

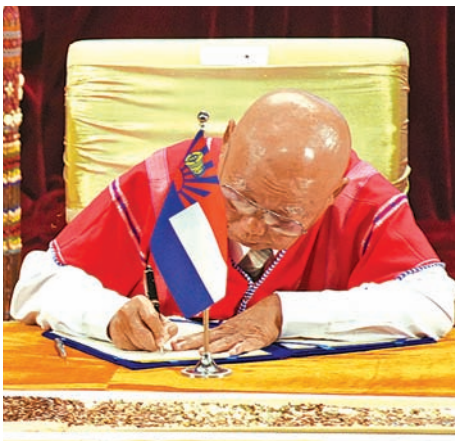


70 % of conflict-affected people will enjoy peace soon

ANALYSIS
Sailing smoothly through the winds of change
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PEACE DEAL SIGNED

President extends olive branch to those who haven't signed



**KNU Chairman
Saw Mutu Say Poe**



**KNU/KNLA-PC Chairman
Saw Htay Maung**



**RCSS/ SSA-S Chairman
U Yawd Serk**



**ALP Vice Chairman
U Khaing Soe Naing Aung**



PNLO Chairman U Khun Myint Tun



ABSDF Chairman Yebaw Than Ge



DKBA Chief of Staff Saw Lah Bwe



CNF Chairman U Pu Nang Lian Thang

THE GOVERNMENT and eight ethnic armed groups on Thursday signed a nationwide ceasefire agreement, which was witnessed by representatives from the European Union, the United Nations and diplomats.

In the presence of President U Thein Sein, the agreement was signed by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice President U Nyan Tun, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann,

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Karen National Union-KNU Saw Mutu Say Poe, Chief of Staff of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA Saw Lah Bwe, Chairman of Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council Saw Htay Maung, Chairman of Chin National Front-CNF U Pu Nang

Lian Thang, Parton of Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO U Khun Okka, Chairman of All Burma Students' Democratic Front-ABSDF Yebaw Than Ge, Vice Chairman of Arakan Liberation Party U Khaing Soe Naing Aung and Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS/Shan State Army-South (SSA-S)) U Yawd Serk.

Before the signing, President U Thein Sein delivered a speech,

which went as follows:

"I extend my warm greetings to leaders of ethnic armed organisations; national and international witnesses; diplomatic corps; representatives of government, parliament, and Tatmadaw [army]; leaders of political parties; representatives of civil society and special guests gathered here at this Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signing ceremony.

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Development projects will prioritise areas under ceasefire

Ye Myint

DEVELOPMENT priorities will be given to areas where the ceasefire accord is in place, said Union Minister U Aung Min at a press conference after the nationwide ceasefire accord signing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The government will provide funds for development, with assistance from international donors, as stipulated in the nationwide ceasefire accord (NCA).

Of the 15 ethnic armed groups invited by the government to ink the truce pact, eight ethnic armed groups agreed to do so. During the ceremony, both sides expressed the view that the signing was a first step in the right direction for achieving lasting peace in Myanmar.

U Aung Min insisted that development projects will also be rolled in areas inhabited by groups who did not sign the ceasefire, provided permission to do so is given by the groups. "They will not be sidelined because

we are brothers living in this country. But it is up to them to determine whether or not to allow development works."

Top priorities include demining, providing food and shelter, creating jobs and providing assistance to those who wish to return home after having fled earlier conflicts, the union minister said.

He highlighted the importance of creating industrial zones featuring garment factories and agro-based industries to improve livelihoods, and to do so transpar-

ently. The government, ethnic groups and donors will work together to implement development projects in areas affected by conflict, he added.

"Following the tripartite group's decision, donors will manage the aid themselves, without any interference from the government."

The government will provide suggestions for possible projects, with the initial capital invested by the government.—GNLM

PHOTOS: MNA



President U Thein Sein (front row, C), government officials, ethnic armed groups and international witnesses pose for documentary photo after the signing ceremony of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. PHOTO: MNA

Peace deal signed

>> From page 1

Today is a historic and significant day for Myanmar. The road to future peace in Myanmar is now open, he added.

Since independence, Myanmar has faced numerous internal armed conflicts. Because of these conflicts, thousands of combatants from both sides lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of civilians living in conflict zones suffered under the ravages of war. Those affected are none other than our fellow ethnic nationals and citizens.

Since my government took office and initiated democratic reforms, we realised that the reforms would not succeed without peace. Therefore, we proposed ceasefire talks in August 2011. Over the next two years, the government concluded bilateral ceasefire agreements with 14 ethnic armed organisations. Agreements that led to significant de-escalation of armed conflicts in Kachin State were also signed.

However, sustainable and lasting peace in our country cannot be achieved by ceasefires alone. Political dialogue is required to address our deep-rooted issues. Furthermore, arrangements are needed to strengthen ceasefires during the period of political dialogue. We recognised that a peace process accepted by all major forces was required.

Therefore, there was a concerted effort to negotiate a broadly accepted Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). Although groups that were not recognised by the government took part in the negotiations, all sides participated in the effort to achieve

a mutually acceptable outcome. Indeed, most of the provisions in the NCA are based on proposals made by the ethnic armed organisations in their negotiations with the government.

Because of the concerted endeavours, patience, good will, and sacrifice of representatives of the government, parliament, Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organisations, all parties reached agreement on the text of the NCA.

The government believes that it is more important to achieve an outcome that is accepted by all than the number of signatories. With the understanding that it is essential to leave a product of peace as a foundation for future generations, the government made the commitment to finalise the NCA.

Therefore, although some organisations are currently not ready to sign, the government decided to conclude the NCA with the vanguard group of organisations that were ready to proceed.

However we will continue with our efforts to bring the remaining organisations into the process. The door is open to them. Since the NCA is based on the terms that these organisations have negotiated and agreed to, the implementation of the NCA is in accordance with their intent. If requested by the remaining organisations, the government will coordinate and facilitate their participation in the various stages of the peace process.

The leaders of government and Ethnic Armed Groups who are signatories to the NCA should be proud of their accomplishments. However, history will

judge the value of the NCA not by the number of signatories, but by how effectively the terms of the NCA are implemented.

Mutual trust will be built on the tangible progress of the implementation of the terms in the NCA. The participation of the remaining organisations also depends on how quickly the terms are realised.

The next steps in the peace process all look ahead. There is no turning back. Therefore, the NCA-based peace process will become the only path for achieving sustainable and lasting peace in the future new Myanmar. The NCA is a lasting heritage for future generations. For this reason, we included youths in our invitations to this ceremony, and we made our pledges in front of them.

According to government records for 2014-15, 10 percent of Myanmar's population live in areas of direct conflict. Up to 40 percent of the population live in areas impacted by conflicts. As soon as the NCA is signed, and tasks under the terms of the agreement are implemented, 70 percent of those affected will begin to enjoy the fruits of peace within a short time.

To monitor de-escalation of fighting, the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC) will be formed. Once fighting stops, people living in conflict areas will be able to live their lives in peace and security.

As conditions improve, the government will be able to increase development work. Priority will also be given to international assistance and investments

that benefits the people in the region.

Additionally, the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) will be formed to facilitate political dialogue, as provided in the NCA.

We have in our hands a significant achievement. The Ethnic Armed Organisations have assented to the Three Main National Causes of non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of national sovereignty. At the same time, the government has accepted the demands of the Ethnic Armed Organisations to establish a union based on the principles of democracy and federalism. This agreement paves the way for a future that previous successive governments in Myanmar have failed to secure. Our responsibility now is to implement the terms of the NCA to ensure our goals are realised. For all of us, the NCA is a legacy we leave for future generations.

From this day on, we share the responsibility of defining our future. We will together write

history and share the historical burden of victory and defeat. The NCA we sign today represents the mutual trust between us, and a legacy for future generations. Furthermore, the agreement unequivocally shows our sincerity and good will.

In conclusion, on behalf of the government and the people of Myanmar, I wish to acknowledge and thank all those involved in the drafting, negotiations and signing of the NCA. I urge all to endeavour from this date of signing of the NCA until we have accomplished all the tasks. Let us together make this day a historic occasion.

Chairman of KNU Saw Mutu Say Poe also delivered a speech.

He said: "The NCA is a new page in history and it is the product of brave and energetic negotiations. Moreover, the NCA was achieved due to unity and trust between the negotiators, a desire to compromise, collectively solve issues, and find answers to political issues through negotiations rather than force of arms."

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What's your take on the current peace signing, bro?

Simply marvellous!
It'll lead to progress,
prosperity and love among
nationalities brethren.
Blessed be the peace makers.



TIN AUNG

Peace Deal Signed

>> From page 2

More than just a ceasefire agreement, the NCA is the first step on the important road towards the establishment of a federal and democratic Union. I caution that we will face many challenges along the way.

We must all patiently and resolutely overcome these obstacles together.

Instead of only favouring one's views, we must act in the spirit of mutual respect and national reconciliation to achieve positive outcomes for the peace process through an inclusive political dialogue.

Therefore, I call on all to banish the ills we have suffered as a result of armed conflict, and

to unwaveringly lay the foundation for a democratic and federal Union."

Next, both sides signed the NCA witnessed by the president and other dignitaries.

Union Minister U Aung Min and Padoh Saw Kwe Htoo Win read out the excerpts from the agreement and they exchanged the NCA.

Following the signing ceremony, the government and armed ethnic groups held a meeting on the implementation of the NCA.

At the meeting, President U Thein Sein pledged the government would follow the points agreed in the NCA and held out the olive branch to those who have not

yet signed the NCA.

The representatives from the government and eight armed ethnic groups held a press conference after the meeting.

Following the signing of NCA, Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Federal Democracy Alliance-FDA and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued their announcements, welcoming the NCA as a historic achievement of the country.

They all expressed hope that the remaining armed ethnic groups would sign the NCA as early as possible as part of efforts for building a union with a federal system.—MNA

Speaker meets Swiss ambassador



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Paul R. Seger. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker Pyi Taw yesterday. Also present at the meeting were officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency

U Myo Aye appointed as Ambassador to Serbia

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myo Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the State of Israel, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Serbia.—Myanmar News Agency

U Tha Aung Nyun presents credentials to President of Nigeria

U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, presented his Credentials to His Excellency General Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on 6 October 2015, in Abuja.—Myanmar News Agency

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Filimone Kau, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Fiji to the Republic of Korea, as concurrently accredited Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Fiji to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Filimone Kau was born

on 23 February 1963. He graduated from the University of South Pacific specialising in History and Politics. From 1986 to 2003, he served in various capacities at Government Ministries of the Republic of Fiji. From 2003 to 2007, he served as the Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d' Affaires a.i. respectively at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations.

In 2011, he served as the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources. Since 5th October 2012, he has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Fiji to the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Filimone Kau is married with four sons and one daughter.—Myanmar News Agency

Japan to build tech school in Yangon

MYANMAR and Japan signed a memorandum of understanding on mutual development of technical and vocational education in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo spoke at the event.

According to the agreement, Japan's KAKE Education Institution will help the Department of Technical and Vocational Education build a

technical high school with the aim of empowering Myanmar youths.

