NEW AUTO LAW DILEMMA
Grace period requested on introduction of left-hand drive cars

YANGON — Vehicle users including businesspeople in the country’s auto market have raised concerns about the mandatory use of left-hand drive cars as stated in Myanmar’s new automobile law.

It was one of much-discussed issues concerning the new law enacted last week by attendees to a workshop on a draft automobile policy in Yangon Saturday.

According to the new law, the point is slated to be prescribed in the rules and regulations that must be released within 90 days after the enactment of the new vehicle legislation.

Dr Soe Tun, president of Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Dealers Association, said he wonders what will happen to the over 50,000 right-hand drive imported cars parked in car showrooms under the new regulation that will allow only left-hand drive cars on the country’s roads.

In the draft automobile policy that will be submitted to the government soon, it is suggested that use of left-hand drive cars in Myanmar should be mandatory by the end of 2018, he said.

The new law drawn by the Road Transport Administration Department pointed out that use of right-hand drive cars is incompatible with the existing drive-on-the-right traffic system from the standpoint of ensuring road safety in Myanmar.

U Nyan Tun Oo, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity and Industry, suggested a gradual transition from right- to left-hand drive cars.

Instead of halting the use of right-hand drive cars across the whole country, taxis and buses should first be switched over to left-hand drive, with the remaining vehicles to be used outside of traffic-congested cities like Yangon and Mandalay, said the minister. “People will suffer losses if they are asked to abandon their right-hand drive cars during a short period of time,” he said.

One of attendees to the workshop called for a win-win situation while drawing up regulations on left-hand drive car use. “We have no alternative but to bargain rules and regulations as the law was promulgated,” he said, adding that there should be an acceptable timeframe for phasing out use of right-hand drive cars.

“What are we to do with our right-hand drive cars if the regulation banned license renewals for such cars?” he said.

U Tun Tun Oo, a 40-year-old taxi driver, asked in an interview with The Global New Light of Myanmar daily why right-hand drive vehicles cannot stay on the road.

“If we can drive on the left side of the road, the mandatory use of left-hand drive cars is unnecessary,” he said.

He disagreed with the policy of allowing left-hand drive cars only, pointing out that any laws that have been enacted should be acceptable to everyone concerned who also should be ready to follow it.

Although Myanmar drives on the right side of the road, 99 percent of imported cars that are running on the roads are right-hand drive. This is because people prefer made-in-Japan used cars, which are right-hand drive, to Korean and Chinese autos with left-hand drive.

Mean streets: Why more elderly people are homeless in Yangon

YANGON — The number of elderly homeless people in Myanmar’s commercial capital is on the rise due to the spiralling cost of living and the erosion of family values, according to non-profit organisations in Yangon.

“With rising living costs, low-income families are struggling to care for elderly family members. Sometimes things get so desperate that they become completely neglected,” said U Thein Swe, the secretary of Warmly Hands Organisation, which has provided community-based long-term care services to the elderly since 2012.

Daw Phyoo Thi, a volunteer at Save the Aged, which is a philanthropic organisation that was established at the beginning of 2010 to provide care services for the homeless elderly, “Poverty and a lack of offspring are the main reasons why elderly people become homeless. They scrape by through menial work, such as working as street vendors or domestic helpers. Many turn to begging to survive and can be seen on the streets, pagodas, monasteries in every township,” she said.

Daw Phyoo Thi added that some elderly beggars are even supporting their offspring.
Dr. Sai Mauk Kham concludes China visit

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary together with the rector, professors, faculty members and Myanmar language students at Guangxi University for Nationalities. Photo: mna

NANNING (CHINA) — During his tour of China, Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, after attending China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and 12th China-ASEAN Expo, visited model plantation firm and Guangxi University for Nationalities in Nanning, China, on Saturday.

In the morning, the Vice President and party visited the model plantation firm and observed flowers and crops plantation grown by Green House system. He planted Hua flower plant as remembrance and took a documentary photo together with the hosts.

The vice president visited Guangxi University for Nationalities. He was briefed by the rector of the university on background of the university, strength of faculty members and students and producing of graduates. Officials of the university replied to the queries on academic matters, job opportunity and scholarship program raised by the vice president.

The vice president was conducted round the history museum of the university by officials and later had a documentary photo taken together with the rector, professors, faculty members and Myanmar language students.

Later in the afternoon, the vice president left Nanning and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw. Union Minister U Win Myint, Deputy Minister U Tin U Lwin, Kachin State Planning and Economic Minister Dr Khin Maung Tun and Shan State Planning and Economic Minister U Aung Kyaw Nyunt also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA

Laukkai returns to normalcy

NAY PYI TAW — Before the Union Day on 12 February 2015, MNDAA insurgents led by Pong Kya Shin sneaked into Laukkai region and tried to capture Laukkai town. But, the Tatmadaw spoiled the insurgents’ attempt and took control of the whole area.

Form 9 February to this date, altogether 483 clashes broke out between the Tatmadaw and the insurgents in Laukkai area and the Tatmadaw seized 226 bodies of insurgents, assorted weapons and ammunition and other equipments. During the period 48 insurgents were captured alive. Officers and other ranks had to sacrifice their lives for the nation.

As Laukkai area is bordering with China and is located on a rough terrain, the Tatmadaw had to retake the area sacrificing the lives and limbs of its members. As a result, the area has returned to normalcy. For more safety, the Tatmadaw is taking measures with locals and departments concerned. — Myawady

The brave soldiers on the top of the hill they retake from insurgents in Laukkai area. Photo: myawady

Mean streets: Why more elderly people are homeless in Yangon

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“But we give priority to those who have no children or relatives because they are the most vulnerable.”

“I have a younger brother but he cannot care for me because he is struggling to make ends meet for his own family. I have no other relatives,” said 80-year-old Daw Than Tin, who lives in the care home established by Save the Aged.

“I find the strength to go on because of the organisations that provide care to people like me.”

Daw Than Tin never married and before her retirement she used to work at a school department head at a basic education primary school in Yangon. She earned extra money through tutoring. When her financial situation became dire, she contacted Save the Aged after hearing about it through a friend.

Daw Phyo Tin said she approached a 75-year-old female beggar living under an overpass in downtown Yangon and invited her to stay at the home.

“But she refused, saying that she had to keep begging to support family members,” she said.

Save the Aged currently provides care and accommodation to around 30 elderly people, three of whom are female beggars from Insein Township and North Okkalapa Township One is 90 and suffers from tuberculosis.

Around 80 people are cared for at a home established by a local non-government organisation called Sisaryeik Home for the Aged, which was set up in April 2010. The NGO provides care to around 50 sick and abandoned people who are over the age of 70.

“We are at maximum capacity and cannot accept any newcomers. There are about 50 elderly people on the waiting list,” said the NGO’s spokesperson U Min Thein.

Save the Aged member Daw Phyo Tin said that every effort is made to help someone in need who contacts the organisation and that there are plans to expand the capacity of the facility.

“Malnourishment, TB infections and mental illnesses are common among homeless elderly people,” said U Tun Lin, Medical Social Officer of the Medical Social Work Department at Yangon General Hospital.

Dr Ye Yint Tun, one of volunteers from Save the Aged said: “The most common diseases found in senior citizens who are under our care are heart-related diseases. Kidney problems and paralysis are also common.”

“Myanmar needs stronger laws and assistance programmes to protect vulnerable elderly people.” said a spokesperson of the Warm Hands Organisation.

The spokesperson said that civil societies fill a vital hole left by the inadequacies of existing policies. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in cooperation with Help Aged International in 2012 found that nine percent of Myanmar’s population is above 60, of which 10 percent are considered economically vulnerable.

According to the initial data of 2014 nationwide census, Myanmar has 2,89 million above 65 years, of which more than 400,000 live in Yangon. — GNLM
President inspects reclamation of three lakes in Mandalay Region

NAY PYI TAW — President U Thein Sein on Saturday afternoon went on an inspection tour of Nyaungyan and Minhla lakes in Thazi township, Mandalay Region, officials said.

After receiving briefings on the inflow of water into the lakes, the president gave instructions on speedy implementation of lake reclamation.

The Nyaungyan lake has a storage capacity of 9,747 acre feet of water and can irrigate 9,738 acres of paddy plantation throughout the year, while the Minhla lake can store 21,357 acre feet of water and irrigate 19,217 acres of paddy plantation.

