EN ROUTE TO DIALOGUE

Government, ethnic organizations, political parties to appoint UPDJC members

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee will be formed with a total of 48 members—16 each from the government, ethnic armed groups and political parties—to lead political dialogues, said U Aung Min, the vice chairman of the Union Peacemaking Working Committee on Wednesday.

Speaking on the second day of the meeting of the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, U Aung Min also reiterated that a framework for political dialogues would be drafted within 60 days after the UPDJC is formed.

During the meeting, Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, the general secretary of the Karen National Union, stressed the importance of implementing political dialogues in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), which was signed on 15 October between the Union government and eight ethnic armed groups, calling on representatives from other groups to cooperate with each other as part of the effort to end Myanmar’s armed conflicts and to launch political dialogues.

Meetings for drafting the framework for political dialogue are expected to start before 14 December 2015, according to the timeline of the ceasefire terms. Political dialogue is expected to start before 14 January, as it must begin within 90 days after the political framework is signed by the joint committee.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Taw was another step toward implementing the NCA.

The vice president also praised the level of coordination between the JICM and the ethnic armed groups to form the committee and include political parties in its processes, urging all stakeholders to maintain the current status quo and carry on the remaining tasks of the JICM.

There have been no clashes between the army and the eight ethnic armed group signatories since the ceasefire was signed on 15 October.

Also at the meeting, a Union-level joint committee for monitoring the ceasefire was formed with 10 representatives each from the government and from the eight ethnic armed groups, plus six civilians proposed by both sides, totaling 26.

The Myanmar government and eight ethnic armed groups agreed at the first committee meeting on October 31 that both sides would meet certain requirements within the 30 days after the signing of the NCA on 15 October.

The two sides were set to draw up a political framework within 60 days after the formal signing of the NCA and start a political dialogue within 90 days.—Myanmar News Agency

Realtors, experts see little impact from planned launch of stock exchange

YE MYINT

Despite predictions that the country’s property market will be strengthened by next month’s opening of the Yangon Stock Exchange, some realtors and experts have doubts as to whether the stock exchange will have any impact at all.

“No immediate impact on the real estate sector can be seen because Myanmar people are unfamiliar with the country’s first stock market, or stock markets in general,” said Sai Khun Naung, a realtor.

The realtor stressed the need for the future government’s involvement in the provision of stable policies for the currently stalling property market, predicting that with effective policies, a bounce-back would occur.

“Myanmar’s real estate sector will begin growing following the emergence of the new capital market for investors and developers,” Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Then said during the question-and-answer session after his recent talk on the Yangon Stock Exchange and Myanmar’s economic development potential.

The deputy minister, who is also the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar, gave an example of how Vietnamese developers have invested in Myanmar’s property market, saying that their money came from selling shares on the stock market.

According to the deputy minister, the Yangon Stock Exchange is ready to begin trading and is tentatively scheduled to open on 9 December.

According to housing agents, the recent downward trend of the property market continues, with sales slumping by over 50 percent across the country. The situation has forced potential buyers as well as investors to become cautious—a poor indicator of market strength and positive potential.

The property market is not likely to have a significant impact on the planned launch of the new capital market, said realtors, predicting a possible drop in residential prices due to the introduction of new homes and condos to the market next year.

Compared to 2015 when, for various reasons, the market stagnated with a slump in both sales and rentals, the property market will be alive next year, said Managing Director U Nay Min Thu of MyanmarHouse.com.
Parliament 19 November 2015

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Roundup

THE 13th regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) yesterday approved a bill amending the Blood and Blood Products Law and the Body Organ Donation Law.

The Hluttaw recorded the allotment of separate funds under the Union Financial Law and extended the term of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Projects and Financial Development Joint Committee.

Secretary of the Joint Bill Committee U Saw Hla Tun read the committee report on the Constitutional Law.

Deputy Minister U Ohn Than explained the policy on the third day of the current Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday.

U Hla Maung of Chaungzon Constituency explained 10 chapters of the second biannual national planning report for the 2014-15 fiscal year, submitted by the Union Government.

U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Constituency, who is the secretary of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Committee for Projects and Financial Development, read the report on national planning.—Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw Roundup

MEMBERS of parliament discussed three bills and submitted one on the third day of the current Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) session yesterday.

U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No 3 discussed the Suppression of Prostitution Act (1949), while Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No 7 focused on the Technical and Vocational Education Bill. U Shu Maung of Shan State Constituency No 8 made comments about the Basic Education Bill.

Chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Khan Maung Yi read the committee report on the bill amending the Arms Act, submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Hluttaw decided to review discussions over Suppression of Prostitution Act (1949) and Technical and Vocational Education Bill.—Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw roundup

Deputy Minister U Ohn Than.

Photo: MNA

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been changing the cultivation patterns for new paddy species in response to and in preparation for the effects of climate change on Myanmar agriculture.

Deputy Minister U Ohn Than explained the policy on the third day of the Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday.

U Than Myint of Wundwin Constituency asked what plans were in place to prevent climate change from damaging agriculture and about the implementation of the national water harvesting campaign (NWHC).

The deputy minister said the National Water Resources Committee will lead the implementation of the national water harvesting campaign.

U Hla Maung of Chaungzon Constituency asked questions regarding the successful testing of a new paddy species that displays a resistance to seawater, and about plans to distribute quality paddy seeds to the townships that have suffered the encroachment of ocean tides.

U Than Myint of Wundwin Constituency.

Photo: MNA

Deputy Minister U Ohn Than replied that the Agricultural Research Department began the distribution of Hsinthwelatt and Pyimyanmar Sein paddy strains in 2013 and 2014. The new species are better able to resist seawater due to technological advancements. Currently, farms run by department distribute quality paddy seeds to local farmers.

On the same day, the Joint Bill Committee read the bills to amend the Foreign Investment Law and the Myanmar Investment Law.—Myanmar News Agency

Southern Shan State sees sharp tourism increase

AN increasing number of foreign tourists are visiting destinations in southern Shan State, such as Taunggyi, Inlay, Kalaw and Pindaya, all of which can be reached easily via Heho by plane or by express bus from Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, Tachileik and Kengtung.

Inlay Lake, which is situated 2,950 feet above sea level, continues to be a popular tourist destination. The traditions of its indigenous Inntha people, including their handloom-woven traditional clothes, metallurgical works and pottery, as well as water birds and herbal plants and famous pagodas nearby, attract thousands of foreign tourists.

The number of foreign tourists to the region increased from 60,017 in 2012 to 123,045 in 2014, and a total of 96,993 foreign tourists have visited Inle region this year as of October.

Taunggyi boasts excellent scenery, as well as the ancient pagoda complexes of Mwedawketyu, Panetaloke Lake and Shwe Oo Min cave.

The hill resort of Kalaw is home to Danu, Taungyo, Palaung, Pa-O, Shan and Bamar ethnic communities. A total of 12,561 foreign tourists had visited the Kalaw area this year as of October.—Myanmar News Agency

Travellers with life jackets visit Inlay Lake, Nyaungshwe Township. Photo: MoHT
President U Thein Sein to attend 27th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a visit to Malaysia to attend the 27th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in the near future at the invitation of Honourable Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar, Russia, ASEAN focus on role of renewable and clean energy

RENEWABLE energy plays a vital role in supplying fuel to meet market demands, Myanmar’s Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo said at the Energy Dialogue between Russia and ASEAN in the Field of Renewable Energy and Clean Energy Technologies at Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He said the ministry is implementing the legal framework, policies, tactics and roadmaps for a national renewable energy sector.

Professor Mr Vadim A Yakovlev of the Boreskov Institute of Catalysis (BIC) in Russia discussed energy technologies.

Officials of the ministry and those from Russia and ASEAN countries submitted papers on renewable and clean energy technologies.

The meetings will continue until Friday.—Myanmar News Agency

Malaysia to host ASEAN Editors Conference

THE ASEAN Editors Conference will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 3 and 4 December. More than 100 editors from news agencies and print and electronic media will attend the annual event, which aims to highlight the role of the media in ASEAN, which is home to 630 million people.

The conference will focus on difficulties of media arena in ASEAN region, the role of media and further strengthening of media communication in the region.

Malaysia held the ASEAN chairmanship in 2015, after Myanmar did so last year.—Shin Min

Realtors, experts see little impact from planned launch of stock exchange

>>From page 1

The current cooling trend for the real estate sector will rebound with a slight drop in housing prices expected to be triggered by a shift of public interest in investment in the new capital market, the managing director added.

According to developers, the country’s real estate market has the potential for remarkable profits and has been attracting not only business people but also individuals to invest in the sector since early 2013.

Skyrocketing land prices brought about the downward trend in the overheated property market. Sales and rentals have become sluggish, and the imminent bursting of the market bubble has been forecast since the start of this year.

KOICA constructs Agricultural Machinery Training Center

KOREA International Co-operation Agency (KOICA) and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) held an ground-breaking ceremony on construction of agricultural machinery training center in Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 November.

KOICA is implementing the project named ‘Farmland Consolidation and Agricultural Machinery Training for Agricultural Mechanization’ from 2013 to 2016 with 6 million USD in order to promote the agricultural development in Myanmar. It will help expand more arable farm land to increase the land utilization and improve agricultural productivity.

