WIPING THE SLATE CLEAN
NEARLY 620 PEOPLE ERASED FROM BLACKLIST

**Thein Ko Lwin**

A TOTAL of 619 people were removed from the previous government’s blacklist yesterday, said Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe.

At the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday The Union minister confirmed that there were 248 locals and 371 foreigners who were erased from the blacklist, and that scrutinising is underway to remove further people.

The government gave priority to people connected with politics, it is reported.

U Maung Maung Wan, an 88-generation student living in the USA, was given the green light to return home to Myanmar after negotiations between the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Those accused of disrespecting the government and of committing malpractices in business can also be found on the blacklist.

"Those people blacklisted for malpractices in business and who are wanted by international police will not be removed from the list,” said the Union Minister.

The Ministry also urged Myanmar scholars who are living in foreign countries without permission from the government to fulfill the legal process requirements in order to come back home.

Currently, 15 ministries are working together to scrutinise the list of blacklisted people and to relax regulations.

The moves comes under the 100-day plan and by the permission of the State Counsellor.—GNLM

**Press release on concerning illegally construction of religious edifices in Hpakant**

(Following is an unofficial translation of the press release issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture)

NAY PYI TAW, Aug 3: Four religious buildings including a mosque were built on 0.50 acres of state-owned vacant land in Lebyn Village in Lonkhin Village-tract in Hpakant Township, Kachin State.

1. The land had been transferred to U Ye Maung (Islam) in 1985, by U Khin Maung, the then chairman of the people’s council, now deceased, to build a temporary home and the ownership of the plot as the land defaulted back to being state-owned upon his death.

2. When work on construction of the Uru Creek bridge started in September 2014, the construction site was fenced to prevent unauthorised access.

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Land works blamed for unusually strong flooding in Mandalay

Mandalay has seen unusual flooding this rainy season, blaming on landwork projects for the floods which have submerged some areas unusually.

Photo: Mandalay City Development Committee (News on Page 3)
Protocol to 1930 Forced Labour Convention 29 and Recommendation 203 put on record at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw


In his clarification, the Union minister sought the approval of the Parliament on a Protocol to the 1930 Forced Labour Convention 29 and Recommendation 203, saying that Myanmar ratified the 1930 Forced Labour Convention 29 in 1955 and needs to follow the implementation of the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

According to the Union minister, Recommendation 203 needs to be documented in Parliament and the ILO will be informed of completion of the documentation.

Next, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin elaborated on a message sent by the President to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regarding a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of an ASEAN-India Centre that needs to be signed by Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

Action to be taken against narcotic inspectors if found guilty of wrongdoing

IT has been announced that narcotic inspectors have to adhere strictly to the prescribed rules and regulations and action will be taken against them if they are found guilty of wrongdoing in their work, Deputy Minister Maj Gen Aung Soe told the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

In his response to a question raised by U Min Naung of Pinlebu Constituency the deputy minister said that the inspection of seized drugs is also being carried out at another chemical inspection site recommended by the director of the laboratory of the Criminal Investigation Department to ensure that no misconduct is occurring.

Likewise, Union Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt responded to a question raised by U Myint Lwin of Pazundaung Constituency, saying that courts allow the public to observe cases being heard except for some cases considered to be particularly sensitive.

Necessary measures will be taken if complaints arise over the banning of the public from the courtroom, he added.

During yesterday’s Pyithu Hluttaw session, Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung Constituency put forward a motion calling on the Union government to step up efforts to reduce crimes impeding the new government’s nation-building endeavors and efforts to ensure the rule of law to the parliament.—Myanmar News Agency

Rising waters force Monywa-based vessels to suspend services for a fourth time

VESSELS based in the Sagaing Region capital of Monywa, which ply on the waters of the Chindwin River, will suspend their services for a fourth time between August 2-4 as river levels rise above the mark of concern, according to the Monywa Private Vessels Plying Committee.

Passenger and freight vessels anchored in Monywa have suspended their services three times already in the less than a month: between July 11-13, 14-16 and from July 25 to August 1.

“Heads of the water vessel associations convened with government departments concerned on how to proceed amid the continual augmentation of water levels of the Chindwin River, for which it was decided to further suspend services out of safety concerns,” said U Thaung Nyunt, member of the aforementioned committee.

Water level measurements of the Chindwin recorded in the afternoon of August 2 revealed levels of 865cm in the northern Sagaing town of Hkamti. Following the river south: 2,878cm in Homalin, 1,380cm in Hpwaynghin, 1,390cm in Mawlaik, 1,716cm in Kalewa, 1,521cm in Mingin, 1,298cm in Kani and 1,061cm in Monywa.

“The waters levels [of the Chindwin] have receded below the “danger” mark in the northern towns of Hkamti and Homalin. However, levels could continue to rise over the next few days in Mingin, Kani and Monywa,” said U Myint Thein, assistant director of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department for Sagaing Region.

Monywa is home to over 500 river vessels, the majority of which are freight vessels - numbering nearly 400 hundred - with the remainder comprising passengers vessels. These vessels ply on the waters along the Chindwin to and from Monywa all the way to Hkamti in the north, servicing such towns as Kalewa, Mawlaik, Phuangbyin, Nantaw, Hsezin and Homalin in between.—Myanmar News Agency

Projects deemed beneficial to Rakhine State are to be implemented

PROJECTS with probability of success will be implemented, said Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win at a session of the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

In his response to a question over whether a plan to build dams for irrigation in Rakhine State, the deputy minister pledged to implement the works which are considered beneficial depending on budget allocations.

It is required we take a certain length of time looking at feasibility studies and EIA and SIA reports needed for the construction of sluice gates and dykes to protect against saltwater intrusion into 29 creeks in Pauktaw Township, added the deputy minister.

Next, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe responded to a question about PROJECTS with probability of success put forward a motion calling on the parliament on a Protocol to the 1930 Forced Labour Convention 29 and Recommendation 203 on Supplementary Measures for Suppression of Forced Labour during a session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

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In their citizenship scrutiny cards can be allowed in accordance with the rules and regulations.

Regarding a question about the ministry’s relaxation of restrictions under its 100-day plan, the Union minister said that people moving from one place to another in the country will be allowed to have household registration certificates representing their present townships and ID cards. They must hold the cards without going back to their native regions after meeting the requirements of a scrutinising process.

Of 210,869 Kokang people aged above 10, citizenship scrutiny cards have been issued to 92,744, associate citizen scrutiny cards to 104, naturalised citizen scrutiny cards to 354, national registration cards to 74,645 and national verification cards to 5,245 in accord with the 1982 Citizenship Law, added the Union minister.

During yesterday’s Amyotha Hluttaw session a motion calling for the implementation of a plan to deal with flooding and water shortages that occur yearly in delta region and the dredging of extinct creeks and rivers that benefit local people was submitted to the parliament.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win.

Union Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin.
Land works blamed for unusually strong flooding in Mandalay

Aung Thant Khaing

LOCAL people in Mandalay place the blame on land work projects for the floods which have inundated some areas this year.

“The water level of the Ayeyawady River is rising around Pyay, Shwetaung and Padaung townships the Bago Region Government has opened 24 shelters for people in low-lying areas. “Currently, the water level has reached six inches above the danger level but it may reach about two feet above the danger level over the next two days. People in low-lying areas are advised to move to the safe shelters,” said Director General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Har Yin Nung Ti Yan.

State Counsellor to be provided with tight security after reported ISIS threat

Theint Ko Lwin

MYANMAR will be tightening security in light of information that the State Counsellor and Union Minister for the President’s Office and Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was named as a target of the Islamic State (ISI), said an official from the President’s Office yesterday.

Deputy Director-General U Zaw Htay of the President’s Office told the Global New Light of Myanmar that the State Counsellor will be provided with tight security for her safety after the reported ISIS threat, expressing his view based on previous terrorist incidents that ISIS sent messages before attacks were carried out.

Workshop on the role of police in peace implementation organised


Chief of the MPF Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Itsumard, European Union representative Mr. Manuel De Rivera and ISDP Myanmar Manager Ms. Sophie Butcher spoke on the opening of the workshop which was attended by 33 senior police officers.

The workshop, set to last for three days till Friday, is aimed at focusing on a wide range of matters including comparative analysis of peace processes in other countries, the rule of law and building trust.

