



President delivers speech at World Food Day ceremony

PAGE 3

ANALYSIS
Steering the country in the right direction — as one

PAGE 8

HOPE FOR THE BEST

President pledges to assist in reconstruction of landslide-hit Mawchi



Aid from the government and donors has reached landslide-hit Mawchi. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein pledged to the people of landslide-hit Mawchi, Kayah State, that he would strive to restore the town to normalcy.

During his visit to relief camps at religious buildings and schools in Mawchi yesterday, the president also promised to assist migrant workers to return home and to assist in the re-

alisation of the economy and to supply food to the area.

The union government will also assist the Kayah State government in rebuilding the town, he added.

The president distributed aid to the victims during his visit.

President U Thein Sein also stressed the need to carry

out mining in the state without damaging the environment.

Local authorities are providing assistance using vehicles from the Myanmar Defence Services to transport migrant miners from lead mines in Mawchi back to their homes.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also prom-

ised that the military would provide assistance to rebuild the town, calling on local people to fully cooperate with the local government and the military.

The official death toll following the landslide has reached 17, while another six people are feared dead.

Around 60 houses were destroyed, and more than 360

people have been displaced by the landslide, which occurred in a mountainous area between Mawchi Taung Paw village and Lokharlo village on 10 and 11 October.

Local authorities have also relocated more than 2,000 people living in areas that are at risk of landslides to relief camps. —*Myanmar News Agency*

UEC asks overseas voters to tolerate inconvenience

Advance voting abroad begins this week at Myanmar embassies

FOLLOWING the beginning of advance voting for overseas Myanmar nationals this week, the Union Election Commission requested on Friday that voters have be patient with inconveniences in casting their ballots at embassies.

The UEC understands that it

is a huge task for Myanmar embassies to arrange convenient advance voting abroad due to weak experience in holding elections and limited staff at the embassies, and the voters abroad are requested to understand inconveniences there, said the statement issued by the UEC Friday.

Myanmar nationals in Singapore and the Republic of Korea cast their ballots at Myanmar embassies on Thursday and Friday for the election that will be held on 8 November in Myanmar.

As part of its voter education programme, the government has

developed the mVoter 2015 mobile app, which is available to the public at www.maepaysoh.org.

Myanma Radio and Television has also publicised mobile election apps and ways to use them. State-run have dailies also regularly covered election apps.—*GNLM*

INSIDE

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham urges ethnic leaders to implement NCA

PAGE 2

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham urges ethnic leaders to implement NCA

VICE President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, who also chairs the Union Peace Making Working Committee, made a speech at the coordination meeting on implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement held at the Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Also present were Vice Chairmen of the committee U Aung Min and U Thein Zaw and members, defence services representatives Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Maj-Gen Min Naung, representatives from the Hluttaw, leaders and members of eight ethnic armed groups and officials from Myanmar Peace Centre.

In his speech, the vice president said that it was the first step of the long journey for implementation of the NCA and reiterated that the government would realize the terms of the agreement according to their timetables while efforts were being made to invite ethnic groups who have not signed the NCA to participate in the peace process.

Then the vice president expressed his hope that the meeting would result in formation of JICM with leaders from both sides.

The JICM would later form JMC and UPDJC, which would cooperate for the implementation of the peace process, the vice president added.

The vice president also said

he believes both sides would be patient enough to overcome unpredictable challenges in the implementation of the NCA.

In conclusion, the vice president urged attendees to imple-

ment the NCA in order to establish a democratic federal state.

On behalf of the ethnic armed groups, P'doh Saw Kwe Htoo Win extended greetings, saying that all would work to form JMC

and UNDJC at the meeting.

Participants discussed duties and responsibilities and future tasks of JICM and formation of JMC and UPDJC.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham makes speech at Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets French Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Olivier Richard at his

office yesterday. Present at the call together with Thura U Shwe Mann were officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—*MNA*

Myanmar attends ASEAN Youth Leaders Training Program in China



PHOTO: ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION

THE 11th ASEAN Youth Leaders Training Program is being held in Gungxi in China from 14 October to 14 November.

Dr Htet Ko Ko, member of Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association, is now attending the one-month training.—*Entrepreneurs Association*

US, UN, EU, France welcome NCA

THE United States commends all sides for their ongoing efforts to bring an end to the longest-running civil conflict in the world, according to US State Department.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed on 15 October the signing of a ceasefire agreement in Myanmar as “a milestone” and expressed his hope that the new government formed after next month’s elec-

tions will keep moving forward along the present path of negotiations.

The EU in its statement welcomed Thursday the signing of a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement between the Myanmar government and Ethnic Armed Organisation.

According to the information from the French embassy in Yangon on 16 October, France welcomes the signing on October 15 of

a ceasefire agreement between the Myanmar authorities and several armed groups. This is an important step in the peace process initiated almost three years ago in Myanmar, it says.

It also says “We call on the parties to continue on the path of dialogue, which is the only way to restore trust, ensure the protection of minorities and bring peace to the entire country.”—*GNLM*

Special police recruited for general election

OVER 40,000 members of special police have been appointed since 15 October to discharge security duty during the general election, according to news sources.

They were selected from all ethnic groups of different educational backgrounds and will be sent to training courses from 20 to 31 October in all regions and states.

The uniform of the special police is made up of gray shirts, dark blue trousers, dark blue caps and blue canvass shoes. They will be paid K 120,000 for salary and K 30,000 for allowance.—*MNA*

Third Israeli Film Festival

WITHIN the framework of the Cultural cooperation between the state of Israel and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Israeli Embassy in Yangon is launching the “Third Israeli Film Festival” between October 25th - 27th, 2015 at JCGV Square Cinema (Junction Square) in Yangon.

The themes chosen include



the concept of reincarnation, friendship, social & family life, love, pain and sorrow, will be screened during three days, give not only a glimpse of the Israeli film industry but also expose the Myanmar audi-

ence to the routine life in Israel and the diversity in the Israeli society.

Free admission for the public will be on 26th & 27th October and tickets will be first come first served basis.—*GNLM*

President U Thein Sein delivers speech at World Food Day ceremony

CONCERTED effort must be made to emancipate peasant farmers from the cycle of poverty by improving their socioeconomic lives, President U Thein Sein said in his speech at the World Food Day ceremony at the Yezin University of Agriculture on Friday.

Also present were Vice President U Nyan Tun, union ministers, deputy ministers, advisors to the president, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, diplomats, officials of UN agencies, international organisations representatives and other guests.

The ceremony began with a video presentation on the president's endeavours in agricultural development.

In his speech, the president said the millennium development goals of the United Nations aim to halve the number of people who suffer from hunger by 2015, and he was proud that Myanmar was recognised at the

39th conference of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in June 2015 as one of the 72 countries that could work towards that goal.

The president added that it is necessary to implement social protection programmes to emancipate rural farmers, who make up 78 percent of about one billion people living under extreme poverty across the world.

Hindrances in lifting small-scale farmers out of poverty include global warming and agricultural labour shortages, and governments are required to take measures to create sustainable markets for agricultural products and social assistance and protection programmes for farmers, the president said.

The government is issuing farming rights and land ownership documents to farmers while increasing loans and providing research, modern techniques and high-yield seeds to farmers, the

president said.

The president said the government also provided seeds and other agricultural items to areas hit by natural disasters in a timely manner before expressing his thanks to donor countries to flood victims.

In conclusion, the president urged all parties to make concerted efforts to emancipate peasant farmers from the cycle of poverty.

Afterward, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing made a speech at the ceremony before the resident representative of the FAO read out the message of the director-general of the UN agency.

Then, the president presented certificates of honour to countries and organisations that have contributed to agricultural development in Myanmar and posed for documentary photos with diplomats and representatives.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Thein Sein presents certificate of honour to representative from KOICA. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets French, South Korean ambassadors

DEMOCRACY allows people to enjoy freedom, but freedom must be guided by laws, rules and regulations, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in a meeting with French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Oliver Richard in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The commander-in-chief said only peace could guarantee development, and pledged to participate in creating a peaceful world while striving to ensure the country's peace and stability.

He stressed the need for political stability and security in Myanmar, pointing out that these are prerequisites to establishing a democracy. The senior general welcomed cooperation in achieving peace and prosperity and in completing Myanmar's democratisation process, saying it has opened a new page for the country. He also held discussions on bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries' armed forces.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also met with Mr. Le Beak-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Oliver Richard (left photo) and Mr. Le Beak-Soon, ambassador of Republic of Korea to Myanmar, and party (right photo). PHOTO: MYAWADY

Soon, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar, on the same day.

The senior general called for further cooperation in improving education in rural areas while carrying out rural-based development

projects. The ambassador said the Republic of Korea is cooperating with Myanmar to develop the latter's rural areas.

The commander-in-chief replied that it would be better Myanmar received investments to

create job opportunities for rural people.

He highlighted the importance of technology transfers for the development of value-added products in Myanmar, which would improve the country's ex-

port prospects. The senior general answered questions on matters related to military cooperation between the two countries, the constitution, the election and the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement.—*Myawady*



Union Minister U Myint Hlaing, Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi and party seen together with students and faculty members of Yezin Agricultural University. PHOTO: MNA

Yezin Agricultural University gets new laboratory facilities

THE Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi handed over the documents related to the new laboratory buildings to the rector of Yezin Agricultural University in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Funded by the Japanese government, the two-storey RC laboratory buildings with full facilities were built within the

compound of Yezin Agricultural University at a cost of US\$10.6 million.

The handover ceremony was attended by the officials from Japan International Cooperation Agency, Union ministers U Myint Hlaing and U Win Tun, the deputy ministers and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Perception, misperception in the Myanmar peace process

(This article by Union Minister U Aung Min was originally published in NIKKEI ASIA REVIEW, Japan, on 14 October 2015 and is reproduced here with the permission of the author. Ed)

Aung Min

THERE has been much speculation in the media, online and behind closed doors, about the peace process in Myanmar. Over the past four years while we worked to bring an end to over 60 years of conflict and civil war in my country, many opinions have been formed, many conclusions drawn, and many predictions made.

Making peace is controversial and I was prepared for it, but I did not know that achieving peace would be viewed with such levels of suspicion and negativity. We were widely expected to fail from the very beginning, and even in the face of the achievements we have made so far, including significant de-escalation of conflict in most areas of Myanmar, every small setback has been magnified — often portrayed as a massive collapse, just as we have seen in the media recent weeks.

As someone involved in the process since its fragile first steps, I have often been baffled by the quick judgments and the dark prophesies of commentators, which have done a disservice not only to hopes of achieving peace in my country but also to the courage of those who dared to imagine a more peaceful Myanmar.

As we prepare to sign the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement between the government and ethnic armed groups, it is time for me to share my thoughts on what the agreement really is, what it means in the grand architecture of achieving peace and democracy in Myanmar, and the impact it will have on our future generations.

First step to three goals

The NCA is the first small step towards bringing our fractured society of many different ethnicities and religions into a dialogue to shape the future of our country on equal terms. It is designed to achieve three goals.

First, the NCA will establish concrete mechanisms to transform the existing preliminary cease-fires into comprehensive arrangements so that there is not just a reduction of hostilities, but a cessation of hostilities between armed groups. The provisions protecting the civilians, the initiation of a code of conduct for all armed elements and the establishment of a Joint Monitoring Committee are just some of the tools anchored in the NCA



Myanmar President U Thein Sein and Naing Han Tha, a leader of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Team, shake hands after signing of an earlier draft ceasefire agreement at the Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon on March 31. PHOTO: REUTERS

to achieve this goal.