In collaboration with MOAI, KOICA has completed 100 hectare pilot consolidation as one of the main component of the Project. The construction of Agricultural Machinery Training Center with scale of 3,476 square metres will be completed by the second half of 2016.

Chief Resident Representative of the KOICA Myanmar Office Mr. Nam Kwon Hyoung delivered his congratulatory speech. “Farm mechanization is very imminent issue to maximize tremendous agricultural potential in Myanmar.” He also mentioned, “Agricultural Machinery Training Center will play a vital role to expand utilization of farm machinery as well as increase in agricultural productivity in Myanmar.”

U Soe Hlaing, Director-General of Agricultural Mechanization Department, and officials from Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation attended the ceremony.—KOICA

A view of a building under construction from across Inya Lake in Yangon, the country’s commercial city. PHOTO: YE MYINT
Inter-district road construction in Natogyi Township

THE Rural Development Department in Natogyi Township handed over the building of No 1 inter-district road to the Department of Highways.

At present, the Department of Highways is maintaining roads and bridges in the township under the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Construction, Township Engineer Daw Theint Theint Tun said.

The inter-district road is 30 miles shorter than the 95-mile Myingyan-Mandalay Road and will be more suitable for cargo trucks and commercial vehicles. The Department of Highways will soon begin construction of three concrete bridges and eight pipe culverts. Engineers from the department are currently placing asphalt on a 3-mile section of the road.—Htay Myint Maung

Honda Spike vehicle donated to Hpa-an Township Red Cross Battalion

MAJOR Thein Zaw Min and his wife of the Border Guard Force in Kayin State donated a Honda spike to the Hpa-an Township Red Cross Society yesterday.

Commander of the Township Police Force Police Major Myint Aye, who is also commanding officer of the Township Red Cross Battalion, spoke at the event.

Major Thein Zaw Min handed over ownership of the vehicle to deputy commanding officer of the Red Cross battalion U Thaung Tun Aung.—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)

Entrepreneurs give talks on success

THE Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Committee, USAID and Myanmar-Germany Cooperation Group held a talk on success in entrepreneurship at the hall of the MRCCI in Chanayethazan Township on Tuesday.

Both the Chairman of the chamber U Aung Than and the Chairman of the SME Development Committee U Win Hay spoke at the event. Member of the entrepreneurs association U Aung Myint Tun, U Tin Latt of Chindwin College, U Soe Myint Than, writer U Moe, U Ye Myat Thu of the computer professionals association, Daw Thiri Khit of computer industrialists association and youth entrepreneur Daw Su Mon Toe gave lectures on overcoming challenges in business and prospects for the 2016 economic situation.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Farmers expect high yield of long staple cotton

A FIELD day of Ngwechi-9 and Shwedagon-8 long staple cotton plantations was held on farmland in Yanaung village, Pyay township, Mandalay region, on Tuesday.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Nay Win explained the characteristics of quality cotton species, the prevention of pests, the market price of cotton and the economic development of local cotton growers.

A farmer said, “I grow one acre of Shwedagon-8 cotton and two acres of Ngwechi-9 cotton with the technical assistance of the Township Agriculture Department. In November, I will harvest my plantations. It costs about K200,000 (155USD) per acre to cultivate. I expect my plantations will yield 1,600 kilo of cotton per acre, netting me about K800,000 (620 USD) per acre based on K1,100 per 1.6 kilos of cotton.”

The field day was also attended by Deputy Director U Lin Myat of the Yamethin District Agriculture Department and the Chairman of the Township Agricultural Coordination Committee U Min Ko Ko in addition to a number of lesser officials.—Min Min Htwe (Pyaybwe)
APEC leaders to pledge push for free trade, anti-terrorism measures

MANILA — Leaders of 21 Asia-Pacific economies will pledge to step up efforts to realise their ambitious trade initiative and combat terrorism to keep growth from getting derailed, according to a draft joint declaration obtained yesterday by Kyodo News.

The leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum members gathered in Manila yesterday to hold a two-day meeting. A major agenda item will be how to push ahead with their ultimate goal of establishing a broad free trade area under the Free-Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific framework.

Discussions will be intensified in particular after 12 countries, all APEC members, concluded years of negotiations last month to create the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade bloc that covers 40 percent of the global economy.

“We reaffirm our commitment to advance the process in a comprehensive and systematic manner towards the eventual realization of the FTAAP as a major instrument to further APEC’s regional economic integration agenda,” the draft joint declaration reads. The TPP and other regional trade pacts under negotiation have been considered as fundamental steps toward creating the ambitious FTAAP free trade zone.

“We note the recent development on the free trade agreements in the region and the progress of the possible pathways to the FTAAP, including the finalization of Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations,” the draft notes.

It goes on to say the members also “encourage the early completion of negotiations for (the) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership” which is seen as another mega multilateral trade initiative that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China, Japan and India, along with three other partners, are seeking to establish.

A summit of the 12 countries involved in the US-led TPP was also held Wednesday on the sidelines of the APEC summit.

“While our focus is on approval and implementation of the results of negotiations with our current partners, we have also seen interest from a number of economies throughout the region,” the leaders said in a statement issued after the TPP meeting.

The TPP is also helping to write the rules of global trade for the 21st century,” US President Barack Obama, the chair of the meeting, said.

The APEC leaders are also set to denounce terrorist acts and agree to cooperate in counter-measures after 129 people were killed with hundreds wounded in terrorist attacks in Paris last Friday, according to the draft.

“Under the shadow cast by the terrorist attack against the Russian aircraft over Sinai, and the attacks in Paris, Beirut, and elsewhere, we strongly condemn all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations,” the draft said.

“We will not allow terrorism to threaten the fundamental values that underpin our free and open economies.”

The APEC forum, established in 1989, groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

KUALA LUMPUR — A small al Qaeda-linked Islamist militant group has executed a Malaysian businessman held captive since May on the southern Philippine island of Jolo, the Malaysian government said yesterday.

The Philippine military earlier said it was investigating credible intelligence reports that Abu Sayyaf militants had beheaded Bernard Then on Tuesday.

On his Facebook page, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said he was shocked and sickened at the killing and demanded the perpetrators be brought to justice. Asked by Reuters if the man was beheaded, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Nur Jazlan Mohamed would only say his death was “violent”.

Philippine Brigadier-General Alan Arrojado, army commander on Jolo, said the Malaysian was killed in the town of Indanan.

While the execution is far to the south of the capital Manila, where world leaders including US President Barack Obama are attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, it is a reminder of the security challenges small Islamic groups still pose to the Philippines.

Jolo is a stronghold of Abu Sayyaf, a group known for bomb attacks, kidnappings and beheadings. It frequently seeks ransom in return for freeing hostages.

The businessman and a Malaysian woman were abducted in September, Abu Sayyaf kidnappers demanded a $3 million ransom for her release. In return for freeing hostages.

The businessman and a Malaysian woman were abducted in September, Abu Sayyaf kidnappers planned to behead the man if a ransom was not paid. In September, Abu Sayyaf kidnapped two Canadians, a Norwegian and a Filipino from an upscale beach resort in the southern Philippines. They have demanded 1 billion pesos ($14 million) for each of the captives.

A second Malaysian man if a ransom was not paid. In September, Abu Sayyaf kidnapped two Canadians, a Norwegian and a Filipino from an upscale beach resort in the southern Philippines. They have demanded 1 billion pesos ($14 million) for each of the captives.

The Philippine military earlier said that underpinning intelligence reports that Abu Sayyaf militants had been executed after a Malaysian businessman held captive since May on the southern Philippine island of Jolo, the Malaysian government said yesterday.

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A second Malaysian government designates 2016 as ‘year of investment’

BANGKOK — Thailand’s Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said yesterday the government has designated 2016 as “the year of investment” through positive contributions from stimulus packages, tax incentives, law improvement and infrastructure development projects, urging private sectors to invest more.

In a seminar on “Thailand’s Economic Outlook 2016,” he said that the country’s economy will improve next year due to government expenditure and investment, adding that investment from the private sector could significantly support the growth.

Early on Monday, Thai authorities forecast that national growth domestic product will expand by 2.9 percent by the end of the year and projected it to grow by 3.0-4.0 percent in 2016.

Somkiet said the government has a policy of enhancing the country’s competitiveness, and shifting the economic structure from the agricultural industry to high-tech or value-added industries such as robotics, aviation, logistics and bio-economy.

— Kyodo News
Bangladesh opposition leaders to hang for war crimes

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, deputy chief of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami waves from a car as police arrest him in Dhaka. PHOTO: REUTERS

DHAKA — Bangladesh’s Supreme Court yesterday rejected final appeals from two opposition leaders against death sentences for atrocities committed during the 1971 war of independence, ruling that they are likely to spark protests by their supporters.

Muslim-majority Bangladesh has seen a rise in Islamist violence in recent months, with two foreigners and four secular writers and a publisher killed this year.

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, 67, secretary general of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was found guilty of five charges including torture and the murders of intellectuals and minority Hindus while he commanded Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, during the war to break away from Pakistan.

