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Rights group seeks govt support for Koh Tao murder suspects

Aye Min Soe

A SPECIAL investigations team representing two Myanmar migrant workers on trial for murder in Thailand have called on the Myanmar government to exert diplomatic pressure on Thailand to prevent a miscarriage of justice. Zaw Lin and Win Zaw Tun are accused of killing two British tourists on the island of Koh Tao in September 2014.

“The defence witnesses have already proved in court that the total lack of DNA evidence means the two Myanmar nationals are innocent,” said U Htoo Chit, a member of the special investigation team, which is comprised of Thai lawyers and Myanmar human rights activists.

“The outcome of this case will be watched by many and it will speak volumes about the integrity of the Thai government and judiciary. The Myanmar government should put more diplomatic effort into the case before the verdict is announced,” he said during a press conference in Yangon on Thursday.

The investigation team quoted testimony given by Porntip Rojanasunan, the forensics expert who found that the DNA of two Myanmar defendants does not match the DNA found on the murder weapon of the two British backpackers.

The team also pointed out that torture and intimidation are



U Chit Htoo, a member of the special investigations team, speaks at a press conference in Yangon on Thursday. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

commonly used in Thai police investigations, quoting the testimony of several defence witnesses, including a representative of the National Human Rights Commission, a lawyer who interviewed the defendants and a fellow migrant worker.

The last hearings for the two Myanmar migrant workers, who are accused of the murder of David Miller, 24, and the rape and murder of Hannah Witheridge, 23, is slated for 10 and 11 October.

A Thai judge granted the de-

fence team’s request for additional two days in order to give the defendants more time to speak in court.

The verdict is expected to be announced within two months of the last hearing, according to the special investigations team.

“They were threatened by Thai police during interrogation: they were told that their hands and legs would be cut off and their bodies thrown into a river if they didn’t confess,” U Chit Htoo said.

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Observers invited to scrutinise advance voting

THE Union Election Commission has invited political parties, the media and observers to study the process for advance voting, according to a press release from the commission issued on Thursday.

The announcement said that distribution of tickets for advanced voting it issued with the approval of the government for citizens living abroad must be signed and sealed by township election commissions. It must then be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 3 October onwards.—GNLM

Securing the suffrage of Myanmar’s disabled

Khaing Thanda Lwin

SINCE the beginning of the election period, voters across Myanmar, eager to make their votes count, have noisily called attention to the numerous obstacles they still face, including flawed voter lists and distance from polling stations. The challenges facing voters with disabilities, however, have elicited a wholly different response.

“The disabled show no interest in the November 8 general election at a time

when the poll is a popular talking point among [able] people around the country,” said U Nay Lin Soe, founder and program director of the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI), a local non-government organisation working to empower persons with disabilities.

The *Global New Light of Myanmar* spoke to U Nay Lin Soe about how MILI is working on securing suffrage for people with disabilities.

Q: Why are people with disabilities seemingly uninterested in voting?

A: In the past, people with disabilities were denied the right to vote for various reasons. For instance, they have felt ashamed of their disabilities or they faced restrictions while trying to cast their votes.

The government’s failure to send polling information to the disabled, the lack of easy access to polling stations and the lack of well-trained staff who can explain the voting process to people who are hard of hearing are other hindrances.

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Concert raises \$638,000 for flood victims



Vice President U Nyan Tun receives cash donation presented by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang. PHOTO: MNA

THE Myanmar-China Friendship Association and China-Myanmar Friendship Association donated funds to flood victims in Yangon yesterday following a co-hosted concert that raised K826,702,097 (US\$638,000). The funds were donated to Vice President U Nyan Tun, who also serves as a chairman of National Natural Disaster Management Committee.—MNA

Meiktila observes Older Persons Day



MEIKTILA residents observed International Day of Older Persons on Thursday by donating over K2 million (US\$1,546) for the local senior citizens' home. Upper House MP U Soe Aung attended the donation ceremony and paid his respects to the city's senior citizens. Members of the District Women's Affairs Committee, the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and donors also attended the ceremony.—Chan Tha

Securing the suffrage of Myanmar's disabled

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Q: How does your organisation work to enfranchise people with disabilities?

A: We are cooperating with the Union Election Commission on ensuring voting rights to the disabled. We have held several discussions with the chairman and members of the commission about the challenges they face and the need for voter education for the disabled. The officials have come to understand the particular issues facing people with disabilities and have shown more interest in them.

Q: How does your or-

ganisation draw the attention of people with disabilities and encourage them to vote in the upcoming election?

A: We offered a three-day training course to 20 leaders nationwide. Now, those leaders have opened multiplier courses in their respective townships. The training courses target administrators of village and ward commissions. We found that even officials at the ward and village levels have little knowledge about the election. Some voters themselves have no desire to devote more time to understanding the voting process.

Some said they had come to understand it for the first time only after a brief explanation by our group.

We have also scheduled to meet candidates from big political parties in Yangon and Mandalay in mid-October and to hold a forum aimed at ensuring that candidates address the rights of disabled people in parliament.

At the invitation of the UEC, we also offered training to returning officers. We are planning to raise public awareness about the elections with the use of mobile theatres in some townships in Yangon in mid-October,



(L) to (R): South Korea's military attache, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Beak-soon, Vice President U Nyan Tun and Lt-General U Ye Aung at an event marking the National Day and Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Korea at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon on Thursday. PHOTO: MNA

HELP OUR BOYS

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On behalf of the investigation team, U Chit Htoo expressed thanks to the Myanmar government for its assistance, saying the Kao Tao murder case is the first such case in which the Myanmar government has provided substantive assistance to its nationals abroad.

However he added that it is a weakness on the part of the Myanmar government, which is responsible for protecting the rights of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, that there is no specific budget for helping Myanmar migrant workers. He said there are just one or two diplomats assigned

to assist three million migrants in Thailand.

“Regardless, we have made a great breakthrough in terms of helping our migrant workers in Thailand. We’ve sent a clear message to Thai police and factory bosses that they cannot treat Myanmar citizens with impunity,” U Chit Htoo said.—GNLM

Cancer treatment and awareness to be discussed at forum

Khaing Thanda Lwin

GOLDEN Rose Cancer Foundation will organise its first cancer forum on 4 October at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon in cooperation with Myanmar Medical Association.

The objective of the half-day event is to highlight the role of civil society organisations in cancer control in Myanmar, said

foundation General Secretary Dr Moe Aung Kyaw Naing.

It is also aimed at raising awareness about the early detection and control of cancers among healthcare providers.

The forum will discuss the role of medical professionals in cancer treatment, the foundation's efforts to raise cancer awareness and the role of the Oncology

Society under the Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) MMA in effective treatment of cancer patients.

“Myanmar has a large number of people with liver cancer but the statistical data are not available. Major causes of liver cancer are alcohol consumption, and hepatitis B and C virus infection,” Dr Moe Aung Kyaw Naing said.

be elected.

The UEC's strategic plan (2014-2018) includes provisions about easy access to polls by the people with disabilities. But the main law does not include a section on how the government will make the election process accessible to all. For that, we urge the policy makers to include details on accessible election in the rules and regulations.

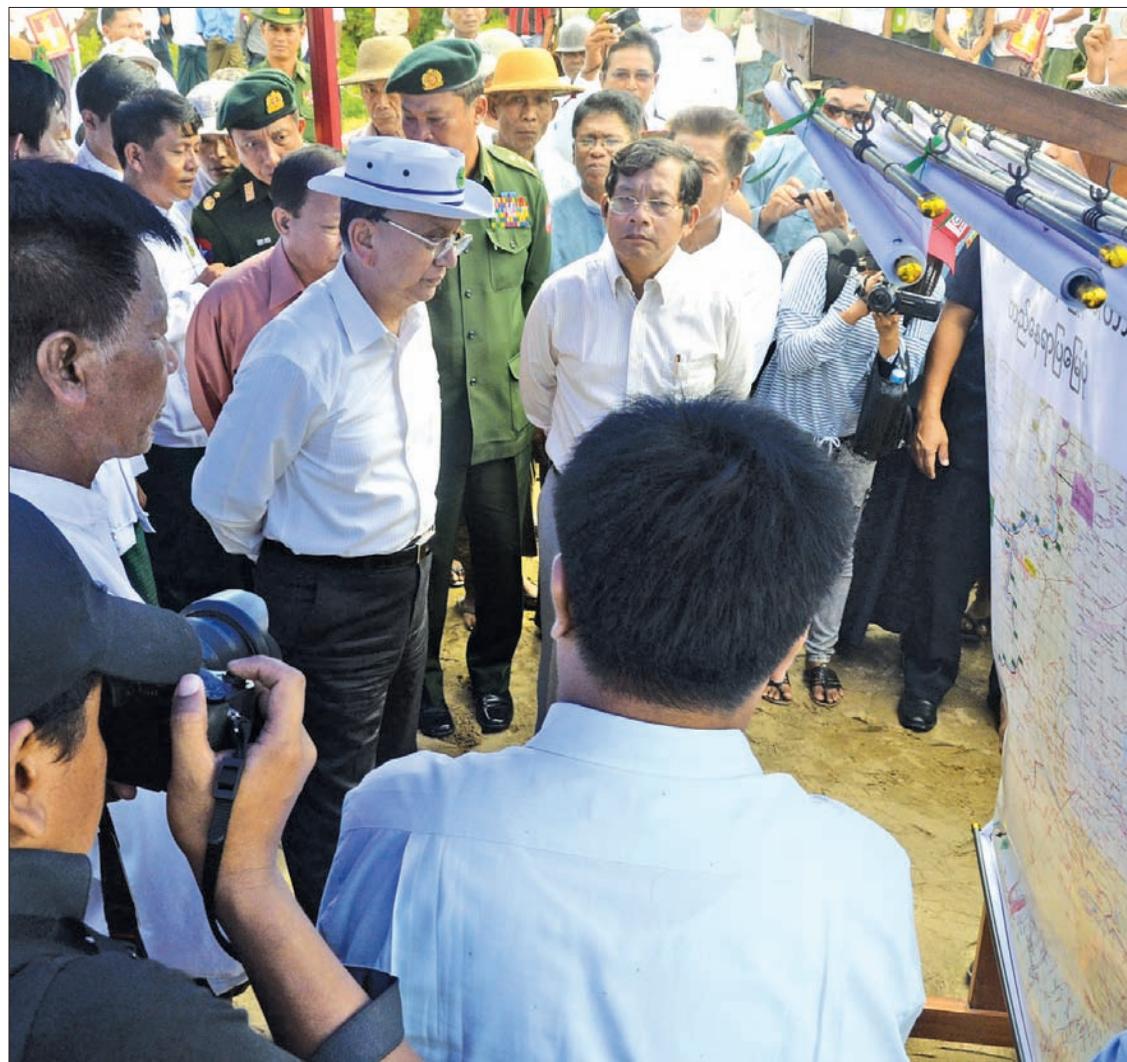
According to the 2014 nationwide census, Myanmar has a population of more than 2.3 million people with disabilities, accounting for 4.6 percent of the country's total population of over

51 million. It is estimated that about two-thirds of disabled population are eligible voters.

