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TOURISM TARGET ON PACE

Tourist arrivals set to exceed 4.5 million in 2015, says ministry

Ye Myint

TOURIST arrivals to Myanmar are on pace to reach more than 4.5 million visitors this year, according to the Ministry of Tourism on Tuesday.

The number of foreign tourists visiting Myanmar as of September 2015 has overtaken the figure of 3.08 million during 2014, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung.

“If Myanmar continues to keep this momentum going, the number will grow to more than 4.5 million visitors by the end of this year,” he said.

The number of globetrotters entering Myanmar by plane or through border crossings will continue to rise as the peak tourist season has now set in, the union minister added. However he did not disclose the specific number of visitors Myanmar has received to date this year.

“We have an ambitious target of attracting five million foreign visitors this year because the country’s tourism industry has really picked up pace,” Daw Khin Than Win, Director of the Tourism Promotion and International Relations Department told The Global New Light of Myanmar earlier this year.

The ministry said last month



Foreign tourists enjoy boat ride in the calm waters of Ngapali Beach in Rakhine State. — PHOTO: YE MYINT

that Myanmar will be put forward to win ‘Destination of the Year’ from Singapore-based TTG Travel

Trade Publishing during the 26th Annual TTG Travel Awards 2015 in Bangkok on 1 October.

According to the ministry’s data as of 31 August, Myanmar had 1,225 licensed hotels

with 47,911 rooms across the country and 1,847 travel operators.—GNLM

Over 130 fishermen to return from Indonesia in Oct

Ko Moe

MORE than 130 Myanmar fishermen who have been stranded in Indonesia’s Ambon, Tanjungpinan and Meulaboh islands will be able to return home in October.

“Officials from the Ministry of Immigration and Population are speeding up the process of confirming citizenship details of the remaining 138 fishermen. As soon as that’s finished they’ll be brought back to Myanmar,” said Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U San Myint Oo.

He added that only around 30 checks remain outstanding.

The men will become the sixth group to have returned from the far-flung archipelago in Indonesia; the fifth was repatriated to Myanmar on 6 September and included 108 people.

The trafficked fishermen from the fifth had been returned to their homes after they had been questioned by authorities, who are investigating the circumstances surrounding the events that led to them being trafficked.

Of the migrants, 26 are

from Taninthayi Region, 26 are from Mon State, 14 from Ayeyawady Region, 12 from Rakhine State, 10 from Yangon Region, eight from Mandalay and three from Shan State, two Magway Region and one from Kachin State.

Myanmar has brought more than 600 fishermen from far-flung islands in Indonesia. Myanmar fishermen working on Thai fishing boats in Indonesian seas have been in limbo for the past year as a result of the Indonesian government banning fishing in its waters.—GNLM

Telenor adopts new maternity leave policy

TELENOR Group has adopted a six-month paid maternity leave policy as a minimum standard globally across its 13 markets, including Myanmar.

The new policy will take effect from January 1 next year.

“We are extremely proud to institute the new global six-month standard maternity leave here in Myanmar. It is our goal to attract and retain the best of Myanmar talent, men or women, and we are confident that the revised maternity leave

policy will make Telenor not only a very attractive place to work for men and women, but also a place in which women can build careers and continue to fill the ranks of our leadership,” Petter Furberg, CEO of Telenor Myanmar said.

Approximately 36 per cent of Telenor’s global workforce of 33,000 people is women. In Myanmar, women represent close to 40 percent of the workforce, across all functions and job levels, according to the press release. This announcement adds to other new workplace policies re-

cently implemented by the telecommunications company in Myanmar aimed at attracting and developing local talent, such as flexible working hours.

The decision represents a step forward in creating an equitable work-life balance for employees within the telecommunications industry. In Telenor’s Asia operations, with the exception of Bangladesh, female employees are currently entitled to less than six months of funded maternity leave per local regulations and personnel practices.—GNLM

UEC chairman discusses election in Kengtung

CHAIRMAN U TIN AYE of Union Election Commission said on Monday that the participation of political parties, candidates, civil society groups, observers, the media and the public are essential for free and fair elections to be held in Myanmar.

The remarks were made during a meeting with election candidates in Kengtung, Shan

State that was also attended by Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Aye.

The chairman explained UEC's preparations for the election, including efforts to correct voters' lists, the advance voting system and code of conduct for political parties.

The chairman urged everyone involved to cooperate in

successfully holding free and fair elections and to abide by all rules and regulations concerning the elections, as they will play an important role in the country's development.

Later that day, the chairman met with officials from special regions 2 and 4 from the ethnic peace groups at the Golden Triangle Guest House in Kengtung.—MNA

Hospital opens in Nay Pyi Taw



Construction of the hospital began in December 2013 and it cost approximately US\$1.7 million. PHOTO: MNA

A HOSPITAL with operation theatres and 1,000-beds was opened on Tuesday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister of Ministry of Health Dr Win My-

int, Nay Pyi Taw Council member Dr Paing Soe and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health Dr Thet Khaing Win.

The facility includes five international standard operation theatres, a special treatment theatre

equipped with air conditioning, a central gas line system, CCTV security system, and fire safety alarms. Construction on the hospital began in December 2013 and it cost approximately US\$1.7 million.—MNA

Japanese railway coaches make test run

SIX RBE (DMUs) railway coaches from Japan made a test run on the Yangon-Kyeemyintdine-Bago route on Tuesday.

The six coaches are part of the 19 coaches to be donated to Myanmar through the Japanese government's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme.

Each coach can seat 100 passengers and the six non-air conditioned six coaches will run on the Yangon Circle Line for the same ticket price of K200, as it is currently. The ceiling fans in the coaches are valued at K600 million.

The six RBE (DMUs) coaches were formally handed over to the Ministry of Rail Transport at Yangon Central Railway Station during a ceremony on Tuesday, which was attended by Minister for Rail Transport and Transportation Minister U Nyan Tun Aung, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi and Deputy Minister for Rail Transport U Myint Thein.

East Japan Railway Compa-

ny (JR East) Deputy President Mr Takao Nishiyama handed over the formal papers inclusive of technical support to Managing Director of Myanma Railways U Thurein Win.

Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi said that Tokyo and Yangon are the only cities in Asia with railway lines of the same vintage. He added that 60 percent of Tokyo's population use the train daily, whereas in Yangon only one percent do so, which is around 70,000 people.

He said that as Myanmar's economy grows, the millions of Yangonites who travel by other means will gradually come to rely on a modernized railway service, which will help to ease traffic congestion.

He said that Japan will assist Myanmar in the modernisation of the Yangon-Mandalay express railway, as well. JR East will also assist with maintenance services for the coaches.

Myanma Railways has 237 coaches which were either donated or sold from Japan.

A total of 31 coaches from Japan Railway East and Japan Railway Central companies will service the Yangon Circle line.

With assistance from Japan's JICA, the long-term Urban Transport Project is being implemented on the extended

Yangon Circle Line and Yangon-Toungoo-,Toungoo-Yemaethin, Yemaethin-Mandalay rail lines.—Soe Win



An Railway East and Japan Railway Central companies will provide service at the Yangon Circle line. PHOTO: SOE WIN

Military meeting with Russia in Nay Pyi Taw

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed a Russian delegation led by Mr Alexander Vasillievich Fomin, chairman of the Russia-Myanmar Military Technology Cooperation Joint Commission, on Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed strategies for strengthening relations between the two armed forces, enhancing cooperation in mil-

itary technology, educational exchange programmes and providing relief items for Myanmar's flood-hit areas.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, Russian Ambassador Mr Pospelov Vasily and military attaché Colonel Eduard Ogorodchikop.—Myawady



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife being welcomed by the Chargé d'affaires of Saudi Arabia at the reception to mark the National Day of Saudi Arabia on 29 September 2015. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar, Thailand to join forces against drug trade

UNION MINISTER of Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko met a Thai delegation led by Justice Minister of Thailand H.E General Paiboon Koomchaya in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, where both sides agreed to combine efforts to fight against the illegal drug trade.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko, deputy minister Brig Kyaw Zan Myint as well as representatives from Myanmar Police Force, Administration Department, Prisons Department, Fire Services Department, Ministry of

Immigration and Population.

The two sides pledged a commitment to cooperating to eradicate the drug trade – and in particular, the stimulants trade – along the Myanmar-Thailand border and throughout the Meikong Region.

Myanmar and Russia to boost cultural ties



Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandar Khin and Russian Deputy Minister Madam A Yu Manilova sign agreement on information sharing in cultural sector. — PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR and Russia signed an agreement in Moscow on 22 September to cooperate in holding cultural programmes. The agreement was signed by Myanmar's Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandar Khin and Russian Deputy Minister Madam A Yu Manilova. It provides for the sharing of information about arts and culture and to encourage the participation

of Russian and Myanmar artists in international festivals, as well to assist with renovating culturally significant sites. The ministers also discussed sending students from Myanmar's Culture and Fine Arts University to Russia to study film, music and ballet; sharing Myanmar's marionette performance; promoting tourism through combined performanc-

es of Myanmar's traditional orchestra and Russian's symphony orchestra; and arranging visits to the heritage sites of the two countries. Daw Sandar Khin also attended the first Eurasian Women's Forum from 23 to 25 September during her trip to Russia, as well learning about Russia's heritage sites and tourism industry. — MNA

What they stand for: campaigns aired

The Union Pa-O National Federation, the Arakan National Party and the Chin League for Democracy broadcast campaign speeches on Tuesday.

Union Pa-O National Federation



General Secretary U Khun Soe Myint said that the party believes in peaceful coexistence, liberty, equality and self-determination, democracy and perpetuation of the union. It aims to participate in building a genuine union, to guarantee fundamental rights, including those of the Pa-O people, to preserve traditions and cultures, to protect Pa-O national identity and to work for regional development. Its future tasks include participating in the peace process, amending the constitution, building a federal state and the emergence of a Pa-O State.—GNLM

Arakan National Party



Chairman Dr Aye Maung said that the party's three aims are building a genuine federal state, protecting the interests of Rakhine people and furthering democracy. It has also adopted 18 future tasks including equality and self-determination for ethnic minority groups, building a federal state based on ethnic races, championing democracy, human rights, the rights of minorities, the rule of law, environmental conservation and international peace.—GNLM

Chin League for Democracy Party



Chairman U Ngai Serk said the party calls for an end to civil war and sustainable peace, national reconciliation, federalism and self-determination. Its policies include building a federal state with equal rights, self-determination, equitable development, for all ethnic groups, including Chin nationals.—GNLM

Locals ask Tatmadaw to drive out KIA: Tatmadaw

MANSI residents have asked Tatmadaw to comb the region for KIA troops following a spate of attacks in public places, according to Myawady news.

Defence service personnel have been fighting against KIA troops since 26 September. As of 28 September, fighting between the two sides broke out four times, with the Tatmadaw seizing three KIA posts, three mines, 36 grenades, 34 bullets, one walkie-talkie, 14 tents and 11 bunkers. One Tatmadaw officer was killed during the fighting and four soldiers were injured.

