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SEAFOOD STOCKS DEPLETED

Half of Myanmar's seafood factories shut due to shortage of raw materials

Ko Moe

YANGON — Operations in approximately half of Myanmar's seafood processing factories have been suspended due to a shortage of raw materials, according to Vice Chairman U Hnin Oo of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Of the estimated 150 seafood processing factories nationwide, 80 have temporarily shut down, the vice chairman said. He attributed the shortage to depleted stocks.

"As Myanmar does not carry out breeding activities on a large scale, the sector relies on fishing for a livelihood. The production of fishing sector is now falling and we are facing a shortage of raw materials. As a result, about half of our factories had to be closed temporarily," U Hnin Oo told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

"In Vietnam and Thailand, factories rely on breeding as well as fishing for profits. This keeps production rates on an even keel," U Hnin Oo added.

He suggested that the government should invest greater efforts into developing the capacity of the fisheries sector by offering assistance, research for breeders and infrastructure.

Myanmar's fisheries exports dropped from 345,267 tonnes in the 2013-14 financial year to 338,210 tonnes in the 2014-15 financial year. — *GNLM*



Workers at Ocean Harvest (Myanmar) Limited's factory in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon. — PHOTO: JESSICA MUDDITT

Myanmar to manufacture diesel trains next year

NAY PYI TAW— Myanmar Railways is set to begin manufacturing diesel trains locally with financial and technical assistance provided by China.

Myanmar Railways, under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, sent 56 employees from Insein train factory and Ywahtaung diesel train factory on 14 September left Myanmar to

study at CNR Dalian Locomotive and Rolling Stock Co. in Dalian, Liaoning Province, China. The team, which is led by senior engineer U Myint Naing, will acquire new skills in the locomotive manufacturing process, with the aim of starting to produce locally made trains at a new factory in Nay Pyi Taw.

With assistance pro-

vided by Chinese experts, around 20 trains are slated to be manufactured in Myanmar in the coming year, which will lessen the need to purchase foreign-made trains. The factory will be capable of producing trains with 2,000 horse power engines that can reach speeds of 110 kilometres per hour.—*Rail Transportation Ministry*

Hepatitis prevention and care in National Strategic Plan

NAY PYI TAW— National Consultation Meeting on Development of National Guideline on Hepatitis was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 September to educate treatment and prevention of hepatitis diseases with upcoming National Strategic Plan.

Hepatitis becomes global issued disease

which affects related diseases like liver disease and liver cancer and so on, according to deputy minister for health Dr. Daw Thein Thein Htay.

"There are 390 million people who suffer from hepatitis B and C diseases and to reduce number of patients, it is needed to educate the people for treat-

ment and prevention," she said.

The two days meeting will take impact to draw National Strategic Plan on Hepatitis to control plans for those diseases.

UN agencies, INGOs, professors, experts from ministry of health and government officials participated in the meeting.—*MNA*

Looking further afield: Expo in Singapore aims to entice Myanmar expats

Ye Myint

YANGON — A two-day property expo in Singapore in late October may provide a much-needed boost to Myanmar's sluggish property market, according to iMyanmarHouse, the event's main organiser.

'Myanmar's Biggest Property Expo' will take place on October 24 and 25 and will be held at the Grand Park City Hall Hotel.

This will be the first time that Myanmar real estate has been showcased overseas. Myanmar real estate developers have high hopes of attracting potential buyers, as some 200,000 Myanmar citizens live and work in Singapore, said U Nay Min Thu, the managing director of the online property trading website on Tuesday.

"The event is solely targeting Myanmar citizens who are considering investing in Myanmar's real estate sector, possibly because they are contemplating returning to their homeland,"

the managing director told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Despite being unable to sell property to foreigners due to the delay in passing the Condominium Law, the expo in Singapore will make it possible for Myanmar citizens to buy apartments and condos without needing to return to the country, he added.

According to iMyanmarhouse, Myanmar citizens living in Singapore have previously bought property as a result of attending expos organised by other countries, such as Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

U Nay Min Thu said that Myanmar citizens may be enticed by the comparatively lower prices on offer in Myanmar.

"The price of units in great locations in Yangon will be relatively inexpensive as compared with their equivalent in Singapore," he said.

The organiser confirmed that 10 real estate developers including iGreen, Golden City and Living Square have committed



A construction site in the heart of Myanmar's commercial capital of Yangon. Real estate developers in Myanmar are going to showcase their listings in Singapore next month. — PHOTO: YE MYINT

to participating in the exhibition, while talks are ongoing with other firms.

Property market watchers

recently said that there are no signs that Myanmar's sluggish real estate sector will rebound before the end of the year. The

formerly inflated market will remain muted, exerting downward pressure on both sale and rentals. — GNLM

KBZ awarded Euromoney Achievement Award for CSR-2015

NAY PYI TAW — Kanbawza Bank received Euromoney's Corporate Social Responsibility Award 2015 during a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Kanbawza (KBZ) Bank's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, which supplies clean water to more than 80,000 people in southern Shan State, as well as its broader commitments to CSR, were taken into account when selecting the award's recipient, said Mr Marcus Langston, Euromoney's resident representative for Asia. Euromoney is a London-based trade magazine and international conference holder.

Mr Langston presented the CSR award to the foundation's Vice Chairperson Daw Nang Kham Nong.

The foundation has to date spent more than K4 billion (US\$3.1 million) on installing 44 tube wells and constructing water supply facilities in southern Shan State.

"Over the past twenty-years, UNDP and the government tried to drill wells in this region but unfavourable geological formations showed that no underground water source was available and the projects were therefore unsuccessful," said U Nyo Myint, Senior Managing Director of KBZ Bank.



Daw Nang Kham Nong receives Euromoney's Corporate Social Responsibility Award 2015.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

The foundation's first attempt to locate an underwater water-bearing zone occurred on 11 March 2014 at Kone Myint Thar Yar Village in Bawsine, U Nyo Myint added.

Over the past eight years, the Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has spent more than K96 billion (US\$74.41 million) on projects in healthcare, education, youth, social and religious affairs, community development, sporting activities and disaster relief and recovery programmes.

During the ceremony, KBZ Bank's chairman U Aung Ko Win also received an excel-

lence award from Euromoney for being the 'Best Bank in Myanmar.'

This is the second time that KBZ Bank has received the award from Euromoney.

KBZ Bank, which is the country's top private bank and taxpayer, was selected for the prize due to having attracted the largest volume of deposits from customers, introducing the first online payment services, being the country's most profitable bank as well as being the top lender for small and medium enterprises. KBZ was also awarded Euromoney's best bank prize last year.—GNLM

Union Attorney-General meets legal expert from IMF

NAY PYI TAW—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin held talks with legal experts Ms. Kimberly Brooks of International Monetary Fund and party at his office on Tuesday.

They discussed legal assis-

tance from IMF for amending Tax Administration Procedures Law.

Also present at the meeting were officials of the offices of Attorney-General of the Union.—MNA

Low-cost carrier to launch Yangon-Ho Chi Minh flights

YANGON—Low-cost carrier Vietjet will launch a new route between Yangon and Ho Chi Minh City route from 2 October, with a schedule of five return flights per week between the two cities.

According to a press release issued Monday, half a million promotional tickets – including some that are free of charge –

will be on offer from 11:30am to 1:30pm on September 16-18.

The discounted tickets are for international connections between Vietnam and Myanmar, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Thailand, as well as domestic routes. The travel period runs from this month until April next year.—GNLM

A Vietjet airplane in the sky.—VIETJET



Health is wealth.

That's right. The government is offering cash rewards to centenarians.



Hmat Kyi
Aung Pin Lei

President U Thein Sein sends messages to United Mexican States, Papua New Guinea

NAY PYI TAW—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations

to His Excellency Mr. Enrique Pena Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, on the occasion of the anniversary of the

Independence Day of the United Mexican States, which falls on 16th September 2015 and another messages of felicitations to Sir

Michael Ogio, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea and the Right Honourable Peter O' Neill, Prime Minister of Papua

New Guinea, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Papua New Guinea, which falls on 16th September 2015.—MNA

Myanmar marks International Day of Democracy at Hluttaw Complex

NAY PYI TAW—A ceremony was held to mark International Day of Democracy at the Hluttaw (Parliament) Building in the capital of Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

In his address, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann noted that it has been five years since the first International Day

of Democracy was held in Myanmar.

This year's event slogan, 'Public Participation in Democracy' is apt in that it encourages the public to cast their votes in the upcoming general election, the speaker added.

He emphasised the importance of responsible and active civic participation in the elec-

tion, and urged all to participate in the democratisation process.

A message from President U Thein Sein was read out by Union Minister U Win Tun before statements from the speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the UNSG and the Inter-Parliamentary Union were read out by officials.

A total of 22 papers explor-

ing concepts related to democracy were presented by members of political parties and civil society organisations.

Event attendees included Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman U Mya Thein of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union and Chairman U Tin Aye of the Union Election Commission.—MNA



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

MNA

Myanmar Global Investment Forum hosts plethora of panels



Myanmar Global Investment Forum in progress at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw.—NANDA WIN

NAY PYI TAW—Around a thousand people attended the Myanmar Global Investment Forum in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The welcome speech was given by Mr Tony Shale, Chief Executive Officer, Asia, Euro-money Institutional Investor, while the Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister U Zeyar Aung delivered the keynote address.

The union minister touched on issues such as the upcoming general elections and the future political landscape, the evolution

of Myanmar's trade and investment environment, and the expected pace of economic reforms. He also discussed foreign direct investment (FDI) and international trade trends, what more needs to be done to accelerate Myanmar's integration into the regional supply chain, measures for tackling poverty, improving educational standards and developing human capital, as well as the impact of US interest rates increases.

Panels were varied and included titles such as Myanmar in Transition, Developing Myanmar's Financial Sector, Trade, Infrastructure and Greater Mekong Sub-region Connectivity, Energy and Power Development and The Outlook for the 2015 post-election period.

"This forum aims to boost FDI by encouraging potential investors to come and learn about Myanmar's economic potential," said the director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration Dr Malar Myo Nyunt.

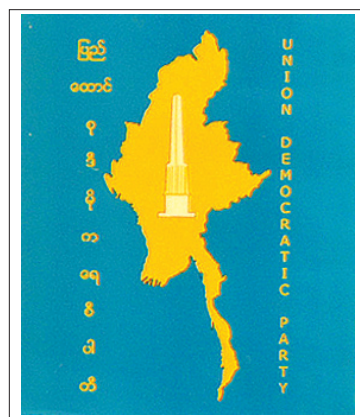
"People want to know about likely developments in Myanmar's economic and political situation. This forum provides a platform for investors to understand the current situation in Myanmar – as well as perhaps its future," said Economic Adviser to the President Dr Aung Tun Thet.

"FDI in Myanmar will generate growth in a range of sectors and should be broadly encouraged for the sake of the country's development," the adviser added.—Nanda Win

What they stand for: campaigns aired

Campaign speeches were broadcast by the Union Democratic Party, Peace & Diversity Party and Chin Progressive Party on Tuesday.

Union Democratic Party



Vice Chairman U Soe Win expressed his party's wish to see the establishment of a federalist State, as it will support long lasting internal peace. He said the party will strive towards improved infrastructure across the board and that it is ready to join hands with all political parties so as to best serve the interests of the people of Myanmar. He also pledged that the party would solve land ownership disputes and other legal disputes across the nation.

Peace & Diversity Party



Vice Chairman-1 Daw Sanda Oo explained that her party's places great emphasis on national politics and plans to wipe out 'spy politicians' who serve the interests of other countries. She said that the party's main goal is to collect data that usefully serves the national interest and that it would disseminate the data to any party and organisation without charge.

