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THE SAVING OF BAGAN BEGINS

Repair of earthquake-damaged temples starts at Sulamani

Ko Moe

THE Sulamani temple will be the first to be renovated among the many religious structures destroyed or damaged by the Bagan earthquake two weeks ago, according to the Department of Archaeological Research and National Libraries. Experts from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) were expected to arrive in Bagan on 4 September to join local experts for the renovation work, according to Director Daw Ohnmar Aung of the archaeological department.

The department is still compiling a list of the damaged temples and pagodas in the country's cultural area, with the director saying that nearly 1,000 people are doing the cleaning at the Sulamani temple. Departmental officials, local residents and volunteers are roofing the damaged pagodas to prevent the damaging forces of rain and wind. The department is unable to estimate the costs of repair and renovation work as the process of making an inventory of the destroyed religious structures is not completed.

UNESCO experts are reported to have given local people training on structural repair and renovation.

The 6.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Bagan on 24 August destroyed nearly 400 pagodas and temples built between the 10th and 11th centuries in the country's ancient cultural area, also causing serious damage to mural paintings.

Sulamani Pagoda being seen. PHOTO: MNA

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Thai traffickers convicted of smuggling 'boat people'

A THAI human trafficking kingpin convicted of masterminding the smuggling and trafficking of 'boat people' from Rakhine State was sentenced to 35 years in prison and fined 660,000 bahts by the provincial court in Nakorn Si Thammarat, Park Phanang district, according to reports.

Sunand Saengthong was reported to be the architect of a human trafficking and smuggling network.

His arrest was part of the Thailand government's commitment to crack down on human traffickers as of 2015, sources said, adding that most of his victims were from Bangladesh who were smuggled into Myanmar, where they made contact with traffickers to enter Thailand and then Malaysia and other Islamist countries.

According to Thailand's police, Sunand was the main culprit of the last year's case involving the smuggling of 97 boat people into Thailand. Further investigation led to the discovery of the money transferred by human traffickers to his bank account. In connection with the case, two other accomplices were arrested and sentenced to one-and-a-half years in prison.

Last year, Thailand's police raids on human trafficking and smuggling resulted in the arrest of 100 people, including senior military officers.—*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)*

Experts are failing to criticize labour laws, say worker advocates

EXPERTS are failing in their critique of the strengths and weaknesses of current labour laws, worker advocates have expressed to Myitmakha News Agency.

"The main difficulty is with checks and balances. Experts are weak in critiquing the government as the government is NLD, as is the majority of Hluttaw," said U Htay, a lawyer and advocate of workers' rights.

Just as the current throng of voices speaking for workers has not proven fruitful in the carrying out of worker related matters, workers are faced with difficulty in being able to freely speak their minds, according to advocates.

Labour related crimes stem from grievances between workers and employers because of failings on both sides in complying with labour laws, according to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

"What we're witnessing is a lack of compliance with the law. We conducted a great deal of educational discussions during the hundred 100 project campaign at a variety of locations, such as the Hlaingthaya and Mingaladon industrial zones. As is customary, legal action is taken in accordance with the law: legal action is taken against an employer if they are deemed to be failing their staff, while punishments are handed down to workers if they violate existing [labor] laws," said U Nyunt Win, deputy director general for the Factories and General Labor Laws Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labour.

In light of setting of a daily minimum wage of K3,600, the department also informed Myitmakha News Agency they acknowledge the welfare difficulties experienced by workers in the absence of anything in the new law which stipulates continuation of the paying of previously received bonuses, and earnestly entreats workers to be patient regarding this matter.

"The current government lacks interest in dealing with the affairs of workers. They're primarily focusing their efforts of securing peace within the nation, but how could this peace be stable when the masses are faced with such difficulties? I also want the government to work for those not affected by armed conflict," said U Ye Naing Win, a representative from the Workers Kone Thamardi Council.

Workers, Labour Trade Unions and workers advocacy organizations will reportedly hold a forum at the end of this year to discuss matters concerning relationships between workers and employers.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Overheated electric wire caused Sunday fire in downtown Yangon

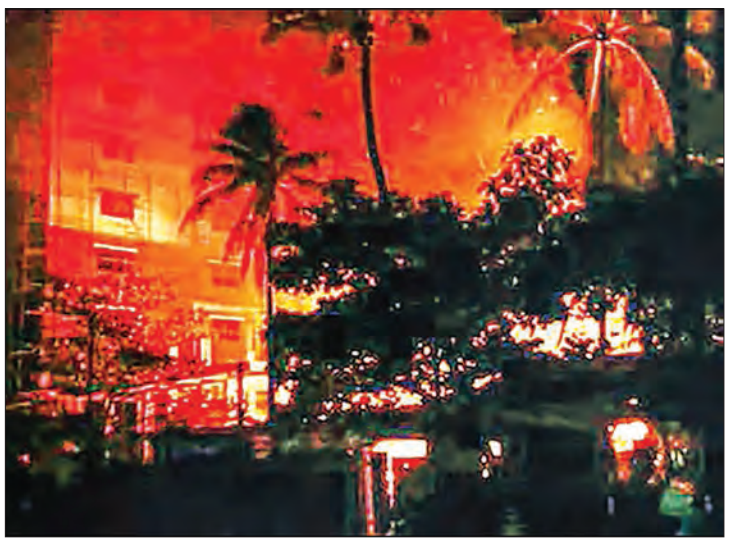
A FACTORY fire broke out in Myittanyunt Ward in Tamway Township in Yangon on Sunday morning, destroying a noodle plant on Sethmuyadana Road but leaving no people injured, according to a police report.

Due to an overheated electric wire, the blaze started at around 3.15 a.m. at Aungnaingthu noodle factory owned by U Zin Ko. The fire spread quickly to a nearby warehouse and damaged it, police said.

The blaze was brought under control by firefighters within 25 minutes, authotities said.

The township fire services department used 10 fire engines plus two auxiliary fire engines.

Action is being taken against the factory owner for negligence.—*Hla Hla*



The scene of the outbreak of fire caused by overheated electric wire. PHOTO: HLA HLA

No casualty nor injure reported after school fire

NO one was injured in a school fire in Sagaing Region on Sunday afternoon, according to police investigation.

The fire started at around 1.30 p.m., apparently caused by an overheated amplifier in a meeting room of the school for the blind that is operated under the auspices of the Social Welfare Department in Sagaing Region.

With the assistance of neighbours, 40 firefighters brought the fire under control within 20 minutes by using four fire engines and a water box.

Several electronic devices were destroyed during the fire, according to the investigators.

U Dai Do Dal, a responsible person of the school, will face legal charges by police under the existing law.—*Myo Win (Sagaing)*

Large volume of heroin, yaba pills seized in Muse

A WOMAN on Sunday was arrested on drug trafficking charges following a raid at her residence in Muse, a border town between Myanmar and China.

Acting on a tip-off, police and members of the township administration office searched the house of Daw Chain Shwe, who resides in Nanthsan Godaung Village in Muse, northern Shan State, on the morning of 3 September.

The house owner was found in a possession of a cache of a large amount of heroin and yaba pills plus K50 million and 30,000 Chinese yuan.

Police also inspected the village's cemetery, where they arrested 11 men in connection with substance abuse. Police destroyed seven huts used by drug users by setting them on fire.—*Shoe Shar (Muse)*

World War II-era weapon unearthed in Bago Region

A decades-old bomb was discovered on Friday in Bago Region, according to police.

The old engraved bomb was found by a resident who was carrying out sanitation duties in a drainage ditch between Ohntaw Street-11 and 12 in Oaktha Ward, one mile and three furlongs south of No.3 Bago Myoma Police Station.

According to investigators, the one-foot long, 5-inch girth bomb is believed to dating back to the World War II period.

The forgotten bomb was handed by police over to the garrison engineering battalion to be disposed of safety.—*Min Sit Thu (Bago)*

The bomb unearthed in Bago being seen. PHOTO: MIN SIT THU (BAGO)

Police arrest suspect for theft of gold ornaments

A MAN was arrested on Thursday with gold ornaments weighing 60 ticals and and K1 million in cash allegedly stolen from a woman in Hopin, a town in Mohnyin District, Kachin State.

According to police investigation, the suspect named Pho Phyu (aka Sein Win), of Nantnin Village in Hopin, stole the property owned by Daw Tin Tin Moe, of Aungnan War in the same town, on 31 August.

Police arrested the suspect the next day at his home after he was found in possession of the gold ornaments and cash.

Pho Phyu has been charged under the Criminal Law.—*058*

Commander-in-Chief returns from Brunei

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla left Brunei for Myanmar through Singapore yesterday.

The commander-in-chief and his entourage were seen off at the airport by his Bruneian counterpart and senior military officers, the Myanmar Ambassador to Brunei and his wife, and officials.

On arrival at the airport in Nay Pyi Taw, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was welcomed by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and his wife, and officials.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife were hosted to a dinner at The Empire Hotel and Country Club by Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Maj-Gen Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah on 3 September. —*Myanmar News Agency*

The commander-in-chief of defence services and wife seen upon arrival back in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Workshop on media relations held in Nay Pyi Taw

The workshop on media relations in progress. PHOTO: MOI

A WORKSHOP on Knowledge of Media Relations organised by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Media Council (MMC) was held in the meeting room of the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw with the opening speech delivered by Director-General Dr. Than Htut of the Department of Food and Drug Administration on behalf of the minister for health and sports.

In his speech, he said that it is very important to hold the workshop on media knowledge because the departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports carry out measures to distribute news about health notices through the media to the public.

Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Media Council Dr Myo Thant Tin also delivered a speech, and U Han Nyunt (Law) elaborated on Media Laws and Media Ethics. U Kyaw Swar Min, Secretary-2 of MMC, explained about Myanmar media Development, and Daw Thin Thin Thar, Secretary-1 of MMC, shared news-related problems that are being handled by MMC.—*GNLM*

Donors invited to renovate Bagan Pagoda

WELL-wishers home and abroad are invited to donate cash to the funds for the repair and renovation of the damaged ancient religious structures in Bagan and NyaungU areas.

A 6.8 magnitude earthquake, centring 12 miles west of Chauk in Magway Region, struck the country's historic site of cultural heritage on 24 August.