It was the second event after the ceasefire monitoring and implementation workshop was organised by the MPF and ISDP in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 March.

Press release on concerning illegally...

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Engineer U Sonny Thein, being an Islam, used the building as a prayer hall for his religion together with mosque trustees.

4. The buildings include one-storey building with zinc-sheet roof and concrete floor used for a temporary prayer edifice, one storey-building with two rooms, zinc-sheet roof, one two-storey building which was under construction and a temporary shelter with zinc-sheet roof. The four buildings were temporarily used for their religious purpose.

5. The buildings were discovered as religious edifices by the people only when the Uru Bridge was opened on 28-3-2016. Following complaints by Buddhist monks and residents, township authorities reported the case to higher authorities and took actions the case in accordance with the rules and regulations.

6. Regarding the case, local authorities comprising Hpakant Township Administrator held negotiations with two members of the Board of Trustees at 8.30 am on 25-6-2016 and at 2 pm on 28-6-2016, and made decision to take action in accordance with the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Act by the township land management and statistic department, and to bring the case to the court if persons concerned failed to follow the decision.

7. Regarding the decision, the Board of Trustees demolished three extended buildings on the aras of the 0.2 acre of the state-owned land under its own auspices but rejected to demolish the building on 0.30 acre of land according to their faith, claiming that the land it stood on had been privately donated. While legal action is being taken against the case, a mob destroyed the building 3.48 pm on 1-7-2016.

8. The dispute land plot which the mosque was located is currently set as a restricted area in accordance with section 133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

9. Regarding illegal construction of buildings by different religions, a total of 24 Buddhist monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area have been cleared as from 20-2-2014 according to the law. Local authorities are also scrutinizing further illegal monasteries and taking actions against them after seeking advices from the State Sangha Maha Nayaka.

10. Similarly, 173 illegal monasteries in Yangon Region, 86 illegal monasteries and other illegal religious edifices in regions and states are currently facing prosecution in accordance with the law.

11. Legal action will be taken against the individual(s) who facilitated illegally the construction of the four religious edifices in Lhebyin Village in Lonkhin village-tract in Hpakant Township, and who involved in the mob assault.—Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture

Union Attorney-General meets with US delegation

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Mr. Daniel L. Glaser, Assistant Secretary for the Department of the Treasury of the United States, and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives held discussions on anti-money laundering rules and regulations, cooperation with international organisations, the Office’s fight against money laundering criminal activities and further matters of cooperation.—Myanmar News Agency
Passionate peace supporters in Mandalay walk to hail Panglong Union Peace Conference—21st century

ORGANISED by local activists and passionate citizens in Mandalay, a mass walk to hail the Panglong Union Peace Conference—21st century was held at the Chanayethazan and Ma haungmyae Townships yesterday.

Marchers gathered at the University Ward in Ma haungmyae Township and other marchers gathered at the corner of 35 street and 73 street in Chanayethazan Township. The group walked from the corner of 35 street and 73 street to Mingalar Bridge shouting slogans such as “To find the Federal Union”, “National Reconciliation”, “To end the civil war”, and “Union Peace Conference—the 21st century must be successful”, “All ethnic groups in our country have suffered from civil conflict for more than 60 years. Only if the fighting ends can our country pursue national reconciliation. We have to establish a federal union through national reconciliation and we hope the 21st Century Panglong Conference will bring solutions. To support the event, we will hold processions for nine consecutive days while other organisations put on concerts and people make speeches” said one organiser Ko Thein Aung Myint. —Thiha Ko Ko

Anthrax risk in flooded areas

CARE is needed when feeding animals during times of flooding to prevent the outbreak of common diseases like anthrax, laryngitis and blackleg/ black quarter according to Vet Dr. Tin Tun. “We are conducting vaccination activities in townships in flooded areas. The animals are very likely to die if they suffer from Anthrax. Anthrax is a vector borne infection. So, people need to take care when feeding animals in flooded areas because the carrier can be hidden in grass.” The doctor said.—Zar Zar

Singapore Red Cross offers cash for disaster recovery

THE Singapore Red Cross Society has pledged to offer a US$36,000 contribution to the Myanmar Red Cross Society to accelerate the latter’s natural disaster management project in target areas, said Dr Tha Hla Shwe, president of the MRCS.

The MRCS is now implementing its plan in flood-affected areas especially in coastal regions with the assistance of international organisations, he added.

Under the project, storm proof houses including school buildings have been constructed in high-risk townships and villages. Areas of the country yearly experience a range of natural disasters including floods and landslides.

The Singapore Red Cross Society will also provide life-jackets and rescue boats for 150 volunteers under the MRCS, who are currently implementing the flood recovery programme in ten regions and states.

The SRCS has a plan to promote cooperation with the MRCS to provide first aid treatment and ambulance services along the Yangon-Mandalay highway through two camps opened at mile post Nos. 40 and 320.

Capability building training programmes will also be conducted by the SRCS for those volunteers to better help them deal with emergency cases.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society was established in 1937 to provide voluntary humanitarian services to people in need. MRCS humanitarian efforts normally cover not only health care services but also water and sanitation, shelter and livelihood support.—200

Crime NEWS

House fire causes death of two children

TWO children burned to death in a house fire in Kyaukse township. The fire broke out in the home of U Min Min Latt. The cause of the fire is not yet known. The fire was put out by the firemen with the help of neighbours. Police have taken action against U Min Min Latt.—Thet Maung

Fire outbreak burns two kids to death. PHOTO: Thet Maung

Jade confiscated in Tachilek

A COMBINED team comprising officers and staff from Tachilek police station confiscated a jade stone from a passenger on a bus at Mae Yang trading station, Tachilek town, Shan (East) on Tuesday. Acting on a tip off police searched the Doh Nyi Naung bus en route to Tachilek from Kengtung and discovered a jade stone weighing 36 kilograms.

The police handed over the jade and the vehicle to the Tachilek township customs department. The police have taken action against the driver.—Myint Moh (Tachilek)

Yaba seized in Kengtung

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Kengtung seized 100,000 yaba pills from a bus passenger at a checkpoint on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off police searched a vehicle belonging to the Shwe Kyar Phyu bus line being driven by Sai Hla Maung, 46, and discovered 100,000 yaba pills. All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— Ko Ye

Jade confiscated

Woman dies in landslide

A WOMAN died in a landslide caused by heavy rains in Thi Nam village on Haka-Gangaw road on Monday. According to a witness, Daw San Hlah, 70, was sleeping when the landslide occurred. A rescue team evacuated her family members.—District IPRD
UAB, ADB sign momentous agreement to support Myanmar trade

UNITED Amara Bank-UAB and the Asian Development Bank-ADB yesterday signed a trade finance agreement that will allow UAB to provide greater financial support for trade in Myanmar through guarantees by ADB of up to US$4 million a year.

The agreement has been extended as part of the ADB’s Trade Finance Program-TFP, which works with over 200 partners banks worldwide and will allow UAB to take advantage of ADB’s AAA credit rating.

This marks the first step in a long-term partnership for UAB and ADB to assist trade financing for local businesses in Myanmar and ultimately help boost Myanmar economy.

According to the terms of the agreement, ADB will provide what is known as a Trade Guarantee Facility to UAB to support international Letters of Credit issued by the bank.

“This means that when a Foreign Letter of Credit, or LC, is issued by UAB for one of its customers, and where the foreign party requires an additional guarantee or confirmation, ADB will provide that guarantee,” said the press release of the signing ceremony.

“Our partnership with ADB, one of the most respected financial institutions in the world, marks an important milestone for UAB in this respect and is an achievement that will greatly benefit the people of Myanmar,” said UAB CEO U Thein Lwin.

Since 2009, ADB’s TFP has supported more than 8,200 small- and medium-sized enterprises across the region, with about 11,800 transactions valued at over US$23.6 billion, in sectors ranging from commodities and capital goods to medical supplies and consumer goods.—GNLM

Third-party insurance premium rate to increase for cross border vehicles

THE rate levied on third-party insurance premiums will increase for cross border motor vehicles starting from this month, said an official from Myanmar Insurance.

Cross border vehicles have become a huge market in the country. Third-party insurance is essential for locals living on the border areas where the industry is located. This increased premium rate has already been set from this month, he added.