The union minister described Japan's assistance as crucial to the development of Myanmar's human resources.

The technical high school, which will be built in Yangon Region, is expected to produce skilled workers to attract greater foreign investment, as human resources are a constraint in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

Deepavali national holiday to fall on 10 Nov

THE Union Government announced yesterday that the Hindu festival of Deepavali, which is also known as Diwali, falls on 10 November and will be a national holi-

day in Myanmar.

Deepavali is a Hindu festival commemorating Lord Rama and his wife, Sita's return to their homeland after a 14-year exile.—GNLM

Air force delivers ballots to remote areas

THE Union Election Commission has arranged for the Myanmar Air Force to transport ballots to remote areas in Shan and Kachin states.

Tow aircrafts from the Myanmar Air Force Y-8 transported ballots and related materials to Kengtung airport, which were then brought to Mongkhat, Mongyang, Mong-

ping, Mongphyat, Mongyawng, Monghsat, Mongton and Metman townships in Shan State yesterday.

An additional 3.3 tonnes of ballots and related materials were brought by the same aircraft to Putao from Myitkyina for Nagmon, Khainglanphu and Machinbaw townships in Kachin State.—Myanmar News Agency

News Media Council to be elected on 21 Oct

MEMBERS of the News Media Council will be elected on 21 October in Yangon's Kamayut Township.

Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Journalists Union, Myanmar Journalists Network and Burma News International put forward four candidates; Myanmar Press Council (Interim) two candidates and

news media groups, five candidates.

Four will stand as independent candidates for two seats of the council.

News agencies put up one candidate in the elections.

Two will be selected from four candidates nominated by the Printing and Publishing association.

Five candidates representing the writers' association will stand in the elections for two seats.

Three will stand as intellectual and intelligentsia in the elections.

Meanwhile, the president, Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw nominated a candidate each in the elections.—GNLM

ELECTION COUNTDOWN

Make your voice count. Cast your vote.

23 DAYS

Tax seminar held in Myingyan

A SERIES of lectures on tax were held in Myingyan District, Mandalay Region, on Tuesday.

The lectures were attended by local authorities, development associations, restaurateurs, inn owners and local producers and district's deputy commissioner U Lin Htet Ko gave the opening address. Township Revenue officials explained union and commercial tax laws, as well as other types of taxes. The lectures were held at Myingyan's No. 1 Basic Education High School.—Zaw Min Naing

Buddha images on golden palanquin begin a journey in Inlay Region



Buddha images of Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda start journey in Inlay region. PHOTO: NAY MYO THUREIN

FOUR Buddha images from Inlay Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda were placed on a golden palanquin on 14 October and embarked on a visit that will take in 21 destinations in Inlay region, Nyaungshwe Township, southern Shan State.

The Buddha images first travelled from the Yadana prayer hall in Namhu village to Kyaypawkhon village.

Locals transported the palanquin using traditional long boats and pilgrims and the public are invited to pay homage to the Buddha images.—Nay Myo Thurein

Mandalay students receive MBAs



Graduates from Mandalay have already received MBA degree from SIU International Bangkok. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

THITSA Yazar Training and Development Centre and SIU International Bangkok are jointly conducting one-year Masters of Business Administration (MBA) and three-year Doctoral Programmes, with the third MBA batch launched on 18 October.

The programmes have been running in Mandalay since August 2013 and at the MBA Batch-2 convocation, 15 students from Mandalay received MBA

degrees in late September.

Seven students from Mandalay were conferred MBA degree at Shinawatra International University, Bangkok at the convocation of MBA Batch-1 on 19 September last year. Ma Mya Phone Mo Oo won the Independent study paper and highest GPA award.

Emeritus professors from SIU International Bangkok is serving as a lecturer.—Tin Maung

Floods return to Mandalay Region

LOW pressure in the northern Bay of Bengal created a small storm, which resulted heavy rains on 12 and 13 October in Mandalay, Pyin-Oo-Lwin and Mogok townships in Mandalay Region. The water levels of

the Ayeyawady, Myitnge and Dokhtawady rivers also rose swiftly.

Drains clogged by garbage exacerbated the flooding in Mandalay, with rainfall measuring 5.82 centimetres on 12 October

and 5 centimetres on 13 October.

The Mandalay City Development Committee is now attempting to completely clear out the city's drainage system to prevent future flash floods.—Maung Pyi Thu



Photo shows inundated road in Mandalay on recent days. PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU

Kokkine junction overpass to ease traffic congestion

THE Kokkine junction overpass is being constructed by Capital Construction to ease congestion in Bahan Township.

The project is being overseen by Yangon Region Government and will comprise a reinforced concrete overpass that is 528 metres long that can withstand 75 tonne loads.

Forty international and local engineers are supervising 250 labourers, who are working in shifts around the clock to complete the project.—Soe Win (SP)



An overpass under construction at Kokkine Junction in Bahan Township. PHOTO: TIN HLA MAUNG

Eligible voters tallied in Tatkon

TATKON Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, has 162,245 eligible voters as of 13 October, according to the township election commission.

Tatkon Township will have 136 ballot booths in its six wards and 176 villages during the general election of November 8.

Nine candidates are running for office in the township, including eight from the Union Solidarity and Development Party, the National League for Democracy, the National Unity Party and one independent.—Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)

Japan restarts 2nd reactor under post-Fukushima rules

KAGOSHIMA — A nuclear reactor in southwestern Japan resumed operation Thursday, becoming the second unit to restart after the government tightened safety regulations following the 2011 triple reactor meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi complex.

Kyushu Electric Power Co reactivated the No 2 reactor at its Sendai complex in Kagoshima, about two months after the No. 1 unit at the two-reactor plant was brought back online under what Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government calls "the world's toughest" safety rules implemented after the Fukushima disaster.

The restart in August ended a nearly two-year hiatus in the country's nuclear power generation, marking Japan's return to nuclear energy production with Kyushu Electric and its peers looking to bring more plants back online.

"There is no change in the government's policy of proceeding with the restart of reactors that are approved by the Nuclear Regulation Authority as meeting the world's most stringent and newest regulations," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a regular press conference.



Security personnel stands guard in front of an entrance gate of Kyushu Electric Power's Sendai nuclear power station in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima prefecture, Japan. PHOTO: REUTERS

The government plans to have nuclear power account for 20 to 22 percent of the country's total electricity supply in 2030, compared with roughly 30 percent before the Fukushima disaster, as it seeks to cut greenhouse gas emis-

sions and lower imported fuel costs.

A nuclear reactor owned by Shikoku Electric Power Co and two other units of Kansai Electric Power Co. received safety clearance from regulators earlier this

year. But the government's energy mix goal faced opposition with the majority of the public against the restart of nuclear plants.

About 100 antinuclear protesters gathered in front of the Sendai plant in the city of Satsumasendai on Thursday, demanding the utility stop the reactivation.

"The public wants to do away with nuclear power. Our voice of protest has been ignored, but we will continue to call for" abandoning nuclear power stations, said Hisashi Ide, 45, who joined the rally from Ehime, western Japan, which hosts one of three reactors that have obtained regulatory permission to restart.

But some residents said they had no choice but to accept the reactor resumption as it would help the local economy.

"If an accident occurs, I'm worried it could endanger (the health of) children," a man in his 40s said in Satsumasendai.

But he expressed his support for the resumption, saying, "We have seen more people walking around the city after the No. 1 unit started operating." Kyushu Electric finished inserting a total of 157 fuel rod assemblies into the

No. 2 reactor last month and had been working on final inspections since last Friday.

The power company will put top priority on ensuring safe operations with utmost caution, President Michiaki Uriu said in a statement.

The reactor will achieve stable atomic fission late Thursday night when it is expected to reach criticality.

"The public wants to do away with nuclear power. Our voice of protest has been ignored, but we will continue to call for [it]."

Hisashi Ide
Protester

The huge earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011, triggered the worst nuclear crisis since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and led to the shutdown of all of Japan's commercial reactors by May 2012.—*Kyodo News*

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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.

Political dynasties to dominate Philippine polls in 2016

MANILA — Election season is under way in the Philippines and investors are in for a wild ride of power-politics dominated by entrenched family dynasties, whose machinations will leave little room for serious debate on badly needed reforms.

The wife, son, daughter and nephew of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos will all run in the May 2016 elections, joining a host of other privileged candidates from elite families seeking to keep their hold on power in local and national politics.

"The problem with elite politics is there is no programme or platform, it's all power," said Ramon Casiple, executive director of the advocacy group Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms.

The family of Vice President Jejomar Binay is another high-profile dynasty, having ruled Manila's Makati financial district for nearly three decades. Binay's daughter is ending her term as congresswoman and will run for mayor in 2016, hoping to replace her brother who is facing a graft case. Her businessman husband, a political novice, will run for her seat in Congress.

Binay, meanwhile, has his sights set on replacing President Benigno Aquino.

"A lot of these political dynasties feel they own the seats that they occupy and its theirs to bequeath, to whoever family mem-



A priest at a church blesses Philippine Senator Ferdinand "BongBong" Marcos, Jr. (R) before BongBong Marcos files his Certificate of Candidacy for Vice President in May 2016 national elections, in Manila on 13 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ber they see fit," anti-corruption group Transparency and Accountability Network executive director Vincent Lazatin said.

"It is very disturbing."

The leading candidate to replace Aquino, according to opinion polls, is neophyte Senator Grace Poe.

While she is not a member of a dynasty, her chances of success depend on connections such as Aquino's businessman uncle, Eduardo Cojuangco, head of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Apart from Binay, Poe will also be up against Manuel "Mar" Roxas, grandson of the country's first post-war leader and President Aquino's favourite.

Peter Wallace, head of busi-

ness consultancy Wallace Business Forum, said issues that mattered to ordinary people — the South China Sea maritime dispute with China, jobs, social services — were being drowned out by the politics of personality.

"We have had enough of these domestic families and the politicians, we are demanding change," Wallace said, calling for concrete proposals on job creation and investment.

The next president should pursue policies that will open up the economy to more foreign investment, reduce business costs, cut red tape and modernise infrastructure, foreign business chambers said in a statement last week.—*Reuters*

Japan beefs up Philippines' quake, tsunami monitoring system

MANILA — Japan on Thursday formally handed over components of a comprehensive earthquake and tsunami monitoring system to the Philippine seismology agency as part of its grant assistance to the Southeast Asian nation for disaster risk management.

The symbolic handover of a seismic intensity meter device, one of the system's four major components, was held on the second anniversary of the last major earthquake in the Philippines.

Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said Japan's grant includes 10 broadband strong motion seismometers, 36 strong motion seismometers, 19 sea-level monitoring stations, and 240 intensity meters, all to be installed across the country by 2016. "These are to beef up our existing equipment and initial activities," he said.

Japanese Ambassador Kazuhide Ishikawa and Noriaki Niwa, chief representative to the Philippines of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, led the handover ceremony.—*Kyodo News*

US airline security watch system suffers brief disruption



The John F. Kennedy International airport is seen in the Queens borough of New York. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — A US Department of Homeland Security computer system that checks airline passengers against terrorism watch lists experienced a brief service disruption on Wednesday, federal officials said.

