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BETTER BALLOTS

GOVERNMENT FACTORIES TO PRINT 125 MILLION



Pictured left is Managing Director of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint with a 2010 ballot; on the right is PPE Director U Zaw Zaw Tun with the ballot paper to be used in the 2015 elections.—PHOTOS: AYE MIN SOE

Aye Min Soe

THE Union Election Commission has ordered more than 125 million ballots from the state-run Printing and Publishing Enterprise (PPE) for the upcoming general election, said PPE managing-director U Aung Myo Myint.

At a press conference in Yangon on Thursday, the managing director said the PPE is currently printing 125,550,000 ballots at government-owned factories in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw and

aims to complete the order by 21 October. The ballots are costlier and of higher quality than those used in the 2010 election, U Aung Myo Myint said. The 2015 ballots are printed on yellow paper imported from Indonesia and feature a watermark of the UEC's logo to prevent counterfeits.

The PPE will deliver the ballots to the UEC by 25 October, said U Aung Myo Myint.

Among the ballots to be printed, 40.4 million are for Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) seats and

38.35 million are for the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House). Another 39.63 million are for region and state parliaments, including the seats reserved for ethnic minorities.

The PPE has already printed 10 million envelopes for advance votes, of which 9.3 million will be used for the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and state and region parliaments. The remaining 700,000 will be used to elect ethnic minority representatives.

The PPE will be able to print ballots for Myanmar citizens re-

siding overseas within 14 days of receiving an order from the UEC, the managing director said.

During the press conference, UEC official U Win Oo Khaing urged voters to check their names and personal details on their local voter lists, which will be displayed at township and ward offices until 27 September.

He also said the UEC has faced some difficulties computerising the voter lists, and he pledged to correct any errors identified by eligible voters.

During the sixth meeting between the UEC and political parties in Yangon in early September, UEC chairman U Tin Aye said that people without national ID cards can still cast their ballots on 8 November if they can provide other forms of identification that prove their citizenship, such as a driving licences or student ID cards.

Candidates from 92 parties and 301 independent candidates will compete in the national election, which will take place on 8 November.—GNLM

Ceasefire signing date to be set on Sunday

Ye Myint

YANGON — The government has invited 15 ethnic armed organisations to attend a meeting on Sunday to discuss setting a date for the signing of the national ceasefire agreement, said an official from the Myanmar Peace Centre.

U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at MPC, told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Thursday that the ethnic armed groups who will ink the pact are likely to be confirmed following Sunday's meeting. He said that is confident that at least 10 groups will sign the

peace deal. The 15 groups invited to Sunday's meeting are those which President U Thein Sein has invited to join the signing of the peace deal, which is tentatively set for early October. During high level talks in Nay Pyi Taw last week, the president reiterated the government's policy of initially signing the deal with the 15 groups with whom it has already reached bilateral agreements.

According to sources, the ethnic armed groups' senior delegation began a two-day meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand on Thursday to discuss which groups wish to be sig-

natories to the ceasefire.

U Hla Maung Shwe told reporters at a press conference last Friday that the two sides must meet to fix a date for the signing of the nationwide ceasefire at least 10 days prior to the signing ceremony itself. Myanmar Peace Centre will host two ceremonies on 20 September, with the first held to mark International Peace Day, which falls on 21 September. A ceremony later that evening will be attended by civil society organizations and outline the steps that signatories to the national ceasefire accord must follow after inking the pact.—GNLM

Joint statement on election issued

NAY PYI TAW — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a Joint Statement on Election on 17 September. The statement says: It is learnt that a Joint Statement on Election was issued on 15 September 2015 by Embassies of Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America in Yangon.

Cognizant of the important of the upcoming general elections in Myanmar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is appreciative of the support ex-

pressed by the "Joint Statement" for the successful holding of the elections. However, the Ministry is also concerned that the Joint Statement could bring about unwarranted, negative impacts on the efforts being made by all the people of Myanmar especially when the election process is progressing smoothly, effectively, and efficiently in a peaceful and positive environment.

With regard to the concerns of the countries expressed in the Joint Statement, the Union Election Commission has already (See page 2)

Training for polling station officers begins

NAY PYI TAW— Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye highlighted the importance of resolving electoral issues in accordance with the law during a speech to mark the start of training for polling station officers on Thursday.

The general election will be held in a free and fair manner and international observers have

been invited to the elections, he said.

The international community is keenly watching the elections and even an honest mistake could tarnish the image of Myanmar, he added.

The chairman called on polling station officers to perform their duties capably and without bias.

Ms Robyn Whitney of the Australia Electoral Commission then explained the purpose of the training course, which was jointly compiled with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

Fifty trainees from states and region sub-commissions are taking part in the two-day course.—MNA

Seven soldiers killed in July clashes with KKO

NAY PYI TAW—Military media announced on Thursday that seven soldiers were killed, 29 injured and one reported missing in action during clashes with the Kalohtophaw Karen Organisation that took place back in July.

The government troops were trying to clear the Myawady-Thingyan-Nyinaung-Kawkareik Road, a new section of the Asia Highway Network, in Kayin State, when fighting erupted on 2 July.

During the week-long clashes, the combined forces of the Tatmadaw and the Border Guard Force found six bodies of KKO fighters and seized 165 weapons,

ammunition units and vehicles.

The government forces also discovered four drug-production facilities belonging to the KKO, seizing 864,057 stimulant tablets worth more than K25 billion (US\$19,523,000).

Eighty-nine KKO members surrendered, giving up their arms and ammunition during the fighting.

The fighting broke out after the KKO failed to follow orders from the Kayin State Government and from the local military command not to extort money or recruit members from among local villagers or people using the

road. After insurgents from the KKO attacked the convoy of the Commander of the South-East Command on the new Asia Highway section during his inspection visit on 2 July, the government forces cleared both the old and new Myawady-Thingyan-Nyinaung-Kawkareik roads and gained control of the new road on 9 July.

The new Myawady-Thingyan Nyinaung-Kawkareik Road was inaugurated on 30 August by Vice President U Nyan Tun and Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Somkid Jatusripitak.—GNLM



Photo shows a building destroyed by KKO group led by Kyaw Thet and Saw San Aung in Kayin State.—MYAWADY

Rice reserve scheme introduced

Ye Myint

YANGON, 16 Sept — The Commerce Ministry on Wednesday announced a scheme requiring rice exporters to keep two percent of the total of every export shipment of rice as reserved supplies.

The scheme aims to prevent rice shortages from occurring in Myanmar by ensuring sufficiency for the local market in the event of a natural disaster.

The rice reserve scheme was announced in a statement from the ministry's Directorate of Trade issued on Wednesday. It comes into

effect immediately.

The announcement also gave the green light for rice exports to recommence on Tuesday, ending a one-and-a-half-month freeze that began on 7 August as a means of ensuring domestic rice sufficiency in the wake of flooding in many parts of the country. Farmers will begin harvesting the monsoon paddy within days and supplies have been assessed as sufficient for exports to resume.

The department will issue export licences to traders, which will be available from Nay Pyi Taw. Licences will no longer be

available in Yangon, Mandalay and border trade centres.

Border trade shipments may not exceed 500 tonnes of rice and no maximum amount has yet been stipulated for export shipments.

The duration of a license has been set at 30 days for border exports and 45 days for shipments, said the department, adding that licence renewals will not be permitted. Traders must apply for fresh licences when an existing licence expires and each application will be independently scrutinised.

The scheme applies to the

Union FM meets ambassadors

NAY PYI TAW — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, on Thursday received Mr Karel Johannes HARTOGH, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Myanmar with residence in

Bangkok, at his office here.

Likewise, the Union Minister received Mr Robert Lauer, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Myanmar with residence in Bangkok on the same day.—MNA

Myanmar, Italy eye cooperation in immigration affairs

NAY PYI TAW—Union Minister for Home Affairs and for Immigration and Population Lt-Gen Ko Ko received Italian Ambassador Mr. Pier Giorgio

Aliberti at Home Affairs Ministry on Thursday.

They discussed both countries' mutual cooperation in immigration affairs.—MNA

Joint statement on election issued

(from page 1)

established the mechanisms to address concerns, large or small that may arise in the election process in accordance with the existing laws, rules and regulations in just and non-discriminatory manners.

President U Thein Sein, in his International Democracy Day message on 15-9-2015, had also clearly stated that "Myanmar is a country where ethnic nationalities are residing side by side with their diverse ethnicity, customs and beliefs. In canvassing votes for their candidates, political parties and voters need to refrain from causing disruption to those harmonious communities and wide diversity of beliefs." This emphasizes the importance that Myanmar places on the ethnic and religious harmony in communities. The Government, the UEC, the people and all stakeholders are working together in order that

the elections will be held in a free and fair manner. Furthermore, the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar ensures equal rights to all its citizens regardless of race, religion or gender.

At a time when Myanmar is in the process of holding nationwide elections and undergoing a campaign period focusing on prevalence of law and order and peace and stability, the Joint Statement prejudices the situation and has potentials to create misunderstandings and doubts based on ethnicity and religion.

Issuance of such statement at this delicate juncture goes against the peaceful environment the people of Myanmar have established for the successful holding of the elections. The Ministry, therefore, categorically rejects the implications in the Joint Statement that instigate misunderstanding and doubts among people.—GNLM

Eid Day on 25 September

NAY PYI TAW—The Union Government issued a notification No 104/2015 on Thursday that as Eid Day (Bakri Eid) falls on 25 September (Friday), the day is declared as a public holiday in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar according to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.—GNLM

Emata variety of white rice only and traders are responsible for storage arrangements. The rice must be stored for six months from the date of being granted a licence. The department may invoke emergency provisions requiring traders to sell their reserves to the government at the market rate set at the time of storage.

The department said that an inspection team from the ministry will carry out monthly inspections, with five days advance warning given to traders.

