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PEACE IN PROGRESS

Gov and ethnic armed groups prepare for ceasefire signing

THE Government of Myanmar and ethnic armed groups agreed to form a joint committee to prepare for the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement during a meeting on Sunday in Yangon.

Both sides also reached an agreement in principle to allow additional ethnic armed groups, which have not yet signed the actual agreement, to attend the signing ceremony, which is slated to be inked during the first week of October.

A date for the signing will be discussed among ethnic armed groups during a three-day meeting from 28-30 September in the Thai city of Chaing Mai.

U Aung Min, Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace-making Work Committee, clarified the process of holding political dialogue after the peace deal is signed to civil society organisations Sunday at Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC). He explained that a joint implementation coordination meeting will be held within two weeks after the NCA is signed and requires a union peace-making joint committee to be formed in the 15 days that follow.

The spokesperson representing the government has urged civil society groups to participate in the peace making process and stressed the importance of signing the ceasefire in order to participate in political dialogue.

The government is committed to building a federalist system, following the agreements of the



Pictured left is U Aung Min, Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace-making Work Committee, and right is U Soe Thane, Union Minister at the President Office, talk to civil society organizations. PHOTO: MNA

nationwide ceasefire deal, he said.

During the meeting, UPWC was led by U Aung Min and UPWC member U Khin Zaw Oo, while the ethnic armed groups were represented by personnel from the Pa-O National Liberation Organisation, the Arakan Libera-

tion Party, the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), Kay-in National Union, the National Democratic Alliance Army, KNU/KNLA-PC and the All Burma Students' Democratic Front.

The Chin National Front and the Restoration Council of Shan

State did not participate in the meeting, however representatives from the group will be part of the signing ceremony committee, according to MPC.

The government invited Wa and Mongla groups on 12 September to sign the

nationwide ceasefire accord,

The two ethnic armed groups from Wa Special Region-2 and Mongla Special Region-4 were not among the 15 armed groups that participated in the last series of peace talks with the government.—*Myat Thandar Maung*

IMF welcomes Myanmar currency reforms, says more needed

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund welcomed Myanmar's "bold move" to liberalize its foreign exchange rules in a report published on Friday and warned that the poor Asian country would need to tighten monetary policy and reduce credit expansion.

The Fund cautioned that without further reforms, which could lower growth in the short term, Myanmar risked a run on its foreign exchange reserves,

which cover just three months of imports, and a burgeoning fiscal deficit.

The Fund said that while the official deficit was estimated at 3 percent of gross domestic product, its real number was closer to 5.5 percent of GDP once one-off receipts from telecommunications and gas companies are excluded.

The Fund forecast the Myanmar economy would grow 8.5 percent this year.

"The projected increase in the fiscal deficit in the 2015/16 budget — amounting to almost 2 percent of GDP — will provide an expansionary stimulus and contribute to strong credit growth and a rising current account deficit," the Fund said.

That would result in the Central Bank of Myanmar likely needing to finance part of that shortfall, something the Fund said needed to be reined in.

It forecast that inflation

would rise to 13 percent and the current account deficit would also rise to around 9 percent of GDP, causing the central bank's reserves to fall further to 2-1/2 months' worth of imports.

While it welcomed reforms in the currency market that have seen the kyat exchange rate move closer to that of the parallel market, the Fund said more reforms were needed.

"The current downward pressure on the kyat is largely a

result of macroeconomic policy inconsistency. Monetary and fiscal policies are too loose to anchor the exchange rate expectations, although external shocks have also played a role. Under the current macroeconomic policy settings, resisting depreciation pressure could lead to a quick rundown of reserves," it said.

The Fund report said that the kyat had depreciated about 20 percent against the dollar since September 2014.—*Reuters*

Donations to 10,000 monks in Mandalay



Altogether 10,000 monks from Myanmar and Thailand accept provisions donated by people in a ceremony held in Mandalay to mark the friendly relations between Myanmar and Thailand. PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU

MANDALAY — Local Buddhists donated food to 10,000 Myanmar and Thai monks on 20 September.

The donation ceremony was held to celebrate the good relations between the two countries.

The monks were led by Atulamahamyakyaout Sayadaw Abbot Khemasaya of Mandalay and Dhammakaya Monastery Abbot of Thailand. The ceremony was held in Aungmyaethasan Township, Mandalay Region, and organised by the local Bud-

dhist community. Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Region Sangha Nayaka Committee members and several Thai guests attended the merit-making ceremony, in which the monks recited sermons.—*Maung Pyithu (Mandalay)*

US-ASEAN scholarship eligibility explained

MANDALAY — US Embassy staff gave university students in Mandalay a presentation on the 2016 US-ASEAN Scholarship at the Jefferson Information Centre.

The US Embassy's Cul-

tural Affairs Assistant Daw Saw Kyi Tha and Dr Hla Soe Tint from the Fulbright Programme explained the eligibility requirements of the coveted scholarship programme to students who recently passed

their matriculation exams.

The US-ASEAN scholarship is offered to students in the ASEAN region who seek to enrol at a university in the US.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

ID cards distributed in Dountbow Village

MYINGYAN—Villagers in Dountbow village, Mandalay Region, were presented with national identity cards as part of the Population and Immigration Department's Moe Pwint Special Project 2.

Myingyan District's Population and Immigration Department head U San Aung

and Natogyi Township officials went to Dountbow village to explain the importance of national identity cards to the rural community and urged members not to lose their cards. Presenting the cards to villagers saved them a trip to town to collect them.—*Htay Myint Maung*

IKBZ compensate bus crash victims

MANDALAY — International Kanbawza Insurance Company paid K3 million (US\$2,339) in compensation on 19 September to the next-of-kin of passenger Daw Kyi Kyi Win, who died in a bus accident on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

The Man Shwe Myotaw express bus crashed on the Mandalay-Myawaddy route, injuring 11 other passengers. IKBZ

Insurance also gave the injured passengers initial payments of K100,000 each at Meikhtila Hospital, where they are being treated. They are entitled to receive up to K2.4 million, depending on the severity of their injuries.

The bus line will now charge an extra K300 per ticket for special travel insurance.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



A relative of a car crash victim receives insurance from an official of IKBZ. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO



Officials confiscate unauthorized goods including mobile phones, motorcar spare parts and accessories, and footwear worth about K 100 million. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Good seized at Mandalay train station worth US\$78,000

MANDALAY — A mobile investigation team confiscated a cache of unauthorised mobile phones, car parts and accessories and footwear worth K100 million (US\$78,000) on 19 September at Mandalay Railway Station. The impounded goods have been handed over to the Customs Department.

Mandalay Region has imposed strict restrictions on illegal commodities and hazardous foods entering the region. The local trade office of the Union Ministry of Commerce, the Customs

Department, Police Department, General Administration Department, the Mandalay Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and local media are collaborating in the crackdown.

The entry gates at Mandalay International Airport, Gawwin River Jetty, Mandalay Railway Station, the 16-mile checkpoint on the Mandalay-Pyin Oo Lwin Road and the Madaya Junction checkpoint on the Mandalay-Mogok Road are under heavy surveillance by mobile teams.—*Thiha Ko ko (Mandalay)*

Solving food shortages is top priority: Commander-in-Chief



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing talks to military personnel in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW — The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted the benefits of carrying out farming enterprises at military commands on 19 September.

He made the remarks after

being briefed on a 50 acre farm in Nay Pyi Taw about production costs and sales and he said that the imbalance between market supply and demand is the culprit behind rising commodity prices.

He described food shortages as the number one issue facing

the majority of Myanmar's population, two-thirds of whom rely on agriculture for a livelihood. He called on military personnel to take part in the effort to address the problem by selling surplus stock to local communities at reasonable rates.—Myawady

What they stand for: campaigns aired

The People's Democracy Party, New National Democracy Party and Bamar People's Party broadcast campaign speeches on Sunday.

People's Democracy Party



Chairman U Aung Myint said that the party's values include the perpetuation of sovereignty of the new democratic nation, national unity between all ethnic races, a multiparty democracy and a free market economy. The People's Democracy Party stands for an independent and active foreign policy which is based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, as well as building a modern army to defend the sovereignty of the nation.

New National Democracy Party



Chairman U Thein Nyunt elucidated the party's priorities, which include national reconciliation, democracy and human rights. U Thein Nyunt said that his party is working to achieve these broad priorities in parliament and the chairman said that lessening traffic congestion in Yangon is a specific goal. The New National Democracy Party is fielding 27 candidates in the upcoming election.

Bamar People's Party



Chairman U Aung Than Tint said that the party's main political values are liberty, equality and justice. The party places emphasis on national unity, peaceful coexistence, the perpetuation of sovereignty and building a federal union, preserving the Myanmar language, as well as its literature and traditions. The party will work to protect human rights, the rule of law, gender equality, media freedoms and to combat corruption.—GNLM

New therapies for blood disease discussed at conference

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON — The Myanmar Society of Haematology kicked off its two-day conference at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon on Saturday.

Professors from Myanmar, the UK, US, India, Japan, Singapore and Thailand gathered to share their knowledge and experience on the latest therapies for blood diseases such as thalassaemia, haemophilia and leukaemia.

The conference was sponsored by the Myanmar Medical Association (MMA), a non-government organisation established in 1949. The association holds

similar conferences every two years.

In his opening remarks, Union Health Minister Dr Than Aung affirmed the ministry's commitment to amending the 2003 Blood and Blood Products Law, stressing that the change will aim to offer high-quality medical care to patients with blood diseases.

The president of the Myanmar Medical Association, Professor Rai Mra, said he was unable to provide figures on patients with blood disorders, but he estimated that there are millions across the country.

"There are many types of blood disorders, among which iron-deficiency anaemia and thalassaemia are the most common."

Iron-deficiency anaemia occurs when the body does not have enough iron, which results in decreased production of red blood cells.

Thalassaemia is a genetic disorder in which the body cannot produce red blood cells, resulting in severe anaemia. It is caused by mutated haemoglobin genes.

