NO ELECTION DELAY

Union Election Commission makes a U-turn

Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye addresses the meeting with representatives from seven political parties.—MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Aye Min Soe

AFTER touting the idea of delaying Myanmar’s much-anticipated general elections due to disruptions caused by flooding and landslides, the Union Election Commission announced last night that it will be held on November 8 as scheduled.

A statement issued by the commission said that it took into account the views expressed by representatives from seven political parties during a meeting held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss a possible postponement.

“The UEC reviewed the opinions put forth by a number of political parties and has decided to go ahead with the election on 8 November. There will be no delay,” said the statement issued by UEC.

Myanmar News Agency also reported the views expressed by the parties that took part in the meeting.

The ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) supported the idea of postponing the election—for an unspecified period—on the grounds that natural disasters have prevented candidates from campaigning in certain areas; in particular Shan and Kachin states.

The main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) disagreed, saying that the impact of the flooding was not an insurmountable obstacle to holding an election.

Floods hit 12 of the country’s 14 states and regions in July through to September, killing 132 people and affecting an estimated 1.6 million people—the equivalent of almost half a million families, the UEC said.

The floods were the worst natural disaster to occur in Myanmar since Cyclone Nargis killed nearly 140,000 people in May 2008. A constitutional referendum took place page 3 .

International and local representatives to witness ceasefire inking

Ye Myint

INTERNATIONAL and local observers will witness the signing of the nationwide ceasefire accord, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw, according to a senior adviser at Myanmar Peace Centre.

Representatives from the United Nations, the European Union (EU), China, India, Thailand and Japan will be present as witnesses when the peace deal is signed between the government and eight ethnic armed groups, said MPC’s senior adviser U Hla Maung Shwe yesterday.

“The national security adviser of India’s National Security Council and five members will be present, along with a special envoy sent by China. The EU Ambassador to Myanmar and Thailand’s permanent secretary will be among other international witnesses, who also include representatives from Japan and the UN.”

The president, the two vice presidents, the commander-in-chief of defence services, the attorney-general and the speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will sign the peace pact on behalf of the government, he added.

Three representatives from each of the eight ethnic armed groups will ink the accord.

Despite having invited three leaders each from the two ethnic negotiating teams—the nationwide ceasefire coordination team and the senior delegation—and members to the ceremony, only those from the eight groups will be present on the signing day, said U Hla Maung Shwe.

He added that a joint implementation coordination meeting between the government and ethnic armed organisations who have signed the deal will take place at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The post-steps for peace accord signatories include forming a joint ceasefire monitoring committee and a Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee.

The Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee will be responsible for dealing with military matters while the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee will handle political issues.

According to the national ceasefire accord (NCA), the political framework will be established within 60 days of signing and political dialogue will occur within 90 days.

The senior adviser said that U Win Htein of the National League for Democracy is likely to be present as a witness at the ceremony.

Three delegations arrive in capital for ceasefire signing

**Union Information Minister meets ethnic minority media groups**

UNION Minister for Information U Ye Htut held discussions about establishing a framework to develop ethnic minority media outlets during a meeting with members of ethnic media groups in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chief editors and key staff members from Mizzima, Tanintharyi Weekly, Thanlwin Times, Kantarawaddy Times, Mnarung News, Burma News International, Development Journal and Kanbawzita Times attended the meeting. Discussions focused on their collective aims and challenges and the possibility of providing financial assistance for the development of ethnic language newspapers and to foster a free flow of information in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

**Yangon Region Chief Minister inspects progress of bridge in Htantabin**

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe visited Htantabin Township to inspect progress on a bridge being constructed there on Sunday.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to comply with all safety standards and to complete Kokkow Bridge in Bawlekyun within the scheduled timeframe. The bridge on Htantabin-Lamutan-Hlie-seik Road crosses Hlaing River and is more than 2,000 feet long and 28 feet wide. It is flanked by a pedestrian walkway on both sides and will be able to withstand 75 tonne loads.

The Chief Minister also met with township level officials, civil servants, social groups and local residents.

Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sean Tin Win briefed the chief minister on the region’s parliamentary activities.—Myanmar News Agency

**Myanmar Motion Picture Day marked in Yangon**

MYANMAR Motion Picture Day 2015 was held at Myanmar Motion Pictures Organisation (MMPO) yesterday in Yangon.

The event also coincided with the 52nd Annual Homage Ceremony for 144 filmmakers whose careers span decades in Myanmar. MMPO’s patron, filmmakers and organisation chairman U Lu Min and Young Generation Film Artists & Crews attended the ceremony.

Donations of K200,000 (US$155) were given to each of the respected filmmakers, who are now in their senior years. Situ Bogale Tint Aung gave a thank you speech on behalf of the filmmakers. The Myanmar Motion Picture Day has been held since 1920 as a commemoration of “Myitta and Thuyar” – a film that is now 95-years-old.

Plans are underway to hold a grand centennial anniversary of Myanmar Motion Picture Day, according to chairman of the organisation.—Yi Yi Thant

**17 trafficked fishermen return home**

SEVENTEEN trafficked Myanmar fishermen stranded in Indonesia were repatriated on Tuesday.

“They were trafficked to Indonesian fishing boats while working in Thailand. They never received the salaries they were owed,” said Police Colonel Khin Maung Hla.

It was too difficult a task for police to track down the perpetrators because of a lack of evidence, he added.

The victims had been stranded in Pontianak and Kupang islands of Indonesia, and were repatriated with assistance from the International Organisation for Migration and Myanmar’s Immigration and Population Department.

The men are sheltering at a social welfare institute in Mayangon Township and will soon be returned to their family homes.—Zaw Gyi (Panpeti)
President accepts credentials from Kazak, Ghana, Swiss ambassadors

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials from Mr Pier R. Seger, Switzerland’s newly-accredited ambassador. PHOTO: MNA

President U Thein Sein and Swiss Ambassador Mr Paul R. Seger pose for documentary photo. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar marks International Day for Disaster Reduction

REHABILITATION efforts for floods and landslides in July and August highlight the need to maintain the momentum to develop sustainable disaster-resistant economic growth, Vice President U Nyan Tun said at the ceremony to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with a forum about the rehabilitation of flood-hit areas, which aimed to develop a viable, effective, inclusive and sustainable framework for rehabilitation that can respond effectively to future disasters.

The vice president said that Myanmar has successfully overcome the stark challenges posed by recent floods and landslides as a result of cooperation between philanthropists, the government and the victims themselves. He said this has reduced the possible economic impact of the disasters.

The vice president said that assessment for post-disaster needs was conducted and revealed that the losses caused by the disasters were greater than initially thought.

Recognising the impact of the disasters and emergency needs of the people, the government worked together with development partners, the vice president added.

The vice president summed up his address by urging stakeholders to develop a rehabilitation framework plan.

The resident representative of the UNDP read out a message from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

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place a few days after the cyclone hit, although it was delayed in the worst affected areas. However the then-government came under fire from the United Nations and other members of the international community for not postponing the referendum entirely, as the scale of destruction was so vast. The referendum passed significant constitutional changes, including the 25 percent allocation of parliamentary seats to members of the military and the ineligibility of persons married to foreigners to take on the role of president.

The UEC chairman cited a meeting back on 21 July this year when members of the National League for Democracy Party, Myanmar Farmers’ Development Party and Guiding Star Party had proposed the election be delayed due to errors in voters’ lists. During the same meeting, a representative from the National Unity Party agreed that the election should be postponed, citing “social chaos” and natural disasters.

U Tin Aye had also urged yesterday’s meeting participants to consider a lack of peace and stability in some areas, saying that political parties were prevented from carrying out effective campaigning in areas hit by floods and landslides, he said.

The National Democratic Force reportedly questioned whether postponing the election would adversely impact the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, which is scheduled to be signed on Thursday by eight ethnic groups and the government.

Myanmar Farmers’ Development Party supported the postponement of the election, while Arakan National Party urged the UEC to determine whether a delay would impact the situation of Internally Displaced People in Rakhine State. The party suggested that the postponement of the election should be nationwide, not be region-wise, if it were to be delayed.

