BRING JUSTICE BACK

14 fishermen to testify against human traffickers in Indonesia

Aye Min Soe

FOURTEEN Myanmar fishermen will travel to Indonesia this month to testify in court against a fishing company that is on trial for committing human trafficking.

The Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK), an Indonesian NGO, will take the Silver Sean fishing company, also based in Indonesia, to court for trafficking Myanmar fishermen in an attempt to secure salaries and compensation for the victims.

LPSK met with 22 trafficked fishermen in Myanmar during a visit in September and reached agreement in principal with Myanmar authorities to send 14 fishermen who were involved in the case to Indonesia, Police Col Khin Maung Hla told The Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday.

“More than 500 fishermen who returned from Benjina about four to five months ago did not receive salaries from their companies because the Myanmar authorities and Indonesian authorities had to give priority to repatriate them to Myanmar as soon as possible due to insufficient accommodation and food for them,” he added.

“However, the two countries will cooperate further to resolve the issues of salary and grievances of the remaining Myanmar fishermen,” the police colonel said.

He added that 176 of the more than 300 Myanmar fishermen stranded on Indonesia’s Ambon Island returned to Myanmar in September and received their salaries from their employers; they were repatriated only after compensation disputes between employers and workers were resolved by Myanmar and Indonesian authorities.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar embassy in Indonesia has offered its assistance to more than 443 fishermen who returned home from Benjina in early June in filing lawsuits against their former employers in an attempt to resolve the salary disputes between the fishermen and the Benjina Company.

Officials from Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia will hold talks for the second time on the Indonesian island of Bali on 20 and 21 October in order to resolve the human trafficking issue.

Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia held the first meeting on the issue in Phuket, Thailand, in July 2015, focusing on the issue of trafficked fishermen.

During its visit to Myanmar, LPSK expressed its readiness to cooperate with Myanmar to resolve the human trafficking case in Benjina, Aru Island, Maluku Province.

The LPSK has reported on the developments in the Benjina slavery case to Myanmar authorities, including the trial schedule and the protection of the witnesses from Myanmar.

During the meeting with the LPSK, Myanmar authorities voiced their support for the witnesses testifying in court.

The Myanmar Police Force or other relevant ministries can conduct further investigations, the authorities said.

Earlier this year, the Associated Press released a video titled “Was Your Seafood Caught by Slaves?” that showed several prisons and tombs believed to be a cemetery for Myanmar crew members of fishing ships in Benjina. Indonesian police investigations revealed human trafficking in Benjina, arresting eight suspects in connection with the case, of whom five were identified as Thai nationals and three as Indonesian.

More than 130 Myanmar fishermen who have been stranded in Indonesia’s Ambon, Tanjungpinang and Meulaboh islands will be able to return home in October. — GNLM

Govt has built 36,059 new apartments over last 4 years

IT is necessary to develop urban housing projects for towns and cities in all of Myanmar’s states and regions, said Union Minister from the President’s Office U Soe Thane at a coordination meeting on urban development yesterday.

Future developments must also be taken into account while executing urban housing projects, the union minister added.

Also at the meeting, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint explained the efforts of the union government to expand Myanmar’s housing infrastructure.

“The union government was able to build 36,059 new apartments during the 4-year period from 2011 to 2015,” he said.

The Ministry of Construction laid down four objectives: providing adequate and affordable housing, establishing a housing finance mechanism, the participation of private entrepreneurs in the construction industry and the development of a proper housing delivery system, according to the deputy minister. The deputy minister added that the union government built over 36,000 apartments for government employees and low-income citizens, and the ministry is planning to build 1 million apartment units in 81 cities throughout the country over the next 20 years.

Plans are also underway to issue 8-year mortgage loans to home-buyers, according to the deputy minister.

Arrangements are also being made to build 29,357 new apartments in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The ministry also developed 100,000 land plots in 99 cities and towns for urban development projects between 1988 and 2010 — MNA
Vice President honours teachers at World Teachers’ Day ceremony

“COMPETENT teachers are essential to an education system that can nurture qualified human resources,” Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said at the World Teachers’ Day ceremony held at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, the vice president said World Teachers’ Day was organised to highlight the importance of teachers in nurturing new generations of youths, and that Myanmar society traditionally regards teachers as people who deserve gratitude from society.

The enhancement of the quality of our teachers is one of the objectives of the World Education Forum in 2015, the vice president pointed out.

“The theme of this year’s World Teachers’ Day – ‘Empowering teachers, building sustainable society’ – also means teachers’ authority and skills must be enhanced for the sustainable development of society,” he said.

The vice president urged teachers to try to be lifelong learners who always nurture themselves.

After the vice president’s address, Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi read out the message from President Thein Sein to the attendees.

Messages from UN officials were also read out at the ceremony before the vice president presented awards to experienced teachers.

Winners of article and essay competitions were also given prizes at the ceremony.—MNA

Senior General
Min Aung Hlaing donates computers to schools

SPECIAL emphasis should be placed on education, as high education standards are essential for national development, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

He spoke at a ceremony held at Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine, where he donated computers to schools and universities and cash for regional development in Mon State on Monday.

The senior general’s wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla also attended the ceremony, as did Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint, air force Commander-in-Chief General Khin Aung Myint and navy Commander-in-Chief Vice Admiral Tin Aung San.

In his speech, the senior general explained the latest development about the nationwide ceasefire agreement and the Tatmadaw’s six guiding principles for peace.

The senior general handed over computers and exercise books donated by members of the defence services to schools and universities to local officials.

Earlier in the morning, the senior general met with members of the defence services and their families at Mawlamyine Station.

At the meeting, the senior general explained reforms adopted by the Tatmadaw and handed over books for families and students. Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donated cash for the maternal and child welfare association of the Southeast Command to the wife of the commander.

General Khin Aung Myint presented sport equipment to the Southeast Command.—Myawady

Dr Sai Mauk Kham accepts bloodmobile from Thai princess

VICE PRESIDENT Dr Sai Mauk Kham accepted a bloodmobile donated by the Thai people through Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. The donation was aimed at fostering friendship between Thailand and Myanmar, improving Myanmar’s blood banks and increasing the number of blood donors.

The vehicle is equipped with facilities by which six people can donate blood simultaneously. In the evening, the vice president hosted a dinner for the Thai princess and her entourage at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Earlier that day, the Thai princess visited No. 15 Basic Education Primary School in Pyinmana. She donated books and stationery for the students.

The princess also browsed exhibits on display at the National Archives Department in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Nyaung Lay Bin celebrates World Teachers’ Day

NYAUNG LAY BIN Township held its ninth World Teachers’ Day ceremony yesterday at the local Basic Education High School.

Ma Moe Yanant Khin, a grade-10 student, sang the song ‘Respectful Teacher’ at the opening of the ceremony.

The deputy sports minister gave a speech and donated K1 million (US$750) in gifts to senior teachers, SKY NET receivers for local high schools.

Township education officer Daw Khin Than Nu thanked the deputy minister and presented gifts to senior teachers.

Prizes were also presented to students who won essay and poem competitions held for the event.—Ne Lin
President meets Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand yesterday at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During their meeting, they exchanged views on strengthening friendship between the two countries, promoting cooperation between the two countries in religious affairs; education, health and culture; rural development; border-area development and cooperation in anti-drug efforts.

U Thein Sein, President of the Union, and Thailand’s ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisaru Suwanajata accompanied the president and the Thai princess at the meeting.—MNA

Vice President receives Thai Princess

VICE President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn yesterday. They discussed strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Also present were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, U Han Sein, U Thant Shin, Dr Win Myint, Daw Sandar Khin. The Thai delegation was accompanied by Thailand’s ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisaru Suwanajata.—MNA

What they stand for: campaign speeches aired


Chairman U Sai Haung Kham explained the history of the party and its policies in his speech. The ESSDDP aims to protect the rights of aboriginal ethnic groups of Eastern Shan State and to work for the development of the region. The party promotes democracy, federalism, economic liberalism and a market-oriented economic system. The party promotes pluralism, social security, green energy, organic agriculture, preservation of traditional cultures and languages in Eastern Shan State, peaceful coexistence between religious groups, environmental conservation and stability and peace in Eastern Shan State.

