Perspectives

PHNOM PENH—Senior immigration officials from the ten ASEAN member countries gathered here on Monday to discuss ways to further enhance regional cooperation, a Cambodian senior official said.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 11th ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum, Major General Sok Veasna, director of the General Department of Immigration’s non-immigration and technology department, said the meeting aimed to strengthen regional cooperation through sharing immigration intelligence and information among ASEAN member states.

“Sharing intelligence is becoming a very useful tool to make sure that we could prevent unwanted travelers crossing our borders from one to another,” he said.

Furthermore, by enhancing the closed cooperation, we could learn many good lessons and experience from each other,” he said.

The official said sharing intelligence among ASEAN member states should be as quick as possible in order to join hand in fighting any kind of threats to each nation in the region.

The participants will also discuss issues of immigration hotline creation, intelligence data sharing protocol, and irregular movement of people.

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Aye Min Soe

THE Union Government announced on Monday that it will spend K26 billion (US$20.3 million) on building low cost housing for workers in industrial zones.

The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security is launching the project in a bid to help share the costs burden that private factories must bear following the enactment of the national minimum wage on 1 September.

The ministry will invite tenders this month for the project in Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha industrial zones. The housing structures will consist of several five-storey buildings on a total of 43 acres, and housing will be affordable, Deputy Minister U Htin Aung told factory bosses following a meeting in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.

Around 500 workers have lost their jobs after a minimum wage was set at K3,600 (US$2.80) for an eight-hour work day on 28 August.

Other factories have reportedly stopped providing free transport and overtime pay in order to maximise their profits.

(See page 3)

Garment workers add the finishing touches at a factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon. — PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

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(See page 3)
PINDAYA — The country’s first bee-keeping centre opened in Pindaya, Danu Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State on September 4.

The centre aims to generate new sources of incomes for locals, create a market for the sale of honey and other by-products and to become a tourist attraction in its own right.

The centre was launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, TAG International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to modernise services on the antiquated Yangon Circle Line. There are also plans to upgrade the Yangon-Toungoo, Toungoo-Yamethin and Yamethin-Mandalay routes. RBE coaches can reach speeds of up to 100 kilometres per hour, whereas the Circle Line train currently travels at 17km per hour. The official said that some coaches will not be air-conditioned, as this would out-price the train’s low income passengers, who currently pay K50 to K100 per ticket – whereas a ticket for an air-conditioned coach is priced at K300.

He added that the revenue generated from ticket sales almost balances out the cost of operations.—Soe Win-MLA

YANGON — Twenty-three air-conditioned RBE coaches from Japan arrived at Thilawa Port in Yangon Region on September 5.

The coaches were donated by the Japanese government and will be used to replace coaches on Yangon’s circle line and other railway networks across the country, according to sources from the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

The ministry’s manager U Kyaw Soe Lin of Division (7) says that the six RBE coaches that arrived earlier on August 20 will be used to service the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw railroad, which operates four times per day.

Myanmar Railways is implementing the Urban Transport Plan in conjunction with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to modernise services on the antiquated Yangon Circle Line. There are also plans to upgrade the Yangon-Toungoo, Toungoo-Yamethin and Yamethin-Mandalay routes. RBE coaches can reach speeds of up to 100 kilometres per hour, whereas the Circle Line train currently travels at 17km per hour. The official said that some coaches will not be air-conditioned, as this would out-price the train’s low income passengers, who currently pay K50 to K100 per ticket – whereas a ticket for an air-conditioned coach is priced at K300.

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THATON—Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint and other ministry officials inspected the recently opened public service office in Thaton Township on 4 September.

He said during his visit that public service offices were set up to promote good, clean governance. Furthermore, he said, the offices are meant to provide the public with convenient ‘one-stop shop’ services by having several departments represented in a single office.

He urged office staff to build confidence between civil servants and the public by providing excellent service. Various staff members explained their roles to the deputy minister.

Ten government departments are housed in the Thaton public service office.—Thet Oo

MEIKTILA — A medical facility for the provision of first aid will open at the end of November at the 285-mile rest stop in Theegon, Meiktila, on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Construction is being funded by Singapore’s Red Cross Brigade at a cost of K35.3 million (US$27,600).

A temporary first aid facility was set up at the rest stop in June 2013. To date it has treated 220 people with injuries from 115 car accidents, 39 of which included casualties.—Chan Thar-Meiktila

Deputy Minister visits new public service office in Thaton

Medical centre to open on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

Bee-keepers inspect beehives on production of honey in Pindaya, Danu Self-Administered Zone in Shan State.—Thant Zin Win

An air-conditioned coach being unloaded from the vessel at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa.

Soe Win (MLA)

Deputy Minister visits new public service office in Thaton

Medical centre to open on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

A medical centre is under construction to provide first-aid to necessary patients on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.—Chan Thar (MEIKTILA)
NAY PYI TAW—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Israel’s Defense Minister Mr Hoshe Ya’alom exchanged gifts.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Israel’s Defense Minister Mr Hoshe Ya’alom exchange gifts.

The C-i-C said that Myanmar hopes for opportunities to enhance bilateral relations, while the the Israeli Defense Minister expressed his belief in bilateral military cooperation, cooperation in overcoming challenges and exchanges on matters relating to security and defense.

The senior general called on Myanmar Ambassador to Israel U Myo Aye at the Myanmar embassy and presented gifts to embassy staff.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing later visited the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem and laid a wreath at Yad Vashem memorial on Mount Herzl.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended a dinner hosted by the Ambassador U Myo Aye at a hotel near the Dead Sea.—Myawady

Union Minister provides aid to Kokang community

NAY PYI TAW—Kokang Self-Administered Zone Rehabilitation and Management Supporting Committee Chairman U Hla Tun attended a ceremony in which aid was presented to local residents in Kuntong zone on 6 September.

U Hla Tun, who is also Union Minister at the President’s Office, said that peace and stability plays a key role in rehabilitation tasks in Kokang region. As the government is focusing on the internal peace-making process, local residents should cooperate with the government in achieving its goals, he added.

The union minister then took part in discussions with members of the military administrative region advisory committee before paying a visit to Yan Lone Kyaw border gate and a low-cost housing project in Manchu. The union minister discussed regional development projects with local residents and officials.

The union minister also visited the district hospital and gave the patients gifts.—MNA

Wetland conservation efforts are lacking: Union Minister

NAY PYI TAW—Myanmar is failing to conserve its wetlands as effectively as other countries in the region, the union minister said.

Wetlands are important for the survival of human beings because they provide fish and other natural resources while providing marine creatures with habitats and protecting coastal areas from storms and floods, the union minister pointed out.

There are 99 recorded wetland sites in Myanmar, according to a 2003 study conducted by the Wild Birds Society of Japan and the Department of Forestry.

The union minister urged the three political parties to work harder to conserve wetlands in order to prevent natural disasters.

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The workshop also discussed organizing the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Department of Forestry.

The Ramsar Convention came into force in Myanmar in March 2005, however management systems, funding and data about its wetland resources is lacking, the union minister said.

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BANGKOK — A foreign suspect in the Aug. 17 Bangkok bombing, who was apprehended on Sept. 1, has admitted to having handed a bomb to a yellow-shirted man suspected to be the bomber, local media reported Monday.

The 8th Asia-Pacific Intelligence Chiefs Conference (APICC) will focus on the main topics of maritime security, anti-transnational crime and law enforcers’ training for combating terrorism, according to a press release issued by Brunei’s Ministry of Defense and the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) and marks the first time Brunei co-hosts the meeting with the United States.