The president visited the Shweyinhmyaw pagoda and the lake on the pagoda’s compound.

He proceeded to the Htilo-intho lake in Wandyin township, where he conversed with locals on his government’s regional development activities in areas including water and power supplies, economy and education.

Located in a village two miles west of Wandyin township, the lake was dug in the times of King Anawrahta of Bagan Period. With the passage of time, silt accumulated in the lake and reduced its storage capacity.

The president visited the council and urged officials and locals to help maintain the historic facility after reclamation work is over.

The reclamation of the lake started in May at a cost of 7.9 billion kyats with an army of heavy machinery. The historic lake can store 7,200 acre feet of water adequate enough to irrigate 3,750 acres of paddy plantation.—MNA

Senior General attends cash donation ceremony, releases fingerlings

NAY PYI TAW — Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended ceremony to donate cash for nursing home construction at Karuna Home for the Aged in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

Well-wishers families of defence services and companies donated K 2026 million for the home to be built on 19.46 acres of land. The construction will also include a replica of Shwe Dagon Pagoda, a dhammyo, an office, a parlour, a clinic, a recreation centre and other facilities.

After attending the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited housing project for veterans and urged the officials to finish in time with set standard.

In the afternoon, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to release fingerlings into Yezin Dam in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. About 95,000 fingerlings were released into the dam.—Myawady

What they stand for: campaigns aired

Campaign speech was broadcast by the Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State on Saturday.

Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State

U Inn Lam Zaw Khao, member of the party’s central committee, said that his party would strive for regional development, full human rights and democratic rights to all ethnic minority groups, and the emergence of union federalism.

He pledged freedom of worship, encouragement to ethnic literature and culture, introduction of “education for all” policy in cooperation with governmental bodies and civil society organizations.

He added that his party would assure farmers and workers of constitutional rights and all-out efforts for higher socioeconomic status.—GNLM

ELECTION COUNTDOWN

Make your voice count. Cast your vote. 49 DAYS

Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW — MRTV, Hluttaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from People Democracy Party, New National Democracy Party and Bamar People’s Party on 20 September.—GNLM
Training for operating farm machinery, maintenance

THATON — Thaton Township’s No. 88 Agriculture Mechanization Camp has opened Training Course (2/2015) from September 16 to 26, for operating farm machinery.

“Due to the climate change coupled with scarcity of farm workers, using machinery in agriculture would be more cost-and-time effective. So the farmers must be able to systematically operate the modern agriculture machines,” the township agriculture mechanization officer said.

Mon State’s agricultural minister U Myo Nyunt and local authorities attended the opening ceremony and observed the machines which the farmers are going to use. The 30 trainees from the township’s 10 village tracts will learn operating and maintenance of diesel engines, power tillers, planting machines, harvesting machines, and tractors at the two-week course.—Thet Oo (Thaton)

68 candidates of Tachilek District ready for upcoming election

TACHILEK — A total of 68 candidates in Tachilek District, bordering with neighboring Thailand, in eastern Shan State will contest for the three Hluttaws in the upcoming November 8 General Elections, according to local election sub-commission sources.

The three Hluttaws for which they are going to vie for are Amyotha (Upper), Pyithu (Lower) and Shan State Hluttaw.

The candidates are individuals as well as from eight parties including Union Solidarity and Development Party, National League for Democracy Party and several Shan, Lahu and Akha national ethnic parties including the National Unity Party. The significant feature in the district is that the representatives of the seven ethnic groups — Intha, Akha, Lahu, Kayan, Kachin, Padaung and Lisu including Bamar — are going to take part in the race. Officials set to open 58 ballot booths where about 95,000 eligible voters will cast their vote.

The district police station is taking security measures in the town as well as border areas, during the elections. The district election commission secretary and members have toured to the booths of the town and villages to inspect for correct voters’ lists and convenient voting.—Myint Moe (Tachilek)

Flash flood destroys bridge in Kyauktaga

KYAUKTAGA — Flash floods on September 17 swept away part of a bridge spanning Itone creek linking Inmatpatli Village and Bontaw Village in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region. The strong flood water swept away the two concrete bases of the 187-ft long and 20-ft-wide bridge. The bridge was constructed in 2013 by the township development committee with locals’ donation.

In 2014 also it was destroyed by floods and was rebuilt in June, this year. As it is damaged again, the rural populace of 4172 who are relying on the bridge for their transportation especially over 100 students are facing difficulties. They have to use boats now crossing the danger waters of the creek and are urgently in need of a new stronger bridge.—Khin Ko Kyauktaga

Bamboo craft course at Banmauk

BANMAUK — A one-month bamboo craft making course was completed on September 14 in Banmauk, Sagaing Region, attended by 20 enthusiasts. The course was sponsored by the township rural development department of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development. The course was aimed at providing job opportunities for locals and enabling them to generate more income as professionals.

Sufficient electricity supply will surely help develop the living standard of citizens. (Township IPRD)

New transformer installed at Yezagyo Hospital

YEZAGO — A new 200 KVA transformer is being installed at 100-bedded Yezagyo township hospital in Magway Region. The township development support committee said as the hospital was expanded from a 50 to a 100-bed one, the current old 50 KVA transformer had to be replaced with a more powerful facility spending the Health Ministry’s 2015-2016 Budget. The new transformer was requested by the township’s Amyotha Hluttaw representative at the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House). The hospital, was expanded during the present government’s term, with more specialists, doctors and nurses. In addition, a plan is being underway to build a 156x56 ft six-unit four-storied building for staff families for which the township has got K 600 million construction green light. The land for the building has already been chosen, said a township source.—Pe Tun Zaw (Yezagyo)
Rare photographs of WW II Death Railroad to be shown at Thanbyuzayat Railroad Museum

THANBYUZAYAT — Thanbyuzayat Railroad Museum scheduled to be completed in October, will chronicle rare photographs of the labourers of the Death Railroad built by the fascist troops, during World War II at the border of southern Myanmar and Thailand. A total of 120,000 (mass amount) of forced-laborers and Allied prisoners of war perished during the construction due to malnutrition, intensive labor, deadly diseases and torture by the Japanese troops.

Rare photos, 3D designs and paintings will be shown at the museum for the public to learn more about the WW II Death Railroad. The 175-mile railroad from Thailand to Thanbyuzayat was constructed in 1942. The laborers included 16,800 prisoners of war from the Allied Forces and 80,000 forced labours from Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, India and Myanmar.—Soe Win-SP

Japan grants US$153,095 for a school in Kya-in-seikkyi Tsp

YANGON — Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, and Chairman of Kya Khet Chaung Village School Construction Committee, signed the grant contract of US$153,095 for the project for construction of Kya Khet Chaung Village Basic Education Branch High School in Kya-in-seikkyi Township, Kayin State under Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme.

The Japanese Government, under its GGP scheme, will support construction of a two-storey R.C.C building with 8 classrooms and full furniture. It is expected that the project will benefit 654 ethnic students of Kayin and Mon at the school.

The Government of Japan has assisted 729 various grass-roots projects in Myanmar under the GGP scheme since 1993.—GNLM

Rural fishery sector handed out loans from Emerald Green Fund at Myingyan

MYINGYAN — Under the rural development plans of Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development for narrowing gap between urban and rural areas, and for the socio-economic status of the rural people to improve, two villages of Myingyan District were allotted to expand their fishery works from the Emerald Green Rural Fund (Fisheries) on September 18, at the district Fisheries department.

The two villages, Layaintan and Tansaung, were provided with K30 million each from the fund. With the loans they will be able to produce more which would generate more income and provide food sufficiency to the local community.

(U Zaw Myint Naing- Myingyan)

Educative talks on preventive measures against natural disaster, sustainability of rural libraries

OTTARATHIRI — Shwenantha ward of Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on September 18, held educative talks on preventive measures against natural disasters. The talks also covered sustainability of local rural libraries.

The township Information and Public Relations officer Daw Swe Swe Moe spoke on preventive measures against natural disasters and for sustainability of rural libraries at which local community can have easy access to books. She urged locals to visit the library.

