A FIRE broke out at a warehouse storing raw materials used to make Coca-Cola bottles on Thursday morning, causing almost a million dollars in damage.

More than 400 fire-fighters and 45 fire engines rushed to the scene and battled the blaze for five hours before it was extinguished at noon. One fire-fighter was injured and the damage caused by the fire is estimated to be more than K1.1 billion (US$854,950).

The warehouse is located in the industrial zone in Mingaladon Township and stores large quantities of the soft-drink giant’s plastic pellets.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the blaze.

“A neighbouring family saw the fire after they smelted the burning plastic, and they called us at around 7am. They estimated that the fire started around 6:30am,” said U Thaw Dar, the deputy director of the Yangon Region Fire Services Department.

“No one was in the warehouse when the fire began. The guards locked the door of the warehouse and went home at around 8pm the previous night,” said the official, quoting one of the neighbours who first spotted the blaze.

“The fire fighters also used cranes and towers, finally getting the flames under control at around 8:30am. The warehouse is not easily accessible because it is surrounded by mud,” U Thaw Dar said.

Heavy winds were blowing during the fire. The main reason why the fire lasted so long is that fire engines could not access the scene simultaneously because the warehouse is not easily accessible,” said witness U Tun Win.

Coca-Cola opened its bottling plant in Hmawbi Township in Yangon in June 2013, after an absence from Myanmar of more than 60 years. No one at Coca-Cola was available for comment at the time the story went to print.—Zaw Gyi (Panita/Aye Min Soe)

**Labour unions push for stronger presence**

Foreign and local representatives discuss weak laws, dangerous working conditions and unfair dismissals

**Aye Min Soe**

THE Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar held talks this week with international union federations and trade union support organisations to discuss their challenges and future activities.

The two-day conference titled “Achievements and Futures of Sectoral Organisation of Trade Unions in Myanmar” concluded on Wednesday in Yangon. The main points of discussion were weaknesses in Myanmar’s labour laws and the impact the new minimum wage has had in the short period since it came into effect on 1 September.

Representatives from Myanmar trade unions pointed out employment contracts between factory bosses and workers do not provide sufficient recognition of the role of labour unions.

“We have a plan to discuss the employment contract paragraph by paragraph with government officials,” said assistant general-secretary of CTUM Phyo Sandar Soe. The government issued an announcement in late August urging owners of factories to sign employment contracts with their workers within 30 days of their employment.

Participants also discussed the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law, one of 19 labour laws enacted in Myanmar. Phyo Sandar Soe said that the law’s penalty for factory bosses who violate collective bargaining agreements, which imposes a fine but not a prison sentence, is too weak.

Meanwhile, U Thaun Nyunt, the president of the Mining Workers Federation of Myanmar, decried the lack of occupational health and safety at small mining sites around the country.

“Causalities are found on a near-daily basis at small mines in Myanmar,” he said.

The main challenge for workers in small mines located deep in the forest is that workers do not feel free to express their grievances, he added.

Myanmar’s mining sector employs about 30,000 miners, according to the federation.

Unions from the construction, logging, mining, industrial, agricultural, transport, logistics and education sectors also attended the conference.

The attendees unanimously welcomed the government’s initiative to form a committee to probe staff layoffs in order to ensure that they are reasonable.

The CTUM invited personnel experienced in labour union affairs from international organisations to the conference with the aim of broadening the horizon of labour union members in Myanmar, said CTUM president U Maung Maung.—GNLM
Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends China’s 66th anniversary

VICE PRESIDENT Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended a ceremony commemorating the 66th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday. The vice president was accompanied by his wife at the event.

Air Force Commander-in-Chief General Khin Aung Myint also attended the ceremony, along with union ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, departmental officials and officials from the Chinese embassy.

After perusing the photo exhibition at the event, China’s ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang and the vice president gave speeches.

“The Chinese embassy plans to move to Nay Pyi Taw and become the first embassy in the city; this year is also the 65th anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations, which have never been disturbed by international issues. China supports Myanmar’s transition into a democratic country and its reconciliation efforts with ethnic minority groups. China supports improvements to the livelihoods of Myanmar people and maintains an open-door policy to Myanmar,” said the ambassador in his speech.

The ambassador also expressed his wish for a smooth transition following the 2015 general election.

After the speeches, the vice president’s wife Daw Nan Shwe Hhon and Ambassador Hong Liang’s wife cut a cake in honour of the anniversary.—MNA

Post-flood recovery plans discussed

National Disaster Management Committee and officials discuss post floods and landslide needs assessment framework.

NAY PYI TAW — A needs assessment workshop on post floods and landslide needs assessment framework in Myanmar took place in Yangon on Thursday.

Vice President U Nyan Tun oversaw the workshop in his capacity as the chairman of Myanmar’s National Natural Disaster Management Committee.

“The main objective of the meeting is to carry out next stage of recovery efforts by inviting development partners to contribute to a post-floods and landslides needs assessment to inform the national framework. This will guide both ongoing recovery efforts and long-term recovery plans.”

Participants discussed the key functions of establishing the recovery framework, the approximation of damage, organisational structures, data collection system and the tasks to be prioritised for rehabilitation.

“The floods caused damage in 12 out of 14 states and regions and directly affected 1.6 million people, with knock-off effects felt by millions more.”

U Nyan Tun said that the long-term economic and social consequences are yet to be fully understood and that the recovery task is one of the most challenging in recent times. He emphasised the need for prevention to play a large role in ongoing recovery efforts.

He said that every level of government, as well as civil society groups, have strove to respond to the needs of those affected as swiftly as possible.—MNA

 Illegal timber trade tarnishes national image: Union Minister

NAY PYI TAW—Union Minister of Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun said on Thursday that the impact of the illegal timber trade has a catastrophic impact on the environment and tarnishes the image of both China and Myanmar.

He made the remarks during the opening ceremony of the Stakeholder Workshop on Myanmar-China Timber Trade, which is being organised by Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and the Centre for International Forest Products Trade under China’s State Forestry Administration. "It is important for both governments to take action and to cultivate forestry products for sustainable trade," he said.

The union minister said that illegal logging results in deforestation, reduced biodiversity and contributes to climate change.

"Since 2011, 50,000 tonnes of illegal timber have been seized at the Myanmar-China border. Both Chinese and Myanmar citizens were arrested in an attempt to trade 4,500 tonnes of timber in Kachin State. It is essential to revive the reputation of both countries by taking action against the illegal timber trade." 

"The government and the private sector should collaborate in tackling illegal trade. Experts should also work to establish a value-added system to the timber industry," the union minister said.

"The meeting was also attended by Mr Fu Qiu, the deputy director general of China’s State Forestry Administration, and Mr George Dura, the EU deputy head of cooperation, Myanmar. — MNA

UEC clarifies advance voting system

THE Union Election Commission clarified the rules for advance voting for the November 8 election to departmental officials on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw.

UEC chairman U Tin Aye said voters who are eligible to cast advance votes in the upcoming election must submit form No. 15 to township election sub-commissions.

People who are not in their constituencies on election day, including military personnel and their families, students, trainee, prisoners and patients who are receiving treatment at intensive care units are entitled to cast advance votes, he said.

Myanmar citizens living abroad can also apply to vote in advance.

Advance votes need to be received in their respective election sub-commissions no later than 4pm on election day, the chairman said.—MNA

C-in-C calls for religious harmony

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited religious sites in Kayah State on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss the importance of interfaith relations.

