SIGNING DATE SET
Gov’t, ethnic armed groups lock in Oct 15 for the inking of ceasefire

Ye Myint

THE government and some ethnic armed groups will ink the nationwide ceasefire accord on 15 October, said a senior adviser from Myanmar Peace Centre during a press conference on Sunday.

The exact date for the signing of the truce deal was set at a meeting between the government’s Union Peace-Making Work Committee and representatives from eight ethnic groups in Yangon, said senior adviser U Hla Maung Shwe.

The signing ceremony is scheduled to take place on 15 October at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, it was agreed that a joint committee comprising 10 each from both sides would be formed to organize the NCA signing ceremony, he added.

P’doih Saw Kwe Htoo Win, general secretary of Karen National Union and Yebaw Myo Win, vice-chairman of All Burma Students’ Democratic Front were present at the press conference.

“The NCA is open to 15 ethnic groups the government has invited, but we did not discuss which groups will be a signatory to the pact at the today’s meeting. The number of signatories can be confirmed shortly before the signing ceremony.”

The meeting to decide the signing date for NCA was attended by eight ethnic armed groups, including the Karen National Union, Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council, Pa-O National Liberation Organization, All Burma Students’ Democratic Front, Chin National Front, Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army, Arakan Liberation Party and Democratic Karen Buddhist Army.

P’doih Saw Kwe Htoo Win of KNU, one of seven groups that recently decided to sign the deal whilst at high level meetings in Chiang Mai, Thailand, said that trust will be built by fully implementing the terms of the truce.

According to the press conference, the United Nations, the European Union, China, India, Thailand and Japan will be invited to attend.

Other invitees include 67 foreign embassies, 92 political parties and civil society organizations, plus the leaders of non-signatories to the ceasefire.

The MPC senior adviser affirmed that the President, vice presidents, the Commander-in-Chief and the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services will sign the ceasefire agreement on behalf of the government.

MPC’s senior adviser told the media that signatories to the agreement will be removed from the government’s list of outlawed organizations with close ties to Myanmar will also be invited to attend.

Traffic police invite complaints

Traffic police invite complaints

YANGON Region Traffic Police has invited the public to report complaints about fellow motorists who break road rules as well as corrupt traffic officials.

During a weekly press conference in Yangon on Friday, Traffic Police Commander Aung Ko Oo said that complaints, including those accompanied by photographs, can be lodged with the police via its Facebook page or on Viber.

He said the new channels of communication were launched in the middle of August, however public awareness remains low.

From 18 to 24 September, there were 40 traffic accidents in Yangon Region, causing 12 fatalities and injuring 33, according to Yangon Region Traffic Police Office.

“We’ve taken action against 1,259 vehicles as of 30 September — of those, 630 were private drivers, 307 were taxis, 169 were buses and trucks were 153,” Colonel Aung Ko Oo said.

Complaints can be submitted to the police via its Yangon Traffic Police Facebook page or its Viber numbers: 097309 3226, 097912 0328 and 0979525 4730 and 0907122 0950.

Tourist cruise liner arrives in Thilawa

CRUISE liner Insignia carrying 407 crew members and 635 US and Canadian tourists arrived in Yangon International Thilawa Terminal on Sunday.

The cruise liner left Sri Lanka under the arrangement of Destination Asia Co, Ltd and some of the tourists will visit Bagan, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Thanlyin during their 3-day stay in Myanmar before proceeding to Thailand.

---Khin Maung Htay
Ceremony of laws for protection of race and religion held in Yangon

A CEREMONY to mark the emergence of laws for protection of race and religion was held at the National Stadium-1 in Thuwunna in Yangon on Sunday.

The ceremony was organized by Organization for Protection of Race and Religion (Cenral).

Leading monks of the organization delivered speeches at the ceremony.

On behalf of interfaith organizations, Dr Thar Nyan delivered a speech while Actor Nay Aung explained the four laws for protection of race and religion.

Presiding monks of the organization responded to questions raised by participants. Among about 100,000 participants were diplomats and officials of political parties and civil society organizations.— Zawgyi (Panita)

Union Minister meets university professors

UNION Minister of the President’s Office U Soe Thane explained ongoing reform efforts to professors and faculty members at Yangon University and Yangon University of Economics on Sunday.

U Soe Thane said that the government is increasing spending on education year on year, in addition to assistance provided by the international community.

To date, 116 students have received presidential scholarships to study abroad. “Investing in education is a top priority of this government,” the union minister said.

The union minister was shown around the campus by academic staff, whom he encouraged to work hard to train the next generation of scholars.—MNA

Hypertension awareness discussion in Mandalay

MANDALAY General Hospital held public awareness talks on hypertension on 3 October. The lectures were delivered by the cardiologist and professor Dr Than Than Kyaing.

The professor spoke about preventive measures against hypertension, recommended diets and encouraged attendees to exercise for at least 30 minutes every day. Attendees were given free blood pressure and sugar level tests.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Logistics course for SMEs opens in Mandalay

A LOGISTICS course for small and medium enterprises opened at Mandalay Region Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Chanayethasan Township, Mandalay, on 3 October.

The course is a project of the federation’s Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development Subcommittee.

Logistics specialist Mr van den Wall Bake of the Netherlands’ Business Development Assistant Organisation and its country representative U Kyaw Myo addressed the audience at the opening ceremony.

The course will be attended by SME entrepreneurs and members of Mandalay Region FCCI affiliate groups.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Female voters spurn female candidates: survey

Women appear to be ambivalent about the idea of being represented in parliament by women and are less interested in the parliament by women and female voters and efforts on voting practices, views on women leaders, political engagement of male and female voters and efforts at greater inclusion of women in political affairs.

According to the survey, 50 percent of the respondents said they would vote for female candidates. The majority of respondents said they would not vote for female candidates.

Daw Than Thin Aung, who works for a local organisation that promotes women’s empowerment, noted, “This poses a huge challenge to female candidates.”

Prevailing cultural attitudes toward the role of women in society are the main barriers to female candidates’ perceived electability, according to 44 percent of the respondents.

When asked if they would vote based on policies, 60 percent of respondents replied in the affirmative. Twenty percent of respondents— especially those in Rakhine and Mon states— said they would vote for parties that represent their own ethnic group.

WPA also found that public awareness campaigns and door-to-door canvassing are the most effective campaign methods. The survey found that 55 percent of respondents said they get election information from newspapers and other media, while only five percent of respondents actively sought information from the Union Election Commission. The survey shows that the ratio of women’s participation in the election has increased since Myanmar’s last democratic election was held 25 years ago. However, a political analyst familiar with the survey said it would be unlikely that the proportion of women in parliament would exceed 10 percent.—GNL
Primary education is fundamental to our new education system

MY warmest greetings to all teachers across Myanmar on the occasion of World Teachers’ Day. On 5 October, the whole world celebrates society’s educators. Our country has a long tradition of holding teachers in high esteem, both as generous benefactors of education and as role models possessing the strongest moral compass.

More than ever before, society demands education par excellence. There is now recognition that quality teachers are an enormous asset in our ability to develop top tier human resources.

A new global education goal has been embedded in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. It calls for “ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.” To realise this goal, World Teachers’ Day 2015 is celebrated with the theme of ‘Empowering Teachers, Building Sustainable Societies.’

In Myanmar there are 8.8 million students and some 300,000 teachers at basic education level. There are another 600,000 students and 20,000 teachers at the tertiary level. This government has rolled out policies to ensure that teachers are well-trained and adequate- ly recruited to work within well-resourced and efficient environments. These measures are designed to satisfy the annual rise in the number of students in Myanmar.

The Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) was undertaken as a collaborative effort between local and foreign development partners in 2012. As a result of the findings and recommendations of the review, the National Education Law was passed on 30 September 2014. This was followed by the National Education Amendment Law on 25 June this year.

Primary education is fundamental to our new education system, which is why new textbooks will be provided to pre-primary students in the 2016-17 academic year. As for higher education, I anticipate that universities and colleges will benefit greatly from being granted professional autonomy and wider academic freedoms.

The emergence of a talented new generation depends on the quality and efficiency of our teachers. At a time when the government is investing every effort into revitalising nationwide education standards, teachers are requested to play their part with the deepest sincerity and commitment.

Printing ballot papers for 32 million voters is no easy task

MYANMAR’s general elections of 8 November will be nothing short of historic, so it’s little wonder that the international community is taking a keen interest.

One of the most important tasks is the printing of ballot papers. The printing itself must meet quality standards, time constraints and avoid any wastage of the costly papers. Officials told The Global New Light of Myanmar that they are trying their level best to fulfil their responsibilities and ensure the elections go smoothly. “We started printing ballot papers on 11 September and we are confident that we’ll be able to complete the job by the third week of October,” General Manager U Ko Ko Naing of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information said last week.

PPE is responsible for printing ballot papers and it is printing no less than 1,159 different types, the general manager said.

The ballot papers have been imported from Indonesia and have inbuilt anti-counterfeit measures. The papers have watermarks and are printed on specialised ‘80 GSM paper.’ The printing is taking place in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon to ensure timely completion. Officials from the Union Election Commission are overseeing the operations at the printing houses and strategies have been devised to ensure that ballot papers are issued in the country’s most-thrung areas.