The general election is being hailed as a historic turning point for Myanmar, a country which has not held a democratic election for 25 years. A number of international election observers, including those from the European Union, have already arrived in Myanmar and will publish reports shortly after the polls, while both local and foreign investors are watching keenly.
**Village huts swept away in Myanaung Township**

HEAVY rain in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region raised water levels of Paesi Creek on 12 October, causing widespread flooding in surrounding areas. Six huts in Nyaungchehtaw Village were swept away. A village elder said that the floods did not result in any casualties to people or animals, but that the economic cost of the damage is estimated to be around K300,000 (US$233).

The families who lost their homes are staying with relatives and township authorities are providing relief assistance.

Yaungchi-Oo rice mill on nearby Pathein-Monywa Road was also inundated by six feet deep flood waters, which destroyed 400 bags of milled and broken rice, which each weigh 50 kilogrammes. The cost of the damage is K3.75 million ($2918).—Wen Bo (IPRD)

**Free treatment for hepatitis at new clinic in Mandalay**

A HEPATITIS clinic called ‘Byanmaso’ opened in Mandalay on 11 October and will provide free medical treatment to people with hepatitis B and C. The facility was donated by prominent hepatitis specialist Professor Dr Khin Maung Win and his wife, Dr Khin Lay Yee.

The clinic will provide K300,000 (US$233) a month for treating hepatitis C patients and K250,000 ($194) for hepatitis B and treatment will last until full recovery is made. The affiliate ‘Byanmaso’ social welfare association will also assist with providing free medical treatment to patients according to their economic status.

Dr Khin Maung Win advised the patients to avoid chemically dyed foods, varieties of mushroom rooms containing toxins, binge drinking and to consult a medical practitioner if symptoms arise.

He also advised against non-sterile blood transfusions as well as unsterilised dental and tattoo instruments.

The prevalence rate of hepatitis C in Myanmar is 4 per cent.—Thiha Ko Ko

**Livestock development vocational training given in townships**

LIVESTOCK Breeding and Veterinary Department of Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development began simultaneous two-week vocational training courses in eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 12 October.

Each course will involve 20 trainees, who will learn about developing pastures, fermented cattle feed and breeding cattle, poultry, and pigs for commercial purposes. The training course will run until 25 October.—Thant Maung

**Tractors provided for development of Nyaungshwe Township**

AS a follow-up to President U Thein Sein’s recent visit to Inlay region in Shan State, five tractors were handed over for the development of Nyaungshwe Township on Monday.

Shan State agriculture and livestock minister U Sai Sa Lu handed over documents related to State Hlutaw representatives at township General Administration Department.

State Inn national race minister U Win Myint also attended the ceremony.—Mya Thu

**100 tube-wells to be dug in Ngazun Township**

NGAZUN Township, located in the arid Myingyan District, will receive 100 tube-wells from the Mandalay Region Special Fund. The wells will help irrigate local farms.

The cost of digging the wells will be K60.25 million (US$46,750). Twenty-seven wells have already been dug in the township.

All the wells are to be completed by the end of November, when the plantation season starts, said a township official.

Myingyan District Deputy Commissioner U Myint Thin Aung came to inspect a completed 10-centimetre diameter tube well in Ward 4 on 9 October and observed its irrigation of nearby farms.

The tube wells are being dug by the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.—Zaw Min Naing

**Myanmar Autism Association introduced at Mandalay**

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Autism Association gave educational talks on autism in Mandalay’s Maha-aungmye Township on Monday.

The event was attended by members of Mandalay Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, officials of Social Welfare Department, teachers from schools for children with disabilities, as well as parents and autistic children.

Specialist doctors including the association’s chairman Dr Myint Lwin explained the condition, which is a neuro-developmental disorder characterised by impaired social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior.

According to statistics, boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism and there are 67 million with the condition worldwide. World Autism Day is held globally every year on 2 April.—Thiha Ko Ko

**An official demonstrates use of water from tube-well at a cropland in Ngazun. PHOTO: ZAW MIN AUNG**

**A speaker gives talks on nature of autism. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO**
Okinawa revokes approval for US base relocation work

NAHA — Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga on Tuesday officially revoked the approval his predecessor issued to the central government for landfill work to relocate a key US military base within the southern island prefecture, with the stalemate over the relocation plan now likely to end up in court.

“It was recognized that there are defects in the approval. We decided that rescinding the plan to relocate the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko, a coastal region of Nago, from its current location in the more densely populated Ginowan. The issue has long pitted the central government against local officials and residents who demand the base be moved outside of Okinawa. In Tokyo, Japan’s top government spokesman, Yoshihide Suga, told a news conference that the central government is considering taking legal action to suspend the governor’s revocation.

In a separate news conference, Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said the central government will “promptly take action” to ask the land, infrastructure, transport and tourism minister to suspend the revocation, although this will not take place Tuesday.

The central government is planning to start building a replacement facility for the Futenma base this fall.

Suga, the chief Cabinet secretary, said the central government “will continue as planned while taking utmost care of the environment.” — Kyodo News

Malaysia prosecutor says right to clear 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia’s attorney general said on Tuesday that he was right to close an investigation by the country’s central bank into troubled state-owned investor 1MDB as there was no evidence the fund’s officials had knowingly flouted the law.

Last week Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said it had urged attorney general Mohamed Apandi Ali to prosecute 1MDB, saying the fund had secured permits to remit $1.83 billion overseas based on inaccurate or incomplete disclosure of information, breaching domestic regulations.

The central bank’s statement raised the pressure on 1MDB, which is at the centre of a political crisis in Malaysia over its debt of nearly 42 billion ringgit ($10.05 billion) and alleged financial graft.

However Apandi said that at no point in time had the central bank tried to stop 1MDB’s overseas transactions, nor had it required the fund to provide details of account numbers it was sending money to or to outline the manner in which the funds would be channelled.

“Since there is no requirement, the omission on 1MDB’s officials’ part to disclose is not an offence,” said Apandi during a press briefing on Tuesday.

The central bank has also asked 1MDB to repatriate $1.83 billion back into Malaysia, however the fund has said the sum has been spent or ear-marked for debt settlement arrangements.

The money was originally used for equity and loan investments in a joint venture with oil company PetroSaudi between 2009 and 2011.

The central bank did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Monday, former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad and several key Umno leaders called for a swift response and the three-way summit of Japan, China and South Korea to be held possibly later this month in South Korea. Yachi invited Yang to visit Japan when they met in Beijing in July. Yang is scheduled to meet Abe on Wednesday.— Kyodo News

Passenger of Indonesia’s crashed chopper found alive

JAKARTA — A passenger aboard an Indonesian helicopter was found alive on Tuesday two days after it crashed in a lake in North Sumatra, a spokesman of the national search and rescue agency said.

According to the survivor named Fransiskus Subihardyan, the light single-engine Eurocopter EC130 fell into the huge volcanic Lake Toba on Sunday, said Zaenul Tjahjar, spokesman of the national search and rescue agency. “As they felt there was something wrong with the chopper, the man and four other people on board jumped into the lake when the plane was passing through the lake,” the spokesman told Xinhua.

“However, the rescuers only found the man at around 12:00 o’clock local time today (Tuesday). He was floating among the water hyacinths. The wreckage of the choppers and the four other persons who were on board are still being searched for,” he added. The man was discovered conscious but his condition was weak, he was immediately rushed to a hospital, said Tjahjar. The chartered helicopter operated by PT Penerban Angkasa Semesta lost contact with Jakarta air traffic control about 17 minutes after taking off from the airfield local time today (Tuesday).

The lake, popularly known among domestic and foreign holidaymakers. It is the largest volcanic lake in the world.—Xinhua

China’s top diplomat Yang meets Abe aide

TOKYO — Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi held talks with a senior national security adviser to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday as the two countries prepare for a trilateral summit with South Korea.

At the outset of the meeting in Tokyo, Shotaro Yachi, who heads the secretariat of Japan’s National Security Council, said relations between Japan and China are basically “improving” and he is eager to develop friendly ties despite some “problems” such as the situation in the East China Sea.

Japan has been concerned about China’s maritime assertiveness and its gas field development in the waters. Yang said Japan’s top diplomat, said he wants to play “an active role to improve” bilateral relations, which have shown signs of thawing after being damaged over territorial and historical issues.