Cash donations can be made to following departmental officials:

U Myo Tint Aung
Director, Ministry of Religious
and Cultural Affairs (Nay Pyi Taw)
Ph: 067 408 031, 09 861 7342

Daw Ohnmar Aung
Director, Department of Archaeological Research
and National Museum (Yangon)
6 ½ mile, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon
Ph: 01 513 897, 09 730 302 38, 09 506 1832

U Nyo Myint Tun
Director, Department of Archaeological Research
and National Museum (Mandalay)
Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay
Ph: 02 600 59, 09 201 9004

U Soe Tint
District Administrator
NyaungU District General Administration Department
Ph: 061 60 261, 061 602 62, 09 442 003 012

—*Myanmar News Agency*

Strong winds, huge waves batter coastal village in Kawthaung

STRONG winds at high tide swept across coastal areas in the village of Kawthaung in Tanintharі Region on 2 September, causing large waves to crash down on several homes in the village.

Along with heavy rains in the coastal village of Palonton-ton, high tides wreaked havoc on public property, destroyed road infrastructure and sank fishing boats.

No casualties were reported in connection with the high tides and heavy rains.

Local authorities, including police officers, firefighters and Red Cross members, rushed to the scene for rescue and clean-up operations.

Relief supplies of rice, oil, dried noodles, clothing and kitchen utensils were provided to the victims following the emergency evacuation. —*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)*

The costal village battered by strong winds and huge waves. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG)

LOCAL Business

Workers seen at a livestock factory. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar to enhance Livestock and fisheries sector with the Netherlands

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has plans to enhance its livestock and fisheries sectors jointly with The Netherlands, it is learnt.

Discussions between the two counties have been ongoing and have included plans to develop milk cow farming.

The ministry has made efforts to be able to export cattle and livestock by legal trade. The ministry has been planning to establish a new laboratory and to upgrade diagnostic laboratories in border areas in cooperation with China.

The ministry has already discussed chicken meat production and import with Brazil. The agriculture, livestock and irrigation ministry is striving to boost meat production and improve its quality, it is learnt. —*Mon Mon*

Efforts made to boost the rice export through the normal trade

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) is making efforts to create more rice export markets in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce with the aim of importing 500,000 tonnes of rice yearly through sea trade, it is learnt.

The rice export volume over the past four months in this fiscal year is worth only about US$400,000. That figure has decreased by over 200,000 tonnes when compared to a similar period of the last fiscal year. The volume of exports to China constitutes 80 per cent of the total rice exported through border trade. The remaining 20 per cent of rice will be exported to Africa and countries of European Union through normal trade.

Concerted efforts are being made to penetrate the markets of The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, European countries and African countries.

The Ministry of Commerce is also trying to bolster the rice export volume via normal trade, said an official from this ministry.

The ministry has been working with the MRF to meet the rice demand from Kenya. The ministry has also concerned itself with the extension period of 300,000 tonnes of rice export mentioned in an MoU signed with Indonesia in the previous government's period. The ministry is also preparing to sign an MoU with The Philippines concerning exporting of rice. Additionally, the government has already discussed with Chinese authorities the plans to bolster the export quota of rice.—*Mon Mon*

Filipino Penshoppe clothing brand entering Myanmar market

PENSHOPPE, a clothing brand based in The Philippines, reportedly entered the domestic market in early September, it is learnt from Earth Group of Companies, the distributors of the Penshoppe brand in Myanmar.

The well-known Filipino brand will open a boutique at Hledan Center on 10th September.

There will be a promotional event on 10th and 11th September, said Daw Khaing Cho Myint, the director from Earth Group of Companies.

Penshoppe was first launched in the late 1980s and became famous for its comfortable, elegant clothes.

The brand has been a strong presence in Asia's fashion world and has been endorsed by recognised celebrities.

Penshoppe has opened branches in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Cambodia and Viet Nam. —*Mon Mon*

ENVIRONMENT

Botanical survey to be conducted in wildlife sanctuaries

A THREE-month survey will be undertaken by the Ministry of Forestry in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary and Phon Kan Razi Wildlife Sanctuary.

The botanical research study will be made by both locals and international scholars starting in September in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary, with plans to leave for Phon Kan Razi Wildlife Sanctuary between October and November.

Located in Khamti District of Sagaing Region, Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is the natural habitat of about 30 mammals including tigers, elephants, leopards, serow and bear.

Phon Kan Razi Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in PutaO, a town in Kachin State in northern Myanmar. It is also the natural home to many indigenous animals.

The Phon Kan Razi Wildlife Sanctuary. PHOTO: 200

A wide range of flora and fauna, including several rare species of plants, thrive in both sanctuaries.

The team includes Dr Kate Armstrong from the U.S's New York Botanical Garden, three Japanese botanists and three Myanmar experts. They will visit the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary on 8 September to begin their research.—*200*

MoNREC will appoint more staff in areas with highest rates of illegal felling of trees

THE MINISTRY of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation will increase the number of forest staff in areas with the highest rates of illegal logging, said U Nyi Nyi Kyaw, the director-general of the Forest Department.

More than 600 staff are planned to be appointed to the forest departments in Bago, Sagaing and Magway regions as well as northern Shan State, with the aim of protecting the natural forests from smugglers.

The ministry decided to appoint more staff to control illegal logging because existing laws do not allow forest staff to carry weapons. Collaborative efforts will continue among governmental staff, local organizations and relevant bodies to protect the country's forest resources.

Currently, the ministry is planning to appoint about 300 staff, in particular those who earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Forestry (Yezin).

Massive volume of teak, rosewood and other hardwoods have been illegally cut and exported from Myanmar since 2011. The forest department is struggling to stop illegal logging with nearly 8,000 existing staff members.—*200*

LOCAL Business

Border trade value increases by US$140million this FY

ALTHOUGH the volume of exports via the Muse border has slumped, the value of trade through border areas in this fiscal year has increased by US$140million when compared to the similar period of the last fiscal year, it is learnt.

The trade value as of the last week of August totalled US$2.81billion, whereas that in the same period of the last fiscal year was US$2.76billion. The export through Muse border as of 26th August in 2016-2017 fiscal year fetched US$1,331.373million, whereas the import value was US$626.181million which was US$20,000 lower than the previous year. But the export value this year in Muse slumped by over US$114million.

However, trade value in other trade camps between China and Myanmar has increased--more than US$38.12million in Lwe Je border trade camp, more than US$89.19million in Chin Shwe Haw border trade camp and more than US$12.41million in Kan Pike Te border trade camp were respectively attained from border trade when compared to figures in the similar period of the last fiscal year.

Similarly, Myawady border trade camp between Myanmar and Thailand earned more US$102.86million. Additionally, trade values of US$1.24million in Kaw Thaung border trade camp, US$2.93million in Htee Khee border trade camp and US$0.59million in Maw Taung border trade camp, US$0.6million in Maung Taw border trade camp and US$13.35million in Tamu border trade camp, US$3.32million in Reed border trade camp were higher than the previous year, it is learnt.

Out of 15 border trade camps of Myanmar, Muse, Keng Tung, Tachilek, Myeik and Sittwe border trade camps are experiencing decreased trade this fiscal year. Despite the rise in the border trade in this fiscal year, the normal trade value has slumped by over US$215million when compared to that of the last fiscal year. The total trade value as of 26th August amounted to US$10.73billion, which is US$74million lower than the previous year. — *Mon Mon*

The Myawady-Mae Sot Border between Myanmar and Thailand being seen busy with those waiting to cross the border gate. PHOTO: GO-MYANMAR.COM

C.P expands its breeding operations in Rakhine State

THE number of C.P chicken breeders in Rakhine State's Kyaukphyu Township has surged due to the fast growth rate and cost-effectiveness of the birds, breeders have told Myitmakha News Agency.

The expanding numbers of breeders also stems from the assistance of the Myanmar C.P Livestock Company Limited who support keen-to-be breeders by providing them with the chicks to breed.

"We provide [the chicken breeders] with chicks as soon as they've erected their coups. We provide credit for the purchasing of feed and water, and we also buy medicine [to be administered to the birds]. We then deduct the amount of credit given out of the price of a batch of birds when sold to us," said U Hsa Myo Thein, temporary manager of Myanmar C.P Livestock.

The C.P company started their breeding initiative in Kyaukphyu Township back at the start of 2015, with two thousands birds being reared in 12 coups. This year though has seen the company expand their activities, with a further 6 coups being erected along the Kyaukphyu - Yangon highroad.

In order to breed C.P chickens, farmers are required to procure their own land upon which to erect their own chicken coups. The Myanmar C.P Livestock Company Limited then provides the rest: the chicks, feed and required medical treatments.

"Home-bred chickens need between three and four months before they're ready for slaughter. Their growth rate is slow, not rendering them cost-effective. For C.P chickens though, they're ready to sell in just 45-50 days. We can fairly accurately calculate the weight of one bird to a viss (1.6 kilograms). I want to say a special thank to the C.P company for providing us with an interest-free loan to build our coup and purchase all the necessary items for breeding chickens such as feeding cups," said U Tha Htun, a C.P chicken breeder from Kyaukphyu Township's Wahnetkyaing village.

C.P chicken breeders informed Myitmakha News Agency that, dependent upon the volume of deaths and defects, a farmer can secure K600,000 - 800,000 per batch of birds ready for slaughter. As well as implementing its chicken breeding operations in Kyaukphyu Township, the Myanmar C.P Livestock Company Limited has reportedly also established 40 chicken coups in another township of Rakhine State, that of Thandwe. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Plans explored for fuel oil to be imported using supertankers

EFFORTS are being made to be able to import fuel oil in cargo ships that can carry 30,000 tonnes of oil in an effort to bring down the costs of transportation, said Dr. Win Myint, the secretary of the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.

Currently, fuel oil is mainly imported by Singapore using cargo ships which can carry 15,000 tonnes of cargo oil. Singapore re-exports the fuel oil to Myanmar, resulting in the rise of the fuel oil price.

The oil importers and distributors association is making effort to import oil directly from oil-producing countries using high-capacity supertankers, thus saving transportation cost, the association said. In addition, the fuel oil can be distributed in the domestic market at a price offered in the importer countries.

Importing the fuel oil costs from US$2.5 to US$4 a barrel. About 400,000 tonnes of fuel oil have to be imported monthly, resulting in transportation costs of about US$5million.

