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BRING JUSTICE BACK

14 fishermen to testify against human traffickers in Indonesia

Aye Min Soe

FOURTEEN Myanmar fishermen will travel to Indonesia this month to testify in court against a fishing company that is on trial for committing human trafficking.

The Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK), an Indonesian NGO, will take the Silver Sean fishing company, also based in Indonesia, to court for trafficking Myanmar fishermen in an attempt to secure salaries and compensation for the victims.

LPSK met with 22 trafficked fishermen in Myanmar during a visit in September and reached agreement in principal with Myanmar authorities to send 14 fishermen who were involved in the case to Indonesia, Police Col Khin Maung Hla told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* yesterday.

"More than 500 fishermen who returned from Benjina about four to five months ago did not receive salaries from their companies because the Myanmar authorities and Indonesian authorities had to give priority to repatriate them to Myanmar as soon as possible due to insufficient accommodation and food for them," he added.

"However, the two countries will cooperate further to resolve the issues of salary and grievances of the remaining Myanmar fishermen," the police colonel said.

He added that 176 of the more than 300 Myanmar fishermen stranded on Indonesia's Ambon Island returned to Myanmar in September and received their salaries from their employers; they were repatriated only after compensation disputes between em-



Fishermen repatriated from Indonesia's Ambon Island gather at a government office in Yangon to collect their salaries in September 2015.

PHOTO: BANYA

ployers and workers were resolved by Myanmar and Indonesian authorities.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar embassy in Indonesia has offered its assistance to more than 443 fishermen who returned home from Benjina in early June in filing lawsuits against their former employers in an attempt to resolve the salary disputes between the fishermen and the Benjina Company.

Officials from Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia will hold talks for the second time on the Indonesian island of

Bali on 20 and 21 October in order to resolve the human trafficking issue.

Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia held the first meeting on the issue in Phuket, Thailand, in July 2015, focusing on the issue of trafficked fishermen.

During its visit to Myanmar, LPSK expressed its readiness to cooperate with Myanmar to resolve the human trafficking case in Benjina, Aru Island, Maluku Province.

The LPSK has reported on the developments in the Benjina

slavery case to Myanmar authorities, including the trial schedule and the protection of the witnesses from Myanmar.

During the meeting with the LPSK, Myanmar authorities voiced their support for the witnesses testifying in court.

The Myanmar Police Force or other relevant ministries can conduct further investigations, the authorities said.

Earlier this year, the Associated Press released a video titled "Was Your Seafood Caught by Slaves?" that showed several

prisons and tombs believed to be a cemetery for Myanmar crew members of fishing ships in Benjina. Indonesian police investigations revealed human trafficking in Benjina, arresting eight suspects in connection with the case, of whom five were identified as Thai nationals and three as Indonesian.

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

Govt has built 36,059 new apartments over last 4 years

IT is necessary to develop urban housing projects for towns and cities in all of Myanmar's states and regions, said Union Minister from the President's Office U Soe Thane at a coordination meeting on urban development yesterday.

Future developments must also be taken into account while executing urban housing projects,

the union minister added.

Also at the meeting, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint explained the efforts of the union government to expand Myanmar's housing infrastructure.

"The union government was able to build 36,059 new apartments during the 4-year period from 2011 to 2015," he said.

The Ministry of Construction laid down four objectives: providing adequate and affordable housing, establishing a housing finance mechanism, the participation of private entrepreneurs in the construction industry and the development of a proper housing delivery system, according to the deputy minister. The deputy

minister added that the union government built over 36,000 apartments for government employees and low-income citizens, and the ministry is planning to build 1 million apartment units in 81 cities throughout the country over the next 20 years.

Plans are also underway to issue 8-year mortgage loans to

home-buyers, according to the deputy minister.

Arrangements are also being made to build 29,357 new apartments in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The ministry also developed 100,000 land plots in 99 cities and towns for urban development projects between 1988 and 2010.—MNA

Vice President honours teachers at World Teachers' Day ceremony

"COMPETENT teachers are essential to an education system that can nurture qualified human resources," Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said at the World Teachers' Day ceremony held at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, the vice president said World Teachers' Day was organised to highlight the importance of teachers in nurturing new generations of youths, and that Myanmar society traditionally regards teachers as people who deserve gratitude from society.

The enhancement of the quality of our teachers is one of the objectives of the World Education Forum in 2015, the vice president pointed out.

"The theme of this year's World Teachers' Day – 'Empowering teachers, building sustainable society' – also means teachers' authority and skills must be enhanced for the sustainable development of society," he said.

The vice president urged teachers to try to be lifelong learners who always nurture themselves.

After the vice president's address, Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi read



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham awards a teacher at a ceremony to mark the World Teachers' Day. PHOTO: MNA

out the message from President Thein Sein to the attendees.

Messages from UN officials were also read out at the ceremony before the vice president

presented awards to experienced teachers.

Winners of article and essay competitions were also given prizes at the ceremony.—MNA

Dr Sai Mauk Kham accepts bloodmobile from Thai princess



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn view a bloodmobile. PHOTO: MNA

VICE PRESIDENT Dr Sai Mauk Kham accepted a bloodmobile donated by the Thai people through Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. The donation was aimed at fostering friendship between Thailand and Myanmar, improving Myanmar's blood banks and

increasing the number of blood donors.

The vehicle is equipped with facilities by which six people can donate blood simultaneously. In the evening, the vice president hosted a dinner for the Thai princess and her entourage at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Earlier that day, the Thai princess visited No. 15 Basic Education Primary School in Pyinmana. She donated books and stationery for the students.

The princess also browsed exhibits on display at the National Archives Department in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates computers to schools

SPECIAL emphasis should be placed on education, as high education standards are essential for national development, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

He spoke at a ceremony held at Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine, where he donated computers to schools and universities and cash for regional development in Mon State on Monday.

The senior general's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla also attended the ceremony, as did Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint, air force Commander-in-Chief General Khin Aung Myint and navy Commander-in-Chief Vice Admiral Tin Aung San.

In his speech, the senior general explained the latest development about the nationwide ceasefire agreement and the Tat-

madaw's six guiding principles for peace.

The senior general handed over computers and exercise books donated by members of the defence services to schools and universities to local officials.

Earlier in the morning, the senior general met with members of the defence services and their families at Mawlamyine Station.

At the meeting, the senior general explained reforms adopted by the Tatmadaw and handed over books for families and students. Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donated cash for the maternal and child welfare association of the Southeast Command to the wife of the commander.

General Khin Aung Myint presented sport equipment to the Southeast Command.—Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates computers to schools in Mawlamyine. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Nyaung Lay Bin celebrates World Teachers' Day

NYAUNG LAY BIN Township held its ninth World Teachers' Day ceremony yesterday at the local Basic Education High School.

Ma Moe Yanant Khin, a grade-10 student, sang the song 'Respectful Teacher' at the opening of the ceremony.

The deputy sports minister gave a speech and donated K

1 million (US\$750) in gifts to senior teachers, SKY NET receivers for local high schools.

Township education officer Daw Khin Than Nu thanked the deputy minister and presented gifts to senior teachers.

Prizes were also presented to students who won essay and poems competitions held for the event.—Ne Lin

President meets Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand yesterday at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During their meeting, they exchanged views on strengthen-

ing friendship between the two countries; promoting cooperation between the two countries in religious affairs; education, health and culture; rural development; border-area development and cooperation in anti-drug efforts.

Union ministers U Soe Thane, Dr Than Aung and U Ye Htut, deputy minister U Thant Kyaw and Thailand's ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suvanajata accompanied the president and the Thai princess at the meeting.—MNA

Vice President receives Thai Princess

VICE President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn yesterday. They discussed strengthening bilateral relations between

the two countries.

Also present were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, U Han Sein, U Thant Shin, Dr Win Myint,

Daw Sandar Khin. The Thai delegation was accompanied by Thailand's ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suvanajata.—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

PHOTO: MNA

What they stand for: campaign speeches aired

The Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party, Confederate Farmers Party and Akha National Development Party broadcast campaign speeches on Monday.

Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party



CHAIRMAN U Sai Haung Kham explained the history of the party and its policies in his speech. The ESSDDP aims to protect the rights of aboriginal ethnic groups of Eastern Shan State and to work for the development of the region. The party promotes democracy, federalism, economic liberalism and a market-oriented economic system. The party promotes egalitarianism, social security, green energy, organic agriculture, preservation of traditional cultures and languages in Eastern Shan State, peaceful coexistence between religious groups, environmental conservation and stability and peace in Eastern Shan State.

Confederate Farmers Party



CHAIRMAN U Hsan Lin clarified the history and policies of the party, which aims to establish sovereignty based on democracy, to settle disputes through dialogue, to work for equal rights and to cooperate with government organisations and non-government organisations to promote the people's interests. Its future tasks include enabling farmers to enjoy rights stipulated in the farmland law, the provision of assistance for mechanised farming, enabling farmers to participate in organisations to settle land disputes, the enforcement of the farmland law and assisting farmers in other ways.

Akha National Development Party



PATRON U Min Nyo expounded on the history and policies of his party, which aims to provide the basic needs of Akha nationals while preserving their culture, traditions and language. Its policies are based on equality, minority rights, internal peace and national unity and cooperation for national development. The party upholds three main national causes: non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the union and building a strong, single union army.—GNLM



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand. PHOTO: MNA

President's message to be broadcast on radio

A RADIO message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes on 6 and 7 October.

Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamyia FM, FM Bagan, Thazin Radio and Yangon City FM will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively.—MNA

Myanmar to repatriate 105 Bangladeshi boatpeople

MYANMAR has repatriated 626 Bangladeshi citizens rescued at sea by the Myanmar Navy in May and July in five batches in cooperation with

boatpeople remain in Taungpyoletwei camp in Rakhine State, of whom 105 were identified and approved by Bangladesh for repatriation. They are scheduled to be handed over to Bangladeshi authorities on 12 October.—MNA

Correction

PLEASE read "U Tha Aung Nyun concurrently accredited as Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius" and "Daw Yin Yin Myint concurrently accredited as Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia" as the headlines published on Page 3 of this daily issued 5 October 2015. We regret the errors.—Editor

Four party speeches to be broadcast today

CAMPAIGN speeches delivered by representatives from Zo National Region Development Party, National Development Party, Women's Party (Mon) and Arakan Patriot Party will be broadcast on state radio and television networks on 6 October. MRTV, the Hluttaw channel, Myawady TV, Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast the speeches.—GNLM

ELECTION COUNTDOWN 33 DAYS
Make your voice count. Cast your vote.

Poll officials attend training course in Ottara District



Poll officials study election laws at Ottarathiri District General Administration Office. PHOTO: SHWE YE YINT

CHIEF ballot officers, deputies and their assistants attended an orientation course on 5 October at the Ottara District General Administration Office.

