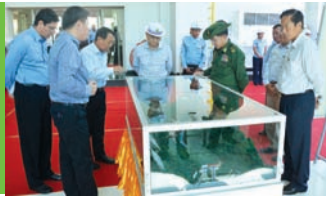


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EMERGING BUSINESS DESTINATION

Kyauk Phyu SEZ awarded international flag of investment attractiveness



An artist's impression of the Kyauk Phyu deep sea port project that will unlock the potential of the hinterland and fulfill the country's potential as a trade corridor for Africa, the Middle East and China. PHOTO CREDIT TO: KPSEZ.ORG

Ye Myint

MYANMAR'S Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone in Rakhine State was awarded the "Prime Business Destination Award" of the Europe Business Assembly, a UK-based international corporation, according to the SEZ's website.

On behalf of the country, Ambassador U Han Thu received the International Flag and Certificate of Investment Attractiveness at the Prime Business Des-

tinuation Forum held at Carlton Intercontinental Hotel in Cannes, France, on 12 October.

Kyauk Phyu special economic zone, one of the country's three SEZs, received the emerging business destination award with the qualification level of "E" that indicates significant opportunities and moderate risk, along with Haifa Municipality in Israel, European Integration of Brcko District in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Morant Bay in Jamaica.

Evaluation is based on criteria including economic and geographical position, natural-resources potential, economic potential, energy, transport, industrial and social infrastructures, human resources in the region, level of education and health care, innovative, technical and scientific potential, political stability, availability of legislative preferences for investments, mechanisms for investment protection, and accessibility to information for successful partici-

pation in investment projects and tenders, the EBA said.

According to sources, the Singapore-based Creative Professional Groups was hired to advise the SEZ Bid Evaluation and Awarding Committee (BEAC) on choosing and inviting international developers to the SEZ.

Invitation of expression of interest process for the development of the US\$227 million project started last year. Potential developers have submitted their detailed plans for construction

of a deep-sea port, an industrial park and a residential area.

During her presentation in Yangon last year, Mrs. Nina Yang, executive director of urban planning at CPG Consultants Pte Ltd, said that the 19.51 square kilometer development area for phase 1 in western Rakhine State will include a 2.46 square km deep sea port, a 10 square km industrial park, 5 square km integrated residential area and a 2 square km associated infrastructure development area.—GNLM

CBM revokes Foreign Exchange Acceptor & Holder License

THE CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar has revoked the Foreign Exchange Acceptor and Holder License as from 19 October 2015 in attempts to control fluctuation in exchange rates, according to an announcement of the CBM Friday.

In its announcement, the CBM has informed businesses and associations which were granted the license to return their license to the bank by 30 November, 2015.

The businesses and associations mentioned in the announcement are hotels and travel agencies, restaurants, duty free shops, air lines, hospitals, foreign forwarders, com-

munication businesses and companies which are doing businesses like soft drinks, lacquer, express delivery services, pesticide spraying services, media and apartments and Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd.

Other businesses include lacquer wares, silk, souvenirs shops, super markets, golf clubs and free funeral services.

The permit to use dollar currency in local trading and services has caused dollarization and higher demand in dollar and in-stability of the exchange rate which also threatens the financial sector of the country, the announcement said. — GNLM

Second JICM to be held in mid-November

AFTER signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and eight ethnic armed groups 15 October, the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) was held in the same afternoon in accordance with Sub-paragraph (a)(1) of Paragraph (21) of Chapter (5) of the NCA. President U TheinSein delivered a speech at the meeting.

The meeting, attended by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, continued on 16 and 17 October at the Max Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw and the Joint Monitoring

Committee and Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee were formed at the meeting.

In addition, both sides agreed to make efforts to enable ethnic armed groups that have not signed the NCA to participate in the peace process in a respectful manner, to hold the second JICM in mid-November and political dialogues and to continue to work for holding political dialogues in accordance with the terms of the NCA, according to the press release of the meeting. — MNA

Chinese experts report findings on flood prevention to vice president

A team of Chinese experts on maintenance of water courses and prevention of floods and droughts reported their findings on prevention of inundation along the Ayeyawady River to Vice President U Nyan Tun at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The vice president also chairs the National Natural Disaster Management Committee.

The team conducted surveys at 32 places along the river for prevention of floods.

Myanmar has conducted post-disaster need assessments in cooperation with the World Bank, EU, JICA and UN.

Also present were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Khin Zaw, U Zin Yaw, U Soe Tint, advisor to the president Dr Zaw Oo and the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Nyan Tun discusses flood prevention with Chinese experts. PHOTO: MNA

Interfaith Dialogue Group (Lower Myanmar) meets

INTERFAITH Dialogue Group (Lower Myanmar) had a get together meeting and a paper reading session, on 17 October at YMCA in Yangon.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe made an address. Director General U Khine Aung of Department of Promotion and Propagation of Sasana on behalf of the Minister for Religious Affairs, the group's Patron retired Ambassador Dr Hla Maung, and Chairman U Sein Win Aung also made speeches.

Papers on expanding the group and future plans were read by lower Myanmar region/ state chairmen. Papers on amicability between all reli-

gions, avoiding animosity between different religions and peaceful coexistence among all religions were read by Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, and Islam members.

The members also discuss to open nursing homes for senior citizens of all religions and orphanages, aiding people at conflict areas and, to hold educative talks on building friendship between all religions.

They agreed to cooperate with respective authorities and to prevent crimes committed in the name of religions.

The upper Myanmar branch of the association had held a similar meeting on 25 July.—*Soe Win*



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and members of Interfaith Dialogue Group pose for photo. PHOTO: SOE WIN

Japan's leading supplier of wiring Yazaki enters Myanmar market

Yazaki distributes its quality products in the county, with plans to occupy 20 % of market share within next five years.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YAZAKI Group, one of the world leading automotive wiring

harness suppliers, joins hands with Peace Myanmar Electric Co., to expand its market in the country.

President of Thai-Yazaki Electric Wire Co., Mr Mokoto Nitta presented distributorship certificate to the Managing Director U Saw Aung of PME Co., at its product launching ceremony in Yangon yesterday.

"This brand is relatively expensive compared to other brands in the local market, even though the company has set reasonable prices the people can afford," U Khin Maung Myat, executive marketing director of PME Co.

"Customers who like to use quality products will choose this brand."

Currently, only cheap brands are holding the majority of market shares but people will

choose quality products as they enjoy higher income, he added.

Established in 1929, Yazaki Group has occupied 37 % of market shares worldwide.

The company operates its business in more than 40 countries. It has a plan to obtain 20 % of market shares in Myanmar within next five years. The Japanese largest manufacturer has achieved 32% of market shares in Thailand.

Peace Myanmar Electric Co., Ltd has been founded in 1994. The company mainly imports and distributes electronic products manufactured by Mitsubishi Electric. Now, it becomes the first authorised agent of Yazaki in the country.



President of Thai-Yazaki Electric Wire Co., Mr Mokoto Nitta presents distributorship certificate to Managing Director U Saw Aung of PME Co. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Special police recruited for General Elections in Chamyathasi

SPECIAL policemen have been recruited by law for the upcoming 2015 General Elections said Chanmyathasi Township Police in-charge Police Major Khin Zaw, on 16 October. The township is one of Mandalay's city townships.

The 74 policemen appointed on 15 October, were at present discharged at the township's three police stations. They would be wearing uniforms and given numbers.

There will be 74 ballot booths in the township. The men have attended a training course and are to work together with four firefighters at their respective booths. They will be deployed for the security of the booth, explained the police officer.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

President assists in upgrading Loikaw People's Hospital, visits Beluchaung Hydropower Station

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein assisted in upgrading Loikaw People's Hospital Saturday during his tour of Kayah State.

The hospital is being extended from the 200-bed facility to the 500-bed one with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA.

Before his visit to the construction site, the president visited the hospital's wards to comfort and present food and gifts to the patients..

While the number of patients who received treatment at the hospital has been upward, the government approved K568 million budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, increasing from K300 million budget of the 2013-2014 fiscal year and from K 60 million budget of the 2012-2014 fiscal year.

More than 24,000 people received medical care at the hospital up to October this year.

The hospital saw an increase in number patients, reaching 14,986 in 2011, 20,706 in 2012,

24,104 in 2013 and 27,448 in 2014.

During his tour of Kayah State, the president also inspected No.3 hydropower station on the Belu Creek in the state.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe reported to the president on current generation of electricity by the three hydropower stations on the river and five hydropower projects to be jointly implemented by the ministry and public companies.

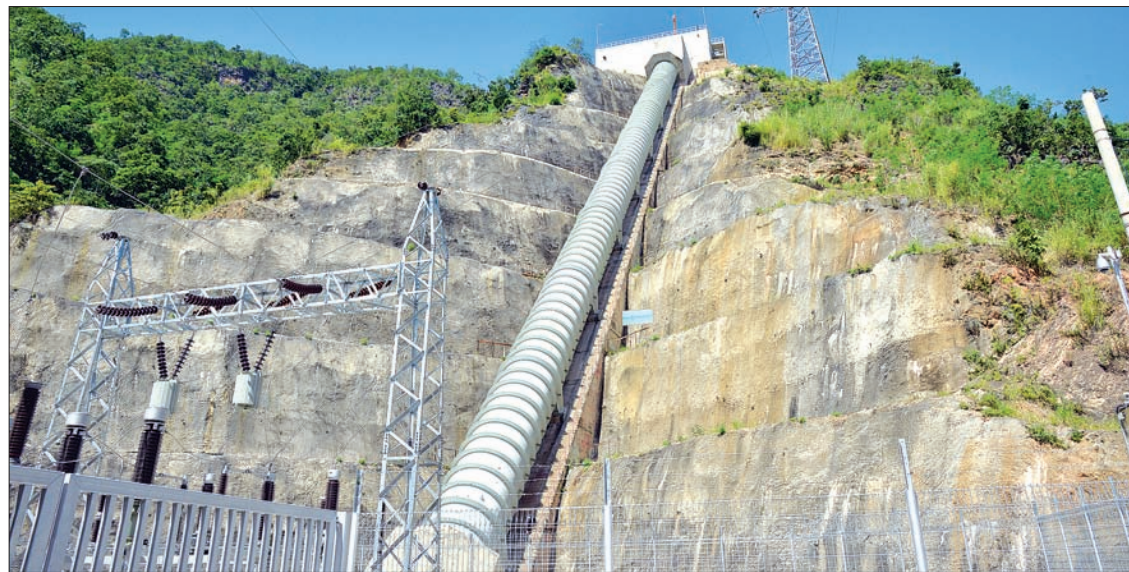
The total combined capacity of the three hydropower stations on the Belu Creek is 248 MW.

Another hydropower project namely the Upper Beluchaung is currently under construction on the same river about 14 miles and four furlongs south-west of Nyaungshwe.

The project is targeted to be completed in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. More than 33 percent of the project is completed and upon completion, it will prevent sedimentation in Inle Lake.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Thein Sein presents gifts to a patient at Loikaw Hospital in Kayah State. PHOTO: MNA



Water intake facility at No. 3 Beluchaung Hydropower Station in Kayah State. PHOTO: MNA

4.5 million tourists expected to visit Myanmar in 2015

ABOUT 4.5 million tourists are expected to visit Myanmar in 2015, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung said at the opening ceremony of a new hotel in Yangon on Saturday.