Chairman U Hsan Lin clarified the history and policies of the party, which aims to establish sovereignty based on democracy, to settle disputes through dialogue, to work for equal rights and to cooperate with government organisations and non-government organisations to promote the people’s interests. Its future tasks include enabling farmers to enjoy rights stipulated in the farmland law, the provision of assistance for mechanised farming, enabling farmers to participate in organisations to settle land disputes, the enforcement of the farmland law and assisting farmers in other ways.

Patron U Min Nyo expounded on the history and policies of his party, which aims to provide the basic needs of Akha nationals while preserving their culture, traditions and language. Its policies are based on equality, minority rights, internal peace and national unity and cooperation for national development. The party upholds three main national causes: non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the union and building a strong, single union army.—GNLM

President’s message to be broadcast on radio

A RADIO message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes on 6 and 7 October.

Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinawaddy FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan, Thazin Radio and Yangon City FM will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively.—MNA

Myanmar to repatriate 105 Bangladeshi boatpeople

MYANMAR has repatriated 626 Bangladeshi citizens rescued at sea by the Myanmar Navy in May and July in five batches in cooperation with Bangladeshi authorities.

Many more Bangladeshi boatpeople remain in Taungpyoletwei camp in Rakhine State, of whom 105 were identified and approved by Bangladesh for repatriation. They are scheduled to be handed over to Bangladeshi authorities on 12 October.—MNA

Correction

PLEASE read “U Tha Aung Nyun concurrently accredited as Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius” and “Daw Yin Yin Myint concurrently accredited as Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia” as the headlines published on Page 3 of this daily issued 5 October 2015. We regret the errors.—Editor

Four party speeches to be broadcast today

CAMPAIGN speeches delivered by representatives from Zo National Region Development Party, National Development Party, Women’s Party (Mon) and Arakan Patriot Party will be broadcast on state radio and television networks on 6 October. MRTV, the Hlutaw channel, Myawady TV, Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast the speeches.—GNLM
Poll officials attend training course in Ottara District

CHIEF ballot officers, deputies and their assistants attended an orientation course on 5 October at the Ottara District General Administration Office.

Union Election Commission member U Aung Myint said the officials must know the election laws well, and he pointed out that the elections must be free and fair. He said advance votes must be dealt with according to rules and regulations and elaborated on the preparations being made for the 8 November election.

Ottara District Election Commission chairman U Aung Lwin explained the duties of poll officers and the voting process. He showed samples of valid and void votes. The three-day course was attended by 48 poll officers.—Shwe Ye Yint

Meiktila officials discuss election security measures

OFFICIALS at the Meiktila District General Administration Office discussed security measures for the upcoming general election on 5 October. The district includes Meiktila, Mahlaing, Thazi, and Wundwin townships.

District Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon said the elections on November 8 must be successfully held with the participation of the whole district. The district police chief Lt-Col Soa Nay Lin explained security measures arranged in the four townships and added that there will be special election policemen on duty during the elections.

The meeting was attended by district and township election commission members and other security officials.—Chan Tha

Friesian cattle flourish thanks to New Zealand’s input

CATTLE breeders in Nyaungpintha village in Meiktila Township said that technical assistance from New Zealand is reaping benefits in breeding of Friesian cows. Friesian cattle are valued for their high-quality dairy output as well their lean meat.

Breeder U Khin Maung Win said he had previously bred around 700 Friesian cows, but they did not produce milk—a failing he attributes to a lack of his experience. He said that since receiving technical assistance from a group of experts from New Zealand, he has been able to breed 220 milk-producing cows. The milk produced is sent to a condensed milk factory.

“The main factor to success is understanding how to use available technology,” he said.

The breeder has 20 acres of pasture and the experts visit his farm once a month. He recently received the Best Livestock Breeder Award from President U Thein Sein.

U Khin Maung Win also cultivates crops such as maize, sesame, rice and sunflowers on his 120-acre plantation. He said he has plans to turn his land into a collective farming project where he will pass on new skills to his fellow farmers.

“This would be really beneficial to the community,” he said.—Chan Tha
Farmers rent machinery for seasonal crops

FARMERS in Taung Township have rented tractors and other agricultural machinery to complete their cultivation while rainfall levels are still favourable. The farmers of Imphat village report that they are ready to plant seasonal crops such as tomatoes and roselle (hibiscus sandarafina). Agricultural machinery businesses also report higher profits during this period.—*Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)*

Myanmar Police Day observed in Pyay

The 51st Myanmar Police Day was observed at the Pyi District Police Department in Bago Region on 4 October. The Pyi District police chief Lt-Col Aung Thet Naing read out a commemorative message from the Myanmar Police Force chief, Police Major Gen Zaw Win. Paungde Township received awards for having the lowest crime rate and most gambling-related arrests in the district. The gone Township received the award for arresting the most fugitives. The award for recruiting the officers most was given to the district crime unit. The District Police chief also gave prizes to outstanding attendees of moral courses and to model mothers of the police families.

*Photo: U Myint Aung*

Families of police pay respect to retired members of the Myanmar Police Force in Pyay.

The meeting's attendees were shown a video clip demonstrating proper voting procedures. Eight political parties are competing in the township's two constituencies. The township has a total of 121,936 voters.—*U Myint Aung*

Kyaukme officials discuss election security

General Administration Office on 4 October, Kyaukme District Commissioner U Soe Naing and District Election Commission chairman U Tun Win urged the officials to hold a successful election and explained some of the difficulties that can happen during elections and some ongoing problems. District police chief Lt-Col Win Thein elaborated on the security measures his department will take.

The meeting’s attendees were shown a video clip demonstrating proper voting procedures. The meeting was very happy about the area’s development and that the effort to electrify the whole township was going smoothly. A village elder thanked the officials on behalf of the 102 families in the village. The electrification project aims to cover 158 villages in Nahtogyi Township. As yesterday, 60 villages have received electricity.—*Htay Myint Maung*
Thai junta picks panel to write constitution after draft rejected

BANGKOK — Thailand’s military government, which took power in May last year, appointed a committee to draft the country’s 20th constitution on Monday after a previous draft was rejected, delaying promised elections until at least 2017, said deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam.

The committee, made up of lawyers, academics, civil servants and military types, starts work immediately.

The military took power in a May 2014 coup after months of political unrest. The junta, formally known as the National Council for Peace and Order, scrapped the constitution and set about writing one that critics say was aimed at consolidating the army’s already-sweeping powers.

Kan Yuenyong, an analyst at Siam Intelligence Unit think tank, said the junta’s aim of a constitution that gives the military overarching powers remained unchanged.

“At the end of the day, the junta has the same aims it did before, namely, it believes the political system doesn’t work and they need an umbrella organisation to oversee the country and to weaken the electoral process but how they will do that and make it more palatable to people remains to be seen,” he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam said Meechai Ruchupan, an adviser to the junta, would head the new committee. Meechai led a junta-appointed panel that drafted the 2006 constitution, dubbed the “anti-Thaksin” charter because it appeared aimed at preventing the return of ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin was deposed in a 2006 coup after being accused of corruption. His sister, Yingluck, was removed from power in May 2014 after a court found her guilty of abuse of power. Days later, the army staged a coup, ending months of sometimes violent street protests in Bangkok aimed at ousting Yingluck’s government.—Reuters

Widow of popular Philippine politician could boost ruling party in polls

MANILA — The widow of a popular Philippine politician has accepted a ruling party offer to run as vice president in an election in May which should boost the chances of victory for President Benigno Aquino’s successor.