The problem lasted about 90 minutes and there have been no

indications the technology disruption was malicious in nature, US Customs and Border Protection said in a statement.

During the outage, Customs and Border Protection officers processed international travelers using alternative procedures, the agency said.

Customs and Border Pro-

tection did not specify which US airports experienced disruptions, but NBC News reported delays in security screenings at New York City's John F Kennedy Airport.

Similar problems were reported in Boston, Dallas-Fort Worth, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Baltimore, it said.—Reuters

Russian envoy refutes Dutch MH17 crash report

KUALA LUMPUR — Russian Ambassador to Malaysia Valery N Yermolov refuted here on Thursday the investigation report of the Dutch Safety Board (DSB), which alleged that the crash of flight MH17 was caused by the detonation of a 9N314M-type warhead launched from eastern Ukraine using a Buk missile system.

Yermolov said according to Russian missile manufacturer Almaz-Antei, MH17 was shot down by a 9M38 surface-to-air missile from the territory controlled by the Ukrainian military.

He said the experiments by Almaz-Antei revealed that MH17 had been hit by an older version of the 9M38 missile, as it did not have pellets of specific form as the newer 9M38M1 missile had.

The envoy said Russia no longer possessed such missiles as they had been decommissioned since 2011 by the Russian military, while 520 missiles of this kind are possessed by Ukraine as far as they know.

He said they have invited many times the experts and members of the investigation team to come to Russia to get acquaintance of the results of investigation and information from the Russian side, but no one has come.—Xinhua

Western retail giants restrict travel to Bangladesh after attacks

DHAKA — Business executives from global clothing giants H&M Inditex and Gap have cancelled trips to Dhaka this month after the killings of two foreigners, industry sources said, causing anxiety for Bangladesh's \$25 billion (£16 billion) garment export sector.

Bangladeshi suppliers to the world's top brands said they didn't expect the disruptions to hurt their orders for the year-end Christmas season.

But the attacks, claimed by the Islamic State, increase the pressure on an industry which faces competition from other low-wage countries and is trying to repair its safety image after several fatal accidents.

The United States and Canada have asked their diplomats to restrict their movements, and Britain warned of more attacks after an Italian aid worker and a Japanese man were shot dead a few days apart. Australia cancelled a cricket tour.

Bangladesh's government, however, rejected the claim by the Islamic State and blamed the growing violence



The entrance of the Zara factory, the headquarters of Inditex group, is seen in Arteixo, northern Spain. PHOTO: REUTERS

in the country on its domestic political opponents trying to show it in poor light. The attacks on foreigners, while rare, follow the killings of four Bangladeshi bloggers this year by machete-wielding assailants, and have spawned fear among the foreign community.

"Our Western buyers panicked after the killing of the two foreigners within five days. Some buyers cancelled their visits during this peak time when they are supposed to place more orders," said Siddiqur Rahman, chief of

United Nations Secretary General's message on World Food Day

16 October 2015

This year's observance of World Food Day follows the landmark adoption by world leaders of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including a set of 17 goals to guide our work towards a future of dignity and prosperity for all on a healthy planet.

How we choose to grow, process, distribute and consume the food we eat has a profound effect on people, planet, prosperity and peace. Delivering on the promise of the 2030 Agenda will not be possible without rapid progress towards ending hunger and undernutrition. In the same way, delivering on the commitment to end hunger forever, for all people, will not be possible without major gains across the new Agenda.

Sustainable Development Goal 2 summons us to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". The world has achieved important progress; since 2000, the proportion of undernourished people has declined by nearly half. At the same time, in a world where nearly a third of all food produced is lost or wasted, and where we produce enough food to feed everyone, almost 800 million people still suffer from hunger. The path out of poverty is proving to be too slow for too many.

The theme for World Food Day 2015 — Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty — highlights the crucial role of cash transfers, insurance, pensions and other social protection programmes in enabling vulnerable people to better manage risks and build profitable livelihoods.

The Zero Hunger Challenge that I launched in 2012 underscores the need for national leadership in tandem with wide-ranging multi-stakeholder partnerships. Ending hunger is everyone's responsibility. Farmers, scientists, international organizations, activists, businesses and consumers all have a role to play. Building inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems also demands that we empower women farmers, provide opportunities for young people and invest in smallholder farmers.

Hunger is more than a lack of food — it is a terrible injustice. On World Food Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to work together to end to hunger in our lifetime. —UNIC/Yangon

situation in Bangladesh closely and we are taking the appropriate security measures. We are also in close dialogue with other brands regarding the situation," H&M spokeswoman Anna Eriksson said.

Marks & Spencer said the firm stopped travel to Bangladesh for seven days a few weeks ago. Travel has since resumed, a spokeswoman said, and added there was no impact on business orders. Gap declined to comment on a change in its travel plans. Tesco said it had not stopped business travel to Bangladesh, but had asked its employees to be vigilant and consider their movements carefully. Bangladesh has deployed paramilitary soldiers on nighttime patrols in the diplomatic quarter of Dhaka and issued a nationwide ban on people riding pillion after the two attacks were carried out by masked men riding bikes.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, who has dismissed claims that the Islamic State was operating in the Muslim majority country of 160 million, said on Wednesday that police were close to a breakthrough on the killings.—Reuters

the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association. Shahidullah Azim, a garment exporter who supplies to Sears, Loblaws and Perry Ellis among others said one of his buyers asked him to come to Dubai instead, along with the clothing samples.

Other foreign business executives asked for video conferences with their Bangladeshi counterparts, saying they couldn't travel to Dhaka because of the warnings issued by their governments. "We are monitoring the

Ecuador seeks legal accord with Sweden over Assange case

QUITO — Ecuador continues to seek a legal agreement with Sweden to break a three-year impasse in the asylum case of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, an official said Wednesday.

“We have been talking with Sweden and hope to soon have an international penal assistance agreement,” Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino said in a televised interview.

Assange is wanted by Swedish authorities in relation to sexual assault allegations, which he denies.

Until recently, Swedish prosecutors have been insisting Assange travel to Sweden for questioning, noting that he would be arrested the minute he stepped outside the Ecuadoran Embassy in London, where he has been holed up since the South American country offered him political asylum in 2012.

Assange was never able to make full use of Ecuador’s asylum offer, as British authorities not only refused to grant him safe passage out of the country, but set up a 24-hour watch outside the embassy to prevent him from leaving.

“What Britain should have



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. PHOTO: REUTERS

done is to give us the safe passage so Julian Assange could enjoy the asylum we granted him, in keeping with international ties of mutual respect,” said Patino.

British authorities have said they have not changed their stance regarding Assange, despite the withdrawal of police presence on Monday. The 44-year-old whistleblower said he fears Swedish authorities will

turn him in to the United States, where he is wanted for espionage and other crimes against the state.

The US case against him was launched after WikiLeaks released “Collateral Murder,” a video footage of a US military strike against civilians, including journalists, in Iraq, as well as thousands of incriminating or embarrassing confidential State Department cables.—Xinhua

Pensions protesters block Greek ministry ahead of vote in parliament

ATHENS — About 200 protesters blocked the entrance to the Labour Ministry in Athens on Thursday to protest against pension cuts in a reform bill Greece has put before parliament to pass its first bailout test and unlock fresh international aid.

The protesters from communist-affiliated party PAME hung out a huge banner reading: “We won’t become slaves of the 21st century.”

The bill gradually raises the retirement age to 67 years by 2022 and cuts pensions by 10 percent for people below that age who have retired but have yet to reach 67.

Athens needs to enact the reforms to successfully conclude a first review by the European Union and the International Monetary Fund to secure the next tranche of its 86-billion-euro international bailout and recapitalise its banks that have been hit hard by a deposit flight since December and the imposition of capital controls in late June.

“They want us to work until we get very old, without pensions and with no access to health and security,” PAME said in a statement. “We should not let them destroy social security.”

The bill will go to parliament’s full session later on



Protesters take part in an anti-austerity demonstration outside the Labour Ministry building in central Athens, Greece, on 15 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thursday and a plenary vote is expected by Friday. PAME and public sector union ADEDY will hold a rally in Athens outside parliament on Friday to coincide with the vote.

Greece has promised to present a comprehensive pension reform plan by December, while a panel on the pension system’s viability is due to issue its report on Thursday, taking into account demographics and the deterioration in employment during years of crisis.

The left-wing government of Alexis Tsipras on Wednesday

suspended plans to increase tax on rental incomes after a public outcry, saying it was still negotiating with international lenders on reforms ahead of the vote.

The government said on Thursday it had no other choice but to approve the bill to get its cash-strapped economy back on its feet.

“We have to vote the prior actions ... to conclude banks’ recapitalisation now, to lift capital controls and to kick-start the economy,” Education Minister Nikos Filis told ANT1 television.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

France says Iran missile test sends ‘worrying message’

PARIS — Iran’s test of a ballistic missile earlier this week is a clear violation of a UN Security Council resolution and sends “a worrying message”, the French Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

Iran tested a new precision-guided ballistic missile on Sunday in defiance of a United Nations ban, signaling an ap-

parent advance in Iranian attempts to improve the accuracy of its missile arsenal.

“The 11 October launch constitutes a clear violation of this resolution (1929).

It is a worrying message from Iran to the international community,” the foreign ministry spokesman said in a daily briefing.—Reuters

British PM Cameron to set out EU demands in November

BRUSSELS — Prime Minister David Cameron said on Thursday Britain’s renegotiation of its EU membership terms will accelerate over the coming months and that he will set out what changes he wants at the start of November.

“The pace will now quicken and I’ll be again setting out the four vital areas where we need change, laying down what those changes will be at the start of November,” Cam-

eron said as he arrived for a summit of EU leaders in Brussels.

“So we quicken the pace and quicken those negotiations in the run-up to the December Council,” he said of the next summit, on 17-18 December. “I’m confident we can get a good deal for Britain, fix those things that need to be fixed and I’m confident that this process is well under way and making good progress.”—Reuters

Turkey offers EU complete visa liberalisation in 2016

ANKARA — Turkey offered the European Union to seal a visa liberalisation agreement by the first half of 2016 instead of the originally planned 2017, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told TGRT TV in an interview, adding that negotiations on the issue were

ongoing.

In December 2013, Turkey and the EU signed an agreement on a visa liberalisation dialogue in parallel with a readmission agreement that would result in illegal migrants who enter Europe via Turkey being returned to Turkey.—Reuters

Ten more people detained in Ankara bombing probe

ANKARA — Ten more people have been detained in connection with messages they wrote on Twitter about the suicide bombings which killed 99 people in Ankara, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Thursday, bringing the number held to 12.

Davutoglu told Reuters on Wednesday some of the suspects in Saturday’s attack, the

worst of its kind in Turkey, had spent months in Syria and could be linked to Islamic State or to Kurdish militants.