The participating countries also include Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Canada, China, France, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and Vietnam. Various bilateral meetings between the participating countries will take place on the sidelines of the meeting. Initiated in Kuala Lumpur by USPACOM in 2007, APICC serves as an annual regional avenue that gives military intelligence chiefs an opportunity to come together, interact closely and discuss cooperative matters within the intelligence field.—Xinhua

SINGAPORE—At breakfast time one day last week, Singapore’s government minister K. Shanmugam dropped in to a bustling food court to greet voters, listen to their grumbles and urge them to back the People’s Action Party (PAP) in this Friday’s general election.

There was a burst of applause from a table of tea-drinking men, old ladies looked up smilingly from bowls of noodle soup, and one of the sharpest complaints he heard was from a resident about pigeons roosting outside her house. A bedrock of support from communities like this guarantees that the PAP, which has ruled this city state since its own independence 50 years ago, will be returned to power this week.

But Shanmugam, who is law and foreign minister, says the PAP can no longer take popular loyalty for granted: the party’s share of the vote dropped to 60.1 percent in the last election, in 2011, its worst result since independence, and a swing of just a few thousand votes in some electoral districts this time could erode its overwhelming majority in the 89-seat parliament.

To prevent that, the party has tweaked its playbook in ways that will shift the direction of a country whose meteoric rise from tropical backwater to haven of wealth was based on a no-nonsense fiscal and growth all-contains.

Under the iron-handed father of Singapore, the late Lee Kuan Yew, the idea of Western-style welfare was scorned and people were mostly expected to stand on their own feet. But years of galloping growth led to yawning wealth gaps and to resentment over an open door for foreign workers, overcrowded trains and expensive housing, forcing the PAP to respond with a nudge to the political left. “In the 80s, 90s to 2000s there was a lot of emphasis on the private sector,” Shanmugam said in an interview with Reuters. “From ’07 the rhetoric has shifted to a centre-left position.”

Eugene Tan, a political analyst and associate professor at Singapore Management University, says this new strategy will have to stay as the PAP manages a more competitive political landscape and a population now less patient with paternalism and one-party rule.

“The PAP will now have to deal with much stronger pressures for populist policies, such as higher taxes for a larger swath of income-earners and nationalistic manpower policy as well as more social spending, which are very often the antithesis of the ruling party’s core policies for the past 50 years,” Tan said.

Singapore’s rulers hope a nudge to the left will keep voters loyal.

A detailed suspect (C, front) in the Erawan Shrine bombing attends an enquiry at the Metropolitan Police Bureau in Bangkok, Thailand, Sept. 7, 2015. —Xinhua

Indonesia migrant boat death toll rises to 61

KUALA LUMPUR — Sixty-one bodies have been recovered from an overloaded wooden boat which sank off Malaysia carrying dozens of Indonesian illegal immigrants, maritime officials said on Monday.

The dead were mostly men, with one toddler on board, the maritime agency’s search and rescue director, Robert Teh, told Reuters. Only 20 people are believed to have survived Thursday’s disaster.

“If no more bodies are found today, we may call off the search and rescue operations tomorrow,” Teh said. The boat is believed to have overturned due to overloading and bad weather as immigrants were making the journey home for the Eid al-Adha holiday, officials told reporters on Thursday.

One of the victims, Asminah, was making her first trip home in three years. Her eldest son, Yul Iqbar, told Reuters that only he had been told of her visit. “She wanted to give the family a surprise,” he said.

Most of Malaysia’s estimated six million legal and illegal migrant workers are from Indonesia, working on construction sites, plantations, in factories and in domestic service.—Reuters
Koreas begin talks to hold reunions of separated families

SEOUL — North and South Korea on Monday began talks to arrange reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War following their recent deal that averted a military confrontation.

Three Red Cross officials from each side are meeting at a truce village of Panmunjom to work out details such as the timing and the venue of the reunions. If held, the reunions, which consist of families from both sides meeting for a few hours, will be the first since February 2014.

Many Korean people remain separated from their relatives by the division of the Korean Peninsula since the Korean War that ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

At the end of marathon talks on Aug. 25, the two Koreas reached a six-point agreement, including an agreement to hold the family reunions on the occasion of Korea’s full moon festival, or Chuseok, which falls on Sept. 27.

Local media reports said the reunions are likely to be held at a facility at Mt. Kumgang on the North’s east coast, in October, given the time needed for preparation. There are more than 66,000 South Korean family members separated by the Korean War, with most surviving family members at an advanced age.—Kyodo News

Three Red Cross officials from South Korea speak to reporters in Seoul on Sept. 7, 2015, before departing for a meeting with their North Korean counterparts concerning the possible reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.—Kyodo News

10-year-old’s brain damaged after bug spray

BEIJING — Ten year-old Peyton McCaughay was a cheerful child. But after his family’s Florida home was sprayed for bugs, he was hosptalized for brain damage, according to media reports on Monday. This unimaginable tragedy began when Peyton’s parents decided to get rid of troublesome termites which had devastated their home.

The family called a pest control company Terminix’s subcontractor, Sunland Pest Control, to have the pests sprayed out, the family attorney Bill Williams said.

The family was told it was safe to return to the home two days later after the termites fumigation. Then the family began feeling ill. Every one in the family was vomiting, the boy’s uncle Ed Gribben said.

The parents, Lori and Carl McCaughay, and their 7-year-old daughter recovered, but Peyton kept getting worse. After spending more than two weeks in three different children’s hospitals, he can barely speak.

Terminix said in a statement, “We were saddened to hear this news. Our hearts are with the family. We are carefully reviewing the matter.”

The case now is under investigation.—Xinhua

EU sets new quotas for states to take asylum-seekers

BRUSSELS — The EU executive has drawn up a new set of asylum quotas under which Germany will take in more than 40,000 and France 30,000 of a total of 160,000 asylum-seekers it says should be relocated from Italy, Greece and Hungary, an EU source said on Monday.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker is due to unveil new proposals on Wednesday. EU officials have said he will propose adding 120,000 people to be relocated on top of a group of 40,000 the Commission previously proposed relocating.

Member states rejected such binding national quotas in June but since then private offers have fallen short of 40,000 while the number of people arriving in Europe has surged, the Commission, backed by Germany and France, is pushing for them.

While Germany has said it is willing to take in many refugees and President Francois Hollande confirmed France’s readiness on Monday to take in its share under the European Commission’s guidelines, the quotas could see

Singapore police lines out 18 assembly centers for polling day

SINGAPORE — The Singapore police on Monday have lined up 18 designated assembly centers for the public and electoral candidates to wait for the result of the general election this Friday.

Candidate or his election agent can apply for permits for such centers at the Police Elections Permit Office on Wednesday and Thursday for free, police said. Under the law, it is illegal to gather in groups of more than 4 people without a permit in Singapore.

Police have grouped the electoral divisions into three zones. Contesting parties and independent candidates can only apply for one assembly center site in each zone that they are contesting in.

In the event of more than one applicant for a particular assembly center site, police will allocate these sites on a first-come-first-serve basis.
Greece asks EU for humanitarian aid to cope with migration crisis

ATHENS — Greece asked the European Union on Monday for humanitarian aid to help it cope with what it called “a volatile situation” following the large flow of migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa onto its shores.

It requested the EU activate its civil protection mechanism, the bloc’s crisis-response body, to provide staff, medical and pharmaceutical supplies, clothes and equipment, the Interior Ministry said.

Greece is struggling to cope with the thousands of people fleeing poverty and war in countries such as Syria for Europe. Tensions have flared on eastern islands including Kos and Lesbos where most refugees land due to their proximity to Turkey.

On Monday morning, a Greek ferry unloaded 2,500 migrants at the port of Pireaus, bringing the total number of people moved to the mainland since last Monday to more than 15,000. Thousands more are waiting to be identified and ferried to Athens to continue their trip to other European countries.