More than 54 million Filipinos will vote for a new president, vice president, and about 18,000 lawmakers and local government officials in elections that happen every six years.

“After deep soul searching, broad consultation and fervent prayers, I am accepting the challenge,” Maria Robredo, the widow of the late senator Benigno Aquino Jr., said in a television interview, which was broadcast on Sunday.

Robredo has earned a reputation as a tough-minded politician and the youngest of two children of Benigno Aquino Sr. and Estelle Aquino.

She added that she will accept the offer if the Liberal Party and President Aquino would support her in the campaign.

Asked about her chances of winning, she said, “It’s a uphill battle”.

A senior BNP leader, Abdul Moyeen Khan, a former federal minister, said there had been attempts by the international community, including the United Nations, to broker peace between the two main parties.

“The there was an election as per the constitution, but the BNP did not participate, and it is their mistake.”

Mahbubul Alam Hanif

The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has staged violent protests since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s Awami League won a second consecutive term in January 2014. The BNP boycotted the election, which was deemed by international observers to be flawed.

At the same time, Islamist groups have been staging high-profile attacks in the impoverished South Asian nation. Earlier this year, four online critics of religious militancy were hacked to death. Over the past week, the Islamic State has claimed responsibility for shooting an Italian and a Japanese man and threatened more such attacks.

"Such downward trends will continue until there is some kind of political reconciliation between the two major political parties in Bangladesh," Abdul Moyeen Khan, a senior BNP leader, told Reuters in an interview on Friday. Moyeen, a former federal minister, said there had been attempts by the international community, including the United Nations, to broker peace between the two parties. But months of behind-the-scenes efforts had failed to yield results and the Awami League had refused to engage in negotiations.

Mahbubul Alam Hanif, acting secretary general of the Awami League, said the next round of talks would be held in the coming days.

Bangladesh opposition says foreigner killings sign of deeper crisis

DHAKA — A senior Bangladesh opposition leader said on Monday the killing of two foreign nationals was a sign that law and order was collapsing and the situation may get worse unless a stalemate between the two main political parties is resolved.

“We were not able to visit the site of the killing and it is too early to say exactly what had happened,” said Nazrul Islam, a member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

BNP, backed by the Jamaat-e-Islami group, has been staging protests against the results of the December 2014 general election, which were declared on Jan. 5.

According to Mozammel Hye, a lawyer who visited the scene of the killing, the bodies of the two men were found on Sunday night.

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Beating parasites wins three scientists Nobel prize for medicine

STOCKHOLM/LONDON — Three scientists from Japan, China and Ireland whose discoveries led to the development of potent new drugs against parasitic diseases such as malaria and elephantiasis won the Nobel Prize for Medicine on Monday.

Irish-born William Campbell and Japan’s Satoshi Omura won half of the prize for discovering avermectin, a derivative of which has been used to treat hundreds of millions of people with river blindness and lymphatic filariasis, or elephantiasis. China’s Youyou Tu was awarded the other half of the prize for discovering artemisinin, a drug that has slashed malaria deaths and has become the mainstay of fight against malaria.

“They two discoveries have provided humankind with powerful new means to combat these debilitating diseases that affect hundreds of millions of people annually.” — Nobel Assembly

Komeito wants party policy chief to get transport post in new Cabinet

TOKYO — Komeito leader Natsuo Yamaguchi requested Monday that the party’s policy chief, Keiichi Ishi, replace Akihiro Ota, a veteran Komeito lawmaker, as minister of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism in Wednesday’s Cabinet reshuffle, according to sources familiar with the move.

Yamaguchi made the request in a meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the premier’s office, the sources said. After talks with Abe, Yamaguchi only said, “I leave personnel affairs to the prime minister.” Ishi, who is serving his eighth term as a House of Representatives member, is chairman of the Policy Research Council of Komeito, the junior coalition partner of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party. Ota was announced as transport minister, but has decided to replace him amid calls inside Komeito for a second reshuffle.

Last week, Abe said he will retain the top five executives of the LDP in their current posts when he reshuffles the Cabinet and LDP leadership on Wednesday.

The five LDP executives are Vice President Masahiko Komura, Secretary General Sadakazu Tanigaki, Policy Research Council Chairwoman Tomomi Inada, General Council Chairman Toshihiro Nikai and Election Strategy Committee Chairman Toshimitsu Motegi. Abe has hinted he will also retain key Cabinet ministers, fueling speculation that he will keep Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Akira Amari, minister of economic and fiscal policy.

—Kyodo News

Australia to buy Thales light armoured vehicles for $917 mn

MELBOURNE — Australia said on Monday it would buy 1,100 light armoured vehicles from French defence and electronics firm Thales SA for AS1.3 billion ($917 million).

Thales Australia won a competitive international tender with its locally designed and built Hawkei patrol vehicle, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said in a statement, a boon for the struggling manufacturing industry in the state of Victoria.

The Hawkei will replace the heavier Bushmaster, also made by Thales in Australia, and will be the only vehicle in the Australian Defence Force that can be transported by helicopter, according to the prime minister’s statement.

Full production of the Hawkei is due to begin in 2018, with pilot production beginning in early 2016. The fact that the new vehicle was lighter than the Bushmaster should give it “enormous potential” in the export market, Defence Minister Marise Payne said at a contract signing ceremony. Vehicles made by US defence giant General Dynamics Corp and its Force Protection unit were also tested by Australia’s defence force, according to The Australian newspaper. —Reuters

N Korea to repatriate S Korean detainee in evening

SEOUL — North Korea has said it will later Monday repatriate a South Korean university student detained in the country since May, according to South Korea’s Unification Ministry.

The repatriation of Joo Won Moon, a 21-year-old N Seoul University student with permanent residency in the United States, is set to take place at 5:30 pm at the truce village of Panmunjom, the ministry said in a statement.

In early May, the North’s state-run Korean Central News Agency reported that Joo was arrested for having illegally crossing into the country from China’s northeastern border city Dandong on 22 April.

On 25 September, the student was paraded before the media for the second time since his arrest and read out a statement full of praise for the country and its regime. He admitted sneaking into the country out of “curiosity” and sought lenient treatment.

In its statement, the Unification Ministry expressed relief at Pyongyang’s decision to release Joo and urged it to also send back three other South Korean detainees.

In June, North Korea’s top court sentenced two of them captured as “spies” in 2014 to hard labor for life, saying they had tried to topple the regime. —Kyodo News

Chemical plant blast injures 7

HANGZHOU — Seven workers were injured in an explosion at a chemical plant in Zhejiang Province, authorities said on Monday.

The blast occurred at around 10:30 am Monday at Zhejiang Hongxiang Chemical Co Ltd, in Shangyu City, in the eastern city of Shaoxing, the local authorities said.

Two of the injured are workers. Seven fire engines rushed to put out the blaze and prevented the flames from reaching a nearby warehouse containing 50 tonnes of inflammable chemicals, including sodium chloride.—Xinhua
**Growth in East Asia: Likely to Moderate But Still Remain Solid, Says World Bank Report**

**Region urged to stay the course on structural reform and macroeconomic management**

**SINGAPORE, OCTOBER 5, 2015** — East Asia remains one of the main growth drivers of the world economy, accounting for nearly two-fifths of global economic growth, according to a new World Bank report. Overall, the region is expected to grow 6.5 percent in 2015, moderating slightly from 6.8 percent last year.

“Growth in developing East Asia Pacific continues to be solid, but the moderating trend suggests policy makers in the region must remain focused on structural reforms that lay the foundation for sustainable, long-term and inclusive growth. These reforms include regulatory improvements in finance, labor and product markets, as well as measures that enhance transparency and accountability. These policies will reassure investors and markets, and help sustain growth that can help lift people out of poverty,” said Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank East Asia and Pacific Regional Vice President.