Second, it will open the door for a substantive and inclusive political dialogue where longstanding grievances will be addressed, not only by those armed on both sides, but by a multitude of other stakeholders. The signing of the NCA will start a process that consolidates the voices of the people — regardless of their ethnicity or religion — and reshapes our society based on a shared vision of what we would like our country to be.

Last, the signing of the NCA and the beginning of the political dialogue will serve as a benchmark for future governments and leaders on all sides to build on the peace process. I have always believed that there can be no democracy without peace, and for democracy to take root in my country, we must leave the peace process on a firmer foundation regardless of who comes into power after the upcoming November elections.

The hard way

But now, I must address some rumors before they fester. Some have accused the government and me personally of trying to achieve political success for the current government by pushing for the NCA to be signed before the elections. To be blunt, I am sure there are many easier ways to garner popular support than by trying to achieve peace in Myanmar. From the very outset, I am convinced that no one involved in this process would harbor such illusions.

However, I have always felt the time pressure of ensuring that the agreements we have achieved and the problems we have worked so hard to overcome will not be reopened or stalled in a potentially fraught political environment after the elections. It was always my

hope that by nailing down some key agreements between the parties, we could even use this to enable a more stable transition and increase our chances for preventing new or renewed clashes.

Likewise, much has been made in the media of a certain view that the NCA is a failure because not all the ethnic armed organizations involved in the negotiations are ready or able to sign the agreement at this time. This type of pronouncement misses the essence of the peace process altogether. It fails to take into consideration the intricacies of the negotiations; the unique nature, interests and readiness of each group and their respective constituencies; and the external pressures exerted on all parties.

As far as I know, no country in the world has endeavored to address all internal armed conflicts at the same time under one umbrella. And the reasons are obvious. It is incredibly difficult because one size does not fit all. For me, after generations of conflict, even reaching a cease-fire deal with one group is an achievement that should be welcomed and celebrated.

That said, I am humbled and heartened by the fact that none of the ethnic armed organizations to participate in the peace talks have stated, publicly or privately, that they are unwilling to sign the NCA as it stands, or that they do not want peace. Moreover, every group — including the ones unable to sign this time — have stated publicly that it is in full agreement on the text and the provisions contained in the NCA.

In addition, just because some groups are not yet ready to sign at this time does not mean they cannot become signatories in the

future. As in international treaties, the door will remain open for those groups until they are ready. I have faith they will join us in the future. But for now, it is time for all Myanmar people to set aside their political differences, dream bigger, and embrace this historic

occasion by asking ourselves how each and every one of us can help to make our country more peaceful.

In the four years that we have persevered, there have been many successes, as well as setbacks. The bilateral cease-fire deals and on-the-ground arrangements have allowed us to significantly de-escalate conflict in many parts of the country. These successes, however, must be tempered by ongoing clashes in some of the conflict areas. Do I want more? Of course I do, and I have always asked myself whether I could have done more.

However, there is a danger in judging the past by the present and it is perilous to disregard reality to meet the expectations of what we want it to be. All sides in this conflict have far more difficulties and complexities within their own constituencies to take into account than what is apparent at a superficial glance. Peace can never be forced or imposed and we must be patient and let the process run its course.

See page 5 >>



Perception, misperception in the Myanmar peace process

>> From page 4
Gauging peace

It is the implementation of the NCA that will determine whether the peace process is successful.



U Aung Min, Union minister of the President's Office, is the Myanmar government's chief negotiator in the peace process.

The signing itself is a symbolic step towards this end. I would have wanted to see all of us crossing the bridge together, but this was challenged by the unexpected outbreak of conflict in the Kokang region where emotions need to subside and a lot of groundwork must be covered before we can find inclusive solutions.

I firmly believe that the best prospects for peaceful and sustainable solutions in the remaining areas of conflict lie within the framework of the NCA and political dialogue, but I am mindful that some groups see this differently. The fault is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we have continued

to allow the grievances of our past to shape and fuel our distrust for each other.

The Myanmar peace process is home-grown and I am well aware that it may not be easy to understand from an international viewpoint. That said, I am thankful for the constructive help and support from our international friends. And as we move forward in this process, we will continue to need international assistance. However, while I do not question the good intentions, some in the international community do not realize the realities we face in this country.

Trying to influence the Myanmar

peace process without respecting our geopolitical context or our national sovereignty can create more problems than solutions. What we really need is for the international community to respond to our requests and priorities when we ask for assistance and leave it to our national stakeholders to set the stage and take the lead. At the end of the day, Myanmar people must be the ones building the peace that they want — a peace that will endure.

Making peace is never easy. It involves becoming friends with your former enemies and sometimes having tough conversations with your own comrades.

To fellow peace-makers from all sides who have worked tirelessly over the past four years, I say: we were enemies before, now we are partners in peace. We have lived through harsh times in our internal conflict and have brought with us to the peace table our own memories of loss and sacrifice. Many of us in the twilight of our careers, before we fade away as old soldiers often do, have come together to forge a new path, so that future generations do not have to go through what we went through. I hope all of us, no matter which side we represent, can continue to work together and hope for a better future.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

The National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signed by the conflict groups with the government on the October 15th is a monumental achievement for Myanmar and for the long lasting peace for the entire South and SE Asia. This day will go down as the golden lettered day in the modern history of Myanmar and SE Asia. My heartiest congratulations to the resilient people of Myanmar in reaching this historic agreement to initiate long term peace and development in the country and the adjoining region! Prior to the national election and further democratization of the socio-political structure of Myanmar; the NCA will certainly strengthen the constitution, judiciary and the administrative framework of the nation. Countless lives were lost since the independence of the nation as a result of the long lasting internal conflicts and now is the time to forget that and move ahead in the realm of rapid modernization, economic progress and development. I sincerely believe that a peaceful, prosperous and economically empowered Myanmar will serve as a pivotal link in connecting the giant economies of the Indian subcontinent (East & NE India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh), South China and SE Asia in the not so distant future. My best wishes in advance to this great nation for the oncoming national election. You have set a monumental example for the rest of the world to follow.

Long live Peace! Long live Democracy! Long live Myanmar!

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

Myanmar Red Cross to assist disaster recovery in two regions

Families with disabled persons, elderly members and children under the age of five will be at the top of the agenda.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society will implement a rehabilitation project for flood victims in Ayeyawady and Magway regions, according to its spokesperson.

Daw Aye Aye Than, operations manager for the project, said the organisation is now drawing up the details of the plan to assist families in four selected areas for recovery—Hinthada and Kyaunggon townships in Ayeyawady Region and Pwintbyu and Sedoktara townships in Magway Region.

Using K1 billion (US\$777,670) in contributions from local and overseas donors, rehabilitation efforts are expected to begin within the next two months, she added. "The estimated time frame may be six months," she said. "Priority will be given to families with members with disabilities, elderly members and children under the age five," said Daw Aye Aye Than. The MRCS humanitarian services will cover water and sanitation, healthcare, shelter and livelihood support.

Myanmar Red Cross volun-

teers will also provide services for restoring family links, disaster risk reduction and capacity-building activities in those areas.

According to Myanmar's National Natural Disaster Management Committee, heavy rains caused floods across large parts of the country, displacing more than 1.6 million people. Nearly 40,000 houses were destroyed, and about 500,000 houses were damaged by the flooding. The Myanmar Red Cross Society was established in 1937 to give voluntary humanitarian services to people in need.

Meeting held to discuss sustainable use of Ayeyawady River Basin

A WORKSHOP was held to discuss the Ayeyawady River Basin Project on 14 October in Yangon. The project is part of the Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Management Project being implemented by the Ministry of Transport with a loan from the World Bank. The purpose is to promote

sustainable development of Myanmar's waterways. In his opening remarks, U Tun Lwin Oo, Secretary of National Water Resources Committee, clarified the three main functions of the project: to develop a water resources-related department, improve meteorological and hydrological data systems

and observation, and water quality management in the river basin. Participants from the ministry, World Bank and international organisations discussed further cooperation in electricity generation, water course management and supplying drinking and farming agricultural water.—*Myanmar News Agency*

LIFT, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation help flood victims reclaim livelihoods

Jessica Mudditt

HUNDREDS of residents in Rakhine State whose livelihoods were destroyed by recent floods are reclaiming their means of income thanks to financial support from The Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, according to a press release issued yesterday.

The Tat Lan programme is funded by LIFT, with US\$214,000 allocated to support flood recovery efforts. In 68 villages in Minbya and Myebon, where 26,162 acres of paddy plantations were damaged or destroyed, 1,600 baskets of fast-growing paddy seeds were distributed to farmers.

A social protection, cash-for-work project will also involve 3,967 landless, casual workers,

who lost their paddy related employment due to the natural disaster. LIFT has restored 24 sources of fresh water for villages and rebuilt 2.5 miles of damaged embankments ahead of the planting of the emergency-relief paddy seeds.

A donation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has provided nets and crab traps to more than 400 small-scale fishermen in 42 villages, whose fishing equipment was washed away in the floods. Another 300 vulnerable households have been given gardening training, seeds and gardening tools to help replace lost income. The floods destroyed vegetable seedlings that were expected to be a source of income for primarily female-headed households. Tat Lan is encouraging local communities to grow a wider variety of vegetables to improve community

access to nutritious food, as well to boost livelihoods, stated the press release.

The majority of villagers in the development programme earn less than \$1.25 a day. When they

lose their fragile means of income these people are forced to borrow from money lenders just to buy daily necessities, said the International Rescue Committee's Country Director Ralf Thill.

"Debt cripples these communities. We are grateful for all the support we receive as it allows us to help people to reclaim their livelihoods," said Mr Thill.

IRC's Tat Lan Coordinator in Myebon, Cherry Soe, said she was moved by the villagers' appreciation.

"Farmers told me they cried when they looked out at their ruined fields. Then their eyes filled with tears of appreciation when they received a basket of paddy seed to replant their acres. I felt emotional myself when I saw their tears, and I felt proud to be on Tat Lan's IRC team," she said.



A Tat Lan, cash-for-work labourer from Yoe Sa Nwin village works to repair the village embankment following recent floods in Myanmar.

PHOTO: INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

High-net worth investors from Europe and Asia attend Myanmar investment conference



Keynote speakers address the audience during the investment conference held in Yangon this week.

PHOTO: MYANMAR INVESTMENTS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Jessica Mudditt

MYANMAR Investments International Limited hosted its inaugural investor conference in Yangon this week.

The London listed investment

company invited 60 institutional and high net worth investors from Europe and Asia to the conference, which was held at Park Royal Hotel on 12 October.

Conference attendees were updated on the economic and political

situation in Myanmar and in-depth presentations on key sectors of the economy were given.

Myanmar Investments International Limited (MIL) Managing Director U Aung Htun said, "The strong attendance from global

investors at the Investor Day demonstrates the continued interest that foreign investors have for Myanmar. The event provided an opportunity for these investors to not only learn more about the country's potential but also to have a direct dialogue with a broad range of Myanmar leaders and entrepreneurs".

Key note discussions on Myanmar's economic prospects were given by the Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar H.E. U Winston Set Aung, Mr Vikram Kumar, the Resident

Representative of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Mr Peter Brimble, Principal Country Specialist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The day also included numerous presentations and discussions from 16 leaders from a range of different Myanmar industries, including retail, media, tourism, real estate, infrastructure, telecommunications, natural resources, financial services and the law.

MIL's Managing Director U Aung Htun and Finance Director Mike Dean provided briefings on the company's portfolio and investment programmes.

"Whilst it is clear that Myanmar faces many challenges, the foreign investors at our conference were able to get direct insight into the long term opportunities the country offers. By aligning expectations on both sides we hope to set the foundations for long term sustainable growth," Mr Dean told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on 15 October.