The newly opened Centerpoint Grand Hotel and Office

Tower has 300 rooms of international standard.

Myanmar was also nominated as one of the top ten destinations by Skyscanner and new hotel projects are also being implemented in Myanmar. Myanmar has seen 53 percent increase in tourist arrivals than the same period of the previ-

ous year. The union minister also met with hoteliers, tour operators and principals of hotel and tourism schools in Myanmar and urged them to cooperate for sustainable development of the hotel and tourism sector on Friday. He also told the catering industry to provide quality services to tourists.—*MNA*

More local election observers urged to apply for permission by 24 Oct

THE Union Election Commission has issued accreditations to 9 election observer organizations and 6,260 members of them, according to a statement

by the commission. The UEC welcomes and appreciates the organizations and has urged more local election observation organizations to apply for ac-

creditation by 24 October.

Detailed application process is available at the official website of the UEC at <http://uecmyanmar.org>. — *MNA*

Ballot papers to be printed on time

THE Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information is printing ballot papers for the general election scheduled to be held on 8 November.

The PPE has been printing nearly 1.3 billion ballot papers of 1159 different types

and planned to complete printing them on 18 October.

The Union Election Commission has ordered nearly 0.5 million more ballot papers recently and efforts are being made to complete printing ballot papers on time, according to PPE. — *MNA*

Maritime simulation room opened in MMU

DEPUTY Minister for Transport U Han Sein attended opening ceremony of a maritime simulation room and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats course-PSC&RB at Myanmar Maritime University in Thanlyin on Friday.

The simulator was man-

ufactured according to the standards of International Maritime Organization.

The PSC&RB course was jointly organized by MMU and Brilliance Maritime Training Centre. The MMU has links foreign shipping companies and is helping students find jobs.—*MNA*



Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein opens maritime simulation room and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats course-PSC&RB at Myanmar Maritime University in Thanlyin. PHOTO: MNA

USD 836 million Japanese ODA loan for Myanmar



Left: Mr. Keiichiro NAKAZAWA, Chief Representative, JICA Myanmar Office, Right: U Maung Maung Win, Director General, Treasury Department, Ministry of Finance. PHOTO JICA

On October 16, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed three loan agreements of up to a total of 99.85 billion Japanese Yen (approximately USD 836 million) with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The highly concessional ODA Loans (0.01% annual interest rate, 40 year repayment period including 10 year grace) will finance three key projects identified in the transport and power sector masterplans supported by JICA.

“East-West Economic Corridor Improvement Project” is expected to satisfy increasing traffic demand and make domestic and international flow of goods more efficient by replacing three bridges in the Mawlamyine (Mon) - Kawkaireik (Kayin) section.

“Yangon Circular Railway Line Upgrading Project”

aims to achieve safe, efficient and comfortable public transport services in Yangon, by rehabilitating and replacing the existing railway facilities and the rolling stock. The project is based on the Comprehensive Urban Transport Plan of the Greater Yangon up to 2035.

“National Power Transmission Network Development Project Phase II” is for construction of high voltage trunk transmission line and related 500kV substations. The project will promote universal access in line with the National Electricity (Power Sector) Master Plan up to 2030.

JICA, as a long-standing friend of Myanmar, will continue to maximize Myanmar’s potential for inclusive and sustainable growth, based on long-term strategic planning and by using every means of our assistance.—GNLM

Slight decline in violent crime in Yangon: police

Ko Moe

VIOLENT crime rates have declined slightly in Yangon Region this year, with 26 fewer instances reported than at the same period last year, according to Yangon Region Police Force.

The office of the commander of the Yangon Region Police Force said that between January and September this year, 295 cases of violent crimes were reported to police. This included 123 murders, 46 muggings, 17 burglaries, 92 cases of rape and three cases of armed robbery. In 2014 the total number of violent crimes recorded in the first nine months of the year was 321, which included 148 cases of murder and 37 cases of mugging.

Yangon is widely considered to be one of the safest cities in Asia, particularly in regards to petty theft and acts of public violence.

Tourists taking cruises along Chindwin River, motorcyclists coming in from east and west



Tourists visits local area along Chindwin River and meet locals. PHOTO: MoHT

WITH the cooperation of Ministry of Hotel and Tourism and travel tour companies, river cruises have been provided by national private river ships to interested foreign tourists. Road tours for cyclists have also been arranged.

Royal Voyages Co., Ltd had arranged a ten-day Chindwin river cruise for 10 foreign tourists from 25 September to 4 October. Via Mandalay, they embarked ‘Pantaw’ ship at Kalaywa town and had stops at upper Chindwin ports of Masein-Mawleik-Kintat-Yuwa-Khawai-Sitthaung-Thaunhut-Homlin and Khanti during the cruise. The tourists left from Man-

dalay. Similarly, the travel tour company also arranged a Chindwin river cruise by ‘Pantaw’ ship for 8 British tourists from 2-11 October. They came to Homlin airport and started from its port along Chindwin river, stopping at over 10 ports including Monywa town. They left from Mandalay international airport.

Moreover, Osuga Myanmar Travels & Tours Co.,Ltd had arranged for two British and one Australian motorcyclists to visit Myanmar from 1-12 October. They came in from Myawaddy of Kayin State and took the Myawaddy-Kyaikhtyo-Yangon-Nay Pyi

Taw-Nyaungshwe-Inlay-Monpyin route and left from Tachilate of Shan State. Shwe Sinyeik Ngye-in International Travels & Tours Co.,Ltd also arranged from 5-13 October for three British motorcyclists to enter from Tamu of Chin State of north-western Myanmar. They took the Tamu-Kalay-Monywa-Pagan-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Kyaikhto-Kyaihtyo route and left Myanmar via Myawaddy of south-eastern Myanmar.

As the tourist season has begun, more tourists in groups and individually are visiting Myanmar which expects 5 million tourists, this season.—MoHT

Compensation given to landowners of Dekkinathiri Township



A farmer receives compensation from local authority. PHOTO: IPRD

COMPENSATIONS for 10.4 acres of land to 31 farmers were presented on 16 October at Dekkinathiri Township General Administration Office. The mount totaled K

30.765 million. The confiscated lands were located on both sides of Razathingaha Road in Dekkinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—(Ottara District IPRD)

Mini library stands at One Stop Shop or Service office of Zabuthiri

A mini library was placed on 16 October, at the One Stop Shop-OSS office of Zabuthiri Township provided by the township Information and Public Relations Department, Ministry of Information for the public to read while coming to the office.

Literature at the stand includes religion, social, economics, education, health, agriculture, biographies, sports, culture, science and technolo-

gy, youth and civic affairs.

Moreover, a mobile library of Ottara District Information and Public Relations Department made a tour to Ottarathiri Agriculture Department, on the same day. The library makes weekly tours to schools, offices, town wards and villages borrowing new books every week.—Thant Maung/Ottara District IPRD



A mini library at one stop service in Zabuthiri Township. PHOTO: THANT MAUNG

Correction

The article headlined “Mandalay Region Chief Justice meets UNDP delegation” on page 4 of *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on 3 October incorrectly referred to the Mandalay Region Advocate-General as the chief justice. We regret the error.—GNLM

Record high 130 people want to run for Philippine president

MANILA — A record 130 Filipinos registered as candidates to succeed Benigno Aquino as Philippine president in next year's general election by Friday's deadline, the elections agency said. A man who registered his name as Lucifer, a



Philippines President Benigno Aquino listens to Liberal Party (LP) presidential candidate Manuel Roxas (L) while vice-presidential candidate Leni Robredo (R) waves to her supporters during a LP gathering of friends at Club Filipino in San Juan, metro Manila on 5 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

woman who heard voices from heaven and commanded her to run for public office and another who claimed to be an extraterrestrial ambassador are among the hopefuls.

"This is a symbol or a representative of a vibrant democracy, where more people feel empowered to cast their vote, and to put themselves forward as candidates," said James Jimenez, spokesman for the Commission on Elections. "We are giving people the opportunity to file their candidacies, but we reserve the right to really cut (the number) down to those with a reasonable expectation of victory."

In the 2010 presidential election, 99 people registered to run for president but only 10 people were allowed to compete. Aquino, only son of democracy icons Benigno Senior and Corazon, won with 42 percent of the votes. Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, who ran twice and lost in 1992 and 1998, was among the last to register.—Reuters

Chinese general says will never recklessly resort to force in South China Sea

BEIJING — China will never "recklessly" resort to the use of force in the South China Sea, a senior Chinese general said on Saturday, amid tensions over Beijing's building of islands in the disputed waters.

China's relations with several Southeast Asian countries, especially the Philippines and Vietnam who have competing claims in the South China Sea, have been strained over Beijing's increasingly assertive tone on territorial claims in an area through which \$5 trillion in shipborne trade passes annually.

Beijing's move last year to step up the creation of artificial islands, which it says are mostly for civilian purposes, has drawn strong criticism from Washington.

Fan Changlong, one of the vice chairmen of the Central Military Commission which controls the Chinese armed forces and is headed by President Xi Jinping, told a high-level security forum that China had sought to avoid conflict.

"We will never recklessly resort to the use of force, even on issues of sovereignty, and have

done our utmost to avoid unexpected conflicts," Fan told the forum, attended by Southeast Asian defence ministers.

Fan reiterated that China's islands "will not affect freedom of navigation in the South China Sea" and said recently completed lighthouses on Quarteron Reef and Johnson South Reef in the Spratly archipelago "have already begun to provide navigation services to all nations".

"We will continue to resolve disputes and differences with directly related parties through friendly consultation and are committed to working with relevant parties to maintain regional security and stability," Fan said.

The United States says international law prohibits claiming territory around artificial islands built on previously submerged reefs and that the US military would sail or fly wherever international law allowed.

Beijing, however, denies it has militarised the South China Sea and has warned that it would not stand for violations of its territorial waters in the name of freedom of navigation.—Reuters

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Malaysia arrests hacker for supplying US targets to Islamic State

KUALA LUMPUR — At the request of the United States, Malaysia has arrested a man on charges of hacking personal data of more than a thousand US officials and handing it to Islamic State militants in Syria so they could target the individuals.

The man, 20-year-old Ardit Ferizi from Kosovo, who entered Malaysia in August 2014 to study computer science and forensics, will be extradited to the United States, police said on Thursday night.

The suspect communicated

with an Islamic State member in Syria about hacking servers containing information and details of US security personnel, Malaysian police said.

"The details were then transferred to the operation unit of the IS group for further action," the police said in a statement.

US government experts say that in practise, Islamic State's hacking exploits have been rudimentary and have done little known damage to any targeted institutions or individuals.

In contrast, the group's coterie

of cyber specialists is regarded by American and allied government counterterrorism agencies as highly sophisticated in its use of social media to spread Islamic State's message and recruit new members and supporters.

The US Justice Department said Ferizi, a known hacker, had been charged with hacking the personal information of 1,351 US military personnel and federal employees and supporting Islamic State.

Ferizi, believed to be the leader of a Kosovar Internet hacking

group called Kosova Hacker's Security, hacked the computer system of a US company and stole the personal identification information (PII) of thousands of individuals, the department said in a statement on Thursday.

