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WORKERS' RIGHTS BOOST

Tripartite talks result in agreement on amending labour laws

Aye Min Soe

GOVERNMENT representatives have agreed with factory owners and workers to amend labour laws and review standard terms in employment contracts, according to Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Securities.

U Win Shein, the Director-General of the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on Monday that all parties reached an agreement during the National Tripartite Dialogue Forum in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The details of the amendments are yet to be decided, but the government has sought advices from labour organizations to make the changes aim to better protect the rights of workers, said Eaindara Kyi Tin, Legal Department of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM).

There are weaknesses in Myanmar's labour laws such as the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law, the Workers Compensation Act, the 2012 Labour Organisation Law, she added.

Two days before Friday's tripartite forum, trade unions under CTUM held a conference involving international labour experts in Yangon. The conference focused on weaknesses in the country's 19 labour laws and the impact of the national minimum wage, which came into effect on 1 September.

During the conference, Assistant General Secretary of CTUM



A worker at a garment factory in Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone, Yangon. — PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Phyo Sandar Soe highlighted the weaknesses of collective bargaining agreement, which are also included in Settlement of Labour Dispute Law.

The trade unions said that the law is too weak because it only provides for fines rather than jail terms for factory bosses who breach the law.

Trade unions will reportedly discuss existing employment contract terms with government rep-

resentatives in detail, with a particular emphasis on addressing the lack of a role for workers' unions at factories.

The government issued an announcement in late August, urging owners of factories to sign an employment contract with their workers within 30 days of the employment. However this has not been made mandatory.

The tripartite forum in Nay Pyi Taw also focused solving

current labour disputes through bipartite meeting between factory owners and representatives of workers' unions first before meeting with the government.

A senior official at the Department of Employment told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that workers who were sacked from factories when Myanmar's new minimum wage was enacted on 1 September can receive help in finding new jobs at the depart-

ment's township offices.

According to department statistics, so far more than 1,000 laid-off workers have found new jobs.

There are currently around 27,000 job opportunities offered by 135 factories in 11 townships in Yangon Region.

"We are ready to help all workers find jobs, including those who lost their jobs as a result of the minimum wage being enacted," the official said.—GNLM

Efforts to tackle rabies may get a boost in Yangon

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON City Development Committee hopes to roll out a rabies control and prevention programme in the city later this year with the help of foreign experts, a YCDC official announced on Monday.

The wife of US Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell, Ms Min Lee, and her friends will provide funds for the project if authorities give the green light, said Dr Hla May

Oo, assistant head of YCDC's Veterinary and Slaughter Houses Department. The project covers surgical sterilisation and vaccination programmes as well as public awareness campaigns about rabies and dog bite prevention.

"The three-year project would begin in Sanchaung and Mingala Taungnyunt townships, where there are large populations of stray dog populations. It would continue until 2018," she said at a seminar celebrating World Ra-

bies Day, which fell on 28 September.

YCDC has submitted a proposal to the Union Attorney-General's Office for the programme, whose main aim is to reduce the rate of human deaths caused by rabies, to control the number of stray dogs on Yangon's streets and ultimately, to create a rabies-free city.

Under the project, the recognised experts in the field of rabies control will conduct a survey to

obtain information about rabies and dog population management in the commercial capital.

According to a survey carried out by YCDC in 2014, there are approximately 70,000 stray dogs in Yangon. Between January and March this year, more than 500 dog bite victims received free rabies treatment at Insein General Hospital in Yangon, said Dr Tint Tint Kyi, a Senior Consultant Physician at the hospital.

According to the World

Health Organisation, a person dies every 15 minutes from rabies disease around the world, and 40 percent of victims are children under the age of 15.

YCDC previously used poison-laced meat in an attempt to lower the numbers of stray dogs in 33 Yangon townships. However due to repeated public outcries, the practice came to end in 2014 and was replaced with a vaccination and birth control programme.—GNLM

Traditional boat races entertain crowds

CROWDS came out to watch traditional boat races at Meikhtila's Phaung-taw Oo Pagoda festival on 24 September. The festival has not been held for the past two years, but it is the 132nd anniversary of the festival.

Hundreds of residents from Meikhtila Township's 379 villages

and 14 wards attended the festival, where more than 20 traditional boat racing teams will compete from 9am to 5pm every day during the five-day festival.

There was also a donation ceremony for 138 monks at the pagoda on 28 September.—*Chan Tha (Meikhtila)*



Boat racing attracts local people as well as tourists in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHANTHA

Library course opens in Tatkon



A library in Tatkon needs donation as it has not been completed yet. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN

A COURSE for librarians on book logging, storage and lending began in Tatkon Township on Sunday at Bawa Shaysaung Library in Bayintnaung Ward.

The course is being

conducted by the township Information and Public Relations Department officer Daw Tint Tint Khine and librarian Daw Than Than Nwe.

The two-day course has 22 trainees, including

teachers from Paintaw Middle School and volunteer librarians.

The Bawa Shaysaung Library is in need of furniture, ceiling repairs and other improvements, said library patron Abbot

Monk Tayzawintaka from the Paintaw Monastery.

Those who wish to donate to the library can contact Abbot Monk Tayzawintaka on 09-250198448.—*Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)*



Daw Hnin Wai, General Secretary of Myanmar Women's Entrepreneurs Association and Daw Win Ei Khaing, an executive of MWEA, seen at the airport before their departure for Japan on 26 September. PHOTO: TIN TUN AUNG (MNA)

Waso robe offering ceremony held

THE Tamil Hindi Foundation of Myanmar held its 11th Waso (Monk) Robe Offering Ceremony at the State Pariyatithatana University on 27 September.

Three meals and donations were offered to each of the 410 monks participating in the ceremony.

State Pariyatithatana University's rector, Sayadaw Kumaya, gave a sermon at the event. Waso robe offering ceremonies are held across the country during the four-month Buddhist Retreat, which is roughly from July until October.—*Soe Win (MLA)*

Traffic police get 650 tasers

DUE to a recent increase in the number of traffic rule violators behaving aggressively towards police, officers have been issued with tasers for the purposes of self-defence.

To date, 650 tasers have already been distributed to traffic police in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and in Mon and Kayin states.

A police force official explained that traffic police are also to be equipped with walkie-talkies, batons

and traffic wands.

Police have the right to protect themselves in accordance with Section 100 of the code of criminal procedures, the officer said.

Tasers are an electroshock weapon that fire two dart-like electrodes which disrupt voluntary control of muscles causing "neuromuscular incapacitation".

The use of tasers by law enforcement officers has sparked controversy around the world, particularly when tasers have

been used at schools in the United States and resulted in the deaths of students by bringing on what is known as "excited delirium".

"According to the law, an attacker may be stopped using this equipment, even if it leads to the attacker's death," said the unnamed official.

Tasers for male police officers measure nearly 1.5 feet long, while for female officers, they measure between eight and ten inches.—*Ohmar Thant*



The use of tasers by law enforcement officers has sparked controversy around the world. PHOTO: OHMAR THANT

Myanmar, Thailand to strengthen relations

VICE PRESIDENT Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Thailand's ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suvanajata in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday. They discussed further strengthening relations between Myanmar and Thailand. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Tin Oo Lwin, U Han Sein, U Thant Shin and Dr Win Myint.—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham (Third from Left) welcomes Thailand's ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suvanajata (Second from Left). — PHOTO: MNA

Russians eye investment in helicopter equipment manufacturing

VICE PRESIDENT U Nyan Tun received a delegation from Russia led by the chairman of the Russia-Myanmar Joint Commission, Mr Alexander Foreman, in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Discussions focused on Russia's plans to invest in a military and civilian helicopter manufacturing plant. The parties also discussed promoting investment between Myanmar and Russia, signing a protection agreement and promoting cooperation between the two countries' trade and investment sectors.

The meeting was also attended by deputy ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, U Zin Yaw and Daw Lei Lei Thein and Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vasily Pospelov.—MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo together with Russian delegation led by Mr Alexander Foreman, the chairman of the Russia-Myanmar Joint Commission. — PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets members of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met members of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission on Monday in Yangon. The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, members of the commission and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—MNA

What they stand for: campaigns aired

The Federal Union Party and Dawei Nationals Party broadcast their campaign speeches on Monday.

Dawei Nationals Party



Chairman U Aye Min said that Dawei nationals have been engaged in political activities since the struggle for independence took place in Myanmar. The party stands for equal rights and equal status and it will work towards official recognition and self-determination for Dawei nationals.—GNLM

Federal Union Party



Vice Chairman U Sao Thar Oo (also known as) U Thiha Thu said that party advocates federalism, the protection of ethnic rights, independent foreign policy, a free market economy, landownership for farmers and internal peace. He said the party will build factories to offer medicines for people living with HIV/AIDS free of charge and that it will work to protect the rights of women, young people and labourers.—GNLM

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 Union Pa-O National Organization, Arakan National party and Chin League for Democracy on 29 September.—GNLM

New Global Goals could not be achieved without full, equal rights for half of world's population: Mr. Ban Ki-moon

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin attended 'Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action' which was jointly organized by the People Republic of China and UN Women on Sunday.

The event was held in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the third day of the UN Sustainable Development Summit.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon declared that the 2030 Agendas, new Global Goals could not be achieved without full and equal rights for half of the world's population. The Secretary-General said that world leaders are signaling their personal responsibility for gender equality and women's empowerment. He also highlighted the importance of civil society, women's organizations and human rights defenders in the work to drive the 2030 Agenda forward, and called upon the private sector to promote gender equality.

The President of the People's Republic of China mentioned that China will donate US\$ 10 million to the UN Women for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action and the realization of the related goals in the post-2015 development agenda in order to support women's development worldwide and the work of the UN Women.

On the same day, Union Minister met the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain Mr. Ignacio Ybanez Rubio and Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr. Borge Brende respectively. During the meetings, they exchanged views to promote bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries in the regional and international arena.

The Union Minister also attended "the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) 2015 Annual Meeting: Clinton Global Citizen Awards" held at the Time Square Hotel, New York. The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) was established in 2005 by former American President Bill Clinton, convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.—MNA

ELECTION COUNTDOWN
 Make your voice count. Cast your vote. **40** DAYS

Singapore names Heng Swee Keat as new finance minister



Heng Swee Keat. PHOTO: REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Singapore's new finance minister will be Heng Swee Keat, replacing Tharman Shanmugaratnam who will remain deputy prime minister in a new cabinet, the prime minister announced on Monday, just over two weeks after winning a general election. Heng is currently education minister and was a former managing director of Singapore's central bank.