The East Asia Pacific Economic Update released today looks at the challenging global environment facing the region. The recovery in high-income economies remains gradual, global trade is growing at its slowest pace since 2009, and the widespread slowdown in developing countries has intensified, particularly in commodity producers affected by lower commodity prices.

The performance trends across East Asia are diverse. Indonesia’s economy is expected to grow at about 7 percent this year and gradually moderate thereafter, as its economy continues to shift toward a model more dominated by domestic consumption and services, which implies a gradual reduction of growth. The rest of developing East Asia is expected to grow 4.6 percent in 2015, similar to the rate last year. Commodity exporters such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Mongolia will see slower growth and lower public revenues this year, reflecting weaker global commodity prices. Commodity importers will maintain a stable — even robust — pace of growth. Vietnam, for example, is expected to grow 6.2 percent in 2015 and 6.3 percent in 2016. Growth will ease, however, in many of the smaller economies. In Cambodia, lower agricultural output is hurting the economy, although growth will still be 6.9 percent this year. In Myanmar, severe flooding in July will likely drive down the pace of growth to 6.5 percent, from 8.5 percent in 2014. Pacific Island countries, meanwhile, will see moderate growth.

“Developing East Asia’s growth is expected to slow because of China’s economic rebalancing and the pace of the expected normalization of U.S. policy interest rates,” said Sudhir Shetty, Chief Economist of the World Bank’s East Asia and Pacific Region. “These factors could generate financial volatility in the short term, but are necessary adjustments for sustainable growth in the long term.”

The report argues a gradual slowdown in the Chinese economy in 2016-17. This scenario is likely because China has sufficient policy buffers, and tools to address the risk of a more pronounced slowdown, including relatively low public debt levels, regulations restricting savings outside of the banking system, and the state’s dominant role in the financial system. If China’s growth were to slow further, the effects would be felt in the rest of the region, especially in countries linked to China through trade, investment and tourism.

The report also assumes that a gradual increase in U.S. interest rates will begin in the coming months. While this increase has been anticipated and is likely to be orderly, there is still a risk that markets could react sharply to such tightening, causing currencies to depreciate, bond spreads to rise, capital inflows to fall, and liquidity to tighten.

In the face of these possible headwinds, the report emphasizes two key priorities across the region: prudent macroeconomic management, aimed at shoring up external and fiscal vulnerabilities; and deeper structural reform, focused on encouraging private investment.

Meanwhile, Myanmar’s economy grew at 8.5 percent in real terms in 2014/15 but growth is projected to moderate to 6.5 percent in 2015/16 due to floods and slowing investments. Economic reforms have supported consumer and investor confidence despite ongoing business environment and socio-political challenges. Rapidly rising demand for investment-related imports has widened the current account deficit. This together with the general strengthening of the US Dollar has put pressure on Myanmar’s exchange rate. Rapid growth in credit to the private sector has fueled monetary expansion. Inflation is estimated to have reached around 10 percent in the year to July. Medium-term economic growth prospects remain strong assuming continued progress on reforms.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,

The unfortunate accident as an outcome of a horrendous stampede in the Saudi Arabian tent city of Mina (outside Mecca) resulting in the death of 4173 helpless Hajj pilgrims together with huge number of individuals injured and under treatment have been a shocking news across the globe. The high death numbers represent citizens from almost all the major continents and have sent shock waves to all corners of the world. There has been another incident earlier this month when a super crane crashed and caused the death of 109 defenseless pilgrims in the Mecca Grand Mosque. According to global media reports around two million Muslims have been actively participating in the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia this year that imitated last Tuesday. The immediate factor behind the stampede has not yet been clearly ascertained, but the Saudi Arabian authorities have ordered a thorough probe into the tragic event. Over 50,000 emergency medical workers and 200 emergency vehicles have been immediately placed into services to aid the wounded and injured. Additional contingent of medical doctors, nurses, health workers, security personnel have also been installed to have the entire situation under control. There has been a history of accidental deaths and related incidents during the hajj; and the largest loss of lives were recorded in the year 1990 when 1426 pilgrims died. However, this is the first major incident within almost a decade.

In spite of the great support and emergency medical team responses and related professional activities; there has been growing criticism against the Saudi Arabian authorities around the globe regarding their repeated failures of security arrangement associated with this year’s hajj pilgrimage. A significant number of countries across the planet have lost their citizens in the recent series of unfortunate accidents and stampedes in Saudi Arabia; and the loss of precious lives are always deeply mourned and remembered devaluing the quality services provided for facilitating this year’s hajj pilgrimage successfully. Saudi Arabia has been criticized for failing to make the security arrangement full proof and that there have been several loop holes existing in the security system that have not been critical scrutiny by experts in advance. There has been negligence definitely in the stringent monitoring and surveillance system covering the entire spectra of pilgrims in all the major and minor holy cities of the nation. As well as there is no denial that there have been collective failures in the system installed for comprehensive security arrangements at the advent of any serious threats, attacks, stampedes or break out of contagious diseases; or any such natural calamities like oil or gas leakage, fire or explosion or any unexpected accidents or unpleasant incidents on the part of the Saudi authorities. Hopefully, the responsible authorities will learn from such grave mistakes and take all the necessary precautions in the hajj pilgrimages from next year to avoid such repetition of catastrophic mistakes and security lapses.

It will be necessary that the Saudi authorities publish some key committees to look into the vivid details at every possible aspect of the hajj pilgrimage; and should think in installing a multilevel security system. So that if one tier fails there could be protection provided through the next successive security layers. Meanwhile the loss of lives and people injured need to be provided with the best available care under the current circumstances.

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours,

Saikat Kumar Basu
When there are mealy-mouthed politicians, slick politicians, moral-vacuum and political-vacuum, regression occurs in a society

Tommy Pauk

Each society should maintain political stability in order to carry out the tasks for socio-economic development constantly. The political stability breeds peace, unity and harmony in a certain society. Politicians do have different principles for serving the tasks of party politics, national politics, electoral politics and local politics. A system of political beliefs is laid down to implement aspiration for a specific polity of the society. Processes have been made to reach the specific political goals by politicians. It is a must to coordinate with the majority people so that the political process can be smooth and effective. Each and every mature citizen must participate in politics so that they acquire knowledge and experience.

Political science must be taught as a compulsory subject in upper secondary level schools and in universities in a society.

Political culture should be flourishing in the society. Political culture is defined as follow:

- “The traditional orientation of the citizens of a nation towards politics, affecting their perceptions of political legitimacy. The attitudes, beliefs and expectations that constitute particular orientations to society in general and politics in particular. The specifically political orientations or attitudes to the political system and its various parts.”

In every society, the government and politicians work together and coordinate for public affairs and welfare. The politicians normally work as go-betweens or as a bridge between government and public concerned. The government and politicians must always listen to the reactions, desires, complaints and opinions of the public concerned in order to settle or fulfill or harmonize them within the public relations. Apparently, we, the ordinary people can rely on the conduct of politicians apart from government and public concerned. Of course, the role of politicians is required essentially. Most important of all, the politicians must vow never to betray public on any circumstances. Simultaneously, they need to perform the duties of party politics and serve the public interests in goodwill manner.