The fuel oil price can be fixed if oil exporting countries directly import the fuel oil to Myanmar with supertankers

The volume of fuel oil imports have increased year by year: 2.22million in 2012-2013, 2.35million in 2013-2014 and 3.47 million in 2014-2015. Therefore, the distributors and authorities concerned are making attempts to ensure the quality of the fuel oil and a reasonable price close to the prevailing international oil price.— *200*

The 59th National Day of Malaysia

31st August, 2016

Message by Excellency U Htin Kyaw

"Your Majesty,

On the auspicious occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Malaysia, I have the honour to convey, on behalf of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and on my own behalf, our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Majesty and to the people of Malaysia.

I believe that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia will be further strengthened to the mutual benefit of our peoples through our joint efforts.

Message by Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

To YAB Prime Minister

"Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Malaysia, I am pleased to extend my warmest felicitations and best wishes to Your Excellency and, through you, to the Government of Malaysia.

I am confident that the traditional ties of friendship and close cooperation existing between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come in the interests of our peoples as well as for the ASEAN community.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

To YB Foreign Minister

"Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Malaysia, I take great pleasure in extending my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency.

I am confident that the friendly ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and two Foreign Ministries will be consolidated to the mutual benefit of our peoples through our joint endeavours.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

Message by H.E. MR.Mohd Haniff ABD Rahman, Ambassador of Malaysia

It gives me great pleasure to address the readers of the special newspaper supplement in-conjunction with the 59th National Day of Malaysia.

Malaysia and Myanmar has enjoyed cordial and friendly relations, with mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty in line with ASEAN fundamental principles. As a significant player in ASEAN, Myanmar's engagements with Malaysia has been steadily growing and diversified in many spheres of our bilateral relations. As we mark this special event, I urge all Malaysians to be thankful; and to reflect on our achievements and build upon the essence and foundations laid forth by our forefathers. Without a doubt, we have gone through many trials and tribulations as a nation but we managed to withstand them and emerged stronger and wiser.

At this opportunity, I wish to congratulate the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the historic convening of the recently concluded "Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong" and would like to reaffirm my Government's full support to the national reconciliation and peace process undertaken by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Malaysia is optimistic the current leadership of Myanmar will persevere and able to overcome any challenges facing the country.

Despite challenges in the global environment, Malaysia continues to grow thanks in part to the various national transformation programmes and sustainable national-building efforts undertaken by the government. I am pleased to learn that more Malaysian businesses have expressed great interest in availing of business opportunities in Myanmar. In my engagements with Malaysian business community, I always underlined the importance of close collaboration, building of trust and smart partnership with local business as key to a successful venture in Myanmar.

This high level of interests is a testament of Malaysia's support and trust in Myanmar's potential to progress economically, politically and socially. In 2015, Malaysia recorded a respectable GDP growth of 6%, underpinned by a robust manufacturing, services and export sector. Notwithstanding the slowdown in global environment, our economy remained resilient into the second quarter of 2016 with growth of 4%.

In line with this year's theme "Sehati Sejiwa" or "One Heart, One Soul", it is my fervent hope that all Malaysians work hand-in-hand to achieve our overarching goal of achieving developed country status by 2020. Working closely together as a cohesive ASEAN community, we can make a positive impact and bring sustainable and equitable growth in the region.

I wish all Malaysians in Myanmar a Happy 59th National Day celebration.

Terima kasih and Chei Zu Tin Bar De!

59th National Day of Malaysia

Congratulations to the Government and people of Malaysia on their 59th National Day 31st August, 2016

SHWE BANK
UMW
MUHIBBAH ENGINEERING (M) BHD
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SKY NET
GS Paper & Packaging Sdn Bhd
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MiCasa Hotel Apartments YANGON.MYANMAR Managed by ACCOR HOTELS
Sule Shangri-La YANGON
VDB | Loi
Waterlaylay pure water for everyone
STEVIN GROUP CO.,LTD.
TAN CHONG GROUP
CIMB
DAGON BEVERAGES
SEIN CHEL INTERNATIONAL TRADING CO.,LTD.
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Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Being obliged is different from having an obligation

Khin Maung Aye

A country is sustained by the obedience of its countrymen. Variegated considerations prompt them to be obedient to their state. It may be the "quality of law", the "justice" that the state stands for, or the "habit", which makes them obedient to their state. Nevertheless, these considerations may fall under three categories. First, the citizens render obedience to their state because they assume that it is in their interest to obey it. In other words, they hold that being obedient to the state would benefit them dramatically. Secondly, they obey merely just "out of fear". They are afraid they will be punished should they fail to obey.

In the third place, they are obedient because they consider their country "legitimate". A state is considered legitimate if people think that it belongs to them and that it serves them. Nonetheless, they can stop obeying when they are of the opinion that their country has lost its legitimacy.

In this regard, it is worth noting that citizenship is not a one way street. Apart from rights, it entails a number of obligations or duties. Every political society has the task of constantly perpetuating itself. It has to secure itself from its enemies and has to ensure that there is replacement of its deceased members. Citizenship has been developed to fulfill this task. It is appropriate here to point out that an obligation is a requirement or duty to act in a particular way. H.L.A. Hart (1961) is liked to be quoted when it comes to distinguishing between "being obliged" and "having an obligation".

According to Hart, "being obliged" to do something implies an element of coercion, whereas "having an obligation" to do something suggests simply a moral duty. This difference is obvious in legal and moral obligations. Legal obligations are enforceable through the courts of law with a system of penalties to back it up. Moral obligations are fulfilled not because it is sensible to do so but rather that such conduct is considered rightful or morally correct. Obviously, legal obligations are fulfilled simply out of fear for punishment. Moral obligations can be likened to making a promise, the keeping of which is not compulsory. But men of principle keep promises regardless of the consequences. They keep their words simply because they are under a moral obligation.

Financial Institutions Law for a stable and modern banking system

San Thein

Towards a stable and modern banking system

Emerging out of decades of international economic isolation, Myanmar's banking sector with its low capability of financial intermediation finds it hard to effectively support the country's economic development. Its main features such as cash-based payment system, collateralized bank credit, limited financial products and capacity of local bankers, underdeveloped IT system, and low banking habit of general public and their limited trust on banks are dragging down the value of banking system. To be able to effectively support the real sector of the economy, the monetary authority is trying to change the landscape of the banking sector by enacting a new Financial Institutions Law (FIL) on 25 January 2016 **(Pyidaugsu Hluttaw Law No. 20)**. The FIL lays the foundations for promoting a more efficient and stable financial system with added supervisory power of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM).

The new and the old law

The new FIL replaced the old Financial Institutions of Myanmar Law enacted in 1990. Compared with the old law, the new law contains detail guidelines for both domestic and foreign financial institutions, covering all essential areas such as responsibilities, powers and objectives of the supervisory authority, and prudential regulations and requirements for all financial institutions.

In effect, the 1990 law was enacted to support the then market-oriented economic policy introduced immediately after the collapse of socialist economic system. The 1990 law paved the way for private participation in the banking sector for the first time since nationalization of all private banks in 1963. However, the main weakness of the law was that it lacked specific programs or remedial measures in dealing with banking crisis. The weakness can be found when there was a liquidity crisis in 2003. Since there were no specific guidelines in the old law, the then military government adopted stringent administrative measures to solve the problem. The bank loans were recalled prematurely, cash withdrawals and fund transfers were severely restricted, effecting real sector production that further eroded reputation of the banking sector. Following the crisis, the monetary authority over-cautiously adopted series of restrictions on banking activities to avoid the re-occurrence of similar crises. Due to these financial restrictions, the banking sector remains in the doldrums and becomes least developed in Southeast Asia.

This time the law is deliberately designed to cover detailed corrective measures for insolvent banks including appointment of administrator and rehabilitation programs for the failing bank (chapters 13 to 16). The new law promotes transparency, accountability and good corporate governance in the system. It is a comprehensive framework for effective implementation of a stable and modern banking system which would be able to support the economy to achieve a sustainable development.

Application of the Law

The law categorizes financial institutions as *banks, non-bank financial institutions and scheduled institutions*. Banks include commercial banks, development banks and foreign banks' branches. Non-banks financial institutions are those rendering such services as lending, leasing, factoring, and various kinds of financial services including issuance of credit token. The law applies only to the banks and non-bank financial institutions whereas it does not apply scheduled institutions which are established under their specific laws to in order to cater for specific customers and businesses. Examples of these institutions as mentioned in the law are rural development banks, agricultural banks, microfinance institutions, credit societies and postal savings banks. However, if the Ministry of Planning & Finance upon the recommendation of the Central Bank is convinced that a schedule institution poses a threat to the stability and soundness of the banking system or the financial system as a whole, the whole or any part of the law shall apply to this institution (Section 19). This is in line with the ***Basel Core Principle 3 of Cooperation and collaboration*** which provides a framework for cooperation and collaboration with relevant domestic authorities and foreign supervisors. In this way, the law would prevent the banking sector against the potential impact of the problems occurred in the scheduled institutions. The principle of cooperation and collaboration can also be seen in Section (7), where the Central Bank, for the benefit of the whole financial sector, shall coordinate with domestic and international regulators of financial institutions not governed by the law.

The grand building of Yangon Stock Exchange being seen. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN

Significant features of the Law

1) ***It meets international best practice as embodied in the Basel Core Principles (BCP)***

It is observed that the new banking law was carefully drafted to meet the requirements under the Basel Core Principles (BCP) issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. These principles are framework and minimum standards for sound supervisory practices and are considered universally applicable. These Core Principles can broadly be categorized into two groups: the first group, from Principle 1 to 13, focuses on powers, responsibilities and functions of supervisors, while the second group, Principle 14 to 29, stresses upon the importance of prudential regulations and requirements for banks. Application of these principles to the regulatory framework means that Myanmar's banking system is committed to internationally well-recognized practice that leads to a stable and sound financial system.

2) ***It encourages the practice of good corporate governance at banks***

The BCP 14 highlights the importance of corporate governance by giving supervisory authority to determine that banks and banking groups have robust corporate governance policies and processes. As the sound corporate governance underpins effective risk management and public confidence in individual banks in particular and the banking system in general, chapter (10) of the Law mentions procedure for electing board of directors and its responsibilities, which include adoption of risk management procedure and internal control system. The presence of at least one independent non-executive director at any board meetings to have a quorum, appointment of chief executive, and establishment of various board committees such as Risk Management Committee, Credit Committee, Remuneration Committee, Audit Committee and Assets and Liability Management Committee are essential elements for corporate governance in banks.