On the occasion, wall posters on natural disasters and narcotic drug control were displayed at the ward administrative office where the talks were held. A strong wind had damaged the ward library last April and rebuilding is in process.—Shwe Ye Yint
Malaysia PM critic says prevented from travelling to US to lodge 1MDB complaint

KUALA LUMPUR — A former senior member of Malaysia’s ruling party said authorities prevented him from boarding a flight on Friday bound for New York, where he planned to lodge a complaint with police against indebted state investor 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Khairuddin Abu Hassan has already lodged complaints in Switzerland and Hong Kong regarding banking activity involving 1MDB, which has been linked to various individuals under investigation in Switzerland for suspected corruption.

Khairuddin said on his official Facebook page that immigration officials prevented him from leaving on orders from Malaysian police, who later asked him to report to Kuala Lumpur’s police headquarters at 11 a.m. (0300 GMT) on Monday.

“Just now when I asked during a conversation with the investigating officer, he confirmed that I will be questioned by the police for handing in evidence related to the 1MDB scandal to the Swiss Attorney-General’s chambers!!” Khairuddin wrote.

Khairuddin, immigration authorities and the police did not respond to telephone calls and emails seeking comment. 1MDB declined to comment.

In July, the Wall Street Journal reported that 1MDB transferred $700 million dollars into bank accounts of Prime Minister Najib Razak. Najib, who chairs 1MDB’s advisory board, denied taking money from 1MDB for personal gain.

The country’s anti-graft agency declared the funds a donation, while the prime minister has faced anti-government protests and calls to step down.

In February, Najib’s United Malays National Organisation ousted Khairuddin from the party after he was declared bankrupt. Khairuddin has since travelled to several countries to campaign against Najib and 1MDB, which has more than $11 billion in debt.

Khairuddin is not the first person to say he had been prevented from leaving the country.

In July, opposition lawmakers Tony Pua and Rafizi Ramli who had been critical of 1MDB said they had been barred without reason from travelling.

On Tuesday, Switzerland’s federal prosecutor said Malaysia had agreed to arrange for Swiss officials to interview witnesses in their investigation of alleged money laundering and corruption related to 1MDB.— Reuters

North Korea could seek concession on resort, missile for reunions

SEOUL — If North Korea goes ahead with reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean war it is going to expect rewards from the South in return, perhaps the reopening of a border tourist spot or even tacit acceptance of an expected missile test.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye wants to build confidence with the unpredictable North under her policy of “Trustpolitik.”

But the South is loath to rush back into negotiations as it draws up a strategy for government-level contacts to follow an accord in August that defused the last confrontation between the two rivals.

Reunions of families separated by the war have been held several times since 1985, providing the opportunity for humanitarian cooperation, and perhaps a first step to building ties, amid poignant scenes of elderly folk meeting long-lost loved ones.

The government of South Korea also wins a popularity boost from the reunions.

For the North, not concerned about opinion polls, the reunions, the last of which took place in February 2014, are more of an inconvenience, but one that can be leveraged. Cho Min, vice president of the South Korean government-run Korea Institute for National Unification, said the North saw the families as a way to get a $40 million-a-year money spinner for the impoverished North. The South may also expect the North not to raise too much of a fuss if it goes ahead with a widely anticipated missile launch.— Reuters

Gov to revise SDF’s rules of engagement in line with new laws

TOKYO — The government has started reviewing the Self-Defense Forces’ rules of engagement after security bills enacted early Saturday will expand Japanese troops’ role abroad, government sources said.

With the new security laws allowing the SDF’s defense of allies under attack and expanding the scope of their use of arms in UN peacekeeping operations, the rules will be revised by the end of the fiscal year, with the troops to use arms.

Defence Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters Saturday the government “will need to get” (the SDF) sufficiently ready in terms of equipment and training before they send them out for missions in newly allowed areas. “The SDF is expected to start conducting training necessary for missions permitted under the new laws once the new rules of engagement are precisely defined and when and how the troops can use force in such situations as coming to the aid of the United States under armed attack.”

The current rules only refer to use of force in self-defence. The new legislation, pushed through by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party and other parties, for the first time since World War II will enable Japanese troops to fight overseas.— Kyodo News

Student killed, 32 injured in S Philippines bus bombing

ZAMBOANGA CITY — A female student was killed while 32 others were injured when an improvised bomb exploded Friday afternoon inside a bus in a downtown terminal in south Philippines city of Zamboanga, said local police officials.

Diomarie Albarico, commander of Police Station 11, did not identify the lone fatality but described the victim to be in school uniform.

Albarico said the bus with plate number JVN 978 had just arrived at the terminal along Tomas Claudio street near the public market when the bomb exploded at about 2:15 pm.

The policeman said the explosion occurred while most of the passengers have already disembarked from the bus.

He added some of those injured were market vendors and passersby.

The explosion triggered panic among the civilians in the area and they ran away in fear.

City Police Office Spokesman Joel Tuttuh said two of the victims whom he assisted from the wreckage of the bus were desribed to be in serious condition.

The bomb believed to be composed of ammonium nitrate fuel oil totally destroyed the bus.

The police said so far no parties claimed responsibility of the attack.— Xinhua

Police inspect the wreckage of a bus after an explosion in Zamboanga City, the Philippines. PHOTO: Xinhua
Democratic donors urge Biden to challenge Clinton in US 2016 race

NEW YORK — A group of prominent Democratic Party fundraisers on Friday began circulating a letter to encourage a hesitant Vice President Joe Biden to enter the 2016 race for US president.

The letter, signed by nearly 50 people, calls the Obama-Biden administration a “spectacular success.” It cites job creation, a lower unemployment rate, new health insurance policies for nearly 9 million Americans and the end of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“America needs a leader who is respected both home and abroad, and who understands the real challenges facing American families. In our opinion, the next president must be Joe Biden. If he announces he’s running, we’re all in. It’s a campaign we know he will win,” the letter says.

The signers are donors, Democratic activists and friends of Biden who have yet to throw their full support behind Hillary Clinton, the presumptive front-runner for the Democratic nomination to the November 2016 election. Their call is the most provocative yet for Biden to take her on and suggests a broad network backing the vice president is beginning to take shape.

The letter makes no mention of Clinton.

John Maa, a member of the Democratic National Committee’s national finance committee who is among the signers, said he was contacted this week by another finance committee member to see if he would support Biden financially.

Maa replied he would be happy to raise funds for Biden but that donors were becoming impatient. “Time is precious,” Maa said.

“I know many people who will gladly contribute, and I will absolutely try to organize,” he said.

The letter’s significance goes beyond a simple declaration of support. It appears aimed at pressuring Biden to decide soon. “We are ready if he’s ready,” they write.

Jon Cooper, the finance chairman of Draft Biden, a political action committee formed to advocate for Biden’s entry into the race, said Biden has further support.

“For everyone who signed that letter, there are at least one or two more ready to commit to him today the moment he says he’s running,” said Cooper, a Long Island, New York, businessman who raised funds for President Barack Obama’s reelection campaign in 2012.

The fundraisers who initiated the letter consulted Draft Biden in preparing their appeal. Cooper said the effort gained momentum after Biden’s emotional interview with talk show host Stephen Colbert last week. “That really galvanized folks around the country,” he said. — Reuters

With eye to Rouhani Paris visit, French firms head to Iran

PARIS — A senior French economic and political delegation heads to Tehran on Sunday to lay the groundwork for the first business contracts between France and Iran since an accord to curb its nuclear programme in July.

France’s main business lobby group, the Medef, is sending a delegation comprising more than 100 firms to Iran, including companies such as oil major Total, planemaker Airbus and car manufacturer Peugeot.

“We’re trying to identify areas where we can move forward, but we’re not going to do business at any cost,” the delegation includes most of France’s CAC 40 companies, but also small and medium enterprises with sectors as wide-ranging as agriculture, finance, luxury goods, pharmaceuticals, construction and transport represented.

“Heading it up are Agriculture Minister Stephane Le Foll and Trade Minister Matthias Fekl, who will open a new trade office in the Iranian capital on Sept. 22. France took one of the hardest lines of the six powers negotiating the nuclear agreement with Iran.

But Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, who travelled in the summer to Tehran to smooth over tensions, has said he does not believe that will hurt its companies once international sanctions against the Islamic Republic are lifted. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is due to visit Paris in November.

Officials say Paris may initially secure deals in areas that were not specifically hit by European Union and US sanctions, most notably in the agriculture and livestock sectors, in which France has relatively little activity in Iran.