Union Election Commission member U Aung Myint said the officials must know the

election laws well, and he pointed out that the elections must be free and fair. He said advance votes must be dealt with according to rules and regulations and elaborated on the preparations being made for the 8 November election.

Ottara District Election Commission chairman U Aung Lwin explained the duties of poll officers and the voting process. He showed samples of valid and void votes. The three-day course was attended by 48 poll officers.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area census data distributed

AN education course on the population data of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area collected during the 2014 census was held at the Ottara District General Administration Office on 5 October. The course was attended by 64 civil servants and members of civic groups.

The three-day course began with a speech by Nay Pyi Taw

Council Area Census Committee Secretary, who also serves as the director of the Immigration and National Registration Department.

Population department director Daw Khin Nyo Nyo distributed the population data and provided explanations.—*Shwe Ye Yint*



More than 60 civil servants gathered population data on the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. PHOTO: SHWE YE YINT

Meiktila officials discuss election security measures

OFFICIALS at the Meiktila District General Administration Office discussed security measures for the upcoming general election on 5 October. The district includes Meiktila, Mahlaing, Thazi, and Wundwin townships.

District Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon said the elections on November 8 must be successfully held with the participation

of the whole district. The district police chief Lt-Col Soa Nay Lin explained security measures arranged in the four townships and added that there will be special election policemen on duty during the elections.

The meeting was attended by district and township election commission members and other security officials.—*Chan Tha*



Authorities in Meiktila discuss security measures for the election in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHAN THA

Friesian cattle flourish thanks to New Zealand's input



Technical assistance from New Zealand has benefited cattle farmers in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHAN THA

CATTLE breeders in Nyaungpintha village in Meiktila Township said that technical assistance from New Zealand is reaping benefits in breeding of Friesian cows. Friesian cattle are valued for their high-quality dairy output as well their lean meat.

Breeder U Khin Maung Win said he had previously bred around 700 Friesian cows, but they did not produce milk – a failing he attributes to a lack of his experience. He said that since receiving technical assistance from a group of experts from New Zealand, he has been able to breed 220 milk-producing cows. The milk produced is sent to a condensed milk factory.

“The main factor to success is understanding how to use available technology,” he said.

The breeder has 20 acres of pasture and the experts visit his farm once a month. He recently received the Best Livestock Breeder Award from President U Thein Sein.

U Khin Maung Win also cultivates crops such as maize, sesame, rice and sunflowers on his 120-acre plantation. He said he has plans to turn his land into a collective farming project where he will pass on new skills to his fellow farmers.

“This would be really beneficial to the community,” he said.—*Chan Tha*

Farmers rent machinery for seasonal crops



A farmer ploughs farmland with a tractor. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN (IPRD)

FARMERS in Tatkon Township have rented tractors and other agricultural machinery to complete their cultivation while rainfall levels are still favourable. The farmers of Innphat village reported yesterday

that they are ready to plant seasonal crops such as tomatoes and roselle (hibiscus sandariffa). Agricultural machinery businesses also report higher profits during this period.—*Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)*

Myanmar Police Day observed in Pyay



Families of police pay respect to retired members of the Myanmar Police Force in Pyay. PHOTO: GNLM-017

The 51st Myanmar Police Day was observed at the Pyi District Police Department in Bago Region on 4 October.

District police chief Lt-Col Aung Thet Naing read out a commemorative

message from the Myanmar Police Force chief, Police Major Gen Zaw Win.

Paungde Township received awards for having the lowest crime rate and most gambling-related arrests in the district. The-

gone Township received the award for arresting the most fugitives. The award for recruiting the officers most was given to the district crime unit. The District Police chief also gave prizes to outstanding

attendees of moral courses and to model mothers of the police families.

The event was held at the Nawin Police Mess Hall in Pyay and attended by police officers and their families.—*GNLM-017*

Kyaukme officials discuss election security

OFFICIALS from Kyaukme Township in Shan State discussed security measures for the election at the township

General Administration Office on 4 October.

Kyaukme District Commissioner U Soe Naing and

District Election Commission chairman U Tun Win urged the officials to hold a successful election and

explained some of the difficulties that can happen during elections and some ongoing problems.

District police chief Lt-Col Win Thein elaborated on the security measures his department will take.

The meeting's attendees were shown a video clip demonstrating proper voting procedures.

Eight political parties are competing in the township's two constituencies. The township has a total of 121,936 voters.—*U Myint Aung*



Authorities discuss security measures for the November-8 election in Kyaukme Township. PHOTO: U MYINT AUNG

Pregnant women, children receive medicine in Zabuthiri

PREGNANT women and infants under 18 months of age in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, were given preventive medicines and injections yesterday.

The services were provided by maternity nurses from the rural clinic in Shataw village. Their monthly tours provide BCG medicines and injections against chicken

pox, polio, penta and tuberculosis. Residents of Latpankhahla, Tauthtein, Shataw, and Gonmininn villages came to receive the services. The Shataw rural clinic also provides 3-day nursery care for children below the age of five, free examinations for pregnant women and various health-care services to resident on the rural community.—*U Chit Ko Ko*



A nurse vaccinates a baby in Zabuthiri Township. PHOTO: U CHIT KO KO

Pyawbwe Township Veteran Organisation gives assistance to students

The Pyawbwe Township Veteran Organisation donated stipends and school stationary to the children of the township's veterans yesterday.

The Mandalay Region Veteran Organisation also contributed to the donations. The township organisation gave K30,000 and three doz-

en notebooks to each high school student, K22,000 and two dozen notebooks to each middle school student and K15,000 and one dozen notebooks to each primary school student. A total of 92 students received K2.16 million (US\$1,669) and 2,916 note books.—*Min Min Htwe (Pyawbwe)*



A student receives stationery from a member of Pyawbwe Township War Veteran Organization. PHOTO: MIN MIN HTWE

Phetku village gets electric power

A self-reliant electricity cable was installed in Phetku village in Nahtogyi Township, Mandalay Region, on 5 October. The occasion was celebrated at Kayinn village by Union Minister for Transport and Railways U Nyan Tun Aung, township electrical power officer U Kyaw Min Tun and other officials.

The minister said he

was very happy about the area's development and that the effort to electrify the whole township was going smoothly. A village elder thanked the officials on behalf of the 102 families in the village. The electrification project aims to cover 158 villages in Nahtogyi Township. As yesterday, 60 villages have received electricity.—*Htay Myint Maung*

Thai junta picks panel to write constitution after draft rejected

BANGKOK — Thailand's military government, which took power in May last year, appointed a committee to draft the country's 20th constitution on Monday after a previous draft was rejected, delaying promised elections until at least 2017.

The junta-appointed legislature dismissed the military-backed constitution last month after it was met with strong opposition by almost all sides of the political divide, in effect playing into the military's hands by prolonging army rule.

A major point of contention was the creation of a National Committee on Reform and Reconciliation Strategy that would be dominated by the military, allowing it to exercise power over the executive and legislative branches in a vaguely defined "crisis" situation.

The new, 21-member committee has six months to write a new draft and will need approval by the legislature and to put the constitution to a referendum, something that would delay elections until at least 2017, said deputy Prime Minister Wisanu Krea-ngam.

The committee, made up of lawyers, academics, civil servants and military types, starts work immediately.

The military took power in a May 2014 coup after months of

political unrest. The junta, formally known as the National Council for Peace and Order, scrapped the constitution and set about writing one that critics say was aimed at consolidating the

army's already-sweeping powers.

Kan Yuenyong, an analyst at Siam Intelligence Unit think tank, said the junta's aim of a constitution that gives the military over-

arching powers remained unchanged.

"At the end of the day, the junta has the same aims it did before, namely, it believes the political system doesn't work and they need an umbrella organisation to oversee the country and to weaken the electoral process but how they will do that and make it more palatable to people remains to be seen," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Wisanu Krea-ngam said Meechai Ruchapan, an adviser to the junta, would head the new committee. Meechai led a junta-appointed panel that drafted the 2006 constitution, dubbed the "anti-Thaksin" charter because it appeared aimed at preventing the return of ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin was deposed in a 2006 coup after being accused of corruption. His sister, Yingluck, was removed from power in May 2014 after a court found her guilty of abuse of power. Days later, the army staged a coup, ending months of sometimes violent street protests in Bangkok aimed at ousting Yingluck's government.—Reuters



Thailand's National Reform Council (NRC) members attend a session in which a vote on a draft of a new Thai constitution takes place, at the parliament in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Widow of popular Philippine politician could boost ruling party in polls

MANILA — The widow of a popular Philippine politician has accepted a ruling party offer to run as vice president in an election in May which should boost the chances of victory for President Benigno Aquino's successor.

More than 54 million Filipinos will vote for a new president, vice president, and about 18,000 lawmakers and local government officials in elections that happen every six years.

"After deep soul searching, broad consultation and fervent prayers, I am accepting the challenge to run as vice president of Secretary Mar Roxas," Leni Robredo told a cheering crowd of supporters in Manila, referring to former Interior Minister Manuel Roxas.

Investors are closely watching the elections, fearing the political succession in one of Asia's fastest growing economies could derail gains made during Aquino's rule.

Aquino has endorsed Roxas, the grandson of the country's first post-war president, to lead the ruling party into the polls and Robredo, a 51-year-old lawyer who won a seat in Congress in 2013, should boost the credibility of the ticket, analysts said.

While Roxas' popularity ratings has jumped, according to the

latest surveys, he is still in third place, trailing a novice senator, Grace Poe, and the incumbent vice president, Jejomar Binay.

Analysts say Robredo brings a feeling of warmth and accessibility to Roxas' image as a straightforward, technocrat.

Robredo has earned a reputation as a lawyer who helps poor farmers and fishermen and for being a steadfast opponent of corruption. Her late husband, Jesse Robredo, was interior minister when he was killed in a plane crash in 2012.

"I am offering my whole self to our countrymen, especially those wearing flip-flops out in the streets, at the bottom, and at the edges of our society," Robredo told the crowd, echoing her husband's crusade as a champion of the poor.

Under Aquino, the Philippines has seen economic growth of more than 6 percent on average, its best 5-year record in four decades. The president, who is limited by the constitution to a single term, has also battled to rein in corruption.

"Investors are looking for a continuation of the overall thrusts of the administration but with more attention to actual performance," Steve Rood of Asia Foundation told Reuters.—Reuters

Bangladesh opposition says foreigner killings sign of deeper crisis

DHAKA — A senior Bangladesh opposition leader said on Monday the killing of two foreign nationals was a sign that law and order was collapsing and the situation may get worse unless a stalemate between the two main political parties is resolved.

"There was an election as per the constitution, but the BNP did not participate, and it is their mistake."

