EMERGING BUSINESS DESTINATION

Kyauk Phyu SEZ awarded international flag of investment attractiveness

An artist’s impression of the Kyauk Phyu deep sea port project that will unlock the potential of the hinterland and fulfill the country’s potential as a trade corridor for Africa, the Middle East and China. PHOTO CREDIT TO: KPSEZ.ORG

Ye Myint

MYANMAR’S Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone in Rakhine State was awarded the “Prime Business Destination Award” of the Europe Business Assembly, a UK-based international corporation, according to the SEZ’s website.

On behalf of the country, Ambassador U Han Thu received the International Flag and Certificate of Investment Attractiveness at the Prime Business Destination Forum held at Carlton Intercontinental Hotel in Cannes, France, on 12 October.

Kyauk Phyu special economic zone, one of the country’s three SEZs, received the emerging business destination award with the qualification level of “E” that indicates significant opportunities and moderate risk, along with Haifa Municipality in Israel, European Integration of Brecko District in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Morant Bay in Jamaica.

Evaluation is based on criteria including economic and geographical position, natural-resources potential, economic potential, energy, transport, industrial and social infrastructures, human resources in the region, level of education and health care, innovative, technical and scientific potential, political stability, availability of legislative preferences for investments, mechanisms for investment protection, and accessibility to information for successful participation in investment projects and tenders, the EBA said.

According to sources, the Singapore-based Creative Professional Groups was hired to advise the SEZ Bid Evaluation and Awarding Committee (BEAC) on choosing and inviting international developers to the SEZ.

Invitation of expression of interest process for the development of the US$227 million project started last year. Potential developers have submitted their detailed plans for construction of a deep-sea port, an industrial park and a residential area.

During her presentation in Yangon last year, Mrs. Nina Yang, executive director of urban planning at CPG Consultants Pte Ltd, said that the 19.51 square kilometer development area for phase 1 in western Rakhine State will include a 2.46 square km deep sea port, a 10 square km industrial park, 5 square km integrated residential area and a 2 square km associated infrastructural development area. —GNLM

CBM revokes Foreign Exchange Acceptor & Holder License

THE CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar has revoked the Foreign Exchange Acceptor and Holder License as from 19 October 2015 in attempts to control fluctuation in exchange rates, according to an announcement of the CBM Friday.

In its announcement, the CBM has informed businesses and associations which were granted the license to return their license to the bank by 30 November, 2015.

The businesses and associations mentioned in the announcement are hotels and travel agencies, restaurants, duty free shops, air lines, hospitals, foreign forwarders, communication businesses and companies which are doing businesses like soft drinks, lacquer, express delivery services, pesticide spraying services, media and apartments and Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd.

Other businesses include lacquer wares, silk, souvenirs shops, super markets, golf clubs and free funeral services.

The permit to use dollar currency in imports and exports, customs broker, private airplane operators, express delivery services, pesticide spraying services, private schools, hospitals, accommodation services, tennis courts and free funeral services are also revoked.

The CBM said the revocation would help contain the ever-increasing demand for foreign currency and its high demand in dollar and in-stability of the exchange rate which also threatens the financial sector of the country, the announcement said. —GNLM

Second JICM to be held in mid-November

AFTER signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and eight ethnic armed groups 15 October, the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) was held in the same afternoon in accordance with Sub-paragraph (a)(i) of Paragraph (21) of Chapter (5) of the NCA. President U TheinSein delivered a speech at the meeting.

The meeting, attended by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, continued on 16 and 17 October at the Max Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw and the Joint Monitoring Committee and Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee were formed at the meeting.

In addition, both sides agreed to make efforts to enable ethnic armed groups that have not signed the NCA to participate in the peace process in a respectful manner, to hold the second JICM in mid-November and political dialogues and to continue to work for holding political dialogues in accordance with the terms of the NCA, according to the press release of the meeting. —MNA
A team of Chinese experts on maintenance of water courses and prevention of floods and droughts reported their findings on prevention of inundation along the Ayeyawady River to Vice President U Nyan Tun at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The vice president also chairs the National Natural Disaster Management Committee.

The team conducted surveys at 32 places along the river for prevention of floods.

Myanmar has conducted post-disaster need assessments in cooperation with the World Bank, EU, JICA and UN.

Also present were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Khin Zaw, U Zin Yaw, U Soe Tint, advisor to the president Dr Zaw Oo and the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar. — Myanmar News Agency

**Japanese experts report findings on flood prevention to vice president**

**Interfaith Dialogue Group (Lower Myanmar) meets**

**Yazaki enters Myanmar market**

Yazaki distributes its high-quality products in the county, with plans to occupy 20% of market share within next five years.

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**Special police recruited for General Elections in Chamyathazi**

SPECIAL policemen have been recruited by law for the upcoming 2015 General Elections said Chamyathazi Township Police in-charge Police Major Khin Zaw, on 16 October. The township is one of Mandalay’s city townships.

The 74 policemen appointed on 15 October, were at present discharged at the township’s three police stations. They would be wearing uniforms and given numbers.

There will be 74 ballot booths in the township. The men have attended a training course and are to work together with four firefighters at their respective booths. They will be deployed for the security of the booth, explained the police officer. — Thaik Ko Ko (Mandalay)
President assists in upgrading Loikaw People’s Hospital, visits Beluchaung Hydropower Station

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein assisted in upgrading Loikaw People’s Hospital Saturday during his tour of Kayah State.

The hospital is being extended from the 200-bed facility to the 500-bed one with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA.

Before his visit to the construction site, the president visited the hospital’s wards to comfort and present food and gifts to the patients.

While the number of patients who received treatment at the hospital has been upward, the government approved K568 million budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, increasing from K300 million budget of the 2013-2014 fiscal year and from K60 million budget of the 2012-2014 fiscal year.

More than 24,000 people received medical care at the hospital up to October this year.

The hospital saw an increase in number patients, reaching 14,986 in 2011, 20,706 in 2012, 24,104 in 2013 and 27,448 in 2014.

During his tour of Kayah State, the president also inspected No.3 hydropower station on the Belu Creek in the state.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe reported to the president on current generation of electricity by the three hydropower stations on the river and five hydropower projects to be jointly implemented by the ministry and public companies.

The total combined capacity of the three hydropower stations on the Belu Creek is 248 MW.

Another hydropower project namely the Upper Beluchaung is currently under construction on the same river about 14 miles and four furlongs south-west of Nyaungshwe.

The project is targeted to be completed in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. More than 33 percent of the project is completed and upon completion, it will prevent sedimentation in Inle Lake.—Myanmar News Agency

4.5 million tourists expected to visit Myanmar in 2015

ABOUT 4.5 million tourists are expected to visit Myanmar in 2015, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung said at the opening ceremony of a new hotel in Yangon on Saturday.

The newly opened Centerpoint Grand Hotel and Office Tower has 300 rooms of international standard. Myanmar was also nominated as one of the top ten destinations by Skyscanner and new hotel projects are also being implemented in Myanmar. Myanmar has seen 53 percent increase in tourist arrivals than the same period of the previous year. The union minister also met with hoteliers, tour operators and principals of hotel and tourism schools in Myanmar and urged them to cooperate for sustainable development of the hotel and tourism sector on Friday. He also told the catering industry to provide quality services to tourists.—MNA

More local election observers urged to apply for permission by 24 Oct

THE Union Election Commission has issued accreditations to 9 election observer organizations and 6,260 members of them, according to a statement by the commission. The UEC welcomes and appreciates the organizations and has urged more local election observation organizations to apply for accreditation by 24 October.

Detailed application process is available at the official website of the UEC at http://uecmyanmar.org. — MNA

Ballot papers to be printed on time

THE Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information is printing ballot papers for the general election scheduled to be held on 8 November.

The PPE has been printing nearly 1.3 billion ballot papers of 1159 different types and planned to complete printing them on 18 October.

The Union Election Commission has ordered nearly 0.5 million more ballot papers recently and efforts are being made to complete printing ballot papers on time, according to PPE. — MNA

Maritime simulation room opened in MMU

DEPUTY Minister for Transport U Han Sein attended opening ceremony of a maritime simulation room and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats course-PSC&RB at Myanmar Maritime University in Thanlyin on Friday.

The simulator was manufactured according to the standards of International Maritime Organization.

The PSC&RB course was jointly organized by MMU and Brilliance Maritime Training Centre. The MMU has links foreign shipping companies and is helping students find jobs.—MNA

Water intake facility at No. 3 Beluchaung Hydropower Station in Kayah State. PHOTO MNA
USD 836 million Japanese ODA loan for Myanmar

On October 16, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed three loan agreements of up to a total of 99.85 billion Japanese Yen (approximately USD 836 million) with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The highly concessional ODA Loans (0.01% annual interest rate, 40 year repayment period including 10 year grace) will finance three key projects identified in the transport and power sector masterplans supported by JICA.

“East-West Economic Corridor Improvement Project” is expected to satisfy increasing traffic demand and make domestic and international flow of goods more efficient by replacing three bridges in the Mawlamyine (Mon) - Kawkaikreik (Kayin) section.

“Yangon Circular Railway Line Upgrading Project” aims to achieve safe, efficient and comfortable public transport services in Yangon, by rehabilitating and replacing the existing railway facilities and the rolling stock. The project is based on the Comprehensive Urban Transport Plan of the Greater Yangon up to 2035.

“National Power Transmission Network Development Project Phase II” is for construction of high voltage trunk transmission line and related 500kV substations. The project will promote universal access in line with the National Electricity (Power Sector) Master Plan up to 2030.

JICA, as a long-standing friend of Myanmar, will continue to maximize Myanmar’s potential for inclusive and sustainable growth, based on long-term strategic planning and by using every means of our assistance.—GNLM

Tourists taking cruises along Chindwin River, motorcyclists coming in from east and west

WITH the cooperation of Ministry of Hotel and Tourism and travel tour companies, river cruises have been provided by national private river ships to interested foreign tourists. Road tours for cyclists have also been arranged.

Royal Voyages Co., Ltd had arranged a ten-day Chindwin river cruise for 10 foreign tourists from 25 September to 4 October. Via Mandalay, they embarked ‘Pantaw’ ship at Kalaywa town and had stops at upper Chindwin ports of Masein-Mawleik-Kintat-Yuwa-Khawai-Sitthaung-Thaunwa-Pagan-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Kyaikhto-Kyaihtiyo route and started from its port along Chindwin river, stopping at over 10 ports including Momywa town. They left from Mandalay international airport.

Moreover, Oosga Myanmar Travels & Tours Co., Ltd had arranged for two British and one Australian motorcyclists to visit Myanmar from 1-12 October. They came in from Myawaddy of Kayin State and took the Myawaddy-Kyaikhtyo-Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Nyaungshwe-Inlay-Monpyin route and left from Tachilate of Shan State.

As the tourist season has begun, more tourists in groups and individually are visiting Myanmar which expects 5 million tourists, this season.—MoHT

Compensation given to landowners of Dekkinathiri Township

COMPENSATIONS for 10.4 acres of land to 31 farmers were presented on 16 October at Dekkinathiri Township General Administration Office. The mount totaled K 30,765 million. The confiscated lands were located on both sides of Razathingaha Road in Dekkinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—(Ottara District IPRD)

Correction

The article headlined “Mandalay Region Chief Justice meets UNDP delegation” on page 4 of The Global New Light of Myanmar on 3 October incorrectly referred to the Mandalay Region Advocate-General as the chief justice. We regret the error.—GNLM
Record high 130 people want to run for Philippine president

MANILA — A record 130 Filipinos registered as candidates to succeed Benigno Aquino as Philippine president in next year’s general election by Friday’s deadline, the elections agency said. A man who registered his name as Lucifer, a woman who heard voices from heaven and commanded her to run for public office and another who claimed to be an extraterrestrial ambassador are among the hopefuls.

“This is a symbol or a representative of vibrant democracy, where more people feel empowered to cast their vote, and to put themselves forward as candidates,” said James Jimenez, spokesman for the Commission on Elections. “We are giving people the opportunity to file their candidacies, but we reserve the right to really cut (the number) down to those with a reasonable expectation of victory.”

In the 2010 presidential election, 99 people registered to run for president but only 10 people were allowed to compete. Aquino, only son of democracy icons Benigno Senior and Corazon, won with 42 percent of the votes. Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, who ran twice and lost in 1992 and 1998, was among the last to register.—Reuters

KUALA LUMPUR — At the request of the United States, Malaysia has arrested a man on charges of hacking personal data of more than a thousand US officials and handing it to Islamic State militants in Syria so they could target the individuals.

The man, 20-year-old Ardit Ferizi from Kosovo, who entered Malaysia in August 2014 to study computer science and forensics, will be extradited to the United States, police said on Thursday night.

The suspect communicated with an Islamic State member in Syria about hacking servers containing information and details of US security personnel, Malaysian police said.

“The details were then transferred to the operation unit of the IS group for further action,” the police said in a statement.

US government experts say that in practise, Islamic State’s hacking exploits have been rudimentary and have done little known damage to any targeted institutions or individuals.

In contrast, the group’s cyber specialists is regarded by American and allied government counterterrorism agencies as highly sophisticated in its use of social media to spread Islamic State’s message and recruit new members and supporters.

The US Justice Department said Ferizi, a known hacker, had been charged with hacking the personal information of 1,351 US military personnel and federal employees and supporting Islamic State.

Ferizi, believed to be the leader of a Kosovar Internet hacking group called Kosovo Hacker’s Society, hacked the computer system of a US company and stole the personal identification information (PII) of thousands of individuals, a US government official said in a statement on Thursday.

“This case is a first of its kind and, with these charges, we seek to hold Ferizi accountable for his hacking and personal information and his role in ISIL’s targeting of US government employees,” Assistant US Attorney General John Carlin said in the statement.—Reuters

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia PM seeks to calm New Zealand concerns over detentions

BEIJING — China will never “recklessly” resort to the use of force in the South China Sea, a senior Chinese general said on Saturday, amid tensions over Beijing’s building of islands in the disputed waters.

China’s relations with several Southeast Asian countries, especially the Philippines and Vietnam who have competing claims in the South China Sea, have been strained over Beijing’s increasingly assertive tone on territorial claims in an area through which $5 trillion in shipborne trade passes annually.

Beijing’s move last year to step up the creation of artificial islands, which it says are mostly for civilian purposes, has drawn strong criticism from Washington.

Fan Changlong, one of the vice-chairmen of the Central Military Commission which controls the Chinese armed forces and is headed by President Xi Jinping, told a high-level security forum that China had sought to avoid conflict.

“We will never recklessly resort to the use of force, even on issues of sovereignty, and have done our utmost to avoid unexpected conflicts,” Fan told the forum, attended by Southeast Asian defense ministers.

The United States says international law prohibits claiming territory around artificial islands built on previously submerged reefs and that the US military would sail or fly wherever international law allowed.

Beijing, however, denies it has militarised the South China Sea and has warned that it would not stand for violations of its territorial waters in the name of freedom of navigation.—Reuters

Chinese general says will never recklessly resort to force in South China Sea

Australia arrests hacker for supplying US targets to Islamic State

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Malaysia arrests hacker for supplying US targets to Islamic State

Mala
Israel says thwarts further knife attacks, three Palestinians dead

JERUSALEM — Three Palestinians were shot dead on Saturday in what Israeli said were thwarted knife attacks, but a Palestinian witness of one incident said it was a result of Jewish settler violence, as tensions ran high after more than two weeks of unrest.

At least 40 Palestinians and seven Israelis have died in the violence, which was in part triggered by Palestinians’ anger over what they see as increased Jewish encroachment on Jerusalem’s al-Aqsa mosque compound.

Israeli border police had stopped to question a 16-year-old Palestinian walking in “a suspicious manner” through a neighbourhood around East Jerusalem, a police spokesman said. The teenager drew a knife and tried to stab the officers, who shot him dead, the spokesman said.

A second shooting occurred near a Jewish settlement in the West Bank city of Hebron. The Israeli military said a Palestinian attempted to stab an Israeli civilian, who was carrying a gun and then shot and killed the attacker.

A Palestinian high schooler, who witnessed the Hebron shooting, said it happened when Jewish settlers attacked an unarmed Palestinian, according to the girl’s father who spoke with Reuters.

Also in Hebron, a female Palestinian stabbed an Israeli border policewoman, cutting her hand, a police spokesman said. The policewoman managed to shoot the attacker, he said.

More than 40 Palestinians have been killed in the last two weeks, including knife-wielding assailants and protesters shot by Israeli forces during rock-throwing confrontations. Seven Israelis have died in random attacks in the street or on buses.

Israel says it is keeping the status quo at the holy compound, which is also revered by Jews as the location of two destroyed biblical Jewish temples.

Peace talks collapsed in 2014 over Israeli settlement-building in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, areas Palestinians seek for a state, and after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas angered Israel by reaching a unity deal with the Islamist group Hamas in Gaza.

The last major confrontation was the Gaza conflict between Israel and Hamas in 2014, which left large sections of Gaza destroyed.

Around 2,100 Palestinians, most of them civilians, and 73 Israelis, almost all soldiers, were killed.

The United States has stepped up efforts to try to restore calm to the region. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke by phone with both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abbas to discuss ways to end the violence.—Reuters

MSF says US tank entered compound of bombed Afghan hospital without permission

KABUL — Medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres said on Friday that a US tank entered the grounds of its hospital in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz without permission, damaging the compound that was hit in a US air strike earlier this month.

The group said in a statement that the vehicle was carrying a team from a joint investigation being conducted by the United States, NATO and Afghan government into why a US aircraft fired on the hospital, killing at least 22 staff and patients.

“Their unannounced and forced entry damaged property, destroyed potential evidence and caused stress and fear for the MSF team,” the group said of the incident on Thursday.

It also said members of the investigation team had previously agreed to notify MSF before taking steps that involved the group’s personnel or assets.

A spokesperson for NATO’s Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan did not immediately confirm or deny the report.

“We are aware of the reports and are reviewing the incident,” the spokesperson said.

The US military has taken responsibility for the air strike, which occurred during intense fighting between Afghan forces and the Taliban in the early hours of 3 October.

The Islamist militants had briefly taken control of Kunduz city, in their biggest military victory in 14 years of war.

MSF officials have said the hospital’s location had been clearly indicated to all parties, and that no Taliban fighters were occupying the site, as some Afghan government officials initially stated.

A group of MSF staff members were in Kunduz this week to assess the damage to the hospital, which is no longer functioning. At present, 22 staff members and patients are confirmed to have died in the attack, and two additional staff members are presumed to be dead.—Reuters
Croatia diverts migrants to Slovenia after Hungary border closure

Scottish leader Sturgeon says Cameron a threat to UK’s place in Europe

Norwegian mass killer Breivik to sue to end prison isolation

US’s Kerry, Israel’s Netanyahu to meet in Germany next week

Cambodian police arrest 72 Chinese nationals for telephone scam

A migrant family walks to a registration center at a Croatia-Slovenia border crossing in Lendava, Slovenia on 17 October 2015. Photo: Reuters

ABERDEEN — Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon will accuse Prime Minister David Cameron of playing "fast and loose" with Britain’s place in the European Union on Saturday, criticising his renegotiation strategy before a public vote on remaining an EU member.

Britain’s future in Europe has become a defining issue for the country. Cameron has promised to negotiate new membership terms before holding a referendum by the end of 2017 on whether to leave the EU.

A vote to leave would have profound consequences — among other things, it might trigger a fresh pro-EU Scottish National Party bid for Scottish independence by the pro-EU Scottish National Party, threatening to end the 300-year-old union of Scotland and England. Sturgeon, who supports the European Union but eventually wants Scotland to become an independent country, will use a speech at her Scottish National Party’s annual conference in Aberdeen to criticise Cameron’s handling of the issue.

"We despair at the failure of leadership of a prime minister pandering to Eurosceptics in his party, but unable to articulate clearly and precisely what it is he is seeking to renegotiate," Sturgeon will say, according to advance extracts of her speech.

Earlier this week, Cameron sought to defuse the frustration of fellow EU leaders over lack of detail in his renegotiation demands by promising to send them a list of proposals in writing in early November. Sturgeon will use the speech to her party faithful to spell out precisely what it is he is seeking to renegotiate, and to offer US support for efforts to restore calm as soon as possible.

Support for the SNP surged to end prison isolation

OSLO — Convicted Norwegian mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik will sue to end his isolation in prison, arguing that such strict conditions violate his human rights, his lawyer said on Friday.

Breivik, who killed 77 people in a bomb attack and shooting spree, has been kept in solitary confinement since his arrest in 2011. Only prison staff, his lawyers and his mother, who died of cancer in 2013, have visited him in at least two prisons where he has been held.

His request should be heard in March next year and the Oslo district court has been asked to let him attend, lawyer Oyvind Storvik said. Breivik’s killing spree was the worst acts of violence committed in Norway since the World War Two.

"There will be a court case about his prison conditions," Storvik told Reuters. "We are arguing that his prison conditions are a breach of human rights. He has been held in isolation for four years."

The court has not yet decided whether Breivik can attend, the lawyer said.

Breivik has previously complained that his prison conditions amounted to torture and threatened to go on hunger strike if they were not improved. Asked whether he would go ahead with this threat were he to lose the court case, Storvik said: "We are focussing on the court case now."

Officials at the Skien prison in southern Norway, where Breivik is believed to be held, declined to comment or even confirm whether he was currently being held there.

The head of Ila prison outside Oslo, a facility where Breivik was previously held, said in 2013 that holding him in isolation was necessary because of the risk he could take someone hostage. — Reuters

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian police have raided a guesthouse in Tbong Khmum province, northeast of Phnom Penh, and arrested 72 Chinese nationals who were allegedly involved in a telephone scam, the National Police’s website reported on Saturday.

"Seventy-two Chinese nationals, including 19 females, were arrested on suspicion of telephone fraud during the raid on Friday afternoon," Tbong Khmum provincial police chief Gen. Mao Pov was quoted by the website as saying.

A number of telephones and laptops, which were used by the scammers to threaten and extort money from people in China, were also seized as evidence.

Scammers often use overseas servers to make scam calls to their victims in China, claiming to be court or police officers, noting that the victims’ bank accounts had been breached so that they have to transfer the money to a separate safe account. — Xinhua
Building a shared future from a divided past

Kyaw Thura

More than half a decade of armed conflict has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that the exchange of bullets produces nothing but an endless cycle of needless suffering. There’s no winner in the game of violence. We know this only too well – what should have been a united and prosperous nation has instead become divided and embittered.

The recent signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement between the government and eight ethnic armed organisations is a very encouraging sign of progress: we may now begin to nurse Myanmar back to a state of health and tranquillity. Everyone stands to benefit from sustainable development and the end of pointless divisions amongst us.

But it must be acknowledged that the sheer number of painful misfortunes sustained by our nation and our spirit. It will take a great deal of effort to rebuild trust and understanding. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people were displaced by the senseless violence and many remain traumatised after being trapped in conflict zones. The families who lost loved ones in combat carry emotional scars that will last a lifetime. It has taken far too long to comprehend the full extent of the damage we’ve done to one another. Only now are we facing up to the fact that both sides lose, time and time again. No longer should we count the numbers of dead soldiers versus so-called enemies; every casualty is a human being; a fellow brother. It’s time to stop focusing on our differences and to start celebrating what we should: a shared national identity with a rich diversity of ethnicities and religions. Our differences should never divide us but we failed to recognise a universal truth: that we are one people, regardless of caste or creed.

Breaking the cycle of hostility and conflict is long overdue: the fact that we are beginning to rebuild broken relationships represents enormous progress, but it will not be without overtones. We must learn how to manage our differences without resorting to violence. We must accept that national reconciliation is the only path to lasting peace. All other roads lead to a dead end – literally. Let us begin a new chapter of building consolidation through negotiation: it’s a surefire way to guarantee the end of live ammunition. Let’s start afresh: the nightmare is over!

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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.

(Comments expressed here are those of the author.)

U Than Htay

Despite the clamorous denunciations and derogatory epithets heaped on certain misconducts of your Government in the past, we, the pensioners (at least, most us) admire and respect your probity, benevolence and courage. You are still our hero on three certain misconducts of your Government is fallible proving the truth of the benefactors with invidious invectives.

Another notable achievement of yours in the Public Welfare Sector is the highly visible signage of populace. As for those allegations on the claimed...
150-year-old Pakhan Nge Monastery falls into ruin

The original Pakhan Nge monastery (left) and the ruins seen today. PHOTO: Min Htet Aung

AN ANCIENT monastery—built over 150 years ago during the Konbaung era in Pakhan Nge village, is deteriorating and in desperate need of conservation, according to local residents. All that remains of the monastery today are a few wooden posts and some concrete steps.

According to the monastery’s records, King Mindon, the father of Myanmar’s final monarch, King Thibaw, ordered ministers and sawbwas (Shan chieftains) to assist in completing the construction of the huge monastery on 16 acres of land. The edifice was built by his uncle, Pakhan Mingyi U Yan Way, for the Pandu Sayadaw, a prominent Buddhist monk during the Konbaung era. The Pandu Sayadaw taught Buddhist literature to more than 400 monks at the monastery about 150 years ago.

It took seven years for 100 carpenters to complete the wooden building using traditional Myanmar architectural techniques, most notably the inclusion of eight-step stairways.

The monastery is held up by are 332 wooden posts, each of which is between 6 and 19 metre tall and nearly 2 metres in circumference.

“When I was young, I pretended to be a king sitting on the throne of the monastery. But today, the throne is not here, and the monastery is deteriorating,” said U Soe Win Myint, a resident of Pakhan Nge village.

Local residents have not been able to fund conservation efforts, and the national heritage building is falling into ruin before our eyes, he added.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay)

Thai Expo to come to Mandalay

THAI Expo 2015 will be held in Mandalay from 29 October to 1 November and will include 128 booths.

More than 110 companies will participate in the expo, exhibiting their products, including foodstuffs, textiles, home-decoration materials, kitchenware, farming tools, construction materials and cosmetics at Diamond Plaza. The expo is aimed at establishing trade relations between Thai and Myanmar entrepreneurs. —Thiha Ko Ko

Special police recruited for general election

OVER 40,000 members of special police have been appointed since 15 October to discharge security duty during the general election, according to news sources. They were selected from all ethnic groups of different educational backgrounds and will be sent to training courses from 20 to 31 October in all regions and states.

The uniform of the special police is made up of grey shirts, dark blue trousers, dark blue caps and blue canvass shoes. They will be paid K 120,000 for salary and K 30,000 for allowance.—MNA

UK steps up efforts to help Myanmar mitigate impacts of climate change

In late September, the UK’s Department of Energy and Climate Change announced that funding for activities aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change in developing countries around the world will be increased by at least 50 percent, to a further £5.8 billion (US$8.95 billion) from April 2016 to March 2021.

The funding is delivered through the International Climate Fund (ICF) which was established in 2010 and helps developing countries to take up low carbon development, protect forests and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. It is part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget.

“‘To ensure a more secure and prosperous future for us all, the UK is playing its part by helping some of the most vulnerable communities become more resilient to climate change and by supporting the developing world to take the clean energy path to growth and prosperity rather than the high carbon route,” said the UK’s Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ms Amber Rudd in the press release issued on 27 September.

The UK will focus on low carbon development, which will help the world’s poorest countries to boost their economies and tackle poverty, while at the same time reducing carbon emissions and the impacts of climate change. Introducing low carbon energy sources such as solar power will also enable millions of people without electricity to access clean energy, allowing homes and businesses to thrive.

“Taking action on climate change is in every country’s interest. We cannot have food security, water security, energy security – or any form of national security – without climate security. In response to this, the UK Government has launched the International Climate Fund (ICF) to help reduce poverty and tackle climate change in developing countries. The ICF will help poor countries to protect the lives and jobs that are most at risk from climate change. It will support poor countries to build resilience to a changing climate, protect precious water resources, and help poor people cope with more frequent extreme weather events,” said Mr Preston.

Since 2012 the UK has provided over £43.3 million (US$67 million) in humanitarian aid to people in Myanmar and along the Thai-Myanmar border, making it one of the largest humanitarian donors in the region.

The UK’s climate finance goes towards building climate resilient communities in a variety of ways. It has supported the distribution of flood resilient crops and improving early warning systems. It is also helping create new renewable sources of energy for communities which improves health, education, and enables businesses to grow, creating jobs and improving incomes and standards of living for the poorest communities.
Suicide bombing, gunbattle kills 12 in western Yemen: security sources

SANAA — An apparent suicide bombing and gun attack claimed by Al Qaeda killed 10 soldiers guarding an intelligence building in the western Yemeni city of Hodeida on Friday, security sources said.

The sources said two of the assailants were also killed. “Gunmen believed to belong to al Qaeda attacked the main gate of the political security building with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns after a car bomb driven by a suicide bomber attacked the back gate,” one of the sources said.

The group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement issued online, calling its militants “holy warriors”.

Al Qaeda and Islamic State have both gained ground in Yemen, where a war has been raging for seven months between a Saudi-led military alliance and Houthi militiamen allied to Iran.

The militant Islamist groups view the Shia Muslim Houthis movement, which controls Hodeida and much of Yemen’s north, as apostates deserving death.

But Islamic State has also hit out against the Arab military alliance supporting Yemen’s embattled president.

In a series of suicide bombings on 6 October, Islamic State killed 22 people, including several troops from the United Arab Emirates, at the government headquarters in the southern port of Aden and military bases in the city.

Ground fighting and Saudi-led air strikes have killed at least 5,400 people in Yemen’s multi-sided conflict, which started as a civil war among competing factions but has drawn in outside powers in a regional struggle for influence between Sunni Gulf countries and Shia Iran.

Jets from a Saudi-led military coalition bombed the house of Yemen’s speaker of parliament on Friday, residents said, as part of a wave of attacks aimed at influential politicians.

The attack hit the residence of Yahya al-Ra’i in central Dhamar Province, leaving him unscathed but killing his son.

Residents of the Houthis-controlled capital Sanaa reported around 60 coalition air strikes in the last two days on military bases and houses belonging to family members of Ali Abdullah Saleh, a former president and important ally of the Houthis.

Five civilians were killed in the bombardment of the capital on Thursday, residents said, including at least two children.—Reuters

Turkey downs drone as Syria launches Aleppo offensive

BEIRUT — Turkey shot down a drone on Friday in an incident highlighting the dangers of multiple air combat operations over Syria, where government troops and their allies backed by Russian jets have launched an offensive against rebels near Aleppo.

The army offensive south of the city, backed by Hezbollah and Iranian fighters, has expanded its 10-day-old counterattack in western Syria against insurgents battling to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad.

The army campaign has been coordinated with Russian jets, which began air strikes in support of Assad on 30 September, and Syria’s own air force.

A US-led coalition of Western and Arab forces has been flying combat missions over Syria for more than a year, while Israeli jets have also struck targets in Syria during the four-year-old civil war.

That has left Syria’s airspace crowded with warplanes from rival, or even hostile, powers, pursuing competing military strategies, heightening the risk of aerial confrontation.

Turkey’s military said its jets shot down an unidentified drone in Turkish air space near Syria on Friday.

A US official said Washington believed it was of Russian origin, but the Russian defence ministry said all of its planes in Syria had safely returned to base and that all its drones were operating “as planned”. NATO said Turkey was investigating where the drone came from.

The Turkish military said the aircraft it shot down had continued on its course despite three warnings, in line with Turkey’s rules of engagement. Broadcast-er NTV said it had come 3 km (2 miles) into Turkish air space.

Turkey has already complained of Russian warplanes violating its air space along the border with Syria earlier this month.

The Russian Defence Ministry said later on Friday it had established direct contact with the Turkish military to avoid incidents with flights near the border, Interfax news agency reported.

Russia had set up a hotline between a base used by its air force in Syria and the Israeli air force command centre to coordinate on Syria flights.

The ministry also said it had agreed the technical details for an agreement with the United States on flight safety over Syria and a final memorandum would be signed soon.—Reuters

Islamic State gunman kills five at Shia centre in Saudi Arabia

DUBAI — A gunman shot and killed five people in an attack on a Shia mosque meeting hall in Saudi Arabia on Friday before being shot dead by police, Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV said, in an attack claimed by Islamic State.

The deadly assault will raise tensions in the kingdom’s largely Shia Eastern province, a focus of ultra-violent Sunni militants who view them as apostates worthy of death.

“A person who opened fire on a house was killed, and the attacker was in his twenties,” a reported government-run channel, Al Ekhbariya TV.

A resident reached by telephone told Reuters that the assailant approached the meeting hall in the eastern city of Saihat in a taxi but was stopped at a checkpoint manned by volunteers protecting the site.

Police arrived and a gunbattle broke out, which the resident said injured several people and left the shooter dead.

Islamic State, an ultra-violent Sunni group based in Iraq and Syria, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted online.

“The approval of God Almighty, the soldier of the caliphate Shuja al-Dawsari, may God accept him, set his Kalashnikov upon one of the apostate polytheists’ temples.”

Amateur video described as filmed by activists inside the hall showed worshippers, including young children, crowding towards the entrance at the sound of gunfire before retreating in fear.

Islamic State has launched a series of deadly attacks inside the kingdom in recent months, aiming to stir sectarian confrontation on the Arabian peninsula and bring about the overthrow of Gulf states’ ruling dynasties.

A suicide bomber killed at least 15 people in an attack on a mosque used by members of a local security force in southwest Saudi Arabia in August and two separate suicide bombings on Shia mosques in May killed 25 worshippers.

Groups of volunteer security guards have been formed around Shia holy sites of the kingdom, whose rulers follow a strict version of Sunni Islam shared by the majority of the country’s population.

Some local activists have accused security forces of not doing enough to thwart the assaults, a charge officials deny.

Saudi authorities said in July they had rounded up 431 Islamic State suspects and had foiled plots to attack places of worship and security forces.—Reuters
Twitter to pay Kordestani annual base salary of $50,000

SAN FRANCISCO — Twitter Inc said it would pay new Executive Chairman Omid Kordestani an annual base salary of $50,000 and a one-time grant of options to buy 800,000 shares of the microblogging website operator.

The company said it does not expect Kordestani to be appointed to any committee of the board. Twitter poached Kordestani from Google last Wednesday, the latest step in the company’s turnaround efforts under Jack Dorsey, who last week was named permanent CEO. Kordestani’s appointment

Mazda recalling 923,000 vehicles for faulty ignition switches

TOKYO — Mazda Motor Corp. said Friday it is recalling 923,672 vehicles amid fears that potentially defective ignition switches can catch fire.

The company also plans to recall cars overseas due to the same problem, saying it is now calculating how many vehicles would be affected.

Suzuki Motor Corp. recalled in March and April some 1.99 million vehicles, including police cars, in Japan due to similar problems. The ignition switches were made by the same supplier.—Kyodo News

Honda mulls partnership with GM over hybrid, self-driving cars

TOKYO — Honda Motor Corp. is considering expanding the scope of its partnership with US automaker General Motors Co. to cover hybrid cars and self-driving technology, company sources said Friday.

Honda is apparently hoping to acquire a competitive edge over its rivals in developing next-generation technology by strengthening cooperation with GM. The Japanese automaker has joined hands with GM to develop fuel-cell vehicles since 2013, and by 2020 plans to roll out a vehicle equipped with technology developed with the US maker.

Toyota Motor Corp. has said it aims to commercialise automised highway-driving vehicles by 2020, when Tokyo hosts the Olympics and Paralympics.

Self-driving is an increasingly competitive field as Nissan Motor Co., US Internet giant Google Inc. and Apple Inc. are also stepping up development. As huge investments are needed to develop new technology, automakers have been forging closer cooperation since 2013. Toyota is in partnership with Germany’s BMW AG to develop a fuel-cell system, while Nissan, Daimler AG of Germany and Ford Motor Co. of the United States have been working together over fuel-cell technology.—Kyodo News

Apple wants to set up research centre in Indonesia

JAKARTA — US-based technology firm Apple Inc., plans to establish a research and development (R&D) center in Indonesia, a minister disclosed here on Friday.

Indonesian Information and Communication Minister Rudiantara said that the company’s management officers have come into Indonesia and held talks with the government over the plan. The minister said that Apple Inc. has successfully developed such a plan in Brazil and wants to do so in Indonesia.

“They (Apple officers) proposed the investment model in Brazil to be implemented in Indonesia. They plan to build R & D center in Indonesia,” he said at Graha XI building. —Xinhua

Amazon poised to win big as India launches annual festive shopping spree

MUMBAI — Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) could emerge as the biggest winner from one of India’s most important festive and shopping — seasons, after the other e-tailers offered steep discounts, swift delivery and even gold bars to grab market share.

The month-long festive season, which began on Monday, culminates in Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, but the first nine days are considered an especially auspicious time to make big purchases. Analysts say e-commerce firms in India could make as much as a quarter of their annual sales during this period, with the global experience and logistics network and deep pockets of Amazon putting it in a good position to grab customers from local market leader Flipkart and smaller firm Snapdeal.

“Amazon has been closing in,” said Harsh Bijooy, an independent brand expert and business analyst. “It has global play and is very nifty in terms of delivery.”

India currently contributes the most new customers to Amazon outside the United States, the company said, making growth there a priority.

The e-tailer launched in India in 2013 and has invested at least $2 billion, especially in logistics, to avoid being overtaken by local firms, which is what happened in China with Alibaba Group Holding (BABA.N).

According to website analytics firm Alexa, Amazon’s India website was now ranked the 6th most visited website locally and the 83rd most visited site globally as of 13 October, after rising 18 positions over the past three months.

Flipkart is ranked higher at 58th locally and 79th globally, but it rose only 8 positions over the same period.

E-tailers have splashed out on promotions for this year’s festive shopping week as it coincides with signs that consumer spending is picking up after two consecutive years of slowing growth for Asia’s third-largest economy.

Amazon offers shoppers next-day delivery for late-night orders and the chance to win a kg (35 ounces) of gold every day for five days in a country that is a voracious consumer of the precious metal.

In a statement, it said the number of transactions on the first day of its “Great Indian Festival Sale” was a record high, but like its rivals it declined to give specific figures.

Flipkart also expects its “Big Billion Days” sale, which customers can access only through its smartphone app, to be “the biggest shopping event of the year”, said Mukesh Bansal, head of the company’s commerce platform. Last year, Flipkart’s website crashed during its maiden festival shopping event.

Bansal said Flipkart had invested in improving its delivery network and overall logistics this year, providing food, beds and even an ambulance on standby to keep the business running.

Snapdeal also highlighted its improved logistics and booming demand. “With the huge surge in sales volumes, over 5 million orders have already been shipped out of Snapdeal until now”, it said in a statement.—Reuters

New York to try out GPS-based metre on 1,000 taxicabs

NEW YORK — Some New York City taxicabs will switch to using GPS-based fare calculators from current metering systems under a pilot programme approved on Thursday.

The NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission voted to pass a measure to overhaul technology systems in 1,000 city cabs, which currently rely on bulky televisions and credit card readers. “It’s just streamlined technology,” commission spokesman Greg Gordon said.

The new systems will be smaller, more portable and less expensive than the current ones, which calculate fares using several physical components, including devices to track the number of times a wheel turns and waiting time, Gordon said.

Four technology companies have been selected to develop the new metering systems.

The pilot programme, which will run for up to a year, will begin when the commission approves the first proposed design for testing in cabs. The programme initially called for new system testing in 4,000 cabs but was amended and reduced at Thursday’s meeting.

One proposal calls for getting rid of taxicab televisions, which typically play ads on 12-hour loops and have been known to irrate passengers and drivers alike.

All of the city’s 13,500 yellow taxicabs, which are licensed by the city Taxi and Limousine Commission but operated by private companies, were equipped with the current system by November 2008. All featured the taxi TVs. Four cab operators will test the new systems, which could come in the form of mobile devices that the driver would hand to a passenger at the end of a trip. Before the new systems can be used in cabs, they will be tested by the commission against hard-wired meters, to ensure they produce the same pricing range, Gordon said.—Reuters

Traffic moves on a road past advertisements of Indian online marketplace Amazon, in Mumbai, India, on 15 October 2015. —Photo Reuters

Traffic moves on a road past advertisements of Indian online marketplace Amazon, in Mumbai, India, on 15 October 2015. —Photo Reuters

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Traffic moves on a road past advertisements of Indian online marketplace Amazon, in Mumbai, India, on 15 October 2015. —Photo Reuters
Peace stone from Hiroshima delivered to Azerbaijan

A peace stone from Hiroshima is installed at the Museum of Fine Arts of Baku in Azerbaijan on 16 October 2015. Photo: Kyodo News

Baku — Azerbaijan, a former Soviet republic rich in natural resources, became the latest nation among countries around the world to accept a peace stone from a Hiroshima-based civic group on Friday.

The Stone for Peace Association of Hiroshima delivered the paving stone that survived the 1945 US atomic bombing of the Japanese city, engraved with an image of Buddhist goddess of mercy, to representatives of the Azerbaijani government during a ceremony at the Museum of Fine Arts of Baku.

About 170 people, including Azerbaijan Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev, Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev and Japanese Ambassador Tsuguo Takahashi, attended the ceremony.

Culture and Tourism Minister Garayev said that accepting the peace stone symbolizes Azerbaijan’s active efforts to promote global peace.

Japanese Ambassador Takahashi said the peace stone represents “a new step toward further developing relations between Japan and Azerbaijan.”

Michio Umemoto, head of the Hiroshima civic group, referring to the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this year, said the stone is starting “a new life” in the Azerbaijani capital.

The Baku ceremony followed similar Hiroshima peace stone events in Tajikistan and Armenia in 2014 and Kazakhstan in August this year.

The granite stone is about 50 centimetres square and weighs approximately 50 kilograms. It was one of the paving stones for Hiroshima streetcar tracks that were just 200 metres from ground zero.

More than 100 countries have so far received or agreed to receive the stone, which also has the English words “From Hiroshima” engraved on it since the start of the donation campaign in 1991.—Kyodo News

Mexico says drug boss Guzman narrowly evades capture, sustains injuries

MEXICO CITY — The world’s most-wanted drug boss, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, narrowly evaded security forces searching for him in the northwest of Mexico in recent days, sustaining injuries to his face and leg, the Mexican government said on Friday.

Guzman, the head of the Sinaloa drug cartel, escaped from his high-security prison cell in July through a specially dug tunnel, causing a major embarrassment to Mexico’s President Enrique Pena Nieto.

In a statement, the Mexican government said it had worked with international agencies to capture Guzman, and that in recent weeks, efforts had been focused on the northwest of the country, not far from Guzman’s native turf of Sinaloa state. “As a result of these actions, and to avoid his capture, in recent days, the fugitive engaged in a hasty retreat, according to the information received, caused him injuries to one leg and the face,” the government statement said.

“It is important to clarify that these injuries were not a product of a direct clash, the statement added, without giving further information. In August, the acting head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration said the US government believed Guzman was still in Mexico.—Reuters

Indonesia launches biggest operation ever to fight forest fire

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government has launched the biggest operation ever to combat forest fires on peat land in Riau province that have triggered haze spreading to neighbouring ASEAN nations, an official said here on Friday.

As many as 32 helicopters and planes and more than 22 soldiers and police have been deployed to the hotspots in Sumatra and Borneo islands, spokesman of the National Disaster Management Agency Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

“This is the biggest haze emergency operation ever conducted by Indonesia, Sutopo told Xinhua via phone.

The air operation involved 21 helicopters, 7 lived water bombing plane and 4 planes for creating artificial rains, he said.

Six of the aircraft are from Singapore, Malaysia and Australia which are for water bombing and guiding the planes for that purpose, Sutopo said.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has previously asked neighbours and other countries to ease the blaze in peat land which he said is difficult to stop as it is not a common fire.

On Friday, a satellite observation recorded 769 hotspots in Sumatra Island and 159 others in Borneo Island, according to him.

“It is not easy to douse hot massive spots in large areas especially on dry peat land as the fire is also occurring below the land. Besides there are fresh fires so that the number of hotspots rises,” he said.

Indonesia, home to the world’s largest palm oil industry, has endured forest fires as people burn land during clearing for new plantation.

The country has been haunted by forest fires since the 1990s.—Xinhua

Bangladesh joint forces net huge arms in southeastern Bandarban hill district

DHAKA — A joint team led by Bangladesh Army seized huge arms and ammunition from the country’s southeastern Bandarban hill district after a gunfight with a band of criminals on Friday.

As part of maintaining peace and harmony in the Bandarban hill district, some 316 km southeast of capital Dhaka, the joint team raided the den of the terrorists that resulted in the gunfight.

The Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPDR) of Bangladesh Army said in a statement on Friday that the forces seized a rifle, seven magazines, 222 rounds of ammunition, two grenades and several sets of military uniforms after the gunfight.

According to the statement, the raid was conducted “to maintain peace and harmony” in Bandarban hill district.

It was not mentioned in the statement whether anyone was arrested following the gunfight incident which came about a week after two tourists and their local guides went missing in the district.—Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(IN VITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

Sr No Tender No Description Remark
(1) IFB-053(15-16) Emulsion Treating Chemicals (Demulsifier) (5,000) Ltr US$ (2) IFB-054(15-16) High Pressure Hose & Accessories (4) Items US$ (3) DMP/L-008(15-16) Hydraulic Pressure Pipes & Water Pressure Pipes (1) Lot Ks (4) DMP/L-009(15-16) Koomey Fluid (C-50F) (800) Liters Ks 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, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (116N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (116N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.10.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 14th October, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise Ph +95 67 411097 / 411206
Anonymous may have pre-warned of Japan airport website attacks

NAGOYA — A tweet claiming to come from Anonymous, a diffuse international collective of online hacker activists, warned of cyberattacks on the websites of major Japanese airports just one day before the web pages of Narita and Chubu airports were struck down earlier this month, police sources said Saturday.

On 10 October, the website of Narita airport near Tokyo became inaccessible for about eight hours from around 2:30 am after being overwhelmed by multiple-source traffic, while at the same time the site of Chubu airport in central Japan also became difficult to access for eight and a half hours.

Flight operations at the airports were not affected in either case.

According to investigative sources from the Chiba and Aichi prefectural police, the Twitter post on 9 October said attacks would be made on two major Japanese airports in central Japan, with police sources saying it was clearly aimed at Narita and Chubu airports.

The alleged German hacker posted 60,000 US dollars for a 21-day game hunt, leopards, lions, buffalo and rhinoceros.

The social media was filled with condemnation of trophy hunting and stirred worldwide condemnation.

The elephant in its 50s is believed to have been one of the largest of its kind ever seen in Zimbabwe in years. It was shot dead in Malawis Safari Area on 8 October in southeast Zimbabwe by a foreign national on a legal hunting trip, a local hunters' association confirmed.

The elephant turned out to be a tremendously large elephant with very big tusks possibly never seen in Zimbabwe in at least 30 years or more,” the chairman of the Zimbabwe Professional Hunters and Guides Association Louis Muller told Xinhua, adding that the existence of the elephant bull was largely unknown to the conservation industry in Zimbabwe, indicating that it could have been roaming around Zimbabwe’s Gonarezhou National Park and neighboring Kruger National Park of South Africa.

Together with Mozambique’s Limpopo National Park, Gonarezhou and Kruger National Parks form the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park that straddles the borders of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe to create one of the largest wildlife reserves in the world covering 37,572 square kilometres, which is similar to the size of Netherlands.

Muller said though the hunt appeared legal, the outrage on social media might help elevate the status of giant elephants to “a national treasure”, thus effectively guarding them against hunting.

“As an industry and a country, there is need to identify these big bulls, not all of them but at least identify a few of them in game parks, name them and protect them as assets for the benefit of the nation,” he said.

The killing of the elephant comes barely three months after the off-take of Cecil the lion in Hwange National Park by American dentist Walter Palmer. The 13-year-old black maned lion was killed for a study conducted by a team of Oxford University researchers and local partners. The death of Cecil triggered waves of outcry on the Internet, and forced protesters to shut down Palmer’s dentistry in Minnesota. Zimbabwe has since dropped plans to have Palmer extradited to Zimbabwe to face justice after it was proved that he had the papers to conduct the hunt.

Rare elephant bull killed by hunter in Zimbabwe

Rare elephant bull killed by hunter in Zimbabwe

Anoymous may have pre-warned of Japan airport website attacks
**Junk shop photo spurs quest to confirm Billy the Kid image**

DENVER — For the $2 he spent to buy three old photographs, Randy Guijarro may have hit the mother lode. Among them was a tintype purported to be of Wild West gunslinger Billy the Kid, now valued at $5 million.

The 4-by-5-inch image shows Henry McCarty, also known as William Bonney, playing croquet with accomplices from his New Mexico gang known as the Regulators, according to experts retained by the firm selling the artifact.

Guijarro, who describes himself as an US history buff, said he bought the photo at a junk shop in Fresno, California in 2010. It was not until he studied it closely that he realized he might be holding an important 19th-century historical item.

"The faces in the picture were very clear, and I thought that one of them sure looks like the Kid," Guijarro said.

Guijarro took the ferrotype print to Kagin’s Inc., a San Francisco company specializing in US gold coins and Western America, to determine whether it was genuine.

Kagin’s ultimately authenticated the photograph as only the second known image of Bonney, and the only one that includes members of his gang, said David McCarthy, the company’s senior numismatist.

The firm is brokering the sale of the metallic image, which it has appraised and insured for $5 million, he said.

Much of Bonney’s life is steeped in myth, including reports that he killed 21 men. What is certain is that he was shot dead at age 22 by Sheriff Pat Garrett in 1881, months after a daring jailbreak.

For decades, the only known photo of Bonney was an iconic 2-by-3 inch tintype portrait of the outlaw standing outside a New Mexico saloon, gripping the barrel of a Winchester carbine rifle and with a Colt pistol holstered on his hip.

Bonney gave that photograph to his fellow cattle rustler, Dan Dedrick, whose descendants kept it in their family until it was put up for sale in 2011.

It was purchased for $2.3 million at a Denver auction by Florida billionaire and energy executive William Koch.

Koch told Reuters that he spoke with Kagin’s about the recently-surfaced photo. But he said he would not bid on the item, and that he agrees with some skeptics who doubt its authenticity.

"I already own the archetype Billy the Kid photograph," said Koch, who possesses a vast collection of American West art and memorabilia. McCarthy said Koch’s experts "validated every detail in this photo."

McCarthy believes it was taken in September 1878 outside Roswell, New Mexico shortly after the end of the so-called Lincoln County War, a series of bloody skirmishes among cattle barons in the sprawling territory.

The company retained experts in wet-plate photography, 19th-century apparel, facial recognition technology and even on vintage croquet sets, McCarthy said.

He said researchers placed Bonney and his cohorts in the Chaves County area after a Texas cattle drive that wound up in New Mexico.

They even located the building in the background which is still standing, McCarthy said, although a facade was built over it in the 1930s. A lumber expert concluded the underlying structure was from the period, he added.—Reuters

A newly discovered 4-by-5-inch tintype photograph featuring legendary Wild West gunslinger Billy the Kid (4th L) playing croquet with accomplices from his New Mexico gang known as the Regulators, is seen in this image provided by Kagins. Photo: Reuters

**Bryan Adams goes retro with ‘Get Up’ album**

LOS ANGELES — It has been a long time coming.

Canadian singer-songwriter Bryan Adams says his new album, “Get Up,” is the ideal follow-up record to his iconic “Reckless” album to come out of the much-panned “A Night From Heaven,” the theme song from the 1991 film “Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves.”

"I think what’s nice about having another venue to be creative in is you tend to get a break from what you do ... And when you come back to it, you have a new perspective for music," he said, adding: “Music is always the top of the heap. I’m not going to quit my day job.”—Reuters

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Bryan Adams goes retro with ‘Get Up’ album
Japanese climber Kuriki to return to Mt Everest next autumn

KATHMANDU — Japan’s Nobukazu Kuriki, who attempted to climb Mt. Everest twice this season, despite having lost nine fingers to frostbites while attempting the feat in 2012, said on Friday that he would return to the mountain in 2016.

Kuriki said at a press conference in Kathmandu that he would return to Everest “next year in the fall season, but maybe from the Tibetan side.”

Kuriki gave up an attempt to reach the summit in bad weather last month after reaching an altitude of 8,700 metres and putting a stop to the climbing season.

“I tried twice but couldn’t scale the mountain due to strong wind and bad weather,” Kuriki said, adding, “I returned because forcing myself to go on could have led to an accident.”

He said the attempts were his small contribution to spreading the message that mountaineering in Nepal is safe.

Kuriki said Mt. Everest is more beautiful from the Nepal side, but climbing it is better from the Tibetan side.

“The mountain is not that different after the earthquake. There are fewer avalanches at the Icefall,” the 33-year-old, who comes from Hokkaido and has attempted the mountain from both the Tibetan side and the Nepal side, referring to the Khumbu Icefall, a stage of the ascent of Everest.

All of Kuriki’s attempts on the mountain have been in the less popular autumn season. The reason being, he said, he prefers to challenge the mountain “alone and when it is not noisy.”

Mountaineering officials have termed Kuriki’s attempts this year as “exceptional” and “extraordinary,” given that deadly avalanches hit the mountain for two consecutive years. An avalanche in the spring of 2014 killed 16 Sherpas on the mountain.

“This (fall) season is not the right time to climb Mt. Everest and other high 8,000-metres because the wind speed is so high,” said Ang Thshering Shera, president of the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

“We are grateful that he promoted Nepal’s mountaineering tourism during this difficult time,” Sherpa said.

Kuriki has successfully climbed the highest peaks of six continents, but Mt. Everest continues to deny him glory.

In 2012, he tried to make it to the top via the difficult west ridge route but was evacuated to Kathmandu after suffering serious frostbite to his fingers, toes and nose. Nine of his fingers had to be partially amputated as a result.

“The handicap makes it 0.5 times harder and more time-consuming to get things done, and also easier to become frozen, he said Friday. The quakes in Nepal this spring killed nearly 9,000 people.— Kyodo News

A British warrior on the Great Wall

BEDING — In 1887, when William Lindsay spent 78 days walking the Great Wall across north China, the country was not entirely welcoming to foreign travellers.

Fulfilling a childhood dream of walking the Great Wall gave him a chance to meet plenty of local people and enjoy their hospitality, or otherwise. He has since devoted more than quarter of a century to tramping on, photographing, studying and protecting the structure. In 1988 he married Wu Qi and two years later, moved to China. In 1998, accompanied by his family, he began collecting garbage on the Wall every weekend. When some visitors noticed a grey-haired foreigner collecting plastic bottles, they told him it was none of his business. Lindsay replied in Chinese, “I know it is China’s Great Wall, but it is also part of my planet.”

Three years later, Lindsay founded the International Friends of the Great Wall, which organises conservation activities for volunteers from around the world.

In recognition of his work, he has been made an honorary citizen and given a Chinese “green card”.

Born in 1956 into an ordinary British family in Liverpool, his home country has also noted his contribution to the preservation of the Great Wall, and in 2006, Queen Elizabeth II presented him the Order of British Empire.— Xinhua

Rural accommodation service seeks to help regions reap tourism gains

TOKYO — Yasuhiro Kamiyama has launched a website enabling tourists, both Japanese and foreign, to find accommodations at homes in rural areas as a way to help remote regions benefit from Japan’s growing tourism boom.

“I am seeking a way to stop the concentration of tourism demand in metropolitan areas and share the benefits with Tohoku and other parts of Japan,” said the 54-year-old president of Hyakusenrenma Inc., an information technology venture in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, in the northeastern Japan region of Tohoku.

Kamiyama created the service dubbed Tomarina in March 2014 to help rebuild and energize the Tohoku region, devastated by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster, as well as other remote areas of Japan.

“I hope this service will help rural regions revitalise their economies,” he said.

In the 18 months since the service began, some 500 homes have registered with the site, according to Hyakusenrenma.

On the Tomarina website, run by Tomarunet Inc., a Hyakusenrenma subsidiary in Tokyo, travelers can view details of homes and activities they can enjoy, such as fishing and farming, and make reservations.

Those using the service have included young families living in urban areas, retirees and foreigners. Hyakusenrenma has received favorable reviews from users, including comments such as “It was a precious experience” and “It’s a good memory.”

“We hope visitors will enjoy communicating with local residents and come back and stay again,” Kamiyama said.

“Foreign tourists are also welcome.”

He said that the service is intended to help rural areas compensate for a lack of accommodations during festivals and sports events. For example, Aomori in northern Japan, where popular Nebuta and Nepeta festivals take place in August, and Tokushima in western Japan to which more than 1 million tourists flock during the summer Awa Odori festival, suffer from a shortage of hotel rooms at such times. Kamiyama believes that if more accommodations are available, visitor numbers will increase as well spending on food and other purchases, giving a boost to local economies.—Kyodo News

Tourists staying at the private residence of a woman (C) in Hirazumiz, Iwate Prefecture, registered on the Tomarina website run by Tomaru Inc., a subsidiary of Hyakusenrenma Inc. Photo: Kyodo News

Japanese alpinist Nobukazu Kuriki, who lost nine fingers to frostbites while attempting to climb Mt. Everest in 2012 and yet again attempted twice to climb the mountain in 2015, holds a press conference in Kathmandu on 16 October 2015, to announce that he would return to the mountain in 2016. Photo: Kyodo News
Champion Kyaukmae Women Football team honoured

KYAUKMAE District Women Football Team who won the 2015 Shan State Chief Minister’s Trophy were honoured back at their homebase Kyaukmae, on 17 October. They were garlanded by the townpeople at the town’s entry arch. The team toured around the town and honoured at District Sports Ground.

They took pictures with the town-elders.—U Myint Aung

Tsonga downs Nadal to reach Shanghai final

SHANGHAI — Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga recorded a first win over Rafa Nadal in almost four years after producing some scintillating tennis to beat the Spaniard in the semi-finals of the Shanghai Masters on Saturday.

Tsonga, the 16th seed, triumphed 6-4, 6-0, 7-5 to set up a final against either world number one Novak Djokovic or Briton Andy Murray, who play in the second semi-final later on Saturday.

The Frenchman fired down 11 aces to record his first win over Nadal since the 2011 ATP World Tour Finals and give a major boost to his flagging hopes of qualifying again for the end of season championships in London. Nadal, a winner of 14 grand slam titles, struggled to cope with Tsonga in the opening set as the Frenchman pressured the Spaniard’s serve with some heavy hitting.

He secured the break in the fifth game at the third time of asking but after going on to serve out the set, Tsonga’s game crumbled in the second set as Nadal easily levelled without dropping a game to force a decider.

Nadal, looking for a first ATP title of the season after finishing weeks in Florida warming up for the French Open, was out the set, Tsonga’s game crumbling back at their homebase in 11th game of an enthralling encounter.

The 30-year-old Frenchman produced an eye-catching dive to force match point, which he converted to reach his first Masters final since he triumphed in Toronto last year.—Reuters

Klopps Liverpool reign begins with draw at Spurs

LONDON — Juergen Klopp’s reign as Liverpool manager began with a few points made but only one gained from an exciting, end-to-end 0-0 draw against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Saturday.

Klopp’s new team displayed signs of the high energy, high-pressing full-throttle footballing style he perfected at Borussia Dortmund, but without the injured Daniel Sturridge in attack, they lacked the guile to break down a resilient Spurs defence.

Spurs though displayed the high-pressing game which their coach Mauricio Pochettino favours but the hosts failed to find a route to goal and in the end a draw was a fair reflection of the game.

Spurs have now stretched their run to eight league matches without defeat since the opening day while Liverpool have drawn six of their last seven games in all competitions with Klopp now a little wiser about his new side.

Tottenham are now seventh in the table with 14 points, a point clear of Liverpool in ninth. Liverpool were totally dominant for the first 20 minutes until Spurs began to establish themselves and took charge for the rest of the first half.

Divock Origi had Liverpool’s best scoring chance in that opening spell when he headed against Hugo Lloris’s cross-bar from inside the six-yard box.

Yet even though Liverpool’s high-pressing game, epitomised by some marauding menace from Emre Can, penned Spurs back, their defence held firm.

Gradually Spurs gained a foothold in midfield with Christian Eriksen and Erik Lamela seeing more of the ball.

With Clinton Njie, who replaced the injured Nacer Chadli after 11 minutes, having an increasing influence, Spurs looked the more dangerous side.

Njie forced Simon Mignolet into an excellent, full-stretch diving save after 28 minutes with a swerving shot from the outside of his right foot then Harry Kane and Dele Alli forced Mignolet and defender Mamadou Sakho into two vital blocks in the 37th minute.

Njie went close again with a sizzling shot from 20 metres that hit the top of the net four minutes before the break.

Neither team created a real clear-cut scoring chance in the second half, but the play was no less entertaining.

Liverpool never regained their early dominance, and at times had to defend with nine men behind the ball as Spurs came forward in search of the winner.

While the hosts never found an opening, they at least ended Liverpool’s run of five successive league wins over them which included victories of 5-0 and 3-0 at White Hart Lane in the last two seasons.—Reuters

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp applauds fans after the game. PHOTO: REUTERS

English FA suspends support for Platini’s FIFA candidacy

LONDON — The English Football Association has suspended support for Michel Platini’s bid to become FIFA president, after learning “more information relating to the issues from Mr Platini’s lawyers”, the FA said in a statement.

Platini, who is standing in the FIFA presidential election scheduled for 26 February, and incumbent Sepp Blatter were banned for 90 days by the FIFA Ethics Committee last week pending a full investigation into both men’s activities.

Switzerland’s attorney general’s office initiated criminal proceedings against Blatter over a two million Swiss francs ($2.1 million) payment from FIFA to Platini in 2011 for work carried out by the Frenchman between 1998 and 2002. Both men have denied any wrongdoing.

Platini’s lawyers gave a press conference in London including UEFA members associations on Thursday. “The FA wishes Mr Platini every success in fighting these charges and clearing his name, and has no interest in taking any action that jeopardises this process,” they said in a statement issued on the FA website (www.theFA.com) on Friday.

“However, notwithstanding the above, at the UEFA meeting on Thursday, the FA learnt more information relating to the issues at the centre of this case from Mr Platini’s lawyers. “We have been instructed that the information must be kept confidential and therefore we cannot go into specifics.”

“As a result of learning this information, the FA board has on Friday morning concluded that it must suspend its support for Mr Platini’s candidature for the FIFA Presidency until the legal process has been concluded and the position is clear.”

“A decision can then be taken on who to support in the Presidential election on 26 February 2016.”—Reuters

Kyaukmae District Women Football Team win 2015 Shan State Chief Minister’s Trophy held in Taunggyi. PHOTO: U MYINT AUNG