3) ***It promotes transparency and accountability in the system***

The most significant feature of the new law is its emphasis on promotion of transparency and accountability in the system. Chapter (10) outlines duties and responsibilities of the board of directors and chief executive. It suggests forming various board committees and sub-committees for effective supervision of the bank. In Chapter (11), a bank is required to promote its accounting standard to that of internationally accepted one. It has to submit its financial statements, which are certified by its chief executive and chief financial officer, to the Central Bank within three months after the close of financial year. And it has to disclose its financial statements to the public in such a manner prescribed by the Central Bank. These requirements will definitely promote transparency and accountability in the system and hence building public trust in banks.

4) ***It offers various options to resolve banks in an orderly manner if they become non-viable***

The law is flexible enough to take various options to avoid bank failure. Subject to the prior written approval of the Central Bank, Section (48) of the Law allows a bank to change its ownership by acquiring all or part of business of another bank, relinquishing possession of all or part of its business, or merging with another bank. It is interesting to note that a foreign bank can acquire all or part of the business of a local bank or sell all or part of its own business in Myanmar. Chapter (13) adopts corrective measures for an insolvent bank, Chapter (14) appointment of administrator and Chapter (15) rehabilitation program. While taking these various options, the law mandates the Central Bank to make a proper supervisory approach to identify, assess and address risks emanating from banks and the banking system as a whole.

5) ***It promotes modernization of payment system***

The two chapters of (18) and (19) dedicate to the development of payment system modernization. The CBM is responsible for issuing necessary regulations and instructions for the establishment of electronic payment system. The objective is to reduce reliance on cash transactions and paper-based processing of payments. Issuance of e-money and credit token is restricted to a bank and a financial institution established for that purpose. Internet banking, mobile banking and other forms of electronic banking shall be established and supervised by the Central Bank. Electronic payment system is part and parcel of payment system modernization. It promotes efficient monetary transactions with a low operational cost. It contributes to the promotion of effective central bank's monetary management while keeping inflation under control. It also reduces the central bank's printing costs of paper-money.

Implementation of the law

To be able to effectively implement the FIL, numerous new regulations or instructions are to be issued. The new regulations/instructions should be on acquisition of substantial interest, maximum permissible shareholding, corporate governance, internal control, risk management, etc. A well-sequenced and carefully managed implementation of the law in a level-playing field is essential for the establishment of a stable and modern banking system which supports the economy for achieving a sustainable growth.

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Letter to the Editor

Time to respond

VALES, dales, rivers, lakes, springs, plants, trees, stones, rocks and creatures, strong and weak, muse if unscathed they will still be tomorrow.

Limpid eyes of new-born babes question if they will grow among loving, caring embraces or be placed in strangers' hands.

Little kids ask if there will be another meal, shelter from the wet and cold, and a place to play their simple games.

Students wonder if tomorrow they will go to schools, or abandon their pens and books to carry loads and journey far.

Men and women worry if they can toil their small fields and gather the meagre harvests, or flee their ancestral lands for arid ones.

Communities discuss where lie the answers, not to live in neon-lit skyscrapers, nor to walk on smooth asphalt roads, or be served by driverless cars, jets up high, and trains in the sky.

But to be allowed, to live in peace, on their familiar ancient plains and hills, see their babes grow into children enjoying their innocent games under ageless trees, and thence as school kids dreaming of tilling family plots and feeding their parents and grandparents.

Hence, those who will decide, see the questioning eyes of innocent kids, hear the stifled screams of cowering women, taste the stabbing pangs of hunger and thirst of the displaced, feel the strangle of starless slow nights of the homeless, and experience the pain of parting after parting of the conflict-cursed.

So that they may decide right for the many who cannot decide for themselves!

Myo Myint

Cambodia holds Int'l Expo to promote pharmaceutical, medical industry

PHNOM PENH — The second international exhibition on pharmaceutical and medical products kicked off here on Sunday with an aim of promoting the development of this nascent industry.

Held at the Diamond Island's Exhibition Centre, the two-day event brought together more than 50 international enterprises from 11 countries and a region, said Heng Bunkiet, director of Department of Drugs and Food at the Ministry of Health.

"The exhibition is a platform that brings domestic and international enterprises in the healthcare, cosmetics, beauty, hair and spa related industries together for business cooperation, expanding business and seeing the latest innovations," he said at the opening ceremony.

He said currently, there are 16 pharmaceutical factories in Cambodia and 332 companies importing and distributing healthcare and pharmaceutical products in the country.

He added that the Southeast Asian country has 1,638 pharmacies, he added. and 201 firms importing and distributing cosmetic products.

It is estimated that the pharmaceutical and cosmetic market in Cambodia is valued at about 1 billion US dollars per year. —*Xinhua*

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China says should constructively handle disputes with India

HANGZHOU, (China) — Chinese President Xi Jinping told Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday that the two countries should respect each other's concerns and constructively handle their differences.

The two nuclear-armed neighbours have been moving to gradually ease long-existing tensions between them.

Leaders of Asia's two giants pledged last year to cool a festering border dispute, which dates back to a brief border war in 1962, though the disagreement remains unresolved.

Meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, Xi said relations had maintained a steady, healthy momentum, and should continue to increase mutual understanding and trust.

"We ought to respect and give consideration to each other's concerns, and use constructive methods to appropriately handle questions on which there are disputes," Xi said, in comments carried by China's Foreign Ministry.

"China is willing to work hard with India the maintain the hard-won good position of Sino-India relations," Xi added.

China's Defence Ministry said last month that it hoped India could put more efforts into regional peace and stability rather than the opposite, in response to Indian plans to put advanced cruise missiles along the disputed border with China.

Indian military officials say the plan is to equip regiments deployed on the China border with the BrahMos missile, made by an Indo-Russian joint venture, as part of ongoing efforts to build up military and civilian infrastructure capabilities there.

China lays claim to more than 90,000 sq km (35,000 sq miles) ruled by New Delhi in the eastern sector of the Himalayas. India says China occupies 38,000 sq km (14,600 sq miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau in the west.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the West Lake State Guest House ahead of G20 Summit in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China, on 4 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

India is also suspicious of China's support for its arch-rival, Pakistan.

Modi arrived in China from Viet Nam, which is involved in its own dispute with China over the South China Sea, where he offered Viet Nam a credit line of half a billion dollars for defence cooperation.

Modi's government has ordered BrahMos Aerospace, which produces the BrahMos missiles, to accelerate sales to a list of five countries topped by Viet Nam, according to a government note viewed by Reuters and previously unreported.—*Reuters*

ASEAN leaders to avoid mentioning tribunal ruling on South China Sea

BANGKOK — The chairman's statement to be issued after a summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Laos this week will avoid any mention of the landmark July ruling by an international tribunal that rejected China's vast claims to most of the South China Sea, an ASEAN source said on Sunday.

Leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations instead limit themselves to reiterating their concerns over developments in the disputed sea without mentioning China by name, according to the source.

"We remain seriously concerned over recent and ongoing developments and took note of the concerns expressed by some leaders on the land reclamations and escalation of activities in the area," according to a draft of the chairman's statement penned by China-leaning Laos, this year's chair of the grouping.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague ruled on 12 July that China's claims to economic rights across large swathes of the South China, which overlap with those of the Philippines and other neighbouring countries, have no legal basis. China has rejected the ruling as "a piece of wastepaper" and insisted that disputes in the resource-rich body of water must be addressed by claimants through bilateral negotiations.

Echoing the statements of previous summits, the draft notes the importance of full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea signed by China and ASEAN in 2002 and the early conclusion of ongoing talks on the framework of a legally binding Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

The importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities, including land reclamation that could escalate the dispute are also mentioned in the statement.

ASEAN and China plan to show progress in their cooperation by issuing official guidelines for hotline communications among senior officials of China and ASEAN.

A separate joint statement on the application of the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea in the South China Sea will also be released in a sideline meeting between ASEAN and China to ensure maritime safety in the disputed sea. In the meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers held in Vientiane in July, a united assessment on the international tribunal's ruling also proved to be unattainable. In that meeting, the Philippines and Viet Nam, two of the four ASEAN members with claims to parts of the South China Sea, demanded that the communique "welcome" the ruling.

However, they were blocked by ASEAN members with close ties with China, most notably Cambodia, that have sought to avoid antagonizing China as it is a major source of aid and an important investment partner.

While the country that holds the rotating ASEAN chairmanship is supposed to host two summits a year, due to logistical concerns Laos will be hosting the 28th and 29th ASEAN summits back to back this week, effectively resulting in a single meeting.—*Kyodo News*

China's Xi at G20 says world economy at risk, warns against protectionism

HANGZHOU (China) — The global economy is being threatened by rising protectionism and risks from highly leveraged financial markets, Chinese President Xi Jinping said at the open of a two-day summit of leaders from G20 nations.

His warning on Sunday followed bilateral talks with Barack Obama that the US president described as "extremely productive", but which failed to bring both sides closer on thornier topics such as tensions in the South China Sea.

With the summit taking place after Britain's vote in June to exit the European Union and before the US presidential election in November, observers expect G20 leaders to mount a defence of free trade and globalization and warn against isolationism.

The global economy has arrived "at a crucial juncture", Xi said, in the face of sluggish demand, volatile financial markets and feeble trade and investment.

"Growth drivers from the previous round of technological progress are gradually fading, while a new round of technological and industrial revolution has yet to gain momentum," he said.

G20 countries are set to agree in a communique at the end of the summit that all policy measures — including monetary, fiscal and structural reforms — should be used to achieve solid and sustainable economic growth, Japanese Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda said.

"Commitment will be made to utilizing all three policy tools of monetary and fiscal policies and structural reforms to achieve solid, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth," Hagiuda told reporters on the sidelines of the summit.

Xi also called on G20 countries to match their words with actions.

"We should turn the G20 group into an action team, instead of a talk shop," he said.