Bombs exploded near the office of electricity supply board and a police station in Mansi in Kachin State on 15 and 30 August while another bomb exploded near Bhamo-Mandalay Road on 5 June. Investigation of the explosions

led to the tips that the bombs had been planted by KIA troops who were stationed in the hills overlooking Mansi. Two local women were also abducted by KIA troops after being accused of spying for the Tatmadaw in the area, it is claimed. According to Myawady news, locals are requesting the Tatmadaw to wipe out the KIA from Kachin State.

Fighting also broke out between the two sides in Sikhungyi, Laika and Sokja in Mansi Township, resulting in the deaths of three Tatmadaw member and four sustaining injuries.

In one incident, KIA troops attacked a Tatmadaw column carrying the injured to hospital on Maikhound-Mansi Road, killing three civilians and one personnel member, as well as injuring another 10. The Tatmadaw has provided assistance to victims of KIA attacks. — GNLM

Myanmar signs Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

WITH a view to further promoting and protecting the rights of children in the country, Myanmar signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 28th September 2015.

The signing ceremony was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the involvement of children in

armed conflict. Also present on the occasion were Ms Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Children and Armed Conflict and Mr Santiago Villapando, Chief of Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations.

Signing this Optional Protocol is in line with Tatmadaw's policy of no underage recruitment into the armed forces, and shall contribute its ongoing efforts on the prevention of underage recruitment. To date, there are 161 states parties to the said Optional Protocol. — MNA

UN applauds as Myanmar signs key protocol on children's protection in armed conflict

THE United Nations on Tuesday welcomed Myanmar's signature of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. The protocol aims at strengthening the protection of children from recruitment into armed forces by, among other provisions, making 18 the minimum age for compulsory recruitment into the armed forces.

"We congratulate the Government for its commitment to enhance the protection of children in Myanmar," says Renata Lok-Dessallien, the United Na-

tions Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar. "The signature of the protocol reinforces the Government's expression of commitment that Myanmar armed forces will be child-free." The signature is also a positive sign of the ongoing cooperation between the UN and the Government on the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) agenda, which resulted in the 2012 Joint Action Plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and, more recently, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) mission to Myanmar in late July. — 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 Khumi (Khami) National Party, Democratic Party for a New Society and Karen National Party on 30 September at 7 pm. — GNLM

ELECTION COUNTDOWN 39 DAYS
Make your voice count. Cast your vote.

Hluttaw deputy speaker to attend Globe Asia Legislators Forum



DEPUTY Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa leaves for Japan to attend Globe Asia Legislators Forum. PHOTO: MNA

DEPUTY Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa left Yangon for Japan on Monday to attend the Globe Asia Legislators Forum to be held from 30

September to 1 October. He was seen off at the airport by Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myin Oo, Deputy Speaker of Yan-

gon Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung, Region Electric and Industry Minister U Nyan Tun Oo, parliamentarians and officials of the Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Mandalay voters apply for last-minute corrections



People check their names in the voters list. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

RESIDENTS of Chanayethasan Township in Mandalay flocked to ward administration offices to check voter lists and apply for corrections on 27 September. The deadline to make corrections expired the following day. Workers in the township's industrial zones also applied for voting rights that day. Local election commissions' voter lists were on display at ward and village offices from 14 to 27 September, according to the UEC's plan. The general election will take place on November 8.—Thiha Ko Ko

Civil engineers discuss projects in Mandalay

THE Mandalay City Development Committee discussed civil engineering projects with independent engineering associations

on 26 September. The Myanmar Engineering Association (Mandalay) and Myanmar Engineering Association (Singapore) par-

ticipated in the discussions, which were held at Mandalay City Hall. The groups discussed construction laws, steel structural projects, the

erection of scaffolding and false work, deep excavation methods and instrumentation, and PC girder bridge construction.—Thiha Ko Ko



Myanmar engineers gather to discuss civil engineering matters in Mandalay. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Myanmar seaman seek to compete in wider market



Based on data collected in 2010, Myanmar's commercial marine sector was estimated to grow by 70 percent by 2030. PHOTO: THIHA THU

COMPANIES, government authorities and marine schools must cooperate to allow Myanmar seamen to compete in the international seafarers' market, said Marine Administration Department director U Thet Htay.

"With such cooperation, we will be able to compete with other labour-supplying countries," he said.

"Myanmar seamen are not getting enough jobs. I'm very sad that even some graduates from marine institutes are unemployed. In the past, it was because

of economic sanctions imposed on our country. But it is not so now. Therefore, national shipping companies, our departments and marine schools must collaborate for our seamen to get more jobs," the director said.

"There is demand abroad for all ranks of seamen. The only problem is that we cannot connect to where the jobs are," he said.

Based on data collected in 2010, Myanmar's merchant marine sector was estimated to grow by 70 percent by 2030, meaning that nearly 40,000 seamen

would need to be deployed annually.

The director added that Myanmar has signed a MoU with the World Maritime University, and some seamen have been able to access online training courses through the International Maritime Organization.

In an address on 24 September, which is recognised by the UN as World maritime Day, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung urged for a push to help Myanmar seamen to penetrate the international market.—Thiha Thu

Mandalay Region gets late, heavy rainfall

HEAVY rains fell across Mandalay Region from 26 to 28 September, even after monsoon weather had subsided elsewhere in the country a week earlier.

On 26 September, Madaya received 7.2 centimetres of rain, Meiktila received 6.7 centimetres and Pyin Oo Lwin received 5.6 centimetres.

Mandalay received 5.7

centimetres of rain on 27 September. The heavy rain flooded the city's roads, and city development workers had to clear the drainages after the floods receded.—Maung Pyi Thu



Heavy rain in Mandalay floods city's roads. PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU

Ousted Thai PM files case against public prosecutor



Ousted former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and former Thai Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat arrive at the criminal court in Bangkok, Thailand, 29 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Deposed Thai prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra filed a criminal case against the attorney general on Tuesday alleging unfair handling of charges against her that could see her jailed for 10 years.

Thailand's first woman prime minister faces charges in

the Supreme Court of negligence in her management of a rice subsidy scheme the ruling junta says was tainted by graft and caused \$16 billion in losses.

Rivalry between the royalist-military establishment and the Shinawatra family, in particular Yingluck's brother, deposed pop-

ulist premier Thaksin Shinawatra, has been at the heart of a decade of political turmoil in the kingdom.

The attorney general indicted Yingluck in January on the same day she was banned from politics for five years by a legislature appointed by the generals who toppled her government last year.

Yingluck's legal team on Tuesday drew attention to the timing of the indictment — an hour before the legislature's impeachment began — and alleged the attorney general charged her without sufficient examination of evidence and witnesses.

The public prosecutor had included accusations related to corruption in the rice scheme and added 60,000 pages of material that had not been part of the case filed by the country's anti-graft agency, Yingluck's legal team said in a statement.

Yingluck told reporters in a statement the attorney general's actions were "wrong and unfair".

Her flagship rice policy aimed to boost farmers' incomes by buying their grain at above

market prices and helped sweep her to office in a landslide in 2011.

She insists she acted honestly in administering the scheme. Critics said it was aimed at winning votes in the countryside.

Yingluck's supporters have accused the courts of bias in rulings against her and allies of the Shinawatra clan.

The prosecutor's office denied that.

"The prosecutor took the rice scheme case in a straightforward manner," said Chutichai Sakha-korn, the official at the Attorney General's office responsible for Yingluck's case. "There was no bullying."

Yingluck was removed from power in May 2014 after a court found her guilty of abuse of power.

Days later, the army staged a coup after months of sometimes violent street protests in Bangkok aimed at ousting her government.

Former telecoms tycoon Thaksin was removed in a coup in 2006 and lives in self-imposed exile to avoid a 2008 jail sentence for abuse of power.—Reuters

Chinese envoy summoned by Malaysia over racism remarks

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia said Tuesday it had summoned China's ambassador to explain his controversial remarks on racism following a recent pro-government rally which saw protesters denounce the country's Chinese minority.

Beijing's envoy Huang Huikang on Friday visited Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown where ethnic Malay hardliners chanted slogans against the community earlier this month, raising fears of conflict in the multi-ethnic nation.

"The Chinese government opposes terrorism and any form of discrimination against races and any form of extremism," Huang was quoted as saying by The Star newspaper during the visit.

His comments, which are at odds with China's policy not to interfere in other nations' internal affairs, prompted Malaysia's foreign ministry to call in the ambassador "to provide an explanation".

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Anifah Aman, who is in New York, said Kuala Lumpur wished "to verify whether his statement was misinterpreted or otherwise". Huang met Acting Foreign Minister Hamzah Zainuddin on Monday.

According to The Star, Huang on Friday also said Beijing would not be afraid to speak out against incidents that could derail Malaysia-China relations.

Ser Choon Ing, secretary general of the Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall, a coalition of Chinese community groups, welcomed the ambassador's visit and his remarks.

"I don't think it can be considered interference. What the ambassador did was probably a good thing for the Chinese and also for Indians who feel discriminated against," he said.

China's foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei on Monday defended the ambassador's actions as "normal".

He said: "We refrain from interfering into other countries' internal affairs.

"What our ambassador did was normal, he was visiting the Chinese community during the Mid-Autumn festival. We hope that Malaysia can remain united and stable, and that people from different ethnic groups can live together in peace."

Speaking at a business conference on Monday in Kuala Lumpur, Huang stressed China and Malaysia enjoyed good relations.—AFP

Indonesia sends thousands to fight fires, makes no progress against hazardous "haze"

PEKANBARU — Indonesia has sent nearly 21,000 personnel to fight forest fires raging in its northern islands, the disaster management agency said on Tuesday, but smoke cloaks much of the region with pollution readings in the "very unhealthy" region in neighbouring Singapore.

Slash-and-burn agriculture has blanketed Singapore, Malaysia and northern Indonesia in a choking "haze" for weeks, pushing up pollution levels and disrupting flights, as it does every year. Indonesian efforts to halt the seasonal clearances have failed.

More than 135,000 Indonesians were reported to be suffering from respiratory diseases, the disaster agency said in a statement.

"Looking at the current situation, it essential for us to extend the period of state of emergency due to haze for another 14 days," said Arsyadjuliandi Rachman, acting governor of Riau province, one of the worst-hit areas.

"Our focus will remain on monitoring the health of our people."

Schools in parts of Malaysia were ordered closed for a second day on Tuesday and Singaporean commuters were wearing masks as they have for much of the last



Students walk along a street as they are released from school to return home earlier due to the haze in Jambi, Indonesia's Jambi province, 29 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

two weeks. Indonesia has faced criticism for turning down offers of help from Singapore, even as it struggles to contain fires that have been exacerbated by a prolonged dry season.

Indonesian officials, including Vice President Jusuf Kalla, have repeatedly said they have enough resources to handle the crisis, with Kalla adding that neighbouring countries should be

grateful for clean air provided by Indonesia's rainforests outside the haze season.

Kalla this week toned down his earlier comments and said Indonesia was open to foreign assistance, according to media.

President Joko Widodo last week visited Central Kalimantan and called for urgent action including building canals to irrigate parched peatlands where fires can be harder to put out, media reported. Indonesian government has launched investigations of more than 200 companies and taken legal action against just four.—Reuters

"Our focus will remain on monitoring the health of our people."