Chin Progressive Party



Chairman U No Than Kap said that the party is focused on infrastructural development for Chin State and improving access to education, as well as the quality of education. Infrastructural development projects would include roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, power and water supplies – among others.—GNLM

China donates fire engines to Muse

SHWELI — In commemoration of the 65th anniversary of Myanmar-China Diplomatic Relations, the International Relations Association of Yunnan Province in the People's Republic of China donated three fire engines to Muse District in Shan State on September 14.

Three multi-purpose vehicles handover ceremony was attended by the association's deputy president Mr Cheng Yunchuan, officials of government

of Yunnan Province and Dehong Dai Prefecture, the mayor and vice mayor of Ruili, leading committee members of fire fighting committee and Shan State Lesu ethnic affairs minister U Yaw Wi at Palace Gate Square in Ruili of Yunnan Province.

The donation also included firemen's helmets and uniforms.

These three fire engines meet all international standards and are brand new, the donors said.—L Soe (IPRD)

Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW— MRTV, Hluttaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives

from Inn National Development Party, "Wa" Democratic Party and Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party on 16 September and 16 October.—GNLM

ELECTION COUNTDOWN **53** DAYS
Make your voice count. Cast your vote.

Two public libraries near completion in Tatkon



Officials of Information and Public Relations Department from Nay Pyi Taw Council Area inspect progress in construction of rural library in Tatkon Township.—TIN SOE LWIN-IPRD

TATKON — Two more villages in Tatkon Township will soon have new libraries, with construction on both projects almost completed.

A 24ft x 14ft -brick library in Dahatkon Village is being constructed at a cost of K2 million and is now 70 percent completed.

Another 20ft x 20ft-brick library at Yeaye Village is being built with a K1 million donation from the Myanmar Libraries Foundation. Construction is 80 percent complete and the library will be named 'Thakin Kodaw Hmine' in honour of the late poli-

tician and writer. Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin and officials from the Information and Public Relations Department in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area inspected the progress of both construction projects on September 15.—*Tin Soe Lwin-IPRD*

Bicycles given to rural youth of Kayin State

KAMAMOUNG — A total of 28 bicycles were provided to students of Hlwasingon Village who were attending the basis education high school at Kamamoung town in Kayin State recently. The K

980,000-bicycles were aided by the state government's rural development fund of 2015-2016 financial year.

Township administrator U Min Lat Paing and officials went

to Hlwasingon village on 9 September, and presented the bicycles to the students who were facing dire difficulties and financial constraints of going to school from a far away village.—*Township IPRD*

Mandalay celebrates Red Cross Day



Officials supervise skill demonstration of youths at KMC Private School on Red Cross Day.

THIHA KO KO-MANDALAY

MANDALAY — Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervision Committee celebrated Red Cross Day on September 14 and carried out a first aid course at KMC private school to mark the occasion. Regional social affairs minister

Dr Win Hlaing was in attendance and a message from the president of Myanmar Red Cross Society was read out.

The course attendees gave a demonstration of their newly acquired first aid skills and were

presented with certificates and prizes for the best performing trainees.

The private school donated K 500,000 to the Mandalay Region Red Cross Society.—*Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay*

'One stop service' staff training in Meiktila

MEIKTILA — An orientation course was provided to employees at Meiktila District's 'One Stop Service' at its district general administration office on September 14.

The course was organised by the One Stop Service (office) implementing working committee. The committee's chairman District Deputy Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon said at the opening of the day that one stop service offices (OSS) are intended to provide the public with a convenient administra-

tive service as nine departments are housed in the same office.

The two-day course was attended by 14 personnel from Meiktila, Mahlaing, Wundwin and Thazi Township OSS offices.

OSS offices have been opened in 72 districts across Myanmar with the aim of providing people-centred services in an efficient manner.

Meiktila's OSS office was opened on August 3, while offices will soon be opened in Mahlaing, Wundwin and Thazi townships.—*Chan Thar (Meiktila)*

Insurance payouts for burnt down houses



People receive insurance payouts from First National Insurance in Mandalay.—THIHA KO KO-MANDALAY

MANDALAY — First National Insurance made insurance payouts on 13 September to the owners of two houses in Mandalay destroyed by fires.

The owner of a house on 62nd Street that was damaged by a fire on July 5 received

K71.2 million, while the owner of a house that was damaged on July 27 in West Aungmyeiktha Ward received K5.8 million.

First National Insurance offers eight different types of insurance policies.—*Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay*

Uterine cancer awareness talks held in Pobbathiri

NAY PYI TAW — Women in Pobbathiri Township attended awareness talks on uterine cancer on Tuesday, and learned about the importance of early diagnosis.

The lecture was given by Obstetrician and Gynecologist Professor Dr Win Win Mya of Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital.

Topics included how to prevent infections in the uterus and practical measures to identify warning signs. A question and answer was held at the end of the presentation.

Zabuthiri Specialty Hospital of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is providing free examinations of the disease for women folks.

The talk was also attended by Nay Pyi Taw Women's Affairs Organisation Chairperson Daw Mya Mya Moe and Director Dr Hla Hla Kyi of Public Health Department, Chairperson Daw Kyi Kyi Yin of Ottara District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and members of the local Maternal and Child Welfare Association and local residents.—*Aung Ko Ko*

Child workers in Thai seafood industry face hazards, injuries

BANGKOK — Children employed in Thailand's seafood processing industry are more exposed to workplace hazards such as fire or gas, and twice as likely to be injured than minors working in other industries, experts said on Monday.

Under Thai law, the minimum age of employment is 15 years, but many younger children - including migrant children from neighbouring Myanmar — are working illegally and not attending school, they said.

Almost 20 percent of children in the seafood industries reported workplace injuries, compared to 8.4 percent in other workplaces, the International Labour Organisation and the Asia Foundation experts said in a new report.

"In the 21st century no child should be brutalised by exploitation," said Maurizio Bussi, head of the International Labour Organization's office in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

Migrant children are disproportionately exploited because Thailand's seafood industry, with exports valued at \$3 billion a year, relies heavily on cheap labour, mostly from Myanmar. Children in the seafood industry work almost 50 hours per week



A migrant worker works at a shrimp factory in Samut Sakhon on the outskirts of Bangkok. —REUTERS

— about 6 hours more than Thai children — and few are aware of child labour laws. Just 30 percent of minors who are above the minimum employment age enjoy the legal protection of a contract, the report said. Thailand, the world's third-largest seafood exporter, is under pressure internationally after rights groups and media investigations accused the seafood industry of using slave labour. Vitit Muntarbhorn, an international human rights lawyer and professor at Chulalongkorn University

in Bangkok, said the country has the laws in place to tackle labour abuses. "What we need is better enforcement," Vitit, a member of the ILO Committee of Experts,

"In the 21st century no child should be brutalised by exploitation."

—Maurizio Bussi,
Head of ILO

told the Thomson Reuters Foundation at the launch of the report. "The question is how do you get children out of this situation?"

The report recommended improving migrant children's access to early childhood education centres, from the age of three, so they become proficient enough in Thai to enter formal schools in first grade. It also said part-time schooling for migrant children, in particular 15- to 17-year-olds, would improve their chances of staying in education. The report found big differences in labour standards between the canned tuna and the shrimp industry. The shrimp industry, with more than 10,000 farms, traders and processors, is much harder to monitor and regulate than the canned tuna industry, which is dominated by three big players who improved labour standards after pressure from overseas buyers. Governments, buyers, producers, NGOs and international organisations should work together to improve labour conditions, the report said. In addition, procedures for migrant workers to register with the Thai government should be simplified, while buyers abroad should be held accountable to work with suppliers to maintain international standards.—Reuters

Thai police chief links Uighurs to Bangkok bomb

BANGKOK — Thailand's police chief on Tuesday linked the Bangkok bomb to China's Uighur minority, the first time he has referenced the ethnic group after weeks of skirting around their possible involvement in the attack.

The August 17 bombing killed 20 people, the majority ethnic Chinese tourists, raising the possibility of a link to militants or supporters of the Uighurs, an ethnic group who say they face heavy persecution in China.

A month earlier Thailand had forcibly deported more than 100 Uighur refugees to China, sparking international condemnation as well as violent protests in Turkey, where nationalist hardliners see the minority as part of a global Turkic-speaking family.

Police however blame a gang of people smugglers for the attack, motivated by revenge for a crackdown on their lucrative trade through Thailand, a motive which has been widely dismissed by security experts.

"The cause was the human trafficking networks — networks transferring Uighurs from one country to another. Thai authorities destroyed or obstructed their human trafficking businesses," Somyot Poompanmoung told reporters on Tuesday, explaining the apparent motive for the attack.

It was the first time Thai police have formally referenced the Uighurs in relation to the case, after issuing a retraction of a mention of the group over the weekend. Analysts say Thailand is keen to avoid naming Uighurs for economic and diplomatic reasons. Chinese visitors are a lynchpin of the tourist industry, and Beijing remains one of the increasingly isolated Thai junta's few international allies.

But arrest warrants, passports and travel itineraries of the main suspects all point towards the involvement of militants from the ethnic group or their supporters. Nearly a month on, Thailand has two foreigners in custody and a dozen arrest warrants issued. One of the two suspects in custody, Yusufu Mieraili, was arrested with a Chinese passport that gave a Xinjiang birthplace. Almost all the other identified suspects have Turkish sounding names or links.

Mostly Muslim Uighurs have long accused Beijing of religious and cultural repression in China's far western Xinjiang region, with hundreds of refugees believed to have fled in recent years, often heading to Turkey via Southeast Asia.—AFP

SE Asia wheezes in haze, Indonesia cracks down on land burning



People sit in a wooden boat while travelling across Batanghari River as haze shrouds the river in Jambi on Indonesia's Sumatra island.—REUTERS

JAKARTA — A worsening haze across northern Indonesia, neighbouring Singapore and parts of Malaysia on Tuesday forced some schools to close and airlines to delay flights, while Indonesia ordered a crackdown against lighting fires to clear forested land.

Southeast Asia has suffered for years from annual bouts of smog caused by slash-and-burn practices in Indonesia's Sumatra and Kalimantan islands, but governments in the region have failed to address the problem.

The fires have been exacerbated this year by the effects of the El Nino weather phenomenon, as a prolonged dry season in

Indonesia has parched the top soil, fuelling the flames.

"The fire problems have reached a critical point," Luhut Pandjaitan, coordinating minister for political, legal and security affairs, told reporters.

"Our neighbouring countries have protested for years. We are not playing around."

President Joko Widodo, who was on an official visit to the Middle East, instructed security forces late Monday to accelerate efforts to extinguish the fires and revoke land permits from companies found responsible.

Nearly 3,000 military and police personnel, 17 helicopters and four cloud-seeding aircraft

have been deployed to fight the fires, according to the country's disaster management agency.

A state of emergency has been declared in Indonesia's Riau and Central Kalimantan provinces as an air quality index has hit "dangerous" levels, rising to as high as 984, officials said.

In Singapore, the index has fluctuated well above 100, levels considered "unhealthy", for the past few days, and reached as high as 249 on Monday night, putting it in "very unhealthy" territory. Indonesia has struggled for years to contain forest fires and the resulting haze despite repeatedly promising to punish perpetrators.—Reuters

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New Australia PM pledges dynamic economy, end to division



Malcolm Turnbull poses with his deputy leader of the Liberal Party Julie Bishop after being sworn in as Australia's 29th Prime Minister at Government House in Canberra on September 15, 2015.—AFP

SYDNEY — Multi-millionaire former banker Malcolm Turnbull was sworn in Tuesday as Australia's fourth prime minister in just over two years, promising to create a dynamic new economy and end the divisive approach of his predecessor.

