MOTHERS AT HIGH RISK

New census report: 2,800 women die each year in childbirth and pregnancy

CENSUS data released yesterday showed that about 2,800 women in Myanmar die each year in childbirth or during pregnancy, underlining the need for better maternity care and family planning.

Put into sobering perspective, the statistics show that one in five deaths among young women in Myanmar is a maternal death.

“We need to put more effort into providing access to better health care services for pregnant women, both during pregnancy and after childbirth,” said U Myint Kyaw, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The Permanent Secretary made his remarks yesterday at a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw to launch the first set of thematic analysis reports compiled from 2014 census data.

“The government is starting a programme to respond to maternal deaths with the assistance of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and providing training to health staff,” he added.

“The findings reveal the suffering of women and the anguish of the surviving families. A significant decline in maternal mortality rates could be achieved if women had the choice to give birth to fewer children”, says Janet E. Jackson, the UNFPA Representative for Myanmar. At 282 per 100,000 live births, Myanmar’s maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is the second-highest among ASEAN countries. Every day, eight women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy, childbirth and care in the early weeks after birth. The findings come from the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census Thematic Report on Maternal Mortality.

The most important factors contributing to maternal mortality are isolation and deprivation, the report said. Maternal mortality is higher among poor and uneducated women who have limited ability to recognise pregnancy complications and to access care. The MMR differs between states and regions. It is significantly lower in urban areas and for women who give birth in a facility that can provide basic and emergency obstetric care. Most maternal deaths are caused by treatable conditions such as bleeding and infection.

Fertility also plays an important role. Mortality is higher among women who give birth frequently; among very young women, whose bodies are not ready for childbirth and among women over 40. Women over 45 are four times more likely to die in childbirth. But age itself is not the only factor. Early, late and frequent pregnancies indicate social and economic disadvantages that hinder access to contraception and reproductive health information. The findings show that maternal health care does not reach everyone. The report calls for policies and interventions that support safe motherhood, especially in deprived communities and in remote areas.

To reduce maternal deaths, the Government of Myanmar, with the support of UNFPA and WHO, is launching the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response action programme. Training of health staff is already underway. Mandatory recording of maternal deaths will start in December.

“Each maternal death is a tragedy. Each maternal death has a story to tell. This is the tool that will ensure that every maternal death is counted. Once we know the true magnitude of maternal mortality and its causes, the Myanmar health system will be more able to employ practical ways to address its causes”, said Janet E. Jackson, UNFPA Representative for Myanmar.

Regarding the infant mortality rate, the report showed that the infant mortality rate has declined in Myanmar for three decades. However, the rate is still high when compared with other ASEAN countries.

“It’s found that the infant and adult mortality rate are still high in Ayeyawady Region, Magway Region and Chin State compared with other regions and states. Surveys need to be conducted on infant and adult mortality rates there to know whether the findings in the census are correct,” said U Myint Kyaw.—GNLM

Press conference on seizure of K2.8 billion worth of fake, expired drugs held

UNION Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho vowed to eradicate the circulation and manufacture of fake and expired medicines in the country during a press conference on the confiscation of K2.8 billion worth of counterfeit drugs and materials used in the production of fake drugs yesterday.

The new government will not tolerate the fake drug business. It has harmful effects on society, said the Union minister, adding that punitive action will be taken against those involved in the business.

According to the press conference, 14 people have been charged for their alleged involvement in the creation and distribution of imitation drugs following police raids at 11 chemists and 22 warehouses during the period from 31 August to 12 September based on information delivered from the Ministry of Industry to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
Pyithu Hluttaw discusses proposal to protect Myanmar workers in foreign countries

PYITHU Hluttaw representatives discussed a proposal calling for the Union government to make efforts to help and protect abused and exploited Myanmar citizens working abroad in cooperation with host countries yesterday.

U Thaung Htay Lin of Pathetgyi Constituency called on the Union government to cooperate with host countries to take the necessary measures to help and protect Myanmar workers in foreign nations where many of them are facing a variety of difficulties.

In her discussion, Dr Kyi Moh Lwin of Singaing Constituency stressed the need to facilitate a legal channel for migration with the relaxation of restrictions and called for the adoption of plans to register legal and illegal Myanmar workers in foreign countries.

According to the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu replied that 12 farmers with farming permits in Mohnyin Township will not be allowed access to agricultural loans as the issuance of Form 7 to them did not meet the proper rules and procedures and they were not on the list to receive loans in the first place.

Regarding the upgrading of a road in Watet Township, the Union minister said that the 12-mile and four-furlong road will be upgraded with the pouring of concrete along with the construction of drains on both sides of the road next fiscal year under an emergency relief plan financed by the World Bank.

— Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw sets out rules for contractors on government projects

CONTRACTORS who have won tenders for government projects shall be responsible for repairing any damages that are discovered within two years following completion of the project and penalties for missed completion dates will be collected depending on the works, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing told the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

As a framework for guidelines to be adhered to for contractors of the government's projects, action will be taken against companies for any failures to meet set standards by a supervisory committee formed by the Union Ministries or regional governments in accordance with the terms of the contracts, added the Union minister.

On the issue of upgrading a road in Kayah State, the Union minister replied that the road linking Bawlakhe to Phahsaung Township will be built next fiscal year, extending it to 30 feet and building RC and wooden bridges and box culverts along it.

It is planned that the earth road will be upgraded into a gravel road during the 2018-2019 FY, he added.

During the 39th day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, lawmakers continued debating the third revised Bill to amend Ward or Village-tract Administration Law sent back from the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Regarding the bill, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw decided to have it reviewed by the Bill Committee.

— Myanmar News Agency

Ninth batch of detained Myanmar workers returns from Malaysia

THE ninth batch of detained Myanmar citizens in Malaysia arrived back to Yangon yesterday via chartered flight.

The return of the group comprising 136 Myanmar citizens was sponsored by Mother Trading and Construction Co Ltd and Miba Gonyi philanthropic association. The two donors also provided K50,000 each to the workers. Meanwhile, International Organization for Migration also provided travel expenses for their return home, clothing and health care to them. According to sources, 1,235 citizens, out of 2,294 who were detained for various reasons in 11 camps in Malaysia, have been brought back home up to date.

— Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives ILO official

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Thant received Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization-ILO Mr Greg Vines yesterday at the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials.

KIC requests 8,000 acres for industrial zone in Bago

THE Korea Industrial Complex (KIC) Company Ltd has requested the Bago regional government to grant them 8,000 acres of land to implement an industrial zone in Bago region. They have been brought back home up to date.

The KIC called on the chief minister of the Bago regional government on 24 September to discuss the implementation of the industrial zone.

“The Korean company said that they need 8,000 acres of land to implement the industrial zone in Bago region. They have selected the site already. But, as for our government, we haven’t scrutinised the plan yet. We hope that this project can develop Bago region,” said Bago regional government Agriculture and Livestock Minister U Aung Zaw Naing.

The KIA company CEO emphasised that they can reduce their initial investment costs if the land is rented at a lower price, with the result that they will be able to offer employment packages, salaries and wages for employees. He added that only then will they be able to create more job opportunities for over 400,000 local people.

—Myitmakha News Agency
President U Htin Kyaw receives Chinese Public Security Minister

President U Htin Kyaw received Mr Guo Shenkun, Member of the State Council and Minister of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting they discussed matters related to promoting bilateral cooperation, security, rule of law and conservation of environment along the border between the two countries and cooperation for socio-economic development of Myanmar.

Mr Guo Shenkun also conveyed the message of Chinese President Xi Jinping to President U Htin Kyaw to visit China. Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win and officials. — Myanmar News Agency

Press conference on seizure of K2.8 billion worth of fake, expired drugs held

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In his clarification, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe said that measures are being taken to uncover a network of counterfeit medication sales and distribution chains.

U Ko Ko Lwin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, said that the ministry spotted fake drugs in the market while conducting market research on pharmaceutical product development.

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that medicines were sold under the name of BPI with fake packing and labeling in the market. In response, the Food and Drugs Administration under the Ministry of Health seized counterfeit medicines at Bogyoke Market and Shwe Pyae Sone Market in Yangon Region in cooperation with the Home Affairs Ministry as of 31 August, added the Permanent Secretary.

U Ko Ko Aung, general manager of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory which was formerly known as Burma Pharmaceutical Industry (BPI), said that anti-counterfeit packaging measures are being taken in the production of medicines by the factory. A market surveillance team will be formed to undertake inspections of drugs on the market, he added.

According to officials who answered media questions, 44 types of fake drugs and 18 types of drugs with fake labelling and 98 types of expired drugs were confiscated during raids at the two markets and 21 types of suspicious medicines which were stored and materials used for faking drugs were seized.

The seizure of the fake drugs and materials amounted to K2.807 billion and 14 suspects including seven possible sellers and distributors, four manufacturers, two fake label makers and one person who stored expired medicines were arrested, said officials.

The seized fake and expired drugs will be destroyed in the presence of the media, added the officials.—Myanmar News Agency

Vice President U Henry Van Thio meets with Dutch Special Envoy for International Water Affairs

Vice President U Henry Van Thio holds talks with Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio received Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the two representatives discussed matters related to further bilateral cooperation in works on Myanmar Integrated Water Resources Management. Also present were Deputy Ministers Dr Tin Win and U Kyaw Myo and officials. —Myanmar News Agency

SEANF holds 13th Annual Meeting

THE 13th Annual Meeting of the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman acted as an alternate chairman of the annual meeting, with participation of chairmen and members of the Human Rights Commission from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste. At the meeting, the representatives discussed matters related to laying down the strategy of SEANF for the 2017-2021 FY’s, sustainable development goals and the rights of aged persons.

The meeting continues today.

A statement is expected to be released at the conclusion of the meeting addressing the rights of aged persons.

At the end of the meeting the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, which is the current chair of the SEANF, will hand over the chairmanship to the Philippines.—Myanmar News Agency

Participants in the 13th Annual Meeting of the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum pose for documentary photos before the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Tablets and injections produced by MPF. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Photo: MNA
Motorbikes and four-wheeled vehicles to be banned in Chaung Thar Beach in October

ACCORDING to U Min Kyaw Oo, the secretary of Chaung Tha hotel zone, riding motorbikes and four-wheeled vehicles will be forbidden within the Chaung Tha Beach area to maintain the natural beauty around the beach and to not disturb visitors.

In addition to banning motorised vehicles at Chaung Tha beach, selling food, alcohol and drugs will also be restricted.

“Those above vehicles will not be allowed to ride at the beach, and the authorities will discuss the riding of horses. Bikes will be permitted. Street vendors can sell but not around Chaung Tha beach. Authorized persons will prohibit the selling of alcohol, beer and drugs,” added U Min Kyaw Oo.

During the third week of September, a three-day workshop on the preservation of nature and long-term development around Chaung Tha beach was held, with participation from representatives of Ayeyawady region government, the ministry of hotels and tourism, representatives of regional Hlutaw, private businessmen, authorities of the hotel zone, administrators of wards and villages and locals. —200

Myanmar hosts Climate Outlook Forum, Climate Services Users Forum for Agriculture

THE ninth South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF 9) was held in conjunction with Climate Services Users Forum for Agriculture (CSUF-Ag2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.

Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) expert Dr Govindarajulu Srinivasan and the head of the World Climate Application and Services Division (WCAS) of the World Meteorological Association (WMO) Dr Rupa Kumar Kolli also spoke on the occasion.

The SASCOF-9 and CSUF-Ag2 were jointly organized by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Transport and Communications and Thailand-based RIMES under the sponsorship of the WMO.

The forum was aimed at holding discussions on seasonal forecasts and releasing climate change projections and seasonal climate outlooks, which are very important to those in the agriculture sector and for water resource users. —Myanmar News Agency

Crime NEWS

Illegal logs and machinery confiscated

A COMBINED investigation team comprising an official and staff from Sagaing police station confiscated illegal logs and machinery near the creek of Thin Ngar village on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the creek and found illegal logs weighing 0.3 tonnes and a Chinese made machine used in the collection of logs.

The combined team continued to search the creek and further discovered illegal teak logs weighing 4.6 tonnes and agricultural machines.