— Arsyadjuliandi Rachman, acting governor of Riau province

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Director - Maung Maung Than
mnmn2@gmail.com

Chief Editor - Than Myint Tun
wallace.tun@gmail.com

Deputy Chief Editor

Than Tun Aung
thantunaungnlm@gmail.com

Chief Reporter - Aye Min Soe
koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

Senior Consultant Editor

Jessica Mudditt
jess.mudditt@gmail.com

Consultant Editor

Jacob Goldberg
jgold.news@gmail.com

Editors

Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,
Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,

Myint Win Thein
journalist.sss@gmail.com

International news

Ye Htut Tin
mryehtuttin@gmail.com

Tun Tun Naing
tunyunaing@gmail.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin
juniorlwin25@gmail.com

Tun Aung Kyaw
tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

Translator

Khaing Minn Nyo
khingminn@gmail.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Layout designers

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,

Kyin Shwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

thantunaungnlm@gmail.com

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Modi calls for climate change agenda that helps developing countries

UNITED NATIONS — India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US President Barack Obama and France and Britain's leaders on Monday, and called for a climate change agenda from upcoming global talks in Paris that helps developing countries with access to finance and technology.

Modi said after meeting Obama that he and the American president shared an "uncompromising" commitment to fighting climate change without hurting development. He thanked Obama for responding positively to his call for a global public partnership to develop sources of clean energy.

"We look forward to (a) comprehensive and concrete outcome in Paris with a positive agenda on combating climate change which also focuses on access to finance and technology for the developing world, especially the poor countries and small island states," Modi said.

Close to 200 countries will meet in Paris in December and try to hammer out a deal to slow man-made climate change by aiming to keep temperatures below a ceiling of 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

India is one of the few large economies of the world that has not yet submitted its strategy to the United Nations outlining how it plans to address climate change. The deadline for these commitments, known as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, or INDCs, is this week.

Last week, China, the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter, renewed its commitment to bring its spiraling emissions to a peak by "around 2030".

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar told Reuters last week that India's peak year would be a "distant" one because it needed to fight poverty and give

the more than 300 million Indians still living without power access to energy.

Javadekar said India would commit to reducing emissions if the developed world could provide more technology and finance to combat global warming.

After their talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Obama said he was encouraged by Modi's "aggressive" commitment to clean energy and stressed the importance of India taking "a leadership role" in Paris, saying this would "set the tone not just for today but for decades to come."

A concrete plan on how to raise \$100 billion a year to help developing countries cope with and combat climate change will be a key factor determining the success of a Paris climate agreement. World finance ministers will meet on 7-8 October in Lima, Peru, to try to agree on that framework.

Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup said Modi made "very clear" to Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Francois Hollande "that the current climate of negativism was not a useful factor as we approach ... Paris.

"Rather than just putting pressure ... he said it would have been far better if we had a positive agenda which enabled countries to go in for more sustainable parts of development by providing them with finance and the relevant technology."

Swarup said Modi's meeting with Hollande was joined by Microsoft founder Bill Gates, bringing the private sector into the debate.

"With people like him getting involved, there is a real possibility of there being private-sector partnerships on the technology side," the spokesman said.

Swarup also said Modi told the leaders India had sought UN permission to declare its carbon emission commitments a day late on 2 October, because this was the birthday of Indian independence hero Mahatma Gandhi. "(Gandhi) was a person who was passionately committed to the cause of the environment, who was a champion of sustainable development," Swarup said.

"If we declare our INDCs on 2 Oct, then it adds a very significant moral dimension as well to our commitment."—Reuters

"We look forward to (a) comprehensive and concrete outcome in Paris with a positive agenda on combating climate change ..."

— Narendra Modi

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A girl touches "Vulcan", a 3D-printed architectural structure, at a shopping mall during Beijing Design Week 2015 in Beijing, China, September 29, 2015. "Vulcan" is the world's largest 3D-printed architectural structure, according to the design work's explanation. PHOTO: REUTERS

Italian dies in Bangladesh shooting

DHAKA — An Italian charity worker died after being shot by attackers in Dhaka on Monday, police said, amid heightened fears over security in Bangladesh.

The 50-year-old man died in hospital after he was shot three times by attackers who fled on a motorcycle, Dhaka police spokesman Muntashirul Islam told AFP.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the shooting, according to a US monitoring organisation. "A 50-year-old man called Tavel-

la Cesare was shot three times at Road Number 90 in the capital's Gulshan area in the afternoon today," Islam said.

"He died after being brought to a Dhaka hospital."

SITE Intelligence Group said a communique by IS claimed that "a security detachment" tracked and killed Cesare with "silenced weapons" in the streets of Dhaka.

The attack came a day after Cricket Australia said it was delaying its departure to Bangladesh

for an October tour due to government fears that militants may be planning to target Australian interests.

Cricket Australia said it was seeking assurances from its Bangladesh counterpart before proceeding with the trip.

Bangladesh prides itself on being a mainly moderate Muslim country. But the gruesome killings of a series of atheist bloggers this year rocked the country and sparked a crackdown on lo-

cal hardline Islamist groups. The Bangladesh police spokesman said the three assailants fled the scene after the shooting near the city's diplomatic quarter.

Police said Cesare worked for ICCO Cooperation, a global development agency that has offices in Bangladesh.

No one at ICCO's Dhaka office could immediately be reached for comment and there was no confirmation from the Italian embassy in Dhaka.—AFP

Australia to test technology after wave of shark attacks

SYDNEY — Australian shark experts will test cutting-edge technology — including electrical barriers powered by wave energy — following an "unprecedented" series of attacks on swimmers.

The country has one of the world's highest incidences of shark attacks and researchers from around the world met in Sydney on Tuesday at a meeting organised in part to address community fears.

"What we've seen is pretty unprecedented," New South Wales state Premier Mike Baird told the conference of a string of attacks in eastern Australia which left one dead and seven injured.

A Japanese surfer died in February after his legs were torn off by a shark but there have been other serious attacks up and down the more than 2,000-kilometre-long (1,243-mile) NSW coast.

There have been 13 attacks in the state so far this year, compared to three in 2014. "Ultimately, we've moved from a position in some parts of the coast where the coastline was joy... (to) fear, and we need to take that away," Baird said, adding that his government hoped to test some of the recommended technologies during the upcoming summer.

"The decision-making process (to roll out the technologies) will be on the basis of the science... it will not be knee-jerk, it will not be in relation to any form of populist outcry," Baird — an avid surfer who has ruled out culling sharks as an option — said he hoped experts would find ways to balance the need to protect humans against reducing the harm to marine life caught in barriers such as nets.

Deterrent technologies set to be reviewed include electrical barriers that can be powered by wave energy, as well as personal devices that surfers and swimmers can wear.

Detection methods include a smart drumline where sharks are removed from hooks before they die, and the "Clever Buoy", which uses sonar technology to search for shark-sized objects. Marine biologist Daryl McPhee of Bond University, who helped the state government compile a preliminary list of options, said the recent innovations had increased researchers' understanding of shark behaviour. "Sharks have seven senses. We don't clearly know how sharks completely sense their environment but we know much more than we did 10 years ago," he told AFP.—AFP

Obama, Castro call for end to embargo

UNITED NATIONS — US President Barack Obama and Cuban leader Raul Castro both called for an end to the US embargo on Havana at the United Nations Monday, on the eve of their scheduled meeting in New York.

During his wide-ranging speech, Obama said he was confident that the US Congress would “inevitably lift an embargo that should not be in place anymore,” drawing applause from the 193-nation UN General Assembly.

The embargo, which has been in place since 1960, remains a bone of contention in the United States as the Republican-held Congress balks at the administration’s move to end the blockade. Obama acknowledged that Washington’s Cuba policy had “failed to improve the lives of the Cuban

people” but stressed that human rights remained a concern in relations with Havana.

**[The US Congress]
“will inevitably lift
an embargo that
should not be in
place anymore.”**

— Barack Obama

Castro, who succeeded his brother Fidel in 2006, made his first address to the UN General Assembly only several hours after Obama took the podium.

“Now a long and complex process begins towards the normalization of relations, but this will only be achieved with the end of the economic, commercial and

financial blockade against Cuba,” he said.

The White House announced on Sunday that Obama would hold talks with Castro on Tuesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

It will be their second meeting, after a first historic encounter in Panama in April.

At a UN development summit on Saturday, Castro called the US embargo the “main obstacle” to his country’s economic development.

The General Assembly is set to discuss a new draft resolution condemning the US embargo against Cuba at a session next month.

The assembly has voted each year since 1982 to approve a resolution calling on the United States to lift the embargo.—AFP

UK “fake sheikh” reporter charged with conspiracy to pervert justice

LONDON — Mazher Mahmood, a British journalist whose undercover work posing as a “fake sheikh” led to a number of high-profile criminal court cases, was charged on Tuesday with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Mahmood, well-known for revealing wrongdoing amongst politicians, TV and film stars and even royalty, was suspended by Rupert Murdoch’s Sun newspaper in July last year after the collapse of a celebrity trial in which he was a main witness.

The journalist had given evidence in the drugs trial of Tulisa Contostavlos, a former judge on the British version of the “X Factor” TV talent show.

She had denied being involved in the supply of drugs to Mahmood while he posed as a film producer, but her trial collapsed with the judge saying he

suspected the reporter had lied to the court.

Nick Vamos, Deputy Head of Special Crime at Britain’s Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said it was in the public interest to charge Mahmood and another man, Alan Smith.

“This decision comes after it was alleged that Mr Smith agreed with Mr Mahmood to change his statement to police as part of a trial in July 2014, and that Mr Mahmood then misled the court,” Vamos said.

Mahmood, who will appear at London’s Westminster Magistrates court on Oct. 30, said he denied the charge.

“I will vigorously contest it at court,” he said in a statement. “In the meantime I have nothing further to say.”

Mahmood previously worked for Murdoch’s News of the World tabloid, which the media mogul

was forced to shut in 2011 when it was disclosed journalists had hacked voicemails on mobile phones of thousands of people, including that belonging to a murdered schoolgirl, to find exclusive stories.

That led to the jailing of a number of senior staff from the paper including its former editor Andy Coulson. Rebekah Brooks, who returned this month to run Murdoch’s British newspaper arm News UK after a four-year hiatus following the hacking scandal, was acquitted of involvement after a high-profile trial.

She often cited Mahmood’s work during her defence as examples of good investigative journalism. Mahmood carried out the inquiry which led to the 2011 conviction of three Pakistani cricketers for taking bribes to fix incidents in a match against England.—Reuters

Catalan head indicted for calling referendum on split from Spain

MADRID — Catalonia’s Supreme Court indicted the acting head of the Catalan regional government on Tuesday after he pushed ahead with a referendum on independence from Spain last year despite such a vote being ruled unconstitutional by the courts.

The preliminary charges of disobedience, abuse of authority and usurping authority are levelled at Artur Mas, the most visible face of Catalan separatist aspirations, just two days after his party won a regional election. Secessionist parties on Sunday secured an absolute majority in the regional parliament, although

they won 48 percent of the votes cast.

Mas will testify in court in October for pressing on with a non-binding referendum on independence last November after it was suspended by the Constitutional Court, backed by Spain’s national government.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy’s tactic over years of growing support for Catalan independence has been to stick doggedly to the letter of the law. With a general election set for December, Rajoy has ruled out the possibility of a referendum on the issue, despite polls which show most Catalans

are in favour of having the choice. He argues, supported by a vast majority of Spaniards, that one part of Spain cannot decide what happens to the whole.