The owners of motor vehicles will have to pay K10,000 more than the previous fee whereas motorcyclists will pay K10,000 from K1,000 to K2,000 depending on the passengers on board.

The compensation for those who suffer from accidents will double. Currently, insurance premium rates vary based on the size of the vehicle: heavy vehicles, middle-sized vehicles and family used small vehicles.—209

Thai entrepreneurs to invest in cement and power plants

THAI entrepreneurs are gearing up to invest in cement and power plants in 2017 according to an official from the Myanmar-Thai Cultural and Economic Cooperation Association.

About ten Thai business people will begin implementing these enterprises in mid-2017, it is reported. They have plans to make long-term investments.—209

Macadamia seeds to penetrate international market

LOCAL, Macadamia seeds used in the manufacturing of chocolate are being planted to penetrate the international market, it has been learned from macadamia growers.

Currently, Macadamia seeds are being exported to China. Macadamia growers are now gearing up to extend the market to international countries.

Macadamia is being experimentally cultivated with the technical assistance of Chinese experts.

The department of Agriculture has been distributing seedlings free of charge, said a macadamia farmer from YeOo village, Nawngkhio Township, Shan State.

Seedlings are imported from China and the nuts are exported back. About 60 tonnes of macadamia nuts are yearly exported to China. The prevailing local market price for macadamia nuts is K3,500 to K4,000 per kilogram and K3.5 million per tonne.—200

Myanmar ranked 14th in World Investment Report

MYANMAR has been ranked in 14th place in World Investment Report issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Myanmar is listed among 15 countries on the World Investment Report which names countries that will see the largest investment within three years. The USA, China and India are at the top respectively up to 2018, according to the report. Japan is listed in sixth place.

Among South East Asian countries, Indonesia is ranked ninth, Malaysia tenth and The Philippines eleventh. Myanmar is ranked at fourteenth and Vietnam fifteenth.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) from the 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 fiscal years amounted to over US$ 2.7 billion. FDI has mostly been made in petrol and natural gas and the energy and manufacturing sectors it has been learned from the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).—200

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Thais to deploy 200,000 police for referendum but trouble seen unlikely

BANGKOK — Thai authorities will deploy about 200,000 police for a referendum on a contentious new constitution on Sunday but violence is seen as unlikely, police and the government said on Wednesday, despite widespread opposition to the charter.

In the vote, the country will decide on whether to accept the military’s constitution in the biggest test of public opinion since the generals seized power in May 2014, with prospects for an election next year possibly in the balance.

Authorities have arrested and detained dozens of activists and politicians in the run-up to the referendum, some for trying to hand out leaflets urging people to vote ‘no’.

The military said the constitution will usher in stable, clean politics and heal more than a decade of bitter political division.

Critics say the charter is designed to cement the military’s role in civilian politics and constrain the populist political forces that have arisen over the past 15 years to challenge the military and royalist establishment.

“From intelligence received, nothing points to any likelihood of violence on referendum day,” Colonel Peerawat Saengthong, a spokesman for the Internal Security Operations Command, a military unit dealing with national security, told reporters.

Critics of the proposed constitution have held small, symbolic protests against it but they have been muted, largely because of a law that carries a 10-year jail term for campaigning in connection with the referendum.

Politicians from across the political divide, including former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, whose government was ousted in 2014, and a top rival, another former premier, Abhisit Vejjajiva, have criticised the constitution as undemocratic.

A boost for it would boost the government’s legitimacy while a vote against would raise questions about a promised general election next year, even though the government has said polls will go ahead no matter what.

Opposition groups, including the anti-government United Front For Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), known as the “red shirt” group, have said they will not disrupt the vote.

“We have no activities planned but will monitor the election carefully,” said Thanawat Wichaidit, a UDD spokesman.

The junta, formally known as the National Council for Peace and Order, has banned criticism of the constitution and authorities have detained and charged dozens of people who have spoken against it, including politicians and student activists.

About 200,000 police will be deployed at polling stations around the country, police said.

“Overall, everything is peaceful,” said Colonel Winthai Suvaree, a junta spokesman.

“If anything illegal happens, authorities are ready for action.”

— Reuters

Malaysian democracy group plans 1MDB protest rally

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian democracy group Bersih plans a protest rally to demand greater government accountability and action to tackle a multi-billion-dollar scandal at state fund 1MDB, an official of the group said on Wednesday.

The US Justice Department filed civil lawsuits last month alleging that more than $3.5 billion was misappropriated from state fund 1MDB, founded by Prime Minister Najib Razak and whose advisory council he chaired until recently. Bersih said it planned a roadshow and several protests ahead of the street demonstration, whose timing it did not reveal. “Not protesting is not an option,” Bersih chairwoman Maria Chin told reporters, adding that the group aimed to gather more diverse groups and stakeholders for the rally, although she did not identify them. “Awareness of 1MDB at the ground level is not yet there, we need to raise the level of anger and awareness,” she added.

More than 200,000 people turned out in the Malaysian capital last August for a similar rally organised by Bersih, demanding the resignation of Najib. Opponents of Bersih, which draws the bulk of its support from Malaysia’s ethnic Chinese minority, said at the time that the protest aimed to challenge the political power of ethnic majority Malays.

— Reuters

Philippine police kill six men as drug war shifts to government officials

MANILA — Philippine police commandos killed six bodyguards on Wednesday for a town mayor who had turned himself in over links to the illegal drug trade, as President Rodrigo Duterte’s anti-drug war shifted from street peddlers to officials.

Close to 400 people have been killed in police operations against illegal drugs since Duterte was sworn in as president on June 30. Media and rights groups have put the figure almost twice as high at 770, including more than 200 killed by vigilante groups.

The number of drug-related killings has alarmed human rights groups, who have called on the United Nations to condemn the rise in extrajudicial killings in the Philippines. The Philippine Senate is to hold a legislative inquiry.

National police spokesman Dionardo Carlos told reporters there had been a gunbattle between the police and bodyguards working for Rolando Espinosa after police went to his home in Leyte island in the central Philippines earlier on Wednesday.

Espinosa, mayor of Albuera town, turned himself in to the national police chief on Tuesday after Duterte asked him and his son, Kerwin, to surrender over their involvement in the drug trade, warning they would be killed if they resisted arrest.

Espinosa has publicly denied any part in the drug trade but said his son was peddling “shabu” (methamphetamine), which he gets from a jailed Chinese drug trader. — Reuters
TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reshuffled his Cabinet on Wednesday, appointing a new defence minister with a history of hawkish views in the third reshuffle since he returned as premier in December 2012.

In a renewed bid to drive his “Abenomics” economic policy package, Abe has replaced Gen Nakatani as defence minister. Inada is known for her rapport with Abe on security and foreign policy and has been outspoken on controversial historical issues involving Asian neighbours.

Inada has regularly visited Yasukuni Shrine, a Shinto shrine in Tokyo seen by China and South Korea as a symbol of Japan’s past militarism, including on last year’s anniversary of the end of WWII.

Asked after her appointment Wednesday if she will do so again this 15 August, the 71st anniversary of Japan’s surrender, Inada told reporters the Yasukuni issue is “a matter of the heart,” and “I shouldn’t say whether or not I should go.”

The reshuffled Cabinet was inaugurated with an at-testation ceremony at the Imperial Palace in the morning.

Abe has said the primary purpose of the reshuffle is to “speed up” the realization of the “Abenomics” economic policy package of monetary easing, large-scale fiscal spending and structural reforms.

But despite Abe’s touting of achievements under Abenomics, the Japanese economy has lacked the strength to pull out of deflation and now faces concerns over a slowdown in China and other emerging economies, as well as uncertainty stemming from Britain’s decision to withdraw from the European Union.

The US Strategic Command spokesman condemned the launch, and said it would “only increase the international community’s resolve to counter” North Korea’s actions.

Less than 24 hours after the missile launch, India’s prime minister Narendra Modi had detected two missiles, one of which it said exploded immediately after launch.

The missile that landed in the Sea of Japan was launched at about 7:50 am Seoul time (2250 GMT Tuesday) from a region in South Hwanghae province to the southwest of North Korea’s capital, Pyongyang.

South Korea’s Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. The launch showed North Korea’s ambition to “directly and broadly attack neighbouring countries and target several places in the Republic of Korea such as ports and airfields”, the South Korean office said, referring to South Korea by its official title.