“The First Response Service requested that the EU civil protection mechanism is activated in order to substantially strengthen the efforts undertaken by the First Reception Service to manage a volatile situation,” the ministry said.

“The satisfaction of the said request is expected to be of critical assistance to the work of the First Response System, which, under current conditions, is extremely difficult.” The EU’s civil protection mechanism coordinates the bloc’s humanitarian aid efforts, channeling aid and sending special teams with equipment to disaster areas. It has previously helped Greece fight forest fires.

UK’s Cameron faces parliamentary revolt over EU referendum rules

LONDON — Prime Minister David Cameron faces a rebellion from many of his Eurosceptic lawmakers on Monday when parliament votes on the rules for a planned referendum on Britain’s European Union membership.

Cameron has already been forced to make concessions over the referendum, last week agreeing to make the wording of the question more neutral and to accept some limits to government activity in the run up to the vote, which is due by the end of 2017.

But many Eurosceptic Conservatives argue this did not go far enough and that a so-called “purdah” period, which bars the government from publishing anything which could influence the outcome, must be applied in full.

The opposition Labour Party and Scottish nationalists have also tabled amendments to the EU Referendum Bill, which lawmakers in the lower house will have their final chance to vote on late on Monday, also arguing purdah must be applied.

As Cameron has a working majority of just 16 in parliament, the government faces an embarrassing defeat if enough of its own lawmakers join forces with the opposition parties, forcing it to re-think its plans to accommodate the Eurosceptics’ demands.

Some Conservatives have also raised concerns over the timing of the vote, spending limits for political parties, the impartiality of broadcasters and whether EU institutions will be allowed to be directly involved in campaigning.

In a boost to Eurosceptics, an opinion poll published on Saturday showed a majority of Britons now favour leaving the European Union amid concerns over immigration, the first time the series had found a lead for the “out” campaign since November 2014.

Hungary’s Orban says migrants seeking “German life”, are not refugees

BUDAPEST — The large numbers of people now seeking sanctuary in Europe should be seen as immigrants, not as refugees, because they are seeking a “German life” and refuse to stay in the first safe country they reach, Hungary’s prime minister said on Monday.

Viktor Orban, a right-wing populist whose robust handling of the migrant crisis has drawn both condemnation and praise, also said the European Union should consider providing financial support to countries such as Turkey which are near to the conflict zones so that migrants stay there and do not move on.

Syrians, Iraqis and others entering Greece, Macedonia, Serbia or Hungary are safe in those countries and, in line with EU rules, should have their asylum applications processed there. Orban called a gathering of Hungarian diplomats in Budapest.

“If they want to continue on from Hungary, it’s not because they are in danger, it’s because they want something else,” he said, adding that the migrants’ target was Germany and “a German life”, not physical safety.

The vast majority of migrants reaching Hungary aim to travel on to Germany and other wealthier western European countries. A Bavarian official said Germany expected about 2,500 refugees to arrive by early afternoon on Monday after some 20,000 came in over the weekend.

Left unchecked, this inflow will place an impossible financial burden on the EU, Orban said, endangering what he called Europe’s “Christian welfare states”. He has previously said the arrival of large numbers of mostly Muslim migrants posed a threat to Europe’s Christian culture and values.

“It’s absurd ..., when the Germans say they will spend billions on providing for the new arrivals instead of giving the money to the countries around the crisis zone, where the (migrants) should be stopped in the first place,” he said.

“It would be better for everyone. They wouldn’t come here. It would cost less. And our approach couldn’t be called into question morally either.”

UK’s Cameron faces parliamentary revolt over EU referendum rules

Migrants make their way after arriving by train at the main railway station in Munich, Germany September 7, 2015.—Reuters

Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban

Merkel presses for European refugee response after weekend flood

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel thanked helpers who dealt with a “breathtaking” influx of exhausted migrants over the weekend but stressed on Monday that a European response to the refugee crisis was urgently needed.

“We have a weekend behind us that was moving, at times breathtaking,” Merkel said, adding that efforts by average Germans to support thousands of arriving refugees had “painted a picture of Germany which can make us proud of our country”.

She and Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel noted at a news conference however, that it could not fall on a few countries in Europe to shoulder most of the burden, and both pressed for a European solution.

—Reuters

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—Reuters
SANAA — Qatar has sent around 1,000 ground troops to Yemen, Doha-based Al Jazeera television said on Monday, their first reported involvement in a Saudi-backed offensive against the dominant Houthi group.

Qatari special forces were on their way to Yemen and preparing to join a new push on Houthi positions in the capital Sanaa — though they told Reuters the soldiers had not yet entered the Arabian Peninsula.

Qatari pilots have joined months of Saudi-led air strikes on the Houthi, an Iran-aligned group that seized Sanaa last year, advanced across the country and forced President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi into exile in March.

The reported involvement of Qatari ground troops came amid an escalation of the conflict days after a missile strike that killed dozens of Gulf Arab soldiers.

Al Jazeera’s English website said 1,000 Qatari soldiers, backed by 200 armoured vehicles and 30 Apache helicopters had been deployed. The Qatari foreign ministry made no immediate comment on the report.

A Qatari-based defence source said the number of Qatari troops was less than 1,000. They are as of now not deployed in Yemen but in Saudi Arabia to protect the border,” the source added.

But a local Yemeni official in the oil-producing Marib province east of Sanaa said the Qatari contingent had “crossed al-Wadia border post” between Saudi Arabia and Yemen and were heading to Marib — where Hadi loyalists have been preparing for an offensive against Sanaa.

The Saudi-owned al-Hayat newspaper said on Monday that Saudi Arabia had also sent “huge reinforcements” of its elite forces, along with Qatari troops, to Marib. "Final preparations are being made for a decisive battle, before moving on to liberate Sanaa,” al-Hayat said.

On Friday, a rocket fired by the Houthis at a coalition military camp in Marib destroyed an arms depot and killed 64 soldiers, including 45 Emiratis, 10 Saudis and five Bahrainis. Jean-Marc Rickli, Assistant professor at the Department of King’s College London and teaching at the military’s Qatar National Defence College, told Reuters: “It is the first time that Qatari ground forces have been deployed in Yemen. So far, the Qatari contribution was only through its Air Force.” “This force will probably take part in the overall war effort to retake the capital after the coalition successfully recapture Aden last month,” he added.— Reuters

Kurdish militants claim deadly ambush, Turkish jets retaliate

ANKARA — Kurdish militants said on Sunday they had killed 15 soldiers in an attack on an army convoy in southeastern Turkey, and a security source said the military responded with air strikes.

In a statement posted online, the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) said its guerrillas had ambushed the convoy of armoured vehicles in Yuksekoval district, in what could be the bloodiest assault since the collapse of a ceasefire in July.

“An attack from several sides left 15 soldiers dead, and a large number of weapons were seized in the action,” the statement read.

The number of casualties could not be independently verified but in a televised statement President Tayyip Erdogan confirmed an incident had taken place in Hakkari province, close to Turkey’s borders with Iran and Iraq.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who had been watching the national soccer team playing in the city of Konya, left the stadium early to return to the capital as news of the attack broke.

A senior security official told Reuters that Turkish jets had retaliated, hitting at least 10 PKK targets, including those behind the ambush.

The clashes mark a crescendo in a deadly stream of attacks since July, which officials said had already claimed the lives of at least 70 members of the security forces and hundreds of PKK militants.

The PKK has fought a three-decades-long insurgency against the government, demanding greater Kurdish autonomy. The group is listed as a terrorist organisation in both Europe and the United States.