“In connection with the Ankara attack, 10 more people have been detained regarding their Twitter accounts,” Davutoglu said in a live TV interview with the TGRT news broadcaster on Thursday.—Reuters

Hungary says fence finished on Croatian border

BUDAPEST — Hungary’s fence on its border with Croatia is finished and the army and police are capable of sealing off the border once a decision to do so is made, a top government official said on Thursday.

Hungary has seen more than 378,000 migrants pass through its territory so far this year, Janos Lazar, Prime Minister Viktor Orban’s chief of staff, told journalists. He said by the end of the year the num-

ber of migrants reaching Hungary’s borders could reach 600,000 to 700,000.

There are no technical obstacles to sealing the border with Croatia and it depends on the Brussels meetings and talks in next few days what decision Hungary will make, Lazar said.

Hungary has already built a fence along its border with Serbia despite criticism from international partners.—Reuters

OPINION

Sailing smoothly through the winds of change

Kyaw Thura

The culmination of nearly two years of peace talks between the government and ethnic armed organisations has finally led to the signing of a nationwide ceasefire accord. It is hoped the deal will lead to genuine peace and bring an end to over six decades of internal armed conflict that began shortly after Myanmar gained independence from the British in 1948.

Leaders of both sides, including the president and the commander-in-chief, gathered at the signing ceremony in the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw on the historic day of October 15. Both sides had to make difficult compromises throughout the lengthy negotiations to make the peace deal possible.

This success story provides evidence that the age of 'agree to disagree' has been born in Myanmar. Leaving their differences behind, the government, the army and ethnic groups have resolved to cooperate and compromise rather than going to head-to-head in a confrontational manner.

The ceasefire deal is a crucial step that will allow the peace process to move forward to political dialogue, through which complex issues such as resource sharing and self-administration could be solved.

We have come a long way, but there is still a long way to go. It is imperative for both sides to prevent peace talks from ever collapsing. The ceasefire should be viewed as an excellent opportunity for every armed organisation and political party to put the interests of the people first so that we may sail smoothly through the winds of change.

Write for us

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

The Greenhouse Effect and The Global Warming

Khin Maung Myint
(MPT Retired)

The temperatures had been increasing year after year all over the world, causing the global warming. Scientists everywhere on the globe are greatly concerned with that phenomenon. Even some laypersons, like me who took interest, are well aware of the consequences of that condition. The direct impacts of the global warming is evident in the climate changes, and freak weather conditions, such as: heavy rainfall in some places while severe droughts hit others, storms are getting more frequent and stronger, rise in ocean levels due to the expansion of the water, plus the melted ice from the polar regions and other glaciers pouring into the seas and oceans are alarming. It is learnt that the ocean levels had risen over a foot in the past century and if left unchecked it could rise three feet in the next century. If that should happen the erosions of the coastlines, flooding and loss of lives and properties would increase, especially those in the low-lying areas. It is a known fact that until today, our earth is the only planet in the solar system where life can exist. There may be theories of extraterrestrial beings in the outer space, but are not proven as yet. The reason that life can exist on earth is because we are being protected by the greenhouse effect.

The Greenhouse Effect

If there were no greenhouse gases that consist primarily of water vapour (H₂O), Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and Methane (CH₄) to protect the earth would be scorching hot or extremely cold for any form of life to exist. These greenhouse gases absorb some of the infrared rays (IR) from the sun's energy before they are radiated back into space. The trapped IR caused the earth to get warm and this effect is called the greenhouse effect. It is the greenhouse effect that kept our planet warm, at the global average of 15°C (59°F), suitable for life to flourish. If there is no greenhouse effect, the global average temperature would be about -18°C (0°F). Where as, the other planets in our

solar system are deprived of that protective canopy. Thus they are either scorching hot or extremely freezing cold, for any form of life to exist.

So, what is a greenhouse effect? If there is no greenhouse effect protecting our earth, the sun's energy in the form of sunray striking the earth's surface would be very intense for any form of life to exist. On the other-hand, if there is a lack of the greenhouse gases—water vapour (H₂O), CO₂ and CH₄ to absorb and retain them, all the sun's energy striking the earth's surface would be radiated back into the space, causing extreme reductions in temperature. Extreme colds are also the cause of lifelessness on other planets. The sunray consist of the Ultraviolet rays (UV) and the Infrared rays (IR) other than the visible light. The Ozone layer in our atmosphere filters the UV, so only a very small amount reaches the earth. The IR is absorbed by the CO₂ and only some of them are radiated back into the space. The retained IR provides the warmth necessary to support life on earth. This is called the greenhouse effect. With a normal greenhouse effect, the temperatures are naturally regulated to suit the living things on the earth. However, if there is excess of CO₂ in the atmosphere, it would trap more IR for longer durations causing the rise in temperatures. Thus if the normal greenhouse effect is disrupted, mostly by human beings, abnormal climate changes would emerge.

I would like to explain briefly, what a greenhouse is, so as to appreciate how the term greenhouse effect came to be used in connexion with the global warming. Some vegetables and tropical plants, which cannot withstand extreme cold climates have to be grown inside glass houses called the greenhouses. The transparent glass permit the sunray to enter the house in the daytime, warming the interior. After the sun sets, the interior of the glass house maintain the warmth as the ground surface inside had absorbed the sun's energy during the day and emits them at night. This process is evident from the fact that

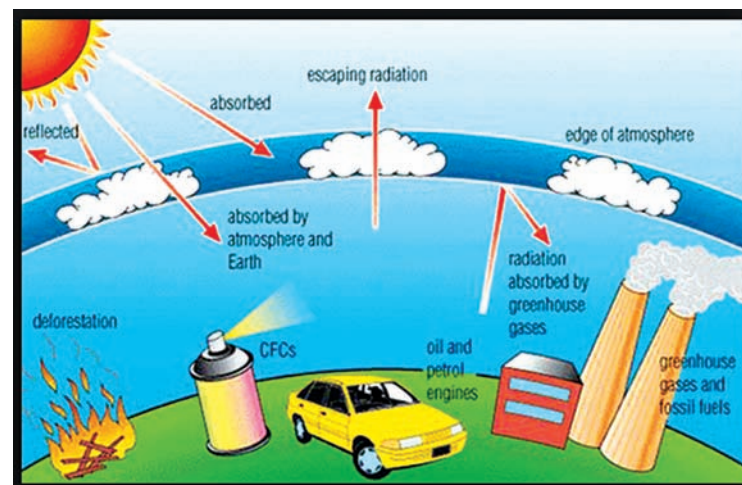
you would find the paved roads and concrete surfaces still warm, long after the sun had set. Just like the greenhouse, that kept its interior warm at a desired temperature, the gases in our atmosphere that produce the same effect are called the greenhouse gases and their effect on the climate is termed the greenhouse effect.

The Global Warming

Since the industrial revolution in the 19th century, the temperatures had been gradually increasing due to the excess of CO₂ emissions. Today, we are witnessing significant temperature increase year after year. The increase in CO₂ emissions are caused primarily by burning. The industries and the vehicles that burn fossilized fuels, wild fires, slash and burn agricultures and last but not least, extensive deforestations are the main causes of excessive CO₂ into our atmosphere. In my previous articles on reforestations, I had emphasized the important roles the trees play in the conservation of the ecosystems. They absorb the CO₂ and sequestered it and release the carbon and the Oxygen gas. This process helps in keeping the ecosystems balanced. However, that balance had been interrupted due to the increase in the greenhouse gases, especially the CO₂ gas. The gradual increase in temperatures caused the global warming and this in turn triggered the climate change, which is an environmental problem the world is facing today. This climate change is causing the freak weather conditions that we are being exposed to, today.

The Effects of the Climate Change

The increased temperatures are affecting the whole world. These effects are not very serious in the tropics as compared to that of the colder regions. Places in the temperate regions and the tundras are facing the consequences of the global warming more and more, with the passage of time. As I love to watch documentary videos about Alaska, I learned from them the adverse effects the Alaskans are facing today. As most of the native Alaskans lived off the earth—fish-



ing, trapping and hunting, they are now faced with difficulties to lead their traditional ways of life. Due to the global warming, that caused the climate changes, the impacts on the ecosystems are devastating. The behaviours of the animals had changed and their habitats had shifted. The Alaskans who depended on them as their food resources and for their livings, are being gradually deprived of their traditional ways of life. They are finding it difficult to get enough fish and meat for consumption and furs for trading off to earn money for purchasing, or bartering with other necessary commodities. Thus some are resorting to mining and other means to make their livings. Other visible adverse consequences of the climate change are: —the more frequent and stronger storms, excessive melting of the ice glaciers all over the world causing the oceans to rise, excess rainfalls, droughts, unprecedented flooding everywhere, erosions of the coastlines changing the contours significantly, the heat-related deaths and the loss of properties are prevalent.

Conclusion

To control the increasing temperatures and hence the global warming, the rise in temperature needs to be limited. The present climate policy adopted in 2010, limits the temperature rise at 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industry level. We will have to wait and see what would be the outcome of the United Nations' Climate Change Conference due to convene in Paris next month. Some are skeptical that the 2°C limit cannot be achieved

and believed the climate change is irreversible. However, some are of the opinion that this could be possible, if all the countries participated and adhered to the policy diligently, especially the great emitters of CO₂ gases. It will also be necessary to restrict logging and clearing of the forests to give way to the agricultural industries. The conservations of the forests should also be given the priority. Alternative clean fuels, other than the fossilized fuels for industries and vehicles, and the substitutes for wood and char coal for cooking purposes, such as liquid gases and electricity would drastically reduce the CO₂ emissions. If hydro-power, wind-power and solar energy are extensively utilized, it would contribute towards the maintenance of a balanced and normal greenhouse effect. Also, growing more trees would benefit us, as the trees absorb the CO₂ gas and retain it for a long time while sequestering the gas and release the Carbon matters, which would seep underground and may form fossilized fuels. An interesting fact is, the CO₂ helps trees and plants to grow faster by producing nutrients for them, brought about by the photosynthesis process.

As all these adverse effects are brought on by the human beings, they are responsible to control them and restore a normal balance. The governments, organizations, communities, societies and individuals should be aware of, and recognize the adverse effects of the climate change. This factor should be taken into consideration and given priority in planning for the future.

Sacred *Dei-Sun-Pa* Pagoda-hill (Part I)

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

IN the vicinities of the sprawling metropolitan commercial city of Yangon, stand many green creations of nature in the forms of woodlands, forested hill ranges, aquatic bodies of lakes and wetlands where Yangonites, under the stress and strain of daily urban life can escape to, at least for a day, to recuperate the health of their body and mind. One of such idyllic natural resorts is the sacred *Dei-Sun-Pa Pagoda hill* not far from the old capital *Hamsavadi Pegu*.

Within Bago Township, about 3 miles to the west of Win-bei In Village, lies a not too high hill range on which an ancient pagoda called *Dei-Sun-Pa* stands prominent and majestic. From Yangon to Win-bei In [ဝမ်းထဲခင်း] a good motor road runs 64 miles and 5 furlongs or rail train takes 61 miles.