Myanmar Investments is listed on the London Stock Exchange's AIM Market for the purpose of investing in businesses operating in Myanmar, or with exposure to it.

The company has already made investments in Apollo Towers Pte Ltd, a telecoms tower company, and Myanmar Finance Company Limited, a microfinance company.

Since its launch in June 2013, MIL has raised US\$30 million for investments in Myanmar.

Myanmar Red Cross Society bylaw to be finalised next year

The country's leading humanitarian organisation is drafting a bylaw for its financial management procedures and the reestablishment of the Red Cross Council.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society is drafting a bylaw for the new Myanmar Red Cross Society Law, which was passed on 26 August and enacted yesterday. The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) – the country's leading humanitarian organisation — is working closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross to draft the bylaw.

The bylaw will provide additional details on how MRCS leadership positions are to be filled, among other things.

"The association hopes to be able to submit the bylaw at the start of the coming parliament session next year," said MRCS president Professor Tha Hla Shwe, at an event held yesterday to commemorate the enactment of the new law.

The new bylaw will include details such as the duties and rights of the MRCS, financial management procedures and the reestablishment

of the Red Cross Council.

"Under the new bylaw, the chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary will be elected by local communities," said Professor Tha Hla Shwe.

According to Section 18(C) of the law, the central council of MRCS must include 13 members from red cross-related ministries, whose ranks are not lower than director-general.

Professor Tha Hla Shwe said: "The government needs to provide assistance for the smooth functioning of the MRCS's humanitarian services."

"Thanks to the enactment of the new law, the government will be more actively involved in MRCS activities than was possible under the 1959 Burma (Myanmar) Red Cross Act," the professor said.

The MRCS is also drafting a law that will outline the legal status of its emblem. The emblem law is likely to be submitted to the parliament in 2017.

Mandalay University students visit India

DELEGATION of 25 students from the 1st Batch of Post Graduate Diploma in Political Science, University of Mandalay, Myanmar on 15 October visited Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi as a part of academic interaction and exchange of ideas. Given the shared cultural and political linkages that India shares with Myanmar, this visit was historic since it was for the first time a Delegation of Post Graduate in Political Science students was visiting the University since the Course for revived in 2014 after a gap of several decades. The transitional phase which Myanmar is witnessing

from military to democratic rule was the main area of discussion during the visit. "We will learn from the India's experience of democracy and federalism" said Prof. Mi Mi. Gyi the Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Mandalay University. Several initiatives have been taken to improve Government to Government and business relations between India and Myanmar. Buddhism, Bollywood and Yoga have long been a part of Indian cultural heritage offering immense possibilities for facilitating people-to-people contact. Nevertheless, this academic ex-

change of ideas at the University level has certainly given a boost to the people to people relations between the two age old neighbours.

The Delegation was formally welcomed by Dr M. Aslam Parvaiz, Principal of the College which was followed by a short documentary showcasing the legacy of this historic institution of learning. Zakir Husain Delhi College holds the distinction of being in existence well before the establishment of Delhi University. It carries within itself a history of nearly 300 years as an institution of learning. Established as the Madarsa Ghaziuddin in the closing years of the reign of Emperor Aurangzeb, it has repeatedly transformed itself in response to the challenges with which it was confronted over a long and turbulent period of India's history. For this reason its fortune seems inextricably linked to the fortunes of the country and Delhi, its premier city. The documentary was followed by an interactive session by students and faculty members representing both the sides. Members showed their willingness to maintain and strengthen the ties between the two countries.—*Sonu Trivedi*



Mandalay University students in India. PHOTO: SONU TRIVEDI

IBK to donate TB diagnostic medical equipment to MAM

INDUSTRIAL Bank of Korea (IBK) plan to donate Tuberculosis diagnostic medical equipment and material, TB examination and treatment, health personnel training worth USD 87,300

to Medical Action Myanmar (MAM).

A total of 64 employees from IBK will give volunteer services (laundry blanket, planting tree, education activities, etc.) to the

Aung Zeyarmin Monastic school from 20 to 22 October.

In November in 2014, IBK donated USD 120,000 to construct a school building at Kantekon monastic education school

in Mandalay. In June 2015, the bank donated USD 9,150 for buying computers and school equipment to Aung Zeyarmin monastic education school and USD 137,000 to a child develop-

ment centre. The bank also has been engaged in supporting children affected by AIDS at Shwe Chinthae monastery in Seikkhunsu War, Shwebo, Sagaing Region spending the fund.—*GNLM*

China, Indonesia launch joint venture for Jakarta-Bandung railway project

JAKARTA — Senior officials of Chinese and Indonesian consortiums signed an agreement here on Friday to launch a joint venture for a high-speed railway linking Jakarta with West Java provincial capital of Bandung.

The deal was signed by Chairman of PT Pilar Sinergi BUMN Indonesia Sahala Lumban Gaol and Yang Zhongmin, chairman of China Railway Co. Ltd. at a ceremony attended by Chinese Ambassador Xie Feng.

The 5.5-billion-US dollar project will be conducted on business to business basis, in which the Indonesian side controls 60 percent of the joint venture's stake, while the Chinese partner controls the remaining 40-percent share.

"This is a brand new episode in Indonesia, particularly in transportation project as it will further boost economic activities in areas along the corridor served by the high-speed train that eventually contribute to the national economic growth," Sahala said.

The high-speed train, which will stop at four stations between Jakarta and Bandung, is expected to travel at a speed of between 200 to 250 km per hour.

Speaking at the signing cere-

mony, Ambassador Xie said the high-speed railway would be China's first overseas project entirely with Chinese technology and the largest investment value.

"The high-speed railway connecting Jakarta and Bandung is resulted from the agreement of both countries' leaders upon the need to synergize strategies to attain higher growth," he said.

The project was part of the two countries' initiatives to materialize "the 21st century Maritime Silk Road" and "World's Maritime Axis" through pragmatical cooperation between Indonesia and China in various sectors.

The ambassador pointed out that it would serve as an Indonesia-China model of cooperation that is mutually beneficial to both countries.

The 150-km railway is the first transportation project in Indonesia conducted solely on business basis and without any fund from the government's budget.

Construction of the railway will largely be financed by China Development Bank with a 40-year loan and a grace period of 10 years.

Sahala expected the Indonesia-China joint venture to expand its service to similar projects in

Southeast Asia and Middle East in the future.

The Chinese partner was also willing to provide transfer of technology (TOT), which would build

facilities to produce high-speed trains in Indonesia and supply them to new markets served by the joint venture, he added.

The Indonesian consortium

was joined by four state-run firms comprised of PT Wijaya Karya, PT Jasa Marga, PT Kereta Api Indonesia and PT Perkebunan Nusantara VIII. —Xinhua



Delegates attend the Joint Venture Agreement signing ceremony in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 16 October 2015.

PHOTO: XINHUA

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Director - Maung Maung Than

mnmnthn2@gmail.com

Chief Editor - Than Myint Tun

wallace.tun@gmail.com

Deputy Chief Editor

Than Tun Aung

thantunaunglm@gmail.com

Chief Reporter - Aye Min Soe

koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

Senior Consultant Editor

Jessica Mudditt

jess.mudditt@gmail.com

Consultant Editor

Jacob Goldberg

jjgold.news@gmail.com

Editors

Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,

Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,

Myint Win Thein

journalist.sss@gmail.com

International news

Ye Htut Tin

mryehtuttin@gmail.com

Tun Tun Naing

tunyunaing@gmail.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin

juniorlwin25@gmail.com

Tun Aung Kyaw

tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

Translators

Ma Than Htay

Khaing Minn Nyo

khingminn@gmail.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Layout designers

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,

Kyin Shwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,

Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,

Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

thantunaunglm@gmail.com

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.

South Korea president hopes for better Japan ties from three-way summit

WASHINGTON — South Korean President Park Geun-hye said on Thursday she hoped her three-way summit next month with China and Japan would help clear obstacles to better relations with Tokyo and boost stability in Northeast Asia.

Speaking on a visit to Washington, Park also said she was open to a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, but stressed the importance of progress on the issue of comfort women forced to work in Japan's wartime military brothels.

"I do feel I can have such a meeting with him," Park, who is due to meet US President Barack Obama at the White House on Friday, told the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"But in order for such a

meeting to be really significant, I think it's important that the two countries be able to move towards a more future-oriented change in our relationship ... a meeting that does lead to progress on this (comfort women) issue can be characterised as a meaningful meeting."

Park and Abe have not held bilateral talks since taking office, given festering historical disputes, particularly over comfort women.

South Korea says Japan has not done enough to atone for their suffering despite a 1993 apology.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency quoted a South Korean presidential official saying earlier on Thursday that more consultations were needed to allow a

bilateral summit with Abe to take place. Park said the trilateral summit would be held in Seoul in early November, after a gap of 3-1/2-years.

"It will be an important occasion to pursue peace and stability in northeast Asia, as well as to improve Korea-Japan relations," she said.

"I hope this trilateral summit will provide an opportunity to clear away obstacles hindering bilateral ties and to hold sincere discussions on the way forward towards a common future."

The United States is keen to encourage better relations between South Korea and Japan, its two biggest allies in Asia, given concerns about North Korea and an increasingly assertive China.

Park said it was important to maintain firmness and coordination in response to North Korea's nuclear weapons programme and to make "newly consolidated efforts" among the United States, South Korea and China in dealing with North Korean issues.

Park has worked to warm ties with China and raised some eyebrows in Washington when she attended Beijing's military parade to mark the end of World War Two last month.

However, the senior US diplomat for East Asia, Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel, said on Wednesday the United States welcomed improved ties between Seoul and Beijing. —Reuters



South Korea's President Park Geun-hye leaves after a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of Defence Ash Carter at the Pentagon in Washington on 15 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

India's top court scuttles Modi's judicial reform move

NEW DELHI — India's top court on Friday struck down a law giving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government a bigger say in the appointment of top judges, calling the new system harmful to judicial independence in the world's largest democracy.

India's Supreme Court has a history of judicial activism that can prove disconcerting for governments, who say courts often exceed their powers in announcing decisions.

The Supreme Court took the previous administration to task over issues such as corruption and human rights, for instance. A new system introduced by Modi's government last year included the federal law minister on a panel that appoints senior judges. The old system had vested those powers in a group of India's top judges.

"The court said it (the panel) will obstruct judicial independence that is the backbone of the constitution," said Prashant Bhushan, one of the lawyers who challenged the new law. Modi faced accusations of interfering with the judiciary after coming to power last year, when a candidate for a Supreme Court appointment accused the government of running a campaign to block it. —Reuters

OPINION

Steering the country in the right direction — as one

Kyaw Thura

IT is self-evident that a weak political system serves as an open invitation to military involvement in politics itself. Our country has found itself confined to this damaging trend since independence was won in 1948. The role of the army in shaping politics will remain embedded in our collec-

tive memories as a cautionary tale long after it comes to an end.

It was in 2010 that we first embarked on the transition to democracy, following a series of mass demonstrations that swept the nation. The onus is now on civic and political forces to take every step necessary to maintain the momentum of reform in our nascent democracy.

Judging from social media, it is clear that the majority of the people pinned high hopes for change to occur within a specific party. Yet on the other hand, investing too much faith in potential reformers is tantamount to placing the entire burden of steering the country in the right direction on that entity.

If we remain impassive during the process of political and democratic reforms, Myanmar will not find

a way out of the political morass. If we all want the future president to bring about change for the better, the change must begin with individual members of society. We need change to our mindset before it is too late; before things get beyond our control.

