It is imperative that the national electorate recognises the general election for what it is: an opportunity too good to miss. In other words, we should all exercise our right to vote so that we can create a genuine democracy through active participation.

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.

PLETHORA OF POLITICAL PARTIES*U Than Htay*

AMIDST the cacophonous clamours for democracy and federalism, numerous political parties pullulated like mushrooms in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, thanks to the democratic-minded Union Election Commission and the egocentric politicians. Just a few weeks ago, the number of officially registered political parties reached the astounding figure of 80 (GNLM Daily, 27.6.2015 issue, p.1). It has jumped to 88 (NEWS WATCH Weekly, v.10, no.12, 28.7.2015, p. 15). The number is still growing with the approach of imminent General Elections. Perversely we could, at least, flaunt our opulence of political parties despite our national poverty and the LDC status of our country. Certainly no other country in the world could match the plenitude of our political parties.

Do we need that many political parties for this country? No? Definitely not! A careful look at our closest and contiguous neighbouring democratic countries, like India, Bangladesh and Thailand will do. In all those countries, the number of national political parties can be counted on one hand meaning not more than 5. Democracy thrives there (except in Thailand for the time being). There is your answer, candid and clear.

Out of 88 political parties, 52 are those of our ethnic brethren and 36 belong to Barmars, the nationals from the 7 Regions within the Union. In sharp contrast, India, the biggest democracy in Asia, with comparable, if not more, diverse ethnic groups to Myanmar, has not more than 5 national political parties. We Barmars are equally culpable as much as our ethnic brethren in imbecilically inflating the number of political parties.

Normally our ethnic brethren should have one or two political

parties at most in each of their respective States and Autonomies to cherish democracy. With the present system of franchise and voting by individual townships in this country, it is impractical and impolitic to form political parties for each and every ethnic groups. The multitude of political parties would rather confuse and disappoint the simple-minded ethnic voters. For obvious reasons, such small and feeble ethnic political parties will eventually evanesce into thin air.

Now we have here, three major political parties, namely, the National Unity Party (NUP), the National League for Democracy (NLD) and the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) with their political objectives explicitly expressed by their party appellations. All we (Barmars and those of our interested ethnic brethren) have to do is simply join any of these three political parties in accordance with our individual political propensities or stay independent enjoying our own democratic and human rights instead of instituting additional and rather superfluous new political parties. Most of these new political parties are, no doubt, based on the personal ambition and self-interest.

There might be good reasons for the existence of some splinter political parties, irreconcilably severed from a certain major political party. Even so, the responsible party members concerned (from both sides) should have worked out for a mutually comfortable compromise that would have kept the parent political party still intact and united.

There is no sense in having either ANLD or SNLD since NLD itself is a national-level political party like the other two rival political parties. In all fairness and sincerity, if our Arakanese (Rakhine) and Shan ethnic brethren love democracy so much, they should simply join the NLD. Similarly those who prefer the

national unity should join the NUP and those who are keen for the solidarity and development of the Union should go into the USDP. It is as simple as that. We never heard of either the Tamil Congress Party or the Bengali Congress Party in India. It shows that our Indian neighbours are politically more mature than us. They do know what a nation means and what an ethnic group is. I fervently hope that our countrymen soon realise, understand and accept the political status difference between a nation and an ethnic group.

In this respect, the Swiss people and the citizens of the United States of America (USA) or the Americans are far superior to us. Both peoples have genuine

late Swiss and American peoples both in spirit as well as in action.

The plethora of political parties that we now have in this country irrefutably indicates our national disunity, whatever those prodemocracy and human rights zealots may claim. It is not only pernicious but also perilous to our national unity cause. Moreover, it could also generate the people's loss of faith and confidence in the political parties.

Speaking of unity, whether we like to admit it or not, the Armed Forces or the Tatmadaw (with its sturdy wings of army, navy and air force) is the only mention worthy organisation that could still boast unity and solidarity with pride. Except for those unscrupulous communist, Kayin and Kachin army deserters at one time in the past, the Tatmadaw has stood united and solid

and restore national reconciliation.

Once we could build up this monolithic unity, solidarity and peace among ourselves, we would convince the current military leaders that we, the civilians could also hold our country together, of course, with the strong support of the Tatmadaw. We would then earn their respect and confidence that would eventually lead to the achievement of the national unity and the development of the drastic changes in the political scenarios much to our liking.

This national unity is the first base and absolutely indispensable in building a strong, well-developed and modern Myanmar Nation that we all want. When we achieve the national unity, solidarity and peace, we could very well do the nation building with dedication, determination and deep love for our homeland and the people, just like the way our ASEAN friends, the Vietnamese are endeavouring.

In the absence of a truly able and versatile national leader like our late beloved Bogyoke Aung San, the nonpareil, we all have to trust and rely on the efficient collective leadership manned by our country's best citizens, regardless of sex, race and religious faith, in politics and the 3 independent organs of State Power, namely, Legislature (Parliament), Judiciary and Administration (Government). In fact, it is high time that we all (the People and the Tatmadaw) pool our human resources and talents together in building a strong, prosperous and modern Nation of Myanmar.

To me, the name Myanmar Nation is the best fit for our people historically, geopolitically and internationally. If our ethnic brethren find it not to their liking, they are at liberty to substitute it with a better name. This new name, however, should not only connote historical, geopolitical and international spheres of recognition, but also be acceptable to the majority of our indigenous ethnic groups.

(See page 9)

“The plethora of political parties that we now have in this country irrefutably indicates our national disunity, whatever those prodemocracy and human rights zealots may claim”

love for and unswerving loyalty to their respective homelands. In Switzerland (Schweiz, Suisse or Svizzera), there are 3 distinct ethnic groups, German, French and Italian, and 4 native languages, German, French, Italian and Rhaeto-Romansh. English is also spoken and understood by many. The wonderful thing about Swiss people is their admirable national pride without losing their individual ethnic identities. Likewise, American people with their diverse (aboriginal, European, African and Asian) racial backgrounds have the same spirit of patriotism. How good it would be if most of our countrymen (not necessarily all of us) would emu-

ever since. It has, in fact, ably withstood the test of time and tribulations defending this country and protecting the people on several occasions.