The topics in their meeting included the three-way summit of Japan, China and South Korea to be held possibly later this month in South Korea. Yachi invited Yang to visit Japan when they met in Beijing in July. Yang is scheduled to meet Abe on Wednesday.— Kyodo News

Demonstrators opposing the planned relocation of a key US military base within Japan’s southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa clash with police officers in Nago, Okinawa, on 13 October 2015. — Kyodo News

President and Group Executive Director of 1MDB, Arul Kanda Kandasamy. Photo: Reuters

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Kuala Lumpur — Malaysia’s attorney general said on Tuesday that he was right to close an investigation by the country’s central bank into troubled state-owned investor 1MDB as there was no evidence the fund’s officials had knowingly flouted the law. The central government said the central bank had asked to stop 1MDB’s overseas transactions, nor had it required the fund to provide details of account numbers it was sending money to or to outline the manner in which the funds would be channelled. “Since there is no requirement, the omission on 1MDB’s officials’ part to disclose is not an offence,” said Apandi during a press briefing on Tuesday.

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The central bank did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Monday, former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad and several key Umno leaders called for a swift resolution to the ongoing 1MDB scandal, signalling a further divide within Prime Minister Najib Razak’s party, the United Malays National Organisation.—Reuters
Top China paper says US, Russia playing Cold War game in Syria

BEIJING — China's top newspaper on Tuesday accused both the United States and Russia of replaying their Cold War rivalry by engaging in military action in Syria, saying they needed to realise that era is over and should instead push for peace talks.

The People's Daily, the official paper of China's ruling Communist Party, said in a commentary that the United States and Russia seemed to be using Syria as a proxy for diplomatic and military competition, as during the Cold War.

"The United States and the Soviet Union used all sorts of diplomatic, economic and military actions on the soil of third countries, playing tit-for-tat games to increase their influence — it's an old scene from the Cold War," the newspaper wrote in a commentary.

"But we’re in the 21st century now, and people need to get their heads around this!" it added.

While China generally votes with fellow permanent United Nations Security Council member Russia on the Syria issue, it has expressed concern about interference in Syria's internal affairs and repeatedly called for a political solution.

Russia last month began striking targets in Syria in a dramatic escalation of foreign involvement in the civil war. This has been criticised by the West as an attempt to prop up Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, rather than its purported aim of attacking Islamic State.

Russia and the Soviet Union used all sorts of diplomatic, economic and military actions on the soil of third countries.

“The United States and the Soviet Union used all sorts of diplomatic, economic and military actions on the soil of third countries.”

The People's Daily

Clinton's tack to the left to be on display in Democratic debate

LAS VEGAS — Hillary Clinton has veered hard to the left ahead of Tuesday's first Democratic presidential debate, hoping to inoculate herself from criticism by rival Bernie Sanders and woo the union members and liberal activists who have been slow to embrace her.

But in a Democratic race so far featuring few political attacks or policy clashes, Clinton's move to protect her left flank on issues like the Asian trade pact and Keystone oil pipeline could open the door during the nationally televised debate to questions about her sincerity and charges of flip-flopping.

Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, and Sanders, a US senator from Vermont who is her prime challenger, will take part on Tuesday at 8:30 pm EDT in the first of six scheduled debates in the race to be the party's nominee in the November 2016 presidential election.

They will be joined by former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee and former US Senator James Webb of Virginia. The showdown will give Sanders his first broad national exposure and offer Clinton a chance to ease the concerns of some Democrats about her.

After two raucous Republican debates that drew big television audiences attracted by the fireworks generated by front-runner Donald Trump, the Democratic contest, sponsored by CNN and to be held in Las Vegas, is likely to be a tamer affair.

It comes at a critical time for Clinton, whose once overwhelming lead among Democrats in opinion polls has slipped amid questions about her use of a private email server instead of a government account when she was secretary of state.

In addition, she faces the threat that Vice President Joe Biden could enter the race — something he has been increasingly urged to do as Clinton's lead falters.

Sanders, a self-described socialist, has excited the party's left wing and generated big crowds, pointing to economic inequality and charges of flip-flopping.

Clinton, who still faces animosity from much of the union rank-and-file, has focused on her experience as secretary of state, saying she had said in 2010 she was "the 61 airlines that had continued flying there should have recognized the potential danger.

It recommended international aviation rules be changed to force operators to be more transparent about their choice of routes.—Reuters

"The United States and its allies have also been carrying out air strikes in Syria against Islamic State, and have supported opposition groups fighting Assad.

"The People's Daily said nobody should stand by while Syria becomes a proxy war, and efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis should not slacken.

“The international community, especially large countries with much influence, must fully recognise the critical, urgent necessity to reach a political solution to the Syria issue,” it said.

The commentary was published under the pen name “Zhong Sheng”, meaning “Voice of China”, often used to give views on foreign policy.

China, a low-key diplomatic player in the Middle East despite its dependence on the region for its oil, has repeatedly warned that military action cannot end the crisis.—Reuters

Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine by Buk missile: Dutch report

GILZE-RIJEN — Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over eastern Ukraine by a Russian-made Buk missile, the Dutch Safety Board concluded on Tuesday in its final report on the July 2014 crash that killed all 298 people on board.

The long-awaited findings of the board, which was not empowered to address questions of responsibility, did not specify who launched the missile.

“A 9M311M warhead detonated outside the aeroplane to the left side of the cockpit. This fits the kind of warhead installed in the Buk surface-to-air missile system,” said Safety Board head Tjibbe Joustra, presenting the report.

Russia had disputed the type of missile used, he added.

At a meeting with victims’ families earlier Tuesday, Joustra said passengers who were not killed by the impact of the missile would have been rendered unconscious by the sudden decompression of the aircraft and a lack of oxygen at 33,000 feet.

Joustra was speaking at the Gilze-Rijen military base where the flight cabin and business class section of the Boeing 777 have been assembled painstakingly from wreckage brought back from Ukraine.

The board also found that Ukraine had reason to close airspace over the conflict zone, and that the 61 airlines that had continued flying there should have recognized the potential danger.

It recommended international aviation rules be changed to force operators to be more transparent about their choice of routes.—Reuters

"The United States and the Soviet Union used all sorts of diplomatic, economic and military actions on the soil of third countries."

The People's Daily

Liberals and Sanders opponents may have been surprised by Sanders' move to the left, but it is calculated as an attempt to prop up Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, rather than its purported aim of attacking Islamic State.

The United States and its allies have also been carrying out air strikes in Syria against Islamic State, and have supported opposition groups fighting Assad.

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Tjibbe Joustra, chairman of the Dutch Safety Board, looks at the final report into the crash of July 2014 of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over Ukraine, in Gilze Rijen, the Netherlands, on 13 October 2015. REUTERS
Norway PM sees billions in extra costs to cope with asylum seekers

OSLO — Norway may have to spend an extra 40 to 50 billion crowns ($4.9 billion-$6.2 billion) over the next five years to cope with a rising number of people seeking asylum, Prime Minister Erna Solberg told parliament on Tuesday.

Norway has seen a rising number of people seeking asylum in recent months, albeit fewer than neighbours Sweden or Finland. Some 20,000-25,000 people are expected to arrive in 2015, rising to over 30,000 next year. Norway has 5.2 million inhabitants.

“If 40,000 to 50,000 asylum seekers were to receive residency, the costs the next five years would lie between 40 and 50 billion crowns,” Solberg said. “With many minors coming alone, those numbers could be even higher.”

Without measures to cut expenses, she said, the extra costs of accommodating refugees would number several billions of crowns in 2016.

The government would “shortly” present an amendment to the 2016 budget it presented last week, based on those new forecasts, she said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Solberg was reported as saying that Norway may have to tap its $856 billion sovereign wealth fund more than planned next year to cope with a rising number of people seeking asylum.

Her right-wing government said last week it would make the first net withdrawal from the fund to finance tax cuts and boost a slowing economy hit by weak oil prices.

Its 2016 budget planned to spend 2.8 percent of the fund’s value in 2016, up from 2.6 percent this year, equivalent to an extra 23 billion crowns.

“We must use more money because we can’t stop everything that is happening in Norway just to pay for the flow of refugees.” — Erna Solberg

Norwegian Prime Minister

Dacic says supports Vucic in decision on elections

BELGRADE — The reason for holding potential early elections will not be a failure of the government, but political instability resulting from an atmosphere created through “scandals and frame-ups,” says Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic.