Approximately two miles to the east of *Win-bei In* village is a well-known water reservoir called *Moe Yun Gyi*, which originally was a vast natural depression into which all streams from the west flowed thus turning it into a big natural aquatic body. Among all species of watery plants and reeds and grasses around this lake is a kind of wild paddy that thrived profusely, the grain of which birds, buffaloes and cattle fed. Legendarily this wild paddy came to be called *nat sapa* [နတ်ပဲခဲ] paddy given by benevolent nat-spirits. Winged creatures of all kinds make the lake their habitat and in winter birds from the icy north come there for hibernation. Among them paddy birds, wild water ducks and geese, Muscovy ducks, whistling teal or tree ducks, [dendrocygna javanica], *meinyo* [Indian purple moor hen], *Hintha* [Brammany duck]. Most of these creatures belong to the duck family. Therefore the lake came to be called *Win-bei In*.

One Myanmar chronicler-writer of early British colonial day *Hmawbi Saya Thein Gyi* gave a background history of this lake in his writings. He says that "King *Maha Thiha Thura Dhammaraja* of *Nyaung Yang* dynasty reigned in the capital *Inwa*. His younger brother, the lord of *Yamethin*, Prince *Min Ye Kyaw Htin* moved to the south and set up a temporary residence on the site in the vicinity of the present

day *Moe Yun Gyi* Reservoir to the east of the present day *Win-bei In* village. Seeing different types of wild ducks rollicking in the lake, he felt nostalgic of his native capital *Inwa* and the *Win-bei In* near it. So he named this lake "*Win-bei In*", as it resembled the *Win-bei In* of *Inwa* and the same name he gave to the nearby village."

His elder brother *Maha Thiha Thura Dhammaraja* reigned only one year, for at the age of 28 years, he passed away. So the younger brother Lord of *Yamethin* Prince *Min Ye Kyaw Htin* succeeded the throne on the 12 waxing moon of *Tabaung* [March] in Myanmar Era [M.E 1034, 1672 A.D.]. He assumed the Regnal title "*Thiri parawati bawana Thiha Sura*". While he was at *Inwa* he used to reside at his resort palace at *Win-bei In* lake of *Inwa*. So people called him *Win-bei In San Min*. [The king who resided at *Win-bei In* palace].

In the Gazetteer of the District of Rangoon, Pegu Province published in 1868, by Rangoon Central Government Press, geographical archaeological and historical accounts are given on pages 9-11. According to them, "the first dynasty of Pegu was founded by two brothers *Tha-ma-Lah* and *Wee-ma-Lah*. The elder brother *Tha-ma-Lah* reigned 12 years and died in 1164 A.D. In Bagan, King *Na-yah-thein-gah* was reigning. When *Wee-ma-lah* succeeded the throne, in Bagan, King *Na-ya-Padae* was on the throne.

King *Tha-ma-Lah* [ထာမာလ] and queen *Ka-pee-htaw* [နာပီဟတ] had a son and daughter. The son was named *Ah-tha-kone-mah* [အထာကွေးမာ] and the daughter *Yin-main-taloh* [ရင်မိန်တလှ]. King *Wee-ma-lah* [ဝေမာလ] married his sister-in-law *Ka-pee-htaw*. *Ka-pee-htaw* thought that *Wee-ma-lah* could cause *Ah-tha-kone-mah* to be murdered. So she sent her son across the river *Dee-bay* [ဒီးဘေး] where today stands *Kyeik-ka-thah* [ကျိတ်ကထာ] pagoda. The guardian goddess of the river took care of *Ah-tha-kone-mah*. His mother also sent a hunter to look after her son. Young *Ah-tha-kone mah* grew up among wild buffaloes. He could walk on their horns easily.

After ten years of his succession to the throne,

King *Wee-ma-lah* was challenged by invaders "*Kullahs*" [ကုလား] or foreigners who came with seven ships. They were tall and strong built. They reclaimed the island where they had previously settled otherwise they would fight for it. *Wee-ma-lah* was asked to a single combat with their leader. *Wee-ma-lah* agreed to send a man to fight the combat within a week. When *Queen Kap-htaw* knew about it she told *Wee-ma-lah* about her son *Ah-tha-kone-mah* who had grown up into a strong man walking on the horns of wild buffaloes. *Wee-ma-lah* sent his messengers to call him.

On arrival of *Ah-tha-kone-mah* at *Han-tha-wadee*, which happened to be on the day fixed for the combat he and the *Kullah* leader proceeded to the battlefield. The *Kullah* leader was armed with a large spear, the handle of which was seven cubits in length, and the spear-head the length of a plantain-tree leaf. *Ah-tha-kone-mah* was also armed with a spear of the same size. On meeting, they aimed at each other, but without knowing where to strike. *Ah-tha-kone-mah* at last had resort to a stratagem, and asked the *Kullah* leader why he had brought a large number of followers with him. The *Kullah* leader replied "I have not done so". *Ah-tha-kone-mah* desired him to look and say who those were behind him. On his turning to do so, *Ah-tha-kone-mah* struck him a heavy blow with his spear on the neck and then killed the *Kullah* leader.

In consequence of Prince *Ah-tha-kone-mah's* conquering the *Kullah* by the above stratagem, *Han-tha-wadee* was afterwards called *Done-pai-goh* [တုံပဲခဲ] "Done" in Mon tongue meaning "town". "pai" stratagem, and "goh", conquered or in possession. It is now commonly called *Pai-goo* [Pegu]. King *Wee-ma-lah* reigned 17 years. Prince *Ah-tha-kone-mah* succeeded him. He was the patron and promoter of Buddha *Sasana*. It was he who first built *Dei-Sun-Pa* Pagoda. Original name given by him was *Kyaik Champac* [ကျိတ်စံပု] because the hill was forested with champac flower trees [စံပုပင်]. Champac flowers are gold yellow, fragrant and medicinal. Champac is a timber tree. Later *Dei Champac* corrupted to *Dei-Sun-pa*.

In the book on the history of *Dei-Sun-pa* pagoda

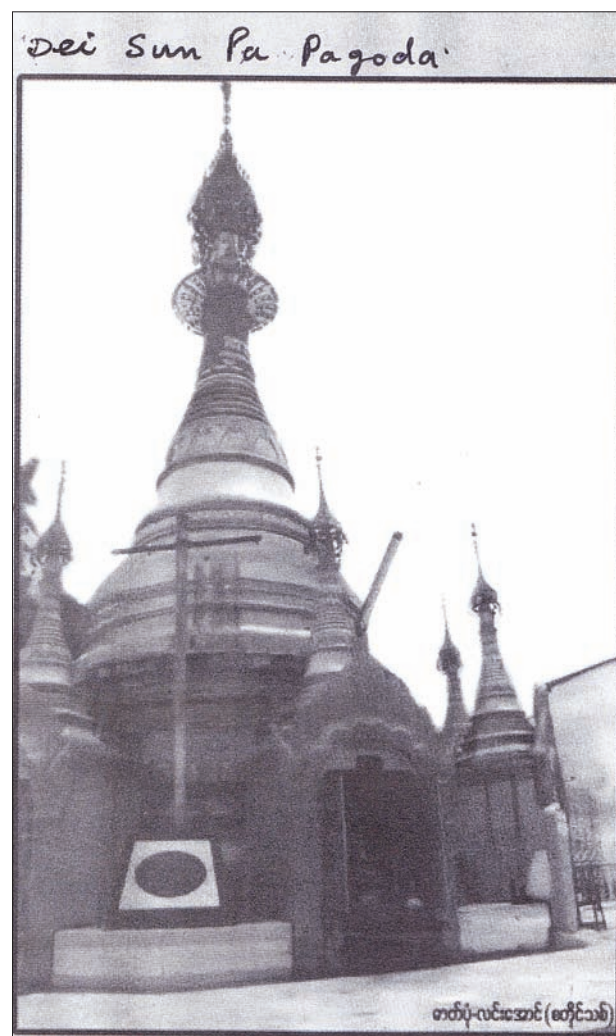
compiled by *Ma Kywe Kywe* and published by *Myat Pan Wut Yi Sarpay Press* in 2008, *Dei-Sun-Pa* was one of the Buddhist monuments mentioned in the Divine Prophecy of Lord Gautama Buddha. On pages 12-26 a detailed account of Gautama Buddha's Divine Prophecy [ဘုရားဘုရား] was given.

In the 8th *Vasa* of Gautama Buddha, [Buddhist Era 111] Saint monk *Ashin Gavampati* invited the Buddha for his *dhamma duta* [Buddha's dhamma mission] to *Thaton* [*Suvanna bhumi*]. The Buddha with his followers saints came and delivered his teachings. On return, he gave his hair relics to the hermits and proceeded to the west. There was a vast water body out of which was a single rocky summit appearing. On it the Buddha stood and gave his divine prophecy. "In future there would emerge here 57 hillocks such as "*Myin Theinna, Dei Thiha, Dei Sampa*, etc. Two merchant brothers *Maha Thala* and *Cula Thala* would each enshrine hair relics in two *zedis*. My *Sasana* would flourish here. Next, two prince brothers would come from the East and they would build a capital city named *Hamsavadi* and reigned there. All kings of their dynasty would promote Buddha *Sasana*. My sacred hair relics would be enshrined in *zedis* built at 57 places around *Hamsavadi* and people would worship them to propagate my teachings."

Thus *Dei-Sun-Pa* or *Dei Sampa* [Champac] was one of Buddhist monuments mentioned in Buddha's Divine Prophecy which was given in the 8th *Vasa*. Later, where the Buddha sojourned, a *zedi* was built to commemorate it. It was named in Mon Language as "*Kyaik Mu Hta*". *Kyaik* means Buddha, *Mu* means the edge of promontory and *Hta* means stand. Today, this *zedi* is the well-known "*Shwe Maw Hta Zedi*" of Pegu.

In the Buddha *Sasana* year of 138, the 5th descendant of the dynasty of King *Thuriya Konema*, Prince *Ingura* reigned. During that reign a prince named *Thuriya Kyaik Champac* [ကျိတ်စံပု] because the hill was forested with champac flower trees [စံပုပင်]. Champac flowers are gold yellow, fragrant and medicinal. Champac is a timber tree. Later *Dei Champac* corrupted to *Dei-Sun-pa*.

The 14th descendant of this dynasty was King *Beina-ganga*. During his reign, in the Buddha *Sasana*



year of 238 came to *Subanabhumi* [*Thaton*] two *Maha Thera* missionary monks *Sona* and *Uttara* to carry out their *dhammaduta* mission. Due to their teachings of Buddha *Dhamma*, the king and his people gave up their *nat-spirit* worship and embraced Buddhism. There was one guru hermit named *Sila*. He discovered a big egg in the coastal forest. He took it to his hermitage. Out of the egg was hatched a female human of great beauty. The egg was laid by a female *naga* serpent whose husband a *weikza*-alchemist abandoned her in that mangrove. When the girl grew up she was offered to King *Beina Ganga* who raised her to queen. The queen gave birth to two sons, *Tha-ma-lah* and *Wee-ma-lah*. Due to political intrigues at the court, the mother and the two sons were exiled. They went to *Zin Kyaik* hill where hermit *Tisa* resided. The queen died on the way. The two sons were taken care of by the hermit. Knowing that the two sons would become kings who would promote Buddha *Sasana*, the hermit taught them 18 princely arts and sciences. When they grew up to manhood, they moved by boats to the west with many followers. On the way they built religious monuments on the hill ranges. When they reached where present day Pegu is, they founded the first *Hamsavadi* capital. The

rest of their history is already mentioned above.