Confronting and antagonising the Tatmadaw did not pay. Only counter-productive consequences resulted as we have seen so far. Instead of wasting our time with such futile and otiose operations, we the civilians, should first build up our own unity among ourselves (including our ethnic brethren) by any possible means, nullifying the old grudges, hatreds, animosities, mistrusts and suspicions once and for all. Only then, we could get rid of the self-destructive internecine con-

Myanmar's Tatmadaw seeks increased cooperation



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with heads of Defense Universities, Colleges and Institutions from 21 countries.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW—During a meeting with the heads of Defense Universities, Colleges and Institutions from 21 countries in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior

General Min Aung Hlaing said that global peace and stability can be boosted through greater international cooperation and dialogue.

He said that greater military-to-military cooper-

ation, the exchange of views on international concerns and carrying out joint military drills would benefit the international community. He added that Myanmar has opened its doors to genuine cooperation with the inter-

national community; in particular with its neighbouring and regional countries. He emphasised the willingness of the Tatmadaw to play a role in bringing unity and friendship to the world, in cooperation with Defense

Universities, Colleges and Institutions. Myanmar hosted the 19th ASEAN Regional Forum Heads of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. —Myawady

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.

Mr Demetrios A. Theophylactou was born

in Nicosia, Cyprus on 11 May 1958. He received his Bachelor and Master Degrees majoring in Communication, Political Communication and Broadcast Journalism from Washington State University. In 1995, he got Ph.D. degree in International Relations, Comparative Politics, Political Economy from Washington State University with dissertation on

Security, Identity and Nation-Building. As a visiting Professor, he also lectured and published widely on international relations and diplomacy. Starting from 1994, he served in various capacities at Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the UN in New York. High Commission of Cyprus to Australia in Canberra, Nicosia Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Permanent Representation of Cyprus to EU in Brussels. Currently, he is serving as the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to India.

Mr Demetrios A. Theophylactou will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.—MNA

PLETHORA OF POLITICAL PARTIES

(from page 8)

Federalism, getting so popular in this country, is really good for diverse ethnic groups of people living together since time immemorial with true communal spirit, and desirable if it could be made viable. But I have some misgivings about its viability after having seen the inevitable disintegrations and collapses of those long standing socialist federal states, such as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRJ) and Czechoslovakia (CSR). In those countries, the narrow ethnic and provincial nationalism or rather chauvinism prevailed over that of the nation. I have the impression that similar sentiments cur-

rently prevail among some of leaders of our ethnic groups. If so, the viability of federalism in Myanmar still remains uncertain.

Federalism as practised in the world today is also ever threatened by the spectre of secessionism rooted in the ethnic chauvinism, political differences or economic inequalities among the sister states and provinces. That was why even in those apparently viable federal countries like Canada and Australia, there had been strong secessionistic tendencies and movements in the past. In Canada, it was the French-speaking Quebec Province and in Australia, the State of Western Australia. In the former, it was due to both ethnic and economic issues, and in the lat-

ter, economic superiority.

Very recently we have seen how Scotland attempted to secede from the United Kingdom (UK). In USA also, just a few months ago, there has been resurgence of anti-federal movements of unarmed American Blacks by a lone white gunman (most probably a member of the notorious Ku Klux Klan) and flying of a confederate flag (symbol of the secessionistic nationalism of the rebellious Southern States during the American Civil War) at the State House in overt defiance to the Federal Government in Washington, DC, USA. Both incidents occurred in the State of South Carolina (one of the quondam Rebel Southern States). These are, doubtless, the unmistakable signs of cracks and incipient fail-

ures in the once seemingly indestructible edifices of federalism in the western federal countries.

No wonder, the Tatmadaw feels so concerned about the potential disintegration of the Union, and thus turns dead set against the federalism which may or may not guarantee the non-disintegration of the Land of Ours. Personally I would like to see my country stays integrated and intact, and the map of Myanmar unchanged. It is, in fact, the wish of most of us.

So, here are some crucial questions for those zealous federalists in this country. Are we all ready to bury the hatchet? Do we all love our fellow-countrymen as our own kith and kin, and wish to live together? Do we all love this Land of Ours as our own birthplace and homeland?

Are we all proud of being the citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as most Americans feel about their homeland, the USA? Are we all very keen to build up the dignified Myanmar Nation? Do we all believe and accept that a nation is composed of several ethnic groups? Are we all willing to give priority to our nationhood over racial heritages without losing our ethnic identities like the Swiss Nation? Are we all or most of us determined to bring forth the countrywide national unity, solidarity and peace, come hell or high water?

Of course, these ques-

UEC panel overturns regional election commission verdicts

NAY PYI TAW— The panel of the Union Election Commission on Thursday granted permission to two ethnic election candidates to run for election in their respective ethnic constituencies, following hearings that led to ruling out two state-level election commissions.

Chin national Daw Mai Su Su Hlaing and Lahu national U Yaw Thap had had their nominations revoked by the Rakhine State Election Commission and the Shan State Election Commission respectively.

The two ethnic candidates lodged appeals to the Union Election Commission, whose panel heard the appeals and overturned the verdicts passed by the two regional election commissions. —MNA

Mum, I gave some contributions for flood victims at school today.

That's great, darling. Many hands make light work. Students can help in times of need.



Win Phant Phant (No.2 BEHS, Latha)

About the Author

U Than Htay, a career geologist with 36 year active service and 11 years as an able Advisor, is a retired Deputy Director General from the Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration (DGSE), Ministry of Mines.

Migrants leave Budapest for Austrian frontier; pressure builds for EU action

UK's Cameron backs down on government rules for EU referendum



Migrants storm into a train at the Keleti train station in Budapest, Hungary, September 3, 2015 as Hungarian police withdrew from the gates after two days of blocking their entry.—REUTERS

BUDAPEST — Hundreds of migrants left Budapest aboard a packed train bound for a town near the Austrian border on Thursday after two days of chaos symbolic of a European asylum system brought to breaking point.

Exhausted and confused, migrants crammed onto a train to the Hungarian border town of Sopron, clinging to doors and squeezing their children through open carriage windows.

Trains to Vienna and beyond to Germany were cancelled, making it unclear what would be the next stop for the migrants - many of them refugees from wars in the Middle East.