Some politicians are crooked and they can be called mealy-mouthed politicians. Such politicians are the ones who are not plain and straightforward persons so ordinary people cannot rely on their conduct wholly. If mealy-mouthed politicians outnumber the self-less-politicians in a society, the peoples’ desire cannot be fulfilled completely. Slick politicians are also clever due to lack of well-versed politicians, political vacuum arises in the society concerned. Another deficiency is that the vast majority of people are lack of specific knowledge about politics. Consequently, the so-called politicians will surely take advantage on the ignorance of the public and play tricks in political arena in the said society. Unfortunately, the self-seekers, opportunists and so-called politicians overwhelm the political affairs and people cannot find the right political leader. People are quite helpless and hopeless to demand for their rights whenever they will cause a great detriment to the development of the society concerned. The moral vacuum undermines the status and image of the society concerned. In such a case, the government members, politicians and some citizens must be morally corrupt. Due to lack of practice in ethics, exercising extreme secularism and poor leadership, moral vacuum arises in the society concerned. This is also a great problem for the society in which moral真空 exists. Who is going to train and tame those corrupt persons in the society concerned? If it persists as an unsolved problem, that society will regress rather than progress. This means that the act of returning to an earlier condition that is worse or less developed. Immorality, malpractice and corruption destroy the image of the society and disrupt its prosperity. Moral vacuum is despicable so rule of law must be prevalent by any means for the society concerned. If the moral standards and basic moral philosophies are desolated in a particular society, a series of chaos or instability or may hem will occur certainly in it. However, paying too much attention to secularism can lead to uncivilized manners. Hopefully, some of the religious teachings of morality will be a remedy for that society. Most of the stable societies rely on both private and public morality. In addition, moral vacuum causes the political unrest because there can be neither justice nor equality in the society concerned.

Basically, the people from any nation around the world wish to enjoy peace, happiness and freedom all the time. The occurrences of the progression or regression in the respective societies in the world mainly depend on the political system, tradition, culture and standards of personal morality.

“The traditional orientation of the citizens of a nation towards politics, affecting their perceptions of political legitimacy. The attitudes, beliefs and expectations that constitute particular orientations to society in general and politics in particular. The specifically political orientations or attitudes to the political system and its various parts.”

Gradually, moral vacuum and political vacuum will be disappeared when those persons give up their stupid mindsets and behaviors. They must be trained and tamed to become patriotic citizens so that the good governance and clean government will appear. Note. If a person is truly patriotic, he will never do anything that will annoy the public. They must take an active role in politics systematically.

The existences of mealy-mouthed politicians, slick politicians, moral-vacuum and political-vacuum cause regression in a society. To be able to avoid such circumstances and situation, upgrading the standard of people’s morality, studying political science as a compulsory subject in universities, practicing ethical norms will naturally nurture the spirit of patriotism are essentially and critically required in any society. Even a secular society might require those practices for sustainable development of it. If people wish to prosper their society, they ought not to support the mealy-mouthed politicians and slick politicians by any means. Gradually, moral vacuum and political vacuum will be disappeared when those persons give up their stupid mindsets and behaviors. They must be trained and tamed to become patriotic citizens so that the good governance and clean government will appear. Note. If a person is truly patriotic, he will never do anything that will annoy the public. They must take an active role in politics systematically.

We, humans are naturally able to reform the derelict condition of the political arena in the said society. Sequentially, we must always believe in our political culture and political tradition, culture and standards of personal morality.

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.I.I degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers’ College in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.
NEW YORK — The number of people living in extreme poverty is likely to fall for the first time below 10 percent of the world’s population in 2015, the World Bank said on Sunday as it revised its benchmark for measuring the problem.

Extreme poverty has long been defined as living on or below $1.25 a day, but the World Bank’s adjustment now sets the poverty line at $1.90 a day.

The Bank said the change reflects new data on differences in the cost of living across countries, while preserving the real purchasing power of the previous yardstick.

Using the new benchmark, the World Bank projects that 702 million people or 9.6 percent of the world’s population will be living in extreme poverty in 2015, down from 902 million people or 12.8 percent of the global population in 2012.

The global development lender attributed the continued fall in poverty to strong economic growth rates in emerging markets, particularly India, and investments in education, health, and social safety nets.

“... these projections show us that we are the first generation in human history that can end extreme poverty,” World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said in a statement.

However, he warned that slower global growth, volatile financial markets, conflicts, high youth unemployment and the impact of climate change were obstacles to meeting a UN target to end poverty by 2030, part of a new set of development goals adopted by 193 countries at the United Nations last month.

“... it remains within our grasp, as long as our high aspirations are matched by country-led plans that help the still millions of people living in extreme poverty,” Kim added.

According to the Bank, around half of those living in extreme poverty by 2020 will hail from hard-to-reach fragile and conflict-affected states. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for some half of the global poor.

Experts said the prospect of emerging economies losing steam could challenge promises to eradicate extreme poverty.

“If economic growth of the developing world over the last 15 years was an anomaly, was a blip, then we’re in trouble,” said Laurence Chandy, a fellow at the Brookings Institution whose research focuses on global poverty.

“If instead it’s a kind new normal then we’ve got a good chance of getting close to this goal,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The World Bank first introduced a global poverty line in 1990, setting it at $1 a day. It was adjusted last in 2008, when the group raised it to $1.25 a day.

Across the planet, the number of people living in extreme poverty has dropped by more than half since 1990, when 1.9 billion people lived under $1.25 a day, compared to 836 million in 2015, according to the United Nations.

This follows the adoption in 2000 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which included the eradication of extreme poverty.

Replacing the MDGs are the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 goals to combat poverty, inequality and climate change by 2030 — with ending extreme poverty for all people everywhere, a key target.

Bomb in Lebanon targets bus heading to Syria, no casualties

BEIRUT — A bomb went off in Lebanon on Monday targeting a minibus transporting passengers to Syria, and a second explosion device was found near a Lebanese customs office at the Syrian-Lebanese border and defused, a security source said. There were no casualties from the roadside explosion near the bus in the town of Chtaura in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley, the source said.— Reuters

Russia is conducting ‘asymmetric warfare’ in Syria: Britain’s Hammond

MANCHESTER — Russia is engaged in “classic asymmetric warfare” in Syria by using its military clout to prop up President Bashar al-Assad while saying it is attacking Islamic State militants, Britain’s foreign minister said on Sunday.

Russia last week began striking targets in Syria — a dramatic escalation of foreign involvement in the civil war which has been criticised by the West as an attempt to prop up Assad, rather than its purported aim of attacking Islamic State. “It looks like a classic bit of Russian asymmetric warfare — you have a strong propaganda message that says you’re doing one thing while in fact you are doing something completely different and when challenged you just flatly deny it,” Philip Hammond told Reuters in an interview in Manchester.

He said Britain had held discussions with Russia but kept on getting the same response — that Moscow was attacking Islamic State militants in Syria.

“You try talking to the Russians,” he said. “They just keep repeating their position — that is by the way the Iranian position - and it is just incredible.”

He said that Britain needed “absolute clarity” that Assad would not be part of Syria’s future.

“That’s not some random bee in the bonnet that I’ve got; it’s that without that commitment we will never get the broad spectrum of Syrian opposition groups to sit down and agree around a table how we take forward the discussion about Syria’s future,” he said.

Hammond dismissed proposals put forward by Russia and Iran for elections, saying Syria was “a million miles away” from being able to hold a free and fair vote. “In a country where 250,000 people have been killed and 12 million people have been displaced, half of those outside the country — how can you talk about free and fair elections?” he said.— Reuters

Clinton to outline gun control plan during Monday campaign stops

MANCHESTER — US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton will outline specific steps she would take to counter the influence of the country’s top gun-rights advocacy group, but she has still to say whether legislation that prevents such a move will pass.

As a US senator representing New York, Clinton voted against legislation that prevents victims of gun violence from holding negligent manufacturers and dealers accountable for crimes committed with their guns. As president, she will seek to repeal, according to her campaign.

Clinton will be discussing her gun control proposals on Monday at two town halls near Manchester, New Hampshire.— Reuters
Residents say Afghan forces regain most of Kunduz, some shops reopen

KABUL — Police and residents said Afghan government forces had regained control of most of the besieged city of Kunduz on Monday, and some shops in the centre of the provincial capital opened for the first time since it fell to Taliban fighters a week ago.