Mahbubul Alam Hanif
Acting secretary general of the Awami League

The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has staged violent protests since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League won a second consecutive term in January 2014. The BNP boycotted the election, which was deemed by international observers to be flawed.

At the same time, Islamist groups have been staging high-profile attacks in the impoverished South Asian nation. Earlier this year, four online critics of

religious militancy were hacked to death. Over the past week, the Islamic State has claimed responsibility for shooting an Italian and a Japanese man and threatened more such attacks.

"Such downward trends will continue until there is some kind of political reconciliation between the two major political parties in Bangladesh," Abdul Moyeen Khan, a senior BNP leader, told Reuters in an interview on Friday. Moyeen, a former federal minister, said there had been attempts by the international community, including the United Nations, to broker peace between the parties. But months of behind-the-scenes efforts had failed to yield results and the Awami League had refused to engage in negotiations.

Mahbubul Alam Hanif, acting secretary general of the Awami League, blamed the opposition for the political violence and ruled out negotiations.

"There was an election as per the constitution, but the BNP did not participate, and it is their mistake," Hanif said. The UN declined to comment. A separate group of 18 diplomats, coordinated by the Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka, has also been trying to encourage the two sides to end the stalemate.—Reuters

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Beating parasites wins three scientists Nobel prize for medicine

STOCKHOLM/LONDON — Three scientists from Japan, China and Ireland whose discoveries led to the development of potent new drugs against parasitic diseases such as malaria and elephantiasis won the Nobel Prize for Medicine on Monday.

Irish-born William Campbell and Japan's Satoshi Omura won half of the prize for discovering avermectin, a derivative of which has been used to treat hundreds of millions of people with river blindness and lymphatic filariasis, or elephantiasis.

China's Youyou Tu was awarded the other half of the prize for discovering artemisinin, a drug that has slashed malaria deaths and has become the mainstay of fight-

“These two discoveries have provided humankind with powerful new means to combat these debilitating diseases that affect hundreds of millions of people annually.”

Nobel Assembly

PHOTO: REUTERS



Satoshi Omura



Youyou Tu



William Campbell

ing the mosquito-borne disease. Some 3.4 billion people, most of them living in poor countries, are at risk of contracting these parasitic diseases.

“These two discoveries have provided humankind with powerful new means to combat these debilitating diseases that affect hundreds of millions of people annually,” the Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute said.

“The consequences in terms of improved human health and reduced suffering are immeasurable.” Today, the medicine ivermectin, a derivative of avermectin made by Merck & Co, is used worldwide to fight roundworm parasites, while artemisinin-based drugs from firms in-

cluding Sanofi and Novartis are the main weapons against malaria. Omura and Campbell made their breakthrough in fighting parasitic worms, or helminths, after studying compounds from soil bacteria. That led to the discovery of avermectin, which was then further modified into ivermectin.

The treatment is so successful that river blindness and lymphatic filariasis are now on the verge of being eradicated.

Youyou turned to a traditional Chinese herbal medicine in her hunt for a better malaria treatment, following the declining success of the older drugs chloroquine and quinine.

This led to the isolation of artemisinin, a new class of anti-malaria drug. “We now have drugs

that kill these parasites very early in their life-cycle,” said Juleen Zierath, chair of the Nobel Committee. “They not only kill these parasites but they stop these infections from spreading.”

Despite rapid progress in controlling malaria in the past decade, the disease still kills around half a million people a year, the vast majority of them babies and young children in the poorest parts of Africa.

The 8 million Swedish crowns (\$960,000) medicine prize is the first of the Nobel prizes awarded each year. Prizes for achievements in science, literature and peace were first awarded in 1901 in accordance with the will of dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel.—Reuters

Komeito wants party policy chief to get transport post in new Cabinet

TOKYO — Komeito leader Natsuo Yamaguchi requested Monday that the party's policy chief, Keiichi Ishii, replace Akihiro Ota, a veteran Komeito lawmaker, as minister of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism in Wednesday's Cabinet reshuffle, according to sources familiar with the move.

Yamaguchi made the request in a meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the premier's office, the sources said. After talks with Abe, Yamaguchi only said, “I leave personnel affairs to the prime minister.” Ishii, who is serving his eighth term as a House of Representatives member, is chairman

of the Policy Research Council of Komeito, the junior coalition partner of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party. According to the sources, Yamaguchi initially sought to retain Ota as transport minister, but has decided to replace him amid calls inside Soka Gakkai, a lay Buddhist organization that backs Komeito, that the party should send a younger lawmaker to the Cabinet. Ota, a former Komeito leader, has been in the Cabinet post since Abe returned to power in December 2012.

Last week, Abe said he will retain the top five executives of the LDP in their current posts when he reshuffles the Cabinet and LDP

leadership on Wednesday.

The five LDP executives are Vice President Masahiko Komura, Secretary General Sadakazu Tanigaki, Policy Research Council Chairwoman Tomomi Inada, General Council Chairman Toshihiro Nikai and Election Strategy Committee Chairman Toshimitsu Motegi. Abe has hinted he will also retain key Cabinet ministers, fueling speculation that he will keep Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Akira Amari, minister of economic and fiscal policy.—Kyodo News



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at his office in Tokyo on 5 October, 2015. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Australia to buy Thales light armoured vehicles for \$917 mn

MELBOURNE — Australia said on Monday it would buy 1,100 light armoured vehicles from French defence and electronics firm Thales SA for A\$1.3 billion (\$917 million).

Thales Australia won a competitive international tender with its locally designed and built

Hawkei patrol vehicle, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said in a statement, a boon for the struggling manufacturing industry in the state of Victoria.

The Hawkei will replace the heavier Bushmaster, also made by Thales in Australia, and will be the only vehicle in the Australian

Defence Force that can be transported by helicopter, according to the prime minister's statement.

Full production of the Hawkei is due to begin in 2018, with pilot production beginning in early 2016. The fact that the new vehicle was lighter than the Bushmaster should give it “enormous

potential” in the export market, Defence Minister Marise Payne said at a contract signing ceremony. Vehicles made by US defence giant General Dynamics Corp and its Force Protection unit were also tested by Australia's defence force, according to The Australian newspaper.—Reuters

N Korea to repatriate S Korean detainee in evening

SEOUL — North Korea has said it will later Monday repatriate a South Korean university student detained in the country since April, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

The repatriation of Joo Won Moon, a 21-year-old New York University student with permanent residency in the United States, is set to take place at 5:30 pm at the truce village of Panmunjeom, the ministry said in a statement.

In early May, the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency reported that Joo was arrested for having illegally crossing into the country from China's north-eastern border city Dandong on 22 April.

On 25 September, the student was paraded before the media for a second time since his arrest and read out a statement full of praise for the country and its regime. He admitted sneaking into the country out of “curiosity” and sought lenient treatment.

In its statement, the Unification Ministry expressed relief at Pyongyang's decision to release Joo and urged it to also send back three other South Korean detainees.

In June, North Korea's top court sentenced two of them captured as “spies” in 2014 to hard labor for life, saying they had tried to topple the regime.—Kyodo News

Chemical plant blast injures 7

HANGZHOU — Seven workers were injured in an explosion at a chemical plant in Zhejiang Province, authorities said on Monday.

The blast occurred at around 10:30 am Monday at Zhejiang Hongxiang Chemical Co Ltd, in Shangyu City, the local authorities said.

Two of the injured are in a serious condition, they said.

About 70 firefighters and 22 fire engines rushed to put out the blaze and prevented the flames from reaching a nearby warehouse containing 50 tonnes of inflammable chemicals, including sodium chlorate.—Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Stick to peace

Myint Win Thein

Myanmar is about to enter a historic period of peace, which will begin with a ceasefire between government troops and ethnic armed groups.

Recently, the union government and several ethnic armed groups agreed to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement on 15 October. The NCA is the most inclusive ceasefire deal in the history of Myanmar.

Members of the international community and the people of Myanmar hope the ceasefire

agreement will end Myanmar's 60-year civil war, the longest-running civil war in the world, which has caused widespread destruction across this impoverished country.

Now, it is time to rebuild the country without war. The international community is ready to help with the reconstruction efforts, while multinational corporations are waiting for the best time to invest in Myanmar.

It is time for Myanmar to show the international community that it is a responsible country. A responsible country must be able end its wars before it invests in growth. For no good reason should gunfire be heard in Myanmar after the government and the ethnic armed groups have signed ceasefire agreement in mid-October. All of the stakeholders have agreed to settle the political issue through dialogue. They must solve all prob-

lems on the table.

The party that fires a shot after the agreement is signed can push the country into a deep abyss once again.

As peace is a "must" for our country, all of us are to stick to peace.

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.

Growth in East Asia Pacific Likely to Moderate But Still Remain Solid, Says World Bank Report

Region urged to stay the course on structural reform and macroeconomic management

SINGAPORE, OCTOBER 5, 2015 — East Asia remains one of the main growth drivers of the world economy, accounting for nearly two-fifths of global economic growth, according to a new World Bank report. Overall, the region is expected to grow 6.5 percent in 2015, moderating slightly from 6.8 percent last year. "Growth in developing East Asia Pacific continues to be solid, but the moderating trend suggests policy makers in the region must remain focused on structural reforms that lay the foundation for sustainable, long-term and inclusive growth. These reforms include regulatory improvements in finance, labor and product markets, as well as measures that enhance transparency and accountability. These policies will reassure investors and markets, and help sustain growth that can help lift people out of poverty," said **Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank East Asia and Pacific Regional Vice President.**

The *East Asia Pacific Economic Update* released today looks at the challenging global environment facing the region. The recovery in high-income economies remains gradual, global trade is growing at its slowest pace since 2009, and the widespread slowdown in developing countries has intensified, particularly in commodity producers affected by lower commodity prices.

The performance trends across East Asia are diverse. China's economy is expected to grow at about 7 percent this year and gradually moderate thereafter, as its economy continues to shift toward a model more dominated by domestic consumption and services, which implies a gradual

reduction of growth.

The rest of developing East Asia is expected to grow 4.6 percent in 2015, similar to the rate last year. Commodity exporters such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Mongolia will see slower growth and lower public revenues this year, reflecting weaker global commodity prices. Commodity importers will maintain a stable — even robust — pace of growth. Vietnam, for example, is expected to grow 6.2 percent in 2015 and 6.3 percent in 2016. Growth will ease, however, in many of the smaller economies. In Cambodia, lower agricultural output is hurting the economy, although growth will still be 6.9 percent this year. In Myanmar, severe flooding in July will likely drive down the pace of growth to 6.5 percent, from 8.5 percent in 2014. Pacific Island countries, meanwhile, will see moderate growth.