Thousands have died at sea and scores have perished on land in Europe's worst migration crisis since the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

Images of a drowned three-

year-old face down in the surf on Turkish beach, one of at least 12 who died there the previous day while trying to sail for a Greek island, appeared in newspapers across the continent, increasing public pressure on politicians to take action.

"He had a name: Alyan Kurdi. Urgent action required - A Europe-wide mobilisation is urgent," French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Twitter. The images appeared days after 71 bodies were found in an abandoned truck in Austria last week.

The influx has strained the European Union's asylum system to breaking point, sowing division among its 28 nations and feeding the rise of right-wing populists.

The major EU countries have taken sharply opposing positions on whether to offer welcome.

Germany plans to accept 800,000 refugees this year, while Britain has set up a programme to allow in Syrians that has accepted just 216.

"As one of the world's richest countries, with good infrastructure, a viable welfare state and a solid budget surplus, we are in a position to rise to the occasion," German Labour and Social Affairs Minister Andrea Nahles said at a briefing ahead of a G20 meeting in Turkey.

Nearly all of the migrants arrive on the EU's southern and eastern edges but press on for richer countries further north and west, creating havoc for a bloc that normally allows free movement internally but restricts it for undocumented migrants.

The train's departure from Budapest followed a two-day standoff with police barring entry

to the station to more than 2,000 migrants. On Thursday the police stepped aside and the crowd surged past.

"We want to go to Germany but that train in the station, maybe it goes nowhere. We heard it may go to a camp. So we will stay out here and wait," said Ysra Mardini, a 17-year-old from the Syrian capital Damascus, dressed in jeans and a T-shirt.

As the train departed, lawmakers were debating a raft of amendments to Hungary's migration laws that the ruling party said would cut illegal border crossings to "zero".

They provide for the creation of holding zones on the country's southern border with Serbia, where construction crews are completing a 3.5-metre-high fence.

Hungary has emerged as a flashpoint, as the primary entry point for those travelling overland across the Balkans. Its right-wing government is among the continent's most outspoken voices against allowing mass immigration.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban, in Brussels for talks with European leaders, said Hungarians and Europeans were "full of fear because they see that the European leaders ... are not able to control the situation."

In an opinion piece for Germany's Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung, he wrote that his country was being "overrun" with refugees, most of which, he noted, were Muslims, not Christians.

"That is an important question, because Europe and European culture have Christian roots. Or is it not already and in itself alarming that Europe's Christian culture is barely in a position to uphold Europe's own Christian values?" he asked.—Reuters

LONDON — British Prime Minister David Cameron has backed down over rules limiting the involvement of the government in campaigning before a referendum on European Union membership after lawmakers from his Conservative Party threatened to revolt, the BBC said.

In the second concession on the referendum in two days, Cameron will agree to keep in place rules that restrict certain government activity in the weeks ahead of the vote.

On Tuesday, the government agreed to change the wording of the referendum question.

As many as 27 Eurosceptic lawmakers had argued that removing the rules for the EU referendum would have allowed the machinery of government to be used to support the case for staying in the EU, the BBC said.

"Pleased to hear purdah now to be reinstated for EU Referendum as well as fairer question than before but why does Cameron have to be forced?" Mark Reckless, director of policy for the anti-EU United Kingdom Independence Party, said on Twitter. Amendments to the EU Referendum Bill, which is due to have its third reading in the House of Commons on Monday, will impose 'purdah' with some exceptions, though it was unclear whether the changes will satisfy all Eurosceptic lawmakers.

British officials have begun renegotiating some aspects of the country's relationship with the EU and Cameron has promised a referendum by the end of 2017, though many officials expect it to be held next year.—Reuters

Spain's Rajoy says general election likely on December 20

MADRID — Spain will probably hold national elections on December 20, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said on Thursday, leaving him less than four months to persuade Spaniards an economic recovery is good enough to warrant giving him a second term in office.

"Once the budget is approved ... I will call elections... They will be in December," Rajoy said in an interview with COPE radio. Elections are due by year-end.

Pressing for the exact date, the journalist asked if he could conclude from the interview that the most likely date for the election was Dec. 20.

Rajoy replied: "Use the

headline you said: The most likely thing is that Spain will hold elections on Dec. 20."

His centre-right People's Party's hold on power has been loosened not only by its mainstream rival, the Socialists, but also from two newcomers, business-friendly Ciudadanos and left-wing Podemos, which have proved attractive to voters still struggling in the aftermath of economic crisis and what many view as a corruption-tainted establishment.

A strong economic turnaround, which is set to make Spain one of Europe's fastest-growing economies this year, has seen Rajoy's party extend its lead in the polls. But it remains well short of

an absolute majority and the question for many Spaniards is whether the improving economy is filtering down to their daily lives. Unemployment is falling but remains above 20 percent.

In the interview, Rajoy also reiterated his implacable opposition to Catalan independence, saying: "Catalan independence will never happen. It's nonsense."

Catalan President Arturo Mas has scheduled regional elections for Sept. 27, portraying them as a proxy vote on independence after Rajoy's government went to court last year to block a referendum on the north-eastern region breaking away from Spain.—Reuters



Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy speaks during the opening of a political event of the ruling Popular Party (PP) at a castle in the Galician village of Soutomaior, northern Spain, August 30, 2015.—REUTERS

Greek coast guard seizes Libya-bound ship carrying weapons

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, which is plagued by factional conflict.

“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.

A Turkish foreign ministry spokesman confirmed the cargo included weapons but said it was fully documented and was destined for the Sudanese police force. The vessel was also carrying building materials for Libya, he said.

“If investigations by the Greek authorities show that the consignment is going to receivers other than those stated in the documentation, and if that is shared with us, naturally measures could be taken,” foreign ministry spokes-

man Tanju Bilgic said.

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

Bilgic said that the company which owned the ship was registered in the Greek port city of Piraeus and that the vessel had begun its journey in Famagusta in northern Cyprus and had also passed through the Egyptian port of Alexandria. It came to Iskenderun on Aug. 25 and left four days later, he said. The vessel’s documentation indicated that it was supposed to travel on to Misrata and Tobruk in Libya, before travelling back to Beirut, Bilgic said.—Reuters



The “Haddad 1” freighter is moored at the port of Heraklion following an operation of the Greek coast guard on the island of Crete, September 2, 2015.—REUTERS

Islamic State claims bomb attack on Yemeni mosque, 28 reported dead

SANAA — Islamic State’s Yemen branch claimed responsibility for two bombings at a mosque in a northern district of the capital Sanaa that media run by the Houthi militia said killed at least 28 people and wounded 75 on Wednesday.