Old Mon chronicles say that the first capital city *Hamsavadi* founded by King *Tha-ma-Lah* had seven auspicious sites on which 7 structures were built simultaneously. They were as follows:-

- (1) Capital City of 40,000 square *tars*
- (2) A moat around the city of 25 *tars* wide
- (3) A palace with 160 residences
- (4) Royal lake
- (5) A commemorative *Stupa* on the summit of Mt. *Papada* on which Lord Buddha stood and gave his Divine Prophecy
- (6) Nat-spirits' shrine where propitiatory offerings were made, and
- (7) The Clock Tower [*Bahosi Sin*]

The ground breaking and foundation ceremonies were performed at seven sites simultaneously. Seven types of bricks were used (1) gold bricks (2) silver bricks (3) *Mogyo* [alloy] bricks (4) copper bricks (5) Iron bricks (6) stone bricks and (7) terra cotta bricks.

Later archaeological excavations carried out at some of the sites of old *Hamsavadi* and *Suvanabhumi* unearthed some of these seven different bricks, together with other artifacts and bone, or bone ash urns together with some gold coins.

(To be continued)

Iraqi forces and militia seize most of Baiji refinery

TIKRIT — Iraqi forces and Shi'ite militia fighters recaptured most of the country's largest oil refinery from Islamic State militants on Thursday, security officials said.

The report could not be independently confirmed because it is too dangerous for journalists to enter the battle zone around the refinery near the town of Baiji, about 190 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad.

The refinery is a focal point in efforts to contain Islamic State and has changed hands several times since the Sunni Islamist militants swept through northern Iraq last year. Islamic State controls one-third of the territory of the country.

The Iraqi army and volunteer militia fighters, who are mostly Shi'ite Muslims, launched an assault on Wednesday to retake Baiji.

A spokesman for Iraq's counterterrorism forces told Reuters that government forces and militias were in control of the vast energy complex and eliminating pockets of resistance.

"Counterterrorism forces with volunteers are holding a tight grip over all the gates of the refinery and its facilities," Sabah al-Numani said.

Iraqi federal police forces also seized most parts of the town of Baiji, Baiji's mayor Mohammed



Smoke rises from an oil refinery in Baiji on 14 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mahmoud told Reuters.

"I can confirm to you that our forces won the battle of the refinery and for Baiji town. We managed to control almost all parts of the town and now we are surrounding some Daesh snipers entrenched in some

buildings," he said.

Daesh is a derogatory Arabic acronym for Islamic State, which is also known as ISIS or ISIL.

Islamic State insurgents suffered a major defeat in April when Iraqi troops and Shi'ite paramili-

taries routed them from the city of Tikrit.

The insurgents struck back with gains in Baiji and the western province of Anbar, the other major battleground in the campaign against Islamic State.

Video footage seen by Reuters showed Hadi al-Amiri, the leader of the Badr Brigade militia and a leading Shi'ite politician, inside Baiji refinery unfurling a map and briefing a group of Shiite fighters on military operations.—Reuters

Syrian army and Russian jets target rebel towns north of Homs

BEIRUT — Syrian troops and their allies, backed by Russian jets, attacked rebel-held towns north of the city of Homs on Thursday, targeting a long-held and strategic enclave of opposition to President Bashar al-Assad.

The offensive that began before dawn expands on over a week of ground attacks launched with Russian air support in areas of western Syria that are crucial to Assad's survival and held by rebel groups other than Islamic State. Syrian state television, quoting a military source, said the army had begun a military operation in the area after heavy air strikes and artillery barrages early on Thursday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based group which monitors Syria's four-year-old civil war, said five civilians and six insurgents had been killed in Teir Malla, about 3 miles (5 km) north of Homs city.

A few miles further north, there were heavy air strikes around the town of Talbiseh and other villages in the area, the Observatory said, as well as fierce clashes on the southern edges of the town and nearby villages.

The Syrian army, supported by foreign allies including Iran, has launched several ground offensives to retake insurgent-held territory since Russian jets started

air strikes against rebel targets — mainly in western Syria — two weeks ago. The army operations include a campaign to recapture rebel-held land in Hama, Idlib and Latakia provinces in the northwest. Regional officials have also said the army, backed by Iranian reinforcements, is preparing for a ground operation around Aleppo city, close to the Turkish border.

Recapturing the area north of Homs would help reassert Assad's control over the main population centers of western Syria and secure territory linking Damascus to the coastal heartland of his minority Alawite sect.

The military source quoted by state television said the army and its allies had taken control of the villages of Khalidiya and Dar Kabira, between Homs and Teir Malla. The Observatory said the army had advanced in Khalidiya, but there was still heavy fighting there.

"There are very heavy air strikes in Homs on the frontlines. There are civilian casualties. The aim is to apply military pressure, and the regime's intention is to storm the area," said the leader of one rebel group operating in the area. He said the number killed was not confirmed but gave the names of five documented dead including a girl and two women.—Reuters

Yemen Houthis say missile fired in retaliation for Saudi 'war crimes'

DUBAI — Yemen's Houthi forces fired a ballistic missile on Thursday in retaliation for attacks by a Saudi-led coalition, a source in the Iranian-allied group said, and a Houthi-linked television station said a Scud missile had been fired at a Saudi air base.

Al-Masirah television reported that a Scud, a powerful Cold War-era weapon, had been fired at a military base near the city of Khamees Mushait in the kingdom's southwest.

The area is home to the King Khaled air base, the largest air force base in southern Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter,

but there are no oil facilities in the vicinity.

The television station said the target was hit. It was not immediately possible to independently verify that report.

Residents in Yemen's capital reported hearing a roar as what they said was a Scud was launched from near the city.

"The army and people's committees at dawn today fired a ballistic missile in response to the continuation of the Saudi aggression in the commission of war crimes against the Yemeni people," the source said.

Saudi Arabia led an Arab

military intervention against the Houthis beginning on 26 March to restore the Yemeni government ousted by the group and fend off what it sees as the creeping influence of the Shi'ite Muslim group's main ally, Iran.

The Houthis say their rise to power is a revolution against corrupt officials beholden to Saudi Arabia and the West.

The Scud had been launched at Saudi Arabia by Yemeni forces several times during the nearly seven-month-old war, but has been shot down by American-provided Patriot missiles at least twice. — Reuters

Iran lawmaker says Tehran provides Syria, Iraq with weapons, military experts

DAMASCUS — The visiting head of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy committee, Alaedin Boroujerdi, said here on Thursday that Tehran only provides weapons and military experts to Syria and Iraq.

"Regarding our support to Iraq and Syria, such support comes upon the request of those countries, and according to our anti-terror strategy in Iran, we provide weapons and military experts to both countries," Boroujerdi told a press conference

in Damascus.

On the issue of sending Iranian troops to Syria, the Iranian official said his country would consider sending troops to Syria if the Syrian government requested that.

"Any further request would be studied and discussed in Iran," he said.

He added that all countries that support the anti-terror coalition led by Russia, which includes Iran, Syria and Iraq, can join the efforts to battle terrorism.

In an apparent jab at a US-

led coalition against the Islamic State (IS), which has been striking the terror group's positions in Syria for over a year with little tangible results, Boroujerdi said countries that want to ostensibly fight terrorism with no true will must join the American coalition.

The true will to counter terrorism exists in Syria and Iraq, and the new coalition has results on the ground, he said.

Iran has emerged as a staunch regional ally of Syria in the country's long-lasting conflict. —Xinhua

'Cute furball' is best-preserved mammal from dinosaur age

WASHINGTON — Scurrying under the feet of dinosaurs in swampy terrain in Spain around 125 million years ago was a furry chipmunk-sized critter with tiny hedgehog-like spines, horny body armor and an unpleasant fungal hair infection.

This intrepid little guy now is providing the best look ever at the mammals that thrived during the Mesozoic Era, the age of dinosaurs.

Scientists on Wednesday announced the discovery near the Spanish town of Cuenca of the stunningly well-preserved fossil of a Cretaceous Period mammal named *Spinolestes xenarthrosus*.

It includes a complete skeleton, fur preserved at the cellular level, hedgehog-like spines, plate-like structures of keratin known as dermal scutes, a rounded external ear, skin pores and even soft tissues of the liver and lung.

"Yes, indeed, it is the best-preserved mammal fossil from the Mesozoic," University of Bonn paleontologist Thomas Martin said. "The discovery of *Spinolestes* is extremely exciting for me because it provides information on structures that we believed would never be accessible."

University of Chicago paleontologist Zhe-Xi Luo said this "cute furball" provides unprece-

dent insight into early mammals.

Spinolestes, about 9-1/2 inches (24 cm) long including its tail and weighing 1.8-2.5 ounces (50-70 grams), was a ground-dweller capable of occasional digging. It ate insects and worms and lived a lifestyle similar to a hedgehog in a lush wetland shared with dinosaurs, birds, the flying reptiles called pterosaurs and crocodilians.

"It would look like small rat, except it has a more pointy nose," Luo said.

Its hair, spines and the horny scutes, similar to those of armadillos, were preserved in exquisite detail down to the microscopic scales forming the hair shafts, hair bulbs in the skin and filaments making up the spines.

"This extinct mammal combines all types of hairs and hair-related structures of modern mammals: long guard hairs, velvet underfur, spines and scutes," Luo added. The fossil is 65 million years older than the next-oldest record of microscopic structures of hair in mammal fossils.

Abnormally truncated hairs indicated *Spinolestes* had a fungal infection, dermatophytosis, common in mammals today.

Spinolestes, meaning "spiny robber," resembled an African rodent called a spiny mouse although it was not closely related to any living mammalian group.

It was a member of a primitive mammalian group called eutriconodonts that arose 170 million years ago and went extinct 66 million years ago along with the dinosaurs after an asteroid impact. The research was published in the journal *Nature*.—*Reuters*



The fossil of a 125-million-year-old Cretaceous Period mammal *Spinolestes xenarthrosus* is pictured near Cuenca, Spain on 14 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Teeth from Chinese cave recast history of early human migration

WASHINGTON — A trove of 47 fossil human teeth from a cave in southern China is rewriting the history of the early migration of our species out of Africa, indicating *Homo sapiens* trekked into Asia far earlier than previously known and much earlier than into Europe.

Scientists on Wednesday announced the discovery of teeth between 80,000 and 120,000 years old that they say provide the earliest evidence of fully modern humans outside Africa.

The teeth from the Fuyan Cave site in Hunan Province's Daoxian County place our species in southern China 30,000 to 70,000 years earlier than in the eastern Mediterranean or Europe.

"Until now, the majority of the scientific community thought that *Homo sapiens* was not present in Asia before 50,000 years ago," said paleoanthropologist Wu Liu of the Chinese Academy of Scienc-

es' Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology.