The missile appeared to be a Rodong-type medium-range missile that flew about 1,000 km (620 miles), it said.—Reuters
Learn to accept failure with good grace

Kyaw Thura

At a time when the world has become more competitive and complex, the ability to accept failure as a normal course of life is the essence of social interaction. We have all found it true from our personal experience that a mix of success and failure is human beings what water is to fish. We all go through life by trial and error. Despite the universality of failure, we are inclined to put the blame on other people or external factors when faced with hardship either because of our own actions or those of others. In other words, we have a tendency to hide our failure rather than admit it. It is worth noting that not all failures have negative impacts on the rest of our lives as long as we learn to accept failures and draw lessons from them. If we succeed in developing that attitude, we will be able to use failure as a vehicle that can take us closer to success.

We need to learn to accept failure with good grace. The most inspirational stories about the habits of successful people tell us that they all drew their personal successes from their own failures. Since failure is an unavoidable part of life, our responsibility is to be wise and smart enough to reinvent ourselves and uncover our talent to toll in our daily competitive society.

The Root Cause of the Traffic Jams in Yangon

Khin Maung Myint

The traffic jams in Yangon haven’t eased noticeably even with the constructions of the overpasses or flyovers along the arterial roads at busy road junctions. Unlike in cities such as Tokyo or Bangkok, where traffic jams are notorious, Yangon traffic jams occur not only on the main roads, but also on the streets in the residential wards too. Such conditions are causing nuisances, not only to the motorists, but also to the residents of the wards.

The car density (the ratio of the number of cars to the population) in Tokyo and Bangkok are very much higher compared to that of Yangon. No wonder they have traffic jams. Although there may be traffic jams in Bangkok or Tokyo, the motorists and the pedestrians alike are well disciplined. However, in Yangon, with far lesser car density, traffic jams are happening because the motorists as well as the pedestrians lack discipline and etiquette. Most motorists do not observe the traffic rules or the driving etiquettes. They have no regards towards the pedestrians and the latter do not observe the rules, which they should obey.

Most pedestrians are reluctant to use the zebra crossings or the overhead passes to cross the main roads. These jaywalkers are also responsible for slowing down the traffic flow. Jaywalking could cause accidents, which would bring the traffic to a temporary standstill. On the other hand, some motorists, especially the bus drivers, do not care to give priority to the pedestrians using the zebra crossings. I had seen some motorists purposely raised their speeds at such places and would angrily honk the horn to indicate their dissatisfaction at the pedestrians. Honking the horn is considered as swearing in many countries. Such activities made the traffic congestion situations look worse than they actually are.

A few years back, I had contributed some articles in which I suggested some ways and means to solve the traffic congestion problems. My suggestions included: curbing of car imports, levying high amount of tolls from cars entering the busy downtown areas during the rush hours, construction of elevated motorways, introduction of rapid transit systems (MRTS), riverine ferry services, proper town planning and to insist inclusion of adequate parking spaces in granting building construction permits, etc.

Having said these, I would like to analyze what cause the traffic congestions of such mammoth proportions in Yangon. My perception is: the following are the most salient factors that caused the traffic jams:-

1. Uncontrolled importing or manufacturing of cars in the last few decades.
2. No strict control on illegal imports of cars.
3. Lack of proper upgrading of the road systems.
4. Absence of efficient mass rapid transit systems (MRTS).
5. Lack of adequate public parking spaces, which lead to undisciplined parkings along the roads and streets.

Traffic congestion in Yangon are occurring due to the undisciplined parking of cars and lack of adequate parking spaces. Almost everywhere in the crowded downtown areas and the residential wards in the nearby townships, there are cars parked on both sides of the roads or streets at all times of the day. In some places they are even double or triple parked. These caused the motorists to become too narrow, forcing the traffic to meet head-on and come to a standstill. Until and unless one side relented and backed down to give way to the cars coming from the opposite direction, that street would be shut down. Thus, I deemed that the lack of adequate parking spaces is the root cause of the traffic jams in Yangon.

To further prove my statement, I would like to describe the situations in the Kyaukmayang ward, where I live. The Banyadala Road is the arterial road that runs through the busiest sector of Kyaukmayang. It is a six lane road and was designated as a “NO PARKING ROAD”, and signs indicating to that fact are posted at many places along it. However, if one happens to be passing through this area would notice the endless lines of cars parked on both sides of the road running two lanes, one on each side, unusable for the traffic. In some places where the cars are double parked, the bottlenecks are formed. These situations impede the traffic flow, resulting in traffic snarl-ups. Such scenes are happening almost every day.

Most of the cars parked along the roads and streets belong to the residents of the nearby buildings. These are clearly the results of lack of provisions for adequate parking lots incorporated in their buildings. In practice, the authorities must see to it that adequate parking spaces are available for all the residents before granting building permits. The scarcity of parking places in the wards led to quarrels that sometimes led to blows and even to murder in one extreme case. In most cities in the neighbouring countries, I had never seen cars parked on the roadsides, during the day or overnight, as in Yangon.

I noticed that traffic jams in Bangkok were caused when the cars were caught up in the red traffic light at the road intersections or when there were accidents. However, in Yangon the traffic snarl-ups are not in the vicinity of the traffic lights, but mostly at the bus stops. As most of the outermost lanes and sometimes the one next to it are occupied by parked cars, there remains only one free lane. Some undisciplined bus drivers would stop on that last remaining free lane to pick up passengers and thus blocked the traffic. Swearing and honking of horns would ensue, sometimes leading to blows.

I strongly support the Yangon regional government’s decisions to limit the number of floors in a building to be compliant with the availability of the parking spaces. As for the buildings already constructed without parking lots, necessary parking arrangements, such as the automated parking systems or the multi-story parking garages should be considered. If the parking problems couldn’t be tackled, the traffic congestions wouldn’t be solved. If the number of parking spaces are not enough for all the residents, the cars would have to be parked by the road sides, which would definitely cause road congestions. Thus it is a wise and reasonable decision, so I hope the authorities would stand their grounds and wouldn’t back down.

Some property developers are complaining that the halting of the constructions for reassessments are costing them billions of Kyats. In my opinion, they should bear the consequences of the malpractices to which they are party to. They had collaborated with the: 1. Unscrupulous officials who had granted them permission to construct the controversial buildings without proper assessments of the building plans in the first place. Such undertakings are tantamount to malpractice. In fact, even disciplinary actions should be taken and levied fines for their misconducts.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Defence Services C-in-C receives outgoing Norwegian ambassador

COMMANDEER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Ann Ollesstad who has completed her tour of duty, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they held discussions on Norway’s participation in peace process and development in Myanmar and promotion of relations and cooperation of two armed forces of the two countries. Also present were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-er-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win.— Myanmar News Agency

Shan State receives K100 million for disaster preparedness

WHILE the country is getting close to an anniversary of last year’s worst nationwide flood, KBZ’s Brighter Myanmar Future foundation-BFM has speeded up its efforts for establishing disaster preparedness and response fund in regions and states.

Following the establishment of such a fund in nine regions and states in June and July, the philanthropic foundation provides the K100 million-fund to Shan State government yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Minister of Shan State Dr Lin Htut expressed thanks to the foundation’s contribution to the state’s disaster preparedness ef-forts.

The move is aimed at carry-ing out disaster preparedness and quickly responding to disasters, said U Khin Aung, of the BFM at the ceremony to hand over the cash to the government through the chief minister in progress. PHOTO: THURA LIWN (Eco)

The ceremony to hand over the cash to the government through the chief minister will be duly evaluated by the readers. Never mind!

Truly
Hein Htet
A Freelance Writer

Authorities end collection of entrance fees from tourists

AUTHORITIES have stopped collecting entrance fees from tourists visiting Papan Village located in Demawso Township in Kayah State to observe the traditions and culture of Paduang nationals, according to tour operators in Loikaw zone.

In the past a foreign visi-tor needs to pay K5,000 before entering the village. All income from this project went to the village’s development funds.

Flocks of international vis-itors frequently visit the village through southern Shan State, a majority of whom come from either France or Thailand.

Tourist arrivals in the area are likely to rise after the wet season, tour operators say.