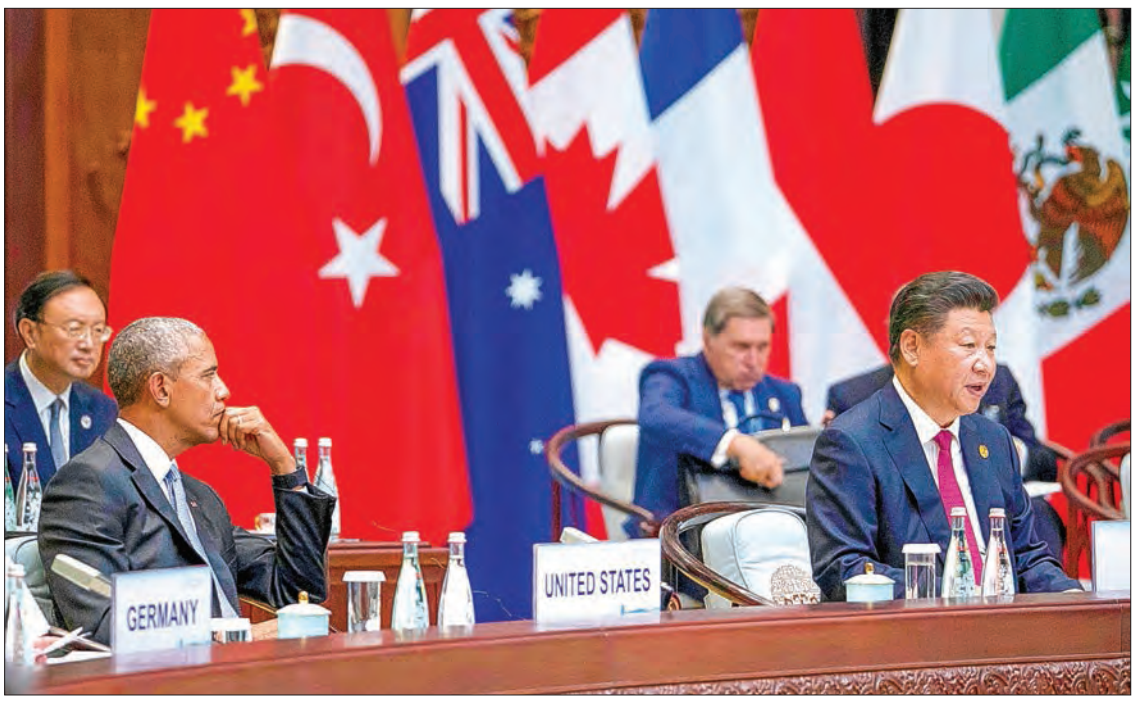
But some of the G20 leaders have begun drawing battle lines in disputes over issues ranging from trade and investment to tax policy and industrial overcapacity.

On Sunday, Xi held talks with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and told him he hoped Australia would continue to provide a fair, transparent and predictable policy environment for foreign investors.

China was angered when Australia blocked the A$10 billion ($7.7 billion) sale of the country's biggest energy grid to Chinese bidders last month.

China has accused Australia of bowing to protectionist sentiment in blocking the bid for Ausgrid, as well as an earlier one by a China-led consortium to buy cattle company Kidman & Co.

Beijing has also criticized Australia, a staunch US ally, for running surveillance flights over disputed islands in the South China Sea.—*Reuters*



US President Barack Obama watches as Chinese President Xi Jinping speaks at the opening ceremony of the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China, on 4 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Syria ceasefire deal with Russia close, but Obama says 'not there yet'

HANGZHOU, (China) — President Barack Obama said the United States and Russia were working on Sunday to try to finalise a ceasefire in Syria that would allow more deliveries of humanitarian aid in the war-torn country.

A deal could be announced as early as Sunday, a senior US State Department official said on the sidelines of the G20 summit in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou.

"We're not there yet," Obama told reporters after a meeting with UK Prime Minister Theresa May, noting previous ceasefires had failed to last for long.

Military officials from the United States and Russia, which back opposite sides in Syria's five-year war, have been meeting for weeks to try to work on terms of a deal.

The civil war has killed more than 250,000 people and displaced 11 million, causing a refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe, and contributing to a rise in militant Islamist groups.

"We have grave differences with the Russians in terms of both the parties we support but also the process that is required to bring about peace in Syria," Obama said.

Russia has backed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, but the United States has worked with moderate opposition forces fighting Assad.

"But if we do not get some buy-in from the Russians on reducing the violence and easing the humanitarian crisis, then it's difficult to see how we get to the next phase, he said.

The White House has said Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin likely would have the chance to talk informally on the sidelines of the G20. No time for that meeting has been announced.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fuel tanker, bus collision in Afghanistan kills 38, injures 28

KABUL — At least 38 people were killed and 28 were injured in Afghanistan after a fuel tanker collided with a passenger bus, causing a massive explosion, local officials said on Sunday.

The incident took place on a major highway connecting the southern province of Kandahar with the capital city of Kabul.

Ghulam Jilani Farahi, deputy police chief of Zabul Province where the accident occurred, said authorities could identify only six bodies and the rest were totally burnt. Farahi said several women and children were among the victims in the bus that was carrying more than 60 people. The driver of the oil tanker and a co-passenger died immediately after the truck burst into flames during the early morning hours on Sunday.

The Kabul-Kandahar highway passes through areas prone to militancy and many drivers are known to drive at top speeds in hopes of avoiding insurgent activity. —*Reuters*

Japan, Egypt leaders meet to discuss antiterrorism cooperation

HANGZHOU (China) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on Sunday to discuss antiterrorism and economic cooperation.

The meeting between the two leaders in the Chinese city of Hangzhou took place ahead of this year's two-day summit of the Group of 20 major economies.

El-Sisi, who became president in 2014, made his first visit to Japan in February this year. The latest meeting is intended to be a follow-up on a set of measures Japan has pledged to help secure stability in the Middle East and further economic development in Egypt, according to Japanese officials.— *Kyodo News*

Bangladesh executes Islamist party leader Mir Quasem Ali for war crimes

DHAKA — Bangladesh has executed another top leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, Mir Quasem Ali, for war crimes committed during Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence with Pakistan.

"Ali has been hanged to death (Saturday) at 10:30pm (local time)," superintendent of the Kashimpur Jail on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka told journalists.

Bangladesh Saturday evening ordered to execute death row war criminal Ali as he chose not to seek presidential pardon after losing the final legal battle.—*Xinhua*

Security drones may be used at Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia

SYDNEY — Australian authorities are mulling on using security drones to help keep athletes and spectators safe at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Gold Coast 2018 (GC2018) commonwealth games chairman Peter Beattie said the security drones would be used in venues that had dense bushland and areas that are hard to reach for security purposes, the *Australian Associated Press* reported on Thursday.

"Security planning for GC2018 is well established, however we appreciate the application of new technologies and have an open mind when it comes to their use," Beattie said.

A firm decision on the drones would be made as GC2018 draws closer said the games head of security, Danny Bade.

In the past, security drones have been featured at the 2012 Olympics and the current Rio Olympic games in Brazil.—*Xinhua*

Syrian army recaptures fallen military base in the northern province of Aleppo

DAMASCUS — The Syrian army recaptured on Sunday a military base that fell to the rebels in the northern province of Aleppo, as part of a progress made by the army to restore fallen territory in the province, a military source told Xinhua.

The Syrian army recaptured the Armament College in the southern countryside of Aleppo, continuing to advance in that area to lay a "nearly full siege" on the rebels in the eastern part of Aleppo city.

The college is one of a series of military colleges that had fallen to the rebels early last month, as part of a wide-scale rebel offensive aimed at breaking the government troops' imposed siege on rebel-held areas east of Aleppo.—*Xinhua*

Trump calls for new civil rights agenda in visit to black church

DETROIT — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump stepped up his bid to win over minority voters by addressing a largely black church in Detroit on Saturday and calling for a new civil rights agenda to support African-Americans.

As scores of protesters outside chanted "No justice, no peace," Trump said he wanted to make Detroit — a predominantly African-American city which recently emerged from bankruptcy — the economic envy of the world by bringing back companies from abroad.

Trump separately met with about 100 community and church leaders, his campaign said, in his latest push to peel away minority voters from Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

His outreach to minorities over recent weeks comes as he seeks to improve his chances in the 8 November election and shake off months of offending the sensibilities of black and Hispanic voters with his hard line on immigration and rough-hewn rhetoric.

"I fully understand that the African American community is suffering from discrimination and that there are many wrongs that must still be made right," Trump said at the church which was half-full.

"I want to make America prosperous for everyone. I want to make this city the economic envy of the world, and we can do that."

His address of over 10 minutes at the Great Faith Ministries International church received moments of applause, including when he said Christian faith is not the past, but the present and the future. Accompanying Trump to the church was Ben Carson, the former Republican presidential hopeful who grew up in the city and whose childhood neighborhood Trump visited on Saturday.

Trump has argued that his emphasis on job creation would help minority communities in a way that Democrats have failed to.

But Clinton has accused Trump of aligning himself with racists. Opinion polls show Trump has low support among minorities.—*Reuters*

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Venezuela's Maduro jeered, dozens briefly detained – activists

CARACAS — Venezuelan authorities briefly rounded up more than 30 people on Margarita island for heckling President Nicolas Maduro, activists said on Saturday, in what appeared to be a rare public confrontation with the unpopular leader.

Videos published by activists, purportedly from the Margarita locality of Villa Rosa on Friday night, show scores of people banging pots and pans and jeering their president during a visit to inspect state housing projects. The display of anger followed a vast march in Caracas on Thursday that opposition leaders say has emboldened Maduro's foes after 17 years of socialist rule in the OPEC nation of 30 million people. After Maduro left Villa Rosa, a rundown area known in the past as a pro-government stronghold, intelligence agents moved in, opposition and rights campaigners said. More than 30 people were detained, but all except Braulio Jatar, a local pro-opposition lawyer and journalist, had been released by Saturday afternoon, according to the Penal Forum rights group. The government did not comment on the incident in detail, but Information Minister Luis Marcano published a video on Twitter showing Maduro blowing kisses, pumping his fist and being cheered in Margarita.

"What you didn't see in the videos manipulated by the right wing," Marcano wrote.—*Reuters*

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Clinton tells FBI she could not recall all briefings on preserving documents

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton addresses the National Convention of the American Legion in Cincinnati, Ohio, US, on 31 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton, under questioning by federal investigators over whether she had been briefed on how to preserve government records as she was about to leave the State Department, said she had suffered a concussion, was working part-time and could not recall every briefing she received.

Clinton, the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, raised the health scare during her 3-1/2-hour interview with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Justice Department prosecutors on 2 July, according to an FBI summary released on Friday.