Shanmugaratnam, an international financial expert who has worked for the International Monetary Fund, will also be the coordi-

nating minister for economic and social policies.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong told a news conference the new cabinet would prepare the next team of leaders to be ready to take over from him and his senior colleagues after the next general elections, due within five years.

Lee and his People's Action Party, which has ruled the city-state since its independence in 1965, won a convincing general election victory this month, with 69.9 percent of the vote, the highest win since 2001.—Reuters

Indian PM hails social media strength

BEIJING — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed social media power when he visited Facebook headquarters in California, USA.

"The strength of social media today is that it can tell governments where they are wrong and can stop them from moving in the wrong direction," Modi

said on Monday. "We used to have elections every five years and now we can have them every five minutes," the tech-savvy prime minister added.

Modi, 65, regularly uses both Facebook and Twitter to communicate with millions of his followers.

Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg moderated the hour-long public talk which was broadcast online in Facebook.

Modi also used the occasion to promote his "Digital India" initiative, which seeks to connect thousands more Indian villages to the Internet and boost technology investments.—Xinhua

China defends envoy to Malaysia after comments on racism

BEIJING — China on Monday defended the actions of its ambassador to Malaysia after he was summoned to clarify his remarks criticising extremism and racism ahead of a planned pro-Malay rally in the capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia's foreign ministry said it would meet Chinese Ambassador Huang Huikang so that he could clarify comments that "attracted attention and caused concern to the Malaysian public".

The Star newspaper quoted Huang as saying on Friday that China opposes "any form of discrimination against races and any form of extremism". He was speaking ahead of a planned rally by a Malay-dominated, pro-gov-

ernment group that was reported to be demanding more Malay participation in the popular Petaling Street market, known as Chinatown.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Huang was visiting the Chinese community during the Mid-Autumn Festival, a traditional Chinese holiday that fell on Sunday, adding that it was a "normal" activity.

He said China did "not interfere in other countries' domestic politics nor intervene in other countries' internal affairs".

"China and Malaysia are friendly neighbours, we hope that Malaysia can maintain national unity and stability and ethnic harmony," Hong said at a daily news briefing.

Huang had made the comments on a visit to Petaling Street. Rally organizers said on Friday night they had cancelled the planned protest on advice from the police.

Mostly Malay 'red shirts' took to the streets with 30,000 marchers in the middle of September to show support for Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is battling allegations of corruption and mismanagement at indebted state fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd.

Critics said previous anti-government protests, led by a pro-democracy group called Bersih and which attracted many urban Chinese people, had insulted the country's Malay leaders.—Reuters

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Junta mulls 'Great Firewall' for Thailand

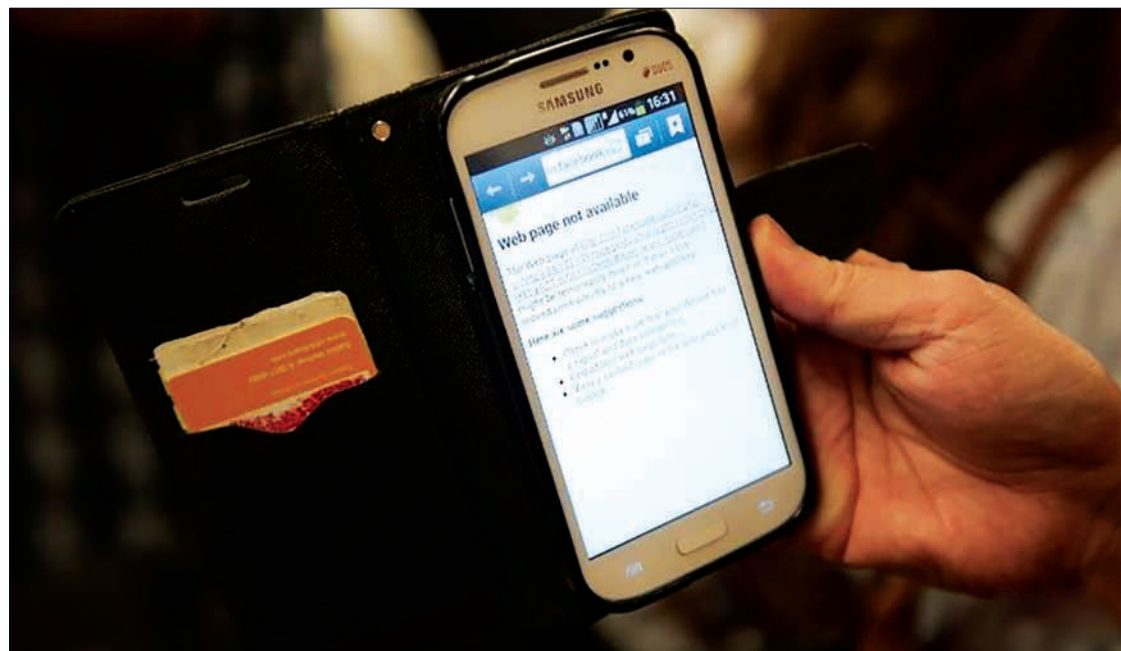


PHOTO: AFP

BANGKOK — Thailand's junta is facing growing opposition over plans to introduce a single internet gateway for the country in a bid to increase the government's ability to monitor the web and block content.

Tens of thousands of people have signed a petition against the proposal which has been dubbed the "Great Firewall of Thailand" — a play on China's draconian internet censorship programme — by commentators, analysts and netizens.

News of the proposal first emerged last week when a cabinet order was unearthed by a Thai programmer and spread on social media.

By Monday afternoon more

than 72,000 people had signed a petition on Change.org calling on the government to abandon the proposal.

The cabinet statement, published quietly on a government news website, ordered the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology to "set up a single gateway in order to use it as a tool to control inappropriate websites and information flows from other countries via the Internet".

A spokesman for the ministry Monday confirmed to AFP that they were working on the plans and that it aimed to update the public on the proposals within a week.

Internet gateways are the

points on a network where a country connects to the worldwide web.

Initially Thailand's internet flowed through a single gateway that was owned by the government.

But the sector was deregulated in 2006, allowing dozens of companies to open their own access points resulting in dramatically increased internet speeds and Thailand emerging as a regional IT hub.

Akamai, which ranks countries on their connectivity levels, says the kingdom's average internet speed this year is 7.5 mbps, on a par with nations like Australia, New Zealand and France.

Thailand's junta, which

seized power in a coup last year, has vowed to expand the country's appeal as a regional internet hub unveiling a plan it has dubbed the "The Digital Economy".

But the generals have also ramped up censorship, blocking scores of sites and pursuing online critics with criminal charges and so-called "attitude adjustment" sessions.

Prosecutions under the notoriously strict lese majeste legislation have also sky-rocketed, with the vast majority of cases brought over comments made online, including a record-breaking 30-year sentence for one man over the content of six Facebook posts.

Critics of the single internet gateway plan say it will allow the military to further increase censorship as well as leave the country's IT hub status vulnerable if the gateway fails.

"A return to the gold old days of a (government) monopoly would be disastrous," wrote technology analyst Don Sambandaraksa on Telecoms Asia.

"The people of Thailand can kiss a fast internet goodbye purely from technical incompetence, not to mention all the monitoring, censoring and deep packet inspection the military want," he added.

Many ordinary Thais have flocked to social media to oppose the plan.

"It contradicts policy of promoting Digital Economy," wrote Twitter user @NataliePP.

"It's irrational. State paranoia is driving irrationality," she added.—AFP

Abe urges Iran to follow nuclear deal so Japan can boost investment



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

NEW YORK — The leaders of Japan and Iran met Sunday on the sidelines of UN meetings in New York, with Tokyo proposing increased investment as an inducement for Tehran implementing a nuclear deal with six major powers.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani also agreed to work together toward an early conclusion of recently commenced talks to sign a mutual investment pact, a Japanese official said.

Abe said it was important for Tehran to put into action the accord on the country's nuclear programmes reached in July with the UN Security Council permanent members, plus Ger-

many, and cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Japanese leader promised that his government would help more Japanese companies launch business in Iran and make contributions to Iranian economic expansion, according to Katsunobu Kato, deputy chief Cabinet secretary.

Rouhani asked Abe for help in increasing settlement with Japanese banks, which is restricted under international sanction measures against Iran's nuclear programmes, so Tehran can import more medicine and medical equipment from Japan.

Abe told Rouhani such assistance could be provided as long as Iran fully implemented

the nuclear deal, allowing the lifting of economic sanctions by the United States and European countries, according to Kato.

Abe and Rouhani agreed to enhance cultural and academic exchanges between Japan and Iran, Kato added.

In a separate meeting, Abe and the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, agreed to closely cooperate in efforts to stabilize the situation in the Middle East, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Abe and Tamim exchanged views on sources of concern in the region such as Islamic State extremists operating in Syria and Iraq and the situation in Yemen, the ministry said in a news release.

On bilateral issues, Abe requested that Qatar ensure a stable supply of liquefied natural gas to Japan.

The premier told Tamim that he believes a bilateral tax pact approved by Japan's Diet earlier this month will further promote economic activities between the two countries.

Tamim was quoted as saying by the ministry that Japan is an important trading partner for his country, and that he would like to help boost investment between the two countries and strengthen relations in various areas including security and defence.

Abe explained Japan's new security laws that expand the scope of operations of Japanese troops abroad. Tamim welcomed the enactment of the laws earlier this month, according to the ministry.—*Kyodo News*

300 million elderly not receiving long-term care: ILO

GENEVA— More than half the world's elderly lack access to long-term care, the International Labour Organisation said in a report Monday, condemning the "deplorable" situation facing a rapidly ageing population.

A new report from the UN agency showed that some 300 million people over the age of 65 cannot easily access long-term care when needed.

Despite the ballooning need of the elderly for long-term care, Monday's report showed most countries were ignoring or under-prioritising their needs.

"This deplorable situation is reflected in the very low public LTC (long term care) expenditure, which amounts to less than 1.0 percent of GDP on average globally," study author Xenia Scheil-Adlung said in a statement. The ILO report charged that "discrimination and negative attitudes towards older persons" were a big part of the problem.

"Ageism is a global phenomenon that is sometimes even laid down in regulations and legislation, for example higher costs or unfavourable conditions of certain insurance policies for older persons, or being refused for specific medical services due to age," it said.

Only 5.6 percent of the world's population lives in countries, including Germany

and Japan, that provide universal long-term care.