Residents said it was the first time in eight days that they had not heard gun battles and were able to leave their homes to buy food and take stock of the damage done.

Soldiers were conducting house-to-house searches as they continued to push Islamist insurgents out of areas that had witnessed fierce fighting, with control of pockets of the city swinging several times between the Taliban and Afghan army.

“The centre of the city is normal,” said Abdul Ghafoor, a Kunduz resident, but added it would still take time to recover.

“The city smells so bad with dead bodies still on the pavements and in the sewage. The local government must do something,” he added.

Battles have raged around Kunduz, a strategic city of 300,000, as government forces backed by US air strikes sought to drive out Taliban militants, who seized the city a week ago in one of their biggest victories in the 14-year insurgency.

The US government said it was investigating whether its military was responsible for an air strike that killed 22 people in an Afghan hospital run by aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres on Saturday.

The UN human rights chief said the hospital assault was “inexcusable” and could amount to a war crime.

The US military said it conducted an air strike “in the vicinity” of the MSF hospital as it targeted Taliban insurgents who were directly firing on US military personnel. It has not acknowledged hitting the hospital.

Any confirmation of US responsibility for the hospital deaths would deal a blow to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani’s policy of forging closer ties with the United States.

His predecessor, Hamid Karzai, fell out with his backers in Washington, in part over the number of civilians killed by US strikes.

While the government has claimed to have regained control of the city before, and fighting has continued, weary residents were hopeful that the worst of the violence may now be over.

“It is going to take a long time for the city to return to normality again,” said Abdulah, a Kunduz resident. “People are still very scared to come out.”

—Reuters

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Photo: Reuters

MELBOURNE — Nauru unexpectedly said on Monday all 600 asylum seekers held at a controversial Australian detention centre will be allowed to move freely around the tiny South Pacific island and all their asylum applications will be processed this week.

Asylum seekers have long been a contentious political issue in Australia, although it has never received anywhere near the number of refugees currently flooding into Europe as they flee instability in the Middle East and North Africa.

Successive Australian governments have vowed to stop asylum seekers reaching the mainland, turning boats back to Indonesia when it can and sending those it cannot for detention in camps on Manus island in impoverished Papua New Guinea and on Nauru.

The harsh conditions at the camps, including reports of systemic child abuse, have been strongly criticised by the United Nations and human rights groups. An independent UN investigator postponed an official visit to Australia last month, citing a lack of government cooperation and “unacceptable” legal restrictions.

New Australia Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said last month he was concerned about conditions in the camps but gave no indication of a major policy change, so Monday’s announcement from Nauru came as a surprise.

—Reuters

Australian security forces prepare to check on reports of a possible ambush by the Taliban on the Baghlan-Kunduz highway, Afghanistan. Photo: Reuters

Islamic State militants blow up ancient Arch of Triumph in Palmyra

DAMASCUS — Islamic State militants have blown up the Arch of Triumph, a major monument in the 2,000-year-old Roman city of Palmyra, Syria’s antiquities chief said on Sunday, after they destroyed two ancient temples at the central Syrian site in recent months.

Maamoun Abdulkarim told Reuters that sources in Palmyra had confirmed that the Arch of Triumph, a jewel in the exquisitely preserved oasis city, had been blown up. Islamic State militants have blown up temples at the Roman-era UNESCO World Heritage site, which it has controlled since capturing Palmyra from Syrian government forces in May and mined other monuments and historic buildings. The group considers the buildings sacrilegious.

“It’s as though there is a curse that has befallen this city and I expect only news that will shock us. If the city remains in their hands the city is doomed,” Abdulkarim told Reuters.

“It is now wanted destruction ... their acts of vengeance are no longer ideologically driven because they are now blowing up buildings with no religious meaning,” he added.

In August, the Sunni Muslim militants blew up the temple of Baal Shamin, then the Temple of Bel, one of the best preserved Roman-era sites.

Earlier this month it was also confirmed the militants had destroyed some of the best preserved of Palmyra’s funeral towers, sandstone constructions built to hold the remains of the ancient city’s richest families.

Palmyra was one of the most important cultural centres of the ancient world, according to cultural agency UNESCO, which has described it as the crossroads of several civilisations. Islamic State has declared a caliphate in territory it holds across Syria and Iraq and has destroyed other monuments it says are pagan and sacrilegious.

UNESCO has called such acts war crimes and says Islamic State seeks to wipe out evidence of Syria’s diverse heritage.

Before the capture of the city, Syrian officials said they had moved hundreds of ancient statues to safe locations.

—Reuters
Eight students had broken bones over 3 yrs in ‘human pyramids’ at school

OSAKA — At a middle school in Osaka Prefecture where six students were recently injured when a “human pyramid” collapsed, eight students had suffered bone fractures since 2013 while practicing or performing that stunt for athletic meets, school officials said Monday.

In late September at Taisho Junior High School in the city of Yao, a student suffered a broken arm and five others sustained lighter injuries when a 10-tier human pyramid being formed by first-year students, mostly 12 or 13 years old, collapsed. That is a stunt performed at sports events at many schools across Japan to showcase a form of physical trading called “kumitaiso” in Japanese. It is a kind of physical education in which students use their bodies to make various shapes including human pyramids, in which students in kneeling positions are stacked atop one another.

The stunt had previously been criticized as dangerous. In 2014, two students suffered broken bones during performances at that year’s sports meet at Taisho Junior High School of a 10-tier pyramid and of a four-tier “human tower,” the latter involving participants standing on one another’s shoulders. Two students had earlier sustained broken bones during practice.

Two students also suffered broken bones during practice before the 2013 event, as did one student during practice this year. Despite those injuries, the school decided to continue the program this year with an increase in teachers to support the formations. Osaka Gov Ichiro Matsui told a press conference Monday that after examining reports on the incident from the local education board, “If safety measures are not sufficient, I will issue instructions and advice.”

To avoid accidents, the Osaka city board of education has limited the height of human pyramids to five tiers and of human towers to three tiers.—Kyodo News

Minpaku helps visitors enjoy, understand cultural differences

OSAKA — The National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka Prefecture, which started life as a research institute, can select from more than 300,000 ethnological materials as it puts together displays to help visitors understand the diversity of the world’s cultures and what mankind has in common.

Known as Minpaku, the museum is currently showing a special exhibition on “Food Culture in Korea and Japan” focusing on the dietary culture of the Korean Peninsula and its relationship with Japan.

The layout is designed to look like a market in South Korea, according to Minpaku officials. Cardboard boxes of vegetables and fruits are piled up, creating an atmosphere akin to a school festival.

There also a large number of big and small pots on display, along with tools enabling visitors to take part in a game to make “kimchi” Korean pickles and explanations of the use of onomatopoeia in names for Korean and Japanese foods. The impression is almost of chaos.

In fact, there are only a limited number of information panels for exhibits, although there are guidebooks on Korean food culture available to help visitors deepen their understanding of the objects on display.

“We’ve made the exhibit user-friendly to visitors, as is expected of Minpaku,” Toshio Asakura, professor at the museum and head of the organizing committee for the exhibition, said. “We respect each visitor’s understanding, because there are as many answers as there are visitors.”

Also available during the food event through Nov. 10 are “red” and “white” Korean cuisine set menus offered at a restaurant inside the museum.

The exhibit was planned to mark the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea and is being held jointly with the National Folk Museum of Korea. A similar event is planned in South Korea.

Located in the Expo ’70 Commemorative Park in the city of Suita, the museum also serves as a research institute providing graduate-level training in anthropology and ethnology.—Kyodo News
Century-old body remains found from warship wreckage

An item salvaged from the shipwreck is to be studied in Dandong, northeast China’s Liaoning Province on 4 October, 2015. Photo: Reuters

JAKARTA — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has called on Indonesia to take action against people setting fires that have caused choking smoke to drift across the region, with the sky over southern Thailand the latest to be clouded by the pollution.