Prior to the suspension of

exports, 400,000 metric tonnes of rice had been exported since the start of the financial year, said Dr Soe Tun, vice-chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* at the beginning of September.

MRF's vice-chairman predicted that Myanmar will fall short of the export target of two million tonnes this year, with the annual export figure revised to between 1 and 1.5 million tonnes. Myanmar exported 1.83 million metric tonnes of rice last year, at a value of US\$644 million.—GNLM

President receives credentials of ambassadors



President U Thein Sein receives credentials (From left to right) from Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Mr Robert Lauer, Italian Ambassador Mr Pier Giorgio Federico Aliberti and Dutch Ambassador Mr Karel Johannes HARTOGH.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW — President U Thein Sein on Thursday accepted the credential of Mr Robert Lauer, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Grand Duchy

of Luxembourg to Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace here. Mr Pier Giorgio Federico Aliberti, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Italian Re-

public to Myanmar, and Mr Karel Johannes HARTOGH, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Myanmar, also presented their

credentials to the President on the same day. Present on the occasions were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung

Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and Acting Director-General U Ko Ko Naing of Protocol Department.—MNA

What they stand for: campaigns aired

Campaign speeches were broadcast by the National Democratic Party for Development and the Union Solidarity and Development Party on Thursday.

National Democratic Party for Development



Chairman U Maung Maung Ni said that his party aims to build a society based on justice, freedom and equality, regardless of religious beliefs or ethnicity. It also aims to promote non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, the perpetuation of sovereignty, a peace process that does not undermine national unity, the protection of new Myanmar society with mutual respect among national races. He noted the party aims to implement student oriented system. He said that the party has a plan to modernise health care services and private hospitals by drawing health insurance system.

Union Solidarity and Development Party



In a campaign speech given by Secretary General U Tin Naing Thein, he said that the origin of democracy in Myanmar belongs to the USDP. The secretary general also said that the party was able to form a government thanks to the support of the people and that it has worked hard to repay the gratitude of the people who entrusted it with the responsibilities to govern during the 2010 general election. He explained the three phases of the transition to democracy, which includes drafting a constitution, holding an election and developing democracy under the leadership of President U Thein Sein.—GNLM

Vice president in Nanning for two summits



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with welcoming party of China.—MNA

NANNING, China — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham left for China on Thursday, where he will attend the 12th China-ASEAN Expo and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, which will take place in Nanning.

The theme for this year's expo, which runs from 18 to 21 September, is "Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century."

The vice president met with China's Vice Premier Mr Zhang Gaoli to exchange views on the promotion of trade, diplomatic relations and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Discussions took place at Liyuan Government Guest House and also focused on the establishment of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC), which

would be a key part of boosting socioeconomic development in the region. Other topics included joint efforts for the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The transport links are geared towards furthering mutual trade and commerce interests, increasing agricultural produce exports to China and developing infrastructure.—MNA

ELECTION COUNTDOWN
 Make your voice count. Cast your vote. **51** DAYS

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 Kaman National Progressive Party, Khamee Nation Development Party and National Democratic Force on 18 September and 18 October.—GNLM

\$400m from World Bank for 2030 electrification plan

Aye Min Soe

THE World Bank announced on Wednesday that it will contribute US\$400 million in interest-free credit to Myanmar to help the country achieve universal access to electricity by 2030.

The announcement came following the government's invitation of foreign direct investment into its power-generation sector at the Myanmar Global Investment Forum in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

In a press release issued Thursday, the World Bank said its Board of Executive Directors approved a US\$400 million interest-free credit from the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's fund for the poorest countries, to provide financing and technical assistance for Myanmar's National Electrification Plan (NEP).

In Myanmar, where over 70 percent of the population lacks access to electricity, bringing light to rural towns and villages is a critical part of alleviating poverty and developing the economy.

"As part of the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework, we are increasing our support for Myanmar's National Electrification Plan because we want to help Myanmar bring the benefits of electricity to its people quickly," said World Bank Southeast Asia Country Director Ulrich Zachau.

The project will expand the existing electricity grid by adding medium- and low-voltage distribution networks, giving more towns and homes access to grid-based electricity. It will also include off-grid electrification systems, such as solar systems and mini-grids to bring electricity to rural communities located far from the national grid.

More jobs, better healthcare too

The project is expected to benefit over 6.2 million people by bringing electricity to more than 1.2 million households in Myanmar by the end of 2021, according to the World Bank.

"This \$400 million project will help connect towns to the grid and turn on lights in schools, clinics and remote villages. We welcome and support Myanmar's goal to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030," the World Bank's country director said.

"The National Electrification Plan will transform Myanmar by giving the people of our towns and villages access to more job opportunities, better healthcare and lighting for classrooms," said U Aung Than Oo, Myanmar's Deputy Minister of Ministry of Electric Power.

"The Government of Myanmar is now accelerating its work to expand the grid and to bring power to rural areas with the critical support of the World Bank."

Over the course of the six-year

project, the World Bank financing will provide grid connections for 23,000 schools, clinics and community centres. It will also fund the installation of 132,000 street lights, opening village markets after dark and improving safety in local communities.

Power plant projects aplenty

Seventeen power plant projects that are currently being implemented are due to be completed by 2016, and 10 others were completed between 2013 and 2014, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

There are also plans to construct another 87 power plants that will be able to supply 54,608 MW of installed capacity around the country, said MIC chairman and Union Minister of Energy U Zay Yar Aung at the opening of the Myanmar Global Investment Forum on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank, ADB and IFC have planned projects or loans for power generation in Myanmar to support the government's efforts to attract FDI to the power sector.

Currently, foreign investors from Singapore, Thailand, China, the US, Japan, the UK, Norway and other European and Asian countries have investments in Myanmar's energy sector, including the oil and gas, coal and hydropower industries.—GNLM



Increasing access to electricity will play a vital role in alleviating poverty in Myanmar, where 70 percent of the population do not have access to electricity.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Landslide in Chin State poses no flood threat



Recent floods in Chin State caused landslides blocking a road leading to a dam in hilly region.—PHOTO: SU HNIN LEH

YANGON — Recent floods triggered massive landslides in Chin State and the creation of a landslide dam, sparking worries among locals about the possibility of it bursting in future.

According to Irrigation Department assistant director U Maw Maw Naing, the landslide dam is located nearly 5 kilo-

metres west of Hangin village in Tunzan Township. He said that satellite images show that it covers 84 acres.

However he said that villages need not worry about the possibility of flooding, as the landslide dam and the Yazagyo Dam are all situated at the tops of slopes.

"There is no way the dam can pose a threat, even if all the water it holds flows out."

The water in the natural dam will flow into the Yazagyo Dam in Kalay, which is 52km from Hangin village, the assistant director noted, estimating the maximum volume of the water at 12,000 acre-feet.—Su Hnin Leh

Chanmyathazi elects new ward administrator

MANDALAY — Ward No. 4 of Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, elected an administrator on 16 September in accordance with the 2010 ward and village law.

U Zaw Myint Naing, also known as U Zaw Zaw, defeated two other candidates bidding to represent the 10,000 strong population.

U Zaw Myint Naing said that the ward needs improved health and transport services, more roadside lamp-posts and better drainage. He said the ward community works well together and that he didn't anticipate any difficulties in carrying out his duties. The ward has plans to build its own roads pending approval from Mandalay City Development Committee, a resident said.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

200 flood-hit schools to be rebuilt: Ministry of Education

YANGON — The Ministry of Education has reported that among the 4,000 schools that were closed due to recent flooding, 3,600 had been reopened as of 15 September.

Heavy rainfall forced schools to shut down in 11 out of 14 states and regions in July and August.

The schools that suffered the most damage are in Rakhine State, where several temporary schools are still needed.

Construction on 61 temporary schools has begun in southern parts of Myanmar. Across the country, 213 schools must be wholly rebuilt, and 430 schools need major repairs, according to the ministry. The ministry's Basic Education Department plans to rebuild schools that will be more resilient in the face of natural disasters, a ministry source said. In some townships, monastic schools are accepting the students whose original schools were damaged by floods.—Soe Win (SP)

President donates desks to students



School officials bring desks donated by the President to respective schools.—Tin Soe Lwin-Tatkon IPRD

TATKON — President U Thein Sein has donated 770 desks to basic education schools in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The Township Edu-

cation Department allotted 10 desks each to No 1 Basic Education High School, No 2 BEHS, a high school run by Myanma Radio and Television and a high school

run by No 1 Defence Industry, as well as five desks each to 146 other basic education schools in the township. —Tin Soe Lwin-Tatkon IPRD

K300 million for rural businesses in Yinmabin Township

YINMABIN — Rural Development Department allotted K300 million (US\$234,276) to 10 villages in Yinmabin Township on 16 September for the implementation of the Emerald Green Project.

“The main theme of the project is to increase the income of rural people and alleviate poverty,” the head of the department said. Departmental officials briefed local residents on strategies for using the funds to promote rural development and poverty alleviation and presented K30 million (\$23,428) to each village.

The department officials encouraged the recipients to invest the funds in manageable businesses, including agriculture and livestock breeding.—Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)



An official hands over K30 million fund of rural development to a village leader in Yinmabin Township. Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)



MWEA member to attend MBA course in Japan

YANGON — Daw Hay Mar Soe, member of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association, left Yangon in the second week of September to attend a one-year MBA course opened in Japan under Young Leader’s Programme of Japanese Government scholarship.—MNA

Talks held on stepping up efforts against malaria

MYANAUNG — The Myanmar Medical Association (Central) and the Myanaung Township Public Health Department held a meeting to discuss opening more clinics for malaria treatment. The meeting took place at Myanaung Township People’s Hospital on 16 September.

Dr Maung Maung Chit, the head of the Township Public Health Department, offered an explanation of the township’s history of malaria infection and treatment, while MMA official Dr Kyaw Ko Ko explained drug-resistant malaria.

MMA officials selected clinics to participate

in the township’s malaria treatment project.