A full 48 percent of the global population meanwhile is not protected by national legislation on long-term care, while another 46.3 percent are largely excluded from coverage due to narrow regulations that limit benefits to the poorest.

In Africa, more than 90 percent of the elderly have no access to long-term care when they need it.

But even the most "generous" countries, found in Europe, spend only two percent or less of their GDP on long-term care, the ILO report said.

This forces many older people living in even some of the world's richest countries to pay for up to 100 percent of their care from their own pockets.

"Persons in need should not face financial hardship and an increased risk of poverty due to the financial consequences of accessing care," the report said.

The study showed that the world would need 13.6 million more care workers to cover the needs of the elderly. The current shortfall is largely made up for by unpaid female family members, who often are forced to reduce the time they spend at a paying job to care for elderly relatives, putting the entire family at risk of sliding into poverty, the report said.—*AFP*

"Ageism is a global phenomenon that is sometimes even laid down in regulations and legislation."

— ILO Report

Taiwan braces for typhoon as travellers struggle home from long weekend

TAIPEI — Rain and wind lashed Taiwan on Monday as an approaching typhoon disrupted trains and flights for travellers heading home from a long holiday weekend and rock band Bon Jovi had to cancel a concert in the island's capital of Taipei.

By mid-afternoon, the island's trains had stopped servic-

es, hundreds of domestic and international flights were delayed or cancelled and hundreds of thousands of households were without power.

Typhoon Dujuan was spinning over the Pacific Ocean towards Taiwan and due to make landfall in the island's northeast late in the day.

Television footage showed fast-moving muddy brown flood waters swamping roads just outside Taipei and huge waves crashing against the island's northeast coast.

According to Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau, maximum wind speed near the centre of the typhoon and gusts were

clocked near the highest speed categories of between 200 to 219 kph (124 to 136 mph).

The Tropical Storm Risk website estimated Dujuan, currently a Category 4 typhoon, just shy of what it measures as a super typhoon, would lose strength on Tuesday.

Offices and financial mar-

kets in Taiwan were shut on Monday, the last day of a three-day Mid-Autumn Festival holiday.

In early August, super typhoon Soudelor killed eight people in Taiwan and cut power to more than 4 million households, a record for the island.—*Reuters*

Australian Islamic State fighters doubled last year : Minister

SYDNEY — The number of Australians fighting for the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq doubled in the past year but was not expected to continue to grow so rapidly, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said.

Australia has been increasingly concerned about the ability of IS, also known as Daesh, to lure citizens to the conflict and at least 20 nationals are believed to have died there.

"We estimate that there are around 120 Australians currently in Iraq and Syria supporting Daesh and other terrorist groups," Bishop told reporters in New York late Sunday.

"That is double the number that I reported here 12 months ago."

Bishop said estimates were that 30,000 foreigners from at least 100 countries had joined Islamic State jihadists.

"Our numbers have doubled since last year but I don't expect it to double again by next year," she said from New York where she has been attending the United Nations General Assembly.

"We are having some success in interrupting the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, but I wouldn't say we have yet turned the tide."

Australia raised its terror threat level to high a year ago

and since then has introduced new national security laws and conducted counter-terrorism raids amid concerns about radicalisation.

Canberra has also cancelled passports and prevented a number of people from leaving the country on fears they were heading to the Middle East to join IS.

"So the numbers are still increasing but we hope to stem the trajectory through our efforts,"

Bishop told Australian media.

The Australian minister said the government was also concerned about convicted terrorists who are being released from jails in Asia, including in Indonesia, and the risks they posed if not rehabilitated. "It is also a concern that we have that this kind of perverted ideology could be spread within the prison system as it has been in other countries," Bishop said.—*AFP*

Obama calls for 'strong' climate deal in Paris

UNITED NATIONS — US President Barack Obama on Sunday urged world leaders to step up efforts for a “strong” climate agreement at year-end talks in Paris.

“In just two months, the world must unite around a strong global agreement,” Obama said in an address to a United Nations development summit.

“All our countries will be affected by a changing climate, but the world’s poorest people will bear the heaviest burden — rising seas, more intense droughts,” Obama said.

“We’ll be seeing climate change refugees,” he said.

The UN-led conference in Paris aims to seal a wide-ranging agreement to limit the worst effects of climate change.

Obama, addressing a summit on development, said that anti-poverty goals would be at risk without action on climate.

“We need to establish the tools and financing to help developing nations embrace clean energy, adapt to climate change and ensure that there is not a false choice between economic development and the best practices that can save our planet,” he said.

He cited Pope Francis, who has won a warm reception on a visit to the United States and has heartened Obama by taking up the cause of climate change.

“As His Holiness Pope Francis has rightly implored the world: this is a moral calling,” Obama said.

French President Francois Hollande, the host of the talks, said Sunday that more work needs to be done to reach a serious agreement. Obama faces strong domestic opposition, with much of the rival Republican Party supportive of the fossil fuel industry.—*AFP*

Grenade blasts in Venezuela injure 10

CARACAS — Two grenade explosions in greater Caracas injured 10 people Sunday, six of them police, an official said.

One of the policemen is in intensive care because a piece of shrapnel hit him in the eye and lodged in his brain, said Gerardo Blyde, mayor of the capital’s Baruta district.

The pre-dawn attack was similar to two others Thursday and Friday at police stations elsewhere in Venezuela, said Ricardo Sanchez, a lawmaker in the National Assembly.

And over the past four

months there had four other attacks on police stations, said Sanchez.

They were all of a paramilitary nature and aimed to demoralize police officers, causing them to quit the force or refrain from serious investigation of crimes, he added.

In mid-July the government of President Nicolas Maduro started sending police into slum areas to break up gangs. In some cases, officers have seized military-grade weapons including grenades.—*AFP*

German president warns of limits to number of refugees



Migrants line up to cross the border to Germany from Salzburg, Austria, on 28 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Germany’s president has warned that there are limits to how many refugees his country can absorb as it prepares for as many as 800,000 arrivals this year.

The comments from the head of state, who has a largely ceremonial role but whose words carry moral authority, were set to fuel a raging debate about how so many newcomers can be integrated into German society.

“We want to help. We have a big heart. However, there is a limit to what we can do,” President Joachim Gauck, a former rights activist in communist East Germany, said in a speech on Sunday evening.

“Our ability to take in people is limited, although we don’t know yet where those limits are,” he added.

Gauck appeared to be striking a more cautious tone than Chancellor Angela Merkel who has said Germany can cope with the record influx.

It came amid signs of tensions among asylum seekers, part of a wave of mass migration into the European Union from the Middle East and parts of Africa.

Fourteen people were injured on Sunday when a brawl broke out between two rival groups in a refugee centre in the western German town of Calden, police said. The refugees were being housed in tents set up on a disused airfield.

A union representing German police officers has suggested that refugees should be divided according to their religion to try to reduce the risk of conflict.

Merkel’s popularity has dropped sharply over her handling of the refugee crisis, two polls showed at the weekend, indicating a shift in the mood in the Europe Union’s most populous country.

The central government agreed last week to give its 16 regional states around 4 billion euros (\$4.5 billion) next year to help cover the cost of looking after refugees.—*Reuters*

“We want to help. We have a big heart. However, there is a limit to what we can do.”
— *President Joachim Gauck*

Separatists win absolute majority of seats in Catalan vote



A man dressed as a super hero sporting the Catalan independence standard and a mask celebrates after the partial results of the regional election in Barcelona, on Spain, 27 September, 2015. PHOTO: AFP

BARCELONA — Separatists pushing to make Catalonia independent from Spain were on track to win an absolute majority of parliamentary seats in a regional election on Sunday, an exit poll showed.

A poll released by Catalan television channel TV3 gave pro-independence parties between 74 and 79 seats out of a total 135.

TV3 said pro-independence parties had won 49.8 percent of the vote.

Jubilant crowds cheered at a rally in Barcelona by “Together For Yes”, the main pro-independence alliance, yelling “Independence!”

The head of the group’s campaign Francesc Homs said the exit poll pointed to a clear victory for the separatist movement.

“The available data give the impression that this pro-sovereignty majority, clearly in favour of independence, is a fact,” he told

the crowd. They waved nationalist flags of red and yellow stripes overlaid with a white star on a blue triangle.

The drive to break the rich northeastern region away from Spain and create a new state in Europe has prompted a fierce standoff with the Spanish government.

Regional president Artur Mas’s separatist alliance vowed to declare independence by 2017 if it secured an absolute majority in the parliament.

Officials said turnout was 63 percent by 6:00 pm (1600 GMT), two hours before polls closed — nearly seven percent higher than in the last regional election in 2012.

A separate poll carried out for radio station COPE before the vote and published just after polling closed gave the separatist parties — Mas’s alliance and the left-wing independence group CUP — between 71 and 76 overall.—*AFP*

Israel hits back after Golan rockets fired from Syria



Seen from the hill village of Buqaata in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, smoke ascends from alleged shelling by Syrian government forces in the Syrian village of Jubata al-Khashab, on 27 September, 2015.

PHOTO: AFP

JERUSALEM — A rocket fired from war-torn Syria strayed into the Israeli-occupied sector of the Golan Heights Sunday, prompting the Israeli army to respond after the second such incident in as many days.

The Israeli military said the rocket crashed into a field without causing any casualties or damage, but that the Syrian army would be held to account for any spillover that violated the Jewish state's sovereignty.

It said that it was the result of Syria's conflict in which various factions are fighting against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, as well as each other.

The Israeli army later retaliated with artillery fire against two

Syrian army positions located on the Golan, said a military spokeswoman.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the Israeli fire targeted army positions in a town in southwest Quneitra province, on the Golan.

At least three or four Israeli strikes hit a regime military position inside Saryeh, near the regime's administrative capital of Baath City, said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman.

They were fired from inside the occupied Golan Heights, he said, but did not have details on any casualties.

"Israel will not tolerate violation of its sovereignty," army spokesman Peter Lerner tweeted.

"Syrian military is responsible & accountable for any aggression emanating from Syria."

On Saturday, a similar incident occurred, with a rocket slamming into the Israeli-held part of the plateau also without causing injuries or damage.

Since the Syrian conflict erupted in 2011, the Golan has been tense, with a growing number of mostly stray rockets and mortar rounds hitting the Israeli side, prompting the occasional armed response.