On the first day of the conference, doctors discussed developments in thalassaemia research, while the second half of the conference focused on haemophilia management and leukaemia.—GNLM



Myanmar Medical Association President Professor Rai Mra delivers a speech at the conference. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

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 National League for Democracy, Democracy Party For Myanmar New Society and Myanmar National Congress on 21 September.—GNLM



A delegation of Myanmar Women's Entrepreneurs' Association is seen at Yangon International Airport on 19 September, 2015, before they depart for Kathmandu, Nepal, to attend the South Asian Women Development Forum on 20 and 21 September. The delegation comprises Chairperson of MWEA Daw Hla Waddy and General Secretary Daw Hnin Wai. PHOTO: MNA

ELECTION COUNTDOWN
 Make your voice count. Cast your vote. **48** DAYS

CSR workshop held in Yadanabon University



Corporate Social Responsibility workshop focuses on clearance of waste in Mandalay and Bagan and promotion of techniques of Karatedo in Myanmar. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

MANDALAY — A workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility was organized by Managing Director Miss Mizue Unno of So-tech Consulting Inc in Yadanabon University in Mandalay on 15 September.

Rector of the university Dr Aung Min and 50 faculty members participated in the discussions facilitated by President Mr Nataga Ichiro of NAGATA (Japan) Co., Ltd, Managing Director Mr Takeshi Shirashi, Project Director U Thein San and business consultant U ZawNaing.

NAGATA Co., is a service company providing CSR services including clearance of waste in Mandalay and Bagan and promotion of techniques of Karatedo in Myanmar.—*Tin Maung (Sub-printing house in Mandalay)*

Two villages in Natogyi light up

NATOGYI — Letwae and Myinni villages in Natogyi Township were provided with 24 hour access to electricity on 19 September. The township in Mandalay Region is aiming to have 100 percent access to the grid in the coming months and years. Of the township's 186 villages, 56 villages have access to electricity. Union Minister for Transport and Railways U Nyan Tun Aung said during a ceremony held on September 19 that he was pleased to see development projects making progress. Meanwhile, a village elder said that he never expected to be able to see electricity in his village and that he was overwhelmed by the benefits of the change.—*Khin Zar Mon Myint*

Traditional boxing draws bigger crowds



Myanmar traditional boxers in action. PHOTO: MAUNG SEIN LWIN

YANGON — Six boxing matches were held at Theinbyu traditional boxing stadium on September 20, drawing a higher number of spectators and a new generation of athletes. The matches were sponsored by the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation and organised by Myanmar Media Group. Free tickets are being offered to the three and four round boxing bouts and old clubs have been revitalised, which are helping to draw in larger crowds.

New clubs have also been formed recently, such as Pyitdaing Club – which like other new clubs, received a supplementary annual stipend from Myanmar Media Group.—*Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)*

Election commission inspects voters' lists



Kyaukme residents scan their name in the voters' lists. PHOTO: U MYINT AUNG

KYAUKME — The Kyaukme township election commission inspected areas where voters' lists are on display on 19 September.

The lists were issued on September 14 and an estimated 123,595 voters will cast their vote at 109 ballot booths in the township on November 8.—*U Myint Aung*

Fundraiser to showcase handicrafts made by women with HIV

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON — A local non-profit group called Action For Public will hold a fundraising sale in Yangon in mid-October featuring handicrafts made by women with HIV.

"The two-day festival will take place at City Mart Marketplace in Bahan Township but we have not yet set a date," Action For Public (AFP) Director Kyi Pyar Chit Saw told The Global New Light of Myanmar. The festival has been held every month since December 2014 with the aim of generating funds from sales to support women and young people with HIV.

Plush toys, wallets and ornaments will be on sale and there are also plans to showcase dresses designed by its members. As part of its market expansion, AFP recently opened a tailor's shop in Mingaladon Township, Kyi Pyar Chit Saw said. It hopes to open another sometime in 2016.

The aim of the shop is to provide more employment opportunities to women with HIV, she added.

She said that AFP employs less than 10 women with HIV, as demand for their products in the local market is low. "Only foreigners regularly purchase AFP products," said Kyi Pyar Chit Saw. Since its establishment in 2008, AFP has provided cash loans and training courses to 1,000 women.

Most of the women AFP has come into with contracted HIV from their spouses, Kyi Pyar Chit Saw said.

A Chin woman in her forties called Thida Htay said, "I contracted HIV from my husband in 2002. I made contact with AFP when I went to Yangon from Chin State to receive medical treatment in 2008."

"I have a job with AFP manufacturing handmade materials. I enjoy my work and earn K7,000 per day," she said.—*GNLM*



Handicrafts made by women with HIV displayed on sale at marketplace by City Mart. PHOTO: AFP

Thaksin tells Thailand's red shirt opposition: 'play dead'... for now

UDON THANI — From self-imposed exile, the influential leader of Thailand's rural "red shirt" opposition movement has delivered a simple message to followers chafing at the military junta's iron rule: lay low for now, don't panic, "play dead".

Billionaire former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, long-time political leader of the north's disenfranchised electorate, is watching events at home closely and urging patience from those who want to see his allies return to power.

"When I spoke to Thaksin, he told me to pretend to be dead a little longer," red shirt leader Kwanchai Praipana, a popular pro-Thaksin leader in the northeastern province of Udon Thani, told Reuters.

"He told me to ... wait until the next election. That will be the moment that we will win. The only question is whether an election will ever take place."

Kwanchai said he spoke to Thaksin a month ago, though he did not specify how they communicated. Thaksin, who lives abroad to avoid a jail sentence

for graft, was ousted in a coup in 2006, but remains a major figure in Thai politics.

While the military has kept a firm grip on power since it felled the remnants of the government of Thaksin's sister Yingluck in another coup last year, he and his allies have won every election since 2001 and anger is mounting among farmers and political opponents.

The military government has slashed rural subsidies and coup leader and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said this month the next election would not be held until "around" July, 2017, the latest delay to Thailand's return to democracy.

The reference to playing dead resonated with Kwanchai, who rolled up his sleeve to show a scar the length of his upper arm from a drive-by shooting at his rural home when Bangkok was paralyzed by protests that preceded the coup.

Prayuth's ban on political activity has severely curtailed the red shirt movement and his junta has quashed any sign of open dissent.

"They have bullied us too

much," said Kwanchai, adding that he has to report his movements to the military every day.

Prayuth staged the coup and banned political activity after months of sometimes deadly street clashes, saying he had to reconcile a dangerously divided

society. Many Thais, especially Bangkok's middle class and urban elite, backed the intervention.

But sharp divisions remain and the Shinawatras retain their popularity in northern strongholds.



Red shirt movement leader Kwanchai Praipana poses with a photo of former PM Thaksin Shinawatra at his office in Udon Thani, Thailand, September 15, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

A draft constitution that critics said was an attempt by Prayuth to prevent a comeback by the Shinawatras was rejected by a military-appointed reform council rather than taken to a national referendum that may have become a public test of the junta's popularity.

"At first we thought the drafting of the constitution, had it been passed, would have been the time to protest," said Sabina Shah, a red shirt leader and radio DJ in the northeastern city of Khon Kaen. The radio station was shut down after the coup and remains off air.

"People want to protest. But they are afraid, despite facing difficulties and hardship... The economy's been going backwards." Hundreds of activists on Saturday defied a ban on protests and marched in Bangkok in a rare rally against the military to mark the ninth anniversary of the coup against Thaksin. Lines of police stood by as crowds of people chanting "no dictatorship" and carrying anti-junta banners marched to the city's Democracy Monument.—Reuters

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FBI launches investigation into Malaysian state fund 1MDB: WSJ

KUALA LUMPUR — The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has launched an investigation into allegations of money-laundering at troubled Malaysian state fund 1MDB, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday citing an unidentified source.

The scope of the investigation into the debt-laden 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) was not clear, said the newspaper, which cited "a person familiar with the matter".

Neither the FBI nor 1MDB responded to a request for comment.

The reported FBI investigation comes shortly after a former member of Malaysia's ruling party was arrested just before travel-

ling to the United States where he planned to make a police complaint and urge US authorities to look into the allegations of money-laundering at 1MDB.

1MDB's advisory board is chaired by Prime Minister Najib Razak. The fund has been dogged by controversy over its \$11 billion debt and alleged financial mismanagement.

A series of international investigations are underway as the scandal surrounding the fund widens.

Swiss authorities said this month they had frozen funds in Swiss banks amid investigations into 1MDB. Hong Kong authorities also said they were investigating a complaint related to the firm.

Abe Cabinet's support rate falls, majority see higher war risk

TOKYO — The public approval rating for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet has fallen to 38.9 percent, with a majority of respondents opposing the recent Diet passage of controversial security bills, a Kyodo News poll showed Sunday.

The support rate in the nationwide telephone survey conducted on Saturday and Sunday compares to 43.2 percent in the previous survey in mid-August. The poll was conducted af-

ter parliament enacted early Saturday new security laws aimed at expanding the role of Japan's Self-Defense Forces overseas. The legislation allows Japanese troops to use force in defending allies under armed attack and expands the scope of their use of arms in UN peace-keeping operations.

Only 14.1 percent of the respondents said the Diet sufficiently deliberated the security bills before the enactment, while 79.0 percent said there

The WSJ had reported in July that investigators looking into 1MDB had found that nearly \$700 million was transferred into the personal bank account of Najib. The prime minister has denied taking money from 1MDB or anywhere else for personal gain.

Malaysia's anti-graft agency declared the funds a donation.

Najib has faced unprecedented criticism from within his ruling party, in particular from veteran former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who has called on Najib to step down.

Both anti-government and pro-government protesters have taken to the streets in recent weeks, raising concern about political stability.—Reuters

Japan foreign minister heads to Russia to set stage for Putin's trip

TOKYO — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida left Japan for Russia on Sunday to hold talks with his Russian counterpart to set the stage for Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Japan within the year.

Kishida's visit comes amid tensions between Tokyo and Moscow over top Russian officials' repeated visits to some of the Russian-held, Japanese-claimed islands at the heart of a long-standing bilateral row that has prevented the two countries from concluding a post-World War II peace treaty.

During his four-day trip, Kishida will hold talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss ways to cooperate in settling the isles row, Japanese officials said.

The dispute involves four islands off Hokkaido — Kunashiri, Etorofu and Shikotan as well as the Habomai group of islets — which were seized by the Soviet Union following Japan's surrender in the war on Aug. 15, 1945. It will be the first time for a Japanese foreign minister to visit Russia since the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was launched in December 2012.—Kyodo News

were not enough deliberations.