Further investigations are being made by the forestry department of Phaung Pyin township. —IPRD (Phaung Pyin)

Man dies following quarrel in Ayeyawady Region

A MAN witnessed fleeing a murder scene was wanted by police for questioning in the case of the death of one Saw Kan Do Htoo in Pok Hla Gyine village, Shwe Thaung Yan township, Ayeyawady Region on Saturday. According to an investigation, Win Hlaing and Saw Kan Do Htoo were drinking alcohol together when an argument broke out between them. Win Hlaing is suspected of striking the victim in the skull with an alcohol bottle. The victim was sent to Yakhin general hospital but died shortly after. Local police are searching for the suspect Win Hlaing. —Ko Ko Maung

Couple charged with theft by deception

A MAN who is a member of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry Association and his wife were charged with the theft over K6 million on Monday.

According to an investigation, on 28 July, the suspect, one Win Myint Oo, 30, asked Ma Hnein Nwe Aung, 35, to sell him K51,111 worth of white sesame and K1,633,507 worth of regular sesame on credit. He made a verbal agreement with her at that time to pay the bill in full on 19 August.

The suspect further asked for K51,666 worth of white sesame and K5,356,110 worth of regular sesame on 15 August, again on credit to be paid back on 19 August. When payment day arrived, the suspect did not materialise.

Upon contacting the suspect’s wife, Ma Hnein Nwe Aung was told that she would be paid in full on 24 August.

On 24 August, Ma Hnein Nwe Aung returned to collect the payment and found that the couple had fled. It was not made clear whether they had absconded with the stockpile of pilfered sesame.

Local police were contacted and opened an investigation under section 420 of the Penal Code. An official from the Chambers of Commerce and Industry Association confirmed the suspect’s membership. As a result of the criminal investigation Win Myint Oo has been ejected from the association, a representative said. —Kyaw Zoya

Police find female corpse in Yesagyo

POLICE from Yesagyo discovered the corpse of a woman in a drain in Bo Pin village and Pho Lon village, Yasagyo township, Magwe region on Sunday following a report by a neighbour.

Police sent the corpse to the township general hospital for postmortem.

Local ward authorities were unable to identify the remains as anyone known to the community.

Police have opened a case under section 302 of the Penal Code. An investigation is ongoing. —U Tun Tun Hlaing
Efforts exerted to formulate a zoning law in Yangon

**Myanmar Automobile Development Public Co., Ltd to register at YSX**

MYANMAR Automobile Development Public Company Limited will soon register at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in hopes of becoming a publicly listed company, it is learnt from the company’s second annual general meeting held at UMFC-CI on 24th September.

Public companies are allowed to sell and trade shares of stock. There are currently three companies listed on the YSX: First Myanmar Investment (FMI); Myanmar Thilawa Holdings Public Limited (MTSH) and Myanmar Citizens Banks (MCB).

“Our company will make efforts to be listed at YSX”, said Dr. Soe Tun, the chairman of Myanmar Automobile Development Public Company Limited.

The company has already received opinions from shareholders at the meeting. There are 58 shareholders and over 100 outside shareholders in the company, it is learnt.

Currently, the company is negotiating with Yangon regional government to establish an automobile centre in Hlegu Township, calling on the opinions of local and village administrators.

“We will register to be listed at YSX only after the construction of automobile centre is permitted”, said Dr Phyo Zin Oo, the chief executive officer of this company.

The listed companies at YSX are FMI, MTSH, MCB, Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO), First Private Bank and Great Horizon Public Company. Yangon Stock Exchange was opened at Myawady old bank quarter on 9th December, 2015.—Myitmakha News Agency

**Automobile centre planned for Hlegu Township**

AN automobile centre featuring car showrooms and car services is being planned for Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, it is learnt from Myanmar Automobile Public Limited.

“We have a plan to provide one-stop service for automobiles to facilitate the car owners”, said Dr. Soe Tun, the chairman of Myanmar Automobile Development Public Company Limited. “This center is not currently approved yet. The negotiations are still being carried out”.

This centre will include car showrooms, auto parts shops and car repair services. The automobile centre is slated to be implemented in three phases under a 10-year project. The centre will be built on 204.55 acres of land, it is learnt.

Currently, the company is negotiating with locals and village administrators and the Yangon regional government.

“We will cooperate with the developers to implement this project after being approved”, said Dr Phyo Zin Oo, the CEO of Myanmar Automobile Development Public Company Limited.—Myitmakha News Agency

**India introduces nature-based chemicals and medicines for livestock farming**

INDIA introduced nature-based chemicals and medicines for livestock farming to facilitate fish and prawn farmers at an event promoting those medicines at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation office on 25th September.

U Han Tun, the minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Energy in Yangon Region, said that the nature-based livestock breeding medicines are needed to boost saltwater and freshwater fish production while having minimal impact on the aquaculture system.

The nature-based chemicals and medicines imported from India can help to keep the fish healthy. Also, the medicines can maintain the quality of water in commercial breeding lakes, said Daw Thin Aye Maung Maung, the chairman of Myanmar Pioneer Star Company Group of Companies.

Additionally, U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the livestock experts negotiated the matters concerning livestock breeding methods.—Myitmakha News Agency

**Myanmar coin collectors association formed to facilitate antique coins sale**

THE Myanmar Coin Collectors Association was formed on 25th September to facilitate the sale of antique coins in Myanmar, it is learnt from the founders of the association.

The formation of the association aims to connect sellers and coin hunters without any profit motive, said Ko Sai Lin, a founder of this association.

There are shops which sell silver coins and old notes in Yangon. Similarly, there are coin hunters and sellers in the rural areas.

Some are fond of collecting the coins. The price of old notes vary depending on the beautiful numbers, he added.

The association was founded with 20 members. They will seek approval from the government.

“The good thing is that trading can add to the value of the goods”, said Ko Arkar Soe, a local from Yankin Township.

Myanmar has Pyu silver coins and antique coins produced in colonial times, during the Konbaung dynasty and during the Yadanabon dynasty. Coins from foreign countries are also reportedly traded.—Myitmakha News Agency
Ceremony held to mourn victims on 2nd anniversary of Mt. Ontake eruption

NAGANO (Japan) — Bereaved families and local officials gathered Tuesday to mark the second anniversary of the eruption of Mt. Ontake, which claimed 58 lives and left five people unaccounted for in the nation’s deadliest postwar volcanic disaster. Attendees at the ceremony in the town of Kiso in Nagano Prefecture observed a moment of silence at 11:52 am, the time of the eruption in 2014. Some climbers also took part in the ceremony. Family members also paid floral tributes near the entrance of the mountain climbing trails.