Mas said when the proxy referendum took place on November 9 2014 that he would not be intimidated by the legal tactics of the Madrid government. He said he hoped no legal action would be taken.

After the Catalan elections brought tensions to a new head, most political parties are now offering the chance of dialogue and do not rule out a potential change in Catalan financing.—Reuters

Merkel’s German conservatives dip to year low on refugee crisis



German Chancellor Angela Merkel waves to a crowd as she walks with former Mayor of New York City Michael Bloomberg (2nd R) to the National September 11 Memorial and Museum after laying a memorial wreath next to the Survivor Tree in Manhattan, New York, 26 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Support for German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservatives has slipped to a one-year low of 38.5 percent, hit by voters’ concerns about Europe’s refugee crisis, a poll showed on Tuesday.

Merkel has drawn criticism, especially among conservatives, for fuelling the influx by effectively giving asylum seekers the green light to come to Germany. Towns and cities in Europe’s biggest economy are struggling to cope with 800,000 refugees and migrants escaping war and poverty expected this year.

The INSA poll, conducted for Bild daily, showed a one percentage point decline for the conservatives from a week ago. The Social Democrats (SPD), who share power with Merkel in a right-left coalition, were also down one point at 23.5 percent.

That takes overall support for the “grand coalition” to its lowest level since the last election two years ago.

“The refugee crisis is causing problems above all for the conservative camp and the grand coalition is weaker than ever,” INSA chief Hermann Binkert told Bild daily.

The radical Left party gained half a point to 10.5 percent, the same level as the Greens who were up 1 point. The right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD) and pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) were both unchanged at 6 percent and 4 percent respectively.

Merkel’s own popularity has also taken a hit over her handling of the refugee crisis although she is still one of Germany’s most popular post-war chancellors.

The next election is due in 2017.—Reuters

EU’s anti-smuggler operation named after rescued baby

BRUSSELS — The EU said Monday its operation to tackle migrant smuggling in the Mediterranean would be renamed Sophia to honour a baby girl who was rescued off Libya last month.

Envoys in the European Union’s Political and Security Committee agreed to start the next phase of the mission on 7 October after approving rules of engagement, the European Council said in a statement.

Naval forces “will be able to board, search, seize and divert vessels suspected of being used for human smuggling or trafficking on the high seas, in line with international law,” it said.

The operation, EUNAVFOR Med, was initiated in late June with the goal of identifying and seizing smugglers’ ships and rescuing migrants. The mission

comprises four ships, including an Italian aircraft carrier, and four planes. It is manned by 1,318 personnel from 22 European countries.

“The Political and Security Committee also agreed that EUNAVFOR Med should be renamed ‘Sophia’ after the name given to the baby born on the ship of the operation which rescued her mother on 22 August 2015 off the coast of Libya,” the statement added.

The change was proposed by the bloc’s foreign affairs chief, Federica Mogherini, although some countries were opposed as the name did not sound sufficiently military, a European source said. The baby was born on the German vessel Schleswig-Holstein after her Somali parents were saved from a boat off Libya.—AFP

PERSPECTIVES

Don't dilute the constitution

Myint Win Thein

A constitution is the most important of documents when it comes to governance because it outlines the system of laws and basic principles that a state, country or organisation adheres to. A constitution should have supremacy over all other laws and its meaning never restricted – not even in the case of there being a conflict.

However, in some countries, a constitution can be restricted by the phrase, “in accordance with the law”. It is common to see that “someone is entitled to enjoy something according to the law” in state constitutions. This can also be interpreted that a person is forbidden to enjoy something under some conditions of the law pertaining to it. The law concerned prevents him from enjoying it in certain situations.

For example, the constitution of a country stipulates that every citizen has the right to freedom of assembly: according to the law. The law pertaining to freedom of assembly in Myanmar requires a citizen to seek permission to do so from authorities beforehand, who reserve the right to refuse it. When someone is denied permission to hold a peaceful demonstration,

they cannot be said to be fully enjoying freedom of assembly, which is a fundamental right. A constitution should have supremacy over other laws and the fundamental rights it provides for its citizens should be guaranteed.

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Making universities more responsive to stakeholder needs

Myo Myint

FOR any educational institution to remain relevant, it must be responsive to the growing and changing needs of students and other stakeholders. In effectively responding to the needs of stakeholders, education institutions must have close links with them in order to have in depth knowledge of their needs and priorities, and to ensure that the responses are both practical and in line with contemporary thinking and not based on outmoded ideas or entrenched beliefs. Moreover, once the needs are known, they should be responded to without delay, in order that the proposed solutions, no sooner have they been implemented, do not become obsolete. One of the main needs currently being voiced by higher education stakeholders is for universities to offer more programmes that provide professional and employability skills so that when students graduate, they can gain employment quickly.

A study of Myanmar universities reveals that they may be roughly classified into three types. The first type offers general education which deals with theoretical as well as applied aspects of disciplines such as languages, history, psychology, philosophy, and the sciences. The second type prepares students for a profession, such as medical education, teacher education and law, and the programmes usually include a certain period of internship for practical training. The third type offers professional type of programmes which may entail project work but do not usually include a period of internship, such as technology and economics. The majority of universities in Myanmar belong to the first type and the number of the second type, i.e. the professional universities is limited. Possible reasons for this are the high cost of running professional universities and providing the necessary facilities and equipment, difficulty in attracting qualified faculty, lack of students with the appropriate calibre, and the small number of graduates that can be absorbed by the sectors concerned. However, there

are graduates of some professional programmes that are in huge demand all over the country such as teacher education, nursing, and accounting.

Let's take a look at group of graduates currently very much in demand. Due to the increase in the number of basic education schools and students, and the desire to provide all primary schools in the country with an adequate number of teachers, it was decided to appoint more primary teachers. The challenge in accomplishing this task was not due to the lack of a sufficient number of persons willing to work as primary teachers, as there are tens of thousands of matriculates and graduates all over Myanmar who want to serve as teachers, but it was due to not being able to recruit enough persons with initial teacher training, as the existing 21 education colleges could only produce about 9000 trained primary teachers annually. In addition, there is a backlog of untrained primary teachers waiting to be trained. In order to solve this problem, the solution adopted was to appoint persons who have been given a short training of one month called Trained Basic Teachership. While it was a quick and effective solution suited to current needs, bearing in mind the existing training capacity of education colleges, those primary teachers appointed after a short period of training may have to wait for a long time in order to undergo comprehensive training, due to the existing backlog of teachers waiting to attend the various teacher

training programmes at education colleges.

Since the capacity of education colleges cannot be increased due to infrastructure and land limitations, solutions such as initiating on-line training programmes have been proposed and supported by some teacher educators. However, bearing in mind Myanmar's past experience of the long-term negative impacts on the quality of education caused by unsatisfactorily trained teachers, Myanmar's long-term aim to raise its quality of education to at least that of more developed ASEAN nations, and the current quality of on-line programmes in Myanmar due to insufficient technological and human resources, such kind of training cannot yet be a proper substitute for quality face-to-face teaching. The best solution would be to establish a large number of teacher training institutions. However, this will cost a lot of money and need a lot of time. A faster, more viable, and cost effective solution that will not only ensure the quality of the training provided but also the capacity of the institution to accept a large number of trainees is to open teacher education programmes at all universities under the Ministry of Education offering general education located in nearly all the states and regions in Myanmar. The solution has been proposed for the following reasons.

Regarding the feasibility of opening professional programmes at general education universities, it needs to be noted that many universities have the experience of

opening such courses, for example, law and professional type human resource development programmes.

Regarding the physical capacity of universities to cope with opening another specialization programme, many institutions, especially those in the states, already have the capacity, because their facilities and teaching staff have been underutilized for a long time because of small student enrollments. Universities with high enrollment rates can also accept more students as there has been an upsurge in construction of new buildings at these universities, due to the government's generous allocation of funds for additional buildings. In any case, a more systematic utilization of lecture rooms, labs, libraries and sports facilities at all universities will ensure that there will be minimal problems in establishing a few new education related departments, or the education faculty, and accept an additional fifty to one hundred students a year.

Regarding the need to appoint qualified teachers for education disciplines, there are already an adequate number of PhD (Education) and MEd degree holders trained by the two universities of education to run the three departments of methodology, educational theory and educational psychology which will need to be established if education related programmes are opened.

Regarding the need for the services of arts and science teachers, the education programmes can utilize the teachers from existing arts and science departments at the universities. Co-curricular subjects like physical education can also be handled by the existing sports department of the university concerned.

Regarding the need for facilities for trainees to carry out practice teaching, there are an adequate number of schools in the cities and towns concerned to serve as practicing schools.

What then are the practical benefits of introducing teacher education programmes at universities offering general education?

There are many obvious benefits that can be derived from the introduction of teacher education programmes at universities offer-

ing general education. The first and most important benefit is enabling states and regions to train the required number of teachers for schools within the state and region concerned in accordance with their needs and plans and also being able to provide teaching jobs to those they have trained at schools located in the state and region they are residing in. The obvious advantage of this is that graduates do not have to relocate to other regions to find employment leaving home and family behind. The second benefit is that due to the huge increase in the number of higher institutions offering teacher education programmes, the problem of backlog of untrained teachers can be solved swiftly without affecting the quality. The third benefit is being able to make effective use of available higher education facilities and staff in the region or state that were previously underutilized and had been an unnecessary burden to the government. The fourth benefit is being able to provide highly qualified teachers, facilities and management for teacher education programmes at the university run by a rector which may be of a quality more superior than that provided at a college-level institution run by a principal. The final benefit is being able to fulfill student and stakeholder expectations for employability skills at a university closer to home that will assist graduates to get employment quickly, and enabling parents to economize on the money they would have to spend on their children's higher education, if they were to be educated at an institution located outside the region or state where they live.

In order to make universities more relevant and responsive to the changing needs of students, stakeholders and country, it must be reiterated that it is necessary to be free from personal bias and old fashioned ideas when offering solutions. It must be also stressed that the challenges of the 21st century require solutions that are far more creative than in the distant past. It is also obvious that for a developing country like Myanmar, whatever solution is proposed needs to minimize cost and maximize benefits as there are so many sectors vying for attention.

“In order to make universities more relevant and responsive to the changing needs of students, stakeholders and country, it must be reiterated that it is necessary to be free from personal bias and old fashioned ideas when offering solutions.”



BLOOD DONATION: As a gesture of honouring the 51st anniversary Myanmar Police Force Day which falls on 1st October 2015, 50 police force members led by Police Lt-Col Kyaw Min Han donated blood at Thayawady Township People's hospital on 28 September. Similarly Police Major San Naing Tun also led his 50-member troop to donate blood at People's hospital in Pyay on the same day. PHOTO: MNA

Census data distributed in Dekhina district

DATA obtained from the 2014 census was distributed to participants in a population data and information course that began Monday at Dekhina district District's Immigration and National Registration Department, under the Ministry of Immigration and

Population. DINR District head U Win Myat Soe attended the launch of the course, which spans three days and will be attended by 68 district-level government officials and members of civil society organisations.—*District IPRD*



Participants in a population data and information course obtain data from 2014 census. PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

Clean water services for arsenic affected villages

THE Rural Development Department of Hinthata Township are providing drinking water services to communities in arsenic affected areas.