The MMA has plans to equip these clinics with drugs to treat malaria, such as quinine, medical equipment, educational posters and calendars, said Daw May Phyo Win, who runs the association’s malaria project.—Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)

Harvesting begins on model paddy farm

INDAW — Paddy harvesting began on a three-acre model farm in Natmahokgale village, Indaw Township, on 15 September.

Palethwe variety seeds were planted on the farm, which is owned by U Thein Ngwe, on 16 June.

“Township Agriculture Department head U Min Aung suggested that we carry out double-cropping during the monsoon season,” said U Thein Ngwe.

Staff of the Katha District Agriculture Department harvested the model paddy farm, collecting 130 baskets per acre, which is equivalent to 208 kilogrammes.

“The department will also urge local farmers to do double cropping for the monsoon paddy next year,” said U Min Aung.—Maung Chit Lin



Local farmers start harvesting of monsoon paddy in rural area of Indaw Township.—MAUNG CHIT LIN

Indonesia arrests seven over SE Asia haze

JAKARTA — Indonesian police have detained seven people whose companies are allegedly connected with illegal agricultural fires that have cloaked Southeast Asia in haze, in rare arrests over the annual smog outbreaks.

They were arrested on Wednesday on Indonesia's Sumatra island, where authorities have been battling smog-belching blazes which were started to clear land for palm oil and pulp and paper plantations, national police chief Badrodin Haiti said.

Police said some of those arrested were executives, but did not give details about all the company employees detained. Officials did not reveal their identities or say which firms they worked for.

They could face up to 15 years in jail and heavy fines if found guilty of breaking Indonesian laws that ban starting forest fires.

Tens of thousands have fallen ill in parts of Indonesia as the haze thickened over the past fortnight, and the smog has led to unhealthy

air quality and reduced visibility in neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia.

"The president's instruction is clear — law enforcement must be firm so that this will not happen again next year," Haiti told reporters late Wednesday, announcing the arrests.

President Joko Widodo pledged this week to crack down on companies and individuals behind the fires, and hundreds of extra police and investigators have been sent to haze-hit areas to hunt for those responsible.

They joined military personnel and water-bombing aircraft sent to tackle the fires. In addition to the seven arrested, 133 people have been named suspects, Haiti said. This is a legal step in Indonesia that means investigators have enough evidence to consider filing charges against someone.

Indonesia has come under pressure from its neighbours to halt the smog outbreaks, an annual problem in Southeast Asia during the dry season.—AFP

Arts and graft: Thai officials hog limelight at corruption exhibition

BANGKOK — Police stations paid for by the public but never built and backhanders to smuggle luxury cars into the country — welcome to the "Museum of Thai Corruption" where greedy officials take pride of place.

Thais share a complex relationship with graft in a kingdom where under-the-table payments lubricate politics, the legal system and business deals.

It is a country where a self-proclaimed anti-corruption crusader stands accused of malfeasance over a multi-million dollar scandal, and the ordinary taxpaying public — the ultimate victims of graft — routinely stump up bribes to get things done.

Thailand sits 85th out of 175 countries in Transparency International's 2014 corruption perception index — level with India, Jamaica and Burkina Faso.

"Thailand is a country with a culture of patronage... many generations have seen corruption and got used to it," Mana Nimitmongkol from the Anti-Corruption Organisation of Thailand, who organised the exhibition, told AFP. "We wanted to create the museum in order to tell the cheaters that the things they have done are evil — they will be recorded in the history of Thailand, and Thai people will never forget, nor forgive them."

Life-size casts of greedy officials satirise some of the most notorious recent corruption cases.—AFP

Japan's controversial security bills clear upper house panel

TOKYO — Japan's ruling camp passed controversial security bills at a House of Councillors panel session Thursday despite strong protests from opposition lawmakers and voters, paving the way for enactment within the day of the legislation which could allow Japanese troops to fight abroad for the first time since World War II.

After hours of struggling with the ruling camp, opposition lawmakers failed to block the bills as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner Komeito party swiftly put the bills to vote and had them approved by a majority.

From the opposition camp, three smaller parties supported the bills based on their agreement with the ruling bloc earlier this week to ensure through Cabinet approval a greater role for the Diet in approving Japanese Self-Defense Forces dispatches overseas as a way to put restraints on SDF operations.

As part of last-ditch efforts to delay the vote at the special House of Councillors panel meeting on the security legislation, the largest opposition Democratic Party of Japan filed a no-confidence motion against Yoshitada Konoike, the LDP member who chairs the special committee. The motion was rejected on Thursday afternoon.

Soon after the chair returned to his seat, opposition lawmakers rushed to his seat and surrounded him in protest. No final question-and-answer session on the bills was conducted, and the bills were put to a vote amid commotion during the panel session.

Designed to expand the scope of the SDF overseas operations for a more robust alliance between Japan and the United States, the legislation would enable Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense, or coming to the aid of the United States and other friendly nations under armed attack, even if Japan itself is not attacked.

Advocates say the bills are needed to deal with an increasingly severe security environment facing Japan such as China's rising military assertiveness. They also argue that even if the legislation is enacted, the exercise of collective self-defense will be limited and hence, there will still be constraints on SDF operations.

But critics argue that the security policy shift — that marks a major shift in the country's exclusively defense-oriented postwar security policy — would violate Japan's war-renouncing Constitution and possible drag Japan into



Opposition lawmakers storm Yoshitada Konoike (2nd from L), who chairs a House of Councillors panel on controversial security bills, at a parliamentary chamber in Tokyo on Sept. 17, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

US-led wars around the world.

Following passage of the bills by the upper house panel, former Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa of the DPJ took issue at the "hasty" voting, saying, "This is a shame to the nation."

While opposition lawmakers say more debate on the bills is needed, Natsuo Yamaguchi, leader of the Komeito party, told party executives in a meeting earlier in the day, "It's now time to come to a conclusion in the upper house."

After the bills cleared the upper house panel, Tsutomu Sato, chairman of the LDP's Diet Affairs Committee, told reporters the LDP has no plans of using the so-called "60-day rule" of the Diet. Given the LDP-Komeito coalition's dominance in the lower house, a second vote in the chamber could pass the bills into law with a two-thirds majority even if the upper chamber fails to put them to a vote within 60 days of their passage by the lower house under the rule.

The government and ruling camp want to pass the bills in the upper house plenary session by Friday at the latest given the five-day holiday period starting Saturday, and to avoid protests spilling over into the holidays, coalition lawmakers said.

If the ruling camp pushes through with the vote, some opposition parties led by the DPJ said they will take every possible measure to block the bills. It would mean submitting a no-confidence motion to the House of Representatives against the Cabinet and a censure motion in the upper house against Abe.

Despite the delaying tactics of opposition lawmakers and street protests, it appears certain that the LDP-Komeito coalition will enact the legislation as it holds a majority in both chambers of parliament. The ruling camp voted the bills through the lower house in July amid an opposition walkout.

Outside the Diet building, people braved the rain to protest.

Thousands of protesters including students have been surrounding the Diet to rally over the past few days.

"I only feel anger at the government's posture in forcing the passage (of the bills) without listening to the people who are opposed," said 29-year-old Ken Shimamura, a resident of Tokyo.

His 33-year-old wife Kana said, "The bills may lead to war and if we have children, I would feel uneasy about raising our children (in such a society)."

Also Thursday morning, a group of people gathered in front of a train station in Tokyo to express their support for the bills.

The security legislation is a sensitive and divisive issue among the public. A recent poll by national broadcaster NHK found that 45 percent opposed the government and ruling camp's policy to have the legislation enacted during the current parliamentary session running through Sept. 27, while 19 percent said they were in favor.

If enacted, the new legislation will put into effect a landmark Cabinet decision in July last year that reinterpreted the war-renouncing Constitution to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense.

Previously, successive governments had interpreted the country's supreme law to mean that Japan has the right to collective self-defense but cannot use it.

The envisioned set of bills includes revisions to 10 existing security-related laws.

A permanent law would also be created to allow the SDF to provide logistical support to foreign militaries in international peacekeeping activities. Abe has admitted that the legislation has not gained sufficient support from the public but remains keen to have the bills passed during the current parliamentary session, citing the need to address the changing security environment such as China's increasing military assertiveness.—Kyodo News

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S Korea warns N Korea of tougher UN sanctions if rocket launched

SEOUL — South Korea's chief delegate to the long-stalled six-party talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program warned Pyongyang of additional UN Security Council sanctions if it launches a long-range rocket, Yonhap News Agency reported Thursday from Washington.

"Should North Korea push ahead with the so-called satellite launch, it will bring about additional measures by the Security Council and would be putting itself in deeper isolation," Hwang Joon Kook, who is currently visiting Washington, told South Korean reporters.

"Not only six-party countries, including South Korea and the US, but also the UN Security Council take this dangerous move by North Korea as a serious act of threatening peace," Hwang was quoted as saying.

"North Korea should remember that it is the only country subject to UN Security Council resolutions due to its development of weapons of mass destruction," he added.

The six-party talks involving the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia remain deadlocked since late 2008.

Hwang's remarks came after North Korea issued a statement on Monday, fueling widespread speculation that it may be planning a long-range rocket launch to mark the 70th anniversary this October of the establishment of the country's ruling party.

The statement said the North plans to launch a "series of satellites" into space, with preparations in their final phase.

The country's official Korean Central News Agency published details of an interview with the director of the National Aerospace Development Administration, in which he said NADA was "pushing forward at a final phase the development of a new earth observation satellite for weather forecast, etc."

North Korea has attempted to launch satellites on a number of occasions in the past, but only one, launched in 2012, is thought to have reached orbit.