“I am responsible for checking that the final voters’ lists contain accurate details – this includes the names of candidates, political parties, and constituencies — and so on,” Assistant Director U Than Hlaing of UEC explained.

Security is tight at the printing facilities. Printing personnel follow the instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which are designed to ensure the highest level of security management, said Manager U Min Ko Ko of Printing Factory in Nay Pyi Taw.

Printing ballot papers for Myanmar’s franchised population of 32 million is no easy task, but PPE’s general manager expressed confidence that the mission will be accomplished. —Myint Maung Soe

What they stand for: campaigns aired

The Kayin Unity Democratic Party, Lhaovo National Unity and Development Party, and New Era Public Party broadcast campaign speeches on Sunday.

U Tha Aung Nyun accredited to South Africa

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Mauritius.—MNA

Daw Yin Yin Myint accredited to Germany

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Yin Yin Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Estonia.—MNA

Three party speeches to be broadcast today

CAMPAIGN speeches delivered by representatives from Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party, Confederate Farmers Party (C.F.P.) and Akha National Development Party will be broadcast on state radio and television networks on 5 October. MRTV, the Hluttaw channel, Myawady TV, Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast the speeches.—GNLM
Thai Princess Sirindhorn visits Myeik

THAI Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited Myeik of Taninthayi Region yesterday to pay homage to the town’s significant pagoda and visit religious buildings. While in Myeik, the Thai delegation visited Laygyunsemi Theindawgyi Pagoda, Tawkyayun Paryiati Monatery in Alelgyun Ward and Mogok Vipassana Meditation Centre in Myeiktaung Village-tract where they observed several ancient pagodas and halls of originations. The princess left Myeik for the capital Nay Pyi Taw in the evening. — MNA

Kwingyi village gets solar-powered electricity

THE Rural Development Department in Ayeyawady Region has installed solar panels in 131 houses in Kwingyi village to give residents access to electricity. The solar panels were installed by the Full Jewel Company and cost K25.9 million (US$20,150), which was provided by the Rural Development Department.

The project is part of an initiative of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development to develop rural areas.

The nearby village of Poesugyi is also set to receive solar panels. The village’s 293 houses will receive K58 million ($45,075) of solar panels, which will be installed by the Myanmar Solar Power Company.— DRD

New hotel opens in Mandalay

Hotel Ye Myanmar in Mandalay ready to serve visitors. Photo: Thha Ko Ko

HOTEL Ye Myanmar, located in Maha Aung Myae Township in Mandalay, held its grand opening ceremony on 3 October. The event was attended by Mandalay Mayor U Aung Maung and Mandalay Region Social Welfare Minister Dr Win Hline.

The hotel features a ballroom, 37 standard rooms, 11 superior rooms, four deluxe rooms and four suites. The hotel will provide a premium service to its guests, including free transport to Mandalay’s express bus terminal, railway station and airport.

Mandalay is the country’s second largest city and its status as the last royal capital draws a large number of tourists, who flock to sites such as Mandalay Palace, Mandalay Hill and U Bein Bridge. A number of new hotels are likely to open to cater for the increasing numbers of tourists visiting Myanmar, which the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism expects will reach 4.5 million in 2015.— Thha Ko Ko

Farming watercress proves a boon for Tatkon farmers

Farmers in Tatkon Township say their livelihoods have improved by cultivating water convolvulus, also known as watercress.

Farmer U Kyi Thein from Peintaw said that watercress takes is ready to sell at the market just a month after planting it, and said that his family earns K17,000 every day from his half-acre watercress patch. Watercress is a common ingredient in Myanmar dishes and is known to be highly nutritious.— Tin Soe Lwin IPRD

Security meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw ahead of elections

SECURITY Minister Colonel Min Naung urged officials to carry out their duties to the best of their abilities during a security coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

With a little over a month left to go before the general election on November 8, the Myanmar Police Force has begun tightening security in the capital city and recruiting special security personnel. Military officers and members of the media also attended the meeting.— Zaw Myo Naing
Two ex-justice ministers join anti-death penalty rally

TOKYO — Around 200 people gathered in Tokyo on Saturday to seek the abolition of capital punishment prior to the 10 Oct World Day Against the Death Penalty, with two former justice ministers joining them to share their experience of having the power to issue execution orders.

At the meeting, Seiken Sugiru, who served as justice minister from 2005 to 2006 under a Liberal Democratic Party government, said, “After becoming justice minister in October 2005, I seriously thought about capital punishment, and I could not come up with an answer about why we dare to claim lives of death-row inmates, even if they committed heinous crimes.” Sugiru did not issue execution orders during his tenure. Since withdrawing from politics, the certified lawyer has been involved in in-house debates at the Japan Federation of Bar Associations about the death penalty.

“I examined documents of some death row inmates to ask myself if I could issue orders to hang them, and I thought I could not go ahead,” he said. While a justice minister is authorised to issue the order, “I think the leader of the country who can clear way for debate on the death penalty system,” Hiraoka said. “To persuade the leader, ordinary citizens must be sufficiently informed of the situation surrounding the death penalty, including the fact that many countries in the world have already terminated it,” he added. The government hanged a death-row inmate in June, bringing the total number of executions under the second administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, launched in December 2012, to 12. Among countries maintaining the death penalty, only 22, including Japan, executed inmates in 2014.—Kyodo News

Bangladesh beefs up security for foreigners after second killing claimed by Islamic State

DHAKA — Bangladesh stepped up security for foreign diplomats and citizens on Sunday after the killing of two foreigners within a week in attacks claimed by Islamic State, which has vowed similar further assaults in the Muslim-majority nation. Japanese citizen Kuni Hoashi, 65, was gunned down on Saturday by three masked men on a motorcycle while on his way to visit a grass farm project in the northern district of Rangpur, an attack similar to Tuesday’s shooting of Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella.

Attacks on foreigners are rare in Bangladesh. But the country has been convulsed by a rising tide of Islamist violence over the past year in which four online critics of religious militancy were hacked to death, a US citizen among them. “Extra forces have been deployed at foreign diplomats and citizens’ homes and workplaces across the country,” Muntasirul Islam, a deputy commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told Reuters. Police have not confirmed Islamic State’s claims, which has ambitions to spread into South Asia, is behind the two attacks. Dhaka police arrested two suspects for the hardline Islamist group over the past year.

Attacks by Bangladesh security forces on local hardline Islamist group Ansarullah Bangla Team, which claimed responsibility for the killing earlier this year, were met with a series of on-going security operations against nationals of crusader coalition countries, they will not have safety or a livelihood in Muslim lands,” the group tweeted.—Reuters

China’s south battens down hatches as typhoon Mujigae nears

SHANGHAI — Coastal provinces in southern China braced for a typhoon set to hit the country on Sunday, with authorities ordering fishing fleets to stay ashore and cancelling flights and rail services.

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Typhoon Mujigae, the 22nd typhoon this year, landed on South China’s Guangdong Province on Sunday, the provincial meteorological observatory said. PHOTO: Xinhua

“I could not come up with an answer about why we dare to claim lives of death-row inmates, even if they committed heinous crimes.”
—Seiken Sugiru

Seiken Sugiru (L) and Hideo Hiraoka, both of whom previously served as justice minister, attend an anti-death penalty rally in Tokyo on 3 October 2015, to appeal for the abolition of capital punishment. PHOTO: Kyodo News
China, US to top agenda of WB, IMF annual meetings in Peru

LIMA — Development issues and economic conditions in China and the United States will be the focus of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual meetings in Lima on 5-11 October, said a Peruvian official on Saturday.

Changes in development mode in China and potential interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) will be the top issues during the meetings, which will attract about 15,000 participants from 188 countries and regions, said Peruvian Economic Ministe r Alfonso Segura.

“We will also deal with the drop in prices of raw materials,” Segura said. The global economic growth would be around 3.4 percent in 2015, weaker than in 2014, IMF chief Christine Lagarde told the Council of the Americas in Washington on 30 September.

The WBG and IMF annual events will see over 300 closed-door meetings, which are expected to help their members make the right economic decisions.

The meetings are relevant in times of deep economic turbulence for much of the world and as a new economic world order takes shape.

The meetings will also discuss the role that young people can play in the global economy and host dialogues to share knowledge and experiences to help them start businesses.

Actor Sean Penn, as producer of the documentary “The Human Experiment”, will be on hand to explain how toxic chemicals are affecting the humanity and the environment.—Xinhua

UNESCO panel meets to examine ‘Memory of the World’ nominations

ABU DHABI — A UNESCO panel began a meeting Sunday in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, to examine about 90 nominations for registration under the “Memory of the World” programme for documentary heritage.

Among the materials to be screened by the UNESCO International Advisory Committee are two Japanese nominations — Buddhist temple archives and post-World War II internment and repatriation records. They also include two Chinese nominations that Japan has lodged protests against — one about women forced to serve at wartime brothels for Japanese troops and the other about the Nanjing Massacre.