“We’re going to work on subjects in particular in agriculture and agribusiness,” Le Foll told Reuters.

“We’ll see the potential and the possibilities for trade with Iran and that also means in the agriculture sector, most notably in meat and chicken.”

One official said the visit could lead to expressions of interest that could become agreements by November, although big contracts were impossible until the lifting of sanctions. Sanctions lifting would begin in the first quarter of 2016 if Iran meets its obligations under the deal, designed to stop it acquiring nuclear weapons.

In the aftermath of the nuclear deal, some French executives have said that their firms have fallen behind their main European, American and Asian rivals.

French imports from Iran fell to just 62 million euros in 2013 from 1.77 billion in 2011. Exports fell to 494 million euros in 2013 from 1.66 billion in 2011, according to French foreign ministry estimates.

French companies were once heavily involved in the Iranian market, but European Union and in particular US sanctions adopted in 2011 scared them away.

BNP Paribas was fined almost $9 billion in 2014 for transactions violating US embargoes. Diplomats and executives say that until there are iron-clad guarantees from the United States that companies will not be penalised should sanctions be re-imposed on Iran they are likely to remain prudent before committing themselves.

“The objective is to discover, learn and understand so that after the deal is signed, projects can be put together in the short to medium term,” French agricultural cooperative Axereal’s Secretary General Stephane Michel told Reuters.

“There are still constraints, especially currency problems. The country is not linked to the global financial system and American sanctions have not been lifted.”— Reuters
The strength of a nation lies in its educational might
Kyaw Thura

It is globally accepted that education is an effective means of eradicating poverty, building peace and creating sustainable development. These aims cannot be achieved in the absence of quality education to which everyone has easy access. Simply put, education is central to social and economic development. The governmental bodies should work closer than ever before with a variety of local and foreign institutions to make the country’s education system more effective through policies of reform. An important point to remember is that there is nothing much in the change of law and policy in itself. It is in fact teachers who are key drivers of education. After all, an education system is only as good as its teachers, no matter how excellent the education law is.

Six decades ago and we boasted a dreamlike status as an education hub across Asia. Now the glory has long faded away. However, there is no point in crying over spilt milk. All we have to do is not to repeat the same mistakes but leave the educational affairs in the hands of educators, as the quality of education and the quality of teachers hang on it. An important thing we need to do is to stand united to support teachers and encourage quality learning.

In a world of rapid change, teachers are a worthy investment for the future of the country. The government in cooperation with formal and non-formal educational institutions should arm teachers of today with the skills and knowledge so that they can meet the diverse needs of students and respond to contemporary challenges.

Only when the education of teachers is strong will the education system be strong. Likewise, only when the education system is strong will the nation be strong.

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The country with a long boat tradition Part 2
Maha Saddhama Jotika dhaya
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

REGATTA and Boat Races were also naval exercise and recruiting of Myanmar's navy. In Myanmar traditional warfare mentioned four armed forces (1) Infantry (2) Cavalry (3) Military and (4) Navy. The rivers in Myanmar were the line with the warfare described in Jataka stories. In practice, there was no war chariotry in Myanmar military organization. Gunboats were used only for display and ceremonial purposes. Archery and flotillas of war boats were employed in fighting battles.

Archery was gradually replaced by gunnery and artillery in the late 14th or 15th century whereas fleet remained as an essential force throughout.

In one Myanmar chronicle Konbaung Sithu Min Khamaung [1531-1553] and Min Yazagyi [1551-1553] were noted for their naval strength which they used for fighting as well as for display. The first three kings dispatched flotillas of war canoes loaded with men and arms to fight local and foreign invaders. In September 1481, King Thingyanwadi and his court came down to Yangon with 25,000 men via the Ayeyawaddy River, with the declared reason of war-shipping Shwe Dagon Pagoda.

But the other element was not to display but to protect the British by display of his military strength. Myanmar kings held boat races at the celebrations of the victory of naval battle or military display. Winners in the boat races were recruited to serve in the navy.

In one Myanmar chronicle Konbaung Sithu Min Khamaung appointed Min Gyi the last Royal Regatta held by the last Myanmar king was recorded as follows:-

*“On the 13th Waxing moon of Tawhalin, nobles and high officials came out to the shore of the River Ayeyawaddy on the western direction of the Golden capital to make arrangements for the celebration of the annual Regatta and boat race festival. Min Gyi Min Hun Maha Sithu, Deputy Minister and Leader Wei Msu Satri Town took the charge of preparations for boat races. The first boat at the front had no match to compete with. So it was kept aside. Next, five pairs turned up in a race. Gyi and Let Thi Hto Kho Taw Gyi in one pair, and Pyi Long and Aye Gyi in another pair. They ran the race. Later, the following boats came up in sequence in the racing line - 12 Hla Taw Ko Taw Gyi boats, 22 Hla Taw Ko Taw boats such as Palek (18), a British warship, and two Chinese warships. Their leaders were the commander of the promotion of hotel and tourism industry but also for recapturing Myanmar’s glory and greatness of the past. (Concluded)*
ALL over the world, more and more people are pursuing higher education as a means to enhance their job prospects, to raise their social prestige, and to satisfy their thirst for advanced knowledge. Countries, both developed and developing, are also reforming their higher education sector and promoting access as a means of improving their human resources and research capabilities not only to fulfill the human resource requirements of their business, industry and service sectors, but also to be more competitive in the global economy. And the quality of their products and services, be less dependent on overseas expertise, attract foreign capital, and to enhance social and economic conditions. So also in Myanmar. The number of universities and student enrollment has increased tremendously. The increase in Myanmar university enrollment stems from positive factors such as, the advent of universities as equipping people for high school graduates, students and quality vocational education for high school graduates, students having to continue with higher education, and greater demand for advanced knowledge and skills, as well as from negative factors, such as, due to lack of decent paying job and quality vocational education for high school graduates, students having to continue with higher education, and greater demand for advanced knowledge and skills, as well as from negative factors, such as, due to lack of decent paying job and quality vocational education for high school graduates, students having to continue with higher education, and greater demand for advanced knowledge and skills.

Topmost among the expectations from university students and parents is that, after obtaining a university degree, students will have acquired the latest knowledge, cutting-edge technology and research methodology, incommensurate with the degree and the number. They also expect that the degree obtained will help graduates secure some kind of well-paying job related to their field of study. For those who wish to continue their education either in Myanmar or abroad, graduates also expect it to serve as a firm foundation to pursue advanced knowledge. On the other hand, employers expect university graduates to come to them equipped with employable skills, and to be able to use their new employees with minimal training. In addition, in this age of ICT, employers expect university graduates to have a mastery of basic ICT skills such as, word processing, presentation on the Internet, and certain softwares. On the part of the country, it expects university graduates to possess the required knowledge, and soft skills needed by its various sectors and to be able to leapfrog to economic and social development, as return for the huge investments made in higher education. Moreover, the general public that comes into contact with university graduates, in addition to expecting them to possess sound knowledge about their specialized field, and a decent command of English which they believe is essential for their first year in school, also expect them to have a wide range of knowledge about their community, political, legal, administrative, social, economic, cultural, geographic, and historical knowledge of the region in which the country is located and the world, and familiarity with current international affairs and trends.

But to the chagrin of many persons, a lot of universities do not fulfill many of these utilitarian expectations. Many universities, especially those offering liberal arts, will be quick to defend themselves by saying that universities are institutions that teach professional subjects and that some exist to provide pure learning. This is very true, looking at the curriculum of the subjects offered by universities. But, on the other hand, a traditional view that universities are about pure learning. However, the majority of students from developing countries, who have very little choice but to attend “generalist” universities due to scarcity of, and difficulty to get into professional institutions, however much they may value the pure learning they have undertaken, have high hopes that their universities have provided them employable skills that they need and can use worldwide.

The key answer to the problem of graduate employability is to establish more professional institutions but in developing countries, they are too expensive to establish, run and may not be able enough able to provide the skills needed shifting demands. While solutions are being sought, what all universities and colleges look to do is to teach soft skills such as communication, collaboration, self-management, and thinking together with the generalist subjects students specialize in. It must be stressed that these soft skills are much more necessary for success regardless of the kind of work that students will do after graduation.