"This case is a first of its kind and, with these charges, we seek to hold Ferizi accountable for his theft of this information and his role in ISIL's targeting of US government employees," Assistant US Attorney General John Carlin said in the statement.—Reuters

Australia PM seeks to calm New Zealand concerns over detentions



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. PHOTO: REUTERS

CANBERRA — Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Saturday sought to soothe friction with Wellington over the plight of hundreds of New Zealanders held in Australian detention centres or facing deportation under tough immigration laws.

On his first visit to neighbouring New Zealand as prime minister, Turnbull said there would be no change in the law but promised a faster appeal process.

Media reports say 160 New Zealanders have been deported this year, with 196 in immigration detention — including some held at an Australian facility on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean — and up to 1,000 facing the prospect of deportation.

Under the immigration laws aimed at boosting national security and stopping asylum seekers arriving by boat, Australia has set up offshore detention camps on Christmas Island and on the South Pacific nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

"The number of New Zealanders whose visas will be revoked has been high because the law came in at the end of last year and there has been in effect a backlog," he told a media briefing in Auckland after holding talks with his New Zealand coun-

terpart John Key.

"So those numbers will decline and settle at a relative low number going forward," said Turnbull, who last month toppled former prime minister Tony Abbott in a party-room coup to become Australia's fourth leader in just two years.

Laws introduced late last year meant that residents in Australia can have their visas cancelled if they commit a crime serious enough to attract a penalty of 12-months imprisonment or more. Without a valid visa, residents usually end up in detention, before being deported.

There are more than half a million New Zealand citizens living in Australia and many have been there most of their lives.

The two countries traditionally have close relations but Key said he had a frank discussion with Turnbull over the issue of detentions.—Reuters

Greek parliament approves reform bill ahead of bailout review



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras acknowledges applause from ministers of his government following his speech during a parliamentary session before a vote of confidence at the parliament building in Athens, Greece on 8 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Israel says thwarts further knife attacks, three Palestinians dead

JERUSALEM — Three Palestinians were shot dead on Saturday in what Israel said were thwarted knife attacks, but a Palestinian witness of one incident said it was a result of Jewish settler violence, as tensions ran high after more than two weeks of unrest.

At least 40 Palestinians and seven Israelis have died in the violence, which was in part triggered by Palestinians' anger over what they see as increased Jewish encroachment on Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque compound.

Israeli border police had stopped to question a 16-year-old Palestinian walking in "a suspicious manner" through a neighbourhood around East Jerusalem, a police spokesman said. The teenager drew a knife and tried to stab the officers, who shot him dead, the spokesman said.

A second shooting occurred near a Jewish settlement in the

West Bank city of Hebron. The Israeli military said a Palestinian attempted to stab an Israeli civilian, who was carrying a gun and then shot and killed the attacker.

A Palestinian high schooler, who witnessed the Hebron shooting, said it happened when Jewish settlers attacked an unarmed Palestinian, according to the girl's father who spoke with Reuters.

Also in Hebron, a female Palestinian stabbed an Israeli border policewoman, cutting her hand, a police spokesman said. The policewoman managed to shoot the attacker, he said.

More than 40 Palestinians have been killed in the last two weeks, including knife-wielding assailants and protesters shot by Israeli forces during rock-throwing confrontations. Seven Israelis have died in random attacks in the street or on buses.

Israel says it is keeping the status quo at the holy compound,

which is also revered by Jews as the location of two destroyed biblical Jewish temples.

Peace talks collapsed in 2014 over Israeli settlement-building in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, areas Palestinians seek for a state, and after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas angered Israel by reaching a unity deal with the Islamist group Hamas in Gaza.

The last major confrontation was the Gaza conflict between Israel and Hamas in 2014, which left large sections of Gaza destroyed. Around 2,100 Palestinians, most of them civilians, and 73 Israelis, almost all soldiers, were killed.

The United States has stepped up efforts to try to restore calm to the region. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke by phone with both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abbas to discuss ways to end the violence.—Reuters



A Palestinian protester runs during clashes with the Israeli troops near the Jewish settlement of Beit El, near the West Bank city of Ramallah on 15 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ATHENS — The Greek parliament approved an omnibus bill on Friday cutting pensions, raising the retirement age, increasing punishment for tax evasion and liberalising the energy market ahead of the first review of the country's new bailout programme later this month.

Inspectors from the European Commission, European Central Bank, euro zone rescue fund and International Monetary Fund are expected in Athens at the end of October to assess progress on Greece's third financial rescue package.

Athens wants to conclude the review and recapitalise its banks quickly, to secure fresh aid and talks on debt relief. But it must first enact a long list of reforms as detailed in the

86-billion-euro (\$97.6 billion) bailout plan.

In a long debate which started early Friday and ended an hour after midnight, 154 lawmakers from co-governing leftist Syriza and Independent Greeks approved the broad outline of measures in the 300-seat parliament.

"You will have a combative government which will provide a solution to the debt issue," Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos earlier told lawmakers, pledging to introduce measures to buffer vulnerable groups from the most painful elements of tax reform.

One Independent Greek lawmaker rejected pension and tax reforms in an article-by-article vote, but agreed with the package in principle.—Reuters

MSF says US tank entered compound of bombed Afghan hospital without permission



An Afghan man walks in front of the Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) hospital in Kunduz Afghanistan on 14 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

KABUL — Medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres said on Friday that a US tank entered the grounds of its hospital in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz without permission, damaging the compound that was hit in a US air strike earlier this month.

The group said in a statement that the vehicle was carrying a team from a joint investigation being conducted by the United States, NATO and Afghan government into why a US aircraft fired on the hospital, killing at least 22 staff and patients.

"Their unannounced and forced entry damaged property, destroyed potential evidence and caused stress and fear for the MSF team," the group said of the incident on Thursday.

It also said members of the investigation team had previously agreed to notify MSF before taking steps that involved the group's personnel or assets.

A spokesperson for NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan did not immedi-

ately confirm or deny the report.

"We are aware of the reports and are reviewing the incident," the spokesperson said.

The US military has taken responsibility for the air strike, which occurred during intense fighting between Afghan forces and the Taliban in the early hours of 3 October.

The Islamist militants had briefly taken control of Kunduz city, in their biggest military victory in 14 years of war.

MSF officials have said the hospital's location had been clearly indicated to all parties, and that no Taliban fighters were occupying the site, as some Afghan government officials initially stated.

A group of MSF staff members were in Kunduz this week to assess the damage to the hospital, which is no longer functioning. At present, 22 staff members and patients are confirmed to have died in the attack, and two additional staff members are presumed to be dead.—Reuters

Croatia diverts migrants to Slovenia after Hungary border closure



A migrant family walks to a registration center at a Croatia-Slovenia border crossing in Lendava, Slovenia on 17 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Scottish leader Sturgeon says Cameron a threat to UK's place in Europe

ABERDEEN — Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon will accuse Prime Minister David Cameron of playing 'fast and loose' with Britain's place in the European Union on Saturday, criticising his renegotiation strategy before a public vote on remaining an EU member.

Britain's future in Europe has become a defining issue for the country. Cameron has promised to negotiate new membership terms before holding a referendum by the end of 2017 on whether to leave the EU.

A vote to leave would have profound consequences — among other things, it might trigger a fresh bid for Scottish independence by the pro-EU Scottish National Party, threatening to end the 300-year-old union of Scotland and England.

Sturgeon, who supports the European Union but eventually wants Scotland to become an inde-

pendent country, will use a speech at her Scottish National Party's annual conference in Aberdeen to criticise Cameron's handling of the issue.

"We despair at the failure of leadership of a prime minister pandering to Eurosceptics in his party, but unable to articulate clearly and precisely what it is he is seeking to renegotiate," Sturgeon will say, according to advance extracts of her speech.

Earlier this week, Cameron sought to defuse the frustration of fellow EU leaders over lack of detail in his renegotiation demands by promising to send them a list of proposals in writing in early November. Sturgeon will use the speech to her party faithful to spell out her unwavering support for the EU, regardless of whether Cameron is successful.

"David Cameron might play

fast and loose with our place in Europe, but be in no doubt - the SNP will campaign positively for Scotland, and the UK, to stay in the European Union," she will say. Opinion polls show public opinion across the whole of Britain is narrowly in favour of remaining a member of the EU. It is higher among Scotland's voters.

Sturgeon has listed a vote to leave the bloc as something that would almost certainly spark a fresh referendum on Scotland's independence — an issue that has gathered steam even though Scottish voters rejected breaking away last September.

Support for the SNP surged following that vote, but Sturgeon has played down the prospect of another referendum in the near future, focussing instead on next May's elections to the Scottish parliament.—Reuters

Norwegian mass killer Breivik to sue to end prison isolation

OSLO — Convicted Norwegian mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik will sue to end his isolation in prison, arguing that such strict conditions violate his human rights, his lawyer said on Friday.

Breivik, who killed 77 people in a bomb attack and shooting spree, has been kept in solitary confinement since his arrest in 2011. Only prison staff, his lawyers and his mother, who died of cancer in 2013, have visited him in at least two prisons where he has been held.

His request should be heard in March next year and the Oslo district court has been asked to let

him attend, lawyer Oeystein Storrvik said. Breivik's killing spree was the worst acts of violence committed in Norway since the World War Two.

"There will be a court case about his prison conditions," Storrvik told Reuters. "We are arguing that his prison conditions are a breach of human rights. He has been held in isolation for four years."

The court has not yet decided whether Breivik can attend, the lawyer said.

Breivik has previously complained that his prison conditions amounted to torture and threat-

ened to go on hunger strike if they were not improved. Asked whether he would go ahead with this threat were he to lose the court case, Storrvik said: "We are focusing on the court case now."

Officials at the Skien prison in southern Norway, where Breivik is believed to be held, declined to comment or even confirm whether he was currently being held there.

The head of Ila prison outside Oslo, a facility where Breivik was previously held, said in 2013 that holding him in isolation was necessary because of the risk he could take someone hostage.—Reuters

OPATOVAC — Migrants streaming across the Balkans reached Slovenia on Saturday, diverted overnight by the closure of Hungary's border with Croatia in the latest demonstration of Europe's disjointed response to the flow of people reaching its borders.

Hungary's right-wing government declared its southern frontier with Croatia off limits to migrants, blocking entry with a metal fence and razor wire just as it did a month ago on its border with Serbia.

Croatia began directing migrants west to Slovenia, which said some 300 had arrived and would be registered before continuing their journey to Austria and Germany, the preferred destination of the vast majority, many of them Syrians fleeing war.

But their movement had slowed visibly, with dozens of buses lined up at Serbia's border with Croatia through the night and

into Saturday as Croatian police controlled their entry, a Reuters reporter said. Slovenia suspended rail traffic with Croatia.

Aid agencies are concerned about backlogs of migrants building in the Balkans, battered by autumn winds and rain as temperatures drop before winter.

Hungary said it had reinstated border controls on its frontier with Slovenia, effectively suspending Europe's Schengen system of passport-free travel. Both Slovenia and Hungary are part of the Schengen Area while Croatia is not.

A government spokesman said Budapest had taken the step because "migrants appeared" on the Slovenian side of the border.

Slovenia, a small country of two million people, says it can accommodate up to 8,000 migrants per day. Both Ljubljana and Zagreb say they will not restrict the flow so long as Austria and Germany keep their doors open.—Reuters

US's Kerry, Israel's Netanyahu to meet in Germany next week

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State John Kerry will meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Germany next week to discuss the recent spate of violence between Israel and Palestinians in which 39 people have been killed, the Israeli ambassador to Washington said on Friday.