The al-Mo’ayyad mosque, run by the Houthis in the al-Jarraf neighbourhood of Sanaa, has previously been targeted by the ultra-radical Islamic State, who regard the Iran-allied Houthis as heretics.

The Houthi-controlled Saba news agency said in a text message that the first explosion was caused by a suicide bomber in the al-Mo’ayyad mosque, followed by a car bomb blast that targeted medics outside the building.

A civil war in Yemen escalated in March when a coalition of Arab states led by Saudi Arabia intervened to roll back the hold of Iran-allied Houthi militia over much of the country and to reinstate the government from its exile in Riyadh.

The Houthis took control of the capital Sanaa a year ago. More than 4,500 people have been killed in the Arabian Peninsula country’s conflict. Earlier on Wednesday, two Red Cross employees were shot dead in the northern Yemeni province of Amran by an unknown attacker, the international aid group said, in a rare case of violence against humanitarian workers in the war.—Reuters

Car bomb kills 10 in coastal stronghold of Syria’s Assad

AMMAN — At least 10 people were killed and dozens wounded when a car bomb exploded in the Syrian city of Latakia on Wednesday, state television said, in a rare attack in a coastal stronghold of President Bashar al-Assad.

Latakia has so far been largely spared the violence that has ravaged Syria during more than four years of civil war in which about a quarter of a million people have been killed.

In recent months, rebel attacks on government-held neighbourhoods in the capital Damascus and in Aleppo city have risen, with dozens of civilians killed or wounded. The army has also stepped up air strikes on rebel-held towns and

villages in northwestern Syria and the suburbs of Damascus that have killed hundreds of civilians in the last two months of intensified fighting on major fronts across the country.

On Wednesday Syrian air force strikes killed at least 14 people east of Damascus, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said. The strikes hit Douma, Ghouta and Saqba and follow deadly strikes in the area in recent days.

In Latakia, the car bomb targeted a main square, state television said. There was no claim of responsibility for the bombing, which state media said was carried out by “terrorists”, a term it uses to describe insurgents fighting to topple Assad.—Reuters

Bomb attacks across Baghdad kill 12: sources

BAGHDAD — At least 12 people were killed on Thursday in bomb attacks in commercial and residential neighbourhoods across Baghdad, police and medical sources said. Three people were killed and 10 wounded by a blast at a market in the eastern district of Ameen, the sources said. Two others were killed and seven wounded in Zafraniya in southern Baghdad, while a blast in the northern area of Suleikh killed two more.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but they took place in Shi’ite areas often targeted by Sunni insurgents from the Islamic State group. The government is struggling to dislodge IS from large swathes of the country’s north and west.

Blasts also hit Sunni areas, with three killed and eight wounded at a vegetable market in Tarmiya, about 25 km (15 miles) north of the capital, the sources said. An attack in Baghdad’s southern neighbourhood of al-Doura left two others dead and eight wounded.

Separately, an army colonel, Muthana al-Daini, was shot dead on Wednesday evening near Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) east of Baghdad, in a killing his family said was politically motivated. Daini was the brother of Sunni lawmaker Nahida al-Daini, who has been outspoken in accusing Shi’ite militias of committing atrocities in Diyala province.

“The criminal militias have written on my house that I am wanted due to my statements in defence of the people of Diyala,” she told Reuters on Thursday.—Reuters

War stops 13 million going to school in Middle East, North Africa — UN

BEIRUT — Conflicts across the Middle East and North Africa are preventing more than 13 million children from attending school, leaving their hopes and futures shattered, the United Nations Children’s Fund said in a report issued on Thursday.

The UNICEF report “Education Under Fire” looked at the impact of violence on schoolchildren in nine territories, including Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya where a generation is growing up outside

of the education system.

“It’s no coincidence in that what we see in terms of our TV pictures, the tragic pictures of people crossing on boats to Greece and Italy, very much comes back to the Syrian conflict and (to) the Iraqi conflict to a lesser extent,” UNICEF regional director Peter Salama said.

Refugees often say the education of their children is their top priority, he said, and many countries in the region simply

are not able to provide that basic human right.

The study also looked at Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey - countries neighbouring Syria and hosting large numbers of refugees, as well as Sudan and the Palestinian Territories.

Attacks on schools are one of the main reasons why many children cannot go to classes while many such buildings are now being used to shelter displaced families or are used as bases for combatants, UNICEF said.

In Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya alone, nearly 9,000 schools are unable to be used for education, the report said.

Thousands of teachers across the region have abandoned their posts in fear, which has also stopped parents from sending their children to school, it added.

Countries hosting refugees are struggling to get children into schools because their education systems were never created to absorb such numbers,

Salama said.

“Everyone is basically straining at the seams in terms of dealing with this massive crisis, which is not surprising given that it is the biggest population movement since World War Two,” he said.

Children out of school can end up working illegally, often being breadwinners for their family. They are vulnerable to exploitation and can be more easily recruited into armed groups, he said.

UNICEF’s research shows children are increasingly becoming combatants from a younger age, Salama said, while students and teachers have been killed, kidnapped and arrested.

“We’re on the verge of losing an entire generation of children in the Middle East and North Africa. We must step up, otherwise it will be irreversible and long-term damage we’ve collectively inflicted upon the children of this region.”—Reuters

Selfie madness: too many dying to get the picture



A man takes a selfie by a crashing wave on Beirut's Corniche, a seaside promenade, as high winds sweep through Lebanon during a storm in this February 11, 2015 file photo.—REUTERS

SYDNEY — The rise of selfie photography in some of the world's most beautiful, and dangerous, places is sparking a range of interventions aimed at combating risk-taking that has resulted in a string of gruesome deaths worldwide.

The act of taking a picture of oneself with a mobile phone, placing the subject centre-stage, has exploded in popularity in recent years, with everyone from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II to US President Barack Obama joining in.

But the selfie has also inspired a spate of risk taking and offensive public behaviour, pushing the boundaries of

safety and decorum, whether by dangling from a skyscraper or posing with live explosives.