As staff with university education, employers will expect them to be able to use the soft skills they are expected to effectively be able to lead, negotiate, defend, explain, convince, sell, promote, argue, debate, present, report, offer solutions, reject, criticize, etc. To enable graduates to do so, while providing knowledge about specific fields, it's vital that university teachers, at the same time, also develop the most important and crucial skill they need is higher order critical thinking skills of their students. Examples of such skills are analyzing to assess the value of information, synthesizing to create new knowledge, logical reasoning, and thinking critically. A higher order critical thinking is greatly dependent on making oneself aware of the many factors that govern the use of appropriate language, such as, what you are talking about, i.e. the topic (work, family, education, health, etc.), who you are speaking with, i.e. the participants (family, friends, colleagues, superiors, subordinates, strangers, men, women, children, etc.), the medium and channel you are using, verbal (face-to-face, telephone, video, etc.) or written (letter, e-mail, fax, printed, etc.), and the purpose of communication (to inform, to persuade, to modify attitude of the speaker towards what is being verbally communicated as well as towards the listener, and is therefore an important aspect of communication which one needs to be sensitive to in order to avoid misunderstanding and unnecessarily revealing one’s feelings. In addition, for those who have to communicate with foreigners, they need to also have some understanding of the culture of the person concerned to avoid being misunderstood or seeming rude in one’s choice of words.

Another set of skills expected of educated persons is social skills. Zan et al (2004) as quoted by Kathleen M Steedly et al (2008) in Evidence for Education. Vol III, Issue 2 August 8th (posted on the Internet), examining from a social perspective, these skills as relating to recognizing and managing our emotions, developing caring and concern for others, meaningful interpersonal relations, making responsible decisions, and handling challenging situations constructively and ethically. Therefore, it may be concluded that good social skills involve being aware of one’s own emotional strengths and weaknesses, and those of other persons in an interaction and behaving in an appropriate manner and using appropriate language, and at the same time having concern for how to wear for specific occasions, Other skills that may said to form part of good social skills of educated persons are being well-mannered, having international table manners, having dress sense and knowing how to wear for specific occasions, and being able of how to behave and participate in group activities, ceremonies and social events. A person well developed in social skills will be self-assured, adjusted and adaptable individual possessing a wide circle of friends, both as a student and as a working adult, and being able to work as a responsible member of a team. For that reason, universities also provide training in social skills to ensure that their students graduate with these skills as it is a contributory factor in the formation of social networks, understanding collaborative tasks and career success.

Another important quality that universities should imbibe in their graduates is cultivation of interest in the welfare and progress of their community and country. This is a necessity in order to be a valued member of society, a person needs to contribute to its welfare, whether through financial, or material contributions, or volunteering in and giving support and encouragement to community projects and activities and humanitarian activities. Consequently, universities must collaborate with local communities to create opportunities for students to be involved in community projects and activities and taking part in literacy campaigns or teaching underprivileged children.

The imparting of soft skills that all graduates can apply when they start working will require careful thought to incorporate them in the curriculum, individual syllabuses, methodology and teacher training, so that it will be both effective as well as interesting. Soft skills can be taught overtly and theoretically as well as embedding them in project work, group activities and internships. At the same time more associations such as debate, dramatic arts and language associations that promote promoting expression, communication, decision making, cooperation and creativity should be formed on the campus to assist in informal development of soft skills. A pertinent question while discussing how to make university education more effective is “How much has universities fulfilled the expectations of its client stakeholders, the students, parents, the employers the community and the government?” Either due to lack of good public relations, or the need for better performance of their graduates, or other factors, there is certainly a need to make the fulfillment of the expectations of its client stakeholders better known to the public. At the same time, universities, their administrators and teachers need to carry out self-evaluation quickly to find out their strengths and weaknesses to remedy any gaps. Regarding the fulfillment of the goals of the majority of students in attending university, as soon as possible, without waiting to be urged by higher authorities, so that they remain responsive and relevant to the needs of students and the country.
Castro, Obama speak about pope’s visit, new US trade rules

HAVANA — President Raul Castro and US President Barack Obama spoke by telephone on Friday about Pope Francis’ visit to both countries starting on Saturday and new regulations relaxing Washington’s trade embargo on the island, Cuba’s government said.

It said the two leaders also talked about diplomatic relations that were restored in July between the former Cold War enemies.

In a separate statement, the White House added that they “discussed steps that the United States and Cuba can take, togeth-

Lessons from 2010 quake saved lives in Chile

SANTIAGO — Lessons learned from a devastating quakefive years ago in Chile’s southern coastal region have been credited with saving lives. 

But the human toll was thankfully far lower than in February 2010, when an 8.8-magnitude quake and tsunami left 500 people dead.

“Chile’s investment in resilient infrastructure, early warning systems and urban planning have ensured that casualties have been low on this occasion, despite the intensity of the earthquake,” said Sergio Barrientos of the Chilean national seismology centre.

Five years ago, the authorities sent out a series of mixed messages in the quake aftermath. People returned to their homes on the coast after a tsunami alert was lifted — only for a killer wave to strike in the following hours, claiming more than 100 lives.

Chilean courts are still trying to determine responsibility for the fiasco.

“The 2010 quake, which directly affected 70 percent of the population, triggered an awareness that would not otherwise have come about,” said Sergio Barrientos of the Chilean national seismology centre.

This week’s quake was the most powerful recorded anywhere in the world this year, and the sixth strongest in the history of geologically volatile Chile.

But this time, within minutes of the quake, the navy launched a tsunami alert covering the entire country, triggering the evacuation of a million people, who have since gradually been returning home.

“The evacuation of one million people ensured that there was no repetition of the loss of life which happened five years ago,” Wahlstroem said.

Croatia says ‘forcing’ Hungary to take in migrants

BELI MANASTIR — Croatia said on Saturday it had “forced” Hungary to take in thousands of migrants and would continue sending them to its northern neighbour, amid deepening discord and disorder in Europe over the biggest west-

The overnight air strikes targeted two training camps belonging to the Islamist group Hamas, causing no injuries, officials and wit-

Israeli aircraft strike Gaza after rocket fire

Gaza — Israel carried out air strikes in the Gaza Strip on Saturday after Palestinian militants fired rockets into southern Israel.

The cross-border violence came as tension remained high in Jerusa-

Croatia’s contribution to the start a new stage in bilateral rela-

His Holiness Pope Francis—

Said Barrientos.—AFP

The pope played a cru-

Baltic states, including the German state of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, have said they would welcome migrants from the Islamic State-controlled regions of Syria and Iraq, as part of a European Union-wide agreement.

The pope made his comments during a visit to the Croatian capital, Zagreb, to discuss the plight of Syrian refugees and the need for international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

However, the visit was met with controversy as some protesters sang “Death to the Pope” and burned effigies of the pontiff.

In recent months, Pope Francis has been seen as a champion of migrants and refugees, and has called for greater solidarity and compassion in the face of the crisis.

The pontiff has also expressed concern about the rise of far-right usual that could lead to violence and discrimination.

The visit is expected to be met with protests in other European countries as well, with some far-right groups planning rallies and demonstrations.

The pope’s trip to Croatia was welcomed by the government and the local Catholic Church, which has long been involved in humanitarian work in the region.

However, there have been concerns about the pope’s security, with reports suggesting that he could be targeted by pro-

On Friday, a man was arrested for attempting to attack the pope with a knife, and police were on high alert.

The visit comes amid a growing crisis in Europe, with hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees trying to reach the continent from the Middle East and North Africa.

The pope has repeatedly called for greater solidarity and compassion towards migrants, and has expressed solidarity with those affected by the conflict in Syria and Iraq.

He has also called for a global response to the crisis, including financial support and humanitarian assistance.

The visit is expected to be a significant moment in the pope’s papacy, as he seeks to continue his efforts to build bridges and promote peace in a world marked by conflict and division.
Saudi-led warplanes pound Yemen's interior ministry in Sanaa

SANAA — Aircraft from a Saudi-led coalition attacked Yemen’s interior ministry in the capital, Sanaa, late on Friday and launched several other raids on sites in the heart of the city, residents and other sources there said.

The air raids by the coalition have intensified in recent weeks as a Gulf Arab force loyal to exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi prepare a campaign to recapture Sanaa, seized by Houthi fighters in September 2014.

Residents said about 10 air strikes were launched on the ministry building in the north of the capital, a police camp close to it and a military building.