Each side blames the other for the collapse of the ceasefire, which has left efforts to bring a lasting end to the conflict in tatters.

“A new strategy will be adopted in the fight against terror. We’ll continue with deterrence,” Erdogan said in his address. The location of the ambush had painful symbolism for the Turkish armed forces.

It took place near the village of Daglica, scene of a PKK attack in 2007 in which 12 soldiers were killed and eight captured.— Reuters

Roadside bomb kills two military personnel in Egypt’s Sinai

CAIRO — An army officer and a soldier were killed on Monday in an explosion in Egypt’s Sinai peninsula, an official security source told Xinhua.

Five other soldiers were also wounded when their armoured vehicle hit a roadside bomb near Tawel al-Amir district, in Rafah, the source said on condition of anonymity. Egypt has been rocked by a spate of violent attacks on security personnel since the army removed former Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in July 2013 in response to mass protests against his rule. Hundreds of army and police personnel were killed in the attacks, most of which were claimed by Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, a Sinai-based militant group that declared allegiance to the Islamic State last year and changed its name to “Sinai State.”— Xinhua

People salvage belongings from the rubble of a house destroyed by a Saudi-led air strike in Yemen’s capital Sanaa September 7, 2015.— Reuters

Roadside bomb wounds 3 children in western Afghanistan

QALA-E-Now, (Afghanistan) — Three school children were injured as a roadside bomb organized by militants went off in Muqar district of Badghis province with Qala-e-Now as its capital, 555 km north-west of the national capital Kabul, on Monday, provincial police chief Wali Jan Sarhadi said. “A mine planted by militants on a road obviously to target security forces vehicles went off this morning injuring three innocent school children,” Sarhadi told Xinhua.

Without giving more details, the official added that investigation has been initiated into the case.

Taliban militants who are largely relying on suicide and roadside bombings have yet to claim responsibility.— Xinhua

Turkish military jets strike PKK targets after deadly militant attack

ISTANBUL — Turkey’s military said on Monday its warplanes bombarded Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) targets overnight after the militants staged a deadly attack in which, one security source told Reuters, 16 Turkish soldiers were killed.

The PKK said it had killed 15 troops in Sunday’s attack on an armored convoy in the Daglica area of Hakkari province, near the Iraqi border, in what would be the bloodiest assault since the collapse of a ceasefire in July.

“Two of our armored vehicles suffered heavy damage after the detonation of hand-made explosives on the road,” the PKK said in a statement.

As a result of the blast, there were martyrs and wounded among our heroic armed comrades,” the Turkish military said, without specifying a death toll.

Two F-16 and two F-14 jets had struck 13 PKK targets and military operations were continuing “decisively” despite very poor weather, it said.

The clashes mark a crescendo in a stream of deadly attacks since July, which officials said had already claimed the lives of more than 70 members of the security services and hundreds of PKK militants.

The PKK has fought a three-decades-long insurgency against the government, in which 40,000 people have been killed. The group is listed as a terrorist organization in both Europe and the United States.— Reuters

A Turkish Air Force F-16 fighter jet lands at Incirlik air base in Adana, Turkey, August 11, 2015.— Reuters
Saw Saydaw, a Rakhine national, was much delighted to hear that U Maung Ny, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Sittway Township, submitted a proposal on changing the name of “Kandaw Mingalar Park” in Yangon to that of U Ottama Park to his is auspicious.

Saydaw U Ottama was the embodiment of anti-colonialism. He generated a great wave of patriotism among the Myanmar youths who carried on with Myanmar independence struggles until Myanmar restored her independence on 4 January 1948. He was, therefore, termed the Gandhi of Myanmar. The British officers treated in the servile manner even by educated Myanmar people in those days were traumatized by his seditious speeches. Especially, due to his newspaper open letter titled “Craddock get out of Burma (Myanmar)”, patriotism of the then submissive Myanmar people flared up as the live coalash covered with a thin layer of ash was aflame. He was a locomotive personality in the political campaigns launched by the GCB and the YMBA. He was, therefore, under the constant surveillance of the police due to his heroic, fervent anti-colonialist activities. Moreover, he, for his great erudition, became the first Myanmar who served as a professorship by Calcutta University. Then he returned to India for the second time and studied there English, Sanskrit and Nagari at Hindu College for four years. While in India, he, on the request of Director of Indian Archaeological Department, stayed with him and discussed Buddhism scriptures with him for about half a century.

Lessons from the past

By Myint Win Thein

AST week an event marking the 70th anniversary of the Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War took place on a grand scale in China. On the occasion leaders reiterated a pledge to prevent fascism from ever rearing its head again. Myanmar was occupied by fascists during World War II and took part in the global fight against the spread of fascism. People around the world have united to demand erosion fascism and several decades have passed since then. Fascism has been rejected by the world’s majority, and by definition, any dictator who tries to forcibly suppress any form of opposition and criticism, create a regimented system of commerce and industry and emphasise aggressive nationalism that strays into racism.

We are lucky to live an age when democracy and human rights are valued by most of the world’s leaders and for the emergence of fascism to seem so unlikely in the 21st Century. However we must acknowledge that certain elements of fascism, such as an extreme form of nationalism, the oppression of opposition or monopolisation of political power may linger for some time. Its architects may masquerade these things as mere patriotism and we must be wary of that. We must guard against any inkling of fascism taking root in our society.

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 8 September, 2015

“Granting the decision to change the name of “Kandaw Mingalar Park” to its original name “U Ottama Park” by the Union Government and the Hluttaw is a big welcome”

By Dr. Saw Mra Aung

saydaw was born of father U San Mra and mother Daw Aung Kwa Pru in Rupa Quarter in Sittway on 14th December, 1879. His childhood name was Pa Tun Ang. He had a younger brother named Kyaw Tun Ang and a younger sister named Ma Ein Soe. At the age of five years, he started to learn at a vernacular school. But when he came to nine years, he moved to an English-Myanmar school in Sittway. By nature, he was candid, resolute, decisive, stubborn and industrious. He never inveigled anyone nor prattled away about frivolities but was outspoken in everything. Although he was amenable to good advice of others, he used to take great exception to any insulting comments on him. Sometimes people say that he had an ambivalent character. Since childhood, he had been so ambitious and determined in every examination to come first in every examination. Once, as he stood second, he, much to his indignation, threw away the prize into the Kaladan River. While studying in the fifth standard, a Christian priest, who noticed his unbridled enthusiasm for learning, asked his parents for permission to take him to India for further studies. As the parents could not bear to part with him, they dropped him out of school to prevent him from running away for better education and from falling in with bad company. When he came of age, he took part in the global fight against the spread of fascism and several decades have passed since then. Fascism has been rejected by the world’s majority, and by definition, any dictator who tries to forcibly suppress any form of opposition and criticism, create a regimented system of commerce and industry and emphasise aggressive nationalism that strays into racism.

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

(from page 8)
dealings with Indian Government. But he acted as professor of Bud-dhism and Sanskrit at the national college established by the students who boycotted Calcutta University for one year. When he returned to Myanmar in 1906 to launch po-litical activities, he was always shadowed by the police. So he could not realize his purpose. Therefore, he on 14th Febru-ary 1907 voyaged to Japan via Singapore. He got contact with Principal of Tokyo Buddhist Academy and was appointed professor of Pali and Sanskrit. While he was in the capacity of profes-sor, he studied Japanese. He also made the acquaintance of Dr. Sun Yat Sen who came to Japan and discussed the liberation of China with him. In 1910, he returned to Myanmar with an eye to embark-ing on anti-colonialist instigation. He contributed his speeches and articles on politics and education to the Myanmar Taryar Newspa-per published by U Kyaw Yin, an executive member of the Manda-lay YMBA and the Sasanaungaha Association. As Myanmar politi-cal movements did not gain mo-mentum, he went back to Japan in 1912, bringing with him some Myanmar youths so that they could pursue modern technology there. During his stay in Japan, he studied the Japanese and wrote a book entitled “Biography of Ja-pan”. In 1915, he came back again to Myanmar, toured Sittway, Ye-nanchaung, etc and went over to Japan for the third time.