Some 68.0 percent of the respondents said the new legislation will increase the risk of Japanese troops getting involved in an armed conflict. Only 2.5 percent said it will lower such a risk and 27.1 percent believe the new laws will have no effect on the possibility of the SDF being dragged into a war. The Cabinet's disapproval rating increased to 50.2 percent from 46.4 percent, remaining above the approval rate.—Kyodo News

Women promoted in Australian PM's 'extensive' cabinet reshuffle

CANBERRA — New Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull appointed Australia's first female defence minister Sunday as he filled more key posts with women in a "very extensive" cabinet reshuffle, days after ousting Tony Abbott in a party coup.

Turnbull, a 60-year-old multimillionaire former banker and businessman who holds socially moderate views within the conservative Liberal Party, increased the number of women in cabinet from two to five. The sweeping changes also saw some key Abbott allies from the party's right wing left out of cabinet in favour of younger and more moderate candidates.

Some Abbott allies stepped aside or refused portfolios, with the resignation of Treasurer (finance minister) Joe Hockey from parliament the biggest surprise.

Social Services Minister Scott Morrison replaced Hockey as treasurer, despite voting for Abbott in the Monday night contest for the Liberal Party leadership that Turnbull won 54-44.

"Today I'm announcing a 21st century government and a ministry (cabinet) for the future," Turnbull told a press conference in Canberra, describing the changes as "very extensive".

Senator Marise Payne, who



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announces his new federal cabinet during a media conference at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, 20 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

had held the human services portfolio, was given the defence ministry. Michaela Cash was appointed Minister for Employment and Women, while Kelly O'Dwyer assumed the assistant treasurer and small business portfolios.

Julie Bishop remained as foreign minister and Sussan Ley as health and sports minister.

Arthur Sinodinos, who served as chief of staff to former PM John Howard, became cabinet secretary as Turnbull stressed the need for consultative leadership in contrast to Abbott's centralised decision-making

processes. Turnbull supporter Attorney-General George Brandis was appointed Senate leader but lost the arts portfolio to another backer of the new PM, Mitch Fifield, who was also given communications.

Turnbull has made economic policy a key tenet of his new administration, promising to speak honestly about the country's challenges as it transitions from mining-led growth following an unprecedented resources investment boom. The new prime minister, also a former barrister, emphasised the importance of science and tech-

nology as he appointed Education Minister Christopher Pyne to the expanded infrastructure, innovation and science portfolio.

Abbott had been slammed for not having a separate science minister position in his cabinet, instead combining it with the industry ministry.

"If we want to remain a prosperous, first-world economy with a generous social welfare safety net, we must be more competitive, we must be more productive, above all we must be more innovative," Turnbull said.

"We have to work more agilely, more innovatively, we have to be more nimble in the way we seize the enormous opportunities presented to us."

Abbott backer Kevin Andrews was not given a new portfolio after being removed from defence but said he would continue to serve in parliament, while another ally Eric Abetz lost his employment ministry and role as Senate leader.

Small Business Minister Bruce Billson turned down an of-

fer to serve in a position outside cabinet. Immigration Minister Peter Dutton, Trade Minister Andrew Robb and Environment Minister Greg Hunt — all in the Abbott camp — survived the chop. Assistant Treasurer Josh Frydenberg was moved to resources, energy and northern Australia.

The announcement came as Liberal candidate Andrew Hastie won a Western Australia by-election on Saturday, with some crediting the comfortable victory to Turnbull's ascension.

With more than 60 percent of ballots counted, the former special forces soldier was forecast to have secured the seat with a six percent swing against his party, compared to fears of a 10 percent swing before Abbott was dumped.

Turnbull has also polled well nationally, with a Galaxy survey released Friday showing the government's standing higher at 51 percent compared to the opposition Labour party's 49 percent — the first time it has been in a winning position since May 2014.—AFP

"If we want to remain a prosperous, first-world economy with a generous social welfare safety net, we must ..."

Malcolm Turnbull

Over 190 hurt when fire drill goes wrong in China

SHANGHAI — A fire drill at a school in northwestern China left more than 190 people injured, nine critically, after participants inhaled smoke used to simulate accident conditions, state media said Sunday.

More than 400 students at the middle school in Gansu province's Tianshui city took part in the combined fire and air raid drill on Friday when the artificially generated smoke surged out of control, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"Many students began to cough and vomit after inhaling the smoke," the report quoted the local government as saying. Officials could not be immediately reached for comment on Sunday and the report did not say what type of smoke was used.

Several areas across China, including the capital Beijing and commercial hub Shanghai, sounded air raid sirens on Saturday in pre-announced drills, according to state media. Organisers said the air raid drill in Beijing was aimed at educating people about national defence with one academic linking the exercise to the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Xinhua said, which the country marked earlier this month with a military parade.—AFP

Nepal to adopt democratic charter born of bloodshed, compromise

KATHMANDU — Nepal will adopt its first full democratic charter on Sunday, a historic step for a nation that has seen war, a palace massacre and devastating earthquakes since a campaign to create a modern state began more than 65 years ago.

President Ram Baran Yadav will formally promulgate the constitution intended to unite the country but it has already exacerbated divisions in some places with 40 people killed in protests against it in recent weeks.

Nepal's powerful neighbours, India and China, are keen to see

stability and to limit each other's influence in the poor Himalayan country sandwiched between them.

"The constitution that will be promulgated is the outcome of many years of struggle by the Nepali people," Prateek Pradhan, media adviser to the prime minister, told Reuters.

"It addresses the aspirations and demands of all sections of Nepali society in an inclusive and representative manner. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala is extremely happy to have reached this moment."

The earthquakes that killed more than 9,000 people this year galvanized politicians, who had squabbled for seven years to finish the charter. It creates seven states in a secular, federal system, but is opposed by some groups who wanted to re-establish Nepal as a Hindu nation, and others who feel it is unfavourable to people in the plains, near India. Demonstrations in the lowlands in recent weeks were met with a tough response from Kathmandu, which ordered in the army after protesters attacked and killed police. More than 40 protesters and police died.

The unrest troubles India, which has called for dialogue. China welcomed the new constitution saying that as a "friendly neighbour" it hoped for increased stability and growth. The government says an imperfect document is better than nothing, and the constitution can be amended to reflect the aspirations of dissenting groups.

Nepal's 239-year old monarchy was abolished in 2008, seven years after an unhinged crown prince killed the king and eight members of his family at the height of a Maoist uprising.

Disgruntled royalist politicians voted against the charter on Wednesday, while some parties from the southern lowlands abstained. The Maoists laid down their arms in 2006 and joined democratic politics with an India-brokered peace deal that paved the way for the constitution. Wrangling hampered progress on the draft and several governments have come and gone in the interim.

Koirala is expected to stand down to allow a new government under the charter. He may be replaced by KP Oli, from a moderate Communist party. Clauses over citizenship in the country of 28 million people were some of the most contentious with critics saying they discriminate against women who marry foreigners, and that their children are denied equal access to citizenship. Estimates of the number of stateless people in Nepal range from 800,000 to 4 million.—Reuters



Members of Nepalese Armed Police Force stand in front of a burning passenger bus after it was set on fire by unidentified protesters during the nationwide strike, called by the opposition parties against the proposed constitution, in Kathmandu, Nepal 20 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Greece will elect 'fighting government', usher in 'new era': Tsipras



Former Greek prime minister and leader of leftist Syriza party Alexis Tsipras cast his ballot as he votes for the general elections at a polling station in Athens, Greece, September 20, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ATHENS — Greeks on Sunday will elect a “fighting government” and usher in a “new era” of reform, leftwing former premier Alexis Tsipras said as voting opened in the country’s fifth general election in six years.

“The Greek people... will take their future into their own hands... and seal the transition to a new era,” Tsipras said after casting his ballot in the working class Athens district of Kypseli.

The 41-year-old Syriza party leader said Greeks would elect “a fighting government” ready for the “confrontations necessary to move forward with reforms” and make the country a “powerful and equal partner in

Europe.” Polls opened at 0400 GMT in the cliffhanger vote pitting Tsipras’s radical left Syriza party against the conservative New Democracy bloc headed by tough-talking ex-lawyer and defence minister Vangelis Meimarakis, who has narrowed the gap between right and left during the election campaign.

Over 9.8 million Greeks were registered to vote in an election that will select a new government to implement more tough reforms demanded by EU leaders. Divisions over the three-year bailout adopted by the country’s parliament last month led to the toppling of Tsipras’s government.—AFP

California firefighters struggle to control blazes

LOS ANGELES — At least nine wildfires remained active in California as of Sunday, local authorities say, and hot and dry weather is hampering efforts to control the blazes.

Nearly 11,000 firefighters are in the field battling the fires, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) said in a statement.

At least five people have died in this year’s wildfires, authorities say. The blazes have forced thousands to flee their homes.

Most of the largest wildfires are between 47 and 68 percent contained, with three almost fully controlled, CalFire said.

However a 1,200-acre (485 hectare) blaze dubbed the Tassajara fire that broke out Saturday afternoon in Monterey County, along the state’s central Pacific coast, is only 10 percent contained, the department reported early Sunday.

The weather also refuses to collaborate, with hot and dry conditions forecast throughout the weekend across the state.

Higher temperatures increase the chances of flare ups in fire areas that were already con-

trolled, CalFire spokesman Daniel Berlant told Fox News.

Separately, Berlant said that firefighters get especially frustrated when residents ignore danger warnings and refuse to evacuate. Two people killed in the Butte wildfire in northern California chose to remain in their homes after they were told to leave because of the imminent danger, he said.

“Our firefighters this week were forced to stop fighting the fire and went into rescue mode just trying to get people to evacuate,” Berlant told Fox.

The fires have cost California at least \$244 million since July 1, compared to \$240 million (\$216 million) for all of 2013. Last year, the bill amounted to \$434 million.

The deadliest fire in California’s history was the October 1991 Tunnel fire that killed 25 people and razed 2,900 structures. In terms of land burned, the 2003 Cedar fire holds the record with more than 273,000 acres destroyed. Several other blazes are also burning across the country, including in the states of Washington, Oregon, Utah, Montana and Florida.—AFP

Wave of crises puts European dream at risk

BRUSSELS — The EU’s founding father Jean Monnet wrote in his memoirs that “Europe will be forged in crises” — but a recent storm of troubles risks tearing the continent apart instead of bringing it together.