Turnbull, unlike the ousted Tony Abbott, is a moderate on social issues who supports gay marriage and making Australia a

public — positions at odds with some members of his conservative Liberal Party.

"We are living in the most exciting times to be an Australian," Turnbull told legislators, less than a day after toppling Abbott 54-44 in a dramatic party vote.

"An Australia which succeeds in remaining a high-wage, generous social-welfare-net economy, which should be our goal, must be agile, must be dy-

amic, it must be looking to the future... and that requires confidence and leadership."

The economy is slowing as a decades-long mining boom fades. Abbott's ousting late Monday further enshrined a recent Australian tradition of swiftly remove ailing prime ministers. He slammed the frequent leadership changes as a "revolving door" not good for the country. Turnbull, a suave ex-barrister and journalist, has vowed repeatedly to run a government based on collaboration, in contrast to Abbott's divisive personalised rule marked by frequent gaffes. "Cabinet government is a collective method of making decisions," the 60-year-old told MPs. "I will lead a traditional cabinet government." Abbott lashed out at the savage nature of modern politics after his sudden toppling by his longtime Liberal Party colleague and rival — who served as communications minister before making Monday's challenge. "The nature of politics has changed in the past decade. We have more polls and more commentary than ever before, mostly sour, bitter character assassination," he told a farewell

press conference. Abbott won the general election in September 2013 but his first budget, laced with harsh cuts to public services, proved highly unpopular.

The 57-year-old faced a leadership challenge in February after poor polling and a series of gaffes ignited a backbench revolt, but survived. But he failed to turn around the polls, bolster the economy or stop damaging internal leaks, and lost party support. Turnbull, with strong backing from influential Foreign Minister Julie Bishop who was re-elected as deputy Liberal leader by a 70-30 vote, is expected to shake up the cabinet later this week. The new leader, expected to sweep out traditional conservatives and bring in younger blood and more women, moved quickly to scotch any expectation of an early national election to cement his leadership.

Turnbull has so far focused his sights on reframing the debate about Australia's economy and communicating policies better, areas where Abbott's administration struggled. As the nation strains to transition away from the mining-led growth that helped stave off recession

for 24 years, unemployment is hovering around a decade high and government revenue has been hit by slowing commodities demand from China. Nick Economou, senior lecturer in politics at Monash University in Melbourne, said it was too early to say whether Turnbull would be able to charm the electorate and turn around the government's fortunes. "I think there is a real danger for Turnbull here because... the problem in the Australian economy is the mining boom is over, government expenditure is outstripping revenue-raising and he will face the same problem that Tony Abbott faced," he said. But a snap Morgan poll of 1,204 people contacted by text message Tuesday found that Turnbull was already preferred as prime minister over opposition Labor leader Bill

Shorten by 70 percent to 24 percent. Ousted by Abbott as Liberal Party leader in 2009 over his support for the previous Labor government's carbon emissions trading scheme, Turnbull has also said there will be no change to Australia's climate policy. With its heavy use of coal-fired power and relatively small population of 23 million, Australia is considered one of the world's worst per capita greenhouse gas polluters. Canberra's targets for reducing emissions by 2030 have been criticised as well below the level required by the government's own advisory body, the Climate Change Authority. Turnbull is also a supporter of same-sex marriage, unlike Abbott, but told parliament his Liberal-National coalition would continue his predecessor's plan to hold a plebiscite after the next election.—AFP

"An Australia which succeeds in remaining a high-wage, generous social-welfare-net economy, which should be our goal, must be agile, must be dynamic, it must be looking to the future... and that requires confidence and leadership."—Malcolm Turnbull

Movie star's daughter set for Philippine presidential bid

MANILA — The adopted daughter of a Philippine film star will Wednesday announce a run for the presidency, and analysts say she could ride her father's popularity to a stunning win despite little political experience.

Grace Poe, 46, has been a senator for just over two years and faces legal challenges over her nationality. But her status as the daughter of the late Fernando Poe makes her a serious wild card chance, they said.

Her spokeswoman released a statement on Tuesday stating Poe would the next day "make an important announcement in connection with her plans for the (May) 2016 national elections".

Poe's aides refused to say if it would be the long-awaited confirmation of a presidential run, but the national media and political analysts said she definitely would.

"Grace Poe is clearly serious in gunning for the presidency. She has formed a campaign team comprised of her father's former supporters," Louie Checa Mon-

temar, political science professor for Manila's De La Salle University, told AFP.

According to her official narrative, Poe was abandoned inside a church in a small central Philippine town just after being born. She still does not know who her biological parents are.

The country's most popular movie star couple, Poe and Susan Roces, then adopted her.

In the Philippines' colourful brand of democracy, many movie stars and other celebrities use their popularity to launch successful political careers.

Poe's father, with no previous political experience, narrowly lost the 2004 elections amid allegations his opponent Gloria Arroyo stole crucial votes from him. He died seven months after the election.

But Grace Poe then showed the family name still had massive political capital by securing the most votes in the 2013 senatorial elections.

At that time she had no political experience and had only recently returned from the United States, where she

had become a naturalised citizen. Only Filipino citizens can run for the presidency.

Poe's opponents have filed legal challenges against her ahead of her planned presidential run, because she has no original birth certificate to prove she was born to Filipino parents.

They have also said her previous time in the United States should rule her out.

But analyst Ramon Casiple said she could defeat the two major candidates in next year's elections — current Vice President Jejomar Binay and Interior Secretary Mar Roxas.

"She has the critical mass required for a serious run for the presidency as well as the possibility of winning it," Casiple said.

President Benigno Aquino, who is required by the constitution to stand down after a single six-year term, has named Roxas as his preferred candidate.

Poe is an independent politician but is expected to secure the support of a major party that is currently part of Aquino's ruling coalition.—AFP

N Korea confirms reactor restart after hints of missile launch



A man watches a news report at a railway station in Seoul on September 15, 2015, on the confirmation from North Korea that the nuclear reactor seen as the country's main source of weapons-grade plutonium had resumed normal operations.—AFP

SEOUL — North Korea Tuesday confirmed the restarting of a nuclear reactor seen as its main source of weapons-grade plutonium, raising the second red flag in 24 hours over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

The confirmation, by the head of the North's Atomic Energy Institute (AEI), came hard on the heels of suggestions by the chief of the national space agency of a possible satellite

rocket launch next month.

Analysts said the two statements were clearly coordinated and partially aimed at raising tensions to place North Korea firmly on the agenda of an expected US-China summit later this month.

In an interview with the North's official KCNA news agency, the director of the AEI said all facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex — including a

five-megawatt reactor — had "started normal operations".

North Korea mothballed the Yongbyon reactor in 2007 under a six-nation aid-for-disarmament accord, but began renovating it after its last nuclear test in 2013. When fully operational, the reactor is capable of producing around six kilos (13 pounds) of plutonium a year — enough for one nuclear bomb, experts say.—AFP

Hungary shuts its border to migrants



A young boy is pictured as migrants and refugees wait behind a gate for Macedonian police to allow them to cross into Macedonia at the border between Greece and Macedonia near the town of Gevgelija on September 15, 2015. Around 7,600 migrants entered Macedonia in just 12 hours overnight — a record according to a UN official quoted by Macedonia's state news agency on September 11. —AFP

ROSZKE — Hungary confirmed it had sealed its border with Serbia on Tuesday as its controversial new anti-migrant laws came into force.

“The Roszke and Asothalom road crossing points have been put out of operation from Tuesday 07:00 am (0500 GMT),” said Laszlo Balazs, a border police official, at a press conference in Budapest.

There were conflicting reports from the border, with some aid agency staff saying the Roszke crossing had been closed from midnight.

“The border was shut and has yet to re-open,” said Babar Baloch, a UNHCR spokesman at the border.

“Our staff do not have access, and the Hungarian authorities have not let us know about any schedule they have for re-opening the border,” he added.

After it closed off the main, unofficial entry point used by migrants on Monday, Hungary had continued to let them enter through an official border entry

post around two kilometres (1.6 miles) further down.

But it said on Tuesday it was no longer allowing people to enter even through the official route because Serbia was not controlling the flow of people.

“The measure is in place due to the situation that has developed on the Serbian side, as border controls are not being provided,” said Balazs, adding that it could re-open if the situation changes.

Hungarian police said that a record 9,380 people entered Hungary on Monday -- almost twice as many as the previous records set last week -- although this did not fit with information from AFP reporters at the scene who saw far fewer migrants at the border than previous days.

“UNHCR is concerned that the combination of different individual measures might create a situation where large numbers of refugees seeking asylum in Europe — the protection they are entitled to receive in line with international law — will find themselves moving around in legal

limbo,” said Baloch from the UNHCR.

Those who had made it through the border before it shut were taken by bus to a train station at the border town of Roszke where they got on trains.

Unconfirmed reports suggested they were being taken to the Austrian border.

Fayik, a 20-year-old Afghan who made it into Hungary less than 24 hours before the border fence was closed, told AFP he had been taken straight to the Austrian border without being registered by Hungarian police.

“Luckily, they did not take us to a registration camp,” he said by phone. However, his hopes of reaching his uncle in Munich, Germany have not yet been successful.

“I wanted to go there and have a rest for some days,” said Fayik, who made an urgent dash to get from Turkey to Europe before the Hungarian border shut.

“However... I am still on a train. They are taking us to Potsdam, near to Berlin.”—AFP

French consul in Turkey who sold boats to migrants resigns

PARIS — France's honorary consul in Turkey has resigned after she was found to be selling rubber dinghies and life jackets to migrants seeking to cross the Mediterranean to Europe.

The Frenchwoman, Francoise Olcay, was suspended on Friday after a television report showed her selling the items from a sailing goods shop she owns in the southwestern Turkish resort town of Bodrum. “Our honorary consul in Bodrum, who was suspended on Friday night after the broadcast of a report by France 2, handed in her resignation to the Consul General in Istanbul,” said French foreign ministry spokesman Romain Nadal. Olcay, who has held the position of honorary consul since October 2014, was secretly filmed by the reporting team and later admitted to her actions.

She claimed that if she did not sell the boats and life vests to the

desperate refugees, someone else would. Bodrum is the main departure point for thousands of refugees who, having arrived in Turkey, then undertake a risky journey towards the Greek islands for what they hope will be a better life in Europe. The town hit the headlines earlier this month after images of a drowned Syrian toddler lying on the beach caused shock around the world and prompted an outpouring of public sympathy for refugees.

Three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, his four-year-old brother and his mother drowned along with nine other Syrians when two boats capsized as they were trying to sail to the Greek island of Kos.

Honorary consuls, who perform their duties without being paid, are public servants who enjoy a special status which allows them to also engage in paid professional work. They are not professional diplomats. —AFP

German utilities defend nuclear provisions after report

FRANKFURT/BERLIN — German utilities rebutted a media report that nuclear operators could be as much as 30 billion euros (\$34 billion) short in their provisioning for waste disposal.

E.ON questioned the core assumptions in the Spiegel Online report which sent its shares to a 22-year low and those of rival RWE to an all-time low on Tuesday. RWE said it had made “right and appropriate” provisions while EnBW said its were kept topped up. Spiegel Online reported provisional findings of a law firm appointed by the Economy Ministry which said four German energy companies were as much as 30 billion euros adrift of the money they must set aside as Germany exits nuclear power by 2022. Germany's established utilities are struggling to adapt their business models to changes including the rise of renewable energy.