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, 66, former legislator from former premier Khaleda Zia’s Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was convicted in October 2013 of charges of genocide, religious persecution, abduction and torture during the war.

“The entire nation is happy with the verdicts,” Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters outside the packed courtroom.

The rulings mean the two could be hanged at any time unless they seek mercy from the president.

Mujahid, social welfare minister from 2001 to 2006 under Khaleda, would be the first former minister and the third to be hanged while Chowdhury would be the first BNP leader to go to the gallows unless they are granted clemency.

It was against them whether they want to seek mercy or not,” defence counsel Khandaker Mahbub Hossain told reporters.

Just a few hours before the rulings, an Italian priest was wounded in the latest attack on foreigners in Bangladesh. Islamic State militants have claimed responsibility for earlier attacks on foreigners.

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

President Mohammad Abdul Hamid, earlier this year made plans to visit an industrial park in the North operated jointly by the two Koreas. But Pyongyang retracted approval for the trip at the last minute without explanation.

UN denies Secretary-General Ban will visit North Korea next week

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will not visit North Korea next week, a UN spokesman said in a statement yesterday after China’s Xinhua news agency reported that he will visit the North on Monday and stay for about four days.

The statement released by the spokesman’s office said Ban will be in New York and then travel to Malta for the Commonwealth Summit, which starts on 27 November. From there, he will travel to Paris for the UN summit on climate change, which begins on 30 November.

“The Secretary-General will not be travelling to the DPRK next week,” the spokesman said, using the short-form name for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

“The Secretary-General has repeatedly said that he is willing to play any constructive role, including travelling to the DPRK, in an effort to work for peace, stability and dialogue on the Korean Peninsula,” Xinhua news agency quoted Ban as saying.

A report by China’s state-run Xinhua news agency yesterday cited North Korea’s official KCNA news agency that Ban would visit for about four days starting Monday, and that his itinerary was now being confirmed.

On Monday, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported that Ban would visit the North Korean capital this week, citing an unnamed UN source.

KUALA LUMPUR — Southeast Asia faces the threat of Islamic State-inspired attacks designed to “glamorise terrorism”, a Malaysian minister said yesterday, voicing fears of battle-hardened fighters returning from Syria to launch Paris-style attacks.

In September, Malaysian police thwarted a plot to detonate bombs in Kuala Lumpur’s vibrant tourist area of Bukit Bintang. Other recent plots frustrated by Malaysian security forces included plans to raid army camps and seize weapons.

I think the Paris situation can also be transplanted here, in Southeast Asia, where we also have fertile ground for recruitment of such operatives who will return to the region and carry out attacks,” Nur Jazlan Mohamed, Malaysia’s deputy home minister, said in an interview.

In such attacks, they hope, will glamorise terrorism and therefore attract more people to join their cause,” he said, singling out tourist and entertainment centres in the region as a favoured targets. Terrorism is high on the agenda of world leaders gathered in Manila for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, in the wake of the deadly attacks in Paris that killed at least 129 people.

And the minister’s comments follow news of the execution this week of a Malaysian businessman in the Philippines by Abu Sayyaf, and Islamist militant group that has past links to al Qaeda but has more recently shown support for Islamic State.

Estimates suggests that more than 500 Indonesians, over 40 Malaysians and a handful of Singaporeans have gone to fight in Syria and Iraq. Hundreds of others were arrested or detained before they could leave the country.

In Malaysia, 150 terror suspects have been arrested since Islamic State rose to prominence in 2014.

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German spy head says public events must go ahead despite security fears

BERLIN — Germany should not be cowed by the threat of Islamic State violence, the head of the domestic intelligence services said yesterday, after an international soccer game was cancelled due to fears of an attack.

With security worries running high in Europe after shootings and bombings in Paris last Friday which killed at least 129 people, BfV president Hans-Georg Maassen said Germany, like other Western states, is an enemy of Islamic State (IS).

IS has claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks.

“If IS can hit us, if IS can carry out terror attacks in Germany, it will do so — that is our big concern,” Maassen said in an interview with broadcaster ARD.

But Germany should not cancel big public events in response to those fears.

“No, I would not recommend that at all,” said Maassen, though he defended the decision on Tuesday evening to cancel Germany’s soccer match against the Netherlands in Hanover, which Chancellor Angela Merkel had been due to attend.

“I can say we had very concrete leads that led us to give our recommendation to the German government (to cancel the match),” said Maassen.

“It is a lead that we must take very, very seriously,” he said, without giving further details. He declined to confirm media reports that a tip-off came from French intelligence sources.

After the stadium was evacuated, officials said no arrests were made and no explosives found. Media reported there were fears of explosives in the stadium.

Later, police in Hanover removed a suspicious package on a train on its way to southern Germany before giving the all clear.

German police say more than 750 suspected Islamists have travelled to the Middle East from Germany and the authorities know of about 70 who have returned from military training camps.—Reuters

Cuba blames US for migrant crisis in Central America

HAVANA — Cuba’s Communist government on Tuesday blamed the United States’ Cold War-era immigration law for a migrant crisis in which more than 1,000 Cubans have been getting stuck at Central American border crossings in an attempt to reach the United States.

As Cuba has been making their way north from Panama to Costa Rica to Nicaragua, seeking to eventually reach the United States, where Cubans receive special treatment that welcomes them without a visa. But Nicaragua, a close ally of Cuba, closed its border with Costa Rica on Sunday to stop them.

“The Foreign Ministry wishes to emphasise that these citizens are victims of the US government’s politicization of immigration issues,” according to a statement read on the national news broadcast.

It was the first report about the ongoing migrant crisis in Central America in Cuba’s officially controlled media, but it did not mention Nicaragua’s decision to halt them at the border.

Cuba said it was in contact with the Central American governments involved to find a solution and that its people were also victims of human traffickers and criminal groups that prey on migrants.

Cubans are immediately received at the US border and obtain permanent US residence with relative ease.

In addition, the United States applies a “wet-foot, dry-foot” policy that allows Cubans who set foot on US soil to stay while those captured at sea are sent back to their Caribbean island nation.

But with US-Cuban relations improving since last December’s detente, Cuban migration to the United States has increased as Cubans anticipate a solution to halt them at the border.

Cuban Adjustment Act, and the “wet-foot, dry-foot” policy intentionally lure Cubans on a dangerous journey.

“This policy stimulates irregular emigration from Cuba towards the United States and constitutes a violation of the letter and the spirit of migration accords that are in force and through which both countries assume an obligation to guarantee legal, safe and orderly emigration,” the statement said.

Some 1,200 Cubans had been stuck in Panama, attempting to cross into Costa Rica when Costa Rica suddenly tightened its immigration policy, then reversed course and allowed the Cubans in on Saturday.

But after passing through Costa Rica they were stopped at the Nicaraguan border on Sunday.

Nicaragua’s accused Costa Rica of sparking a “humanitarian crisis” by allowing more than 1,000 Cubans to proceed.—Reuters

Kremlin says no change to air strike plans in Syria

MOSCOW — Russia is not changing its plans for air strikes in Syria after the Kremlin said that a bomb did bring down a Russian passenger plane that crashed in Egypt on 31 October, the Kremlin’s spokesman said yesterday.

Dmitry Peskov told journalists on a conference call that the air strikes alone could not fully succeed in fighting the Islamic State and must be supported by land operations that are being conducted by the Syrian army.—Reuters

Germany holds special security cabinet meeting: govt sources

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her top ministers will hold a special meeting on security issues yesterday after an international soccer match was cancelled on Tuesday evening on fears of a planned attack, two government sources said. The talks, which will probably also include intelligence chiefs, will take place after a regular full cabinet meeting.

Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel has cancelled several other engagements to attend.—Reuters
Myanmar’s most urgent issues

Myint Win Thein

Myanmar’s recent elections highlighted a number of urgent needs for the country. Judging from the campaign speeches of political parties, national reconciliation is the most urgent need of all. When it comes to national reconciliation, most people understand that the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement is an effort toward national reconciliation. However, armed conflicts are only one aspect of national reconciliation. All political, social and economic problems in the country must be settled through dialogue. It is necessary for all political forces to reconcile their differences, including communal conflict. Only then can true national reconciliation take place.

Another issue highlighted by the campaign is the problem of land confiscation. Farmers work the land. When they lose their land, they lose their jobs, too. As farmers make up 75 percent of the population, the lives of the biggest majority of people are jeopardized. Therefore, land issues are immediate problems to be settled.

Yet another urgent issue for Myanmar is corruption. Corruption not only causes a loss of public funds but also undermines the pillars of society, including the rule of law. As a result, it has an impact on the lives of all citizens.

Myanmar has a number of issues that must be resolved immediately, but the aforementioned issues are the most urgent—these are the issues that determined the election results. The abilities of the outgoing and incoming governments to solve these problems will also be decisive in Myanmar’s future elections.