He paid homage to a 91-year-old monk in Loikaw on Wednesday during his tour of Kayah State. He also paid homage to Taungkwe Pagoda in Loikaw and Yan Aung Myin Pyi Taw Aye Pagoda in Mawchi on Thursday.

On Thursday afternoon, he met Father Richard Thura Tun at the Catholic church in Loikaw.

“No matter what religion one follows, it is important to live in harmony, and this concept will help develop the nation,” he told the priest.

In return, Bishop Stephen Tjep of the Loikaw Diocese expressed his belief that the Tatmadaw will continue helping the country in its transition to democracy in cooperation with the people.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends China’s 66th anniversary

Post-flood recovery plans discussed

Illegal timber trade tarnishes national image: Union Minister

UEC clarifies advance voting system

C-in-C calls for religious harmony

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents a gift to a Christian priest in Loikaw. PHOTO: MNA

During his tour, the commander-in-chief and his wife visited patients at the local military hospital. The commander-in-chief told military personnel in Hsinseik and Banyin that he hopes a multi-party democracy system will take root in the country and stressed that the Tatmadaw will act in accordance with the law. —Myawady
President U Thein Sein highlights reform achievements

SINCE coming to power in 2011, the government has worked hard to combat poverty and boost rural development, President U Thein Sein told the Leading Committee for National Reform’s meeting on Thursday.

The president, who is the Chairman of the Leading Committee for National Reform, stressed that his government’s commitment to reform has yielded tangible results over the past five years, citing Community-Driven Development projects initiated by the World Bank in a bid to enable poor rural communities to benefit from improved infrastructure.

Political reforms have seen the emergence of political parties and social organisations, new press freedoms, the release of political prisoners and ongoing peace talks, the president added.

The government has strived to improve socioeconomic standards across Myanmar as part of the fundamental framework of its economic and social reform programme.

The revised tax system has become more effective, generating tax revenue of up to 5.9 trillion kyats (nearly US$4.58 billion) in the 2015-16 fiscal year, up from 1.69 trillion ($1.3 billion) in 2011-12, he said.

Regarding educational reforms, the government provides free primary and secondary schooling alongside presidential scholarship awards. Under the scholarship programme, a total of 116 students are studying in Australia, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, China and Thailand.

The number of mobile phone users has soared to 52 per cent in 2015, up from less than five per cent in 2011, with the president adding that the number of tourists is expected to hit five million next year.

He stressed the need of government staff to enhance their capacity and change the mindset in a march toward the people-centred governance and expressed some dissatisfaction about a lack of progress made in developing transparent governance.

Also in attendance were Union Ministers U Aung Min, U Soe Thane, U Hla Tun, U Win Shein, Dr Kan Zaw and Vice Presidents U Nyan Tun and Dr Sai Maikham.

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President U Thein Sein addresses Leading Committee for National Reform’s meeting. PHOTO: MNA

#heads_of_services_or_organizations_transferred

NAY PYI TAW — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Minister U Aung Thein of the Ministry of Information under Section (234), subsection (a) and subsection (d), of the Constitution and Section (16), subsection (b), para (9) of the Union Government Law on 24 September 2015.—GNLM

U Aung Thein Appointed as Dy Minister of Information

NAY PYI TAW — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on 24 September 2015, has transferred Rector Dr Daw Saw Sandar Aye of University of Computer Studies (Pyay), Department of Technology Promotion and Cooperation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, as the rector of University of Information Technology (Yangon) from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

The President on the same day has appointed the following persons as heads of service organisations against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

**Name**

(a) U Tin Soe
   General Manager (Production)
   Myanma Shipyards
   Ministry of Transport

(b) Daw Aye Aye Win
   Deputy Director General
   Supervisory & Inspection Department
   Ministry of Industry

**Appointment**

Managing Director
Myanma Shipyards
Ministry of Transport

Director-General
Supervisory & Inspection Department
Ministry of Industry

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Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW — MRTV, Hlutaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from Myanmar Farmer’s Development Party and Democracy and Human Rights Party on 25 September.

Although three political parties each are allowed to broadcast daily, the TVs and radios cannot broadcast talks of National Unity Congress Party due to its absence.—GNLM
OTTWIN — Agriculture Department deputy director general U Naing Kyi Win trained 45 department personnel in Ottwin Township, Bago Region, on the cultivation of Pearl Thwe paddy seeds on 20 September. The training used Pearl Thwe paddy seeds and took place on a 222-acre plantation in Badauk Khin village.

The training aims to boost the socio-economic development of farmers across Myanmar.

The seeds were planted back in July and their growth remains steady. The pollination process will begin in the last week of October, with harvesting beginning one month later. The reproduced seeds will be distributed to farmers.

In Toungoo District, 528,908 acres were set aside for a paddy plantation. In Toungoo District, 528,908 acres were set aside for a paddy plantation. —Ko Pauk

Paddy seed production training in Ottwin Township

MEIKTILA — A traditional boat race will be held as part of the Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda festival in Meiktila, which begins on 24 September. Eighty teams will participate in the five-day contest, which is a highlight of the annual festival. Nearly 1,000 shops will be selling their wares — including farming tools — during the 132nd festival, which has not been held for the past two years. —Chun Thar

First Myanmar-Thai energy cooperation meeting held

NAY PYI TAW — Representatives from Thailand and Myanmar took part in the first joint working group meeting on energy cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

The meeting comes in the wake of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two countries in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 June. The Myanmar-Thai Energy Cooperation agreement calls for meetings between the two countries to take place several times per year. The meeting was attended by energy ministers and deputy secretaries from Thailand and Myanmar and discussions included upgrading cross-border gas pipelines, sustainable energy strategies, energy security, energy production, liquefied natural gas (LNG) import processes, oil refinement and distribution, technology transfer schemes and human resource development.

The two sides also agreed to set up a technical vocational school. —GNLM

Fisheries need organic bait

YANGON — The deputy chairman of Myanmar Fishery Federation said that a shortage of organic bait is holding back fisheries from diversifying their produce.

“Myanmar cannot produce organic bait, so we cannot breed organic fish. [In order to be considered organic] organic fish feed is required from the fishes’ fry age. The only organic product we have is rice,” U Hnin Oo said.

“If we import organic bait from abroad, it won’t be profitable for our business,” he added. Organic bait generally contains organic soy beans and ground sesame.

Currently, rice products such as bran and broken rice are available, but firms still need other organic feed products.—Ko Moe
Mandala Hill Art Gallery to commemorate 14th anniversary

MANDALAY — Mandalay Hill Art Gallery will commemorate its 14th anniversary with an exhibition featuring 45 works by 19 artists.

The exhibition will start on 18 October and end on 13 November. Six artists from Yangon, two from Bagan’s Nyaung Oo, one from Pyin Oo Lwin, and ten from Mandalay will participate in the exhibition.

The price of paintings is ranging from K$500,000 to K$2 million, according to the gallery. The anniversary commemoration also includes recitation of poems.—Tin Maung

Nanthaik Yadana nursery organizes talent show

NAY PYI TAW — Nanthaik Yadana nursery under the Social Welfare Department in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, organised a children’s talent show on Wednesday.