U Mann Theik Soe, chairman of Mingalardon Township Election Commission said: “There will be 129 polling stations in our township, which will be built within public school campuses. Most of the schools are suitable for persons with disabilities who use wheelchairs or crutches.”

U Pyae Phyto Paing of the Myanmar National Association of the Blind said: “People with impaired vision are likely to cast advance votes.”

President inspects embankments in Ayeyawady Region



President U Thein Sein hears report on measures taken to prevent flood in Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein inspected embankments built for flood prevention and regional development in Ayeyawady Region on Thursday.

The president, together with union ministers, Ayeyawady

Region chief minister U Thein Aung and other officials, arrived at the Shwebosu embankment in Lemyathna Township and was briefed on the maintenance of the embankment. He was greeted by locals in Ingapu to Lemyathna

before travelling to Ngawun embankment in Yekyi, Pathein District.

The president also inspected the embankments along the way from Yekyi to Kyonpyaw before returning to Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

What they stand for: campaigns aired

The People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers and Mro National Democracy Party aired campaign speeches on Thursday.

People's Party of Myanmar Farmers and Workers (PPMFW)



General Secretary U Aung Myo Khaing said his party would strive for the emergence of clean governance that respects rule of law and justice. The party would create a federal system through political dialogue based on mutual trust, he said, adding that his party would initiate decentralisation of the economy by encouraging private engagement. His party would introduce an education system that would erase rote learning and prioritise critical thinking skills.

Mro National Democracy Party (MNDP)



Daw San Ma Nyo, an election candidate, said that her party would work together with other political parties and civil society to serve the interests of all ethnic groups and the country as a whole. She pledged to lay a firm foundation for a federal system based on transparency and checks and balances. She added that her party would make efforts to find solutions to the problems facing farmers, low-income workers and marginalised groups.—GNLM

IN BRIEF

51st anniversary of Myanmar Police Force commemorated

IN order to gain the respect of the people, a police force must be free of corruption and protect all of society according to the law, said Lt-Gen Ko Ko.

The general serves as Myanmar's Union Minister for Home Affairs and for Immigration and Population. He spoke at a ceremony to mark the 51st anniversary of the Myanmar Police Force yesterday at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. In his speech, the

union minister also urged the police force to be prepared for new challenges during elections.

The union minister and the deputy minister for home affairs presented awards to outstanding police officers at the ceremony.

Police Major General Zaw Win, the chief of the Myanmar Police Force, also gave a speech at the ceremony and presented awards and certificates to winners.—MNA



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko presents an award to an outstanding police officer at a ceremony to mark Myanmar Police Force Day. PHOTO: MNA

International Day of Older Persons observed

THE government takes measures every year to provide senior citizens with social welfare pensions as part of its national strategy for social protection, said Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Myanmar's Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

She made the remarks while speaking at a ceremony to mark the International Day of Older Persons at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar has 71 homes for senior citizens, to which the government has allocated K1.3 bil-

lion (US\$1,004,597) in funding.

A message from the UN Secretary General was read out at the event by Myanmar's UN resident and humanitarian coordinator.

Myanmar's oldest man, U Aik Kham, 118, of Tachilek, and 123-year-old Daw Mya Kyi of Amarapura were presented with cash rewards by the union minister at the ceremony.

No attempts have been made for Daw Mya Kyi's age to be verified by the Guinness Book of World Records, but she may in fact be the oldest person in the world.—MNA



Union Minister Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presents gifts to older persons at a ceremony to mark International Day of Older Persons. PHOTO: MNA

Three campaign speeches to be broadcast today

CAMPAIGN speeches delivered by representatives from the Public Contribute Students Democracy Party, Guiding Star Party and Shan-ni & Northern Shan ethnics solidarity party (S.N.S.P)

will be broadcast on state radio and television networks on 2 October. MRTV, the Hluttaw channel, Myawady TV, Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast the speeches.—GNLM

ELECTION COUNTDOWN
 Make your voice count. Cast your vote. **37** DAYS

Union FM attends ASEAN Meetings in New York

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Wunna Maung Lwin, attended the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (IAMM), ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM) and Informal ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting and related regional group meetings held in New York from 28-30 September 2015 at the sideline of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, U.S.A.

The Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (IAMM) was held at the United Nations Headquarters in

the morning of 29th September and ASEAN Foreign Ministers adopted the "ASEAN Ministerial Statement on the Occasion of its 70th Anniversary of the United Nations"

Following the meeting, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the President of the 70th United Nations General Assembly and United Nations Secretary-General (AUMM) was held at the United Nations Headquarters. The meeting issued the Joint Press Release of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and

the President of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly.

On 30th September, the Union Minister attended the Informal ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting at the Palace Hotel in New York.

The Meeting discussed matters on the preparations for 10th East Asia Summit and 3rd ASEAN-U.S. Summit which will be held in Malaysia in November 2015.

Furthermore, the 2nd ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting was held on 28th September 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters.—MNA



Union Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin shakes hands with John Kerry, the Secretary of State of the US, at informal ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting. PHOTO: MOFA

Rehabilitating Roads for Development



Officials of Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development poses for photo Dr. Christine Heimbürger, KfW Director East Asia and Pacific and Christian Richter, KfW Country Director to Myanmar. PHOTO: MoLFRD

U MAUNG MAUNG TINT, Director General of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, U Khant Zaw, Director General of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, as well as Dr. Christine Heimbürger, KfW Director East Asia and Pacific and Christian Richter, KfW Country Director to Myanmar, signed the Financing and Separate Agreement for the second phase of the "Rural Development

Programme" (RDP) on 20 September in Yangon.

Additionally the DRD will be trained in road maintenance, planning, procurement and supervision to deepen essential capacities for the successful handling of road construction projects.

KfW is only Development Partner cooperating with the DRD in the field of rural roads improvement.

Germany has resumed its

development cooperation in Myanmar in 2012 and Financial Cooperation (FC) in particular in 2013. During the first three years, EUR 65 million (approx. USD 75 million) FC funds comprising more than EUR 46 million (approx. USD 53 million) in grant funds and almost EUR 19 million (approx. USD 22 million) in loans have been committed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).—MoLFRD

Talks on migratory bird conservation given

An educative talks on conservation of migratory water birds at Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State was held in Moenyin Township on Saturday.

It is aimed at securing the future of Indawgyi Lake where is a paradise for migratory birds in northern Myanmar by educating students and local people.

Altogether teachers and students totaling about 200 were present at the talks. Officials from the Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Fauna

and Flora International gave talks on biodiversity, international organizations dealing with nature and wildlife conservation, making friends with birds and danger of plastic pollution.

"Similar talks had been given to students from three other schools and it is planned to hold such events in the remaining schools in the township", said Park Warden U Htay Win of Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. —GNLM 001



Park Warden U Htay Win of Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary gives educative talks on migratory water birds conservation. PHOTO: GNLM 001



Two tourists enjoy their vacation on the R V Katha Pandaw. PHOTO: MoHT

Cruises gain popularity among foreign tourists

CRUISES along the Chindwin and Ayeyawady rivers are expected to attract more tourists in the upcoming tourist season, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

With more than million visitors as of September this year, some expect up to five million foreign visitors to Myanmar throughout the 2015-16 fiscal year, said ministry official Daw Daw Khin Than Win.

The annual number of inter-

national visitors to the country has increased from more than 1 million in 2012 to about 3.8 million in 2014.

Nine Australian tourists cruised up the Chindwin River from 13 to 18 September from Kalaywa to Homalin, while eight Americans took a six-day cruise along the same route aboard the R V Katha Pandaw under an arrangement with Royal Co Ltd and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.—MoHT

Indonesia hopes for rain to douse forest fires causing smog in Southeast Asia

JAKARTA — Indonesia is hoping for rain to help extinguish forest fires that have been smouldering for weeks, shrouding parts of Southeast Asia in thick smog, a government official said on Thursday.

For years, the region has suffered annual bouts of smog, caused by slash-and-burn farming in Indonesia's northern islands of Sumatra and Kalimantan, but governments' efforts to tackle the problem have failed.

A lengthy dry season in Indonesia this year has been worsened by the El Nino weather effect, making it harder to contain the fires in the absence of rains that usually arrive in November.

Indonesia has already spent millions and deployed thousands of firefighters and several water-bombing planes in its efforts to put out the fires, the official, Willem Rampangilei,

told reporters.

"The fires can only be put out by rain and water-bombing, so it needs time," said Rampangilei, the head of Indonesia's national disaster management agency.

"We are hoping by the end of October or early November, the haze problem will be resolved."

The agency had previously hoped to put out the fires, which are often blamed on smallholders or plantation companies, by mid-October.

Growing pollution from the smog has disrupted flights and forced school closures in neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia, while thousands of people on the two Indonesian islands are reported to be battling respiratory diseases.

Indonesia has faced criticism from neighbours and green groups for not doing enough to



Cars and motorcycles are seen on a bridge as haze shrouds Pekanbaru, in Indonesia's Riau Province on 30 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

prevent the fires, which cause millions of dollars worth of damage to health and the environment every year.

It has repeatedly turned down assistance from Singapore, which has offered water-bombing equipment and personnel to help put out the fires.

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.

Rampangilei said Indonesia had the crisis under control.

"We are very grateful but everything is under control and there is progress," he said, when asked why the government would

not accept foreign assistance.

The environment ministry says it is taking legal action against four companies and is investigating about 200 more.

Singapore, where commuters have taken to wearing protective face masks, has urged Asia Pulp & Paper Co Ltd to check if subsidiaries and suppliers have links to the forest fires. The firm has said it will cooperate.—Reuters

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Thai government websites crash in 'symbolic act' by censorship critics

BANGKOK — Several Thai government websites temporarily crashed due to a "symbolic act" by people against plans to introduce a single Internet gateway, officials said Thursday, a measure critics say will make it easier for the ruling junta to censor the web.

A minister stopped short of describing the incident as a cyber attack but said that it was triggered by those opposed to the proposal, dubbed by some online as the "Great Firewall of Thailand" — a play on China's draconian Internet censorship programme.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology's (ICT) website went down for more than two hours on Wednesday evening after it was "overcrowded" by the number of users, ICT deputy permanent secretary Somsak Khaosawan, told AFP.

"There were several other government websites which faced similar problems," he said, adding access to the sites had been restored by Thursday morning.

Tens of thousands of people have signed a petition against plans to introduce a single Internet gateway for Thailand to make it easier to monitor the web and block content.

By Thursday afternoon

more than 132,000 people had signed a petition on Change.org calling on the government to abandon the proposal, while the state websites that had crashed appeared to be running but more slowly than usual.

At a press conference earlier ICT minister Uttama Savannaya said traffic on the ministry's website exceeded capacity, reaching 100,000 on Wednesday, causing it to crash.