The department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development launched 19 rural water supply works during 2013-14 financial year, 42 water works in 2014-15 and 25 in 2015-16 financial year. Hinthata has 103 village-tracts, with some villages being arsenic affected.—*Win Bo*

Govt, CSOs discuss priorities for reducing climate change impacts

MINISTRY of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and environmentalists will work together to help preparedness for facing impacts of the climate change.

At a forum in Nay Pyi Taw Tuesday, the ministry and civil society organizations agreed to coordinate each other in the long run to implement plans in list of priorities for encountering the climate change in Myanmar.

The forum was opened with an address by Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Daw Thet Thet Zin. The forum focused on role of CSOs in environmental conservation and their contribution in terms of environmental information to the government projects.—*MNA*

Course on mitigating natural disasters begins



Youths participate in natural disaster mitigating activities. PHOTO: U MYINT AUNG

A course about mitigating natural disasters began for 30 youth volunteers on Monday at Kyaukme's township general administration of-

rice. Shan State head of Relief and Resettlement Department U Soe Naing gave a talk at the opening ceremony about how taking simple

steps can significantly reduce the potential impact of natural disasters in communities. The three-day course will explore the broad aims

of disaster management, which are to prevent deaths and injuries and to protect homes and the environment.—*U Myint Aung*

WWII bomb found

A bomb thought to date back to World War II has been discovered by members of Lewei Township Sports and Physical Fitness Department, who were leveling an old golf course into a sports ground with a bulldozer on 29 September when they stumbled on the chance discovery.

A bomb of a similar vintage was discovered on 24 September: the site was a battleground during World War II.

Department officers reported the news to the local army depot, who came to the site and measured its length as being 4.4 foot and its width, 2.6 foot.—*Than Naing Zabu Thiri*



There may be more old bombs at the construction site of sports facility. PHOTO: THAN NAING ZABU THIRI

Afghan forces fight to retake northern city from Taliban



Afghan special forces arrive for a battle with the Taliban in Kunduz city, northern Afghanistan on 29 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

KABUL — Afghan forces backed by US air support clashed with Taliban fighters in Kunduz on Tuesday in a bid to retake the centre of the northern city, the first provincial Afghan capital to fall to the insurgents since their movement was toppled 14 years ago.

The sudden fall of Kunduz on Monday was a major setback for the government of President Ashraf Ghani, which marked its first year in power on Tuesday, and raised questions over how ready Afghan forces were to tackle the Islamist insurgency alone.

Afghanistan's Defence Ministry said government forces, who spent the night holed up at the city's airport, would soon retake Kunduz.

"Fresh troops have arrived in Kunduz, and an operation has been launched," the ministry said in a statement.

It added that government forces had retaken the city prison

and the provincial police headquarters, which were overrun on Monday night. Hundreds of Taliban prisoners escaped during the jail attack.

US military planes struck Taliban positions on the outskirts of the city, a NATO spokesman said. The attack at about 9 am (0400 GMT) marked the first US air strike to defend the city.

"US forces conducted an air strike in Kunduz today to eliminate a threat to coalition and Afghan forces operating in the vicinity of Kunduz," said Colonel Brian Tribus, a spokesman for the NATO-led coalition.

He did not elaborate on how many coalition troops were in the area.

Residents in Kunduz said the Taliban were patrolling the streets in vehicles they had seized from the army, police and Western aid agencies.

"Since yesterday they gained

control of our hospital, central bank and other government buildings," said Abdul Ahad, a doctor at the 200-bed hospital in the city.

"They have been behaving very well with everyone, especially doctors. They may win peo-

"They have been behaving very well with everyone, especially doctors. They may win people's hearts if they stay longer."

— Dr Abdul Ahad

ple's hearts if they stay longer."

A shopkeeper said the number of Islamist fighters in Kunduz had increased early on Tuesday and that they had planted booby traps on some of the roads leading

out of the city. The Taliban's new leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, celebrated the Islamist militants' capture of Kunduz, saying in a statement that residents had nothing to fear. "These conquests are result of almighty Allah's support and the mujahideen (fighters') sacrifices. Therefore, officials in Kabul have to admit their defeat with courage," Mansour said.

"Kunduz residents should not be worried about their lives and property. They should continue as normal without any tension," he added.

The Taliban's former government imposed strict Islamic law over Afghanistan for five years before it was toppled by a US-led military intervention in 2001. Its members have been fighting an insurgency ever since, although it has increased in intensity since the beginning of the year after NATO withdrew almost all of its soldiers.—Reuters

Central Africa leader leaves UN meet early amid tensions at home

UNITED NATIONS — The interim leader of the Central African Republic, Catherine Samba Panza, left New York and the UN General Assembly on Monday to return home over tensions in Bangui, Western diplomats said.

Samba Panza had been scheduled to remain in New York until the end of the week with a meeting on the Central

African Republic scheduled for Thursday, but flew home early because of trouble brewing at home.

Tension and fear gripped the country's capital Monday, with the city paralyzed by barricades set up at main junctions after a weekend of deadly violence and looting.

A hospital source told AFP that three protesters were killed and seven wounded when United Nations peacekeepers opened fire on a crowd of several hundred heading for the presidency.

The demonstrators had demanded Samba Panza's resignation after the deaths of at least 20 people in Bangui over the weekend.

The UN peacekeeping force, MINUSCA, denied its troops opened fire on protesters. This weekend's violence was sparked by the murder of a motorcycle-taxi driver in central Bangui's Muslim-majority PK-5 neighbourhood.

After the death of the driver, whose throat was allegedly slit, clashes and looting spread to nearby districts.

Although violence has fallen considerably, the country faces persistent insecurity. Presidential and legislative elections are due to take place in principle before the end of the year.—AFP

Bomb blast near Baghdad liquor store kills two

BAGHDAD — A car bomb exploded near a liquor store in central Baghdad Tuesday, killing at least two people, security and medical sources said.

The blast went off shortly after midnight in the Battaween area, on a street known for its shops and restaurants selling alcohol, a police colonel said.

A medical source confirmed the death toll and said

at least eight people were also wounded.

At least 13 people were killed in bomb attacks on two Shiite-majority neighbourhoods of the Iraqi capital a week earlier.

The Islamic State jihadist group, which has controlled swathes of Iraq since last year, frequently claims responsibility for car bombs in Baghdad. There was no immediate claim for Tuesday's attack.—AFP

Death toll from air strike on Yemen wedding party rises above 130

SANAA — The death toll from an air strike on a wedding party in Yemen has jumped to 131, medics said on Tuesday, in one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in Yemen's war that drew strong condemnation from the UN secretary-general.

A Saudi-led Arab coalition that has air supremacy over Yemen has strongly denied any role in the wedding party carnage, and a coalition spokesman suggested that local militias may have fired the projectiles.

Residents said on Monday that two missiles tore through tents in the Red Sea village of

Al-Wahijah, near the port of Al-Mokha, where a local man affiliated with the Houthis was holding his wedding reception.

A medical source at a local hospital in Maqbana, where the casualties were taken, said on Tuesday that the death toll from the attack had risen to 131, from 27 reported on Monday.

The Arab coalition began air strikes in March in a bid to drive the war's dominant armed faction, Iranian-allied Houthi forces, out of wide swathes of the country seized since last year, and to reinstate President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Pro-Hadi government forces backed by local militias, Gulf troop reinforcements and air raids have taken back some terrain from the Houthis including the southern port of Aden, where Hadi has set up a temporary base after returning from Saudi exile.

But international rights groups have expressed alarm at the escalating number of civilian deaths in the Arabian Peninsula conflict — at least 2,355 out of more than 4,500 people killed from the end of March to Sept. 24, according to figures released by the UN Human Rights Office in Geneva on Tuesday.—Reuters

Fossilised fur reveals colour of 49-million-year-old bats

WASHINGTON — Fossils can do a good job of revealing key aspects of an extinct creature: its bones, teeth, claws, even soft tissue like fur, skin, feathers, organs and sometimes remains of its last meal in the gut. Knowing its color has been a trickier question.

But scientists have figured out how to answer it based on microscopic structures in fossils that divulge pigment, and on Monday disclosed for the first time the fur colour of extinct mammals: two of the earliest-known bats.

The bats, called *Palaeochiropteryx* and *Hassianycteris*, were a reddish brown.

“Well, the bats are brown. It might not be a big surprise, but that’s what these 49-million-year-old bats are. So they looked perfectly like modern bats,” said molecular paleobiologist Jakob Vinther of Britain’s University of Bristol.

Vinther also has used the method to study colors in dinosaurs, fish, amphibians and fossil squid ink. The method was first described in 2008 regarding a 105-million-year-old black-and-white striped feather from Brazil

and also showed that a winged dinosaur from China, *Microraptor*, boasted iridescent feathers.

“Biologists know a lot about living animals because of colour: what sort of environment they live in, how they protect themselves or how they attract mates,” Virginia Tech paleobiologist Caitlin Colleary said.

“But since so little is preserved in the fossil record, the color of extinct animals has always been left up to artists’ interpretations, and important information regarding behavior has been considered inaccessible.”

The bats lived along a lake in the middle of a tropical forest in Germany. The scientists examined the beautifully preserved bat fossils that retained structures called melanosomes.

Melanosomes contain melanin, the pigment that gives color to skin, hair, feathers and eyes. They possess distinctive shapes that indicate pigment colour. “Reddish brown melanosomes are little tiny meatballs around 500 nanometers in diameter, while black melanosomes are elongated sausages about a micron in length,” Vinther said.—*Reuters*



A fossil of a bat species known as *Palaeochiropteryx* found in Messel, Germany is seen in an undated handout picture courtesy of the Senckenberg Research Institute. PHOTO: REUTERS

Water flows on Mars, raising possibility that planet could support life: scientists

CAPE CANAVERAL — Briny water flows during the summer months on Mars, raising the possibility that the planet long thought to be arid could support life today, scientists analyzing data from a NASA spacecraft said on Monday.

Although the source and the chemistry of the water is unknown, the discovery will change scientists’ thinking about whether the planet that is most like Earth in the solar system hosts microbial life beneath its radiation-blasted crust.

“It suggests that it would be possible for life to be on Mars today,” John Grunsfeld, NASA’s associate administrator for science, told reporters, discussing the

study published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*.

“Mars is not the dry, arid planet that we thought of in the past. Under certain circumstances, liquid water has been found on Mars,” said Jim Green, the agency’s director of planetary science.

But NASA will not be rushing out to search the newly discovered saltwater residue for life just yet. “If I were a microbe on Mars, I would probably not live near one of these (sites). I would want to live further north or south, quite far under the surface and where there’s more of a freshwater glacier. We only suspect those places exist and we have some scientific

evidence that they do,” Grunsfeld said. The discovery of the water flows was made when scientists developed a new technique to analyze chemical maps of the surface of Mars obtained by NASA’s Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

“It suggests that it would be possible for life to be on Mars today.”