Contestants sang songs, told stories and recited poems. Chairperson Daw Khin San Win of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association from the Ministry of Industry presented awards to the winners and donated K$20,000 to the nursery.—Than Naing

Health clinic held in Tatkon

TATKON — The Tatkon Township Maternal and Child Health Centre in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area opened a health clinic on Tuesday. A medical team led by Township Health Officer Dr Tun Tun provided treatment and disseminated knowledge about elderly care, maternal health and breastfeeding and health issues for children under five and teenagers. Nutritious foods were also provided. The team carried out medical checks on 15 elderly people, 20 breastfeeding mothers, 23 pregnant women and 30 teenagers.—Tin Soe Lwin

Anti-human trafficking course opens in Muse

MUSE — An awareness course on human trafficking began in Muse on Wednesday, which is being organised by Muse Township Social Welfare Department.

With the town of Muse being located close to the border with China, Myanmar citizens are being trafficked into the other country at an alarming rate, said Principal Daw Khin San Win of the Temporary Sheltering and Rehabilitation Home.

The course covers issues such as re-sheltering, laws, counseling, reunion and rehabilitation and is part of ongoing efforts to tackle the illegal trade in humans, which has been stepped up since July.—Muse IPRD

Chinese traders donate to Myanmar flood victims

MUSE — Guangzhou Industrial Trade Association donated packets of instant noodles and bottled water for Myanmar flood victims on Wednesday.

The donation worth nearly K$30 million was made at the Nandaw Gate in Muse, the border town with China. After the donation ceremony the items were transferred to Lashio.—L. Soe

Artists explain holding of 14th anniversary of Mandalay Hill Art Gallery. PHOTO: Tin Maung

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Health staff attend to the needs of their clients in Tatkon. PHOTO: Tin Soe Lwin

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Muse being located close to the border with China, Myanmar citizens are being trafficked into the other country at alarming rate. PHOTO: Muse IPRD
Singapore air quality ‘very unhealthy’ over Indonesia fires

SINGAPORE — Singapore’s air quality reached “very unhealthy” levels on Thursday as thick smog from forest fires in Indonesia’s neighbouring island of Sumatra choked the city-state.

Thick grey smoke blown in by southerly winds smothered the island, shrouding the skyline and creeping into homes, with many residents avoiding going outdoors.

“The hazy conditions in Singapore have further deteriorated since last night, as denser haze from Sumatra has been blown in by the prevailing southerly winds,” the National Environment Agency said in an advisory.

It showed the Pollutant Standards Index, which measures the air quality, as reaching the “very unhealthy” range.

The agency advised healthy persons to “avoid prolonged or strenuous outdoor physical exertion” and urged the elderly, pregnant women and children to minimise outdoor exposure.

Housewife Asnah Mohamad, 62, said she and her friend used their headscarfs to cover their face as they travelled to a mosque to offer prayers.

“People are suffering even at home,” she said.

“My husband cannot leave the house because he has a heart condition so I represented him to collect the meat offerings,” she told AFP, referring to the festival in which Muslims share the meat of a goat or sheep slaughter as an offering.

“We hope it gets better soon. But what can you do? Go over there (to Indonesia) and pour water on the fire?”

The city-state, which prides itself for its clean environment, has been cloaked in the haze in varying degrees for about three weeks, the worst such episode since mid-2013. But Southeast Asia’s worst bout with haze was in 1997-1998 when the smog caused an estimated $9 billion in losses in economic activity across the region. The haze situation has been made worse this year by an El Nino weather system, which produces tinder-dry conditions in Indonesia and increases the risk of fires.

Under pressure from its neighbours to stop the annual haze, Indonesian President Joko Widodo has pledged to crack down on companies and individuals behind the burns, which is a cheap but harmful way of clearing vast tracts of land for plantations.

Defence asks Thai court for more time in British backpacker murders

KOH SAMUI — Lawyers for two Myanmar migrant workers accused of killing two British tourists on a Thai island appealed for more time on Thursday to prove they were scapegoats innocent of the brutal, high-profile murders.

Hannah Witheridge and David Miller, both in their 20s, were beaten to death a year ago on the southern holiday island of Koh Tao, causing outrage in Britain. Witheridge was also raped, a post-mortem examination showed.

Lawyers are trying to convince the judge that Zaw Lin and Win Zaw Htun were framed by police under pressure to solve a case that has caught international attention and hurt Thailand’s image as a tourism haven.

The defense tentatively had until Friday to wrap up its case, but chief lawyer Nakhon Chomphupat said there were problems convincing witnesses to testify as some feared retribution.

“I don’t think we can have all of the witnesses (before Friday),” he told reporters outside the court on Samui island.

“There’s a problem, our informers lack courage to stand as witnesses because some of them still work on Koh Tao.”

Central to the defense is disproving what it sees as a patchy investigation marred by disputed forensics, a contaminated crime scene and selective use of surveillance video to implicate the accused.

A human rights expert was due to testify on Thursday about his own investigation, which lawyers said showed the suspects had suffered police abuse under interrogation. Another witness, a former lawyer, was expected to testify that false confessions were forced from the suspects.

Police have stood by their probe and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has ruled out foul play.

Allegations of torture and police misconduct have caused a stir in Britain and its Prime Minister David Cameron raised concerns during a meeting with Prayuth, who agreed to allow London police to carry out their own internal investigation.

They have refused to disclose their final report to anyone other than the victims’ families, as a pre-agreed condition.

Many people from Myanmar, known also as Burma, work on the Thai holiday islands of Koh Tao, Koh Phangan and Koh Samui, just a short trip from southern Myanmar across a narrow mainland peninsula.

The estimated 2.5 million Myanmar workers in Thailand provide vital remittances. Many complain they suffer maltreatment, including extortion, from Thai police. —Reuters
SEATTLE — Chinese President Xi Jinping voiced hopes here Wednesday that the Chinese community in the United States can contribute more to the Sino-American relations.

Speaking at a reception hosted by the Chinese community, Xi praised the unremitting efforts of the Chinese Americans to advance the relations between China and the United States since three decades ago.

The president wished that they can actively integrate themselves in the US mainstream society, abide by local laws, respect local customs, get along well with people of other races and help promote the social and economic development of local communities. He hoped they can help boost China-US cooperation and lend positive momentum to the bilateral relations.

In addition, he hoped they can popularize the Chinese culture, deepen American people’s understanding about China and consolidate public support for bilateral ties.

He said that the China-US relationship is one of the most important bilateral relations in the world, and the two sides will make their “cake of common interests” bigger and bigger so as to bring more benefits to the peoples of the two countries.

The president also briefed the overseas Chinese about domestic situation, saying that Chinese people are now closer to the goal of achieving great national rejuvenation than in any period in history.

“Believe the Chinese community in the United States can surely make unique contributions to this great process,” he stressed. —Xinhua

Gunmen kill Pakistan prison official, brother

PESHAWAR — Gunmen on Thursday shot dead a prison official and his brother in northwestern Pakistan, a week after a Taliban attack on an air force base which killed 29 people, police said.

Zahir Shah, the deputy superintendent of Peshawar prison, where hundreds of militants have been locked up, was shot at home at Hari Chand village, some 60 kilometres (40 miles) northeast of Peshawar, when he was meeting friends and relatives as part of Eid al-Adha, the Islamic festival of sacrifice. Local residents said that four gunmen came on motorcycle and two went inside the premises posing as visitors to exchange Eid greetings with Shah and when they were sitting in a compound adjacent to his house, they opened fire on him.

Shah’s brother who was near by and rushed to the scene with a gun was shot dead by two assailants standing outside, they said. “Unknown gunmen shot dead Zaahir Shah and his brother and fled on motorcycles,” local police station chief Hassan Khan told AFP.