The archives at Toji Temple of Kyoto include “Toji Hyakugo Monjo,” or Toji Temple’s 100 boxes of documents, comprise about 25,000 documents from the Nara period (710-794) to the Edo period (1603-1868). The collection was designated a national treasure in 1997. Another Japanese nomination contains memoirs and drawings composed by the former inmates of Siberian labour camps and the lists of those repatriated after the war to Maizuru port in Kyoto Prefecture.

About 55,000 out of 600,000 Japanese soldiers detained in labour camps in Siberia and Mongolia died due to forced labour, severe living conditions and malnutrition. Japan has questioned the authenticity of the Japanese материалов on the so-called comfort women and the 1937 killings by Japanese troops who occupied Nanjing. Japan has asked China to withdraw the nominations but Beijing has declined to do so, according to Japanese officials.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, Japan’s top government spokesman, expressed regret about the Chinese nominations during a press conference in Tokyo on Friday.

“When Japan and China are making efforts to improve relations, China is trying to use UNESCO for a political purpose and it is quite regrettable,” he said.

South Korea is also studying the feasibility of nominating documents related to Korean “comfort women” and labourers drafted during the war from the Korean Peninsula, which was then under Japanese colonial rule.—Kyodo News

Joint Message on the occasion of the World Teachers’ Day

Empowering teachers, building sustainable societies

5 October 2015

Every year on World Teachers’ Day, we celebrate educators and the central role they play in providing children everywhere with a quality education. Today, as the global community comes together around the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, the role teachers play has never had more importance.

The new global education goal, SDG 4 which is at the heart of the Education 2030 Agenda, calls for “inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. Realising this goal is crucial to achieving all our global development targets — for strong societies depend on well-educated citizens and a well-trained workforce. But we can only realize this agenda if we invest in recruiting, supporting, and empowering teachers.

Quality teachers are increasingly recognized as the most important factor in children’s learning — and in improving educational attainment levels, increasing the ability of young people to participate in society and today’s knowledge economies, boosting productivity and prosperity. Especially in poor communities and countries affected by conflict, quality teaching can literally change children’s life — helping children overcome the enormous challenges and preparing them for better lives and brighter futures.

But around the world today, far too many teachers are undervalued and disempowered. There is a mounting shortage of quality teachers, unequal distribution of trained teachers, and inadequate or non-existent national standards for the teaching profession. These are all key contributing factors to wide equity gaps in access and learning. The poorest regions and schools and the earliest grades — those most in need — are often the most affected. This is a deeply troubling gap, as study after study shows that teaching children in the earliest years is critical to their development.

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics estimates that to achieve universal primary education by 2030 countries will need to recruit a total of 10.9 million primary teachers.

This is a global education crisis in the making — unless we act. Recognizing the looming crisis at the 2015 World Education Forum, held in Incheon, South Korea, leaders committed to “ensure that teachers and educators are empowered, adequately recruited, well-trained, professionally qualified, motivated and supported within well-resourced, efficient and effectively governed systems”. The 2015 Oslo “Education for Development”, Summit in Norway, further highlighted the imperative of addressing the shortage of qualified teachers and of investing in teacher education.

Now, by committing to the Education 2030 agenda, the UN Member States agreed to substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

This is an important step — and now we must live up to these commitments. To meet the new education goal and all its targets by 2030, we must intensify efforts to provide sufficiently qualified, well deployed, motivated and supported teachers to every school, every community, and every child.

Governments should redouble efforts to engage in dialogue with teachers and their organizations and devise concrete policy measures and strategies to provide appropriate incentives, including competitive remuneration and clear career paths to teach in schools located in challenging environments and retain them in the profession.

Teachers should be empowered through the provision of decent working conditions, well-resourced, safe and healthy working environments, trust, professional autonomy and economic freedom.


On the first World Teachers’ Day of a new education agenda of global development, we appeal to the international community to value, support, and empower teachers of the world. For it is they who will educate a new generation of children who, in turn, will carry forward all our goals to build a better world for all.

Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO
Guy Ryder, Director-General, ILO
Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF
Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP
Fred van LEEUWEN, General Secretary, Education International
British PM Cameron says will not be rushed on EU referendum date

MANCHESTER — Prime Minister David Cameron said his renegotiation of Britain’s ties with the European Union was “bloody hard work” but that he would not be rushed into naming a date for a referendum on membership, The Sunday Telegraph reported.

On the eve of an annual gathering of his ruling Conservative Party, Cameron urged his lawmakers to maintain theirow patience over the issue of Europe which is likely to dominate the conference in the northern English city of Manchester.

For at least a generation, Cameron’s party has been riven by a conflict over Europe that contributed to the downfall of both Margaret Thatcher and John Major, the last two Conservative prime ministers.

Under pressure from lawmakers who feared the electoral success of the anti-EU UK Independence Party, Cameron in 2013 promised a referendum on membership by the end of 2017 though many analysts and campaigners expect it to be called next year.

In what the newspaper said was a signal that the referendum will not be held early next year, Cameron said his EU counter-

parts will have “plenty of time” to consider his requests for a new relationship with Brussels.

He is demanding EU leaders allow Britain to cut in-work benefits for EU migrants and allow London to prevent euro zone rules that London considers would hurt British interests.

But as many as one in five of Cameron’s lawmakers is likely to vote to leave the EU, research from the Open Europe think tank showed on Friday, indicating the scale of the divide over Europe in the ruling Conservative Party.

Cameron will tell his supp-

cers that he can deliver a deal that will give Britain “the best of both worlds”, combining “the benefits of the single market” with life outside the Schengen and euro zones, The Sunday Telegraph said.

Cameron favours staying in a reformed EU but has said he will rule nothing out if he cannot secure what he wants. A new biography of Cameron written by Michael Ashcroft says that Cameron has repeatedly said privately that he does not want to leave the EU.

The book also said that Ger-

tian leader Angela Merkel believes Cameron has made a series of seri-

ous errors in his push for a new EU deal for Britain.—Reuters

Hillary Clinton pokes fun at herself in ‘Saturday Night Live’ appearance

NEW YORK — Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton dropped in at the late night comedy show “Saturday Night Live” on Saturday, appearing in a sketch as a bar-
tender alongside comedian Kate McKinnon, who played the former United States sen-

ator and secretary of state.

Clinton, playing Val, served McKinnon-as-Clinton and sparred with the gay comic about Clinton’s record on supporting gay marriage.

The Democratic presidential candidate also took shots at Republican contend-

er Donald Trump, who has launched her voice in imitation of one of his pointed pronounce-
ments.

McKinnon also told bar-
tender Clinton she was “real-

ty easy to talk to,” to which “Val” replied “That’s the first time I’ve ever heard that,” taking a shot at her frosty rep-
utation.

The pair was joined by cast member Darrell Ham-
mond, the show’s current in-

terpreter of former President

Bill Clinton, who entered the bar and exclaimed “They’re multiplying!” upon seeing Hillary Clinton and the comic playing her.

Clinton’s appearance re-
called the visit Sarah Palin paid to the sketch show during her 2008 vice presi-
dential campaign, when she ran as John McCain’s running mate.

During that show, Palin appeared alongside Tiny Fey, whose uncanny Palin portrayal became a pop culture touchstone.

Clinton also visited the show during 2008, when she ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nom-
ination which was won by Barack Obama.

She appeared then with cast member Amy Poehler, who was then regularly por-
traying Clinton.—Reuters

Portuguese may reflect austerity-minded, centre-right government

LISBON — The Portuguese could reflect their centre-right government in a general election on Sunday, although it may fall short of winning an absolute ma-

jority, bringing less political sta-

bility after years of austerity and hardship under a debt crisis.

The election is the first since the Iberian country of 10 million exited a bailout last year. Yet, de-

spite deep spending cuts and the biggest tax hikes in living memo-

ry, polls indicate the Portuguese will stick with the government that guided them through the cri-

sis and exited the bailout by inter-

national lenders.

The latest polls, released on Friday, gave Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho’s ruling coal-

ition a lead of between five and 12 points over centre-left Socialist opponent Antonio Costa.

But if Passos Coelho fails to pick up more than the around 38 percent that he has polled in re-

cent days, he will fall short of an absolute majority in the 230-seat parliament, leading to a potential-

ly unstable minority government.

In the 2011 election his coalition won 50 percent of the vote, ensur-

ing a majority.

There was no campaigning on Saturday nor statements by the candidates, in keeping with a law which sets aside the day before elections as a day of reflection.

Costa had about 33 percent support in the latest polls, making his chances of winning slimmer even though some analysts do not rule out a last-minute upset for ei-

ther side. Uncertainty about the outcome is higher still because up to 15 percent of voters are still un-

decided and there could be a very high abstention rate.

Adelino Maltez, a political an-

alyst at the Lisbon Technical Uni-

versity, said “there is a possibility of confusion on Sunday night,” if there is a very close result that gives no strong victory to any side.

If there is a close outcome, it could make the process of creating a stable government difficult, po-

tentially upsetting the consolida-

tion of the country’s return to growth after the pain of the debt crisis that led to a three year-reces-

sion. The economy started growing again last year and growth is accel-

erating this year. Passos Coelho says that only with his stable gov-

ernment can the economy pick up more momentum and investment thanks to widening confidence.