From a flood of refugees, to the near-collapse of the euro and the war in Ukraine, the continent’s divided leaders have struggled to deal with wave after wave of problems that strike at the heart of the European dream. If they fail to bridge their differences, officials and analysts warn that the principles forged in a bid to build a new Europe from the ashes of World War II are in jeopardy.

“This is now threatening the heart of Europe and the core of the European project,” Guy Verhofstadt, the former prime minister of Belgium who now leads the Liberal group in the European Parliament, told AFP.

The refugee crisis is “deeper than the euro crisis. I think it’s a real test — it’s also an opportunity to make a jump forward,” he added. The perfect storm of crises has in recent months brought to the surface divisions that have long been papered over in pursuit of a union of 28 nations and 500 million people, together the world’s biggest economy.

A deep rift between eastern and western EU states on migrants has been added to the split between north and south on the eurozone debt crisis. Instead of solidarity and humanity in dealing with thousands of migrants dying while trying to flee Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, the world has been treated to the unedifying spectacle of EU leaders bickering over asylum quotas amounting to 0.032 percent of the continent’s population.

The result is that one of the EU’s most cherished ideals — the Schengen passport-free area, a continent without borders — is now at risk as countries reintroduce border controls and build razor-wire fences.

The migration crisis has come on top of a debt crisis in the eurozone that has left some of southern European members economically devastated — piling misery on the same area that, incidentally, has received most refugees.

While debt-laden Greece finally got a huge bailout after months of bad-tempered negotiations, analysts say many of the single currency’s underlying problems remain. Whichever government emerges from Sunday’s Greek elections, the country’s colossal debt is probably unsustainable, while broader talks in Brussels

“This is now threatening the heart of Europe and the core of the European project.”

Guy Verhofstadt

on increasing banking union have largely stalled.

Add the crisis in Ukraine that has plunged relations with Russia to their lowest point since the Cold War, and the looming threat of a possible British exit from the EU in a referendum due by 2017, and the problems mount.

Monnet — the Frenchman who became the first head of the European Coal and Steel Community, the forerunner of the EU — believed that Europe would be the

“sum of the solutions adopted for those crises”, but solutions are exactly what leaders are failing to provide. Governments are increasingly paralysed, with many of them looking over their shoulder at populist parties from both the right and left wing. Together, the crises are increasing the likelihood of countries acting unilaterally to protect their borders or their economies from disruption — thereby undermining the whole point of the EU.

“Crisis is piling up on crisis. The EU’s integrity, if you look at Greece or Schengen, is under pressure,” Janis Emmanouilidis of Brussels-based think tank the European Policy Centre told AFP.

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker recently made an appeal for “more Europe”, echoing calls across Brussels for greater integration to keep the bloc’s core ideals in place.

However Raoul Ruparel, co-director of the Open Europe think tank based in London, said the “confluence of very serious existential crises” required urgent reform in Brussels.

“Trying to force all these countries into one size fits all has worsened the divisions. The eurozone showed that with Greece and Germany, now we are seeing that with the migration crisis between east and west,” he told AFP.

“You have this combination of institutional flaws undermining the policy, and then pitting the member states against each other — that combination is toxic.”

But the EU has not yet reached its “Titanic moment”, the EPC’s Emmanouilidis said, pointing out that the past 60 years of integration on a once-warring continent had produced a “collective DNA”.—AFP

Putin wants air base in Belarus

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered his ministers to agree a deal with Belarus so that Moscow can establish an air base in the ex-Soviet country, as Kremlin’s ties with the West remain at a post-Cold War low over the Ukraine crisis.

The creation of a Russian military air base on the doorstep of the European Union in Belarus has been discussed since 2013.

Putin has now ordered his defence and foreign ministries to seal the agreement with Minsk,

according to an official document published online Saturday.

Belarus, which borders NATO and European Union members Poland, Latvia and Lithuania, has not responded to the Kremlin decree.

Russia already has a radar station and a navy radio station in Belarus but the air unit will be Russia’s first major military base in that country.

Belarus is a long-standing ally of Russia and is a member of a Moscow-led economic union.

But relations between the two sides have sometimes been prickly and strongman Belarussian leader Alexander Lukashenko has largely remained neutral over the conflict in neighbouring Ukraine as relations with the EU have improved slightly.

Some leaders in eastern European countries such as Poland and the Baltic nations have become increasingly jittery over Russian expansionism since Moscow seized the Crimea region from Ukraine in March 2014.—AFP

US says Assad must go, timing down to negotiation

LONDON — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Saturday Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad has to go but the timing of his departure had to be decided through negotiation.

Speaking after talks with British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond he called on Russia and Iran to use their influence to convince al-Assad to negotiate.

He said there is an urgency to

renewing efforts to find a political settlement to end the four-year war and worsening refugee crisis in Syria.

“We need to get to the negotiation. That is what we’re looking for and we hope Russia and Iran, and any other countries with influence, will help to bring about that, because that’s what is preventing this crisis from ending,” said Kerry.

“We’re prepared to negotiate. Is Assad prepared to negotiate, really negotiate? Is Russia prepared to bring him to the table?”

He said of Assad’s removal: “it doesn’t have to be on day one or month one ... there is a process by which all the parties have to come together to reach an understanding of how this can best be achieved.”—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Why there's more to education than good grades

Kyaw Thura

AS Mark Twain once said, "Under no circumstances should we blind ourselves to reality. Nor should we take it as a thing of the past. A mistake remains a mistake as long as it remains uncorrected."

This is very apt in the context of Myanmar's education system, which has changed very little despite official proclamations to the contrary. Whilst we recognise the failings of the rote-based national education system, there hasn't been a genuine shift to

student-centred learning.

There's a well-known saying in Myanmar that goes like this: "Any disease, once diagnosed, can be cured". Why can't we improve the education system with this optimism in mind? What is stopping us from implementing change?

Despite the Ministry of Education's stated enthusiasm for introducing a revised national education system, some teachers still feel reluctant to embrace such as change. They cling stubbornly to good-for-nothing rote learning and oblige young people to memorise line after line, word after word. All this achieves is the erosion of students' curiosity and motivation.

Student-centred learning is an approach whereby teachers foster a love of learning and analytical capabilities in their students, rather than a narrow-eyed pursuit of good grades. In other words, teachers are responsible for constructing real-life tasks that motivate students to learn about the real world and how to solve problems. Students need to be convinced that the lessons being

taught are relevant to their lives. This isn't an unreasonable source of motivation.

Student-centred learning demands higher academic standards from teachers and greater engagement from students. It is understandable that teachers and students alike need time to adapt themselves to such a drastic change of approach. Both sides should start taking small steps towards realising a brighter future for our country's students.

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.

PEACE: ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired United Nations Volunteer-UNV-UNDP

INTERNATIONAL Day of Peace falls on 21st September each year. In 2015, the world celebrates the 33rd anniversary. So also 24th October is the birth day of the United Nations. The United Nations appeals for a global cease-fire every year on the International Day of Peace since last three decades, affirming the rights of people for peace.

During my carrier as United Nations Volunteer abroad, under the agency of United Nations Development Programme, I encountered armed conflicts, the worst being in Sri Lanka during early 1980s. In some countries armed conflict causes untold grief to families, communities and entire countries. Much of the human populations in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Korean peninsula, Ukraine are suffering today at the brutal hands of warmongers and terrorists.

These are only some examples. Entire global human population should stand

with them in solidarity. As mentioned in the heading, Peace and security are essential foundations for social progress and sustainable development.

Only a few days ago, on 9 September 2015, the Global New Light of Myanmar, in its editorial, mentioned peace seems to be the most elusive thing in the world. The leaders of smaller countries which are engulfed by civil wars say they want to be architects of peace. Yet despite the rhetoric, our world is still ravaged by wars and human rights abuses. As war is a continuation of politics by another means, as a famous German philosopher once said, it is essential to address the political issues that provide the root cause of the problem in order to restore a genuine and sustainable peace, editorial continues.

My hospital postings across Myanmar at various capacities under the Ministries of Health, Energy and Mines, included some so called "brown" areas, viz,

Western Magway region during 1960s and in Golden Triangle area, in Eastern Shan State in 1980s where Myanmar, Thailand and Laos borders meet, creating favourable conditions for illicit drug trade resulting in armed conflicts harming the peace and prosperity. Unforgettable bitter memories and night-mares recall frequently about role-plays, drills in harmony with sirens and alarms, fleeing and hiding in trenches with a limited amount of rations and clothings. Hiding trenches were dugged in all government servant houses.

No doubt, every Myanmar citizen is proud of U Thant, a former United Nations Secretary General. Once U Thant said wars begin in the minds of men. As such, love and compassion would have built as the defences of peace in those minds.

In current UNSG Ban Ki-moon's words, the United Nations is founded on the pledge to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Much progress have been made, yet much remain to be made, he said. Let us hold peace in our hearts and minds and tenderly nurture it

so it may grow and blossom. Peace is a long road that we must travel together-step by step, beginning today. We must douse the fires of extremism and tackle the root causes of conflict, he continued.

In Myanmar, authorities and different ethnic armed groups are conducting dialogues and peace marking efforts. The people in areas where armed conflicts have receded, are beginning to enjoy the fruits of peace, it is learnt.

All the doctors, especially, UNV doctors should have a clear idea of impact of terrors and tortures of conflicts and wars on health. Consequences of traumas and tortures such as deficiency conditions (malnutrition, dehydration, vitamin deficiencies) infectious diseases (pneumonia, bronchitis, hepatitis, TB, HIV), musculo-skeletal and dermatological sequellae, endocrine and visceral ailments, TBI and other neurological conditions, chronic disorders resulting from prolonged stress (hypertension, diabetes) are physical.

On the other hand, im-

pact of trauma on mental health are Depression, Psychosis, Post Trauma Psychological Disorders (PTSD). Substance abuse, Post Trauma personality disorder and Primary Insomnia etc.