TAIPEI — Strong wind and rain lashed Taiwan on Tuesday as the third typhoon to hit the island this month made landfall, injuring more than 30 people, ripping signs off buildings and knocking down trees.

Most schools and offices were shut and the north-south bullet train suspended services as Typhoon Megi, packing winds of well over 160 kph (100 mph), roared in from the Pacific and hit eastern Taiwan.

At least 32 people were injured and more than 5,300 evacuated, the government’s Central Emergency Operation Center said, while more than 950,000 households had lost power, according to the main power supplier, Taiwan Power Co.

Taiwan’s financial markets were closed because of the storm. Television footage showed people, who ignored warnings to stay indoors, scurrying along city streets clutching umbrellas to try to fend off the rain, which grew heavier as the storm approached.

Bus and subway services were mostly suspended in the capital, Taipei, while hundreds of international flights were cancelled.

Third typhoon of the month hits Taiwan, 32 injured

Thai police say suspected passport gang members are US citizens

BANGKOK — Three foreign members of a suspected passport forgery gang charged with concealing a dead body in a freezer are US citizens, police said on Tuesday.

The men were arrested after a raid on a residential compound in the Thai capital Bangkok on Friday. One police officer was shot and wounded in the raid.

A search of the compound revealed the dismembered body of a man in plastic bags in a freezer. Police also found hundreds of forged US, British and French passports.

“The FBI attached in Bangkok has confirmed to us that all three people arrested on Friday are American citizens,” Thai Immigration Police Chief Nathorn Phrousthorn told Reuters. Nathorn said that the men did not have criminal records, though one had been charged with credit card fraud in the United States in 1979 but not convicted.

The men have been charged with creating illegal documents, illegal entry and hiding a dead body. All three deny the charges. Police have so far been unable to identify the dismembered body which they described as belonging to a blond-haired foreign male.

With a high number of visitors every year, Thailand has a booming black market for fake identity documents. Authorities struggle to track the thousands of lost or stolen passports each year with some known to be sold on to drug traffickers while others are suspected to end up in the hands of Islamist militants. — Reuters

At least 14 people killed in road accident in Nepal

KATHMANDU — At least 14 people were killed in a road accident in Dhading, a district bordering Kathmandu on Tuesday afternoon.

Dinesh Yadav, a police officer deployed at the accident site, told Xinhua that 14 persons have died after a passenger bus met an accident at Marpak village in Dhading district.

“We have recovered 14 bodies in total including ten males and four females so far. A rescue operation is under way. I am worried that the death toll may rise,” Yadav said over phone.

The ill-fated passenger bus was en route from Dhading district headquarters Dhading Besi to Darkha Village Development Committee. The bus reportedly fell some 60 metres down the highway in a landslide-hit road section.

“Among the nine rescued alive, seven are in critical conditions,” Yadav said.

How many passengers were on board and what caused the accident are still unclear. — Xinhua

Thai police say suspected passport forgery gang members are US citizens

A foreign member of a suspected passport forgery gang is escorted by police officers after a raid in Bangkok, Thailand, on 23 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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A foreign member of a suspected passport forgery gang is escorted by police officers after a raid in Bangkok, Thailand, on 23 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS
Philippines’ Duterte wants to ‘open alliances’ with Russia, China

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Monday he would visit Russia and China this year to chart an independent foreign policy and “open alliances” with two powers with historic rivalries with the United States.

Duterte said the Philippines was at the “point of no return” in relations with former coloni- al ruler the United States, so he wanted to strengthen ties with others, and picked two global powers that have been sparring with Washington on the interna- tional political stage.

Last week, he last declared he would visit China, with which ties remain frosty over a South China Sea arbitration ruling won by the Philippines in July. He said Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev was expecting him in Moscow.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than $5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malay- sia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam have rival claims.

An arbitration court in The Hague in July invalidated Phi- lippines’ claims to the waterway in a case brought by the Philippines, a ruling Beijing refuses to recogni- se.

“If I am ready to not really break (US) ties but we will open it up, I will move on that, and Med- vedev,” Duterte told reporters, adding he would open up the “other side of the ideological barrier”.

He welcomed investment and shrugged off rating agency Standard and Poor’s concerns last week about the Philippine economy on his watch.

“The only way out of the rat- ings,” he said. “I will open up the Philippines for them to do business, alliances of trade and commerce.”

The peso fell on Monday to its lowest since 2009, and for- eign investors have dumped lo- cal shares for six straight weeks, worried about Duterte’s anti-US rhetoric and brutal war on drugs, which has alarmed rights groups at home and abroad.

In Washington, State De- partment spokesman Mark Toner said the Philippine government had not contacted the United States about the comments made by Duterte.

US cooperation with the Philippine government remains strong and the United States has not seen anything that would indi- cate a shift by Manila, Toner said at a daily news briefing.

“They’re a sovereign nation and we’re certainly not going to hold them back from pursuing closer relations with either of those countries. ... It’s not a ze- ro-sum game,” he said.

Duterte also said he would open up telecoms and airlines, two domestic sectors long con- trolled by local players and criti- cized for being uncompetitive. He did not elaborate.

South Korea hopes Japan’s constitutional reform keeps regional peace

SEOUL — The South Korean Foreign Ministry said on Tues- day that it welcomed any amend- ment by the Japanese govern- ment of the country’s pacifist Constitution to be made in a di- rection contributing to regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

“We want (such moves in Japan) to be going on within the basic framework of the pacifist Constitution, and to be helpful for peace, stability and prosperity in the region,” ministry spokesman Cho Jun Hyuck told reporters during a press briefing.

In a policy speech made on Monday at the start of a 66-day extraordinary Diet session, Abe said, “The way the Constitution should be, the kind of country Japan should aim to be — these things are not decided by the government, but by the people, and it is our responsibility as Diet lawmakers to make a pro- posal to the people.”