A US State Department statement said Kerry spoke with the Israeli prime minister on the phone today on "how best to end the recent wave of violence, and to offer US support for efforts to restore calm as soon as possible."

Another statement said Kerry had a call with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday and "reiterated the importance of avoiding further violence and preventing inflammatory rhetoric, accusations."

Kerry, who has said he

planned to go to the Middle East soon to try to calm the violence, was travelling to Europe on Friday.

Israel's ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer, confirmed the planned meeting in Germany during an interview with CNN.

"That discussion will be, 'OK, how do we get back to where we were in order to calm things down,'" Dermer said.

Earlier, a spokesman for German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Netanyahu will travel to Germany on Wednesday for talks with Merkel on the security situation in Israel and the wider Middle East. Mark Toner, a US State Department spokesman, said in a daily press briefing that Kerry was likely to meet the Israeli prime minister, "probably" in Germany, but details of the trip were still being finalised.—Reuters

Cambodian police arrest 72 Chinese nationals for telephone scam

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian police have raided a guesthouse in Tboung Khmum province, northeast of Phnom Penh, and arrested 72 Chinese nationals who were allegedly involved in a telephone scam, the National Police's website reported on Saturday.

"Seventy-two Chinese nationals, including 19 females, were arrested on suspicion of telephone fraud during the raid on Friday afternoon," Tboung Khmum provincial police chief Gen. Mao Pov was quoted by

the website as saying.

A number of telephones and laptops, which were used by the scammers to threaten and extort money from people in China, were also seized as evidence.

Scammers often use overseas servers to make scam calls to their victims in China, claiming to be court or police officers, noting that the victims' bank accounts had been breached so that they have to transfer the money to a separate safe account.—Xinhua

OPINION

Building a shared future from a divided past

Kyaw Thura

More than half a decade of armed conflict has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that the exchange of bullets produces nothing but an endless cycle of needless suffering. There's no winner in the game of violence. We know this only too well – what have the internal armed conflicts ever achieved?

The recent signing of the nationwide ceasefire accord between the government and eight ethnic armed organisations is a very encouraging sign of progress: we may now begin to nurse Myanmar back to a state of health and tranquility. Everyone stands to benefit from

sustainable development and the end of pointless divisions amongst us.

But it must be acknowledged that the sheer number of painful memories we possess have drained our energy and sapped our spirit. It will take a great deal of effort to rebuild trust and understanding. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people were displaced by the senseless violence and many remain traumatised after being trapped in conflict zones. The families who lost loved ones in combat carry emotional scars that will last a lifetime.

It has taken far too long to comprehend the full extent of the damage we've done to one another. Only now are we facing up to the fact that both sides lose out, time and time again. No longer should we count the numbers of dead soldiers versus so-called enemies: every casualty was a human being; a fellow brethren. It's time to stop focusing on our differences and to start celebrating what we should: a shared national identity with a rich diversity of ethnicities and religions. Our differences should never have divided us but we failed to recognise a universal truth: that we are one people, regardless of caste or creed.

Breaking the cycle of hostility and conflict is long overdue: the fact that we are beginning to rebuild broken relationships represents enormous progress, but it will not be achieved overnight.

We must learn how to manage our differences without resorting to violence. We must accept that national reconciliation is the only path to lasting peace. All other roads lead to a dead end – literally. Let us begin a new chapter of building consolidation through negotiation: it's a surefire way to guarantee the end of live ammunition. Let's start afresh: the nightmare is over.

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.

KEEP IT UP, MR. PRESIDENT!

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

U Than Htay

Despite the clamorous condemnations and derogatory denunciations heaped on certain misconducts of your Government in the past, we, the pensioners (at least, most us) admire and respect your probity, benevolence and courage. You are still our hero on three counts. They are, first, your intrepid suspension of that infernal Myitson Project, second, your benevolent presidential decree that gave a substantial boost in our paltry pensions, and third, your righteous and resolute stand on the issue of illegal Bengali infiltrators from Bangladesh in Rakhine State against the concerted but unjustified pressure from the UN, UK, US, OIC and some muslim countries.

Another notable achievement of yours in the Public Welfare Sector is the highly visible vista of populace (including low-income people) conversing congenially with one another using a variety of mobile telephones everywhere, both in the urban and rural areas. We all know how you have wielded your presidential clout to bring down the exorbitantly high cost of those cordless telephones to make them affordable to the common people. I doubt whether all those avid users of hand-phones from the lowly paid female paddy transplanters, boiled pea-sellers, trishawmen and taxi drivers to the filthy rich sons and daughters of the *nouveau riche* feel grateful to His Excellency, the President.

As traditionally cultured and courteous Myanmarers, we should acknowledge anyone's act of kindness and good will with due gratitude. Otherwise, we would be inexcusable ingrates. More so, if we imprecate our benefactors with invidious invectives like some of us are doing right now. Such ungrateful attitudes degrade one's personal dignity.

No one is perfect. Everyone is fallible proving the truth of the

saying, "to err is human". As such, we should refrain from overly criticising anyone. It would be like "the pot calling the pan black" for we all are sinners according to the Christian Faith, meaning no one is lily white and innocent. Indeed, it is easier to criticise others. When it comes to self-criticism, no one is willing to practise it including myself. Frequently self-criticism is what we need to pursue. If everyone practises it, every now and then, it will lessen the personal friction between individuals and also schisms within societies. In the long run, it would even eventually lead to the national unity and countrywide peace that are integral to the nation building for all Myanmarers.

If I live long enough (I am already 83 now) I would like to see what the next Government, Judiciary and Parliaments could do for us, the citizens of the Union. Would these State Power Organs be able to accomplish much better than the incumbent? It remains to be seen.

Right now, I hear more than my earful of clamours and clarion calls for "CHANGE". What CHANGE would it be? Mere changes of certain sections in the Constitution will not do. The first and fundamental thing is to CHANGE OUR MINDS OR MENTAL STATES. I don't use the vogue word, the mindset, because it is a misnomer. In reality, the mind never sets. It is a fast rising and disappearing phenomenon or entity, transient and ceaseless. Since it is not static but dynamic, how it could be termed a mineset? *Vipassna* practitioners and veteran meditators understand the mind's dynamism and transiency.

If we do not CHANGE OUR MINDS to suppress or get rid of those inveterate wicked propensities such as selfishness, avaricious grabbings, opportunism, lack of discipline, rebellious spirit, lawlessness, bellicosity, atavistic cruelty, intolerance, jealousy and envy (what our beloved Bogyoke Aung San had so

aply dubbed the execrable habits of Myanmarers) it would not work, even with the dramatic changes in political scenarios. CHANGE of these evil habits of mind or even better, the eradication of these mental impurities is a must, first and foremost. But no one seems to be aware of it. Our political parties should pay more attention to the training of mental CHANGE and character improvements for both young and old, instead of vociferously voicing the party slogans for the election victory.

Regarding those illegal Bengali (Bangladeshi) infiltrators in the Rakhine State, it simply involves the two countries, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The problem has to be solved bilaterally. If requested by both countries, the UN should act as an impartial arbitrator or mediator. But now it is not so. Why Myanmar alone has to bear the brunt of the blame? We Myanmarers are flabbergasted and incensed. Why not blame Bangladesh also for the "boat people". They are not refugees really although they seek refuge in Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries just for better living conditions. Just because their Government could not look after them well, they are fleeing from their country. Thus, the Bangladesh Government is also culpable in our opinion.

As for those allegations on the mistreatments and abuses of human rights toward the muslim minorities in this country, they are simply risible. We wonder why the human rights nuts in the UN and OIC DON'T slap PRC and Japan with the same sort of censure. Is it because these two countries are economic giants with formidable political power? Or is it just a case of "stabbing the spear into the low ground (a metaphorical maxim of Myanmarers) meaning, in this instance, the bullying of puny and powerless country by the Big Powers. Please don't forget that Myanmar is still an LDC.

It is common knowledge that the UN and those oil-dependent

western countries are shamelessly kowtowing to the whims and wishes of the oil-rich muslim nations. It is immoral! Personally I feel that OIC's main concern should be the unity, harmony, love, peace and welfare among the global muslim communities. Her inability to negotiate and bring peace and harmony between Sunni's and Shiites and many other smaller sects in the Middle East, is indeed a fiasco. Pardon me, if I sound brash and brusque. But it is the truth nothing but the truth.

Except for a few, most of the pensioners, especially the lower rank people, are penurious, if not outright impecunious. For more than two decades, my monthly pension pay of K.1250 was a mere chicken feed, not enough even for a day's subsistence. I retired as a Deputy Director General. Just imagine how pathetic would be the plight of those government servants of lower ranks. Now my pension pay has risen to K.141,754.29 per month. Although it is not much with the present-day prices of commodities and cost of living, it is something. It could take care of my monthly medicinal expenses to some extent. So it would be for other pensioners too. No wonder we pensioners feel deeply grateful to the President and all those people who have been instrumental in making our pensions substantially increased. It is not a small feat. In fact, it is a benchmark benevolence of one good man and his company of equally good comrades and assistants in the different organs of State Power. We thank you all very much!

It took both physical and moral courage for the President to suspend that maleficent Myitson Project braving the wrath of and tremendous pressure from the indignant investors. Realistically disturbance and destruction of natural geographical setting, scenic environment, ecological system and biodiversity far outweigh the claimed expected benefits from

the regional development and modernization. That is why we all want it terminated once and for all. In fact, this potentially pernicious Project should be summarily scrapped off for the good of our country.

As an ill consequence of unseasonal sustained heavy rains, a very recent devastating deluge ravaged the vast stretches of the Rakhine State, Chin State, Upper Myanmar and some parts of Shan State, killing people and animals, and destroying properties and crops with fearsome floods, landslides and dam bursts. It was rather horripilating! Just imagine how a dam of Myitson magnitude would play havoc with cities, towns and other riparian villages teeming with the people along the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) River downstream, once it bursts through adverse weather conditions. The dam builders and their clients, the investors (whoever they may be) certainly have no control over highly erratic weather conditions and calamitous climatic changes. Anyway, it is a dire threat that we all should not permit to come into existence ever.

Keep it up, Mr. President! We, the pensioners, are right behind you! You and your Government have done well, of course, within limits. If you would have decided to run for the second term presidency, we would certainly root for your election victory. You deserve it rightfully.

With the uncertain future still lingering for the complete closure of that diabolical Myitson Project, we all are very worried. We do understand that you have done your utmost, so far. It is, however, our wistful thinking, that if it could be terminated for good, during the tenure of your presidency, how wonderful or great as Americans say. If that really happens, your name and your Government will be cherished forever not only in the annals of history of Myanmar, but also in the hearts of all patriotic Myanmarers.

Author:

U Than Htay, a career geologist with 36 years active service and 11 years as an able Advisor, is retired Deputy Director General from the Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration (DGSE), Ministry of Mines.

150-year-old Pakhan Nge Monastery falls into ruin



The original Pakhan Nge monastery (left) and the ruins seen today. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

AN ANCIENT monastery-built over 150 years ago during the Konbaung era in Pakhan Nge village, is deteriorating and in desperate need of conservation, according to local residents.