"It was a symbolic act by people concerned about the single Internet gateway..."

Uttama Savannaya
ICT Minister

"It was a symbolic act by people concerned about the single Internet gateway. We do not think they aimed to attack government websites," he told reporters in Bangkok.

Internet gateways are the points on a network where a country connects to the world-wide web.

Initially Thailand's Internet flowed through a single gateway owned by the government.

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

The junta which seized power in a coup last year has vowed to expand the country's appeal as a hub, unveiling a plan it has dubbed "The Digital Economy". On Thursday Uttama insisted there would be "no limitation of freedom" under the proposal.

"We will not interfere in the use of Internet or social media," he said.

But the minister added that the Thai premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who led last year's coup as then army chief, was concerned about some "inappropriate information" accessed by Thais, particularly teenagers.

Since seizing power Thailand's generals have ramped up censorship, blocking scores of sites and pursuing online critics with criminal charges and so-called "attitude adjustment" sessions.

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

Hunt on for more suspects in Bangkok bombing

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Ahmad Zahid said here Thursday that Malaysian authorities are hunting for three more suspects in the deadly Bangkok bombing in August, according to local media report.

The Star, a Malaysian English language newspaper, quoted Zaid as saying that the Thai authorities gave three names to the Malaysian side during their meeting. "We have met the Thai authorities and discussions have been completed. There are three names given to us and we are on the hunt for the individuals," he said. "However, what we need now is their biometric data and any DNA evidence to ease the process of their identification and arrests," Zaid said, adding that the suspects could be linked directly or indirectly to the bombing. "They could have direct involvement with the bomber or they could just be a taxi driver who brought anyone involved here," he said.

Malaysian authorities have detained eight individuals over the bombing so far. The explosion at the Erawan Shrine in downtown Bangkok killed at least 20 people and injured more than 120 others.—Xinhua

China says world should not 'arbitrarily interfere' in Syria

BEIJING — The world cannot afford to stand by and look on with folded arms but must also not "arbitrarily interfere" in the Syrian crisis, Chinese Foreign Ministry Wang Yi told a UN Security Council meeting, repeating a call for a political solution.

Russia and the United States faced off at the United Nations on Wednesday over parallel air campaigns in Syria, with both sides claiming legitimacy for their actions but differing over the role of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Russia launched its first air strikes in Syria since the Middle Eastern country's civil war began in 2011, giving only an hour's notice to the United States, which has led a coalition of

Western allies and regional states flying missions for a year.

Wang told the Security Council that the world needed to get a grip on the humanitarian crisis and push the peace process.

"The Syrian crisis has been going on for five years now.

The international community cannot look on without lifting a finger, but also ought not to interfere arbitrarily," Wang said, according to a Foreign Ministry statement released on Thursday.

"A political resolution for the Syrian crisis is the fundamental way out," he added. There was no direct mention of either the air strikes or Assad. China generally votes with fellow

permanent Security Council member Russia on the Syria issue.

Wang also met with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem, and told him China believes the world should respect Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, the official Xinhua news agency added.

"China has no self-interest in the Middle East, so China is willing to play a constructive role," the report quoted Wang as saying. China, a low-key diplomatic player in the Middle East despite its dependence on the region for its oil, has repeatedly called for a political resolution and warned that military action cannot end the crisis.—Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry shakes hands with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a high-level event on Afghanistan organised by the United Nations in New York 26.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Dumped Australian PM admits knighting Prince Philip a mistake

SYDNEY — Ousted Australian leader Tony Abbott conceded Thursday that his decision to award Britain's Prince Philip a knighthood, which sparked a huge public and political backlash, was "injudicious".

Abbott — a London-born staunch monar-

chist who lost his job as prime minister in a party coup two weeks ago — was heavily criticised for bringing back the knights and dames honours list in March last year.

He faced further ridicule, including from MPs within his own conservative Liberal Party, when

he decided in January to award the Duke of Edinburgh the Order of Australia.

"Obviously, it was an injudicious appointment, obviously," Abbott told Melbourne radio station 3AW.

"Interestingly though, it prompted me to put all

"Obviously, it was an injudicious appointment, obviously."

Tony Abbott

awards in the Order of Australia into the hands of the Council of the Order and that's probably what should have happened from the beginning."

He would not respond to a question on whether Queen Elizabeth II had asked for the honour to be awarded to her husband.

At that time, the knighthood gaffe piled pressure on Abbott — who was already slipping in the polls — and a month later he faced the first of two party-room efforts to topple him. Malcolm Turnbull was successful in the second attempt in mid-September.—AFP

Vietnam jails journalist for spying for China

HANOI — A Vietnamese journalist has been found guilty of spying for China and sentenced to a six-year jail term by a Hanoi court after a three-hour trial, his lawyer said on Thursday.

Ha Huy Hoang, who had worked for a Foreign Ministry-run magazine, was jailed on Wednesday for colluding with a Chinese spy and would appeal, lawyer Ha Huy Son told Reuters.

"He was found guilty of supplying information and material about Vietnam's economy and its leaders to the Chinese government," he said.

Issues related to China are highly sensitive in Vietnam, where the ruling Communist Party shares close but rocky ties with Beijing, despite deep-rooted resentment among its people and territorial squabbling over the South China Sea.

Thursday's Vietnamese newspapers did not report the case. Prominent news outlets Tuoi Tre and VNExpress had posted

online reports at the start of the trial, but soon removed them without any explanation. Prior to its removal, Tuoi Tre's story said Hoang had visited China six times and was providing information to a spy whom he had met in 2009, according to the indictment.

Hoang had denied espionage and said he believed the spy had been a fellow journalist, and the information he had shared had been in the public domain. Reuters received no response for requests for comment from Vietnam's Foreign Ministry, which cancelled its regular news briefing on Thursday without explanation.

Mistrust of China runs deep in Vietnam and experts say it is a divisive issue within the ruling Communist Party.

Vietnam has vastly improved ties with the United States, and some party members have publicly backed a shift away from Beijing's sphere of influence.—Reuters

S Korea urges DPRK to immediately stop nuclear development

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Thursday urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to immediately stop nuclear and missile developments that put the fate of the Korean Peninsula in danger and acted as a stumbling block to world peace.

"(South Korea)

should make North Korea (DPRK) face up to the truth that it has nothing to gain from provocation and confrontation and should make it come to the road of peace on the Korean Peninsula, joint development and unification," Park said during her speech at the ceremony to mark the 67th anniversary of the Armed Forces Day.

Park called on Pyong-

yang to immediately stop nuclear development and long-range ballistic missile development, saying that those put the Korean people's fate into danger and became a stumbling block to world peace.

Her comments came amid mounting concerns about the DPRK's potential launch of a long-range rocket that may carry what Pyongyang has said is a

satellite for the Earth observation.

Park said that the DPRK's adherence to nuclear development would only deepen its isolation and block economic development, saying that if the DPRK comes to the dialogue table, South Korea and the international society will actively help Pyongyang reconstruct its economy.—Xinhua

Four dead, 23 hurt in Philippine blasts

MANILA — A roadside bomb killed four people in a Filipino politician's convoy Thursday, while a separate bus blast left a dozen injured in the country's strife-torn south, authorities said.

The first explosion on Basilan island killed three bodyguards of local official Abdulbaki Ajibon and a fourth person, they said.

Eleven people

aboard the two-vehicle convoy were also wounded but Ajibon, the vice mayor of Isabela city, was unhurt, Isabela police chief Superintendent Albert Larubis told reporters.

Investigators said the bomb was planted near the house of the Isabela mayor, Cherrylyn Akbar, though it was unclear which of the two officials were targeted.

The blast destroyed

the Ajibon convoy's backup pickup truck, Larubis added.

No group has claimed responsibility, though Basilan is a stronghold of the Al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf group, blamed for kidnappings of Westerners as well as deadly bombings.

A bomb also ripped through a bus near the farming town of Polomolok on the same day, some 300 kilometres (186

miles) from Isabela, police said.

Extortionists are suspected of being behind the attack that left 12 people wounded including a seven-year-old girl, said Senior Superintendent Jose Briones, the provincial police director.

Last month, one person was killed and 22 others were wounded in an explosion on another bus in the southern port city of Zamboanga.—AFP

US deploys more advanced aircraft carrier to boost ties with Japan



A crew member of the USS Ronald Reagan, a Nimitz-class nuclear-powered super carrier, reunites with his family members after it arrives at the US naval base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, Japan on 1 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

YOKOSUKA — One of the US Navy's most advanced aircraft carriers docked in Japan on Thursday at the start of a deployment that will strengthen the capability of the Seventh Fleet in Asia and boost ties between the United States and its closest regional ally.

With a crew of 5,000 sailors and a compliment of around 80 aircraft, USS Ronald Reagan is equipped with the latest targeting and defence radars, integrated weapons systems and command and communications technology.

The USS Ronald Reagan's deployment marks an upgrade, as the USS George Washington, the carrier it has replaced in Japan, had less advanced systems and technology.

"Just like a new car we have the latest and greatest, we have GPS, we have the back up mirror so we can see what is behind us," Captain Chris Bolt, the carrier's commander, told a separate press briefing on the dock at Yokosuka naval base. "We have some tremendous command and control capabilities."

In a tilt towards Asia,

the United States is rebalancing its forces, deploying 60 percent of its navy to the region, including its most advanced vessels.

Last month, in a retreat from 70 years of state pacifism, Japanese lawmakers approved legislation that would enable Japan's military to fight overseas for the first time since World War Two.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is pursuing a doctrine of collective self defence with allies meant to give his nation a bigger role in regional security in order to counterbalance the military

power of an increasingly assertive China.

The changes enacted last month are expected to lead to enhanced cooperation between the Japanese and US navies.

"We have many, many exercises that we do, we are very inter-operable because of our equipment and our training. So, we think that these new measures will deepen that, will strengthen that, and will make us better together," Ray Mabus, the US Secretary of the Navy, told a press briefing in Yokohama.—Reuters

Catalan separatists claim win but face rocky road

BARCELONA — Catalan separatists said independence was within their reach before Sunday's regional election. But following their narrow victory, a rocky road lies ahead for those wanting to break away from Spain.

To push on with a declared "roadmap" to independence, separatist groups must now overcome wide differences and the opposition of a large chunk of the electorate.

In such circumstances, the plan to press for independence by 2017 is of "dubious practicality", political scientist Josep Ramoneda wrote.

Sunday's election was historic in that it yielded the first ever regional parliamentary majority for pro-in-

dependence parties in the rich northeastern region.

But under the electoral system the two groups fell short of a popular majority with just under 48 percent of the vote between them.

The lack of a clean ma-

regional University.

"Independence looks impossible to me, because there is not a majority of society that is willing to take that step".

The separatists nevertheless declared they had

president Artur Mas said on Wednesday.

Under a "roadmap" published before the election, Mas's alliance plans to move to independence within 18 months.

The regional parliament would declare the start of the secession process and leaders would propose negotiations with the central government and European institutions.