South Korea, colonized by Japan from 1910-1945, has raised concerns over Japan’s move to amend its Constitution, with the particular source of concern being Article 9, which “renounces” Japan’s right to wage war.—Kyodo News

China’s Communist Party to hold key meeting from 24 to 27 October

BEIJING — China’s ruling Communist Party will hold a key meeting from 24 October to 27 October, the official Xinhua news agency said on Tuesday, a session likely to focus on revising rules of party discipline as President Xi Jinping keeps up a drive against corruption, in which dozens of senior officials have been jailed, including the pow- erful former domestic security chief Zhou Yongkang.

The last plenum before the party congress is typically used to discuss ideological issues, and other plenums under Xi have fo- cussed on economic matters and the rule of law.

At last year’s meeting the party announced a landmark easing of family planning re- strictions, to allow all couples to have two children, after decades of a strict one-child policy.— Reuters

Google launches service to take internet to India malls, cafes

MUMBAI — Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc, said on Tuesday it launched Google Station in India, a service that aims to deepen its reach across the country, as the search giant seeks to bring more people on to its Google platform.

Under the service, Google will roll-out Wi-Fi hot spots in places frequented by a large number of people, such as malls and transit stations, and in social hangout locations such as cafes and universities, the company said on Tuesday.

“The goal is to give people many hot spots within a few min- utes walk from their home, uni- versity, or workplace, unified by a simple login process that works across all of them,” Caesar Sen- gupta, Vice-President, Next Bill- lion Users at Google was quoted as saying in the statement.

Google currently offers free Wi-Fi access at 53 railway sta- tions across India and plans to scale up the service to 100 by year-end, the company said.

Sengupta also said the company is also looking at monetiz- ing the service it offers at railway stations. Google Station will also be launched in Indonesia and the Philippines in future, the compa- ny said.—Reuters
Opinion

Khin Maung Aye

WHAT is frequently missed in formulation of the policies concerning immigration is that the issue of migration is considered to be merely a matter of managing an influx of people. In fact, migration is a matter that requires taking into account social perspective. According to Dr Wander Jager and Rocco Paolillo, a social complexity perspective contributes to a more systematic view of the migration issues.

It is worth noting that 19.5 million people across the world have been forced to seek sanctuary in another nation. Although the governments have a duty to help the refugees, most rich nations are still treating refugees as somebody else’s problem. In this regard, it would not be improper to quote State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as saying, in her speech to the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly, that the world is not owned by one country and that nations are sharing the world, suggesting that migrants or refugees should have the right to live in every country if they find it impossible to live in their country. The rich countries, hiding behind closed borders and terrified of being flooded with refugees, have conveniently allowed poorer, chiefly middle eastern, African and south asian countries, to host an incredible 86 per cent of refugees.

And what is more, the rich nations, neglecting most appeals for humanitarian aid, have rendered the United Nations Agencies so broke that they cannot even care for many refugees properly any more. This has to change, now. Amnesty International has set forth eight solutions for how the world’s leaders, particularly the rich nations, can begin to tackle this massive humanitarian crisis together.

To start with, one important solution is the opening up of safe routes to sanctuary for refugees. Secondly, resettlement is a vital solution. Thirdly, states are required to invest in search-and-rescue operations as well as in helping people in distress. And fourthly, whether they travel by land or by sea, people fleeing persecution or wars should be allowed to cross borders both legally and illegally. Pushing people back and putting up massive fences will only compel them to take more dangerous routes to safety. In the fifth place, all nations ought to investigate and prosecute the trafficking gangs. Governments are needed, in the sixth place, to stop blaming refugees and migrants for economic and social problems, and instead fight all kinds of xenophobia and racial discrimination in the seventh place. Last but not least, governments ought to set up strong refugee systems that will allow people to apply for asylum, treat refugee claims fairly, resettle the most vulnerable of all the most, and provide basics like education and health care.

In conclusion, as long as the aforementioned are not easy solutions, they will not cause big problems in the long term, and as long as there is the political will on the part of the governments of the rich nations, the issue of refugees can be solved through solidarity and compassion.

The importance of Rabies in public health

Kaug Htet Thar

It is strongly suggested that related department must convince their primary duty and to make a priority for the neglected diseases to improve the national health as much as they can.

Finally, in the World Rabies Day which falls on 28th September of this year, all citizens must pay attention to the unnoticeably threatening neglected disease, Rabies, to be aware of the unproven risk of rabies. To have better prevention and control of the disease, immediate reporting on any suspected cases in time, prompt action to be taken any relevant treatment after exposed with rabies suspected or confirmed case, examining all suspected cases at veterinary department’s laboratory are duty of all citizen to prevent and control rabies in Myanmar. Therefore, with the slogan of “Edu- cate, vaccinate and eliminate rabies” for 2016, all citizens must be aware of the risk of the disease and let’s participate in the campaign for the prevention of rabies by vaccinating to all available dogs, horses in Myanmar. Donors and international organizations are currently focusing on the global hot issue like avian influenza which is not a crucial important disease in line with the country’s situation which has human death case like in Rabies. It is strongly suggested that relevant department must convince their primary duty and to make a priority for the neglected diseases to improve the national health as much as they can.
Myanmar Retailer Association of Mandalay annual meeting and economics talk held in Mandalay

Myanmar athletes to train in China, Japan and South Korea for 29th SEA Games

Train derailment injures one
Clinton assails Trump in blistering US presidential debate

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.—Republican Donald Trump vowed on Tuesday to hit rival Democrat Hillary Clinton harder in the next US presidential debate after she put him on the defensive by accusing him of being racist, sexist and a tax dodger during their first matchup.

Trump, a real estate mogul making his first run for public office, praised himself for not attacking Clinton about the marital infidelity of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, but said in a Tuesday morning interview with Fox News that he may take up the attack line going forward.

“I may hit her harder in certain ways.” Trump said in a telephone interview with “Fox & Friends.” Trump added that when Clinton criticized him for his treatment of women, he resisted. “I was going to hit her with her husband’s women. And I decided I shouldn’t do it because her daughter was in the room.”

Clinton was under pressure to perform well on Monday night after a recent bout with pneumonia and an erosion in stocks as oil prices fell 2.5 per cent. Clinton’s chances in the election were disasters, he argued.