Costa, the former mayor of Lisbon, has promised to ease back on austerity and deliver more dis-

posable income back to families.

He urged everyone to vote. “It is fundamental that every one of us does not waste the opportunity to finally, after four years, use our vote to change the government.”

Costa

former mayor of Lisbon

“It is fundamental that every one of us does not waste the opportunity to finally, after four years, use our vote to change the government.”

—Costa

former mayor of Lisbon

Merker says military efforts needed in Syria but they won’t end war

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel told a German radio station that mili-

tary efforts were necessary in Syria even though they would not put an end to the war there.

“Regarding Syria, I said for the first time: We will need mili-

tary efforts, but military efforts will not bring the solution; we need a political process but that has not really got going very well yet,” she told Deutschlandfunk, according to the text of an inter-

view due to be broadcast later on Sunday.

She also said it would be necessary to involve the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-

Assad in talks.

“Get to a political solu-

tion, I mean both the representa-

tives of the Syrian opposition and those who are currently ruling in Damascus and others as well to get real successes and they above all the allies of the respective groups,” she said.

Russia, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Iran could play an important role as well as Germany, France and Britain.—Reuters
There's no greater investment than education

Kyaw Thura

“If the children are happy, adults will automatically feel so too,” one of my Facebook friends said the other day.

As I pondered what he’d said, my mind drifted back to my childhood. Thirty five years ago, I started primary school at a small town in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region. Frankly, my memories of those first few days at school were of utter desolation. The school environment was one full of orders and commands. I was just five-years-old and I was scared stiff at the sight of a few teachers wielding a cane and sometimes slapping it against the blackboard. The name of our kids were—we’d sit stiffly in our chairs, petrified with fear. Our young minds saw those teachers as aggressors. Unfortunately, not much has changed since then. Due consideration should be given to the fact that children learn better when they feel happy and relaxed. The mental development in the early years of schooling is of utmost importance as it will be the deciding factor behind the types of adults they become.

Our country urgently needs to rebuild its education system. And why wouldn’t we, when the returns are so huge? Students deserve a safe learning environment and guidance that should give them the best possible start to life. And at the same time, all teachers, regardless of whether they teach art in kindergarten or algebra in high school, should be supported mentally and financially. It seems obvious, but it bears repeating; no teacher can perform on an empty stomach. Delaying educational reform would mean our country will fall behind in the next generation.

Our students and teachers are everything we have: we must invest them and empower them in order to build a better world.

And on that final thought, may I wish you a very happy World Teachers’ Day!

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tuan@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

Strategic Roads of Myanmar

Khin Maung Myint (MPT Retired)

MYANMAR was home to two famous strategic roads during the Second World War — “The Burma Road” and “The Ledo Road”. Some people confused the name “The Burma Road” with “The Ledo Road”. Most thought it was one and the same. However, “The Burma Road” was one and “The Ledo Road” was another. The former was built in 1937 by the Chinese with permission from the British to connect Burma (Myanmar) and China. The latter was built during the Second Sino-Japanese War by the US Army, to connect India and China. Both were intended for the transportation of heavy armaments, military equipments and other military supplies, under the banner of the Nationalist Army, who were fighting the Japanese. “The Burma Road” was the name of the road section between Yunnan and the northern Shan State passing through Kyauk-kok in Burma (Myanmar) and Wanding in China, right up to Kunning in the Yunnan province. It is commonly known as the “Muse/Shweili Road” today. It facilitated the flow of military supplies, which the United State of America was aiding the Chinese Nationalist Army, under Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, to fight the Japanese invaders during the Second Sino-Japanese War.

The Burma Road

During the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945), the Japanese Imperial Army had occupied almost all the coastal areas including most of the sea ports of China. The United States, which was assisting the Chinese, found it difficult and dangerous to transport military supplies to China by sea, because of the heavy presence of the Japanese warships in the region. Commodities such as fuel, provisions, materials needed for the war efforts, too, were unable to reach China safely. During that period, the US was yet to enter the war with Japan, so they were restrained from using their naval forces for that task. Thus an alternative line of communication was urgently needed to supply China. Both the US and China approached the British in Burma (Myanmar), with requests to construct a road link from Kunning, Yunnan to Lashio in the Northern Shan State, where the railway line to Burma crossed, so that it would be situated. It would also link with the existing road system that could reach to Rangoon (Yangon) where there was a modern port facility.

At first, the British were reluctant to agree, lest the Japanese be provoked. However, due to the lobbying by two Burmese (Myan-

mar) labourers who were approached by the Chinese, succeeded in persuading the British rulers to agree. The constructions started in 1937. The whole project including the costs and constructions were undertaken by China. Some 200,000 Chinese and a few Burmese (Myanmar) labourers barehanded, using hand tools only. It was completed in 1938, and the convoys of US military supplies from Rangoon (Yangon) started to roll along this strategic road. The road measured 1,154 kilometers from Lashio to Kunning, the two main terminals.

The Ledo Road

During the Second World War, after the Japanese had occupied Burma (Myanmar), the military supplies to China were unable to be transported through the Rangoon (Yangon) Port. The Allied forces in India had to find an alternative to transport them to China. At first they were flying supplies from India, but the high altitude of the Himalayan Mountain range called “The Hump”, between Northern Myanmar and China was hampering the planes’ flight, especially when they were carrying heavy loads. Finally in late 1942, they decided to construct a road along an old, very crude path started by the Government of British India in 1920. The task was assigned to the US Army, as the United States had entered the war by then, after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour. The road was built from the railhead town of Ledo in Assam, India passing through the Hukawng Val-
On World Teachers' Day 2015, remember that teachers are mortals too

Myo Myint

SINCE 1994, every year on October 5, nations of the world join together to express their gratitude to teachers for dedicating themselves to the nurturing of youth, thereby ensuring a sound future for them as well as for their societies. For the people of Myanmar, it seems that every day of the year is Teachers’ Day, as we express our respect to our teachers in our prayers at the start of every day. By placing teachers on the highest level, as the three gems, the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Sangha, and our parents, in return, we expect a lot from them, such as, being good role models and self-discipline, being exemplary persons regarding self-sacrifice in the interest of society, and being fonts of ever-growing knowledge and wisdom. However, we often forget that as her human beings like us, they are mortals and have needs, wants, and ambitions. Like all of us, they fall in love, they get married, they grow old, they suffer from ill-health, they need to take care of their parents and they need to feed, clothe and educate their children, and to do so they need a reasonable income. However, probably because their number is one of the highest among government employees in Myanmar, as well as in many other developing and developed countries, their role in society is not that highly appreciated, and neither are they as highly paid or given the same respect and standing as government officials.  For the moment, let us forget, for the moment, the small number of teachers who want to become rich quickly and acquire a wrong profession, who are not fulfilling their responsibilities, or who are bad models for students, or who are exploiting their status to become wealthy. For the majority of teachers, no sacrifice is too large for them to make, no school is too remote for them to work at, no lesson is too burdensome for them to teach, no student question is too tiresome for them to answer, and no student is too slow or too lazy to learn, invited for them to instruct.

This year’s theme of World Teachers’ Day calls for the empowerment of teachers. The Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (7th edition) provides two meanings to the word empower - “to give somebody the power or authority to do something”, and “to give somebody more control over their own life, or the situation they are in”. According to ED-WATCHWiki retrieved from the Internet, Teacher Empowerment (2002) mentioned that S.F. Bolin defined teacher empowerment as “investing the teachers’ right to participate in the determination of school goals and policies and to exercise professional judgment about what and how to teach”. What then should be done to empower our teachers from primary level to universi
ty level? In empowering them, firstly, they need to realize that as teachers, we can know best how to educate our classrooms and their students since their daily interactions with their students makes them familiar with students’ strength and weaknesses, what interests them, what makes them bored, which areas to connect with the world outside and which areas with other subjects. They also have the authority to make decisions regarding the pace of the lesson, the techniques to be used, the examples to be given, and the teaching aids to be utilized. They also need to realize that as teachers, they are empowered to use the appropriate strategies to manage their students. On the part of management, they need to strengthen the competencies of teachers by giving them opportunities to improve themselves and how they think, to learn best practices and to be more in touch with the world beyond the school gates. Thirdly, a conducive and supportive working environment should be provided for all teachers so that they can fully concentrate on their work. In addition, self-esteem as well as community respect for teachers should be enhanced by providing them with an adequate salary and facilities that are in commensurate with the efforts they have to exert, the time they have to give and the contributions they make for the development of their society.