All that remains of the monastery today are a few wooden posts and some concrete steps.

According to the

monastery's records, King Mindon, the father of Myanmar's final monarch, King Thibaw, ordered ministers and sawbwas (Shan chieftains) to assist in completing the construction of the huge monastery on 16 acres of land. The edifice was built by his uncle, Pakhan Mingyi U Yan Way, for the Pandu Sayadaw, a

prominent Buddhist monk during the Konbaung era.

The Pandu Sayadaw taught Buddhist literature to more than 400 monks at the monastery about 150 years ago.

It took seven years for 100 carpenters to complete the wooden building using traditional Myanmar architectural techniques, most

notably the inclusion of eight-step stairways.

The monastery is held up by 332 wooden posts, each of which is between 6 and 19 metre tall and nearly 2 metres in circumference.

"When I was young, I pretended to be a king sitting on the throne of the monastery. But today, the

throne is not here, and the monastery is deteriorating," said U Soe Win Myint, a resident of Pakhan Nge village.

Local residents have not been able to fund conservation efforts, and the national heritage building is falling into ruin before our eyes, he added.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay)*

Ingapu Township receives cash grants under rural development project

UNDER the Emerald Green Village Project, the Rural Development Department funded development initiatives in twenty-three villages in Ingapu Township on Thursday.

Each village received K30 million (US\$23,300) to spend on improving the local economy.

U Soe Than, head of the Ayeyawady Region Rural Development Department, handed over the cash assistance to representatives of the villages in the presence of Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Soe Aung.—*Win Bo*

Thai Expo to come to Mandalay

THAI Expo 2015 will be held in Mandalay from 29 October to 1 November and will include 128 booths.

More than 110 compa-

nies will participate in the expo, exhibiting their products, including foodstuffs, textiles, home decoration materials, kitchenware, farming tools, construction

materials and cosmetics at Diamond Plaza. The expo is aimed at establishing trade relations between Thai and Myanmar entrepreneurs.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

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 canvas shoes. They will be paid K 120,000 for salary and K 30,000 for allowance.—*MNA*

UK steps up efforts to help Myanmar mitigate impacts of climate change



Members of the British Embassy provide flood relief supplies in Ayeyarwaddy Region in August.

PHOTO: BRITISH EMBASSY

Jessica Mudditt

THE United Kingdom is committed to helping Myanmar overcome the challenges of being one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, said a British Embassy representative on Tuesday.

Myanmar was among the 'extreme risk' group in

the 2015 Climate Change Vulnerability Index, which identified ever-frequent extreme weather impacts, particularly flooding, having potentially devastating effects on ecosystems, human health, industrial processes, supply chains and infrastructure.

"As we have seen with this year's devastating floods, these impacts are hitting all

across a country that is on the front line of climate change," *Anthony Preston*, Head of the British Embassy's Prosperity Team told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

The UK delivered aid supplies to flood affected areas following the floods that hit 12 out of 14 states and regions in Myanmar in July and August.

In late September, the UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change announced that funding for activities aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change in developing countries around the world will be increased by at least 50 percent, to a further £5.8 billion (US\$8.95 billion) from April 2016 to March 2021.

The funding is delivered through the International Climate Fund (ICF) which was established in 2010 and helps developing countries to take up low carbon development, protect forests and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. It is part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget.

"To ensure a more secure and prosperous future for us all, the UK is playing its part by helping some of the most vulnerable communities become more resilient to climate change and by supporting the developing world to take the clean energy path to growth and prosperity rather than the

high carbon route," said the UK's Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ms Amber Rudd in the press release issued on 27 September.

The UK will focus on low carbon development, which will help the world's poorest countries to boost their economies and tackle poverty, while at the same time reducing carbon emissions and the impacts of climate change. Introducing low carbon energy sources such as solar power will also enable millions of people without electricity to access clean energy, allowing homes and businesses to thrive.

"Taking action on climate change is in every country's interest. We cannot have food security, water security, energy security—or any form of national security—without climate security. In response to this, the UK Government has launched the International Climate Fund (ICF) to help reduce poverty and tackle climate change in developing countries. The ICF will help

poor countries to protect the lives and jobs that are most at risk from climate change. It will support poor countries to build resilience to a changing climate, protect precious water resources, and help poor people cope with more frequent extreme weather events," said Mr Preston.

Since 2012 the UK has provided over £43.3 million (US\$67 million) in humanitarian aid to people in Myanmar and along the Thai-Myanmar border, making it one of the largest humanitarian donors in the region.

The UK's climate finance goes towards building climate resilient communities in a variety of ways. It has supported the distribution of flood resilient crops and improving early warning systems. It is also helping create a reliable source of energy for communities which improves health, education, and enables businesses to grow, creating jobs and improving incomes and standards of living for the poorest communities.

Suicide bombing, gunbattle kills 12 in western Yemen: security sources



Guards stand at the south gate of an intelligence building in Yemen's western city of Hodaida on 16 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

SANAA — An apparent suicide bombing and gun attack claimed by Al Qaeda killed 10 soldiers guarding an intelligence building in the western Yemeni city of Hodaida on Friday, security sources said.

The sources said two of the assailants were also killed.

“Gunmen believed to belong to al Qaeda attacked the main gate of the political security building with rocket-pro-

pelled grenades and machine guns after a car bomb driven by a suicide bomber attacked the back gate,” one of the sources said.

The group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement issued online, calling its militants “holy warriors”.

Al Qaeda and Islamic State have both gained ground in Yemen, where a war has been raging for seven months between

a Saudi-led military alliance and Houthi militiamen allied to Iran.

The militant Islamist groups view the Shi'ite Muslim Houthi movement, which controls Hodaida and much of Yemen's north, as apostates deserving death.

But Islamic State has also hit out against the Arab military alliance supporting Yemen's embattled government.

In a series of suicide bomb-

ings on 6 October, Islamic State killed 22 people, including several troops from the United Arab Emirates, at the government headquarters in the southern port of Aden and military bases in the city.

Ground fighting and Saudi-led air strikes have killed at least 5,400 people in Yemen's multi-sided conflict, which started as a civil war among competing factions but has drawn in outside powers in a regional struggle for influence between Sunni Gulf countries and Shi'ite Iran.

Jets from a Saudi-led military coalition bombed the house of Yemen's speaker of parliament on Friday, residents said, as part of a wave of attacks aimed at influential politicians.

The attack hit the residence of Yahya al-Ra'i in central Dhamar Province, leaving him unscathed but killing his son.

Residents of the Houthi-controlled capital Sanaa reported around 60 coalition air strikes in the last two days on military bases and houses belonging to family members of Ali Abdullah Saleh, a former president and important ally of the Houthis. Five civilians were killed in the bombardment of the capital on Thursday, residents said, including at least two children.—Reuters

Turkey downs drone as Syria launches Aleppo offensive

BEIRUT — Turkey shot down a drone on Friday in an incident highlighting the dangers of multiple air combat operations over Syria, where government troops and their allies backed by Russian jets have launched an offen-

sive against rebels near Aleppo.

The army offensive south of the city, backed by Hezbollah and Iranian fighters, further expands its 10-day-old counter-attack in western Syria against insurgents battling to overthrow

President Bashar al-Assad.

The army campaign has been coordinated with Russian jets, which began air strikes in support of Assad on 30 September, and Syria's own air force.

A US-led coalition of Western and Arab forces has been flying combat missions over Syria for more than a year, while Israeli jets have also struck targets in Syria during the four-year-old civil war.

That has left Syria's air-space crowded with warplanes from rival, or even hostile powers, pursuing competing military strategies, heightening the risk of aerial confrontation.

Turkey's military said its jets shot down an unidentified drone in Turkish air space near Syria on Friday.

A US official said Washington believed it was of Russian origin, but the Russian defence ministry said all of its planes in Syria had safely returned to base and that all its drones were operating “as planned”. NATO said Turkey was investigating where

the drone came from.

The Turkish military said the aircraft it shot down had continued on its course despite three warnings, in line with Turkey's rules of engagement. Broadcaster NTV said it had come 3 km (2 miles) into Turkish air space.

Turkey has already complained of Russian warplanes violating its air space along the border with Syria earlier this month.

The Russian Defence Ministry said later on Friday it had established direct contact with the Turkish military to avoid incidents with flights near the border, Interfax news agency reported.

Russia had set up a hotline between a base used by its air force in Syria and the Israeli air force command centre to coordinate on Syria flights.

The ministry also said it had agreed the technical details for an agreement with the United States on flight safety over Syria and a final memorandum would be signed soon.—Reuters



A still photograph used in a video shows a downed drone in Deliosman Village, Turkey on 16 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Islamic State gunman kills five at Shi'ite centre in Saudi Arabia

DUBAI — A gunman shot and killed five people in an attack on a Shi'ite Muslim meeting hall in Saudi Arabia on Friday before being shot dead by police, Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV said, in an attack claimed by Islamic State.

The deadly assault will raise tensions in the kingdom's largely Shi'ite Eastern province, a focus of the ultra-violent Sunni militants who view them as apostates worthy of death.

“A person who opened fire on a husseiniya was killed, and the attacker was in his twenties,” reported government-run channel, Al Ekhbariya TV.

A resident reached by telephone told Reuters that the assailant approached the meeting hall in the eastern city of Saihat in a taxi but was stopped at a checkpoint manned by volunteers protecting the site.

Police arrived and a gunbattle broke out, which the resident said injured several people and left the shooter dead.

Islamic State, an ultra-violent Sunni group based in Iraq and Syria, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted online.

“With the approval of God Almighty, the soldier of the caliphate Shuja al-Dawsari, may God accept him, set his Kalashnikov upon one of the apostate polytheists' temples.”

Amateur video described as filmed by activists inside the hall showed worshippers, including young children, crowding towards the entrance at the sound of gunfire before retreating in fear.

Islamic State has launched a series of deadly attacks inside the kingdom in recent months, aiming to stir sectarian confrontation on the Arabian peninsula and bring about the overthrow of Gulf states' ruling dynasties.

A suicide bomber killed at least 15 people in an attack on a mosque used by members of a local security force in southwest Saudi Arabia in August and two separate suicide bombings on Shi'ite mosques in May killed 25 worshippers.

Groups of volunteer security guards have been formed around Shi'ite holy sites of the kingdom, whose rulers follow a strict version of Sunni Islam shared by the majority of the country's population.

Some local activists have accused security forces of not doing enough to thwart the assaults, a charge officials deny.

Saudi authorities said in July they had rounded up 431 Islamic State suspects and had foiled plots to attack places of worship and security forces.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Twitter to pay Kordestani annual base salary of \$50,000

SAN FRANCISCO — Twitter Inc said it would pay new Executive Chairman Omid Kordestani an annual base salary of \$50,000 and a one-time grant of options to buy 800,000 shares of the microblogging website operator.

The company said it does not expect Kordestani to be appointed to any committee of the board. Twitter poached Kordestani from Google Inc on Wednesday, the latest step in the company's turnaround efforts under Jack Dorsey, who last week was named permanent CEO. Kordestani's appointment

was a move by Twitter to allay concerns about Dorsey's dual role as head of mobile payments company Square Inc. On Wednesday, Square filed for its long-expected initial public offering.