Trump suggested her disarray was indeed the winner to reporters. “I sure do. We had a great debate,” said a CNN/ORC snap poll said 62 per cent of respondents felt Clinton won and 27 per cent believed Trump was the winner. Trump complained on Tuesday that issues from Clinton’s 2009-2013 tenure as secretary of state were not addressed on Monday night, including topics he has assailed her on such as her use of a private computer server for government emails, a key infidelity of her husband, and the Clinton Foundation charity. In signs that investors awarded the debate to Clinton, Asian shares recovered after an early bout of nerves while the Mexican peso jumped on Tuesday as oil prices fell 2.5 per cent. Clinton’s chances in the election also improved in online betting markets.

Clinton, the first woman to win the presidential nomination of a major US political party, seemed to pique Trump when she brought up how Trump has insulted women. She pointed to Alicia Machado, a former Miss Universe, saying Trump had repeatedly insulted her.

“He loves beauty contests, supporting them and hanging around them and he called this one ‘Miss Piggy’ and then he called her ‘Miss Housekeeping,’” she said. Trump, former owner of the Miss Universe pageants, was asked on Tuesday morning about Clinton’s comments. He said he knew Machado and defended his insults of the woman.

“She was the winner and she gained a massive amount of weight,” Trump said of Machado. “And it was a real problem. We had a real problem. Not only that - her attitude - and we had a real problem with her.”

Venezuelan-born Machado was Miss Universe in 1996.

“You feel good tonight?” Clinton asked supporters afterward. “I sure do. We had a great debate.” Trump, 70, declared himself the winner to reporters at the debate site.

The 68-year-old Clinton relentlessly sought to raise questions about her opponent’s temperament, business acumen and knowledge.

Trump used much of his time to argue the former first lady and US senator had achieved little in public life and wanted to pursue policies begun by President Barack Obama that he said have failed to repair a shattered middle class, with jobs lost to outsourcing and excessive government regulation.

Trump suggested her disavowal of a trade deal with Asian countries was insincere. Her handling of a nuclear deal with Iran and Islamic State militancy were disasters, he argued. Trump said Clinton had spent her “entire adult life” fighting the Islamic State, a group that has existed for less than a decade. —Reuters

Volcano erupts in central Indonesia, potentially disturbing flight

JAKARTA — Mount Barujari, child of Mount Rinjani, in Lombok Island of central Indonesia, erupted on Tuesday with ashes potentially enveloping a nearby city and disturbing flight, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster management agency told Xinhua via phone.—Xinhua

Philippines’ Duterte seeks China’s help in anti-drug crackdown

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday he wants China to control its citizens’ involvement in the illegal drug trade in his country.

In a public address delivered at a seized drug laboratory in the central Luzon province of Pampanga, Duterte said many Chinese criminals are involved with local drug syndicates, while materials used for producing illegal drugs are also from China.

“So we want them also to control their people and increase the focus on their criminals,” he said.

“If you consider us your friend, you want to help us, but most of the materials, all of it, and the machines and the boilers, are from China, what does that mean?”

Duterte had previously suggested that major drug lords involved in the profitable illegal industry in the Philippines are operating from China.

Since he came to power in June, the president has been waging a brutal anti-drug crackdown, targeting producers, dealers and users.

More than a thousand drug suspects have been killed in police shootouts and other law enforcement operations, while more than 2,000 others have died in still unclear circumstances.—Kyodo News

One dead, many trapped in China colliery explosion

YINCHUAN — One person was killed and several others were trapped Tuesday morning after a suspected gas explosion underground a coal mine in northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, local authorities said.

“The suspected explosion occurred at a coal mine in Baijigou of Shizuishan City. A rescue operation is under way. No further details of the accident are immediately known.—Xinhua
Gulf may arm rebels now Syria truce is dead — US officials

WASHINGTON — The collapse of the latest Syria ceasefire has heightened the possibility that Gulf states might arm Syrian rebels with shoulder-fired missiles to defend themselves against Syrian and Russian warplanes, US officials said on Monday.

Still, the US administration continues to maintain that negotiations are the only way to end the carnage after Russian-backed Syrian forces intensified their bombing of the last major urban area in rebel hands.

The latest US attempt to end Syria’s 5-1/2 year civil war was shattered on 19 September when a humanitarian aid convoy was bombed in an attack. Washington blamed on Russian aircraft. Moscow denied involvement.

On Monday, medical supplies were running out in rebel-held eastern Aleppo, with victims pouring into barely functioning hospitals as Russia and its Syrian ally President Bashar al-Assad ignored Western pleas to stop the bombing.

One consequence of the latest diplomatic failure may be that Gulf Arab states or Turkey could step up arms supplies to rebel factions, including shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, something the United States has largely prevented until now.

One US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss American policy, said Washington has kept large numbers of such man-portable air defence systems, or MANPADS, out of Syria by uniting Western and Arab allies behind channelled training and infantry weapons to moderate opposition groups while it pursued talks with Moscow.

But frustration with Washington has intensified, raising the possibility that Gulf allies or Turkey will no longer continue to follow the US lead or will turn a blind eye to wealthy individuals looking to supply MANPADS to opposition groups.

EU launches programme to issue cash cards to migrants in Turkey

ANKARA — The European Union launched a programme on Monday to issue monthly electronic cash grants to benefit a million refugees in Turkey, as part of a deal under which Ankara will curb the numbers of Syrian migrants on its territory. The ESSN is part of that deal.

“We launch the biggest and largest humanitarian project the EU has ever supported. It will provide a basic source of income for 1 million Syrian refugees,” Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides said at a news conference. “The ESSN is perfect proof of the EU’s commitment to tackle the challenge posed by the refugee crisis,” he said. The EU is also funding other humanitarian projects in Turkey. But President Tayyip Erdogan has accused the bloc of not following through on its financial pledges.

More than a million migrants entered the European Union after crossing from Turkey to Greece by boat last year. Since Turkey agreed to prevent people from setting sail from its shores, the numbers taking that route have fallen dramatically.