The health ministry issued an urgent appeal saying it did not have the capacity to treat all those injured as a result of the strikes on several areas of Sanaa, the official Houthi controlled news agency said on Saturday.

Several air raids also target-ed the Puljabi area of Old San-aa early on Saturday morning, destroying several houses. The Oman foreign affairs ministry said the residence of its ambassa-dor in Sanaa was hit by a strike on Friday and denounced the act.

“Oman received with deep regret yesterday’s news targeting the ambassador’s home in Sanaa, which is a clear violation of inter-national charters and norms that emphasise the inviolability of diplomatic premises,” the statement said.

The coalition air strikes against the Houthis and their allies — forces loyal to Saleh — in late March after they pushed from their northern stronghold to wards the southern port of Aden.

It is pushing ahead with an offensive in Marib, about 120 km (75 miles) east of Sanaa, trying to drive the Houthis out of the province in preparation for a push against the capital.

Sources within the coalition have said they are waiting for “zero hour” to launch a full at-tack on Marib which will signal the end of the Houthi rebellion, pan Arab television Al Arabiya said.

CAIRO — Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi kept his fi-nance, investment and interior ministers in a new government sworn in on Saturday as he tries to rebuild an economy battered by Islamist militant violence.

Sisi named former head of the state oil company Tarek al-Mullah as petroleum minister, charged with easing the country’s energy crisis and attracting more foreign investment in a strategic sector.

Mullah succeeds Sherif Ismail, seen as one of the best-per-for-ming ministers, who became prime minister.

The new government faces many challenges.

Islamic State, which seized large parts of Iraq and Syria, has gained the backing of the most active militant group in Egypt, the recently renamed Sinai Province.

Militants have stepped up attacks on Egyptian soldiers and police since the army toppled Islami-st president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 after mass protests against his rule. Hundreds have been killed in bombing and shooting attacks.

Egypt is struggling to get large volumes of foreign invest-ment after years of political tur-moil triggered by the 2011 upris-ing that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak, even though Sisi’s eco-nomic reforms have won praise.

The new cabinet included 16 new ministers out of 33 in total but few important posts were handed to newcomers. The defence, for-eign and justice ministers all kept their jobs as did most economy-re-lated ministers such as planning and supplies.

“They could not find candi-dates and the main reason is that no one wants to be minister for three months; it is not enough time,” said Said Sadek, professor of political sociology.

Egypt holds a long-awaited parliamentary election in October and the new chamber will have a say over the government and can even reject Sisi’s choice for prime minister, according to the coun-try’s constitution.

The election concludes in November and a new government is likely to be named after the re-sults are announced.

As army chief, Sisi orchest-rated the overthrow of Mursi, Egypt’s first freely-elected presi-dent.

Sisi promised to deliver de-mocracy and went on to become president. Critics say he has stifled dissent under the toughest security crackdown in the country’s history, allegations the government denies.

Security forces killed hun-dreds of Islamists and jailed thousands of others. Prominent secular activists have also been jailed.

Security forces have recently re-sided to baseline frequent bombing raids into mountain-ous northern Iraq where the PKK has camps. It is the worst violence in Turkey since Tur-key has seen in two decades, coinciding with fighting across the border in Syria involving government troops and Islamic State militants.

US says Assad must go, timing down to negotiation

LONDON — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sat-urday Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad has to go but the timing of his departure had to be decided through negotiation.

Speaking after talks with British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond he called on Russia and Iran to use their influence to convince al-Assad to negotiate.

He said there is an urgency to renewing efforts to find a po litical settlement to end the four-year war and worsening refugee crisis in Syria.

“We need to get to the negot-iation. That is what we’re look-ing for and we hope Russia and Iran, and any other countries with influence, will help to bring about that, because that’s what is pre-venting this crisis from ending,” said Kerry.

“We’re prepared to negoti-ate. Is Assad prepared to negoti ate, really negotiate? Is Russia prepared to bring him to the ta ble?”

He said of Assad’s removal: “it doesn’t have to be on day one or month one ... there is a process by which all the parties have to come together to reach an understand-ing of how this can best be achieved.”

Syrian girl dies in new migrant boat sinking off Greece

ATHENS — A five-year-old Syrian girl was found dead on Saturday and several other ref-ugee were believed to be miss-ing when their boat sank in an attempted crossing from Turkey to Greece, the state ANA agency reported.

The Greek coastguard res-cued another 13 people and was looking for other survivors, the agency said.

The accident occurred north of the island of Lesbos, one of the Greek islands that have seen a heavy influx of refugees from war-torn Syria this year. Many have perished trying to cross the Aegean Sea in search of a better future in Europe.

Earlier this month, harrow ing pictures of three-year-old Syrian refugee Aylan Kurdi, whose body was found washed up on a Turkish beach after the boat carrying his family to the Greek island of Kos sank, caused an outburst of anger around the world, pressuring European leaders to step up their response to the refugee crisis. The body of the four-year-old Syrian girl washed up on a beach in western Turkey on Friday.

Migrants have in recent days turned to Turkey’s land borders with Greece and Bulgaria to avoid the sea voyage that has cost over 2,600 people their lives in the Mediterranean this year.—AP

DIYARBAKIR — At least 55 militants were killed when Turkish warplanes hit Kur-distan Workers Party (PKK) camps in northern Iraq over-night, security sources said on Saturday, as Ankara shows no sign of easing up strikes on insurgents ahead of a Nov. 1 election.

The jets took off from a base in Diyarbakir, in Turkey’s south-east, and later returned without damage, the sources said.

Turkey’s largely Kurdish southeast has been hit by almost daily waves of deadly fighting between PKK milita rists and security forces since the collapse of a ceasefire in July.

Security forces have re-plied to attacks with frequent bombing raids into mountain-ous northern Iraq where the PPK has camps. It is the worst violence in Turkey since Turkey has seen in two decades, coinciding with fighting across the border in Syria involving government troops and Islamic State militants.—Reuters

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Workers walk at a chocolate factory destroyed by a Saudi-led air strike in Yemen’s capital Sanaa. PHOTO: REUTERS

Egypt’s Sisi swears in new government, keeps ministers in key posts

CAIRO — Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi kept his fi-nance, investment and interior ministers in a new government sworn in on Saturday as he tries to rebuild an economy battered by Islamist militant violence.

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US police under fire over black boy’s arrest

LOS ANGELES — Police in California are facing intense criticism after a video showing officers tackling a black teenager to the ground for allegedly jaywalking went viral, drawing public outrage.

The video, taken on Tuesday in the town of Stockton, in northern California, shows a police officer scuffling with the 16-year-old boy and then using his baton to restrain him and strike him in the face.

The officer is heard saying “stop resisting” while the boy says “get off.”

A woman nearby repeatedly screams “he’s a kid.”

Eight additional officers are then seen surrounding the boy and bringing him to the floor before handcuffing him.

The incident occurs as police across the United States have come under scrutiny and face accusations of using excessive force following a number of incidents involving black suspects.

Stockton police said the officer had tried to stop the teenager, who was on his way to school, from walking in a bus lane but he refused and used obscenities.

Joseph Silva, a spokesman for Stockton police, told AFP the officer used force after the boy tried to grab his baton.

“As law enforcement officers, we cannot and will not allow anyone to take our weapons,” he said.

The incident, however, has met with fury from hundreds of comments left on the Stockton Police Department’s Facebook page.

“This is appalling abuse of authority and assault,” wrote Phyllis Tabron. “This officer should be fired for what he did to this defenseless child for jaywalking which is a minor violation which is never enforced.”

Bobby Bivens, head of the Stockton chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), denounced the police action.

“The behavior of the officer was totally out of line, there was no reason for him to attack this young man as he did,” Bivens said.

Rebecca Farmer, of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), described the video as “horrifying.”

The boy was released to the custody of his mother and faces charges in juvenile court of resisting arrest and trespassing.

Bivens said the teenager’s parents filed a formal complaint against the police on Friday and a full-blown internal affairs investigation was under way.

He said a preliminary probe had determined that the officer who scuffled with the teenager had acted properly.—AFP

Mexico arrests 13 in connection with Chapo escape

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has arrested 13 more people in connection with the escape of drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, including the former director of the high-security prison he escaped from and a government official who oversaw Mexico’s prisons.