District police chief Shafi Ullah confirmed the incident.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility but Taliban militants have targeted police, politicians and government officials in the past. Last Friday up to 14 Taliban militants entered an air force base outside Peshawar and killed 29 people, in the deadliest attack in Pakistan since December when Taliban killed 154 people, most of them children, at an army-run school in Peshawar.

Friday’s attack was also the deadliest attack on a Pakistani military facility since the Pakistani Taliban rose up against the state in 2007.

The tribal badlands that lie just a short drive from Peshawar have been the scene of a major military offensive against Taliban and other militants over the past year.—AFP

Hungry brown bears terrorising Siberian villagers

MOSCOW — Famished brown bears are terrorising villagers in Siberia as drought and wildfires force the animals to search for food closer to built-up areas, an official told AFP Wednesday.

“Over the past two weeks, we have recorded 10 cases of hungry bears entering the outskirts of villages in the Irkutsk region,” Alexander Kayankin, an official with the region’s wildlife watchdog agency, part of the Russian environment ministry, told AFP.

Wildfires that ravaged some 2,000 square kilometres (750 square miles) of woodland as well as a drought have wiped out the bears’ principal foods such as berries and nuts.

Kayankin said there are an estimated 13,000 wild bears in the Irkutsk region of Siberia.

There are an estimated 13,000 wild bears in the Irkutsk region of Siberia. Photo: AFP

Foraging bears regularly make incursions into villages and towns in Russia. In July police started patrolling a cemetery in a far eastern city and escorting mourners after two bears stayed by the woods in search of food.—AFP

Asia hit hardest by natural disasters in 2014

GENEVA — Asia was the continent hit hardest by natural disasters in 2014, with China getting the worst of it with 58 million people affected, according to an annual report released Thursday in Geneva.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said in its 2015 World Disasters Report that while there were 317 natural disasters worldwide in 2014, it was actually the lowest number of the decade.

Disasters caused 8,186 deaths worldwide in 2014, but that mortality rate is the lowest since 1986 (7,303), and 90 percent lower than the decade average.

According to the report, 48 percent of all disasters occurred in Asia.

“Over 85 percent of those killed and 86 percent of those affected globally were also in Asia,” the report said.

The earthquake in China’s Yunnan province last August that killed 731 people was the deadliest disaster in 2014, and drought, storms and flooding affected some 58 million people in the country.

Continuing a 20-year-long trend, nearly nine out of ten disasters were climate related -- 87 percent in 2014.

The IFRC report also focused on “local actors”, and the need to fund more local humanitarian aid.

“Local actors are always the first to respond,” IFRC said.

It said that local actors are effective because “of the perspective they bring, their understanding of language and cultural norms, and because they are permanently present in communities and able to accompany them to address risks before disaster strikes.” —AFP

Xi hopes Chinese community in US contributes more to Sino-American friendship

NORTH KOREA blames ‘evil’ US for Europe’s migrant crisis

SEOUL — North Korea on Thursday offered its verdict on the migrant emergency facing Europe, blaming the “evil empire” United States for triggering the continent’s worst refugee crisis since World War II.

In a lengthy screech denouncing US President Barack Obama and defending North Korean rights record, a North Korean foreign ministry spokesman argued that Washington should be the real focus of censure.

“The US is an evil empire... committing all sorts of human rights abuses,” the spokesman said in a statement carried by the North’s official KCNA news agency. As an example, the spokesman cited the plight of the hundreds of thousands of migrants from war zones like Syria and Afghanistan who are seeking shelter in European countries.

“It is the US which caused the serious refugee issue sweeping the whole of Europe,” he said. “As the US started wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and other parts of the world, and fostered civilian wars under the pretenses of ‘war on terrorism’ and establishment of ‘democracy,’ refugees have been on a sharp increase,” he added. North Korea, by contrast was a “cradle of happy life”, the spokesman said.

The statement was a response to a recent discussion of North Korean rights violations at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. —AFP

Authorities have sought to reassure local residents and remind them of safety guidelines in case of a bear encounter. “Do not run away from the animal, climb up on a tree stump to show it your superiority and make a noise to scare it until it goes away”, Kayankin said.

“It is useless to look him straight in the eye, as some people incorrectly claim.”
Most people think that kindergarten is all about teaching the ABC’s and telling stories. What they don’t understand is that kindergarten takes place during a child’s formative years and that experiences acquired that period lay the foundation for the rest of the child’s educational career. It is also the time when vital life skills, such as sharing, self-help and responsibility are first introduced.

It is undeniable that teachers play a pivotal role in the type of adults children grow up to become and that most students view most of their teachers as inspirational role models. Students in Myanmar often turn to their teachers in times of challenge and need.

The onus is on the teachers to provide their young students with an education that will prepare them to use their full potential once their formal education is over. It is therefore imperative for teachers to recognize the responsibility they have and the importance of their role in shaping the future of their students.

In Myanmar culture, teachers are considered our first mentors in life and they are regarded in high esteem because they often possess traits such as kindness, dedication and sacrifice. Unfortunately, however, there is a misguided assumption that a kindergarten teacher is somehow a lesser equal to a high school teacher. In truth, the job of a kindergarten teacher requires at least as much passion and skill to carry out the job of being a kindergarten teacher.

Maung Hlaing

Regarding a journalist, a story that I read about four decades ago is still fresh in my mind. It may be the type of a humorous story ironically depicting the plight of a journalist who found himself between the devil and the deep sea. Editors of newspapers and magazines often go to extremes to provide their readers with unimportant facts and statistics. Once, a journalist had been instructed by a well-known magazine to write an article on the president’s palace in a new African republic.

When the article arrived, the editor read the first sentence and then refused to publish it. The article began, “Hundreds of steps led to the high wall which surrounds the president’s palace.” The editor at once sent the journalist a telegram instructing him to find out the exact number of steps and the height of the wall. The journalist immediately set out to obtain these important facts, but he took a long time to send them. Meanwhile, the editor was getting impatient, for the magazine would soon go to press. He sent the journalist two urgent telegrams but received no reply.

He sent yet another telegram informing the journalist that if he did not reply soon, he would be fired. When the journalist again failed to reply, the editor reluctantly published the article as he had originally been written.

A week later, the editor at last received a telegram from the journalist. Not only had the poor man been arrested but he had been sent to prison as well.

However, he had at last been allowed to send a cable in which he informed the editor that he had been arrested while counting 1,084 steps leading to the fifteen-foot wall which surrounded the president’s palace.

It happened nearly forty years ago before the Internet came into use. However, the journalist who found himself between the devil and the deep sea had to rely on his own resources and ingenuity to overcome the challenge.

“Accuracy first, accuracy second and accuracy third” — Joseph Pulitzer

The major challenge was that almost every department’s officials were very busy and their time was limited. Sometimes they may be aggressive. Sometimes they may be benign. Sometimes, they may be all smiles in a flattering manner when they want something they badly need. In doing so, a journalist has to rely on his own resources and ingenuity to overcome the challenge.

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From the Window of My Bed-room

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

My house is located in a market street in Kaba Aye. So there is a flurry of activities of sellers and buyers in the street from sun-rise to sun-set. My house is constantly exposed to different levels of noises. But, luckily, my bed-room happens to occupy the rearmost part of the house. So it is distanced from the noises. Except the time spent on having guests and watching television, I am confined to my bed-room, enjoying its privacy. Next to my bed-room in the same compound stands a two-storey brick building where my parents live. There is a clump of trees in front of that house. Apart from my bed-time, I always keep the only window of my bed-room open so that light and air can come into my room. As my bed-room and my parents’ house face to the same direction, the trees in front of my parents’ house form a regular sight to me. The trees are not many but only three in total — a tall mango tree, a neem tree and a creeper of unknown species climbing up the front fence.