Trauma due to lack of peaceful environment in conflict and war zones

cause functional deficits after suffering. These include concentration, socialization, family life and work. All the medical and social caregivers should possess clear ideas and techniques to cope up with these physical, mental and functional deficits for mankind and to nurture peace.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

The failure of the UN Security Council for dealing with the global humanitarian crisis resulting in alarming migrant and refugee exodus to mainland Europe not just from Syria, but from the huge volatile geographical areas of West Asia and North Africa has been extremely worrisome. Unprecedented number of helpless victims of rapidly growing insurgency and mass genocides, devastating civil war resulting in geopolitical and socio-economic instability, lack of any law enforcement process, governance or local administration are running out of the conflict zones towards mainland Europe. Unless appropriate mechanisms are soon established and care is taken about the mass exodus of people, there will be new conflict zones opening up now in Europe and will spread throughout the adjacent continents of Europe, Asia and Africa as a chain reaction. This unspeakable global humanitarian crisis if allowed to grow bigger by the days and months is going to result in economic destabilization, mass unemployment, ethno-religious conflicts, deterioration of health and environmental conditions and further expansion of war zones into farthest corners causing more serious problems to unfold in the near future. The most powerful nations of the world and the UN need to act soon before the situation goes out of control.

Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu



100-member Myanmar youth delegation on 20 September leave for China to participate in youth exchange programme hosted by All China Youth Federation. Deputy Chief Editor U Zaw Naing Oo of Myanmar News Agency is one of the delegation members. PHOTO: MNA

We are handing out campaign leaflets as the election draws near.



We are contributing to a paradigm shift in politics.



Hla Htut Oo

Quotidian traffic, routine and commute in urban and rural areas

Tommy Pauk

BASICALLY, there exist two different human settlements around the worldwide i.e. urban settlement and rural settlement. Normally, the urbanized settlement and rural settlement are made on land. Nowadays, very few tribes live in primitive lifestyle and in nomadic life and they prefer to live in un-spoilt beauty of nature on earth freely. Nevertheless, their ultimate aim is fundamentally the same i.e. the survival of the fittest. The Eskimos (Inuit) can adapt to the extremely cold climate and cold regions and they survive. They love to live there and they are given a gift of God to live in such places and can survive with miraculous protection. They can get access to food and drinkable water and a very awesome shelter (igloo) and clothing. However, it is not possible for the people from different climate to live there permanently. Their settlement is not fit for other races of people to live under the extreme or harsh weather conditions. The other people will not be able to endure the extremely cold climate nor adapt to it.

The Inuit or Eskimos are the only human inhabitants in these icy and snowy places in the world. Their survival in these regions is a miracle indeed. In Myanmar, a race of people called 'Salons' known as 'Moken', live in the seawaters off Taninthayi coast of southern Myanmar. They are a nomadic tribe and they move from an island to island with the canoes — their homes. In the world, some small tribes live in the desert or in the huge forests, e.g. people in the Amazon forest. N.B. man can live and survive even in the great wilderness. This shows that our mother earth graciously supports sustenance for life. No one can deny the truth that any habitable place on earth belongs to entire human race irrespective of diverse tribes or races.

The urbanites or city dwellers rely on city-transport to go to work, school, college and factory which ever destination is not a

walking-distance in a big city. Even when they do not want to walk to the daily bazaar, which is close to their houses, they take a rickshaw-ride or side-car ride. The quotidian traffic in cities is modern and faster so that they can travel from one place to another within the city or town. However, in some crowded cities, people encounter traffic congestion every day. In large cities, the worst traffic jam occurs during rush-hour and the people are stuck in it.

The increasingly imported cars, inadequate roads and poor traffic control system cause this problem. During the peak periods, the car drivers use a small road called a rat run to avoid traffic congestion on the main roads. Therefore, the situation of quotidian traffic in urban is frustrating and annoying. Few of the commuters in the cities travel by over ground trains or by underground. Depending on the facilities and sophisticated road infrastructure, the quotidian traffic can be convenient for the city commuters in their daily life. If the traffic system and traffic control management are awfully poor, the quotidian traffic in urban areas cannot be smooth and faster indeed. The smooth traffic is very essential for the urbanites to cope with the rat race. Students, factory workers government staff, company stuff must be able to get to their destinations punctually.

Rural people do not mainly depend on vehicles or motorbikes in quotidian traffic since there are not much roads and streets in the countryside. The villages are scattered in the rural areas with sparse population and their livelihood depends on farming, fishing and animal husbandry. In some developing countries, the population growth of rural areas (combination of village tracts) is greater than urban areas. The pace of rural life is relaxing, calming and steady. Lots of open space in countryside does favor the rural people to be able to live and move comfortably. Luckily, Mother Nature on earth embraces the rural people! They use footpath as the road linked to places in a certain village or to nearest village. They get used to walk as far as they can in the countryside. Ob-



A queue of cars at the traffic light in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: YE MYINT (GNLM)

viously, the rural life style is different from the urban life style. They are also free from concrete wood or concrete jungle which has already occupied the modern cities. They do not have rush-hour or fixed- working hours like urbanites. Even then rural people are contented and simple so they do not have much anxiety or stress. They can travel from one village to another by walking or by bike or by bullock cart. If there is a creek or a stream or a rivulet in the specific area, they travel by sampan or small boat to reach their destinations such as school, sawmill, and rice mill and depot. They do not encounter traffic jam nor traffic control. They can move freely here and there without worries about delay. The quotidian traffic of rural people is simple, smooth and easy for them. No matter how slow the traffic is, they could manage to secure their livelihood on daily basis.

The daily life of urbanites is different from that of rural people's life. The urbanites must draw the quotidian routine properly so that they can manage to perform their respective daily activities. In order to cope with the pace of urban life, the urbanites spend their day time and night time for livelihood properly or in accord with individual work i.e. day shift/night shift/overtime. As for those who are employees or staff or workers spend eight hours at work and spend about two

hours for commuting from their home to work place every day. Approximately, the urbanites spend ten hours out of twenty-four hours for earning or livelihood and the rest fourteen hours are for normal sleeping time, enjoyment of entertainment and meal times. Their stressful life leads them to be alert all the time. Unless they can draw the quotidian routine, they might lose or fail in any endeavor. This is the quotidian routine of urbanites.

Rural people are early risers and they can manage their quotidian routine rhythmically. Normally, they are free from noises, air-pollution and stress because they live in countryside and they are being well-contented too. Simply, they work on farm with their own timing or timeline every day. They get up early in the morning and have some breakfast meal. Then they prepare for work on farm or in the fields with cattle. They take lunch break around midday. After having lunch, they feed their cattle and livestock. Afterwards, they resume their work on farm or in the fields until late afternoon. Some herders or cowboys or cowgirls put out their cattle to pasture from midday till dusk. In the night, after having dinner, they chat and discuss about daily work each other. They listen to the radio and watch the entertainment on TV. They regulate their quotidian routine for different daily work and accomplish it properly.

Instead of using alarm clock, they use biological alarm clock for quotidian routine. They never stay late at night. This is the quotidian routine of the rural people.

The exciting, tiresome and time-consuming quotidian commute occurs in the urban area. Since the city areas are large, people have to travel by land vehicles or ferry boats or trains etc. The quotidian commute of urbanites could be long or short to work or desired destinations in large cities i.e. from suburb into downtown area. Today most commuters travel from one suburb to another suburb or one suburb to city in quotidian commute in urban areas. They spend few hours on quotidian commute, experiencing tedious and intolerable traffic jam on the way up and down. These days, long commute has to spend much longer time than before due to traffic jam on narrow roads in the city. Besides, the city circular trains are jam-packed with commuters in quotidian commute. However, urbanites must do quotidian commute for their livelihood or way of life in urban areas indeed. Otherwise, they might not be able to obtain creature com-

forts and urban standard of living or settlement.

Rural people typically commute from one village to another village by bullock cart or by bike or on foot. Their quotidian commute may be classified into long commute and short commute. The livelihood of some rural people depends on wood cutting, hunting and fishing on daily basis. They go into jungle or woodland for livelihood. In this case, the quotidian commute might be longer or shorter in accord with the distance between their homes and destinations.

The landscape, infrastructure, human settlement, peoples' lifestyle and livelihood between the urban and rural areas are different. The great gap between the two areas is living standard i.e. availability of modern housing in urban areas. The rural life style seems peaceful and calming, but urban life style looks like busy, exciting and competitive. According to situations and circumstances of both the rural people and urbanites the quotidian traffic, routine and commute work naturally.

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

Ceasefire to begin in 3 Syria battlegrounds



Members of Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate and its allies sit on a Syrian army MiG-21 fighter jet after they seized the Abu Duhur military airport on September 9, 2015. PHOTO: AFP

BEIRUT — Syrian pro-government forces and Islamist rebels have agreed to begin a ceasefire from midday on Sunday in three battleground districts, a monitoring group and a local official told AFP.

The truce covers the two remaining villages in Idlib province in the northwest still in government hands and the rebels' last stronghold near the Lebanese border, the town of Zabadani.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said there was no immediate word on the duration of the ceasefire but the rival sides would continue negotiations for a broader truce.

"Fighters stopped military operations early this morning, but

the official ceasefire will begin at noon (0900 GMT)," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

Pro-government forces launched an offensive to try to recapture Zabadani in July, prompting a rebel alliance, including Sunni Muslim extremists of Al-Qaeda, to besiege the Idlib province villages of Fuaa and Kafraya, whose residents are Shiites.

A member of Zabadani town council, which has been involved in the truce negotiations, confirmed that the ceasefire was due to go into effect at noon.

It comes after the rebels launched one of their fiercest attacks on Fuaa and Kafraya so far.

The assault began on Fri-

day with at least nine car bombs against the outskirts of the two villages — seven of them detonated by suicide bombers.

At least 66 rebels, 40 pro-government militiamen and seven civilians have been killed in the fighting, according to the Observatory.

Sunday's planned ceasefire marks the third attempt to agree a truce for the three areas. Two rounds of negotiations last month failed to produce agreement.

Stumbling blocks have included the withdrawal of all rebel fighters from Zabadani, safe passage for civilians seeking to leave Fuaa and Kafraya, and food and medical aid for those wishing to stay.—AFP

Egypt police general gunned down in Sinai street

CAIRO — Unidentified assailants gunned down an Egyptian police general on the street in the Sinai Peninsula stronghold of the Islamic State group late on Saturday, the interior ministry said.

General Ahmed Abdel Satar was the second senior police officer in three days to be killed in the North Sinai provincial capital El-Arish.