A total of 20 officials have now been arrested in connection with Guzman’s escape from a maximum-security prison in central Mexico in July.

Valentin Cardenas, the former director of the Altiplano prison in central Mexico, and Celina Oseguera, a former director of Mexico’s federal prisons, were arrested along with 11 prison guards, a person familiar with the arrests said on Friday.

Mexico’s attorney general’s office said in a press release that 13 people were arrested in connection with Guzman’s escape but did not give details.

Both Oseguera and Cardenas were removed from their positions shortly after Guzman escaped. Four officials, including two members of Mexico’s intelligence agency CISEN, were charged this month for their suspected roles in Guzman’s jailbreak.—Reuters

Head of UN nuclear agency to visit Iran

VIENNA — The director general of the UN nuclear watchdog, which is investigating whether Iran carried out work aimed at developing an atomic bomb, will travel to Iran this weekend, the agency said on Saturday.

Under a roadmap agreement reached alongside a 14 July deal between six world powers and Iran, the International Atomic Energy Agency will provide an assessment on “possible military dimensions” of Iran’s nuclear program by the end of the year.

The assessment is crucial to the implementation of the deal, under which restrictions would be placed on Iran’s nuclear activities in exchange for a lifting of sanctions. “IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano will travel to Tehran today for meetings with high-level Iranian officials on Sunday, 20 September,” the IAEA said in a statement. A spokeswoman for the agency declined to specify which officials he would meet. The IAEA said 10 days ago it had sent Iran questions over “ambiguities” in its submissions relating to the assessment of its past nuclear activities.

“Technical-expert meetings, technical measures and discussions will be organized in Tehran prior to 15 October 2015 to remove the ambiguities identified by the IAEA,” the agency said in a statement at the time.— Reuters

US police under fire over black boy’s arrest

Los Angeles Police Department officers tackled a black teenager to the ground for allegedly jaywalking. The incident occurred as police across the United States have come under scrutiny and face accusations of using excessive force following a number of incidents involving black suspects. Stockton police said the officer had tried to stop the teenager, who was on his way to school, from walking in a bus lane but he refused and used obscenities.

The incident has met with fury from hundreds of comments left on the Stockton Police Department’s Facebook page. The officer who scuffled with the teenager had acted properly, according to Bobby Bivens, head of the Stockton chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

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Both Oseguera and Cardenas were removed from their positions shortly after Guzman escaped. A crowd of mostly women in Bujumbura, the second largest city,.BOBO-DIOLASSO carrying the body of the boy,eks at the scene, screaming “he’s a kid,” and police.Anyone to take our weapons,” he said.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (962N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (962N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (15:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Central Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and strong in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 20th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kayah, and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Frequent squalls with rough sea will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States.

Venezuelan fighter jet crashes on Colombia border

Residents walk across one of the many flooded streets after a flash flood in Hildale, Utah September 15, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Eight killed, 37 injured in bus accident in Central Nepal

KATHMANDU — Eight people were killed and 37 others injured when a passenger bus plunged off a mountain highway in Ramchhap District of Central Nepal on Friday evening, the police said.

The bus veered off the road at Gaharchowk area in Manthali Municipality of the district, some 137 kilometres east of country’s capital Kathmandu, Police Inspector Mahat Yadav told Xinhua over the phone Friday. All the injured passengers are undergoing treatment at a local hospital in the district, he said. “Preliminary investigation suggests that the driver is solely responsible for the mishap,” the police inspector added.—Xinhua
LOS ANGELES — Family conflicts, tempestuous romances and power struggles made hit hop show “Empire” the highest-rated new hit for Fox this year, and viewers can expect a lot more sardonic drama in season two.

“If season one was built on the premise of ‘who will inherit the throne?’, season two is ‘warring kingdoms,’” executive producer and writer Ilene Chaiken teased for reporters on Friday.

“Empire” returns to Twenty-First Century Fox’s broadcast network on Wednesday after drawing an average of 13.7 million viewers per episode in season one earlier this year.

The debut season followed the Lyon family as they attempted to cement their power in the world of hip hop. “Empire” centers on drug runner-turned music mogul Lucious Lyon (Terrence Howard), who pits his three sons against each other with the promise that one will inherit his record company, Empire Entertainment.

But it’s the show’s intensely ambitious, prison-hardened, aggressive matriarch Cookie Lyon who has stood out, with actress Taraji P. Henson earning one of the show’s three Emmy nominations in the best drama actress category for this weekend.

“In a matter of moments, (Henson) can go from the most raucous and flamboyant to the most heartwarming and touching,” Chaiken said.

“This character hasn’t been on television before.” The show failed to pick up a best drama series Emmy nod but was nominated twice in the costume category.

The second season of “Empire” picks up three months after season one left off. Lyon is in prison on a murder charge, while his son Jamal (Jussie Smollett) is running his company.

Chaiken said the changing power dynamics in the family will bring out new sides of the characters as relationships evolve.

“They’re people that love and hate one another all at once. You’ll see as many moments where they have each other’s backs as they are stabbing each other in the back,” Chaiken said.— Reuters

Rihanna’s new album will be ‘something great’

LOS ANGELES — Singing sensation Rihanna has finally given out details about her eighth studio album, tentatively titled “RS,” saying it will be “something great”.

The 27-year-old Barbadian singer said the fans have been eagerly waiting for her album and she does not want to disappoint them, reported Access show.

“To me it’s never done until it’s done. Until the final moment.” She goes on to promise “something great” from the album because millions of fans have been eagerly waiting for it.

“No matter what I post online, within three comments there’s somebody saying, ‘Where is RS? I could post anything. They don’t care about anything but that. But it makes me excited, because I can’t wait to give them something great,’ she said.

When asked about the reason behind the significant delay in the album, Rihanna blames her and collaborator Kanye West’s busy schedules for it.

“We just have to wait to get back in the studio together. His schedule and mine are totally opposite right now, but I think this month we’ll be back in the studio.”

The album will be Rihanna’s first full-length work since 2012’s “Unapologetic.”— PTI
Anish Kapoor to mask vandalism on Versailles sculpture

PARIS — British-Indian sculptor Anish Kapoor has decided to leave the anti-Semitic graffiti on his “Dirty Corner” installation at the Palace of Versailles near Paris, but will cover it up, palace authorities said on Friday.

The 60-meter (197 feet) abstract steel and rock sculpture that the artist has described as “the vagina of the queen coming into power,” was vandalized shortly after it was installed in June, and again this month.

“(The sculpture), which was recently vandalized, will be subject in the coming days to an intervention to hide the damage, under the artist’s supervision,” Palace of Versailles authorities said in a statement.

A palace spokeswoman said Kapoor, who was born in India to a Hindu father and a Jewish mother, decided to mask rather than remove the graffiti, without providing further details.

The artist initially decided to leave the work as it was, prompting a legal challenge by a lawyers’ association and right-wing Versailles city councillor Fabien Bougle calling for the inscriptions to be removed despite Kapoor’s opposition.

French Culture Minister Fleur Pellerin has condemned the vandalism as showing a “fascist vision 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

Reforms prompt worries about future of Japanese study in England

LONDON — Teachers fear the study of Japanese in England could be severely undermined following plans to scrap one of the most important exams in the subject.

From 2017, education firm Pearson is planning to scrap A and A-S levels in Japanese in the light of new requirements that the exam be redeveloped, although discussions are still going on with the Department for Education to try and find a way to save the qualification.

Over 3,500 people have signed a petition calling for the exam to be retained. They argue removing the only qualification in Japanese for 16- to 18-year-olds is likely to reduce the incentive of younger students to take up Japanese in the first place.

“I am devastated. This is a genuinely retrograde step,” Andrew Hunt, head of languages at Whitgift School, Croydon, told Kyodo News.

Referring to the General Certificate of Secondary Education exams normally sat by those aged 15 and 16, he said, “It will probably have an impact on our GCSEJapanese take-up in the medium term, and in the long term the lack of progression may put off pupils from choosing to start learning the language at all, which would be very sad.”

“Currently a large number of our pupils benefit from the opportunity to gain fluency in Japanese and also take part in a cultural exchange with our partner school in Saitama Prefecture.”

In 2014, there were 260 candidates for the A-level, which attracts native Japanese speakers who want to validate their proficiency according to English standards as well as native English speakers. A-level Japanese is almost exclusively studied in England, by regular-occasional- ly a few students in Wales who also sit the exam. Scotland has no similar qualifications in Japanese.