Write for us

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

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

The records of true historic events cannot be deleted, hidden and edited

Tommy Pauk

EVERY society in the world has its own history which tells us about the socio-economic evolution and development. History is compared as the current of stream or river. It never stands still or static or stationary. The current may be swift or rough or smooth along its route depending on the landscape. The depth and width are also in different sizes. So is the history. In the course of history, happy, sad, shocking, detestable and incredible incidents or events occurred in the particular society. The past events of revolutions, wars and political systems; the conducts of national heroes and prominent leaders; the cruelty of brutal rulers and monarchs; the terrible natural disasters and man-made disasters are recorded objectively in history of a certain society. This is called local history. Then the ordinary people and historians compiled the collection in order that the next generation would learn the lessons from it.

We do have our own history, handed down from our ancestors to present younger generations. The octogenarians, those who are still alive in Myanmar, had experienced the past eras of British colony, Parliament Democracy State, Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, State Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace and Development Council. The octogenarians remember the sequences of political events occurred in Myanmar history. They tell the younger generations about the true events occurred in the eras of the successive governments in Myanmar. In case, some true historic events or the records of the ability and efficiency of honorable ideal persons or prominent leaders are omitted or hidden or deleted by unknown unscrupulous people in Myanmar, the younger generations must check the historic events with either the octogenarians or septuagenarians in Myanmar, those who witnessed the sequential events happened in the past or recent eras. This is the way or method for the younger generations to find the true facts about Myanmar history precisely and correctly.

In the course of our history, the local events have been recorded by people and historians.

World history also describes the worldwide events occurred in the world in the past such as first World War, second World War, Founding of the United Nations, founding of NATO, SEATO, Industrial revolutions, significant peace treaties, world famous leaders, significant incidents, monarchs and other striking inventions and innovations etc. We study our history and world history to acquire knowledge and learn lessons. Besides, we can learn the social life, living standards, political systems, mindsets, concepts and people's life struggle from the history of individual society. When we study world history, we acquire knowledge about socio-economic development, international relations, diplomatic relations among the societies, political systems of different societies, foreign policies of different societies, international trade, causes and effects of two world wars, breakthrough of sciences and discoveries around the world. The records of true events occurring in different societies at present would become their local history for their future generation.

Normally, humans are in the habit of recording daily events in their individual life or in their societies. Long, long ago, people had to learn the past events from oral history. Old generation orally passed or told the past events to the younger generations. This act is called oral history i.e. the collection and study of historical information using sound recordings of interviews with people who remember past events. Any way, if the information is accurate and reliable, it is worth collecting and studying indeed. Nowadays, if the people cannot find the written records of the past events of their society, they do rely on oral history. This is the way of finding the accurate historical information of a certain society. The main purpose of collecting historical facts is to let the future generations know or analyze the events occurred in their own society in the past.

Naturally, the good and bad results of the course of history are

conveyed from one generation to another. If we think logically on the significant events, we find that most of them are caused by man. For instance, Paris Commune, Industrial revolutions, May Day, Anti-fascism struggle etc. in world history. These significant events in the world history are remembered by the entire world people and the accurate or true records cannot be deleted or hidden or edited. The records or data of them are to be remembered by future generations too. The tasks of archiving and preserving historical records must be passed on to posterity in a society. If they want to know the past history of the society, they should be able to get access to reliable information related to the events happened in the past. Whatever events, may be good or bad, must be recorded in history accurately. Deleting the bad events and tabulating only good events or replacing with fabricated events of the past are acts of malpractice. History is one of the compulsory subjects in school curriculum in many societies in the world. History major is the main subject or course of the students at college or university. Every citizen should study the history of their society. History is taught from secondary schools to universities in some societies in the world. The records of the efforts, conducts and ability of the leadership, government and people concerned in the past cannot be hidden or omitted.

If a certain society is ruled by the brutal or cruel despots, they try to delete or erase the fame and glory of leaders and prominent people in the past. Those famous leaders and prominent people are loved by entire people heartily. The people never forget the selflessness and sacrifices of those genuine leaders. They are always remembered by the people concerned. However, notorious and silly despots attempt to edit the political events in the past eras of genuine and efficient leaders. Those stupid rulers are jealous of the past leaders and they know that they are not loved by the oppressed. The people know that the rulers are self-seekers, who never treat people kindly. Since they are not elected by the people, they are scared to meet people in

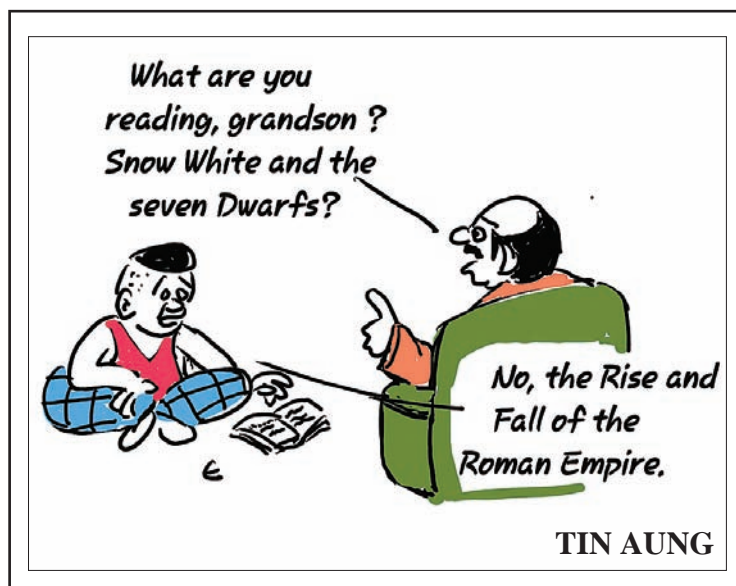
public areas. They usually tighten the security for them whenever they move around public areas. They have guilty consciousness, a phobia of opinion and a phobia of public. Obviously they reveal that they are not able to mix together and deal with grassroots level of people as well as the majority of people indeed. Although they are in power, they cannot face to talk to the public or give speech before the crowd of ordinary people concerned.

Newspapers tell the history of a society. When we read the domestic or local news of a society in the past, we can learn the social, political, economic situations and standard of people in that society from the newspapers. The various news happened in the daily life under the specific leadership in a particular society are the records of its history. Most of the newspapers in the world have freedom of expression and freedom of press, but the newspapers being issued in the societies under the regimes of dictators are in exception. In these societies both local and foreign news are heavily censored especially on domestic political issues. So, the true records are deleted and the people concerned cannot get the true news from other sources in the

society because all the newspapers are state-owned and totally they are used for propaganda purposes of the regimes. The historical events in the past were written by people concerned and the events did visualize the regression or progression of socio-economic conditions and political system practiced in the specific society.

In this 21st century, the global people could achieve benefits from globalization and IT because almost every people from different societies can get access to the worldwide daily events on internet, which are neither hidden nor edited. The act of deleting or hiding or editing on the local or foreign news or events is regarded as a veiling the truth in human society. This act is totally not accepted by entire human beings and societies on earth now. Nobody can delete or hide or edit the true events or the glory of honorable persons or ideal persons or prominent people in the past or present. The local history or world history gives us great lessons and knowledge which must be passed on to our future generations. All must share the good and bad outcome from the history by any means. Concealing the true historical records is a sin!!!

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



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

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

(Continued from 16-10-2015)

THESE are two versions regarding the foster mother of *Tha-ma-lah* and *Wee-ma-lah*. The first version resembles the legend of the first founders of original Rome in Italy. The legend has it that “Romulus and Remus two newly born brothers were floated down the River Tiber. When a female wolf, coming down to the river to drink water, she saw the two babies crying for milk. Her motherly instinct made her feed the babies her breast milk and take them to her den where she fostered them. The two baby boys grew up into two strong young men with their foster mother she-wolf. The court found out that they were royal sons and therefore took them to the court. At the very pathetic parting of the foster mother she-wolf and adopted human sons, she-wolf suddenly died of broken heart. Today at one International Airport at Rome is set up a bronze statue of a motherly she-wolf feeding two human baby boys suckling her breasts.

Similarly in the case of *Tha-ma-lah* and *Wee-ma-lah* two newly born baby brothers, they were floated down the river. A female buffalo coming down to the bank to drink water, heard the crying of the babies for milk on a raft afloat. She felt motherly kindness to them. So she fed them her breast milk and took them to her den. The babies grew up with their foster mother she-buffalo. They became strong young men playing with their buffalo playmates learning their tactics of buffaloes fight. They could walk or run on the sharp horns of buffaloes. Later when the throne was vacant and the court learnt that the two royal sons abandoned in the river were alive and grown up, they were taken to the court. The foster mother she-buffalo, parting for good with her two adopted sons died of broken heart. She became *Nan-Karine Meidaw Gyi nat-spirit*—a buffalo headed female *Nat* spirit whom the Mons, the Kayins and all people of Pegu region worship and propitiate with the offering of buffaloes food — green special grass and a variety of watery vegetable in an earthen basin filled

with clear water, placed at the entrance door of every house.

The second version is that *Nan-Karine* was the name of either a Mon or Karen woman who owned herds of cattle and buffaloes. Today there is a big village or becoming an almost little town called *Kywe-chan* [settlement of cattle and buffalo breeders] on the land route between *Sittaung* and *Mawlamyine*. *Nan-Karine* was a native of *Kywe-chan*. It was she who found the two royal baby sons *Tha-ma-Lah* and *Wee-ma-lah* abandoned on a raft afloat on the river. She adopted them who thought she was their mother. They received motherly love and care and higher learning at the local monastic schools where at some *Pwe Kyaung* schools, they received 18 arts and martial arts of a prince. When the court took them to succeed to the vacant throne, the foster mother *Nan Karine* died of broken heart to become a *nat* spirit *Nan Karine Meidaw Gyi*.

Because of the similarities of the two legends of Romulus and Remus the founders of Ancient Rome and *Tha-ma-lah* and *Wee-ma-lah* the founders of the original *Hamsavadi* and the continued respect credit and homage still being given to their respective legends by the Italian and Myanmar peoples, the writer of this article would like to propose that like in Rome a statue of a female buffalo feeding two human baby boys her breast milk be set up at the up-coming International Airport *Hamsavadi* in the near future. Because this legend bespeaks volumes of cultural affinities of our ethnic nationalities especially Mons, Kayins and Bamas, such a statue symbolizes our union solidarity.

In search of *Dei-Sun-Pa* pagoda in later centuries

In the teachings of Lord Buddha nothing is constant and permanent. Everything, living or non-living must and will go through the cycle of birth, growth, infirmity and death. Even during life time there are the ups and downs of life, you can never avoid or escape. *Dei-Sun-Pa* pagoda passed through these laws of nature. After its heyday it disappeared gradually into oblivion. Four elements,

natural disaster and human vandalism and destruction caused its total disappearance from its original site.

In about 1868 A.D. there was a monastery called *Taw-sun Kyaung*, the abbot of which was a monk noted for curing diseases caused supernaturally. Later another monk *U Thila* from *Natmauk* town came to reside there. Next, a monastery was built to the west but close to *Win-bei In* village. Many *pariyatti* monks resided there. The abbot was a monk who returned from Thailand. The abbot was very influential on the local people especially the villagers of *Win-bei In* village. He told the villagers to look for the lost *Dei-Sun-Pa* pagoda. The last 140 years ago, the oldest man in the village by the name *U San Dwe* headed a search party on the pagoda hillock. They discovered debris of an ancient structure on the summit of a hill. They tested and confirmed that what they found was the authentic site of *Dei-Sun-Pa* by means of prayer and taking religious vows [အဓိဋ္ဌာန် resolution]. So in 1868 A.D. [King *Mindon*'s reign] *Dei-Sun-Pa zedi* was reconstructed on the site. Because it was located too far away from human settlements, the pagoda was often subjected to vandalism. When in 1900 A.D. the research party composing of school teacher *U San Aye*, *Bo Shwe Pin*, *Bo Shwe Aye* and *Bo San Shun* found the ruined pagoda and rebuilt and renovated it.