Our species first appeared in East Africa about 200,000 years ago, then spread to other parts of the world, but the timing and location of these migrations has been unclear.

University College London paleoanthropologist María Martín-Torres said our species made it to southern China tens of thousands of years before colonizing Europe perhaps because of the entrenched presence of our hardy cousins, the Neanderthals, in Europe and the harsh, cold European climate.

"This finding suggests that *Homo sapiens* is present in Asia much earlier than the classic, recent 'Out of Africa' hypothesis was suggesting: 50,000 years ago," Martín-Torres said.

Liu said the teeth are about twice as old as the earliest evidence

for modern humans in Europe.

"We hope our Daoxian human fossil discovery will make people understand that East Asia is one of the key areas for the study of the origin and evolution of modern humans," Liu said.

Martín-Torres said some migrations out of Africa have been labeled "failed dispersals." Fossils from Israeli caves indicate modern humans about 90,000 years ago reached "the gates of Europe," Martín-Torres said, but "never managed to enter."

It may have been hard to take over land Neanderthals had occupied for hundreds of thousands of years, Martín-Torres said.

"In addition, it is logical to think that dispersals toward the east were likely environmentally easier than moving toward the north, given the cold winters of Europe," Martín-Torres said.—*Reuters*

Iowa teacher takes his 'McDonald's diet' to schools, irking critics



A half-eaten burger meal is seen at a historic McDonald's restaurant in Downey, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Former Iowa science teacher John Cisna, who says he lost 60 pounds on a six-month regimen of McDonald's food and daily walks, has sparked outrage among public health advocates for taking his story to US schools on the fast-food chain's dime.

The criticism comes as Steve Easterbrook, McDonald's Corp's chief executive, fights to remake the 60-year-old chain into what he calls a "modern, progressive burger company".

Part of that challenge is winning over youngsters who have seen documentaries such as "Super Size Me" and "Fast Food Nation," and as a result view McDonald's food as a contributor to obesity, diabetes and other serious diseases.

Cisna has tried to counter that impression, first with a book last year called "My McDonald's Diet: How I lost 37 pounds in 90 days and became a viral media sensation," detailing an experiment he said was created with his students. The goal was to stay within strict calorie limits while eating items from the hamburger chain's menu.

McDonald's hired Cisna as a "brand ambassador" earlier this year and provides him a stipend for time and travel related to his speaking engagements, spokeswoman Lisa McComb said. She would not disclose the size of the payments, but said Cisna came up with his experiment without help from McDonald's.

Thus far, Cisna has spoken mostly at the invitation of about 90 schools, predominantly colleges and high schools, said McComb.

Among other things, his program includes a 20-minute documentary "540 Meals: Choices Make the Difference" and a teachers discussion guide, both of which were edit-

ed by McDonald's, McComb said.

"John's story is not a weight loss plan, and we do not recommend that anyone eat every meal at one restaurant every day for an extended period," said McComb. "While the decision on how schools choose to educate and inform their students is up to them, we support John's desire as a teacher to provide students with facts to make informed choices."

Cisna was not available for comment. Critics say the program is a new attempt by McDonald's to hook youngsters on unhealthy food. For example, Cisna says in the video that

"John's story is not a weight loss plan, and we do not recommend that anyone eat every meal at one restaurant every day for an extended period."

Lisa McComb

McDonald's spokeswoman

careful planning allowed him to eat french fries nearly every day.

"This is really beyond the pale in terms of its aggressive marketing to kids," said Bettina Elias Siegel, a former lawyer, who was first to write about Cisna's school programme on her blog, *TheLunchTray.com*.

Mark Noltner, an Illinois elementary school teacher, called the programme "a blatant decision by McDonald's to get their name into schools with what is basically an infomercial for the company."—*Reuters*

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Dated 16 October 2015

lmm@kcyangon.com

What will winter bring for Europe's refugee crisis?

PRESEVO/OXFORD — Rough seas and colder weather usually signal a sharp drop in the numbers of migrants and refugees attempting to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe. But after a summer of unprecedented refugee arrivals, this winter is likely to be different.

Autumn has already made sea crossings more dangerous, but there is no sign of a downward trend in arrivals. In fact, the number of people making the short sea journey between Turkey and Greece has actually increased to 7,000 a day from around 4,500 a day at the end of September, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

Arrivals to Italy via the much longer sea route from Libya are expected to drop over the winter, said IOM spokeswoman Florence Kim, but "no drop is expected" in arrivals to Greece, the route now used by the vast majority of Syrian refugees.

"Winter is going to hit camps in Lebanon or Turkey where the living conditions are already hard. This is going to push people to leave," Kim told IRIN. Recent Russian airstrikes in Syria are also likely to trigger a renewed exodus of refugees, she said. Last week, European Council President Donald Tusk cited estimates from

Turkish officials that Russia's involvement in the conflict could displace an additional three million Syrians from Aleppo and surrounding areas. IOM described his comments as "speculative", but Brussels is nevertheless negotiating an action plan with Turkey aimed at boosting aid to Syrian refugees there, and discouraging them from moving on to Europe.

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, declined to comment on the likely impact of Russian airstrikes on the refugee crisis but said it was planning for up to 700,000 asylum seekers reaching Europe in 2015. Nearly 600,000 people have already arrived by sea this year, 83 percent from refugee-producing countries, according to UNHCR figures.

"While it is difficult to estimate at this point, it is possible that there could be even greater numbers of arrivals in 2016," said William Spindler, a spokesman with UNHCR in Geneva.

Refugees and migrants still travelling the route from Greece through Macedonia, Serbia, and Croatia over the coming months will face significantly tougher conditions as they make at least part of their journeys on foot, some pushing the disabled and infirm in wheelbarrows, others carrying small children. Temperatures in the

western Balkans are already dropping to just above freezing at night. During the dark winter days of December and January, temperatures will sink further, averaging between minus three and minus five degrees Celsius, while Arctic winds and snow can send temperatures plummeting to minus 20.

Melita Sunjic, UNHCR's deputy representative in Serbia, said projections always include worst-case scenarios and that the agency is planning for increasing numbers of beneficiaries transiting through the region during the winter. "For months we have been pre-positioning blankets and plastic sheeting (for makeshift shelters) in Serbia as well as raincoats, ready to be distributed when and where needed," she told IRIN. "Now it is warmer clothes for adults and children of all ages that are most needed." Three local NGOs in Macedonia — LEGIS, Nun, and Help the Refugees — are also stockpiling blankets and distributing waterproofs, clothes and shoes.

"Preventing further loss of life is an absolute priority," said Linda Low, a spokeswoman for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which is preparing for winter with contingency stocks of warm blankets.

Many of the hastily established reception camps and transit centres along the Balkan route still consist of little more than tents, while large numbers of migrants in Serbia, Croatia, and Hungary are still sleeping in the open with no protection from the elements.

The Serbian government has just 800 places in permanent structures more suitable for winter conditions. It is preparing more, but refugees have tended to avoid such centres as they are not on the main routes and they want to reach destinations in northern Europe as quickly as possible.

In Austria and Germany, many people are still staying in tents. The capacity of the more durable accommodation options in these countries has been overwhelmed by the vast number of summer arrivals.

"People staying in tents (in Austria and Germany) are gradually being moved into buildings and shelters that can be heated, but this may take some time," said Spindler of UNHCR.

An IOM official at Miratovac on the Serbia-Macedonia border, who did not want to be named, predicted that many migrants and refugees will remain in Greece and Turkey for the winter before moving north come the spring.—IRIN

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	2015-2016	Machine (1) Lot (39) Items
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2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 16.10.2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

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MINISTRY OF ENERGY

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(15/2015)

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(3)	DMP/L-008(15-16)	Hydraulic Pressure Pipes & Water Pressure Pipes (1) Lot	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-009(15-16)	Koomey Fluid (C-50F) (800) Liters	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 11-11-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 14th October, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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On The Signing of The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

The Kanbawza (KBZ) Group of Companies would like to share its extraordinary pride for the people of Myanmar for the successful signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) between the Union Peace-making Working Committee (UPWC) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) on 15th October, 2015.



Harrowing kidnap tale tackled in award-winning 'Room'

Meryl Streep to head 2016 Berlin film festival jury



Actor Brie Larson, Jacob Trembley and Joan Allen arrive for the premiere of the movie 'Room' during the 40th Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Canada, on 15 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — "Room", a drama about a mother and son held captive for years, hits US cinemas this week after scooping the top prize at the Toronto International Film Festival.

The movie, adapted from a Man Booker Prize-nominated novel by Emma Donoghue, took the People's Choice Award at this year's festival, whose past winners, including "The King's Speech" and "12 Years a Slave" have gone on to

enjoy Oscar success.

It tells the story of Jack (Jacob Trembley) who has only ever known the small space he and his mother (Brie Larson) have been held in. As the story progresses with their escape, the effect of the room over their lives becomes more apparent.

"It has a universality to it ... this family is really trying to find its way back together and there's just the wonder of the little boy being in the world for the first

time," co-star Joan Allen said at the Los Angeles premiere on Tuesday.

"It's a very hopeful film because characters are trying to come to terms with something that is extremely difficult and painful and they're really prevailing."

The book and movie have echoes of the real-life case of Elisabeth Fritzl, who was held captive in a concealed part of her father's home in Austria for years.

"I had to stay out of the sun to get rather pale," Larson said of preparing for the role.

"I went on a restrictive diet ... and worked with a trauma specialist to talk about how the brain would organize itself around the sexual abuse and being trapped in a room that long but it didn't stick to me."

"Room" goes on release in New York and Los Angeles on 16 October. It comes to European cinemas in early 2016.—Reuters

BERLIN — Meryl Streep, who during nearly 40 years in the movies has never served on a film festival jury, will be jury president for the 66th Berlin International Film Festival opening in February, the festival said on Wednesday.

"It is a thrill to return to the festival under any circumstances, but it is with great relish and anticipation I look forward to jury duty," Streep said in a statement issued by the festival, also known as the Berlinale, where she has been a guest on several occasions and won an award in 2003.

"The responsibility is somewhat daunting, as I have never been president of anything before, and I hope I can come up to the precedent set by the distinguished juries of preceding years. Grateful for the honour," she said.

Streep shared the Silver Bear award jointly in 2003 with Julianne Moore and Nicole Kidman for their performances in "The Hours". In 2012, the Berlinale gave her a lifetime achievement award and screened a selection of her films.

"Meryl Streep is one of the most creative and multifaceted film artists. To mark our enthusiasm for her extraordinary talent, we awarded her the Honourary Golden Bear in 2012 for her lifetime achievement," Berlinale Director Dieter Kosslick said.

"I am very happy that she is returning to Berlin and with her artistic experience will take on the chairmanship of the International Jury."

The Berlinale, one of Europe's main showcases for film, opens on 11 February.—Reuters



Actress Meryl Streep. PHOTO: REUTERS

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM
Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 16th October, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Chin State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Slight decrease of rain in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th October, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th October, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Rice off the menu: Asia's hunger for bread and pastries boosts wheat demand



An employee serves sandwiches during lunchtime at a bakery in central Seoul, South Korea, on 13 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — Asia is losing some of its appetite for rice in favour of wheat, a trend that is nowhere more pronounced than South Korea where bread and pastries have become a new staple.