Kordestani, 51, joined Google as its 11th employee in 1999 and stayed for 10 years. After a few years away, he returned full-time in October 2014 as chief business officer. At Google, Kordestani had an annual base salary of \$237,500 and stock awards of about \$123 million, according to the latest Google proxy filing.—Reuters

Mazda recalling 923,000 vehicles for faulty ignition switches

TOKYO — Mazda Motor Corp. said Friday it is recalling 923,672 vehicles amid fears that potentially defective ignition switches can catch fire.

The Japanese carmaker reported 13 fire incidents since 2003 in Japan resulting from the problem. There were no reports of injury or death caused by the defect, Mazda said. The transport ministry said Mazda had not responded properly to vehicle owner complaints, and ordered the carmaker to improve its response. The recall affects 21 models,

including the Familia compact, Demio subcompact and Ford Laser compact, produced between January 1989 and December 2005.

Mazda also plans to recall cars overseas due to the same problem, saying it is now calculating how many vehicles would be affected.

Suzuki Motor Corp. recalled in March and April some 1.99 million vehicles, including police cars, in Japan due to similar problems. The ignition switches were made by the same supplier.—Kyodo News

Honda mulls partnership with GM over hybrid, self-driving cars

TOKYO — Honda Motor Corp. is considering expanding the scope of its partnership with US automaker General Motors Co. to cover hybrid cars and self-driving technology, company sources said Friday.

Honda is apparently hoping to acquire a competitive edge over its rivals in developing next-generation technology by strengthening cooperation with GM. The Japanese automaker has joined hands with GM to develop fuel-cell vehicles since 2013, and by 2020 plans to roll out a vehicle equipped with technology developed with the US maker.

Toyota Motor Corp. has said it aims to commercialise

automated highway-driving vehicles by 2020, when Tokyo hosts the Olympics and Paralympics.

Self-driving is an increasingly competitive field as Nissan Motor Co., US Internet giant Google Inc. and Apple Inc. are also stepping up development. As huge investments are needed to develop new technology, automakers have been forging closer cooperation since 2013. Toyota is in partnership with Germany's BMW AG to develop a fuel-cell system, while Nissan, Daimler AG of Germany and Ford Motor Co. of the United States have been working together over fuel-cell technology.—Kyodo News

Apple wants to set up research centre in Indonesia

JAKARTA — US-based technology firm, Apple Inc., plans to establish a research and development (R&D) center in Indonesia, a minister disclosed here on Friday.

Indonesian Information and Communication Minister Rudiantara said that the company's management officers have come into Indonesia and hold

talks with the government over the plan. The minister said that Apple Inc. has successfully developed such a plan in Brazil and wants to do so in Indonesia.

"They (Apple officers) proposed the investment model in Brazil to be implemented in Indonesia. They plan to build R & D center in Indonesia," he said at Graha XL building.—Xinhua

Amazon poised to win big as India launches annual festive shopping spree

MUMBAI — Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) could emerge as the biggest winner from one of India's most important festive and shopping — seasons, after the e-tailer offered steep discounts, swift delivery and even gold bars to grab market share.

The month-long festive season, which began on Monday, culminates in Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, but the first nine days are considered an especially auspicious time to make big purchases. Analysts say e-commerce firms in India could make as much as a quarter of their annual sales during this period, with the global experience, logistics network and deep pockets of Amazon putting it in a good position to grab customers from local market leader Flipkart and smaller firm Snapdeal.

"Amazon has been closing in," said Harish Bijoor, an independent brand expert and business analyst. "It has global play and is very nifty in terms of delivery."

India currently contributes the most new customers to Amazon outside the United States, the company said, making growth there a priority.

The e-tailer launched in India in 2013 and has invested at least \$2 billion, especially in logistics, to avoid being overtaken by local firms, which is what happened in China with Alibaba Group Holding (BABA.N).

According to website analytics firm Alexa, Amazon's India website was now ranked the 6th most visited website locally and the 83rd most visited site globally



Traffic moves on a road past advertisements of Indian online marketplace Amazon, in Mumbai, India, on 15 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

as of 13 October, after rising 18 positions over the past three months.

Flipkart is ranked higher at 5th locally and 79th globally, but it rose only 8 positions over the same period.

E-tailers have splashed out on promotions for this year's festive shopping week as it coincides with signs that consumer spending is picking up after two consecutive years of slowing growth for Asia's third-largest economy.

Amazon offers shoppers next-morning delivery for late-night orders and the chance to win a kg (35 ounces) of gold every day for five days in a country that is a voracious consumer of the precious metal.

In a statement, it said the number of transactions on the first day of its "Great Indian Festive Sale" was a record high, but like

its rivals it declined to give specific figures.

Flipkart also expects its "Big Billion Days" sale, which customers can access only through its smartphone app, to be "the biggest shopping event of the year", said Mukesh Bansal, head of the company's commerce platform. Last year, Flipkart's website crashed during its maiden festival shopping event.

Bansal said Flipkart had invested in improving its delivery network and overall logistics this year, providing food, beds and even an ambulance on stand-by to keep the business running.

Snapdeal also highlighted its improved logistics and booming demand. "With the huge surge in sales volumes, over 5 million orders have already been shipped out of Snapdeal until now," it said in a statement.—Reuters

New York to try out GPS-based metres on 1,000 taxicabs

NEW YORK — Some New York City taxicabs will switch to using GPS-based fare calculators from current metering systems under a pilot programme approved on Thursday.

The NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission voted to pass a measure to overhaul technology systems in 1,000 city cabs, which currently require bulky televisions and credit card readers. "It's just streamlined technology," com-

mission spokesman Greg Gordon said. The new systems will be smaller, more portable and less expensive than the current ones, which calculate fares using several physical components, including devices to track the number of times a wheel turns and waiting time, Gordon said.

Four technology companies have been selected to develop the new metering systems.

The pilot programme, which

will run for up to a year, will begin when the commission approves the first proposed design for testing in cabs. The programme initially called for new system testing in 4,000 cabs but was amended and reduced at Thursday's meeting.

One proposal calls for getting rid of taxicab televisions, which typically play ads on 12-hour loops and have been known to irritate passengers and drivers alike.

All of the city's 13,500 yellow taxicabs, which are licensed by the city Taxi and Limousine Commission but operated by private companies, were equipped with the current system by November 2008. All featured the taxi TVs. Four cab operators will test the new systems, which could come in the form of mobile devices that the driver would hand to a passenger at the end of a trip. Before the new systems can be used in cabs, they will be tested by the commission against hard-wired meters, to ensure they produce the same pricing range, Gordon said.—Reuters



A woman wearing a hat and sunglasses gets out of a taxi in Manhattan, New York. PHOTO: REUTERS

Peace stone from Hiroshima delivered to Azerbaijan



A peace stone from Hiroshima is installed at the Museum of Fine Arts of Baku in Azerbaijan on 16 October 2015.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

BAKU — Azerbaijan, a former Soviet republic rich in natural resources, became the latest nation among countries around the world to accept a peace stone from a Hiroshima-based civic

group on Friday.

The Stone for Peace Association of Hiroshima delivered the paving stone that survived the 1945 US atomic bombing of the Japanese city, engraved with an image of Buddhist goddess of mercy, to representatives of the Azerbaijan government during a ceremony at the Museum of Fine Arts of Baku.

About 170 people, including Azerbaijan Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev, Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev and Japanese Ambassador Tsuguo Takahashi, attended the ceremony.

Culture and Tourism Minister Garayev said that accepting the peace stone symbolizes Azerbaijan's active efforts to promote global peace.

Japanese Ambassador Takahashi said the peace stone represents "a new step toward further developing relations between Ja-

pan and Azerbaijan."

Michio Umemoto, head of the Hiroshima civic group, referring to the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this year, said the stone is starting "a new life" in the Azerbaijan capital.

The Baku ceremony followed similar Hiroshima peace stone events in Tajikistan and Armenia in 2014 and Kazakhstan in August this year.

The granite stone is about 50 centimetres square and weighs about 50 kilograms. It was one of the paving stones for Hiroshima streetcar tracks that were just 200 metres from ground zero.

More than 100 countries have so far received or agreed to receive the stone, which also has the English words "From Hiroshima" engraved on it since the start of the donation campaign in 1991.—*Kyodo News*

Indonesia launches biggest operation ever to fight forest fire

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government has launched the biggest operation ever to combat forest fires on peat land in the country that have triggered haze spreading to neighbouring ASEAN nations, an official said here on Friday.

As many as 32 helicopters and planes and more than 22 soldiers and police have been deployed to the hotspots in Sumatra and Borneo islands, spokesman of the National Disaster Management Agency Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

"This is the biggest haze emergency operation ever conducted by Indonesia," Sutopo told Xinhua via phone.

The air operation involved 21 helicopters, 7 lived water bombing plane and 4 planes for creating artificial rains, he said.

Six of the aircraft are from Singapore, Malaysia and Australia which are for

water bombing and guiding the planes for that purpose, Sutopo said.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has previously asked help from foreign countries to ease the blaze in peat land which he said is difficult to stop as it is not a common fire.

On Friday, a satellite observation recorded 769 hotspots in Sumatra Island and 159 others in Borneo Island, according to him.

"It is not easy to douse hot massive spots in large areas especially on dry peat land as the fire is also occurring below the land. Besides there are fresh fires so that the number of hotspots rises," he said.

Indonesia, home to the world's largest palm oil industry, has endured forest fires as people burn land during land clearing for new plantation.

The country has been haunted by forest fires since the 1990s.—*Xinhua*

Mexico says drug boss Guzman narrowly evades capture, sustains injuries



A police vehicle is seen a poster with a photo of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman offering a reward of 60 million Mexican pesos for information along a street in Mexico City.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MEXICO CITY — The world's most-wanted drug boss, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, narrowly evaded security forces searching for him in the northwest of Mexico in recent days, sustaining injuries to his face and leg, the Mexican government said on Friday.

Guzman, the head of the Sinaloa drug cartel, escaped from his high-security prison cell in July through a specially dug tunnel, causing a major embarrassment for Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto.

In a statement, the Mexican government said it had worked with international agencies to capture Guzman, and that in recent

weeks, efforts had been focused on the northwest of the country, not far from Guzman's native turf of Sinaloa state. "As a result of these actions, and to avoid his capture, in recent days, the fugitive engaged in a hasty retreat, which, according to the information received, caused him injuries to one leg and the face," the government statement said.

"It's important to clarify that these injuries were not a product of a direct clash," the statement added, without giving further information. In August, the acting head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration said the US government believed Guzman was still in Mexico.—*Reuters*

Bangladesh joint forces net huge arms in southeastern Bandarban hill district

DHAKA — A joint team led by Bangladesh Army seized huge arms and ammunition from the country's southeastern Bandarban hill district after a gunfight with a band of criminals on Friday.

As part of maintaining peace and harmony in the Bandarban hill district, some 316 km southeast of capital Dhaka, the joint team raided the den of the terrorists that resulted in the gunfight.

The Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) of Bangladesh Army said in a statement on Friday that the forces seized a rifle, seven magazines, 222 rounds of ammunition, two grenades and several sets of military uniform after the gunfight.

According to the statement, the raid was conducted "to maintain peace and harmony" in Bandarban hill district.