"Developing East Asia's growth is expected to slow because of China's economic rebalancing and the pace of the expected normalization of U.S. policy interest rates," said **Sudhir Shetty, Chief Economist of the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific Region.** "These factors could generate financial volatility in the short term, but are necessary adjustments for sustainable growth in the long term."

The report assumes a gradual slowdown in the Chinese economy in 2016-17. This scenario is likely because China has sufficient policy buffers and tools to address the risk of a more pronounced slowdown, including relatively low public debt levels, regulations restricting savings outside of the banking system, and the state's dominant role in

the financial system. If China's growth were to slow further, the effects would be felt in the rest of the region, especially in countries linked to China through trade, investment and tourism.

The report also assumes that a gradual increase in U.S. interest rates will begin in the coming months. While this increase has been anticipated and is likely to be orderly, there is still a risk that markets could react sharply to such tightening, causing currencies to depreciate, bond spreads to rise, capital inflows to fall, and liquidity to tighten.

In the face of these possible headwinds, the report emphasizes two key priorities across the region: prudent macroeconomic management, aimed at shoring up external and fiscal vulnerabilities; and deeper structural reform, focused on encouraging private investment.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's economy grew at 8.5 percent in real terms in 2014/15 but growth is projected to moderate to 6.5 percent in 2015/16 due to floods and slowing investments. Economic reforms have supported consumer and investor confidence despite ongoing business environment and socio-political challenges. Rapidly rising demand for investment-related imports has widened the current account deficit. This together with the general strengthening of the US Dollar has put pressure on Myanmar's exchange rate. Rapid growth in credit to the private sector has fueled monetary expansion. Inflation is estimated to have reached around 10 percent in the year to July. Medium-term economic growth prospects remain strong assuming continued progress on reforms.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The unfortunate accident as an outcome of a horrendous stampede in the Saudi Arabian tent city of Mina (outside Mecca) resulting in the death of 4173 helpless Hajj pilgrims together with huge number of individuals injured and under treatment have been a shocking news across the globe. The high death numbers represent citizens from almost all the major continents and have sent shock waves to all corners of the world. There has been another incident earlier this month when a super crane crashed and caused the death of 109 defenseless pilgrims in the Mecca Grand Mosque. According to global media reports around two million Muslims have been actively participating in the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia this year that initiated last Tuesday. The immediate factor behind the stampede has not yet been clearly ascertained, but the Saudi Arabian authorities have ordered a thorough probe into the incident. Over 5,000 emergency medical workers and 200 emergency vehicles have been immediately placed into services to aid the wounded and injured. Additional contingent of medical doctors, nurses, health workers, security personnel have also been installed to have the entire situation under control. There has been a history of accidental deaths and related incidents during the hajj; and the largest loss of lives were recorded in the year 1990 when 1426 pilgrims died. However, this is the first major incident within almost a decade.

In spite of the great support and emergency medical team responses and related professional activities; there has been growing criticism against the Saudi Arabian authorities around the globe regarding their repeated failures of security arrangement associated with this year's hajj pilgrimage. A significant number of countries across the planet have lost their citizens in the recent series of unfortunate accidents and stampedes in Saudi Arabia; and the loss of precious lives are always deeply mourned and remembered devaluing the quality services provided for facilitating this year's hajj pilgrimage successfully. Saudi Arabia has been criticized for failing to make the security arrangement full proof and that there have been several loop holes existing in the security system that have not been critically scrutinized by experts in advance. There has been negligence definitely in the stringent monitoring and surveillance system covering the entire spectra of pilgrims in all the major and minor holy cities of the nation. As well as there is no denial that there have been collective failures in the system installed for comprehensive security arrangements at the advent of any serious threats, attacks, stampedes or break out of contagious diseases; or any such natural calamities like oil or gas leakage, fire or explosion or any unexpected accidents or unpleasant incidents on the part of the Saudi authorities. Hopefully, the responsible authorities will learn from such grave mistakes and take all the necessary precautions in the hajj pilgrimages from next year to avoid such repetition of catastrophic mistakes and security lapses. It will be necessary that the Saudi authority established some key committees to look into the vivid details at every possible aspect of the hajj pilgrimage; and should think in installing a multi-level security system. So that if one tier fails there could be protection provided through the next successive security layers. Meanwhile the loss of lives and people injured need to be provided with the best available care under the current circumstances.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

When there are mealy-mouthed politicians, slick politicians, moral-vacuum and political-vacuum, regression occurs in a society

Tommy Pauk

Each society should maintain political stability in order to carry out the tasks for socio-economic development constantly. The political stability breeds peace, unity and harmony in a certain society. Politicians do have different principles for serving the tasks of party politics, national politics, electoral politics and local politics. A system of political beliefs is laid down to implement aspiration for a specific polity of the society. Processes have been made to reach the specific political goals by politicians. It is a must to coordinate with the majority people so that the political process can be smooth and effective. Each and every mature citizen must participate in politics so that they can acquire knowledge and experience. Political science must be taught as a compulsory subject in upper secondary level schools and in universities in a society.

Political culture should be flourishing in the society. Political culture is defined as follow:

“The traditional orientation of the citizens of a nation towards politics, affecting their perceptions of political legitimacy. The attitudes, beliefs and expectations that constitute particular orientations to society in general and politics in particular. The specifically political orientations or attitudes to the political system and its various parts.”

In every society, the government and politicians work together and coordinate for public affairs and welfare services. Politicians normally work as go-between or as a bridge between government and public concerned. The government and politicians must always listen to the necessities, desires, complaints and opinions of the public concerned in order to settle or fulfill or harmonize them within the public relations. Apparently, we, the ordinary people can rely on the conduct of politicians apart from government indeed. Of course, the role of politicians is required essentially. Most importantly, the politicians must vow

never to betray public on any circumstances. Simultaneously, they need to perform the duties of party politics and serve the public interests in goodwill manner.

Some politicians are crooked and they can be called mealy-mouthed politicians. Such politicians are the ones who are not plain and straightforward persons so ordinary people cannot rely on their conduct wholly. If mealy-mouthed politicians outnumber the selfless-politicians in a society, the peoples' desire cannot be fulfilled completely. Slick politicians are also clever

Due to lack of well-versed politicians, political vacuum arises in the society concerned. Another deficiency is that the vast majority of people are lack of specific knowledge about politics. Consequently, the so-called politicians will surely take advantage on the ignorance of the public and play tricks in political arena in the said society. Unfortunately, the self-seekers, opportunists and so-called politicians overwhelm the political affairs and people cannot find the right political leader. People are quite helpless and hopeless to demand for their rights whenever they

will cause a great detriment to the development of the society concerned. The moral vacuum undermines the status and image of the society concerned. In such a case, the government members, politicians and some citizens must be morally corrupt. Due to lack of practice in ethics, exercising extreme secularism and poor leadership, moral vacuum arises in the society concerned. This is also a great problem for the society in which moral vacuum exists. Who is going to train and tame those corrupt persons in the society concerned? If it persists as an unsolved

problem, that society will regress rather than progress. This means that the act of returning to an earlier condition that is worse or less developed. Immorality, malpractice and corruption destroy the image of the society and disrupt its prosperity. Moral vacuum is despicable so rule of law must be prevalent by any means for the society concerned. If the moral standards and basic moral philosophies are declining in a particular society, a series of chaos or instability or mayhem will occur certainly in it. However, paying too much attention to secularism can lead to uncivilized mannerism. Hopefully, some of the religious teachings of morality will be a remedy for that society. Most of the stable societies rely on both private and public morality. In addition, moral vacuum causes the political unrest because there can be neither justice nor equality in the society concerned.

Basically, the people from any nation around the world wish to enjoy peace, happiness and freedom all the time. The occurrences of the progression or regression in the respective societies in the world mainly depend on the political system, tradition, culture and standards of personal morality. We, humans are naturally responsible for performing social activities and political activities as our obligations on earth. We must be dutiful in carrying out these activities for the interests of our citizens. To protect the ordinary people from dirty tricks, the learned persons need to educate them to participate in politics systematically. The existences of mealy-mouthed politicians, slick politicians, moral-vacuum and political-vacuum cause regression in a society. To be able to avoid such

circumstances and situation, upgrading the standard of people's morality, studying political science as a compulsory subject in universities, practicing ethical norms and nurturing the spirit of patriotism are essentially and critically required in any society. Even a secular society might require these practices for sustainable development of it. If people wish to prosper their society, they ought not to support the mealy-mouthed politicians and slick politicians by any means. Gradually, moral vacuum and political vacuum will be disappeared when those persons give up their stupid mindsets and behaviors. They must be trained and tamed to become patriotic citizens so that the good governance and clean government will appear. Note. If a person is truly patriotic, he will never destroy nor hinder the prosperity or development of the society concerned. As a result, there will be no occurrences of instability and regression in the society. The more political participation and political culture prevail, the less political vacuum will occur in a society. Sequentially, the derelict condition of the political arena will be improved in a society. Our common goal for establishing a political system is based on notions of justice and equality!!!

“Basically, the people from any nation around the world wish to enjoy peace, happiness and freedom all the time. The occurrences of the progression or regression in the respective societies in the world mainly depend on the political system, tradition, culture and standards of personal morality.”

er, selfish and insincere persons. They are extremely crazy for power so they play trick on the public as if they are selflessly striving hard for the benefits and interest of the public. Public must not support these two types of politicians in their society. Otherwise, the society will be stepping towards the edge of an abyss.

Political participation must be prevalent so that people will be able to exercise their political rights. The political rights are defined as below;—

The right to participate in public life. The right to stand for election, to campaign, to vote and to be elected as well as essential additional rights, such as freedom of expression, freedom of movement and the right to associate with others.