From working mothers, who find toast more convenient to prepare for breakfast, to city dwellers flocking to new eateries for baguettes, South Koreans are at the forefront of an Asia-wide trend that has seen wheat demand climb at nearly twice the rate of rice consumption since 2008.

And while Asia is largely self sufficient in rice, demand for bread and noodles from Mumbai to Manila has made Asia the largest and fastest growing market for wheat imports, shipping in more than 40 million tonnes annually for the past five years or 25 percent of world imports.

"I eat bread with coffee almost every morning," said Lee Seung-Hee, a 47-year-old working mother of two, who often gives her children bread as a snack between meals.

"My husband likes to have rice meals, so I try to cook rice for him. But when I'm too busy, I just give him bread."

South Koreans spent an estimated 6.36 trillion won (\$5.37 billion) last year on bread, sandwiches, bagels and pastries, according to SPC Group, owner of the Paris Croissant and Paris Baguette chains, which has even opened two stores in the French capital Paris as part of global expansion.

Meanwhile, South Korea's rice consumption hit a record low of 65.1 kg per person last year, while flour consumption was the highest since 2006 at 33.6 kg, according to industry and official data.

"Housewives are increasingly having bread and coffee for brunch late morning instead of rice and kimchi," said Kang Byung-Oh, a business professor at Chung-Ang University, referring to the spicy local side dish.

SPC Group, which runs Asia's biggest bread making plant and has about 5,000 bakeries in South Korea, said the local bread market has grown at an average of 15 percent per year since 2005.

"You can find this trend across Asia, as Asian countries become westernized...Food products from wheat flour are quick, convenient," said Koh Hee-Jong,

an agriculture and life science professor at Seoul National University. Rising wheat consumption has been focused on large cities where an emerging middle class is exposed to a proliferation of convenience foods from pizzas to sandwiches. In Indonesia, noodle consumption has helped increase wheat demand in the world's second-biggest importer by more than 60 percent since 2005 to nearly 8 million tonnes annually.

Even in India, the world's second-largest wheat grower, consumption is projected to surpass output by more than 5 million tonnes this year, sparking the largest imports in eight years.

Indian wheat demand is especially strong in the Northern Plains where it is grown, but is rising in the south where naan bread and chapattis vie with traditional rice consumption. Bangladesh is expected to import around 3 million tonnes of wheat a year to help meet 4 million tonnes of local demand.

"We used to take rice three times a day. Now we are taking rice only once a day," said Humayra Ahmed, a bank employee and mother of two children in Dhaka.—Reuters

New quest for quiet on New York taxis, buses and trains

NEW YORK — A pair of initiatives designed to bring more peace and quiet to taxis, buses and trains moving in and about New York City have been set in motion, promising to boost the supply of a scarce commodity in the metropolitan area — silence.

New Jersey Transit, which operates commuter bus and train service to and from New York City, kicked off a campaign on Wednesday to stop loud phone conversations on its system by distributing postcards featuring a caricature of a woman gabbling loudly on her cellphone.

"Keep it down, because it is just not that interesting," the caption reads.

The agency also posted the message on Facebook, Twitter and other social media urging riders to stay out of the "Rude Zone," reminding them that "we're all in this together."

Meanwhile, New York City's Taxi and Limousine Commission is considering a pilot programme that could eliminate Taxi TV, a service that brings movie reviews, Broadway show ads and the like to yellow-cab riders.

Complaints about the screens, which double as cred-

it card payment systems in the city's fleet of 13,500 yellow taxis, were among the factors that prompted the proposed change, said Allan Fromberg, the TLC's deputy commissioner for public affairs. "There have been some complaints that the mute button or the off button were not functioning," Fromberg said.

NJ Transit has begun running designated quiet cars on most trains lines all day long, after offering the popular feature only during rush hour in the past.

"Customers value their quiet time," NJ Transit spokesman Jim Smith said, noting the new courtesy campaign was sparked by noise complaints and other grievances.

"It's the chance to decompress after work, or get ready for the day by having a peaceful moment before the hectic day starts," Smith said.

Many NJ Transit customers took to social media to cheer the campaign, though not everyone was happy that it came on the heels of a fare hike that went into effect this month.

"@NJTRANSIT spent time and \$ on these #rudezone cards. I'm (internally) screaming in the quiet car," tweeted @annemarieconte.—Reuters

New Zealand funding to help draw tourists to Niue

WELLINGTON — The New Zealand government is stepping up its funding to help develop tourism in the tiny Pacific island nation of Niue, Foreign Minister Murray McCully said Thursday.

The investment of 7.5 million NZ dollars (5.12 million US dollars) in the expansion of the island's Matavai Resort would build on New Zealand's total funding of 18 million NZ dollars (12.29 million US dollars) in Niue's tourism sector since 2009, said McCully.

"Tourism is the largest con-

tributor to economic growth in Niue and the key to putting Niue on a path towards self-sufficiency," McCully said in a statement.

The funding would see the development of a further 20 rooms at the Matavai and conference facilities.

"Since New Zealand began supporting tourism in Niue six years ago, tourism numbers have more than doubled and visitor expenditure is up by approximately 90 percent," said McCully.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(16-10-2015 07:00 am ~ 17-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Interesting Features of Rakhine
07:46 Am Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-3)
08:45 Am Traditional Customs of Holy Waso
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Caves of Myanmar
09:51 Am Sagaing: Guitars
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Size Does Matter (Ep-3) Human-Elephant Conflict, "Existing Laws"
10:43 Am A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Katthapha

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
07:52 Pm Sagaing: Gold Leaf
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm The Great Po Seins
08:51 Pm A Person with Faith
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday 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

(16-10-2015, Friday)

6:25 am

• Myanmar Series

7:00 am

• Analysis of Myanmar Movies

7:15 am

• TV Drama Series

8:00 am

• TV Drama Series

8:50 am

• Myanmar Video

9:50 am

• China in Myanmar Cultural Show

10:00 am

• Myanmar Video

12:00 noon

• Close down

Weightlifters to take part in boot camp

Ko Moe

A TOTAL of 24 Myanmar weightlifters have been selected to take part in training at Gold Camp in Nay Pyi Taw as part of preparations for the 29th SEA Games' weightlifting championships.

"It is scheduled to start training for the athletes around 15 November this year," said an official from Myanmar Weightlifting Federation yesterday.

The Ministry of Sports will provide various forms of assistance to athletes.

Myanmar marks International White Cane Day



Participants take part in a competition to mark International White Cane Day. PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)

THE 24th Mayor's Cup Walking Competition for the blind was held in Yangon to mark International White Cane Day yesterday.

The purpose of the competition is to build self-confidence among people with impaired sight, according to Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint.

About 1,000 participants from 19 organisations for the blind participated in the competition.

A female member of Relax, one of the organisations, said she has participated in the competition 14 times because it gives strength to people with impaired vision.

The competition has attracted increasing turn-outs and donations each year it has been held, said another participant from Khawechan School for the Blind.—*Min Khit*

Prince Ali formally submits candidature for FIFA presidency



Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan. PHOTO: REUTERS

ZURICH — Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan formally submitted his candidature to be FIFA president on Thursday, pledging to restore the reputation of world football's scandal-ridden governing body.

The election to replace departing leader Sepp Blatter is currently scheduled for 26 February but FIFA is discussing delaying it with its executive committee holding a crisis meeting on Sunday at its headquarters in Zurich.

Blatter and UEFA boss Michel Platini, who also hopes to take the top job, were suspended by FIFA's Ethics Committee last week. FIFA is engulfed by corruption claims and facing criminal investigations in Switzerland and the United States.

"This time of crisis at FIFA is an opportunity for positive change," Prince Ali said in a statement. "Many good ideas have emerged in the current discussion over FIFA's future.

"A better future will only come if ideas turn into action — and that will only happen if FIFA has the right leadership.

"I am confident that FIFA can emerge from this difficult period with its reputation restored and become an organisation that is once again viewed with respect."

A 2011 payment of two million Swiss francs (£1.4 million) from FIFA to Frenchman Platini is part of a Swiss criminal investigation into Blatter, according to Swiss judicial authorities.

UEFA boss Platini has said the payment was for his work under contract for FIFA as an advisor to Swiss-born Blatter between 1999 and 2002, and the nine-year payment delay was due to FIFA's financial situation. Both men have denied any wrongdoing. A delay in the election of a new president would give Platini more time to appeal against his 90-day provisional ban and stay in the race for the presidency.—*Reuters*

Murray makes quarterfinals at ATP Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI — Scot Andy Murray stuttered in the opening set but still made the quarterfinals of the ATP Shanghai Masters with a 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-4 win over American John Isner in the third round on Thursday.

The world number two was made to work in the first set with both players unable to break or even have a breaking chance. Isner was better in the tiebreak

and drew the first blood after winning 7-4.

Murray, a two times winner at Shanghai, looked more comfortable in the next two sets and began to hit stride with his all-court groundstrokes.

The giant Isner, who fired 22 aces to just nine from Murray, could win points on back of his serve but could not add more on footwork. To the thun-

derous crowds in the Centre Court, Murray convincingly had one break each in the next two sets to take the victory at 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-4 and improved his head-to-head record against Isner to a perfect 5-0. Murray's reward will be a quarterfinal clash against either fifth seed Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic or 10th seed Gilles Simon of France.—*Xinhua*

Le Saux lambastes Mourinho over Carneiro treatment

LONDON — Jose Mourinho's spat with former Chelsea doctor Eva Carneiro has tarnished the game's reputation and set Football Association efforts to change the sport's culture back 30 years, FA Inclusion Advisory Board (IAB) member Graeme Le Saux has said.

The Chelsea manager accused Carneiro and physiotherapist Jon Fearn of being "impulsive and naive" when they raced on to the pitch to treat Eden Hazard near the end of the 2-2 draw with Swansea City on the opening day of the season in August.

Already a man down after goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois had been dismissed in the first half, Chelsea faced a short period with just nine players as, according to the rules, Hazard left the pitch to receive treatment. The 42-year-old Carneiro soon had her responsibilities curtailed before deciding to leave the club.

Le Saux condemned Mourinho's behaviour and said the Portuguese's handling of the situation had hurt the FA's attempts to push for equality

in football and could even deter clubs from employing women in key roles.

"What concerns me most, given the work I'm doing for the FA, is the impact Mourinho's behaviour may have throughout the whole game. We're trying to deal with some very sensitive issues and to change the culture of the game," Le Saux told Thursday's edition of the Times.

"Some good people at the

FA have taken a kicking after concluding there was insufficient evidence to charge Mourinho, whilst the whole furore may also deter women from becoming involved in football, as well as discouraging clubs from employing them.

"A lot of people are working very hard to get the game in a better place, but after the last few weeks it feels as if we've gone back 30 years.—*Reuters*



Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho and team doctor Eva Carneiro attend a training session at Cobham in Surrey, south England. PHOTO: REUTERS