He through Japan proceeded to America, Australia, Java, etc and returned to Myanmar at the end of the year. As the police kept vigilant against him, he had to stay at the Suriya Newspaper Publica-tion House. From then onwards, he delivered his sedulous speech-es which could arouse patriotism and the spirit of safeguarding the Sasana. He gained popularity with the assistance of the Suriya News-paper. Thus he engaged in anti-co-lonist movements, sojourning alternately in Myanmar and India. On 25th March 1921, he delivered a speech on comments on field tax and capitiation tax at Sukalat Vil-lage in Dedaye Township, was ar-rested by the police and sentenced to an 18-month imprisonment. But just before the election

Ooredoo offers free data services for WeChat app

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON — Ooredoo Myanmar and the makers of the mobile app WeChat launched a joint prom-o- tion on Monday that waives data usage fees for the instant messag-ing app on 7 September.

At a partnership press event in Yangon, Country Manager of WeChat Myanmar Mr Oliver Ye said that his company is striving to bring a social and fun experi-ence for WeChat’s growing user base in Myanmar.

WeChat is one of the world’s popular social communication apps and has 600 million month-ly users worldwide; however Mr Ye said it is difficult to estimate the exact number of users in My-anmar.

The promotion includes 200MB of free data use for the instant messaging app for the pe-riod between 7 September and 31 October.

WeChat is owned by Chi-na’s Tencent Ltd and offers users high discounts on calls, texts and voice messages.

Qatar-based Ooredoo won a licence to operate mobile commu-nications service in Myanmar in June 2013 and currently has 4.6 million users nationwide.—GNLM

Sayadaw U Ottama

(continued)
Asia subdued as China stocks see-saw after trading resumes

TOKYO — Asian stocks were subdued on Monday, lacking clear direction as Shanghai shares see-sawed in and out of the red after the Chinese markets resumed trading following a four-day long weekend.

Spreadbets forecast Britain’s FTSE, Germany’s DAX and France’s CAC opening a touch higher in a rebound from Friday’s steep losses. MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was down 0.7 percent.

The index had already dropped earlier in the session following Friday’s Wall Street slide, triggered after the August US jobs report failed to give a clear view on the Federal Reserve’s interest rate hike.

Japan’s Nikkei was down 0.1 percent after hitting a 7-month low, Korea’s Kospi dipped 0.2 percent and Australian stocks shed 0.7 percent.

Chinese stocks once again took centre stage when markets reopened after closing over Thursday and Friday as Beijing celebrated 70 years since the end of World War Two.

Shanghai shares initially rose as much as 1.8 percent following comments over the weekend by regulators aimed at calming the market, but the index was last down 0.8 percent after bouncing in and out of the red.

China’s policymakers and regulators tried to soothe jittery markets, promising deeper financial market reforms and stressing the economy was showing signs of stabilising.

US stock indexes dropped Monday, down 0.7 percent on Friday after a mixed August jobs report did little to quell investor uncertainty about whether the Federal Reserve will hold off from hiking interest rates this month.

Nonfarm payrolls increased 173,000 last month, fewer than the 220,000 that economists polled by Reuters had expected. But the unemployment rate dropped to 5.1 percent, its lowest in more than seven years, and wages accelerated.

“The jobs report itself was good. The US economy is recovering, and it should be good for the Japanese economy if we didn’t have worries about China,” said Yoshishiro Okumura, an analyst at Chibagin Asset Management in Tokyo. Previously strong expectations that the Fed will tighten this month have weakened somewhat on the global markets turmoil and emerging worries over China’s economy and its potential impact on global growth.

The dollar was on the back foot against its peers with Friday’s US jobs data inadequate to give a definitive clue to the Fed’s rate hike timing.

The US stood at 119.39 yen after sliding from a peak of 120.19 on Friday. The euro rose 0.1 percent to $1.1413 following up an overnight bounce from a low of $1.1090.

Marc Chandler, global head of currency strategy at Brown Brothers Harriman in New York, reckoned the dollar could slip back to 118 yen, if not a little further.

“With steep equity losses before the weekend, and the prospects of more volatility from China, which re-opened after being closed September 3-4, leaves the dollar vulnerable to additional losses,” he wrote.

China’s policymakers have been agnostic sellers of the Aussie in recent weeks, in large part due to heightened concerns about a hard landing for the Chinese economy. China is Australia’s top export market.

In commodities, crude oil fell on a lingering supply glut and as the ambiguous US jobs data clouded global demand prospects.

US crude oil futures were down 0.8 percent at $45.70 a barrel and Brent crude dropped 1 percent to $49.14 a barrel. —Reuters

Apple to launch Apple TV with gaming focus: NY Times

NEW YORK — Apple Inc (AAPL.O) will make gaming a key part of an Apple TV product it is expected to unveil at an event on Wednesday, according to a New York Times online report on Sunday.

The article, which cited unnamed people briefed on Apple’s plans, said the new product is expected to have a starting price around $150, more power for better graphics, a new remote that could double as a controller and an app store for buying games.

Apple representatives were not immediately available for comment.

The New York Times said most game executives and analysts see little chance that Apple will be able to win over fans of high-end game consoles such as Microsoft Corp’s (MSFT.O) Xbox One Sony Corp’s (6758.T) PlayStation 4.

But Apple could instead go after the casual gamers who do not want a high-end console, according to the story. On August 27, Apple invited journalists to an event on Wednesday where it is widely expected to unveil new iPhones and potentially a new version of its Apple TV set-top box. —Reuters

YouTube to provide viewability of ads to advertisers

NEW YORK — Google Inc’s YouTube is planning to provide advertisers with data on how many of the ads on its internet video service can be seen by viewers, in response to advertiser complaints, according to the Financial Times.

The online story, which cited unnamed people familiar with YouTube’s plans, said the company plans to allow third-party verification groups to insert code on its website, which would let them collect data on the position and context of ads. It said that the move is expected to start by year-end and could attract verification companies including ComScore, DoubleVerify and Integral Ad Science.

The plan is a response to complaints from advertisers, including Unilever and Kellogg Co, according to the story.

In a statement late on Sunday, YouTube said viewability had been a concern for its clients, adding: “We’re committed to meeting all of our clients’ measurement needs through a combination of product innovation and industry partnerships.”

It also said it had further efforts planned and was “taking our clients’ feedback into account as we continue to roll out new solutions.” —Reuters

UK manufacturers halve 2015 growth forecast as export orders slump

LONDON — Britain’s main manufacturing lobby has halved its forecast for growth this year after overseas orders fell to their lowest since the financial crisis, while recruiter said skills shortages were leading to higher wages but slower job growth.

British manufacturing expanded 3.1 percent last year, its best performance in five years. A survey by the manufacturers’ organisation said on Monday that it expected growth to slow this year to just 0.7 percent, down from an earlier forecast of 1.5 percent.

“While UK data has continued to point to solid growth, UK manufacturing is having to contend with a roller-coaster of risks from the rest of the world, and the white-knuckle ride is starting to take its toll,” EEF chief economist Lee Hopley said.

The EEF said the proportion of British manufacturers reporting growth was the lowest since late 2009, and that new export orders had edged down to a six-year low, a weaker picture than a similar survey had shown last week.