— John Grunsfeld, NASA’s associate administrator

spacecraft. They found telltale fingerprints of salts that form only in the presence of water in narrow channels cut into cliff walls throughout the planet’s equatorial region.

The slopes, first reported in 2011, appear during the warm summer months on Mars, then vanish when the temperatures drop. The chemical fingerprints of hydrated minerals did likewise, the new study showed.

Scientists suspected the streaks, known as recurring slope lineae, or RSL, were cut by flowing water, but previously had been unable to make the measurements.

“I thought there was no hope,” Lujendra Ojha, a graduate student at Georgia Institute of Technology and lead author of the scientific paper, told Reuters.

Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter makes its measurements during the hottest part of the Martian day, so scientists believed any traces of water, or fingerprints from hydrated minerals, would have evaporated.

Also, the chemical-sensing instrument on the orbiting spacecraft cannot home in on details as small as the narrow streaks, which typically are less than 16 feet (5 metres) wide.—*Reuters*



This image, cropped from a larger panoramic image mosaic taken by the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit panoramic camera, released in March 2004, shows the rover’s destination toward the hills nicknamed the Columbia Hills. PHOTO: REUTERS

UK scientists start stem cell trial of potential blindness cure

LONDON — The first patient has been treated in Britain in a pioneering trial of a new treatment co-developed by Pfizer and derived from embryonic stem cells designed for patients with a condition that can cause blindness.

Specialists at London’s Moorfields Eye Hospital said the operation, described as “successful”, was the first of 10 planned for participants in a trial of the treatment for a disease called ‘wet’ age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

The trial will test the safety and efficacy of transplanting eye cells known as retinal pigment epithelium, which have been derived from embryonic stem cells.

Stem cells are the body’s master cells, the source of all other cells. Scientists who support the use of embryonic stem cells say they could transform medicine, providing treatments for blindness, juvenile diabetes or severe injuries. But critics object to them because they are harvested from human embryos.

This trial involves surgeons inserting a specially engineered patch behind the retina to deliver the treatment cells to replace diseased cells at the back of the eye.

The first surgery was successfully performed on a patient last month, Moorfields said in a statement on Tuesday, and “there have been no complications to date”.

“The patient wishes to remain anonymous, but the team hope to determine her outcome in terms of initial visual recovery by early December,” it added.

Retinal surgeon Lyndon Da Cruz, who is performing the operations, said he hoped many patients “will benefit in the future from transplantation of these cells.”

Macular degeneration accounts for almost 50 percent of all cases of blindness or vision loss in the developed world. It usually affects people over 50 and comes in two forms, wet and dry. Wet AMD, which is less common than dry AMD, is generally caused by abnormal blood vessels that leak fluid or blood into a region in center of the retina.

This trial is part of The London Project to Cure Blindness — a partnership between Moorfields, University College London’s (UCL) Institute of Ophthalmology, and Britain’s National Institute for Health Research. The US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer joined in 2009. Chris Mason, a professor of regenerative medicine at UCL, said the trial is important both as potential step towards curing a major cause of blindness, and as a way of deepening understanding of the use of embryonic stem cells in treatments.—*Reuters*

Polish army inspects alleged site of Nazi gold train

WARSAW — Poland's army said Monday it has begun inspecting the southwestern area where two men claim to have discovered an armoured Nazi gold train buried at the end of World War II.

The treasure hunters — a German and a Pole — left the world spellbound last month with their alleged find near the city of Walbrzych of a railway car potentially full of jewels and gold stolen by the Nazis.

“Our goal is to check whether there's any hazardous material at the site,” said Colonel Artur Talik, who is leading the search using mine detectors and ground-penetrating radar.

The governor of the region of Lower Silesia, Tomasz Smolarz, added that “other decisions” regarding the search for the train would be made “once safety is assured at the site”.

Piotr Koper, a Pole, and German national Andreas Richter announced last month they had discovered a 98-metre-long (320-foot-long) train carriage buried eight to nine metres underground.

They believe the contents are mostly weapon prototypes, though according to local legend they could also include artwork and Nazi documents.

Deputy Culture Minister Piotr Zuchowski said last month he was “more than 99 percent sure” the train exists because of ground-penetrating radar images he had seen.

But officials have since cast doubt on its existence, saying there was no credible evidence of it. They have not however given up on verifying the claim.

Rumours of two Nazi trains

that disappeared in the spring of 1945 have been circulating for years, capturing the imagination of countless treasure-hunters.

The lore is fuelled by a massive network of secret under-

ground tunnels near Walbrzych — including around the massive Książ Castle — that Nazi Germany built and where legend has it the Third Reich stashed looted valuables.—AFP



Soldiers stand next to a van near railway tracks between Walbrzych and Wrocław as they prepare to search for a rumoured World War II ‘gold train’ on 28 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

New Zealand to create giant South Pacific sanctuary

WELLINGTON — Waters north of New Zealand are set to become one of the world's largest ocean sanctuaries, covering an area roughly the size of France, with a full ban on fishing and mining, New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key said at the United Nations on Monday. Called the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary, the area covers 620,000 square kms (239,000 square miles) of ocean, and encompasses a string of undersea volcanoes and is home to endangered marine life including whales, dolphins and turtles.

The announcement surprised New Zealand's seafood export industry, worth NZ\$1.4

billion (\$882 million) a year, and will prevent mining firms gaining seabed prospecting rights.

“With no forewarning from government, the industry needs

“With no forewarning from government, the industry needs time to consider the full implications.”

— Chairman of Seafood New Zealand

time to consider the full implications,” said George Clement, chairman of industry body Seafood New Zealand.

He added the ban would also apply to tuna, the fourth largest seafood export, according to 2013 data. The sanctuary legislation, tabled by the government for 2016, will also preclude all mining exploration and prospecting activities in the area. Canadian firm Nautilus Minerals is awaiting a permit to prospect in the Kermadec area, while it is already working on digging up a massive sulphide deposit off Papua New Guinea.

Nautilus is one of many natural resource firms, includ-

ing US-based Neptune Minerals, US-listed Odyssey Marine Exploration, Singapore-based OMS and New Zealand's Trans-Tasman Resources, racing to mine the ocean floor. Along the Pacific Rim of Fire, vast beds of manganese nodules hold promise for economic powers like China and Japan. Other countries in the Pacific looking at underwater mining include Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The Kermadec sanctuary announcement comes after efforts by Australia and New Zealand to establish the world's largest marine sanctuary off Antarctica were thwarted by Russia and China.—Reuters

20 feared missing after India boat capsizes

GUWAHATI — Rescuers were searching on Tuesday for about 20 people feared missing after a boat capsized and sank in a rain-swollen river in remote northeast India, a government official said. The motorised ferry was taking about 100 villagers to a popular boat race in Assam state when it hit a bridge pylon and overturned on the Kolohi river late on Monday, a top district administrator told AFP.

“The village headman who jumped out first from the boat told us that some 80-90 of his fellow passengers swam to safety,” said Vinod Seshan.

“There are apprehensions about some 20 other people but no one has reported any person missing to the police as yet. But we have restarted rescue operations this morning,” he told AFP.

Initial reports said up to 50 people were feared missing, but district police chief Indrani Barua said most passengers were later thought to have swum to safety.

Ferries plying rivers in India's remote northeast do not keep passenger lists, making it impossible to find out the exact number of people missing after a boat accident.

Boat accidents are common because of lax safety standards and overcrowding.—AFP

Super typhoon kills two, injures hundreds in Taiwan

TAIPEI — Super typhoon Dujuan has killed two people and left more than 300 injured in Taiwan, authorities said Tuesday after it swept across the island before making landfall in eastern China.

Almost half a million people are still without electricity in Taiwan as the storm left a trail of destruction in the north of the island. It hit the Chinese coastal city of Putian on Tuesday morning, state news agency Xinhua said, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

Many of those injured in Taiwan were hit by flying debris or involved in traffic accidents,

the Emergency Operation Centre said, putting the death toll at two and the number of injured at 324.

Severe winds uprooted trees and smashed windows while heavy rains triggered multiple landslides. More than 12,000 people have been evacuated and almost 3,000 are in temporary shelters, authorities said. Taiwan's aboriginal mountain communities are particularly at risk during typhoons, often affected by flooding and mudslides.

Landslides blocked the roads into the hot spring town of Wulai, in mountains just outside the capital Taipei. It was the latest hit for

Wulai which was severely damaged by flooding and landslides in August when Typhoon Soudelor hit, with some residents unable to return home for weeks.

Many shops and hotels were still rebuilding even as the latest typhoon struck. “The roads are blocked but residents aren't in any immediate danger,” a spokesman for New Taipei City fire department told AFP. Dujuan was categorised as a “super typhoon” by regional forecasters, taking residents by surprise as it sped up before making landfall late Monday in the eastern county of Yilan. It was downgraded to a

“moderate typhoon” by Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau as it crossed the island. “It's expected the typhoon will continue to weaken and its radius to keep shrinking,” the weather bureau said. Schools and offices in Taiwan remain shut on Tuesday and the stock market is also closed. At the peak of the storm two million homes were left without electricity — on Tuesday morning 498,458 were still without power. Towering waves crashed through windows at a seaside hotel in eastern Yilan while fierce winds also caused damage at Taipei's famous 101 skyscraper.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (014N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (014N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TAUNG GYI STAR VOY NO (04W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAUNG GYI STAR VOY NO (04W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (064N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (064N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2015 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 WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 THE SHIPPING CORP. OF INDIA LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THAI BINH-688 VOY NO (09/2015)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH-688 VOY NO (09/2015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) 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
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(30-9-2015, Wednesday)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 6:00 am | 8:55 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Myanmar Series |
| 6:15 am | 10:00 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Joint Performance by State Traditional Orchestra |
| 6:40 am | 10:15 am |
| • Fashion Show | • Myanmar Movie (Black & White) |
| 6:50 am | PM |
| • Teleplay | 6:15 am |
| 7:00 am | • AFC U-19 Championship |
| • TV Drama Series | Qualifying Football Match |
| 7:50 am | (Group (G) (Live) (Brunei Vs Myanmar) |
| • TV Drama Series | |
| 8:35 am | |
| • Musical Programme | |
| 8:45 am | |
| • Catch Asia News (Part-10) | |



(30-9-2015 07:00 am ~ 1-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

- Today Fresh**
- 07:03 Am News
 - 07:26 Am Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre - Chaw Dwin Gone
 - 07:42 Am Lucrative Myanmar Rattan Industry
 - 08:03 Am News
 - 08:24 Am Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan) (Vitis)
 - 08:55 Am [Doctor] [Painter]
 - 09:03 Am News
 - 09:26 Am Chef Life "Myo Min Soe Oo"
 - 09:35 Am Myanmar Traditional Bullock-Cart & Equestrian Racing
 - 09:46 Am A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas

- 10:03 Am News
- 10:26 Am Myanmar Traditional Instruments - Myanma Harp (Episode-2)
- 10:52 Am Young Artist: Maw Thu Danu
- (11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 06:30 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 10:30 Am)**
- 06:30 Pm AFC U-19 Championship Qualifying Football Tournament for Bahrain 2016 (Group-G) Myanmar Vs. Brunei
- Prime Time**
- 08:03 Pm News
- 08:26 Pm Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts
- 08:41 Pm Mt. Naw Bu Baw
- 08:51 Pm Horse Cart Driver
- (09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)**
- (For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)**

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 30th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30 - 35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of thundery activities in the Southern Myanmar areas.