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Global New Light of Myanmar

ANALYSIS

19 November 2015

Analyzing the History of Elections in Myanmar

Tommy Paul

Elections are important for democratic societies to govern the world. When people are losing political rights and participations, they seem to be lifeless and meaningless in a society. It is obviously universal that elections can be lively and powerful when people escape from regimes or inefficient leadership in some societies. We often hear and learn from the world news about the elections being held in various countries except the countries under the dictators and military regimes. In fact, elections are bridges between the people’s wishes and the governments’ implementation on the wishes or desires of the people concerned. Elections breed or produce leaders and legitimate governments. In some countries, governments are directly selected by the despotic rulers so there is no freedom as elections. Undeniably, the elections are activated by the majority votes of people to choose right candidates to take seats in parliaments. Thus they are called parliamentary elections. In other words, elections are considered as the peoples’ weapon to fight against the despotic rulers or topple the rulers who are undeserved for the leadership role or to choose the citizens who deserve the leadership role. In advanced democratic societies, elections are the paths for people’s representatives to implement or materialize the people’s hope, aspiration and desires democratically.

Normally, megalomaniac dictators and illegitimate governments are pretty scared of elections. Yet it is rare to find elections that failed to attract the majority of the elections and they are usually against the will of the majority of people indeed. Sometimes, the elections have been rigged or manipulated by the government or ruling party in some countries.

The foreign observers or even UN observers are deployed in a certain country to ensure the elections are not rigged. The eligible voters of citizens must know the electoral processes precisely so that their enfranchisement cannot be lost or cheated.

Let’s take a look at the history of Elections held in Myanmar after the British colonialists had written the independence from the British colonialists.

Remarkably, from 1946 to 1951, there had been an intermittent government formed with the approval of the British Governor named Sir Hubert Elvin Rance. It consisted of Bamar leaders and other ethnic leaders. N.B from 1946 to January, 04, 1948, Myanmar was still under the British colony. The national hero, General Aung San, was one of the cabinet members and he served as Defense Minister cum Foreign Affairs Minister. Then General Aung San and the leaders of national brethren had written the new state constitution in 1947. Tragically, General Aung San and some of the cabinet ministers were assassinated on 19 July, 1947.

In 1948, Myanmar regained its own independence from the British colonialists. Then the Union of Myanmar had ruled its people and protected its sovereignty, independence and territory. Until the signing of 1951, no general elections had been held whatsoever. Nevertheless, there had been a number of political parties, working on their stance, principles and manifestos for nation building tasks since 1944. The most powerful party was Anti-fascists Peoples’ Freedom league. The second most powerful party was National United Front and the rest are ethnic parties, workers’ party and Peasants’ party etc.

The government had striven hard for everlasting independence and democracy in Myanmar. They intended to establish parliamentary democracy and to maintain the sustainable union solidarity in the nation. Therefore, the government of the Union of Myanmar conducted the first multi-party general elections in Myanmar on the 27th of April 1951. The general elections were held by military caretaker government. AFPFL had split into factions—Clean AF-PFL and Stable AF-PFL. Both rivals contested the elections with other ethnic parties. Clean AF-PFL won the elections. Prime Minister was U Nu.

The successive elections revealed that Myanmar leaders respected the people’s aspirations and political rights to choose the able representatives or right representatives for the parliaments. In that period, the eligible voters in Myanmar had been given rights to cast the votes freely and willingly.

Myanmar had been given rights to cast the votes freely and willingly. From 1951 to 1960, three historic general elections were held to form legitimate governments successfully. All these elections were recorded as free, fair and credible events in Myanmar history. There had been mutual respect and mutual trust between the governments and people in Myanmar in the above-stated periods. The country’s economy was much more prosperous than any other countries in South East Asia and its education standard was distinctly high. The fame and glory of Rangoon University was one of the proofs of education status in Myanmar in these periods.

On the 2nd March of 1962, a group of military leaders led by General Ne Win seized the state power. That group was named as The Revolutionary Council. The junta ordered all the political parties in Myanmar to be abolished. No elections were held between 1962 and 1973. The junta founded a single-political-party called Burmese Socialist Programme Party (BSPP).

The new state constitution was adopted in 1973. The referendum was also held on 15 December 1973. So, the constitution came into effect in 1974. The socialist Republic of the Union of Myanmar was an official name in accord with the constitution and the BSPP was a single-political-party which led the country. BSPP held some elections with no rival parties. Some MPs in BSPP members to be posted in executive power, judicial power and legislative power. BSPP, the ruling party, had claimed the manifesto to the world that Burma would march towards the Burmese way to socialism. However, the elections for Pnyut Huittaw (People’s Assemblies) representatives and the People’s Council representative were held every four years in a period between 1974 and 1986. They were indeed not multi-party general elections, but the elections for people’s representatives, who must be members of the Burmese Socialist Programme Party, to attend People’s Assemblies. The regime came to an end in 1988 due to the country’s economic decline. As a result, Myanmar was listed in the index of LDC in the world. During the government of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Myanmar era, majority of eligible voters did vote for so-called people’s representative in elections unethusiastically.
Analyzing the History of Elections in Myanmar

The government mechanism was totally paralyzed due to boycott by all government employees across the country. The coup took the power to restore the law and order on 08.09.1988. The government was named as State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). The 1974 constitution was abolished by SLORC. The SLORC had pledged to hold the free and fair multi-party democracy general elections and allowed the citizens to set up or register the political parties officially. The SLORC held the multi-party general election on 27 may 1990. National League for Democracy, National Unity Party and other ethnic parties had contested the elections. National League for Democracy had set for a land slide victory. The event was recognized as a free and fair election by international communities. The eligible citizens of Myanmar had cast their ballots for right representatives for the democratic parliament hopefully, freely and enthusiastically. The entire Myanmar people desired or wished or aspired for democracy. People’s expectation could be materialized through free and fair elections because these elections bring out elected government or legitimate government democratically.

In 2008, the new state constitution was adopted by junta and they held the referendum for it. A period between 1988 and 2009 was the era of junta (SPDC) in Myanmar. In 2010, the first multi-party general elections were held for parliaments stipulated by 2008 constitution. Union Solidarity and Development Party won the elections for democratic parliaments. The 25% of seats in the parliament are to be taken by military representatives (defense services personnel) nominated by Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services in accord with 2008 constitution. In 2012, by-elections were held. NLD party won the by-elections and some seats in the parliaments. The constitutional governments were formed in Myanmar to exercise good governance and clean government. The political reforms and economic reforms have been carried out by the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Union Solidarity and Development Party stood as a ruling party and its members were selected for the cabinet.

The second multi-party general election was held on 8 November 2015 nationwide in accord with 2008 constitution. This time, NLD party has set a land slide victory. NLD party has won the land slide victory twice in the history of elections in Myanmar. Her party’s victories have marked an important milestone in the history of elections in Myanmar indeed. Both of NLD’s historic victories represent the decision of the majority of people in Myanmar democratically. The party has won the elections democratically and fairly. The eligible voters of citizens have wholeheartedly expressed their will and chose the right people’s representatives for upcoming sessions of the parliament. We, the ordinary people have to wait and see what might happen to the fair-victory of NLD in the very near future. Some people feel skeptical and concerned about the process of handing over the power from current government to NLD Anyway, people must have positive attitudes towards present political changes and scenario. We can learn a lot of good and bad lessons from history of elections held in different eras in Myanmar from 1948 to date. The winning party members of NLD must not hold grudges against others. The ruling party must hand over the power to NLD, the winning party democratically and honestly. Thus the winners and the losers would be able to shake hands each other. Wishing Myanmar people a prosperous change with happiness and peace!!!

About the author

Tommy Pank is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L. I. degrees holder. He has English teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers’ College in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

New bank branch opens in Muse

THE Ayeyawady Bank opened its No 2 branch in the compound of the Thein Than Chi highway bus terminal in Muse, northern Shan State, yesterday.

The bank currently has 126 branches across the nation.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Muse District’s deputy commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Deputy Managing Director U Ko Oo of the bank and departmental officials.—L Soe (Muse IPRD)

IPRD officials share knowledge of reading skills with students.

IPRD officials attempt to improve reading skills for locals

A CAMPAIGN to raise the reading skills of local residents was implemented at the Basic Education Primary School in Aungmyethaya village, Kyaukme, northern Shan State, on Tuesday.

Officials of the Kyaukme District Information and Public Relations Department gave talks on the advantages of reading to local residents. The officials held a story telling contest for students and presented prizes to the winners.—Myint Aung

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Nyaunglebin Township RDD to electrify 137 houses

THE Rural Development Department in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, spent K49.7 million (38,600 USD) on the installation of 11KV and 400 volt power lines and a transformers in east Kyuchaung village on Tuesday.

Head of the Township RDD U Than Lwin and officials inspected the progress of the electrification tasks and provided some assistance.

Rural electrification tasks will benefit 137 houses in the village.

The installation of the transformer was completed on Tuesday.

The electrification will also bring development to the villages around the village of Kyuchaung.

The local authorities are also planning to supply power to other villages in the rural area.—Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)
West, Russia should put aside differences to defeat terrorism: Medvedev

MANILA — Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday that his country can beat terrorism on its own but the best option would be for Moscow and the West to put aside their differences and fight it together.