On Turkey’s criticism that the promised EU aid for refugees was slow to arrive, Stylianides said he held discussions with Turkey’s EU Affairs Minister Omer Celik on the issue. “I think now minister Celik recognises and realises that this process for all European funding is going well and I think day by day the situation is getting better,” he said.—Reuters

 CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

 MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (150 ) Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (150) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

 SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE Phone No: 2301185

 CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

 MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO (1627 ) Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO (1627) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

 SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD Phone No: 2301185

 CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

 MV PACAO VOY. NO (025 ) Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY. NO (025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

 SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE Phone No: 2301185
Colombia, Marxist rebels sign accord ending 52-year war

CARTAGENA (Colombia) — Colombia’s centre-right government and the Marxist FARC rebel group signed a peace deal on Monday to end a half-century war that killed a quarter of a million people and once took the Andean country to the brink of collapse.

After four years of peace talks in Cuba, President Juan Manuel Santos, 65, and rebel leader Timochenko — the nom de guerre for 57-year-old Rodrigo Londono — warmly shook hands on Colombian soil for the first time and signed the accord with a pen made from a bullet casing.

A crowd of dignitaries chanted: “Long live Colombia, long live peace!” as Santos handed Timochenko a white dove pin. One man wept. A dozen others collapsed in a hug as Santos handed Timochenko a white dove pin. One man wept. A dozen others collapsed in a hug as Santos handed Timochenko a white dove pin. One man wept. A dozen others collapsed in a hug.

Starting the country on a peace process.

“Anybody can pick up a gun, blow things up, hurt other people, but it doesn’t take you anywhere. Peace is hard work,” he said of a rare diplomatic good news story for the Obama administration as it contends with the seeming intractable war in Syria and other conflicts.

In the worst days of the war, attacks shook the capital, Bogota, which rebel leaders threatened to overrun, and battles between the guerrillas, paramilitaries, drug gangs and the army raged in the countryside, parts of which remain sown with landmines.

French and German defence ministers agree to military plan for East Africa

BRATISLAVA — France and Germany made the case for the European Union’s most ambitious defence plan in almost two decades on Tuesday, aiming to persuade sceptical eastern members and avoid a showdown with Britain over its military future outside the bloc.

In a concert hall in Bratislava, EU defence ministers including Britain’s Michael Fallon discussed the Franco-German proposals for the first time, searching for a coherent strategy that their leaders can formally back at a summit in December.

The proposals include increasing spending on military missions, jointly developing assets such as helicop-
ters and drones, expanding pooling of crews abroad and setting up stronger defences against state-sponsored hackers in cyberspace.

Britain, which retains full voting rights until it leaves the European Union, is adamantly opposed to any of the above.

Britain, which retains full voting rights until it leaves the European Union, is adamantly opposed to any of the above.

The proposal can be collected with kyats 100,000 (KYATS ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ONLY) at below address during office hours.

Rooftop Floor, UMFCCI Office Tower, No. (29), Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Office Tel: (+95) 1 2301772, 2301773, 2301853
Email: sales.mth@mm.com
WHO calls for safe routes to evacuate east Aleppo sick, wounded

GENEVA — The World Health Organisation (WHO) called on Tuesday for sick and wounded people in the embattled eastern part of the Syrian city of Aleppo to be evacuated through safe corridors for treatment.

A massive Russian-backed assault is under way on the besieged rebel-held sector of Aleppo, where the WHO said only 35 doctors remained to care for at least 250,000 people.

"WHO is calling for the immediate establishment of humanitarian routes to evacuate sick and wounded from the eastern part of the city," WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib told a news briefing in Geneva. "We are talking about only 35 doctors left in east Aleppo to take care of hundreds of wounded people, and the number is increasing," she said.

Syrian doctors said on Monday they were in dire need of medical and surgical supplies to treat hundreds of wounded people among a trapped population of some 300,000.

The Syrian doctors said at least 40 wounded people in eastern Aleppo needed to be evacuated, but most wanted to be sent to rebel-held areas or abroad, not to the government-controlled western side of the city.

"We are waiting to evacuate them safely, to the hospitals in Idlib governorate, and some of them need to be evacuated to Turkey," said Dr. Abdr Arrahman Alosman of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS).

Jessy Chaline, spokeswoman for UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, told Tuesday's briefing: "We do remind all parties that evacuation operations have to be in accordance with IHL (international humanitarian law) and protection standards.

"One of the principles of IHL is 'non-refoulement', meaning that the person cannot be evacuated against their own will."—Reuters

Man charged with holding girl captive for 2 years denies part of charges

SAITAMA — A man charged with abducting a teenage girl and holding her captive for two years from 2014 denied part of the charges during the first court hearing Tuesday, saying he had not kept watch over her for the entire two years.

"I watched her for the first days or weeks, but I don't think I kept her under watch afterward," Kabu Terauchi, 24, said at the Saitama District Court, while admitting to kidnapping the girl now 15.

The girl, who managed to escape in March, is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, prosecutors said.

In an opening statement, a prosecutor said Terauchi abducted the girl in Asaka, Saitama Prefecture, telling her, "I'll protect you as your parents are trying to pay off a debt by selling your organs."

The prosecutor also quoted the girl as saying, "I would like him to go to jail and stay there for the rest of his life." Lawyers for Terauchi claimed he is not intelligent enough to stand trial and the court accepted their request for a psychiatric examination.

According to the indictment, Terauchi kidnapped the victim in a car on 10 March, 2014, and held her captive first at his apartment in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, and later in another apartment in Tokyo's Nakanoshima Ward until 27 March this year—Kyodo News

Viet Nam to host ASEAN Broker Conference and Networking in October

HANOI — The third ASEAN Broker Conference and Networking event will be held in Viet Nam's capital Hanoi on 6-10 October, said the Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX), the organiser, on Tuesday.

The event is expected to draw participation of 28 securities companies in ASEAN, 42 local companies and 133 delegates. Meanwhile, as many as 71 pairs of companies have registered for bilateral meetings to discuss cooperation at the event.

The ASEAN Broker Conference and Networking event, an initiative on collaboration among trading floors in the region, is organised alternately among the bloc's country members. The event aims to share experience and boost business and investment cooperation, said the HNX.

First held in Thailand in 2011 with 62 securities companies participating in last year's edition in Indonesia's Bali, the event drew participation of 116 companies. ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.—Xinhua

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (PROCUREMENT OF GOODS / WORKS)

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
NCDDP – NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: H-814MM

Contract Title: PC, LAPTOPS, SERVERS, PORTABLE HARD DISK DRIVES AND UPS

Reference No.: ICB G 63

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of tablets with power bank and high protection carry case.