It was not mentioned in the statement whether anyone was arrested following the gunfight incident which came about a week after two tourists and their local guides went missing in the district.—*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 MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (116N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (116N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.10.2015 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Guests view the gourmet food during the Asian Food Study Conference in Qufu City, east China's Shandong Province, on 17 October 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 28th OCTOBER 2015 (FULL MOON DAY of Thadingyut), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO (1058E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO (1058E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.10.2015 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MAERSK ANDAMAN
VOY NO (1503)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ANDAMAN VOY NO (1503) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.10.2015 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
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Anonymous may have pre-warned of Japan airport website attacks

NAGOYA — A tweet claiming to come from Anonymous, a diffuse international collective of online hacker activists, warned of cyberattacks on the websites of major Japanese airports just one day before the web pages of Narita and Chubu airports were struck down earlier this month, police sources said Saturday.

On 10 October, the website of Narita airport near Tokyo became inaccessible for about eight hours from around 2:30 am after being overwhelmed by multiple-source traffic, while at the same time the site of Chubu airport in central Japan also became difficult to access for eight and a half hours.

Flight operations at the airports were not affected in either case.

According to investigative sources from the Chiba and Aichi prefectural police, the Twitter post on 9 October said attacks would be made on two major Japanese airports and displayed the addresses of Narita and Chubu airports. The sources said the websites of the two airports apparently had what is technically called "distributed denial of service" or DDoS attacks, which are intended to paralyze a targeted website by overwhelming it with much higher than normal levels of traffic sent from multiple network sources.—Kyodo News

Rare elephant bull killed by hunter in Zimbabwe

HARARE — In Zimbabwe, it is not only a famous lion being gunned down this year. A rarely huge elephant bull, dubbed as "King of Elephants", with a pair impressive tusks became the latest victim of trophy hunting and stirred worldwide condemnation.

The elephant in its 50s is believed to have been one of the largest of its kind ever seen in Zimbabwe in years. It was shot dead in Malipati Safari Area on 8 October in southeast Zimbabwe by a foreign national on a legal hunting trip, a local hunters' association confirmed.

The alleged German hunter paid 60,000 US dollars for a 21-day game hunt in the area and was given permission to take off the African Big Five: elephants, leopards, lions, buffalo and rhinoceros.

The social media was filled with condemnation of the killing of the elephant with one Stephen Bredenkamp posting on Facebook: "the carnage continues. Despite an "Authorized Kill" where is the line drawn?"

"The elephant turned out to be a tremendously large elephant with very big tusks possibly never seen in Zimbabwe in at least 30 years or more," the chairman of the Zimbabwe Professional Hunters and Guides Association Louis Muller told Xinhua, adding that the existence of the elephant bull was largely unknown to the conservation industry in Zimbabwe, indicating that it could have been roaming around Zimbabwe's Gonarezhou National Park and neighboring Kruger National Park of South Africa.

Together with Mozambique's Limpopo National Park, Gonarezhou and Kruger National Parks form the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park that straddles the borders of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe to create one of the largest wildlife reserves in the world covering 37,572 square kilometres, which is similar to the size of Netherlands.

Muller said though the hunt appeared legal, the outrage on social media might

help elevate the status of giant elephants to "a national treasure", thus effectively guarding them against hunting.

"As an industry and a country, there is need to identify these big bulls, not all of them but at least identify a few of them in game parks, name them and protect them as assets for the benefit of the nation," he said.

The killing of the elephant comes barely three months after the off-take of Cecil the lion in Hwange National Park by American dentist Walter Palmer. The 13 year-old black maned lion was collared for a study conducted by a team of Oxford University researchers and local partners. The death of Cecil triggered waves of outcry on the Internet, and forced protesters to shut down Palmer's dentistry in Minnesota. Zimbabwe has since dropped plans to have Palmer extradited to Zimbabwe to face justice after it was proved that he had the papers to conduct the hunt.—Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 18th October, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Shan, Kayin and Mon States 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

isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Mon State.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th October, 2015: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th October, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th October, 2015: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Junk shop photo spurs quest to confirm Billy the Kid image

DENVER — For the \$2 he spent to buy three old photographs, Randy Guijarro may have hit the mother lode. Among them was a tintype purported to be of Wild West gunslinger Billy the Kid, now valued at \$5 million.

The 4-by-5-inch image shows Henry McCarty, also known as William Bonney, playing croquet with accomplices from his New Mexico gang known as the Regulators, according to experts retained by the firm selling the artifact.

Guijarro, who describes himself as an US history buff, said he bought the photo at a junk shop in Fresno, California in 2010. It was not until he studied it closely that he realized he might be holding an important 19th-century historical item.

“The faces in the picture were very clear, and I thought that one of them sure looks like the Kid,” Guijarro said.



A newly discovered 4-by-5-inch tintype photograph featuring legendary Wild West gunslinger Billy the Kid (4th L) playing croquet with accomplices from his New Mexico gang known as the Regulators, as seen in this image provided by www.kagins.com. PHOTO: REUTERS

Guijarro took the ferrotype print to Kagin's Inc., a San Francisco company specializing in US gold coins and Western Americana, to determine whether it was genuine.

Kagin's ultimately authenticated the photograph as only the second known image of Bonney, and the only one that includes members of his gang, said David McCarthy, the company's senior numismatist.

The firm is brokering the sale of the metallic image, which it has appraised and insured for \$5 million, he said.

Much of Bonney's life is steeped in myth, including reports that he killed 21 men. What is certain is that he was shot dead at age 22 by Sheriff Pat Garrett in 1881, months after a daring jailbreak.

For decades, the only known photo of Bonney was an iconic 2-by-3 inch tintype portrait of the outlaw standing outside a New

Mexico saloon, gripping the barrel of a Winchester carbine rifle and with a single-action Colt pistol holstered on his hip.

Bonney gave that photograph to his fellow cattle rustler, Dan Dedrick, whose descendants kept it in their family until it was put up for sale in 2011.

It was purchased for \$2.3 million at a Denver auction by Florida billionaire and energy executive William Koch.

Koch told Reuters that he spoke with Kagin's about the recently-surfaced photo. But he said would not bid on the item, and that he agrees with some skeptics who doubt its authenticity.

“I already own the archetype Billy the Kid photograph,” said Koch, who possesses a vast collection of American West art and memorabilia. McCarthy said Kagin's experts “validated every detail in this photo.”

McCarthy believes it was taken in September 1878 outside Roswell, New Mexico shortly after the end of the so-called Lincoln County War, a series of bloody skirmishes among cattle barons in the sprawling territory.

The company retained experts in wet-plate photography, 19th-century apparel, facial recognition technology and even on vintage croquet sets, McCarthy said.

He said researchers placed Bonney and his cohorts in the Chaves County area after a Texas cattle drive that wound up in New Mexico.

They even located the building in the background which is still standing, McCarthy said, although a facade was built over it in the 1930s. A lumber expert concluded the underlying structure was from the period, he added.—Reuters

James Bonds past and present on show at Madame Tussauds



Actor Daniel Craig poses during a photo call for the new James Bond film “Spectre” in downtown Rome. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — From Sean Connery to Daniel Craig, London wax museum Madame Tussauds is putting on display figures of the six James Bond actors before the release of the latest 007 film, “Spectre”.

The waxworks are dressed in tuxedos for the exhibit, which will show in London for six weeks before embarking on a tour of Madame Tussauds museums worldwide in December.

Looking suave, some of the figures stand with their arms folded holding a gun, while others have a more relaxed pose.

“It's taken about 20 expert sculptors and teams about four months to put together these six Bonds. It's a huge amount of investment, a huge amount of time, but really worth it,” Edward Fuller, general manager at Madame Tussauds London, said.

“This is the first time that anybody can get up and stand

close and get personal with every single one of their favourite Bonds.”

The museum said Connery, who was the first to play the secret agent in “Dr. No” in 1962, is portrayed as he appeared in “From Russia With Love”.

George Lazenby stands as 007 in his only Bond film “On Her Majesty's Secret Service”. Roger Moore is featured from “The Spy Who Loved Me”.

Timothy Dalton is portrayed as he was in his two Bond films “The Living Daylights” and “Licence to Kill”, while Pierce Brosnan is represented from “Tomorrow Never Dies”.

The figure of Daniel Craig, who stars in the highly-anticipated “Spectre”, is from the last 007 film “Skyfall”.

“Spectre”, the 24th James Bond film, is set for release in UK cinemas on 26 October and in the United States on 6 November.—Reuters

Bryan Adams goes retro with ‘Get Up’ album

LOS ANGELES — It has been a long time coming.

Canadian singer-songwriter Bryan Adams says his new album, “Get Up,” is the ideal follow-up record to his iconic “Reckless” album of 30 years ago.

The album, released on Friday, features several fast, catchy tunes like “Brand New Day,” and “You Belong to Me” which harken back to the signature feel-good style that made Adams a household name in the 1980s with hits like “Heaven” and “Summer of '69.”

“In many ways it is the album I wish I'd been able to make 25 years ago,” Adams said, describing “Get Up,” as carefree, rocking and retro sounding.

His songwriting for Hollywood earlier in his career spawned

some of his biggest hits, including “Heaven,” one of the best things to come out of the much-panned movie “A Night From Heaven,” and “(Everything I Do) I Do it for You,” the theme song from the 1991 film “Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves.”

But Adams, who has sold more than 65 million albums worldwide and won multiple awards, has never paid attention to shifting audience trends. He is all about his art and music.

“I don't actually know what my target audience is and I don't know anything about the music business. I just do what I do, which is make music, which is what I've always done. I just like making songs that I like and that's it,” he said. Produced by Electric Light Orchestra front-

man Jeff Lynne and co-written with his long-time collaborator Jim Vallance, “Get Up,” also boasts a few gentler songs, like “Don't Even Try,” and “We Did it All.”

Adams, a trim father of two who turns 56 in November, also has a passion for photography, with a new book on abstract photography due out soon.

It follows “Exposed,” a collection of portraits of entertainment and fashion celebrities, and “Wounded — The Legacy of War,” depicting photographs of soldiers maimed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Adams has lined up an extensive tour to promote the new album and admits it is challenging to focus on his passions simultaneously.

“I think what's nice about having another venue to be creative in is you tend to get a break from what you do ... And when you come back to it, you

have a new perspective for music,” he said, adding: “Music is always the top of the heap. I'm not going to quit my day job.”—Reuters



Canadian singer Bryan Adams performs onstage in Riga. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japanese climber Kuriki to return to Mt Everest next autumn

KATHMANDU — Japan's Nobukazu Kuriki, who attempted to climb Mt. Everest twice this season, despite having lost nine fingers to frostbites while attempting the feat in 2012, said on Friday that he would return to the mountain in 2016.

Kuriki said at a press conference in Kathmandu that he would return to Everest "next year in the fall season, but maybe from the Tibet side."

Kuriki gave up an attempt to reach the summit in bad weather last month after reaching an altitude of 7,800 metres, and an attempt earlier this month at 8,150 metres.

He was aiming to become the first climber to scale the 8,848-metre mountain since devastating quakes this spring triggered an avalanche on Everest, killing 18 climbers and putting a stop to the climbing season.

"I tried twice but couldn't scale the mountain due to strong wind and bad weather," Kuriki said, adding, "I returned because forcing myself to go on could have led to an accident."

He said the attempts were his small contribution to spreading the message that mountaineering in Nepal is safe.

Kuriki said Mt. Everest is more beautiful from the Nepal side, but climbing it is better from the Tibet side.