Besides the 11-page interview summary, the FBI also released other details of its investigation into her use of an unauthorised private email system while running the State Department, in which it concluded she mishandled classified information but not in a way that warranted a criminal prosecution.

Clinton told investigators she could not recall getting any briefings on how to handle classified information or comply with laws governing the preservation of federal records, the summary of her interview shows.

"However, in December of 2012, Clinton suffered a concussion and then around the New Year had a blood clot," the FBI's summary said. "Based on her doctor's advice, she could only work at State for a few hours a day and could not recall every briefing she received."

A Clinton campaign aide said Clinton only referenced her concussion to explain she was not at work but for a few hours a day at that time, not that she did not remember things from that period.

The concussion was widely reported then, and Republicans have since used it to attack the 68-year-old candidate's health in a way her staff have said is unfounded.

The FBI report, which does not quote Clinton directly, is ambiguous about whether it was her concussion that affected her ability to recall briefings.

The FBI declined to provide further comment on the report.

Clinton, who is challenging Republican Donald Trump for the White House in the 8 November election, has been dogged for more than a year by the fallout from her decision to use an unauthorised private email account run from the basement of her Chappaqua, New York, home.

Republicans have repeatedly attacked Clinton over the issue, helping drive opinion polls that show many US voters doubt her trustworthiness.

Trump's campaign issued a statement immediately following the FBI report's release saying the notes from the interview "reinforce her tremendously bad judgment and dishonesty."

Clinton has said that in hindsight she regretted using a private email system while secretary of state.

According to the report, Clinton told the FBI that she did not set up a private email server to sidestep the law requiring her to keep her business communications a matter of public record. —*Reuters*

Bangladesh police arrest second militant suspected of killing publisher

DHAKA — Police in Bangladesh have arrested another suspect in the killing of a publisher who was hacked to death by Islamist militants last October, the head of the counter-terrorism unit in Dhaka said on Sunday.

Militants have targeted secularist writers in Bangladesh in recent years as the government has cracked down on Islamist groups seeking to turn the South Asian nation of 160 million people into a sharia-based state. "Another man whom we believe was one of the main prime suspects in killing the publisher was arrested on Saturday," Monirul Islam, chief of the counter-terroism cell of the Dhaka police, told reporters.

The victim, Faysal Arefin Dipon, had published books written by Avijit Roy, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin. Roy was also hacked to death by Islamist militants last year. On 1 July, militants killed 20 hostages, most of them foreigners, in an assault on a cafe in an upmarket area of the capital. —*Reuters*

Oklahoma rocked by one of its strongest earthquakes

PAWNEE (Okla.) — One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded in Oklahoma rattled the area northwest of Pawnee on Saturday, fuelling growing concern about seismic activity linked to energy production, a federal agency said.

The magnitude 5.6 quake, which was felt from South Dakota to Texas, prompted the closure of some 35 wastewater disposal wells in the area, officials said.

It shallow quake struck 9 miles (14 km) northwest of Pawnee in north-central Oklahoma at 7:02am CDT (1302 GMT). Its 5.6 magnitude matched a 2011 earthquake for the biggest on record in the state, the US Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of injuries in Pawnee, where about 25 per cent of the residents are Native Americans. Damage in the town appeared to be minor, and the Pawnee Nation declared a state of emergency for its area.

"You heard it before it happened," Pawnee resident Jasha Lyons Echo-Hawk said. "Watching my drawers all shake out and my headboard rattle, it felt like I was watching 'Paranormal Activity.' It felt like I was in a movie."

Pawnee Mayor Brad Sewell said the tremor lasted nearly a minute, far longer than previous ones that lasted only a second or two. Part of the facade of an early 20th-century bank building fell into a downtown street, he said. The earthquake, which was only 4.1 miles (6.6 km) deep, could fuel concerns about the environmental impact of oil and gas drilling, which has been blamed for a massive spike in minor to moderate quakes in the region.—*Reuters*

MEICO MAPCO MAGDPL

Invitation To Submit Expression of Interest

International Integrated Grain & Food Products Port Terminal Project at Plot no. 27, 28 and 29, Thilawa Port & Terminal Area

1. We, Myanmar Edible Oil Industrial Public Corporation Ltd (MEICO), Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Ltd (MAPCO) and Myanmar General Development Public Ltd (MAGDPL), jointly invested for the International Integrated Grain & Food Products Port Terminal Project, under permission of Myanmar Investment Commission and Ministry of Transport, at Plot No. 27, 28 and 29, Thilawa Port & Terminal Area.
2. We hereby invite Expression of Interest (EOI) from competent companies, specialized in Engineering, Management and Consulting for drawing design, tender preparation, tender evaluation and advising, supervision with construction parties.(Proposed size of jetty must be maximum 590m at the front size and minimum 30m Width, including trestles approach. We intend the jetty to serve the cargo and container vessels for loading and unloading of general cargoes and containers.)
3. Interested companies can submit Expression of Interest (EOI), together with company registration, profile, international qualification documents/certificates, project experiences (especially in Port Construction) deliverables to MAPCO Head Office, No. 100, Corner of Wardan Street and Kan Nar Street, Beside the Concrete Express Way, Wardan Port Area, Seik Kan (Port) Tsp, Yangon, not later than on 20th September 2016.
4. Any enquiries can be made in person at the MAPCO Office or via e-mail at bod@mapco-ygn.com, admin@mapco-ygn.com or by phone to MAPCO Office (Thilawa Project Department), 01-2301652, 2301653.

Department of Basic Education
Ministry of Education

Japan International Cooperation System

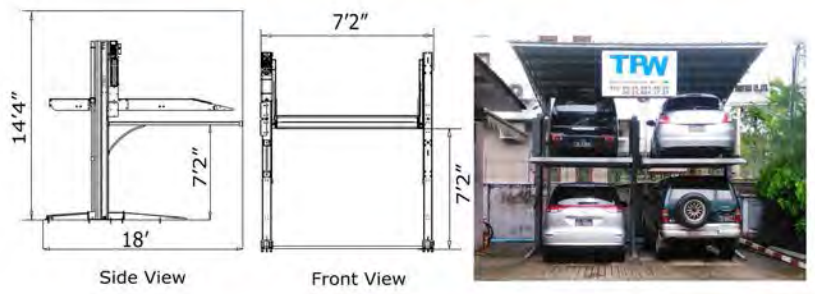
PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE

The Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (hereinafter referred to as "the Recipient") signed the Exchange of Notes (hereinafter referred to as "the E/N") dated February 17th, 2016, concerning the Japanese grant assistance for the Project for the Reconstruction of Flood-Affected Schools. Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) is acting as the procurement agent for and on behalf of the Recipient for procuring the products and services in accordance with the E/N.

Companies who are interested in procurement of the products and services for the said project shall send an-email by 15:00 hours, September 16, 2016 (Myanmar Standard Time), which mentions company name, name of representative, name of contact person, e-mail address, TEL and FAX, to the e-mail addresses below;
Attention: Mr. Phyo Wai Min, Coordinator / Mr. Pyae Sone Ko, Junior Coordinator
E-mail address: h27myanmarschool@jics.or.jp,
myanmarschool27.jics@gmail.com and jics.yangon.1@gmail.com

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော

MECHANICAL CAR PARKING



TPW ideas coming true (BRNo.200904356H)

No. (31), Room (5), 7 Miles,
Pyay Road, Yangon
T: 09.259.81.36.36
: 09.259.81.37.37
: 09.259.81.46.46

အမှတ်(၃၁)၊ အခန်း (၅)၊ ၇မိုင်၊ ပြည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်။

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(11 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-039(16-17)	Sucker Rods and Pony Rods (17) Items	US$
(2)	IFB-040(16-17)	Pipe Fittings (13) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-041(16-17)	Working Barrels, Working Valves and Standing valves (9) Items	US$
(4)	IFB-042(16-17)	Spares for Progressing Cavity Pump (4)Items	US$
(5)	IFB-043(16-17)	Insert Pumps (26) Items	US$
(6)	IFB-044(16-17)	"SP" Sand Pump (2) Items	US$
(7)	IFB-045(16-17)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Rigs (19) Items	US$
(8)	IFB-046(16-17)	Spares for Mitsubishi S6N Engine (36)Items	US$
(9)	IFB-047(16-17)	1 1/2" Pitch Five Layer Roller Chain (2) Items	US$
(10)	IFB-048(16-17)	Spares for QY 50K Mobile Crane (5) Items	US$
(11)	IFB-049(16-17)	Spares for Grove Mobile Crane (16) Items	US$
(12)	IFB-050(16-17)	Spares for Dongfeng Nissan Tractor (43) Items	US$
(13)	IFB-051(16-17)	Spares for Dongfeng Nissan Tractor (21) Items	US$
(14)	IFB-052(16-17)	Spares For Pressure Regulating System (10) Items	US$
(15)	IFB-053(16-17)	Spares For Sino Truck (20-Ton Long Body) (29) Items	US$
(16)	IFB-054(16-17)	Spares For GM 8V-71 Engine Ex Cementing Unit (22) Items	US$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 29-9-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5TH September, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Survival epic 'Brimstone' shows Wild West from a female perspective

Director Martin Koolhoven poses with actresses Dakota Fanning (R) and Emilia Jones (L) as they attend the photocall for the movie "Brimstone" at the 73rd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on 3 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

VENICE — Martin Koolhoven decided to cast a female character in the lead of his Western "Brimstone" to finally portray the macho world of the Wild West from a woman's point of view, the Dutch director said at the Venice film festival on Saturday.

The movie tells the survival story of a mute woman called Liz, played by Dakota Fanning, who is stalked by a vengeful preacher, portrayed by Guy Pearce. It is one of 20 films competing for the Golden Lion that will be awarded on 10 September.

"I have always been a big fan of the genre, it is just that I have also been a little bit intimidated by the genre because there are so many great movies," Koolhoven said at a news conference ahead of the movie's premier.

The Dutch director decided to shoot the film in English.

It is a co-production between six countries — the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Britain and Sweden — which the director said granted him bigger flexibility to "make it what we wanted" than if it had US funding.

Fanning said portraying a mute character almost throughout the movie was a particular challenge.

"I'm fascinated with the way people communicate without words in just everyday life, I think the energy, the body language, and overall vibes can say so much more than the words that we say to each other," the 22-year-old US actress said.