Several governments and regulatory bodies have now begun treating the selfie as a serious threat to public safety, leading them to launch public education campaigns reminiscent of those against smoking and binge drinking.

Dozens of grisly selfie-related deaths and injuries in early 2015 led Russia's Interior Ministry to launch a campaign warning avid mobile phone snappers about the danger of, among other things, posing for a selfie with a lion.

In June, two men in the

Ural Mountains died after posing pulling the pin from a hand grenade; in May a woman survived shooting herself in the head in her Moscow office; a month later a 21-year-old university graduate plunged 40 feet (12 metres) to her death while posing hanging from a Moscow bridge.

"A cool selfie could cost you your life," reads a poster from the campaign, which includes safety videos and information booklets.

Despite Russia's diplomatic isolation over its support for separatist rebels in Ukraine, on the issue of dangerous selfies the Kremlin finds itself in accord with the European Union and the United States.

In Texas on Wednesday, a 19-year-old father of two died after shooting himself in the neck during a selfie. In Yellowstone National Park exasperated officials issued warnings after five separate selfie takers were gored this summer while standing too near bison.

The European Union in June proposed a law to criminalise social media posts containing pictures of landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris or Rome's Trevi Fountain. And in India this week officials said they were implementing a "no selfie zone" at the Hindu Kumbh Mela festival over fears they may cause stampedes. Yet despite the risks, selfies are more popular than ever, according to data from Google Trends. Searches for the term were up eight times in 2014 over the previous year, leading

the Internet search giant to dub it "The Year of the Selfie".

Selfies tend to attract a type of person already more likely to push the boundaries of normal behaviour, says Jesse Fox, an assistant professor of communications at Ohio State University. Her research says people exhibiting the so-called Dark Triad of personality traits - narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy - are likely to pursue selfie glory regardless of who gets hurt in the process.

"It's all about me. It's putting me in the frame. I'm getting attention and when I post that to social media, I'm getting the confirmation that I need from other people that I'm awesome," Fox told Reuters.

"You don't care about the tourist attraction you're destroying; you don't care about annoying people in your social media feed ... you're not even thinking about the consequences of your actions, so who cares if you're dangling off the side of the Eiffel Tower?" That has not stopped some countries trying to capitalise on the trend's popularity. Tourism Australia this week launched a campaign promising an opportunity to take the "World's Largest Selfie", aimed at selfie-mad Japan.

They have installed several so-called GigaSelfie platforms in some of the country's most breathtaking environs from which, with an associated app, visitors can capture an ultra hi-resolution shot taken by a far away camera.—Reuters

Obama to assure Saudi king of US help to counter Iranian threat

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will assure Saudi King Salman of the US commitment to help counter any Iranian security threat, White House officials said on Wednesday, despite concern among Gulf allies that a new nuclear deal could empower Tehran in the region.

Obama, hosting Salman on Friday on the king's first US visit since ascending to the throne in January, will seek to allay the fears of Washington's most important Arab partner that the lifting of sanctions on Iran would allow it to act in destabilising ways.

The White House talks will come less than two weeks before a possible US congressional vote on the nuclear deal between six world powers and Iran, Riyadh's regional rival. The Obama administration wants to use the visit to shore up relations with Saudi Arabia after a period of tensions.

"We understand that Saudi Arabia has concerns about what Iran could do as their economy improves from sanctions relief," Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, told reporters in previewing the visit.

He said the United States believed Iran would use much of its assets, which will be unfrozen under the deal reached in July that also puts curbs on Tehran's nuclear programme, to improve its battered economy.

Rhodes acknowledged there was a risk that Tehran could spend those funds on "nefarious activities". But he said Obama would make clear the United States would do "everything that we can" to counter any Iranian threats to its neighbours.

Gulf Sunni Arab leaders have accused Shi'ite Iran of fomenting sectarian violence in places like Yemen, Syria and Iraq. At the same time, some critics have blamed the Gulf states for contributing to the regional conflicts. Rhodes said Salman is expected during his visit to "express a comfort with the Iran deal as it relates to the nuclear issue" but reiterate other Saudi concerns about Tehran.

The Obama administration is focussed on providing assistance that the president promised when he hosted a Gulf Arab summit at Camp David in May, including helping them to integrate ballistic missile defence systems and beef up cyber and maritime security.—Reuters

More nations embrace cluster bomb ban despite new attacks — campaign group

LONDON — A growing number of countries are backing an international treaty banning the production, stockpiling and use of cluster bombs, and calling on states to destroy stockpiles and clear land of unexploded munitions, a campaign group said on Thursday.

Belize, Congo are among the eight countries, plus the Palestinian Territories, that have agreed to or ratified the 2008 treaty since September last year, in which time Japan and Canada have fully destroyed their stockpiles, the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) said.

While cluster bombs have been used this year in five countries - Libya, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen - that have not signed the ban treaty, several of the 117 treaty member states

have condemned the attacks, the CMC annual report said.

Cluster munitions, which are scattered from planes or by artillery shells, typically explode in the air and scatter smaller "bomblets" over a huge area. These often lie unexploded until accidentally trodden on, when they detonate like mines.

"The new use of cluster munitions by a handful of armed forces outside the ban has been met with swift and strong condemnation, showing the stigma against their use is growing stronger," said Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch, who contributed to the report.

The majority of casualties from cluster bomb attacks and unexploded bomblets in recent years have occurred in Syria,

where they have killed some 2,000 people since 2012, the report said.

Civilians have accounted for nine out of 10 casualties worldwide since 2010, and half of those injured and killed were children, according to the CMC.

The 2008 treaty banned the use of cluster bombs, required stockpiles to be destroyed within eight years and areas contaminated by cluster bomb remnants to be cleared within 10 years, and called for assistance for victims.

Treaty member states including France, Germany and Mozambique have destroyed 1.3 million cluster munitions and 160 million submunitions to date, accounting for 90 percent of stocks declared by parties to the treaty, the report said.

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (089N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (089N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (443N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (443N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO (DWS 03W/E)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO (DWS 03W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.9.2015 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 RK SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T (3) 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 G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**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

**Earthquake
rebuild, housing
crisis drive record
New Zealand
building work**

WELLINGTON — The value of building work in place in New Zealand in the quarter to the end of June hit a record 4 billion NZ dollars (2.54 billion US dollars), the government statistics agency said Thursday.