Israel seized 1,200 square kilometres (460 square miles) of the heights in the Six-Day War of 1967 and later annexed it in a move never recognised by the international community.—AFP

Huge demo in Congo against president's bid to extend rule

BRAZZAVILLE — Thousands of people staged a mass demonstration in Congo's capital Brazzaville Sunday to protest at plans by veteran ruler Denis Sassou Nguesso to try to extend his rule.

The rally was the biggest since Sassou Nguesso returned to power in 1997, an AFP journalist said, stretching for almost a kilometre along a main boulevard in the city centre.

"Sassou out!" echoed through Brazzaville's central Boulevard des Armees as some protesters carried banners reading "Sassoufit", a play on words that sounds like "that is enough" in French, the nation's official language.

The roughly two-hour demonstration ended without violence, though some local businesses closed up early fearing there might be trouble.

If a planned referendum is approved on changes to allow Sassou Nguesso to run again — dubbed a "constitutional coup" by the opposition — he would be eligible to contest elections next year and extend his total of three decades in power.

Under the country's current constitution, he has already served the maximum two terms as president and is over the age limit of 70 to run for the nation's top office.

Sassou Nguesso, a former rebel leader, on Tuesday announced the plans for a plebiscite on constitutional changes but gave no dates for the vote.

The 72-year-old president

had previously convened a "national dialogue", which came out "by a large majority" in favour of amending the constitution to remove the term and age limits.

The changes would effectively pave the way for him to stand for a third term in 2016.

During the demo, one of the leaders of the opposition Union for Congolese Democracy (UDC) told the crowd the nation's people would need to decide how to respond to the president's manoeuvres.

"When president Sassou Nguesso announces the date of the referendum, we will put out an appeal to the people," said Andre Okombi Salissa.

"After Niger, Egypt, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, now it is Congo's turn," he added, referring to democracy movements that have met varying degrees of success across the African continent in recent years.

Sassou Nguesso was president from 1979 until 1992. He then served as opposition leader and returned to power at the end of a brief civil war in 1997 in which his rebel forces ousted president Pascal Lissouba.

He was elected president in 2002, then again in 2009, prompting cries of fraud from his foes.

"The time of change is upon us because we have already had more than 30 years with the same leader," said Mathias Dzon, a leader from opposition group Frocad.—AFP

Taliban breach defences of Kunduz city in Afghan north

KUNDUZ CITY — Taliban fighters launched a three-pronged offensive on the capital of the northern Afghan province of Kunduz on Monday, fighting their way through the main entrances to the city, burning buildings and briefly taking over a hospital.

Breaching a provincial capital marks a troubling milestone in the nearly 14-year-old insurgency, though Afghan forces this year have driven the Taliban from most territory they've gained in the warm-weather fighting season.

The assault was the second time this year that the Taliban have besieged Kunduz city, as the NATO-trained Afghan police and army fight largely without the help of foreign forces.

By mid-morning, the Taliban fighters were inside the city limits. A Reuters witness saw buildings on fire in the south of the city, and he saw Taliban fighters entering a 200-bed government-run hospital.

Dozens of panicked residents fled to the city's main

airport but were turned away by security forces. By afternoon, the fighting had reached about a kilometre (0.62 mile) from the city's main government compound, according to a Reuters witness.

Afghan military helicopters were firing rockets at militants in three areas on the city's outskirts, a police spokesman said. Artillery and gunfire could be heard in the city centre from just after daybreak.

"Right now heavy fighting is ongoing in Khanabad, Chardara and at Imam Saheb, the main entrances to the city," Sayed Sarwar Hussaini, a spokesman for Kunduz police, said. "We have enough forces and will drive them out soon."

He said 20 Taliban fighters were killed and three Afghan police wounded in the clashes.

But if Afghan forces cannot drive out the Taliban from any of the city's three main entrances, it would appear be difficult for the government to maintain control.

Special forces of the Afghan

police and army were on their way from neighbouring Balkh province to help defend Kunduz, a Balkh police commander said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid urged Kunduz residents to stay inside.

"The mujahideen are trying to avoid any harm to Kunduz residents," he said on his official Twitter account, referring to Taliban fighters.

"Residents have to be assured they will not face any problem from our side."

Later in the day, Mujahid said that Taliban fighters had seized the hospital and taken over government buildings.

A hospital official confirmed Taliban fighters had entered the hospital briefly, apparently looking for wounded government fighters.

"They just visited our rooms. They didn't harm anybody and didn't damage anything. They left soon after," said the official, who declined to be identified as he feared repercussions.

The once-quiet north of Af-

ghanistan has seen escalating violence in recent years. Kunduz city was the centre of fierce fighting in April as the Taliban, driven from power by a 2001 US-backed military intervention, sought to gain territory after the end of NATO's combat

mission last year.

A scaled-down NATO mission now mostly trains and advises Afghan forces, although U.S. drones still target militant leaders and a U.S. counter-terrorist force also operates in the country.—Reuters



Afghan soldiers keep watch during a battle with the Taliban in Kunduz Province, Afghanistan, on 28 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

There's nothing trivial about being a decent person

Myint Win Thein

ONE cannot be blamed for not being born with the gifts of Stephen Hawking, Barack Obama or Bill Gates, but one can certainly be censured for lacking basic human decency. And that means behaving like a

responsible person who follows a moral code of ethics, including honesty, altruism and kindness. Those who do not abide by such values fail to meet the fundamental expectations of our society. If you are too selfish to give your seat on a bus to an elderly person, other passengers will think badly of you. If you are too dishonest to tell the truth, your colleagues will not trust you in future. If you are too indifferent to help someone who is in trouble, you will be deemed cruel by your peers. While each act may seem somewhat trivial in isolation, your inability to do good will eventually result in notoriety and you will be ostracised by your own friends. It will not matter whether you are one of the great physicists, poli-

ticians or businessmen: you will be roundly disliked. What matters above all is that you behave like a considerate human being. That is a basic ethical principle which is in no way trivial.

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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.

Whatever we do, counts

San Shwe Aung

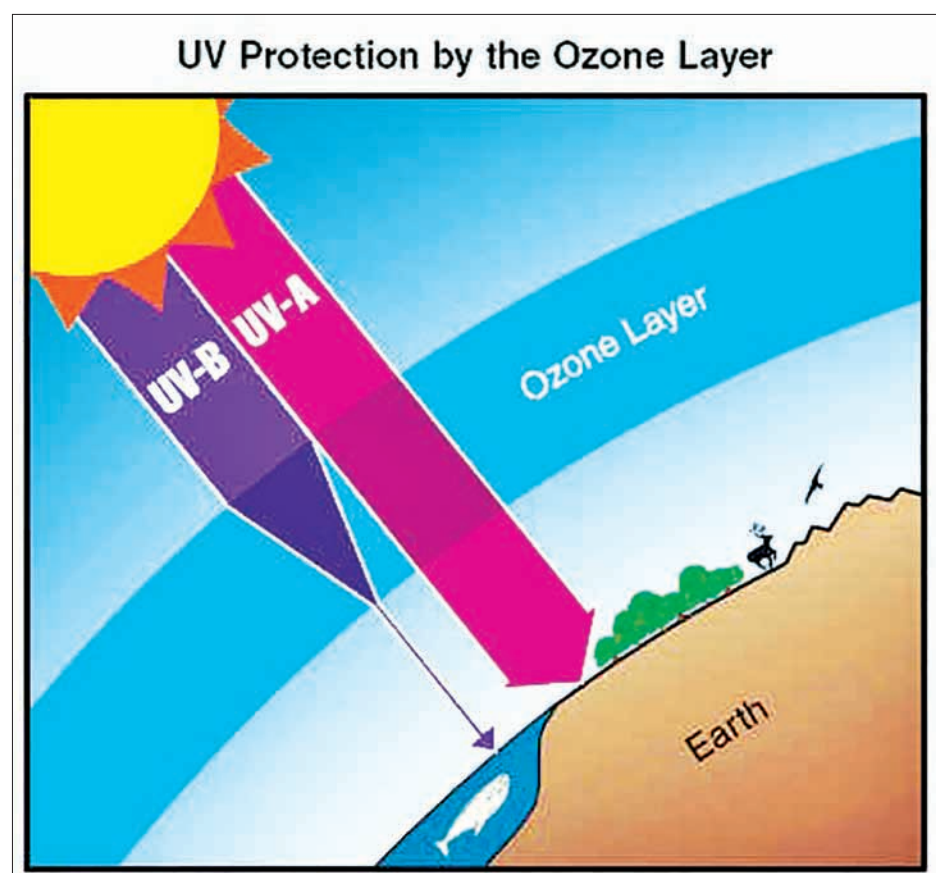
THERE was a note in one of the articles appeared in a European online media recently that "The world doesn't need us, the human being, but we, human being need the world". The expression really strikes all sensible people in the world in one way or other. The world is the natural environment where all living creatures from the very tiny, invisible insects, bacteria and virus to man, birds, elephants, whales, sharks and all living on the land, in the water and in the air, depend and live. We all need the nature or environment. Nature is nature and it doesn't need living creature particularly man, who has done most damages to the world, to the nature and to the environment. No living creature ever has done more damages than human being to the environment, in the history of the world. Actually man has colonized the world, occupied the world and utilized the world for his benefit. It is nevertheless true that man is by far the most intelligent living creature in the world and effectively conquered over other creatures since the stone-age. Man has ever since developed, invented and created uncountable things for his food, shelter, clothing, entertainment, various means of fast transports all for his advantages. In the process we, human being has done many bad things to the world or environment in the name of human advancement, progress, economic development, comfort, conveniences.

Industrialized world has been hungry for energy for many decades. Before someone thought there were renewable energy sources we human could tap, such as solar, wind, tidal and geo-thermal sources which do not inflict the world negatively, we have burned fossil fuel, coal, nuclear fuel, all of which have produced billions of tons of carbon and greenhouse gases as by products into the atmosphere. The world atmosphere is now damaged beyond repair.....while most powerful nations of the world are still arguing about the quota of carbon and greenhouse gases to release into the air annually!

As mentioned before, the world doesn't need us. And to all of us, the world doesn't care us either. Universe is having evolution as a natural process. Our world, the earth, is only an extremely tiny dust in the universe system. Even solar system, where our earth belongs, is a very small part of the universe. The world has had natural process and occurring since pre-historic times or since its existence. It had rains for millions of years, volcano eruptions for millions of times, storms, typhoon, cyclones, tornados, earthquakes, tsunamis happened every year in almost all parts of the world. Scientists believe that the world must have been hit by celestial matters millions of times in the life of our world. One theory is that due to the collision of a massive meteoroid with the earth, the various species of dinosaur were wiped out, millions of years ago. The point and

the eternal truth are that we, human being cannot manipulate or control the natural processes and related occurring of the earth. With advanced science and satellite technology we could now predict the cyclone and typhoon several days in advance and possible disasters could be reduced through preparations, relocation of people from the affected areas. But we cannot predict the earthquake and tsunami, nor volcano eruption. It is indeed very certain that the earth or nature doesn't care us. But we need the nature and the world and its resources for our survival. So we have to take care for the earth.