Indonesia has come under pressure in the past few weeks to contain the annual haze crisis, which is caused by slash-and-burn agriculture on Sumatra island and its part of Borneo island.

Companies seeking to clear land for palm oil and pulp wood plantations have been accused of encouraging the fires that often smolder for weeks in undergrowth peat deposits.

The problem has been exacerbated this year by the El Nino weather phenomenon which has brought unusually dry conditions.

Shenyang — At least seven remains of bodies have been found by archeologists from a warship sunk by the Japanese navy during a Sino-Japanese War 121 years ago. “We believe the remains belonged to officers and soldiers aboard the warship,” said Zhou Chunsui, who leads the exploration mission organized by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage.

The Zhiyuan Warship, with a 50-metre-long hull, is located about 10 nautical miles southwest of Dandong Port in northeast China. More than 100 pieces of ship parts and belongings of the seamen have also been found, Zhou said.

“We will study those relics and try to find out what lives at sea were like more than a century ago,” he said.

Coded “Dandong No 1,” the 1,600-tonne vessel was one of the four warships of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) — Beiyyang Fleet — which was defeated in 1894 by the Japanese navy in the Battle of Yellow Sea.

A total of 252 officers and soldiers were aboard. Only seven survived. The four ships were China’s most sophisticated vessels at that time, bigger and better armed than the Japanese ones but slower and short of ammunition, Zhou said.

Investigation is needed to decide whether to lift the ship, whose main structure has remained intact, out of the water. History documents recorded that the ship captain Deng Shichang refused to abandon the ship after it was severely damaged. Deng has been described as a patriot in Chinese modern history.—Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 6th October, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Bago Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Shan State and likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Deltaic and Rakhine Coastal areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAK VOY NO (661)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAK VOY NO (661) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HUA YOU 1 VOY NO (1510)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUA YOU 1 VOY NO (1510) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO (1040W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1040W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YELLOW MOON VOY NO (1577)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YELLOW MOON VOY NO (1577) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/MILP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (SPORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 6th October, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Bago Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Shan State and likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Deltaic and Rakhine Coastal areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Kate Winslet was nervous to meet real Joanna Hoffman for ‘Steve Jobs’

LOS ANGELES — Kate Winslet plays Apple co-founder’s right-hand woman, Joanna Hoffman in “Steve Jobs,” but the actress says she was “nervous” to meet her at first.

The Oscar-award winning star was tense before meeting Hoffman as she does not resemble her at all, reported Entertainment Weekly. “It was amazing meeting Joanna, and it was everything meeting Joanna. And I was very nervous about meeting her because I look nothing like her. I myself look absolutely nothing like Joanna Hoffman, and she looks nothing like me,” Winslet said.

The “Reader” actress said the looks did not matter much as she was interested more in the backstory of Hoffman, than acing her expressions or reactions.

“I loved spending time with her because she shared stories with me about her time with Steve and her relationship with Steve that a lot of people just don’t know anything about.

“And I actually came to understand a much softer, gentler side of Steve Jobs, a side of Steve Jobs who I think was kept sort of hidden away and private to those people or to his family.”

“Steve Jobs” stars Michael Fassbender in the titular role, Seth Rogen, as Apple co-founder, Steve Woznik, Jeff Daniels as former Apple CEO John Sculley, along with Katherine Waterston, Michael Stuhlbarg. The film will release on 9 October.—PTI

‘The Martian’ triumphs with $55 million debut

LOS ANGELES “The Martian” blasted off with a massive $55 million this weekend, nearly surpassing another space-based adventure, “Gravity,” as the highest-grossing October debut in history.

The Ridley Scott release was bolstered by rapturous reviews, with critics acclaiming the picture among the director’s best and heaping praise on Matt Damon’s performance as an astronaut stranded on the Red Planet.

“The Martian” marks the second best launch of Scott’s career, behind only “Hannibal”’s $58 million debut, and the second best premiere for Damon, trailing “The Bourne Ultimatum”’s $69.3 million bow.

“It’s going to hold up really well,” said Phil Contrino, vice president and chief analyst at BoxOffice.com. “It’s got everything. It’s got suspense, action, heart, and humour, and the ending is really satisfying. People will walk out of the theater and talk it up to their friends.”

Twentieth Century Fox backed the $108 million production and pushed the film out to 3,831 theaters. It was a blessed rollout. In addition to the strong notices, media reports about the possible discovery of water on Mars kept the distant planet front-and-center in people’s minds.

“You can’t make this stuff up,” said Chris Aronson, Fox’s domestic distribution chief. “The fact that there was the announcement on the same week as our film just excites people. Human beings are just interested in other worldly things right now.”

Going into the weekend, most analysts expected the film would do $45 million worth of business. Its numbers fall just short of “Gravity”’s $55.8 million debut, but there were a number of factors that prevented “The Martian” from topping that picture.

“Gravity” had the benefit of several IMAX locations, which were being held exclusively for Sony’s “The Walk,” depriving “The Martian” of some healthy surcharges. It did get a nice boost in 3D screenings, which accounted for 46% of receipts, and premium large formats, which made up 11% of the total.

Overseas, the film is performing strongly, grossing $45.2 million from 49 markets, including such major territories as the United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, and Mexico. Domestically, the film attracted an audience that was older and slightly more male. Fifty six percent of ticket-buyers were men while 72% of the opening weekend crowd was over the age of 25.

“Tremendous critical support with amazing audience reaction conspires for ultimate success,” said Aronson. “Having audience reaction be the same as critics is as rare as surviving on Mars.”

“The Walk” was overshadowed by “The Martian,” in its limited release, with the biopic about high-wire artist Philippe Petit nabbing a disappointing $2 million over its first five days. The studio is trying to build buzz for the picture ahead of its wide release on 9 October, adhering to a strategy that Universal recently deployed with “Everest,” albeit with more modest results. “Everest” kicked off to $7 million in IMAX and premium format theaters.

Sony executives said that the film’s results were expected and framed the launch as important for generating enthusiasm for the picture and its dazzling 3D sequence documenting Petit’s wire walk between the Twin Towers. They were pleased that receipts climbed 80% between Friday and Saturday, which they believe signals word-of-mouth is strong.

“It’s a slower burn,” said Rory Bruer, head of worldwide distribution at Sony. “We’re in this for the long haul and we think not only is it going to perform, it’s going to have long legs at the box office.”

“Sicario,” a gritty drug war thriller, fared better. The Lionsgate release expanded from 59 theaters to 2,620 locations, earning a solid $12.1 million in the process.

Among holdovers, last weekend’s champ, “Hotel Transylvania 2,” showed impressive stamina, falling a slender 32% to gross $33 million. The animated sequel has earned $90.5 million after two weeks and should cross the $100 million mark by next weekend.

In limited release, gay rights drama “Freeheld” grossed $40,000 from five locations in New York and Los Angeles, for a per-screen average of $8,000, while “He Named Me Malala,” Davis Guggenheim’s documentary about Nobel Peace Prize winner and education advocate Malala Yousafzai, grossed $56,000 in four theaters this opening weekend, representing a per-screen average of $14,000.—Reuters
ABU DHABI — The opening of Abu Dhabi’s branch of the iconic Louvre museum has been postponed until next year because building work still needs doing, a senior official said on Saturday, the latest delay to the high-profile project.

The museum was originally scheduled to open in 2012 but that target was pushed back until this year. Ali Majed al Mansoori, chairman of state-owned Tourism Development and Investment Company (TDIC), said authorities were now aiming for late 2016.

“Attention will now turn to the remaining work on the underside of the cladding and the Louvre Abu Dhabi remains on track for opening in the second half of 2016,” he told Reuters by email.

He did not give a reason for the delay in building work at the $650 million project, which is part of the wealthy emirate’s wider plan to boost the tourist credentials of a country heavily dependent on oil.

A building boom in the United Arab Emirates has created bottlenecks as some construction firms scramble to find labor, supplies and financing to complete huge backlogs of work.

TDIC is developing a cultural district in Abu Dhabi which will house branches of the Louvre and Guggenheim museums, as well as the Zayed National Museum.

The Guggenheim has been scheduled to open in 2017 and the Zayed in 2016. Mansoori did not clarify whether those targets were still in force but said contracts for both museums would be awarded soon, with ground-breaking for the Zayed expected by the end of 2015 and at the Guggenheim in the first half of 2016.

PARIS — A global traveller picking new items to wear was the inspiration for Kenzo’s catwalk show on Sunday, with the fashion house presenting a colourful and patterned line for next spring.

The designer brand showcased cutaway body suits and printed track-style pants as part of its spring/summer 2016 line at Paris Fashion Week. Models wore sandals with lattice detail and massaging soles. Small belt bags in triangular and circular shapes finished the look. Kenzo creative duo Carol Lim and Humberto Leon began the show with models appearing all at once, drifting on moving blocks.

It was really about traveling and adapting as you travel, picking up pieces, collecting as you go, not necessarily clothing but more so emotions and trinkets and souvenirs,” Leon said. The colour palette went from mustard yellow to different shades of blue and clashing prints.

Montreux Jazz Festival Japan celebrates ‘diversity and improvisation’

TOKYO — Japan’s love affair with the Montreux Jazz Festival has deep roots.

But for Mathieu Jaton, the director of one of the world’s most famous jazz festivals from the shores of the crescent-shaped Lake Geneva in Switzerland, this year’s celebration in Tokyo mixes tradition with a bold new endeavor for both museums would be awarded soon, with ground-breaking for the Zayed expected by the end of 2015 and at the Guggenheim in the first half of 2016.

The concerts happened over 12 days from 1-25 October feature an eclectic group including Belgian jazz singer Melanie de Biasio, Mala & Coka of the dubstep Digital Mystikz out of South London, Japanese singer songwriter Ichiko Aoba, and acts from former Miles Davis guitar legend John McLaughlin and veteran saxophonist David Sanborn.” —Kyodo News

Global traveller inspires Kenzo for next spring
Rodgers sacked after derby draw, United loss stuns Van Gaal

LONDON — Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers was sacked on Sunday despite preserving his unbeaten record in seven Merseyside derbies against Everton with a 1-1 draw in the Premier League.

Within a couple of hours of the Northern Irishman claiming after the stalemate at Goodison Park that, “I hope to be here for a bit longer yet”, the club announced his dismissal.

More presciently, he told Sky Sports, “When the time comes for me not to be here, I’ll accept that and move on because it’s an incredible club and a wonderful club to work for.”

“It is a very good point,” Rodgers said after the draw. “It is a difficult place to come. We looked like we were getting better in our attack and defensively we were more cohesive.”

Manchester United lost 3-0 at Arsenal, blitzed by three goals in the first 20 minutes that gave them no way back into a match in which the hosts played sublime football.

Alexis Sanchez netted twice to give the Chilean six in the last three games and Arsenal’s Germany midfield er Mesut Ozil scored the other to leave the visitors trailing by three goals at the break in a league game for the first time in 10 years.

United, who had been top before the weekend, dropped to third place, two points behind neighbours Manchester City.

“Every time we had the ball in their half, we looked like creating something,” he said. “(Liverpool goalkeeper Simon) Mignolet made two outstanding saves. We are disappointed with the goal we conceded.”

That goal was headed in by an unmarked Danny Ings in the 42nd minute but there was still time for Everton’s Romelu Lukaku to equalise before half-time.

Martinez felt Liverpool midfielder Lucas Leiva should have been sent off for a trip when he had already collected one of the game’s six yellow cards.

The result left Everton one point ahead of their neighbours, who are 10th, six points behind leaders Manchester City. City stayed top after thrashing Newcastle United 6-1 on Saturday because of the heavy defeat suffered by local rivals United at the Steelmen.

Alexis Sanchez celebrated after scoring during the 8th round match at English Premier League on 4 October 2015. Arsenal won 3-0. Photo: Xinhua

Nishikori escapes first round scare, advances past Coric

TOKYO — Japan star Kei Nishikori overcame a slow start to advance to the second round of the Japan Open on Monday, beating Croatia’s Borna Coric 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 in Tokyo.

The 18-year-old world No 38 Coric has never won a tournament on the ATP tour, but he provided a significant challenge to Nishikori, the second-seeded reigning Tokyo champion.

Nishikori had his serve broken twice in the first set to fall behind 5-1, and was almost broken a third time before securing one more game to lose 6-2.

The world No 6 quickly pulled himself together to start the second, breaking Coric’s first service game to go up 3-0. He kept the momentum for the rest of the set, serving it out with the loss of one game as his opponent struggled with unforced errors.

Nishikori secured an early service break in the final set and only upped the pressure from there, closing out the final set to move on.

“I’m glad I could get a solid victory,” Nishikori said after the match.

“The first set ended with me attempting to attack, but my opponent played a really tenuous game, didn’t make mistakes and I wasn’t able to attack and take charge.”

“I played more calmly in the second set and was able to win by a decent score.”

Nishikori will next take on 1.98-metre Sam Querrey from the United States. He beat the Ukraine’s Alexandr Dolgopolov 7-6, 6-4 earlier on Monday.

“He’s a big server, with a good forehand and I’m going to have to be ready for him,” said Nishikori. “I’ll work on having some solid practice and go into the match prepared.”

In the first match on Monday, Japanese wild card entries Tatsuya Ito and Yoshitomo Nishikori faced off.

The higher-ranked Ito came back from a 6-3 first set loss to take the final two sets of the match 6-0, 7-5.—Kyodo News

Malaysia sanctioned for crowd trouble at World Cup qualifier

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia have been issued with a formal warning and a raft of other sanctions from football’s world governing body FIFA after their World Cup qualifier against Saudi Arabia last month was abandoned because of crowd trouble.

FIFA took a dim view of the crowd disturbances in Malaysia and announced on Monday a series of penalties against the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), which was hosting the match so deemed to be responsible for crowd control.

FIFA’s disciplinary committee ruled that the match had been deemed to be forfeited by Malaysia, awarding Saudi Arabia a 3-0 win, and Malaysia’s next World Cup qualifier at home, against United Arab Emirates on 17 November, would be played without any spectators.

FIFA also fined the FAM 40,000 Swiss Francs (£27,119) and issued a warning.

The visiting Saudi Arabia team were leading 2-1 in the Group A Asian qualifier at the Shah Alam Stadium in Selangor on 8 September when play was stopped three minutes from the end after fans launched flares and fireworks on to the pitch.—Reuters

Dane Olesen seals Dunhill Links triumph

LONDON — Denmark’s Thorbjorn Olesen kept his nerve to win the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship by two strokes at St Andrews on Sunday and ease the pain of narrowly missing out in 2012.

Olesen, who recorded his third European Tour victory, led by three shots going into the final round but a double bogey on the second hole and a bogey on the third saw him pegged back.

He responded immediately with birdies at the fourth and fifth, and never looked back as he avenged his runner-up spot at the pro-am event three years ago. The Dane fired a one-under-par 71 to finish at 18-under 270 for the week, two clear of Americans Brooks Koepka (67) and Chris Stroud (68).

“I got too aggressive on the second hole. I hit a great drive down there and felt like I had a good yardage. I was just too aggressive, and as soon as you get too aggressive on a links golf course, you get punished,” Olesen said.

“I just kept myself together and knew that I have tried it before, so stayed very patient.”—Reuters