Whenever I am tired of reading, writing and doing my house-hold chores my mind is overtaxed with a heavy load of duties, I deliberately throw my gaze out of the open window. What then come into my view are these trees. I find myself unable to evade my look from them. Never am I sick of their sight, for I, being a country-man, have a fondness for trees and animals. The fragrance of the neem has potency to cure blood-pressure, heart-disease, etc. The fragrance of the neem has a distanced smell. It is a miracle for me to see neem-leaves sprouting from the stems which retain the top-soil, the earth would be eroded and the land result in climatic aberration. If the ozone layer is depleted, the earth would be a job impossible to man. The trees can do it daily to make the earth a beautiful planet like our earth!

I observe some sparrows, lizards, chameleons, geckoes, etc in the meantime have to be left them. Then will our children, future generations will have to inherit them. Trees and animals growing in these forests have evolved through some ages. These landscapes, minerals, water, animals and trees are natural resources bequeathed to us by nature. If these non-renewable resources are today used excessive-ly, future generations will have to wait some million years to recover them. Then will our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc in the meantime have to be left underfed and ill-housed? Anyhow, Isn’t it up to the present generation to sustain these natural resources including trees? The author would like to conclude this article with some mottos — Let wild animals in deep forests live in wilderness! Let minerals underneath the earth lie intact! Let fishes swim freely in oceans! Let the trees on the earth grow green and lush! Let the ozone layer be protective! Let future generations be affluent!

May the earth be green and pleasant with trees for eternity!
Croatia bans entry of Serbian citizens as dispute escalates

ZAGREB — Croatia has banned Serbian citizens and cars from entering the country, Croatian border police told Reuters on Thursday, after Serbia imposed a ban on Croatian cargo traffic and goods late on Wednesday, helping plunge bilateral relations to their lowest point since the overthrow of late Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic in 2000.

Belgrade imposed its embargo in retaliation for border restrictions levied by European Union member Croatia, which has hit out at its eastern neighbor for directing the flow of migrants coming up through the Balkan peninsula over their joint border.

Zagreb had banned all trucks but those carrying perishable goods from entering the country from Serbia and shut seven of eight road border crossings, saying Serbia should direct the migrants to Hungary and Romania too.

“I am sorry about this. We had planned to open the border today but now we have to react to this,” Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic, whose center-left cabinet faces a parliamentary election this year, said after Serbia imposed the ban.

“There will be no war or violence, everything will be calm, but this is not normal behavior (by Serbia),” Milanovic said on television from Brussels, where he was attending a summit of EU leaders.

More than 40,000 migrants, many of them Syrian refugees, have entered Croatia from Serbia since Tuesday last week when Hungary, both countries’ neighbor to the north, barred their entry to the EU by sealing its southern border with Serbia with a metal fence.

Both Serbia and Croatia were part of communist Yugoslavia but Croatia broke away in 1991 and fought a war against Belgrade-backed Serb rebels until 1995.

Croatia joined the EU in 2013, and Serbia wants to follow suit. Serbia has been bussing migrants straight to the Croatian border after they enter Serbia from Macedonia.

Croatia is sending migrants north across its own border with Hungary, which in turn sends them to Austria, but Zagreb says it cannot cope with the numbers and wants Serbia to send some of the migrants to Hungary and Romania.

“I cannot allow that the people who travel in an uncontrolled way become organized at the end of their journey, that’s when the Serbian authorities come in, and end up at Croatia’s border,” Milanovic said.—Reuters

**Russia announces naval drills in ‘east Mediterranean’**

MOSCOW — Russia’s defense ministry on Thursday said it would hold naval drills in the “east Mediterranean” region in September and October, as the West frets over a growing dispute over the huge flow of migrants across their joint border.

“Serbian passport holders and cars registered in Serbia cannot enter Croatia until further notice,” a police officer told Reuters by telephone from Belgrade, the main crossing point between the two ex-Yugoslav republics.

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**US, Russia, Mideast need to help stop refugee tide: Merkel**

BERLIN — The European Union needs the support of the United States, Russia and the countries in the Middle East to help fight the causes of the influx of refugees seeking to enter the bloc, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday.

Merkel told the German parliament that the refugee situation could only be tackled by addressing the causes of the exodus.

“That can only happen with the support of our transatlantic partners, the United States, as well as with Russia and the states of the region of the Middle East because of the dreadful situation in Syria,” she said.

Merkel said an agreement reached by EU leaders overnight to pledge at least 1 billion euros ($1.12 billion) for Syrian refugees in the Middle East was a first step, which had to be built upon.—Reuters
More than 717 pilgrims die in stampede in worst Haj disaster in 25 years

MINA — At least 717 pilgrims were killed on Thursday in a stampede outside the Muslim holy city of Mecca, Saudi authorities said, the worst disaster to strike the annual Haj pilgrimage in 25 years.

At least 805 others were injured in the crush at Mina, a few kilometres east of Mecca, caused by two large groups of pilgrims arriving together at a crossroads on their way to performing the “stoning the devil” ritual at Marat, Saudi Arabia, civil defence said.

Thursday’s disaster was the worst to befall the pilgrimage since July 1990, when 1,426 pilgrims were crushed to death in a tunnel near Mecca. Both stampedes occurred on Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice), Islam’s most important feast and the day of the stoning ritual.

Photographs published on the Twitter feed of the Saudi civil defence on Thursday showed pilgrims lying on stretchers while emergency workers in high-visibility jackets lifted them into an ambulance.

The haj, the world’s largest annual gathering of people, has been the scene of numerous deadly stampedes, fires and riots in the past, but their frequency was greatly reduced in recent years as the government spent billions of dollars upgrading and expanding haj infrastructure and crowd control technology.

Safety during haj is a political issue for the kingdom’s ruling Al Saud dynasty, which presents itself internationally as the guardian of orthodox Islam and custodian of its holiest places in Mecca and Medina.

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Houthi group on Thursday in a mosque run by Yemen’s grounds, Yemen’s rulers and Saudi Arabia’s crown prince, described as less tense than feared. — Sanaa resident

EU leaders claim unity regained, pledge aid for Syrians

BRUSSELS — EU leaders pledged at least 1 billion euros ($1.1 billion) for Syrian refugees in the Middle East and closer co-operation to stem migrant flows into Europe at a summit described as less tense than feared after weeks of feuding.

Chairman Donald Tusk said the meeting, which ended early on Thursday after seven hours of talks in Brussels, was “really excellent, for sure much better than we expected”.

He heard “very substantial and energetic” exchanges between the Austrian and Hungarian leaders, whose common border was among those disrupted by chaotic crowds of migrants this summer, but not the mutual recrimination that has threatened to tear apart the bloc’s cherished passport-free Schengen zone.

“There is a feeling that the problem is not solved with the decision taken. But we have taken one of many necessary steps. I got the feeling that we want to tackle this task together,” Hakim said.

He held at short notice after governments fell out badly over a scheme to share out responsibilities for asylum-seekers around the EU, the summit carried political rather than legal weight. A joint statement read: “We can only manage this challenge by working together in a spirit of solidarity and responsibility.”