On Wednesday evening, assailants killed General Khaled Kamal Osman as he inspected a police unit in a drive-by shooting claimed by the jihadists' Egyptian affiliate IS Sinai Province.

The security forces have

struggled to suppress an insurgency in the peninsula since the army overthrew Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

Cairo says militants have killed hundreds of police and soldiers, many in attacks claimed by IS.

The jihadists say their campaign is in response to a crackdown by the authorities since Morsi's ouster that has left at least 1,400 people dead and thousands jailed. The military launched a major operation earlier this month to root out militants in the Sinai and says it has killed more than 200 — a toll that it was not possible to verify.—AFP

75 US-trained rebels enter Syria from Turkey

BEIRUT — A batch of 75 rebels newly trained by US and coalition forces in Turkey to fight jihadists have entered northern Syria, a monitoring group told AFP on Sunday.

"Seventy-five new fighters trained in a camp near the Turkish capital entered Aleppo province between Friday night and Saturday morning," said Rami Abdel Rahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

He said the group had entered in a convoy of a dozen cars with light weapons and ammunition, under air cover from the US-led coalition that has been carrying out air strikes against the Islamic State

group in Syria and Iraq.

The fighters then deployed to support two US-backed units, with most assigned to Division 30 — the main unit for US-trained fighters — and others to a group called Suqur al-Jabal (Falcons of the Mountain). Before the new batch of fighters, the US-led train-and-equip programme had only managed to identify and train some 60 rebels to fight IS jihadists on the ground.

The \$500 million programme run out of Turkey has been fraught with problems, with more than a dozen of those already deployed with Division 30 either dead or kidnapped.—AFP

Boko Haram leader dismisses Nigerian military claims

MAIDUGURI — Nigeria's military on Saturday claimed further gains in its counter-offensive against Boko Haram, but the group's shadowy leader Abubakar Shekau dismissed the talk of success as "lies".

Army spokesman Sani Usman said troops destroyed more rebel enclaves and camps in the restive state of Borno, which has been worst hit by the six-year Islamist insurgency.

"The fight against the terrorists in the northeast is gaining successful momentum, with most of the camps falling to the Federal night," he said in a statement.

A total of 62 people were rescued from around the town of Gwoza, which last year Boko Haram declared the headquarters of its caliphate but which it lost control of in March.

Some 77 men, women and children, most of them "haggard, dejected and obviously malnourished", also arrived in the town of Bama on Saturday, Usman said.

One man picked up said he had his right hand cut off by

militants in their Sambisa Forest stronghold in Borno last year, he said, adding that eight Boko Haram suspects surrendered to troops.

Nigeria's military has claimed a series of successes against Boko Haram recently and on Friday said it had rescued 90 people and dislodged Boko Haram from two villages near Gwoza.

President Muhammadu Buhari in early August gave his new military commanders three months to defeat Boko Haram, after six years of violence, at least 15,000 dead and more than two million homeless.

Shekau has not been seen on video since February and until an audio message last month had not spoken since March, when he proclaimed Boko Haram's allegiance to the so-called Islamic State group.

His absence sparked fresh rumours about whether he was still alive or had been deposed as leader, with other videos this year fronted by an unknown rebel

under the name Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP).

Shekau said in a 25-minute recording in Hausa and Arabic via social media: "They (the military) lied that they have confiscated our arms, that we have been chased out of our territories, that we are in disarray."

"We are alive, I am alive, this is my voice, more audible than it was before. This is Shekau."

He added: "Buhari is a liar and has deceived you. The army spokesman is also lying. He and his footsoldiers always run helter-skelter whenever we come face to face with them... "Buhari, you once claimed that you will crush us in three months. How can you crush us?"

Shekau directly refers to IS group leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, to whom he says he is "loyal and subservient".

He also namechecks IS spokesman Abu-Mohammed al-Adnani and sends "greetings to the faithful in Yemen", where there is also an IS "affiliate".

There was no indication of



People stand by the wreckage of a car that has been blown up by suspected Boko Haram militants in Nigeria's troubled northeastern city of Maiduguri. PHOTO: AFP

where or when the recording was made but it appears to have been in recent days.

Shekau talks of Buhari's "deal with Hollande", referring to the Nigerian president's three-day visit to Paris earlier this week, which included talks with his French counterpart Francois Hollande.

He also dismissed as untrue Buhari's comments about "our brethren in prison".

Buhari this week said the Nigerian authorities were talking to Boko Haram prisoners in their custody and could offer them amnesty if the group hands over more than 200 schoolgirls abducted last year.—AFP

Guangdong reports 664 dengue cases

GUANGZHOU — Guangdong Province, south China, has seen 664 reported-dengue cases so far this year, down 84.2 percent from the same period a year ago, health authorities said Friday.

Of that number, 73 had caught dengue outside of Guangdong. The city of Chaozhou has been hit hardest with 570 cases, or roughly 86 percent of all in Guangdong.

The Guangdong Provincial Health and Family Planning Commission warned that the outbreak in Chaozhou since September may not be over yet.

The commission urged the public to take protective meas-

ures to avoid mosquito bites, and be extra careful if they must travel to regions known to have dengue cases. It also called on schools, communities and other public places to clean up rubbish and ground drain water, and take measures to kill mosquitos.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne, potentially fatal disease that mainly affects people in tropical and subtropical regions, causing fever, nausea, as well as muscle and joint aches. Guangdong reported the majority of China's 46,000 dengue cases last year, including more than 35,000 in the provincial capital Guangzhou.—*Xinhua*

30,000 year-old virus discovered in Siberian permafrost still infectious

BEIJING — Scientists recently discovered a 30,000 year-old giant virus deep in the Siberian permafrost.

Found in a soil sample from about 98 feet (30 metres) below the surface, the virus is about 1.5 micrometres long. It is named by scientists as *Mollivirus sibericum*, the fourth type of prehistoric virus found since 2003.

According to the study published in the recent journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the virus infects single-celled amoebas,

although it poses no danger to humans.

The viruses are potentially infectious if thawed from their Siberian deep freeze, said Chantal Abergel, co-author of the study, a scientist at the National Center for Scientific Research at Aix-Marseille University in France.

As the globe warms and the region thaws, mining and drilling will likely penetrate previously inaccessible areas, Abergel said, adding that further study of the viruses is needed to help clarify the risk.—*Xinhua*

Gene mutations explain Inuit's adaptation to high-fat diet in Arctic

WASHINGTON — An analysis of the genetic makeup of the Inuit people, who live in an extreme climate in the Arctic, has found how this population has adapted to a diet high in fat from fish and marine mammals such as seals and whales.

The study, published in the Friday issue of the journal *Science*, revealed that they have special mutations in the genes involved in fat metabolism that help them partly counteract the effects of a diet that otherwise could lead to cardiovascular disease for the rest of us.

Those genetic mutations in the Inuits, once known as Eskimos, work by lowering "bad" LDL cholesterol and fasting insulin levels, which presumably protect against cardiovascular disease and diabetes. They also have a significant effect on height, because growth is

in part regulated by a person's fatty acid profile.

"The mutations we found in the Inuit have profound physiological effects, changing the whole profile of fatty acids in the body, plus it reduces their height by two centimeters," said Ida Moltke, a University of Copenhagen associate professor of bioinformatics who is joint first author on the study.

"Height is controlled by many genes, but this mutation has one of the strongest effects on height ever found by geneticists," Moltke said.

Further analysis revealed that the mutations may have arisen about 20,000 years ago, when the Inuit ancestors lived in or around Bering Strait, the land "bridge" that Native American ancestors used to cross from Asia to North America.

Moltke and colleagues came

to their conclusions after analyzing the genomes of 191 Greenlandic Inuits who had less than five percent estimated European ancestry, and comparing them to the genomes of 60 Europeans and 44 Han Chinese. The results showed that the mutations in nearly 100 percent of the Inuit were found in a mere two percent of Europeans and 15 percent of Han Chinese.

The study also cast doubts on the benefits of omega-3 fatty acids and fish oil, which have previously been linked to the low incidence of cardiovascular disease in the Inuits.

"We've now found that they have unique genetic adaptations to this diet, so you cannot extrapolate from them to other populations," Moltke said. "It could be very good for the Inuit to eat all these omega-3 fatty acids, but not for the rest of us."—*Xinhua*

UK researchers plan to genetically modify human embryos

LONDON — Researchers at the Francis Crick Institute have applied to Britain's regulators to use new "genome editing" techniques on human embryos, according to a statement released Friday by the institute.

Genome editing techniques on human embryos are still seen as "forbidden fruit" in many countries.

Once the the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) approves the application,

the research project will focus on understanding the genes human embryos need to develop successfully, and any donated embryos will be used for research purposes only, according to the statement.

Editing the genomes of human embryos for a therapeutic use — for example, to eradicate a genetic disease — is illegal in Britain, but research work is possible under license from the HFEA.

The knowledge acquired from the research may improve embryo

development after in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and might provide better clinical treatments for infertility, says the statement.

"We also propose to use new methods based on CRISPR/Cas9, which allows very specific alterations to be made to the genome. By applying more precise and efficient methods in our research we hope to require fewer embryos and be more successful than the other methods currently used," said Dr Kathy Niankan, who led the project.—*Xinhua*

Infant sleep safety still misunderstood by many caregivers



A baby sleeps on its mother's shoulder in the Munich hospital 'Rechts der Isar'. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Even though most caregivers agree on the importance of safe infant sleep practices, many of them may not know what to do — or not do — to prevent sleep-related deaths from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), a US study suggests.

Researchers questioned caregivers of newborns at Staten Island University Hospital in New York City about sleep safety and found 53 percent of them disagreed with use of pacifiers —

which are in fact linked to a lower risk of SIDS — and 62 percent believed in swaddling infants — which is tied to an increased SIDS risk.

It's possible that new parents may have a hard time discarding advice from their own parents or grandparents even though recommendations about sleep safety have changed considerably from one generation to the next, lead study author Dr Sarah Varghese said by email.

"There is a certain power

surrounding "traditional" knowledge," said Varghese, now at Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. "Both parents and health care professionals need to stay up-to-date on recommendations."