This year’s theme of World Teachers’ Day calls for the participation of empowered teachers in building sustainable societies. Hosain (1995) defines a sustainable society as follows: “A sustainable society implicitly connotes one that is based on a long-term vision in that it must foresee the consequences of its diverse activities to ensure that they do not break the cycles of renewal; it has to be a society of conservation and generation

cym. They have been moral guides and good role mod
eles to us, so that we became responsible, knew best how to
could differentiate between right and wrong, good and evil, should and should not, and the possible and the impossible. They had been friends and confidants to us when we needed advice and consolation. They had been competent knowledge providers and skill developers, working hard to devise lesson plans, teaching us using the best techniques, and ensuring that we learn by disciplining us, so that we possess sufficient knowledge of social, thinking, communica
tion and professional skills to go on learning and to find a decent job when we reach adulthood, or to even become one of the chosen fields in our chosen fields. Let us forget, for the moment, the small number of teachers who want to become rich quickly and acquire a wrong profession, who are not fulfilling their responsibilities, or who are bad models for students, or who are exploiting their status to become wealthy. For the majority of teachers, no sacrifice is too large for them to make, no school is too remote for them to work at, no lesson is too burdensome for them to teach, no student question is too tiresome for them to answer, and no student is too slow or too lazy to learn, invited for them to instruct.

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al concern. It must avoid the adoption of mutually irreconcilable objectives. Equally, it must be a socei ty of social justice because great disparities of wealth or privilege will breed destructive dis harmony.”

Today many countries are facing the challenge of economic development outpacing their human and natural resources. So also, the priority being given to economic development is adversely affecting their environment. Of great concern also is the possible impact on social harmony as gaps in ownership of land, financial assets and natural resources widen and incomes fail to keep up with expenditure. Hence, teachers who serve as the eyes and ears of the community need to play an important role in building awareness of the dangers of social dis harmony, environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources and the benefits of building sustainable societies, both among the students and within the community. Moreover, using their research findings and organizational skills, teachers can convince students and their communities to seek maximum growth with the least possible maximum harm to natural resources, the natural environment and human well-being and leave future generations a world that is not only prosperous, unspoilt and resource bountiful.

It is widely recognized that the quality of education influences the development path of a country. In the same way, the quality of teachers in a country dictates the quality of education and the level of student achievement. Therefore, let us, on World Teachers’ Day, as citizens of Myanmar, reexamine what we have done and can do for the empowerment and benefit of teachers. When the world is facing so many complex challenges, environmental, economic, social and security, we need to always remember that just as education is the key to solving many of the problems so also the key change agents in the education sector are the teachers. In order to raise their morale, we need also to show more appreciation to our teachers. We need to make them feel that their sacrifices have not been in vain. We need to also comfort those among our teachers who are in the twilight of their lives, by visiting them once in a while, and telling them in how many ways they have changed our lives, and how they have helped us to contribute to the development of our country. On their part, teachers (including those who are in the profession, not for the love of students or the work of a teacher, but to make money), should examine what they need to do to keep pace with emerging new knowledge and skills in order to participate more actively in teaching students as well as in the management of their school and the building of sustainable societies.

The quality of teachers in a country dictates the quality of education and the level of student achievement.”

What’s the difference between a teacher and a station master, kid?

One trains the mind and the other minds the train, teach

TIN AUNG
Palestinian stabs Israeli in fresh attack, shot dead

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian teenager stabbed and wounded an Israeli teenager in Jerusalem on Sunday and was then shot dead by police, authorities said, just hours after a similar attack killed two people in the city.

The violence has risen in East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank in recent weeks. Though not at the levels of previous Palestinian uprisings, or “Intifadas,” it has triggered concerns of a wider escalation.

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the victim was taken to hospital in moderate condition and that police men “saw the terrorist holding a knife, shot and neutralised him.”

The attack happened less than 12 hours after a Palestinian stabbed two Israelis to death nearby in Jerusalem’s walled Old City, and wounded at least two others.

The assailant, later claimed by Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad as a member, was shot dead by police.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was due to convene an emergency meeting with security officials later on Sunday, his office said, and a security cabinet meeting on Monday.

On Thursday, an Israeli couple was shot dead while their four children were in the car in a suspected Palestinian drive-by attack near a West Bank Jewish settlement.

Israeli police and Palestinians have also clashed frequently at Jerusalem’s al-Aqsa mosque compound, Islam’s third-holiest site, and at other Arab parts of the city.

Palestinians have said they fear that increasing visits by Jewish groups to the holy compound, revered by Jews as the site of Biblical temples, are eroding Muslim religious control there.

Israel has pledged to maintain Muslim prayer rights at al-Aqsa, but, citing security concerns, has frequently banned young Muslim men from entering the area.

Palestinians want East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, lands Israel captured in a 1967 Middle East war, for a future state. Peace talks collapsed in 2014. — Reuters

Medical aid group denies Taliban were firing from Afghan hospital hit by air strike

KABUL — Medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres denied that Taliban fighters were firing from its hospital at Afghan and NATO forces before a suspected US air strike killed at least 19 staff and patients on Saturday in a hospital it runs in Kunduz, leaving 37 wounded.

The aid group has said an air strike hit the medical facility on the morning of Saturday, probably carried out by US-led coalition forces, killed 19 staff and patients on Saturday in a hospital it runs in Kunduz, leaving 37 wounded.

The US military said it conducted an air strike “in the vicinity” of the hospital, as it targeted Taliban insurgents who were directly firing on US military personnel.

The US government promised a full investigation into the incident as the UN human rights chief said it could amount to a war crime.

In a statement, President Barack Obama offered condolences to the victims of what he called “the tragic incident.”

But the medical aid group denied this.

“The gates of the hospital compound were closed all night so no one that is not staff, a patient or a caretaker was inside the hospital when the bombing happened,” Medecins Sans Frontieres said in a statement on Sunday. — Reuters

Islamic State takes responsibility for killing Japanese in Bangladesh

DHAKA — Islamic State militants claimed responsibility for the killing of a Japanese man in Bangladesh on Saturday, the second foreign national to be killed there within a week, Reuters news agency reported.

“There will continue to be a series of ongoing security operations against nationals of crusader coalition countries, they will not have safety or a livelihood in Muslim lands,” the group tweeted.

Kunio Hoshi, 66, was shot dead by unidentified attackers on a motorcycle as he made his way to an agricultural project he had set up in the northern Rangpur district, local police chief Abdur Razzaque said. The killing comes days after an Italian aid worker was shot dead in Bangladesh’s capital Dhaka. Police said they believed Cesare Tavella was killed by Islamic State militants. Hoshi reportedly suffered shots to his chest, head and legs and was taken to a hospital.

Hoshi had travelled to Bangladesh from Nepal on 28 August, and had been staying with a friend in Munshipur, Rangpur. He had previously visited Bangladesh in February, when he involved himself with an agricultural project, growing and developing Napier grass on leased land. — Kyodo News

Egypt says Russia’s intervention in Syria will counter terrorism

CAIRO — Russia’s intervention in Syria will curtail the spread of terrorism and help deal a fatal blow to Islamic State in the war-torn country, Egypt’s Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on Saturday.

Russia launched air strikes in Syria on Wednesday in its biggest Middle East intervention in decades, marking a dramatic escalation in a more than four-year-old civil war in which every major country in the region has a stake.

“Russia’s entrance, given its potential and capabilities, is something we see is going to have an effect on limiting terrorism in Syria and eradicating it,” Shoukry said in a televised interview on Saturday.

Vladimir Putin said he is striking Islamic State and helping Syria’s Bashar al-Assad, long Russia’s closest ally in the region. But the United States is concerned that Moscow is prop-upping Assad, who Washington has long held should leave.

Egypt has avoided showing support for al-Assad, a leader whom Saudi Arabia, a key Egyptian ally that has propped up the country economically, believes should be ousted.

Shoukry’s comments are just the latest sign of warming relations between Russia and Egypt. In a state visit to Russia by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in August, the two countries called for a coalition to fight Ecroism in the Middle East. In June, Egypt and Russia held their first-ever joint naval exercise. Egypt, the Arab world’s most-populous nation, is confronted by an increasingly violent insurgency in North Sinai, where the most active militant group has pledged allegiance to Islamic State. — Reuters
Exercise eases knee osteoarthritis, temporarily

LONDON — A therapeutic programme of weight-bearing exercise reduces pain and improves joint function, at least for two to six months, for people with osteoarthritis, according to a review of previous trials.

“We had a systematic review for Cochrane from 2008 and 2009, but there were much less articles,” said Dr Martin Van der Esch, who coauthored the review. Since then, many more studies have been published, and confirm the benefits of exercise for arthritis pain, he told Reuters Health by phone.

Osteoarthritis, the breakdown of joint cartilage over time, causes pain, swelling and reduced motion, usually of the hands, knees, hips or spine. Joint injury, excess weight and older age increase the risk for osteoarthritis, which affects more than 50 million adults in the US, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

For the new Cochrane review, Van der Esch, of the Reade Centre for Rehabilitation and Rheumatology in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and colleagues analyzed 55 randomized controlled trials comparing a land-based exercise program with no exercise among subjects with osteoarthritis. The trials varied in type, duration and intensity of exercise programmes.

A woman walks along the boardwalk while leaving the US Open tennis tournament in New York. Photo: Reuters

In general, the exercise programmes significantly reduced pain and moderately improved physical function of the knee immediately after treatment. Some studies also found that general quality of life improved.