"The mountain is not that different after the earthquake. There are fewer avalanches at the Icefall," said the 33-year-old, who comes from Hokkaido and has



Japanese alpinist Nobukazu Kuriki, who lost nine fingers to frostbites while attempting to climb Mt. Everest in 2012 and yet again attempted twice to climb the mountain in 2015, holds a press conference in Kathmandu on 16 October 2015, to announce that he would return to the mountain in 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

attempted the mountain from both the Tibet side and the Nepal side, referring to the Khumbu Icefall, a stage of the ascent of Everest.

All of Kuriki's attempts on the mountain have been in the less popular autumn season. The reason being, he said, he prefers to challenge the mountain "alone and when it is not noisy."

Mountaineering officials have termed Kuriki's attempts this year as "exceptional" and "extraordinary," given that deadly avalanches hit the mountain for two consecutive years. An avalanche in the spring of 2014 killed 16 Sherpas on the mountain.

"This (fall season) is not the right time to climb Mt. Everest and other high 8,000-ers because the wind speed is so high," said Ang Tshering Sherpa, president

of the Nepal Mountaineering Association. "We are grateful that he promoted Nepal's mountaineering tourism during this difficult time," Sherpa said.

Kuriki has successfully climbed the highest peaks of six continents, but Mt. Everest continues to deny him glory.

In 2012, he tried to make it to the top via the difficult west ridge route but was evacuated to Kathmandu after suffering serious frostbite to his fingers, toes and nose. Nine of his fingers had to be partially amputated as a result.

The handicap makes it 0.5 times harder and more time-consuming to get things done, and also easier to become frozen, he said Friday. The quakes in Nepal this spring killed nearly 9,000 people.—Kyodo News

A British warrior on the Great Wall

BEIJING — In 1987, when William Lindesay spent 78 days walking the Great Wall across north China, the country was not entirely welcoming to foreign travellers.

Fulfilling a childhood dream of walking the Great Wall gave him a chance to meet plenty of local people and enjoy their hospitality, or otherwise. He has since devoted more than quarter of a century to tramping on, photographing, studying and protecting

the structure. In 1988 he married Wu Qi and two years later, moved to China. In 1998, accompanied by his family, he began collecting garbage on the Wall every weekend. When some visitors noticed a grey-haired foreigner collecting plastic bottles, they told him it was none of his business. Lindesay replied in Chinese, "I know it is China's Great Wall, but it is also part of my planet."

Three years later, Lindesay founded the International Friends

of the Great Wall, which organises conservation activities for volunteers from around the world. In recognition of his work, he has made an honorary citizen and given a Chinese "green card".

Born in 1956 into an ordinary British family in Liverpool, his home country has also noted his contribution to the preservation of the Great Wall, and in 2006, Queen Elizabeth II presented him the Order of British Empire.—Xinhua

Rural accommodation service seeks to help regions reap tourism gains

TOKYO — Yasuhiro Kamiyama has launched a website enabling tourists, both Japanese and foreign, to find accommodations at homes in rural areas as a way to help remoter regions benefit from Japan's growing tourism boom.

"I'm seeking a way to stop the concentration of tourism demand in metropolitan areas and share the benefits with Tohoku and other parts of Japan," said the 54-year-old president of Hyakusenrenma Inc., an information technology venture in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, in the northeastern Japan region of Tohoku. Kamiyama created the service dubbed Tomarina in March 2014 to help rebuild and energize the Tohoku region, devastated by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster, as well as other remote areas of Japan.

"I hope this service will help rural regions revitalize their economies," he said.

In the 18 months since the service began, some 500 homes have registered with the site, according to Hyakusenrenma.

On the Tomarina website, run by Tomareru Inc., a Hyakusenrenma subsidiary in Tokyo, travelers can view details of homes and activities they can

enjoy, such as fishing and farming, and make reservations.

Those using the service have included young families living in urban areas, retirees and foreigners. Hyakusenrenma has received favorable reviews from users, including comments such as "It was a precious experience" and "It's a good memory."

"We hope visitors will enjoy communicating with local residents and come back and stay again," Kamiyama said. "Foreign tourists are also welcome."

He said that the service is intended to help rural areas compensate for a lack of accommodations during festivals and sports events. For example, Aomori in northern Japan, where popular Nebuta and Neputa festivals take place in August, and Tokushima in western Japan to which more than 1 million tourists flock during the summer Awa Odori festival, suffer from a shortage of hotel rooms at such times. Kamiyama believes that if more accommodations are available, visitor numbers will increase as will spending on food and other purchases, giving a boost to local economies.—Kyodo News



Tourists staying at the private residence of a woman (C) in Hiraizumi, Iwate Prefecture, registered on the Tomarina website run by Tomareru Inc., a subsidiary of Hyakusenrenma Inc. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

mitv Myanmar International

(18-10-2015 07:00 am~ 19-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Hanlin, A Treasure Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City
07:50 Am Myanmar Traditional Bullock-Cart & Eques train Racing
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am To My Dream City (Part- 2)
08:45 Am Civic Duty
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Yathe Taung Township In A Nut-Shell
09:50 Am Next Weekend
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Yangon Markets: Da Nyin Gone Market
10:36 Am Insight Myanmar: Myanmar Election Tech in Voters' Education

(11:00 Am-03:00 Pm) - Saturday 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
07:24 Pm Let's Cook (EP-6) Cheesy Burger & Crunchy Munchy Beary Cookies
07:51 Pm Today Myanmar "ASEAN Economic Community"
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm Hanthawaddy U Win Tin "A Fearless Man" (Episode-2)
08:43 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Performance Art
(09:00 Pm-11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00Pm-03:00 Am) - SaturdayRepeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am-07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV

Entertainment Channel

(18-10-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am

• Myo Ma Nyein Music Troupe

6:15 am

• Game For Children

6:40 am

• sing & Enjoy

8:20 am

• Channel Zero (Part-4)

9:00 am

• Myanmar Movie

12:00 noon

• Close down

Champion Kyaukmae Women Football team honoured

KYAUKMAE District Women Football Team who won the 2015 Shan State Chief Minister's Trophy were honored back at their homebase Kyaukmae, on 17 October. They were garlanded by the townspeople at the town's entry arch. The team toured around the town and honored at District Sports Ground.

They took pictures with the town-elders.—*U Myint Aung*



Kyaukmae District Women Football Team win 2015 Shan State Chief Minister's Trophy held in Taunggyi. PHOTO: U MYINT AUNG

Tsonga downs Nadal to reach Shanghai final

SHANGHAI — Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga recorded a first win over Rafa Nadal in almost four years after producing some scintillating tennis to beat the Spaniard in the semi-finals of the Shanghai Masters on Saturday.

Tsonga, the 16th seed, triumphed 6-4, 0-6, 7-5 to set up a final against either world number one Novak Djokovic or Briton Andy Murray, who play in the second semi-final later on Saturday.

The Frenchman fired down 11 aces to record his first win over Nadal since the 2011 ATP World Tour Finals and give a major boost to his flagging hopes of qualifying again for the end of season championships in London. Nadal, a winner of 14 grand slam singles titles, struggled to cope with Tsonga in the opening set as the Frenchman pressured the Spaniard's serve with some heavy hitting.

He secured the break in the fifth game at the third time of asking but after going on to serve out the set, Tsonga's game crumbled in the second set as Nadal easily levelled without dropping a game to force a decider.

Nadal, looking for a first hard court title in almost two years, was forced to save some early break points but the third set remained on serve until Tsonga struck in the 11th game of an enthralling encounter.

The 30-year-old Frenchman produced an eye-catching dive to force match point, which he converted to reach his first Masters final since he triumphed in Toronto last year.—*Reuters*

Klopp's Liverpool reign begins with draw at Spurs

LONDON — Juergen Klopp's reign as Liverpool manager began with a few points made but only one gained from an exciting, end-to-end 0-0 draw against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Saturday.

Klopp's new team displayed signs of the high energy, high-pressing full-throttle footballing style he perfected at Borussia Dortmund, but without the injured Daniel Sturridge in attack, they lacked the guile to break down a resilient Spurs defence.

Spurs though displayed the high-pressing game which their coach Mauricio Pochettino favours but the hosts failed to find a route to goal and in the end a draw was a fair reflection of the game.

Spurs have now stretched their run to eight league matches without defeat since the opening day while Liverpool have drawn six of their last seven games in all competitions with Klopp now

a little wiser about his new side.

Tottenham are now seventh in the table with 14 points, a point clear of Liverpool in ninth.

Liverpool were totally dominant for the first 20 minutes until Spurs began to establish themselves and took charge for the rest of the first half.

Divock Origi had Liverpool's best scoring chance in that opening spell when he headed against Hugo Lloris's crossbar from inside the six-yard box.

Yet even though Liverpool's high-pressing game, epitomised by some marauding menace from Emre Can, penned Spurs back, their defence held firm.

Gradually Spurs gained a foothold in midfield with Christian Eriksen and Erik Lamela seeing more of the ball.

With Clinton Njie, who replaced the injured Nacer Chadli after 11 minutes, having an increasing influence, Spurs looked the more dangerous side.

Njie forced Simon Migno-

let into an excellent, full-stretch diving save after 28 minutes with a swerving shot from the outside of his right foot then Harry Kane and Dele Alli forced Mignolet and defender Mamadou Sakho into two vital blocks in the 37th minute.

Njie went close again with a sizzling shot from 20 metres that hit the top of the net four minutes before the break.

Neither team created a real clear-cut scoring chance in the second half, but the play was no less entertaining.

Liverpool never regained their early dominance, and at times had to defend with nine men behind the ball as Spurs came forward in search of the winner.

While the hosts never found an opening, they at least ended Liverpool's run of five successive league wins over them which included victories of 5-0 and 3-0 at White Hart Lane in the last two seasons.—*Reuters*



Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp appaluds fans after the game. PHOTO: REUTERS

English FA suspends support for Platini's FIFA candidacy



UEFA President Michel Platini. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — The English Football Association has suspended support for Michel Platini's bid to become FIFA president, after learning "more information relating to the issues from Mr Platini's lawyers", the FA said in a statement.

Platini, who is standing in the FIFA presidential election scheduled for 26 February, and incumbent Sepp Blatter were banned for 90 days by the FIFA Ethics Committee last week pending a full investigation into both men's activities.

Switzerland's attorney general's office initiated criminal proceedings against Blatter over a two million Swiss francs (\$2.1 million) payment from FIFA to Platini in 2011 for work carried out by the Frenchman between 1998 and 2002. Both men have denied any wrongdoing.

Platini's lawyers gave a presentation to all UEFA member associations on Thursday.

"The FA wishes Mr Platini every success in fighting these charges and clearing his name, and has no interest in taking any action that jeopardises this process," they said in a statement issued on the FA website (www.theFA.com) on Friday.

"However, notwithstanding the above, at the UEFA meeting on Thursday, the FA learnt more information relating to the issues at the centre of this case from Mr Platini's lawyers.

"We have been instructed that the information must be kept confidential and therefore we cannot go into specifics.

"As a result of learning this information, the FA board has on Friday morning concluded that it must suspend its support for Mr Platini's candidature for the FIFA Presidency until the legal process has been concluded and the position is clear.

"A decision can then be taken on who to support in the Presidential election on 26 February 2016."—*Reuters*