Later the pagoda again fell victim to natural disaster and human vandalism. To highlight the worst was the earthquake of 1930. This catastrophe was known worldwide as the great earthquake of Pegu. It struck about 7 p.m. on 5th May 1930 [M.E. 9th waxing moon of Kason 1293] causing heavy toll of human lives and destructions, and damages of ancient monuments and modern building. *Dei-Sun-Pa* pagoda and the associated monuments around it were shaken down into the nearby deep valleys and streams. Whatever remained on the ground were washed away by heavy rain and floods.

Misfortune never comes alone, as the saying goes. Soon after the quake, the great economic depression of 1929 that began in the rich United States spread worldwide, till it reached British Myanmar. Its

chain impact upon Myanmar was suffered by Myanmar peasants who formed the majority and whose agriculture was the main national economy. As the price of paddy and other farm products fell losing foreign market to export, growers fell into debt head over heels until they became destitute, leading to the outbreak of armed rebellion [Peasant Revolts] led by *Galone Saya San* publicly acclaimed pretender to Burmese throne and the messiah of Myanmar people. Though he was finally arrested and executed by the British colonial government, another uprising broke out as oil field strike at the outset but escalated to *Ayeyawpone* when it was joined by the university students and high school students and supported by Myanmar public including the government servicemen. During these hectic times *Dei-Sun-Pa* pagoda hardly any chance of revival.

During the Second World War, while the entire country was under the Fascism, *Dei-Sun-Pa* and *Win-bei In* Village seemed to escape the invaders' vandalism simply because they were located outside or away from their campaigns.

After Myanmar regained independence, *Dei-Sun-Pa* would rise from its ruins, on the tide of high hopes of Buddhist communities. But rampant insurgencies across the country and frequent political and economic crises dashed these high hopes to the ground.

However, the villagers of *Win-bei In* village and the local Buddhist communities made relentless efforts to repair and renovate their much revered and worshipped monuments. Whatever amount they could spare from their meagre income, what little time they could steal from their daily routine they put into their religious merit investment in *Dei-Sun-Pa* pagoda.

Here we should take note of two points regarding *Dei-Sun-Pa* pagoda. The first is its renown for treasure troves [သိုလ်]. Many legends shroud it. Treasures of kings, wealthy men and war refugees were hidden at and around the pagoda. Treasure hunters [သိုလ်တူးဆရာ] come to find them but they failed and fled due to the protections of guardian spirits of treasure troves. These



Dei-Sun-Pa Pagoda seen from a far. PHOTO: MA KYWE KYWE

legends are called *Thaik Thamaing* [သိုလ်သမိုင်း], History of Treasure Troves. The usual story goes—female guardian spirits of Treasure Troves were allowed to return to the human world for a certain number of years to enjoy human life. When the allotted time is over they returned to their duties at the treasure trove. Playwrights, film directors and other performing artists used such stories for hit entertainment by putting into them romance, adventure, mysteries and extraordinaries. *Dei-Sun-Pa* pagoda and its hill plus the area were very well-known to Myanmar public though most of them have never set their foot on the hill they have seen on the screen or on the stage or even sung in song. The writer of this article saw a silent film named “*Dei-Sun-Pa Thaik Thamaing*” in his early boyhood. We liked it very much. Even one talkie film named *Ma-Mei Hnaing* [မမေ့နိုင်] [can never forget] famous actor-singer *Khin Maung Yin* sang the theme song. In the film, hero met heroine [may be *Khin Yee*] at *Dei-Sun-Pa* pagoda hill. It was a love-at-first-sight affair. So that theme song focused on *Dei-Sun-Pa* hill as their first “rendezvous”. Those are many *Thaik Thamaing* plays with *Dei-Sun-Pa* as focal point performed on state.

In the British colonial days, just before the rise of a new literary movement called *Khit San Sarpay*, there was a period of short plays. *Thaik Thamaing* [Treasure Trove Stories] published in

cheap booklets for common reading public. Each copy cost only 4 *annas*, a quarter of a rupee. They were *Thaik Nan Shin*, *Mei det Shin*, *Yey Nan Shin*, *Lu Wun Maung Hna Ma*, *Shwe Gyo Hpyu* and *Mu Lakhe*, *Dei-Sun-Pa* etc. Today these 4-*anna* plays are making comeback on Myanmar T.V. A couple of weeks ago, the writer watched *Dei-Sun-Pa* and *Shwe Gyo Hpyu* and *Mu La Khe Thamaing* on Myanmar T.V.

The next point is the belief that *Dei-Sun-Pa* has the extra-ordinary power of healing or curing doctor's give-up diseases. All you need is faith, devotion, observance of 5 moral precepts and correct practice of the prescriptions. Many success stories were told to the writer — cancer, heart, high blood, even mental disorder.

Today, *Dei Sun Pa* is within easy reach of every one, young or old, rich or poor, Myanmar national or foreigner. Take any vehicle bicycle, motorbike, car, bus, train, bullock or horse cart or hiking. Though no hotel or motel of modern standard has appeared yet, there are many *zayats*, monasteries and nunneries where you can put up for the night and take your meal at local eateries. But please note seriously no alcoholic nor intoxicant, drugs allowed. If human authorities do not notice your misbehaviour, *devas* and *nat* spirits keep their constant watch on you and they will immediately give you punishment for your gilt!

(Concluded)

Citing 'very fragile' security in Afghanistan, Obama slows pace of US troop withdrawal

WASHINGTON —

Reversing policy on Afghanistan, President Barack Obama announced on Thursday he will prolong the 14-year-old US military engagement there, effectively handing off the task of pulling out troops to his successor.

Calling it a "modest but meaningful" adjustment to winding down the American presence in Afghanistan, Obama said Afghan forces were not yet as strong as they needed to be given a "very fragile" security situation and the United States will maintain a force of 9,800 through most of 2016.

Obama had previously aimed to withdraw all but a small US-embassy based force in the capital, Kabul, before he leaves office in January 2017. Under the new plan, troops will be drawn down to 5,500 starting sometime in 2017 and will be based at four locations — Kabul, Bagram, Jalalabad and Kandahar.



US President Barack Obama announces plans to slow the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, while delivering a statement in the Roosevelt Room at the White House in Washington on 15 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ern city of Kunduz.

On Thursday, Republican critics warned against rushing to cut troops in 2017. John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the proposed 5,500 US troops would be inadequate to handle both counterterrorism missions and training and advising Afghan troops.

McCain said it was unlikely that senior military leaders and commanders on

fence Secretary Ash Carter rebuffed criticism from McCain and others over the planned 5,500 troops.

"We do look at it as enough. We did a lot of homework on this," Carter told reporters. Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook said US allies would also offer a significant contribution of forces but declined to offer details.

Obama, a Democrat, has faced steady criticism from Republicans on security issues as he has wound down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that he inherited when he took office in 2009. In his remarks on Thursday, he focused on the rationale for delaying a complete withdrawal, telling Americans that he did not support the idea of "endless war" but arguing Afghanistan's stability is vital to US security. Troops would remain out of combat roles, focused on training and advising Afghan forces, and ensuring that any al Qaeda remnants do not threaten US

security, he said.

"This isn't the first time those adjustments have been made. This probably won't be the last," Obama said, defending the change of course. "I suspect that we will continue to evaluate this going forward, as will the next president."

The US-led coalition in Afghanistan ended its combat mission at the end of 2014, and since then Afghan troops have been in charge of the country's security, with help from US and NATO troops.

US military and administration officials have been discussing a slower withdrawal timetable since the March visit to the White House of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. Obama said he spoke to the leaders on Wednesday.

Ghani has been more supportive of the US presence than his predecessor, Hamid Karzai, who left office last year. Obama stressed that he viewed Washington as having a solid partner in the Afghan president.

Ghani praised Obama's decision, saying the assistance would help his government's forces fight "a ruthless and cunning enemy."

US troops were first sent to Afghanistan by Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, soon after the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States, in a US-led effort to destroy al Qaeda and to oust the then-ruling Taliban that had sheltered the militant group.—Reuters

UN Secretary General's message on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17 October 2015

This year's observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty falls as the world embarks on a bold new path towards a future of dignity for all guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This year's theme — "Building a sustainable future: Coming together to end poverty and discrimination" — highlights the need to focus greater attention on the excluded and marginalized members of the human family.

Spurred on by the global mobilization behind the Millennium Development Goals, the world has made extraordinary progress in reducing extreme poverty. Over the past 25 years, more than one billion people have been lifted above the poverty threshold.

Yet these gains have not reached everyone. More than 900 million people continue to live in extreme poverty, and many more are at risk. Climate change, violent conflict and other disasters threaten to undo many of our gains.

In adopting the 2030 Agenda, world leaders made a time-bound commitment to end poverty in all its forms, everywhere. Our ability to meet this call requires us to address discrimination in all its forms.

Leaving no one behind means ending the discrimination and abuse targeted at one half of humankind — the world's women and girls. It means combatting overt discrimination against minorities, migrants and others — as well as the more insidious neglect of the disadvantaged, especially children. And it means ensuring access to the rule of law and protecting the human rights of all.

The 2030 Agenda emerged from the most inclusive process in United Nations history. Member states, millions of young people and thousands of non-governmental organizations, business-people and others were part of the discussions. As we look now to translate the 17 Sustainable Development Goals into meaningful action on the ground, we must sustain this spirit.

Ours can be the first generation to witness a world without extreme poverty, where all people — not only the powerful and the privileged — can participate and contribute equally, free of discrimination and want.—UNIC/Yangon

"This isn't the first time those adjustments have been made. This probably won't be the last."

US President Barack Obama

Obama has been under pressure from his military advisers, Republicans, and a bipartisan group of national security experts to keep US forces in Afghanistan, particularly as Afghan forces have struggled in assaults from Taliban militants, who briefly took over the north-

the ground had recommended this force level, adding, "It would have been far better to halt all further troop withdrawals and allow President Obama's successor to determine what is warranted based on conditions on the ground."

At the Pentagon, De-

Nikolic: EU integration impossible under these conditions

BELGRADE —

The latest "paper" from Brussels is totally unacceptable for Serbia and it is impossible for it to continue European integration under these conditions, Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic has said. "This reminds me of the 1914 Austria-Hungary ultimatum, and if the price is to recognise the independence of Kosovo, I am against us being in the European Union," Nikolic said in an interview for Belgrade-based daily Vecernje Novosti.

He added that the new requirements could perhaps make the Serbian government adopt a document that would then be



PHOTO: TANJUG

adopted by the parliament. "We do not need any other method of checking the will of citizens, as long as we act in accordance with the Constitution. The citizens adopted it and we are to implement it. And by this Constitution, there is no Kosovo-Metohija independence," Nikolic said.—Tanjug

Five countries elected as non-permanent members of UN Security Council

UNITED NATIONS — The UN General Assembly (UNGA) on Thursday elected Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay as non-permanent members of UN Security Council, which will serve a two-year term starting from 1 January 2016.

The five countries won the required two-thirds of votes for the non-permanent seats in the first ballot after being put forward by their regional groups.

The United Nations has 193 member states and a two-thirds majority of 129 votes is needed. The final results are Senegal with 187 votes, Japan with 184 votes, Egypt with 179 votes, while

Ukraine winning 177 votes and Uruguay garnering 185.

The newly-elected members will replace the retiring members of Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, and Nigeria. They will join the other five non-permanent members of the Security Council, namely Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain and Venezuela.