E.ON, RWE, EnBW and Vattenfall are due to switch off their nuclear plants by a 2022 deadline set by Chancellor Angela Merkel's government after the Fukushima disaster in Japan in

2011. Law firm Warth & Klein Grant Thornton, which has been commissioned to prepare an assessment, declined comment.

An E.ON spokesman said while there was no official result, only a draft, it seemed to be based on a scenario expecting negative interest on the sums to be held, which “therefore does not arrive at a realistic sum for the provisions”. E.ON is working on the basis of earning interest of 1 percent on the funds held, he said.

The Spiegel report said that according to the auditors, the 39 billion euros set aside by the energy companies for dismantling the nuclear plants was sufficient, but they were short of funds for the final disposal of nuclear waste.

Equity analysts Bernstein in a market note said: “We have serious doubts on the validity of this assertion (the Spiegel report),” adding it was based on an extreme scenario. E.ON shares were down 6.8 percent to 8.00 euros and RWE shares off 7.2 percent at 10.95 euros versus a flat German blue-chip DAX as of 0810 GMT.—Reuters

Russia's Putin pledges to help Tajikistan after deadly gun battles

DUSHANBE — President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday said Russia would help Tajikistan ensure stability after gun battles killed more than 20 people this month, stoking fears of religious-related unrest in the ex-Soviet state.

Putin, on a visit to the Tajik capital Dushanbe, was speaking after gunmen loyal to the country's ex-deputy defence minister

clashed with government forces in circumstances that have not been fully explained.

Putin said Moscow was worried about a possible spillover of violence from Afghanistan into Tajikistan and other central Asian states.

“You can always count on our help and support, though (Tajikistan's) armed forces are successfully dealing with the prob-

lems that arise,” Putin told a meeting that included Tajikistan's President Imomali Rakhmon.

Putin said he was also concerned about Russian citizens who had left to fight with Islamic State militants returning home. Moscow would continue to provide military assistance to the Syrian government, he said.—Reuters



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon during a meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, September 15, 2015. —REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 September, 2015

Let's not undermine the aim of the minimum wage

By Myint Win Thein

IT'S ironic when a decision is made with a specific purpose in mind, yet the complete opposite occurs for one reason or another. At the end of August, the government set a national minimum wage of K3,600 per day. The decision followed two years of negotiations with labour organisations and employer associa-

tions. The aim of setting a minimum wage was to reduce the occurrence of labour disputes, provide workers with a living wage and to create a more attractive investment climate.

However since the minimum wage law came into effect on 1 September, a number of fresh disputes have arisen, with some employers trying to manipulate the situation by altering working conditions. This has included the cessation of benefits such as overtime and transport allowances.

This has resulted in some workers receiving a lower monthly salary than they did before the minimum wage was set. Those workers quite rightly feel cheated and it is therefore unsurprising that labour strikes broke out once again in industrial zones – just as they did before the minimum wage was set.

It is important that stakeholders do not lose sight of the reasons why Myanmar decided to introduce its first ever minimum wage law. Why? Because the benefits it confers on the country's workers and the economy as a whole will be jeopardised.

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THE GRASSROOTS AWAKENING

BA THAN

'NEVER, in the history of a nation has so much been done, for so many by so few.'

THAT was the most poignant eulogy delivered by the Great War historian Lord Winston Churchill to dedicate the heroic fighter and bomber pilots of the British Royal Air Force during World War II, who dared death so that their small island nation and its people may be saved from utter devastation by the ruthless enemy beyond their shores. Somehow or the other, that little saying stuck in my memory. Now three scores and ten years later around June, July and August of 2015, in Myanmar our Asian land of a million pagodas and a hundred multi-ethnic peoples, we are faced with a massive natural catastrophe never ever before experienced, which brings to my mellowed mind that famous Churchillian saying but applied in a different context. Heavy monsoon rains and powerful typhoons from the Bay of Bengal and the Pacific struck mercilessly from high north across the central plains to the fertile southern Ayeyawady delta region, once popularly known as 'the Granary of the East,' flooding the growing paddy lands, submerging the villages and towns, sweeping away bridges and roads, causing massive landslides along the Chin mountain ranges, habitat of the hill people, and eroding river banks of important waterways disrupting all means of transportation excepting air travel. To quote the updated news media of 17th August 2015, all regions, and states excepting Kayah State and Taninthayi Region, were affected, among which Rakhine State, Sagaing Region and Magway Region were most severely stricken. About 1.5 million people, 400,000 households had to flee their homes to seek shelter and immediate relief, food, clean water, clothings, shelter, and medication, and 117 lost their lives in this disaster. A state of emergency was declared

alerting the world community of the need for massive help to ease the immediate plight and also geared towards rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks ahead which need to follow with immediate urgency.

News of the calamity travel fast in this contemporary age of media advancement. The Union State and Region authorities, government departments responded immediately with massive relief goods, clean drinking water and first aid medicines amid some bureaucratic delays. Member of the Defense Forces: Army, Navy and Air Force, Police, Red Cross all joined hands with the public, rendering service at ground zero.

Spurred by the magnitude of the disaster the spirit of charity, sympathy and generosity gushed forth from willing donors all over the country through many channels: private banks, wealthy business corporations, SMEs, voluntary humanitarian organizations such as LNGOs, INGOs, and multitude of informal groups and individuals who all responded swiftly and selflessly with generosity and dedication. It is truly amazing to witness human philanthropy at work spontaneously and unorchestrated to combat the seemingly insurmountable crisis. The ASEAN communities, immediate neighbours, friendly nations from around the world, UN and agencies also contributed to the national calamity.

All foregoing fast moving saga of crises, challenges and responses are already well known due to fast moving mobile media and communication network which will need no further exposure. What the author intended to highlight in this presentation here is the unexpected unheralded awakening of the people from all walks of life from the hills and the plains, states and regions, rural folks and urbanites, diverse ethnic nationalities, celebrities and non-entities, in essence from the apex of the social pyramid right down to the grassroots foundation, characteristics and manifestations of

the emerging civil society.

The author was touched to the heart to follow the trend of simple people at grassroots level, awakening to the crises and contributing what little they could afford. Skynet TV gave detailed coverage of the motor cyclists plying on the outskirts of Hline-thaya, Shwepyitha, Dagon new satellite towns with short-hop passengers on their pillion carrier seats, and donating the day's earning for disaster relief. Compared to those wealthy donors with their multi-billion proceeds, it may not amount to much, but I just admire their philanthropy behind their motive. Another noble act of admiration, truly heralded as pure grassroots drive was the sudden appearance of youth movements: boys and girls of school going age and university level, weaving through highly congested streets along Yangon City traffic, with all available receptacles in their hands: bowls, cardboard boxes, plastic bags and containers, soliciting the good

faced so many calamities and disasters before, natural as well as man made: earthquakes, fires, floods, cyclones, landslides, tsunamis, human conflicts etc., with each in its own intensity. Recently in 2008 "Nargis" coupled with tsunami struck the Ayeyawady deltaic region with such ferocity as to sweep away, 200,000 people, and devastating fertile paddy belts with lingering after-effects, going 8 years. This present disaster of 2015 covered a far more extensive area, country wide with equally ruthless destruction. Public response also rose up to the occasion from the pinnacle of society down to the grassroots foundation. Many lives were sacrificed so that relief may reach the distressed swiftly. We all pray that their sacrifices may not have been in vain, and will enjoy better after-life.

Our society is now moving in an era of change. After 50 years of non-civil central rule it is evolving in a reform process in rapid transition towards democratic governance and civil administration. The country has also opened up to the western demo-

cratic world of US, UK and Europe, with an open-ended interchange of relations. Many societies, associations active social groups emerged to take their rightful places with new momentum. There was also much progress in the Education sector. The news media noticed a flurry of Universities and colleges from the western renowned universities, sending feelers for a share of education advancement in Myanmar environment, in the long run. What strikes me most was the emergence of the new generation, youths in this contemporary age. Not only confined to State Schools they have a choice to attend qual-

ity private education. They also attend non-formal training for traditional culture conduct, morality dignity and discipline. Such vibrant awakening certainly augur well for our civil society to rise again and take the rightful place in ASEAN and the family of nations. The senior generation, born between the 1920s and 1930s had gone through many critical eras from the British Colonial Period right up to the present era of reformation and transition towards democracy and civil society, stretching to nearly a century. However come to think of it, that much time span is just a speck measured in terms of eternity, just a small bubble in the vast expanse of endless oceans. But in that miniscule stretch of time, history of a nation had been seen to be made and still in the making. A new generation has been nurtured to hold the mantle of the passing ones. The promise for the future much depends on the way it is trained, the vision it aspired, the dignity it holds and the passion for fulfilling that inspiration. This new generation is a valuable human resource, and a new hope. This current natural calamity has proved to a certain extent that the entire nation and peoples right down to the grassroots level has awakened to respond to the needs of the millions of victims in dire distress, out of their own sense of mission voluntarism, generosity and sacrifice. Now in the seventh scene of life according to Shakespeare's world stage we oldies would like to see this blossoming into full maturity with faith, hope and blessing. Never in the history of a nation has so much been done for the distressed by the people with dynamism. For that we are forever grateful.

"A new generation has been nurtured to hold the mantle of the passing ones. The promise for the future much depends on the way it is trained, the vision it aspired, the dignity it holds and the passion for fulfilling that inspiration"

will and generosity of car owners, drivers, commuting passengers, to join hands in a true spirit of common welfare. Many responded, but there are exceptions as will surely be with any society, with never a kind worth for their voluntary labour. And there are many contributions carried out by the common multitude of donors: unnamed, unhonoured and unsung with the only objective of bringing relief to the disaster victims.

In a deadly contest between man and forces of nature, the struggle will be long drawn but eventually man must win in the end as always was. Myanmar has

cratic world of US, UK and Europe, with an open-ended interchange of relations. Many societies, associations active social groups emerged to take their rightful places with new momentum. There was also much progress in the Education sector. The news media noticed a flurry of Universities and colleges from the western renowned universities, sending feelers for a share of education advancement in Myanmar environment, in the long run. What strikes me most was the emergence of the new generation, youths in this contemporary age. Not only confined to State Schools they have a choice to attend qual-

U Ba Than is a former University English tutor who was selected to the Burma Civil Service and rose progressively to Director General. After retirement he wrote English articles, essays and stories for general reading. He is a regular contributor of NLM and GNLM.

Flood water exceeds danger level in Minbu



Residences being inundated in Minbu Township due to overflow of Ayeyawady River.—THURA TUN

MINBU — The Ayeyawady River in Minbu Township rose four centimetres above the local danger level of 1,700 centimetres on September 13. Floods have recurred in some parts of the town and in villages near the river banks.

A total of 834 people from 181 families from three wards in the Magway Region's township

were evacuated to seven shelter camps.

Additionally, 1,477 villagers from 446 families from 10 villages near the river banks were relocated to higher areas.

The 2,311 flood victims are receiving assistance from the township, and a 24-hour flood watch has been set up.—*Tin Tun Oo (Minbu)*

Monsoon paddy cultivation exceeds target in Dabayin

DABAYIN — Farmers in Dabayin Township have cultivated 127,555 acres of rice paddy, exceeding their seasonal target of 125,400 acres, according to township agriculture officer U Aye Min Tu.

Though the township received heavy rainfall in July, only minor damage was caused to paddy fields, allowing farmers to

exceed their target. The farmers primarily cultivated the Shwebo-pawsan, Aya-min and Shwe-thweyin rice strains.

Farmers received paddy seeds from the township agriculture office in July, after some fields were damaged by heavy rainfall, to ensure that the township's paddies would be cultivated on time.—*Aung Lin-IPRD*

MMCWA offers healthcare training in Kalay

KALAY — The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association has sponsored a training course in Kalay Township, which began on September 12.