Situated in the eastern part of the country, Kayah State is bound on the north by Shan State, on the east by Thailand, and on the south and west by Kayin State.—200

People’s Forum

Letter to the Editor

GNLM should frequently feature the articles of public voices, con-structive criticism on the demeanor of the incumbent government, cultures of national races in Myanmar, significant Myanmar’s char-itable spirit and Myanmar history.

I assume that the great impediment known as unfair censorship on press media in Myanmar is totally abolished. As a consequence, both local readers and foreigners alike have now turned their eyes to read the contents of GNLM which is one of the state-run dailies in Myanmar.

All the readers are thankful to the goodwill of the contributors and freelance writers who share their knowledge, opinions, ideas, perceptions and experiences of their respective fields. This is the era for describing what public see and face in their daily life in the dailies, journals and in tabloids so that the incumbent government would be able to manage public affairs effectively, correctly and flawlessly. I am glad that the number of writers who contribute to the GNLM is increasing for the analysis and opinion columns.

Among the writers, some use straight forward language and some use bombastic language. It does not really matter whatever pattern they use to write in sharing their knowledge, information, advice and experiences to their beloved readers. I do believe that the writers do not need to display their good qualities boastfully or to add their personal affairs or positions ( ex-position in the public service ). Being a regular reader of the GNLM, I notice that, in the opinion column, one of the writers always describes his past public service position, his autobiography and even about his son in the articles. He always writes that he was a very efficient public official in the past in his articles. This sort of personal embellishment in the articles wastes the newsprint and wastes the time of the readers indeed. Readers do not want to read about his personal affairs or social status but they want to read his opinion and knowledge about a particular theme or message. Frankly speaking, I understand that a writer should not blow his or her own trumpet in his or her articles. The writers should avoid putting their personal affairs or personali-ties in their articles to save the page or column of the newspaper and respect the attention of the regular readers or browsers. Dear chief editor, I request that such personal boastful expressions should be edited or deleted. The writers’ talent and ability will be duly evaluated by the readers. Never mind!

The writers’ talent and ability will be duly evaluated by the readers. Never mind!

Truly
Hein Htet
A Freelance Writer

POEM:

Human Resources

Human resources are indeed ‘renewable’, just like all ‘living’ resources, it’s natural for all the species to multiply and survive to keep good Earth resplendent and alive. But only human resources are amenable to intellectual development and desirable of improving the individual and society for a better life, present and for posterity.

Nevertheless, human beings must need be carefully nurtured from their early infancy to acquire knowledge and skills necessary by all of them throughout their life to learn and build community, society and Nation.

Nevertheless, perhaps the way to develop human resources for the nation to keep up with ‘achievers’ of the advanced countries is by nurturing and providing opportunities to the brightest of the cohorts of the youth to acquire world class education forsooth, for them to aim for the stars and hold high the banner of Myanmar Nation to the sky.

Lokethar
Republican rift widens as Trump declines to endorse Ryan, McCain

WASHINGTON — US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump ratcheted up tensions in his party on Tuesday by denying two leading figures, House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator John McCain, support in their re-election bids.

Trump told The Washington Post in an interview that he could endorse neither Ryan, the top US elected Republican, nor McCain, a US senator from Arizona and a former Republican presidential nominee, as they face challenges in their states’ primary contests ahead of the 8 November general election.

Both Ryan and McCain had criticised Trump’s feud with the family of Army Captain Humayun Khan, who died in the line of duty in Iraq in 2004 and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for bravery after his death.

“The discord comes just two weeks after the Republican National Convention in Cleveland that formally nominated Trump for president.

“It is the latest rift in a party already frayed by internal dissent over its standard bearer, seen in stark relief at the convention where McCain was among high-level party members who essentially snubbed Trump by choosing not to attend. Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee, and former presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush also did not attend the convention.

“Trump has had a running dispute with Khizr and Ghazala Khan since they took the stage at last week’s Democratic convention to cite their son’s sacrifice and criticise Trump’s proposed ban on Muslims entering the United States.

“The uproar has led many Republicans to distances themselves from Trump and voice support for the Khan family.

“Trump, mirroring the language Ryan used about supporting the nominee before his eventual endorsement, told the newspaper he was “not quite there yet” on endorsing Ryan in next Tuesday’s Wisconsin primary, and that he had “never been there” with McCain, who will be on the ballot in primary elections in Arizona later this month.

“McAvennie had a “very friendly” meeting with Trump’s vice presidential running mate, Mike Pence, on Tuesday in Arizona, where Pence was visiting, a McCain spokesperson said.

“Trump said Ryan had said he couldn’t vote for him, but that as of now he is only “giving it very serious consideration.”

“Ryan’s campaign office quickly responded that “neither Speaker Ryan nor anyone on his team has ever asked for Donald Trump’s endorsement.”

“And we are confident in a victory next week regardless,” campaign spokesman Zack Rodak said in a statement.

“Ryan is favoured to win against primary challenger Paul Nehlen, who Trump praised as running “a very good campaign.”

“In a mid-July survey by Harper Polling, Ryan was ahead of Nehlen by nearly 50 points.

“Trump, a former reality TV star, has troubled many in the Republican establishment with his off-the-cuff, often insulting style, and controversial policies, including the proposed ban on Muslims and his plan to build a wall along the Mexican border to keep out illegal immigrants.

“President Barack Obama on Tuesday blasted Trump as unfit to be president and questioned why any Republican would support the New York businessman, who is seeking his first public office.

“The question I think that they have to ask themselves is, if you are going to have to say in very strong terms that what he has said is unacceptable: Why are you still endorsing him?” Obama, a Democrat, said at a White House news conference with Singapore’s prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong.

“The chorus of complaints against Trump grew on Tuesday.

“Representative Richard Hanna of New York became the first Republican in Congress to endorse Democratic nominee Hillary, although several other Republicans in Congress have said they will not support Trump.

“Hanna, who is retiring from the House of Representatives rather than seek re-election, said his decision was prompted by Trump’s attacks on the Khan family. He called Trump “deeply flawed in endless ways,” “unrepentant” and “self-absorbed.”

“New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, a Trump ally once viewed by Trump as a potential running mate, called criticisms of the Khan family “inappropriate.”

“Trump’s son Eric told CBS News on Tuesday that his father’s comments about the Khans have been “shaken hugely out of proportion.”

“Trump has fallen behind Clinton in opinion polls made public since the parties held their nominating conventions last month.

“Clinton extended her lead over Trump to 8 percentage points, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday, from 6 points on Friday. About 43 per cent of likely voters favor Clinton, 35 per cent favor Trump, and 9 per cent picked “other.”

“Trump also has trailed Clinton in fundraising. Clinton reported raising nearly $90 million in July for her campaign and the Democratic Party, with more than half the donations coming from new donors.

“Interviewed on the Fox Business television network, Trump brushed off billionaire investor Warren Buffett’s blistering critique of his business acumen.

“Buffett, chairman and chief executive officer of Berkshire Hathaway Inc, scorned Trump’s 1995 move to list Trump hotels and casino resorts on the New York Stock Exchange, saying the business lost money for the next decade and that a monkey would have outperformed Trump’s company.”

Sri Lanka to increase overflight fees to boost annual revenues

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka is planning to revise its overflight fees for aircraft crossing the airspace of the country, which will boost annual revenues by about 50 per cent to 10 million US dollars, Civil Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, quoted in a local media report, said here on Wednesday.

Presently, Sri Lanka charges a fee based on the weight for aircraft using its airspace, but under the revised system, both weight and distance will be used to charge fees, the minister said. Director General of Civil Aviation H M C Nimal Siripala de Silva said that over the last few years long distance flights from the Middle East to the Far East had expanded rapidly, increasing overflight over the island.

Maioist chief Prachanda elected as Nepal prime minister

KATHMANDU — Nepal’s parliament elected former Maoist rebel chief Prachanda, who led a decade-long insurgency that toppled a Hindu monarchy, as prime minister on Wednesday after predecessor K.P. Oli resigned rather than face defeat in a vote of no confidence.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal, 61, who still uses a nom de guerre that means “Fierce”, won 363 votes out of the 573 cast in the 595-member parliament, Speaker Omast Gharti said. He becomes the 24th prime minister in 26 years since the Himalayan nation adopted multi-party democracy in 1990 and the eighth since the 239-year-old monarchy was abolished eight years ago.