Releasing greenhouse gases over the past many decades has already created an ozone hole (depletion of ozone) in the atmosphere. Ozone layer has been protecting the earth from ultraviolet radiation, which is harmful to living creatures including human being. Ultraviolet rays are now beaming through the ozone hole onto the earth. We could have been thoughtful enough to control the producing of greenhouse gases so as to avoid damaging the atmosphere. Scientist also have now proven that climate changes such as temperature increases, changes of climate patterns, landslides, flooding, melting of Arctic ice are due to human negative behaviors such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, excessive use of CFC (Chloro-fluorocarbon) gases, fertilizer, plastic products, papers. Due to rise of sea water level, which is the outcome of global warming- melting of Arctic ice,



several island nations as well as low lying coastal regions of many countries including ours will be under water in coming 50 to 100 years, if we continue damaging earth carelessly. Although we are helpless towards the natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunami, volcano eruption and cyclones we can be contributing to the stabilizing of global temperature and against the rising of sea water level. Each and every human being needs to be educated to avoid

careless behavior as much as possible. A compulsory subject about the global warming and negative impacts toward human being must be prescribed in school curriculum from the primary level onwards all over the world. So that future generation is fully aware of the bad human practices and behavior such as cutting trees, excessive use of plastic, CFC gases, fertilizer, burning fossil fuels. We human being must rapidly switch form diesel/gasoline en-

gine cars, trains to electric cars, trains & bicycles, from CFC refrigerator/air-conditioners to non-CFC ones, avoiding use of plastic bags, promoting & consuming organic food products. Everybody in this world needs to participate to avoid manmade disasters such as global warming, climate changes and rise of sea water level before it is too late. In daily life, therefore, we have to be sensitive and sensible because whatever we do, counts.

It's never been more important for everyone to participate.

Do you mean in the flood recovery efforts
Not just those, but also in this year's general election.



Hmat Gyi
(Aungpinle)

National Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment discussed

Union Minister of Home Affairs Lt Gen Ko Ko received legal experts led by Mr. Yasuhisa Ojima, Resident Representative of In-

ternational Monetary Fund (IMF) in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

They exchanged views on national money

laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment — NRA. Deputy minister Major-General Aung Soe and responsible per-

sons from Myanmar Police Force and Bureau of Special Investigation were also present at the call.—MNA



Union Minister of Home Affairs Lt Gen Ko Ko discusses national money laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment with IMF Resident Representative Mr. Yasuhisa Ojima. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and wife being welcomed by Chinese Ambassador Mr Hong Liang and wife at the reception to mark the 66th anniversary of founding of China on 28-9-2015.

PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Scout Federation seeks international recognition

THE Myanmar Scout Federation hosted a coordination meeting with the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee in an effort to expand the global scout movement to Myanmar.

The parties discussed drafting short-term and long-term plans to implement the objectives of the

MSF and to secure international support for Myanmar scouts. UNICEF and Action Aid also discussed their roles in MSF's scouting process. Afterward, the participants visited the Myanmar International School in Yangon's Yankin Township to observe scouting activities.

Myanmar, China hold flood fundraising concert

A concert titled "Support Myanmar" was held at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday to raise funds for flood victims around the country. The concert was organised by the Myanmar-Chinese Friendship Association and the Chinese-Myanmar Friendship Association. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the funds generated by the event would be donated to flood victims. In his speech, he also thanked the concert organisers and participating artists and expressed hope

for a long friendship between Myanmar and China.

The concert was attended by Myanmar-Chinese Friendship Association chairman U Sein Win Aung, vice-chairman of the Chinese-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Feng Zuoku and China's ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang.

Artists from both Myanmar and China performed dances and songs, and there was also a presentation on the effects of the floods that hit Myanmar in recent months.—MNA



The funds generated by the event would be donated to flood victims. PHOTO: MNA

Myawady opens healthy schools campaign

MYAWADY Township launched a healthy schools campaign on 27 September at the township's No. 1 Basic Education High School. The course aims

to educate school children and their families on basic health information.

District Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, District Medical Officer Dr Aung

Myint and Township Education Officer Daw Aye Aye Myint spoke at the opening. Township officials gave educational talks on disease

prevention, nutrition, hazardous foods, oral health and strategies to schools free of tobacco and mosquitoes.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



Myawady Township launched healthy schools campaign on 27 September focusing on disease prevention, nutrition, hazardous foods. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG

Workshop on human rights, climate change held in Mandalay

THE ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) held the Workshop on Human Rights, Environment and Climate Change in Mandalay on 26 to 27 September. The workshop was attended by AICHR delegates, UN organisations, other ASEAN delegates and specialists on environmental conservation and climate change. AICHR's Myanmar delegate, retired Ambassador U Kyaw Tint Swe, and Thai delegate Dr Seree Nonthasoot gave key note speeches at the opening of the event. The workshop aims to raise awareness about human rights, environmental conservation and climate change among people in the ASEAN region.—Thiha Ko Ko

Tatmadaw gets wardrobe upgrade

NEW uniforms for officers and other personnel of the Defence Services were announced on Monday.

The new uniforms were designed to raise the Myanmar military up to international standards, to motivate personnel and to equip them for local weather conditions, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (Army). Members of the Defence Services will begin wearing the new uniforms on 1 October.—MNA

Asia shares sag on caution, dollar consolidates

TOKYO — Asian stocks sagged on Monday after Wall Street's uninspiring performance on Friday and ahead of key economic indicators, while the dollar consolidated its gains against the yen and euro.

Spreadbetters forecast shaky sentiment spilling over into European equities, predicting a lower open for Britain's FTSE .FTSE, Germany's DAX .GDAXI and France's CAC .FCHI.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was little changed. Shanghai shares .SSEC fell 0.2 percent. Financial markets in South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan were closed Monday for public holidays.

Tokyo's Nikkei .N225 lost 1.2 percent on caution ahead of impending announcements including Wednesday's Japan industrial production, Thursday's China Caixin Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) and US non-farm payrolls on Friday.

"Investors would not take large positions until they digest the outcomes of these key data, so directionless trading is expected

this week and volume is likely to be thin," said Takuya Takahashi, a strategist at Daiwa Securities in Tokyo.

"If these data are better than expected, the market will likely start recovering next week."

On Friday, the S&P 500 .SPX erased an early Federal Reserve-driven rally and closed slightly lower amid a selloff in biotech shares, and the Nasdaq .IXIC lost 1 percent. The Dow .DJI, however, managed to rise 0.7 percent.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen last week revived prospects of an interest rate hike before year-end, easing concerns about slowing global growth that helped the dollar and risk assets, which have been buffeted by fears over China's sputtering economy.

Strong second quarter US GDP data released on Friday further sharpened the case for the Fed to raise rates in 2015.

Focus now turns to this Friday's US non-farm payrolls as markets try to gauge whether labour market conditions are strong enough for the Fed to tighten monetary policy.

The dollar fetched 120.30 yen JPY= after edging up to a two-week high of 121.24 on Friday as US Treasury yields rose on the strong US GDP numbers and expectations of a Fed hike in 2015.

The euro was steady at \$1.1184 EUR= after shedding 0.3 percent overnight.

Market activity is seen waning ahead of China's week-long National Day holidays from 1 October.

In commodities, the lacklustre mood in equity markets spilled over and US crude oil futures lost 0.8 percent to \$45.31 a barrel while Brent crude lost 0.6 percent to \$48.27 a barrel.

Copper edged higher but was still stuck near one-month lows. Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange edged up 0.7 percent to \$5,058.00 a tonne. Prices hit four-week lows on Thursday near the \$5,000-mark and are within reach of a six-year low of \$4,855 seen last month.

"The recoveries we've seen over the past couple of months, have been pretty short-lived," said strategist Daniel Hynes of ANZ in Sydney.



Pedestrians holding mobile phones walk past an electronic board showing the various stock prices outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan. PHOTO: REUTERS

"It highlights the increasing cautiousness around China's growth and what it means for copper despite what the supply side is doing. The PMI will be pretty key this week."

Gold treaded water after being hit by a stronger dollar. Spot gold XAU= was little changed at \$1,144.45 an ounce after dropping

0.7 percent on Friday. Platinum, drubbed recently on fears demand for the metal used in catalytic converters would diminish in the wake of the Volkswagen emissions scandal, dipped 0.3 percent to \$941.00 an ounce, edging back towards the 6-1/2-year low of \$924.50 an ounce plumbed last week.—Reuters

Atlassian's US-listing plan deals blow to Australia's tech sector



Employees of software firm Atlassian are seen inside a meeting room at the company's office in central Sydney. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — A decision by Australia's biggest tech company, Atlassian, to pursue a \$3 billion listing in the United States is a blow to Australia's ambitions to make technology a driver of the economy, a tech executive said on Monday.

Atlassian's defection comes just weeks after the elevation of tech-savvy Malcolm Turnbull as prime minister was cheered by the business community, particularly funding-starved startups that are hoping for a more amenable investment climate.

Atlassian, the company behind project management software JIRA and team communication app HipChat, filed an IPO prospectus in the United States late Friday. It has hired Goldman Sachs Group and Morgan Stanley

to work on the offering.

"The best thing Atlassian could have done for the local sector would have been to list in Australia," said Matt Barrie, chief executive of jobs website Freelancer, which listed on the ASX in 2013, citing the need for major players to build a local market.

Atlassian co-directors Mike Cannon-Brookes and Scott Farquhar, who founded the company in 2002 using credit card debt, declined to comment on Monday. Both have previously cited the maturity of the US markets as a reason to list offshore.

Turnbull's office did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The Australian tech startup sector has the potential to contribute A\$109 billion (\$78 billion), or

4 percent of GDP - up from just 0.1 percent currently - and 540,000 jobs by 2033, according to a PricewaterhouseCoopers report.

But fewer than 5 percent of Australian startups currently grow into sustainable, global businesses, according to Deloitte research, largely to due funding issues.