North Korea was strongly criticized by the United States, South Korea and Japan and slapped with tougher sanctions by the United Nations after the 2012 rocket launch carrying its first satellite, widely viewed as thinly disguised missile tests.—*Kyodo News*

Powerful Chile quake kills at least eight, 1 million evacuated

SANTIAGO — A powerful 8.3-magnitude earthquake struck off Chile on Wednesday, killing at least eight people, forcing the evacuation of one million and sparking warnings that tsunami waves could even reach Japan.

Buildings swayed as far away as in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1,500 kilometers (1,000 miles) away to the east. In Chile, people ran out into the streets in terror.

TV footage showed stores with floors strewn with a colorful and mushy mess of broken bottles, jars and other spilled merchandise.

It was the sixth most powerful quake in the history of geologically volatile Chile and the strongest anywhere in the world this year, Deputy Interior Minister Mahmoud Aleuy said.

Strong aftershocks followed the first quake, and a tsunami alert remained in effect hours later for the Chilean coast. Many people were evacuated to higher ground.

More than 135,000 fami-

lies were left without power in the north-central coast area, the National Emergency Office reported, lowering an early figure.

Central Choapa province, which is closest to the epicenter, was declared a catastrophe zone and placed under military rule.

The United States Geological Survey put the shallow offshore quake at a magnitude of 8.3 and said it hit 228 kilometers (about 140 miles) north of Santiago, a city of 6.6 million people.

The Chilean government put the main earthquake at 8.4 on the Richter scale.

"The motion began lightly, then stronger and stronger," said Santiago resident Jeannette Matte.

"We were on the 12th floor and we were very afraid because it was not stopping. First it was from side to side, then it was like little jumps."

Interior Minister Jorge Burgos said evacuation of coastal towns and cities had been ordered as a precautionary measure. Classes were cancelled in coastal areas.—*Reuters*

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A cowgirl competes during the Western Festival in Quebec, Canada, 16 September, 2015. The village of St-Tite, Canada, hosted more than 600,000 visitors for the two-week Western Festival St-Tite which is also east Canada's largest Rodeo.—XINHUA

New Australian PM gets poll bounce

SYDNEY — New Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has boosted his Liberal Party's standing in the opinion polls just days after ousting Tony Abbott, as he pledged to continue his predecessor's gay marriage policy.

A ReachTEL poll of 3,278 Australians — the first full survey since Turnbull assumed the top political job in a party coup on Monday night — showed support for the conservative Liberals against the Labor opposition surged by three percentage points to a 50-50 dead-heat.

Opinion polls play a key role in Australian politics and Abbott's poor showing over the past year, in contrast to Turnbull's popularity among voters, helped to undermine his leadership.

Turnbull, a 60-year-old multi-millionaire former banker and businessman, also polled well against Labor leader Bill Shorten, garnering 61.9 percent of support compared to his rival's 38.1 percent in a question about who would make the better prime minister.

Abbott lagged behind Shorten 42.1 percent to 57.9 percent on a similar question put to voters in late August.

At the same time, the survey — conducted on Tuesday night

and published by Channel Seven on Wednesday night — recorded an increase in support for the Liberals in a key Western Australian seat holding a by-election on Saturday.

Although the Liberals were expected to retain the seat vacated after the death of local member Don Randall, surveys previously indicated a swing away from the conservative party of 10 percent, amid the Abbott government's unpopularity.

Liberal concern about a second by-election in Abbott's Sydney seat of Warringah has lifted with the former leader saying he intends to stay in parliament.

"It's been a tumultuous week and I now intend to spend some time with my family to think about the future," Abbott told

"It's been a tumultuous week and I now intend to spend some time with my family to think about the future."

—*Tony Abbott*

News Corp website news.com.au.

"But my intention is to remain in the parliament."

The latest polls came as Turnbull promised to stick with Abbott's plan to hold a referendum on same-sex marriage after the next election despite a new parliamentary committee report recommending a vote on the issue be held in parliament.

"Our policy is to have it (the referendum) after the next federal election," Turnbull, who is well-known for his support for gay marriage, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation late Wednesday.

"Any policy can be changed but it would have to be considered by the cabinet and then obviously the party room (a meeting of lawmakers)," he added when pressed about whether any changes to the policy were possible.

Independent senator Glenn Lazarus, chair of the Senate committee, which has a majority of Labor members, warned a plebiscite could attract "very nasty and very aggressive advertising campaigns".

Same-sex couples can enter into civil unions or register their relationships in most Australian states, but the government does not consider them married under national law.—*AFP*

Vietnam officially inaugurates biggest thermal power plant

HANOI — Vietnam officially inaugurated its biggest thermal power plant in central Ha Tinh province on Thursday.

The Vung Ang 1 coal-fired power plant with a capacity of 1,200 MW comprises two turbines, according to the website of

Ha Tinh provincial authority.

The first turbine has been put into commercial operation since Dec. 2014 and the second one in May 2015. The plant is set to consume some 2.9 million tons of coal per year and contribute some 7.2 billion kWh of electricity to

the national grid per year.

Construction of the plant started in 2006 with Vietnam's National Oil and Gas Group (PVN) as the investor and Vietnam Machinery Installation Corporation (Lilama) as the main contractor.—*Xinhua*

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 September, 2015

Rediscovering the beauty of diversity

Kyaw Thura

THE world we live in has become a multicultural society and in this age of globalisation, no country can afford to isolate itself without comprising its economic interests and political standing.

This propels most nations to adopt policies

that further cultural and religious diversity and to allow ethnic minority groups of different faiths to participate in the political process. It allows everyone to benefit equally from a country's resources.

As we all know, Myanmar is home to more than 130 ethnic groups who have been living in amity since time immemorial. Although ours is a Buddhist-dominated country, citizens of other religious beliefs have freedom of worship.

It is important for all of us, regardless of social and religious backgrounds, to identify themselves as citizens of Myanmar and to develop a sense of loyalty to the country.

It is obvious that the marginalisation of ethnic minority groups poses a serious threat to national unity, as well as making minorities feel that

they lack fundamental rights and freedoms in Myanmar.

It is time for all of us to embrace a sense of social cohesion and work towards the welfare of all ethnic groups. Fostering social cohesion is the only way forward, as it increases the chances of upward social mobility by binding a multicultural society together as one.

Write for us

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

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

MYANMAR CULTURE : AN ASSESSMENT OF LETWE NAWRAHTA U NE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL LITERATURE (1)

Kyaw Swe Oo

(Continued from 17-9-2015)

Letwe Thondara had to take responsibility for the establishment of two fortresses: a town at Se-tee (Zetuwati); and a station near the moat of Hanthawady that were two important points in attempting to conquer Hanthawady. After overcoming strong resistance, Alaungmintaya's forces occupied Hanthawady in May 1757. Afterwards, the King pleased with the final occupation of Hanthawady, and conferred titles on his followers for their efforts in the campaign. Thus, Letwe Thondara was conferred the title of Letwe Nawrahta in Hanthawady Palace in 1757.

Receiving the titles of Letwe Thondara and Letwe Nawrahta from Alaungmintaya, Maung Ne studied the eighteen branches of knowledge, knowledge of the world, the religion and the king, the ten qualities of composing verses, the ten attributes of reading and the essential attributes of clerks in order to become an efficient minister. He became possessed the seven attributes of a good and noble man, the eight attributes of the ethical code to be followed by Ministers and the eight attributes of the ethical code to be followed by Atwin-wuns.

While serving in the Palace, Sithukyawhtin produced various literary works including a Shaukhtone (Treatise on Questions) and a collection of verses that had been prominent through the ages; he also studied these works with the intention of developing classical literature. Later, Dapayin conferred the title of Nandathurakyawhtin {*Bell Inscription of Monywei Tiloka Pagoda, 1765*} on Sithukyawhtin for his services and literary efforts. Because of the short reign of Dapayin, Letwe Nawrahta's performances concerning court affairs were not as prominent in Dapayin's reign as they had been in Alaungmintaya's reign.

When Myedu succeeded his elder brother in 1763, he rebuilt Innwa as his Capital in accordance with traditions. The King performed the Consecration (Rājabhiseka)

Ceremony and assumed the title of Sīrisudhammā Mahārājādhipati in 1764. After the ceremony, the King conferred the title of Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin {*Bell Inscription of Monywei Tiloka Pagoda, 1765*} on Sithukyawhtin and appointed him Atwin-wun in the Byedaik (Department responsible for the administration of the Inner Palace and the private affairs of the King). Furthermore, in forming the Corps of Forty Comrades (*Laysedaw*) and the Corps of Fifty Comrades (*Ngasedaw*) by the King, Atwin-wun Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin became a member of the Nemyothinkhaya Corps of Forty Comrades {U Maung Maung Tin (1), K. S. M., A. T. M. (1989), *Great Chronicle of Konbaung Dynasty, Volume I*}. *Laysedaw* and *Ngasedaw* mean members of the Corps followed and guarded the King in royal ceremonies.

After capturing Ayuddhaya (Capital of Siam), Myedu again performed the Ceremony of Opening the Throne Room (Mahā U-kintawphwint) and the Victory in War (Jeyabhiseka) Ceremony in 1767. It is assumed that Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin took charge of the holding of these ceremonies because of his experience in these tasks. After assuming the title of Hsinbyushin (Lord of the White Elephant) on receiving the white elephant that was offered from Magway on 7 June 1771 {Second Monywei Zetawun Hsayadaw, *The Great Celebrated Chronicle*, hand-written manuscript, fourth bundle}, Myedu appointed Atwin-wun Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin as Myaukbetaik-wun. Here, Myaukbetaik-wun means Governor of an administrative region (Myaukbetaik), north of the Royal Capital. Myaukbetaik consisted of seventy-one villages including Monywa, Chaung-oo, Moksobo, Moksochoan, Myinmu, Kyaukka and Kyeimon. The White Elephant was named Chaddanpyaungmon. It can be concluded that King Myedu wished to become a Cakkavatti (Universal Ruler), so, he took the white elephant that included in the seven Ratanā (Treasures) of a Cak-

kavatti, and he assumed the title of Hsinbyushin. Moreover, due to his accomplishments in court affairs, administrative functions and literary works, Myaukbetaik-wun Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin received the further titles of Nemyomahakyawhtin and Nemyomahathinkhayakyawhtin {*Bell Inscription of Monywei Tiloka Pagoda, 1765*}. Of the three titles that he had received, he was most satisfied with the title of Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin. In later times, he mostly referred to himself by the title of Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin.