Speaking at a summit of Asia-Pacific nations in Manila, Medvedev said the West’s boycott of Russia looked “weird” in light of last week’s militant attacks in Paris and the 31 October bombing of a Russian air- liner over Egypt.

“An act of terror with our plane and the terror attack in Paris ... have sharpened the global political agenda,” he said.

“The war is declared against the whole civilised world. The threat is global and, alas, is real. So the stance of some Western countries on Russia looks weird.” Medvedev said, adding the West’s stance towards Moscow was short-sighted.

“I do believe we should be together in this fight.”—Reuters

Russia’s Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev speaks during his address at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Manila on 18 November. Photo: Reuters

Nigeria’s Buhari orders arrest of former security adviser for graft

ABUJA — Nigeria’s President Muhammadu Buhari has ordered the arrest of the country’s former national security adviser, accusing him of stealing around $2 billion received for phantom arms contracts, the president said.

The arrest order is part of a campaign by Buhari, who was elected in March, to tackle graft that has enriched an elite but left most normal people in poverty.

Buhari’s office said former security adviser Sambo Dasuki had “awarded fictitious and phantom contracts” worth around $2 billion for jets, helicopters and ammunition for the army to fight the jihadist Boko Haram group which were never delivered.

Under Buhari’s predecessor Goodluck Jonathan, when Busaki was in office, Boko Haram took control of parts of Nigeria’s northeast where it is trying to carve out an Islamic state.

“Had the funds been properly used for the purpose they were meant for, thousands of needless Nigerian deaths would have been avoided,” the presidency said late Tuesday. There was no immediate comment from Dasuki. In a statement attributed to him by local media, he was quoted as saying he had always served Nigeria “with the best of intentions”.

In recent months, Nigeria, backed up by its neighbour, has recaptured much of the territory initially lost to Boko Haram though suicide bombings and other attacks blamed by officials on the militant group remain part of daily life in the north. Boko Haram has waged a six-year campaign which has killed thousands and displaced 2.1 million people.—Reuters

Syria’s Assad says no intelligence sharing with France unless change in policy

PARIS — Syria will only share intelligence information with France if Paris changes its policies in the region, President Bashar al-Assad said in an interview with French magazine Valeurs Actuelles.

“If the French government is not serious in its fight against terrorism, we will not waste our time collaborating with a country...”

President Bashar al-Assad

“If the French government is not serious in its fight against terrorism, we will not waste our time collaborating with a country...”

President Bashar al-Assad

Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad speaks during an interview at the La Renaissance Palace in Damascus. Photo: Reuters

Two members of Saudi security forces shot dead

DOHA — Two members of the Saudi security forces were killed yesterday in Saudi Arabia’s restive eastern province after gunmen opened fire on their vehicle, an Interior Ministry spokesman quoted by state news agency SPA said.

“At one o’clock in the morning a security patrol in the province of Qatif came under fire from an unknown source”, the spokesman said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack which took place on the outskirts of the mostly Shi’ite Muslim town of Seithat.

The Sunni-ruled kingdom, the world’s top oil exporter, has been hit by a spate of deadly shootout and bomb attacks in recent months, many of them claimed by Islamic State.—Reuters

Claims day notice

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JI XIANG SONG VOY NO (23)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JI XIANG SONG VOY NO (23) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.F-4 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: MS COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD. Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (451N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (451N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.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: MS SAMUDEERA SHIPPING LINE Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACITA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACITA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.11.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.A.W.P 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: MS CHINA SHIPPING LINES Phone No: 2301185

Bomb that downed Russian plane in Egypt placed in main cabin

MOSCOW — A bomb that downed a Russian plane in Egypt last month had been placed in the aircraft’s main cabin not in the cargo compartment as reported earlier, the daily Kommersant said yesterday citing an unnamed source.

The newspaper, citing a source close to the investigation of the crash, said the epicentre of the explosion appeared to have been at the rear of the cabin near the tail section.

“According to a preliminary version, the bomb could have been laid under the passenger seat by the window. Its operation has led to the destruction of the frame and depressurisation of the cabin, which had an explosive character,” the newspaper said.

All 224 people on board were killed. President Vladimir Putin vowed on Tuesday to hunt down those responsible and intensified air strikes against militants in Syria.—Reuters
Genetic sleuthing helps sort out ancestry of modern Europeans

WASHINGTON — DNA extracted from a skull and a mol larp tooth of ancient human remains discovered in the southern Caucasus region of Georgia is helping sort out the multifaceted ancestry of modern Europeans.

Scientists said on Monday they sequenced the genomes of two individuals, one from 13,300 years ago and another from 9,700 years ago, and found they represented a previously unknown lineage that contributed significantly to the genetics of almost all modern Europeans.

These individuals were members of hunter-gatherer groups that settled in the Caucasus region, where southern Russia meets Georgia, about 45,000 years ago, after our species trekked out of Africa to populate other parts of the world. At the time, Europe was populated by Neanderthals.

The Caucasus hunter-gatherers later became isolated there for millennia during the last Ice Age, the scientists said.

The thaw at the end of the Ice Age brought them into contact with other peoples, leading to the advent of a culture of horse-riding herders who swept into Western Europe around 5,000 years ago, bringing metalurgy and animal-herding skills, they added.

The Caucasians are a mix of ancient ancestral strands,” Trinity College Dublin geneticist Daniel Bradley said. “The only way to untangle the modern weave is to sequence genomes from thousands of years ago, before the mixing took place.”

Until now, only three such ancestral strands had been precisely flowing from ancient populations. The Caucasians inhabitants comprised a previously unidentified “fourth strand,” said University of Cambridge geneticist Andrea Manica, noting that they contributed significantly not only to the ancestry of Europe but also to people in Central Asia and the Indian sub-continent.

Bradley called the finding “a major new piece in the human ancestry jigsaw.” The Caucasian region is located at a crossroads of the Eurasian landmass, with nearby migration routes heading both west and east.

The first DNA evidence for horse-riding herders in Europe came from a skeleton dating from almost 10,000 years ago which was found in the Kotias Klde rock shelter in Western Georgia is seen in an undated picture courtesy of the University of Cambridge. PHOTO: REUTERS

US firefighter gets world’s most extensive face transplant

NEW YORK — A volunteer firefighter from Mississippi whose face was burned off during a home fire rescue received the world’s most extensive face transplant.

New York University Langone Medical Centre said on Monday. After a 26-hour surgery performed at the New York hospital in August, 41-year-old Patrick Hardison is living with the face of 26-year-old David Rodebaugh, a BMR enthusiast who died in a car accident in New Jersey.

He received a full scalp and face, including ears, nose, lips and upper and lower eyelids.

Now, for the first time since that raging fire in Senatobia, Mississippi in 2001, the man can blink and even sleep with his eyes closed — key steps to sparing his blue eyes from blindness that previously seemed all but inevitable, said Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez, the plastic surgeon who led the 150-person medical team that performed the procedure.

Simultaneous surgeries took place. Rodriguez said, with Hardison on one operating table while Rodebaugh was on the other. The NYU medical team had practiced for a full year to get it right.

“Your only have one chance to land the Rover. The same goes with the face,” Rodriguez told Reuters following a news conference in New York earlier on Monday.

The team slit the skin at the back of the donor’s head, peeling each side forward with key pieces of bone attached at the chin, nose and cheek bone and then precisely draped it, like Batman’s owl, onto Hardison’s head.

“Everything has to be perfectly positioned,” Rodriguez told Reuters, including the bones, muscles, ear canals, lips and nerves.

NYU, which will pay for the estimated $1 million surgery, took the case after a firefighter buddy reached out on behalf of Hardison, whose own children were initially terrified of their father’s disfigured face.

Proof of the surgery’s success was obvious after a medical team took Hardison shopping for new clothes at Macy’s this fall, and no one in the store gave him a second look, Rodriguez said.

Rodebaugh’s mother, who gave permission for the transplant, noting her son was an unexpected gift after she had been told she could not conceive a child, recently was shown a photograph of the surgical results. Reuters

Sharp’s air purifying technology found effective against bird flu

OSAKA — Sharp Corp. said Tuesday it has found its air purifying technology is effective to inhibit bird flu virus.

The Japanese electronics manufacturer who plans to develop air cleaners and air conditioners using the “Plasmachuster Ion” technology to help prevent infections of the disease to humans.

Sharp conducted a joint research with Vietnam’s Pasteur Institute. Finding that highly concentrated ions generated through a chemical reaction using the technology can decrease the infectiveness of H7N9 virus by 99 percent in a content of 1 cubic meter for about 47 minutes.

The first human infection with the avian H7N9 virus was confirmed by the World Health Organisation in 2013. The technology has already proved effective to remove other influenza viruses, bacteria as well as mold spores, Sharp said. —Kyodo News

Melbourne — People who drink more than two cups of coffee per day are less likely to suffer from liver conditions, according to a landmark Australian study. The study, conducted by Monash University in Melbourne, focused on 1100 liver disease patients at the Monash Health Clinic and found that coffee was able to reduce the impact on their condition.