The UN Security Council consists of five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected by the UNGA. Five non-permanent members are elected every year to join the five permanent and veto-wielding members of Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.



United Nations General Assembly announces the election result of five non-permanent members of the Security Council at the UN headquarters in New York, the United States. PHOTO: XINHUA

According to the rules, the Security Council non-permanent seats should be distributed as five from African and Asian states; one from Eastern European states; two from Latin American states and two from Western European and other states.—Xinhua

Japan to seek key role in making int'l rules for Arctic development

TOKYO — The government on Friday adopted its first basic Arctic policy, calling for Japan to play a key role in the future formulation of international rules for Arctic development.

The policy, decided on at a meeting of a government task force chaired by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, apparently aims at securing Japanese interests amid increased international attention to navigation and resource development in the Arctic Sea.

“Our country will promote science and technology, which are Japan’s strengths, as a key player on the Arctic issue,” Abe told the meeting at his office in Tokyo.

“We should positively play a

leading role in the international approach to the Arctic,” he said.

The basic policy called for collaboration between the public and private sectors in promoting the Arctic Sea route connecting Europe and Asia, as it is almost half the distance of the south-bound route through the Suez Canal.

It emphasized the need to avoid international tension or conflict over the sea route or resource development in the Arctic Sea. In the basic ocean policy approved by the Cabinet in April 2013, the government sought to drive efforts “comprehensively and strategically” in transportation and international cooperation in the Arctic Sea.—*Kyodo News*



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (far R) attends a meeting on 16 October, 2015, in Tokyo, at which the premier showed the government’s willingness to play a leading role in compiling international rules over resource exploitation and other issues concerning the Arctic Ocean. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Donald Trump’s top campaign expense: hats and t-shirts

NEW YORK — Republican frontrunner Donald Trump spent more on hats, bumper stickers, yard signs and t-shirts than he did on any other category in the third quarter, according to his latest campaign finance report filed on Thursday.

The Trump campaign shelled out \$825,000 on the logo-embellished gear that he sells on a website and routinely tosses to supporters at his rock concert-like campaign events.

His next biggest line item was for flights on his personal 757 jet: more than \$700,000.

The finance report is just the latest illustration of how, when it comes to the 2016 presidential election, Trump is breaking with tradition.

The real estate developer and former star of the hit television show ‘The Apprentice’ stunned the Republican political elite last summer when he blew past establishment contenders like former Florida Governor Jeb Bush to become an unlikely frontrunner, a title he has maintained since then.

In typical presidential campaigns, top expenditures are usually payroll, mailings and consultants.

But those items did not feature largely on Trump’s report. The filing, made with the Federal Election Commission, contained no line item for payroll at all. The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump raised nearly \$4 million in the third quarter. In total, the campaign has raised \$5.8 million and spent \$5.6 million. Despite proclamations that he would self-fund his candidacy, Trump still raked in unsolicited donations from nearly 74,000 people, who gave an average of \$50.46.—*Reuters*

Migrants fall through the cracks in Austria’s asylum system

TRAIKIRCHEN — After fleeing civil war, surviving a perilous sea crossing and trudging through several countries, Syrian refugees think they will receive basic food, shelter and fair treatment when they reach Austria. Most are right, but some tell a different tale.

These people complain of coming under pressure to leave Austria for neighbouring Slovakia and that if they refuse — or even simply miss the bus there — they can end up thrown out on the streets by a system they do not understand.

Austrian authorities deny asylum seekers are forced to go to Slovakia against their will, but stress they cannot pick and choose where they are accommodated while their applications are considered. Whatever the rights and wrongs, Austria’s already crowded asylum centres are struggling to cope with Europe’s

biggest migration crisis in decades. And the experiences of some Syrian refugees suggest that language barriers, misunderstandings and suspicions are aggravating the problems.

In the past month, tens of thousands have moved smoothly onwards to Germany, the most popular destination for migrants. However, Austria also expects around 85,000 asylum requests this year — a similar level in per capita terms to Germany’s.

At Austria’s main asylum centre in Traiskirchen, about 20 km (12 miles) south of Vienna, overcrowding became so severe this summer that up to 2,000 people had to sleep outdoors.

Eventually, the government agreed with Slovakia to send up to 500 asylum seekers to a former university campus in the Slovak town of Gabčíkovo to relieve the strain.

Getting people to that centre,

and to others in Austria, has not always gone smoothly.

Omar, a 27-year-old cook from Deraa — the cradle of the Syrian uprising against President Bashar al-Assad — says he didn’t know he was supposed to board a bus to Gabčíkovo. And missing it left him homeless, penniless and without medical insurance.

From Turkey, Omar tried 11 times before he succeeded in crossing the Aegean to Greece. Several attempts failed because inflatable boats supplied by people smugglers were in danger of sinking and on one occasion, the engine ran out of fuel.

Only rescues by Turkish police saved Omar and his fellow passengers from the fate of other migrants who have drowned making the crossing to the Greek islands. After making his way through the Balkans, Omar reached Austria on 20 August. He was brought to Traiskirchen,

where he spent more than a month sleeping in a tent on the lawn.

Chancellor Werner Faymann has acknowledged shortcomings in the asylum system and has said the authorities will ensure applicants are soon provided with accommodation suitable for the central European winter. Despite the discomforts, Omar got used to daily life at Traiskirchen. At 5 pm every day, he would go to what he calls “the sorting”, when he said some asylum seekers were asked to sign a document for their transfer to longer-term accommodation.

But on 3 October, an official informed Omar he should have been aboard a bus which left for Gabčíkovo earlier that afternoon.

For missing this, Omar said he was told to leave the complex immediately, without even getting time to fetch his clothes.—*Reuters*

Flooding, mudslides strand Southern California drivers following storm

LOS ANGELES — Heavy rains touched off flooding and mudslides in foothill communities north of Los Angeles on Thursday, swamping cars, stranding drivers and prompting authorities to close several major roads.

The National Weather Service issued flash flood warnings for parts of northwestern Los Angeles County and northeastern Ventura County, advising motorists to avoid those areas.

“Turn around, don’t drown,” the NWS said in a statement. “Most flood deaths occur in vehicles.”

The Los Angeles Times reported that some 45 firefighters responded to the scene of the mudslides and flooding, working to free drivers who were stranded in their cars. The rushing water, which was triggered by several inches (cm) of rain an hour over the foothill communities, forced the California Highway Patrol to close parts of the busy Interstate 5 freeway in both directions through the Grapevine pass.—*Reuters*



PHOTO: REUTERS

China to prosecute former work safety chief for graft

BEIJING — The former head of China's work safety regulator, sacked after blasts that killed more than 160 people in August, will be prosecuted for suspected corruption, the ruling Communist Party's anti-graft watchdog said on Friday.

Another former senior official, who was party boss of the northern province of Hebei and former associate of China's jailed one-time security chief Zhou Yongkang, will also be prosecuted on similar charges, the watchdog said.

Yang Dongliang was removed as director of the State Administration of Work Safety shortly after the massive August explosions in a warehouse in the port city of Tianjin not far from the capital, Beijing.

In a terse statement, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said that Yang, in his capacity as a member of the ruling Communist Party's powerful central committee, had "lost his ideals and convictions" and "seriously vio-



People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers of the anti-chemical warfare corps in protection suits work next to excavators cleaning up the debris at the site of last week's blasts in Binhai new district of Tianjin, China. PHOTO: REUTERS

lated" discipline.

Yang is suspected of crimes, including abusing his position to obtain public assets, accepting money and gifts, unauthorised travel abroad, "squandering" public funds and interfering in investigations, the statement said.

He was also investigated for accepting entertainment from private business,

and violating housing and provision of public vehicles rules, it said.

The other suspect named in a separate statement is Zhou Benshun, who is not related to Zhou Yongkang, and had been the top official in the northern province of Hebei, which surrounds Beijing and is China's most important steel producer.

The party accused him in July of "serious breaches of discipline and the law", a euphemism for corruption.

Zhou had abused his position for private gain and peddled influence, accepted money and gifts, lived an "extravagant life" and frequently visited private clubs, the statement said.

It was not possible

to reach either Yang or Zhou Benshun for comment and not clear if they had lawyers.

The Hebei city of Zhangjiakou this year won the right to host the 2022 Winter Olympics along with Beijing. Zhou Benshun had attended meetings of the bid committee.

Zhou Benshun became party chief in Hebei in 2013. He had worked for five years in the Central Politics and Law Commission as its secretary general, under Zhou Yongkang, who was jailed for life in June after a secret trial in China's most sensational graft scandal in 70 years.

President Xi Jinping, who doubles as party and military chief, has pursued a relentless campaign against deep-rooted corruption since assuming power three years ago, vowing to go after powerful "tigers" as well as lowly "flies".—Reuters

Australia seizes over 70 tonnes of illegal tobacco from Indonesia

SYDNEY — The Australian authorities have seized more than 70 tonnes of illegal tobacco worth almost 40 million Australian dollars on the black market, the country's largest ever single haul.

The loose-leaf tobacco, housed in three separate shipments originating from Indonesia, was intercepted in Sydney earlier in the year, Australia's Immigration Minister Peter Dutton told reporters on Friday.

Commissioner of the Australian Border Force, previously called Australian Customs and Immigration, Roman Quaedvlieg said while the investigation is still ongoing, they are at a point in the operation where they can publicly announce the seizure.

"We have a very strong idea who has brought it in," Quaedvlieg said.

The authorities seized 47 tonnes of tobacco at Sydney's Port Botany in June while a third shipment of 24 tonnes were sized by the Indonesian authorities before it could be shipped.

On Australia's black-market this seizure is worth around 40 million Australian dollars (29.24 million US dollars). However at retail prices, it is almost 90 million Australian dollars (65.84 million US dollars), equating to 27 million Australian dollars (16.83 million US dollars) in lost taxes.

The seizure follows raids in Melbourne on Thursday that allegedly found 6 million illegal cigarettes while a further 10 tonnes of tobacco were discovered to have been smuggled into Australia from the United Arab Emirates in June.

In September, the authorities arrested 13 people in Sydney following a 13-month investigation into a smuggling ring that involved corrupt officials.

Dutton used the seizure to announce a new dedicated Australian Border Force team targeting illegal tobacco smuggling by organised crime syndicates.

"There are clear links to organised crime and we know that groups smuggling illicit tobacco into Australia are also involved in other illegal activities such as narcotics," Dutton said.—Xinhua

Flooding persists in eight Thai provinces

BANGKOK — Eight provinces across Thailand are still fighting floods, but the situation is expected to improve if there is no more rain in coming days, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) said Thursday.

Flooding continues in a total of 17 districts in provinces of Rayong, Nakhon Nayok, Prachinburi, Ubon Ratchathani, Kamphaeng Phet, Pathum Thani, Nakhon Sawan and Phichit, DDPM Director-General Chatchai Promlert

said, adding the situation will return to normal in a few days. According to Chatchai, Bangkok is expected to have heavy rainfall throughout October, which will lead to heightened water levels in most canals and likely cause floods. The DDPM has decided to set up a coordination center for flood relief in the capital, which will monitor weather conditions and closely cooperate with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration in flood relief efforts.—Xinhua

Proposed merger to create Australia's most powerful workers union

SYDNEY — Senior officials from two of Australia's most left wing and militant unions met in Sydney on Friday for discussions to proposed merger, potentially creating Australia's most powerful workers union.

The Construction Forestry and Mining Union (CFMEU), representing Australia's construction industry with 90,000 members, has been struggling for political survival following a million-dollar losses in a series of court cases and an official in-

vestigation into corrupt practices. CFMEU boss Michael O'Connor said the proposed merger with the Maritime Union of Australia, one of Australia's wealthiest unions which represents 10,000 members, is important for the political struggle beyond the fight for better wages and working conditions.