The course focuses on emergency healthcare training and aims to allow healthcare

volunteers in the area, which was heavily damaged by flooding last month, to carry out rehabilitation efforts more efficiently.

The opening ceremony of the three-day course was attended by MMCWA president

Daw Thazin Nwe and senior association members, local health officials and Dr Khin Oo Zin, a health officer for the SPRINT Project, an international sexual and reproductive health programme.—*Sagaing Region IPRD*

Linzin area needs restoration for good irrigation in Salin Township



Irrigation Department installs steel gutter crossing new tributary in Linzin irrigated area in Salin Township.—PAING ZAY-MAGWAY

SALIN — The Magway Region government is installing a steel gutter for new tributary costing K 320 million, at the Salin main canal in Linzin irrigated area of Salin Township.

The township irrigation office is implementing the work since June which is scheduled to be completed in October.

The farming populace of Magyipin village-tract in the area were wholly dependent on the old wooden tributary gutter which had deteriorated over the years and could not supply sufficient water to the plantations.

As the 250 ft long, 42 ft high and 4 ft wide Salin main canal was closed during recent heavy rains

when the nearby Mone Creek was swollen, the installation of the new steel gutter was made convenient, says township irrigation deputy officer U Kyaw Min Tun.

After the installation, about 850 acres of farmland would be able to get the sufficient irrigation facilities, the officer added.—*Paing Zay-Magway*

Voter lists displayed in Meiktila

MEIKTILA — Local election sub-commission offices in Meiktila put their voter lists on public display for the second time on September 14.

U Than Win, chairman of the township's election sub-commission, observed as residents came to check for their names on the lists.

Before the lists were published, residents were notified by loudspeaker for two days that the lists would be displayed, and they were encouraged to check for their names. The announcements also warned residents that they might lose their voting rights if they declined to check.

A total of 270,206 voters are registered to vote at 293 polling stations in the township. The stations will be staffed by 4,500 poll officers, according to a town source.

The 2015 general election will take place on November 8.—*Chan Thar (Meiktila)*



Local people checking voters' list in Meiktila for casting votes at 8th November general elections.—CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

Sunflower seeds replace poppy in Pekhon

PEKHON — Farmers in Pekhon Township were provided with high-yield sunflower seeds and fertilisers by the local agriculture office on September 12 in an effort to reduce poppy cultivation.

Local farmers in the southern Shan State's township were encouraged to employ "good agricultural patterns" in cultivating the replacement crops.

The sunflower seeds will be cultivated on 100 acres of land in Yenwet, Yelonyekan, Koneson and Lwaepaw villages.—*Ko Htwe-Pekhon*

Teacher who educated Afghan refugee girls wins UN prize

LONDON — A teacher who has dedicated her life to educating Afghan refugee girls, challenging cultural sexism by setting up classes in a makeshift tent, has won a special prize awarded by the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR).

Aqeela Asifi, 49, left Kabul with her family in 1992, and ended up living in the remote refugee settlement of Kot Chandna in the Punjab region of Pakistan, where most girls were excluded from the classroom.

Despite few resources, she won over the community and persuaded parents to send their daughters to school.

Today more than a thousand children attend permanent schools in the village, said UNHCR, although around 80 percent of Afghan refugee children in Pakistan are still out of school.

The Nansen Refugee Award has been won in the past by Eleanor Roosevelt and Luciano Pavarotti. The award ceremony takes place next month in Geneva, and the winner gets \$100,000 to fund a project complementing their existing work.

"When you have mothers who are educated, you will almost certainly have future generations who are educated," said Asifi. "I wish for the day when people will remember Afghanistan, not for war, but for its standard of education."

The lack of opportunities for girls in education in the re-

gion has been highlighted by campaigner Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani teenager who won the Nobel Peace Prize last year for her work promoting girls' right to education. She was shot in the head by a gunman from the Taliban in 2012.

There are currently 2.6 million Afghan refugees living in exile, making them the largest refugee community in the world, according to UNHCR.

Since the Taliban was ousted from power in 2001, millions have returned home, but insecur-

ity still remains. The Taliban recently launched a wave of attacks in Kabul, killing more than 50 and souring relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have long accused each other of sheltering Taliban and other Isla-

mist militants who conduct attacks inside their territory, charges both deny. "Investing in refugee education will allow children to play a part in breaking the cycle of instability and conflict," said António Guterres, head of UNHCR.—Reuters



An Afghan refugee girl stands near her parents' makeshift shelter in a slum on the outskirts of Lahore January 12, 2015. —REUTERS

Mexico FM heads to Cairo for answers on tourist killings

CAIRO — Mexico's foreign minister was headed to Cairo Tuesday with relatives of tourists mistakenly killed by Egyptian security forces, after her government demanded an urgent investigation into the "unjustified attack". Claudia Ruiz Massieu flew out of Mexico City late on Monday vowing to seek answers from Egyptian authorities on the attack that killed 12 people including at least two Mexicans.

Egyptian authorities have said the tourists entered a restricted area in the country's vast Western Desert and were "mistakenly" killed while security forces chased jihadists who had abducted and beheaded an Egyptian they said worked for the army.

But Ruiz Massieu said before leaving Mexico that six Mexican survivors had told their ambassador they had "suffered an aerial attack with bombs launched by a plane and helicopters" after stopping for lunch by the side of the road.

A Mexican man and woman were confirmed dead, the ambassador said, while six Mexicans were still unaccounted for.

Ten others were wounded in the attack, including six Mexicans who were reported to be in stable condition in hospital.

"We face a terrible loss of human lives and an unjustified attack that obligates us to make the protection of our citizens the priority," she told reporters at Mexico City's international airport before departing with relatives of some of the victims and doctors to care for the wounded.

Ruiz Massieu said she would hold talks with top Egyptian officials to "clear up the circumstances of this deplorable event, which has cost the lives of innocent Mexican tourists".

The incident has proven embarrassing to the Egyptian security forces which regularly claim to have killed dozens of militants in air strikes, tolls that are difficult to independently verify on the ground.

Egypt had pledged to create an investigative committee headed by the prime minister, Ruiz Massieu said. US State Department spokesman John Kirby said American embassy staff were checking "reports of a potential US citizen involved".—AFP

Syrian refugee count nears 2 mln in Turkey, down in Iraq, Lebanon

GENEVA — The numbers of Syrian refugees in Iraq and Lebanon fell in August, while the number in Turkey has risen to almost 2 million and asylum applications in Europe have leapt, the UN refugee agency said. The Syrian refugee count in Turkey has jumped by more than 200,000 since June, having risen by just 14,000 in the previous three months, UNHCR spokeswoman Selin Unal said.

From Turkey, tens of thousands of refugees try to reach Europe by attempting the short sea crossing to Greece, though many have drowned on the way.

Unal said Turkish authorities were trying to stop people reaching Europe. Syrians who were found making their way through Turkey were stopped and registered as refugees.

However, she said it was impossible to say that the spike in refugee numbers in Turkey was due to people moving towards Europe. It could have been caused by Syrians who had been in Turkey for some time deciding to register as refugees. In Lebanon, a recount of refugee numbers last month removed almost 60,000 from the tally of Syrians there, taking the total down

to 1,113,941. In Iraq, the decline in the numbers was small — 3,747 left while 3,151 arrived during August — leaving the population of Syrian refugees at 249,463. But any fall in refugee numbers is unusual because of the relentless outflow from Syria, where the war shows no sign of stopping after more than four years. Unlike Lebanon and Jordan, which have effectively closed their borders to new Syrian refugees, Iraq is still open to those fleeing from Islamic State or fighting between the government and opposing armed groups.

Many of those leaving Iraq told UNHCR they were returning to Syria because of the high cost of living and lack of jobs in Iraq's Kurdistan region, or for family reunions and improving conditions in their former home regions.

However, there had been a sharp increase in people saying they were heading to Turkey and onwards to other European countries, and UNHCR said people-smuggling had been frequently

reported in all refugee locations in Iraq. "Camp authorities have for instance reported the departure at Basirma camp of 30 head of households to Turkey, leaving wives and children behind," a UNHCR report said, adding that the smuggling route ran through the Balkans and ended in Germany.

A UNHCR mission to the Sarziri border post into Turkey reported that "illegal crossings by Syrians continue through the mountains, with numbers reaching an average of 10-15 individuals intercepted per week", the document said. UNHCR data showed 428,735 Syrians applied for asylum in 37 European countries between the start of the war in early 2011 and August this year, an increase of 60,000 since July. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Tuesday that an estimated 464,876 migrants have now crossed the Mediterranean so far this year, up from 432,000 as of Friday. That is more than twice the total for the whole of 2014.—Reuters

"Camp authorities have ...reported the departure at Basirma camp of 30 head of households to Turkey, leaving wives and children behind," —UNHCR

A device to zap away motion sickness

LONDON — A new treatment being developed by scientists from Imperial College London could end the misery of motion sickness. By suppressing certain brain signals they found they could speed up a person's ability to adapt to motions that had previously caused symptoms such as dizziness, nausea and vomiting.

Research from Imperial College London, recently published in the scientific journal *Neurology*, explained how motion sickness occurs when what the eyes see and what the inner ear senses are confused. Clinical scientist Dr Qadeer Arshad hit upon the idea for treating motion sickness when investigating what can influence a person's sense of balance.

"We know that people

without a functioning balance system are almost immune or highly resistant to developing the cardinal symptoms of motion sickness, which are nausea and vomiting. And so we developed a separate line of research; a way of using brain stimulation to suppress the signals from the inner ear and the brain. And so we thought that if we suppress signals at the level of the brain from the inner ear, then this would be highly effective against motion sickness," Arshad told Reuters.

Most people are prone to a mild queasy feeling at some point, for example on boats or rollercoasters. But around three in ten people suffer from a more severe type of motion sickness, leading to more unpleasant symptoms, such as dizziness,

severe nausea and cold sweats.

Professor Michael Gresty, a world expert on motion sickness, collaborated in the study at Imperial College London. He said it's the conflict in the brain that triggers these feelings of nausea as it struggles to figure out what position the body is in.

"The reason that we can't understand these motions; the brain if you like can't understand these motions, is that there's continual conflict between what is upright and whether you should lean to balance yourself in the environment or whether you're actually experiencing a sideways acceleration force. You imagine being on a bicycle or a motorbike; you go round a corner, you lean into the corner which remains perfectly upright in physics. You don't do that in a car, you don't do that on a ship — you're actually struggling to find out what is upright and what's the

best way of dealing with it," said Gresty.

During experiments carried out at the Department of Neuro-otology at Charing Cross Hospital, test subjects were first asked to sit in a motorized rotating chair that also tilts to simulate the motions that tend to make people sick on boats or rollercoasters.

Arshad said this was to determine each individual's vulnerability to motion sickness: "What we wanted to do was compare each individual to themselves, because people have varying degrees of susceptibility. So we initially go people on the chair and found out how susceptible they were, so we measured how long it took them to develop motion sickness. We then applied a stimulation; either the test or the control, i.e. the placebo. And then we re-measured how long it took to develop motion sickness."

Subjects were rotated at 72 degrees per second, equaling one revolution

every five seconds, with the chair tilted at 17 degrees. Arshad said this generated a frequency that is particularly nauseogenic.

Once their level of susceptibility had been determined, volunteers wore electrodes on their heads for about 10 minutes while again undergoing motion in the simulator. Known as transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS), the application of a mild electrical current to the scalp caused the brain to suppress responses in an area responsible for processing motion signals. Volunteers found that they were less likely to feel nauseous and they recovered more quickly. "So what we found was that when we used the test condition, we found that it took longer for the individual to develop motion sickness and that they also recovered faster. Whereas in the control group they developed motion sickness sooner than the first time and they took longer to recover," added Arshad.