The figure was up almost 8 percent on the June 2014 quarter and represented 900 NZ dollars (572 US dollars) of building work per person, according to Statistics New Zealand.

"The value of both residential and non-residential building work increased overall," business indicators manager Neil Kelly said in a statement.—Xinhua

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Sculptures entitled "The Rising Tide" by British sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor are seen beside the River Thames in front of the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye ferris wheel in London, September 3, 2015. The representations of four horses and riders are fully visible at low tide but become immersed underwater twice a day as the Thames rises to reach full tide. The installation will be on display throughout September as part of the annual Totally Thames festival.—REUTERS

FBI has kept tabs on Nevada's Burning Man festival, documents say



Light is reflected from the Temple of Promise August 31, 2015. —REUTERS

NEVADA — The annual Burning Man counterculture festival now taking place in a Nevada desert is known for attracting scantily clad revelers, bike lovers, artists, musicians and as it turns out, even attention from the FBI.

According to documents posted this week at MuckRock.com, the FBI monitored the event in 2010, finding that it carried risks associated with crowd control and illegal drugs.

The documents were released following a 2012 public records request by journalist Inkoo Kang. An FBI spokeswoman declined to comment on the MuckRock.com report.

Burning Man, named for the burning of a wooden effigy that marks the climax of the festival of art and free expression, brings tens of thousands of people to the Black Rock Desert in northern Nevada and adds an estimated \$35 million to the local economy each year.

Last year's event drew nearly 70,000 participants. In 2010, when the documents were generated by the FBI, the festival attracted about 50,000 people.

"The greatest known threat in this event is crowd control issues and use of illegal drugs by the participants," said an FBI document on the festival posted to MuckRock.com.

The document said the agency's Las Vegas office would work with the Pershing County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies to aid in preventing militant activities and handle intelligence issues, according to the copy posted at MuckRock.com. The documents posted at the website were heavily redacted. —Reuters

Disney unboxes the Force to drive buzz for 'Star Wars' toys



Caleb (L-R), Kayley and Annie Bratayley from the United States participate in a live internet unboxing event to reveal new light saber toys from the film 'Star Wars - The Force Awakens' in Sydney, September 3, 2015. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — When technology and geek culture enthusiast Chris Pirillo purchased his iPhone 6 last year, he rushed home to broadcast himself unboxing the item live on YouTube.

The video has garnered nearly 50,000 views and is part of the growing craze of 'unboxing' that is a centerpiece of a live global Walt Disney event, starting on

Wednesday evening in Australia, to unveil new toys from its December movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

The goal? To drive up excitement ahead of "Force Friday" on September 4. That is when new "Star Wars" toys and other merchandise from companies such as Hasbro and Lego will be released in stores and online around the

world just after midnight.

The Disney event, to be live-streamed online, is the most high-profile embrace to date of unboxing, where people film themselves opening and trying out new toys and gadgets.

"It really created the perfect opportunity to take the new products to fans directly," said Josh Silverman, executive vice president of global licensing at Disney Consumer Products.

For those unboxers who can draw audiences, it's big business.

Eighteen of the top 100 YouTube channels are devoted to toys and toy unboxing and accounted for 8.1 billion views from January through March, according to Tubefilter figures provided by Disney.

Unboxing on YouTube goes beyond toys, with viewers drawn to YouTubers showing off their 'hauls' in beauty, fashion and technology. Some unboxers can earn millions of dollars from ads that run ahead of their videos or in some cases from manufacturers who pay them to feature their products. —Reuters

Shah Rukh Khan reaches 15m followers mark on Twitter

MUMBAI — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has reached a milestone of 15 million fan following on Twitter, becoming the second Indian actor to have the maximum admirers on the micro-blogging site after megastar Amitabh Bachchan. The 49-year-old "Chennai Express" star lags behind Bachchan by 1.7 million followers. The actor thanked his fans via a sweet message. "Thanks all for following me, not cos I can lead the way but for the reassurance that u all r there in case I lose mine," he wrote. He has left behind his contemporaries Aamir Khan and Salman Khan, who settle with 14.4 million and 13.7 million followers respectively. From posting pictures from shoot and with family to sharing anecdotes about his career and personal life, Shah Rukh keeps his fans informed about himself and often engages with them in brief Q&As. The actor will be next seen in Rohit Shetty's "Dilwale", Excel Entertainment's "Raees" and YRF's "Fan". —PTI



Superstar Shah Rukh Khan

Director hits back at critics of Taylor Swift's African video



Director Joseph Kahn speaks as Taylor Swift accepts the award for best female video for "Blank Space" at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, California August 30, 2015. —REUTERS

NEW YORK — The director of Taylor Swift's new music video set in Africa struck back on Wednesday at mounting criticism of the scarcity of black people in the mini-film and its romanticized portrayal of the continent.

"Wildest Dreams," a love story filmed against a backdrop of giraffes, lions, waterfalls and stunning sunsets, has been viewed more than 15 million times since it was released on Monday to accompany the American pop superstar's latest single.

Although Swift is donating all proceeds to the African Parks Foundation of America, critics have seized on the video as portraying a stereotyped colonial-era view of Africa.

"So thank you, Taylor Swift, for proving once again that African stereotypes are safe atop the pinnacle of American pop culture," wrote Matt Carotenuto, who teaches African studies at New York state's St. Lawrence University, in an article on Wednesday on Salon.com.

Director Joseph Kahn said the "Wildest Dreams" video depicted a love story on the set of a period film in Africa in 1950.

Kahn said there were black Africans in the video in background shots but that it would have been "historically inaccurate to load the crew with more black actors as the video would have been accused of rewriting history." He also noted that the video's producer, Jil Hardin, and editor Chancler Haynes are both African-American.