Religion and violence are strong themes in this survival epic set in the American West, but shot in Europe, and Koolhoven said being graphic was deliberate to make the story credible.

"I would feel morally very dubious if I made that violence too comfortable, it should be uncomfortable, and if it's too easy to watch then I am doing something wrong," he said.

Fourteen-year-old Emilia Jones, who plays the heroine as a child, said some of the images were so violent that Pearce was hesitant to do some of the things prescribed by the script.

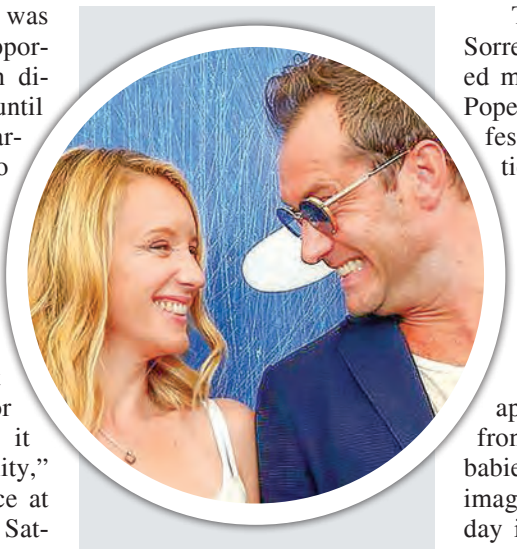
"But it was very key to the script and the minute we said cut he'd hug me and say 'I'm so sorry'," she said.—*Reuters*

Jude Law says he was taken aback when asked to play Sorrentino's pope

VENICE — Jude Law was thrilled to be given the opportunity to work with Italian director Paolo Sorrentino, until it became clear that the character he was being asked to portray was that of a conservative, chain-smoking American pope named Pius XIII.

"Like a ton of bricks it landed on me that I had to play a pope and I didn't quite know where to go or what work to do to offer it some weight and believability," Law told a press conference at the Venice film festival on Saturday.

"But Paolo constantly reminded me that it was a piece about a man who happened to be the pope. Once I started approaching it from that point of view ... it started to come together."



Actor Jude Law (R) chats with actress Ludivine Sagnier as they attend the photocall for the movie 'The Young Pope' at the 73rd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy on 3 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The first two episodes of Sorrentino's hotly-anticipated mini TV-series "The Young Pope" screen at the Venice film festival in the out-of-competition section.

The series tells the story of orphan Lenny Belardo who becomes the first American pope in history and turns out to be a man who shocks and surprises.

It opens with the newly appointed pope crawling out from under a pile of sleeping babies, only to reveal that the image was a dream. On his first day in the job, the new pontiff demands Cherry Coke Zero at breakfast, scolds an elderly nun for kissing his forehead, bans the use of his image on merchandise and refuses to be properly seen or photographed in public, even when he delivers his inaugural homily.—*Reuters*

Annual music festival Huawei Joburg Day kicks off in Johannesburg

South African band Goodluck performs on the Huawei Joburg Day in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 3 September 2016. The annual music festival Joburg Day, sponsored this year by Chinese company Huawei, kicked off on Saturday. The performance given by 11 local artist groups and bands attracted about 22,000 visitors. PHOTO: XINHUA

Chilean director presents in Venice story of solidarity and hope

VENICE — "There is a strong element of human solidarity in this local community. They support and help each other,"said Chilean film director Christopher Murray on the sidelines of the ongoing Venice Film Festival 2016.

"From my prospective, in the places portrayed in the film, I witnessed the difficult life where abuses and episodes of social injustice are hitting the vulnerable populations," Murray told Xinhua in an exclusive interview on his film The Blind Christ (El Cristo Ciego) in competition at the film festival.

Murray is one of the Chilean cinema "nouvelle vague", who were described by Venice Film Festival artistic director Alberto Barbera as the "discovery of the festival". Murray co-directed Manuel de Ribera which premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival in 2010.

The Blind Christ tells the story of a man who was mocked by the villagers after he believes he had experienced a divine revelation in the desert. In order to help an old friend, he embarked on a journey, during which he would change people's perception about his "powers".

With a very contemporary message in a period of crisis, this "imperfect" South American hero reminds people that even in a desert, human's strong motivation in helping others is bigger that any presumed super natural power, according to Murray.

Murray was inspired by other films like Diary of a Country Priest by Robert Bresson, and The Gospel According to St. Matthew by Pier Paolo Pasolini."I like these films because they are able to create a peculiar expressive unique style autonomous from literature and theater," he said.

For Murray, a story should not come from an alien inspiration but from a concrete place or from discovering realities and communities. The film addresses some contemporary issues. The Chilean director believes there were miseries and poverty, most of which were not exposed, beyond development issues that people talked about and the cold economic data people receive every day. —*Xinhua*

Tokyo holds quake preparedness drill for foreign tourists

TOKYO — The Tokyo metropolitan government held a disaster drill on Sunday to test its ability to evacuate foreign tourists safely in the event that a powerful earthquake hits the Japanese capital.

Under the scenario that a magnitude 7.3 quake shook Tokyo at around 8 am, staff working at the Tokyo Skytree in Sumida Ward escorted some 120 people playing foreign tourists from the observatory deck to safety outside the 634-metre tower.

When the role-playing tourists arrived at an open space near the tower, staff inquired to their wellbeing through a megaphone equipped with a translating function.

With police and firefighters also taking part, the metropolitan government is stepping up measures to better serve a growing number of foreign visitors to Tokyo ahead of the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics.

Observing the disaster drill, Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike told participants, "We have to take safety measures as we will host people from around the world. Let's build a safe Tokyo city together, with Tokyoites, business operators and local government working as one."—*Kyodo News*

Guinness World Records has a new top dog

NEW YORK — How does a New York hot dog institution celebrate its 100th anniversary? By breaking a world record, which is what Nathan's Famous hot dogs did on Friday by notching a Guinness World Record for the world's longest line of hot dogs.

The record saw 1,916 hot dogs, in honor of the year Nathan's Famous hot dogs was founded, prepared in buns, wrapped in foil and assembled in a continuous line. A small crowd cheered on the workers as they assembled the hot dogs at the Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan.

"There are certain brands, certain things that say really New York, the Empire State Building is one, the Brooklyn Bridge. Nathan's hot dogs stands beside them," said George Shea, Chairman of Major League Eating and host Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest.

Guinness World Record adjudicator Kimberly Partrick said in order to achieve a world record, the hot dogs had to be placed in a continuous line and each one had to be assembled in a bun and touching the next one. At the end of all the hard work, the Nathan's staff created a hot dog line 958 feet long (292 meters), shattering the previous record of 846 feet (258 meters) set in Tokyo in 2014.

Nine-time Nathan's Famous hot dog eating champion, Joey Chestnut, who recently regained his Mustard Yellow International Belt during the July 4th hot dog eating contest, said Nathan's hot dogs are among the best.—*Reuters*

MRTV News Channel

(5-9-2016, Monday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 pm
- People's Talk

8:35 am
- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competions

9:35 am
- Women In Myanmar Society

10:35 am
- Answer For Agriculture

10:45 am
- Analysis For Myanmar Movie

11:15 am
- ASEAN Programme

11:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

12:35 pm
- TV Drama Series

1:30 pm
- Mono Classical Songs

1:55 pm
- Once Recorded Arts

2:20 pm
- **KARAOKE World Championships (KWC)**

Myanmar 2016 (Level-1) (Group-1)

3:35 pm
- Tasty Trip

4:10 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) — Second Year (English)

4:35 pm
- Socio Economic Scenes

5:20pm
- This Week's Special Interest

5:35 pm
- Yes or No Talk Show (Choice on Degree) (Part-2)

6:35 pm
- Law Affairs

7:15 pm
- TV Drama Seires

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News
- MCN Debate
- TV Drama Series
- Nay Ma Win Ah Hla Myar (Mar Mar Aye) (Part-7)

Note/Hourly News Bulletlns (Local + International)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(5-9-2016, Monday)

06 : 00 pm
- Weather Report
- International Movie Songs

06 : 15 pm
- Next Generation "Nyan Lin Htet (Football)"

06 : 25 pm
- Travelogue "Welcome To Naga Land"

07 : 00 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

07 : 10 pm
- International Drama Series

07 : 50 pm
- International Drama Series

08 : 30 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

08 : 35 pm
- International Movie

10: 10 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

10: 20 pm
- Myanmar Video

(00:00 Am ~ 06:00 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 00:00 Am)

(06:00 Am ~ 08:35 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 08:35 Pm)

08 : 35 Am
- Myanmar Video

10 : 15 Am
- MRTV Entertainment Music

10 : 30 pm
- International Movie

(12:00 Pm ~ 04:25 Pm) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Am ~ 10:25 Am)

04 : 25 pm
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

04 : 50 pm
- Cartoon Movie "Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children Complete"

06 : 00 pm
- Close Down.

From 5-9-2016 (Monday) 6:00 pm
To 6-9-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm

Tokyo DisneySea marks 15th anniversary

Tokyo DisneySea holds a ceremony to mark the 15th anniversary of its opening in Urayasu, Chiba Prefecture, on 4 September 2016. The ceremony, which was originally scheduled on 15 April, was postponed due to a series of strong earthquakes in Kumamoto, southwestern Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CHIBA, (Japan) — Tokyo DisneySea, the popular Disney marine theme park in Japan, marked its 15th anniversary on Sunday, with Mickey Mouse and the other Disney characters welcoming visitors with a dance performance.

Toshio Kagami, chairman of Oriental Land Co., operator of the Tokyo Disney Resort amusement park complex, east of Tokyo, vowed in a speech at a commemorative ceremony to continue developing DisneySea into a "unique theme park which can only be found here."

Oriental Land also operates Tokyo Disneyland, which opened in April 1983 and is located next to Tokyo DisneySea in Urayasu, Chiba Prefecture.

Together, Tokyo DisneySea and Disneyland had drawn a total of 660 million visitors by the end of March.

The ceremony's highlight was a dance number performed by Mickey Mouse and other Disney characters such as Minnie Mouse and Donald Duck at the park's harbor area.

The park opened on 4 September, 2001, featuring attractions related to the sea and in the hope of bringing in more adults.

Tokyo DisneySea began commemorative events for its 15th anniversary entitled "The Year of Wishes" in April.