But for central bank policymakers in Britain and the United States, who are considering when to start rate interest rates, the broader picture is mixed. Domestic conditions are strong, and tight labour market is starting to push up wages.

A survey by the Recruitment and Employment Confederation, which represents staffing agencies, said the number of people its members had placed in permanent jobs had risen by the smallest amount in more than two years. “Although demand for staff remained strong, pay rose faster than average after growing at its slowest pace in 18 months in July. The latest official data showed British wages excluding bonuses rose by 2.8 percent in the second quarter of the year, the biggest annual real-terms rise since mid-2007, while total employment edged down from the first quarter’s record high.” —Reuters

A worker inspects a component on the fuel inlet production facility at Futaba Industrial in Foston, central England January 21, 2014. —Reuters

A pedestrian looks at an electronic board showing the various stock prices at a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan, September 4, 2015. —Reuters

View all Sections
Afghan surgeon earns from rich to help pay for treating poor

KABUL — Plastic surgeon Abdul Ghafar Ghayur is practicing his own brand of welfare in Afghanistan, where access to healthcare is limited and many cannot afford private treatment.

The money he makes from the hundreds of nose jobs and Botox injections he performs on wealthy Afghans allows him to perform life-changing surgery on low-income patients at a discount or sometimes for free.

Ghayur’s practice in the capital Kabul offers a microcosm of Afghani medicine, where doctors, driven by a sense of civic duty, try to fill huge gaps in a public health system devastated by decades of war.

The surgeon ticked off parliamentarians, business directors and other “rich people” among his clients, who got their ideas online or during trips abroad and were prepared to pay thousands of dollars for cosmetic surgery. The average Afghan monthly wage is around $35.

Income from such treatments, a relatively new phenomenon in Afghanistan, allows him to make a good living as well as treat low-income patients who turn up unannounced seeking reconstructive surgery to treat disease or disfigurement. Some are among members of the Hazara ethnic minority who wanted to elongate their distinct Asian noses. Bibi Zara, an ethnic Hazara who had come to have the bridge of her nose raised with silicone, said her husband wanted her to look more beautiful. “God made my nose so I am happy with it, but my husband wanted it,” she said, smiling widely, her eyes the same opal blue color of her burqa.

Nose jobs are among the most popular cosmetic surgeries, Ghayur said, and cost around $3,500, depending on the patient’s economic status. He also performs plastic operations since 2013, when he returned home from his studies in neighboring Pakistan.—Reuters

High schoolers use e-cigarettes to vape marijuana: US study

NEW YORK — Nearly one in five high school students who said they used electronic cigarettes to vaporize nicotine also used them to vaporize pot, according to a survey of nearly 4,000 Connecticut teens.

The study, published on Monday in the journal Pediatrics, is the first evidence that teens are using electronic cigarettes to vaporize cannabis, the researchers said. The paper by Meghan Morean of Oberlin College in Ohio and colleagues raises concerns that the growing popularity of e-cigarettes may raise concerns that the rising popularity of e-cigarettes may encourage teens to use the devices to vaporize cannabis, potentially exposing them to high doses of psychoactive cannabis.

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Morean and colleagues found that of students who had used e-cigarettes, 18 percent had used them to vaporize cannabis in some form, including hash oil and wax infused with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive cannabis ingredient.

Male and younger students were more likely to use e-cigarettes to vaporize cannabis than female and older students, but socioeconomic status was not a factor. Use differed among the five schools involved, possibly because of different policies.

While the findings were limited to Connecticut schools and may not apply to states with varying cannabis laws, the pattern is worrisome, said Dustin Lee, a postdoctoral fellow at the Geisel School of Medicine in Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, by email. Lee was not involved in the study.

“We know very little about the acute and long-term effects of high-potency THC on neurobiology and behavior,” Lee said in an email. “This is especially concerning for teens, who are in a critical time for development of brain structures that are integral in executive functioning.”—Reuters

The sum of tales — Mathematician storyteller visits India

NEW DELHI — Not many people care about the underlying mysteries of how numbers and patterns make the world tick.

But for some like Oxford professor Marcus du Sautoy, one of the foremost minds in the world on mathematics, numbers are a way to tell stories about life, the universe and everything else in between.

Du Sautoy was here recently to launch his book “Number Mysteries,” in which he tackles small mysteries of maths in everyday life building up to larger story about some of the great unsolved problems. The event was organised by the British Council.

“The book picks five different areas through these small stories of maths, builds up the fact that we don’t understand prime numbers, the geometry of our universe and the world of pattern,” he says. “There is another angle to mathematics that is one of the most interesting and we call it the celebration of connecting the dreaded maths to music, maths in architecture, maths in playing games.”

“People love stories. And there could be solving equations. They were also not at higher risk of depression or another quit-smoking drug. The book picks five different areas through these small stories of maths, builds up the fact that we don’t understand prime numbers, the geometry of our universe and the world of pattern,” he says. “There is another angle to mathematics that is one of the most interesting and we call it the celebration of connecting the dreaded maths to music, maths in architecture, maths in playing games.”

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Pfizer’s quit-smoking drug not linked to depression or heart risks

LONDON — Pfizer’s stop-smoking drug Chantix does not raise risks of heart attack or depression, contrary to previous reports, and should be recommended to more smokers wanting to quit, scientists said on Monday.

In a study tracking 150,000 smokers in England for 6 months, researchers found that patients who took Chantix, known generically as varenicline and marketed as Champix in Europe, were no more likely to suffer a heart attack than those using nicotine replacement therapy or another quit-smoking drug. They were also not at higher risk of depression or self-harm, the study found. Describing the study as an “extensive analysis” of the potential risks of Chantix, Aziz Sheikh, professor and co-director at the University of Edinburgh’s Center for Medical Informatics, said he considered it “highly unlikely that varenicline has any significant adverse effects on cardiac or mental health.”

“Regulators such as the United States’ Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should review its safety warning in relation to varenicline as this may be unnecessarily limiting access to this effective smoking cessation aid,” he said. Chantix reduces both the craving for and pleasurable effects of cigarettes and is fed by heavy smokers to find it difficult to quit. It is one of the biggest-selling stop-smoking drugs in the United States and Britain, and generated $647 million in revenue in 2014. Investors had high hopes for the drug when Pfizer first launched it in 2006, but reports of mental health problems in users led FDA officials to order a “black box” warning on the drug’s label in 2009. Two years later, the FDA changed the Chantix label to indicate a warning of increased heart risks for people who already have cardiovascular disease.

The latest research, published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal, studied patients who had been prescribed either varenicline or Zyban, an older product by GlaxoSmithKline known generally as bupropion, to help them quit, or had used nicotine therapies such as patches, gum or lozenges.—Reuters
Three injured, about 70 homes damaged in strong winds near Tokyo

CHIBA, Japan — Three women were slightly injured and 70 homes damaged as severe winds hit the city of Chiba, Chiba Prefecture, just east of Tokyo, on Sunday, according to the prefectural government.

Some windows were also found smashed on a train at a local station late Sunday, while its driver reported seeing what looked like a tornado as the train was travelling into the station.

The Japan Meteorological Agency plans to send investigators to Chiba and other cities in the prefecture to look into the possibility that a tornado or downburst may have occurred there.

Severe winds hit a residential area near JR Soga Station and in its vicinity on Sunday night, according to local police and fire fighters. The three injured women were in their 30s to 80s, they said.

An aerial photo showed one home with its ceiling ripped off and others with damaged ceilings. A concrete fence was also seen toppled because of the winds.