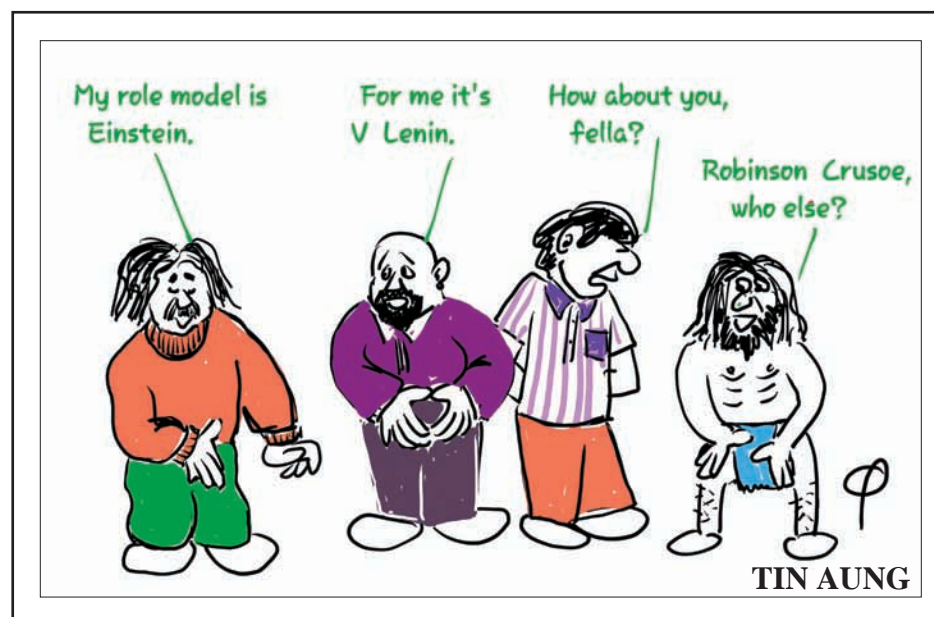
If the institute or the academy of political sciences is not constituted in a certain society, the citizens would be completely ignorant about the politics or the country's political system.

are in trouble. Besides, they do not know how to exercise their political rights properly due to lack of knowledge about politics. Under this dire situation, the certain society cannot be advanced politically and socio-economically. Evidently, the political vacuum causes negative impact on the people and society concerned. In some countries ruled by dictators, the people are brainwashed for the sustainable reign of dictators. Those people under the suppression of dictators do not have chance to study political science subject academically. This is sound evidence that why people in some society are lack of knowledge about politics. Even then, the international political science, an academic subject, is banned in schools and universities in some countries ruled by dictators. Filling the political vacuum with efficient politicians in that society would be a very hard effort indeed.

If there is moral vacuum in a certain society, it

problem, that society will regress rather than progress. This means that the act of returning to an earlier condition that is worse or less developed. Immorality, malpractice and corruption destroy the image of the society and disrupt its prosperity. Moral vacuum is despicable so rule of law must be prevalent by any means for the society concerned. If the moral standards and basic moral philosophies are de-

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



World's 'extremely poor' to fall below 10 pct of global population

NEW YORK — The number of people living in extreme poverty is likely to fall for the first time below 10 percent of the world's population in 2015, the World Bank said on Sunday as it revised its benchmark for measuring the problem.

Extreme poverty has long been defined as living on or below \$1.25 a day, but the World Bank's adjustment now sets the poverty line at \$1.90 a day.

The Bank said the change reflects new data on differences in

the cost of living across countries, while preserving the real purchasing power of the previous yardstick.

Using the new benchmark, the World Bank projects that 702 million people or 9.6 percent of the world's population will be living in extreme poverty in 2015, down from 902 million people or 12.8 percent of the global population in 2012.

The global development lender attributed the continued fall in poverty to strong econom-

ic growth rates in emerging markets, particularly India, and investments in education, health, and social safety nets.

"... these projections show us that we are the first generation in human history that can end extreme poverty," World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said in a statement.

However, he warned that slower global growth, volatile financial markets, conflicts, high youth unemployment and the impact of climate change were obstacles to meeting a UN target to end poverty by 2030, part of a new set of development goals adopted by 193 countries at the United Nations last month.

"But it remains within our grasp, as long as our high aspirations are matched by country-led plans that help the still millions of people living in extreme pov-

erty," Kim added.

According to the Bank, around half of those living in extreme poverty by 2020 will hail from hard-to-reach fragile and conflict-affected states. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for some half of the global poor.

Expects said the prospect of emerging economies losing steam could challenge promises to eradicate extreme poverty.

"If economic growth of the developing world over the last 15 years was an anomaly, was a blip, then we're in trouble," said Laurence Chandy, a fellow at the Brookings Institution whose research focuses on global poverty.

"If instead it's a kind new normal then we've got a good chance of getting close to this goal," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The World Bank first introduced a global poverty line in 1990, setting it at \$1 a day. It was adjusted last in 2008, when the group raised it to \$1.25 a day.

Across the planet, the number of people living in extreme poverty has dropped by more than half since 1990, when 1.9 billion people lived under \$1.25 a day, compared to 836 million in 2015, according to the United Nations.

This follows the adoption in 2000 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which included the eradication of extreme poverty.

Replacing the MDGs are the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 goals to combat poverty, inequality and climate change by 2030 — with ending extreme poverty for all people everywhere, a key target.—Reuters

"If economic growth of the developing world over the last 15 years was an anomaly, was a blip, then we're in trouble."

Laurence Chandy
Brookings Institution

Bomb in Lebanon targets bus heading to Syria, no casualties

BEIRUT — A bomb went off in Lebanon on Monday targeting a minibus transporting passengers to Syria, and a second explosive

device was found near a Lebanese customs office at the Syrian-Lebanese border and defused, a security source said. There were no

casualties from the roadside explosion near the bus in the town of Chtaura in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, the source said.—Reuters



Lebanese army soldiers and policemen inspect the site of a roadside explosion in the town of Chtaura in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on 5 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia is conducting 'asymmetric warfare' in Syria: Britain's Hammond

MANCHESTER — Russia is engaged in "classic asymmetric warfare" in Syria by using its military clout to prop up President Bashar al-Assad while saying it is attacking Islamic State militants, Britain's foreign minister said on Sunday. Russia last week began striking targets in Syria — a dramatic escalation of foreign involvement in the civil war which has been criticised by the West as an attempt to prop up Assad, rather than its purported aim of attacking Islamic State. "It looks like a classic bit of Russian asymmetric warfare — you have a strong propaganda message that says you're doing one thing while in fact you are doing something completely different and when challenged you just flatly deny it," Philip Hammond told Reuters in an interview in Manchester. He said Britain had held discussions with Russia but kept on getting the same response — that Moscow was attacking Islamic State militants in Syria.

"You try talking to the Russians," he said. "They just keep repeating their position — that is by the way also the Iranian position - and it is just incredible." He said that Britain needed "absolute clarity" that Assad would not be part of Syria's future.

"That's not some random bee in the bonnet that I've got; it's that without that commitment we will never get the broad spectrum of Syrian opposition groups to sit down and agree around a table how we take forward the discussion about Syria's future," he said.

Hammond dismissed proposals put forward by Russia and Iran for elections, saying Syria was "a million miles away" from being able to hold a free and fair vote. "In a country where 250,000 people have been killed and 12 million people have been displaced, half of them outside the country — how can you talk about free and fair elections?" he said.—Reuters

Clinton to outline gun control plan during Monday campaign stops

MANCHESTER — US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton will outline specific steps she would take to curb gun violence if elected during scheduled campaign stops in New Hampshire on Monday.

Clinton spoke out forcefully in favor of new gun control measures after a shooting last week on the campus of Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, which killed nine people and wounded another nine.

In appearances after the

shooting, Clinton said she wants to begin a "national movement" to counter the influence of the National Rifle Association, the nation's top gun-rights advocacy group, but she has still to say what specific measures she would take if elected to the White House in November 2016.

Among the steps that she will outline later on Monday, her campaign said, is the use of presidential executive authority to close a "loophole" to ensure people buying firearms at gun shows and on the Internet undergo the

same background checks and pay the same sales tax as when buying from traditional retailers.

Clinton will also push Congress to pass laws that prohibit all domestic abusers, including stalkers, from purchasing guns and to close what she will call the "Charleston loophole", referring to a June shooting at a African American church in Charleston, South Carolina, that left nine dead.

Currently, if a background check is not completed within three days, a gun sale can pro-

ceed. The alleged Charleston shooter was able to purchase his gun because of this loophole, as did 2,500 other people in 2014 who would have otherwise been barred from making such a purchase, Clinton's campaign said.

Clinton will amplify on her recent calls to make the background check system more comprehensive and on her calls to keep "military-style assault weapons" off streets by pledging to repeal a 2005 law that she says gives gun manufacturers and

dealers "immunity," her campaign said.

As a US senator representing New York, Clinton voted against legislation that prevents victims of gun violence from holding negligent manufacturers and dealers accountable for crimes committed with their guns. As president, she will seek its repeal, according to her campaign.

Clinton will be discussing her gun control proposals on Monday at two town halls near Manchester, New Hampshire.—Reuters

Residents say Afghan forces regain most of Kunduz, some shops reopen

KABUL — Police and residents said Afghan government forces had regained control of most of the besieged city of Kunduz on Monday, and some shops in the centre of the provincial capital opened for the first time since it fell to Taliban fighters a week ago.

Residents said it was the first time in eight days that they had not heard gun battles and were able to leave their homes to buy food and take stock of the damage done.

Soldiers were conducting house-to-house searches as they continued to push Islamist insurgents out of areas that had witnessed fierce fighting, with control of pockets of the city swinging several times between the Taliban and Afghan army.

“The centre of the city is normal,” said Abdul Ghafoor, a Kunduz resident, but added it would still take time to recover.

“The city smells so bad with dead bodies still on the pavements and in the sewage. The local government must do something.”

Battles have raged around Kunduz, a strategic city of 300,000, as government forces backed by US air strikes sought to drive out Taliban militants, who seized the city a week ago in one of their biggest victories in the 14-year insurgency.

The US government said it was investigating whether its military was responsible for an air strike that killed 22 people in an Afghan hospital run by aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres on Saturday.

The UN human rights chief said the hospital assault was “inexcusable” and could amount to a war crime.

The US military said it conducted an air strike “in the vicinity” of the MSF hospital as

it targeted Taliban insurgents who were directly firing on US military personnel. It has not acknowledged hitting the hospital.

Any confirmation of US responsibility for the hospital deaths would deal a blow to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani’s policy of forging closer ties with the United States.

His predecessor, Hamid Karzai, fell out with his backers in Washington, in part over the number of civilians killed by US strikes.

While the government has claimed to have regained control of the city before, and fighting has continued, weary residents were hopeful that the worst of the violence may now be over.

“It is going to take a long time for the city to return to normality again,” said Abdullah, a Kunduz resident. “People are still very scared to come out.”—Reuters



Afghan security forces prepare to check on reports of a possible ambush by the Taliban on the Baghlan-Kunduz highway, Afghanistan. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tiny Nauru throws gates open at Australian camp for asylum seekers



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. PHOTO: REUTERS

MELBOURNE — Nauru unexpectedly said on Monday all 600 asylum seekers held at a controversial Australian detention centre will be allowed to move freely around the tiny South Pacific island and all their asylum applications will be processed this week.

Asylum seekers have long been a contentious political issue in Australia, although it has never received anywhere near the number of refugees currently flooding into Europe as they flee instability in the Middle East and North Africa.

Successive Australian governments have vowed to stop asylum seekers reaching the mainland, turning boats back to Indonesia when it can and sending those it cannot for detention in camps on Manus island in impoverished Papua New Guinea and on Nauru.

The harsh conditions at the camps, including reports of systemic child abuse, have been strongly criticised by the United Nations and human rights groups. An independent UN investigator postponed an official visit to Australia last month, citing a lack of government cooperation and “unacceptable” legal restrictions.