After further lab based experiments, Arshad says the next step is to field test the device to determine how quickly it can speed up a person's adaptability to motion sickness in the real world.

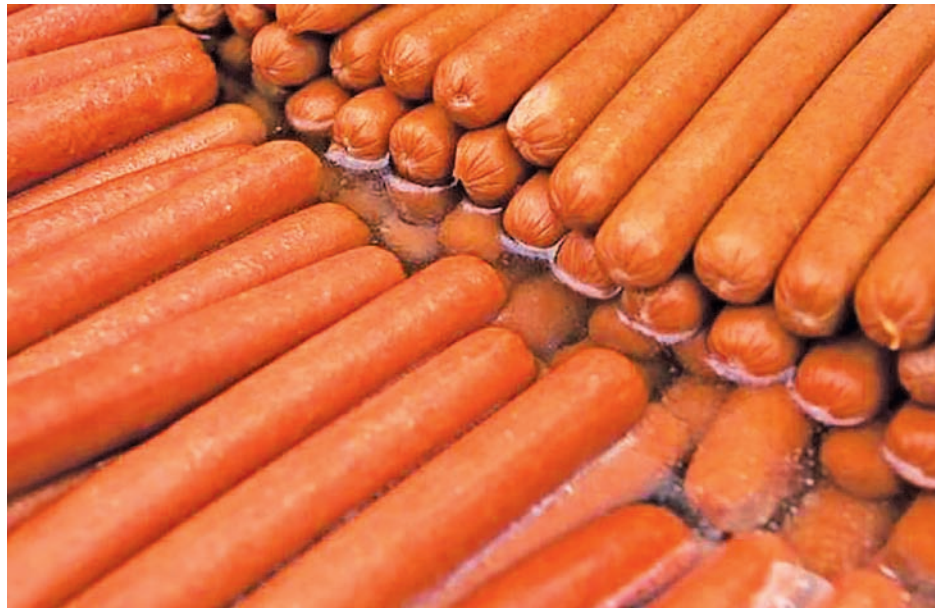
The researchers are confident that within ten years a consumer device could be readily available; one that the user could simply plug into their smart phone and attach to their scalp. They say the electrical currents are so small that there is no reason to expect any adverse effects from short term use.

"The technique has been around for some time, we've been using it for a long time. And for these very small amounts of electricity that you're putting through the brain there are no reported unwanted side effects or interactions," said Gresty.

"So the chances of it becoming a commercially viable prospect are quite imminent really," he added. —Reuters

"We know that people without a functioning balance system are almost immune or highly resistant to developing the cardinal symptoms of motion sickness.—Clinical scientist Dr Qadeer Arshad"

US fast-food meat still mostly raised on antibiotics



Hot dogs in New York.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Most large US fast-food chains still serve meat from farm animals that have been routinely fed antibiotics, consumer groups said in a new report, which concluded that many companies have not yet laid out plans to curb the practice. Subway, Starbucks, KFC and Domino's Pizza were among the industry leaders graded "F" for their antibiotic policies in the report from consumer and health groups, titled "Chain Reaction," released on Tuesday.

The groups, which did not release results to companies prior to publication, based their grades on public statements, survey responses and correspondence with individual chains. As a result, companies given failing grades were not immediately able to comment.

An estimated 70 percent of antibiotics important to human health are sold for use in meat and dairy production. Concern is growing among public health experts that the overuse of such drugs, particularly those im-

portant to human medicine, are contributing to rising numbers of life-threatening human infections from antibiotic-resistant bacteria dubbed "superbugs."

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 2 million people are infected with drug resistant bacteria each year and 23,000 die.

"From bacon cheeseburgers to chicken nuggets, most meat served by America's chain restaurants comes from animals raised in industrial-scale facilities,

where they are routinely fed antibiotics to prevent disease that is easily spread in crowded, unsanitary, stressful conditions," said Kari Hamerschlag, a lead author of the report who is senior program manager at Friends of the Earth. Subway was cited, in particular, for failing to publicly state a policy or plan to cut antibiotic use in the meats it buys, despite repeated requests by the report's authors for clarification. Chipotle Mexican Grill and Panera Bread, were top finishers with "A" grades. These popular chains have won loyal followings for policies that include strict limits on antibiotic use. Chick-fil-A, which is making meaningful progress toward its goal of only buying chicken raised without antibiotics by 2019, got a "B" in the report.

McDonald's Corp and Dunkin' Donuts got "C" grades. McDonald's plans to only source chicken raised without antibiotics important to human medicine by 2017. Dunkin' Donuts aims to prohibit suppliers from using medically important antibiotics or antimicrobials in healthy animals, but it has not set a timeline.—Reuters

Australian scientists turn to crowd funding to continue seeing stars

SYDNEY — Australian scientists have turned to crowd funding in an attempt to continue seeing stars as governmental funding cuts may cause astronomers to abandon a project to map the solar system's fourth quadrant. Twenty Australian scientists are on the brink of abandoning the four-year project which has been mapping the delta quadrant of the solar system, the brightest part of the Milky Way due to a 60,000 Australian dollar funding shortfall. Professor Michael Burton told News Corp on Tuesday the funding for the project had been pulled after cutbacks to Australia's scientific body the CSIRO by the Australian government and the Mopra telescope — 450 kilometers northwest of Sydney — they use will be shut down. "[Crowdfunding is] a new thing that we are trying for ourselves," Burton said. "We've never tried to fund research by appealing to the public, but the results

have been encouraging, we have still got some way to go but we are on track for it." Two thirds of the map have been completed, with Burton saying one year is needed to complete the survey. The scientists can use the Mopra telescope remotely — keeping the costs down — using the money on maintenance and costs keep the telescope operating over the summer months when weather conditions hamper the star-gazing. Burton said if the telescope is shut down, it will be too expensive to restart as components must be kept at specific environmental conditions.

The current map of the Delta quadrant in use by astronomers was completed with a telescope that had a diameter of one meter. The new map under survey is more detailed, using a 22-meter diameter dish.

The Mopra telescope is the only facility in the world that has the capabilities to complete the project, Burton said.—Xinhua

"We've never tried to fund research by appealing to the public, but the results have been encouraging, we have still got some way to go but we are on track for it."—Professor Michael Burton"

Notification for Companies

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) registers companies under the Myanmar Companies Act 1914 and Special Company Act 1950. All registered companies (including companies with current or expired registration certificates) were advised through newspaper announcements to inform DICA of whether the company is carrying on business by 14 September 2015, by contacting the DICA main office or branch offices by email, phone, fax or post at the details set out below.

Yangon (Head Office) : No. 1, Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon.
Ph-01-657891, Fax-01-658135
core.gov.mm@gmail.com

Nay Pyi Taw Office : Office No. 32, Nay Pyi Taw.
Ph-067-406124,067406166
Fax-067-406306
myomin.dec1976@gmail.com.

Mandalay Region Office: Between 26th & 27th Street, 84 Street, 3rd Floor, Zay Cho East Wing, Chan Aye Thar Zan Township, Mandalay Region.
Ph-02-86661, 02-86662.
Fax-02-86660
dicamy.mm@gmail.com.

Shan State Office : Compound of the Directorate of Trade Promotion and Consumer Affair, East Circular Road, Yay Aye Kwin Quarter, Taunggyi Township, Shan State.
Ph-081-2124293.
Fax-081-2124974
dicatgi18@gmail.com.

Mon State Office : No. 401, Strand Road (Extension), Mayangone Quarter, Mawlamyaing Township, Mon State.
Ph-057-23395.
Fax-057-23385
dica.mawlamyaing1102014@gmail.com.

Due to the request made by some companies for an extension of time to provide a notification, all companies, which have not notified must provide a notification to DICA of whether the company is currently carrying on business by **16 October 2015 latest**. Any company which fails to provide such a notification to DICA by this date is advised that it may be struck off from the companies register pursuant to section 247 of the Myanmar Companies Act 1914:

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Chinese artist Ai Weiwei poses for photographers with his work "Coloured Vases" during a press preview at the Royal Academy in London on September 15, 2015, ahead of the opening of a major exhibition of his work. The exhibition runs from September 19 to December 13, 2015.—AFP

S Korea's top court says no divorce rights for adulterers

SEOUL — By the narrowest of margins, South Korea's highest court on Tuesday refused to let a man divorce the wife he left for another woman 15 years ago.

South Korea's current divorce legislation bans a spouse deemed responsible for a marital breakdown from initiating divorce proceedings.

The case heard by the Supreme Court challenged that law and had been close-

ly watched following the country's Constitutional Court decision in February to decriminalise adultery.

Critics of the February ruling had said it would encourage infidelity and threaten the family unit — and similar concerns had been voiced over the divorce issue.

In the end the 13-judge Supreme Court ruled seven to six against any change, reaffirming that "the spouse who is mainly responsible

for a broken marriage cannot file for divorce".

The ruling noted that gender equality had some way to go in South Korea and that women would be particularly vulnerable if unfaithful husbands were allowed to divorce them without any justifiable complaint.

It also noted that a broken marriage could be legally ended if both sides agreed on a settlement — often involving substantial

financial compensation to the wronged party.

The unidentified plaintiff in the Supreme Court case had an affair that produced a child in 1998 and had been living with the mother for the past 15 years, while still married to his wife. His lawyers had argued that the marriage was permanently and irreconcilably broken, and that he had the right to seek a divorce even against his wife's wishes.—AFP

Wildfires wreak havoc across northern California, killing one

CALISTOGA — Winds whipped new life Monday into northern California wildfires that have killed a woman, hospitalized firefighters, and reduced hundreds of homes to smoldering ruins.

"It breaks my heart to look out and see what you folks are going through," Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin told hundreds of evacuees given refuge on fair grounds in the wine country town of Calistoga.

"It is a terrible tragedy." State disaster officials said two fast-moving infernos — dubbed the Valley and Butte fires — had destroyed more than 100,000 acres (more than 50,000 hectares), forcing thousands to flee. Officials said the victim, who was not identified, died in the Cobb area of Lake County that has been especially hard hit.

The woman had a disability and emergency workers slammed with calls for help did not get to her home

before it was engulfed in flames. This marks the first civilian fatality in the wildfires that have devastated the western United States in recent months.

While the Valley fire is located about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of the state capital Sacramento, the Butte fire is about 100 miles to the east.

Cool, moist weather that moved into the area on Monday, bringing with it chances for rain, brought welcome relief for crews who had been working on rough terrain in searing, dry heat days earlier.

However, the weather change also brought with it winds that powered swift moving walls of flames.

"The fire is definitely more active today than it was yesterday," Incident Commander Barry Biermann told AFP. "The fire is still spreading in different directions."

The hamlet of Middletown in Lake County was

reduced to rubble by the flames that left an apocalyptic scene.

An AFP reporter who visited the town saw smoldering homes, melted vehicles and downed power lines.

"There is metal dripping off the cars because of the heat," he said.

About a mile outside of the town lay a dead horse by the side of the road.

Many residents in the region said the air was so thick with smoke, it was difficult to breathe.

"It's hazy with smoke and smells like ashes," one resident, Rosendo Vallejo, tweeted. Worries have started to spread that looters may be taking advantage of the fact that people left valuables behind while racing to safety. "We stopped some people coming out of the burn area with property taken," Sheriff Martin said.

"There are people out there who will take advantage of disasters like this."

Evacuees were told it

could be a while before they were allowed to go home, even if only to check on livestock or pets and pick up much-needed prescription medicines.

Citing the widespread destruction, Governor Jerry Brown on Sunday declared a state of emergency for Lake and Napa counties — wine-producing regions north of San Francisco.