"One thing we don't do a good enough job at, and I think the ASX can do better here, is promoting the stock exchange as a means of financing start-ups, or second, third-round money for start-ups," Turnbull told business leaders last week.

Momentum has been gradually building on the ASX with a stream of backdoor listings by startups using the shells of failed mining minnows, including security specialists Covata and YPB.

But the Atlassian IPO will set a new record for an Australian technology business, overshadowing accounting software group MYOB's A\$2 billion float on the ASX in May.

Some in the industry believe an Atlassian listing, regardless of location, will spark interest in Australian startups. Others bemoan the lack of local funding.

"There's a real gap in funding, in the so-called Valley of Death, between early-stage money and the larger Series A funding and government support," said Sebastien Eckersley-Maslin, the founder of startup accelerator program Blue Chilli.—Reuters

China's Didi firms up anti-Uber alliance, invests in Indian app Ola

SHANGHAI — China's most popular ride-hailing app Didi Kuaidi said on Monday it has invested in Indian peer Ola, forging a new alliance within a network of companies challenging US rival Uber Technologies Inc [UBER.UL].

Didi joins existing investors including SoftBank Corp, Falcon Edge, Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC [GIC.UL] and Tiger Global Management. A spokesman for Didi declined to specify the size of the investment.

SoftBank is the common investor backing most of the firms that are taking on Uber across Asia and in the United States. The Japanese telecoms conglomerate already had stakes in Didi, Ola and Southeast Asian firm GrabTaxi.

Didi has also invested in

Uber's US rival Lyft, which shares common investors with the other companies, including Chinese e-commerce titan Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

Ola controls 80 percent of India's taxi-hailing business, and completes more than 750,000 rides per day, according to Monday's statement. Last month, Uber said it plans to average more than 1 million rides a day in India over the next six to nine months as it steps up investments to take on Ola.

In August, GrabTaxi said it had also raised money from Didi, which recently conducted a \$3-billion fundraising round.

Uber and its biggest rival Didi are locked in a subsidy-intensive fight for market share in China, one that is costing them each hundreds of millions of dollars.—Reuters



A taxi driver is reflected in a side mirror as he uses the Didi Chuxing car-hailing application in Beijing, China. PHOTO: REUTERS

Eyes on space, India launches 'mini-Hubble'

NEW DELHI — India launched its first space research observatory and several US satellites on Monday, part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to expand his country's influence in the competitive, \$300 billion global space industry.

The observatory, named ASTROSAT, will help Indian scientists intensify space exploration efforts by studying distant celestial objects and conduct deeper analyses of star systems.

"This launch ... is important for astronomical sciences," Harsh Vardhan, India's minister for earth sciences, said in a statement. "We look forward to prospective research."

The simultaneous launch of six other satellites, four of which were for the United States, came hours before a scheduled meeting between Modi and US President Barack Obama.

Modi is bullish about India's space research programme and has repeatedly lauded the efforts of his scientists, who last year scored big on the global stage when their low-cost Mars mission entered the red planet's orbit on its very first attempt.

Despite the recent successes, the growth of India's space programme has been stymied by lack of heavier launchers and slow execution of missions - during 2007-2012, only about half of the planned 60 missions were accomplished. In Decem-



India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C30) carrying ASTROSAT, India's first observatory satellite, lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India on 28 September, 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ber, India successfully tested a new, more powerful rocket — the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III — that can put heavier payloads into space, but it is not yet operational.

ASTROSAT is seen as a smaller version of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope that was launched in 1990. It will be able to detect objects in multiple wavelengths such as X-rays, but with far lower precision than Hubble, said Mayank Va-

hia of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

"This will bring little commercial advantage but will show India's new capability in space research," said Vahia, whose institute made three of the five scientific instruments aboard ASTROSAT.

The ASTROSAT instruments will transmit data to a control centre in the southern city of Bangalore that will manage the satellite during its five-year mission life.—Reuters

Chicago-area district reopens school buildings after Legionella found

CHICAGO — Three school buildings in suburban Chicago will reopen on Monday, days after annual testing of cooling towers found higher-than-normal levels of the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease, school officials said.

The buildings, which included a high school, middle school and alternative secondary programs, were closed and 3,000 students and about 350 staff members were moved to other locations on Wednesday "in an abundance of caution," the district said.

"We have no evidence that students or staff were at risk for contracting any illnesses related to these test results," School District U-46, which is headquartered in Elgin northwest of Chicago, said in a statement. The district is the second largest in Illinois, according to its website.

"We believe, and doctors have confirmed, that students and staff were at very low risk of falling ill due the findings in the test results," the district said. All 19 water cooling towers were cleaned and sanitized,

and the district said it has put a plan into place to prevent an incident like this from occurring again. It said it will schedule testing before the school year starts, test and sanitize more often and consult an infectious disease physician.

Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia caused by inhaling mist infected with the bacteria Legionella. The mist may come from air-conditioning units for large buildings, hot tubs or showers.

The building shutdowns followed Legionnaires' outbreaks that killed a dozen people in New York City; 13 in Quincy, Illinois; and sickened scores of inmates at a California prison.

All but one of the dead in Quincy, a city about 240 miles southwest of Chicago, were residents of a veterans home, the oldest and largest such facility in Illinois, officials said.

Legionnaires' disease in severe cases can lead to respiratory failure, kidney failure and septic shock. It cannot be transmitted person-to-person.—Reuters

Roche drug succeeds in hard-to-treat form of multiple sclerosis

GENEVA — Switzerland's Roche said on Monday its experimental drug ocrelizumab had proved effective against hard-to-treat primary progressive multiple sclerosis in a keenly awaited final-stage clinical trial.

The injectable antibody medicine is the first product to show positive study results in both the progressive form of the disease and more common relapsing forms, underscoring its multibillion-dollar sales potential.

Chief Executive Severin Schwan had told Reuters in an interview earlier this month that the drug's success in relapsing MS already made it a "huge opportunity" and a positive result in primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS) would be "pure upside".

The drugmaker now plans to submit data to global regulatory authorities for approval of ocrelizumab in treating both forms of multiple sclerosis in early 2016, implying it could reach the market around a year later.

Results from a pivotal Phase III study of the drug in

PPMS showed that treatment with ocrelizumab significantly reduced the progression of clinical disability and the effect was sustained for at least 12 weeks.

The incidence of serious adverse events associated with ocrelizumab, including serious infections, was also similar to placebo.

Safety is crucial to success. Because MS is caused by abnormal immune system attacks on the protective sheath surrounding nerve cells, treatments need to adjust the body's immune response, which can lead to dangerous side effects.

Preliminary data from the clinical trial will be presented at the annual congress of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis on Oct. 10.

Shares in Roche gained 2.5 percent by 0215 EDT, also buoyed by encouraging results reported at the weekend for its new immune-system boosting drug atezolizumab in lung and bladder cancer, that the company hopes will help it win quick regulatory approval.—Reuters

Tanzanian engineer invents low-cost water filter

ARUSHA — IT looks good enough to drink but just seconds before, this water was full of dirt and bacteria.

Dr Askwar Hilonga is a Tanzanian scientist who has created a water filter that he says can remove 99.9 percent of bacteria, micro-organisms and viruses.

The invention uses nanotechnology to filter out contaminants and produce clean water.

The idea was inspired by a visit to his parents' village outside Arusha in Tanzania, where many people still risk their lives drinking dirty water and often suffer from water-borne diseases.

Catherine Nanyaro is a housewife and lives in Arusha. She says the filter has also helped her save time as she goes about her chores.

"Before I had this filter, I used to fetch water from the river, and sometimes I used it without boiling it because it is very time consuming to boil the water. I had many problems, like typhoid, and other diseases from the water," she said.

The filter can be tailored to absorb anything from copper and fluoride to bacteria and viruses. Gravity pulls the water down through a series of buckets connected by tubes. The buckets contain sand with a layer of 'good' bacteria on the top, which eat the microbes that contain diseases like Typhoid.

The magnetic quality of the sand also kills other bacteria as the water filters through it.

The final bucket uses nanomaterials to filter out any remaining microbes. In short, an invisible biological 'net' which stops bacteria from passing through, but allows the water to reach the final bucket bacteria free.

Dr Hilonga was one of only four students in his year to graduate from primary school. He

went on to university and won a scholarship to study a PhD in nanotechnology in South Korea.

When he returned home, he started looking for ways to use his expertise to help people.

"In Tanzania, 70 percent of households, of nine million households, are not using any kind of a filter. That is how big the market is. That is in Tanzania alone, nine million households. Now imagine in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, sub-Saharan Africa, India and elsewhere. So the market is very big," Dr Hilonga explained.

One filter is capable of supplying many litres of clean water a day.

The Blue Sky primary school in Arusha uses it to quench the thirst of more than 70 children.—Reuters

"Before I had this filter, I used to fetch water from the river, and sometimes I used it without boiling it because it is very time consuming to boil the water."

— Catherine Nanyaro, housewife

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NOTICE

- 1. It is found out that some members (Myanmars/Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons, and so we have given notices time and again in the English/Myanmar dailies as well as by telephone and by post. 2. Therefore those members whose arrears are for three years and above shall be required to come and clear their outstanding monthly fees by 31-10-2015 at the latest. If failed to do so, it is hereby notified that the membership of those defaulters shall be cancelled with effect from 1-11-2015.