New Australia Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said last month he was concerned about conditions in the camps but gave no indication of a major policy change, so Monday’s announcement from Nauru came as a surprise.

“The start of detention-free processing is a landmark day for Nauru and represents an even more compassionate programme, which was always the intention of our government,” Nauru Justice Minister David Adeang said in a statement.

Australia would provide more police assistance to help Nauru with “safety, security and law enforcement”, Adeang said.

The Australian government welcomed the announcement that the camp on Nauru would now be run as an “open centre” and said “eligible transferees” had been allowed to leave the camp at designated times since here February.

A statement issued by Immigration Minister Peter Dutton’s office also said the Australian government would support Nauru by funding a “contract service provider to deliver settlement services to refugees in Nauru”.

Australia has defended its detention policy as necessary to stop deaths at sea. No one processed at the Nauru or Papua New Guinea camps is eligible to be settled in Australia, even if they are found to be genuine refugees.

However, the camps have been criticised not only for their harsh conditions but also because it has become almost impossible for outside observers to gain access. Some investors in the company that runs the camps, Transfield Services Ltd, have said they will push for greater transparency and oversight.—Reuters

Islamic State militants blow up ancient Arch of Triumph in Palmyra

DAMASCUS — Islamic State militants have blown up the Arch of Triumph, a major monument in the 2,000-year-old Roman city of Palmyra, Syria’s antiquities chief said on Sunday, after they destroyed two ancient temples at the central Syrian site in recent months.

Maamoun Abdulkarim told Reuters that sources in Palmyra had confirmed that the Arch of Triumph, a jewel in the exquisite collection of ruins in the

oasis city, had been blown up.

Islamic State militants have blown up temples at the Roman-era UNESCO World Heritage site, which it has controlled since capturing Palmyra from Syrian government forces in May and mined other monuments and historic buildings. The group considers the buildings sacrilegious.

“It’s as though there is a curse that has befallen this city and I expect only news that will

shock us. If the city remains in their hands the city is doomed,” Abdulkarim told Reuters.

“It is now wanton destruction ... their acts of vengeance are no longer ideologically driven because they are now blowing up buildings with no religious meaning,” he added.

In August, the Sunni Muslim militants blew up the temple of Baal Shamin, then the Temple of Bel, one of the best preserved Roman-era sites.

Earlier this month it was also confirmed the militants had destroyed some of the best preserved of Palmyra’s funeral towers, sandstone constructions built to hold the remains of the ancient city’s richest families.

Palmyra was one of the most important cultural centres of the ancient world, according to cultural agency UNESCO, which has described it as the crossroads of several civilisations.

Islamic State has declared a caliphate in territory it holds across Syria and Iraq and has destroyed other monuments it says are pagan and sacrilegious.

UNESCO has called such acts war crimes and says Islamic State seeks to wipe out evidence of Syria’s diverse heritage.

Before the capture of the city, Syrian officials said they had moved hundreds of ancient statues to safe locations.—Reuters

Obama administration moving to create two marine sanctuaries

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's administration will announce steps on Monday to create marine sanctuaries in Maryland and Wisconsin and will take further action to combat illegal fishing, the White House said.

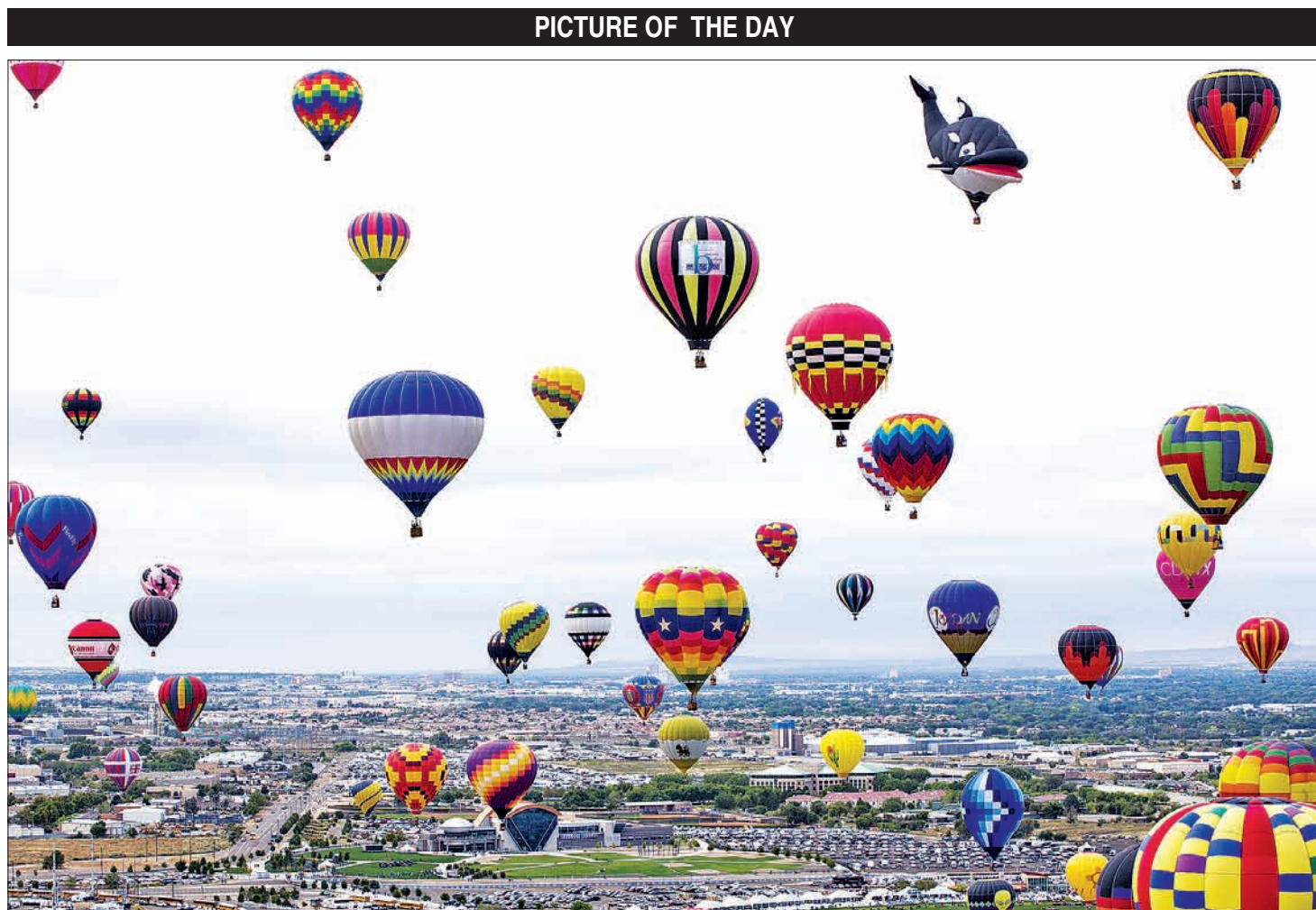
The proposed sites — a 14-square-mile (36-square-km) section in the Mallow's Bay-Potomac River waters of Maryland, and an 875-square-mile (2,265-square-km) area of Wisconsin's Lake Michigan — will be the first new National Marine Sanctuaries since 2000, the administration said. The proposals will be open for public comment through 15 January, 2016.

In a video address on Monday to the second "Our Ocean" international conference in Chile, Obama plans to say that "he will look for opportunities to protect even more of our waters in the months ahead," the White House added.

It said the State Department would announce during the conference additional steps and commitments from the United States and other governments to protect the world's oceans.

Also on Monday, the State Department will launch a global initiative, called Sea Scout, to help in the fight against illegal and unregulated fishing, the White House statement said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will announce steps as well to provide data and technical assistance to target illegal fishing, including a space-based monitoring sensor that will be implemented next year in Indonesia, the Philippines and three other countries.—*Reuters*



Hundreds of hot air balloons take off during the 2015 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, New Mexico on 4 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Eight students had broken bones over 3 yrs in 'human pyramids' at school

OSAKA — At a middle school in Osaka Prefecture where six students were recently injured when a "human pyramid" collapsed, eight students had suffered bone fractures since 2013 while practicing or performing that stunt for athletic meets, school officials said Monday.

In late September at Taisho Junior High School in the city of Yao, a student suffered a broken arm and five others sustained lighter injuries when a 10-tier human pyramid being formed by

first-year students, mostly 12 or 13 years old, collapsed. That is a stunt performed at sports events at many schools across Japan to showcase a form of physical training called "kumitaiso" in Japanese. It is a kind of physical education in which students use their bodies to make various shapes including human pyramids, in which students in kneeling positions are stacked atop one another.

The stunt had previously been criticized as dangerous.

In 2014, two students suf-

fered broken bones during performances at that year's sports meet at Taisho Junior High School of a 10-tier pyramid and of a four-tier "human tower," the latter involving participants standing on one another's shoulders. Two students had earlier sustained broken bones during practice.

Two students also suffered broken bones during practice before the 2013 event, as did one student during practice this year.

Despite those injuries, the school decided to continue the

program this year with an increase in teachers to support the formations.

Osaka Gov Ichiro Matsui told a press conference Monday that after examining reports on the incident from the local education board, "If safety measures are not sufficient, I will issue instructions and advice."

To avoid accidents, the Osaka city board of education has limited the height of human pyramids to five tiers and of human towers to three tiers.—*Kyodo News*

Minpaku helps visitors enjoy, understand cultural differences

OSAKA — The National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka Prefecture, which started life as a research institute, can select from more than 300,000 ethnological materials as it puts together displays to help visitors understand the diversity of the world's cultures and what mankind has in common.

Known as Minpaku, the museum is currently showing a special exhibition on "Food Culture in Korea and Japan" focusing on the dietary culture of the Korean Peninsula and its relationship with Japan.

The layout is designed to look like a market in South Korea, according to Minpaku officials. Cardboard boxes of vegetables and fruits are piled up, creating an atmosphere akin to a

school festival.

There also a large number of big and small pots on display, along with tools enabling visitors to take part in a game to make "kimchi" Korean pickles and explanations of the use of onomatopoeia in names for Korean and Japanese foods. The impression is almost of chaos.

In fact, there are only a limited number of information panels for exhibits, although there are guidebooks on Korean food culture available to help visitors deepen their understanding of the objects on display.

"We've made the exhibit unfriendly to visitors, as is expected of Minpaku," Toshio Asakura, professor at the museum and head of the organizing committee for the exhibition, said. "We re-

spect each visitor's understanding, because there are as many answers as there are visitors."

Also available during the food event through Nov. 10 are "red" and "white" Korean cuisine set menus offered at a restaurant inside the museum.