They would then set about preparing Catalonia's own state institutions.

In 2017 they would proclaim independence and call elections for a new parliament which would draw up a constitution.

First of all however, the groups must choose a regional president to lead the process.—AFP

"You cannot declare an independent state when half the population is loyal to the neighbouring state."

Fernando Vallespin
Political scientist

majority of votes is a powerful argument for sceptics.

"You cannot declare an independent state when half the population is loyal to the neighbouring state," said Fernando Vallespin, a political scientist at Madrid Re-

gional University. "There are not as many of us as we would have liked, but I trust that we will end up gaining the extra support we are lacking," nationalist regional

Venezuela urges UN to help stop foreign intervention in sovereign nations

CARACAS — Venezuelan Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez called on the UN Security Council to help cease foreign interventions in independent and sovereign countries, the Venezuelan News Agency (AVN) reported Wednesday.

Rodriguez made such an appeal at a high-level meeting convened in New York by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to discuss the European refugee crisis.

"We call on the United Nations to assume its leadership" in promoting peaceful conflict resolution around the globe, and "applying international law above the wishes of those who go around the world with violent armies, waging illegal occupations and war against countries," said Rodriguez, in an oblique reference to the United States and its western allies.

"In the name of freedom, humanity and the alleged fight against terrorism," said AVN, "Western powers have promoted wars

and military invasions, which have only generated chaos, destruction and political and social instability in countries in the Middle East," forcing people to flee their own countries.

The European refugee crisis was "caused by conflicts driven by the West in the Middle East and North Africa," AVN said. Fighting terrorism should not be used "as an excuse" to launch an attack when "we dislike a certain ruler," Rodriguez told the assembly. "Let's not continue walking the same immoral path if we truly want a ... less violent world."

Wars promoted mainly by the United States in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria, under the banner of democracy promotion, have in fact undermined democracy and human rights in those countries, Rodriguez said.

"We cannot fight terrorism with more violence," he said, calling for an end to the "theater" of imperialist interventions masked as democracy building.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FINESSE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FINESSE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T(4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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PERSPECTIVES

Just means lead to just ends

Kyaw Thura

It is no exaggeration to say there has been a significant rise in outbreaks of deadly violence and armed conflicts around the world. Six decades of persistent internal armed conflict is proof that our country is not an exception. This provokes alarm and highlights the importance of all segments of society coming together to call for an end to social and political instability, whose root causes are brutality and injustice.

Common sense tells us that it is irrational to use force against non-violence protests, but it

doesn't mean authorities around the world understand that.

To create a peaceful society, we should bear in mind that we have a collective responsibility to strive for peace in the belief that just means lead to just ends.

It is necessary for the government, civil society and religious groups to highlight the importance of the cessation of inhumane hostilities and to raise public awareness about the overwhelming benefits of non-violence.

Gandhi, the architect of India's independence, is regarded as an inspiration for non-violent movements for social or political change, even under appalling conditions and in the face of daunting challenges. He succeeded in his aims without ever resorting to violence. For that he should be applauded.

It is interesting to note that 'the power of rulers depends on the consent of the people'. Violence of any form is unacceptable – there is simply no justification for it. It is time for the government and security forces to renew their commitment to non-violence and adopt a peaceful approach to disputes.

Write for us

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

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

Professionals, Professionalism and Professional Pride

Khin Maung Myint (MPT Retired)

A profession can be generally defined as a job or a career that needs special skills, competencies and trainings. For example: medical, engineering, teaching, law, military, maritime, journalism, information technology, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry etc; are a few of the many professions that people pursue for their livings. However, everyone who is in any profession cannot be a true professional unless one is qualified, competent or skilled in one's job. In other words, a professional is one who possesses professionalism.

Professionalism

The professionalism is a trait, which defines a professional. It is based on the attributes that every professional must possess to be worthy of being reckoned as such. Competency, skill, training, experience, good judgement, sincerity, commitment, compassionate, approachability, empathy, honorable and above all integrity, are the attributes that reflect a person's professionalism. Integrity is the most important of all the attributes mentioned, that a professional must possess. Without integrity, however skilled or competent or experienced a person may be, that person would not be a true professional. Nobody will have any regard or respect toward that person. By integrity it means that a person must be honest, free from corruption, trustworthy, accountable, strong in character and sincere. Today, there are many persons in various professions, be it in high level professions or lower grade professions, who are not sincere and lacked integrity. They may be highly competent, skilled and possess much experiences, however, if they lacked sincerity and integrity they could not be regarded as good professionals.

Professional Pride

Every professional, not withstanding what their professions may be, must have the sense of

pride in their professions. The professional pride dictates a professional's character, morality, and personality. Without that pride, a professional will do anything that would benefit him, even if it is detrimental to his morality, ethics or honor. For instance, most of you may have been cheated by a plumber, an electrical wiring technician, motor mechanics, if you have no basic knowledge of their works.

"The professional pride dictates a professional's character, morality, and personality."

Such persons lacked professional pride and don't value their profession. Likewise, a school teacher who bullied the students to take private tuition, lacked professional pride and is a disgrace to the profession, which is supposed to be an honorable and noble one. I can go on listing the various ways of lack of professional pride in almost all the professions, but I hope the above examples would suffice what I meant by professional pride.

In developed countries and even in some developing countries, low level professionals, such as plumbers, electricians, hair dressers, cobblers, to cite a few, need permits or licences to practice their professions. To my understanding, we also have such laws for certain professions, but I am afraid they are being ignored. Most readers would be familiar of the fact that some plumbers proudly display their signboards describing themselves as licenced plumbers, in the past but today such signs are rarely seen. Today people without proper training or skill in plumbing are doing those jobs. No wonder the plumbers are among the lowest breed of unethical professionals who do not deserved to be reckoned as such. They would

cheat the clients in whatever way they could, shamelessly, without any regards to their profession.

I would like to point out that such behaviourism, born out of lack of professional pride degrade the value and honor of, not only the individuals, but also their professions. If they do not uphold the value and the honor of their professions, no one would have any respect or regard for them. Here, I want to discuss the term "pride" from my point of view. To take pride in one's profession is a good

and desirable thing, however, some professionals tend to be too proud of themselves, to the point of arrogance, due to their high level of professionalism, are despised by most people.

Such mannerism tarnish their images and also their professions.

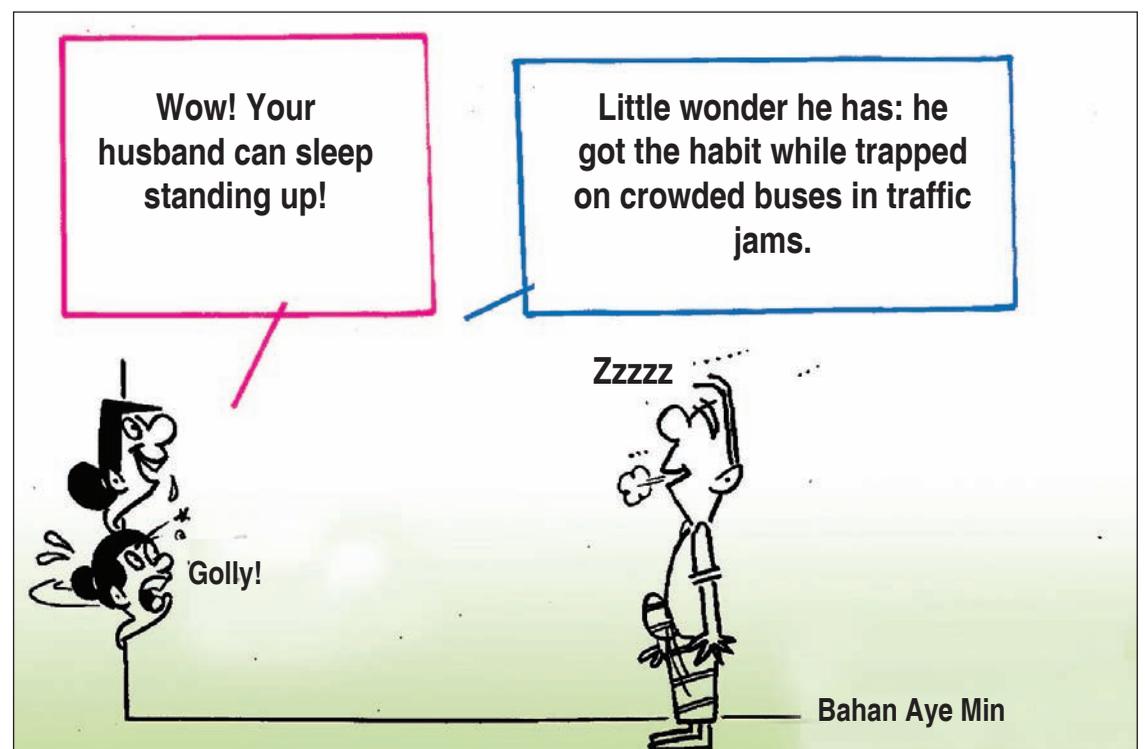
Survival vs. Principles

Every professionals must have their own set of principles.

Principles define a person's integrity, personality and respectability. At this juncture, allow me to mention my motto, which I had observed myself and preached my subordinates throughout my career----"to give priority to principles over survival". I excelled myself in my duties by abiding by my principles--honesty, sincerity perseverance and integrity, which are the foundations of professionalism and thus the sources of the professional pride. These attitudes defined my character and personality, and thus my legacy. Here it would be necessary to define the term "survival" as I see it. Any unethical act by a person for job security, for the attainment of undue positions or ranks, or to acquire any form of undue privileges are deemed as survival-oriented, in my opinion, and I always shunned such behaviours. I believed that a person should be judged by his abilities instead of flatteries or briberies that such persons resort to, for their survivals. Persons of principle would not hesitate to differ with their superiors when they are in the wrong and have the courage to point out the infeasibility of their instructions or orders.

However, persons who are survival-conscious would not only stay silent, but even praise the superiors' actions, although they knew are wrong, to get favours. Such persons may attain high positions in their careers, but their legacies would not be something to be admired.

Characters, behaviours and attitudes of a person is dictated by that person's mind set. Thus if the mind sets of some professionals could be changed to take a new direction, which is the right direction, it would benefit them as well as the society. In conclusion, I would like to repeat the importances of observing professionalism and the right or proper sense of professional pride, to be successful in life. Sincerity and integrity of a person also reflect that person's professionalism and, hence, they indicate the character and the personality of that individual. Today, as our country is on the path to development, the professionals from every field of professions are indispensable. They constitute the main workforce in the process of nation-building, so it is of utmost importance that they are true and good professionals.



Hilton hospitality courses boost workers' job prospects

THE HILTON Group opened hospitality courses at the Nay Pyi Taw Hilton on Wednesday. The two-year courses will focus on housekeeping, reception, cooking, serving and baking.

After the completion of the courses, trainees will receive diplomas and have the chance to apply for jobs at Hilton hotels across the globe.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung attend-

ed the opening ceremony of the courses giving a speech at a workshop titled 'Responsible Tourism and Approaches to Human Rights in Myanmar'.