Workers stand on the roof of a house after roof tiles have been blown away due to severe winds in Chiba, near Tokyo, in this photo taken on Sept. 7, 2015 from a Kyodo News helicopter. — Kyodo News

China, Russia continue cross-border water quality monitoring

HARBIN — China and Russia have completed joint water sampling of the Heilongjiang river, which borders the two countries, Chinese environmental authorities said.

Environmental experts collected water samples from both sides of the river and will conduct quality analysis.

Chemical oxygen demand and contents of heavy metals are among the 40 indices to determine water quality.

Under an agreement reached in 2006, China and Russia will conduct water quality tests of four rivers and a lake — Heilongjiang, Wusuli, Ergune and Suifen rivers and Xingkai Lake — to strengthen cross-border pollution control.

Monitoring of the Heilongjiang river started in June in 25 years — FAO

JOHANNESBURG — The world has lost forests of the size of South Africa over the past 25 years, a decline of more than 3 percent, although the rate of forest loss has significantly slowed, a report by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said on Monday.

Growing global population and increased demand for food and land are driving deforestation, although the FAO said the rate of global forest area change has slowed by more than 50 percent since 1990.

“The biggest forest area loss occurred in the tropics, particularly in South America and Africa, although the rate of loss in those areas has decreased substantially in the past five years,” FAO said.

It said the rate of loss had declined due to reduced forest conversion rates in some countries and increased forest area expansion in others.

Workers stand on the roof of a house after roof tiles have been blown away due to severe winds in Chiba, near Tokyo, in this photo taken on Sept. 7, 2015 from a Kyodo News helicopter. — Kyodo News

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Environmental experts collected water samples from both sides of the river and will conduct quality analysis.

Chemical oxygen demand and contents of heavy metals are among the 40 indices to determine water quality.

Under an agreement reached in 2006, China and Russia will conduct water quality tests of for four rivers and a lake — Heilongjiang, Wusuli, Ergune and Suifen rivers and Xingkai Lake — to strengthen cross-border pollution control.

Monitoring of the Heilongjiang river started in June 2006, with 30 tests conducted so far.

The two countries share about 3,500 kilometers of cross-border bodies of water.
Congratulations

Our heartiest welcome and warmest congratulations on the successful opening of

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China

Yangon branch in Myanmar on 8th September 2015.

Wishing you further success and achievements in providing excellent banking services to benefit the dynamic economic development of Myanmar.

Chairman
and Board of Directors
KBZ BANK LTD.

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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P
For Metro Computer Myanmar Co., Ltd.,
Cto Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyoo Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 8 September 2015
kmma@kcyangon.com

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Dated 8 September 2015
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Htalin Lin Co LLB Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mldp@mptmail.net.mm
Tel: 376318 G.P.O Box 666 Yangon, 8th September 2015

WEATHER REPORT
BAY INFERENCE:
Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 8th September, 2015:
Rain or thunder-showers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

6.4-magnitude quake hits 191 km SSE of L’Esperance Rock, New Zealand


The epicenter, with a depth of 35.35 km, was initially determined to be at 32.9323 degrees south latitude and 177.8919 degrees west longitude.—Xinhua
Steve Jobs movie wins reviewer praise, Oscar hopes

Los Angeles — A weekend screening of “Steve Jobs,” a biopic about Apple Inc’s famous co-founder, drew high praise from some reviewers and suggestions that actor Michael Fassbender could be an Oscar contender for his portrayal of Jobs.

While the positive views were not unanimous, Variety.com was impressed. Its reviewer said Fassbender, director Danny Boyle and screenwriter Aaron Sorkin, who described Jobs as “the brilliant, maddening, ingeniously self-aggrandizing movie star,” designed and monstrously overreached in his portrayal of Jobs.

“Steve Jobs” was “Boyle’s best film in years” and that “Fassbender and Kate Winslet, who plays Macintosh marketing chief Joanna Hoffman, “dazzle with their fleet-tongued performances, unlike anything they have done before.”

The Guardian, however, gave a more mixed review, suggesting it would mostly appeal to “the Apple geek.” It said that while the movie “appears to be admirably unsentimental in its portrayal of Jobs, by the end we’re getting close to Apple-sponsored hero Worship.”

China Film Forum promotes cooperation in Venice

VENECE, (Italy) — The second edition of China Film Forum took place Sunday on the sidelines of the 72nd Venice International Film Festival, where professionals from China and Europe gathered to exchange views on the Chinese film industry.

Organised by the Venice Days section of the festival, the event brought together directors, producers, investors, film critics and journalists for intensive discussions under the theme “Reasons of Creativity”.

Italian director Giuseppe Tornatore, one of Italy’s most influential directors, delivered a keynote speech and joined debates at the forum, expressing strong interest in Chinese films.

“I think the Chinese film market is full of potential. I’m curious about it and I look forward to future cooperation with Chinese filmmakers,” he said.

A major topic at this year’s forum is “how to create stories for other cultures.” To explore on it, the participants watched the trailer of Forgotten War, an upcoming war-themed film brought to the forum by young Chinese producer Han Yi and director Zhang Duanyang. Zhang said the goal of the film was to demonstrate a historical period of China in a way that Western audience can understand and connect with—Xinhua

Kapoor’s “Dirty Corner” sculpture damaged in repeat French attack

VERSAILLES — Vandals have damaged British-Indian sculptor Anish Kapoor’s controversial “Dirty Corner” installation at the Palace of Versailles near Paris on Sunday in the second attack against the artwork in three months.

A series of sentences, some of which were anti-Semitic, were painted on Kapoor’s 60 metre steel and rock abstract sculpture, which he has described as “the vagina of the queen coming into power.”

It was not clear how the anti-Semitic element could relate to the artwork, but there has been a general increase in such acts over recent years in France, which has the biggest Jewish community in Europe.

Culture Minister Fleur Pellerin condemned the incident.

“To attack the work of artists is to attack the universal values of culture.”

Last year vandals attacked another controversial artwork, bringing down Paul McCarthy’s giant green inflatable sculpture on the famous Place Vendome in Paris after its resemblance to a sex toy sparked an outcry.—Reuters
Architect Hadid’s firm to submit new plan for Tokyo Olympic stadium

TOKYO—The architecture firm behind the Tokyo Olympic stadium blueprint scrapped by the Japanese government said Monday it intends to submit a new plan for the venue in collaboration with a major local design outfit.

Zaha Hadid Architects and Nikken Sekkei are “quickly developing a comprehensive and fully costed design,” Hadid said in a comment.

In partnership “with a committed construction contractor...we can deliver the most cost-effective delivery plan that will ensure the new National Stadium is ready in good time for the preparations ahead of Tokyo 2020,” the architect said.

After dropping the initial plan estimated to cost 250 billion yen (US$2.19 billion) cap on the cost of the stadium.

The state-run Japan Sport Council, in charge of screening and selecting bidders for the plans, started seeking a public offering from Sept. 1 on the design and construction of the new stadium with the selection of the plans scheduled for late December.

Nikken Sekkei, which has worked with the firm founded by the renowned Iraqi-British architect since May 2013, has held in-depth discussions with all local authorities to develop plans “to optimize safety, comfort, and the integration with surrounding natural environment,” resulting in over 4,000 drawings of the design.

“We believe the best way to respond to the new brief is to maximize the value gained by the design team over the past two years,” the firm said. As a way to cut costs and the building period, design and construction will be ordered integrally. Nikken Sekkei said it is still negotiating a contractor for this plan. The new stadium will be built in central Tokyo on the site of the previous National Stadium for the 1964 Olympics, which has already been demolished.