The exhibit was planned to mark the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea and is being held jointly with the National Folk Museum of Korea. A similar event is planned in South Korea.

Located in the Expo '70 Commemorative Park in the city of Suita, the museum also serves as a research institute providing graduate-level training in anthropology and ethnology.—*Kyodo News*



Toshio Asakura, head of the steering committee for a special exhibition comparing the likes and differences of Japanese and Korean food cultures, explains about the event under way at the National Museum of Ethnology in Suita, Osaka Prefecture, western Japan, on 26 August, 2015. The special exhibition runs through 10 November. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Century-old body remains found from warship wreckage



An item salvaged from the shipwreck is to be studied in Dandong, northeast China's Liaoning Province on 4 October, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

SHENYANG — At least seven remains of bodies have been found by archeologists from a warship sunken by the Japanese navy during a Sino-Japanese War 121 years ago. “We believe the remains belonged to officers and soldiers aboard the warship,” said Zhou Chunshui, who leads the exploration mission organised by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage.

The Zhiyuan Warship, with a 50-metre-long hull, is located about 10 nautical miles southwest of Dandong Port in Northeast China. More than 100 pieces of ship parts and belongings of the seamen have also been found, Zhou said.

“We will study those relics and try to find out what lives at sea were like more than a century ago,” he said.

Coded “Dandong No 1,” the

1,600-tonne vessel was one of the four warships of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) imperial naval forces — Beiyang Fleet — which was defeated in 1894 by the Japanese navy in the Battle of Yellow Sea.

A total of 252 officers and soldiers were aboard. Only seven survived. The four ships were China's most sophisticated vessels at that time, bigger and better armed than the Japanese ones but slower and short of ammunition. Zhou said further investigation is needed to decide whether to lift the ship, whose main structure has remained intact, out of the water. History documents recorded that the ship captain Deng Shichang refused to abandon the ship after it was severely damaged. Deng has been described as a patriot in Chinese modern history.—Xinhua

Malaysia PM urges Indonesia to tackle fires, haze drifts to Thai sky

JAKARTA — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has called on Indonesia to take action against people setting fires that have caused choking smoke to drift across the region, with the sky over southern Thailand the latest to be clouded by the pollution.

Indonesia has come under pressure in the past few weeks to contain the annual haze crisis, which is caused by slash-and-burn

agriculture on Sumatra island and its part of Borneo island.

Companies seeking to clear land for palm oil and pulp wood plantations have been accused of encouraging the fires that often smoulder for weeks in underground peat deposits.

The problem has been exacerbated this year by the El Nino weather phenomenon which has brought unusually dry conditions.

“If this is done by people or by farming companies, Indonesia needs to take decisive action against the perpetrators,” Najib said on Twitter late on Sunday.

Schools in Malaysia and Singapore have closed when the smoke has been heavy, sports events have been cancelled and tourism operators are fretting. Health authorities across the region warn people to avoid exercise on bad days.

Indonesia routinely brushes off complaints while at the same time vowing, year after year, to stop the burning.

Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla was recently reported as chiding neighbours to be grateful for the 11 months of clean air his country's forests provide outside the haze season.

Indonesia has also repeatedly declined offers of

help to tackle the fires from its neighbours.

Indonesia's national disaster management agency said last week it was hoping for rain to help douse the fires by early November, when the northeast monsoon usually starts.

Thai environment officials said on Monday the level of pollution from Indonesia has risen sharply in the south of the country, near the Malaysian border,

and health authorities were opening hotlines to provide advice and issuing face masks. Indonesia says more than 200 companies, most of them from Southeast Asia, are being investigated on suspicion of causing fires. Police said on Monday one company from Australia, palm oil plantation operator PT Kayung Agro Lestari (KAL), and one from China were among them.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (661)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (661) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HUA YOU 1 VOY NO (1510)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUA YOU 1 VOY NO (1510) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE

6th October, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Bago Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Shan State and likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Deltaic and Rakhine Coastal areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO (1040W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1040W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YELLOW MOON VOY NO (1577)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YELLOW MOON VOY NO (1577) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Kate Winslet was nervous to meet real Joanna Hoffman for 'Steve Jobs'

LOS ANGELES — Kate Winslet plays Apple co-founder's right-hand woman, Joanna Hoffman in "Steve Jobs," but the actress says she was "nervous" to meet her at first.

The Oscar-award winning star was tense before meeting Hoffman as she does not resemble her at all, reported Entertainment Weekly. "It was amazing meeting Joanna, and it was everything meeting Joanna. And I was very nervous about meeting her because I look nothing like her. I myself look absolutely nothing like Joanna Hoffman, and she looks nothing like me," Winslet said.

The "Reader" actress said the looks did not matter much as she was interested more in the backstory of Hoffman, than acting her expressions or reactions.

"I loved spending time with her because she shared stories with me about her time with Steve and her relationship with Steve that a lot of people just don't know anything about.

"And I actually came to understand a much softer, gentler side of Steve Jobs, a side of Steve Jobs who I think was kept sort of hidden away and private to those people or to his family."

"Steve Jobs" stars Michael Fassbender in the titular role, Seth Rogen, as Apple co-founder, Steve Wozniak, Jeff Daniels as former Apple CEO John Sculley, along with Katherine Waterston, Michael Stuhlbarg. The film will release on 9 October.—PTI



Kate Winslet. PHOTO: PTI

Musicians are the superior gifts from heaven: Big B

MUMBAI — Amitabh Bachchan has crooned several songs including "Rang Barse" and "Piddly", and the megastar feels the art of creating music takes one closer to the God.

In his ode to musicians, the 72-year-old "Piku" star, who is busy composing and singing for a new TV show, said that artists' are blessed.

"They that possess the skills to be within notes and sounds independent of any other input, are the blessed. We are not... Because we are not the closest to the Almighty... We are not the closest because we are distanced from the creative art of making music, or even making effort in that direction," he wrote.

Addressing them as the "superior" race Bachchan went on to share his long lived desire



PHOTO: PTI

of learning the art.

"If ever I do get the opportunity to learn the craft, I am absolutely certain that its knowledge shall be constrained by any kind of public exhibition. Musicians are the superior gifts from heaven. They must sleep well and live content lives," he said.—PTI

'The Martian' triumphs with \$55 million debut

LOS ANGELES — "The Martian" blasted off with a massive \$55 million this weekend, nearly surpassing another space-based adventure, "Gravity," as the highest-grossing October debut in history.

The Ridley Scott release was bolstered by rapturous reviews, with critics calling the picture among the director's best and heaping praise on Matt Damon's performance as an astronaut stranded on the Red Planet.

It marks the second best launch of Scott's career, behind only "Hannibal's" \$58 million debut, and the second best premiere for Damon, trailing "The Bourne Ultimatum's" \$69.3 million bow.

"It's going to hold up really well," said Phil Contrino, vice president and chief analyst at BoxOffice.com. "It's got everything. It's got suspense, action, heart, and humour, and the ending is really satisfying. People will walk out of the theater and talk it up to their friends."

Twentieth Century Fox backed the \$108 million production and pushed the film out to 3,831 theaters. It was a blessed rollout. In addition to the strong notices, media reports about the possible discovery of water on Mars kept the distant planet front-and-center in people's minds.

"You can't make this stuff up," said Chris Aronson, Fox's domestic distribution chief. "The fact that there was the announcement on the same week as our film just excites people. Human beings are just interested in other

worldly things right now."

Going into the weekend, most analysts expected the film would do \$45 million worth of business. Its numbers fall just short of "Gravity's" \$55.8 million debut, but there were a number of factors that prevented "The Martian" from toppling that picture.

"Gravity" had the benefit of several Imax locations, which were being held exclusively for Sony's "The Walk," depriving "The Martian" of some healthy surcharges. It did get a nice boost in 3D screenings, which accounted for 46% of receipts, and pre-

mium large formats, which made up 11% of the total.

Overseas, the film is performing strongly, grossing \$45.2 million from 49 markets, including such major territories as the United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, and Mexico. Domestically, the film attracted an audience that was older and slightly more male. Fifty six percent of ticket-buyers were men while 72% of the opening weekend crowd was over the age of 25.

"Tremendous critical support with amazing audience reaction conspires for ultimate success," said Aronson. "Having

audience reaction be the same as critics is as rare as surviving on Mars."

"The Walk" was overshadowed by "The Martian" in its limited release, with the biopic about high-wire artist Philippe Petit nabbing a disappointing \$2 million over its first five days. The studio is trying to build buzz for the picture ahead of its wide release on 9 October, adhering to a strategy that Universal recently deployed with "Everest," albeit with more modest results. "Everest" kicked off to \$7 million in Imax and premium format theaters.

Sony executives said that the film's results were expected and framed the launch as important for generating enthusiasm for the picture and its dazzling 3D sequence documenting Petit's wire walk between the Twin Towers. They were pleased that receipts climbed 80% between Friday and Saturday, which they believe signals word-of-mouth is strong.

"It's a slower burn," said Rory Bruer, head of worldwide distribution at Sony. "We're in this for the long haul and we think not only is it going to perform, it's going to have long legs at the box office."

"Sicario," a gritty drug war thriller, fared better. The Lionsgate release expanded from 59 theaters to 2,620 locations, earning a solid \$12.1 million in the process.

Among holdovers, last weekend's champ, "Hotel Transylvania 2," showed impressive stamina, falling a slender 32% to gross \$33 million. The animated sequel has earned \$90.5 million after two weeks and should cross the \$100 million mark by next weekend.

In limited release, gay rights drama "Freeheld" grossed \$40,000 from five locations in New York and Los Angeles, for a per-screen average of \$8,000, while "He Named Me Malala," Davis Guggenheim's documentary about Nobel Peace Prize winner and education advocate Malala Yousafzai, grossed \$56,000 in four theaters this opening weekend, representing a per-screen average of \$14,000.—Reuters



Kate Mara, Kristen Wiig, Matt Damon and Jessica Chastain arrives for the UK premiere of "The Martian" at Leicester Square in London. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opening of Abu Dhabi's Louvre pushed back to 2016

ABU DHABI — The opening of Abu Dhabi's branch of the iconic Louvre museum has been postponed until next year because building work still needs doing, a senior official said on Saturday, the latest delay to the high-profile project.

The museum was originally scheduled to open in 2012 but that target was pushed back until this year. Ali Majeed al Mansoori, chairman of state-owned Tourism Development and Investment Company (TDIC), said authorities were now aiming for late 2016.

"Attention will now turn to the remaining work on the underside of the cladding and the Louvre Abu Dhabi remains on track for opening in the second half of 2016," he told Reuters by email.

He did not give a reason for the delay in building work at the \$650 million project,

which is part of the wealthy emirate's wider plan to boost the tourist credentials of a country heavily dependent on oil.