"There is no political agenda in the video. Our only goal was to tell a tragic love story in classic Hollywood iconography," Kahn said in a statement. Swift, who has some 62 million Twitter followers and whose "1989" album has sold more than 8 million copies worldwide, has not responded to the criticism. —Reuters

ဝမ်းနည်းကြေကွဲခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့နေ (ဗိုလ်မှူးသိန်းဟဲ-ငြိမ်း)၏ ဇနီး၊ နေပြည်တော်ကောင်စီကောင်စီဝင် ဦးဖုန်းဇော်ဟန်၏ ကျေးဇူးရှင်မိခင်ကြီး၊ ဒေါ်မူမူဟန် အသက် (၈၉) နှစ်သည် (၃-၉-၂၀၁၅) ရက်နေ့တွင် ရန်ကုန်မြို့နေအိမ်၌ ကွန်လွန်သွားကြောင်း ကြားသိရပါသဖြင့် မိသားစုနှင့် ထပ်တူထပ်မျှ ဝမ်းနည်းကြေကွဲရပါကြောင်း။

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British Museum celebrates three generations of manga artists

LONDON — London’s British Museum takes a look at manga, Japan’s widely popular graphic art form, in a new exhibition showcasing the works of different generations of artists.

“Manga now: three generations” features recent and newly commissioned

artwork from Chiba Tetsuya, known for his sports manga, Hoshino Yukinobu, who specializes in science fiction comic book art, and Nakamura Hikaru, known for her wry work focusing on daily life. On display are Tetsuya’s color drawing of a young golfer on a green in

ers Golf Course, Scotland” while the work of Yukinobu depicts a newly created character “Rainman” in black and white.

Hikaru, the most recent generation of the artists, has on display cover artwork for her “Saint Oniisan” series which tells a story of Jesus and Buddha as flatmates in

Tokyo. “This exhibition ... introduces manga as it is now,” said exhibition curator Nicole Rousmaniere. “While you won’t get a whole history of manga and you won’t get a complete encyclopedic view, you will get an accurate feeling for what is happening in manga right now.” —Reuters

Mayweather ready to hang up gloves as ‘the best ever’

LOS ANGELES — Floyd Mayweather Jr. plans to go out unbeaten and on his own terms, as ‘The Best Ever’, when he ends his boxing career in Las Vegas next week with his welterweight title defence against fellow American Andre Berto.

Should Mayweather win, as is widely expected, he would match the 49-0 record of former heavyweight great Rocky Marciano but says he would not be tempted to come out of retirement for a 50th fight.

“Forty-nine is my last fight,” the five-division world champion, aged 38, told reporters on a conference call on Wednesday before saying that self-preservation in the ring had always been a top priority. “My health is more important. Anything can happen (in boxing). I am not really worried about losing. You can make a lot of money but you

still won’t be able to talk, walk and have a sharp mind.

“Of course, it’s always about self-preservation. I come first but I appreciate the fans. I do. The only thing I can do is believe in myself. I’m going to be TBE (The Best Ever) until the day I die.”

Many pundits have doubted Mayweather’s claim that he will end his career after the Sept. 12 bout, pointing to the American’s U-turn when he came back from a 21-month retirement to fight Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez in September 2009.

“Like I have said and Floyd has said a number of times, this will be his last fight,” Leonard Ellerbe, CEO of Mayweather Promotions, said on Wednesday’s conference call.

“Why can’t a man go out when he has had an illustrious career, accomplished

everything that he needed to accomplish and be done? And he has done it his way.

“Over the last week, I have received three major movie offers. We fully expect Floyd to be heavily, heavily involved in the entertainment industry because this is what he does right now ... that is going to occupy a lot of his time.”

Mayweather, whose 48-0 record includes 26 knockouts, is renowned for his brilliant defence in the ring though he has often been criticized for selecting easy opponents while building his impressive resume.

Asked what he regarded as the greatest achievement of his career, he replied: “Every fight played a major key ... and number 49 is going to be important also. But my career’s not over yet.”

Berto, a twice former welterweight world cham-



Floyd Mayweather, Jr. of the US stands up on the ropes in his corner after defeating Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines in their welterweight WBO, WBC and WBA (Super) title fight in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 2, 2015. —REUTERS

pion, will step into the ring as a heavy underdog after losing three of his last six fights but Mayweather is wary of underestimat-

ing his opponent. “When you’ve got a guy that’s put in a situation with nothing to lose, it makes him work that much harder,” said

Mayweather. “He has a chance to be one of the top guys in the sport when I am through. You never overlook anyone.” — Reuters



(4-9-2015 07:00 am~5-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

- 07:03 Am News
07:27 Am Discovering Tribes Kayaw: Their Life and Customs (Part-I)
07:53 Am Cosplayer
08:03 Am News
08:27 Am Myanmar Scout
09:03 Am News
09:27 Am The Most Prominent Resort And Residence - Ngapali
09:52 Am Human Right Human Dignity International Film Festival
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Korea-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
10:47 Am Sagaing: Gold Leaf
10:55 Am Parents' Day

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

Prime Time

- 07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm Moyingyi Wildlife Sanctuary
07:45 Pm The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
08:03 Pm News
08:27 Pm Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "A stir about of Rainbows"
08:51 Pm Next Weekend

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



Entertainment Channel

(4-9-2015, Friday)

- 6:15 am Myanmar Series
6:40 am Analysis of Myanmar Movie
7:05 am TV Drama Series
7:50 am TV Drama Series
8:35 am Musical Programme
8:45 am Myanmar Video
10:10 am Myanmar Video
3:20 pm AFF U-19 Championship (2015) Football (Live) (Third Place) (Malaysia U-19 Vs Lao U-19)
6:20 pm AFF U-19 Championship (2015) Football (Live) (Final) (Thailand U-19 Vs Vietnam U-19)

Australia under fire for lobbying on California kangaroo trade

SYDNEY — The Australian government is under fire for lobbying the California legislature to stop a ban on the sale of kangaroo products in the US state, a restriction the industry argues would cripple exports of the marsupials’ meat and leather.

The California senate will vote on Thursday on a bill to extend a moratorium indefinitely on the sale of kangaroo products like premier league baseball mitts and fire retardant gloves favored by US firefighters.

Powerful animal rights and democracy lobbyists in California are angry about the way the bill was introduced this week via the backdoor, just days before the end of the current legislative session, following extensive Australian government lobbying and financial aid.

The A\$200 million (\$140 million) trade of kangaroo skin and meat is an emotive issue.

The Australian native graces the country’s coat of arms and is a major tourism draw, making it a high profile target for animal rights activists who oppose commercial killing.

However, with a kangaroo population of about 48 million, more than double the human population, the animal is also considered a pest in many areas because of the threat it poses to agriculture, cattle and endangered animals.