Breath of fresh air for a “living fossil”

BEIJING — What is mulberry paper? Mulberry paper making is a traditional handicraft of the Uygur people in China’s Xinjiang. It is handmade and today only a few families still produce it. The finished product is graded as high, medium, or low, according to quality. In the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911 AD), books and brochures were mainly printed with high-quality paper in Xinjiang. It was also used to print money during the period of the Republic of China (1912-1949 AD). Medium grade paper was mainly used for packing team herbal medicine, while low quality, rough paper was used as a subsidiary material to make shoes or clothes. Today it is more often used for writing and painting, which can last for more than 1,000 years, according to Tursunbaher Tohtibah, the 11th inheritor of the handicraft.

Tursunbaher Tohtibah, the 11th inheritor of the handicraft, as it needs much labor, he is training local students for free and hopes to foster more talent to pass down the handicraft. With help from the local government, he has taken part in several trade fairs and the market is opening wider to him. His mulberry paper has been exported to East Asia, the US, Japan and Saudi Arabia.

How it has evolved? According to historical records, the technique dates back to the Tang Dynasty. Relics have shown that mulberry paper was widely used in Xinjiang. Since the 1980s, industrialization of papermaking has changed traditional techniques and the fiber is fine and smooth, hence it is easy to process. The bark is peeled, soaked, boiled, beaten, fermented, filtered, molded and dried, before being made into paper.

Women and children peel mulberry bark in a village in Moyu county, Hotan prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. —Xinhua

Australia to meet Kyrgyzstan in Canberra

SYDNEY—Asian champions Australia will play their fifth opening round World Cup qualifier against Kyrgyzstan in Canberra on Nov. 12. Football Federation Australia (FFA) said on Monday.

The Socceroos, who won their opening two qualifiers against Kyrgyzstan and Bangladesh and face Tajikistan in their third on Wednesday, will play their first match in the national capital for four years.

Canberra does not have a team on the domestic top flight A-League but attracted good crowds for matches in January’s Asian Cup, which Australia won. “This is a rare opportunity for the football community and sports fans to see the Socceroos in action so I encourage everyone to support the investment and support the Socceroos in November,” Capital Football chief executive Heather Reid.

Australia, aiming to qualify for a fourth successive World Cup finals, must finish in the top two in their group to progress to a further round robin stage, from which four teams will secure automatic spots in Russia in 2018. —Reuters

Whale watching ships search for entangled blue whale off California

LOS ANGELES — Whale watching ships were dispatched on Sunday to help search for a blue whale entangled in a fishing line for several days off the southern California coast, officials said.

The whale, which was first seen by a cruise ship off the coast of the upscale seaside community of Rancho Palos Verdes, was last spotted on Friday in the channel between Los Angeles Harbor and Catalina Island, said Jim Milbury, a spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Rancho Palos Verdes is about 25 miles (40 km) from Catalina Island. The Coast Guard will also fly over the area to search for the whale, Milbury said.

Aerial footage previously broadcast by local television news outlet KABC showed a thick line trailing dozens of feet off the whale’s tail with what appeared to be a buoy attached to the end. —Reuters
NEW YORK — The Williams Family show took centre stage at the US Open with Serena and Venus both cruising to straight set wins on Sunday to set up a monster quarter-final between the tennis siblings. Whenever the Williams sisters clash on court it is a major tennis event but with older sister Venus, a twice US Open winner, standing in the way of defending champion Serena’s quest for a rare calendar-year grand slam their meeting on Tuesday has been elevated to a must-see sporting viewing.

While the National Tennis Center was abuzz over another Williams grand slam showdown, world number one Novak Djokovic was hard at work taming Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 to reach his 26th consecutive grand slam quarter-final. The 35-year-old Venus, seeded 23rd, overpowered 19-year-old qualifier Estonian Anett Kontaveit 6-2, 6-1 in a ruthless fourth-round display that took just 50 minutes. Serena followed her sister onto Arthur Ashe Stadium and was no less efficient, routing fellow American Madison Keys 6-3, 6-3 in 68 minutes.

Venus Williams of the US makes a sign towards fans after defeating compatriot Madison Keys in their fourth round match at the US Open Championships tennis tournament in New York, September 6, 2015.—Reuters

“She’s playing great,” 33-year-old Serena said about seven-times grand slam winner Venus, who is two years her elder. “I have to really be ready for that.”

“At least one of us, a Williams, will be in the semis.”

Defending champion Marin Cilic kicked off his big court action on another sunny day at Flushing Meadows and was the first man through to the last eight, taking down determined Frenchman Jeremy Chardy 6-3, 2-6, 7-6(2), 6-1 to extend his US Open win streak to 11 matches.

Coming off a punishing five-setter with Mikhail Kukushkin in a third-round match that lasted four hours, Cilic took a while to find his power game but was unstoppable once he did, the ninth seeded Croat blasting 23 aces past 23rd seed Chardy, who had no answer.

“Key today was finding my rhythm on the serve, especially towards the end of the third set,” said Cilic. “I played really good in the fourth set, really good tennis, so I’m happy about it.”

After splitting the opening two sets, Cilic’s power began to show through, particularly in the third set tie-break when he used his big serve to full advantage firing four aces and going up 6-1 before closing out 7-2.

Four Frenchmen made the round of 16, a US Open record, and at least one advanced to the quarter-finals, with Jo-Wilfried Tsonga beating countryman Benoit Paire 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Fabio Fognini, who toppled Rafa Nadal in an early five-setter that ended early Saturday morning, had nothing left in his tank for his fourth-round clash with Feliciano Lopez, the 18th seed, and was trounced 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-1 win.—Reuters

Venus and Serena set stage for huge quarter-final clash

Welbeck out for six months, says England manager Hodgson

England’s Danny Welbeck celebrates his second goal during their Euro 2016 Group E qualifying soccer match against Slovenia at Wembley Stadium in London, November 15, 2015.—Reuters

LONDON — Arsenal forward Danny Welbeck will be out for six months and might be doubtful for England’s campaign at the Euro 2016 in France, manager Roy Hodgson has said.

The 24-year-old Welbeck underwent surgery on his left knee last week after struggling to progress in his rehabilitation following an injury, his club Arsenal said.

“I can only hope that Danny recovers a bit quicker and then hits the ground running,” Hodgson also compared Welbeck’s injury problems with that of Liverpool forward Daniel Sturridge and while he is keen on them being fit, he is also prepared to look elsewhere.

“Daniel is a bit the same. It’s getting on for a year now (since he played for England),” said the former Liverpool manager.

“They are always in my thoughts – because I think they’re very good players and they did extremely well when they were playing in the national team I was coaching.

“I’ve got to make certain that there are a few Vardys and Kanes and Walcotts, because we can’t keep going around talking about the ones who aren’t there.”—Reuters

Midfielder Wesley Sneijder was not sure what exactly went wrong.

“There are no players in the team that individual errors in the defeat in Konya, which followed on a 1-0 home loss to Iceland on Thursday. The two losses in Blind’s first two games left the Dutch floundering in fourth place in Group A, needing to overhaul a two-point deficit on third placed Turkey with two games to play in October to have any chance of reaching the Euro 2016 finals via the November play-offs. It is a significant fall for the Netherlands after finishing third at the World Cup in Brazil last year.

“We don’t count anymore,” screamed the front page of Monday’s Algemeen Dagblad while the high brow Volksekrant said there was a “blatant lack of quality, fitness, speed, teamwork and courage” displayed by the team.

“The whole qualifying tournament has all been very difficult. We now no longer have it in our own hands, I feel terrible, really terrible,” he said.

The Dutch were on the back foot from the start of the preliminaries as Guus Hiddink’s first competitive game back in charge saw them lose in Prague to the Czech Republic, followed the next month by defeat in Iceland. Continuing poor performance and mounting criticism saw Hiddink resign after less than a year in charge with Blind promoted up from assistant.— Reuters