"Myanmar has seen rapid development in the tourism industry," said the minister.

He urged participants at the workshop to share their experiences to in order to ensure a positive outcome from the workshop.—*MoHT*



The Hilton Group opened hospital courses in Nay Pyi Taw in the presence of Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung Thursday. PHOTO: MoHT

Nepal tourism showcased



Yangon Region chief minister U Myint Swe and Nepalese ambassador Mr Paras Ghimire have a documentary photo taken together with responsible personnel at Nepal Tourism Promotion Event 2015. PHOTO: MNA

YANGON Region chief minister U Myint Swe and Nepalese ambassador Mr Paras Ghimire lit candles to launch the Nepal Tourism Promotion Event 2015 on Wednesday evening.

The Nepalese ambassador said he hoped the event would strength ties of friendship, trade and tourism between the two countries.

The event featured Nepalese

traditional dance performances and video presentations about Lumbini, which is recognised as the birthplace of the Buddha, as well as other important Buddhist sites in Nepal.—*MNA*

Surgeons perform fifth kidney transplant in Mandalay

SURGEONS from Yangon and Mandalay successfully performed a kidney transplant operation on Wednesday. The surgeons hold positions at Mandalay General Hospital, Mandalay University of Medicine's

Cardiovascular Department and Yangon University of Medicine.

Ma Nwe Moh Moh Tun from Kyaukse donated a kidney to her ailing brother Maung Ye Ko Ko.

This is the fifth transplant of its kind performed in Mandalay and the second this year – the other took place two weeks ago. Transplants have also been performed in 2001, 2002 and 2004.—*Thiha Ko Ko*



Surgeons from Yangon and Mandalay successfully performed a kidney transplant operation at Mandalay General Hospital on Wednesday. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Three elephants smuggled from Kachin to Bago

DETAILS have just emerged about a group of men who were caught trying to illegally transport three elephants by truck from Kachin State to Bago Region on 15 September.

They were apprehended by forest ranger U Thant Zin Oo and police sub-inspector Saw Aung Win from Monyin

Township in Kachin State.

Despite the officers' instructions not to transport the elephants out of Kachin State, the smugglers nonetheless boarded two female elephants and a baby elephant onto three trucks and left Monyin.

According to the forest ranger, the group had fake documents.—*GNLM-001*



Photo shows elephants which were trafficked from Kachin State to Bago. PHOTO: GNLM-001

Course for disabled youth to boost capacity

THE MYANMAR Independent Living Initiative and the Nippon Foundation will jointly organise the 8th National Disabled Youth Leadership Capacity Enhancement course in Yangon. The three-week course will last from 5 to 24 October and 20 trainees from around Myanmar will participate in it.

The Myanmar Independent Living Initiative was founded in 2011 by three Myanmar citizens with disabilities after they completed the year-long Dusk-

in Leadership Training course in Japan. Nay Lin Soe, Aung Ko Myint and May Khant Chit Khin work to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream Myanmar society as well as independent living.

Myanmar-ILI has received an official acknowledgement letter from the Department of Social Welfare and was legally registered under Ministry of Home Affairs in September 2011.—*Than Zin Tun/ Dusklin Leadership Training*

Weapons bound for Yemen seized on Iranian boat: coalition

DUBAI — Saudi-led coalition forces said on Wednesday they had seized an Iranian fishing boat loaded with weapons on its way to deliver them to Houthi fighters in Yemen.

The announcement came a day after tribal fighters backed by the coalition won control of a strategic dam in central Yemen from Houthi forces following weeks of fighting east of the capital Sanaa.

The coalition, which also includes Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, has been battling the Iranian-backed Houthis for more than six months.

It aims to restore to power President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's government, forced out by the Houthis, and contain what Gulf Arab states see as Tehran's growing influence in their backyard. As part of the campaign, Saudi-led naval forces have imposed a near-blockade to prevent weapons from reaching the Houthis, resulting in long delays and mandatory searches for shippers in the region.

A coalition statement said 14 Iranian sailors were detained on the boat, which was carrying 18 anti-armoured Concourse shells, 54 anti-tank shells, shell-battery

kits, firing guidance systems, launchers and batteries for binoculars. "The Command of the Coalition ... foiled an attempt to smuggle weapons destined to the Houthi militias, on an Iranian fishing boat," the statement said, adding the vessel was seized on Saturday some 150 miles off Salalah in southern Oman.

There was no immediate comment from Iran.

The coalition has long accused Iran of arming the Houthis, who seized control of Yemen starting in September last year, claiming they were out to fight corruption and to force Hadi to bring them into the government.

The seizure of the Marib

dam is the biggest success for several weeks for the Yemeni militia fighting alongside Gulf troops. Together they have pushed towards the Houthi-controlled capital Sanaa 110 km (70 miles) west of the dam, but progress has been slowed by landmines and stiff resistance from Houthi forces in rugged moun-

tains. Pictures on the front pages of Gulf dailies showed the foreign troops and local tribesmen planting the flags of the UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia on the dam. Two suspected al Qaeda militants were killed in what was believed to be a US drone strike on a vehicle travelling in al-Wadi district in Marib on Wednesday, local tribesmen said.

US forces have conducted many strikes in the area. Washington acknowledges using drones against militants but does not publicly comment on the operations.

Further to the southwest, pro-Hadi fighters suffered their first significant loss in weeks in Taiz province, where a district fell to the Houthis and their allies in Yemen's army on Tuesday.

Residents and local officials said the Houthis appeared to be mobilising their forces for a southern push in the nearby area of Kirsh, about 75 km (45 miles) from Aden.

Six months of civil war and hundreds of coalition air strikes have killed more than 5,400 people in Yemen, according to the United Nations, and exacerbated widespread hunger and suffering. —Reuters



Weapons, said to be seized by Saudi-led coalition forces on an Iranian boat. PHOTO: REUTERS

At least 1,600 killed in Boko Haram violence since June

LAGOS — At least 1,600 people have been killed in the Boko Haram conflict since the start of June, taking the civilian death toll to some 3,500 this year, Amnesty International said on Wednesday.

The deaths in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger come despite apparent military advances against the Islamist militants in recent weeks, the rights group said in a statement.

"The number of people killed so far this year is truly shocking."

Netsanet Belay
Amnesty International

"The number of people killed so far this year is truly shocking with more than 3,500 civilian fatalities in less than 300 days," said Amnesty's Africa director for research and advocacy, Netsanet Belay.

"Governments in affected countries must take all necessary legal measures to ensure the security of civilians in affected areas," he added.

Nigeria's army in particular has claimed significant gains, destroying rebel camps in the northeast, arresting al-

leged commanders and freeing hundreds of women and children apparently held by the group.

On Wednesday, Abuja said it was currently holding "315 terrorist members" who had surrendered and was exploring the creation of a "safe passage-way" to reintegrate those who had renounced the group's extreme ideology.

Amnesty did not provide a breakdown of deaths per country but according to AFP reporting, at least 1,260 people have been killed in Nigeria alone since President Muhammadu Buhari came to power on 29 May with a vow to crush the Nigeria-based Islamists.

The majority of attacks have been in Borno state, with the insurgents increasingly using bomb and suicide attacks against "soft" civilian targets such as places of worship, markets and bus stations.

On 20 September, nearly 140 people were killed in a series of bombings in the Borno state capital Maiduguri and the garrison town of Monguno, 140 kilometres (87 miles) away.

On Wednesday, army spokesman Colonel Tukur Gusau claimed Boko Haram fighters had poisoned water sources such as wells and streams in places they had once held. —AFP

Saudi, Iran agree to repatriate dead pilgrims

JEDDAH — Saudi and Iranian health ministers have agreed to repatriate Iranian pilgrims killed in last week's Hajj stampede, Saudi state media said, after Tehran threatened a "fierce" response over delays.

Tehran has accused Saudi of hindering its efforts to bring home the bodies of at least 239 Iranians who died in last week's tragedy near the Muslim holy city of Mecca.

Another 241 people, including senior Iranian diplomat and former ambassador to Lebanon, are among the Iranians still listed as missing six days after the deadly crush.

"The two parties have agreed on the repatriation of the bodies of identified dead Iranians as

soon as possible," Saudi's SPA state news agency reported early Thursday following talks between the rivals in Jeddah.

The two sides will also "maintain contacts to identify the rest and look after the wounded," SPA added under the agreement struck between Saudi health minister Khaled al-Falih and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Hashemi. It said the Saudi minister "stressed the kingdom's government's wish to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran".

Tehran claimed last week that Saudi authorities have failed to issue visas for Iranian officials who sought to travel to the kingdom to facilitate the repatriation of the dead and the injured.

The two regional rivals

were already at odds over Iran's support for Shiite Huthi rebels in Yemen, which lies on Saudi Arabia's southern flank. That prompted Riyadh to form a coalition of Arab nations to combat the Huthis.

"Saudi officials are failing to do their duties," Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a speech to graduating navy officers, following delays in the return of the hajj dead, accusing some of the officials of "slyness".

"They should know that the slightest disrespect towards tens of thousands of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca and Medina and not fulfilling their obligation to transfer holy bodies will have Iran's tough and fierce reaction." —AFP

Turkey will not allow 'fait accompli situations' next to borders

ANKARA — Turkey will not allow "terror to take root" or "fait accompli situations" next to its borders, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday, a day after Russia launched air strikes in neighbouring Syria.

Russia launched its biggest intervention in the Middle East in decades on Wednesday, targeting areas near the cities of Homs and Hama in the west of the country, where President Bashar al-Assad's forces are fighting a number of insurgent groups, though not Islamic

State, which is based mostly in the north and east.

The move by Moscow puts Ankara - which has long called for Assad's removal - in an uncomfortable position, raising questions about its ability to contain the fallout from a worsening military and humanitarian crisis on its doorstep.

"Turkey will not allow terror to take root or one-sided 'fait accompli' situations right next to her borders," Erdogan said in a speech in parliament.

Russian jets launched a

second day of strikes in Syria on Thursday, targeting areas held by an insurgent alliance that includes a group linked to al Qaeda, but not the Islamic State militants Moscow earlier said it had hit.

An opposition Turkmen group said some of Wednesday's Russian strikes had hit Free Syrian Army sites and killed dozens of civilians.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that assertions that civilians had been killed in Russian air strikes in Syria were an "information attack". —Reuters

Shaky China, Asia activity surveys leave world outlook vulnerable



Employees working on an assembly line producing Mercedes-Benz cars at a factory of Beijing Benz Automotive Co (BBAC) in Beijing, China. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Factories in Asia cut more jobs and throttled back output in September as domestic and export demand shriveled, adding to fears that cooling growth in China and emerging markets will jeopardise an increasingly fragile global recovery.

At the heart of Thursday's flurry of releases were official and private surveys on China's factory and services sectors that largely pointed to a further de-

terioration in the world's second-largest economy despite a flurry of stimulus measures.