For the A-S level, which is effectively half an A-level and studied in the first year of the two-year A-level course, there were 291 candidates last year, while around 1,100 students take GCSE Japanese each year in Britain.

Sachiko Yamaguchi, who teaches at Aquinas College, Sheffield, said, “Each year, I have students who would like to carry on Japanese at university level and, for them, the A-level is very important.”

The current Japanese A-level is considered to be traditional and demanding. It comprises reading comprehension, translation and essay writing. However, the exam does not test either speaking or listening skills. Regulators want to standardize all language A-levels and bring them into line with the French and German exams which have equal components of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Exam providers like Pearson have decided to scrap A-levels in several low take-up languages because they feel they and the schools do not have the resources to redevelop the exams along the lines required by regulators. Insisting upon tests for speaking and listening will inevitably require more classroom preparation, resources and manpower, they claim.—Kyodo News

Dog’s best friend: canine consoles, seeks help for trapped US hound

SEATTLE — A wayward dog stuck for days at the bottom of a concrete cistern in a Washington state ravine was rescued after a canine companion made frequent trips to find human help when she was not laying next to the well, an animal shelter said on Friday.

Phoebe, the trapped hound, and Tillie, a setter mix, were found together earlier this week on Vashon Island, in the Puget Sound southwest of Seattle, after being reported missing on Sept. 8, Vashon Island Pet Protectors said.

“For nearly a week, Tillie stayed by her side with the expectation of the few minutes of each day when she went for help,” the shelter wrote on Facebook.

It said they were rescued when the shelter received a tip that a reddish dog had approached a local resident several times over a number of days before scurrying back toward the well.

Shelter volunteers traced its path and found Tillie with her head resting on the side of the well, and below her the hound, perched on rubble that held her above the water, Vashon Island Pet Protectors said. A person listed by the shelter as the owner of one of the dogs did not immediately return a call seeking comment.—Reuters
Youngsters get Badminton Training in Mandalay

MANDALAY — To turn out new generation badminton players, Mandalay Region Badminton Sub-committee conducted badminton course from 14 to 18 September and the graduation ceremony for 90 new generation badminton players took place at No-16 Basic Education School on Saturday. Students from Grade 5 to 7 attended course.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Van Gaal defends spluttering Rooney

OUIS van Gaal refuses to accept that Wayne Rooney is in a scoring slump despite the Manchester United captain going into Sunday’s visit to Southampton without a Premier League goal in over five months.

Rooney, who recently became England’s leading all-time international goalscorer, has not hit the net in a Premier League game for United since the first weekend in April, although his club manager prefers to focus on the hat-trick the striker scored in the Champions League at Brugges last month rather than his 10-game domestic barren spell.

“He scored against Bruges. He scored,” said van Gaal. “It doesn’t matter if it’s the Premier League or the Champions League. I was very happy when we scored more goals.

“It does not matter to me who is scoring. But we have to score more. When you are so dominant as we are, in all the matches, we have to win these games.

“He has a range of scoring goals. You can count all the goals he’s made. In my memory, Rooney has scored a lot.

“It’s nearly the record holder in the Premier League so I hope he will beat that record but I have to wait and see, like you do.”

Such a quest is still some distance off, Rooney’s 185 career Premier League goals placing him two behind second placed Andy Cole and way behind all-time leading scorer Alan Shearer and his 260.

Rooney, 29, needs to score 76 times to overtake Shearer and, bearing in mind that the past five seasons in total have seen the United man score “only” 79 goals, van Gaal may be disappointed in his wish.

Rooney missed United’s victory over Liverpool last weekend with a hamstring injury, but looks certain to return against a Southampton side who van Gaal expects, like defending champions Chelsea, to improve drastically as the season progresses.

“Wayne is back, it was a minor injury and we didn’t want to take risks,” said van Gaal. “But he has had training and treatment and I think he can start.

“Southampton have a very good team, not worse than last year, but they started very badly. It’s the same with Chelsea, but they shall come back, as we did last year. I don’t think is a normal position for them.”

Meanwhile, broken leg victim Luke Shaw is due to fly back to Manchester this weekend where he will undergo a minor surgical procedure before being allowed home.

Van Gaal has noted the effect that the horrendous injury had on Shaw’s team mates in the United dressing room and hopes it may have a galvanising effect on them.

“There was a question about the mental effect of such an injury and I said I cannot prove that. I cannot see in the heads of the players, he said.”

“But I have now read in some papers that some players said it had an influence. Maybe it will have a positive influence in the dressing room. When you see us playing and the spirit we have I don’t have any doubts.”—AFP

FIBA - ASIA Development Plan Coaching Clinic 2015 launched

The course was for the development of basketball in Myanmar said Myanmar Basketball Federation’s general secretary U Kyaw Kyaw Win. The trainees are to give back systematic coaching to the new generation basketball players across the country, from what they had learnt from the course, he added.

Myanmar is facing scarcity of good coaches in the basketball field, he said. Instructor Dr Keh Koon Teck of FIBA - ASIA will train 38 trainee coaches comprising 22 men and 16 women at the course to be conducted from 19 to 25 September. According to Myanmar Basketball Federation, the World Basketball Federation had given training for trainers courses in 2013.—GNLM

Youngsters in group photo after they receive their completion certificates for badminton training in Mandalay. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

Chelsea end slump with win over nine-man Arsenal

LONDON — Arsenal had two players sent off when they lost an ill-tempered derby 2-0 at Chelsea on Saturday as the champions pulled out of their early-season slump with their first Premier League win for almost a month.

Chelsea’s 20-year-old French defender Kurt Zouma headed the first after 53 minutes of a fractious game before an Eden Hazard shot deflected off Calum Chambers in stoppage time to make it 2-0.

Arsenal defender Gabriel was red carded for kicking out at Diego Costa just before halftime and Santi Cazorla was dismissed with a second booking for sliding in on former Arsenal skipper Cesc Fabregas after 79 minutes.

Gabriel’s dismissal came in the aftermath of a bust-up between Costa and Arsenal defender Laurent Koscielny in the visitors’ penalty area a minute earlier when Costa appeared to raise his arm and strike the Arsenal defender.

Cazorla was shown the red card after a rash, sliding challenge on his Spain team mate Fabregas, whose fine free kick eight minutes into the second half was headed in by Zouma.

It was Zouma’s first Premier League goal and, perhaps more significantly, he was in the team in place of skipper John Terry, who was not selected for a league match when he was fit for the first time by manager Jose Mourinho.

Arsenal, who beat Mourinho’s side 1-0 in the Community Shield at the beginning of August, had made few clear cut chances of their own and have not beaten Chelsea in their last eight league matches and not scored against them in their last five.

The result lifted Chelsea from 17th into mid-table while Arsenal, who have had three players sent off this week following Olivier Giroud’s dismissal against Dinamo Zagreb on Wednesday, stayed fourth, at least until Saturday’s latest matches.—Reuters

Rodgers vows to defuse Liverpool tensions

LIVERPOOL manager Brendan Rodgers has acknowledged he is under pressure after a poor recent run of form ahead of Sunday’s clash with Norwich at Anfield.

Rodgers has pledged to remain calm, but the grumblings against him will only grow louder if his team fail to overcome the Canaries.

Successive league defeats against West Ham and Manchester United have done little for the manager’s standing.

But greater disquiet has been caused by the timidity of his team’s performances in both matches.

Rodgers, then, will be hoping the cameo minutes of the week’s prior defeat to Manchester United was a false thing, and that his side can improve on the timid display of a week prior.

As Liverpool prepare to face their north-west rivals, Rodgers said: “We must produce a better performance, especially at the back. I feel we can do that.”

Rodgers has acknowledged his side’s problems “are not easy to change.”

But he feels his side will improve after their week’s prior defeat, and hopes to see a better display at Anfield.

A home loss against Manchester United has bought Rodgers under greater gloom, and he has acknowledged his side’s problems at the back “are not easy to change.”

But he feels Liverpool can improve after their defeat to United, and hopes to see a better display at Anfield.

A Premier League defeat against Norwich on Saturday would certainly put Rodgers under more pressure, and he is aware his side will need to improve to get the better of their visitors.

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