"We're really in a battle with nature, and nature is more powerful than we are," Brown told reporters on Monday. The recent fires have been fueled by tinder-dry conditions across the western United States, which has been starved for rain for the past several years.

The prolonged dry spell has been exacerbated by record high temperatures, which many environmentalists blame on global warming. Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), said the Valley fire has so

far consumed 61,000 acres (24,685 hectares), and was only five percent contained, with 1,200 firefighters mobilized to tackle it.

The 4,400 firefighters combatting the Butte fire have had more success. That blaze has consumed some 70,000 acres.

Together, the twin blazes have destroyed an area nine times the size of Manhattan.

Four firefighters who were hospitalized with burns



Burned out remains of the popular nudist destination Harbin Hot Springs are seen after the Valley fire roared through the area near Middletown, California on September 14, 2015.—AFP

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Abstain from the use of narcotic drugs; Stay healthy and stay active.

Issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 12 september 2015

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (011N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (011N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.9.2015 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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VOY NO (113N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (113N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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WEATHER REPORT



BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (17:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 16th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Naypyitaw, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th September, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Nicole Kidman returns to London in tale of overlooked DNA scientist

LONDON — Nicole Kidman, whose last appearance on stage in London was described by one reviewer as “pure theatrical Viagra”, has captivated audiences again with her performance as the sidelined scientist who helped unlock the secret of DNA.

The Oscar-winning actor’s portrait of Rosalind Franklin, who battles sexism in male-dominated 1950s Britain in Anna Ziegler’s play “Photograph 51”, opened to glowing reviews on Monday.

Kidman’s return to the London stage had been eagerly awaited following her debut here 17 years ago in David Hare’s “The Blue Room”, a play about a chain of sexual encounters.

This time she is a very different character: the super-smart but prickly Rosalind Franklin, a chemist whose work in X-ray crystallography was crucial to understanding the molecular structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).

Her role in the landmark discovery of its double-helix structure never received the same recognition as Francis Crick, James Watson and Maurice Wilkins.



Nicole Kidman at the Noel Coward Theatre in London.—REUTERS

Franklin, whose X-ray image known as photograph 51 was pivotal to the breakthrough, died of ovarian cancer in 1958 at the age of 37. Ziegler’s play helps move her from the margins of science history to centre stage.

But it also confronts her demons, including an unwillingness to collaborate and a reluctance to entertain scientific theories, which meant she missed the significance of her own work. Her photograph provided the vital clue, but the

theoreticians Crick and Watson had the imagination to solve the puzzle by building a hypothetical model of DNA.

Franklin comes across as a satisfyingly complex character, simultaneously a cold and unyielding colleague but also someone with real passion for her work who toils into the night in a basement laboratory at a bombed-out King’s College London.

Kidman, 48, said she was apprehensive about returning to the stage, but the play resonated for her personally. Her father, Antony Kidman, was a biochemist who died almost exactly a year ago.

“That’s very much a part of my desire to pay tribute to scientists of the world with this play,” she said. “My memory as a child is science labs.”

The play has been staged before in the United States, including in an off Broadway production in New York in 2010, but it is now being thrust into the limelight in the production directed by Michael Grandage, former artistic director of London’s acclaimed Donmar Warehouse.—Reuters

Tenor Florez soars in Royal Opera’s Gluck season opener

LONDON — Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Florez, beloved of opera audiences for his command of the high registers, made a soaring stage debut as Orpheus in Gluck’s “Orpheus et Eurydice” on Monday as the Royal Opera opened its 2015-16 season with a bang.

In the role of the mythic master of song who descends to the underworld to rescue his wife who has died of a viper’s venom, Florez received a huge ovation for his singing of a part that is sometimes performed by a soprano or a counter-tenor.

As it did for its season opener last year with a revival of “Anna Nicole” about the American topless model Anna Nicole Smith and her marriage to an 80-year-old billionaire, the Royal Opera aimed its opening night squarely at the younger generation - or people of any age with a taste for the unconventional.

In its new staging of the Bavarian-born Christoph Willibald Gluck’s 1774 work, American soprano Amanda Forsythe sings the role of Amour (Love) dressed in a gold lame suit while British soprano Lucy Crowe sings Eurydice garbed in a ball gown.

The Royal Opera’s own orchestra, chorus and dancers got to take the night off.

The conducting honors went to John Eliot Gardiner, a specialist in creating the sound worlds of the past. He brought along his Monteverdi Choir and his English Baroque Soloists, the latter performing much of the time on a platform in the middle of the stage.

That left the opera’s orchestra pit available for the ROH to sell 80 standing room places to students for 10 pounds (\$15.40) each - part of its efforts to reach new audiences.

But perhaps the bigger draw

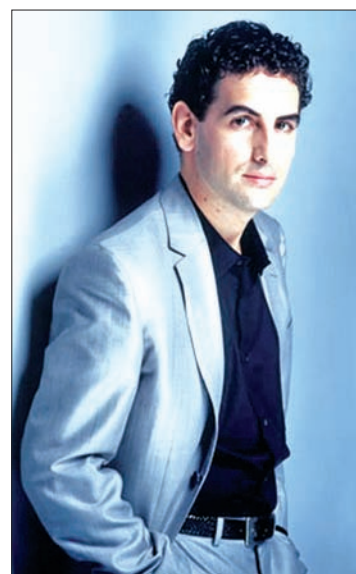
was the involvement of London-based Israeli choreographer Hofesh Shechter, whose dance shows have sold out rock-and-pop venues in London and Berlin. Shechter made his opera co-directing debut in this production, with veteran director John Fulljames.

Dance was an important part of French operas in Gluck’s time, so Shechter and his dancers had plenty of opportunity. Some of his choreography seemed inspired by club dance, while at other times his dancers moved almost in stop motion, as if caught in a strobe light.

And just when their routines seemed far removed from Gluck’s world, the dancers would do something that resembled a minuet or other period dance.

Kasper Holten, the Royal Opera’s Director of Opera, said he hoped the opening night audience would feel it was a memorable occasion.

“It’s about finding something very special to open the season, and I think we achieved that last year and I certainly hope we’re doing so this year,” he said.—Reuters



Tenor Florez.—REUTERS

Lance Armstrong disgrace revisited as crime movie in ‘The Program’

TORONTO — The rise and fall of Lance Armstrong, from cancer-beating Tour de France champion to admitted drug cheat, made for an epic heist flick, said the director of “The Program,” which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on the weekend.

“I think it is a crime story, I think it’s a heist movie,” British director Stephen Frears said. “He pulled it off and then he threw it all away.”

Texas-born Armstrong raised hundreds of millions of dollars as the public face of a cancer charity while winning seven Tour de France races between 1999 and 2005, victories he was stripped of in 2012 after being condemned as a doping mastermind.

After years of denials, Armstrong in 2013 admitted to doping. He is still fighting a lifetime ban and a \$100 million lawsuit.

“He’s America’s Jesus

Christ on a bicycle. He comes back from the dead, he heals the sick, and then we found out that our Son of God is a doping liar. And now we’ve banished him,” said Ben Foster, who plays Armstrong. Foster said he took performance-enhancing drugs while filming to get a better feel for his character.

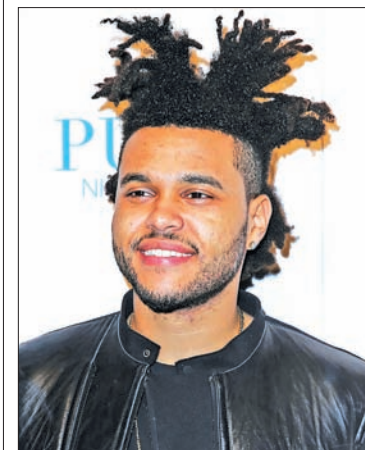
“I wanted to understand the culture on a cellular level,” he said of the method-acting technique. “I believe Lance saw the

world differently after he survived cancer. After that he came to the conclusion winning is life, and losing is death.”

“The Program” documents the dark side of professional cycling, which still struggles to shake off suspicions of cheating amid a culture of loyalty to a team’s star.

“It’s a profession in which people other than Lance Armstrong are called domestiques,” Frears said, referring to the

The Weeknd holds top spot on Billboard chart



The Weeknd poses backstage during the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, California, August 30, 2015.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Canadian R&B singer The Weeknd held on to the top spot for the second consecutive week on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, edging out four new entries to the top ten.

“Beauty Behind the Madness,” the second studio album by The Weeknd, sold 77,000 albums, 325,000 songs and was streamed 52 million times, totaling 144,000 units according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan for the week ending Sept 10.

Heavy metal rockers Five Finger Death Punch led the new entries in this week’s chart with its latest record “Got Your Six” at No 2 with 119,000 units, while rapper Travis Scott’s “Rodeo” came in at No 3 with 85,000 units.

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

Other new entries in the top ten of the chart include veteran heavy metal group Iron Maiden’s latest record “Book of Souls” at No 4 and Australian actor-singer Troye Sivan’s “Wild” at No 5. Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber held onto the top spot of the Billboard Digital Songs chart, which measures single track downloads, with his latest song “What Do You Mean” selling 159,000 downloads in the past week.—Reuters

French word for servant. “The hierarchy is quite powerful.”

It was Armstrong’s decision to return from retirement in 2009 that ultimately proved his downfall, turning fellow riders like Floyd Landis against him.

Chris O’Dowd plays Sunday Times journalist David Walsh, who was suspicious of Armstrong from early in his inspirational journey from hospital bed and wheelchair to Tour de France podium.—Reuters

DAW HLA NWE

Age: 80 years

Wife of Dr. Tun Yee

Passed away peacefully on Saturday

12 September 2015. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Daughters: Kay Thi Tun, Nwe Ni Tun
Sons-in-law: Aung Maw Hein, U Win Bo

Grandchildren: Arkar (Oscar)Hein, Theint Sandi Hein, Dolly Bo, Richie Bo, Mikey Bo

Funeral will be held on Wednesday 16 September 2015 from 8 am at Blk 37 Sin Ming Drive #01-573, Singapore 575711 Buses will leave at 11.45am for Mandai Crematorium Hall 3 for cremation at 12.45pm. Hp; Dr Tun Yee 9781 2646 & Kay Ti Tun 9325 9501

HK universities ranked world's top 100

HONG KONG — Four universities in Hong Kong have been ranked among the best 100 tertiary institutes in the world, according to the latest QS World University Ranking made public on Tuesday.

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), celebrating its 25th anniversary next year, jumped to 28th from 40th last year, replacing the century-old University of Hong Kong (HKU) that dropped two places to 30th,

as Hong Kong's top college. The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) was pushed out of the top 50, moving down to 51st. The City University of Hong Kong (CityU) rocketed to 57th from 108th last year. Responding to the ranking, a spokesperson for HKUST said it was happy with the new ranking result. CityU was pleased to be among the top 100 in the ranking together with the other three local colleges.

Massachusetts Institute

of Technology (MIT) was at the top of the ranking, while Harvard University and University of Cambridge took up the second and third place respectively. The QS World University Rankings are based on four key pillars, research, teaching, employability and internationalization and the methodology consists of academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty, international students, and international faculty. —Xinhua

Gardener wins award for recreating Monet garden

KOCHI — Despite knowing hardly anything about Claude Monet until 12 years ago, Yutaka Kawakami has won an award from France for his recreation in Japan of the impressionist painter's cherished garden on the outskirts of Paris.

"It's my personality and I just couldn't give up easily," the 53-year-old said of the difficulty he faced transplanting Monet's garden in Giverny into the very different environment of Kochi Prefecture in western Japan.

He said he had always sought "to blend the spirit of Japanese people and the essence of French culture," keeping in mind that while the two gardens may look similar, they can never be the same.