Two cups a day were found to reduce the damage caused by hepatitis C by up to 13 percent. Four cups were found to reduce the signs of fatty liver disease by the most common liver disease affecting about 40 percent of Australians — by as much as 24 percent.

Current statistics showed that around 6 million Australians are, or have been, affected by some form of liver disease, with fatty liver disease, hepatitis B and hepatitis C the three most common forms.

Alex Hodge, a liver disease specialist at Monash Health, revealed the findings of the study this week at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases in San Francisco. He told Melbourne radio on Tuesday morning about the findings of his study and the apparent curative effects of coffee. “Two or more cups of coffee led to an improvement in their liver disease,” he said. “Certainly moderate amounts of coffee, depending on the liver disease you’re looking at, seem to be associated with less liver damage and probably less liver fat.” The study found the most dramatic results were found in patients with hepatitis C and that drinking tea had no effect on the liver.

In a separate study, coincidentally published on the same day, Harvard University’s Chan School of Public Health found similar results with people who drink up to five cups of coffee per day. “In the whole study population, moderate coffee consumption was associated with reduced risk of death from cardiovascular disease, diabetes, neurological diseases such as Parkinson’s and suicide,” the findings found. “Bovocative compounds in coffee reduce insulin resistance and systematic inflammation,” said Ming Ding, a Harvard doctoral student.

“That could explain some of our findings.” However, more studies are needed to investigate the biological mechanisms producing these effects. No preventative effects were found during this study, which was published in the latest edition of the journal Circulation. —Xinhua

Three cups of coffee a day can help liver disease patients: Australian study

Sveti in western Georgia and the other remains came from about 25 miles (40 km) away in the Satsurblia cave near the village of Kumistavi, Tengiz Meshveliani of the Georgian National Museum said. The research was published in the journal Nature Communications. —Reuters
LONDON — Britain wants to close all of its coal-fired power plants by 2025 and lower their output from 2023, the government said yesterday, making it the first major economy to put a date on shutting down polluting coal plants to curb carbon emissions.

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Amber Rudd, will set out more details later today that will seek to encourage the building of new gas and nuclear power plants instead.

Coal-fired power plants provided around a third of Britain’s electricity last year but many of the ageing plants have been due to close over the next decade due to tightening European Union environmental standards.

Now a consultation starting in the spring next year will set out proposals to close by 2025 all coal-fired power stations which are “unabated” — plants not equipped to capture and store their carbon emissions — and restrict their usage from 2023.

“It cannot be satisfactory for an advanced economy like the UK to be relying on polluting, carbon intensive 50-year-old coal-fired power stations,” Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Amber Rudd will say, according to excerpts of the speech she will deliver at the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Drax Group, operator of one of Europe’s largest coal and biomass-fired power plants, could see the remaining coal units close two years earlier if the government sticks to the 2025 closure date, analysts at Jefferies said.

“By putting a specific date by which coal will be phased out, the government will naturally focus attention on security of supply,” the analysts said in a research note.

Shares in Drax were down 0.8 percent at 224.8 pence by 1023 GMT, having already fallen from over 600 pence in the past year.

Britain hopes to fill the supply gap with new low-carbon gas and nuclear power plants, which will also help it to meet a legally binding target to cut its carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 to 80 percent below 1990 levels.

One of the greatest and most cost-effective contributions we can make to emission reductions in electricity is by replacing coal-fired power stations with gas,” Rudd will say.

Gas plants emit almost half the amount of carbon dioxide per megawatt of power generated as coal plants.

The move away from coal was welcomed by climate change campaigners seeking a reduction in carbon emissions blamed for global warming. Later this month, world leaders will gather in Paris for UN negotiations to seek an accord to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

“The UK is demonstrating the type of leadership that nations around the world must take in order to craft a successful agreement in Paris and solve the climate crisis.” — Al Gore

Former US Vice President

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One of the greatest and most cost-effective contributions we can make to emission reductions in electricity is by replacing coal-fired power stations with gas,” Rudd will say.

Gas plants emit almost half the amount of carbon dioxide per megawatt of power generated as coal plants.

The move away from coal was welcomed by climate change campaigners seeking a reduction in carbon emissions blamed for global warming. Later this month, world leaders will gather in Paris for UN negotiations to seek an accord to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

“The UK is demonstrating the type of leadership that nations around the world must take in order to craft a successful agreement in Paris and solve the climate crisis.” — Al Gore

Former US Vice President

US president calls on world leaders to address climate change, use clean energy

MANILA — US President Barack Obama yesterday called on world leaders and the private sectors to address the issue of climate change and encourage more investors to get into clean energy.

Obama made the call in a speech at the APEC CEO Summit 2015 at the Philippine International Convention Centre in Metro Manila.

“No nation is immune to the consequences of a changing climate,” said Obama.

“The old rules that said we can’t grow our economies and protect our environment at the same time, those are outdated. We can transition to clean energy without squeezing businesses and consumers,” said the president.

He said there will be always challenges and opportunities, and the use of solar power and renewable energy is not only cheaper than those of conventional power, but also can generate new jobs.

After delivering the speech, Obama led a forum during the APEC CEO Summit yesterday.

Obama addressed questions to Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba, a giant e-commerce firm, and Ms. Aisa Mijeno Mijeno, an engineer who founded SALT Philippines.

Jack Ma said “we have to raise public awareness of the climate change” that affected people’s life, adding, “We have to take action and join together.”

Mijeno, seawater lamp technology inventor, said, “Climate change is like cancer. Right now, we are in stage two, you will feel the symptoms. You don’t want to let it to reach the stage four when it is already too late.”

Mijeno said her lamp uses saline solution or seawater to power up an LED, and can even charge mobile phones with a USB portal.

Obama, who was listening intently, said, “That’s great!” He said there’s a role for governments to provide tax incentives to small businesses.—Xinhua

PICTURE OF THE DAY

A F/A-18F Super Hornet parked at all air base in the Australia capital territory to commemorate the anniversary of the Royal Australian Air Force in Canberra, Australia on 17 November. PHOTO: Xinhua

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION
DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION AND LAND CONSOLIDATION SCHEMES IN MYANMAR
UNDER THE LINE OF CREDIT FROM EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. Sealed bids are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (hereinafter called the employer), from the qualified and resourceful Contractors (hereinafter called the bidders) registered in India for procurement of farm machinery and implements for Development of Irrigation and Land Consolidation Schemes in Myanmar.

Tender Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procurement of farm machinery and implements for Development of Irrigation and Land Consolidation Schemes in Myanmar</th>
<th>Bidding Document Fee (USD)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>500</td>
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2. The bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders upon submission of a formal request on payment of a non-refundable fee indicated above for each set of tender documents.

3. The bidding documents will be available from the office as noted in paragraph 8 on any working day with effect from 27.11.2015 to 7.1.2016 (from 9.00 hr. to 16.00 hr. local time).

4. Pre-bid meeting will take place at the below address at 10.00 hr (local time) on 21st December, 2015 for discussions of various issues raised by the prospective bidders. The matters requiring clarification shall preferably be intimated by the bidders to the employer through email at aungwinamd@gmail.com, 07 (seven) days in advance of the date of pre-bid meeting, with a copy to the Project Management Consultant, i.e. WAPCOS Ltd.

Building No.15

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of The Union of Myanmar.

5. The bids duly completed in all respects as described in the bidding document shall be submitted, in a sealed envelope, to the employer on or before Friday 8.1.2016 at 10.00 hr (local time), and shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid initially, subject to the extension from time to time. The bids will be opened thereafter in the presence of the bidder’s representatives at 10.00 hr. (local time) on 8.1.2016 at the address mentioned above.

6. The bid must be accompanied, in a separate envelope duly sealed by a bid security of an indicated above with validity of 118 days initially, subject to the extension from time to time as desired by the employer in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB). The bid without the bid security shall be summarily rejected.

7. The bid received after the expiry of the stipulated time of submission shall not be considered. The employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at its discretion without assigning any reason whatever. The employer is not bound to accept the lowest offer bid and reserves the right to negotiate with bidders.

8. Contact Address is as mentioned the following.

Office of Director General, Agricultural Mechanization Department, Building No.50, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of The Union of Myanmar. Telephone No.+95-67-4331172, Fax: +95-67-4331246.

www.moaio.gov.mm
In respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations for human use, sanitary preparations for medical diseases and disorders, neurological diseases and disorders, cardiovascular diseases and disorders, gastroenterological diseases and disorders, metabolic diseases and disorders, pharmaceutical preparations” in Class 5.

CRINONE
Reg.No.4/1571/2012
In respect of “Topical progesterone products” in Class 5.

MOVECTRO
In respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations, namely preparations for the treatment of immunological diseases and disorders, inflammatory diseases and disorders, oncological disease and disorders, neurological disease and disorders, cardiovascular disease and disorders, gastrointestinal diseases and disorders, metabolic diseases and disorders, pharmaceutical preparations” in Class 5.

PERGOVERIS
Reg.No.4/1067/2010
In respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations for human use, sanitary preparations for medical purposes, dietetic substances adapted for medical use” in Class 5.