The MUA was responsible for temporarily shutting down Hutchison Ports in Australia's Brisbane and Sydney berths while overturning the

sackings of workers via email and sms messages in August.

MUA national secretary Paddy Crumlin told local media on Friday while the decision hasn't been taken lightly, the potential merger would create Australia's most powerful union.

"Discussions with the like-minded CFMEU will help us fight the ever-pervasive, anti-worker and anti-union attacks on workers and their entitlements and job security," Crumlin said.—Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (15/2015)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-053(15-16)	Emulsion Treating Chemicals (Demulsifier) (5,000) Ltr	US\$
(2)	IFB-054(15-16)	High Pressure Hose & Accessories (4) Items	US\$
(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.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph +95 67 411097 / 411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KULTHARA VOY NO (09/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULTHARA VOY NO (09/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO

Phone No: 2301186

SeaWorld plans to challenge California commission over orca breeding ban

SAN DIEGO — SeaWorld Entertainment Inc said on Thursday that it intended to challenge a decision by California authorities banning the San Diego theme park from breeding killer whales in captivity.

The California Coastal Commission voted unanimously last week to give SeaWorld San Diego a permit to build two larger orca pools on the condition that it ceases its captive breeding programme.

“The Coastal Commission went way beyond its jurisdiction and authority when it banned breeding by killer whales at SeaWorld,” SeaWorld CEO Joel Manby said in a written statement.

“To say that this is a dubious decision with no legal basis is an understatement, which is why we must and will challenge the commission’s decision.”

The California Coastal Commission declined to comment.

SeaWorld had sought



An Orca killer whale is seen underwater at the animal theme park SeaWorld in San Diego, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

approval from the commission to build bigger tanks for the orcas in a move some said was in response to ongoing criticism over how the theme park treats animals in captivity.

The plan to expand the pools drew opposition from tens of thousands of people who wanted to see

the park’s population of 11 orcas released instead.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund said in an emailed statement it was no surprise that SeaWorld intended to mount a legal challenge to the breeding restriction.

“SeaWorld’s objection to the de facto phase-out of

the use of orcas for entertainment acts in San Diego punctuates the entertainment company’s priority on dollars over the well-being of the orcas off of whom it profits,” it said.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said SeaWorld was “blowing smoke.”—Reuters

People living in hunger drops by 32 pct in Mozambique

MAPUTO — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) released a report on Thursday in Maputo, stating that hunger in Mozambique has dropped from 56 percent to 24 percent.

The progress refers to the period between 1990 and 2014, during which time Mozambique has reduced famine by more than half, a considerable progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Maya Takagi, an officer from FAO in Mozam-

bique, said that the implementation of policies that could eradicate hunger in the country and the world is important in this process.

“We need public policies and some other policies that may bring progress to agriculture, because about 70 percent of the population lives in rural areas and rely on agriculture to earn their living,” said Takagi.

Takagi believed that if there is a connection between the agriculture policies and social policies,

there are great possibilities for additional progress.

Earlier in this June, Mozambique has been distinguished by the World Food Programme and FAO in Rome, Italy, as a recognition of the government’s efforts to reduce hunger across the country.

People who are still facing hunger mainly live in the southern and central region of the southern African country.

According to Jose Pacheco, the agriculture minister who went to Rome

to accept the honour, the increase of production and productivity was thanks to “the diversification of agricultural production and the adoption of technologies which allow the increase of production and productivity, as well as diversification.”

The progress has been shared in the country’s parliament during its session, and the government has also recognised that despite the progress, a lot is yet to be done in the nutrition sector.—Xinhua

Typhoon takes aim at northern Philippines

MANILA — A typhoon was heading straight for the main Philippine island of Luzon on Friday, prompting storm alerts in nearly 20 provinces and placing army and police units on standby.

With center winds of 130 kph (80 mph), Typhoon Koppu was about 585 km (360 miles) east of northeast Aurora province and moving west at 15 kph.

Tropical Storm Risk forecast it would gain

strength overnight.

“We have placed military and emergency workers on alert,” Alexander Pama, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said. An average

of 22 typhoons hit the Philippines every year. In late 2013, super typhoon Haiyan, the strongest-ever to hit land, struck central areas, killing more than 6,300 people and leaving millions homeless.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC SANFRANCISCO

VOY NO (016W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (016W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OOCL SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (0014N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (0014N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE
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 17th October, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions and Kayah State, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region 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: Continuation of scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th October, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

ADVERTISE WITH US!

- We are Myanmar’s highest-circulating English language daily newspaper
- We offer competitive ad rates
- Your ad will be seen by a wide and influential readership

Email: thantunaungnlm@gmail.com

Phone: (01) 860 4532

Bruce Springsteen to release box set highlighting 'The River' era



Singer Bruce Springsteen performs with the E Street Band during his concert in Cape Town. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Bruce Springsteen will release a new box set in December highlighting his 1980 album "The River," with several never-before heard tracks, unseen video footage as well as a new documentary, his publicist said.

The set, called "The Ties That Bind: The River Collection," contains 52 tracks on four CDs, including the "The River" double album, Springsteen's fifth album and the first to reach number one on the US Billboard chart.

The box set will include four

hours of previously unreleased video on three DVDs, including footage from a 1980 show in Tempe, Arizona, tour rehearsals and a new documentary called "The Ties That Bind."

It also comes with a coffee table book of 200 rare or previously unseen photos and memorabilia. Fans can pre-order the album, due for release on 4 December, on iTunes and Amazon.com, a press release said. It was listed on Amazon for about \$130.

On his official Twitter account, Springsteen, one of New Jersey's most celebrated natives,

enticed his legions of fans with the promise of 11 previously-unreleased "rarities," including an early release of the song "Meet Me In The City."

During his five-decade career, Springsteen has sold some 120 million albums worldwide as a solo artist and with the E Street Band.

The prolific songwriter, musician and performer has won 13 Grammy Awards and an Academy Award for Best Original Song for "Streets of Philadelphia" from the movie "Philadelphia."—Reuters

'Beauty & the Beast' will end after season 4

LOS ANGELES — 'Beauty & the Beast' will come to an end after four seasons. The CW announced that the drama series' upcoming 13-episode run — starring Kristin Kreuk and Jay Ryan — will be its last, according to Deadline.

"Beauty & the Beast" recently aired its third season,

which saw Cat and Vincent struggling to build a normal life together and their love being tested in new ways.

Austin Basis, Nina Lisandrello and Nicole Gale Anderson also star. The show was created by Sherri Cooper-Landsman and Jennifer Levin, and has been on TV since 2012.—PTI

Lloyd Webber gives taste of 'School of Rock' musical in 360-degree video

NEW YORK — Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has offered a glimpse of his latest musical, a stage adaptation of hit 2003 film comedy "School of Rock", with a 360-degree video of the new Broadway production.

Lloyd Webber, the composer of "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats", announced last December he was bringing to the stage the movie about wannabe rockstar substitute teacher Dewey Finn, who forms a band with his young pupils.

Previews begin in New York in November and the show is set to open in December. It will feature songs from the movie, new music by Lloyd Webber and a book by "Downton Abbey" creator Julian Fellowes.

"It kind of takes me back to the time when I was able to write with children and work with chil-

dren," Lloyd Webber said of the new production at the launch of the promotional video on Wednesday. "It was a bit of fresh air really."

The video shows Finn, played by Broadway actor Alex Brightman, with the young cast performing "You're In the Band" in the classroom — a song where the teacher turns his students into a rock band.

Viewers can scroll around the room, where the black boards have references to Lloyd Webber's past musicals and the ceiling shows the lyrics for the song.

Lloyd Webber said the video was shot in one take.

"It's happening all around you, all in one go. It's all in one take, you can't edit it because everybody is always in a different position," he said. "It was a great experiment."—Reuters

Would love to collaborate with the Khans: Amit Trivedi

MUMBAI — Music composer Amit Trivedi says he would be happy to collaborate with the Bollywood's Khan trio — Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir — for a song.

The "Shaandaar" hitmaker, who has composed the title track of megastar Amitabh Bachchan's upcoming TV show "Aaj Ki Raat Hai Zindagi", wants to team up with the Khans if a "unique" song comes his way. "I would love to collaborate with all the three Khans. Who wouldn't? But the song has to be something unique, something different. Otherwise what's the point. Working with Bachchan sahab and the three of them, won't get bigger than this," Trivedi told PTI.

Continuing the trend of actors crooning their songs, the 73-year-old "Piku" actor has lent his voice to the track of his upcoming show.

Recently, Salman sang the title song of his home production "Hero". Trivedi, however, is completely fine with actors going behind the microphone, as he feels

the song ends up looking more natural on-screen.

"I think it's great. Singing your own songs looks more natural and organic. There is nothing fake about it. You say the dialogues, you sing the songs too. Audience doesn't find that odd. It looks and sounds convincing," he said.

While the composer is fine with actors singing their songs, Trivedi, who has given hits like "Dev D", "Lootera" and "Queen", does not understand the need for multiple versions of the same song in an album.

"I don't know why people do that. I don't see the need of having multiple versions of the same track with different singers. I never do that. But I guess everyone has a different way of working so they choose this style," he said.

Trivedi's next project is "Kai Po Che" director Abhishek Kapoor's romantic-drama "Fitoor". The film stars Katrina Kaif, Aditya Roy Kapoor, Tabu, Adii Rao Hydari among others.—PTI

No tattoos, piercing for daughter: Carey Mulligan

LONDON — Actress Carey Mulligan does not want her daughter to have piercings, tattoos or wear make-up when she is older.

The "Suffragette" actress, who gave birth to baby Evelyn, her first child with husband Marcus Mumford, earlier this month, will advise her little girl not to make modifications to her body, or hide her natural beauty with cosmetics, reported Female First.

Asked what life lesson she will teach her daughter, the 30-year-old actress said, "Oh, man, one life lesson? No make-up, no piercings, no tattoos."—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

More Japanese companies adopting 'start-early, leave-early' programmes

TOKYO — Japanese workers are increasingly being urged to move up their working hours as employers seek to improve efficiency, cut overtime pay and promote a healthier lifestyle for employees.

About 10 percent of over 2,000 companies surveyed earlier this year have introduced an early-work programme, and another 20 percent were considering doing so, according to a research institute under the labour ministry.

The trend is in step with a central government campaign to create a better work-life balance in a country where the culture of overworking is entrenched. And it may spread further given changes in some social systems, such as day-care centres' operating hours and in general business customs at Japanese workplaces.

Major trading house Itochu Corp. is one of the companies that has introduced an early-work program.

Early birds gather in the cafeteria at its head office in central Tokyo around 7:30 am to grab bananas, "onigiri" rice balls and other food prepared by the company.

The breakfast is part of the programme introduced in May 2014, when Itochu in principle banned working after 8 pm and began offering extra pay for work between 5 am and 8 am, like traditionally is paid for late-night work.

As a result, overtime work by career-track employees has

decreased by an average of four hours per person per month, and extra pay has dropped by 7 percent, while efficiency has improved, according to company managers.

Itochu has "changed the awareness of overtime work throughout the organisation because of our top management's earnest support for the programme," said Kazuhiko Umeyama, a manager in the personnel and general affairs department.

To introduce the programme, Itochu began to open its in-house day-care centre for employees' children at 7 am.

Nobuyo Yamaguchi, 34, who leaves her 1-year-old son at the day-care room at the head office, said, "I can leave work early in the evening and still readily keep up with the work of colleagues because many of them show up early, too."