“I think that the government has achieved significant results,” Dacic told the RTV on Monday, noting that he understands Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, who has announced that he will make a decision on elections this month because he is not satisfied with the political atmosphere in the country.

“Political stability is needed,” Dacic said.

“If holding elections is a condition for that, I agree with it,” he said.—Tanjug

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic.

Photo: Tanjug

Russia describes shelling of embassy in Damascus as terrorism

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday Moscow considered the shelling of its embassy in Damascus as a terrorist act, RIA news agency reported on Tuesday. “This is an obvious act of terrorism, probably aimed at intimidating supporters of the fight against terrorism,” Lavrov was quoted as saying.

Four killed in Bosnian mine accident

SARAJEVO — Four miners were killed and two injured in a mine accident in central Bosnia early on Tuesday, most probably after an upper platform crashed down on them, a Bosnian regional television reported.

Also other miners safely left the coal mine in Kakanj after the accident, the television said.—Reuters

Iranian parliament passes bill approving nuclear deal

DUBAI — Iran’s parliament passed a bill on Tuesday supporting the government in implementing a nuclear deal with world powers, but insisted that international inspectors would have only limited access to Iran’s military sites, state news agency IRNA said.

“The bill to implement the JCPOA ... was passed in a public session on Tuesday with 161 votes in favour,” IRNA said, referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached in July.—Reuters

NZ police arrest man over infant formula contamination threat

WELLINGTON — New Zealand policy said on Tuesday a 60-year-old businessman has been arrested and charged with two counts of criminal blackmail after an 11-month investigation into a threat to contaminate New Zealand infant formula with pesticide.

Letters were sent to the national farmers’ group and dairy giant Fonterra last November, accompanied by packages of infant formula laced with the pesticide 1080, demanding that use of the toxic pesticide be stopped by the end of March.

China is the biggest buyer of New Zealand dairy products but New Zealand’s agriculture ministry has said there had been no sign of countries stopping shipments because of the threat.—Reuters

Package detonated at site of Turkey bombings in apparent false alarm

ISTANBUL — Turkish security forces carried out a controlled explosion on Tuesday of a suspicious package outside the Ankara train station where a double suicide bombing killed at least 97 people three days ago, broadcaster CNN Turk reported.

The government said on Monday Islamic State was the prime suspect in Saturday’s attacks, but opponents have vented anger at President Tayyip Erdogan and the authorities over perceived security failures after the blasts in the heart of the capital.

The controlled explosion appeared to have been a false alarm. Footage on CNN Turk showed that the bag that was detonated appeared to have contained food.—Reuters
Ministry to designate no-go hotel zones in Bagan

NEW zoning laws will aim to ensure that Myanmar’s bid to have Bagan listed as a UNESCO site is successful – but will likely require several hotels to be demolished.

A ceremony was held to provide religious identity cards to unregistered monks from the Ministry of Religious Affairs at Zawtikayon Parliament in Pyay, Bago Region, on Sunday.

The identity cards were provided to 90 monks from Zawtikayon Parliament University, Minphu monastery, and Mahagadawin monastery by Bago Region’s religious office branch.

Branch Deputy Director U Sein Lin oversaw the ceremony.—Maung Shwe Win

Training provided to polling booth officials in Dekkhinathiri Township

IN preparation for the general elections of 8 November, 65 polling booth officials from Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area attended a training course on polling procedures yesterday.

Most polling booth officials are volunteer teachers.

The course was conducted at the township’s General Administration Department. The heads of polling booths, their deputies and other staff were shown a video demonstrating various procedures and protocol. The video was distributed by the Union Election Commission.—Shwe Kokko

Ministry to designate no-go hotel zones in Bagan

WITH the aim of having the ancient city of Bagan added to UNESCO’s World Heritage list, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will designate cultural heritage zones in Bagan.

A ministry spokesperson said yesterday that modern buildings located in restricted zones pose a major threat to the chances of making a successful bid to UNESCO.

The ministry designated the first three ancient zones back in 1991. According to the law, hotels, motels and businesses are permitted to operate in what is known as preserved zones, but not the remaining zones. Currently, there are around 120 hotels in Bagan, most of which were established before designations were made, and as a result are situated in restricted zones. The ministry will also take measures aimed at the eventual UNESCO listing of Mrauk-U of Rakhine State, Kyauktatyo Pagoda in Mon State and Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon Region.—Honey Win

Home ownership must be more affordable

Myint Win Thein

WITH the opening of markets for foreign investment, property prices in Myanmar have risen sharply in recent times. Property prices in Yangon are said to be on a par with cities such as New York. But whilst property prices have risen to an international rank, average incomes of Myanmar’s middle class has not increased anywhere near as much. Rising property prices are making peoples’ lives difficult and it prevents many from enjoying the economic growth spurred by the increase in foreign investment.

For low income families in cities, buying a house has become almost impossible and most are now opting to rent instead. However, rents are also on the rise and families are spending large chunks of their incomes on rent, which makes saving up enough to buy one incredibly tough. The problem will only get worse if steps aren’t taken to the remedy the situation – and it will hinder the economic growth of the country in the long run. Therefore, affordable housing projects or low-rent houses should be more widespread.

Another vital component of making home ownership more affordable is to provide mortgages. This will help many families of middle class to have their own houses and the country will benefit greatly from inclusive economic growth.

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.twn@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 aware that your letter will be edited.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I would like to raise this question through your esteemed daily to your broad readership on human evolution. If someone could kindly provide an article or an explanation on this in your Features Section for educating us that would be so much appreciated. My question is if there is no “true” wide variation(s) among different human races and sub-races why did nature and evolution support it? If modern human (Homo sapiens) is believed to have originated from East Africa and migrated to different continents in course of our evolutionary history; why are there different racial types based on skin color, eye color, facial characteristics and hair types among people from different continents and geographical areas; although they are all same species according to the classical definition of “species” and “speciation”—why not just one racial type? People originally evolved in Africa and migrated to the rest of the world and these early migrants survived in colder temperate and even polar conditions. Again people from Europe have survived in the harshest environments in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Australia; then why is there an apparent variation in hair, eye and skin color among different races? How did it help or initiate any progress in the humans in purely evolutionary term or how is this advantageous compared to other morphological features? Why nature did retain these variations over several generations in different geographical areas? Why did these minor genetic variation(s) survived in evolutionary term? How did it help in human evolution in any way or form as we certainly never diverged into separate species as all human races can interbreed with one another and produce fertile offspring? Look forward to hear from the readers.

Thanking you

Sincerely yours

Saikat Kumar Basu

Maginificent temples and pagodas in Bagan. PHOTO: HONEY WIN

That’s my deep chap, how do I derive the mother of all physics equations? Just cake walk.

TIN AUNG

Tin Aung

It’s math, ain’t it, can’t work class, huh!
Maximizing benefit from international cooperation in higher education sector

Myo Myint

In this Knowledge Age, it is widely recognized that the quality of education of a country has a huge impact on the competitiveness of its labour force as well as on the ability of workers to equip themselves with new skills being demanded by the national and international world economy. In turn, the quality of education is determined by the quality of teachers. The quality of teachers may be enhanced through several strategies. The first is by recruiting teachers from among the best graduates. The second is to provide professional development programmes throughout their careers that will enhance the quality of teachers. The third is to obtain the services of the academically brilliant persons serving in other professions and who are on the verge of retirement, as there are many persons in other professions who are either willing, or have the time, to dedicate part of their time to do part-time teaching at universities. Consequently, the only option available is for universities to provide professional development programmes to constantly enhance the quality of teachers, and to serve as university teachers with the ever-changing academic and skill demands of new batches of students.

As a person who has served as a head of a department and the head of an institute, I see that at least five areas in which all faculty will benefit by receiving assistance for professional development. The first is English language skills as English is the medium of instruction at Myanmar universities, the language of academic dialogue and the language to gain access to most references, journals, research papers and other relevant publications. Due to various reasons, the majority of university students are weak in English and a large percentage of faculty will admit that they need to improve their English language skills not only to enhance their research output but also to carry it out in English. The second need is up-to-date research methodology. The fourth area is related to the edge of the content of their specialization as due to the fast development of new knowledge and skills and their easy access, they need to keep up with new insights in the field of specialization. In addition, faculty must not forget that in this Age of ICT, pursuing private education institutions and online learning, they can be easily bypassed by bright students who can easily gain access to new knowledge through other channels. This means that if teachers want to be efficient teachers, they will become irrelevant to their students and they together with the institution from which they recruited their students. Senior faculty will also need to know about syllabus design, as their expertise is constantly sought in updating the syllabus for student learning, and for initiating new programmes. The fifth area is methodology and classroom management. In the distant past, faculty usually assumed that university teachers need no initial training in methodology but nowadays with the huge increase in the number of students, variations in student learning styles, gaining insight into the psychology of students and the use of ICT, mastery of effective teaching methods, approaches and styles and classroom management has become crucial for successful teaching.

In Myanmar, just as in many countries, there are no pre-service teacher training programmes for university teachers. Newly appointed university faculty, who need to have at least a master’s degree, are provided a brief orientation programme which may, in some departments, include auditing lectures of senior faculty. To remedy any shortcomings on the part of faculty, national level plans for the development of Myanmar higher education sector have consistently included programmes for higher education institutions to hold a variety of workshops, conferences, seminars, workshops, and short-term training programmes on a variety of areas and topics for the professional development of faculty, and faculty have been sent abroad for training. However, in practice, the quality and sustainability of professional development programmes held at various universities and colleges in the past varied from institution to institution and department to department and were very much dependent on the interest shown by heads of departments and the participation of the faculty. The need for better expertise in research methodology stems from various reasons including the major not having had adequate training for university students. Students as well as teachers will feel more comfortable with research, will be better able to think of new areas for research, and will be more willing to challenge research if they can have access to up-to-date research methodology. The fourth area is related to the edge of the content of their specialization as due to the fast development of new knowledge and skills and their easy access, they need to keep up with new insights in the field of specialization. In addition, faculty must not forget that in this Age of ICT, pursuing private education institutions and online learning, they can be easily bypassed by bright students who can easily gain access to new knowledge through other channels. This means that if teachers want to be efficient teachers, they will become irrelevant to their students and they together with the institution from which they recruited their students. Senior faculty will also need to know about syllabus design, as their expertise is constantly sought in updating the syllabus for student learning, and for initiating new programmes. The fifth area is methodology and classroom management. In the distant past, faculty usually assumed that university teachers need no initial training in methodology but nowadays with the huge increase in the number of students, variations in student learning styles, gaining insight into the psychology of students and the use of ICT, mastery of effective teaching methods, approaches and styles and classroom management has become crucial for successful teaching.

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Two killed in Palestinian ‘Day of Rage’ attacks

JERUSALEM — Palestinian men armed with axes and guns killed at least two people and wounded several others in a string of attacks in Jerusalem and a Tel Aviv suburb on Tuesday, police said, on a “Day of Rage” declared by Palestinian groups.

Two Palestinians shot and stabbed passengers on a Jerusalem bus, killing one and injuring five, Israeli media reported, as Israel and the Palestinian territories suffered their worst period of unrest in years.

One of the assailants was killed, an ambulance service spokesman said, and the other captured.

Minutes later, another Palestinian rammed his car into a bus stop in the centre of Jerusalem, then got out and began stabbing pedestrians, killing at least one and wounding several, police said.

The attacker was “neutralised”, officers added, without giving details.

Earlier in the morning, a Palestinian man stabbed and lightly wounded an Israeli on a shopping street in Raanana, just north of Tel Aviv, officials and witnesses said.

Amateur video distributed by police showed several men kicking and beating the alleged assailant as they lay on the ground. The ambulance service said he was seriously hurt.

Within an hour of that attack, another knife-wielding Palestinian struck in Raanana, wounding four people, police and media reports said.

Six Israelis and 27 Palestinians, including nine alleged attackers and eight children, have died in almost two weeks of street attacks and security crackdowns.

The violence has been stirred in part by Muslim anger over increasing Jewish visits to the al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem.

The main Palestinian factions, including the Western-backed Fatah movement and the militant Hamas group, declared a “Day of Rage” on Tuesday across the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

The leaders of Israel’s Arab community have called for a commercial strike in their towns and villages.

The now-daily stabbings have raised speculation that Palestinians could be embarking on another uprising or intifada, reflecting a new generation’s frustrations over their veteran leadership’s failure to achieve statehood. Israel has poured police reinforcements into Jerusalem, where many of the stabbings have occurred. In Raanana, a shopkeeper said he heard shouting, grabbed a heavy wooden umbrella, and ran outside to confront the assailant.

UK seeks release of Briton facing 350 lashes in Saudi Arabia

LONDON — Britain said on Tuesday it was seeking the release of an elderly British man facing 350 lashes after being caught with homemade wine in Saudi Arabia, a sentence which his family said could kill him.

Karim Andree, 74, was jailed for 12 months in August last year but remains in prison awaiting further punishment for breaking strict Saudi laws prohibiting alcohol after police found the wine in his car, his family said.

“There were two sentences. The custodial sentence which expired in August and then there’s the lashing sentence … which I assume he’s been kept in there because that hasn’t been dealt with yet,” his son Simon Andree told BBC radio.

“We have no idea what’s going to happen in respect of that.”

“I’m not criticising Saudi because it’s their law, it’s their way of life. My father has served his time, he regrets what’s happened, he just wishes to come home now.”

He said his father, who had worked for oil companies in the kingdom for some 25 years, was in poor health, had suffered cancer three times, and also had asthma.

“He’s an old frail man and I fear this lashing sentence is potentially a death sentence for him,” Simon Andree said.

“That’s our biggest concern, which is why we are trying to raise the case now to get him out.” Britain’s Foreign Office, which warns on its website that there are severe penalties for possessing alcohol in Saudi Arabia, said embassy staff in Riyadh were checking Andree’s health regularly.

“Ministers and senior officials have raised Mr Andree’s case with the Saudi Government and we are actively seeking his release as soon as possible,” a spokesman said. No one was available to give an immediate response from the Saudi Embassy in London.—Reuters

“His old frail man and I fear this lashing sentence is potentially a death sentence for him.”

Simon Andree
Son of Karl Andree

Yemen’s Saleh says ready to commit to UN peace terms

DUBAI — Yemen’s former president has vowed to honour a peace plan brokered by the United Nations in talks in Oman and to quit Yemeni cities if a Saudi-led Arab alliance stopped air strikes on the country.

Ali Abdullah Saleh also told the Lebanon-based al-Mayadeen television in an interview broadcast on Monday that he was ready to quit his position as head of the country’s largest party, the General People’s Congress (GPC), to facilitate an end to fighting that had killed more than 5,000 people.

Saleh, who enjoys the loyalty of the armed forces despite having stepped down from office nearly four years ago after months of protests, had joined forces with the Iran-backed Houthis in fighting a Saudi-led alliance trying to shore up President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The Houthis and Saleh’s GPC last week sent letters to UN chief Ban Ki-moon declaring their acceptance of the peace plan, which includes a Security Council resolution adopted in April calling on the Houthis to quit cities captured since September last year.

But a spokesman for Hadi dismissed those acceptances as a “maneuver” and demanded that the Iran-backed group hand back territory it has seized since last year.

In Monday’s interview, Saleh said: “We had reached a 10-point agreement with the UN envoy in Muscat, and we later reached (an agreement) of seven points which we and Ansarullah (Houthis) accepted, but until now the other side had not because they only want a dialogue through the gun.”

“This seven-point agreement needs a mechanism for each point. Who will prepare this mechanism? The United Nations,” he added.

Saleh said he was willing to step down as head of the GPC within 21 days in exchange for ending the attacks on Yemen and lifting a blockade on the entry of supplies to the country. The Saudi-led alliance regards the Houthis as proxies for non-Arab Iran, a main regional rival for Saudi Arabia.

Asked about allegations that Iran was providing advisors and support for the Houthis, Saleh said: “Perhaps there are scholarships from Iran and possibly financial aid, but there is not a single Iranian weapon or advisor in Yemen.”—Reuters

Two killed in Palestinian ‘Day of Rage’ attacks

Yemen’s former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Driverless buses, platoons of trucks to shape Singapore’s transport future

SINGAPORE — Singapore unveiled its public transport future on Monday, and it was a vision of passengers commuting in driverless buses along roads and freeways populated by platoons of autonomous trucks following a single driver.

The city state’s plans to streamline its transport future have begun with two self-driving vehicles going through their paces in a Singapore estate that is home to research facilities and educational institutes.

The vehicles are the vanguard of two projects — one run by the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) with the National University of Singapore and one by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research. Some US states and countries including Germany also allow testing of driverless vehicles on public roads. Singapore, with its limited land and workforce, is hoping that autonomous vehicles will encourage its residents to use more shared vehicles and public transport, and avoid further congestion on its roads. “Trying to look for bus drivers, truck drivers — big challenge for us,” said Pang Kin Keong, permanent secretary in the ministry of transport.

“We don’t have a huge population and these are not some of the professions which Singaporeans aspire to,” Pang said after taking a ride in SMART-NUS’s driverless car — a modified Mitsubishi Motors Corp electric vehicle with a top speed of 30 km per hour (20 mph). The government and port operator PSA Corp also said on Monday that they would seek proposals to design and implement autonomous truck platooning trials, in which a human-driven truck is followed by other driverless trucks. Autonomous vehicles could spur the mass-market adoption of ride sharing, ultimately resulting in a marked reduction in personally owned vehicles and in the total number of cars on the road, at least within cities, according to a Boston Consulting Group report in April.

Google and a number of automotive manufacturers and suppliers have said the technology to build self-driving cars should be ready by 2020.—Reuters

Britain cuts 2017 car production forecast to 1.8 million cars

LONDON — Britain will build around 1.8 million cars in 2017, less than originally expected, due to more sluggish growth in Europe, industry body the Society for Motor Manufacturers and Traders said on Tuesday.

A spokesman at the SMMT told Reuters last month that the group forecast car output of 1.95 million cars in 2017, but Chief Executive Mike Hawes said on Tuesday that the figure would be “something in the order of 1.8 million cars.”

He said that the industry would by 2020 beat the record of 1.92 million cars set in 1972, potentially several years later than originally expected. “We had an expectation that Europe would grow much more rapidly out of recession than it has done,” Hawes told reporters.—Reuters

Facebook pushes shopping features in move to e-commerce

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook Inc (FB.O) wants its users to shop for clothes and other products from their mobile phones without ever leaving its app.

In an effort to move further into e-commerce and compete with Amazon Inc’s (AMZN.O) retail offerings, Facebook announced Monday it is testing several ad features that allow users to shop directly through its app.

Few users make purchases on mobile phones because it is slow and cumbersome, but Facebook hopes to win over more ad dollars by smoothing the process. Mobile purchases make up less than 2 percent of all retail sales, according to research firm eMarketer.

“We’re looking to give people an easier way to find products that will be interesting to them on mobile, make shopping easier and help businesses drive sales,” said Emma Rodgers, Facebook’s head of product marketing for commerce.

Among the new features are ads that take a user through a specific brand’s products without redirecting them to another site. For example, a user who clicks on an ad from a boutique could see an expanded page that displays numerous clothing items.

Businesses on Facebook will also be able to display products for purchase directly on their own pages. And users will be able to purchase products directly on Facebook through a “buy now” button that will be more widely available. The 1.5-billion-member social network has also added a new section on its app that takes users directly to a shopping page where they can browse among numerous brands from a select group of small businesses that will gradually expand.

“From Facebook’s perspective, they’re addressing a pain point for retailers,” said Catherine Boyle, an analyst at eMarketer. “They will attract serious ad dollars with this offering.”—Reuters

Google, others help messaging startup Symphony raise $100 million

NEW YORK — Symphony Communication Services, a messaging startup backed by Wall Street banks, said it had raised more than $100 million in a new round of funding from investors including Google, UBS Group AG and European venture capital firm Merus Capital.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc led a group of 14 banks including Bank of America Corp, Citigroup Inc and JP Morgan Chase & Co in making a $66 million investment in Symphony last October, when Symphony was set up.

Symphony said on Monday it would use the new capital to address demand and to speed up expansion of its global operations.—Reuters
Japan may halt funds for UNESCO over Nanjing row with China

TOKYO — Japan may halt funding for UNESCO over the UN heritage body’s decision to include documents relating to the 1937 Nanjing Massacre, a move that Tokyo has protested against because of what it says are questions over authenticity.

The bitter legacy of Japan’s military aggression before and during World War Two still haunts ties between Asia’s two biggest economies 70 years after the end of the conflict. UNESCO included the dossier submitted by Chinese organisations in the latest listing for its “Memory of the World” programme, which is intended to preserve important historical materials.

A Japanese government source said the committee that made the decision was made up of experts in documentary preservation, not in evaluating the veracity of historical content.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said it was “problematic” that UNESCO had made its decision despite the conflicting views of Japan and China.

“The government would like to ask for fairness and transparency in the Memory of the World programme so that it would not be used for political purposes,” Suga said.

“As for Japan’s (financial) contribution to UNESCO, we plan to look into all possibilities and revisions, including halting payments,” he told a news conference.

Japan contributed 3.72 billion yen ($31 million) to UNESCO in 2014, or about 10.8 percent of its total budget.

China says Japanese troops killed 300,000 people in the massacre. A post-war Allied tribunal put the death toll at about half that number.

“The (Japanese) government believes there is no denying that some killings of non-combatants and acts of looting took place,” Suga said. “But there are various debates on the issue and Japan’s stance is that it is difficult to put a finger on specific numbers.”

The dossier, covering the period from Dec. 13, 1937 to early 1938, includes court documents from the Allied tribunal and a separate military tribunal, as well as photographs said to be taken by the Japanese army and film taken by an American missionary.

China has welcomed UNESCO’s decision. “The Nanjing Massacre is a severe crime committed by Japanese militarism during World War II and is a historical fact recognised by the international community,” China’s foreign ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

“Facts should not be denied and history not re-written.” Some Japanese conservatives periodically say that accounts of the massacre are a fabrication or exaggerated.

Sino-Japanese ties have also been frayed by territorial disputes and mutual mistrust over China’s growing military assertiveness, as well as Japan’s bolder security moves, including the reinterpretation of its constitution.

Claims and counter-claims over the origins of Sino-Japanese conflict have been a flashpoint for regional tensions, and China has welcomed Suga’s comments as an indication that Japan is no longer using the massacre to fuel anti-Chinese sentiment in the wider region.

A National Marine Fisheries Service biologist’s report found that Cayo’s actions harmed multiple endangered species, including steelhead, coho and chinook salmon, and harmed water quality, Ferguson said.

Restitution payments will go to a state fund that supports projects to restore and enhance the environment.—Reuters

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Washington state man who moved a river ordered to pay restitution

WASHINGTON — A Washington state court has ordered a man who redirected a river to pay restitution of $50,000 in fines.

Ferguson said in a statement Monday.

Cayo said the court also ordered him to pay $200,000 in restitution, but in monthly installments of $50,000, making it unlikely he will reach that full sum.

The court signed the restitution order on Friday, Ferguson’s office said.

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Claims Day Notice

MV BAOLONG VOY NO (1510)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAOLONG VOY NO (1510) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie wait the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

TENAGA VOY NO (308) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie wait the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (143N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (143N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie wait the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie wait the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Washington state man who moved a river ordered to pay restitution

SEATTLE — A Washington state court has ordered a man who redirected a river to pay restitution of $50,000 in fines.

Ferguson said in a statement Monday.

Cayo said the court also ordered him to pay $200,000 in restitution, but in monthly installments of $50,000, making it unlikely he will reach that full sum.

The court signed the restitution order on Friday, Ferguson’s office said.

A National Marine Fisheries Service biologist’s report found that Cayo’s actions harmed multiple endangered species, including steelhead, coho and chinook salmon, and harmed water quality, Ferguson said.

Restitution payments will go to a state fund that supports projects to restore and enhance the environment.—Reuters

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Restitution payments will go to a state fund that supports projects to restore and enhance the environment.—Reuters

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INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contract for which this bidding document is issued. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person) and clearly indicate one or more of the Reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION.

The goods will be contracted in 9 (Nine) separate contract. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011. Please submit Expression of Interest and Sealed Quotations to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw.


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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(15/2015)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-053(15-16)</td>
<td>Emulsion Treating Chemicals (Demulsifier) (5,000) Ltr</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-054(15-16)</td>
<td>High Pressure Hose &amp; Accessories (4) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
<td>DMP/L-008(15-16)</td>
<td>Hydraulic Pressure Pipes &amp; Water Pressure Pipes (1) Lot</td>
<td>Ks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>DMP/L-009(15-16)</td>
<td>Koomey Fluid (C-50F) (800) Liters</td>
<td>Ks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tender Closing Date & Time - 11-11-2015, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 14th October, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph +95 67 411097 / 411206

WEATHER REPORT

RAT INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th October, 2015: Rain or thunder showers will be scattered in Upper Sagoa and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin States, fairly widespread in Shan and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions, Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Decrease of rain in Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th October, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
‘Steve Jobs’ an engaging portrait, ex-Apple CEO says

LOS ANGELES — In the four years since his death, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs has emerged as one of Hollywood’s favourite subjects, though his brilliant but testy persona has proved tough to capture.

But in the latest biopic to tackle the Silicon Valley legend’s life, former Apple CEO John Sculley and co-founder Steve “Woz” Wozniak saw a glimmer of their old friend.

“There are many times in this movie where both Woz and I said, ‘Wow, this really did feel like Steve,’” Sculley told Reuters in an interview, saying he had discussed the film with Wozniak.

Sculley, who led Apple from 1983 to 1993, is one of the key characters in “Steve Jobs,” a movie from Oscar winners Danny Boyle and Aaron Sorkin that centers on three product launches: 1984’s Macintosh, 1988’s NeXT cube and 1998’s iMac.

Arriving in theaters across the US this week, “Steve Jobs” is the third film focused on the tech guru’s life and, like its predecessors, has been met with protests from insiders who say it presents an unduly harsh portrait.

Sculley echoed those concerns, saying the film, which delves into Jobs’ strained relationship with his daughter, shows just one side of a complicated man.

“I knew the young Steve Jobs really well, and he was a much bigger, better person than one could come to the conclusion if they only saw the movie,” he said.

The film devotes great attention to Jobs’ relationship with Sculley, now 76, who is depicted as both a father figure to the entrepreneur and a target of his famous temper. Some of the film’s most heated scenes show the men feuding over Apple’s advertising and Jobs’ oster.

The scenes were embellished, but the film makers made an effort to capture Sculley’s experiences, inviting him on set to learn his mannerisms, Sculley said.

Sorkin has said he created an “impressionistic” portrait of Jobs, and his depiction of the dynamic between Sculley and Jobs largely rings true, Sculley said. “People loved working for Steve,” Sculley said. “He had a vision that excited me. He had a vision that excited all of us.” Decades after leaving Apple, Sculley’s path has converged with his old company’s. Among his many ventures, he co-founded Obi Worldphone, which makes smartphones featuring Silicon Valley design at a lower price point for emerging markets. The company addresses a hole in the market, much as Jobs’ Mac delivered a computer for everyday consumers, Sculley said.

“I’ve always looked for opportunities to fill design gaps,” he said. — Reuters

Janet Jackson notches seventh No 1 album on Billboard 200 chart

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Janet Jackson scored her seventh No 1 album on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, making her only the third musician to achieve a chart-topping record in each of the past four decades, Billboard said.

“Unbreakable,” Jackson’s eleventh studio album and the first after the 2009 death of her pop star brother Michael Jackson, sold 109,000 albums, 44,000 songs and was streamed nearly 4 million times in the week ending on 8 October, totaling 116,000 units according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The only other artists to score a chart-topping record in each of the past four decades are Barbra Streisand and Bruce Springsteen. Streisand and Madonna are the only other female artists to have more No 1 albums than Jackson, the former with 10 under her belt and the latter with eight, Billboard said.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies album sales, sales songs (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album). Last week’s chart-topper, rapper Fetty Wap’s self-titled record, dropped to No 4 this week, behind R&B singer The Weeknd’s “Beauty Behind the Madness” at No 2 with 73,000 units and rappers Drake and Future’s “What A Time To Be Alive” at No 3 with 65,000 units. — Reuters

Witches and thrones: Indian animators cash in on special effects boom

MUMBAI — They call themselves Hollywood’s best-kept secret: India’s animators, long-time partners for the likes of Walt Disney Co, are reaping the rewards of surging demand for visual effects and gaining the confidence to venture out on their own.

India’s animation industry generated revenue worth 44.9 billion rupees ($675.7 million) in 2014, a 13 percent increase from the previous year, according to a data from a FICCI-KPMG report on India’s media and entertainment industry.

The industry is expected to double in size to 95.5 billion rupees within five years, as Hollywood studios tap a large pool of low-cost, English-speaking animators who are familiar with Western culture.

So far, animators based in India have created crowd scenes and props for the Emmy award-winning TV series “Game of Thrones” as well as more prominent visual effects for films including Disney’s 2014 Angelina Jolie movie “Maleficent” and Dreamworks Animation’s “How to Train Your Dragon”, among other Hollywood hits.

“We are one of those best kept secrets. We do all this amazing work and no one knows about it,” said Biren Ghose, who runs the Indian subsidiary of US firm Technicolor, which includes the India-based animation units that worked on “Maleficent”.

In a bid to gain more business, the company is building a higher profile, a unit of Mumbai-listed visual effects firm Prime Focus Ltd last year bought London-based Double Negative, the studio that this year won an Oscar for best visual effects for “Interstellar”.

Others like Prana Studios have attracted investment from some of the country’s richest men — Reliance Industries’ tycoon Mukesh Ambani and Anand Mahindra of the diversified Mahindra Group. “Of course cost is a big factor,” said Arish Fyze, Prana’s chief executive and creative director, when asked about the Indian animation industry’s appeal. Both Mahindra and Reliance declined to comment for this story.

“But ultimately, animation is about performance and understanding cultural idioms and idiosyncrasies. The combination is what our clients find helpful.” — Reuters
MYANMAR’s first and most comprehensive fare-compare website has expanded to offer a host of new services and products designed to make travelling in Myanmar stress-free.

Flymya was launched in June this year to allow customers to check flight schedules for every domestic airline and to book tickets via PayPal, major credit cards and Myanmar Payment Union (MPU). E-tickets are provided and cash payments can also be accepted by visiting Flymya’s office in downtown Yangon.

Flymya also guarantees the cheapest flights available, so it’s no surprise that it’s currently processing more than 1,000 flight bookings a month.

“As an avid traveller myself - both for business and leisure - I understood that there was a need to create an online platform that would take the pain out of arranging travel plans in Myanmar. As tourism continues to boom, I’m excited to play a role in modernising my country’s travel sector,” Flymya founder Mike Than Tun Win told The Global New Light of Myanmar on 13 October.

According to a press release issued yesterday, the new features on the website include all-inclusive tour packages booking for day-trips in Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan and the Heho region. It also offers hotel bookings and car rentals in major hubs such as Mandalay, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

The website has also added a photo gallery linked to its Instagram account and a blog filled with information for visitors about local foods, religious sites, nature spots, traditions and customs.

Mike Than Tun Win said the expansion is designed to help reduce travel hassles — particularly for first-time visitors to Myanmar.

“Many travellers find that they need to go in person to a local travel agent to book everything they want to do. As credit cards are still not widely accepted — even at restaurants and the like — it can be very time-consuming to arrange travel plans in Myanmar. Our goal is to make it easy — and to free up precious time to explore this fascinating country.”

Flymya also offers travellers with free advice on vaccinations, destinations and visa requirements. Its dedicated customer service team speaks both English and Myanmar and replies to all email inquiries within 24 hours. Flymya prides itself on offering the highest levels of customer in Myanmar, said Mike Than Tun Win, who returned to Myanmar in 2010 after a successful business career in Singapore.

“We received many requests from our customers to provide additional services, such as tour packages and flights. The expansion of our services gives travellers peace of mind because they know that we’ve sorted the nitty-gritty details for them before they even land.”

———

Jessica Mudditt

### Local fare-compare website rolls out new products and services

Flymya customer and Turkish travel blogger Hande Cilek enjoys the stunning surrounds of the ancient city of Bagan under the shade of a locally crafted parasol. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY HANDE CILEK

## Entertainment Channel

(14-10-2015, Wednesday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 am</td>
<td>Parita by Venerable Mingun Sayalaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:15 am</td>
<td>Physical Exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:25 am</td>
<td>Classical Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:35 am</td>
<td>Money Talk Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>News/ International News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Head Line News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:35 am</td>
<td>People Talks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>News/ International News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:35 am</td>
<td>Science and Technology Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>News/ International News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Head Line News</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:35 am</td>
<td>MRTV’s Youth Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>News/ International News/ Weather Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20 pm</td>
<td>Documentary (Classical Song)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:35 pm</td>
<td>Myanmar Traditional Boxing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Head Line News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:35 pm</td>
<td>University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Zoology)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>News/ Weather Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>Teleplay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:35 pm</td>
<td>Real Story Real Movie</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Head Line News</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>News / International News / Weather Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:35 pm</td>
<td>Documentary</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 pm</td>
<td>TV Drama Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:03 pm</td>
<td>Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance</td>
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## Myanmar International

(14-10-2015 07:00 am ~ 15-10-2015 07:00 am) MST

**Today Fresh**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07:03 Am</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:26 Am</td>
<td>History of Kyaik Wyne Pagoda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:44 Am</td>
<td>Impressum Myanmar Master Artist - U Lun Gwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:03 Am</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:26 Am</td>
<td>Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Episode-III)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:52 Am</td>
<td>Graffiti: Portraiture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:03 Am</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:26 Am</td>
<td>Bollywood Actress “Laila Khan” Born &amp; Raised in Myanmar (Part-I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:46 Am</td>
<td>A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:03 Am</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:26 Am</td>
<td>Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:41 Am</td>
<td>Buddha Image Built of Bamboo Strip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:53 Am</td>
<td>Paper Flower</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Prime Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm</td>
<td>- Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm</td>
<td>- Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</td>
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**For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule**

CARACAS — Dominican Republic and Venezuela mark Columbus’ discovery of Americas

CARACAS — Dominican Republic and Venezuela on Monday marked the mixed legacy of Christopher Columbus’ accidental discovery of the Americas 523 years ago.

The Italian explorer’s landing in the Americas on 12 October, 1492, in his search for a shortcut to the East Indies, expanded Europe’s horizons and helped fuel the Renaissance, but also ushered in centuries of brutal colonial rule for Americas’ indigenous civilizations.

Each year on this date, the marble mausoleum in the Dominican Republic where his remains reportedly reside is opened to the public.

The discovery not only opened a new route toward the West, but also uncovered other ways of life, heritage and customs, said Marcelino Martin Lopez, the director of the Columbus Lighthouse, the monument in tribute to Columbus, the Dominican daily El Nuevo Dia- rio reported. —Xinhua
Asian Football Confederation launches coaching course

THE Asian Football Confederation launched its third tier coaching course known as the ‘C Certificate’ on 12 October in Mandalay.

The course is being jointly conducted by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and is taking place at Mandalay Region Football Federation’s Baithoo Stadium.

MFF’s general secretary U Tin Aung and U Sein Win Gyi of Upper Myanmar football federation attended the opening ceremony and AFC instructor U Win Thu Moe gave an outline of the course, which will run until 25 October.

Than Tha Htwe of the Transport Ministry, Khin Marlar Tun, San Yu Naing and Mar Mar Si of the Sports Ministry, Phyo Ko Ko Hlaing (Kambawza FC), Myo Kyaing and Win Tin of Rail Transportation Ministry, Aung Kyaw Moe, Soe Naing, Khin Maung Win, Aung Kyaw Hein, Kyaw Kyaw Oo, Win Tin, Aung Kywe Oo, Soe Khaing Win, Yan Naing and Aung Myo Naing of Manda lay Region, player Zaw Win Tun, Han Tun and Naung Naung of Mandalay Sports and Physical Education Institute are participating in the training course.— Tin Maung

Zlatan strikes again as flat Sweden head for playoffs

STOCKHOLM — Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored his eighth goal in eight Euro 2016 qualifiers as Sweden beat Moldova 2-0 in Stockholm on Monday, but his side must content themselves with a playoff spot after they beat Montenegro 2-0 to claim second spot in Group G.

Undefeated group winners Austria thumped Liechtenstein 6-0 to finish on 28 points, eight more than Russia and 10 ahead of the Swedes, who will find out their opponents when the playoff draw is made in Nyon, Switzerland on Sunday.—Reuters

Bolt aiming to crack 19 seconds in 200 metres

KINGSTON — Six-times Olympic champion Usain Bolt has already started his preparations for next year’s Rio Games and has sent a warning to his competitors — he thinks he is capable of breaking 19 seconds in the 200 metres.

Bolt’s record of 19.19 seconds for the 200 has stood since Aug. 20, 2009, four days after he set the 100m record of 9.58 seconds, both at the world athletics championships in Berlin.

“I really want to run under 19 seconds,” Bolt told Reuters from his training base at the University of West Indies in Kingston as he began preparations for next year’s Rio Olympics. “It’s one of my major goals.

“I think it’s one of the toughest ones, because it’s going to be hard to find the right day and sometime the perfect race to get this (200m record).

“It will not be an easy task, but I personally feel I can do it and my coach (Glen Mills) thinks I can do it so it is just about the work and finding the perfect time to do it, so it is one of the things (for 2016).”— Reuters

Muguruza withdraws from Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG — Spanish world number four Garbine Muguruza has withdrawn from this week’s WTA tournament here due to a lingering ankle injury, organisers said on Monday.

Muguruza, who turned 22 last week, claimed the biggest title of her fledgling career by beating Switzerland’s Timea Babos in the final 6-7 (5), 6-4 on Sunday to win the China Open, raising to fourth in the rankings, a point behind third-placed Russian Maria Sharapova.

“Muguruza suffered a left ankle injury while playing in the Wuhuan Open at the beginning of October,” Hong Kong organisers said on the tournament website (www.hktennisopen.hk).

“The Spaniard will now rest the injury ahead of a likely appearance at the season-ending WTA Finals beginning on 25 October,” they added.

Muguruza’s run to the final in Wuhan, where she lost to Venus Williams, and her success in Beijing meant she reached finals in back-to-back weeks for the first time.

Her withdrawal in Hong Kong follows those of Belarusian Victoria Azarenka, Eugenie Bouchard of Canada and Germany’s Sabine Lisicki, who are also injured.— Reuters

Ruthless England complete perfect 10

LONDON — England became only the sixth team to end a European qualifying campaign with a 100 percent record when they beat Lithuania 3-0 in their final Group E match on Monday.

England, showing eight changes from the team that started Friday’s 2-0 win over Estonia at Wembley, put themselves into a commanding position after scoring two goals which went in off the same right-hand post inside the opening 35 minutes. The first, after 29 minutes, was a powerful long-range strike from Ross Barkley that took a deflection off a defender before flying into the net.— Reuters

Pacquiao looking to return to ring early next year

NEW YORK — Manny Pacquiao will be ready to return to the ring by next March, the Filipino boxer said on Monday while in New York to accept an award.

Pacquiao is recovering from surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff following his defeat to Floyd Mayweather in May. Winner of world titles in eight different weight classes, the 36-year-old Pacquiao said earlier this month that he is eyeing one final fight next year before retiring.

“My shoulder is 80 to 90 percent healed and I believe I can start training in November or December so I can fight early next year,” Pacquiao told the New York Daily News while preparing to be honoured by the Asia Society on Tuesday.

Pacquiao had formerly expressed interest in a rematch with Mayweather following a fight that did not meet expectations. Mayweather has said he is now retired after he improved to 49-0 last month.

Pacquiao was asked about possibly facing British fighter Amir Khan as his potential next opponent, but was non-committal.— Reuters

San Marino 2-0 to seal playoff berth

SAN MARINO — Slovenia secured a Euro 2016 play-off berth after second-half headers by captain Bostjan Cesar and Nejc Pecnik gave them a 2-0 win at San Marino in a dour Group E qualifier on Monday.

Slovenia finished third in the section on 16 points from 10 games, behind winners England and second-placed Switzerland who qualified automatically for next year’s tournament in France.— Reuters

Trainees of AFC’s ‘C’ certificate coaching course pose for group photo with officials.

PHOTO: Tin Maung (Mandalay)