General Manager City Golf Resort

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- Woodside၏အင်တာနက်ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုဒ်: woodside.com.au/myanmar-consultation
- Woodside၏ ရန်ကုန်ရုံး၊ အမှတ်-၇၀/အယ်လ်အေ-၂၊ ရွှေတောင်ကြားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
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အကြံပြုချက်နှင့်သုံးသပ်ချက်များအား daniel.clery@woodside.com.au info@eguardservices.com နှင့် feedback.myanmar@aecom.com သို့ အီးမေးလ်ဖြင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း(သို့မဟုတ်) ရန်ကုန်မြို့ရှိ Woodside နှင့် E Guard ရုံးများသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့၍သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ ၂၀၁၅ခုနှစ်၊ အောက်တိုဘာလ၊ (၃၀)ရက်နေ့၊ နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ ပေးပို့နိုင်ပါသည်။

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay, monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, scattered in Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Rakhine and Kayin States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%). STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Deltaic areas. FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Japanese climber with one finger to ascend Everest again this week



Trekkers rest at Everest Base Camp, Nepal, 27 September, 2015. PHOTO:AFP

KATHMANDU — A Japanese climber with only one finger, who failed on the weekend to reach the top of Mount Everest in his latest attempt, will try again within days, expedition organisers said Monday. Nobukazu Kuriki, who lost nine fingers to frostbite in 2012 on Everest, is the only climber trying to summit the world's highest mountain this year after a quake-triggered avalanche killed 18 people at base camp. The April disaster saw hundreds of climbers abandon their bids to ascend the

8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak, marking a second spring season with virtually no one reaching the summit. An avalanche in 2014 that killed 16 Nepali guides also sparked a shutdown that year. The 33-year-old Kuriki, who was on his fifth attempt to climb Everest, descended in the early hours of Sunday fearing he would not return alive if he kept climbing. "He is staying at base camp for a few days but will try again for the summit starting October 1st," said Tikaram Gurung, managing director of Bochi-Bo-

chi Trek, which is handling Kuriki's expedition. "He is in good physical condition and experienced no major problems on the climb," Gurung told AFP. Kuriki will climb solo from base camp, in contrast to his earlier attempt when a six-person support team accompanied him to Camp 2 at a height of 6,400 metres, he said. "He will use no bottled oxygen on his climb," Gurung added. The risks are higher than normal at the moment on Everest because of regular aftershocks in Nepal

which increase the chance of avalanches. Mountaineering experts also say climbing in autumn is more dangerous than spring due to high winds and lower temperatures. Kuriki said the final stretch to the top took too long on Sunday. "I tried hard taking all my energy, but it took too much time to move in deep snow. I realized if I kept going, I wouldn't be able to come back alive, so I decided to descend," he posted on his official Facebook page. Operators Himex and Altitude Junkies have also delayed their plans to summit Nepal's Manaslu peak, the world's eighth-highest mountain, citing waist-deep snow and exposure to avalanches en route to Camp 4, the final camp before the summit. Mountaineering is a major revenue-earner for impoverished Nepal, home to eight of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000 metres. But the 25 April earthquake which killed nearly 8,900 people raised fears for the immediate future of the tourism industry. Apart from the Everest avalanche, it also destroyed the popular Langtang trekking route.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA ZENITH VOY NO (11/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA ZENITH VOY NO (11/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301186

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MV HONG DE VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HONG DE VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1039W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1039W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ANDAMAN VOY NO (1501) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (419N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (419N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO (1057E)

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Phone No: 2301185



(29-9-2015, Tuesday)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 6:00 am | 7:50 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • TV Drama Series |
| 6:15 am | 8:35 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Teleplay |
| 6:40 am | 9:40 am |
| • Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than | • Radio Drama |
| 7:05 am | 10:30 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| | 12:00 noon |
| | • Close Down |



(29-9-2015 07:00 am~30 -9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:25 | Am | Insight Myanmar: Parenting & Child Development (Part-1) |
| 07:51 | Am | Talented Musician |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:25 | Am | Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Choral Dance By Female Dancers |
| 09:34 | Am | Excavation At Kawhmu |
| 09:43 | Am | We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board |
| 10:03 | Am | News |

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 10:26 | Am | Crocodile Keeper |
| 10:35 | Am | "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar's Secret Beautifier |

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

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 06:30 | Pm | Let's Cook (EP-3) Scrambled Eggs & Cutie Pancake |
| 06:52 | Pm | Crocodile Keeper |

Prime Time

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Pm | News |
| 07:26 | Pm | A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-1) |
| 07:52 | Pm | Prawn Breeding Industry |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Taste Of Myanmar (Rakhine Monte Ti) |
| 08:49 | Pm | Myanmar Leading Lady "Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe" |

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

'Hotel Transylvania 2' breaks September record with \$47.5 million debut



Actors Adam Sandler (C) David Spade (back) and Selena Gomez attend a news conference to promote the film 'Hotel Transylvania' during the 37th Toronto International Film Festival. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — "Hotel Transylvania 2" easily topped the weekend box office, sinking its teeth into an impressive \$47.5 million, and providing a big win for star Adam Sandler and Sony Pictures, the studio behind the animated franchise.

Both had endured rough patches at ticket booths. Sandler, once among the most consistently commercial leading men in Hollywood, has suffered a series of flops like "Blended," "That's My Boy," and "Jack and Jill" that have inspired questions about his bankability. And Sony, which had its inner workings laid bare in last year's hack attack by North Korea, was subjected to a summer that saw films like "Aloha" and Sandler's video game "Pixels" rejected by audiences. It has been on the upswing in recent weeks, fielding modest hits like "War Room" and "The Perfect Guy," but this is the studio's biggest opening since "22 Jump Street" debuted to \$57 million in June of 2014.

It also sets a new September record, passing the previous "Hotel Transylvania's" \$42.5 million start in 2012. The \$80 million production got off to a strong start overseas, outpacing the first film's results in parts of Latin America.

"It's on it's way to being one

of the most beloved franchises of all time," said Rory Bruer, Sony Pictures president of worldwide distribution.

"There are a lot of stories left to tell," he added, saying that he hoped there would be a third installment.

Domestically, it was a competitive weekend at the multiplexes. In addition to "Hotel Transylvania 2," Universal expanded "Everest" from Imax and premium format screens to 3,006 locations, where the high altitude disaster film picked up \$13.1 million. That figure is something of a disappointment given the A CinemaScore the film earned in limited release and the solid \$7.2 million it generated in its inaugural weekend.

With "Everest" appealing to men and "Hotel Transylvania 2" roping in families, Warner Bros. made a pitch to female ticket buyers with "The Intern." The Nancy Meyers workplace comedy brought in a solid \$18.2 million for a second place finish. Filmed for \$40 million, it stars Robert De Niro and Anne Hathaway. That opening puts it in line with previous Meyers' releases such as "Something's Gotta Give" (\$16.1 million debut) and "The Holiday" (\$12.8 million start). The director's latest effort is just as likely to inspire real estate envy in

the heavily female audience that turned out to see the impossibly chic world of "The Intern."

"Nancy Meyers really is a brand onto herself," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. distribution executive vice president. "It's not just the stories that attracts people. It's the lifestyle, it's the sets, it's the clothes."

That left Eli Roth's "Green Inferno" as the weekend's only other wide release. The low budget horror film earned \$3.5 million from 1,540 locations. The picture about a young woman who has a nasty encounter with Peruvian cannibals is part of a novel distribution experiment from Jason Blum.

The horror producer's company Blumhouse limited the number of locations where the picture screened and leaned heavily on digital marketing to keep costs low. The hope was to find a middle ground between straight to on-demand releases and wide, 3,000 screen debuts, but the model may need more tweaking. The company had hoped the film would debut to between \$4 million and \$5 million. It will try a similar experiment with two more upcoming releases, including "Delirium," a supernatural thriller with Topher Grace and Patricia Clarkson. A third film has yet to be determined.—Reuters

Priyanka Chopra to appear on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!'

LOS ANGELES — Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra will be seen on popular American late-night talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!," created and hosted by Jimmy Kimmel. The 33-year-old actress, whose debut American series "Quantico" premiered in the US on Sunday, will also make an appearance on TV program "Extra".

She took to Twitter to share the news with her fans.

"Have a 6 am morning so will leave u all now. Loved spending the day with you all!!

@extratv and @jimmykimmel Tom! #Quantico #Quantico-Takeover," Priyanka tweeted.

She appeared on "Good Morning America" and "Kelly & Michael" on 25 September.

Priyanka plays the lead character of Alex Parrish, who becomes the FBI's prime suspect. The show, which revolves around a group of young recruits, who are training at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia, will premiere in India on 3 October.—PTI

Show respect if you want photos with me: Bieber to fans

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Justin Bieber says he wants his fans to show him some respect if they want to get clicked with him. The 21-year-old "What Do You Mean?" singer took to Snapchat to address his fans' apparent ways of asking to take photos together, reported Ace-showbiz.

The Snapchat video did not show Bieber anywhere but it showed the scenery of Melbourne outside a car's window.

While the camera was capturing the scenery of the city, Bieber's voice could be heard talking about how he wanted to be treated if his fans wanted to take photos with him. "The way you ask or approach me when you want a photo with me is going to determine if I take a photo or not," Bieber warned.

"If I'm walking somewhere or arriving somewhere and you guys are asking me to take a photo, if I don't respond, if I continue to keep walking, the likelihood is that I probably don't want to take a photo at that moment," Bieber said. The singer said he wants to savour the moment with his fans as much they want to.

"Now, if you start scream-

ing louder that's not going to make me take a photo more. I want to enjoy the moment like you're enjoying the moment but I can't enjoy it if I'm not feeling like there's any respect given to me that moment." "Usually the chances are I'll take a photo but if perhaps I don't, or I'm not in the mood to take a photo that moment. Please just respect me and just treat me the way that you want to be treated. Honestly I'd rather stand there and talk to you for five minutes and not take any photos... Just have that moment without the chaos."

The pop star asked his fans if they really want to see him or just get clicked with him so that they can show it off in front of others.

"It's like why did you travel to see me in the first place, was it really to see me or was it to get that moment of you seeing me so you could tell people about it?" Bieber added he is just another human being who also communicates the same way as his fans do.

"Just remember I'm not unattainable, unreachable, I'm just like you and I communicate just like you, so next time remember.—PTI

Book on Lata Mangeshkar: A Musical Journey out by January 2016



Lata Mangeshkar. PHOTO: PTI

NEW DELHI — The story of Lata Mangeshkar, Bollywood's biggest musical star is now set to come out in the form of a book in January 2016, publishers announced today on the singer's 85th birthday.

"The book has been written by one of Hindi literature's most respected poets and authors, Yatindra Mishra, with the full co-operation of Lata ji. It will be translated by Sahitya Akademi Award winning author Ira Pandey," Penguin Random House said in a statement today.

The book "Lata Mangeshkar: A Musical Journey" is based on an exclusive and long-running series of interviews which Mishra has had with Mangeshkar over several years.

It contains little known facts intertwined with the story of her life in music, struggles, successes and her reign as the Queen of Hindi music from the 1940s to the present day.

Meru Gokhale, Editor-in-Chief of Literary Publishing says: "This is one of the most exciting and ambitious projects

we have ever taken on. Everyone at Penguin Random House couldn't be prouder to be able to publish a book about a figure as loved and celebrated as Lata Mangeshkar. We hope her fans and admirers in India and all over the world will be as thrilled by this book as we are."