Twelve studies followed up with participants two to six months later and found that knee pain was still reduced, as the authors explain in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

It may seem counterintuitive that exercising a painful joint could reduce pain, Van der Esch said.

“The idea is that if you have more muscle strength, then the knee is more stable and you have less wear and tear,” he explained.

Land-based, weight-bearing exercise strengthens the muscles around the knee, he said.

“Avoiding activities because of pain leads you to lose more muscle strength and have muscle weakness and unstable joints, so more wear and tear,” he said.

“Often people believe that activity ‘wears out’ joints, and patients can sometimes experience a worsening of symptoms after exercise or activity,” said Danielle AW van der Windt, an arthritis expert at Keele University in Staffordshire, UK.

“But the vast majority of people will not have any adverse reaction to controlled, supervised exercise, and people with significant osteoarthritis can ride a bicycle, go swimming or exercise at a gym with often minimal discomfort,” she told Reuters Health by email.

Van der Windt was not part of the new review.

Outside of exercise, the only real treatments for osteoarthritis are simple painkillers or, in severe cases, joint replacement surgery, Van der Esch said. Some recent studies suggest that exercise could be as effective as medication for pain relief, and exercise has no pharmaceutical side effects, he said.

“In the review we couldn’t find really specific exercises that are best, the type of exercise program is not really most important,” he said. “The most important factor is exercising regularly.”

“Internationally we always say you have to move at least 30 minutes per day,” he said.

Water-based exercise does improve fitness, which has some benefit, but doesn’t put a load directly on the knee itself so is less beneficial than land-based exercise, he said.—Reuters

Atlas rockets blasts off with Mexican communications satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL — An unmanned Atlas 5 rocket blasted off from a seaside launch pad in Florida on Friday to put a communications satellite into orbit for Mexico.

The 195-foot (59-metre) tall rocket, built and flown by United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin and Boeing, lifted off at 02:28 am EDT from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Launch was delayed 20 minutes to allow time for a wayward boat to clear away from the rocket’s flight safety zone.

Perched on top of the rocket was the Boeing-built Morelos-3 communications satellite, a duplicate of a spacecraft lost during a Russian Proton rocket launch in May. It was the 100th launch for ULA since its formation in 2006, all of which have been successful.

Morelos-3 was due to be put into a 22,300 miles (35,888 km) above Earth about three hours after liftoff. The satellite is designed to provide cellular voice, data, Internet and video services for Mexican national security and civilian services over the next 15 years.

Mexico is paying Boeing about $1 billion for a three-satellite system, collectively known as MEXSAT. The contract, announced in 2010, includes two ground sites, network operations systems and user terminals. The launch marked a rare commercial mission for ULA, which typically flies US military and NASA science missions.

ULA is designing a new rocket, called Vulcan, that it says will be less expensive to build and fly. The company faces its first competition for the US military’s launch business, with privately owned SpaceX now certified to fly defense and national security satellites on its Falcon 9 rocket.

ULA also is wrestling with supply issues, as the RD-180 Russian rocket engines that power its workhorse Atlas 5 launcher have been banned for use on military missions. US lawmakers enacted the ban last year after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. That could leave SpaceX as the sole bidder for a 2018 Global Positioning System satellite launch. An Air Force solicitation for launch services was released on Wednesday, with proposals due 16 November.

ULA and Air Force officials are seeking a partial exemption to the RD-180 engine ban to keep the Atlas 5 available for military missions until Vulcan, with its US engines, is ready to fly.

ULA is reviewing the GPS launch solicitation and monitoring congressional proposals to allow additional RD-180 imports before deciding on whether to bid for the work, said spokeswoman Jessica Rye.—Reuters

Dengue hits Dhaka hard, number of cases in 2015 highest in 9 years

DHAKA — Some 800 fresh cases of dengue were reported from Bangladesh capital Dhaka and elsewhere on the outskirts of the city over the last month, bringing the total number of confirmed cases till 30 September this year in the country to some 1,400.

The figure reported by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) under the Ministry of Health gives an alarming situation as the capital city has seen a rapid surge in the incidence of the mosquito-borne viral infection.

A total of 375 and 1,749 cases of dengue were reported in 2014 and 2013 respectively.

But there was no report of death from Dengue in 2013 and 2014.

“The number of cases reported so far in 2015 is the highest in the last nine years,” an IEDCR official told Xinhua on Saturday.

“We’ve got lots of reasons to be worried as four people have already become victim this year,” the official who preferred to be unnamed said.

At the latest, he said, 35-year-old Aman Moumad, son of leading Bangladesh political leader Moudud Ahmed, died in hospital.

Dengue is transmitted by several species of mosquito within the genus Aedes.

The first case of mosquito-borne viral infection was reported in Bangladesh in 2000, and some 100 people died from the disease in 2000-2003.

The IEDCR official said Bangladesh is now well prepared with enough trained doctors to handle dengue.

He suggested the city dwellers as well as the authorities adopt more preventive measures to tackle dengue. He stressed the need for more cleanliness in households and surroundings as part of the preventive measures to destroy breeding species of mosquito within the genus Aedes.—Xinhua
Haze closes schools, halts Marathon race in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—The prolonged haze season continued to shroud the Malaysian peninsula on Sunday, forcing schools to be closed and a Marathon race was canceled for health concern.

As of Sunday afternoon, at least five areas reported “very unhealthy level,” according to the Department of Environment website. One area recorded “Hazardous” air pollution level earlier in the day.

Runways at three major airports, including one near the capital of Kuala Lumpur, were reported temporarily closed due to poor visibility. Some flights were disrupted.

The government said all schools in peninsular except for the northern state of Kelantan were ordered to close on Monday and Tuesday due to the worsening haze. Four Malaysian Cup matches scheduled late Saturday were called off while a Marathon on Sunday was canceled. —Xinhua

Abe calls for progress in peace treaty talks with Russia

KYOTO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed hope during a meeting with a Russian deputy prime minister on Sunday for progress in bilateral talks on a post-World War II peace treaty that will restart this week.

“I welcome Japan and Russia having high-level exchanges,” Abe told Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich when they met in Kyoto on the sidelines of an international conference on science and technology, according to the Japanese government.

The meeting followed a summit between Abe and President Vladimir Putin last week in New York, in which they agreed to continue their efforts to resolve a long-standing territorial row that has prevented the two countries from concluding a postwar peace treaty. Dvorkovich said at the meeting with Abe that Russia and Japan should further enhance economic cooperation.

The countries will restart deputy foreign ministerial-level talks in Moscow on Thursday amid a row over four Russian-held isles off Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost main island. The negotiations have been suspended since January last year.—Kyodo News

Life ring from missing cargo ship found as hurricane threatens Bermuda

CHARLESTON — US Coast Guard pilots found a life ring from the cargo ship El Faro on Saturday, the first trace of the vessel since it went missing two days earlier with 33 mostly American crew members on board, as powerful Hurricane Joaquin moved toward Bermuda.

A search-and-rescue crew found the life ring in waters to the east of Crooked Island in the Bahamas, about 75 miles (120 km) from the ship’s last known position before it went missing on Thursday morning, the Coast Guard said.

A spokesman said crews will resume the search in the same area at sunrise.

“Because we found a life ring, the assumption can be made that we are searching in the right area,” said Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer Jon-Paul Rios.

“When we commence searching tomorrow morning at sunrise, hopefully we’ll be able to find something else. Every little bit helps,” he added.

At 8 pm ET (0000 GMT), Joaquin, which strengthened significantly early Saturday, had maximum sustained winds of 145 miles (233 km) per hour, the US National Hurricane Centre said. The storm, a potentially catastrophic Category 4 on a scale of 1 to 5, was about 450 miles (724 km) southeast of Bermuda on Saturday night, Dennis Felgen, spokesman for the NHC, said.

Among the dead were 17 children, and at least 26 people were injured.

On Friday, there were reports of family members receiving text messages of buried survivors asking to be rescued. Authorities said they did not rescue a single survivor on Saturday despite a team of around 1,800 volunteers, soldiers and firemen. But some 400 survivors had been evacuated in total from the site since the tragedy, they added.

In October 2005, heavy rainfall triggered a devastating landslide in Panabaj in the southwest of the Central American country, burying the village. Hundreds of people are believed to have died, and many of the bodies were never recovered.—Reuters

Hazard closes schools, halts Marathon race in Malaysia

SANTA CATARINA PINULA — Hopes faded of finding any remaining survivors of a massive landslide in Guatemala that killed at least 86 people, even as families scoured alongside diggers by the hundreds of bodies of loved-ones, with hundreds of others still missing.

Distraught relatives of the victims shrieked alongside diggers through the mounds of earth that destroyed homes in Santa Catarina Pinula on the southeastern flank of Guatemala City after Thursday night’s collapse of a hillside.

Every batch of earth turned up by the diggers held more personal belongings, from mattresses and books to toys and Christmas decorations, reminders of around 350 people who authorities said were still unaccounted for.

Clutching photos of loved-ones, family members stood in line outside a makeshift morgue near the excavation site, some of them crying, to see if they recognized any corpses.