California — the world’s largest market for upmarket leather goods - formally banned the import and sale of kangaroo products in 1971, but the market has flourished under an eight-year moratorium.—Reuters

Pun Hlaing Golf Club to host Junior Championships

YANGON — Pun Hlaing Golf Club (PHGC) will host the Pun Hlaing Golf Club Junior Championships at its club in Hline-thaya Township on 12 and 13 September, under the supervi-

sion of Myanmar Golf Federation and Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM).

The championship will include U-8 and U-24 women's and men's events.

Junior golfers must send application forms and copies of their birth certificates or citizenship scrutiny cards to MGF's office or Pun Hlaing Golf Club without registration fees before

5pm on 10 September.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners of the tournament. For further information, call 01-684021 or 09-250510200.—GNLM

11 chosen for SEA Junior Tennis Tournament

Ko Moe

YANGON — Myanmar Tennis Federation has selected 11 players to take part in the Southeast Asian Junior Tennis Tournament 2015, which will be held in Singapore from 27 October to 1 November.

Myanmar will compete in the inter-club, men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles events.

Maung Min Min Thu, Maung Lin Khant Oo, Ma Su Myat Phyu Sin and Ma Myat Pwint Phyu were chosen for the U-12 event, Maung Ye Min Paing, Maung Paing Hein Ko, Ma Shoon Le Wai and Ma Hsu Yati for the U-14 event, and Maung Phyo Thu Lwin, Maung Kaung Htet San and Ma Hla Htet Moe for the U-16 event.

"The selected players will be undertake training from 10 to 26 September," U Min Min of the MTF said.—GNLM

Township teams join double regu, regu events in tournament



Youth teams attacking each other in double regu event of inter-township Sepak Takraw Tournament.—TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

MANDALAY—Youths in Mandalay Region have been taking part in the Inter-Township Sepak Takraw Tournament 2015 at Bahtoo Gymnasium since 1 September.

Pyin-Oo-Lwin, Meiktila, Nyaung-U, Amarapura,

Yamethin, Kyaukse, Aungmyethazan and Natogyi townships are participating in the double regu event.

As of 2 September, Amarapura had scored six points in two wins, followed by Pyin-Oo-Lwin, Aungmyethazan,

Yamethin, Meiktila, Kyaukse and Natogyi; three points from one win and one loss each.

Amarapura, Pyin-Oo-Lwin, Kyaukpadaung, Natogyi, Mahaangmye, Meiktila, Kyaukse, Yamethin are competing in the regu event.

Amarapura, Kyaukpadaung, Mahaangmye and Kyaukse have already bagged six points each. After holding the final matches on 5 September, a prize ceremony will take place.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Rooney set to eclipse Charlton's 45-year old record

LONDON — Wayne Rooney can break Bobby Charlton's 45-year-old record and become the first player to score 50 goals for England when Roy Hodgson's men take on San Marino and Switzerland in their two upcoming Euro 2016 qualifiers in the next week.

Charlton's record of 49 goals from his 106 internationals has stood since May 1970 but Rooney, who has 48 in 105 matches, has the perfect opportunity to beat it when England play tiny San Marino in Serravalle in Group E on Saturday.

If he should fail, the England skipper, who has scored in England's last five qualifiers and has grabbed nine goals in his last 12 England games, will get a second chance when England play Switzerland at Wembley next Tuesday.

Victory against San Marino, who have only avoided defeat in one competitive international in the last 10 years, will virtually ensure England's qualification for next year's finals in France, and they will make absolutely certain of their place by beating Switzerland as well. England top the group with a perfect haul of 18 points from their six matches, with Switzerland trailing them on

12 and Slovenia third with nine.

Even if England win on Saturday there remains the minute mathematical chance they could finish on 21 points with Switzerland and Slovenia, but in real terms, they are virtually home and dry. And despite a host of injuries, coach Roy Hodgson will certainly hope to see England stretch their unbeaten run in World Cup and European qualifiers to 26 when they take on San Marino.

Midfielder Jonjo Shelvey, one of the men included in the squad, partly as a result of the injuries to other players but more

significantly because of his good early season form for Swansea City, says he will do all he can to help Rooney get the record on Saturday.

Last week, Shelvey, whose only cap came against San Marino in 2012, was in the Swansea side that beat Rooney's Manchester United 2-1 in the Premier League, but on Wednesday their club allegiances were put to one side.

"For me he is the best English player in England," Shelvey told a news conference at England's training base at St George's Park in the Midlands.—Reuters



England Training - St. George's Park - 2/9/15 - England's Wayne Rooney during training.—REUTERS

Djokovic clicks into gear, races to third round

NEW YORK — Novak Djokovic took a while to warm up against Austrian Andreas Haider-Maurer but shifted into gear to close out the first set and then raced to a 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 win that closed Wednesday's play of the US Open.

World number one Djokovic, who lost only three games in his opening-round victory, led 5-4 in an indifferent first set that went with serve before suddenly snapping into focus to break the Austrian to love. Flicking winners off his forehand and burying backhands deep into corners, the Serb dropped only three more games as he sailed to victory and a place in the third round.

The reigning Australian and Wimbledon champion registered 27 winners and did not face a single break point in his demolition of 28-year-old Haider-Maurer, a winner of nine career Challenger titles but none on the ATP World Tour.

Djokovic gave Haider-Maurer credit for bringing a blistering first serve.

"I think he had an average serve of 130 miles per hour, so he came out firing from that shot in his game," said the top seed.

"All in all, it was good to not

stay too long on the court and get the job done in three sets," added Djokovic, who had enough energy left to dance on court with an entertainer who amps up the crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium during changeovers.

Djokovic is trying to claim his third grand slam singles title of the year and the 28-year-old Serb could not be blamed for thinking he is due for another US title to add to his 2011 trophy.

Four other times (2013, 2012, 2010, 2007) he has been runner-up at Flushing Meadows and reached the semi-finals three other times.

"For one reason or another I wasn't able to make that final step, too many times," he said.

"But looking at the results over the years, it has been one of the most consistent tournaments I've had. Ever since 2007 finals, I've been making semis each year, so this definitely is in back of my mind.

"Whenever I come here, I know that conditions suit me well, that I feel good on the court. I play very good tennis. I obviously try each year to get myself in a position to fight for the trophy. That's no different this year."—Reuters