When King Singu succeeded his father in 1776, he performed the Auspicious Ceremony of Opening the Throne Room (Htee-saung Mingala Mahā U-kintawphwint) and Royal Consecration (Rājabhiseka) Ceremony, and assumed the title of Mahādhammarājādhirājā. Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin continued to enjoy his position and to take responsibility in the Palace. Furthermore, the King conferred the title of

of Innwa in 1752 and made a list of the treatises collected with the assistance of learned monks. Thus, during the reign of Singu, Mingyikyawhtin contributed the fruits of his research to the development of Myanmar literature.

When King Badon seized the throne from his nephews, King Singu and King Phaungka-sa in February 1782, Mingyikyawhtin continued to serve in the Palace as Atwin-wun. Probably, due to his old age, Atwin-wun Mingyikyawhtin seemed not to have taken part in the building of the new Capital of Amarapura (City of Immortal Delights). Nevertheless, it is possible that he made application of his experience and guidance in the building. In 1783, the King ordered Atwin-wun Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin and two other Atwin-wuns to take the responsibility of the Consecration Pavilion for the performance of the Head-Anointing Consecration (Muddhābhiseka) Ceremony

Room and the First Head-Anointing Ceremony {Letwe Nawrahta, *Record of Head-Anointing Ceremony*, hand-written manuscript, 324773} for the King, and also the Ceremony of Taking Possession of the Royal City and the Ceremony of Taking Possession of the Golden Palace. In the same year, Atwin-wun Mahāthihathura took responsibility for the performance of the Appointment of Prince Shwetaung as Crown Prince in accordance with traditions {Letwe Nawrahta, *Treatise on Royal Ceremonies and Etiquette*, palm-leaf manuscript, 509}. In 1784, Badon assumed the title of Hsinbyushin after obtaining a white elephant (Royal Elephant of Upawpyaungmon) from Myothit forest, thus becoming the Second Hsinbyushin of the Konbaung dynasty {Second Monywei Zetawun Hsayadaw, *The Great Celebrated Chronicle*, hand-written manuscript, fourth bundle}. Later, Atwin-wun Mahāthihathura and other Atwin-wuns arranged the performance of the Second Head-Anointing Ceremony for Badon after making a calculation of the proper year, month, day and planetary sign for the ceremony {Letwe Nawrahta, *Treatise on Royal Ceremonies and Etiquette*, palm-leaf manuscript, 509}.

According to a royal order, in 1784, Atwin-wun Mahāthihathura composed an official letter to the rulers of India requesting permission to copy the rare religious and secular treatises dealing with Buddhism that they had in their possession {Letwe Nawrahta, *Treatise on Royal Ceremonies and Etiquette*, palm-leaf manuscript, 509}. In the letter, Mahāthihathura referred to himself as "Atwin-wun Aggamahāsenāpati Min Thetdawshay Min Mahāthihathura who had to manage state and religious affairs", attesting to the fact that Atwin-wun Mahāthihathura was entrusted with such affairs.

"Thus, during the reign of Singu, Mingyikyawhtin contributed the fruits of his research to the development of Myanmar literature."

Mingyikyawhtin {*Bell Inscription of Monywei Tiloka Pagoda, 1765*} on Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin. He also continued in his previous position as Myaukbetaik-wun. However, his life of royal service was not very prominent during the reign of Singu.

Among the activities of Mingyikyawhtin, a prominent one was that he submitted questions concerning religious and secular matters to the First Monywei Zetawun Hsayadaw Ashin Vicittabirāma {Letwe Nawrahta (1963), *Supplication of Letwe Nawrahta*}. Moreover, throughout the reign of Singu, Mingyikyawhtin seems to have devoted himself to research regarding literature. He endeavoured to make a collection of literary treatises that had been lost or displaced in the fall

{Letwe Nawrahta, *Treatise on Royal Ceremonies and Etiquette*, palm-leaf manuscript, 509}. In the ceremony of organizing the Byedaik (Department responsible for the administration of the Inner Palace and the privy affairs of the King) as a part of the Head-Anointing Consecration Ceremony, the King conferred the title of Mahāthihathura {*Bell Inscription of Monywei Tiloka Pagoda, 1765*} on Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin who was also known as Mingyikyawhtin. During the reign of Badon, the title of Mingyikyawhtin was not prominent, the title of Nemyothirizeyakyawhtin being more commonly used.

Atwin-wun Mahāthihathura and other Atwin-wuns arranged the Ceremony of Opening the Throne

(Kyaw Swe Oo residing in Yenanchaung is an Associate Professor of Dept. of History, Yncg. Degree College.)

Myanmar winery joins Asian Wine Producers Association

Jessica Mudditt

Myanmar Vineyard Estate Co in Taunggyi, Shan State, has become a member of the Asian Wine Producers Association (AWPA), according to a press release issued by the association on Tuesday.

The winery was established by German citizen Bert Mosbach and it produced its first bottle of wine under the Aythaya label in 2004 after testing thousands of imported grape varieties.

Other new members to AWPA, which was established in 2013, include Sababay Winery from Indonesia and two wineries in Thailand, Silverlake Vineyards and Village Farm Winery.

“The objective of the AWPA is to open eyes in the industry globally so that they can comprehend and respect the outstanding achievements of wineries that have defied conventional logic and evolved ways to grow grapes, mostly in tropical and semitropical climates, and make wines to international standards,” said Denis Gastin of AWPA’s Association Management.

Mr Gastin told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that the association is being progressively expanded as international recognition grows and it “becomes obvious to local producers that this will assist to access global resources to improve local outcomes.”

“Only wineries that are committed to wine production from locally grown grapes are eligible to join [the association],” he said.

Myanmar Vineyard, which was the first winery established in Myanmar, joins AWPA’s founding members Gran Monte Vineyard and Winery from Thailand, Grover Zampa Vineyards from India, Hatten Wines from Indonesia, Château Mercian from Japan and Sula Vineyards from India.

“We are of course very proud to be become a member of the AWPA. With this membership, the potential for Myanmar to become well-known and respected as a winegrowing country is even better than before,” said German citizen Hans Leien-decker, Director of Technical Operations at Myanmar Vineyard



A worker at Myanmar Vineyard Estate in Shan State. —PHOTO: JESSICA MUDDITT

“With this membership, the potential for Myanmar to become well-known and respected as a winegrowing country is even better than before.”

—Hans Leien-decker, Myanmar Vineyard Estate

Estate Co. Ltd.

“We know that we even under the difficult circumstances in a tropical country, we can produce very good, international standard wines. Therefore it was not difficult for us to gain a membership to AWPA because the quality of our wines that we sent to AWPA’s board were convincing enough,” Mr Leien-decker told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on 16 September.

“As a member of the AWP-

WA we can also benefit from the experiences of other Asian wine-growers,” he added.

Thirteen countries in Asia currently produce wine. The biggest producer is China, which is now ranked fifth as a wine producing nation globally by the Organisation of Viticulture and Wine (OIV).

Mr Gastin told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that Asian wineries have developed a certain edge over the ‘Old World’

wine producing region of Europe.

“Winemakers in Asia have, in most cases, had to overcome climates and physical grape growing conditions that had been assumed in the traditional wine world to be impossible for conventional winemaking. They have done this by applying creative thinking beyond the traditional boundaries and a determined effort to produce quality wines.”

He said that although the initial target for Asian winemakers was limited to domestic consumption, many regional wineries are exporting significant proportions of their production to Europe and North America, among elsewhere, and have won a number of international awards.

AWPA has created a “critical mass” of wine makers in the region, providing a platform to attract recognition and respect for the achievements of wine producers in Asia, it said in the press release.

“It takes the combined efforts and collective financial resources of producers to create and maintain a regional identity for grape growing and winemaking. The AWPA has done that by bringing together the leading wine producers in five countries in Asia to present the region’s wine story to a global audience,” said Mr Gastin.

Aythaya exports small volumes to China and it has the largest market share in Myanmar. It is in fact struggling to keep up with domestic demand.

The 100 percent foreign-owned company is urging its contract farmers to increase production to help it fill orders and there are plans to soon open a second winery in Meiktila, Mandalay Region.



The lower decking of Myanmar Vineyard’s Sunset Garden Restaurant in Shan State.—PHOTO: JESSICA MUDDITT

UK MI5 spy chief calls for more powers to counter terror threat

LONDON — The head of Britain's domestic spy service, MI5, called on Thursday for greater powers for the security agencies to keep pace with technology used by militants in the first live media interview by a British intelligence chief.

Prime Minister David Cameron's government plans new laws later this year to bolster the capabilities of spies and police, but faces a battle from privacy and human rights campaigners who say such measures represent an assault on freedoms.

In an interview with BBC radio, MI5 Director General Andrew Parker said Britain was facing its most serious terrorism threat since the Sept 11, 2001, attacks on the United States and had foiled six attempted attacks in the last year.

"It represents a threat which

is continuing to grow largely because of the situation in Syria and how that affects our security," Parker said. In August last year, Britain raised its terrorism threat level to "severe", the second highest stage which means a militant attack is considered highly likely. It was largely due to the danger the authorities say is posed by Islamic State fighters and Britons who have joined them.

Intelligence chiefs and Cameron have argued for years that Britain needs to give the security agencies greater powers to address the threat and prevent another attack on the scale of the suicide bombings in London in 2005 when four British Islamists killed 52 people. But moves to bolster surveillance have attracted widespread opposition, including from within Cameron's

Conservative party, fuelled in part by former US spy contractor Edward Snowden who has suggested US and British spies are conducting mass monitoring of communications.