Yatindra Mishra, the author, says "It is a dream come true! Lata ji has been an iconic figure for me as she has been for millions in South Asia. For me, it is a great achievement to have shared her memories.—PTI

Mr.R.D.VARDON (Ex.Principal IMT)

Our deepest sympathy for passing away of Mr.R.D.Vardon at Singapore on 26.09.2015, our teacher and mentor (Ex. Principal IMT) whom has contributed generously to Myanmar Maritime society to stand tall globally and has guided us in good times as well as in bad times through various stages of our lives socially and professionally. He was truly a blessing in our lives and we will always miss him.

(Seik Kyi Cadets 4/70)

Dubai housing squeeze pushes middle-income expats out to the suburbs



An advertising sign for a real estate company reading "Keep Calm There's no Bubble" is seen on a building in the Marina district of Dubai. PHOTO: REUTERS

DUBAI — While Dubai continues to pump out sumptuous new apartment blocks, for a rising number of expatriates the city no longer offers the luxury lifestyle that lured many foreigners to the Gulf.

A shortage of affordable homes and a reduction in overseas allowances since the financial crisis are pushing foreign staff on middle incomes out to less glamorous areas of the city far from the office, or to neighbouring Sharjah.

Investment bankers, lawyers and top managers at multinationals may enjoy seven-figure salaries but other expats — from architects, accountants and IT managers to legal secretaries and HR executives — are often on household incomes of 10,000-30,000 UAE dirhams (\$2,720-\$8,170) a month, says property consultants JLL.

They can afford annual rents of 72,000 dirhams (\$19,600), says JLL, or could buy a property for around 790,000 dirhams — a fraction of prices in expatriate neighborhoods Dubai Marina and Dubai Downtown, for example, where two-bedroom apartments sell for up to 4 million dirhams.

"There's a squeeze on middle-income earners," said Faisal Durrani, head of research at property consultancy Cluttons.

"Affordability issues are likely to become more

acute." The emirate's real estate sector has been among the most volatile globally over the past decade as it turned from boom to bust to boom again. Property prices, and rents, have steadied in the past year but are still 50 percent higher than two years ago, according to estate agent Cluttons, and are expected to be on the rise again by 2017 as Dubai prepares to host the EXPO 2020.

The only districts offering affordable accommodation for many middle-income earners are run-down areas near Dubai's creek and parts of the city's outskirts, such as International City and Dubai Outsource Zone.

But as expats move out of more central areas, previously cheaper suburbs have experienced the biggest rental increases.

Randy, a Filipino fitness instructor, and his British wife Layla moved to Remraam — one such area, about 50 kilometers from Dubai's business district — in May 2013.

"We used to live in Business Bay, which was only a 10-minute drive from most of my clients," said Randy, 37.

"We rented a one-bedroom apartment, but it got so expensive we moved here — it was the only nice place we found where we could afford a two-bedroom place. We're now 30 minutes' drive from anything."—Reuters

Selfies on catwalk in Dolce & Gabbana's love for Italy line



Models take selfies with mobile phones during the parade at the end of the Dolce & Gabbana Spring/Summer 2016 collection during Milan Fashion Week in Italy, September 27, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

MILAN — Against a backdrop showing a typical Italian village, Dolce & Gabbana took fashionistas on holiday on Sunday with a spring collection that paid tribute the designer duo's home country.

From Venice's gondoliers to gelato stands, Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana decorated dresses with all things Italian to make them look like postcards, some with messages reading "Kisses from Rome" and "Greetings from Naples".

Under a banner reading "Italia is Love", a mock fruit stand, restaurant and

ceramics shop decorated the catwalk before the Milan Fashion Week show began.

Songs in praise of Italy played and models stopped midway on the catwalk to take selfie pictures on phones, sometimes with the audience in the background. The photos were immediately beamed onto large screens.

Known for their use of embellishments, the celebrity-favorite designers used an array of colors, sequins, gems, pom-poms and appliqués for their spring/summer 2016 collection, made up mainly of dress-

es in various lengths and short skirts. Beach umbrellas and landmarks such as Pisa's leaning tower and Florence's cathedral were among the decorations, alongside embroidered daisies and poppies, adorning summer dresses.

Several trouser suits were also decorated with intricate floral embroidery while silk pyjama-style shirts and trousers were striped.

Long silk dresses bore prints of Sorrento's lemons or Sicily's ceramics and were worn with scarves worn as turbans.

Models wore bejew-

elled sunglasses and embellished headpieces, some like headphones, covered in fruit decorations such as small hanging lemons. Earrings were lemon and orange shapes.

Handbags, as well as small baskets, were also rich in detail, as were see-through socks that had sparkling embellishments.

For the show's finale, models changed into short dresses, made to look like postcards from cities and holiday spots across Italy — from San Remo in the north to the Amalfi Coast. Milan Fashion Week ends on Monday.—Reuters

China's culture chief says sites being plundered, bulldozed

BEIJING — The treasures of China's thousands of years of culture face being plundered, sometimes violently, or disappearing under bulldozers as authorities either do not care or do not have the resources to look after them, China's culture chief said.

In an interview published on Monday in the influential Communist Party newspaper the Study Times, Director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage Li Xiaoji said the situation he faced in trying to protect the country's

culture was "severe". From 2009 to 2014 police uncovered more than 7,000 cases of cultural artefacts being stolen, smuggled out of the country or otherwise plundered, especially tombs, Li told the newspaper, published by the Central Party School which trains rising officials.

"These criminal activities are organised, use high technology and violence, and steal to order," Li said, adding that efforts to crack down had achieved some results but the road ahead would hard and difficult.

Another problem was that some local governments seemed not to care about the treasures in their jurisdiction, or simply lacked the ability to look after them.

"In some culturally protected areas or where there are construction controls there is illegal construction, damaging the historical features, including the treasures themselves. Some precious ancient sites and buildings have vanished beneath bulldozers," Li said.

In many cases the dam-

age was actually caused by local governments and officials, he said.

But this was hardly surprising as his administration lacked people and money to protect cultural artefacts, and in four provinces there are fewer than 10 people in the job, Li said. Some parts of China particularly rich in cultural heritage had no dedicated officials working to protect the treasures, he added.

There was also a huge funding gap, especially in poorer central and western regions, Li said.—Reuters

Myawady officials face comedians in fundraiser football match



MYAWADY township officials faced off with a troupe of traditional comedians in a friendly football match yesterday to raise money for the township. The fundraiser was organised by Kayin State's Myawady Township Sports and Physical Fitness Supervision Committee.

After the match, the comedians performed an anyeit – a traditional song and dance routine.

The comedians were presented with K5 million (US\$3,900) as an honorarium by Myawady District Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo.

The district commissioner and other community leaders participated in the match.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

Top players look forward to Presidents Cup clash

NOW that the Tour Championship and FedExCup playoffs are finished, many of golf's top players are looking ahead to the next big event — the President's Cup.

Jordan Spieth capped a stellar season to secure both the season-ending trophies on Sunday, along with reclaiming the world number one ranking and an \$11.4 million pay-day.

But the American was already relishing the prospect of clashing with rival Jason Day at the biennial tournament in Incheon, South Korea, from 8 October.

Spieth will spearhead the United States' bid for a sixth straight victory against an International team anchored by Australian Day.

"I think it would be a cool match-up if I was able to play

Jason in a couple of weeks' time," Spieth said after Sunday's double-victory allowed him to leapfrog Day into the top ranking.

"I think it would be fun."

Bae Sang-moon, one of the two captain's picks on the International team, will soon begin mandatory military service in South Korea, but the 29-year-old is eager for what he is sure will be a memorable experience on home soil.

"I'm really excited to be in Korea. It will be my first Presidents Cup and in my country. That really means a lot," he told Reuters after finishing tied for 18th at the elite Tour Championship.

"I played a lot of tournaments in Korea, the Korean Tour, Asian Tour. The Korean fans are really hot and they are

really rooting for Korean players.

"I can envision for the Presidents Cup a lot of golf fans coming out and rooting for the International team."

South Korea-born Danny Lee of New Zealand fired a 65 on Sunday to soar up the leaderboard into a tie for second.

After signing his card, he was already contemplating the matchplay event that will be played in Asia for the first time.

"Yes, I'm very excited. I just cannot wait to be there. I think it's going to be really fun," he said.

Australian Steven Bowditch, yet another rookie on the International team and Nick Price's other captain's pick, was energised for Incheon.

"It will be great. I've never been a part of something this big," he told Reuters after finishing even-par at the Tour Championship.

"Very excited to be there. Obviously there's going to be excitement and nerves and all the above things that make this game great."

Bowditch said supporters should be out in force.

"I'm sure there'll be a few around," he said with a grin.

"Will be great to spend some time with my wife over there and the whole team and all their families, and it will be a great environment.

"Can't wait to get out there." Former tour player Frank Nobilo of New Zealand, a three-times Presidents Cup player and a former assistant captain for the International team, said it was significant for the matches to be held in South Korea.—*Reuters*



Jordan Spieth reacts after winning the final round of the Tour Championship by Coca-Cola at East Lake Golf Club at Atlanta, USA on 27 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ioka wins 1st defence of WBA flyweight title



IBF champion Katsunari Takayama of Japan (R) delivers a punch to compatriot Ryuji Hara during the seventh round of their title match in Osaka on 27 September, 2015. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

OSAKA — Japan's Kazuto Ioka defeated Argentina's Roberto Domingo Sosa to successfully defend his WBA flyweight title for the first time with a unanimous decision.

At Osaka's Edion Arena, the 26-year-old Ioka outpointed his 10th-ranked 30-year-old opponent in a 12-round tactical skirmish in which both men avoided prolonged exchanges.

"I wanted a knockout, but I'm glad to get the win. Today's my grandmother's birthday and I'd like to dedicate this win to her," Ioka said in the ring before introducing his grandmother to the crowd.

The judges scored the fight 119-109, 120-108, 119-109 as Ioka improved to 18-1 with 10 wins by knockout, while Sosa's

record fell to 26-2. Earlier, Japan's Katsunari Takayama defeated compatriot Ryuji Hara by technical knockout in the eighth round in the second defense of his IBF minimumweight championship. The two men pounded away from the start, and though the 32-year-old Takayama was caught flat-footed a few times and was bleeding from a cut on his forehead, he began to dominate the bout.

"It's a relief to have won," Takayama said. "I've been cut so many times in the past, I knew what to do about it."

When the eighth round opened, Takayama went straight to Hara's body. When his opponent began to stagger, Takayama pummeled Hara's head until the referee stopped the fight at 1 minute, 20 seconds.—*Kyodo News*