Among short-term actions before the next regular summit in mid-October, the EU would offer at least 1 billion euros more to the UN refugee agency UNHCR, its World Food Programme and other agencies and increase funding for Syrian refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and other countries — part of a broad push to ease factors driving Syrians to risk sailing to Europe.

“It is close to the scene of the tragedy that the refugees must be kept, welcomed, supported,” said French President Francois Hollande, renewing a call for global cooperation by wealthy powers to continue in some of the most needy cases.

As part of efforts to win cooperation from Turkey, locked in a long love-hate relationship with Europe and host to some 2 million Syrian refugees, Tusk and EU chief executive Jean-Claude Juncker will host President Tayyip Erdogan on 5 October.

The summit set a November deadline for Greece and Italy to have EU-staffed “hotspots” in place to register and fingerprint new arrivals and start a process of relocating Syrians and others likely to win refugee status to other EU states and deporting those regarded as unwanted economic migrants.

Two suicide bombers kill at least 10 at Houthi-run Yemeni mosque

SANAA — Two suicide bombers killed at least 10 people at a mosque run by Yemen’s Houthi group on Thursday in the capital Sanaa, where Muslim worshippers were celebrating the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday, medics and witnesses said.

A Houthi militant walks inside the al-Balili mosque after two bombings hit the mosque in Yemen’s capital Sanaa, 24 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Houthi Ansarullah fighters have killed hundreds of Yemenis since they seized Sanaa and the lead of its makeshift government, set up in the capital this year.

They have made every effort to disrupt the annual pilgrimage, both in Sanaa and elsewhere, citing it as an illegal and heretical.

A second suicide bomber detonated his explosives when Houthi guards tried to stop him rushing deep inside the mosque.

“We tossed out and summarised the ambulances,” one witness said. The Houthi militia group’s website said at least 10 people were killed in the attack.

Medics said at least 36 other people were wounded in the attack.

Arab media have put the death toll at at least 25.

Medics and witnesses said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack at al-Balili mosque just outside the Old City of Sanaa, but it appeared to resemble previous bombings by Islamic State that have killed hundreds of Yemenis since they seized Sanaa and the lead of its makeshift government, set up in the capital this year.

A Houthi militant walks inside the al-Balili mosque after two bombings hit the mosque in Yemen’s capital Sanaa, 24 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

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British Museum reveals shifting identity of the Celts

LONDON — A new exhibition on the story of the Celts opens at the British Museum on Thursday, tracing the shifting use of the term through artworks covering 2,500 years of history from Scotland to Spain.

“Celts: art and identity” examines the origin and usage of the term, which was given to the ancient Greeks to refer to barbarians from the north, and later used for the Celtic revival of the last 300 years in the British Isles.

Using jewellery, swords, carved stone crosses and massive armlets weighing more than a kilogramme (2.2 pounds), the London museum shows how Celts have often been set apart from their neighbours.

“Celts can be a slippery term,” said Julian Frearley, curator of the British Museum’s Iron Age collections.

“The story we are telling isn’t so much the story of a people as the story about a label,” she said.

In around 500 BC, the Greeks called their northern barbarian neighbours “Keltos”. It was a blanket term describing diverse tribes beyond the frontier rather than a specific people.

“Because the Celts didn’t really write anything down, we learn everything through the lens of the ancient Greeks. And to them it wasn’t necessary to distinguish between the different tribes,” project curator Rosie Weetch told AFP. While Greek society was structured around cities, Celts lived in farmsteads and small village communities. But their accomplishments were on a par with the finest achievements of Greek and Roman artists.

More than 250 objects have been selected from the collections of the British Museum and others across Europe to illustrate the skill of the Celtic peoples.

They include the Gundestrup cauldron, the largest known example of European Iron Age silver work, which was found in a peat bog in Denmark. As the Roman empire expanded, it took in lands that had been considered Celtic, such as Spain and Gaul.

The exhibits show how a hybrid Romano-British culture emerged, with local designs appearing on Roman helmets. The final section of the exhibition deals with the Celtic revival in the British Isles, which began around 300 years ago. The forgotten word eventually came to be used for the related pre-Roman languages of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man and Brittany in northern France.

It led to the creation of a re-imagined, romanticised Celtic past that began to appear in art and literature as 19th-century discoveries fired up public imagination.—AFP

Wine, veal, roasting pig: Napoleon’s St Helena feast

LONDON — Fifty bottles of wine, four ducks, and a roasting pig: the feast of food and drink enjoyed by French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte during his exile on Saint Helena was revealed Wednesday in a document auctioned in Britain.

The ink-on-the-edge inhabitants of Napoleon’s household on the island, Longwood, including loyal aide General Henri Gatien Bertrand and his family, and numerous staff including “32 Chinese”. Each day, the entourage were delivered 23 kilos of beef and veal, 23 kilos of mutton or pork, 31 kilos of bread, 42 eggs and 15 bottles of milk, two turkeys, two geese, 12 pigeons and nine fowl, in addition to the pig and ducks.

And to accompany the vast quantities of wine, also on the list were malt liquor, rum and cognac.

“This fascinating document gives a detailed insight into the quality and quantity of wine, spirits and food that were enjoyed by Napoleon and his retinue during his exile on St Helena,” explained auction house Woolley and Wallis.

It sold for £976 ($1,330 euros) at auction on Wednesday in the southern city of Salisbury, England.

Signed by Denzil Ibbetson, a British officer and artist who served on St. Helena, the inventory is dated 13 October, 1820.—AFP

‘Super blood moon’ to give stargazers a rare show

PARIS — For the first time in decades, skygazers are in for the double spectacle Monday of a swollen “supermoon” bathed in the blood-red light of a total eclipse.

The celestial show, visible from the Americas, Europe, Africa, west Asia and the east Pacific, will be the result of the Sun, Earth and a larger-than-life, extra-bright Moon lining up for just over an hour from 0211 GMT.

“It will be quite exciting and especially dramatic,” predicted astronomer Sam Lindsay of the Royal Astronomical Society in London.

“It’ll be brighter than usual, bigger than usual.”

The Moon will be at its closest orbital point to Earth, called perigee, while also in its brightest phase.

The resulting “supermoon” will look 30 percent brighter and 14 percent larger than when at apogee, the farthest point — which is about 49,800 kilometres (31,000 miles) from perigee. Unusually, our planet will take position in a straight line between the Moon and the Sun, blotting out the direct sunlight that usually makes our satellite glow whitish-yellow.

But some light will still creep around Earth’s edges and be filtered through its atmosphere, casting an eerie red light that creates the “blood moon”.

The Moon travels to a similar position every month, but the tilt of its orbit means it normally passes above or below the Earth’s shadow — so most months have a full moon minus eclipse.

For people younger than 33, this will be their first-ever chance to see a “super blood moon”.

The last, only the fifth recorded since 1900, was in 1982, according to the NASA space agency, and the next will not be until 2033.

If the weather holds, that is — the spectacle would not be visible behind cloud cover.

On top of the wow factor, the event is also of great interest for researchers.

Over a 24-day cycle, the temperature on the surface of our satellite normally ammles between highs of about 121 degrees Celsius (250 degrees Fahrenheit) in direct sunlight, and lows around minus 115 C in the shade.

These changes help researchers study the composition of the crust, as rocks warm and cool slower than sand-like dust.

But on Monday, the eclipse will see that temperature shift happen over the eclipse’s duration, allowing the observable change to the outer very outer surface, said Noah Petro, deputy project scientist for NASA’s lunar orbiter.