Nationwide, SIDS kills about four babies out of every 10,000 live births, down from about 130 in 10,000 in 1990, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Despite the dramatic decline in death from SIDS since 1992, when the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) announced that babies should be placed on their backs to sleep, SIDS in recent years has remained the third leading cause of infant mortality, the authors report in the *Journal of Perinatology*.

Almost four years ago, the AAP issued new infant sleep guidelines for prevention of SIDS and other sleep-related deaths; the guidelines encouraged breastfeeding, pacifier use, and firm crib mattresses, and cautioned against blankets and pillows and bed-sharing.

The study by Varghese and colleagues, while small, suggests that at least some parents may not

have absorbed these most recent recommendations. The researchers questioned 121 caregivers, including parents and grandparents, of newborns delivered in 2013, asking how strongly they agreed or disagreed with recommended infant sleep safety practice.

Most participants strongly agreed on the importance of using a safety approved crib, avoiding exposure to smoke and getting routine childhood vaccinations.

But most of them disagreed with guidance against swaddling and using home monitors, as well as recommended pacifier use.

Some caregivers may avoid pacifiers because they have concerns about dental issues, while others may worry that it could interfere with breastfeeding, the study authors note. The AAP recommends starting pacifier use when babies are about three or four weeks old, after they are successfully breastfeeding.

Swaddling with blankets or specially designed wraps can increase the risk of infant death, but some nurses still swaddle infants in the hospital and teach new parents how to do it themselves, the

authors note. Some caregivers believe swaddling can soothe infants and make it easier for them to sleep. Only 61 percent of participants recalled being taught about sleep safety by a health care provider.

The study was small, limited to English-speaking participants and included primarily white caregivers, which may limit how much the findings apply to a more diverse population, the researchers acknowledge.

Even so, the findings highlight the challenge of conveying safe sleep practices to parents who may be overwhelmed by too much advice, said Dr. Michael Goodstein, a neonatologist at York Hospital WellSpan Health in York, Pennsylvania and a member of the AAP task force on SIDS. "Even if parents have been made aware of safe sleep information, there may be competing and conflicting information and advice available from multiple sources including books, magazines, family and friends, TV shows and the Internet, as well as many different health care providers," Goodstein, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email.—*Reuters*

Congratulations!

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KBZ Bank, KBZ Group and the Union of Myanmar

for the successful signing of the very first Enterprise Agreement

in the country between

KBZ Bank, KBZ Group

and

Microsoft Corporation of the United States of America

on 18th September 2015 at Sedona Hotel, Yangon.

With the aims to further transforming IT technology using world-class technology and setting the foundation for collaborating in further development in the financial services and other sectors.



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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (15:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21st September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, scattered in Mandalay and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

"Congratulations to **KBZ Bank**"

for achieving the following international awards

from Euromoney, London:

"Best Bank in Myanmar 2015"

&

"Euromoney Achievement Award for Corporate & Social Responsibility (CSR) 2015"

We are very proud of you for receiving these awards
on the 14th September 2015 and wish you the very best
to continue your dedicated support for
the welfare of our Myanmar people.



Chairman and Central Working Committee

Myanmar - Japan Association

Symposium on The Gut In Health and Disease on 26th September

The microbiology society of Myanmar Medical Association will hold a Symposium on "The Gut In Health and Disease". The Speakers includes Prof. Kyi Kyi Thinn (Emeritus Professor, UM1), Prof. Mya Mya Aye (Professor/ Head, Department of Microbiology, UMMG), Prof. Tin Tin May (Professor/Head, GI Unit (Retired)) and Prof. Thein Lwin (Professor, Department of Surgery, UM 1).

The symposium will be held on 26 September (Saturday) at Myanmar Medical Association. Registration can be done at Microbiology Department, University of Medicine (1), (2) and Defence Services Medical Academy during office hours.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development (MLFRD)

Department of Rural Development (DRD)

G9174-MYA (JFPR): Enhancing Rural

Livelihoods and Incomes Project (ERLIP)

Assignment Title: SUPPORT SERVICES

PROVIDER (SSP) – YWA NGAN TOWNSHIP (Package No. 7)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a grant in the amount of USD12 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). MLFRD is the Executing Agency of the Project and DRD is the primary implementing agency. The Government shall use part of Grant proceeds to engage a firm or entity (such as NGO) to field a team of experts for the Project's Support Service Provider (SSP) for Ywa Ngan Township in Shan State covering a period of one year with expected commencement in December 2015. The goals of the assignment are to: (a) improve household livelihoods/incomes by implementing self-selected village subprojects using 1st annual round of small village tract (VT) block grants; (b) develop capacities - to prepare & implement development plans - of the DRD Ywa Ngan Township Grant Implementation Unit (GIU), the priority VT development support committees (DSCs) and the village DSCs; and (c) develop effective & efficient participatory process to improve livelihoods and incomes.

DRD now invites eligible firms and entities (international and local) to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the consultancy work. Interested parties must give information on their qualifications and relevant experiences to perform the services. Parties may associate with other firms or NGOs to form a joint venture or sub-consultancy arrangement. The consultant will be selected per Consultants' Qualifications Selection (CQS) method set out in the Guidelines on the Use of Consultants of ADB.

EOIs must be submitted in written form to the address shown below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 22 October 2015. Additional information and copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained from the DRD webpage: <http://www.drdmyanmar.org> or at the address below during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

Attn: U Kyaw Moe Hlaing
Director, Department of Rural Development
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
Tel & Fax: 067-409447
Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Email address: JFPR.ADB@gmail.com

New Selena song released 20 years after her death

LOS ANGELES — Twenty years after Selena's tragic death, the family of the beloved Mexican-American singer has shared a previously unreleased track, "Oh No (I'll Never Fall In Love Again)."

The "Dreaming of You" singer's father, Abraham Quintanilla, said the song was never recorded professionally, but they found a recording of Selena

rehearsing the track and decided to release it, reported Entertainment Weekly.

"The reason we never released it as one of her songs is because it's not up to par as far as sound is concerned, but years later my son AB recorded it with the Kumbia Kings.

"We thought that the fans would enjoy it even though it's not a professional recording," he said.—PTI

David Beckham laughs at James Bond rumour

LOS ANGELES — Former soccer star David Beckham, while denying he would be the next James Bond, said he could not stop laughing at the reports.

Beckham, 40, said he found the rumour funny, setting the record straight that he was "definitely" not planning to be an 007 agent, reported Aceshowbiz.

"I saw that the other day and I laughed many times about it. Definitely won't be in the next James Bond," he

said. It was fans' effort that pushed Beckham's name to be considered as the next James Bond as Daniel Craig's contract approached its expiration date.

Last week, his representative quickly said Beckham "was not planning to step into the action heroes shoes any time soon, despite recently expressing his interest in acting.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

I'm a Bond woman not a Bond girl: Monica Bellucci

LONDON — Monica Bellucci is the the oldest woman to play the love interest of the James Bond and the actress says she is

a "Bond woman not a Bond girl".

The 50-year-old "The Matrix Revolutions" star, who will be seen opposite

Daniel Craig in upcoming 007 film, "Spectre" says she is too mature to be called Bond girl, reported The Guardian newspaper.

"I can't say I'm a Bond girl because I'm too mature to be a Bond girl. I say Bond lady; Bond woman. But I'm proud to be a Bond lady, because actually, Bond is the most amazing man. You know why? Because he doesn't exist," Bellucci said.

The actress was all praise for director Sam Mendes for choosing her.

"Men have the power in everything: journalism, acting, direction; in banks, finances, schools. All the laws are made by men. Men think that women, when they're not able

to procreate any more, become old.

"That is not true – they are still amazing! That's why I think that Sam Mendes in choosing me, an adult woman, created a big revolution," she said.

The Italian actress, who is known for her beauty does not mind ageing as she believes she has a lot more to offer.

"Beauty is like a mask, and people think that when you're beautiful, some things can be easier. But even though the problems are still the same, there's a moment in your life where the beauty of youth goes away... When you have to deal, because time goes by. All I can say is that I'm ready for it."—PTI



PHOTO: PTI

Jackie Collins, doyenne of the steamy Hollywood novel, dies at 77

LOS ANGELES — Jackie Collins, the best-selling author of dozens of steamy novels who depicted the boardrooms and bedrooms of Hollywood's power crowd, died on Saturday of breast cancer at age 77, her family said.

The British-born Collins, younger sister of actress Joan Collins, died in Los Angeles, said her spokeswoman Melody Korenbrot.

"It is with tremendous sadness that we announce the death of our beautiful, dynamic and one of a kind mother, Jackie Collins, who died of breast cancer today," the family said in a statement.

Collins, who wrote about characters driven by lust, power and greed, sold more than 500 millions copies of her books in 40 countries and has some 30 New York Times best-sellers, according to her own website.

Collins followed her older sister to Los Angeles when she was just a teenager. She did not only write about Hollywood, she also enjoyed great success in the entertainment industry with several of her stories adapted for television.

"I'm a storyteller. I'm not a literary writer and I never pretended to be," Collins told Reuters in 2008.

Some of her most successful novels included the 1983 "Hollywood Wives," about women living glamorous lives behind the scenes of the industry, and the 1985 "Lucky" and 1990 "Lady Boss" from her series focused on the ravishing and ambitious character Lucky Santangelo, who was born into an organised crime family.

Collins faced controversy during her career, writing novels so steamy they outraged political figures from Britain to China.

Her debut novel, "The World is Full of Married Men," was reportedly deemed "filthy and disgusting" by author Barbara Cartland and banned in Australia. Collins told Reuters the book was "way before its time" with its tale of a woman who cheats on her husband and another who likes sex with married men.

Collins promised readers unrivaled insiders' knowledge of Hollywood and said she wrote about "real people in disguise."

"If anything, my characters are toned down — the truth is much more bizarre," she wrote on her website.

She said people in Hollywood trusted her with their stories because she knew the rules the town lived by, and because she was devoted to marriage.

But Collins said her life lacked the scandal of her novels. She described writing as her lifelong obsession, and confessed to rising at dawn to write out pages in long hand. She also received emails from teenagers who said reading her novels taught them about sex.

Collins was married

to her second husband, Oscar Lerman, for more than 25 years until his death in 1992.

Joan Collins, reacting to her sister's death, told People magazine that Jackie was her best friend. Earlier this month, Jackie Collins told People she had only recently informed her older sister of her battle with breast cancer for over six years.