Emirates Airline flight crash-lands at Dubai airport — government

DUBAI — An Emirates Airline flight coming from India crash-landed at Dubai International Airport on Wednesday, the Dubai government media office said on its official Twitter account, adding that there were no reported casualties yet.

Pictures purportedly showing the incident posted on social media showed a thick black plume of smoke rising from the top of a burning plane.

The Twitter account of live air traffic monitor Flightradar 24 said takeoffs and landings at Dubai had been suspended because of the incident, adding that the plane involved was a Boeing 777-300 A6-EMW. The flight involved was EK521 coming from Thiruvan
tyampuram, it said.

Indian minister visits Saudi to repatriate 10,000 stranded workers

JEDDAH — A junior Indian foreign minister arrived in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday on a mission to bring home 10,000 laid off Indian workers stranded in the kingdom without enough money for food or plane tickets.

Vijay Kumar Singh tweeted that he had arrived in the Western city of Jeddah and begun meeting with the Indian consulate there, adding the hashtag “#NofIndianLeftBehind”.

A sharp drop in oil prices has led to a spending slowdown in Saudi Arabia, the world’s top exporter, and some construction firms that employ South Asian workers have fired their staff.

Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said on Saturday that the employers had not paid the workers’ wages and that they now faced a food crisis.

Cambodia to spend $4 mln USD for high school exam

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia will spend around 4 million US dollars for organising the high school graduation exam on 22 and 23 August, which will see 93,752 students sitting for the test, Education Minister Hang Choun Narom said on Wednesday.

“We have planned to spend about 4 million US dollars for the annual exam,” he said in a press conference.

He said that some 13,000 invigilators and a few thousands of anti-corruption officials and volunteers will be deployed at all 157 exam centres with 3,781 rooms across the country to monitor the exam process.

Crib sheets, mobile phones, smart phones, and other electronic devices will not be allowed to be taken into the test rooms, the minister said, adding that applicants will be automatically failed if he/she is caught cheating.
Germany hands ex-Yugoslav spies life sentences for dissident murder

MUNICH — A German court sentenced two former Yugoslav intelligence chiefs to life in prison on Wednesday for masterminding the murder of a Yugoslav dissident in the southern German state of Bavaria more than three decades ago.

Croat Josip Perkovic, 71, and Zdravko Mustac, 74, top officials in the communist-era Yugoslav secret service, were found guilty of complicity in the murder of Stejpan Durekovic, also a Croat, who was found dead of gunshot wounds and head injuries in a garage in the town of Wolfratshausen in 1983.

Croatia extradited the two men in 2014, under pressure from Germany.

Prosecutors alleged that Durekovic’s murder was ordered by a leading Yugoslav politician. Durekovic’s dissident activities had appeared to be the motive for his murder, but the politician actually wanted to prevent Durekovic from disclosing his son’s illegal business dealings in the state-owned petrol company INA, according to the indictment.

Durekovic once ran the INA before leaving for the West.

Another man, the owner of the garage who had managed to win Durekovic’s confidence, was sentenced to life imprisonment in Germany in 2008 for his part in the murder. At the time, the court established that 22 Croats were murdered in West Germany, at the behest of the Yugoslav leadership.—Reuters

Libya car bomb targets security forces in Benghazi, kills 22

BENGHAZI (Libya) — A car bomb targeting security forces in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi killed at least 22 people and wounded 20 on Tuesday, a commander of the forces and medical officials said.

The blast occurred in a residential area in the Gwarshe district, the scene of fighting between security forces loyal to Libya’s eastern government and an alliance of Islamists and other opponents.

The alliance, the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, said it had carried out the attack, according to a statement posted on media sites linked to the group. It claimed that 28 people were killed and as many as 70 wounded.

Benghazi has been plagued by violence since Libyan National Army (LNA) commander Khalifa Haftar launched a military campaign against the Shura Council two years ago. His forces have advanced in several areas in recent months, but still have not gained full control of Benghazi.

It was the fourth vehicle bombing in the city in a week, though the toll from Tuesday’s blast was far higher than in previous attacks.

The attack targeted a gathering of the special forces unit of the LNA, said Fadel al-Hassi, another LNA commander.

A Reuters witness said the powerful explosion reduced a three-story building to rubble, and that 10 vehicles, some of them armoured, had been destroyed. Four field commanders were reported among the dead and some soldiers’ bodies were trapped under the rubble.

Haftar’s forces are allied to a government that has been based in eastern Libya since 2014, when armed groups set up a rival administration in the capital, Tripoli.

A United Nations-backed government moved into Tripoli earlier this year, but Haftar and the eastern government have so far rejected it.

Tuesday’s attack came a day after Haftar’s forces claimed control of a strategic entry point to Gwarshe that had long been held by Ansar al-Sharia, a group linked to al-Qaeda that is part of the Shura Council.

Islamic State also has a presence in the area, and last week claimed another suicide attack in Gwarshe that left at least three members of the security forces dead and 25 wounded.

President Barack Obama said on Tuesday it is in the United States’ national security interest to support the Tripoli-based government’s fight against Islamic State, a day after his administration said it launched air strikes there.

In recent days, air force jets allied to the LNA have been on the offensive in Derna, about 250 km (155 miles) east of Benghazi, conducting strikes against a separate Shura Council coalition that is active in the city.—Reuters

Italian police arrest Syrian suspected of trying to join militants

ROME — Italian police arrested a Syrian man in the northern city of Genoa on Wednesday on suspicion he was planning to travel to his home country to join Islamist militants.

Police said in a statement their anti-terrorism unit had arrested an unemployed man, 23, who they said was planning to return to Syria to join the rebel group Nusra Front. He was arrested on suspicion of supporting international terrorism.

The Syrian Islamist rebel group, which emerged at the start of the Syrian conflict, rebranded itself last week as Jabhat Fatah al-Sham and cut ties with international jihadist network al-Qaeda.

Nusra Front and Islamic State are enemies in Syria, but both were excluded from a US- and Russian-backed ceasefire this year.

Police said they were investigating the arrested man’s relationship with other foreigners in the Genoa area to determine whether they were trying to recruit fighters.

They said there was no indication that attacks in Italy were being planned.

On Tuesday, Interior Minister Angelino Alfano said Italy had expelled a 26-year-old Pakistani man who they said supported Islamic State and was planning to go to Syria to join Islamist militants.—Reuters

Turkish police raid science council, many detained, in post-coup purge -NTV

ISTANBUL — Turkish police raided the offices of the national science research council on Wednesday, broadcaster NTV said, widening an investigation into followers of the US-based cleric suspected of masterminding last month’s coup attempt.

Many people were detained in the raid on the offices of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (Tubitak) in the northwestern province of Kocaeli, NTV said, without giving details.

Tubitak funds science research projects in universities and the private sector and employs more than 1,500 researchers, according to its website.

More than 60,000 people in the military, judiciary, civil service and education have been detained, suspended or placed under investigation following the 15 July coup attempt, prompting fears that President Tayyip Erdogan is using the events to crack down on dissent.

Turkey’s government says the coup attempt was orchestrated by followers of Fethullah Gulen, a Muslim cleric who has lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999. Gulen denies the charge and has condemned the coup.

More than 230 people, including coup plotters, died and thousands were wounded as mutinous soldiers commanded fighter jets, helicopters and tanks in the failed attempt to topple the government.—Reuters
ATHENS — The European Union needs to come up with an alternative plan for tackling migration after Turkey threatened to back out of an accord to help stem the influx of migrants to Europe, Greece’s migration minister told German daily Bild.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said over the weekend that Ankara would back out of the deal if Europe did not deliver promised travel visas for Turks in return. The 28-nation EU is dependent on Ankara to enforce the deal which has sharply cut the number of refugees and migrants leaving Turkish shores for Greece.

The White House confirmed that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was going to visit London, though it did not say when.

British police said they would increase security measures after an armed police officer was shot and wounded in the head in northwest London.

Greece struggles to cope with arrival of refugees and migrants leaving Turkish shores for Europe. Grappling with the influx, Greek authorities promised visa-free travel for Turks in return. But some countries, including Hungary and Slovakia, have objected to proposed EU quota for resettling migrants across the bloc.

“There are the ones who will run towards the danger,” said Hogan-Howe.

The additional armed officers will be visible to the public and will work across London, both on foot and in vehicles.