Another month of contraction in China's vast manufacturing sector came as no surprise, but worryingly one private survey showed that growth in the services sector nearly stalled in September and was no longer strong enough to fully offset the broader economic downdraft from weak factories.

While the China surveys suggested a further loss of steam, they did not contain any signs of a hard landing which many global investors have begun to fear.

Still, the steady loss of momentum in developing and emerging countries in recent months leaves the United States as the lone bright spot in the global economy and will raise questions about whether its central bank should risk raising interest rates this year for the first time in nearly a decade.

Similar surveys in Europe and the United States due later in the day will be closely watched for any similar signs of weakness and any spillover effects from Asia.

"The big picture is that we're going to see weaker Chinese growth for this quarter and an even slower growth rate for next year," said Wei Li, China and Asia economist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney.

"But if the labour market can be kept stable, then clearly Beijing would continue to focus on structural reforms, which will benefit long-term growth. There is no quick fix."

The US Federal Reserve held off from raising rates last month, citing in part worries about the extent of China's slowdown, while members of the European Central Bank have warned euro zone growth is at risk from cooling emerging markets, adding to expectations that it may step up its stimulus efforts.

China, too, is expected to ease policy further in coming months in its biggest stimulus campaign since the global financial crisis.

Equally wary, the head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde warned on Wednesday that a relentless deceleration in developing economies will curb global growth.

She said China needed to keep trying to rebalance its economy away from commodity-intensive investment but must also safeguard "demand and financial stability."

Indeed, a summer stock market crash and China's surprise devaluation of its currency in August sent shockwaves through global markets, raising concerns both inside and outside of China about Beijing's

ability to manage its economy.

In July, the IMF predicted a marginal slowdown in global growth this year to 3.3 percent from 3.4 percent in 2014, with a rebound to 3.8 percent in 2016. It could downgrade forecasts next week in its World Economic Outlook report.

Similar activity surveys and data from other trade-reliant Asian economies made for equally grim reading, with Japanese manufacturers seeing a tumble in new export orders, South Korean exports falling for a ninth consecutive month and Taiwan warning that its economy shrank in the third quarter.

Indonesian factory owners cut payrolls at the second-fastest rate in at least four years, while activity in Vietnam fell for the first time in two years.

Even Indian factories, which are more insulated from global trends, posted their slowest expansion in seven months. The drop in activity will have added to worries over the country's sputtering growth and reinforced the rationale behind the central bank's larger than expected interest rate cut this week.—Reuters

Microsoft and Google call truce in patent wars

SAN FRANCISCO — Technology titans Microsoft and Google on Wednesday announced that they have agreed to end all patent infringement litigation against each other.

Legal battles between the companies included suits over technology for Internet-linked mobile devices, WiFi and digital video.

Details of the agreement were not disclosed, but the tech behemoths said it includes cases related to Motorola Mobility.

"The companies will dismiss all pending patent infringement litigation between them, including cases related to Motorola Mobility," Microsoft and Google said in a joint statement.

Google last year sold Motorola Mobility to Chinese com-

puter giant Lenovo in a deal valued at \$2.9 billion, but held on to patents.

"Separately, Google and Microsoft have agreed to collaborate on certain patent matters and anticipate working together in other areas in the future to benefit our customers." The kind of collaboration the industry rivals have in mind was not disclosed.

Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella has made a priority of making the company's applications and cloud services available across mobile devices, regardless of what software powers the hardware.

Microsoft would also like to boost the popularity of Windows smartphones and tablets with popular Google offerings such as YouTube. — AFP

S Korea says VW to recall 120,000 cars

SEOUL — Volkswagen plans to recall as many as 120,000 diesel cars sold in South Korea, officials said Thursday, as part of its global response to a damaging pollution-cheating scandal.

The South Korean Environment Ministry said it had received a formal letter from the German automaker on Wednesday, outlining its intentions.

"Its plan is to recall 120,000 cars," the ministry said in a statement. The move is part of a global recall of millions of Volkswagen cars fitted with

emissions-cheating software.

The Environment Ministry also announced the start of emissions tests on a number of Volkswagen models sold in the Korean market, including the Golf, Audi A3, Jetta and Beetle.

Initial lab tests will be followed by road tests starting on Sunday, it said. The world's biggest carmaker by sales has admitted that up to 11 million diesel cars worldwide are fitted with devices that can switch on pollution controls when they detect the car is undergoing testing.—AFP

LG Electronics says handset sales to improve starting in fourth quarter



A worker makes adjustments at the booth of LG company at the IFA Electronics show in Berlin, Germany on 2 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — South Korean consumer electronics maker LG Electronics Inc expects sales at its mobile division to improve starting from the fourth quarter as the firm launches new devices, a senior executive said on Thursday.

Speaking at a launch event for the new V10 smartphone, LG mobile division chief Cho Juno told reporters the firm will use the

high-end device as well as new mid-to-low tier products to boost market share.

He declined to give any specific targets.

LG will start selling the V10 smartphone in South Korea on 8 October.

The device, which features two front cameras and a small secondary screen that works inde-

pendently from the main 5.7-inch display, is priced at 799,700 Korean won (\$679.6) locally — 11 percent lower than domestic rival Samsung Electronics Co Ltd's cheapest Galaxy Note 5 phablet model that was launched in August. The firm also said it is preparing its own mobile payments service but declined to elaborate further.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A visitor takes pictures of an art work by Russian artist Leonid Tishkov, part of the "Look Homeward" installation, after a ceremony opening for the 11th Krasnoyarsk Museum Biennale at the Krasnoyarsk Museum Centre in Siberia, Russia on 30 September 2015. About 30 artists from Russia, the US, Germany, Poland, Britain, the Netherlands and other countries presented their art works and performances during the Krasnoyarsk Biennale, which has taken place once every two years since 1995, according to organisers. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia makes huge area around Uluru protected indigenous land

SYDNEY — More than five million hectares (12.35 million acres) of Outback surrounding Australia's famed tourist attraction Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, was Thursday declared an indigenous protected area.

The designation — covering a region slightly larger than Denmark — means indigenous communities enter an agreement with the government to environmentally and culturally preserve the land.

The indigenous land owners will also receive

government funding to protect cultural sites, native plants and animals, while creating local jobs and businesses. The Central Land Council, a grouping of 90 Aboriginal people from the south of Australia's Northern Territory, said the deal took five years to nego-

"We really want to teach the young ones how to look after the place properly and strongly,"

Janie Miama
Central Land Council

tiate and had created the fourth-largest protected area on the vast island continent. "We really want to teach the young ones how to look after the place properly and strongly," traditional owner Janie Miama said in a statement issued by the Central Land Council. "This sort of

work gives us a chance to travel around the country to show them all the places; to get out there and see all the waterholes and the important places, learn about them (and) learn how to look after them."

Uluru, a giant red rock that rises 348 metres (1,148 feet) above the desert, is surrounded by thousands of square kilometres of desolate Outback and forms a key part of Aboriginal creation mythology, attracting about 350,000 tourists a year.—*AFP*

Hurricane Joaquin surges in strength near Bahamas: US forecasters

MIAMI — Hurricane Joaquin barreled toward the Bahamas Thursday as a powerful Category Three storm with sustained winds of 120 miles (195 kilometers) an hour, US weather forecasters said.

The storm "will batter the central Bahamas with hurricane force winds" later Thursday, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said.

It will then move up into the northwestern Bahamas, shifting to a course that could take it up the east coast of the United States, the NHC said.

At 0900 GMT, Joaquin was about 20 miles (35 kilometres) north of Samana Cays, Bahamas, moving in a southwesterly at a speed of five miles (nine kilometres) per hour.

The hurricane reached Category Three status late Wednesday, making it a major hurricane, and its winds have only picked up strength since then.

"Data from an Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter Aircraft indicate that maximum sustained winds have increased to near 120 mph (195km/h) with higher gusts," the NHC said.

"Additional strengthening is forecast today," it said.

Hurricane warnings were up over of the central and northwestern Bahamas, an island chain that at its most northern point sits off the coast of southern Florida.

Hurricane warnings were in effect for Cat Island, the Exumas, Long Island, Rum Cay, and San Salvador in central Bahamas, and the Abacos, Berry Islands, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama Island, and New Providence in northwestern Bahamas.

Hurricanes that are Cat-

egory Three have sustained winds of 111-130 miles per hour that can tear off roofs, fell trees and splinter wood-frame houses.

They can cause coastal flooding and burst river banks because of the torrential rains they typically bring.

This storm was expected to dump up to 20 inches of rain in parts of the central Bahamas, raising the risk of flash floods.

Water levels were expected to rise five to eight feet above normal as a result of the storm surge, according to the NHC.—*AFP*

Typhoon Dujuan leaves heavy damage in east China

HANGZHOU — Typhoon Dujuan has caused heavy losses in China's coastal provinces of Zhejiang and Fujian.

Dujuan, the 21st typhoon of the year, made landfall in Fujian on Tuesday morning, packing winds of up to 33 metres per second. It killed two people and injured 324 in Taiwan previously.

In Fujian, Dujuan affected more than one million people, with 430,200 people evacuated, the provincial flood control headquarters said. No casualties have been reported, although its direct economic losses have been estimated at 2.4 billion yuan (377.5 million US dollars). Four-hundred houses were destroyed and about 31,000

hectares of crops were damaged across seven cities and 51 counties in the province.

As of 1:30 pm Thursday, heavy rain had stopped and the flood control headquarters had removed its emergency response for the typhoon.

In Zhejiang, Dujuan affected 663,400 people and caused direct economic losses of 1.75 billion yuan. No casualties were reported.

Zhejiang's Ningbo City was severely hit by the typhoon, with 359,600 people affected and 123 villages and townships inundated.

Though the typhoon has weakened, it is still raining in Zhejiang due to a cold front on Thursday.—*Xinhua*

Notification for Companies

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

Yangon (Head Office) : No.1, Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon.

Ph-01-657891, Fax-01-658135

core.gov.mm@gmail.com

Nay Pyi Taw Office : Office No.32, Nay Pyi Taw.

Ph-067-406124, 067406166

Fax-067-406306

myomin.dec1976@gmail.com.

Mandalay Region Office : Between 26th & 27th Street, 84 Street, 3rd Floor,

Zay Cho East Wing, Chan Aye Thar Zan Township, Mandalay Region.

Ph-02-86661, 02-86662.

Fax-02-86660

dicamdy.mm@gmail.com.

Shan State Office : Compound of the Directorate of Trade Promotion and Consumer Affair, East Circular Road, Yay Aye Kwin Quarter, Taunggyi Township, Shan State

Ph-081-2124293

Fax-081-2124974

dicatgi18@gmail.com.

Mon State Office : No.401, Strand Road (Extension), Mayangone Quarter, Mawlamyaing Township, Mon State.

Ph-057-23395.

Fax-057-23385

dica.mawlamyaing1102014@gmail.com.