(30-9-2015, Wednesday)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 8:35 am |
| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • People's Talks |
| 6:15 am | 9:00 am |
| • Documentary (Mingun Sayadaw) | • News/ International News |
| 6:30 am | 9:35 am |
| • Physical Exercises | • Science and Technology Programme |
| 7:00 am | 10:00 am |
| • News/ International News | • News/ International News |
| 7:30 am | 10:35 am |
| • Head Line News | • Meet The Successful |
| 8:00 am | 11:00 am |
| • News/ International News | • News/ International News |
| | 11:35 am |
| | • MRTV's Youth |

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme | 4:35pm |
| 12:00 noon | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Botany) |
| 12:30 pm | 5:30 pm |
| • Head Line News | • Head Line News |
| 12:35 pm | 5:35 pm |
| • TV Drama Series | • People's Talks |
| 1:20 pm | 6:00 pm |
| • Documentary (Classical Song) | • News/ Weather Report |
| 1:45 pm | 7:00 pm |
| • Teleplay | • Political Parities' Campaign Speeches |
| 2:30 pm | 8:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News/ International News/ Weather Report |
| 2:35 pm | • Documentary |
| • Myanmar Traditional Boxing | 9:00 pm |
| 3:00 pm | • News |
| • News/ International News | • Monthly Weather Report |
| 3:30 pm | • Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance |
| • Head Line News | • Teleplay (Part-2) |
| 3:35 pm | |
| • Money Talk Myanmar | |

Miss Universe Myanmar Organization to host charity auction

MISS Universe Myanmar Organisation announced on Tuesday that proceedings from the National Costume Competition & National Gift Auction of Miss Universe Myanmar 2015-16 will be donated to Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and Yangon Children's Hospital.

A preliminary event for the beauty pageant will be held on the evening of 30 September at Gandamar Grand Ballroom in

Yangon. A 'Best Costume' award will be given at the event as voted by the audience and there will also be an auction of items.

All proceedings from the auction and ticket sales will be donated. The entrance fee to the event is K5,000 and the event will be held on 3 October.

The 20 contestants in the Miss Universe Myanmar pageant have been selected from 13 townships across Myanmar.—*Myanmar Alinn*



Twenty contestants will participate in the pre-event of the Miss Universe Myanmar 2015 & 2016 on 30 September in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Japan's Miyavi says Nashville infuses his latest CD



Actress Angelina Jolie and cast member Miyavi pose in front of Sydney Harbor Bridge after a news conference for new film "Unbroken". PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Japanese pop star Miyavi, who appeared in Angelina Jolie's prison-camp drama "Unbroken", says that much of his latest album was recorded in Nashville, and the country music capital's spirit has permeated his work.

"I feel the vibes — to me that's a spiritual spot," Miyavi, whose birth name is Takamasa Ishihara, told Reuters before going on stage at London's Shepherd's Bush Empire on Sunday night for a concert promoting the release of his new CD, "The Others".

"Every time I go to Nashville, I always pray, in just the normal streets, (with) cars passing by," Miyavi added.

"I look like a kind of weird strange Asian guy praying on the street, but for me I felt the vibes. And that experience in Nashville is so precious to me."

Although his main career is in music, Miyavi may be better known outside his native country for his role as a brutal prison guard in the Jolie-directed film based on the true story of the Australian airman and Olympic sprinter Louis

Zamperini, held captive during World War Two.

The movie contains scenes in which his seemingly psychotic character repeatedly beats and abuses those under his charge — but Miyavi said he wanted to act more, enjoyed playing the bad guy and could even see himself as a Bond villain.

"I enjoyed to hear that people hated me in the film. That's a compliment," he said when asked if he could see himself as a possible nemesis for 007.

Known as the "Samurai guitarist" for his slapping style without using a guitar pick, the 34-year-old has played more than 250 shows across 30 countries including America, Asia and Australia. Explaining his "stripped down" on-stage style, which sees him play guitar with only a drum accompaniment, he said: "Only two people on stage, it's simpler and (more) solid. You know it's a really kind of intense performance, so, more freedom and a low budget."—*Reuters*

Daughter of late actor Paul Walker sues Porsche over fatal crash

LOS ANGELES — The daughter of late actor Paul Walker, who died in the fiery crash of a Porsche sports car in California two years ago, filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the car company in Los Angeles on Monday, court records show.

Meadow Walker claimed in the complaint that the automaker skimped on safety features for the vehicle, which could have either prevented the crash entirely or at least kept Walker alive.

Paul Walker was a passenger in the 2005 Porsche Carrera GT driven by Roger Rodas, who lost control of the vehicle before it ca-

reed into trees and a utility pole in Santa Clarita, northwest of Los Angeles, killing both men in November 2013.

The suit said Porsche AG (PSHG_p.DE) knew the car model had a "history of instability and control issues" and added that the seat belts were designed such that in a crash, the shoulder belt anchor would be pulled along with the rear engine compartment while the seat anchor would remain in place.

"This snapped Walker's torso back with thousands of pounds of force, thereby breaking his ribs and pelvis, flattening his seat and

trapping him in a supine position, where he remained alive until the vehicle erupted into flames one minute and twenty seconds later," the filing said.

"Absent these defects in the Porsche Carrera GT, Paul Walker would be alive today," the complaint added, citing the seat belt design and other issues.

Porsche could not be immediately reached for comment on Monday. But attorneys for the German car company said in April that Rodas was to blame for the crash following a lawsuit filed by his widow against the company's North American unit last year.

Attorneys for the company had then denied that the car had any defects.

Walker's death at the age of 40 led to a temporary halt in production of "Fast & Furious 7", the latest movie in the successful series about illegal street racing that helped popularize his career.

The Los Angeles Times has reported that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol found that unsafe speeds were to blame for the crash, not mechanical problems. The newspaper said investigators made the determination after consulting with technicians from Porsche.—*Reuters*



A man signs a large condolence card during an unofficial memorial event for "Fast & Furious" star Paul Walker in Santa Clarita, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Home Alone' returning for 25th anniversary

LOS ANGELES — Hailed as one of the greatest Christmas family comedy, "Home Alone" will return to theatres to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Fathom Events and 20th Century Fox have announced that they will celebrate the 1990 holiday classic's anniversary by screening the movie for two nights only in

select theatres across US, reported Entertainment Weekly.

The special presentation, airing on 8 and 11 November, will also feature an exclusive introduction.

Written by John Hughes and directed by Chris Columbus, "Home Alone" introduced the world to Macaulay Culkin as

Kevin, the 8-year-old boy who, after being left behind by his family, has to defend his home against two blundering burglars (Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern).

"Home Alone" earned more than USD 285.7 million, and is still considered the highest grossing live-action comedy of all time in the US.—*PTI*

Journalist, tap dancer among 2015 genius grant winners

NEW YORK — A journalist whose work focuses on race and racism in the United States and a New York City tap dancer and choreographer are among the 24 winners of \$625,000 genius grants, the US organisation awarding them said on Monday.

The John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation annually makes the awards as “seed money for intellectual, social, and artistic endeavors,” according to the organization. The grants are paid out over five years.

This year’s winners include Ta-Nehisi Coates, 39, whose journalism for the Atlantic and

book “Between the World and Me” have provided context to a national debate on racism and police violence raging in response to numerous high-profile police killings of unarmed black people over the last year.

“These 24 delightfully diverse MacArthur Fellows are shedding light and making progress on critical issues, pushing the boundaries of their fields, and improving our world in imaginative, unexpected ways,” MacArthur President Julia Stasch said in a statement.

The group, which began its program in 1981 to pro-

vide money to help fund the specialized work of ambitious free-thinkers, uses anonymous nominators and selection committees to decide who gets the grants.

Recipients, who usually do not know they are being considered unless they win, join 918 other MacArthur fellows, the group said.

Among the 2015 winners are:

* Michelle Dorrance, 36, who founded and is the artistic director of Dorrance Dance in New York City. The foundation called her a “a tap dancer and

choreographer breathing new life into a uniquely American art form.”

* Basil Twist, 46, a puppetry artist and director in New York City whose theatrical works “explore the boundaries between the animate and inanimate, the abstract and the figurative.”

* Peidong Yang, 44, whose work on inorganic chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, is “transforming the field of semiconductor nanowires and nanowire photonics and enabling wide-ranging practical applications.”—*Reuters*

California surfing competition is for the dogs

HUNTINGTON BEACH — Intrepid canines showed their surfing skills at the 7th annual “Surf City Surf Dog” competition as their owners and fans cheered them on. After getting a push into the breaking waves the dogs stood, sat and walked on the surfboard to the delight of the crowd.

One or two even rode the wave in with their back to the beach. The dogs competed in four categories and were judged on skills such as the length of their ride and their confidence on the board.—*Reuters*

WWII ended in 1968 for Ogasawara resident of western ancestry

TOKYO — For 93-year-old Kyoko Ohira, a resident of Chichijima Island in the Ogasawara chain, World War II ended in 1968, rather than in 1945, when her old friends were allowed to return to the remote Pacific island after more than two decades of separation due to their racial differences.

Ohira is a descendant of Western settlers on Chichijima, the largest of the Ogasawara Islands some 1,000 kilometres south of Tokyo.

American and European settlers first arrived in Chichijima in 1830 and later received Japanese nationality after the Ogasawara Islands were internationally recognized as Japanese territory.

Ohira was born as Edith Washington in 1921 but changed her given name to Kyoko during the war on Japanese government orders, she said.

The Pacific War started two years after she moved to Osaka prior to her marriage. She returned to Chichijima in 1943 but all of some 6,800 islanders were forcibly relocated from the island by the Japanese military in 1944 following US air raids. Ohira moved to Tokyo’s Nerima Ward and worked at a local ammunition plant.

After the end of the war on 15 August, 1945, the Ogasawara Islands, also known as the Bonin Islands, were placed under US rule. Only descendants of American and European settlers were permitted to return to the archipelago consisting of some 30 islands.

Only about 130 of the 6,800 islanders returned to Chichijima at that time, according to Ohira.

Life under the US occupation was relatively easy, she recalled, with food and other daily necessities available free of charge in the first few years.

But free traffic, including the exchange of letters, between the Ogasawara Islands and Japan, was banned.

“I missed my old island friends so much,” Ohira said.

Former islanders were eager to return to the archipelago. Ohira quoted a friend of hers as saying, “I don’t mind dying on the day of my return if allowed.”

In 1967, the United States decided to hand the Ogasawara Islands back to Japan. Ohira was elated when she heard the news on the radio.

“I have no words to describe how happy I was when my old classmates arrived back” after the official return of the islands to Japan in June 1968, Ohira said.

“My loneliness of more than 20 years dissipated then, and in my mind the war had finally ended,” she said.—*Kyodo News*



Kyoko Ohira, a resident of Caucasian descent on the Ogasawara islands in Japan.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japanese trainee at Swiss organic farm pursues dream of eco-restaurant

WILDEGG — As a trainee, Yuko Taniguchi leads a busy life at an organic farm in Switzerland, cleaning pony stables, sending goats out to pasture, weeding grass and picking berries in gardens, cooking meals for her host family, and even baking breads and cakes.