Parker said it was becoming harder for the security agencies to prevent attacks by militants who were able to exploit technological advances to hide their plans from the authorities.

"If we're to find and stop the people who mean us harm, MI5 and others need to be able to navigate the Internet to find terrorist communication," Parker said.

"We need to be able to use data sets so we can join the dots to be able to find and stop the terrorists who mean us harm before they are able to bring their plots to fruition.—Reuters

4-5,000 migrants try to board trains in Croatia border town

TOVARNIK — Between 4,000 and 5,000 migrants were attempting to board trains to the Croatian capital Zagreb Thursday from Tovarnik after crossing the border with Serbia, the UN refugee agency said.

"There are between 4,000 and 5,000 people here," Jan Kapic, a UNHCR spokesman, said from the small town in eastern Croatia. "Trains are coming but they can't take all these people."

Up to 5,000 people arrived at the tiny train station overnight. The station was overwhelmed as people slept all along the side of the tracks, an AFP correspondent said.

Only a handful of Red Cross workers were on hand to give out food and provisions for the hundreds of babies and children there. More help was on the way, said Kapic, including medical assistance and toilets, the first of which we're being delivered

around 9 am.

"For now we have enough but more will be needed and is on the way," he said.

"It is very hard to say if this will become the next transit camp. It is down to the Croatian government how it deals with this," said Kapic.

He also said that the migrants were now coming straight to the train station without going to the police station for registration, with police overwhelmed by the numbers.

The migrants have entered Croatia in the past 24 hours, after Hungary effectively sealed its border on Monday and Tuesday, shutting off a major entry point into the European Union.

It was unclear where the migrants would go from Croatia, which borders Slovenia, Austria and Hungary, all of which are unlike Croatia members of the passport-free Schengen zone.—AFP

Serbia govt criticises Hungary, says will send extra police to border

BELGRADE — Serbia said it had lodged an official protest Wednesday with Hungary over the "use of tear gas on our territory" and said it was sending more police officers to the countries' shared border following a spike in tensions between migrants and Hungarian police.

"I have decided to send additional police forces" to the Horgos border crossing to prevent further clashes between migrants and Hungarian police, Serbia's Interior Minister Nebojsa Stefanovic said in a statement. Hungarian police fired tear gas at dozens of migrants who managed to break through their lines on the Serbian border and force their way into Hungary at the flashpoint Horgos-Roszke crossing. The Hungarian government said that 14 police officers were injured in the clashes.

Serbian national broadcaster RTS reported that several migrants were slightly injured as well, adding that members of its reporting crew were beaten and their equipment smashed by Hungarian police. Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic condemned what he called "brutal police behaviour" and urged the European Union to



Migrants from Middle Eastern countries are seen as they camp outside a railway station, near the official border crossing between Serbia and Croatia, near eastern Croatian town of Tovarnik, on 17 September.—AFP

react. "We condemn brutal police behaviour towards refugees, in particular I condemn the attack against RTS journalists," Vucic told the national broadcaster.

"We will let no one to humiliate us and throw tear gas on Serbia's territory," he said.

Vucic urged EU to react and said "its members should behave in accordance with European rules and values."

"I will talk to everyone, this torture and non-European behaviour must stop. If the European Union does not want to participate, if it does not want to react, we will react, we will know how to protect ourselves and the European values that Europe is not able to protect," the prime minister said.

Earlier, Serbia's minister for refugees Aleksandar Vulin said it was "unacceptable" that Hungary used water cannons and tear gas against the migrants. "I have to strongly protest because water cannons and tear gas were used against these people and because it was done on our territory," Vulin told RTS.

"This was thrown over the border line and Hungary had no right to do so," he added.—AFP

Republican presidential field turns on Trump at debate

SIMI VALLEY — Republican presidential candidates on Wednesday collectively turned their sights on frontrunner Donald Trump at the party's second debate, taking aim at his lack of political experience and his sometimes abrasive style.

Fellow candidates hoping to check his lead in the polls painted the controversial real estate mogul as an insult monger, a loose cannon and an "entertainer" — a

reference to his time as a television reality star.

From the starting gun of the primetime debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, Trump was front and center, with a question about whether he could be trusted with the nuclear codes.

Former Hewlett-Packard chief executive Carly Fiorina damned Trump with faint praise.

"Mr Trump is a wonderful

entertainer," she said. "He's been terrific at that business."

But, she added pointedly, "one of the benefits of a presidential campaign is the character and capability, judgment and temperament of every single one of us is revealed over time and under pressure."

"All of us will be revealed over time and under pressure. I look forward to a long race."

The rest of the field was ea-

ger to pile on. One-time favorite Jeb Bush tacitly questioned whether Trump was up to the job.

"You can't just, you know, talk about this stuff and insult leaders around the world and expect a good result," the former Florida governor said.

"You have to do this with a steady hand, and I believe I have those skills."

Trump responded with his trademark bluster: "My tempera-

ment is very good, very calm, but we will be respected outside of this country. We are not respected now."

Wisconsin governor Scott Walker jumped in with a seemingly well prepared punchline playing on the title of Trump's past reality show. Turning on the billionaire, he said: "Mr Trump, we don't need an apprentice in the White House — we have one right now."—AFP

Gunmen kill at least five in central Nigeria

LAGOS — Gunmen killed at least five people in a mainly-Christian village in Nigeria's restive Plateau state, police said on Thursday after the latest violence between nomadic herdsman and farmers.

"We received a report that unknown gunmen invaded Kadunung village around 1:00 pm (1200 GMT) and in the process about five people were killed and several houses burnt," state police spokesman Emmanuel Abuh told AFP.

Local media put the death toll higher, saying 18 people were killed while up to 150 houses were razed.

Abuh said the motive for the attack on the mainly-Christian and farming village was unknown but an investigation had been launched.

"The place is now calm as our personnel have deployed to maintain law and order. No ar-

rest has been made," he added.

Plateau state falls on the dividing line between Nigeria's mainly Christian south and mostly Muslim north and has witnessed sporadic ethnic and religious tensions for decades.

The largely agrarian Christian communities in the state maintain the Muslim Fulani herdsmen are engaged in a prolonged battle to gobble up land from the areas of so-called indigenous people.

Fulani leaders counter their people face discrimination as "foreigners" in Plateau and are deprived of basic rights, including access to land, education and political office, despite having lived in the area for generations.

Tensions frequently boil over, with more than 10,000 people killed in the state since the turn of the century, according to groups tracking the violence.—AFP

Bombings kill 14 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Bombings in the Iraqi capital killed at least 14 people and wounded at least 55 on Thursday, security and medical officials said.

The bombings struck central Baghdad's Wathba Square

and near Tayran Square.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but bombings in the Iraqi capital are often carried out by the Islamic State jihadist group, which overran swathes of the

country in June last year. Iraqi forces backed by a US-led coalition and Iran have managed to regain significant ground north of Baghdad from IS, but much of western Iraq remains outside government control.—AFP



Iraqi police and civilians stand at the site of a suicide bomb attack in Baghdad on 17 September, 2015.—AFP

British air strikes kill 330 IS fighters: minister

LONDON — British air strikes in Iraq have killed around 330 Islamic State (IS) group fighters since they began in September 2014, Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said in a statement on Thursday.

"The estimated number of IS fighters killed as a result of UK strikes from September 2014 to 31 August 2015 is around 330," the minister said, in response to a question from Green Party MP Caroline Lucas. "We do not believe there have been any civilian casualties as a result of UK strike activity," he added in the reply, which was published on parliament's official

website. Britain currently has eight Tornado GR4 fighters and several Reaper drones conducting strikes, as well as a Sentinel and an Air-seeker — both surveillance craft. Fallon confirmed in August that Britain had carried out more than 250 air strikes in Iraq.

Britain announced last month it was extending its air strikes against IS group targets in Iraq by a year to March 2017. The announcement represents a second reprieve for the squadron of ageing Tornado GR4 fighter bombers currently based in Cyprus which was due to be disbanded first this

year and then next, and will now be kept on. "We want to ensure we maintain this crucial operational tempo and so we will extend the lifetime of Number 12 Squadron for a further year to March 2017," Fallon told the BBC during a visit to Baghdad last year.

The Tornado jets are carrying out air strikes, reconnaissance and surveillance over Iraq as part of US-led operations. Britain is not currently taking part in air strikes on targets in Syria, although it was announced last week that an Royal Air Force (RAF) drone over the country had killed a British jihad-

ist planning attacks on Britain. In 2013, Prime Minister David Cameron's plan to join international military action in Syria was defeated by the House of Commons due to opposition from the Labour party. Prime Minister David Cameron is now mulling a second vote to gain support for Syria strikes this year.

He hopes the new Labour chief could give him the support needed to get the move through the House of Commons, where he has a majority of only 12. Parliament approved the Iraq air strikes last September.—AFP

Leading Algerian jihadist killed in Syria in May

PARIS — Leading Algerian jihadist Said Arif was killed in Syria in May by a US drone, French officials speaking on condition of anonymity told AFP on Thursday.

The death of the 49-year-old, who was considered a major recruiter of foreign fighters for jihadist groups in Syria, had been reported on social media in recent months but had not been confirmed until now.—AFP

Yemen rebels claim capture of Saudi troops, show one on TV



A fighter loyal to Yemen's exiled President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, sits on a tank during clashes with Shiite Huthi rebels near the country's third-largest city of Taz. —AFP

SANAA — Shiite Huthi rebels in Yemen claim to have captured several troops from Saudi Arabia, which is leading a coalition against the insurgents, parading one of the soldiers on television.

The Iran-backed rebels' Al-Masirah television late on Wednesday showed footage of a man dressed in military fatigues who identified himself as Sergeant Ibrahim Hakmi of a Saudi brigade based in the Jazan border area. The man said he was being held along with several other Saudi soldiers, but did not specify how many. He also did not say how, when or where he was allegedly captured.