London was hit by coordinated suicide bombings on 7 July, 2005, when four Islamist extremists targeted three underground trains and one bus, killing 52 people.

Since then, numerous plots have been foiled and there have been smaller-scale attacks, such as the killing of an off-duty soldier on a street in south London by two extremists in May 2013.

Hindu Families will offer Waco robes & soon to the state Sangha Mahanayaka Sayadaws

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh with the Hindu Families has organized to offer “Soon” & Waso Robes to Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh (H.Q.) No-227/229, 37th Street, Yangon

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh (H.Q.)

Agent for: MS Evergreen Shipping Line

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY. NO( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Agent for: MS Hanjin Shipping Lines

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SENTOSA STAR VOY NO( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Agent for: MS BLPL Shipping Line

Phone No: 2301185
California wildfires likely to worsen as season peaks — forecaster

CALIFORNIA — Drought conditions in California risk stoking new and ongoing wildfires as the season enters its peak, forecasters said on Wednesday after several blazes already killed at least six people and charred thousands of acres so far this year.

The warning came as 5,500 firefighters battled a wildfire near the Big Sur coast, a well-known tourist destination.

Dubbed the Soberanes Fire, it has scorched some 44,000 acres (17,800 hectares) and dozens of homes in the area, fire officials said.

Little rain and the strong, dry Santa Ana winds will likely stoke more wildfires as the peak of the wildfire season begins, AccuWeather said.

The wildfire season officially begins in May and stretches into September.

“It’s bad now and it’s only going to get worse,” long-range forecaster Paul Pastelok said.

The Soberanes Fire began on 22 July and was sparked by an illegal, unattended camp fire in a section in Garrapata State Park that was closed to camping, the US Forest Service said on Tuesday. No arrests have been made, the service said.

Fire personnel battling the blaze have been able to draw containment lines — a measure of how much of its perimeter has been cleared by fire crews of unburned vegetation around only 25 per cent of the wildfire so far. A bulldozer operator hired by property owners to help the Soberanes blaze died last week when his vehicle rolled over.

It was the second wildfire-related death in California in a week, another person having been found dead in his car in the path of the Sand Fire in Los Angeles County. Four people were killed in other blazes in June.

The fire threat has prompted the closure of several popular California campgrounds and recreation areas along the northern end of the Big Sur coastline, including Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.

Another fire that broke out on Saturday in grass and brush about 30 miles northeast of Fresno in central California, has since charred about 2,185 acres and is threatening 400 structures, prompting evacuations in the area, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

Nine structures, including four homes, have been destroyed, fire officials said.

On Tuesday evening, the so-called Goose Fire was listed as 60 per cent contained.—Reuters

Bangladesh’s missing militant link: the threat from abroad

DHAKA/NEW DELHI — When Bangladesh authorities last month released the names of 261 men who have gone missing from their families, in an attempt to find militants hidden in this country of 160 million people, at the very end of the list was “Jilani alias Abu Zaidal”.

He was not in Bangladesh. The young man, an engineering school dropout, travelled to Syria last year to fight for Islamic State. In April, IS announced he was blown to bits during battle by a 23-millimeter gun, the sort used to shoot down aircraft.

Asked why Bangladesh’s Rapid Action Battalion, a domestic anti-terrorism agency, listed Jilani among the 261 names, its spokesman Mefti Mohammad Khan said neither the man’s family nor the police had notified the battalion of the death. “So we included him in the list.” A Google search for Jilani, whose real name was Ashourq Rahman, would have brought up an Islamic State notification of his death. Distributing the alias of a dead jihadi in an all-points bulletin is just one illustration of how Bangladesh authorities have failed to confront the international links of radical Islamist groups in the country. Police and government officials here continue to insist they are facing a home-grown threat — a “grave error,” according to regional experts on militant groups.—Reuters

                                                               PHOTO: XINHUA
Road test for homegrown transit elevated bus

The elevated bus TEB-1 is on road test in Qinhuangdao, north China’s Hebei Province, on 2 August, 2016. China’s home-made transit elevated bus, TEB-1, conducted a road test running Tuesday. The 22-metre-long, 7.8-metre-wide and 4.8-metre-high TEB-1 can carry up to 300 passengers. The passenger compartment of this futuristic public bus rises far above other vehicles on the road, allowing cars to pass underneath.

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Villains at play in anti-hero movie ‘Suicide Squad’

NEW YORK — A deadly hit man, a sweetly insane former psychiatrist, a boomerang-wielding assassin, a lethal reptilian and a pyromaniac gang member are not the usual suspects to protect Gotham city, but the “Suicide Squad” prove that even bad guys can be good.

“Suicide Squad,” out in theaters on from Jack Nicholson and more on immigration if elected in November.

WASHINGTON — Comedian Jimmy Fallon, host of NBC’s “The Tonight Show,” was chosen on Tuesday to host the 2017 Golden Globe Awards for film and television, and quickly gave fans a hint of what to expect.

Fallon, 41, will be hosting the January ceremony for the first time.

He follows acerbic British comic Ricky Gervais, who took the reins for the fourth time earlier this year, and comedians Tina Fey and Amy Poehler who did the honours from 2013-2015.

The 2017 ceremony takes place on 8 January in Beverly Hills and will be broadcast live on NBC television, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which organises the awards, said in a statement.

Fallon said on Twitter he was excited to be hosting the event, one of the biggest stops in Hollywood’s long awards season.

“And I’m really looking forward to spending time with the Hollywood Foreign Press before Donald Trump has them all deported,” he quipped, in a dig at the Republican presidential contender’s pledges to crack down on immigration if elected in November.

Fallon, a former cast member of TV sketch show “Saturday Night Live,” took over NBC’s flagship late night talk show in 2014, injecting the format with games and stunts. “The Tonight Show” is currently the most-watched of the US late night TV talk shows.

Comedian and television host Jimmy Fallon. (Photo: Reuters)

NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt said Fallon was a great fit for the Golden Globes.

“This is the most spontaneous and unhindered award show on television, and Jimmy’s playful, disarming comedic brilliance makes him the ideal host to enhance and elevate the sense of fun and irreverence,” Greenblatt said in a statement.

The Golden Globes ceremony, an informal and boozy dinner attended by hundreds of A-list stars, is one of the biggest in the Hollywood awards season that culminates with the Oscars in late February. Some 18.5 million Americans watched the three-hour show on television this year.—Reuters

Family of ‘Star Trek’ actor sues Fiat Chrysler over rollaway death

LOS ANGELES — The parents of the late “Star Trek” movie actor Anton Yelchin sued Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV (FCHA.MI) (FCAU.N) for negligence and product liability on Tuesday over the rollaway crash of a Jeep Grand Cherokee that killed their son.

The lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, is believed to be the first wrongful-death complaint linked to the Fiat Chrysler recall in April of more than 1.1 million cars and SUVs because of vehicles that roll away after drivers exit them.

Yelchin, 27, was killed on June of his Los Angeles home and crushed the actor against a brick wall and fence.

The 18-page lawsuit points to a transmission gear-selector design it describes as “defective” as being the cause of numerous driverless rollaway mishaps like the one that killed Yelchin.

Gary Dordick, the attorney representing Yelchin’s parents, said Fiat Chrysler had sent a recall letter to the actor that was received seven days after his death.

The undated letter addressed to Yelchin was displayed at the news conference and said “your vehicle may roll away, striking and injuring you, your passengers, or bystanders, if the vehicle’s engine is left running, the parking brake is not engaged, and the transmission is not in the “PARK” position before exiting the vehicle.”

Dordick said Yelchin had returned to his home on the evening of 19 June to pick up something he had forgotten and exited the car, “believing the vehicle to be in park.” —Reuters

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“Suicide Squad,” out in theaters on Friday, follows a rogue group of DC Comics anti-heroes — Deathstroke, Harley Quinn, Boomerang, Killer Croc and El Diablo — who are captured and held hostage by Gotham’s government to use as weapons to protect the city.

Throw in the Enchantress, the Joker and ruthless government official Amanda Waller, and the Suicide Squad make their film debut with some big obstacles to overcome as they harness the best of their rotten selves to enact some good.

The film showcases a new direction for Warner Bros’ DC superhero universe, which has taken a more dramatic and serious tone in action films such as “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice.”