SANZESA
Reg.No.4/505/2010
In respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations for human use, namely preparations for the treatment of immunological diseases and disorders, inflammatory disease and disorder, endocrinological diseases and disorders, ontological diseases and disorders, neurolological disease and disorders, infertility diseases and disorders, metabolic diseases and disorders, rheumatological diseases and disorders, genetic, diseases and disorders” in Class 5.

ENCADIX
Reg.No.4/12371/2013
In respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations, namely preparations for the treatment of immunological diseases and disorders, inflammatory disease and disorder, endocrinological diseases and disorders, ontological diseases and disorders, neurolological disease and disorders, infertility diseases and disorders, cardiovascular diseases and disorders, gastroenterological diseases and disorders, metabolic diseases and disorders, pulmonary diseases and disorders, rheumatological diseases and disorders, diabetic diseases and disorders, genetic diseases and disorders, musculoskeletal diseases and disorders, disorders, immunological diseases and disorders” in Class 5.

NIMSURA
Reg.No.4/1070/2010 & Reg.No.4/6632/2013
In respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations, namely preparations for the treatment of immunological diseases and disorders, inflammatory disease and disorder, endocrinological diseases and disorders, ontological diseases and disorders, neurolological disease and disorders, infertility diseases and disorders, cardiovascular diseases and disorders, gastroenterological diseases and disorders, metabolic diseases and disorders, pulmonary diseases and disorders, rheumatological diseases and disorders, diabetic diseases and disorders, genetic diseases and disorders” in Class 5.

OVITRELLE
Reg.No.4/1573/2012
All in respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations to be used in the field of infertility, immunology-oncology, pediatrics and endocrinology” in Class 5.

OVIDREL
Reg.No.4/1572/2012

STILAMIN
Reg.No.4/1569/2012

SEROPHENE
Reg.No.4/1570/2012

FREPENSO
All in respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations for human use” in Class 5.

REBISLIM
Reg.No.4/12368/2013

REBISLIDE
Reg.No.4/12365/2013

REBIFORM
Reg.No.4/12374/2013

REBIFLITE
Reg.No.4/12372/2013

REBIDOSE
Reg.No.4/12367/2013
All in respect of “Pharmaceutical preparation for the treatment of neurological diseases and disorders, immunological diseases and disorders” in Class 5.

GONAL-F
Reg.No.4/1066/2010

SAIZEN
Reg.No.4/5364/2007

GONAL-
Reg.No.4/3619/2013

REBIF
Reg.No.4/6634/2013
All in respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations” in Class 5.

COOL.CLICK
Reg.No.4/5366/2007

EASYPOD
Reg.No.4/5363/2007

ONE.CLICK
Reg.No.4/5362/2007

CLICK.EASY
Reg.No.4/5365/2007
All in respect of “surgical and medical apparatus and instruments” in Class 10.

REBSTYLE
Reg.No.4/12370/2013
In respect of “Pen injector for the treatment of multiple sclerosis” in Class 10. Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said Trademarks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For Merck KGaA C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thet Pyu Road,
Botataung Township, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
By their Attorneys, Singh & Singh Lall & Sethi, New Delhi – 110 049, India
Dated 19 November 2015

Email: adv.gnlm@gmail.com, Ph: 09 250107962, 09 251022355
Lawyers for Porsche say actor Paul Walker to blame for his death

LOS ANGELES — Lawyers for German automaker Porsche said actor Paul Walker was responsible for his own death in a crash of a Porsche sports car, in response to a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Walker’s daughter, court documents showed.

Cranbrook Partners, representing Porsche AG (PSHG.p.DE) and other defendants, said in papers filed last week in Los Angeles Superior Court that Walker’s death was the result of his “own comparative fault.”

In November 2013 Walker was a passenger in a 2005 Porsche Carrera GT driven by Roger Rodas when the vehicle careened into trees and a utility pole in Santa Clarita, northwest of Los Angeles, killing both men.

After a four-month investigation, Los Angeles officials said the crash had been caused by excessive speed and not mechanical failure.

Meadow Walker, the actor’s only child and sole heir, filed a complaint in September accusing Porsche of skimping on safety features for the vehicle, which could have prevented the crash or at least kept the actor alive. Her lawsuit requested a jury trial.

Lawyers for Porsche said Walker had “knowingly and voluntarily assumed all risk, perils and danger” of the 2005 Carrera GT, and that the car, owned by Rodas, had been “abused and altered,” and “was misused and improperly maintained.”

“That abuse and alteration proximately caused or contributed to the incident and to Mr. Walker’s death,” Cranbrook said. Meadow Walker’s attorney Jeff Milam said on Tuesday that Porsche was “trying to deflect its own responsibility by blaming the victim.”

Paul was the passenger in a car that was not designed to protect its occupants. While the speed may have been unlawful, it was well below the vehicle’s advertised capabilities,” Milam said in a statement.

He added that Paul Walker survived the impact of the crash, but “burned to death because of Porsche’s defective design.” Earlier this year, attorneys for Porsche said Rodas, the driver of the vehicle, was to blame for the crash after Rodas’ widow filed a lawsuit against the automaker alleging negligence and wrongful death, among other claims.

Walker’s death led to a temporary halt in production of “Furious 7,” an action movie in the “Fast & Furious” franchise about illegal street car racing.

The film was released this year after Walker’s brothers helped finish his scenes.—Reuters

Jamie Foxx’s daughter named Miss Golden Globe 2016

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actor Jamie Foxx’s daughter Corinne is Miss Golden Globe 2016, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) has announced.

Miss or Mister Golden Globe is chosen to assist at the awards ceremony and is traditionally the son or daughter of an established Hollywood star.

The 21-year-old USC senior and model follows in the footsteps of the likes of Greer Grammer, Kelsey Grammer’s daughter, Susie Bacon, daughter of Kevin Bacon, and Rumer Willis, Bruce Willis’ daughter.

Corinne considers the title an “honour”, said The Hollywood Reporter.

“Throughout the years I’ve grown up watching my dad establish himself as a well-respected actor. I’m honoured that HFPA has given me the opportunity to now share the stage alongside him,” she said.

Lorenzo Soria, president of the HFPA, said, “Like her father, she leads a fine example of following her dreams and we can’t wait to see what she does next.” The 73rd annual Golden Globes will air on January 10 and will be hosted by Ricky Gervais.—PTI

Julianne Moore to re-team with Todd Haynes for ‘Wonderstruck’

LOS ANGELES — Actress Julianne will reunite with her Far From Heaven director Todd Haynes for “Wonderstruck”, the adaptation of the children’s book by Brian Selznick.

The book, part prose, part black and white illustrations, tells a story of two kids, both deaf, from different time periods, one from 1927, one from 1977, who run away to New York, said The Hollywood Reporter.

Despite the chasm of decades, they are connected by a mystery waiting to be solved.

Selznick, whose book “The Invention of Hugo Cabret” was adapted into the 2011 Martin Scorsese film “Hugo”, has written the script for the movie.

Killer Films, which produced Hayne’s most recent picture, the lesbian drama “Carol” that stars Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara, is also producing “Wonderstruck”.

Moore, 54, received one of her four Oscar nominations for her performance in Far From Heaven. The actress will be next seen in “The Hunger Games - Mockingjay Part 2”.—PTI

David Beckham feels he is 21

LONDON — Former soccer star David Beckham says he still feels 21 in his heart and mind, despite him reaching his 40th birthday earlier this summer.

The retired soccer superstar said he still acts as though he is just out of teens, reported Female First.

“It just felt like another birthday, to be honest. A little bit of a bigger birthday... I don’t feel any different to when I turned 21. I still feel young at heart and in my head as well, and I think that’s important.”

Beckham retired from his sporting career in 2013 and now his life revolves around being a stay-at-home father to his children, sons Brooklyn, Romeo, Cruz and four-year-old daughter Harper, while his wife Victoria Beckham, 41, works on her successful fashion empire.

“I wake up, make breakfast for my children, take them to school, go and work out after I’ve done that, then my little girl finishes at 12 o’clock, so I pick her up, take her for lunch and then take her home and go to the park with her.

“From there I pick my boys up and then take them to football practice, which finishes at 9 in the evening.”

David’s life has altered dramatically since he hung up his soccer boots professionally but he has embraced the change in his life. “It’s a big change but it’s one that I’ve actually enjoyed. Spending time with the kids, being able to take them to training every single day, pick them up every day and take them to school — you know, it’s what I love.”—PTI
Nestle Japan to sell ‘KitKat’ chocolate covered in gold leaf

Supplied photo shows a piece of “KitKat”-shaped gold block produced by Nestle Japan Ltd., the Japanese unit of Swiss food giant Nestle SA. The 230-gram gold block worth 2 million yen will be presented as a prize to encourage customers to join its store loyalty programme. —Kyodo News

Nearly 1m international students now in US colleges

WASHINGTON — Almost a million international students were currently studying at colleges and universities across the United States, a new report said Monday.

According to latest data from the 2015 Open Doors Report, an annual survey by the US Institute of International Education, the number of international students at US colleges and universities rose to a record high of 974,926 in the 2014-15 academic year.