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

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

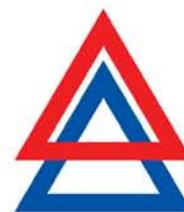
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Aung Naing Moe, Advocate
Ong Minn U, Advocate
May Phyo Kin, H.G.P
For. Medinova AG

Myanmar Global Law Firm

Ph:0973220023

Date: 2 October 2015

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J041R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J041R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.10.2015 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 CMA CGM**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV NORDANA MATHILDE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NORDANA MATHILDE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T(3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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• Myanmar Series

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• Teleplay

6:45 am

• TV Drama Series

7:30 am

• TV Drama Series

8:15 am

• Teleplay

10:15 am

• Myanmar Video

6:15 pm

• AFC U-19

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Qualifying Football
Match

(Group - G) (Live)

(Myanmar Vs Timor
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*Issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs
on 12 September 2015*

Charges upheld against photographer

LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles appeals court on Wednesday upheld criminal charges against a photographer who pursued pop star Justin Bieber at high speed on a Los Angeles freeway in 2012, saying the charges did not violate freedom of the press.

Celebrity photographer Paul Raef was the first person to be prosecuted under California's anti-paparazzi law, which was drafted in 2010 to crack down on aggressive, reckless behavior by people taking photos commercially.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge dropped the charges against Raef in 2012, saying the statute under which he was accused was overly broad and could increase reckless driving penalties in unintended cases.

An appellate court, however, reversed that decision in 2014, prompting Raef to appeal against the charges again on the basis that the anti-paparazzi law violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution by constricting the freedom of news gatherers.

In delivering its verdict on the appeal, the 2nd District Court of Appeals in Los Angeles said the law does not unfairly target the news media and should apply to "any driver who follows too closely, swarms in, or drives recklessly with the requisite intent and purpose, whether or not the driver is a celebrity photographer".

Calls to Raef's attorney were not immediately returned. The charges carry a penalty of six months in jail.

Bieber, who became a pop sensation through YouTube videos at age 15, is known for numerous paparazzi run-ins involving reckless driving. In 2013, a photographer trailing the "Boyfriend" singer's white Ferrari in Los Angeles was killed after he crossed a busy highway to snap photos of the car.

Canadian-born Bieber, 21, said at the time he hoped the incident would "inspire meaningful legislation" to protect the celebrities being hounded as well as the photographers.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Actress Norma Shearer's 1930 Oscar sold at auction for \$180,000

LOS ANGELES — An Oscar statuette awarded to actress Norma Shearer in 1930 sold on Wednesday for \$180,000 in a rare sale of an Academy Awards trophy.

The Oscar that recognised Shearer's role in "The Divorcee" was put up for auction by her estate. It sold along with the cinematography prize for a 1928 film, "White Shadows in the South Seas," that also fetched \$180,000.

Oscars rarely come up for auction because since 1950, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, host of the Academy Awards, has required that winners, their heirs or estates not sell one without first offering it to the Academy for \$1.

The 88-year-old organisation has recently attempted to keep ownership rights to trophies awarded before 1950. Last year,

the estate of actress Joan Fontaine withdrew her Oscar from a much-anticipated auction when the Academy threatened to sue over its sale.

And in July, a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge ruled that the Academy could apply its rule to a 1943 statuette that had been sold at auction, because its winner, art director Joseph Wright, remained an Academy member past 1951. The Academy did not respond to a request for comment on Wednesday's auction, conducted in Hollywood by auctioneer Profiles in History. The Canadian-born Shearer, best known for such films as "Marie Antoinette" and "The Women," was nominated for five other roles as Best Actress, cementing her fame as a Hollywood star through the 1930s. She died in 1983.—Reuters

Jay Z's Tidal to celebrate 1 million subscribers with mega concert

NEW YORK — Jay Z's global streaming music service Tidal on Wednesday announced a super star charity concert in New York to celebrate reaching one million subscribers, six months after it launched.

Jay Z, his wife Beyonce, Prince, Usher, and Nicki Minaj will headline the 20 October concert in Brooklyn, with tickets going on sale on Wednesday, firstly to Tidal subscribers. The concert will also be streamed live for both subscribers and non-sub-

scribers via Tidal.com.

Tickets for the concert are priced between \$74 and \$244, and all proceeds will go to the non-profit group New World Foundation, which works with community organisations on issues including civil rights, social justice, poverty and education. Viewers watching online can also donate during the live stream. Tidal launched in March offering only paid subscriptions, billing itself as the first of its kind music streaming service owned

by artists, but it has struggled to compete against more established rivals Spotify, Pandora, both of which offer free streaming services supported by advertising, and Apple Music. Rapper and entrepreneur Jay Z, who purchased Tidal from Swedish company Aspiro for \$54 million earlier this year, said in April that the service, which is backed by top names like Madonna, Rihanna and Chris Martin, had more than 770,000 subscribers. In a celebratory Tweet on Tuesday on

the eve of the concert announcement, Jay Z wrote: " 'Nothing real can be threatened, nothing unreal exists' Tidal is platinum. 1,000,000 people and counting. Let's celebrate 10/20 Brooklyn."

Tidal has faced its detractors in the music industry, with artists ranging from rapper 50 Cent to British rocker Noel Gallagher. British folk band Mumford and Sons said independent bands need support more than Tidal's already wealthy artists trying to make more money.

Tidal has taken up some of those concerns and the October concert will feature a number of artists from its programs to promote new and rising talent in the music industry, according to the event website.

Spotify, the music streaming leader, has more than 20 million paid subscribers. Apple said in August its streaming service, launched 30 June, had attracted more than 11 million members during its free trial period.—Reuters

Patterns everywhere at Dries Van Noten Paris fashion show

PARIS — Belgian designer Dries Van Noten delivered a bold serving of his usual colorful and patterned creations at Paris Fashion Week on Wednesday, presenting richly-brocaded overcoats and dresses for women's wardrobes next spring.

Staged in an industrial hangar, the Paris Fashion Week show featured a string quartet as models showcased Van Noten's embroidered coats, ankle-length trousers, skirts and tops in shades of pink, purple, mustard and aqua marine.

Patterns were ubiquitous in the spring/summer 2016 collection, even on models' arms and legs in the form of stockings and gloves that recalled henna tattoos.

Van Noten said the gloves were a nod to the fashion of the 1940s, also reflected in vintage-like sunglasses and sturdy bras, worn under or over transparent tops.

The clothes, competed with bulky block heels, were designed for a woman who is "flamboyant", Van Noten said. "For me that was the starting word of this collection, that she enjoys life, she wears and she dares," he said backstage.

"The idea was to do it sophisticated and raw at the same time; so bicolor prints, or two tone prints, which when you clash them together ... make an even bigger shock than when you have multicolored things." Paris Fashion Week runs until 7 October.—Reuters



Models present creations by Belgian designer Dries Van Noten as part of his Spring/Summer 2016 women's ready-to-wear fashion show in Paris, France on 30 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

From handles to cyborgs, all up for Turner art prize

GLASGOW — This year's Turner Prize nominees range from a collective selling handles, and costlier furnishings, online for 15 pounds (\$23) a pop to a video display in which a woman talks about being brainwashed in Kentucky by aliens.

Since the British contemporary art prize made a leap into the bizarre by recognizing Damien Hirst's bisected cow and calf in 1995, it has been hard to predict what the judges might include among the finalists.

This year's foursome, unveiled for a public show in Glasgow on Wednesday, is no exception.

But Sarah Munro, director of the Glasgow arts space Tramway, where the exhibition opens to the public on Thursday, says this year's artists do not seem to be out to provoke.

"I think those days when people were out to be shocked and to shock are not where artists really are at the moment," she said. "Artists are interested in engaging in ideas with the public and I think what's exciting about this edition of the Turner Prize is that it feels very now, very of the moment."

The winner is announced on 7 December.

Two rooms at Tramway are given over to the Assemble collective which is displaying — and selling, through an online catalogue — items made in a workshop in a working class neighbourhood of Liverpool.

The designs are based on fixtures found in social housing, from fireplaces to sinks to cabinet handles.

Lewis Jones, of Assemble, told Reuters the group had been stunned



Part of Turner Prize 2015 nominee Bonnie Camplin's work is seen at Tramway Glasgow, Scotland on 30 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

to be included among the Turner finalists when the nominees were announced in May, but said the attention had helped to support its program to refurbish housing in the Granby Four Streets area of Liverpool.

"We never really associated ourselves with the art world, but it's really helped," he said. Bonnie Camplin's video installation challenges viewers to think about seemingly outrageous accounts by people who

say they were brainwashed by aliens, turned into a cyborg in a special government program or survived an attempted crucifixion by a blood cult on the Orkney Islands.

Books displayed in the

room around the screens are there as resource materials — for anyone who wants to probe deeper.

"The general public might find stories of traveling to Mars unbelievable but Bonnie's approach to them is a little bit different," said Paul Pieroni, a co-curator of the exhibition.

"I think she wants to give people the benefit of the doubt and is interested in creating a framework for these accounts that isn't literally dismissive," he said.

The other two finalists are a live sound work called "DOUG" by Janice Kerbel and an installation of sculptures, most of which are modern stainless steel chairs with fur coats sewn into the seat backs, by Nicole Wermers.

The exhibition runs at Tramway through 17 January.—Reuters

New York restaurants earn record number of Michelin stars

NEW YORK — A record 76 New York City restaurants racked up coveted Michelin stars on Wednesday, led by a handful of acclaimed Japanese eateries and hot spots outside Manhattan and cementing the Big Apple's reputation as a premier global dining destination.

In the 11th edition of its New York City restaurant guide, to be launched on Thursday, Michelin handed stars to three more restaurants than the prior edition.

"The impressive number of different styles of cuisine, a total of 61, found throughout all five boroughs confirms New York's position as one of the world's most exciting dining destinations," said Michael Ellis, the international director of the Michelin Guides, in a statement. Michelin rates restaurants in 24 countries and its stars are an internationally recognised sign of quality.

Updated guides for San Francisco and Chicago restaurants will launch on 21 October and 27 October respectively.

Michelin awarded three stars, its highest distinction for "exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey" to the same six restaurants as in the prior year's edition: Eleven Madison Park, Jean-Georg-

es, Le Bernardin, Masa and Per Se in Manhattan, and Chef's Table at Brooklyn Fare in Brooklyn.

The next tier of New York City restaurants that were each awarded two Michelin stars for their "excellent cuisine, worth a detour," grew to 10 from nine in the previous edition, with the addition of The Modern, part of the renowned Museum of Modern Art.

In the one-star category, assigned to a "very good restaurant in its category," Michelin named 10 newcomers. This brings the number of one-star eateries in New York City to 60, two more than the previous year. Four of these first-timers offer Japanese cuisine include Cagen, Hirohisa and Tempura Matsui for turning tempura into "an art form," while Sushi Yasuda was commended for its "exemplary" sushi.

The latest guide also showcased the expanding number of quality eateries outside Manhattan. Brooklyn was home to two more one-starred restaurants, with nods to vegetarian-focused Semilla and The Finch for its take on American cuisine.