“This is the worst thing that has happened to us,” said Ana Maria Escobar, a 48-year-old housewife, sobbing as she waited for news of 21 missing family members who lived in the town she had left a year ago.

“So far only my sister-in-law has been found,” she added.

One digger unearthed the body of a little girl with scratch marks on her arms and legs, which rescue workers said may have been signs of her struggles to escape. People looking on cried out to prevent the digger from destroying her body.

Gaby Ramirez, an 18-year-old cousin, had been searching for her brother with a shovel since 6 am, after the landslide buried a neighbour’s house he was visiting.

“I don’t hope to find him alive, but I do hope to find his body and bury him,” she said. “I have to bury him, I can’t leave him there.”

Loosened by rain, tons of earth, rock and trees had cascaded onto a neighbourhood of the town known as El Cambray II near the bottom of a ravine, flattening houses and trapping residents who had gone home for the night.

Some houses were buried under about 50 feet (15 metres) of earth, and Guatemalan disaster agency Conred said it doubted any other survivors would be found.

“Hope is the last thing you lose, so we hope to find someone alive,” said Guatemala’s defense minister Williams Mansilla, though he also acknowledged the likelihood was very low.

At last count, the Attorney General’s office reported 86 dead via Twitter, though fears that hundreds more remain trapped threaten to make the landslide one of the worst natural disasters to hit Central America in recent years.

Vehicles drive along a flooded West Avenue as a nor-easter comes on shore in Ocean City, New Jersey on 2 October 2015. Hurricane Joaquin was not expected to be a major threat to the US East Coast, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said. Photo: Reuters

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In October 2005, heavy rainfall triggered a devastating landslide in Panabaj in the southwest of the Central American country, burying the village. Hundreds of people are believed to have died, and many of the bodies were never recovered.—Reuters

Hundred feared dead in Guatemala landslide, the hopeful keep digging

The prolonged haze season continued to shroud the Malaysian peninsula on Sunday, forcing schools to be closed and a Marathon race was canceled due to the worsening haze, according to the Department of Environment website. One area recorded “Hazardous” air pollution level earlier in the day.

Runways at three major airports, including one near the capital of Kuala Lumpur, were reported temporarily closed due to poor visibility. Some flights were disrupted.

The government said all schools in peninsular except for the northern state of Kelantan were ordered to close on Monday and Tuesday due to the worsening haze. Four Malaysian Cup matches scheduled late Saturday were called off while a Marathon on Sunday was canceled. —Xinhua

A woman carries a religious statue and belongings while evacuating from an area affected by mudslide in Santa Catarina Pinula, on the outskirts of Guatemala City, on 3 October 2015.

A search-and-rescue crew found the life ring in waters to the east of Crooked Island in the Bahamas, about 75 miles (120 km) from the ship’s last known position before it went missing on Thursday morning, the Coast Guard said.

A spokesman said crews will resume the search in the same area at sunrise.

“Because we found a life ring, the assumption can be made that we are searching in the right area,” said Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer Jon-Paul Rios.

“When we commence searching tomorrow morning at sunrise, hopefully we’ll be able to find something else. Every little bit helps,” he added.

At 8 pm ET (0000 GMT), Joaquin, which strengthened significantly early Saturday, had maximum sustained winds of 145 miles (233 km) per hour, the US National Hurricane Centre said. The storm, a potentially catastrophic Category 4 on a scale of 1 to 5, was about 450 miles (724 km) southeast of Bermuda on Saturday night, Dennis Felgen, spokesman for the NHC, said.

Among the dead were 17 children, and at least 26 people were injured.

On Friday, there were reports of family members receiving text messages of buried survivors asking to be rescued. Authorities said they did not rescue a single survivor on Saturday despite a team of around 1,800 volunteers, soldiers and firemen. But some 400 survivors had been evacuated in total from the site since the tragedy, they added.

In October 2005, heavy rainfall triggered a devastating landslide in Panabaj in the southwest of the Central American country, burying the village. Hundreds of people are believed to have died, and many of the bodies were never recovered.—Reuters

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Dealers Wanted

Tan Chong Motor Holdings Berhad (TCMH), the Nissan franchise holder in Malaysia for over 58 years is now expanding in Indochina market. With prominent presence in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and now Myanmar, TCMH is seeking interested entrepreneurs in this new fast evolving and rapid growing automotive market.

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5th October, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing Region, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Yangon, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th October, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
Harry Styles will help pay fan her university fees

LOS ANGELES — One Direction star Harry Styles made a fan’s dream come true when he offered to help pay her university tuition fees.

The “What Makes You Beautiful” singer spotted a sign in the crowd asking for money as he played his sixth consecutive show at the O2. The banner read, “I left uni for this — you owe me £9000,” reported Daily Mirror. Styles, 21, appeared rather shocked when he saw the banner and said to the delighted girl, Callie Worth, a Bournemouth University student. “Now we owe you £9000.” Shortly afterwards he turned to her and added, “Snapchat have just told me they will pay the money for you.”

According to Worth she only left university for a day but was delighted when the banner was noticed. “I left Bournemouth university for the day and travelled down to the O2 to meet my two best mates who I hadn’t seen in a few weeks… My friend Molli was holding the banner at the time and Liam noticed it and read it out, then afterwards Harry said ‘Snapchat have offered to pay for your uni fees.’”

The boy band made a Snapchat of their show, announcing the news earlier by tweeting, “Snapchatters — 1D are bringing their concert to your phones today with a One Direction Live Story.”

Johnny Depp concerned about daughter’s budding fashion career

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Johnny Depp is worried about his fast rising daughter, Lily-Rose Depp, as her modeling career is growing.

Depp, 52, says he is worried about the 16-year-old’s modelling career, but is ok as she is happy, reported People magazine. “To be honest, I’m quite worried. I wasn’t expecting all this to happen to Lily-Rose, especially not at this age. But it’s her passion and she’s having fun,” the “Black Mass’’ star said. Daughter of Depp and his former partner, French actress Vanessa Paradis, Lily-Rose is the face of Chanel’s Pearl eyewear.

Miss Universe Myanmar winners announced

THE Miss Universe Myanmar Organisation selected two finalists to compete in the 2015 and 2016 Miss Universe competitions on Saturday.

The winners, May Barani Thaw and Htet Htet Tun, beat 18 contestants to be selected for the 2015 and 2016 pageants respectively.

The organisation chose Han Lay as the first runner-up and Cho Cho Tun as the second runner-up. If for any reason the winners cannot compete, Han Lay and Cho Cho Tun will represent Myanmar instead.

The two Miss Myanmars will compete against women from more than 80 countries to win the crowns which could be worth as much as US$250,000 and a one-year contract with Miss Universe Organisation. The world’s most famous beauty pageant also includes the sub-categories National Costume, Miss Photogenic and Miss Congeniality.

However the date and venue has not yet been announced for the 64th Miss Universe Competition. Its sponsors broke off relations with Donald Trump, who bought the entire stock in the pageant in September this year, after he made derogatory statements about Mexican immigrants during campaign speeches as a Republican presidential hopeful in the United States. The event is now owned by entertainment company WMG/IMG.

This is the third time that Myanmar has entered the Miss Universe competition, with the country making its debut in 2013 with Moe Set Wine as a contestant, and Shar Htet Eaindra won in 2014.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanmar Alinn)

Eva Longoria honoured with Latino’s Visionary award

LOS ANGELES — Actress Eva Longoria was feted with Variety Latino’s first-ever Visionary award at the inaugural 10 Latinos to watch ceremony. The former 40-year-old “Desperate Housewives” star was given the honour in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Latinos through entertainment and philanthropy. She was presented the prize by Roselyn Sanchez, who stars in Longoria’s TV series “Devious Maids.”

Sanchez praised her friend for being an inspiration to many, and even urged the actress run for office.

Longoria took the stage at Hollywood’s Avalon venue to accept the prize, and used the platform to encourage her fellow Latinos to “shape the narrative of how this country defines them.”

“It’s not only an opportunity, but a responsibility to make sure others recognise all the contributions we are bringing to American pop culture and society in general.”

She also used her acceptance speech to subtly take aim at presidential hopeful Donald Trump, who stunned Latinos in June when he suggested many Mexican immigrants to America were “rapists.”

Longoria added, “It’s our responsibility to make sure we are not what people see on the news — that being Latino is not synonymous with being illegal, that being Latino is not synonymous with being undocumented or not from here.”

“It’s up to the people in this room to support each other. So many beautiful, young people, all these 10 Latinos To Watch, there are about 100 to watch and all you guys who have not been recognised.”

Among the others feted at the ceremony were actor Diego Boneta, “Orange Is The New Black” star Diane Guerrero, and “How To Get Away With Murder” actress Karla Souza.—PTI

Selena Gomez wants fans to be proud of her

LONDON — Singer Selena Gomez hopes her fans will be proud of her latest music offering, album ‘Revelation’. The 23-year-old singer thinks the music on her new album reflects the face she is a “stronger and more enlightened” woman who has learned a lot, reportedLook magazine.

“I think I’m starting to find my way as a stronger and more enlightened woman who has a lot more insight into herself and her relationships with others,” Gomez said.