The anniversary ceremony was initially set for 15 April but was rescheduled following a series of powerful earthquakes that hit Kumamoto Prefecture and other parts of southwestern Japan. —*Kyodo News*

mitv Myanmar International

(5-9-2016 07:00am ~ 6-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- Lacquareware Making
07:51	Am	Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments — Myanma Harp (Episode-1)
08:51	Am	Tea Leaves
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-1)
09:44	Am	Five-Star Ocean Liners in Myanmar Waters
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Betel Nut Farmer
10:38	Am	Oboist and His Life

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-5) (Part-2)
07:54	Pm	Scented Buddha Images
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad)
08:43	Pm	Temple Stalls
08:50	Pm	A Snake Catcher

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

4th Waxing of Tawthalin 1378 ME | Monday, 5 September, 2016

Serena reaches US Open last 16 with milestone win

NEW YORK — Another win, another milestone for Serena Williams who rolled into the US Open last 16 on Saturday by crushing Sweden's Johanna Larsson 6-2, 6-1 to collect grand slam victory number 307 — the most by a woman in the Open era.

As in the majority of her victories at the majors, Williams operated with ruthless efficiency but displayed little fire as she coolly dispatched the 47th-ranked Swede in exactly one hour.

The win moved the 34-year-old American past Martina Navratilova and level with Roger Federer for most grand slam victories by a man or woman.

"Wow. That's pretty awesome and honestly what a better place to do it than here, where it all started," Williams told an adoring Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd.

"It is actually a really good feeling. To be up there with both men and women is something that's super rare."

It was at Flushing Meadows where Williams won her first grand slam in 1999 and 17 years later it is where she could achieve two more career landmarks if she can reach the winner's circle again on 10 September.

A record seventh US Open title would give Williams 23 career grand slams, moving her past Steffi Graf again for the most in the Open Era, and just one shy of Margaret Court who tops the all-time list with 24.

"Each number I'm definitely proud of," said Williams. "I was really excited to 307. I was really excited to do that."

Williams will go for win number 308 on Monday when she meets Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova, a 6-2, 7-5 winner over China's Zhang Shuai, in round four. Williams arrived at Flushing Meadows last year on the cusp of claiming a calendar slam and the weight of expectation was crushing, the pressure mounting with each match until a shock loss to Roberta Vinci in the semi-finals.

This year Williams has been unusually low key, making her way into the fourth round with minimum fuss having yet to drop a set, conserving energy for the second week where the real tournament begins for the world number one. For her first day match on Arthur Ashe, Williams switched from evening black to afternoon white but the change in attire did nothing to change the outcome.

Larsson fell behind quickly as Williams broke her at the first opportunity and again to close out the first set.—*Reuters*

Nishikori plays French bogeyman to reach US Open last 16

NEW YORK — Sixth seed Kei Nishikori continued to be a French bogeyman, beating a sluggish Nicolas Mahut 4-6, 6-1 6-2, 6-2 in the third round at the US Open on Saturday.

With a 10-1 record against Frenchmen this season, Nishikori surely was pleased to see four players from France in his quarter of the draw, and he added the 34-year-old Mahut's scalp to his growing collection.

While Nishikori, who reached the US Open final in 2014, will not be happy dropping the first set, the 26-year-old Japanese will be upbeat about the finish after surrendering just five games in the next three sets.

Nishikori has now reached at least the fourth round in all four grand slams this season. Next up is the winner between big-hitting Croatian Ivo Karlovic and American qualifier Jared Donaldson.—*Reuters*

Kei Nishikori. PHOTO: REUTERS

Allardyce admits to England nerves ahead of Slovakia game

LONDON — New England manager Sam Allardyce has admitted that he will be nervous when he leads the national side out for the first time in their opening 2018 World Cup qualifier against Slovakia on Sunday.

The 61-year-old has spent his whole managerial career in the English leagues, leading Bolton Wanderers, Newcastle United, West Ham United and Sunderland among other teams, but has always maintained that the England job was his ultimate career goal.

After being named as Roy Hodgson's successor following England's disappointing Euro 2016 campaign, he will fulfill his ambition when he takes charge of the national side in Trnava.

"I think there will be nerves," Allardyce told reporters on Saturday.

"Every new job you get, you are nervous. You hope your players go out and do your talking and deliver what you want — a victory.

"I'll be nervous in the early stages," he added. "But once the game starts, the focus on the game kicks in and I don't hear the crowd around me.

"I will be thinking about how I communicate with the team to make the changes I need to." England's preparations have been affected by the loss of goalkeeper Fraser Forster who injured his arm in training and the withdrawal of left back Luke Shaw, who had returned to train with Manchester United as England look to manage his workload.

One player who will be available is captain Wayne Rooney, who was named in the starting side Allardyce announced on Friday and will make his 116th appearance, overtaking David Beckham as England's most-capped outfield player. "It is always an honour to represent your country so to become the player with the second-highest number of caps is great," Rooney said.

"But tomorrow is about the team. I'm sure one day in the future I'll look back but right now I am looking forward and that is all I am focused on," he added.

"I have said many times I'm proud to play for England and have been since I got in the team, but it is the start of a new qualification campaign so it is important that we get off to a good start."—*Reuters*

Ariya within striking distance at Manulife LPGA

TORONTO — Lee Mi-hyang took a one-shot lead over Kim Hyo-joo in the third round of the Manulife LPGA Classic in Ontario on Saturday but the South Korean pair will be looking over their shoulders at Ariya Jutanugarn, who is closing in on a sixth win since May.

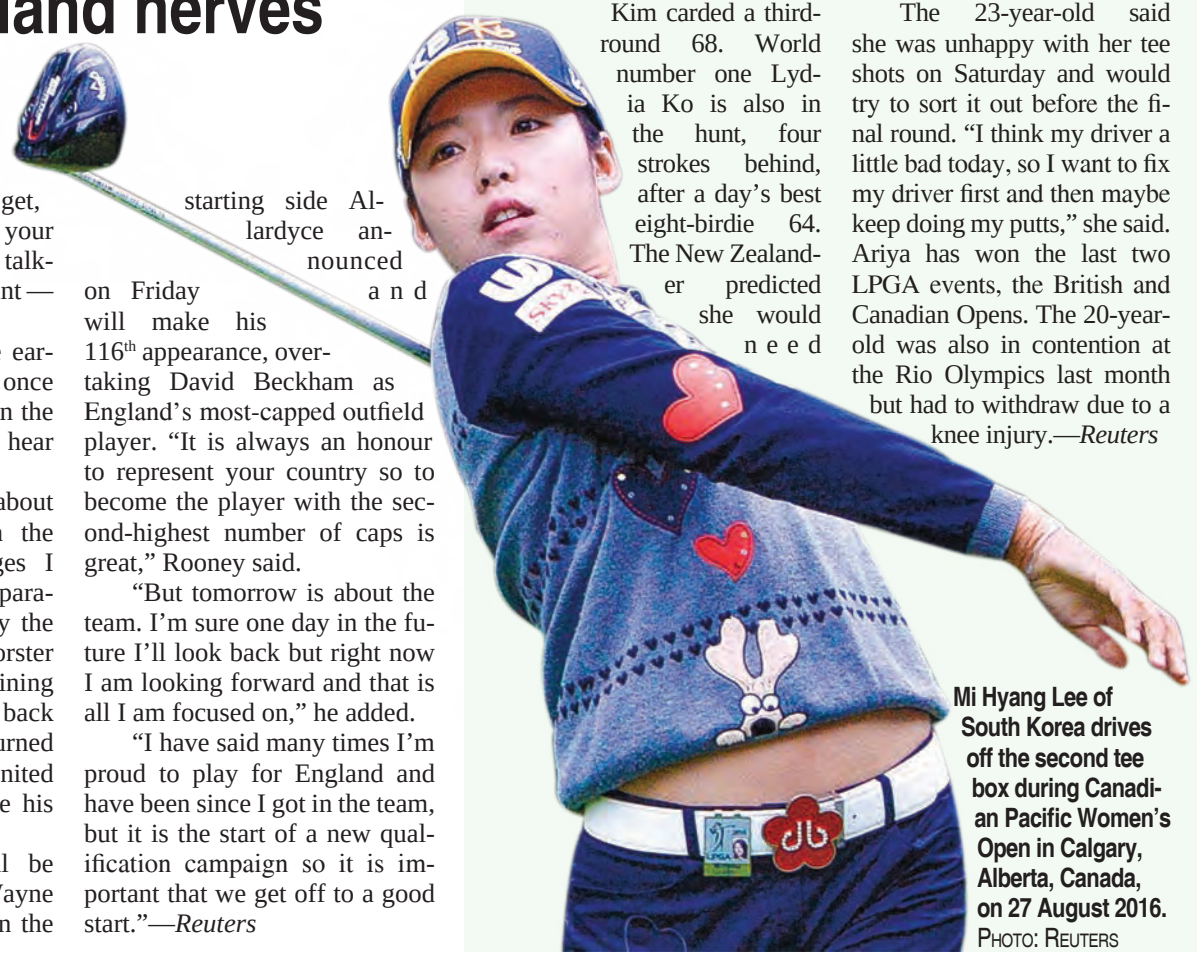
Thailand's Ariya compiled eight birdies for a six-under-par round of 66 on the Whistle Bear course in Cambridge to finish the day tied for third, two strokes behind Lee, who also shot a 66 for a combined 14-under 202.

Kim carded a third-round 68. World number one Lydia Ko is also in the hunt, four strokes behind, after a day's best eight-birdie 64. The New Zealander predicted she would need another hot round to reel in Lee and the other frontrunners.

"I think it would need to be a low one like today," she added. Lee, whose sole victory on the LPGA Tour came at the Mizuno Classic in 2014, recovered from a bogey at the first to move into the lead, though she was unaware of her score until after the round.

"I made six birdies and one eagle, but I didn't know that," she told reporters. "So just when I checked my score at the score tent, it was a little amazing for me."

The 23-year-old said she was unhappy with her tee shots on Saturday and would try to sort it out before the final round. "I think my driver a little bad today, so I want to fix my driver first and then maybe keep doing my putts," she said. Ariya has won the last two LPGA events, the British and Canadian Opens. The 20-year-old was also in contention at the Rio Olympics last month but had to withdraw due to a knee injury.—*Reuters*



Mi Hyang Lee of South Korea drives off the second tee box during Canadian Pacific Women's Open in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on 27 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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