AFP could not verify if the man was indeed a Saudi soldier and Riyadh had yet to comment on the claim.

Saudi Arabia's southwestern border region has been the scene of frequent clashes and cross-border shelling since the country launched an air campaign against

the rebels in support of exiled President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi. Backed by renegade troops loyal to ousted president Ali Abdullah Saleh, the northern rebels seized Yemen's capital Sanaa a year ago and pushed Hadi into exile in March after advancing on his refuge in the southern city of Aden.

Pro-Hadi fighters, backed by troops freshly trained and armed by Saudi Arabia, ejected the rebels from Aden in July and have since recaptured four other southern provinces. Several thousand troops from coalition countries including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are also reported to have entered the country.

Loyalists are now set on gaining control of the Marib province east of Sanaa, in a bid to advance toward the rebel-held capital.

The United Nations says nearly 4,900 people have been killed and some 25,000 wounded in the conflict since late March.—AFP

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 18 September 2015

yma@kcyangon.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BLUE MOON VOY NO (1511)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLUE MOON VOY NO (1511) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)

PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (10/15)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (10/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (00015S)**

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO (07-15)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO (07-15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING:

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J040R)**

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

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To be delivered to Eh Lay Lone Village, Sat Kale Village Tract, Htan Tabin Township.

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Thar Yar Tsp. Yangon, Myanmar

For further information, please call: 01-687416

**WEATHER REPORT**

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 18th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Rakhine and Kayah States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Magway Region and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar areas.

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**Chairman and Working Committee
Myanmar Gems and Jewellery
Entrepreneurs Association**

NBC's 'Heroes' are reborn into a darker world with higher stakes



(L-R) Cast members Jack Coleman, Zachary Levi, Judi Shekoni, executive producer Tim Kring, cast members Kiki Sukezane, Ryan Guzman, and Robbie Kay participate in the NBC Universal "Heroes Reborn" panel.—REUTERS

TORONTO — Five years after "Heroes" was retired from saving the world on television, NBC is reassembling its rogue team of humans with superpowers for a new miniseries.

"Heroes" premiered on NBC in 2006 and featured an ever-expanding global cast of characters that possessed hidden superpowers, adopting a story-telling structure that mimicked comic books.

"The first time around, we kind of set the bar for this kind of show. But since then, there have been incredible shows," Greg Grunberg, one of the original cast members, told Reuters at the show's premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Since the show, created by Tim Kring, was canceled in 2010 following a drop in viewership, caped and masked crusaders have flooded pop culture, from the

mass ensemble of "The Avengers" on film to CW's "The Flash" and "Arrow."

The reboot, a 13-episode NBC miniseries premiering on Sept 24, will see original cast members join an ensemble of newcomers and is expected to touch on real-world issues such as the environment, corporate greed and technology.

"The world still need heroes. Even with a TV show, we can definitely translate what's going on in the world," said Jimmy Jean-Louis, who played a mysterious Haitian in the original series. The new show picks up a year after a terrorist attack has decimated a Texas town, with officials blaming the event on those with special powers. The heroes are forced into hiding and reevaluate their relationships to the society around them as they are

feared and hunted by authorities and vigilantes.

"It's a very dark and different world for them," said original cast member Jack Coleman, who plays Noah Bennett. "It's a dangerous time and place. So the stakes are higher."

The miniseries model, steadily gaining popularity among broadcast networks, was a welcome change for Kring, who said crafting the first four seasons with 23 to 26 episodes in each was extremely challenging.

With a beginning, middle and end for the miniseries, Kring remains coy about whether the "Heroes" saga will continue. "This show was always designed to be rare and special," he said. "I think 'Heroes' would've always been better if it was more rare and more special, and less about being on all the time."—Reuters

Rolling Stones to record new album next year

LOS ANGELES — The Rolling Stones plan to record a new album next year, the band's 25th US studio set and its first in more than a decade, lead guitarist Keith Richards says.

In a live radio interview on Tuesday night to promote the upcoming release of his own solo album, "Crosseyed Heart," the 71-year-old rock icon said he and his bandmates — Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood — were ready to return to the studio.

"I was in London last week, and the boys and I got together, and yeah, there are now definitely plans to record," Richards said during the iHeartRadio broadcast.

The studio session would follow the Stones' planned South American tour early next year.

The resulting album would mark the longest interval — at least 11 years — between new studio sets by the Stones, whose last album of freshly recorded material was

the 2005 release "A Bigger Bang."

Richards, who was touring North America with the band until mid-July, is due to release "Crosseyed Heart," his first solo album in more than 20 years, on Friday.

The set, a mixture of rock, reggae and country music, features Richards playing electric and acoustic guitars, bass and piano, as well as singing.

It also includes collaborations with vocalist Norah Jones, keyboardist Ian Neville and guitarist Waddy Wachtel.

Richards wrote most of the songs on the album with drummer and co-producer Steve Jordan.

Asked in a separate interview posted Wednesday by the rock music and pop culture website.

The Quietus whether the Stones ever came close to calling it quits as a group, Richards said, "Never... They just hibernate. There's never been any sort of talk of splitting."—Reuters



PHOTO:REUTERS

At New York Fashion Week, playful lines for confident women



Models present creations from the BCBG Max Azria Spring/Summer 2016 collection during New York Fashion Week in New York.—REUTERS

NEW YORK — Like girls, women of all ages just want to have fun, say designers at New York Fashion Week, where many of the lines for the coming spring season combine a youthful playfulness with a sense of confidence that is unmistakably grown-up.

In a detour from years past, the looks featured at the bi-annual industry showcase, now under way in New York, reveal a sexiness in their simplicity and idiosyncratic sense of style, rather than in emphasizing clingy and short.

"This woman is having fun," said designer Dennis Basso in describing the customer he had in mind for an eponymous collection that is big on bright details.

Basso's show included

oversized floral prints on a sleek matching short-and-top set and a dress with a slice of pink and green fur that bounced on a model's shoulder.

"The collection is powerful, and it's built for a strong woman," he said, citing women in cities from Havana to Buenos Aires as his influences. "She can wear a high neck and be very sexy."

Max Azria of BCBG Max Azria also had a devil-may-care woman in mind when he designed a sunny collection that he described as "for a woman of any age."

"She should feel very cool in the clothes," said Azria.

The BCBG Max Azria models, all in patchwork bucket hats, wore West Coast-inspired layered looks that suggested a teenager who has rifled through her

flower-child mother's closet and emerged with a style all her own.

A collection for an even more exuberant woman was on the catwalk for Spanish brand Desigual. One model carried a selfie stick and filmed the front row as she walked, as if her character was determined to have her own good time.

"She's a fun girl, an extroverted girl," said Cristina Piccone, a 24-year-old model, of the kind of woman she channeled at the show, first in a rainbow-hued dress, then in a shredded-looking gown.

Tadashi Shoji's show was more languid than bubbly, but the fashion is still intended for a confident woman — someone who prizes her own comfort and time, the designer said.

His collection of dreamy

gowns, inspired by memories of his childhood in Japan, suggested that dressing for evening could be as effortless as dressing for bedtime.

"This is for a busy woman," said Shoji. "One zip. That's it."

For the kind of woman imagined on the week's runways, there was no time, or need, for much makeup. Faces at many of the shows were kept almost naked, or at least appeared as such.

"It's quite an effortless look," said makeup artist Kabuki, speaking about the soft tone he sought to give models wearing Ohne Titel's draped looks.

"It's very simple; it's very fresh," he said, forgoing lip color and mascara on the models for just a flick of pink or blue eyeliner. "It's almost like a vacation skin."—Reuters

Ending child labour by 2025 farcical as India plans to allow family work

NEW DELHI — Thirteen-year-old Sumaila has no time to go to school. From six in the morning until 11 at night, she works with her mother in their one-roomed home, painstakingly pasting tiny fake gemstones onto fabric for the garment factory nearby.

"I don't much like doing this work. It hurts my eyes and my fingers get sore," said Sumaila, sitting cross-legged on the floor of a center for child workers run by a charity in the south Delhi slums of Madanpur Khader.

"But if I don't do it, my mother gets angry. She says if we don't finish all the work, we won't be able to eat."

Sumaila's plight is one faced by millions of child workers across the world and one that global leaders will this month pledge to end by 2025, as part of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to improve the lives of the poorest.

But the promise to end child labor has been slammed as farcical by activists in India, who say plans by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to allow children under 14 to work for their families will make achieving such a goal impossible.

"We are making an important pledge to end child labor on the international stage, but back home, we are saying that children who work in family businesses are not part of that deal," said Prabhat Kumar, Save the Children India's head of child protection.

"We cannot achieve this target as part of the SDGs, as this change to the law contradicts it."

India has made considerable progress in curbing the economic exploitation of children over the last decade.

It has introduced laws to protect children and ensure their schooling, as well as a range of social welfare schemes.

Census data shows there were 4.35 million laborers aged between five and 14 in 2011 against

12.66 million a decade ago — although activists say the figures are under-reported.

A February report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) puts the number of child workers in India aged between five and 17 at 5.7 million, out of 168 million globally.

More than half are in agriculture, toiling in cotton, sugarcane and rice paddy fields where they are often exposed to pesticides and risk injury from sharp tools

and heavy equipment.

Over a quarter work in manufacturing - confined to poorly lit, barely ventilated rooms in slums, embroidering clothes, weaving carpets, making matchsticks or rolling beedi cigarettes.

Children also work in restaurants and hotels, washing dishes and chopping vegetables, or in middle-class homes, cleaning and scrubbing floors.

In May, Modi's cabinet approved measures to tighten a

three-decade-old law which prohibits children under 14 from working in 18 hazardous occupations and 65 processes including mining, cement manufacturing, gem cutting and hand-looms.