A building boom in the United Arab Emirates has created bottlenecks as some construction firms scramble to find labor, supplies and financing to complete huge backlogs of work.

TDIC is developing a cultural district in Abu Dhabi which will house branches of the Louvre and Guggenheim museums, as well as the Zayed National Museum.

The Guggenheim has been scheduled to open in 2017 and the Zayed in 2016. Mansoori did not clarify whether those targets were still in force but said contracts for both museums would be awarded soon, with ground-breaking for the Zayed expected by the end of 2015 and at the Guggenheim in the first half of 2016.—*Reuters*

Global traveller inspires Kenzo for next spring



A model presents a creation by designers Humberto Leon and Carol Lim as part of their Spring/Summer 2016 women's ready-to-wear collection for Japanese fashion house Kenzo in Paris, France. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — A global traveller picking new items to wear was the inspiration for Kenzo's catwalk show on Sunday, with the fashion house presenting a colourful and patterned line for next spring.

The designer brand

showcased cutaway body suits and printed track-style pants as part of its spring/summer 2016 line at Paris Fashion Week. Models wore sandals with lattice detail and feet-massaging soles. Small belt bags in triangular and circular shapes

finished the look. Kenzo creative duo Carol Lim and Humberto Leon began the show with models appearing all at once, drifting on moving blocks."

It was really about traveling and adapting and assimilating as you travel,

picking up pieces, collecting as you go, not necessarily clothing but more emotions and trinkets and souvenirs," Leon said. The colour palette went from mustard yellow to different shades of blue and clashing prints.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

(6-10-2015 07:00 am~ 7-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Insight Myanmar: Parenting and Child Development (Part-II)
07:49	Am	A Day Tour On A Cart (Bagan Trip)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Childhood Games (Episode-II)
08:34	Am	The World's Largest Book
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Life In NightArt In Life (Ep-1)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-1)
10:45	Am	Visiting A Serene Village In The Northwest of Myanmar

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

06:30 Pm Live: AFC-U 19 Championship Qualifying Tournament for Bahrain 2016 (Group-G) (Myanmar Vs. Vietnam)

Prime Time

08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-4) Hassle-free Bite-sized Club Sandwiches & Hot Fudge Brownies
08:51	Pm	Director: Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Pyit)

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

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(6-10-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am	• Mono Classical Songs
6:20 am	• Myanmar Series
6:45 am	• Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
7:50 am	• TV Drama Series
8:40 am	• Teleplay
8:50 am	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
9:10 am	• Musical Programme
9:25 am	• Radio Drama
10:10 am	• China In Myanmar Cultural Show
10:25 am	• Myanmar Video
6:15 noon	• AFC U-19 Championship Qualifying (Group-G)) Football match (Live) (Myanmar Vs Vietnam)

Montreux Jazz Festival Japan celebrates 'diversity and improvisation'

TOKYO — Japan's love affair with the Montreux Jazz Festival has deep roots.

But for Mathieu Jaton, the director of one of the world's most famous jazz festivals from the shores of the crescent-shaped Lake Geneva in Switzerland, this year's celebration in Tokyo mixes tradition with a bold new endeavor in the evolution of music.

"We have something in Tokyo that looks like a real sister Montreux jazz festival," said Jaton, 40, in a recent interview with Kyodo News. "The centre of Tokyo fits better to the brand of Montreux Jazz Festival, because you get world-wide recognition. Liquid Room, Unit, and Blue Note are (venues) that are really valuable for the brand Montreux, all around the world."

The fifth consecutive edition of the Montreux Jazz Festival Japan kicked off last Thursday, featuring performances by internationally acclaimed British DJ Gilles Peterson and French pianist, composer

and music arranger Christophe Chassol at the Liquid Room in the upscale Ebisu district.

From its humble beginnings under founder Claude Nobs as a pure jazz festival in 1967, the Montreux Jazz Festival held every July in the tiny Swiss village has branched out into almost every imaginable music style.

Nobs first brought the festival to Japan's capital for two editions at the Tokyo International Forum in 1998 and 1999 before it moved to the Kawasaki region located between Tokyo and Yokohama in 2011.

This year is the first time all of the performances from musicians playing everything from jazz and rock to reggae and dubstep, to soul and world music, are being held at four venues in the trendy Ebisu-Daikanyama-Aoyama area.

The new approach of mixing traditional styles with an underground experience — something Jaton, who took over as CEO of

the Montreux Jazz Festival after the death of Nobs in 2013, believes is a key ingredient for the Tokyo audience — is guided by Junichi Harada, director of Japanese communications agency Visual Notes.

"When we were in Kawasaki it was a really nice location, nice to be there but it was really more traditional — the festival was just beginning but not what the festival is now."

"When you get an artist like John McLaughlin, and you ask 'Are you going to come for the Montreux Jazz Festival in Tokyo at the Blue Note?' the answer is straight-away yes."

The concerts happening over 12 days from 1-25 October feature an eclectic group including Belgian jazz singer Melanie De Biasio, Mala & Coki of the dubstep Digital Mystikz out of South London, Japanese singer songwriter Ichiko Aoba, and acts from former Miles Davis guitar legend John McLaughlin and veteran saxophonist David Sanborn.—*Kyodo News*

Rodgers sacked after derby draw, United loss stuns Van Gaal



Alexis Sanchez of Arsenal (2L) celebrates after scoring during the 8th round match at English Premier League on 4 October 2015. Arsenal won 3-0. PHOTO: XINHUA

LONDON — Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers was sacked on Sunday despite preserving his unbeaten record in seven Merseyside derbies against Everton with a 1-1 away draw in the Premier League.

Within a couple of hours of the Northern Irishman claiming after the stalemate at Goodison Park that, "I hope to be here for a bit longer yet", the club an-

nounced his dismissal.

More presciently, he told Sky Sports, "When the time comes for me not to be here, I'll accept that and move on because it's an incredible club and a wonderful club to work for."

"It is a very good point," Rodgers said after the draw. "It is a difficult place to come. We looked like we were getting

better in our attack and defensively we were more cohesive."

Manchester United lost 3-0 at Arsenal, blitzed by three goals in the first 20 minutes that gave them no way back into a match in which the hosts played sublime football.

Alexis Sanchez netted twice to give the Chilean six in the last three games and Arsenal's Germany midfield-

er Mesut Ozil scored the other to leave the visitors trailing by three goals at the break in a league game for the first time in 10 years.

United, who had been top before the weekend, dropped to third place, two points behind neighbours Manchester City.

After being held at home by Liverpool, Everton manager Roberto Martinez believed his team, unbeaten in seven league and cup games, deserved to win a typically tense derby.

"Every time we had the ball in their half, we looked like creating something," he said. "(Liverpool goalkeeper Simon) Mignolet made two outstanding saves. We are disappointed with the goal we conceded."

That goal was headed in by an unmarked Danny Ings in the 42nd minute but there was still time for Everton's Romelu Lukaku to equalise before half-time.

Martinez felt Liverpool midfielder Lucas Leiva should have been sent off for a trip when he had already collected one of the game's six yellow cards.

The result left Everton one point ahead of their neighbours, who are 10th, six points behind leaders Manchester City. City stayed top after thrashing Newcastle United 6-1 on Saturday because of the heavy defeat suffered by local rivals United at effervescent Arsenal.—Reuters

Malaysia sanctioned for crowd trouble at World Cup qualifier

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia have been issued with a formal warning and a raft of other sanctions from football's world governing body FIFA after their World Cup qualifier against Saudi Arabia last month was abandoned because of crowd trouble.

FIFA took a dim view of the crowd disturbances in Malaysia and announced on Monday a series of penalties against the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), which was hosting the match so deemed to be responsible for crowd control. FIFA's disciplinary committee ruled that the match had been deemed to be forfeited by Malaysia, awarding Saudi Arabia a 3-0 win, and Malaysia's next World Cup qualifier at home, against United Arab Emirates on 17 November, would be played without any spectators.

FIFA also fined the FAM 40,000 Swiss Francs (£27,119) and issued a warning.

The visiting Saudi Arabia team were leading 2-1 in the Group A Asian qualifier at the Shah Alam Stadium in Selangor on 8 September when play was stopped three minutes from the end after fans launched flares and fireworks on to the pitch.—Reuters

Nishikori escapes first round scare, advances past Coric

TOKYO — Japan star Kei Nishikori overcame a slow start to advance to the second round of the Japan Open on Monday, beating Croatia's Borna Coric 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 in Tokyo.

The 18-year-old world No 38 Coric has never won a tournament on the ATP tour, but he provided a significant challenge to Nishikori, the second-seeded reigning Tokyo champion.

Nishikori had his serve bro-

ken twice in the first set to fall behind 5-1, and was almost broken a third time before securing one more game to lose 6-2.

The world No 6 quickly pulled himself together to start the second, breaking Coric's first service game to go up 3-0. He kept the momentum for the rest of the set, serving it out with the loss of one game as his opponent struggled with unforced errors.

Nishikori secured an early service break in the final set and only upped the pressure from there, closing out the final set to move on.

"I'm glad I could get a solid victory," Nishikori said after the match.

"The first set ended with me attempting to attack, but my opponent played a really tenacious game, didn't make mistakes and I wasn't able to attack

and take charge."

"I played more calmly in the second set and was able to win by a decent score."

Nishikori will next take on 1.98-metre Sam Querrey from the United States. He beat the Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov 7-6(5), 6-4 earlier on Monday.

"He's a big server, with a good forehand and I'm going to have to be ready for him," said Nishikori. "I'll work on having

some solid practice and go into the match prepared."

In the first match on Monday, Japanese wild card entries Tatsuma Ito and Yoshihito Nishioka faced off.

The higher-ranked Ito came back from a 6-3 first set loss to take the final two sets of the match 6-0, 7-5.—Kyodo News

Dane Olesen seals Dunhill Links triumph

LONDON — Denmark's Thorbjorn Olesen kept his nerve to win the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship by two strokes at St Andrews on Sunday and ease the pain of narrowly missing out in 2012.

Olesen, who recorded his third European Tour victory, led by three shots going into the final round but a double bogey on the second hole and a bogey on the third saw him pegged back.

He responded immediately with birdies at the fourth and fifth, and never looked back as he

avenged his runner-up spot at the pro-am event three years ago. The Dane fired a one-under-par 71 to finish at 18-under 270 for the week, two clear of Americans Brooks Koepka (67) and Chris Stroud (68).

"I got too aggressive on the second hole. I hit a great drive down there and felt like I had a good yardage. I was just too aggressive, and as soon as you get too aggressive on a links golf course, you get punished," Olesen said.

"I just kept myself together and knew that I have tried it before, so stayed very patient.—Reuters



Denmark's Thorbjorn Olesen celebrates with the trophy after winning the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship at St Andrews, Scotland on 4 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS