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ADVANCE VOTE EXTENSION

Government pledges to resolve complaints from overseas

Aye Min Soe

THE government has said that it plans to extend the 23 October deadline for advance voting abroad at a number of Myanmar embassies following complaints by frustrated overseas voters.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating with the Union Election Commission (UEC) to extend the deadline for the advance voting, especially at Myanmar embassies in Singapore and Tokyo, U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, said in an exclusive interview with *Myanmar News Agency*.

He said the goal is to ensure that the eligible voters can cast their ballots timely for the advance voting.

He acknowledged that a significant number of complaints had been received from voters abroad who had been issued with less than the three stipulated ballot papers, or were denied the right to vote because their details were not recorded in voters' lists.

The highest number of complaints were received from Myanmar embassies in Singapore, Tokyo and Seoul, which the deputy minister said was due to those cities having the highest Myanmar expatriate populations.

A contributing factor was the UEC's confusion over incomplete addresses being given, as well as when voters living over-



Myanmar nationals check their names with an officer before casting their votes outside the embassy in Singapore. PHOTO: REUTERS

seas failed to include the full details of their address outside Myanmar, said U Thant Kyaw.

Some major administrative errors were also made.

"For example, the ballots for the Myanmar embassy in To-

kyo were sent to its embassy in Egypt," he said.

The ministry sent ballots to the country's 44 embassies abroad for more than 29,000 people deemed eligible to vote by the UEC.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry

has received the list of overseas voters from two embassies who have not voted yet though they were included in the voters' list.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry received 34,747 proposals for advance voting from Myanmar peo-

ple overseas. The proposals were then forwarded to the UEC.

More than 19,800 overseas voters had casted advance votes up to 19 October, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Warning of High tide

THE public are hereby informed that exceptionally high spring of from (20.14) feet to (21.13) feet high above the datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period from 26 to 31 October. That is not serious because the high tide have reached up to (22) feet high above datum in the year 2013 and 2014, and that the warning is issued any because high tide reaches over (20) feet high above datum. —*Myanmar News Agency*

EU mission will not interfere in election process: chief observer

Ye Myint

THE European Union's election observation mission is solely focused on the credibility of Myanmar's general election of 8 November and it will not engage in partisan activities, said Chief Observer Alexander Graf Lambsdorff yesterday.

We do not care who wins the elections: what we do care about is to ensure the election is credible and transparent," the mission chief said during a press conference in Yangon yesterday.

"Another thing we will not do is take instructions from anyone; whether it be an EU institution, a member state, a Myanmar government agency, the election commission or what not."

The mission chief, who is also the deputy speaker of the EU's parliament, said the EU's observer mission will not interfere in electoral processes.

"These are the elections of the Myanmar people. We are observers. We will not interfere if we see something that we believe does not correspond to

international standards or some regulations."

He explained that the mission of election observation will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process — prior to, on and after the general election of 8 November.

The mission will issue a preliminary statement two days after the elections and a final report with technical recommendations for future elections will be published three-to-four months after the election, he told the press conference.

Voting, counting and tabulation of results, the resolution of election related disputes will be included in the mission's analysis.

The chief observer has met with a number of senior government officials, including the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and the chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye.

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US Deputy National Security Advisor holds press conference



Mr Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Advisor to the US President. PHOTO: MNA

MR Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Advisor to the US President, held a press conference on his visit to Myanmar at the American Centre in Yangon on Tuesday.

At the press conference, he said that Myanmar was in the process of the transition in its reform and he had visited Myanmar dur-

ing President Obama's tour to the country last November.

His visit this time coincided with signing of ceasefire agreement and preparations for election on 8 November, he added.

He said that the country and the people were going through an important period and the elections would be inclusive.

He pointed out that it was necessary for the election to be transparent and Myanmar would be able to make a historic milestone by allowing the people to fully express their will.

Focusing on elections, he was able to meet with election commission and it was necessary to settle election disputes in accordance with the law, he said.

He said it was important for all to accept the outcome of the

election but the political process would not end on completion of the elections and efforts must be made to form a new government.

Assessments of international observers were also important, he said.

Then, he pointed out the importance of role of religions of minorities and said that his country was worried about religious instigations.

The nationwide ceasefire agreement was very important for the country and was the first step toward national reconciliation, he added.

Then, he expressed his belief that implementation of the truce would be successful and Myanmar would see real development.

He also said that it was necessary for remaining ethnic groups

to cooperate in the process and efforts must be made for stability and peace in Rakhine State.

He also said that President Obama had recognized that political transition of Myanmar was a complicated process and it would take time to overcome challenges of Myanmar as they could not be overcome overnight.

He said that positive signs could be seen in political development of Myanmar and it was encouraging to see political parties, individual candidates and the people were enthusiastic about the democratic transition while the media were also cooperating in the process by reporting news in accordance with the freedom of expression.

He responded to questions raised by the media.—MNA

Myanmar, Vietnam sign MoU on cooperation for anti-corruption

A delegation led by Chairman U Mya Win of Myanmar Anti-corruption Commission visited Vietnam from 14 to 17 October.

The delegation signed a MoU with the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam on cooperation between the two countries for combat against corruption on 15 October.

The delegation also met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam MrPhanBinh Minh at the presidential palace on the same day.—MNA

Union minister inspects new town for Chin landslide victims



A new bridge is under construction in a new town for the people worstly affected by landslides in Haka.

PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected progress on a new town being built to replace one of the worst affected by landslides in August, Hakha in mountainous Chin State on 17 October.

A total of 732 land plots spanning 520 acres are being developed for landslide victims.

The union minister inspected land plots, streets and house designs of the new town and was briefed by engineers involved in the project.

The union minister said that priority should be given to installing urban amenities in newly developed towns.

The union minister also inspected the section of Hakha-Phalam Road that was damaged by landslides and the repair work underway, including a new bridge, by private companies Kham Wo, Shwe Mann (Magway), Zwe Mann Htate and Golden Icon.—Myanmar News Agency

Traffic police to expand presence in Yangon

YANGON'S traffic police is being restructured to boost efficiency, with each of Yangon's four districts being overseen by a police major.

Yangon Traffic Control Commander Police Col Kyaw Htwe said that the 1,400-strong traffic police force in Yangon falls about 40 percent short of current needs. He said there are 126 traffic police squads consisting 5,980 traffic policemen across Myanmar.

The commander said that future plans may include using social media to alert the public about unruly drivers.

According to data kept by the Traffic Police Force, the cost of road accidents decreased from K1.58 billion (US\$1.23 million) in 2012 to K1.57 billion (\$1.22 million) in 2014.—Soe Win

Training for ballot officials given in Myanaung

Myanaung Township's ballot officials took part in a training course on 15 October in preparations for the upcoming 8 November general elections. They were provided with manual books and covered aspects such as security and transporting ballots after the vote, according to the township election commission. The two-day course was attended by 438 chief and deputy ballot officers from 219 voting booths from the township's 69 wards and village tracts.—Win Bo

Library opens in Pobbathiri Township

A NEW library opened in Yanaung Village in Pabbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

Thuta Alinyaung library was built with the aim of being a development tool for the rural community. Private donors were thanked by the library committee head U Myat Lin for their generosity in providing books with which to stack the new shelves.—Zaw Min Lwin IPRD



Villagers are reading at a library opened Monday in Pobbathiri Township. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LWIN IPRD



Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers address at the National Defence College. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Uphold top traditions and modernise, says commander-in-chief

MEMBERS of the country's defence services must preserve long-held Tatmadaw traditions while simultaneously building further trust among the people, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told officials at the National Defence College in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

The senior general said that

the Tatmadaw "assumed state power three times to restore stability by sacrificing lives."

As Hluttaw [parliamentary] representatives are selected to serve the public interest, members of the Tatmadaw are required to avoid electing candidates that are unable or unwilling to take on such a responsibility.

The senior general went on

to say that members of the Tatmadaw must attempt to reduce costs wherever possible, particularly in relation to expenses such as vehicles, fuel, electricity and phone calls.

The Tatmadaw is also striving to provide a comfortable future for its veterans by building homes for senior citizens, he said.—Myawady

New data website hailed on International Statistics Day

Accurate data contributes to a better understanding of public needs, says union minister

DEVISING policies that are based on statistics will better reflect the needs of the people and bring about a faster pace of development, said Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw yesterday.

He made the remarks while speaking at a ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw to mark International Statistics Day.

Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein discussed a new website that enables users to conveniently access quantitative data, which is often in short supply in Myanmar.

Myanmar Information System (MMSIS) website was developed with assistance from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). South Korean Am-

bassador to Myanmar Mr Gyung Tae Kim described the collaboration between the two countries in creating the new website.

MMSIS is a web-based national database of statistics about Myanmar developed by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO).

According to the website, the purpose of MMSIS is to: "respond to the growing demands of data users for various statistics that describe socio-economic conditions in Myanmar, at national and sub-national levels, across various periods."

The union minister said that it wasn't until recently that the importance of statistics in developing policies were duly recognised, along with their link to achieving sustainable develop-



Dignitaries have documentary photo taken at ceremony to mark World Statistics Day. PHOTO: MNA

ment goals. He added that collecting data about what Myanmar's society may look like in 2020 will prove extremely useful in planning for the future.

A five year national strate-

gy for strengthening Myanmar's ability to collect and interpret statistics will be unveiled before the end of the year and will play a vital role in shaping a future path.

The union minister ended his

address by urging development partners, members of the private sectors, civil society groups and the media to cooperate for the development of the statistics sector.—Myanmar News Agency

EU mission will not interfere in election process

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During his five-day visit to Myanmar, Mr Graf Lambsdorff also met with the leaders of the country's two major parties, the

USDP and NLD, and representatives from civil society groups. He also observed political candidates' campaigning in Yangon and Mandalay regions.



Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, chief observer of the EU's election observation mission speaks at a press conference marking the conclusion of his five-day visit to Myanmar in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: YE MYINT

He told the media that the Commander-in-Chief agreed that the election observation team should have access to military polling stations to observe voting procedures.

He said that the EU team of 150 observers will travel widely to carry out their duties, including regions inhabited by ethnic minority groups.

The EU's election observation mission arrived in Myanmar on 26 September with a core team of eight analysts. Thirty long-term observers were deployed on 11 October. Another 62 short-term observers, together with a delegation comprising members of the European Parliament and EU diplomats, will be present in Myanmar on the day of the election, according to a press release issued at the press conference yesterday.

Advance vote extension

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"My experience was frustrating, but at least I was able to vote – I saw two voters ahead of me who were only provided with two ballot papers," said Thu Rein Lin Hein, a Myanmar citizen living in Singapore to *the Global New Light of Myanmar* over the phone.

He also saw people complaining to embassy officials about their names being missing from the voters' list, he added.

The advance voting period began on 13 and was originally planned to last 10 days. The possible extension period has not yet been specified.

The statement from the UEC urged overseas Myanmar nationals who could not cast their advance votes during the slated period to obtain recommendations from embassy officials so as to be able to cast their votes again on the November 8 election day from inside Myanmar.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw requested international observers and diplomats on Tuesday to observe the Vienna Convention and not to interfere in internal affairs of Myanmar on election day.

Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye held talks Tuesday in Yangon with representatives from the eight ethnic armed groups that signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement with the government last week. Discussions focused on the general elections and political campaigning in areas inhabited by the minority ethnic groups.

U Tin Aye also held a meeting with representatives from political parties, civil society organisations and international organisations in Yangon on Tuesday, urging them to follow the codes of ethics and the Election Law while observing the election.

Advance voting in Myanmar will run from 29 October to 7 November and those eligible to cast advance from inside the country include political candidates, local observers, media personnel and departmental officials. The UEC chairman and representatives of the Myanmar Journalists Association also held talks Tuesday in Yangon over designating spokespersons at sub-election commissions and the association's observation activities.

ELECTION COUNTDOWN 18 DAYS
Make your voice count. Cast your vote.

Yoma Bank and the University of Southern California Provide Opportunities for Future Business

THE University of Southern California (USC), Marshall School of Business and Yoma Bank held a seminar for 78 people at the Shangri-La hotel to provide insights about how business can increase their competitiveness by collaborating with universities on 17 October.

The International Business Education and Research MBA (IBEAR) is a top-ranked, one year, full-time MBA program for mid-career professionals that is taught in Los Angeles. The Global Executive MBA (GEMBA) program, taught in Shanghai and Los Angeles, is a 20-month long, part-time MBA for mid-career professionals with over 10 years of work experience. USC Marshall is consistently ranked among the premier schools in the United States. The University has one of the most powerful alumni

networks in Asia and America.

Professor Richard Drobnick, Director, IBEAR MBA Program & Assistant Dean and John Van Fleet, Executive Director, GEMBA Program, both from the University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business described how international corporations like Dent-su, Korean Airlines, and Tokio Marine Insurance strategically use MBA programs to develop global business leaders for their organizations.

Daw Sandra Min, Yoma Bank's Head of Corporate Banking explained why Yoma Bank is a co-sponsor of the event. USC Marshall, together with Yoma Bank, an organization recognized as one of Myanmar's most progressive financial institutions, is looking to further the growth and development of Myanmar's future business leaders.—GNLM



The Yoma Bank Team. PHOTO: YOMA BANK

Meiktila's young philosophers pay respects to teachers



Myanmar philosophers gathering at Meiktila University to pay respect to their teachers. PHOTO: CHANTHA

STUDENTS from the Philosophy Department in Meiktila Distance Education Branch of Mandalay Distance

Education University held a respect paying ceremony to faculty members on Monday.

First year students were

also present at the ceremony, which traditionally incorporates candle lights.

—Chantha

Modernised agriculture farming techniques promoted in Meikhtila

MANDALAY Region's Agriculture Department head U Myint Oo inspected a large paddy field in Theegon Village in Meiktila District on 18 October, which is growing the monsoon Palei-twey variety of paddy. He urged the local farm owner, U Moe Nyo, as well as the group of local agricultural officials, to increase yields. He also described the modernised forms of agriculture equipment are now available in Myanmar, and said that obtaining higher quality seeds is key to raising output.—Chantha



Palehtwe strain is famous among farmers. PHOTO: CHANTHA

Road rules seminar held in Lewe

WITH the aim of increasing compliance with road rules and improving overall safety, the Department of Road Transport organised a public seminar at No. 1 basic education high school in Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw, on 17 October.

Officials from the department outlined various traffic rules and types of traffic signals, as well as

specific rules for cyclists to the students. It is hoped that students will pass on the knowledge to friends and family, and will be responsible drivers when the time comes to get behind the wheel.

Officials also discussed road safety to licensed drivers and distributed copies of the Automobile Law.—Thuza Hlaing

Kyauktada readies itself for general elections

THE township of Kyauktada in downtown Yangon is undertaking preparations to hold smooth election proceedings on 8 November for its 23,000 voters. Its nine wards will have 29 ballot booths, with 15 ballot officials stationed at each booth, said a township election commission member.

Eight candidates are vying for seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw

[Lower House], while another five are standing for Amyotha Hluttaw [Upper House]; six for Yangon Region Hluttaw Constituency No. 1, and six for Yangon Region Hluttaw Constituency No. 2. There are also four Kay-in national candidates and three Rakhine national candidates contesting for the respective seats in Yangon Region Hluttaw, said the source.—Soe Win

Tuberculosis control project discussed in Nay Pyi Taw

OFFICIALS from the Public Health Department of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area recently inspected efforts to reduce the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in the region.

The head of the TB control programme Dr Tun Kyaw explained the progress made to date during the meeting, which was held at a 50-bed hospital in Zabuthiri Township on 15 October. According to a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) report, Myanmar is one of 27 countries in the world where multi-drug resistant TB exists.—Ko Ko Yupa

Four Myanmar students get ASEAN Scholarship



Scholarship winning students pose for documentary photographs with Ambassador Robert Chua.

PHOTO: MNA

THE Singapore Government has awarded the ASEAN Scholarships to 4 outstanding students from Myanmar - Mr Aung Ko Khant, Mr Aung kyaw Zin, Ms Hay Man Min Lwin and Mr Moekhant Thadin Hlamyint. The 4 Myanmar students will pursue their studies in Singapore Government schools under the ASEAN scholarships.

The ASEAN Scholarships provide opportunities for young people of ASEAN to interact and develop their potential. Scholars are selected on the basis of academic merit, leadership qualities and their potential to contribute to their home coun-

tries' development. Scholars enter Singapore schools at Secondary 3 and will sit for the GCE O-Level Examination (if applicable) at the end of Secondary 4 and the GCE A-Level (or equivalent) at the end of Pre-University 2. These scholarships form part of Singapore's extensive Whole-of-Government engagement with Myanmar, and underscore our firm belief that human resource development is the key to economic development.

Mr. Robert Chua, Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar, hosted an award ceremony and farewell tea reception for Mr Aung Ko Khant, Mr Aung

kyaw Zin, Ms Hay Man Hnin Lwin and Mr Moekhant Thadin Hlamyint with their families and teachers on 20 October 2015 at the Singapore Embassy in Yangon. Senior officials from the Myanmar Ministry of Education were also present. In his remarks at the ceremony, Ambassador Robert Chua encouraged the scholars to do their best in Singapore. He also urged them to learn more about Singapore, forge lasting friendships with its people, and contribute to bilateral ties and cooperation between Singapore and Myanmar, and nation building of their country.—MNA

Bomb blast at Chin National Front's liaison office

The second attack on CNF's office this year may have been motivated by displeasure over the group signing the ceasefire last week, says the party head

A BOMB exploded at the Chin National Front's liaison office in Chin State on Monday night, causing extensive damage but not resulting in human injuries, according to a report published yesterday by *The Chinland Guardian*.

The home-made bomb exploded in Tedim Township, northern Chin State, at around 11.15pm.

The liaison office has nine staff, however none were present at the time of the explosion.

"This is obviously orchestrated by some entities or individuals who have misgivings about the recent signing of the NCA [Nation-wide Ceasefire Agreement]. Of course, there are a number of elements that might

be to blame – and no one has taken responsibility for it as yet," said Chin National Front (CNF) spokesperson Dr Sui Khar.

The CNF, which was founded in 1988, was one of eight ethnic armed groups who signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) last week.

Police discovered plastic bags and discarded wires at the site of the blast. The General Inspector of Police of Chin State, Chief Tactical Commander of the military and District Administrative Officer of Chin State are reportedly due to arrive in Tedim to carry out an investigation.

The explosion shattered windows, walls and destroyed furniture in the top level of the three-storey building, which is

also occupied by the owner's family. A local shop in the same building was also damaged.

The owner's family on the second floor immediately evacuated the building, which is located in Saklam Ward.

This is the second time this year that CNF's liaison office has been targeted by bombings. In March, a bomb went off at 8.30pm and did not result in injuries. No arrests were made, however some suggested that tensions over to whether to use 'Zomi' or 'Chin' to refer to the ethnic minority group were at play, as the bomb was detonated two days before the nationwide census, which was the first to take place in more than 30 years and did not include the term 'Zomi.'—*Chinland Guardian*

Mobile phone app provides election info

OTTARA District Information and Public Relations Department launched a public campaign on 19 October to encourage smart phone users to download an app called 'mViter 2015' to obtain up-to-date information about the general election of 8 November.

Staff from the department

visited local markets, tea shops and bus terminals to inform locals about the new app, which allows users to check that their personal details are accurately recorded on voting booth lists. They also canvassed the local area with posters saying 'Let's vote.'—*U Aung Ko Ko IPRD*

Training course for ballot officials held in Monglon

A two-day training course for ballot officials in Monglon Township in Shan State was held on Monday and Tuesday at the township's general administration office. The course was attended by ballot booth offi-

cials from 19 wards and villages in the township.

Data from the 2014 census — the first to take place in Myanmar for 30 years — was also distributed to relevant departments on both days.—*U Myint Aung*



Ballot officials attending training course for elections in Monglon.

PHOTO: U MYINT AUNG

Spot check for sub-standard cooking oils in Myingyan market

THE local market in Myingyan town, Mandalay Region, was combed for 10 brands of cooking oil on 18 October after being deemed unfit for consumption by the Ministry of Health.

The ministry also published public warnings in print media to raise public awareness about the banning of the sub-standard products.

The Region Trade Promo-

tion and Consumers Affairs Department head U Kyaw Myint and a team of officials. Carried out surprise checks at 24 stores in Ayemyaththida market – none of whom were found to be selling the banned brands. Shop owners were provided with a list of the brands deemed hazardous to health, along with a pamphlet about consumer protection laws.—*Zaw Min Naing*



Local officials in surprise-check at market for substandard edible oil.

PHOTO: ZAW MIN NAING

Korean families torn by war six decades ago rejoice in reunions



South Korean Lee Soon-kyu, 85, meets with her North Korean husband Oh Se In, 83, during the separated family reunions, at Mount Kumgang resort, North Korea, on 20 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

SOKCHO — Nearly 400 South Koreans crossed the heavily armed border into North Korea on Tuesday to be reunited, in an outpouring of emotions and tears, with family members separated for more than six decades since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The two Koreas, which are

divided and remain in a technical state of war, agreed to hold the family reunions for the first time since February last year after negotiating the end of a standoff at the military border in August.

Participants, some as old as 88, were reunited at the resort of Mount Kumgang just north of the

militarised border with children and spouses from whom they had been separated when the peninsula was divided at the end of the war.

“Father, it’s me, your son,” Chae Hee-yang, 65, from the South told Chae Hoon-sik, 88, from the North, as they wept at

their first meeting since the younger man was just a year old, according to a report by South Korea’s Yonhap news agency.

Foreign news outlets were not allowed to cover the event.

Families separated since the war have no means of communication and often do not know if relatives on the other side are surviving.

In the first round of reunions starting Tuesday, 96 North Koreans and their families met about 390 people travelling from the South. The second round reunites about 190 North Koreans with 90 South Koreans and their families.

The South Koreans, mostly elderly and some in wheelchairs, had gathered on Monday in the east coast city of Sokcho near the border for medical check-ups and a briefing on appropriate conduct while in the North.

On Tuesday morning they boarded buses to cross the border.

The reunions, held in a ballroom at the Mount Kumgang resort, are watched by officials and media and include only two hours of private time before they end on Thursday.

South Korean participants are advised to steer clear of a long list

of topics, such as the North’s political leadership or living standards, to the frustration of some of the visitors.

A guidebook suggests advance preparation of notes for subjects to be discussed with North Korean kin, such as the dates of parental deaths, as time is limited and the emotions can be overwhelming.

“We are being reunited after 65 years.... I want to ask if he can recognise me.”

Kim Ki-joo
South Korean citizen

Before leaving on Tuesday for a reunion with his elder brother in the North, Kim Ki-joo struggled to frame the questions he would ask at their first meeting in 65 years. “It is thrilling but I can’t organise my thoughts,” Kim said. “I can’t think of what to say. We are being reunited after 65 years, when I was 11. I want to ask if he can recognise me.”—Reuters

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Experts say sonar ‘debris’ images should be reexamined in search for Malaysian jet

SYDNEY — Australian authorities searching for the wreckage of a Malaysia Airlines jet should urgently re-investigate two areas in the remote Indian Ocean where sonar pictures show what could be debris from the plane, deep-sea search experts said on Tuesday.

An Australian-led underwater search, the most expensive in aviation history, has so far found no trace of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, which went missing with 239 passengers and crew during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in March 2014.

However, US firm Williamson & Associates said images of the southern Indian Ocean floor released by the Australian Transport and Safety Bureau (ATSB)

this month bore a striking similarity to the underwater debris field Air France Flight 447 left on the Atlantic Ocean floor when it crashed in 2009, killing all 228 passengers and crew.

The ATSB provided the images of the two sites as part of an update in which it also said a re-scan of the areas indicated they were not related to MH370.

Experts involved in past deep-water searches have said the hunt could easily miss the plane because Dutch company Fugro NV was using inappropriate technology and inexperienced personnel for the highly specialized task.

Williamson and Associates “believes the target (sonar image) bears the hallmarks of a classic high-impact debris trail similar to

other wrecks it has located”, it said in a research paper obtained by Reuters.

“We believe that any target with these characteristics should be investigated as a high priority,” it said.

The ATSB said in a written response to Reuters that geophysicists, sonar data specialists and its quality assurance team were satisfied that the structures in the sonar records were “consistent with the surrounding geological formations”.

“Based on analysis of all of the data, there are no indications that there is anything possessing the characteristics of an aircraft debris field,” it said.

Fugro did not respond to requests for comment.

The ATSB said in a 23 September update the ship Fugro Discovery would resurvey “several” sites identified by sonar contact as being of possible interest in the 120,000 sq km search area.

Other experts say the ATSB could have instead used an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) to resurvey the sites. An AUV provides the most accurate search readings but cannot be deployed in rough winter weather.

A piece of the plane found washed up on the French island of Reunion in July provided the first direct evidence that the plane had crashed into the sea. No further trace has been found.

Williamson was one of the rejected bidders for the contract to search for MH370.—Reuters

Junta’s spending gives Thai asphalt demand record push

BANGKOK — Thailand’s military rulers are fortifying the economy from the ground up. State spending on infrastructure is driving asphalt demand to a record, with shares of the country’s biggest supplier soaring more than 500 percent this year.

Domestic demand for asphalt products, used in road construction, may rise 10-15 percent to more than 900,000 tonnes this year, according to Tipco Asphalt (TASCO), the country’s largest producer of the material. That would exceed the previous all-

time high of 896,000 tonnes in 2012 when consumption surged due to reconstruction efforts following devastating floods in late 2011. Demand for asphalt is expected to see robust growth over the next few years, underpinned by the government’s push to expand road networks. A 126 billion baht (\$3.57 billion) budget has been allocated to build highways and rural roads for fiscal year 2016, on top of 142 billion baht in 2015 and 97 billion baht in 2014. The junta also recently launched a stimulus package

linked to small infrastructure projects.

Shares in TASCO have surged to almost 40 baht from around 6 baht at the beginning of the year, the best performer on the local stock market. TASCO, partly owned by Colas SA and Tipco Foods Pcl, posted record net profit in the second quarter, helped by its strong domestic network and success in Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Australia and Vietnam. Risks include a slower-than-expected economic recovery in Thailand and global-

ly and the prospect of a volatile oil market, which could push asphalt prices higher. Still, industry data shows global asphalt demand will increase 3.6 percent a year to 121 million tonnes by 2017, led by growth in Asia.

“We have revised up our 2015 earnings (for TASCO) to 5.06 billion baht,” Surachai Pramualcharoenkit, an analyst at Maybank Kim Eng Securities, wrote in a note. “Earnings growth momentum will remain impressive over the next few years.”—Reuters

72 lawmakers visit Yasukuni Shrine

TOKYO — Cabinet minister Katsunobu Kato and 71 other lawmakers from both ruling and opposition parties visited the war-linked Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on Tuesday, after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ritual offering and visits to the Shinto shrine by two Cabinet ministers over the weekend irked Japan's Asian neighbours.

Kato, minister in charge of implementing Abe's new policies for dealing with Japan's declining birthrate and graying society, became the third Cabinet minister to pay homage at the shrine during its annual autumn festival, following visits Sunday by Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Sanae Takaichi and Justice Minister Mitsuhide Iwaki.

The 71 other lawmakers included members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, as well as the Japan Innovation Party and the

Party for Future Generations.

Five senior vice ministers and three parliamentary secretaries joined the mass visit, including senior vice foreign minister Yoji Muto and senior vice welfare minister Naomi Tokashiki.

Eriko Yamatani, former chairwoman of the National Public Safety Commission, Haruko Arimura, former minister in charge of women's empowerment, and Kyoko Nakayama, head of the Party for Future Generations, were among the participants.

Abe sent a "masakaki" ritual tree offering Saturday without visiting the shrine, which honors wartime Prime Minister Gen Hideki Tojo and other convicted Class-A war criminals, along with over 2.4 million of war dead.

The prime minister's apparent decision to avoid going to Yasukuni Shrine during its four-day annual autumn festival through Tuesday may be aimed

at avoiding fanning tensions ahead of planned summit talks with China and South Korea in early November.

Hidehisa Otsuji, an LDP lawmaker who heads a nonpartisan group promoting Yasukuni visits, told a press conference after paying respect at the shrine that Abe "should think about visiting the shrine occasionally if he sends ritual offerings."

China and South Korea, both of which suffered under Japanese wartime aggression, view the Shinto shrine as a symbol of Japan's past militarism. They have criticized past Yasukuni visits by prime ministers and Cabinet members.

The lawmakers' group usually visits the shrine during the spring and autumn annual festivals as well as on August, the anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II. A total of 111 members of the group visited the shrine last fall, 106 members this spring and 67 on 15 August

this year. The number of visitors dropped this fall from a year earlier as most lawmakers are apparently not in Tokyo as the Diet is now in recess.—*Kyodo News*



Katsunobu Kato, Cabinet Minister. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Charles to miss banquet for China's Xi: royal source says no snub

LONDON — Britain's Prince Charles is not snubbing Chinese President Xi Jinping by missing a state banquet in his honour at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday as some media have suggested, according to a royal source.

Some commentators have suggested that Charles, who once described the Chinese Communist leadership as "appalling old wax-works" and is close to the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, was deliberately skipping the ceremonial event.

But the source said the heir-to-the-throne, who has missed similar events for Chinese leaders in the past, would be spending more time with Xi than any other royal during his four-day visit to Britain.

Charles is due to greet Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan at a hotel in London on Tuesday morning and then travel with him to a formal welcome near Buckingham palace.

After lunch at the palace, Xi and Peng will again meet Charles and his wife Camilla at his London residence, Clarence House, and join them for a private tea.

"The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall have significant involvement in the state visit by the President of the

People's Republic of China," a Clarence House spokesman said. Unlike in 2008 and 2012, Charles did not meet the Dalai Lama, who has described the prince as "very close ... best of friends", when he visited Britain last month. The

BBC said this had paved the way for the prince's private meeting with Xi.

"We are focusing on what aspects of the state visit the Prince of Wales is involved in," the source said, adding the prince had previ-

ously raised the issue of climate change and environmental issues with former Chinese presidents.

"We don't know exactly what the content of the conversation will be this afternoon," the source said.—*Reuters*



Supporters of China's President Xi Jinping wait on the Mall for him to pass during his ceremonial welcome, in London, on 20 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indian court convicts former Uber driver of rape

NEW DELHI — An Indian court on Tuesday convicted a former driver of US-based ride-hailing company Uber Technologies of raping a woman passenger in New Delhi last December, a lawyer involved in the case said.

The attack, in which the woman reported being raped and beaten after hailing a ride with

then Uber driver Shiv Kumar Yadav, sparked a nationwide debate around women's safety in the country.

Authorities in New Delhi banned Uber after the incident last year, saying the company violated rules and failed to run proper background checks on its drivers. Uber resumed services later and

stepped up its safety procedures.

The Delhi district court hearing the case convicted Yadav of rape, kidnapping and criminal intimidation, Atul Kumar Srivastava, a government lawyer acting for the prosecution, told Reuters.

Yadav faces a maximum of life imprisonment. The court will announce the sentence on Friday.

DK Mishra, a defence lawyer, said Yadav's conviction was "totally wrong". The defence plans to appeal after reviewing the judgment, he said.

The woman passenger had also sued Uber in US federal court in January, but later withdrew her suit. Uber welcomed the court's verdict.

China arrests three fake graft busters for kidnap

BEIJING — Police in northeastern China have arrested three people and are looking for a fourth who built a fake interrogation centre and pretended to be graft inspectors, kidnapping a local official and his wife to extort money, state media said.

Since President Xi Jinping began his crackdown on deep-rooted graft three years ago, there has been a series of cases of criminals passing themselves off as anti-corruption officials to get people to hand over their supposedly ill-gotten gains.

In the latest case, in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang in August, the four suspects forced their way into the home of an agricultural official, declared they were from the prosecutors' office and led away the official and his wife with hoods over their heads, Chinese media said.

The official, named as Zhang Wei, and his wife were driven to a building in which there was a room set up to look like an interrogation room, including a government seal on the wall, media said.

"Two of them started to question me and came up with several issues of breaking the law. I said these issues simply didn't exist, and when after a few hours they'd not got any answers, they started to get nervous," Zhang said.

Finally he offered to pay up 200,000 yuan (\$31,500) and the two sides ended up settling on 400,000 yuan and let Zhang and his wife go to get the money. Zhang then called the police who arrested three of the suspects.

Police later discovered the suspects had spent 200,000 yuan and three months to get the fake interrogation room ready for their scheme.

The story was first reported on Chinese news portals on Monday and more widely picked up by Chinese newspapers on Tuesday.—*Reuters*

"Sexual assault is a terrible crime and we're pleased he has now been brought to justice," Amit Jain, president of Uber India said in a statement.

"Safety is a priority for Uber and we've made many improvements ... as a result of the lessons we learned from this awful case."—*Reuters*

OPINION

Taking a new tack to fight poverty

Myint Win Thein

E DUCATION — or a lack thereof — is commonly attributed to the extreme inequality that persists across the world.

However improving educational standards in order to level the playing field will not be enough to eradicate poverty. When governments focus on education to the exclusion of all other factors at play,

they are not seeing the full picture. Allowing extreme wealth to be accumulated by a handful of individuals is one of the major culprits of inequality, but is rarely identified as such. Unfair trade agreements, land grabbing, structural debts, the privatisation of publicly owned utilities in a non-transparent way and tax evasion each play a role in perpetuating an ever-deeper divide between the haves and have-nots. It is therefore important for governments to invest equal efforts in fighting the various causes of inequality, which are admittedly complex and multi-faceted.

In many countries around the world, the failure to create more equitable societies is due to governments only addressing the superficial causes of poverty.

Poverty is not a natural phenomenon. We do not have to accept its existence. But what we do have to do is tackle the actions of the people who cause it. We ought to listen to the economists who have pointed out

that the real culprit behind poverty is the accumulation of extreme wealth by only a handful of high net worth individuals. They are asking that addressing inequality becomes a new millennium goal of the United Nations. As past attempts to tackle poverty have fallen short of their aims, why not give this idea some serious thought?

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Panglong Agreement and Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen

MYANMAR has witnessed two historic agreements in the past 68 years - Panglong Agreement (PA) of 1947 and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) of 2015. Both agreements are important and significant, especially with regards to inter-ethnic relations and national reconciliation.

There are two important components - composition and objective. The PA was signed on 12 February 1947 in Panglong in southern Shan state between the Burmans under the leadership of Aung San and leaders of the Shan, Kachin, and Chin.

Like the PA, the NCA was also an exclusive accord, signed by only some ethnic groups. Out of more than 20 ethnic armed organizations in the country, only eight of them signed the peace deal in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 October 2015. The two largest armed groups - the United Wa State Army and the Kachin Independence Army - are among the groups that did not sign the deal.

Though eight groups signed the NCA, only four ethnic groups

were represented — the Burman/Bama or Myanma, the Karen, the Shan, and the Chin, similar to the PA representation.

Three different organizations represented the Karen people - Karen National Union, Democratic Karen Benevolent Army, Karen Peace Council. At the PA signing ceremony, the Karen sent observers. At the NCA signing ceremony, the non-signatory groups did not send observers.

Another important component of the two agreements was the objective. One fundamental principle of the PA was the acceptance of full autonomy in internal administration for the frontier areas.

In the months preceding the PA, there was deep distrust between the Burman leaders and the frontier people. Even the British colonial government was concerned that the non-Burman ethnic groups may not be treated equally in the Union of Burma.

To allay the fears and suspicions, General Aung San said, "if Burma receives one kyat, you will also get one kyat." One important reason the frontier leaders (non-Burman

leaders) signed the PA was the belief that they would achieve freedom speedily by cooperating with the interim Burmese government.

During the British rule, the people of Burma were administered separately under Burma proper and frontier areas. The objective of PA was to achieve independence from the British and to form the Union of Burma.

With the formation of the Union of Burma, the 1947 constitution was drafted. Among others, the constitution guaranteed the frontier people the right to secession after 10 years of the formation of the union. However, the assassination of Aung San on 19 July 1947 shattered the hopes of the frontier people, which were exacerbated by the military coup in 1962.

The primary objective of signing the NCA was to end armed conflicts across the country and to prepare for political dialogue with the ultimate goal of achieving peace and national reconciliation under a federal system of governance.

With only eight groups signing the NCA and the continued armed clashes between the Myanmar army and ethnic armed groups in Shan and Kachin states, calling the peace deal as nationwide ceasefire is a misno-

mer, at least for now.

Leaders of the signatory groups argue that political dialogue process cannot begin unless the nationwide ceasefire is signed. On the other hand, the non-signatory groups believe in an all-inclusive approach of 'all or none'.

The non-signatory groups are suspicious that the exclusive policy of the government is a divide and rule strategy that would allow the Myanmar army to launch offensive attacks against groups that are excluded from the NCA.

As of now, it is most likely that the political dialogue will proceed as planned. However, with the upcoming election in November, it is uncertain under whose leadership the actual dialogue will be held.

Also, with the non-signatory groups unlikely to attend as observers, the political dialogue process would be inconclusive. However, things could change for the better if the government takes the necessary steps to bring the other armed groups on board. This will also depend largely on how the Myanmar army support and cooperate with the next government.

One major achievement of the NCA was the overwhelming support

and participation of the international community. Diplomats from 45 countries as well as representatives of the United Nations and World Bank were in attendance at the signing ceremony. The question, however, is has the international community done enough for the peace process to be an inclusive one?

The signing of peace deal in Nay Pyi Taw was essential but insufficient. While the failure to implement the PA led to the longest armed conflicts in the world, the mismanagement of NCA could lead Myanmar into another political calamity.

To prevent this from happening, the government, which should always include the military, and ethnic armed organizations should explore all possible means for the emergence of a stable and peaceful democratic Myanmar. The international community should do its part to help achieve this goal.

About the author

Nehginpao Kipgen, PhD, is a U.S.-based political scientist and author of three books on Myanmar. His writings have been published in five continents

Car convoys popular among foreign tourists

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has said that the number of groups of foreign tourists visiting Myanmar in car or motorcycle convoys is continuing to increase as the peak tourist season is now in full swing.

Private travel company Diethelm Travel Myanmar Tourism Co., Ltd arranged a 10-day trip for two Britons from 6-16 October. The pair entered Myanmar by car via the southeast border town of Myawaddy in Kayin State. They then travelled across the Myawaddy-Phaan-Yangon-Meikhtila-Pagan-Mandalay-Kalaw-Inlay-Kyaingtong route before leaving Myanmar through the eastern border town of Tacheleik in Shan State.

Bright View Travels & Tours

Co. Ltd arranged a trip between 6-9 October for eight Indian citizens travelling in two cars. The group entered via Muse, which is close to Myanmar's border with China. They took the Muse-Lashoi-Pyin Oo Lwin-Mandalay-Gantaw-Kalay route and left Myanmar from

western border town of Tamu in Chin State.

The ministry announced earlier this month that Myanmar is on track to receive the targeted figure of 4.5 international arrivals in the 2015-16 financial year.—Ministry of Hotels and Tourism



A caravan of tourists taking Muse-Lashoi-Pyin Oo Lwin-Mandalay-Gantaw-Kalay road to reach Tamu. PHOTO: MOHT

Reinventing the wheel, eh?

No. It's the logo for my donut shop.



TIN AUNG

Stock Exchange and Public Investment

San ShweAung

FIRST of all many people may want to know (what is) the difference between shares and stocks? The stock of a company is sold in units called shares. A share is a unit of ownership, or equity, in a company or a corporation. Shares are one of the most traded financial instruments. If you buy a share of a company, you are buying a piece of the company. When you own more than one share in a company or several companies, these are called stocks, because “stock” generally refers to a portfolio of shares. On the stock markets, shares are also referred to as equities — if you see the term “equities trading”, it is exactly the same as share trading. The person who buys shares in a company is called a shareholder and has a claim on part of the corporation’s assets and earnings. **Companies divide their capital into equal units and sell these on the stock market as a means of raising capital for its expansion, rather than borrowing the funds from the banks.** Stocks and shares are traded in various stock markets all over the world. One important rule is that the companies listed in a country’s stock exchange must be Public Limited Companies, which is different from Private Limited Companies. The public therefore can buy and sell legally the shares of Public Limited Companies in the stock markets. Therefore the profit from the trading of shares in the stock market is already taxed legal income for the people.

A stock exchange is a place or organization by which stock traders (people and companies) can trade stocks. Public companies may want to get their stocks listed on a stock exchange. Other stocks may be traded “over the counter”, that is, through a dealer. A large company will usually have its stock listed on many exchanges across the world. Exchanges may also cover other types of security such as fixed interest securities or interest derivatives. In a stock market, stock brokers and traders can buy and/or sell stocks (also called shares), bonds, and other securities. Stock exchanges may also provide facilities for issue and redemption of securities and other financial instruments, and capital events including the payment of income and dividends. The initial public offering of stocks and bonds to investors is by definition done in the primary market and subsequent trading is done in the secondary market. Supply and

demand in stock markets are driven by various factors that, as in all free markets, affect the price of stocks. A stock market is the aggregation of buyers and sellers of stocks (also called shares). Trade in stock markets means the transfer for money of a stock or security from a seller to a buyer. This requires these two parties to agree on a price. Equities (Stocks or Shares) confer an ownership interest in a particular company. Participants in the stock market range from small individual stock investors to larger traders investors, who can be based anywhere in the world, and may include banks, insurance companies or pension funds, and hedge funds. Their buy or sell orders may be executed on their behalf by a stock exchange trader. Some exchanges are physical locations where transactions are carried out on a trading floor, by a method known as open outcry. This method is used in some stock exchanges and commodity exchanges, and involves traders entering oral bids and offers simultaneously. An example of such an exchange is the New York Stock Exchange. The other type of stock exchange is a virtual kind, composed of a network of computers where trades are made electronically by traders. An example of such an exchange is the NASDAQ. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is the oldest stock exchange and has existed since March 1817. It is a physical exchange, with a hybrid market for placing orders both electronically and manually on the trading floor. Orders executed on the trading floor enter by way of exchange members and flow down to a floor broker, who goes to the floor trading post specialist for that stock to trade the order. Once a trade has been made the details are reported on the “tape” and sent back to the brokerage firm, which then notifies the investor who placed the order. Although there is a significant amount of human contact in this process, computers play an important role, especially for so-called “program trading”. The NASDAQ is a virtual listed exchange, where all of the trading is done over a computer network. The process is similar to the New York Stock Exchange. However, buyers and sellers are electronically matched. One or more NASDAQ market makers will always provide a bid and ask price at which they will always purchase or sell “their” stock. The Paris Bourse, now part of Euronext, is an order-driven, electronic stock exchange. It was automated in the late 1980s. Prior to the 1980s, it consisted of an open outcry exchange. Stockbrokers met on the trading floor. In 1986, the Computer Aided Trading System (CATS) was introduced, and the order matching process was fully

automated. Well known world stock exchanges are listed in the below table. Market capitalization is the total of values of shares of the listed public companies. For example in New York Stock Exchange there are 1,868 listed companies with a total capital values of 19,223 billion US\$ worth of shares being traded and the monthly buying and selling (changing hands) is 1,520 billion US\$.

Trading of shares or buying and selling of shares is as simple as basic business profitability concept. People enter into business or trade to make profit. The same is true in the stock market. There is a very straightforward concept in stock market “Buy low and Sell high”. But not all people who make trading in the stock markets are making profits all the time, as a matter of fact. As we all know this world is strange. While some might think this company shares will be very interesting to buy because it will get stronger, so that I must buy the shares now and sell them later when the share prices are high in order to make profits. May be! Not definitely certain. Calculations of some people are correct while the other people’s guess are wrong so

in the late 1950s to trade shares of nine public-private joint-venture corporations. But this OTC market too died in the 1960s when all the firms were nationalized by the military government that seized power in 1962. Another military government came to power in 1988, and it allowed the state-owned Myanma Economic Bank to form a 50-50 joint-venture with Daiwa Securities in April 1996. The Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre was formed with an authorized capital of 17 million USD and paid-up capital of 3.4 million USD in June 1996. It listed two public-private joint-venture firms: Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation and Myanmar Citizens Bank. The exchange began its trading operations in December 1996. Currently, the Myanmar exchange is dormant considering that no new companies are listing in the bourse. Instead, the government plans to set up another bourse. No new companies have signed up beyond the first two, and there is little trading. A 2011 Reuters report states that the exchange had no trading floor, and had eight employees who handled over-the-counter transactions and manually updated share prices, using a whiteboard, a

listing. Even those that qualify may still not list for the same reasons—especially the issue of taxes—that have prevented them from listing on the MSEC in the first place. Moreover, the country’s securities companies, accounting firms and law firms are sufficient to support only a small capital market. A Daiwa executive estimates “between five and 10” companies to list during the YSE’s first year of operation in 2015, with 10 to 20 listed by the end of 2017. Even this may prove optimistic if the experience of the country’s two smaller neighbors, Cambodia and Laos, is any guide. In July 2013, the Lao Securities Exchange had only two listed companies, while the Cambodia Securities Exchange had one. According to deputy minister of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, six private companies with “impressive business performances” have proposed to be listed on the new exchange. The deputy minister also declared in a statement that the stock exchange will principally allow stock trading at the start of the operations before gradually moving on to the bond market and will take on the derivatives and futures markets at the next stage.

Conclusion

After the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSE) opens officially in late 2015, the public can now participate and invest in the YSE. On the other hand the public limited companies would be able to expand (by selling of their shares) their business and industrial activities which will surely benefit the economy of the country. Another parallel positive impact will be that the public investments will be gradually diverted to YSE from the current heavy but unregulated investment and speculation in land and property sector which needs to be strictly regulated eventually in order to cool the skyrocketed prices and overheated bubble effect. The stabilized land and property prices will then attract international investment and relieve the worry of the middle income majority of the country population for their current and future housing requirements. Currently the 2 websites (1) <https://www.quora.com> and (2) <http://www.investmentfrontier.com> still list Myanmar in the list of countries without stock exchange in the world together with North Korea, Angola, Chad and Brunei. However, in October 2015 Myanmar will exit from that list of countries without stock exchange in the world.

Reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

After the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSE) opens officially in late 2015, the public can now participate and invest in the YSE.

that they lost in the trading of shares. People trading stock will prefer to trade on the most popular exchange since this gives the largest number of potential counterparties (buyers for a seller, sellers for a buyer) and probably the best price. Sometimes, the market seems to react irrationally to economic or financial news, even if that news is likely to have no real effect on the fundamental value of securities itself. But, this may be more apparent than real, since often such news has been anticipated, and a counter reaction may occur if the news is better (or worse) than expected. Therefore, the stock market may be swayed in either direction by press releases, rumors, euphoria and mass panic. **Myanmar Securities Exchange Center (MSEC) and Yangon Stock Exchange (YSE)**

The MSEC is the country’s second stock exchange after the Rangoon Stock Exchange (RSE), which traded shares of a few British and American stocks in the 1930s. The fledgling exchange, operated by seven European firms, was a secondary over the counter (OTC) market with most of the quotes sourced from Calcutta and Bombay exchanges. It closed down at the outbreak of World War II. The RSE was revived

marker pen and a stencil whenever a customer dropped by. Indeed, most people do not even know that the market exists at all. State-owned and private enterprises alike have chosen not to list. Their reasons include the firm’s fear of tax liability, fear of loss of control and unfamiliarity with the corporate culture. The MSEC is slated to be replaced by a new full-fledged exchange. In 2011, the government of President U Thein Sein selected Daiwa and Tokyo Stock Exchange to help set up a functioning stock market by 2015. With their assistance, the Central Bank of Myanmar drafted a “Securities Exchange Law”, which authorizes the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSE), and was signed into law on 31 July 2013. The Yangon Stock Exchange, expected to open by October 2015, will be run by Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company Limited, a joint venture company with Myanma Economic Bank (51%), the Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd of the Daiwa Securities Group (30.25%), and Japan Exchange Group (18.75%). The new exchange still faces many challenges. By one estimate, less than one-third of the approximately 70 local public companies in the country are expected to qualify for

Secret source in Clinton email was no secret: CIA



WASHINGTON — The CIA has told Congress that the name of an alleged secret agency source, mentioned but then partially redacted by the US State Department from an email received on Hillary Clinton's private server was not considered by the agency to be secret at all.

At issue is Moussa Koussa, a one-time intelligence chief for Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, and the question of whether or not his name should have been treated as a secret in an email Clinton received four years ago from a close confidant.

Republicans, who are trying to show Clinton mishandled classified information while secretary of state, have argued that Koussa's name should not have been included in the email she got on her private server from Sidney Blumenthal.

But the CIA, weighing in after the Republicans made their accusation earlier this month, has told lawmakers that Koussa's name was not classified, according to correspondence between the spy agency and officials of the House of Representatives

panel set up to investigate the 11 September, 2012 attacks on a US diplomatic facility and nearby spy base in Benghazi, Libya.

After months of delays and political machinations, Clinton is scheduled to appear before the House Benghazi committee on Thursday to answer questions about her handling of the 2012 attacks, her controversial private email server, and the Obama Administration's Libya policy.

After reviewing Clinton's emails in response to Freedom of Information requests, the State Department made numerous redactions, declaring that in some cases, the material should be considered classified.

Earlier this month, in a reference to Koussa, the Benghazi committee chairman, Republican Trey Gowdy, complained that Clinton, the front-runner in the Democratic presidential campaign, had received an email on her private server in March 2011 with the name of "a human source."

That represents "some of the most protected information in our intelligence community, the

release of which could jeopardize not only national security but also human lives," Gowdy said.

"Armed with that information, Secretary Clinton forwarded the email to a colleague - debunking her claim that she never sent any classified information from her private email address," he added.

Sources familiar with the redaction process said the State Department did redact Koussa's name from the email in question but that the department had done this as part of standard practice to protect the privacy of individuals and not because the department considered the data classified.

In his letter to Gowdy on Sunday, US Representative Elijah Cummings, the Benghazi committee's top Democrat, accused Gowdy of trying to "inflate" the significance of the redacted information and suggested that the "standard operating procedure" of the Benghazi committee had "become to put out information publicly that is inaccurate and out of context in order to attack Secretary Clinton for political reasons." —Reuters

Japan tries to ease South Korea's concern over military role

SEOUL — Japan's defence chief on Tuesday sought to ease South Korea's concerns about Tokyo's shift to allow its military to fight overseas, saying it won't do anything to contravene international law.

Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani met his South Korean counterpart, Han Min-koo, amid a diplomatic push by South Korea, Japan and China to resume a three-way summit, with a meeting possibly as early as next month in Seoul after a more than three-year break.

"Minister Nakatani explained Japan's security legisla-

tion and the fact that when the Self Defence Force operates in other countries' territories, the relevant countries' approval will be sought under international law," a joint statement said.

South Korea has expressed concern about Japan's move to allow its troops to fight overseas in a shift away from the limits placed by its pacifist constitution drawn up after the war, saying Japanese forces will not be allowed on to the Korean peninsula without its agreement.

The legacy of World War two still haunts Japan's rela-

tions with China and South Korea, which suffered under Japan's sometimes brutal occupation and colonial rule before Tokyo's defeat in 1945.

Japan's new security law, passed last month by parliament, has triggered protests from ordinary Japanese and others who say it violates the constitution and could ensnare Japan in US-led conflicts. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has not had a summit with South Korean President Geun-hye since taking office in December 2012 because of tensions over history and territory. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain wants legally binding 'bankable promises'

LONDON — Britain is looking for legally binding bankable promises in its renegotiation of ties with the European Union, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said on Tuesday.

When asked whether Prime Minister David Cameron would get simply a vague promise of treaty change at some point in the future, Hammond told BBC radio: "What we will be looking for is bank-

able promises, commitments, that are legally binding."

"We can have international agreements made between the member states which are registered as international agreements, legally binding, to be taken into account by courts in making decisions, that will then be incorporated into the treaties at the next opportunity, when the treaties are next open," he said. —Reuters

Russian air strikes kill 45, including rebel commander

BEIRUT — Russian air strikes in Syria killed 45 people including a rebel commander in an insurgent-held area of Latakia Province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported on Tuesday.

Rami Abdulrahman, director of the UK-based Observatory, said the air strikes on Mon-

day evening targeted the Jabal al-Akrad area of the coastal province.

He identified the rebel commander as chief of staff of the First Coastal Division group, a foreign-backed insurgent faction fighting under the banner of the "Free Syrian Army". —Reuters

Top US general in Iraq

ERBIL — US Marine General Joseph Dunford arrived in Iraq for an unannounced visit on Tuesday to get an update on the battle against Islamic State, in his first trip there since taking over as the United States' top general, on 1 October.

Dunford, the chairman of the US military's Joint Chiefs

of Staff, landed in Erbil, capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region, and was due to meet Kurdistan region's President Massoud Barzani.

He would also see Iraqi government officials and speak with US commanders on the ground, his spokesman said. —Reuters

Opposition supporters protest after Congo restricts public meetings

BRAZZAVILLE — Opposition supporters protested in Brazzaville on Tuesday after the government banned public meetings before a weekend referendum on constitutional reform that critics say is a ploy by President Denis Sassou Nguesso to prolong his grip on power.

"In order to allow the electoral campaign to continue without injury or provocation, the government has decided to forbid the use of certain meeting spaces," Raymond Zephyrin Mboulou, communication minister, said in a statement. —Reuters

Warplanes hit Libyan city of Sirte, target Islamic State

BENGHAZI — Warplanes carried out air strikes on the Libyan city of Sirte targeting areas controlled by fighters loyal to Islamic State militants, a witness in the city said on Tuesday.

There was no immediate report of casualties or damage from the strikes on Monday. Forces from Libya's internationally recognized govern-

ment have bombed Islamist militants in the past. But an official was not immediately available to comment on the Sirte attack.

Islamic State has made Sirte its base in Libya, where fighting between two rival governments and their armed allies has allowed Islamist militants to gain ground in the chaos. —Reuters

Slovenia to use army to help guard border in migrant crisis



LJUBLJANA — Slovenia's parliament is expected to approve changes to its laws later on Tuesday to enable the army to help police guard the border, as thousands of migrants flooded into the country from Croatia after Hungary sealed off its border.

The government had proposed amendments to its Law on Defence overnight, after 8,000 migrants

crossed in Slovenian territory on Monday. Only 2,000 of them passed into Austria.

"This is not about enforcing an extraordinary condition, it is about strengthening control on the border," Prime Minister Miro Cerar told the national radio Radio Slovenia.

The government has not given details of the proposed changes

to the law, but issued a statement stressing Slovenia's lack of capacity to deal with the influx and calling on fellow EU countries to help.

"Slovenia is the smallest country on the Balkan migration route and has therefore limited possibilities of border control and accommodating migrants," the government said.

"Therefore Slovenia publicly

calls upon the (EU) member states and the European institutions to actively engage in taking over this burden."

Slovenia, with two million citizens, borders Croatia, Hungary, Austria and Italy.

The government said the country will do everything in its power to control the migration route and ensure normal function-

ing of the state but added:

"It is an illusion to expect that a country of two million people will stop and solve what larger members were unable to." On Monday, the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) said that more than 10,000 migrants were stranded in Serbia, which borders Croatia, while many more were on their way there.—*Reuters*

Aussie police to access computers remotely in fight against terrorism

MELBOURNE — An Australian state's police force will receive unprecedented powers, including the ability to co-opt a suspect's computer, in a bid to improve their capacity to combat terrorism.

New legislation will be introduced to the Victorian Parliament on Tuesday, boasting six changes to the state's Terrorism Community Protection Amendment Bill.

The changes allow police to apply for Preventative Detention Order (PDO) when a person of interest is operating under an alias, or fake name, and to issue covert search warrants to remotely access a suspect's computer.

The expiry date of these new terrorism-addressing measures

has also been extended to five years, in addition to the removal of a clause which would have allowed already-existing police powers to run out next year.

Former Victorian County Court judge David Jones AM recommended the changes following a sweeping review of the police's counter-terrorism laws last year.

Victoria's Attorney-General Martin Pakula told the Australian Broadcast Corporation (ABC) on Tuesday that the new provisions would bring the police into the 21st century.

"It's important that these laws are as up to date and effective as they can be," Pakula said.

The attorney-general said the changes meant police would

no longer need to enter a premise to search a computer once a warrant was issued by Australia's Supreme Court.

"It enables police to access a computer without being physically present, it's safe for police, it's less intrusive and it may negate the need for a physical search if nothing of concern is revealed," Pakula said.

Pakula said there had been examples in the past where police were left unable to place a PDO on a suspect identified using a false name.

"Sometimes the actual birth name is not what is known to police, so they'll be able to go by using the name that police are aware of," he said.—*Xinhua*

South African students protest over plans to raise tuition fees

JOHANNESBURG — South African university students burned tyres and barricaded entrances to one campus on Tuesday in continued protest at administrators' plans to raise tuition fees next year.

Universities have proposed hiking fees by up to 11.5 percent next year, a move students say will further disadvantage black learners who had limited access to universities during decades of white apartheid rule.

Live television footage showed police putting out fires and removing rubble at an entrance to the University of Cape Town while a group of students watched.

Local media reported that students overturned vehicles

attempting to drive into Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand on Tuesday.

Police fired stun grenades to disperse protesters at Rhodes University in the southern eastern town of Grahamstown.

Police were not immediately reachable for comment on Tuesday. Higher education minister Blade Nzimande said on Monday that each university catered for its own finances and the government could not afford to provide free education for poor students.

University administrators in South Africa's most advanced economy say they have no option but to raise fees to maintain academic standards.—*Reuters*

Politics prevents Nepal reconstruction

DOLAKHA DISTRICT — Six months after a massive earthquake devastated Nepal, people are still living in temporary shelters as political wrangling has prevented the disbursement of billions pledged by international donors for reconstruction.

Aid organisations are urging the government to activate the National Reconstruction Authority, created to formulate quake-resistant building regulations and oversee the allocation of funds. International donors pledged more than \$4 billion after the 25 April quake and another temblor on 12 May. The earthquakes killed close to 9,000 people and destroyed or damaged almost a million homes.

The government appointed a chief executive officer to the NRA in August, but he has been unable to start reconstruction work, because parliament failed to pass a bill to launch the agency. The government has instead been embroiled in crisis. Protests against a new constitution erupted on the Indian border, blocking fuel imports, while political parties refused to agree on the terms of the reconstruction bill.

The International Development Partner Group called on the government and parliament “to finalise, as a matter of urgency, the appropriate legislation and take the necessary steps and decisions as soon as possible to establish the NRA”. In a separate statement, the Association of International Non-governmental Organisations in Nepal noted that “winter season is a few months away and many people still don’t have a permanent house”.

The newly-appointed CEO of the NRA, Govinda Raj Pokhrel, also expressed his frustration, telling IRIN: “Those critics are right. We see a clear lack of multi-tasking in our political leadership. They are busy in one agenda and cannot focus on another.”

Instead of sturdy buildings



Displaced people living in a temporary camp in October 2015 in Nepal’s Dolakha district, which was at the epicentre of an earthquake on 25 April 2015. PHOTO: IRIN

under construction, rural Nepal is a multicoloured patchwork of supposedly temporary tarpaulins. The district of Dolakha, which was at the epicentre of the 25 April quake, is no exception. Residents interviewed last week told IRIN they had received no government assistance apart from a one-time payout of 15,000 rupees (\$150) and 100kg of rice.

People like Bimala Thami have had to construct shelters from materials they could salvage and those distributed by aid agencies. Thami was seven months pregnant when the quake struck and destroyed her family’s stone house. They spent the following days sheltering in their cowshed, laying straw and wood on the floor and trying to stay calm during the seemingly endless aftershocks.

“We see a clear lack of multi-tasking in our political leadership. They are busy in one agenda and cannot focus on another.”

Govinda Raj Pokhrel
CEO of the National
Reconstruction Authority

Thami now lives in a structure with tin walls and a tarp roof built over an earthen floor. It’s an improvement on the cowshed, but nowhere near as sturdy as her family’s former home, and it is not strong enough to protect

against the monsoon rains or the coming winter.

“The old home was more comfortable than this one. It wasn’t the type of place where water is coming in like this, and I’m also concerned about snakes around the baby,” said Thami.

Shortly after the earthquake, the government promised low-interest loans of up to 2.5 million Nepalese rupees (\$24,000) to homeowners like Thami who lost everything. The government vowed to set up the NRA to oversee reconstruction spending and provide guidelines for rebuilding houses, schools and other structures in such a way as to minimise the toll and damage in future quakes.

But now the \$4 billion of pledged donor aid is caught up in a parliamentary bottleneck as MPs fail to pass the bill author-

ising the NRA to begin its work. The ruling Communist Party of Nepal, known by its Nepali-language acronym UML, wanted to have elected representatives at the helm of the NRA rather than technocrats. Opposition parties disagreed with that and also wanted to add provisions to the bill that the UML opposed.

The hold-up has raised concerns that donors who pledged funds months ago may not deliver on their promises by the time the NRA gets to work and tries to access the money.

Pokhrel, however, was optimistic that donors would follow through and that the political paralysis would end in time for the NRA to begin work within the month. Staff are already working to ensure that the moment the NRA is given a green light, “we can move very fast,” he told IRIN. Nepal has also been crippled by a separate political crisis as protests erupted on the border with India against a new constitution, which was passed by parliament on 20 September. Many in the Madhesi and Tharu communities oppose the size and borders of seven new provinces created by the constitution, claiming they will now be under-represented in parliament.

Nepali officials accuse India of imposing an unofficial blockade, which has prevented fuel imports, while India blames violent protests for blocking fuel convoys. Aid agencies say the fuel shortage is hampering relief efforts.

Mattias Bryneson, country director of Plan International Nepal, said his and other agencies had been forced to scale back operations in recent weeks.

“The challenge now is with the fuel situation and political issues,” he told IRIN. “That means that Plan, as well as the government and other agencies, are struggling to get supplies, to procure them and to truck them up to the affected areas.”—IRIN

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (066N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (066N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (093)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (093) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KULNATEE VOY NO (07/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (07/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (1) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Approval ratings boost marks Indonesia Widodo's first year

JAKARTA — President Joko Widodo has regained the approval of most Indonesians, an opinion poll showed as he marked his first year in office on Tuesday, evidence that an overhaul in the way he governs Southeast Asia's largest economy is starting to pay off.

Reeling from months of political missteps and the worst economic slowdown in six years, Widodo launched a drive in August to win back voters' trust that included a cabinet reshuffle and a major stimulus package.

The president's approval rating rose to 52 percent this month from 41 percent in June, a survey of 1,220 Indonesians by Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting showed.

That remains far below an approval rating peak of 72 percent just after being elected.

"The Indonesian people are still giving Jokowi a chance after his first year,"

said the group's executive director, Djayadi Hanan, referring to the president by his nickname.

"People see that the president has been consolidating his political power in parliament and in government."

Widodo, Indonesia's first president to come from outside the political or military establishment, marked his first year in office by acknowledging the difficulties in finding his footing.

Policy confusion, internal bickering and vested interests have hamstrung the president's reforms. He is also facing diplomatic pressure over his failure to douse fires causing heavy, polluting "haze" over neighbouring countries.

"The first step is most often the hardest, but also the most important," the president said on Twitter. "The first year is for setting a foundation."

Investors say Widodo, who will travel to the United States for the first time

as president next week, is starting to strike the right tone.

They point to a recent move to offer more certainty to the annual minimum wage increase and the possible easing of foreign investment rules.

The rupiah currency has rebounded 7 percent since hitting a 17-year low in late September, while the stock market has jumped 12 percent from a two-year low.

But many obstacles still remain, with an expected US Fed hike, a slowdown in China, and weak domestic consumption threatening to unwind the president's nascent efforts.

"The first year should be seen as a learning experience and we expect that the tail end of 2015 should give more hope than the last months of 2014," the *Jakarta Post* said in an editorial.

"It's time to do better now, Mr. President." —Reuters

Ohio delays executions till 2017 due to lack of lethal drugs

COLUMBUS — Ohio on Monday delayed all scheduled executions until 2017 at the earliest because of difficulty obtaining the drugs necessary to carry out lethal injections, the state's corrections department said.

The department said in a statement that "over the past few years it has become exceedingly difficult to secure those drugs because of severe supply and distribution restrictions."

Ohio, one of 31 US states with the death penalty, has not executed an inmate since January 2014 and had planned 11 executions in 2016.

The postponements followed a delay in executions in Oklahoma announced earlier in October and a judge's decision to temporarily block a resumption of executions in Arkansas.

Ohio and other death penalty states have been scrambling to find chemicals for lethal injection mixes for the past several years after pharmaceutical companies, mostly in Europe, banned sales of drugs for use in executions for ethical reasons.

In January 2014, Ohio became the first state to use a combination of the sedative midazolam and painkiller hydromorphone to execute Dennis McGuire for the 1993 rape and murder of a pregnant woman. McGuire's execution took 25 minutes and witnesses said he gasped and seized for 15 of those minutes.

Ohio halted the two-drug protocol and turned to a one-drug method, listing its options as pentobarbital and thiopental sodium, which it had used in executions from 1999 to 2011.

The state also ap-

proved a law giving confidentiality to compounding pharmacies that prepare the lethal formulations to increase opportunities for the state to obtain drugs. Ohio death row inmates have challenged the constitutionality of the law.

Executions reached a 20-year low in the United States last year and are on pace with the numerous postponements to hit the lowest level since 1991, according to the Death Penalty Information Centre, which tracks capital punishment.

Ohio has put 53 inmates to death since 1999 when it carried out its first execution since the US Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976. There are 145 inmates on the state's death row, according to the Death Penalty Information Centre.—Reuters



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M/F – 1 POSITION

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- Develop and maintain financial accounting systems for cash management, accounts payable, accounts receivable, credit control, and petty cash as whole organization
- Ensure that company financial systems are robust, compliant and support current activities and future growth
- Develop, implement, and ensure compliance with internal financial and accounting policies and procedures as well as with legislation and regulatory requirements of all statutory bodies.
- Manage the cash flow and prepare cash flow forecasts in accordance with policy
- Oversee the bookkeeping function including maintenance of the general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll
- Develop and manage the standards and procedures for cash requests and other monetary related matters as whole organization
- Manage, control and oversee loan tracking system and make sure this system supports management and stakeholders in risk management and effective decision making
- Implementing and overseeing internal control of Branch offices in accounting, cash management and MIS
- Conduct and participate in monthly department and BOD meetings
- Review monthly results and implement monthly variance reporting in order to provide leadership to the Board's Finance and Accounting strategy, to optimize the company's financial performance and strategic position.
- Manage the acquisition of capital asset and ensure that assets are properly recorded, amortized, and disposed of as appropriate
- Develop and maintain timely and accurate financial statements and reports that are appropriate for the users and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles
- Assist the Executive Director and the Board with financial reporting as required at Board meetings and shareholder meetings
- Prepare all supporting information for the annual audit and liaise with the Board's Audit Committee and the external auditors as necessary
- Establish guidelines for budget and forecast preparation, and prepare the annual budget in consultation with the Executive Directors
- Contribute fully to the development of company strategy across all areas of the business, challenging assumptions and decision-making as appropriate and providing financial analysis and guidance on all activities, plans, targets and business drivers

Qualifications

- Qualified member of an accountancy body or holder of an equivalent qualification
- Exceptional communication skills at all levels
- Strong IT skills with excellent grasp of the use of MS Office
- Ability to handle high levels of pressure and critical decision-making
- High integrity and openness combined with commitment to good governance
- Energetic, highly motivated, with an enquiring mind and passion for excellence and innovation in pursuit of business growth and success
- Excellent spoken and written skills in both English and Myanmar
- At least 3 year in a senior and decision making role
- Experience in SAP software and/ or Kredits loans tracking system preferred but mandatory
- Experience in microfinance or banking sector preferred but not mandatory.

Candidates interested in the above position, please send an Email to yinyinmyint@mfil.net latest by 31 October, 2015.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21st October, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy 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 rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st October, 2015: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st October, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st October, 2015: Partly cloudy.

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When Shah Rukh nearly refused romance movie hit

MUMBAI — With arms wide open, Shah Rukh Khan redefined romance as Raj in “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge”, but the superstar says he nearly refused the film as he found the role too “girlish”.

Shah Rukh revealed this in the “Making of DDLJ” documentary, released to mark 20th anniversary of the film. Directed by Aditya Chopra, the romance drama also starred Kajol, Mandira Bedi, Anupam Kher, Amrish Puri and Farida Jalal. The one-hour documentary features unseen footages, behind the scenes shots and interviews of the cast and crew.

Shah Rukh, who was mostly seen in dark action-thrillers like “Darr”, “Baazigar”, “Anjaam” prior to “DDLJ”, confessed his apprehensions of starring in a romantic film.

He also shared how, just before starting the film, he was undergoing a low phase due to his

sister’s illness. The documentary chronicles the movie’s inception, with pictures of Chopra’s earlier drafts of the script, its making, release and subsequent legacy.

The special feature is packed with interesting trivia right from Kajol’s reluctance to shoot the popular song “Mere Khawbo Mein Jo Aaye” in a towel to Shah Rukh’s insistence on adding an action scene in the climax.

It also has an unseen video of actress Juhi Chawla making cameo in the film, which did not make it to the final cut.

“DDLJ” propelled Shah Rukh and Kajol to global stardom and made Raj and Simran household names. The movie also gave a platform to filmmaker Karan Johar, choreographer-turned-director Farah Khan, fashion designer Manish Malhotra, who all feature in the documentary, to start their individual career.—PTI

Back to the Future again? Maybe not, says producer

LONDON — A fourth movie in the “Back to the Future” series looks unlikely, one of the films’ executive producers said on Monday, as fans of the time-traveling comedies gear up this week to mark the exact day that Marty McFly travelled to from 1985.

With this year marking the 30th anniversary of the first blockbuster film, some fans had hoped for a revival of the franchise at a time when others movies are getting reboots.

Christopher Lloyd, who played Dr Emmett “Doc” Brown in the trilogy, told the Hollywood Reporter last week he would reprise the role if the whole cast, including Michael J. Fox, who played McFly, and director Robert Zemeckis returned. Fox, now 54, was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 1991. He semi-retired from acting in 2000 as his symptoms worsened and

focused his energy on research for a cure. But he has since done a few television shows. “You have to be careful when you’re doing a sequel or a ‘prequel’, because it’s really about the story. You can’t just do the same story over and over again,” producer Frank Marshall told Reuters. “I think it’s OK to have sequels, but they have to be their own movie as well ... I’m happy to see things like “Jurassic”, like “Bourne”. I don’t think we’re going to see another “Back to the Future” ... I think that one’s done.”

This Wednesday, 21 October, is being dubbed “Back to the Future Day”. McFly and Doc travel there in the second film to find a world of flying cars and hovering skateboards or ‘hoverboards’, along with phenomena that turned out to be closer to the mark such as wearable eyeglass-screens and video calling.—Reuters

Oprah invests in Weight Watchers, shares double



PHOTO: REUTERS

CHICAGO — Media mogul Oprah Winfrey will buy a 10 percent stake in Weight Watchers International Inc, adding her celebrity and consumer appeal to a diet brand that has been shedding subscribers.

Shares of Weight Watchers soared on the news of Winfrey’s \$43.2 million investment, closing up 105 percent at \$13.92 on Monday. More than 71 million shares changed hands on US exchanges, the busiest trading day in the company’s history.

Weight Watchers has suffered from a shift in what US consumers consider to be healthy, as shoppers increasingly choose natural foods over diet programmes. Consumers’ embrace of calorie-counting apps on mobile phones, and the popularity of wearable fitness trackers such as those made by Fitbit Inc, have also made it hard for Weight Watchers to stand out, particularly among younger people, analysts said.

Winfrey’s frankness about her decades-long struggle with weight loss may help revive the brand.

“The good thing about picking Oprah Winfrey is that although she is very much a really strong media personality, lots of people still see her as being a very ordinary person, a person that has struggled with things like weight loss,” said Neil Saunders, managing director of retail research firm Conlumino. Weight Watchers initially approached Winfrey, 61, about a partnership, and she began using the company’s weight-loss program two months ago, said a spokesperson for the former talk show queen. “Weight Watchers has given me the tools to begin to make the lasting shift that I and so many of us who are struggling with weight have longed for,” Winfrey said in a statement.

Winfrey plans to publicly document her experiences on the program and appear in advertisements, following previous endorsements by singers Jennifer Hudson and Jessica Simpson. Winfrey also will join Weight Watchers’ board of directors.—Reuters



Pop star Selena Gomez. PHOTO: REUTERS

Selena Gomez tops Billboard 200 chart

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Selena Gomez edged out rapper The Game for the top spot on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday.

“Revival,” the second record from 23-year-old Gomez, sold 85,000 albums and 198,000 songs, and was streamed 18.5 million times in the week ending 15 October, totaling 117,000 units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album)

and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

The Game, a native of Compton, Southern California, came in at No. 2 with “Documentary 2,” which sold 95,000 units, while rapper The Weeknd dropped one spot to No. 3 as “Beauty Behind the Madness” sold 77,000 units.

Last week’s chart-topper, Janet Jackson’s “Unbreakable,” dropped to No. 8 this week. The only other new entry in the top 10 this week was actress and country singer Jana Kramer’s “Thirty-One,” at No. 10.—Reuters

‘The Force Awakens’ Star Wars fans, crashing online ticket sales

LOS ANGELES — “Star Wars” fans were given the longest look yet at the upcoming “The Force Awakens” film on Monday, in an action-packed trailer which became the top trending topic on Twitter and sparked a rush of bookings which crashed a US online ticket seller.

The two-and-a-half minute trailer, which debuted during half-time of ESPN’s National Football League game, quickly attracted more than 17,000 tweets per minute, according to Twitter. It was viewed on YouTube more than 220,000 times within the first 20 minutes.

Tickets for the film’s US release on 18 December went on pre-sale at the same time as the trailer, with US ticket seller Fandango crashing temporarily.

The trailer, which featured franchise veterans Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher alongside a cast of newcomers, kicked off with lead character Rey (Daisy Ridley) as a scavenger presumed to be the daughter of Princess Leia (Fisher)

and Han Solo (Ford).

Fisher makes her trailer debut as Leia, along with the character’s trademark hair buns, as she is embraced by Han Solo. Leia is heard saying “The Force, it’s calling to you. Just let it in.” Notably missing was Mark Hamill, who reprised his role as Luke Skywalker but is yet to be seen in character.

The trailer for the film, directed by J.J. Abrams, provided the vast scope the new film will be taking and the challenges that its leading characters will face.

Finn (John Boyega), a Stormtrooper on the run, says “I was raised to do one thing, but I’ve got nothing to fight for,” and is later seen battling villain Kylo Ren (Adam Driver).

Kylo Ren is shown alongside the charred mask of Darth Vader, saying “Nothing will stand in our way. I will finish what you started.” Fans have until now only seen two teasers: November’s 88-second trailer and April’s 2-minute trailer, in which Han Solo and Chewbacca made their first appearance.



Cosplayers, dressed up as characters from ‘Star Wars’, wave in front of an All Nippon Airways (ANA) Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner JA873A named the ‘R2-D2 ANA JET’ during a fan flight event at Haneda airport. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ahead of the trailer release, Abrams tweeted a note, saying “We cannot wait to share the trailer with you tonight. I don’t care if you’re black, white, brown, Jawa, Wookiee, Jedi or Sith. I just hope you like it.”

The film is expected to gross

about \$100 million in North America on its opening weekend, Rentrak’s senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian said, adding that it could earn over \$2 billion globally. “This is maybe the most anticipated movie of the last 10 years,” Dergarabedian said.—Reuters

Urgent repair work could silence London's landmark

LONDON — London's 156-year-old Big Ben clock — which has already shown signs of its age this year by chiming late — may now need major repairs that could leave one of the British capital's major landmarks silent and covered in scaffolding for months to come.

The five tonne clock, including its four metre (12-foot) long minute hand, needs extensive work to fix water erosion and cracks in the masonry, a survey by a parliamentary committee found.

Over 31 years have passed since similar works were last carried out.

A long period without its familiar hourly chimes would be the first since 1976 when it stopped tolling intermittently for 26 days over nine months.

"Committees of both Houses are currently considering the study and will provide advice to inform the business case for how

best to proceed," a parliamentary spokeswoman said.

"No decisions on works, timescales or costs have been agreed," she added in a statement.

A parliamentary source told the Sunday Times newspaper the refit could cost up to 40 million pounds (\$60 million) and last three years.

The clock is in such a dilapidated state that it is "ready to fail," the source said.

In August, the bell started to chime up to six seconds late every hour, prompting a thorough check of the clock's pendulum and gears.

Big Ben's woes match those of the Houses of Parliament, which adjoin the tower and are themselves in need of restoration work that could cost as much as 5.7 billion pounds and take 32 years, according to a report published in June. —Reuters



Cleaners abseil down one of the faces of Big Ben, to clean and polish the clock face, above the Houses of Parliament, in central London. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ageism in US workplace: a persistent problem unlikely to go away

NEW YORK — When Leslye Evans-Lane left her teaching job in New Mexico at the age of 58 to move to Oregon with her husband, she never imagined that it would be difficult to find work.

But it took two years and more than 100 applications before she landed a part-time academic job. Six months later, when the job became full-time, she was replaced by someone younger.

"I applied for the full-time position and didn't even get an interview," said Evans-Lane, who is convinced that despite her years of experience age was an obstacle in getting hired and in losing her job.

The US Equal Employ-

ment Opportunity Commission received 20,588 charges of age discrimination in 2014, a rise from 17,837 a decade earlier. Although the number dropped from a peak of 24,582 in 2008, legal and employment experts said it is a common phenomenon that will increase with millennials eager to enter the workforce and baby boomers reluctant to leave it.

"It is going to get worse because the older generation doesn't have the money to retire and then live 20 more years," said Brian Schaffer, a New York employment lawyer. "Companies are trying to cut costs and one of the ways to do try it is to eliminate older workers and hire much younger people."

"There is a presumption that job performance decreases with age despite all the research showing it doesn't."

Professor Michael Campion
Purdue University

Michael Campion, a professor of management at Purdue University in Indiana, said the sheer number of baby boomers is an issue.

"The baby boomers were an oversized generation, so there are more of us. More older people want to work later in life," he explained. Although the Age Discrimination Employment Act of 1967 prohibits discrimination against people 40 and older, a 2013

survey of 1,502 adults by non-profit advocacy group AARP showed that two-thirds of workers between the ages of 45 to 74 said they have seen or experienced ageism.

Stereotypes and perceptions that older workers are not savvy about technology, cost more or are not as productive are fueling age discrimination.

"There is a presumption that job performance

decreases with age despite all the research showing it doesn't," said Campion.

Many boomers whose jobs have good benefits have seen changes in pension plans from defined benefit to defined contribution and declines in retiree health benefits that have spurred them to work longer.

Laurie McCann, senior attorney at AARP Foundation Litigation, said many people aren't even aware they have rights that protect them from age discrimination.

"The economy is the bellwether of how much age discrimination we see," she said, adding it is a "significant problem."

AARP is fighting cases involving both ageism in

hiring and firing. Despite efforts to combat age-related stereotypes, McCann said assumptions people hold seem to be intractable in the United States.

"It could be that ageism versus other forms of discrimination is not taken as seriously or viewed as wrong as other types of discrimination, so we don't attack it with the same intensity," she said. The problem can be more acute in some industries which place a value on youth such as technology, fashion and advertising, according to McCann. She credits older Hollywood actresses speaking about the difficulty finding roles for raising awareness about the problem, but said more needs to be done.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(21-10-2015 07:00 am ~ 22-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am History Of Wishfulfilling Mai-Lamu Pagoda
07:45 AmChanges
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Gardener: Rose Plantation
08:32 Am On the River
08:53 Am Independent Filmmaker
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Bollywood Actress "Laila Khan" Born & Raised in Myanmar (Part-II)
09:49 Am Chef Life "Moe Moe Khaing"
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab

10:39 Am One Heritage.....One Festival
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
Prime Time
07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake
07:47 Pm Today Myanmar
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm The Rising Glory Of Myanmar Arts
08:54 Pm Trishaw Man
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(21-10-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am
• Mono Classical Songs
6:25 am
• Myanmar Series
6:40 am
• Fashion Show Dance
6:45 am
• Teleplay
7:05 am
• TV Drama Series
7:55 am
• TV Drama Series

8:45 am
• Catch Asia News (Part-13)
8:55 am
• Musical Programme
9:10 am
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
9:30 am
• Joint Performance by State Traditional Orchestra

Myanmar to boost sport through master plan

YANGON — Myanmar's Ministry of Sports is planning to boost sports by implementing a master plan (2015-2030), sources with the ministry said on Tuesday.

Under the scheme, the ministry, in cooperation with Switzerland-based Altair Group, will carry out three main pillars including processes, installation of

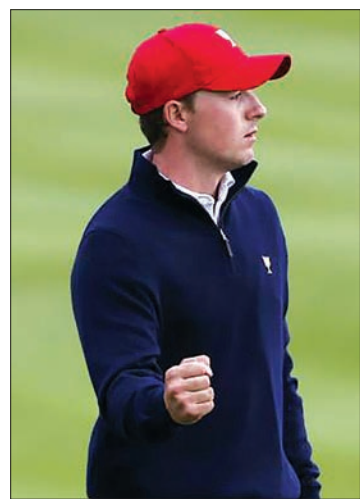
sports equipment and formation of organisations.

Based on these pillars, the ministry expected to encourage the emergence of outstanding athletes, education development of youths, having fitness, winning medals at international competitions, and penetrating of Myanmar sports among other countries.

Since 2013, sports academies have been opened in Yangon and Mandalay.

A sport university being constructed in Nay Pyi Taw is to open in the 2016-2017 academic year. Meanwhile, the Myanmar Football Federation is expecting to spend some US\$6 million dollars in 2016 for the development of football. —Xinhua

Player of the year signs up for Singapore Open



US team member Jordan Spieth. PHOTO: REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Player of the Year Jordan Spieth will skip the Farmers Insurance Open on the PGA Tour to instead play in the returning Singapore Open in January, organisers announced on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old world number two enjoyed a breakout 2015, winning the Masters, US Open and the PGA Tour Championship among his five victories as he went on to claim the lucrative FedEx Cup. "Playing in the SMBC Singapore Open is something I'm really looking forward to," Spieth said in a statement.

"I'm very fortunate to play

golf around the world and can't wait to visit Singapore for the first time."

The 50th Singapore Open, featuring prize money of at least \$1 million, will be played on the Sentosa Golf Club's demanding Serapong Course from 28-31 January on the Asian and Japan Golf Tours after a three-year absence.

Spieth missed the cut at the \$6.5 million Farmers Insurance Open in January at the famed Torrey Pines course in San Diego, where current world number one Jason Day of Australia triumphed after a four-man playoff. —Reuters

Platini defends \$2 million FIFA fee



UEFA President Michel Platini. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — Michel Platini said the two million Swiss francs (\$2.1 million) he received from FIFA, a payment which has cast a cloud over his bid to become president of the world football body, was legitimate reward for genuine work.

In an interview with the *Le Monde* newspaper published on Monday, the head of Europe's powerful UEFA football federation said the money was for work he did for FIFA President Sepp Blatter from 1998 to 2002.

Most of the payment, which is being investigated by the Swiss authorities, was only

made in 2011. Both Blatter and Platini have denied any wrongdoing over the affair.

Platini provided an extensive account of how that advisory work and related payments were agreed with Blatter, telling the newspaper he had never been good with finances and that he had even short-changed himself in the case in question.

Platini said he had asked for one million francs a year for the work which included reform of the global competitions calendar, work on subsidies for the poorest federations, funding for football projects and a

lot of travel with Blatter. "I've not used lawyers or negotiating agents for ages," the former French soccer star told *Le Monde*. "It was a man-to-man thing."

Platini said that Blatter had explained that his contract would stipulate an annual sum of 300,000 Swiss francs because that was the top salary rate at FIFA at the time.

The rest of the agreed one-million a year would be paid at a later date.

Over four years, such a catch-up payment would have totalled 700,000 francs a year, or 2.8 million Swiss francs.

Platini told *Le Monde* that when years later he was asked to send a bill for money still due to him, he mistakenly remembered a contract salary sum of 500,000 Swiss francs a year rather than 300,000. He therefore sent a bill for a total of only two million francs for the four years in question.

Blatter and Platini were suspended for 90 days on Oct. 8 after Switzerland's attorney general's office initiated criminal proceedings against Blatter over the 2011 payment to Platini. —Reuters

Man Utd back in Moscow after six-year absence



Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal shakes hands with Wayne Rooney at full time against Everton as they celebrate. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSCOW — Manchester United return to the scene of their 2008 Champions League triumph looking for a second away win over CSKA Moscow in exactly six years on Wednesday.

United, who won their third crown when they beat Chelsea on penalties at the Luzhniki Stadium in May 2008, returned to the Russian capital on 21 October, 2009 and beat CSKA 1-0 with a late goal by Antonio Valencia.

The Red Devils will be looking to repeat that victory at a different venue, the Arena Khimki, as the Luzhniki is under reconstruction for the 2018 World Cup finals.

United will travel to Moscow in good heart after an excellent 3-0 win away to Everton

kept them third in the Premier League at the weekend.

Manager Louis van Gaal was delighted with that return to form following a defeat by the same score away to Arsenal in the previous game.

Morgan Schneiderlin, Ander Herrera and Wayne Rooney scored the goals, with Rooney once again playing just behind new young striker Anthony Martial, who has made a fine impression since joining from AS Monaco in the close-season.

"Maybe it is the start of many, many victories. I am not stupid, I won't change too much on Wednesday," said Van Gaal, who left out fellow Dutchmen Danny Blind and Memphis Depay at the weekend following the Netherlands' failure to qualify for Euro 2016. —Reuters

Ronaldo and Messi headline Ballon d'Or shortlist

ZURICH — Real Madrid's blockbuster 'BBC' forward line and Barcelona's devastating 'MSN' trio are set to go head-to-head for the 2015 Ballon d'Or award after all six were named on the 23-man shortlist by FIFA on Tuesday.

Real's Cristiano Ronaldo, who set a club scoring record with his 324th goal on Saturday, will be going in search of his third consecutive World Player of the Year award.

He faces competition from his team mates Karim Benzema of France and Welshman Gareth Bale who make up the Spanish side's 'BBC' frontline.

Joining them are four-times winner Lionel Messi, the Argentine great, and his fellow South American strikers Neymar and Luis Suarez who form Barcelona's feared MSN frontline that fired a combined 122 goals last season.

Barcelona, who won La Liga, the Champions League and domestic cup last year, have the most players on the shortlist

with Spanish midfielder Andres Iniesta, Argentine defender Javier Mascherano and Croatian Ivan Rakitic joining their front three on the award.

Real have five with Colombian James Rodriguez and German World Cup-winner Toni Kroos also named.

German champions Bayern Munich also have five representatives with Robert Lewandowski, Thomas Mueller, Arjen Robben, Arturo Vidal and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

Vidal is joined by Chilean compatriot Alexis Sanchez after their Copa American success in July.

Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure, winner of the last four African Player of the Year awards, is the only non European or South American to make the list.

The list was composed by the FIFA Football Committee and a group of experts from France Football. The winner will be announced in Zurich on 11 January. —Reuters