"I admire how she handled this. She was a wonderful, brave and a beautiful person and I love her," Joan Collins told the magazine.

Jackie Collins is survived by three daughters.—Reuters



British author Jackie Collins poses for a photograph in New York. PHOTO: REUTERS

Anderson travels in time at London Fashion Week show

LONDON — Bold and prone to experimentation, British fashion designer Jonathan Anderson proved his worth on Saturday with an eye-popping catwalk show at London Fashion Week featuring time-traveling creations.

The models had almost androgynous looks and the designs were sparse in colour.

The dresses contained patterns using the infinity-inspired designs of US sculptor Richard Zawitz. Some also appeared to go back in time, with 19th century style puffy sleeves on the upper arms.

Anderson, who was showing off the spring-summer 2016 collection for his own label J.W. Anderson, is also creative director at the Spanish accessories maker Loewe, owned by French luxury giant Loewe.

Aged just 31, he is considered hugely influential.

“Brands need to move at the speed the world does, and today that is fast,” he told the Guardian newspaper in an interview ahead of the show.

“The minute you can be predicted, as a brand, you’ve got a problem,” he said.

The young Irish de-

signer Simone Rocha offered a more sober collection featuring short dresses in blacks and beiges with an elegant and modern look.

Fashionistas awaited the Versus Versace show later on Saturday, which will be followed by Vivienne Westwood Red Label on Sunday and Burberry Prorsum on Monday.

In its 62nd year, London Fashion Week has left behind the luxury of Somerset House and has taken up residence in an Art Deco multi-storey car park in the heart of London’s once-seedy Soho district.—AFP

Askmebazaar to enter fashion, travel spaces in 2016

MUMBAI — Home and lifestyle online marketplace Askmebazaar is planning to enter fast-fashion and travel verticals next year.

“We are keenly watching search queries and transactions in the entire ecosystem, and the fastest growing categories are fashion and travel,” Group Chief Marketing Officer, Askme.Com, Manav Sethi told PTI.

The Gurgaon-based Askme.Com — flagship product from Getit Infomedia — and Askmebazaar. Com work hand-in-hand as a listing-cum-transaction ecosystem, he said.

“We will invest in pockets of excellence where merchants can come and sell, and we might look at acquisitions going forward,” he added.

The basic listing on Askme.Com is free and it claims to have 15,000 paid advertisers who pay Rs

6,000-25,000 annually for premium listings. Askmebazaar helps offline merchants set up online storefronts and lists their products.

“We have about 7 lakh stock keeping units (SKUs) listed on our site, excluding books and movies,” Sethi said.

To sharpen its transaction business, the company uses consumer insights through data analytics based on the searches on Askme.Com, and other sites, he added.

“We at present do our data analytics in-house but are looking to buy start-ups in the space,” he said.

The company recently acquired Mebelkart.Com, a furniture marketplace and grocery offering ‘Bestat-lowest’.

“In the grocery business, we have 30 hubs in the Delhi NCR, and have integrated backwards to tie up with various local mer-

chants and stores,” he said.

In next six months, it plans to roll out hyper-local grocery delivery operations in 27 cities, he indicated.

According to experts, grocery accounts for the highest value of transactions in the e-commerce space with a share of 60 per cent, against a paltry 3-4 per cent in modern trade.

“The grocery business will account for 40-50 per cent of our business in the next two years,” he said.

In the furniture vertical, Askmebazaar has 1,000 merchants at present, and Sethi said this number would go up to 50,000 in the next three quarters.

Askme.Com is looking at a model where they can create a critical mass, and is not keen on getting into any business with inventory management, he said, adding the company has earmarked Rs 350 crore for marketing this year.—PTI

Keeping wedding secret wasn’t fun: Justin Theroux

NEW YORK — Actor-filmmaker Justin Theroux says planning his secret August wedding to actress Jennifer Aniston was no fun.

Theroux said keeping the nuptials under wraps took away the excitement out of planning the ceremony, reported the New York Daily News.

“I wouldn’t say it was

fun to plan. Part of the fun of planning a wedding is telling people and we had to keep it under wraps,” he said. The 44-year-old “Leftovers” star and Aniston, 46, tied the knot in front of a slew of A-listers on August 5 in the backyard of their Bel Air, California, home, before jetting off to Bora Bora for their honeymoon. The pair kept

the event a surprise by telling their family and friends that they were attending Theroux’s 43rd birthday party. Theroux said once the ceremony was over he was instantly less stressed.

“I noticed it almost immediately. It was like your blood pressure goes down two PSI. It’s not like life is completely different. It’s a beautiful thing.—PTI

International photography festival kicks off in ancient Chinese city



A visitor views photos at the Pingyao International Photography Festival (PIP) in Pingyao County, north China’s Shanxi Province, 19 September, 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

PINGYAO — The 15th Pingyao International Photography Festival (PIP) opened on Saturday, attracting more than 2,100 professional and amateur photographers from 30 countries and regions this year, including the United States, Britain and Germany.

More than 17,000 photos will be displayed during the festival.

“China and the West differ in many ways, however, when viewing the works presented by the world at PIP, the barriers of language, culture, tradition and politics fall by the wayside,” said Tina Weltz, chairwoman of the Professional Photographers of Canada.

Wei Mingxi, head of Pingyao County, said that the festival illustrates the

idea that photography is borderless.

Coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, photos that were taken during the war will be displayed under the theme “home and dream”, Wei added. PIP began in 2001. It has attracted nearly 30,000 Chinese and foreign photographers and over 3.7 million visitors.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(21-9-2015 07:00 am~22 -9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 2) Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)
07:40	Am	SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part-I)
08:53	Am	Dengue Fever
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Toys... for your eye-catching
09:35	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-1) Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Continuation In Rural Tradition
10:56	Am	Hip-Hop and Design

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-5) (Part-2)
07:54	Pm	Human Right Human Dignity International Film Festival
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories Of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son)

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

Traditional Korean wrestling tournaments kick off in Yangon

YANGON — The Asian Ssireum Championships and the 5th World Ssireum Championships kicked off on Sunday at Thuwanna Stadium. The two sporting competitions have attracted 113 competitors from 18 countries and it is the first time that Myanmar has hosted a ssireum event.

The invitation to host the events so was made by Korea Sports Federation and the World Ssireum Federation to Myanmar's Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Ssireum Federation was subsequently formed with 30 founding members in April this year, said federation president U Tin Aung. The competitions will run until 23 September.

U Tin Aung likened ssireum to the traditional Rakhine sport of kyin and said he wished Myanmar's 14 athletes — who comprise an even split of male and females — the best of luck.

Participating countries included Georgia, Finland, Estonia, Netherlands, Ghana, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Cambodia, Korea, Lao, Japan, Vietnam, Ma-



Rakhine "KYIN" professionals demonstrate their skills at The Asian Ssireum Championships and the 5th World Ssireum Championships. PHOTO: Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)

laysia, China, Iran and Ukraine.

The opening ceremony was attended by Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman Union Minister for Sports U Tint San and South Korea's Ambassa-

dor to Myanmar, who is also the World Ssireum Championships Holding Committee Vice-President Mr Lee Han Sung, World Ssireum Federation President Mr Yoon Myung Sik.

The opening ceremony featured demonstrations of Myanmar's national sport of chinlone, as well as kyin and ssireum.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)

Benzema goal edges Real Madrid past Granada

MADRID — A solitary goal from Karim Benzema spared Real Madrid's blushes as the Spanish giants moved to the top of La Liga with a nervy 1-0 win over Granada on Saturday.

Atletico Madrid remain just a point behind their city rivals as Fernando Torres came off the bench to inspire Diego Simeone's men to a 2-0 win at Eibar.

Real had scored 15 times in their previous three matches, but they were grateful to some poor Granada finishing and controversial calls by the officials to claim all three points.

Benzema grabbed the only goal of the game nine minutes into the second-half with a cushioned header from Isco's fine cross.

Victory moves Madrid a point ahead of Barcelona at the top of the table with the Catalans not in action until Sunday when they host Levante.

"We knew before the game it could be a difficult game, against a good team that counter-attacks well, and that was how it was," said Madrid boss Rafael Benitez.

"We lost possession that allowed them to counter-attack and we didn't take our chances which complicated the game.

"I know we have to win and play well, but when the game doesn't go as you wish, to win and get the three points is very important."

The scene appeared to be set at a sunny Bernabeu for Cristiano Ronaldo to surpass Raul to become Madrid's all-time top goalscorer.

There was even a special introduction for the World Player of the Year as his mascot for the day was Zaid Mohsen, the seven-year-old Syrian refugee made famous when he and his father were tripped by a Hungarian camerawoman.

However, the script wasn't followed once the action got underway as Granada passed up a host of chances to spring a massive surprise.

Marcelo was forced into a clearance off the Real goal-line early on before Isaac Success fluffed his first of a number of opportunities when he failed to hit the target when unmarked at the back post.

Ronaldo's first opening came 18 minutes in, but Andres Fernandez stood up well to block his effort before Benzema failed to turn the rebound home.—AFP

Son shines at White Hart Lane to give Spurs victory



Son Heung-min scores the first goal for Tottenham against Crystal Palace during Barclays Premier League at White Hart Lane Stadium in London, England on 20 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Son Heung-min scored the only goal on his home Premier League debut as Tottenham Hotspur beat Crystal Palace 1-0 on Sunday and moved into the top half of the table after a well-deserved victory in an end-to-end London derby.

Son, who scored twice when Spurs beat FK Qarabag

3-1 in the Europa League on Thursday, scored again after Spurs broke up a Palace attack in the 68th minute.

Erik Lamela released substitute Christian Eriksen, and the Dane, who had only been on for three minutes after a month out injured, played the ball into space for the South Korean international who honed in on goal

before powering a shot that went through goalkeeper Alex McCarthy's legs and into the net.

Spurs dominated possession for most of an entertaining first half without breaking down the Palace defence or seriously troubling McCarthy.

But Palace, despite being continually penned back twice came close to scoring

before the break.

Hugo Lloris's acrobatic dive kept out a thunderous Bakary Sako free kick after 38 minutes and Yohan Cabaye smashed an angled shot against the far post just before halftime.

The result lifted Spurs up to ninth with nine points from six matches, with Palace eighth on the same total.—Reuters