"This year's selection confirms the dynamism of the culinary scene in all boroughs, notably Brooklyn and Queens," Ellis said.—Reuters

Disasters lead to 'dramatic' increase in child marriages: campaign group

LONDON — Natural and humanitarian disasters lead to a dramatic increase in child marriages as families struggle to cope, a campaign group said on Thursday, urging governments to accelerate their efforts to end the practice.

Rates of child marriage have risen sharply and in some cases doubled in three years in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan, while in Bangladesh some families are marrying off their daughters in anticipation of recurring natural disasters, the campaign group Girls not Brides said.

"Emergency situations are often the last straw for many families who are already living on the brink," Lakshmi Sundaram, executive director of Girls not Brides, said in a statement.

"They tip the balance and make it impossible for desperate parents to make ends meet and to protect their children. Marrying off their daughters can seem like the only option."

Child marriage deprives girls of education and opportunities and puts them at risk of serious injury or death if they have children before their bodies are ready.

They are also more vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence.

Each year more than 15 million girls worldwide are married before they

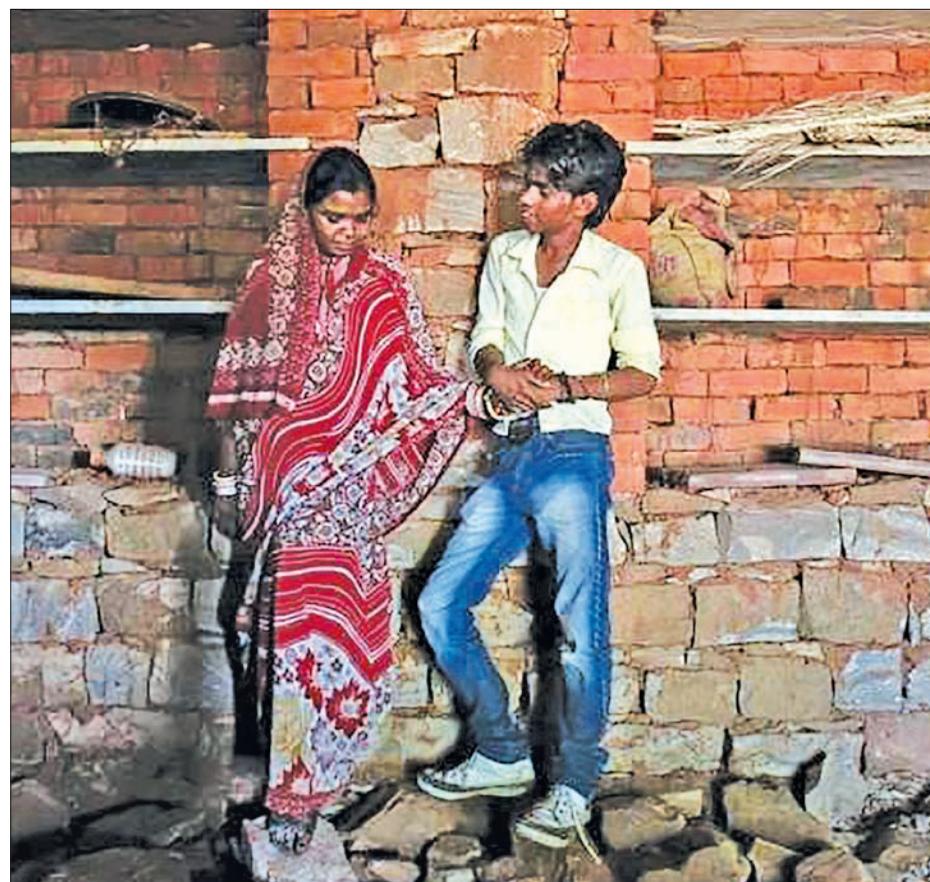
turn 18, Girls not Brides said. "It is under our watch that these girls lose their childhood, their chance to be educated, to become anything they want, and it is our responsibility, all of us together, to make sure that it stops," said Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who is supporting the group's campaign.

Ending child marriage

by 2030 is one of the targets contained in the new Sustainable Development Goals adopted by world leaders at a UN summit on Friday, but Sundaram said agreeing on a target is not enough to end the practice. "Governments must draw up and enforce policies that end child marriage, and create alternatives for girls and their families," Sundaram said.

"If governments and civil society organizations don't act now, the number of women married in childhood will increase from more than 700 million today to 1.2 billion by 2050."

Using a hashtag # MyLifeAt15, Girls Not Brides is calling on governments to implement and enforce their commitments to end child marriage.—Reuters



Child bride Krishna, 13, stands with her husband Kishan Gopal, 15, inside a newly constructed room at her house in a village near Baran, located in the northwestern state of Rajasthan on 17 July 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

6th Japan Cup Karatedo Championship opens in Yangon

JAPAN'S Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi opened the 6th Japan Cup Karatedo Championship on Thursday at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

The ceremony was also attended by the president of the Myanmar Karatedo Federation Dr Win Zaw.

The first day's events in-

cluded men's and women's kata and kumite competitions. A total of 24 teams will take part in the competition.—*Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)*



Two contestants fight in an opening day of 6th Japan Cup Karatedo Championship.

PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)

Myanmar gears up for ASEAN futsal Championship

Ko Moe

THE Myanmar futsal team departed for Thailand on Tuesday for the ASEAN Futsal Championship, which will take place from 8 to 18 October.

Myanmar's team will play in test matches against Thailand on 2 October and Singapore on 4 October. Myanmar will face the Philippines in its first real

match on 8 October.

The players selected to represent Myanmar in the ASEAN Championship match will be released after the test matches.

The teams are divided into two pools the first includes Thailand, Timor-Leste, Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore, while the second is Australia, Vietnam, Laos, Philippines and Myanmar are in Pot B.—*GNLM*

Myanmar golfers to compete in Asia-Pacific Amateur Golf Championship

TWO Myanmar golfers have travelled to Hong Kong to compete in the Asia-Pacific Amateur Golf Championship 2015, which takes place from 1 to 4 October.

Golfers Maung Maung Oo

and Sithu Ye Yint were accompanied by Myanmar Golf Federation president U Ko Ko Aye, who will attend Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation meetings whilst there.—*GNLM*

Nishikori relaxed ahead of Japan Open title defence

TOKYO — World No 6 Kei Nishikori says he has learned to relax at the Japan Open and is in a confident mood ahead of his defence of the title in Tokyo next week.

"I used to stiffen up on the court but now I have confidence so I hardly feel any pressure at all," Nishikori, who also won the Tokyo title in 2012, told reporters on Wednesday. "I want the Japanese fans to feel how enjoyable tennis can be."

In last year's Tokyo final, Nishikori defeated big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic in three sets, a week after winning the Malaysian Open.

This year Nishikori, who helped keep Japan in the Davis Cup World Group with a 3-2 win against Colombia earlier this month, has decided not to play in Kuala Lumpur.

"This year I will go into (the Japan Open) fully prepared. I am undergoing hard practices one after another and I want to start the tournament in even better shape than I am in now." Nishikori, suffered a shock first-round exit at the US Open this year after making the 2014 final, but he has managed to keep his place among the top 10 players in the world.—*Kyodo News*

Manchester clubs victorious as Ronaldo hits record

THE two Manchester clubs enjoyed victories in a happier night for England in the Champions League on Wednesday, while the individual performance of the evening came, not for the first time, from Cristiano Ronaldo.

Manchester United and City were made to work hard for 2-1 wins against German clubs Wolfsburg and Borussia Moenchengladbach respectively, 24 hours after Chelsea and Arsenal had both crashed to defeats.

Former United star Ronaldo, meanwhile, scored his 500th career goal and then equalled Raul Gonzalez Blanco's club record tally of 323 goals for Real Madrid as the Spaniards won 2-0 against Malmo in Sweden.

Both Manchester sides were looking to bounce back from defeats in their opening Champions League group games two weeks ago and United got their campaign back on track in Group B, although only after falling behind.

Daniel Caligiuri put Wolfsburg in front after just five minutes at Old Trafford, but Juan Mata won and converted a penalty to pull United level before the break, and the Spaniard then produced a superb flick to set up Chris Smalling, who scored the winner early in the second half.

"It was very difficult because they scored so early," United manager Louis van Gaal told BT Sport. "Then we did very well. We created a lot of chances. But we don't finish it and it was a lucky penalty,

I think. "Then we score and after that it was suffering. We have to keep the ball better in the second half." The Premier League leaders now find themselves in a four-way tie on three points in Group B after CSKA Moscow defeated PSV Eindhoven 3-2 in Russia in the night's other game.

PSV had beaten United in the Netherlands a fortnight ago but they were taken apart in the first half at the Arena Khimki, Ahmed Musa opening the scoring before Seydou Doumbia headed in a second and then scored a penalty.

Doumbia might have had a hat-trick, only to blaze another spot-kick over the bar, and PSV were given hope when Maxime Lestienne scored a second-half

brace. However, CSKA held on as the visitors finished with 10 men after Santiago Arias was sent off.

Meanwhile, City had Sergio Aguero to thank for winning and then scoring a last-gasp penalty as they beat Gladbach 2-1 at Borussia-Park in Group D, securing a precious victory after they lost at home to Juventus in their first outing.

It was a happy ending to a difficult evening, with the Bundesliga side missing the chance to open the scoring in the first half when Raffael won a penalty only to see his kick saved by Joe Hart.

They did go in front through Lars Stindl nine minutes after the restart, but City equalised when a Nicolas Otamendi shot took a

decisive deflection off Andreas Christensen before Aguero's heroics.

It is Juventus who top the section, though, after Alvaro Morata and Simone Zaza netted to clinch a merited 2-0 win over Sevilla in Turin.

In Sweden, Mateo Kovacic and Isco combined to set up Ronaldo for the opener, his 500th career goal in 753 games, in the first half of Madrid's clash with Malmo in Group A.

The hosts had Yoshimar Yotun sent off before Ronaldo made sure of the win at the death, and equalled Raul's tally.

"Hopefully, he has no limits. I said he was unquestionable in the past and his merit is what he has done in far less time than the rest. That adds more value to what he has achieved," said Madrid coach Rafa Benitez.

Paris Saint-Germain are level with Madrid on six points at the top of Group A after easing to a 3-0 victory over Shakhtar Donetsk in Ukraine, Serge Aurier and David Luiz netting in the first half before a Darijo Srna own goal late on put the seal on the win.

Meanwhile, Portuguese champions Benfica took control of Group C after coming from behind to beat Atletico Madrid 2-1, Nicolas Gaitan and Goncalo Guedes with their goals after Angel Correa put Atletico ahead.

Earlier, Astana claimed a first point in the competition as they drew 2-2 with Galatasaray in Kazakhstan.—*AFP*



Malmo FF's Vladimir Rodic challenges Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo during their Champions League group A soccer match at Malmo New Stadium in Malmo, Sweden on 30 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS