ELECTIONS FREE & FAIR
EU observers praise Myanmar’s polls, but note some flaws

YE MYINT

MYANMAR’S 2015 general elections were well-run and peaceful, said the European Union’s election observation mission during a press conference yesterday.

Polling stations around the country were well organised and voters had a real choice between different candidates, said Chief Observer Alexander Graf Lambsdorff while summarising the mission’s preliminary statement about Sunday’s historic vote.

Approximately 150 election observers visited more than 500 polling stations across the country and reported very positively on the voting process, with 95 percent rating the process as “good or very good,” said the chief observer.

“People of Myanmar turned out in large numbers to calmly cast their votes in a well-run polling process and the election campaign period was nearly entirely peaceful.”

Most voters’ names were on the voter list, with irregularities observed at seven percent of polling stations, he added. The process of in-constituency and out-of-constituency advance voting was less well managed and transparent, the mission chief pointed out.

Chief Observer Alexander Graf Lambsdorff in the press conference in Yangon. Photo: EU EOM MyanMar

Chief Observer Alexander Graf Lambsdorff in the press conference in Yangon. Photo: EU EOM MyanMar

2015 General Election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Victorious candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw and results

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<th>No.</th>
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Victorious Amyotha Hluttaw candidates and results

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Victorious candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw and results

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40. Mandalay Tada U  Daw Soe Nwe Aye National League for Democracy  49559
41. Mandalay KyangkpaungU Shwe Ko National League for Democracy  96223
42. Mandalay Wundwin U Khin Maung Soe National League for Democracy  74974
43. Mon Thanbyuzayat U Nyan Hein National League for Democracy  23889
44. Mon Mudon U Saw Tun National League for Democracy  28663
45. Yangon Hiantabin U Nay Myo Tun National League for Democracy  37917
46. Yangon North Okkala  Dr Tha Win National League for Democracy  104490
47. Yangon Botahaung  Daw Myint Myint Soe (a)  May Soe National League for Democracy  16419
48. Yangon Kyangyang U Soe Thura Tun National League for Democracy  42144
49. Yangon Sanyang U Bo Bo Oo National League for Democracy  37609
50. Ayeayawady Zalun U Aung Min National League for Democracy  52956
51. Ayeayawady Laymyethna U Zaw Min Thein National League for Democracy  34312
52. Ayeayawady Khaingan U Tun Lin Maw National League for Democracy  39096
53. Ayeayawady Ingaps  U Aye Win National League for Democracy  62819
54. Kayah Dimawhso  U Paul Haai National League for Democracy  19631
55. Kayah Shadaw  Daw Wint Wah Tun National League for Democracy  1575
56. Chin Tiddim U Ciiin Shin Huan Zomi Congress for Democracy  14967
57. Bago Thuyawady  U Aung Myint National League for Democracy  43274
58. Magway Magway  U Myint Oo National League for Democracy  107580
59. Magway Taungdwingyi U Min Thein National League for Democracy  86116
60. Magway Myothit U Tha Aung National League for Democracy  56718
61. Magway Natmank U Aung Tin Lin National League for Democracy  83081

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Victorious Amyotha Hluttaw candidates and results

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10. Taninthayi No.3  U Tun Linn National League for Democracy  34266
11. Bago No.5  Dr. Tin Tin Win National League for Democracy  121928
12. Bago No.6  U Min Oo National League for Democracy  74726
13. Bago No.7  Dr. Mya Thaung National League for Democracy  84277
15. Bago No.11  Dr. Win Myint National League for Democracy  133130
16. Bago No.12  U Aung Thein National League for Democracy  125667
17. Magway No.1  U Hla San National League for Democracy  112578
18. Magway No.2  U Khin Win National League for Democracy  129575
19. Magway No.3  U Chit Htway National League for Democracy  137181
20. Magway No.4  U Aung Kyi Nwunt National League for Democracy  83238
21. Magway No.5  U Tin Aung Tun National League for Democracy  135657
22. Mon No.1  U Aye Min Han National League for Democracy  38309
23. Mon No.2  Daw Nwe Nwe Aung National League for Democracy  35181
24. Mon No.5  Daw Myat Thida Tun National League for Democracy  24375
25. Mon No.6  U Pe Tin National League for Democracy  30126
26. Yangon No.1  Dr Huy Kywe National League for Democracy  237031
27. Yangon No.2  U Huy Oo National League for Democracy  124515
28. Yangon No. 3 Dr Mya Nyana Soe National League for Democracy  240538
29. Yangon No.4  U Than Soe (Economics) National League for Democracy  191868
30. Yangon No.7  U Ye Myint Soe National League for Democracy  226704
31. Yangon No.8  U Kyaw Hwe National League for Democracy  231762
32. Ayeayawady No.8  Daw Ei Ei Pyone National League for Democracy  156012
33. Ayeayawady No.9  Mahn Toe Shwe National League for Democracy  128421

Elections free & fair

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“I want to say very clearly that the election is not over yet. As long as counting is going on and until the final results are announced the election is still ongoing,” said the mission chief.

He added that EU observers will remain in the field to observe the tabulation and result processes, as well as any complaints or appeals lodged.

He said that the mission will dispute resolution and complaint mechanisms.

“We congratulate the people of Myanmar and we will continue to support the democratisation of the country,” said Ms Ana Gomes, head of the European Parliament’s delegation.

“Now is the time to seize the opportunity for reconciliation,” she said during the press conference.
President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Angola

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Angola, which falls on 11 November 2015. —Myanmar News Agency

Election results announced by UEC

The Union Election Commission announced election results for 88 lower house [Pyithu Hluttaw] seats, 33 upper house [Amyotha Hluttaw] seats and 164 state/region parliament seats at 6 pm yesterday.

Other election results were announced at the Union Election Commission’s (UEC) media centre in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 pm on 9 November and at 9 am, 12 pm, 3 pm and 9 pm on 10 November.

The results announced at 11 pm on 9 November included 26 lower house seats and 28 region/state parliament seats.

According to the results, 24 lower house candidates from the National League for Democracy (NLD) came out top in one towns in Kayah State, two towns in Taninthayi Region, four towns in Magway Region, five towns in Mandalay Region, two towns in Mon State, six towns in Yangon Region, and four towns in Ayeyawady Region.

One lower house candidate from the Kachin State Democracy Party and one lower house candidate from the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won elections in one township in Kachin State and one township in Kayah State respectively.

Twenty-four candidates from the NLD won state/region parliament seats in two constituencies in Bago Region, 10 constituencies in Mandalay Region, and 12 constituencies in Yangon Region. Two candidates from the USDP and two candidates from the Wa Democratic Party won region/state parliament seats in two constituencies in Mandalay Region and two constituencies in Shan State (North) respectively.

The results announced at 9 am on 10 November included 49 state/region parliament candidates from the NLD, two state/region candidates from the Kachin State Democracy Party, two state/region parliament candidates from the USDP and one state/region candidate from Mon National Party.

According to the results, 49 state/region parliament candidates from the NLD won seats in four constituencies in Taninthayi Region, eight constituencies in Magway Region, 10 constituencies in Mandalay Region, five constituencies in Mon State, 12 constituencies in Yangon Region, and 10 constituencies in Ayeyawady Region. Two state/region parliament candidates from Kachin State Democracy Party and two state/region parliament candidates from the USDP won seats in two constituencies in Kayah State and two constituencies in Kayah State respectively while one state/region parliament candidate from the NLD ran for election in one township in Mon State.

The result announced at 12 pm on 10 November included 39 lower house candidates from the NLD, one lower house candidate from Zomi Congress for Democracy, two lower house candidates from the USDP and two lower house candidates from the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy.

According to the results, 29 lower house candidates from the NLD won in three towns in Mon State, seven towns in Yangon Region, 11 towns in Ayeyawady Region, two towns in Kayah State, one town in Bago Region, 11 towns in Magway Region, one town in Mandalay Region and three towns in Shan State. One lower house candidate from the Zomi Congress for Democracy won in one township in Chin State and two lower house candidates from the USDP won seats in one township in Yangon Region and one township in Shan State while the Zomi Congress for Democracy, one township in Kayah State and two townships in Shan State while two lower house candidates from Shan Nationalities League for Democracy won in two townships in Shan State.

The results announced at 3 pm on 10 November included 46 state/region parliament candidates from the NLD, one state/region parliament candidate from the Zomi Congress for Democracy, seven state/region parliament candidates from the USDP and four state/region parliament candidates from the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy.

According to the results, 46 candidates from the NLD won seats in four constituencies in Kayah State, 20 constituencies in Magway Region, two constituencies in Mandalay Region, two constituencies in Yangon Region, six constituencies in Shan State and 13 constituencies in Ayeyawady Region. One state/region parliament candidate from the Zomi Democracy Party won in one constituency in Chin State and seven state/region parliament candidates from the USDP won in one constituency in Chin State, two constituencies in Shan State, three constituencies in Shan State and one constituency in Ayeyawady Region while four state/region candidates from Shan Nationalities League for Democracy won in four constituencies in Shan State.

The results announced at 6 pm on 10 November included 29 upper house candidates from the NLD, one upper house candidate from the Zomi Congress for Democracy, two upper house candidates from the USDP and one upper house individual candidate.

According to the results, 29 upper house candidates from the NLD won in four constituencies in Kayah State, two constituencies in Taninthayi Region, six constituencies in Bago Region, five constituencies in Magway Region, four constituencies in Mon State, six constituencies in Yangon Region, and two constituencies in Ayeyawady Region. Two upper house candidates from the USDP won in one constituency in Chin State and one constituency in Kayah State and one upper house candidate from the Zomi Congress for Democracy won in one constituency in Chin State while one individual candidate won in one constituency in Kayah State.

The press conference on 2015 Multi-party Democracy General Election was held at the UEC’s media centre in Nay Pyi Taw at 4 pm on Tuesday. Chairman U Tin Aye and Member U Myint Naing of the UEC responded to questions from journalists about election-related complaints, dispute settlements and advance votes.

Remaining election results will be announced at the media centre at the stipulated times.—Myanmar News Agency

SSA (Wanhaing Group) attacks Tatmadaw camp in Shan State

AROUND 120 members of the SSA (Wanhaing Group) attacked a Tatmadaw camp and fired heavy weapons at a police post in Mongnawng, Kehsi Township, Shan State (South) on Monday.

Fighting continued until early Tuesday morning when they withdrew as service personnel from the Tatmadaw Camp responded to the attack with light and heavy weapons and helicopters.

The SSA group attacked the Tatmadaw camp from residential

Police station damaged by attack of SSA (Wanhaing Group) in Mongnawng. Photo: MNA

NLD wins majority of seats in two days results

The Union Election Commission announced 333 seats of the election in two days. Of the total seats in two days, 88 are for Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), 33 are for Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) and 212 are for region and state parliament.

According to most recent announcement (9 PM last night), the National League for Democracy party won the majority of seats - 78 in Pyithu Hluttaw, 29 in Amyotha Hluttaw and 182 seats in region and state parliaments.

The UEC cancelled its 11 pm announcement.

The Union Election Commission will continue to announce the official results of the country’s historic election at 9 am, 12 pm, 3 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm over the coming days.

The UEC will hold a press conference daily at 4 pm at its office in Nay Pyi Taw.—GNLM
## 2015 General Elections of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

### Victorious Candidates for Region/State Hluttaw and results

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67. Magway | Mindon-1 | U Tin Win | National League for Democracy | 11564 |
68. Magway | Mindon-2 | U Aye Hlaing Oo | National League for Democracy | 11099 |
69. Mandalay | Maungamaung-1 | U Zarni Aung | National League for Democracy | 37531 |
70. Mandalay | Maungamaung-2 | U Zaw Aung | National League for Democracy | 57246 |
71. Mandalay | Pyi Pyidagum-1 | Dr. Chit Ko Ko | National League for Democracy | 29668 |
72. Mandalay | Pyi Pyidagum-2 | U Maung Maung Aung | National League for Democracy | 35974 |
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Asian election foundation applauds Myanmar’s readiness to embrace democracy

THE Asian Network for Free Elections Foundation, which observed Myanmar’s general election, praised Myanmar people and the Union Election Commission for holding a peaceful, free and fair election.

Mr Damaso G Magbuai, President of the Asian Network for Free Elections Foundations (AFRELI), said at a press conference in Yangon yesterday that initial reports found that Myanmar queued at polling stations with patience and calm, thereby demonstrating a strong collective will to change the country and a readiness to embrace democracy.

He also praised the UEC’s electoral processes and volunteers at the polling stations for their contribution to the election, which saw high voter turnout. He suggested that more training be provided on advanced voting to ward and village election commissions in future.

Mr Gao also said that the November 8 election exceeded their expectations and brings great opportunities for Myanmar to develop democratic governance. He urged the UEC and authorities to settle reported irregularities in a timely manner.

Mr Gao said that short-term and long-term observation teams to Myanmar for the country’s first open election in decades.—Myan

Indonesia’s prominent university holds seminar on Chinese Dream

JAKARTA — The Indonesia University (UI) held a seminar Tuesday on China’s national rejuvenation drive of Chinese Dream and its role in promoting world peace and global welfare.

The seminar was co-organised by Chinese Studies program at UI’s Cultural Science Faculty (FIB) and the Confucius Institute, with a keynote speaker of China’s Tsing Hua University Professor Chen Lai.

In his speech to open the seminar, UI Rector Mohammad Anis said that China’s success in developing the nation and its huge economic scale cannot be neglected by any nation in the world.

“It (the Chinese Dream) has a pivotal role in global economy as it may affect nations establishing trade with China,” Anis said, adding that Indonesia and China should forge closer ties in the future after the 65th anniversary of their relations.

In his speech, Professor Chen said in his speech delivered on the UI campus in Depok, West Java. At the seminar attended by Indonesian and Chinese scholars and students eager to undertake Chinese Studies, Dean of UI FIB Adriatun Wavoruntu said Confucianism holds a centralistic role in China.

Adriatun said the Chinese people have fostered the philosophy that commends personal and administrator morality, compliance to social relationship, fair and just values for thousands of years.

“The Chinese Dream was aimed at revitalizing China in terms of state, nation and civilization on a sustainable basis so as to create a wealthy and powerful China. Efforts to reach those goals were based on Confucianism and China’s splendid cultural values,” he said.—Xinhua

Please keep eye on our election, Cambodian opposition pleads to world

SYDNEY — Cambodian opposition leaders called on the world to keep a close eye on upcoming elections after several opposition lawmakers were brutally beaten and a top leader ousted from a key parliamentary post.

Ruling party lawmakers stripped Kem Sokha, deputy president of the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), of his deputy parliament president post last month, a move that suggests a fragile political deal between the two parties has collapsed.

The country is set to hold local elections in 2017 and national elections a year later. Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has been in power for more than 30 years, has warned that a CNRP victory in the 2018 election would see a return to civil war.

“The free world has very high leverage so they should not be complacent, even lenient, with Hun Sen, and should insist that a democratic election will be held as scheduled with the supervision of the international community,” Sam Rainey, head of the CNRP, told reporters.

Kem Sokha referred to “confrontation taking place”.

“I would like to appeal to all the international community to closely monitor and watch the situation before the election postponement,” he added. Hun Sen last month condemned the opposition parliamentarians and said those responsible would be brought to justice.

An agreement in July 2014 saw the CNRP end a year-long parliamentary boycott in return for a series of concessions by the long-ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) and the rare conciliatory talk by Hun Sen.

Kem Sokha had been appoint- ed deputy parliamentary president as part of the deal, a move by the CPP to develop a “new culture of dialogue” with the increasingly popular CNRP.

But an illegal July protest over a disputed 2013 election, in which the CNRP’s success stunned its ri vals, left 11 opposition politicians in jail.

Last month, the CPP voted to remove Kem Sokha from his post after the CNRP disregarded the ruling party. Two days before Kem Sokha’s ouster, two opposition politicians were violently assaulted.

Robust economic growth, jobs creation and sustained peace for an impoverished country roiled by decades of civil war, including under Pol Pot’s 1975-79 “killing fields” regime, have ensured Hun Sen’s continued re-election, although experts say he now faces a strong challenge from a rejuvenat ed opposition popular among urb an youth.—Reuters

2015 General Elections of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Victorious Candidates for Region/State Hluttaw and results

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Myanmar News Agency

Global New Light of Myanmar

11 November 2015
Five wounded as riots at Australian asylum camp cause ‘severe’ damage

SYDNEY — Australian authorities have regained control of a controversial immigration detention centre, officials said on Tuesday, after the death of an asylum seeker sparked rioting that led to at least five injuries and widespread damage.

Reinforcements were rushed in after fences at the centre on the remote Australian outpost of Christmas Island were torn down and fires were lit, forcing guards to abandon the facility and allowing access to vulnerable inmates by other detainees.

Asylum seekers are a hot political issue in Australia where successive governments have vowed to stop them reaching the mainland, sending those intercepted on unsafe boats to camps on Christmas Island, and more recently Manus island in Papua New Guinea and Nauru in the South Pacific. Christmas Island segregates detainees seeking political asylum, many of whom have fled from war-torn regions in the Middle East and Asia, from foreigners facing deportation for a variety of crimes. Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton told reporters that the operation to regain control of the centre had faced some resistance, but focused blame primarily on violent criminal detainees rather than asylum seekers.

Five detainees received injuries including minor lacerations during a “melee” after police moved against those detainees, including members of outlawed motorcycle gangs who had refused the opportunity to surrender, he said. “It is a hardened criminal population that occupies the immigration detention centre on Christmas Island,” he said.

“Obviously the priority for today has been to restore calm to the centre. That has taken place.”

One detainee required evacuation from the island for medical treatment, he said. No officers were injured. The extent of damage to the centre had not been as assessed, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection said in a statement, but some common areas appeared to have been “severely damaged.”

Dutton said earlier that the unrest began late Sunday night following the death of an asylum seeker, whose body was discovered by search and rescue teams at the bottom of cliffs away from the centre. Refugee advocates identified the man as an Iranian Kurdish asylum seeker. Unrest at those facilities, which as recently as Monday drew criticism from the United Nations over alleged human rights violations, is not uncommon. One asylum seeker, Iranian citizen Reza Barati, was killed and more than 70 injured during riots in 2014 on Manus Island for which a senate inquiry blamed the Australian government.—Reuters

Bangladesh policeman injured in machete attack

DHAKA — A machete-wielding man injured a military policeman in an attack at an army check post in the Bangladesh capital yesterday, police said, the second law enforcement official to be targeted in a week.

Fears are growing that Bangladesh’s secular democracy is under attack following the killing of two foreigners and a spate of deadly attacks on bloggers and publishers prompted by articles critical of religious extremism.

At the time of Tuesday’s attack, the policeman was on duty at a check post at the entrance of the Dhaka Cantonment, police official Abdul Halim said.

He was taken to a military hospital for treatment, Halim added, with one person arrested over the attack.

“This is a pre-planned attack to create fear among law enforcers,” police commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia told reporters.

Police in Dhaka earlier detained 11 suspected members of a band of motorcycle gangs, police spokesman said. On Wednesday, two men on a motorcycle hacked to death a policeman at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Dhaka in an attack later claimed by Islamic State.

The government, however, rejected Islamic State’s claim and blamed the growing violence in Bangladesh on its domestic political opponents linked to Islamist parties.

“This is a conspiracy to destabilise the country and to foil the war crimes trials,” said Home Minister Mozammel Khan.

Tension has risen since Prime Minister Hasina ordered Islamist leaders suspected of attacks during the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan to be put on trial for war crimes.

Hasina’s rivals accuse her of settling political scores by hunting down members of the Jamaat-e-Islami, an ally of the main opposition group headed by former prime minister Khaleda Zia. The government denies these assertions.—Reuters

China, Philippines agree to avoid S China Sea issue at summit

MANILA — The foreign ministers of the Philippines and China agreed on Tuesday not to actively take up the thorny South China Sea issue at a regional summit to be held in the Philippines capital next week.

Philippine Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario agreed that since the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit is an economic forum, “it won’t be a proper venue to discuss political, security issues.”

“They (China) expressed hope that contentious issues will not be raised, and we said that we (Philippines) will endeavour not to do so,” Jose said.

But hoping to move the two countries’ relations forward, Wang and del Rosario agreed to resume “foreign ministry consultations” on issues regarding cultural exchanges, education, consular and tourism, among others, Jose said. The last time a meeting of said nature was held in 2013 in Beijing.

Jose said del Rosario regards Wang’s visit as “an indication that we can move the bilateral relations forward.”

Wang arrived earlier in the day for a working visit to meet with del Rosario, and later, President Benigno Aquino, to ensure that Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit to the Philippines to attend the summit “will be smooth, safe and successful,” Jose said.

Xi will be among world leaders, including US President Barack Obama, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin, expected to attend the 18-19 November summit.

In his courtesy call on Aquino at the Presidential Palace, Wang received an assurance no less from the Philippine leader that “it is in the culture of the Filipinos as hosts to make our guests feel the warmth of Filipino hospitality,” Presidential Communications Officer Hernando Coloma said.

“The president mentioned he welcomed the decision of President Xi Jinping to attend the APEC summit,” Coloma said. A bilateral meeting between Aquino and Xi during the summit is not yet confirmed.

Tensions in the South China Sea — a crucial shipping lane, abundant in marine resources and believed to hold substantial oil and gas resources — have risen after a US Navy destroyer recently sailed near artificial islands created by China within what it claims as its territorial waters.

The Philippines is also seeking rulings on whether some Chinese activities in the disputed waters are in violation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, such as its interference with Philippine fishing activities, its massive land reclamations projects and its fortification of some contested features.

Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan also have overlapping claims in the South China Sea.—Kyodo News
Walk Away From an Early Grave

Khin Maung Myint

THERE is no one who do not want to live a long and healthy life. However, do they lead a healthy way of life? I doubt it. There may be some who really maintain a healthy way of life, but most are either ignorant or knowingly neglecting their health. Health conscious persons will watch what they eat and what they do, never over-indulging in anything that is detrimental to the health. Some people are leading unhealthy lives by eating, drinking and over-indulgence. They are headed for their early graves.

Today, obese people are common sights. Especially among the middle aged females. If you observe them closely, you’ll find that they have no control of themselves in their eating habits. Most fat people are ignorant of which foods would put on weight. I had known some obese persons who had no concern for their health. When they had to choose between health and food, they would definitely choose food.

There may be many reasons for being obese. Some are obese because of their inherited genes or the metabolic malfunction. However, most are caused by eating disorders or disregards for the amount of calories they consume and lack of physical activities.

The Monsions have started to recede. The rains are getting sparse, great numbers of people are on morning walks and exercises. More and more people are out on the roads today, for morning workouts. The Kandawgyi and its environs is crowded with more people. The place is crowd

enjoy the full bouquet of the human experience. Defeat and failure is humbling and educational. Even the greatest men and women in history suffered defeats at some point. It helped to make them stronger and ultimately more successful. Defeat can do the same for everyone if it is seen in the right light.

Defeat almost never results in a person losing all that they have strived for in life. With reflection, humility and clear headed judgment, defeat offers an opportunity for improvement. Failure can arouse the best attributes of a person’s character. This includes the will to succeed and perseverance.

Defeat provides losers with everything they need for success in the future. It can be said that defeat compensates the fallen for their loss. However this depends on the way defeat is perceived. It should not bring about resentment and resentment.

Adopting the wrong approach to defeat will make people lifelong losers as they will become consumed with self-pity. We must remember that defeat bestows life lessons – and at the very least, a chance for genuine self-reflection. Those who face defeat must remember that a different, though no less important, benefit awaits.

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 thanantaungnln@gmail.com with your name and email.

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People who only experience success in their careers are getting but a half taste of life. Life is made up of both failures and success. Those who experience both victories and defeats can become more health conscious. However, if you are more observant and more rational in your outlook, you will notice that most of these are failures.

I will give an example to prove my statement. Some of my acquaintances went to the Kandawgyi almost every morning for exercise. I went to that place from my home. The total distance I covered was about two miles and it took about an hour, during which I did some stretching exercises. As for my acquaintances, when they arrived at the Kandawgyi, after parking their cars, they went to their respective rendezvous to do some light aerobic exercise for a few minutes. The highlight of their daily rituals are the feasts that followed. There would be some sort of breakfast almost every day. There are donors almost everyday from among their crowd. It may be somebody’s birthday or anniversary or may be even someone’s child passing an exam, that called for an occasion to treat the members. They are not just light snacks but heavy ones. There are many groups like them inside the Kandawgyi. It has become a fashion.

I wondered whether these people are really interested to workout or just go there to enjoy themselves. Is it the individual’s right and I have no intention to criticize. However, I would like to point out that if you are really health conscious, you should first know what is good and bad for your health. One person said he had been going to the Kandawgyi almost everyday to exercise, but was unable to get his weight down or get rid of his paunch or, rather, the fat on his body. I told him how exactly he do it, if the amount of calories he consumed daily was much more than what he was burning. The excess calories would turn into body fats that made a person fat.

The true value of defeat

Myint Win Their

People generally treat defeat as a sign of weaknesses and experience a sense of bitterness, shame — or even hatred. Some see it as the end of their world as they know it. But defeat isn’t as bad as some people think: it can in fact be an integral part of long-term success.

Defeat almost never results in a person losing all that they have strived for in life. With reflection, humility and clear headed judgment, defeat offers an opportunity for improvement. Failure can arouse the best attributes of a person’s character. This includes the will to succeed and perseverance.

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Walk Away From an Early Grave

Khin Maung Myint
The Northern Tawwin Jade Company Ltd is running a free course on jade jewellery making in Myitkyina in Kachin State, said company spokesperson U KZ Naw Nor. The two-year course has been running since 27 October. A total of 17 trainees will be provided with a stipend of K50,000 and free meals. When the trainees become more proficient they will receive monthly salaries, he said. The students will be taught to make fine jade jewellery and the company will allow them open shops of their own following graduation. The trainees can also become instructors in the next round of courses, said the factory official. The course is being held with the aim of improving livelihood opportunities for impoverished locals with low levels of education, he said.

Rough jade can be bought with government approval from private companies in Phakant area. The jade factory, operates 50 goldsmith machines, will teach trainees how to make jade bead strands, jade sculptures, jade bangles and decorate pieces of jade gems, according to U KZ Naw Nor. Phakant is well-known for its abundance of jade, including varieties of imperial jade.—Min Min

VILLAGERS displaced by floods in Tiddim Township, Chin State, will be relocated and provided with low-cost housing by the government. The new homes will be located in Pine Forest, near Tetlwee village junction road. The villagers have been living in shelter camps in Tiddim since floods hit the area in late July and early August.

The new houses have been built by the Environment Conservation and Forest Department and Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry. Among the 46 houses being built, Kin villagers will be provided with 38 houses, while villagers of Woanmoa and Htinzan will receive seven houses each.

Restoration works on 105 houses in Hlinebon village, 31 houses in Woanmoa village and 15 houses in Khinekam village in Sannam region of the Khinekam village border area have been stepped up by regional departments, according to a township official.—Zo Haysa
**Obama launches Facebook page**

WASHINGTON — The White House launched a Facebook (FB.O) page on Monday for President Barack Obama and used the social media platform to send a message on climate change.

Organising for Action, the political organisation that helped elect Obama, has long used an account under the name “Barack Obama.” But the new page allows the president to speak in the first person, much like the Twitter account the White House launched for Obama in May.

Striking a conversational tone, Obama’s first post was a video message on climate change that depicted the president walking around the South Lawn of the White House and musing at the beauty of nature.

“Hello, Facebook! I finally got my very own page,” Obama said in the post. “I’m kicking it off by inviting you to take a walk with me in my backyard — something I try to do at the end of the day before I head in for dinner.”

In the video, Obama called on Americans to do their part to fight climate change.

“He wants people to make sure that the whole world is able to pass onto future generations the God-given beauty of this planet,” Obama said, citing his upcoming trip to Paris to meet with world leaders on climate change.

If all of America is joining around the critical project, then we can have confidence that we’re doing right by future generations and passing onto our kids and to his blessings that we’ve received,” Obama said.— Reuters

**UK’s Cameron says sometimes ‘less Europe’ is better**

LONDON — The European Union needs to play a less prominent role in some aspects of how its member countries function, British Prime Minister David Cameron said as he laid out his plans for EU reforms before holding a membership referendum.

“Never forget that the European Union now comprises 28 ancient nations of Europe,” Cameron said in a speech.

“That very diversity is Europe’s greatest strength. Britain says: let’s celebrate that fact, let’s acknowledge that the answer to every problem is not always more Europe. Sometimes it’s less Europe.”

Cameron was speaking on the same day that he was due to send a letter to the president of the European Council, which represents EU member states, setting out his main objectives from a reform of the bloc.

Cameron has said he will hold the referendum before the end of 2017.— Reuters

**US judge rules against NSA in phone spying case**

WASHINGTON A US federal judge on Monday for the first time ordered the National Security Agency to cease collecting the phone call records of a lawyer and his firm, providing a precedent that could help end such surveillance.

Opponents of mass surveillance cheered the ruling by US District Court Judge Richard Leon, who granted an injunction to bar the NSA from collecting the phone metadata of California attorney J.J. Little and his small legal practice.

Unlike previous rulings against the NSA’s programme to vacuum up Americans’ call data, which was exposed publicly by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden in 2013, Leon’s opinion does not grant a stay, meaning it will take effect immediately.

The decision is of little practical consequence because it is so narrow in scope covering only Little and his firm.

It also comes just weeks before the NSA is scheduled to end its controversial bulk collection programme in favor of a more targeted system. That new regime, as mandated by Congress earlier this year, will become active on 29 November.

But the ruling’s language is forceful and represents a win for civil liberties groups concerned that NSA surveillance is too intrusive.

Leon wrote that the case may be the last court evaluation of the NSA’s bulk metadata collection programme.

“It will not, however, be the last chapter in the ongoing struggle to balance privacy rights and national security interests under our Constitution in an age of evolving technologically wizardry,” he wrote.

On Twitter, Snowden cheered the “historic decision” as one that concluded the NSA “violated Americans’ privacy rights.”

Leon, a conservative judge appointed by former President George W. Bush, has long been among the most vocal judges critical of the NSA’s spying practices.

Leon said he did not stay his Monday decision “because it has been almost two years since I first found that the NSA’s bulk telephony metadata program likely violates the Constitution.”

Other plaintiffs in the case, including conservative activist Larry Klayman, who began the lawsuit, were not included in the ruling, due to issues concerning standing.

A higher court previously rejected Klayman’s challenge, saying he could not prove his phone was targeted by the NSA as Snowden’s documents only revealed customers of Verizon Business Network Services, which is a subsidiary of Verizon Communications, such as Little, were implicated. Klayman added Little to his case to address the standing concern.— Reuters

**EU calls on Turkey to calm violence, seek peace with Kurds**

BRUSSELS — Turkey must calm the rising violence in the country, seek peace with the Kurds and address judicial and press freedoms, the European Commission, which supervises Turkey’s long-stalled bid to join the European Union, said yesterday.

“The Commission hopes to see an end to the escalating violence in Turkey and the return to negotiations on a lasting solution on the Kurdish issue,” Johannes Hahn, the commissioner in charge of EU enlargement, told the European Parliament.

“In the past year, significant shortcomings affected the independence of the judiciary as well as freedom of assembly and freedom of expression, in particular in the increased pressure and intimidation of journalists “ Hahn said after released the Commission’s annual report on Turkey.— Reuters

**FBI offer of assistance in Egypt crash probe goes unanswered**

WASHINGTON — Neither Russia nor Egypt has accepted an offer from the FBI to assist them in investigating the crash of Metrojet flight 9268 which crashed in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula on 31 October shortly after takeoff, a US government source said.

The FBI has offered “forensic assistance” and other unspecified services to both Russia and Egypt, said Joshua Campbell, an FBI spokesman.— Reuters

**Turkey’s Erdogan calls for new constitution**

ANKARA — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday called for reforms and said a new constitution should be created during the next four years under the single-party government of the AK Party.

“The 1 November election ushered in four years of stability and confidence. Let’s make this period a time of reforms, prioritising a new constitution,” Erdogan said at a commemoration ceremony for Turkey’s founding father, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

The concerns regarding Turkey’s regime should be left aside so the country can focus on the future, Erdogan added.— Reuters

**US Air Force general impressed with Saudi-led operations in Yemen**

DUBAI — US Air Force General Charles Brown, commander of the US Air Forces Central Command, said on Tuesday he was impressed with the work the Saudi-led coalition is doing in Yemen.

Brown said the US Air Force has been working together with Saudi forces on training, and he was impressed with their air operations. “We’re both of the same mindset,” he said.— Reuters

**AMAN: Gvt should not shut down Tanjug news service**

AMAN opposes the shutdown of Tanjug News Agency and it strongly prompts the Serbian government to withdraw the decision to discontinue Tanjug’s operations, states the release issued by the Alliance, adding that the decision caused shock among AMAN member agencies.— Tanjug
NAIROBI — Kitting out a Nigerian army unit is not what most humanitarian aid organisations would consider the best response to Boko Haram. But for the NGO Spirit of America, it is precisely the sort of muscular aid — along with more traditional wealth-generating development projects — that’s needed to tackle the militants.

The US non-profit draws the line at supplying weapons. But for a donation of $27,239, Spirit of America will provide all the non-lethal equipment a 150-man unit patrolling the southern border with Nigeria needs. If that’s a bit steep, then $21 buys a headlamp and $62 a first aid kit.

“Spirit of America is a philanthropic rapid response team providing humanitarian and economic assistance in support of our nation’s interests,” proclaims General (Ret) Stanley McChrystal, of Afghanistan surge fame, on the banner of the group’s website.

According to founder, internet guru Jim Hake, the idea came while watching a documentary in which a special forces soldier in Afghanistan wins the goodwill of a village through the supply of baseball equipment donated by friends of a family back home. In gratitude, the village forms a “night watch patrol” to protect the US soldiers, and Taliban attacks end.

Hake’s narrative is that his NGO links well-meaning US troops in global hotspots with the generosity of the American people. Field representatives, all ex-servicemen, work with the soldiers as “embedded venture capitalists”. Their job it to understand the humanitarian problems the soldiers are trying to solve, with the internet then used “to crowdsources whatever capital, knowhow and material is needed,” says Hake.

Spirit of America funded a community-level counter-Boko Haram summit in Niger’s southern Region of Diffa in October — in partnership with the US army’s civil affairs unit and the Nigerian military — to discuss how to stop the flow of recruits to the militants, and better police the porous border villages.

Brutal attacks by Boko Haram, a Nigerian-born jihadist group, have spilled into Niger, as well as neighbouring Cameroon and Chad. The US government is supporting regional governments in the fight against the movement, and a small special forces unit is in Niger.

Further north, in the Agadez region, Spirit of America has spent $41,000 on veterinary school scholarships for a group of young men, the hiring of a veterinarian to work on a vaccination campaign, and two dirt bikes. The grand plan is to build wealth and resilience to undercut any local appeal al-Qaeda — active throughout the Sahel — may exert.

On each page of the NGO’s website is the disclaimer that no endorsement by the Department of Defense “is intended or implied”, Spirit of America does, however, work directly with regional US military commands, and has a star-studded establishment advisory board including former Republican presidential nominee Senator John McCain, former secretary of state George Shultz, and several retired generals.

The Quiet Americans

The Problem

The problem is they are blurring the lines and creating problems for aid workers who are seeking to do things in a more impartial way.

Effective aid programming is a bit of a science, and when done badly — as with the corrupt and inefficient PRTs — it can prove disastrous. Ex-military turned embedded aid entrepreneurs may have martial skills, “but in the civilivian/development sectors, they may not have the expertise or the approach that a local NGO with decades of experience would have,” Jackson told IRIN.

With total revenue of $3.2 million for the 2014 financial year, spread over projects in some 15 countries, Spirit of America is a relatively small operation. Katy Thiam, the head of public information for the UN’s emergency food coordination body, OCHA, in Niger, “had never heard of them. But the broader question, Jackson points out, is whether small, quick impact projects can be better than anything more palliative — and whether in any real sense they take account of the dynamics of these complex conflicts.

“You need to be part of a broader strategy to end them rather than just putting a band aid on it,” she said. — IRIN

A formation of Nigerian soldiers from the 322nd Parachute Regiment march to a training site where they will learn combat skills from US Army soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) home-based in Stuttgart, Germany, during Operation Flintlock 2007. Photo: IRIN

US Air Force leader backs moves to speed up arms sales

DUBAI — US Air Force Secretary Deborah James said on Tuesday it was important to speed up approvals of foreign arms sales, and she was open to creating a White House-level position to oversee the process across government.

James told reporters at the Dubai Airshow that she had heard the concerns of US companies, who say delays in approving foreign arms sales may prompt potential buyers to make non-US purchases.

The Air Force would look for ways to speed up its internal processes and could back the appointment of a high-level official to oversee the approvals process, she said.

“It makes some good sense to put somebody at a high level of government that could help to oversee and coordinate,” she said. “That might well be an idea that we should implement.”

Bob Durbin, chief operating officer of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), the largest US aerospace industry trade group, told reporters the US government was taking steps to better coordinate reviews of arms sales across agencies, and reach out more to industry to understand its concerns.

“But more work was needed to synchronize and accelerate the overall process given mounting frustration among buying countries about the pace of US export reviews, he said.

Jeff Kohler, Boeing’s vice president for international business development, said Monday that the plane maker was “a little frustrated” with delays in getting US government approvals for fighter jet sales to countries in the Gulf region.

“We’re a little frustrated, and I know the customers are in the region,” he said.

Boeing did not give any specifics, but sources familiar with the matter say a $3 billion deal for 28 F/A-18E/F fighter jets for Kuwait that includes options for 12 more jets, and a separate deal for F-15 fighters for Qatar, have languished in the US regulatory process. US defence companies are counting on foreign orders to offset a drop in US military spending.

Kohler said the US government had not expanded its capacity to process arms deals despite a large rise in transactions by big weapons makers in recent years.

AIA has been pushing for years for the US government to adopt a national defence export strategy, and appoint a senior, White House-level official to coordinate the efforts, said Remy Nathan, vice president of international affairs for the group.

“It needs to be a strategy that is embraced and implemented at the highest level,” Nathan said. “You need an authority that is capable of crossing all of those different silos and you don’t really get unless you have authority from the top.”

James met AIA officials and members at the Dubai Airshow on Monday to listen to their concerns. — Reuters
Paris climate talks likely to go to the wire

PARIS — Negotiations to reach a climate change deal next month in Paris are likely to go down to the final moments with financing remaining one of the toughest subjects on which to reach agreement, senior Swedish officials said.

Sweden is considered by many to be a potential bridge between developed and developing nations. It has promised about $580 million over four years to the Green Climate Fund, one of the main channels for donor countries to mobilise more than $100 billion a year in aid for developing nations by 2020 from public and private sources.

Governments have made some progress towards a goal of limiting warming of the planet with national plans for action, but according to a French working document, more than 30 core questions remain unsolved before the 30 November to 11 December summit on global warming starts in Paris.

“A lot of ministers are not happy that the text is so full of brackets so close to the meeting,” Sweden’s Environment Minister Asa Romson told reporters late on Monday as ministers gathered for warm-up talks.

An updated draft text of an accord has whittled down a final text by about half to cover 55 pages, but it still has 1,490 brackets marking points of disagreement and remains far longer than hoped.

Disputes over financing for poor nations have been a drag on the talks among almost 200 countries. Some delegates fear a repeat of the failed 2009 summit in Copenhagen, though others are confident of a breakthrough.

“I think we cannot compare to Copenhagen. Technically, we are more advanced than in Copenhagen,” Romson said, adding there was a greater sense of urgency now than in 2009.

Chief negotiator Anna Lindstedt, who has led the Swedish delegation at previous talks, said she thought the talks would only make real progress in Paris.

“I think so,” she said, when asked whether they would likely drag on to the final moments.

However, she said the fact that more than 150 nations including China and the United States had issued plans to limit greenhouse gas emissions beyond 2020, known as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), were a key step forward.

Asked about the issue of nations promising financing and not yet delivering while developing nations hold back waiting for the cash, Romson said it was clearly “not very helpful” for negotiators when promises were not fulfilled.

“The cost of inaction is too high,” Romson said. —Reuters

11-year-old girl donates organs to save six people

BEIJING — Parents chose to donate the organs of their daughter, 11, to put an end to her suffering from myasthenia gravis and save people in need. The operation took place at Wujing Hospital in Beijing on Tuesday.

Yating, who has been suffering from myasthenia since last summer, had been in a coma for 57 days due to a cerebral injury caused by a delayed treatment when she fainted at midnight on 13 September. Seeing their daughter’s pain, her parents contacted the organ donation hotline of Wujing Hospital in Beijing after they were repeatedly told that it’s almost impossible for their little girl to wake up again.

The parents decided to donate the girl’s heart, kidneys, liver and corneas in a repeat of the failed 2009 summit in Copenhagen, doctors stood in silence and paid tribute to the little girl’s remains before the operation. Organs from the girl will reportedly save six people.

As of 3 August, the Chinese mainland recorded 1,479 voluntary organ donations, beating public expectations after the country banned the harvesting of organs from executed prisoners on 1 January, said an expert.—Xinhua

Chile-bound cocaine seized on buses transporting football fans

BOGOTA — Colombian police seized 575 kg (1,265 pounds) of cocaine bound for Chile on two buses carrying Colombia fans to a World Cup qualifying soccer match in Chile, on 8 November.

Police made the discovery at the weekend in Pasto near Colombia’s southern border with Ecuador and about 400 km from Cali from where the buses set out on a road trip of more than 4,000 km across Ecuador and Peru to Chile.

“These drugs, hidden inside these buses, were bound for Santiago de Chile and the method of doing it was by transporting it through some tourists who were going to see the Colombia-Chile match,” Major General Rodrigo Gonzalez, Commander of the Region Four National Police of Colombia, told reporters.

The drugs were found in compartments under the bus floors and under the seats of both drivers, who were arrested.

Chile hosted Colombia in Santiago on Thursday in a South American qualifier for the World Cup finals to be held in Russia in 2018.—Reuters
China says two-child policy will contribute 0.5% to growth rate

BEIJING — China’s adoption of a two-child policy is expected to boost the country’s economic growth rate by about 0.5 of a percentage point, stemming from a rise in the size of its workforce, a senior Chinese official said yesterday.

Wang Pei’an, vice minister of the National Health and Family Planning Commission, and Family Planning Commission, did not specify a time period for that growth target. Last week, President Xi Jinping said it is possible for the country to have annual economic growth of around 7 percent over the next five years.

“In the long-term, the positive effect on economic growth will be significant,” Wang told a news briefing.

Wang’s economic forecast came nearly two weeks after the ruling Chinese Communist Party announced it would further relax the long-standing and controversial “one-child policy”. But critics say the policy change comes too late and will not have the desired effect.

The adoption of a two-child policy will boost consumer demand for housing, education and health and daily necessities, and increase employment in the short term, Wang said.

The one-child policy was introduced in the late 1970s to prevent population growth spiralling out of control, but is now regarded as outdated and responsible for shrinking China’s labour pool. It has also led to the ageing of China’s society, a phenomenon usually restricted to industrialised nations.

By around the middle of this century, one in every three Chinese is forecast to be over 60, with a shrinking proportion of working adults to support them.

With the adoption of the two-child policy, China’s labour force could rise by about more than 30 million and its ageing population will be reduced by 2 percentage points by 2050, Wang said.

“The implementation of a comprehensive two-child policy will help to improve the population structure and promote the balanced development of the population,” Wang said.

According to a government survey, most Chinese people want to have two children, Wang said. Married couples within an average age range between 20-44 years old said they would like 1.93 children, he said.—Reuters

Cambodia repatriates 168 Chinese suspects in telecom scams

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia deported 168 Chinese suspects involved in telecom swindle cases to China on Tuesday, the National Police’s news website said.

“Chinese police had sent two planes to transport those Chinese from Cambodia after Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sar Kheng signed a letter deporting them from Cambodia to their country,” Lt. Gen. Khun Sambo, deputy chief of the Cambodia’s General Department of Immigration, was quoted by the website as saying.

He said Cambodian and Chinese police have been continuing cooperation to hunt down the masterminds in transnational telecom frauds.

The deported Chinese, including 19 females, were arrested in three villages in southwestern Preah Sihanouk province on 31 October, and a number of computers, telephones, and bank cards, which had been used to commit the alleged crimes, had been seized.

Lt. Gen. Khun Sambo said the group will face justice in China.

In telecom scam, fraudsters often use overseas servers to make scam calls to their victims in China, claiming to be court or police officials and warning that the victims’ bank accounts had been breached so that they have to transfer the money to a separate safe account.

—Xinhua

Suspects involved in telecom fraud walk off a plane after being repatriated from overseas, at an airport in Beijing, China, on 10 November 2015. Photo: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M/V SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on M/V SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.P.A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M/V PANJA BHUM VOY NO (068N)
Consignees of cargo carried on M/V PANJA BHUM VOY NO (068N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M/V NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on M/V NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185
**Ronaldo premieres his film in London**

LONDON — From soccer pitch to red carpet, FIFA World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo premiered his personal portrait film “Ronaldo” in London on Monday.

Ronaldo reunited with his former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson on the red carpet, which also saw a late arrival from Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho.

Posing with a line of fans, Ronaldo sought to break a selfie record upon arrival and was also awarded certificates for other Guinness World Records he had, including “most ‘liked’ person on Facebook”.

“The people who really know me, they are not going to be surprised about the movie,” Ronaldo told Reuters when asked about the film.

Asked if after his soccer playing career he might eye a position as head of FIFA or UEFA, the Real Madrid striker said: “I’m not that smart to be president. I do not worry about that, about what is going to happen in my future.”

“I think I’m still able to play a few more years of football, but in future I have other projects, that will more interesting than being president,” he added.

The film, made by the team behind documentaries on racing driver Ayrton Senna and singer Amy Winehouse, looks at his professional side as well as his personal side as father of a young son.

Actress Saoirse Ronan accepts the New Hollywood Award for her role in the film “Brooklyn” at the Hollywood Film Awards in Beverly Hills, California, on 1 November. Photo: Reuters

**US critics praise Takei in ‘flawed’ musical about Japanese internment**

NEW YORK — Japanese American actor George Takei received unanimous praise for his Broadway debut in Sunday night’s opening performance of “Allegiance,” though critics remained skeptical about the musical inspired by his childhood experiences in a World War II internment camp.

The New York Times called Takei, 78, “warmly touching” in the role of Ojii-chan, grandfather of the fictional Kimura family, while USA Today credited him with a “sweetly mischievous” performance and for singing “with winning gusto.”

In its online edition, Variety praised Takei for playing the role “with enormous heart and humour.” The musical tells the story of a Japanese American family forced by the US government into a Wyoming internment camp after Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor.

Having lost its successful California run and any sense of unity, the family suffers an internal rift as Sammy Kimura decides to enlist in the US army while his sister Kei falls in love with a camp dissident.

Despite its wish to address a difficult topic while also delivering Broadway-style entertainment, the “well-intentioned and polished” production failed to strike a fully successful balance, The New York Times said.

“Allegiance” often feels more like a history lesson than a musical,” it noted.

The New York Daily News in its online edition dismissed the storytelling as a “jumble,” and Variety lamented that “authentic moments are few and fleeting, overwhelmed by standard love songs and musical soliloquies.”

Though unimpressed with major elements of “Allegiance,” critics applauded the effort to shed light on Japanese American internment and praised strong performances in what USA Today called a “flawed but defiantly moving show.”

In 1942, Takei’s family was among the tens of thousands of Japanese Americans who were sent to remote camps in seven US states, under the assumption that they posed a threat to national security during the war with Japan.

The Los Angeles native, then five years old, was moved with his parents and two siblings first to Rohwer camp in Arkansas and later to Tule Lake centre in California over a term lasting nearly four years.

“So many Americans don’t know the story of internment,” Takei told Kyodo News in an interview ahead of the show’s premiere.

“I use everything in order to get people to know about it. Beyond just a musical, this has been part of my life’s mission.” —Kyodo News
NEW YORK — A Modigliani nude painting was sold to an unnamed Chinese buyer at Christie’s on Monday for $170.4 million, the second-highest price ever for a work of art at auction, as deep-pocketed collectors continue to pay, and pay big, for some rare masterpieces up for sale in this year’s autumn auctions season.

The final price for the 1917-18 portrait “Nu couche” (Reclining Nude) — under the hammer for the first time ever — was second only to Picasso’s “Les femmes d’Alger” (Women of Algiers) which sold for $179 million at Christie’s in May. While the buyer was not identified, Christie’s said the painting was bought by a private Chinese collector. Asian collectors have been "emerging" at the art market, with some of the highest prices ever paid.

Christie’s said the painting was fetched $95.4 million, within the $80 million to $100 million estimate.

While nearly 30 percent of the “Artist’s Muse” offerings went unsold — Lucian Freud’s “Naked Portrait on a Red Sofa” was estimated at as much as $30 million but failed to sell — the auction took in $494.4 million in total. That was right in the middle of the pre-estimate range of $442 million to $540 million.

But strong prices for top works that did sell bore witness to what Pylkkanen called “a master-piece market” that was fomenting “extraordinary competition”.

A new record was set for an auction sale of work by Roy Lichtenstein, the pop artist best known for his vibrant, cartoon-style works. His 1964 painting “Nurse” fetched $95.4 million, within the $80 million to $100 million estimate. — Reuters

PARIS — After three years of renovation, Paris’ Musee Rodin reopens its doors this week, with new displays of the French sculptor’s works.

Right in the middle of the French capital, the Hotel Biron and its garden were used by Auguste Rodin in the years leading up to his death in 1917 and boasts versions of his “The Thinker” and “The Kiss” — two of the world’s best-known sculptures.

The mansion attracts 700,000 visitors a year and has needed 16 million euros ($17.7 million) worth of renovation, including urgent repairs to the floor and overhauling its interior design.

The museum now boasts a new layout, and previously unseen works as well as paintings from Rodin’s personal collection, including paintings by Vincent van Gogh and Edvard Munch. “(Visitors) will see an improved visibility of the works thanks to the (display) furniture which allows more works to be shown,” museum director Catherine Chevillot said.

The new layout and different lighting on some displays allows visitors to get very close to the sculptures, she said.

The project was partly paid for by casting new bronzes from original moulds, Chevillot said.

“We are rather unique among French museums, we own our own private means, the sale of bronzes by Rodin,” she said.

“We are rather unique among French museums, we own the rights of the artist to continue to make original bronzes.” The museum reopens on 12 November, which would have been Rodin’s 175th birthday.” — Reuters

The sculpture ‘Le Penseur’ (The Thinker, 1881-1882 original size) by French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) is seen during a visit at the Musee Rodin in Paris, France. PHOTO: REUTERS
Russia faces ban from athletics for widespread doping offences

GENEVA — Russia could be banned from international athletics, including the 2016 Olympic Games, after an anti-doping commission report on Monday alleged widespread corruption and collusion that added up to a state-sponsored drugs culture in a sporting superpower.

The commission, set up by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), found a “deeply rooted culture of cheating” in Russian athletics, which it said Russian state security services colluded with, and also identified what it called systemic failures in the global governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

At one point, the commission said, the IAAF-accredited anti-doping laboratory in Moscow destroyed 1,417 samples shortly before an inspection. This was done on a Saturday morning immediately prior to the arrival in Moscow of a WADA audit team,” the report said.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said there was no evidence for the accusations against the Russian Athletics Federation, and that the samples had been destroyed at WADA’s request.

IAAF president Sebastian Coe said he was alarmed and surprised by the scale of the revelations, which come days after the IAAF’s long-time president, Lamine Diack, was accused by the IAAF of concealing a Russian athlete’s doping violations.

“These are dark days,” said Coe, Diack’s successor. He gave Russia until the end of the week to respond to the accusations, and said the IAAF Council would then discuss possible sanctions.

Dick Pound, the head of the commission that produced the report and a former president of WADA, referred to a corruption scandal now shaking football’s governing body, FIFA.

“I hope all sports will look at their governance and their anti-doping systems because their existence may be at risk,” he told a news conference. “Public opinion is going to move towards the view that all sport is corrupt.”

The report said the presence of Russian security services in the Moscow anti-doping laboratory “actively imposed an atmosphere of intimidation on laboratory processes and staff.” — Reuters

Malnati wins PGA Tour event by one stroke

JACKSON — Peter Malnati charmed through the Mississippi mud to clinch a one-stroke victory at the $4.1 million Sanderson Farms Championship in Jackson on Monday.

In his 22nd start on the PGA Tour, Malnati sank a three-foot putt at the last to card 67 and finish at 18-under 270, edging fellow Americans David Tomos (69) and William McGirt (68) at the soggy Country Club of Jackson.

The PGA Tour sophomore, 28, became the fifth winner in as many tournaments in the 2015-16 PGA Tour season, joining Emiliano Grillo (Frys.com Open), Smylie Kaufman (Las Vegas), Justin Thomas (CIMB Classic) and Russell Knox (WGC-HSBC Champions).

Knox, at 30, is the oldest of the quintet.

Malnati said he had not been mentally ready for his first season on tour in 2014-15, but returned this time better prepared.

“Two years ago when I was on this tour, it was so hard for me to be in the moment,” he told Golf Channel.

“I knew the work I’ve put in would prepare me for this moment when it came. This is pretty cool right now.”

Torrential rain earlier in the week sent the event to a Monday finish on the saturated course, where preferred lies were allowed.

A dozen or so players looked capable of winning at one stage or another during the final round, but none ruled what might have been more than joint runner-up that Costa can agoniz-ingly raised a 30-foot birdbie putt at the last that would have forced a playoff.

His ball looked headed for the bottom of the cup, only to break to the right at the very end and stop just short of the hole.

“It just kind of ran out of steam and fell off the hole instead of falling in for me,” said McGirt, who was also seeking his first win. “It somehow magic.”

McGirt, whose wife is expecting on Friday, closely watched the leaderboard after learning from his manager at the 2012 Canadian Open, where he was unaware of his position down the stretch and bogeyed the final hole to finish one shot behind. A few weeks later, he received some blunt advice from Tiger Woods.

“We had a nice little conversation and he (Woobs) goes, ‘you’re an idiot’. I took that and kind of learned from it,” McGirt said. — Reuters

What has happened to Chelsea’s Diego Costa?

DIEGO Costa has turned into a pale imitation of the Premier League by storm last year and Chelsea must get him firing on all cylinders again to have any hope of salvaging their wretched season.

The 27-year-old striker could scarcely have believed his luck when he discovered last week that his Chelsea slump to fifth from bottom on the goal trail with Spain.

For someone who has shown his fingers crossed that Costa can get back on the goal trail with Spain over the next few days. — Reuters