But she believes everything she does at the farm in the city of Wildegg near Zurich during her year of training will help her realize her dream of opening in Japan an environmentally friendly, recycling-oriented farmhouse restaurant. Such restaurants, where nothing is wasted by making full use of foodstuffs, leftovers and animal waste, are still rare in Japan.

The 23-year-old was dispatched to Switzerland under an agricultural training program in March, just after graduating from Hokkaido University, where she majored in animal husbandry and conducted research on cheese.

“At first, I thought about going to the Netherlands to study cheese but chose Switzerland because I can learn about small-scale farming and Swiss home cooking,” said Taniguchi, who originally wanted to become a cook or pastry chef.

The programme coordinated by the Japan Agricultural Exchange Council based in Tokyo sends Japanese trainees to the United States, Denmark and Germany in addition to the Netherlands and Switzerland. The training program in Switzerland began in 1956 and more than 300 Japanese trainees have been dispatched to the country.

The farm located on the grounds of Wildegg Castle, which dates from the 13th century, produces crops such as wheat, corn and potato and raises domestic animals. It does not produce cheese, but makes other dairy products such as milk, fresh cream and butter and sells food items to visitors.

Taniguchi, who used to work at Japanese farms during her school holidays, said she has found major differences between farming practices in Switzerland

and Japan.

“Here, animals can move freely and contact between humans and animals is not strictly prohibited. For example, farmers milk cows with their bare hands,” the trainee said. “In Japan, people often wear protective gear and cannot touch livestock easily due to concerns over hygiene.”

The differences are believed to reflect the fact that Swiss farms have far more space available to give to animals. In Japanese farms, where the animals come into close contact with each other, there are more concerns about the spread of infectious diseases such as avian and swine flu, she said.

“I was impressed with the sight of Swiss animals out at feed. If possible, I’d like to graze cows,

“At university, I was confined to a lab and did not have much field experience. Now I enjoy field labour as I can apply what I learned at school,”

—*Yuko Taniguchi, trainee*

pigs and chickens when I open my restaurant in Japan, because if consumers can actually see the environment in which animals have been raised, they would feel more at ease eating the meat,” she said. Compared with Japan, Switzerland is advanced in organic farming, with many consumers eager to buy locally grown organic products certified with “bio” labels, even though they are more expensive than nonorganic items, Taniguchi added.

“Only a few Japanese consumers seek organic agricultural products now because a majority of them prefer nice-looking and cheap items. In Switzerland, even if products are oddly-shaped, people will buy them if they have ‘bio’ certification,” she said, referring to vegetables and fruits.

Taniguchi said she was shocked to see mountains of tomatoes and prunes dumped at a Japanese farm because they were deemed unfit for sale. After later

winning a confectionary contest with a cake made with damaged tomatoes, she began to form her vision for what she calls a “circular” farmhouse restaurant where nothing is thrown away and everything is put to use.

In Japan, organic livestock farmers are almost nonexistent because animal feed is mostly imported, making it difficult to ensure traceability, the trainee said.

Her host Alois Huber, 53, who has obtained “Bio Suisse” certification for his about 60-hectare farm, said that animal feed should include naturally grown wheat and straw and use minimum amounts of chemical fertilizers in growing feed grains. Huber’s farm produces animal feed on its own. According to the Japanese farm

ministry, farmers certified under the organic Japanese Agricultural Standard system account for only 0.2 percent of total farmers, and only 13 livestock farmers in the country have acquired organic JAS certification. In Switzerland, the ratio of “bio” farmers stands at 11 to 12 percent.

In order to practice organic livestock farming in Japan, farmers need to secure enough space, Taniguchi said. “Such farming often employs cow manure as a fertilizer, but it stinks and residents nearby could consider the use of it as pollution,” she said.

The trainee said that although she faces difficulties during her Swiss training such as the language barrier and tough physical labor, her life at the organic farm is fulfilling. “At university, I was confined to a lab and did not have much field experience. Now I enjoy field labour as I can apply what I learned at school,” she said.—*Kyodo News*

Qualifiers for 2018 FIFA World Cup from 8 Oct

MYANMAR'S football team will compete in qualifier matches for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Thailand on 8 October. Myanmar will compete against Lebanon team on 8 October and against Laos on 13 October.

Myanmar Football Federation has selected players for the matches as follows: goal keepers- Kyaw Zin Phyo (Magway), Myo Min Latt (KBZ), Yan Aung Lin (Hanthawaddy); Defenders-David Dan, Zaw Min Tun, Khin Maung Lwin (Yangon United), Nanda Kyaw, Kyaw Zin Lwin(Magway), Zaw Ye Tun, Si Thu Aung (Yadanapon), Zaw Lin(KBZ), Phyo Ko Ko Thein(Ayeyarwaddy), Central- Aung Thu, Ye Ko Oo, Hlaine Bo Bo, Shine Thura (Yadanapon), Yan Aung Kyaw, Kyi Linn (Yangon United), Kyaw Min Oo, Thiha Zaw (Ayeyarwaddy), Forwards- Mg Mg Lwin (Hanthawaddy), Than Paing, Kyaw Ko Ko (Yangon United) and Sam Lam Man (Chin United).

The team will travel to Thailand on 4 October and both matches will be played at Super Chalasai stadium in Bangkok.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)



Myanmar national team. PHOTO: MIN HTET

Yangon United FC to choose new head coach

Ko Moe

YANGON United Football Club will soon select a new head coach for 2016 from a pool of eligible candidates from Brazil and Europe 2016, said the club's chairman U Pyi Pyo Te Za on Tuesday.

The club is currently in the process of adjusting the package offered to the head coach, including the salary. The chairman said that club needs its players to

regain focus as standards have slipped of late. On 21 September the club's head coach Miodrag Jesic quit the team for undisclosed reasons.

The club appointed U Tin Maung Tun as a senior coach to fill the gap until a replacement can be found. U Tin Maung Tun is being supported by fellow coaches U Than Wai, U Myo Min Tun and U Win Naing for the remaining matches of this season.—GNLM

Brazilian icon Ronaldo to open 30 football schools in China

BEIJING — Brazilian great Ronaldo will open 30 football schools in China, the three times FIFA World Player of the Year said on Tuesday, as the Asians continue with ambitious reforms aimed at making themselves world beaters.

The franchises will be mainly located in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, Xinhua news said, with the former Barcelona, Real Madrid and Inter Milan striker expected to be present when the first opens in the Chinese capital

in November. The move comes as Chinese President Xi Jinping, a football fan who is pushing for the country to host the World Cup finals one day, attempts to resuscitate the image of the sport at home after years of corruption in the past. The revamp has gathered pace with the Chinese Super League experiencing a boom in investment by local businessman with several Brazilian internationals, like Robinho and Diego Tardelli, joining top flight clubs.—Reuters



U Pyi Pyo Te Za. PHOTO: KO MOE

New Euro Tour chief hails great ambassador McIlroy

BAD GRIESBACH — New European Tour chief executive Keith Pelley has described four-times major winner Rory McIlroy as “a great ambassador for world golf”.

The 26-year-old Northern Irishman's season has been marred by an ankle injury sustained during a game of soccer

with his friends and he has been overtaken by American Jordan Spieth and Jason Day of Australia at the top of the rankings.

Pelley says McIlroy is a “terrific guy” and someone the European Tour is counting on “for many more years to come”.

“Rory is one of the greatest ambassadors to the game of golf,”

the Canadian told Reuters in an interview at last week's European Open. “His value to the European Tour is significant but his value to the world of golf is even more significant. “He's charismatic, he's intelligent, he's well-spoken and he's everything

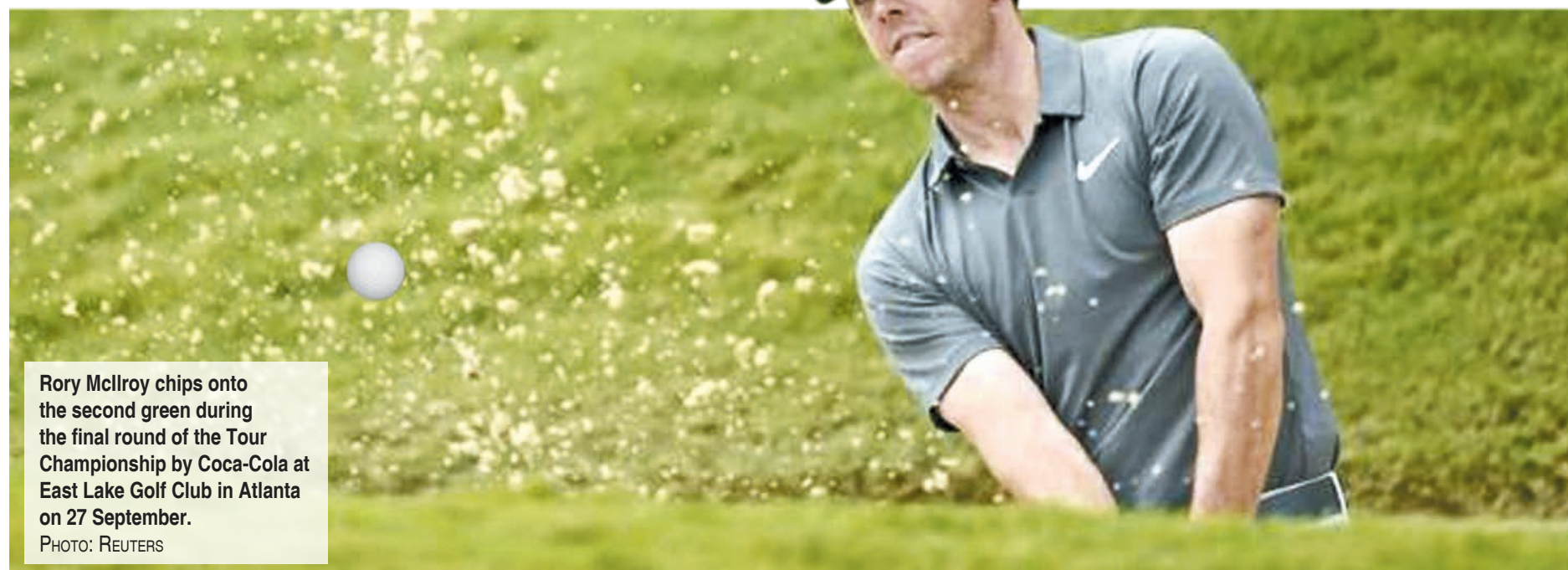
you want in an ambassador. We are fortunate he is a member of the European Tour.”

Pelley, who took over as chief executive from George O'Grady earlier this year, said the world number three would be an integral part of his strategy going forward. “There's no question Rory and some of

the elite players are critical in the plans of the European Tour,” he explained.

“But more importantly any time Rory plays golf and any time that Rory talks and speaks with the media, it is positive for our game.

“Anything that is positive for our game must be positive for our European Tour.” —Reuters



Rory McIlroy chips onto the second green during the final round of the Tour Championship by Coca-Cola at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on 27 September.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Editorial Section — (+95) (01) 8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305

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gnimdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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