“Those are the kinds of life lessons I’ve tried to talk about in my music. I want my fans to be proud of me and see a lot of positive things in my personal evolution.—PTI
BUDAPEST Hungarian author Peter Esterhazy, whose widely recognised work in post-modern literature has been translated into 24 languages, is suffering from pancreatic cancer, according to an article in a literary magazine published on Friday.

Esterhazy, 65, was not immediately available for comment. Last week he excused himself from the Goteborg Book Fair in Sweden, where he was supposed to appear as a special guest to showcase Hungarian literature, saying in a letter that he was preoccupied by pancreatic cancer.

In that letter, he said he would not talk publicly for now about the pancreatic cancer which was “seeking to take over my life”, but that he would elaborate at a later date.

His fellow writer Kristian Greco, writing in the magazine Elet Es Irodalom, confirmed his illness, saying: “If there is a God, or even if there is not, Peter must recover.”

Esterhazy is the scion of high nobility. One of his best-known works is Celestial Harmonies (2000), a novel about his family’s history during the Austro-Hungarian era when their estate was home to people like Austrian composer Joseph Haydn.

A sequel to that book is Revised Edition (2002), which documents how author confronted the discovery that his father had been a communist-era informant.

He is also the author of The Transports (1983), A Little Hungarian Pornography (1984), and The Book of Habal (1990).—Reuters

Hungarian author Peter Esterhazy has pancreatic cancer: magazine

SHANGHAI — China wants to speed construction of a national network to charge electric cars, to help reach an ambitious goal of 5 million green vehicles on its roads by 2020, national news agency Xinhua said on Sunday.

A senior official cited a new energy official.

A shortage of charging facilities has long been a roadblock for sales by electric car makers, from domestic firm BYD Co Ltd to US rival Tesla Motors, as well as for government plans to rein in high levels of pollution.

China has made some progress on car charging infrastructure but its approach has lacked coordination, National Energy Administration deputy head Zheng Zhaoyi said.

“it’s a bit all over the place,” he told Xinhua. “Everyone has a pile of different chargers and a pile of batteries. Now we’re trying to improve things, moving towards unifying and standardizing.”

China aims to equip at least one in ten public car park facilities for electric car charging, he said, adding that the State Council, or cabinet, would soon issue guidance for the infrastructure roll-out.

China cut taxes on small-engine cars last week in an effort to revive its wider automobile market, the world’s biggest since 2009, although a recent economic slowdown has weighed on sales.

But one bright spot this year has been sales of green cars, which have almost quadrupled from the 2014 figure. The government sees electric cars as China’s best shot at closing a competitive gap with global rivals who have a 100-year headstart in traditional combustion engines. China has rolled out aggressive targets for vehicle fuel efficiency that will grow gradually stricter until 2020, when its standards will exceed those of the United States and roughly match Japan.

The government has also offered tax cuts for green vehicles, clouding concerns posed extending subsidies, mostly for domestic producers, to help automakers meet these targets.—Reuters

China to hasten roll-out of car charging network

PARIS — Bold prints and floating jackets prevailed at Vivienne Westwood’s Gold Label catwalk show at Paris Fashion Week on Saturday.

Westwood, known for her environmental activism, said she picked an underlying theme of saving the Italian city of Venice from the effects of climate change for the spring/summer 2016 collection.

A model presents a creation by British designer Vivienne Westwood as part of her Spring/Summer 2016 women’s ready-to-wear fashion collection in Paris France on 3 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

A Cherry electric car is being charged at a charging station in Dalian, Liaoning Province, China on 1 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vivienne Westwood’s Paris show

Over 10,000 participate in Coimbatore Marathon run for cause

ADDIS ABABA Ethiopia aims to triple its number of foreign visitors to more than 2.5 million by 2020, making tourism a pillar of one of Africa’s fastest-growing economies.

Buoyed by huge spending on infrastructure and an expansion of tourist services and agricultural sectors, Addis Ababa expects annual economic growth of around 11 percent for the next five years.

Though lacking the palm-fringed beaches and safari trails of neighbouring Kenya and Tanzania, the Horn of Africa country boasts magnificent terrain and a fascinating imperial past.

Visitor numbers have risen at least 10 percent a year for the past decade, albeit from a very low base. More than 750,000 tourists came during fiscal year 2014, generating $2.9 billion for the economy, said Culture and Tourism Minister Amin Abdulkadir.

“There is a lot of demand in terms of bookings and investment plans. Our target is to receive more than 2.5 million in five years’ time,” he told Reuters in an interview.

“This sector will generate foreign direct investment and foreign currency and create job opportunities, as well as contribute to image-building.”

Hilton Worldwide Holdings signed a management deal last Friday to open its first hotel in Ethiopia in more than four decades, while sub-Saharan Africa’s first Marriott-branded serviced apartments have also been unveiled in the capital.

Sheraton, Radisson and Golden Tulip are among a handful of global groups already operating, and US chain Best Western International Inc, France’s AccorHotels and Ramada say they are also working on new projects.

Ethiopia’s target for 2020 looks modest, however, in comparison to the $3.6 billion Egypt had planned to spend to host 9.5 million tourists last year.

“We are a peaceful and stable country. Plus, we have the right policies and strategies,” said Amin.

“It will not be long before we reach the levels of our neighbours.”—Reuters

Ethiopia aims to grow tourism threefold in five years
Dane Olesen holds lead at Dunhill Links Championship

SCOTLAND — Denmark’s Thorbjorn Olesen takes a three-stroke lead into the final round of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship after firing a seven-under-par 65 at St Andrews on Saturday.

The 25-year-old took full advantage of ideal scoring conditions, picking up eight birdies, to lead Germany’s Florian Fritsch, who went one better with a 64 at Kingsbarns. Briton Jimmy Mullen, the overnight leader, dropped back after a 74 at Carnoustie.

“It was a great day. I started off badly by hitting it in the water on the first but I got over it and played some good golf out there,” said Olesen, who was runner-up at the pro-am event three years ago.

“My putter started to get very hot out there and I holed a lot of good putts. So yeah, it was good fun.”

The tournament, which concludes on Sunday, is a unique format with four balls made up of two professionals and two amateur players alternating between links courses at Kingsbarns, Carnoustie and the Old Course at St Andrews.

Frenchman Benjamin Hebert carded six birdies in a round of 67 at Carnoustie and is in third place, four shots back.—Reuters

Chelsea crash again as Aguero hits five for Man City

CHELSEA’s early season slump turned into a full-blown crisis on Saturday when they were beaten 3-1 by Southampton while Manchester City went top of the Premier League with Sergio Aguero scoring five in a 6-1 win over Newcastle United.

Southampton’s win at Stamford Bridge meant Chelsea have made their worst start to a season for 37 years and ended the day in 16th place on eight points, 10 behind City who will be at least until Manchester United play Arsenal on Sunday.

City ended their own mini-slump in style, after two successive league defeats, but Chelsea’s dire run continued even though they took an early lead with Willian scoring with a 10th-minute free-kick.

Southampton hit back with goals from Steven Davis just before halftime, Sadio Mane after 60 minutes and a third from Graziano Pelle 12 minutes later. The defeat prompted an extraordinary response from Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, who spoke for seven minutes without pause in response to one question from a Sky Sports reporter after the game.

Mourinho insisted Chelsea should have had a penalty before Southampton scored their second goal, and said he was not running away from his responsibilities. “I can imagine what people are thinking about what is going to happen or not going to happen,” he said.

“Let me be clear: One, I do not run away. Two, if the club want to sack me they have to sack me because I am not running away from my responsibility or my team and from my conviction.”

“Third, even more important than the first and the second, I think this is a crucial moment in the history of this club because if the club sacks me they sack the best manager that this club has had and the message is...that if there are bad results the manager is guilty.”

Mourinho strongly criticised referee Robert Madley for not awarding Chelsea a penalty when Radamel Falcao appeared to be brought down by Saints goalkeeper Martin Stekelenburg after 53 minutes. “The referees are afraid to give decisions for Chelsea,” he said, a theme he continued for several more minutes.

Saints manager Ronald Koeman said the second half made all the difference after a difficult start: “We were more aggressive than Chelsea and in my opinion we totally deserved the three points today,” he told Sky.

While Chelsea lost an early lead, the side tipped at the start of the season to be their main title challengers came back from an early Newcastle goal to win convincingly.

Aguero scored five times in 20 minutes, including an eight-minute hat-trick, after City appeared to be in danger of a third straight league defeat when Aleksandar Mitrovic headed Newcastle ahead in the 18th minute at the Etihad Stadium.

The visitors, without a win so far, looked the better team for much of the first half but imploded as Aguero burst into life with goals after 42, 49, 50, 60 and 62 minutes. With Kevin De Bruyne also on target, five of City’s six goals came in a dazzling 13-minute spell. Aguero became only the fifth player in the Premier League era to score five in a game following Andy Cole, Alan Shearer, Jermain Defoe and Dimitar Berbatov.

But he was denied the chance to become the first to score six when coach Manuel Pellegrini substituted him two minutes after his fifth goal.—Reuters