Fast Retailing Co. which operates the Uniqlo casual wear store chain in Japan and abroad, also changed the start of the business day to 7 am at its head office in Tokyo and corporate headquarters in Yamaguchi Prefecture in September 2011.

Its charismatic chairman and president Tadashi Yanai stressed that "work without overtime" was indispensable for working together with efficiency-oriented business partners overseas.



Employees of Itochu Corp. selecting breakfast items at the company cafeteria in its head office in central Tokyo, a part of its early-work programme. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The system, which permits employees to work no more than 8-1/2 hours per day in principle, enables them to concentrate on their assignments, its workers say. And beginning the day ahead of others also makes them better prepared.

This summer the central government introduced its own early-work campaign, and encouraged workers at central offices in Kasumigaseki, Tokyo's Capitol Hill, to start between 7:30 am and 8:30 am and leave work around 5

pm so they could spend time with their families or enjoy after-work activities.

The programme in July and August was not a total success as only 65 percent of workers when checked one day were able to finish work around 5 pm, due partly to the extended Diet session, the government reported. But it plans to continue the programme next summer.

Toshiyuki Ueki, a manager in charge of Fast Retailing's early-work programme, said changes

may be necessary in society as a whole.

For example, coming to work early is difficult for workers with young children because there are not many day-care centres open early.

Fast Retailing therefore permits such employees to arrive at work later than 7 am.

Workers performing jobs that require them to adjust their work hours with outside business partners are also allowed to start at 9 am, he said.—Kyodo News



News Channel in Brief

(17-10-2015, Saturday)

6:00 am

• Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

• Physical Exercise

7:35 am

• Hyper Sports

8:00 am

• News/ International News

8:35 am

• The Farmer

9:00 am

• News/ International News

9:35 am

• MRTV's Youth Programme

10:00 am

• News/ International News

10:30 am

• Head Line News

11:35 am

• Game For Children

12:35 pm

• Round Up Of The Week's Local TV News

2:00 pm

• Channel '0' (Part-2)

2:35 pm

• Myo Ma Nyein Music Troupe (Part-2)

3:35 pm

• Hyper Sports

4:35 pm

• University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Myanmar)

5:00 pm

• News

5:35 pm

• Teleplay

6:35 pm

• Business News

7:00 pm

• News / Weather Report

7:15 pm

• Channel '0' (Part-3)

8:00 pm

• News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm

• News

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

• Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

After six-year revamp, Paris Museum of Mankind re-opens its doors

PARIS — The Museum of Mankind in Paris re-opens its doors this week after six years of renovations that have breathed new life into France's leading anthropological museum.

President Francois Hollande inaugurated the Musee de l'Homme on Thursday after the institution, which opened in 1937 on a hill across the Seine river from the Eiffel Tower, completed a facelift costing more than 90 million euros (\$103 million).

The museum shut for renovation in 2009 as visitors numbers dwindled following former President Jacques Chirac's decision a few years earlier to move its ethnographic collections to the then-new Quai Branly museum.

While the outside of the art deco building remains the same, the museum now boasts 2,500 square meters of re-vamped exhibits on the history and evolution of mankind.

A permanent exhibition focuses on three key questions, curator Evelyne Heyer said: "Who are we? ... Where do we

come from? Where are we going?"

The museum has some of the largest collections of pre-historic artifacts in the world, as well as now some newly-acquired ethnological artifacts.

On display is a vast array of items including the skulls of a Cro-Magnon, the first early modern human, and of French philosopher and mathematician Rene Descartes, along with a gallery of 19th century busts representing human diversity.

The impact humans have had on their environment is shown with examples such as a large Senegalese bus, a Mongolian hut and modern handmade objects.

"What we would like visitors to come away with ... is that the big questions faced by our society currently about man's adaptation to himself are in the end questions that mankind has faced for 10,000 years," deputy curator Jean Pierre Vigne said.

The museum opens to the public on Saturday, with free entry for the first three days.—Reuters



Myanmar International

(17-10-2015 07:00 am ~ 18-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am Great Shwedagon- The Repository of Buddhist

Scriptures And Archives

07:41 Am Well-Trained Elephant

07:51 Am Thin Byu Mat

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival (Part-1)

08:49 Am Beach Food Delivery

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Travelogue "Ngwe Saung" Beach

09:46 Am Culture Shows: Theatrical Art

09:55 Am Human Right Human Dignity International Film

Festival

10:03 Am News

10:26 Am Discovering Tribes "MUUN" (Episode - I)

10:49 Am Amazing "Sayargyi Nyein Chan Aung"

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Friday 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 Beauties Of Makyee Island - Island Of Tamarind Tree

07:39 Pm Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"

07:48 Pm Black Gold (Part- II)

07:54 Pm Today Myanmar "Fixed Minimum Wage"

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Hanthawaddy U Win Tin "A Fearless Man" (Episode-1)

08:48 Pm Myanmar Masterclass "Artist Pann Kyi"

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday 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)

Nadal powers past Wawrinka, meets Tsonga in Shanghai Masters semis

SHANGHAI — Rafael Nadal's growing confidence was clear for all to see as the Spaniard dismissed Stan Wawrinka 6-2, 6-1 on Friday to reach the semi-finals of the Shanghai Rolex Masters.

Nadal might not have received the test he expected from a tired Wawrinka, who toiled for almost three hours on Thursday to overcome former US Open winner Marin Cilic.

The eighth seeded Spaniard, who reached the Beijing final last week, needed just 63 minutes to send the Swiss fourth seed crashing out.

From 2-2 in the first set, Nadal started to surge and reel off nine straight games before Wawrinka chalked up a game in the second set to avoid a bagel.

Having lost his past two contests with Wawrinka, Nadal improved to a 13-2 overall head-to-head record against the Roland Garros champion.

As he looks to reach his sixth ATP World Tour final of the season, the Spaniard will face Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, whom he has beaten in eight of their past 11 meetings.—Xinhua



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates victory against Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland during their men's singles quarter-final match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai, east China, on 16 October 2015. Rafael Nadal won 2-0. PHOTO: XINHUA

Martial, Pochettino win Premier League monthly awards



Anthony Martial with the Barclays Player of the Month Award. PHOTO: REUTERS



Mauricio Pochettino with the Barclays Manager of the Month Award. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Manchester United forward Anthony Martial and Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino have bagged the Premier League player and manager of the month awards for September.

Martial joined United for a reported 36 million pounds (\$55.70 million) on the final day of the transfer window and the 19-year-old scored three league goals last month, the first coming on debut against Liverpool and

then two more against Southampton.

Spurs won all their three of their Premier League fixtures in September, including an impressive 4-1 win over table-toppers Manchester City.

It is the first Manager of the Month award for Pochettino since the Argentine took over at Spurs, though he also won it with Southampton in January 2013.

Pochettino said the award was recognition for the efforts of

everyone at the club.

"It's a collective honour because we must recognise first our players, all coaching staff and the fans," he told the club website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com).

"It's good not just for me but for the whole club. It's very important. Okay it's 'manager of the month' but we need to recognise all people involved in the team.

"The whole club deserve this award."—Reuters

Bournemouth manager Howe signs contract extension

LONDON — Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe has signed a contract extension beyond 2018 at the south-coast club having been rewarded for steering them into the Premier League.

The club announced the agreement in a statement on Thursday but did not disclose the terms. However, British media said the contract will take him through to 2020.

The 37-year-old coach was

tied to the club until 2018 but has negotiated a longer deal after a clause in his contract was triggered by last season's promotion.

Bournemouth's former defender, who has masterminded three of their six promotions, has become the ambitious club's most successful manager since taking over during the 2008/09 season.

Howe has received several plaudits, including being named the Football League manager of

the decade and League Managers' Association manager of the year last season.

"I am delighted that Eddie has committed his future to the club," owner Maxim Demin said on the Bournemouth website (www.afcb.co.uk).

"Eddie and I have a very close relationship, we speak everyday and we trust each other implicitly when making decisions that affect the football club."—Reuters

Rossi returns to happy hunting ground Down Under

THE breathtaking renaissance of Valentino Rossi may be traced back to his last visit to Australia, so it is fitting that the Italian MotoGP great can all but seal an eighth premier class championship at Phillip Island on Sunday.

Yamaha rider Rossi will make his 328th Grand Prix start at the picturesque seaside circuit, drawing level with retired record-holder and fellow Italian Loris Capirossi.

The championship has been reduced to a two-horse race between Rossi and team mate Jorge Lorenzo with three rounds to go and 18 points separating the riders.

The gap is handy but 36-year-old Rossi was reluctant to start calculating the potential results he would need to seal a magic eighth title to match the record of another Italian cham-

pion, Giacomo Agostini.

"It's quite impossible (to predict)," Rossi said this week.

"In three races, we will have completely different conditions, three different types of tracks, so I never do these types of calculation — 99 percent of the time, it doesn't happen.

"We need to concentrate on Phillip Island and try to arrive in front of Jorge. This is the target, rather than making the calculation to arrive behind."

Rossi returns to Phillip Island to defend what seemed the most unlikely of race titles.

A distant second to Honda's runaway leader Marc Marquez last year, Rossi had all but resigned himself to another podium spot behind the Spaniard but his rival spun out of the race 10 laps from the end.

That gave Rossi his sixth premier class win in Australia and

first at Phillip Island in 10 years.

The Italian has barely looked back on his rejuvenated Yamaha, claiming four race wins this year to draw close to another championship, five years after his last was sealed at Phillip Island in 2009.

Double world champion Lorenzo has had his troubles Down Under, slicing off part of a finger during a crash one year, but he also has some fine memories.

He claimed the second of his championships at Phillip Island in 2012 with a safe podium spot behind retiring local hero Casey Stoner.

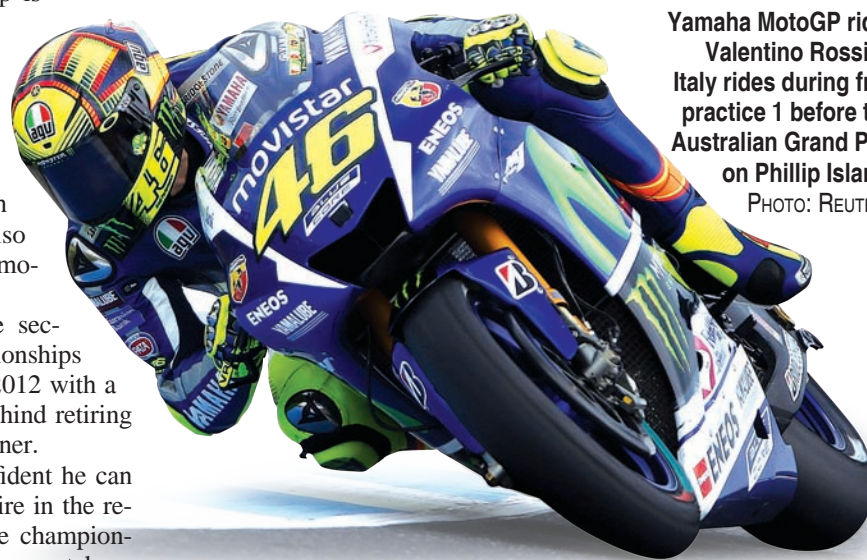
Lorenzo is confident he can push Rossi to the wire in the remaining races of the championship and believes he can take a

crucial step at Phillip Island.

"I am fortunate to have competed in an era with some of the most talented riders in the history of the sport and for sure some of the best of the last 30

years," he said this week.

"This year if I win will be a more special feeling for me and Yamaha, especially to beat Honda after Marquez has won the past two years."—Reuters



Yamaha MotoGP rider Valentino Rossi of Italy rides during free practice 1 before the Australian Grand Prix on Phillip Island. PHOTO: REUTERS