“The hardest thing is finding that balance between entertaining the audience, giving audience information, setting up a lot of major characters and setting up a whole entire world,” writer-director David Ayer said.

At the heart of the film are Will Smith’s Deadshot, who is desperately trying to make amends with his daughter, and Margot Robbie’s sassy, psychotic Harley Quinn, who is desperately trying to get back to her love, the Joker, Batman’s infamous nemesis.

Jared Leto is the latest actor to don the green hair and menacing grin of the Joker, following on from Jack Nicholson and more recently, the late Heath Ledger in Christopher Nolan’s “Dark Knight” franchise.

“You can have green hair and white skin and a crazy laugh but you have to start from the beginning and walk down a brand new path,” Leto said of creating his own stamp on the character. Ayer’s tongue-in-cheek tone plays up the killer instincts of the Suicide Squad along with a plot that sees them try to sacrifice themselves for the greater good.—Reuters

Cast members (L-R) Viola Davis, Will Smith, Margot Robbie, Jared Leto and Joel Kinnaman attend the world premiere of “Suicide Squad” in Manhattan, New York, US, on 1 August 2016. (Photo: Reuters)

Singer Jay Sean back on music charts with first single in three years

REUTERS

Kamaljit Singh Jhooli, better known by his stage name Jay Sean, poses for a portrait in New York in 2013. (Photo: Reuters)

NEW YORK — Singer Jay Sean wants fans to know he is back in the music scene after a three year hiatus, and ready to make them party again.

“I do understand that in this day and age if you disappear for too long, people think you actually died,” the British singer and songwriter said during an exclusive interview in New York City on Monday.

“People will think, ‘I haven’t heard his song on radio for a few years, he must be dead.’

After a five-year relationship with Cash Money Records, where his label mates included Lil Wayne and Drake, Sean parted with the company in 2014.

The split, which was prompted by a lengthy legal dispute, left Sean, 37, silent in more ways than one.

“It could not talk about it. There’s a lot of things we can’t talk about, legally,” Sean said.

“I couldn’t say to my fans, in interviews, what’s going on. All I could keep saying was, ‘it’s coming, it’s coming,’ and hope that my fans understand.”

Now signed to Sony, the British native called the split “civil” and said there was no bad blood between him and label co-founder Bryan ‘Birdman’ Williams.

“I don’t like to hold grudges, I don’t like to talk ill of people,” Sean said.

The summer release of Sean’s single, “Make My Love Go,” brought him back to what he loves and grew up with: pop, R&B, dancehall.

It also brought him back to creating music with rapper Sean Paul, 43.

“What I think I wanted to achieve with this song was to make people feel good, which is, I think, what I’m really known for with my music,” said Sean.

“People always tell me, when I want to get in the mood of a party or when I’m at a party and they put a Jay Sean song on I feel happy. And so I thought, let’s hit them up with something like that.”

Sean’s new single has reached the top 10 on German music charts, reached platinum status in the Netherlands and had more than 38 million plays worldwide on Spotify.—Reuters

New Golden Globes host Jimmy Fallon starts with Donald Trump quip

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Comedian and television host Jimmy Fallon. (Photo: Reuters)
Bolivians honour Mother Earth with celebration

EL ALTO (Bolivia) — In the Andean city of El Alto indigenous Bolivians gathered at dawn to honour "Pachamama," the goddess of the earth and fertility, on what is known locally as Mother Earth Day.

During the annual ceremony performed by indigenous Amautas, or senior Aymara doctors for the body and soul, the faithful offered sweets, alcohol and llama feath- ers in tribute to the goddess.

Facing the majestic Illimani mountain, while holding up their hands, they carried out the ritual on Monday while standing next to a blazing bonfire.

"Offering tables are the reason why people come to this place that her mouth is open, we offer food," said one woman from El Alto, where Amautas carry out ancient Andean rituals.

The ritual has been adapted by indigenous drink called "chicha.""Offering tables are the reason why people come to this place that her mouth is open, we offer food," said one woman from El Alto, where Amautas carry out ancient Andean rituals.

The ritual has been adapted by indigenous people across Bolivia. Many followers ask for material things such as houses, cars, holidays, health and money.

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‘Naivete’ almost cost Armitstead Rio spot

NEW YORK — Former world number one Tiger Woods is taking on the role of US tactician for next month’s Ryder Cup against holders Europe, says captain Davis Love III.

Forty-times major winner Woods has been sidelined for almost a year as he recovers from multiple back operations and seems to have spent much of his time away from the game travelling the world, been in hotels, training camps, races, for all that amount of time. And I’ve never had a problem with a testing official trying to find me in a hotel.

Armitstead had said she was cleared on the grounds that the anti-doping officer had not followed procedure for the first missed test and not tried hard enough to find her, though the Swiss-based CAS has yet to confirm their judgement.

The reason I didn’t (appeal against the first missed test) was because it was my first strike and it was very close to the World Championships, so I was travelling to America,” she told the Daily Mail.

“I also didn’t have the legal advice. It felt very much them against me. I was very naive, I went ahead to the World Championships and I didn’t want the distraction.

“I’ve been on this ‘whereabouts’ system since 2006. I’ve travelled the world, been in hotels, training camps, races, for all that amount of time. And I’ve never had a problem with a testing official trying to find me in a hotel.”

Armitstead has said she was cleared on the grounds that the anti-doping officer had not followed procedure for the first missed test and not tried hard enough to find her, though the Swiss-based CAS has yet to confirm their judgement.

She said the third missed test, which triggered the ban, was the result of her not updating her location after “an emergency change of plans due to a serious illness within her family” while the second was an administrative failure on her part.—Reuters

Tiger is our Ryder Cup tactician, says US captain Love

BERNE — World number four Stan Wawrinka has pulled out of the tennis competition at this month’s Rio Olympics because of injury.

“I am very sad because after Beijing and London I would have liked to experience third Olympic Games in Brazil, unfortunately that will now not be possible,” he said in a Swiss Tennis Federation statement on Tuesday.

Austria’s Sam Groth is heading to Brazil after getting a late call as a replacement.

The fast-serving 28-year-old will be the fourth Australian in a men’s singles draw missing the country’s top two players after the controversial withdrawals of Bernard Tomic and Nick Kyrgios.

The duo pulled out after being repeatedly criticised by Australia’s Olympic team chef de mission for their conduct in the public arena.

World number 20 Tomic said he was too “busy” to compete at Rio while 18th-ranked Kyrgios bowed out claiming mistreatment by the Australian Olympic Committee. —Reuters

Wawrinka pulls out and Groth gets call

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Thursday, 4 August, 2016

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Sport

RIO DE JANEIRO — British world road race champion Lizzie Armitstead has said she was “very naive” in failing to contest the first of three missed doping tests, a decision that almost cost her a place at the Rio Olympics.

The 27-year-old, who won silver in the London Olympics road race and will be among the favourites in Rio, was facing an automatic ban under the “whereabouts system” after three missed tests within a year.

Under the system, athletes are required to inform anti-doping officials of a location where they can be contacted during a particular hour of every day.

However, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled that procedures were not followed correctly for the first of the tests, clearing the way for her to compete in Rio.

“The reason I didn’t (appeal against the first missed test) was because it was my first strike and it was very close to the World Championships, so I was travelling to America,” she told the Daily Mail.

“I also didn’t have the legal advice. It felt very much them against me. I was very naive. I went ahead to the World Championships and I didn’t want the distraction.

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Winger Sane joins Man City on five-year deal

LONDON — German winger Leroy Sane has agreed to a five-year deal to join Manchester City from Bundesliga side Schalke 04, the Premier League club said on Tuesday.

No financial details of the contract were disclosed but British media reported that City had paid 37 million pounds ($48.96 million) for the 20-year-old, who is the club’s fifth signing of the close season.

Sane scored eight goals and made six assists for Schalke last season as the club finished fifth in the standings.

“I feel really good, I’m happy to be here and happy that it has all worked out. Now I can settle here in Manchester and play for City,” Sane told the club’s website. (www.mancity.com)

Manager Pep Guardiola, who spent the last three seasons at German champions Bayern Munich before taking over at Manchester City in July, says Sane is a welcome addition to the squad.

“He is a special talent, and an exciting player that I think our supporters will enjoy watching. He has great technical ability, is comfortable on the ball and there is much to admire about the way he plays football,” Guardiola said.—Reuters

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