Even after being bestowed the order, he still believes his work on the garden "can be further

improved." In 2003, Kawakami, once a banker but then working as a gardener after deciding to devote himself to his passion for plants and flowers, was offered the chance to take charge of managing a garden park built by the Kochi village of Kitagawa.

"Back then, I only knew that Monet was an impressionist painter and nothing more," he said.

The village founded the park in April 2000 with the aim of revitalizing the local economy on the heels of an abortive attempt to invite factories. It obtained approval from the Claude Monet Foundation following direct negotiations.

Kawakami visited the original Monet garden for the first time in March 2004. He said he was astonished by the beautiful combination of colors.

"Monet is successful in capturing the moment



Japanese gardener Yutaka Kawakami.—KYODO NEWS

of everyday scenery," Kawakami said.

Since then, Kawakami has traveled to France numerous times to learn the techniques behind the Monet garden and has added many improvements to the park, using different varieties for flowers that are not found in Japan.

A native of Nankoku, Kochi Prefecture, Kawakami has spent his life with plants and flowers. He made his career switch to gardening from banking once he passed the age of 30. Gardening has no goal, he says. "It's like life, isn't it?"—Kyodo News

More nations join Silk Road festival



Bollywood dance performances are one of the highlights at the Second Silk Road International Arts Festival in Xi'an, Shaanxi province.—XINHUA

BEIJING — The Second Silk Road International Arts Festival began in Xi'an earlier this month, with monthlong exhibitions, dramas, dances and concerts planned by visiting artists and officials from countries that shared trade and cultural links with China along a network of

overland and marine routes in ancient times.

This year, the festival that opened on Sept 7 in the capital of Northwest China's Shaanxi province features artists and scholars from 62 countries and regions. In 2014, artists from some 30 countries attended the

first edition of the cultural event.

Culture Minister Luo Shugang, who was also present at the opening this year, called the festival a "cultural project of China's Belt and Road Initiative", which will "drive the understanding of both Chinese culture and those of nations on the Silk Road".

Lou Qinqian, governor of Shaanxi province, says: "The festival aims to boost cultural exchanges among people from various nations along the Silk Road." The festival features paintings by artists from 50 countries, including Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Chinese ink painters from China National Academy of Painting are also presenting their works depicting landscapes they sketched during their travels to countries on the ancient Silk Road. As part of ongoing festival, visitors to Xi'an can enjoy Bollywood dance performances, Latin concerts from Cuba and Mexico, modern dance from Israel and much more.—Xinhua



(16-9-2015 07:00 am~17-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

- 07:03 Am News
- 07:26 Am Jeyyanandi (A Day in the Life of a Nun)
- 07:44 Am Natural Mineral Water
- 08:03 Am News
- 08:26 Am Sweet Delicacy of Pathein
- 08:34 Am Art Students: Their Dream
- 08:40 Am Buddha Image Built Of Bamboo Strip
- 08:52 Am Myanmar Harpist
- 09:03 Am News
- 09:26 Am Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Body-builder
- 09:39 Am A Visit To Ye
- 10:03 Am News
- 10:26 Am Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA OBOE)
- 10:51 Am Black Gold (Part- I)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 06:30 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 10:30 Am)

06:30 Pm Second Round Qualifiers for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament 2016 (Myanmar Vs. Thailand)

Prime Time

- 08:03 Pm News
- 08:25 Pm Exquisite Myanmar Silk
- 08:45 Pm A Life In The Ring

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

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



(16-9-2015, Wednesday)

- 6:00 am • Mono Classical Songs
- 6:25 am • Myanmar Seires
- 7:00 am • Teleplay
- 7:10 am • TV Drama Series
- 8:00 am • TV Drama Series
- 8:55 am • Musical Programme

- 9:10 am • Joint Performance by State Traditional Orchestra
- 9:30 am • Myanmar Movie (Black & White)
- 6:15 pm • AFC Women's Olympic Football Tournament Rio 2016 (Live) (Myanmar Vs Thailand)

Myanmar U-19 team readies itself for AFC U-19 Championships qualifiers

YANGON — Myanmar will host the AFC U-19 Championships qualifiers at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, from 28 September to 6 October.

Myanmar's team is in Group G and is scheduled to play against Brunei on 30 September, Timor-Leste on 2 October, Hong Kong on 4 October and Vietnam on 6 October. It began its train-

ing preparations on 15 September.

The winning teams from each group will qualify for the final stage of AFC U-19 Championships in Bahrain.

Myanmar's team is a 23 member squad which includes some new players. The team comprises goalkeepers Soe Arkar, Phone Thitsar Min and Hsan Hset Naing, defenders Chan

Myae Tun, Win Moe Kyaw, Zin Myo Htet, Kyaw Thu Tun, Ye Yint Aung, Soe Moe Tun, Ye Min Thu, Myat Min Thu and Thurein Soe, midfielders Zaw Win Tun, Zarnayya Thu, Naing Min Thu, Zin Phyto Aung, Sit Min, Kaung Chit Naing and Htoo Khant Lwin and forwards Aung Moe Thu, Arkar, Aung Zin Phyto and Shwe Ko.—GNLM

Football tournament held in Danu Self-Administered Zone

YANGON — Zaytan FC came out victorious in the Danu Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman's Trophy football tournament, which was held in Pindaya Township on 12 September.

Zaytan FC defeated Innge

FC with a 3-1 in the final and was awarded the championship trophy and K700,000 cash prize.

The chairman of the leading body U Htoo Ko Ko oversaw the awards ceremony, with officials presenting individual medals and cash awards to the first and sec-

ond runners-up teams, Innge and Hsubogon football clubs.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaug Htaik and Shan State Minister for Planning U Aung Kyaw Nyunt were among the spectators at the grand final.—Min Htet

Newcastle bottom after defeat at West Ham

LONDON — Newcastle United slumped to the foot of the Premier League table after a 2-0 defeat at West Ham United on Monday left manager Steve McClaren still seeking a first win in charge.

Dimitri Payet was Newcastle's chief tormentor, scoring early in each half to lift West Ham into the top five with three wins and two defeats from their opening five games.

If West Ham are unpredictable, Newcastle have been predictably uninspired under new boss McClaren and they offered little to excite their fans at Upton Park.

After being delayed en route because of pre-match traffic and needing to walk the last

mile to the ground, Newcastle's players began slowly and went behind after nine minutes when Frenchman Payet took a pass from Mark Noble and placed a rising shot into the top corner from the edge of the penalty area. Payet, impressive since signing from Marseille during the transfer window, doubled West Ham's lead three minutes after the interval when he calmly volleyed the ball home from close range after Victor Moses struck the underside of the crossbar with a fierce drive following a counter-attack.

Newcastle, who have two points and dropped below north east rivals Sunderland because of an inferior scoring record, enjoyed plenty of possession

without forcing West Ham goalkeeper Darren Randolph into a difficult save.

They have found the net only twice this season, the lowest total in the top four divisions, and former England manager McClaren is already under pressure to turn things around.

"I don't know what it was, whether it was the journey, late getting here, the 10-minute warm-up, but we said before no excuses, deal with it, and maybe we didn't deal with it. "It was a big wake-up call for everybody because in this Premier League if you are not at 100 percent you get beat," he said.—Reuters

Ko can dominate sport like Tiger, says NZ's Campbell



Lydia Ko.—REUTERS

WELLINGTON — Lydia Ko can become the Tiger Woods of women's golf if she sets herself higher goals, according to compatriot and former major winner Michael Campbell.

Ko's win at the Evian Championship on Sunday made her the youngest woman to win a major and the third New Zealander after men's players Bob Charles and Campbell.

American Woods won his 14 majors over a 12-year period from 1997 and Campbell said Ko should aim for similar dominance of the women's game.

"She needs to break even more records, set her goals even higher," Campbell, the 2005 U.S. Open winner, told New Zealand's Radio Sport.

"I think the most important thing is for her to re-set her goals now. She can be the first player to win all five majors... become the first person to win the grand slam.

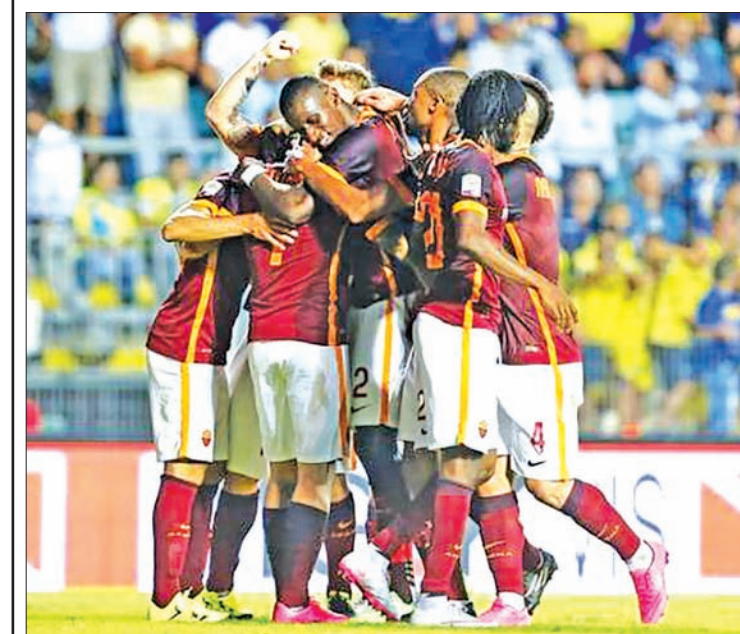
"Thirteen wins on the LPGA

tour in two years... that's ridiculous. This is like Tiger Woods stuff.

"He dominated golf for 10 years and I can see Lydia doing exactly the same thing."

One more major will make Ko her country's most accomplished golfer, while she will need another 14 to match the most prolific major winner in women's golf, American Patty Berg.

Ko's six-stroke win at Evian-Les-Bains in France ensured she will reclaim the world number one ranking, while receiving a huge boost of confidence after some disappointing performances at the majors. "She is a great ambassador for golf and New Zealand," Campbell added. "She has got 20 more years at the top which adds up to 100 majors. She will be distracted off the golf course but I'm sure she has a great team behind her. "She can go on to bigger and brighter things."—Reuters



AS Roma's Juan Manuel Iturbe (L) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Frosinone during their Serie A soccer match in Frosinone September 12, 2015. —REUTERS

Barcelona begin title defence against apprehensive Roma

ROME — AS Roma supporters may be looking ahead to Barcelona's Champions League visit with some trepidation and coach Rudi Garcia certainly does not seem to be bursting with optimism.

Roma have finished second in Serie A for the last two seasons but still there is still a clear gap between themselves and Europe's top clubs, despite the addition of Edin Dzeko and Mohamed Salah. Barcelona's visit to the Stadio Olimpico on Wednesday, which kicks off their Champions League title defence, comes just under a year

after Roma lost 7-1 at home to Bayern Munich in the same competition.

The Bavarians sliced through the Roma defence almost at will as they scored five goals in a bewildering half hour spell in the first half. Roma went on to finish third in the group after taking one point in two games off Manchester City while domestically they have come up short in matches against Juventus, with three defeats in their last four league meetings.

With that in mind, Garcia has already made it clear that he would be happy to finish second

in a group that also includes Champions League regulars Bayer Leverkusen and Belarus champions BATE Borisov.

"The target in the Champions League is to get past the group stage and to the round of 16," Garcia said in an interview last week with Radio Monte Carlo. "Behind Barcelona, it is an open group." There was just a hint of optimism when he said: "Everybody is convinced that they will get 18 points, so that implies getting six off us, but sometimes miracles happen in football. —Reuters