If passed by parliament, the changes will prohibit child labor in all sectors and stiffen penalties for offenders. But there are some exceptions. Children who help their family or family businesses can work outside school hours, and those in entertainment or sports can work provided it does not affect their education. The government said the exceptions are aimed at striking a balance between education and India's socio-economic reality.

"In a large number of families, children help their parents in their occupations like agriculture, artisanship etc, and while helping the parents, children also learn the basics of occupations," the government statement said in May.

The cabinet also approved tougher punishment of employers, with jail terms of up to two years and a fine of 50,000 rupees (\$750) for a first offense. But the changes would scrap penalties for parents for first-time offences.

A labor ministry official, who declined to be named, said the reforms would promote dying traditional occupations and encourage entrepreneurship.

"Families can take help from their children in family work only after school hours," the official said.—Reuters



Child workers learn at a centre run by Save the Children India at a slum area in New Delhi, India.—REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(18-9-2015 07:00 am~19-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Welcome To Naga Land
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Sticky Shan Snack
08:32	Am	Aesthetic Chinlone
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Between the Beaches: Chaung Tha Vs Ngwe Saung
09:36	Am	Sagaing: Guitars
09:45	Am	Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Indonesia-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
10:45	Am	Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday 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 AFC Women's Olympic Football Qualifying Tournament For Rio-2016 (Myanmar Vs. Vietnam)

Prime Time

08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Daingnak Style
08:39	Pm	Tea Leaves
08:47	Pm	A Simple And Peaceful Life

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

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(18-9-2015, Friday)

6:00 am	• Mono Classical Songs
6:20 am	• Myanmar Seires
6:45 am	• Song Programme
7:00 am	• Teleplay
7:10 am	• TV Drama Series
7:55 am	• TV Drama Series
8:45 am	• Teleplay
9:00 am	• Musical Programme
9:15 am	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
9:30 am	• Asean Cultural Fair (2014)
6:15 pm	• AFC Women's Olympic Football Tournament Rio 2016 (Live) (Vietnam Vs Myanmar)

Pinterest claims 100 million users

SAN FRANCISCO — More than 100 million users are on Pinterest, the online bulletin board-style service which allows people to "pin" images based on their interests, the California company said Wednesday.

Co-founder Evan Sharp told AFP that most of the users "are not just visiting Pinterest once a month, but they're actually discovering something so interesting that they're saving it or are clicking through to the website."

"It's 100 million active users, more than 70 percent of whom are actively engaged," he said in a telephone interview.

The disclosure from Pinterest is the first time since its launch in March 2010 that it has discussed the number of users.

Sharp said that the majority of Pinterest users are women but noted the gender gap "is closing a little bit every month."

Based on the latest figures, Pinterest remains well behind Facebook-owned app Instagram, also a photo-sharing service, which claims some 300 million users.

But Sharp said the two platforms serve different needs and different audiences.

"Instagram is more of a social service at the end of the day," he said. "It's more similar to a so-

cial network," while Pinterest "is much more like a search engine," he said.

"On Pinterest, you search for something, you find a great outfit, you can buy that outfit. (The two platforms) serve very different purposes."

Pinterest has taken pains to avoid being labeled a social network. Earlier this year, co-founder and chief executive Ben Silbermann described Pinterest as a "catalog of ideas" to help people discover and try new things in their lives.

The number of new Pinterest "pins" is now estimated to be more than 1.5 billion per month, according to the company, which is seeing its strongest growth globally, noting that some 45 percent of users are outside the US market.

"Right now the focus of the company is growing around the world, outside of the United States," he said. "We're focusing on local content: if you find a recipe in France it should be a French recipe probably, not always but usually, or something saved by somebody in France."

Pinterest, whose valuation has jumped to \$11 billion, employs 500 people and has recently opened offices in Paris, Berlin, Tokyo and Sao Paulo.—AFP

Myanmar's first international yacht race to be held in Oct



Water sports enthusiasts in Myanmar.—MIN HTET

YANGON — Myanmar's first yacht race open to international competitors will take place in Ngwesaung, Ayeyawady Region, from 28 to 31 October.

Myanmar Wave Rider Cup & KTA Race Open is being organised by the Myanmar Yachting Federation (MYF), which lies under the Ministry of Sport.

"The competition is an opportunity to improve yachting standards in Myanmar and promote the country's tourism industry. International competitors will see the beauty of Myanmar and will then hopefully spread the word among their friends back home," said MYF's general manager U Phone Kyaw Moe Myint.

Registration fees are US\$180 fee from 16 September to 15 October and \$200 thereafter.

There will also be kite-boarding, windsurfing and stand-up paddle events.

For more information, visit www.myanmarsailing.org.—*Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)*

Myanmar's U-19 to play Thailand ahead of AFC qualifiers

YANGON — Myanmar's U-19 team will play against Thailand on 20 September at Yangon's Thuwanna Stadium as part of the lead up to the 2016 AFC U-19 Championship qualifiers.

Thailand's U-19 team won the previous ASEAN U-19

championship, which was held in Laos from 22 August to 4 September.

Thailand's team is included in Group H in the qualifiers, along with South Korea, Singapore, China (Taipei) and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Group G consists of host na-

tion Myanmar, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Brunei and Timor-Leste.

Grand stand tickets cost K2,000 while general seats cost K1,000.

Both teams met in a friendly match in Bangkok in August this year, which resulted in a 3-1 victory to Thailand.—*GNLM*

Murray key as Britain eyes first final in 37 years

LONDON — Britain's rise from embarrassing Davis Cup lightweights to title contenders has been nothing short of spectacular and they will begin slight favourites to reach a first final in 37 years against Australia on Friday.

A glance at the respective depth of the two sides contesting the semi-final would appear to question that wisdom, but with talisman Andy Murray in their ranks and an expected vociferous crowd in Glasgow, the momentum is with the hosts.

While Britain claimed the last of their nine titles in 1936, Belgium have never won the team competition and will also approach their home semi-final against Argentina in Brussels with opportunity knocking loudly on the door.

Australia's cause has not been helped by volatile talent Nick Kyrgios being left out after a spate of disciplinary problems, yet they still boast a line-up consisting of world number 23 Bernard Tomic, Thanasi Kokkinakis, big-serving Sam Groth and former world number one Lleyton Hewitt who is bidding for a golden finale to a career that will end in January.

Britain, though, have Mur-

ray — two of them in fact with Andy's less-celebrated brother Jamie fresh from reaching the US Open doubles final with Australian John Peers.

"If we're being honest, if we've got Andy in our team then we've got a great chance to beat anyone," Jamie told the ITF's website in the build-up to the tie.

His younger brother's contribution to Britain's cause has been immense, building a 23-2 record in singles rubbers to steer his country out of the Davis Cup wilderness they inhabited in 2010 when they nearly dropped into the bottom division.

In July he dredged every last drop of energy to win three matches against France in the World Group quarter-finals, clinching the decisive point despite being almost on his knees against Gilles Simon at Queen's Club.

He also won both his singles against the US in round one.

But he will need help, from brother Jamie, and either Kyle Edmund or James Ward who are vying for the second singles spot. The 20-year-old Edmund, ranked 100 in the world, suffered an injury scare this week, but is relishing a red-hot debut.—*Reuters*

Chelsea forgets domestic woes to see off Maccabi

CHelsea forgot their Premier League woes and got their Champions League campaign off to a flying start with a 4-0 thrashing of Israeli champions Maccabi Tel Aviv in their opening Group G match at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

Despite Eden Hazard blazing an early penalty high over the bar, Chelsea scored twice in the first half with Willian finding the net with a 30-metre free kick after 15 minutes and Oscar scoring from their second penalty with the last kick of the opening 45 minutes.

Diego Costa, who replaced Willian after the Brazilian was injured after 20 minutes, brilliantly volleyed in Chelsea's third after 58 minutes with Cesc Fabregas finishing off a breakaway for the fourth after 78.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho had not seen his team win since Aug. 23 with two successive league defeats in their last two matches but he told reporters afterwards: "I forgot what it was like to win, so it's a good feeling.

"The penalty we missed was a big test for us. When you start a game you have to win and after five minutes you miss a penalty, it is an extra negative episode

and our reaction was very good. I am very happy with the performance."

Maccabi, back in the competition proper for the first time in over a decade after coming through the qualifiers, went close through skipper Eran Zahavi and Nosakhare Igiebor, but Chelsea, 17th in the Premier League with one win from five matches, were never seriously troubled and could have scored seven or eight.

Their manager Slavisa Jokanovic, a former Chelsea midfielder, conceded: "Welcome to the Champions League, it is not the Israeli Premier League.

"They dominated us, but we will learn."

Mourinho made six changes to the side beaten 3-1 at Everton on Saturday with captain John Terry among those on the bench, although Fabregas, who has lacked his usual creative inspiration, retained his place and had a hand in the third as well as scoring for the first time since April.

The lack of confidence and poor form that has blighted Chelsea's start to the campaign was apparent when Hazard blazed his penalty over the bar.

German referee Felix Zwayer showed leniency to Maccabi's



Chelsea's Diego Costa in action against Maccabi Tel-Aviv during UEFA Champions League Group Stage on 16 Sept, 2015.—REUTERS

Serbian keeper Predrag Rajkovic though, only giving him a yellow card for bringing down Willian — and the goalie did not have to move as Hazard fired high and wide.

Willian avenged that foul in the 15th minute when his 30-metre free kick bounced once and

flew past the slow-moving Rajkovic to give Chelsea a deserved lead.

Chelsea dominated but had to wait until the last kick of stoppage time before doubling the lead when Oscar scored from the spot after former Chelsea defender Tal Ben Haim scythed

down substitute Costa.

Costa volleyed Chelsea's third on the turn just before the hour mark and Fabregas tapped in a fourth as Chelsea won their opening home Champions League match of the season under Mourinho for the first time, at the fourth attempt.—*Reuters*