“That almost instant change tells us about the upper few centimetres of the surface. We’re getting a very fine, unique measurement of the uppermost surface,” Petro told AFP.

Monday’s “blood moon” will be the last in a string of four total lunar eclipses since 15 April, 2014, in a series astronomers call a tetrad.

These phenomena may be a normal part of the celestial calendar today, but for many ancient peoples it was an omen of bad things to come.

“Throughout history many cultures have seen (eclipses) as being a sign of gloom and doom,” Petro said. They were never said to be wrong.

In February 1504, explorer Christopher Columbus used a blood moon to trick Jamaican natives who had been feeding him and his men, but cut them off when relations turned sour. Columbus knew a blood moon had been forecast, and warned the natives that his god would send an angry “sign” at their treatment of the newcomers. Legend has it the natives came running with food as soon as the Moon turned red.

Unlike a solar eclipse, which creates the impression of a bright “ring” of light as the Moon passes before our star, there is no danger in watching Monday’s lunar spectacle with the naked eye, the experts say.—AFP
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Invitation to Tender
Joint Venture Project of LPG Importation, Storage, Distribution and Marketing
by using Existing Facilities of LPG Terminal in Thanylin Refinery Area
Tender No. (1-MLTJV/ 2015-2016)

1. The Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE), a State-owned Enterprise of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, operating under the Ministry of Energy, announces an Invitation to Tender for Joint Venture Project of LPG Importation, Storage, Distribution and Marketing by using Existing Facilities of LPG Terminal in Thanylin Refinery Area. The purpose of the Joint Venture is to fulfill the domestic LPG demand growth with stable supply.

2. All interested parties, Myanmar citizen companies or foreign companies, are cordially invited to lodge a submission in accordance with the tender documents. If the Myanmar citizen company has in relation with foreign company which has worldwide experience in LPG business, it will be preferred. In the tender document, the following facts are included:
   a) Refurbishment and upgrading plan for LPG terminal facilities such as storage tanks, control system, safety system, firefighting system, jetty and etc.
   b) Expansion of LPG filling facilities and LPG storage tanks under requirement of local demand
   c) Proposed land lease rate for existing area of LPG Terminal
   d) Proposed MPE’s assets value for existing LPG Terminal facilities
   e) Proposed capital contribution
   f) Business and financing plan
   g) Economic model and cash flow
   h) Human Resources Development plan and Corporate Social Responsibility program

3. The Tender Documents with further details related to the LPG Terminal can be purchased by any interested parties commencing 30 September 2015 upon submission of receipt of payment for 1,500,000 Kyats (One Million and Five Hundred Thousand Kyats) to the following address.

4. Applicants shall submit the proposal in person no later than 5 November 2015 at 12:00 noon to and for more information, contact the following address:
   Managing Director
   Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise
   Ministry of Energy
   Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
   milp.Project@gmail.com
   Fax: +95 67 411124, +95 67 411126

5. If the applicant is a foreign company or Myanmar citizen company joining with foreign company, recommendation of the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of company’s registration or establishment or nearest shall be submitted along with tender proposal or within one week after submission of tender proposal.

6. Late inquiries or inquiries via telephone will not be answered.

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KAI MING VOY NO (**)**
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KAI MING VOY NO (*) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SERVICES CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (081W)**
Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (081W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

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**WEATHER REPORT**

**BAY INERENCE:** Weather is cloudy in the North Bay, monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay, weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 25th September, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagain, Yangon and Ayeayawady Regions, Rakhine and Kayin States, scattered in Bago Region and Chin State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon – Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30 - 35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar areas.

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**Next Bond will be male, white: Pierce Brosnan**

SYDNEY — Australia was facing pressure on Thursday to deny entry to American singer and hip-hop star Chris Brown over his history of domestic abuse, as Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull pledged A$100 million ($70.05 million) to combat violence against women.

Brown, who pre-orders the album, to play band's concert at Camden's Roundhouse Theater in London, where they were performing as part of the Apple Music Festival.

**Holy lawsuit, Batman! US court affirm Batmobile's copyright**

SAN FRANCISCO — The Batmobile, the indispensable crime fighting vehicle driven by comic book hero Batman, has enough distinct character traits to qualify for copyright protection, a US appeals court has ruled.

The 9th US Circuit of Appeals on Wednesday affirmed a ruling by a lower court judge that Ikuta wrote. The case in the federal district court in Los Angeles involves whether Warner Bros. owns a copyright in the Batmobile.

**One Direction announce new album, release album art**

LONDON — Chart-topping boy band One Direction have revealed the name and artwork for their fifth album, to be called "Made in the A.M." One Direction have also released a track from the album, "Infinity," for anybody who pre-orders the album, to be released on 13 November, or streams it through online retailers. The announcement came on Tuesday ahead of the band's concert at Camden’s Roundhouse Theater in London, where they were performing as part of the Apple Music Festival.

Dozens of excited fans lined up outside the venue hours before the show started to see band members Harry Styles, Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson in person.

"We’re gonna be quite close so, I’ve never been that close to them so I don’t know how I’ll react. I’ll probably cry," one female fan said.

"Knowing Harry Styles will be there makes me want to get up every day," another said.

The intimate gig may be one of the band’s last for a while since they said that they would be taking a break in March 2016.

The foursome were a five piece until Zayn Malik quit in March earlier this year.---Reuters
MILAN — Milan kicked off its catwalk shows for next spring’s women’s wear on Wednesday with designers presenting rich, embellished collections amid expectations of growing sales.

After New York and London, Italy’s fashion capital picks up the baton with six days of spring/summer 2016 shows and presentations showcasing the latest offerings from global brands such as Giorgio Armani, Dolce and Gabbana and Versace.

Among the first to display their creations on Wednesday were Italian fashion brands Genny and Fay.

Genny Creative director Sara Cavazza Facchini mixed art deco shapes with 1980s metallics for her line of dresses, wide-leg trousers and jumpsuits.

Models wore silk dresses and tunics with slit sleeves which revealed shoulders and arms falling into embroidered wrists.

Cavazza Facchini said she was inspired by artist Sonia Delaunay, known for her use of vibrant colors and geometric shapes, for her patterned evening dresses. A floaty emerald green dress provided the only bold color in a palette mainly of white, gold, silver and bronze.

Fay, part of the Tod’s luxury goods group, went for a 1970s style with colorful patterned prints and rich embroidery in short skirts and corset-style waistscoats.

Designers Tommaso Aquilano and Roberto Rimondi presented dresses, from minis to just above the knee, and military-style jackets in black and white, pink, maroon, navy and mustard.

They used paisley patterns on clothes and accessories, which included bags, sandals as well as calf-high boots, a surprise element in a spring line.

“No fashion has to be very eclectic, heterogeneous,” Aquilano said.

“We now need clothes that can be used in between autumn/winter and spring/summer.”

The shows are set against a upbeat mood among Italy’s fashion sector as the national chamber of fashion has forecast a five percent rise in sales this year to 64.5 billion euros ($72.06 billion).

Milan Fashion Week runs until Monday. Among the most-anticipated shows will be celebrity-favorite Roberto Cavalli’s, where Norwegian designer Peter Dundas makes his debut as creative director.—Reuters

### Harvard spiffs up dorms with original masterpiece prints

**BOSTON** — Dorm life can be anything but classy, but Harvard University students are being offered the chance to rent valuable original prints of masterpieces by the likes of Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Andy Warhol.