The growth rate was 10 percent compared to data of last year, the highest rate of growth in 35 years, the report said.

While China continued to remain the top country of origin of international students in the Unit ed States, with 304,040 Chinese students currently studying at US colleges and universities, the growth rate of Chinese students was outpaced by that of Indian students, said the report.

Currently, there were a record high of 132,888 students from India studying in the United States, increasing by 29.4 percent compared to a growth rate of 10.8 percent for the Chinese students. There were also large increases in the number of students from Brazil, Mexico and Saudi Arabia, said the report, attributing the rise to heavy investment by the three governments to develop a “globally competent workforce”.

Meanwhile, International students’ spending across the country contributed more than $30 billion to the US economy in 2014, according to the US Department of Commerce. —Xinhua

Three British authors, one Irish on Costa prize fiction shortlist

LONDON — Novels by three British authors and one Irish writer have made the four-book fiction shortlist for the 2015 Costa Book Awards, the prize committee announced on Tuesday.

The British writers on the list are Kate Atkinson for “A God in Ruins”, Patrick Gale for “A Place Called Winter” and Melissa Harrison for “At Hawthorn Time”. Irish novelist Anne Enright is nominated for “The Green Road”.

The Costa book awards, which honor authors living in Great Britain or Ireland, also give prizes for best first novel, biography, poetry and children’s book.

The author of the top book selected in each category receives a 5,000-pound (37,600) prize while the winner of the overall Costa Book of the Year receives 30,000 pounds. The winners will be announced on 4 January.

Since the awards were founded in 1985, the top prize has gone to a novel 11 times, to a biography six times, to a poetry collection seven times and to a children’s book once.

The nominees in the other categories are as follows:

First Novel

Sara Baume for “Spill Simmer Fall with Wither”, Kate Hamer for “The Girl in the Red Coat”, Andrew Michael Hurley for “The Loney”, Tash a Kavanagh for “Things We Have in Common”

Biography


Poetry

Andrew McMillan for “Physical”, Kate Miller for “The Observances”, Dot Paterson for “40 Sonnets”, Neil Rollinson for “Talking Dead”

Children’s Book

Frances Hardinge for “The Lie Tree”, Hayley Long for “Sophie Someone”, Sal ly Nicholls for “An Island of Our Own”, Andrew Norris for “Jessica’s Ghost” —Reuters

16.3m foreigners visit Japan, duty-free shop openings surge

TOKYO — The number of foreign visitors to Japan this year marked an estimated record 16.32 million as of the end October, the Japan Tourism Agency said yesterday.

In line with the rise in visitors from abroad, the number of duty-free shops across Japan more than tripled to a total of 29,047 from 9,361 a year earlier, the Japan National Tourism Organisation said.

On 1 October last year, Japan expanded its list of purchasable duty-free items for foreign visitors to include food, alcohol, drugs and cosmetics on top of electronic goods, clothing and bags that were already exempt from the consumption tax for travellers.

Retailers in Japan have been eagerly trying to benefit from overseas shoppers, particularly the so-called “bakugai”, big-spending Chinese tourists.

In October alone nearly 1.83 million people visited Japan, the second most in one month after a record-high 1.92 million landed in July.

By nationality, the largest number of October visitors came from China, at 445,600. The monthly number of Chinese visitors dropped between July and September, possibly affected by the country’s economic slowdown.

The total annual number of foreign visitors, already surpassing the record of 13.41 million logged last year, is expected to reach 19 million by the end of 2015.

The Japanese government aims to increase the numbers of foreign visitors already exempt from 20 million by 2020 when Tokyo will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

With the 20 million mark within range, the government began earlier this month planning for a new goal of 30 million visitors annually by 2030 —Kyodo News
Russian runner disqualified after winning marathon in Japan

TOKYO — Russian marathoner Viktor Ugarov has been disqualified after winning the Kanazawa Marathon in Japan on Sunday as Russia is suspended from international athletics events amid allegations of state-sponsored doping, The Associated Press reported.

The AP quoted the International Association of Athletics Federations as saying Tuesday that “the event organiser is disqualifying his record and no appearance or prize money will be paid.” The IAAF added that it would write to the Russian federation seeking disciplinary action.

According to the AP, Russian athletics federation general secretary Mikhail Butov said that he had not heard that Ugarov had competed in Sunday’s race but said the case would be looked into.

“We couldn’t physically inform each athlete, so it’s probably more of a problem for the organiser who allowed the athlete to take part in the competition,” Butov was quoted as saying.

—Kyodo News

Federer up next

LONDON — Japanese star Kei Nishikori got his ATP World Tour Final campaign back on track on Tuesday with a three-set win over Tomas Berdych in London, keeping alive his hopes of qualifying for the semifinals of the prestigious season-ending tournament.

Nishikori bounced back from a heavy 6-1, 6-1 loss to Novak Djokovic, his first match of the tournament, using a combination of aggression and doggedness to beat his higher-ranked Czech opponent 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 in 2 hours and 23 minutes.

“It was much better than my first match,” said Nishikori at the post-match press conference.

Nishikori’s next match is against 17-time grand slam champion and six-time World Tour Final winner Roger Federer who had a sensational win over Djokovic, also on Tuesday.

Federer won a tight first set 7-5 and then shut down the world’s top player in the second, winning it 6-2 for only his second victory over the Serbian in their past six meetings.

“Winning the first set clearly in a match like this gives you the upper hand,” said Federer.

“It was important to strike again as quick as possible in the second set, and I did.”

Nishikori has beaten Federer twice on the ATP tour, but not since 2014 and not in their past two meetings, so he has a big mountain to climb in London on Thursday.

“Every time I play (Federer) I get that feeling like when I first played him. He’s my favorite player in the tour. I always look forward to testing my ability of playing against him,” said Nishikori.

“It’s going to be a really big challenge for me to play Roger. It’s always exciting. It’s going to be really important match for both of us.”—Kyodo News

Thakayta BEHS No 2 triumphs in cricket tournament

THE final cricket match and the award ceremony of this year’s Inter-basic Education School Cricket Tournament were held at Shwe Pin Lon Cricket Ground in Dagon Myothit (North) Township yesterday.

Thakayta Basic Education High School No 2 defeated Yankin BEHS No 6 with a score of 108-106 in the final match.

Thakayta BEHS No 1 and North Okkalapa BEHS No 5 tied for third place in the men’s event.

In the women’s event, Thakayta BEHS No 2 also emerged the champion with a score of 140-100 against Bahan BEHS No 1. Third place went to Mingala Taungnyunt BEHS No 3 and Yankin BEHS No 1.

A total of 18 student teams participated in the men’s event, while 12 teams competed in the women’s event.

Officials presented championship trophies and K100,000 each to the winning teams. They also awarded medals and K75,000 each to the second-prize winning teams, and medals and K50,000 each to the third-prize winning teams.

The tournament was jointly organised by the Myanmar Cricket Federation and the Yangon Region Department of Basic Education.

—Kyodo News

Mature Arsenal allows me to control games: Ozil

GERMAN midfielder Mesut Ozil attributes his excellent form this season to a greater maturity in his Arsenal side, a factor that has allowed him to control more games.

The 27-year-old playmaker has been one of the club’s stand-out performers and has registered 10 assists in the Premier League so far, making him Europe’s most creative player.

Often criticised for a lack of consistency since moving to the Emirates Stadium from Real Madrid in 2013 for a club record fee, Ozil has helped the Gunners to second in the league. The club is behind Manchester City only on goal difference.

“I think as a team you can see that we’ve become more mature. We’ve learnt from our mistakes and you can see on the pitch that we’re more steady,” Ozil told the club’s website (www.arsenal.com).

“We’ve had some setbacks this season but we’ve learnt from them and it shows on the pitch that my team mates are looking for me even more and I’m able to control the game better. You can see that we function well as a team,” the Germany international added.

Ozil, who has scored two goals in 16 appearances this season, said Arsenal’s maturity has been more evident since the turn of the year, with the club having picked up more points than any other side in England’s top flight in 2015.

“When you look at the past seasons, we’ve always been a technically-strong team but when we played against big teams, we dropped points,” Ozil said.

Ozil said the second half of last season and in this year so far, “We’ve proved ourselves against the biggest teams.”

“You learn from your mistakes and we can measure ourselves with the best. That distinguishes us as a team,” the World Cup winner added.

Arsenal travel to take on 13th placed West Bromwich Albion in theersionship on Saturday.—Reuters

France’s Man United striker Martial suffers foot injury

LONDON — France’s Manchester United striker Anthony Martial left Wembley Stadium on crutches with his left foot strapped after suffering an injury in the 2-0 friendly defeat by England on Tuesday.

France coach Didier Deschamps did not reveal the extent of the injury to 19-year-old Martial, who was substituted in the 67th minute, but played down concerns it was serious.

“He was in quite a bit of pain after the match,” said Deschamps. “He got a kick in the penalty area. I think it’s just a knock rather than anything else to the top of his foot.”

United have lost Anthony Valencia (foot) for five months while Michael Carrick (ankle) had to pull out of the France game. They visit Watford in the Premier League on Saturday.—Reuters