Under the Student Print Rental Programme run by the Harvard Art Museums, students living in Harvard housing can pay $50 to rent an original print, said Jessica Dedalis, the curricular registrar at the Harvard Art Museums.

The programme, which had been on hiatus since 2008 because of museum construction, began in 1972 with an anonymous donation. Museum officials now curate a special collection for students of the Ivy League school in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to select from on the first days of class each year.

Of the 275 prints available, 177 have been claimed for this academic year, Dedalis said.

“We want (students) to be inspired by it, to absorb something special in addition to what might already be going up on their walls,” she said. Students sign a contract that holds them responsible for any damages to the rare works, but Dedalis said there had been no problem in the past. “We find that the students are very careful.” —Reuters

### US judge rules copyright for ‘Happy Birthday’ invalid

**LOS ANGELES**

A US judge on Tuesday ruled that Warner-Chappell Music does not own a valid copyright to one of the world’s most recognizable songs, “Happy Birthday to You,” a decision that brings the song into the public domain.

The highly-anticipated ruling comes in a putative class-action lawsuit filed by several artists against Warn er-Chappell, the music publishing arm of Warner Music Group, over the song in 2013 seeking a return of the millions of dollars in fees the company has collected over the years.

In order to make his ruling, US District Judge George H King had to delve into the song’s long and complicated history, which began in 1893 with the publication of a melody called “Good Morning to All” in a kindergarten songbook, written by a Kentucky woman named Mildred Hill and her sister, Patty. That melody eventually came to be sung with the familiar Happy Birthday lyrics, which Patty also claimed to have written, according to court records.

Warner’s copyright originated with the Hill sisters’ publisher, the Clayton F Summy Co, later known as Birch Tree and acquired by Warner in 1988. Summy had obtained registrations to “Happy Birthday” in 1935, according to court papers.

“Defendants ask us to find that the Hill sisters eventually gave Summy Co the rights in the lyrics to exploit and protect, but this assertion has no support in the record,” King wrote in his 43-page opinion.

“The Hill sisters gave Summy Co the rights to the melody, and the rights to piano arrangements based on the melody, but never any rights to the lyrics,” he added. Warner could not be immediately reached for comment.

“Happy Birthday” is finally free after 80 years, Randall Newman, an attorney for the artists including filmmakers working on a documentary about the song, told the Los Angeles Times. “Finally, the chal lenge is over. It’s unbelievable.”

The case garnered attention from around the world not only because the tune is so commonly performed, but because many were not aware it was still under copyright, let alone purportedly owned by a major corporation.

People who sing Happy Birthday in their homes or at private gatherings have typically never been at risk of a lawsuit. But when the song has been used for commercial purposes, such as in films, Warner has enforced its rights, and takes in an estimated $2 million in royalties for such uses each year.—Reuters
Japan’s 105-year-old “Golden Bolt” sets sprint record, misses personal best

Japanese centenarian Hideki Miyazaki set a fresh record as the world’s oldest competitive sprinter this week, one day after turning 105, but said he was disappointed at falling short of his own personal best.

“I wanted to shave off a few more seconds as I got 36 seconds while training,” Miyazaki, wearing a bright red T-shirt and running shorts, said after completing his heat with a time of 42.22 on Wednesday. His personal record of 34.10, chalked up when he was 103, remains unbeaten for centenarians.

Born on 22 September, 1910, Miyazaki was already eight when World War One ended and 34 when Japan was defeated in World War Two. He did not start running until he was in his 90s, since many of the friends with whom he had played the Japanese board game “Go” had passed away, according to Guinness World Records.

Miyazaki, known as the “Golden Bolt” for imitating Jamaican Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt’s famed lightning bolt pose, says he longs for the opportunity to challenge the fastest man in the world, according to Guinness World Records.

Asked the secret of his success, Miyazaki said he exercised daily, ate in moderation and chewed his food properly. “The doctors are all surprised. It’s all about being in good health,” he told reporters. Japan, which on Monday marked “Respect for the Aged Day”, tops the world in number of people over age 65 years old. The number of people over 80 topped 10 million for the first time, of whom 60,000 are over 100 years old, according to a report issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs this week.—Reuters

Old rivals Australia and US in 2016 Davis Cup clash

TRADITIONAL rivals Australia and the United States will clash in the first round of the 2016 Davis Cup, while Great Britain and Japan will meet for only the second time, after the draw was made on Wednesday.

Australia (28) and the US (32) have won the Davis Cup 60 times altogether, though neither is the power it used to be, with only one win each this century.

Britain, who will play Belgium in this year’s final in November, will start their 2016 campaign at home against Kei Nishikori’s Japan, 85 years after their only previous meeting.

The draw for the World Group, made in Santiago, Chile, also served up Switzerland with a potentially tricky away tie against Italy.

The powerful Swiss, headed by Roger Federer and Stan Wawrinka, have split their past six ties against their neighbour.

World number one Novak Djokovic’s Serbia will host Kazakhstan, while France, under new captain Yannick Noah, will host Canada.

The first round ties will be played 4-6 March. Under Davis Cup regulations, the home team chooses the surface.—Reuters

Celta stun Barca 4-1, Real’s Benzema hits double to sink Bilbao

BARCELONA — A Karim Benzema brace gave Real Madrid a 2-1 victory at Athletic Bilbao and lifted them to the top of La Liga on goal difference ahead of Celta Vigo, who thrashed Barcelona 4-1 on Wednesday with Iago Aspas hitting a double.

The Frenchman took full advantage of a poor backpass by Mikel San Jose and fired home to put Real ahead after 19 minutes. Bilbao showed typical fighting spirit and a fine diving header from Sabin Merino ended Real keeper KEYNAVA’s record unbeaten start to the season after 67 minutes, but they were only level for three minutes.

Benzema, a threat all night to the Athletic rearguard, was quickest to an Isco cross and knocked it in from close range. Real and Celta now have 13 points after five games while Barca are a point behind.

After disappointing spells at Liverpool and Sevilla, Aspas is back to his best this season having returned to Celta and struck clinical finishes in either half against a Barca side who were far from their normal dominant selves.

Nolito, a former Barca youth player, fired his fifth goal in as many games to put Celta ahead after 25 minutes with a pinpoint curling drive from the left of the area. Aspas then chipped the ball over keeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen for the second minutes later.

It was clear that it was not going to be Barca’s day when Lionel Messi struck the woodwork and then shortly after Aspas latched onto a long punt forward, evaded a challenge from Dani Alves, and found the corner with his shot.

Messi set up Neymar for the second minutes later.

The players in the blue of Celta could have been mistaken for Barca the way they pressed the visitors back with their quick movement and link-up play.

Ter Stegen could only get his fingertips to Nolito’s strike into the top corner and then Gerard Pique hesitated in possession on the halfway line with the ball finding its way to Aspas who ran through and lifted the ball over the keeper.

After the break Barca pressed forward but left themselves wide open at the back. Messi hit the woodwork and then shortly after Aspas latched onto a long punt forward, evaded a challenge from Dani Alves, and found the corner with his shot.

Messi set up Neymar for a consolation but Guidetti was then given space in the area and cracked the ball home.—Reuters

PyinOoLwin clinches Mandalay tennis competition

Mandalay — Pyin Oo Lwin Township clinched the Mandalay Region inter-township tennis tournament on Wednesday, which began on 19 September. The tournament attracted 125 players from 25 townships in various categories. A trophy and cash prize of K300,000 was given to the winning team.—Maung