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of:

Lot 1: 150 Desktop Computers with preinstalled OS and MS Office
Lot 2: 135 Laptop Computers with preinstalled OS and MS Office
Lot 3: 63 Budget PC’s for MIS Data Entry with Portable UPS 1200W
Lot 4: 17 Servers
Lot 5: 8 Portable Hard Disk Drives

This IT equipment will support the daily operations that the DRD will deploy in 20 new townships and 15 regional offices, in various geographical areas spread over the national territory. Part of the IT equipment will be delivered in the DRD central warehouse in Nay Pyi Taw (CIP Nay Pyi Taw). The other part will be delivered to the DRD regional premises in Yangon (CIP Yangon) from where it will be distributed to the townsships and regional offices.

Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Mr. Kyaw Swa Aung, Director of the Procurement and Logistic Section, (ksaung@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 16:00 Hrs at the address given below.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be sent by e-mail only.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Monday 31 October 2016 at 10:00 Hrs (Myanmar time). Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on Monday 31 October 2016 at 11:00 Hrs (Myanmar time).

All bids must be accompanied by a “Bid Security Declaration.”

The address referred to above is:
Department of Rural Development
Attn: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General
Office No.14, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

For Detailed information please contact:
Mr. U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section
Tel: +95(0)967.40.94.13 (office) or +95(0)99.43.43.33 (mobile)
Web site: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org

For Detailed information please contact:
Mr. U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section
Tel: +95(0)967.40.94.13 (office) or +95(0)99.43.43.33 (mobile)
Web site: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org
Los Angeles — Canadian rapper Drake returned to the top of the Billboard 200 album chart with “Views” on Monday after a seven-week break from the top spot. "Views" first took the No.1 spot in April and has now topped the Billboard charts for 13 non-consecutive weeks. About 53,000 units of the album were sold last week, according to Nielsen Soundscan, which tracks sales of music and music video products. Billboard said “Views” now has the longest non-consecutive run at No.1 on the album chart since the soundtrack for the animated Disney movie “Frozen” in 2014.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album). The enduring popularity of “Views” meant hip hop artist Mac Miller’s new release, “The Divine Feminine,” had to settle for second spot on the Billboard 200, with 48,000 units sold. New releases from country singer Aaron Lewis (“Sinner”) and Usher (“Hard II Love”) debuted in the No.4 and No.5 spots respectively. On the digital songs chart, which measures online single download sales, summer hit “Closer” by American duo The Chainsmokers reigned once again with some 162,000 sales for the week.—Reuters

Drake performs during the iHeartRadio Music Festival at The T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada, US on 23 September 2016. Photo: Reuters

David Bowie’s art collection arrives in NY ahead of November sale

New York — Sotheby’s on Monday previewed the contemporary art collection of late rock star David Bowie at their gallery headquarters in New York ahead of its auction in November.

“Overall, we will be selling over 350 items. The low estimate is 10-15 million pounds ($13-$19.5 million). We divided it into three sales: modern and contemporary art and then a whole sale of post-modern Italian design,” Simon Hucker, a senior specialist in modern and British Post-War Art at Sotheby’s, said about the auction, to be held in London on 10-11 November. Bowie, who died in January at age 69, amassed a huge collection of art for which he was well known.

Among the top lots in the sale is a piece by the late New York painter Jean-Michel Basquiat titled, “Air Power,” estimated at $3.3 million to $4.6 million.

The painting titled, “Head of Gerda Boehm” by Frank Auerbach, would affect Bowie’s mood and inspire him to make sounds that reflected the way the painting made him feel, according to Hucker. “I think it’s more to do with his wider interest in creativity, in the way that artists work, in the artistic process,” explained Hucker about the music pioneer’s attraction to art.

Bowie was deeply engaged in the world of art, especially in modern and contemporary British art, as an artist, critic, patron, publisher and magazine editor. He joined the editorial staff of Modern Painter magazine, where he interviewed artists like Jeff Koons, Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin. As an actor, Bowie played Andy Warhol in Julian Schnabel’s 1996 biopic “Basquiat,” also starring Jeffrey Wright, Gary Oldman and Dennis Hopper. The collection will move to Sotheby’s in Hong Kong next month before Bowie’s entire private collection is put on public display in London in November in the week leading up to the auction.—Reuters

Los Angeles — Actors Naomi Watts and Liev Schreiber are splitting up after 11 years together, the couple said in a statement on Monday.

“Watts, 47, and Schreiber, 48, said that “the best way forward for us as a family is to separate as a couple.”

“It is with great love, respect and friendship in our hearts that we look forward to raising our children together and exploring this new phase of our relationship,” they said, asking for privacy for their two young sons.

Their separation follows on the heels of Hollywood power couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie’s sudden divorce announcement last week. Australian actress Watts, who has been nominated or two Oscars, and Schreiber, the star of “Ray Donovan” have been involved since 2005 and have never been married. Watts had previously dated Australian actor Heath Ledger.

Watts and Schreiber star together in the upcoming boxing drama “The Bleeder.”

Schreiber will also star on Broadway in “Les Liaisons Dangerous,” opening next month, in which he plays a promiscuous Frenchman.—Reuters

Los Angeles — British stars James Corden and Daisy Ridley will help to bring the classic children’s tales of “Peter Rabbit” to the big screen, Sony’s Columbia Pictures studios said on Monday.

Corden, host of CBS’s “The Late Late Show,” will voice Peter Rabbit and actress Rose Byrne will voice a character named Bea in the live-action CGI production directed by Will Gluck. The film is due to be released in April 2018.

Announcement of the film coincides with the 150th anniversary of the birth of author Beatrix Potter, whose “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” was first published in 1902. It was followed by 23 stories of involving such characters as Mrs. Twigg-Winkle, Jennifer Paddle-Duck and Squirrel Nutkin.

Potter’s stories were inspired by the English and Scottish countryside and are a global merchandising franchise.

“Star Wars” actress Ridley and “The Night Manager” star Elizabeth Debicki will also be part of the voice cast.—Reuters

Assistant Yui Takeda looks at the first edition of ‘The Tale of Peter Rabbit’ at the Beatrix Potter Museum in Higashi Matsuyama, Tokyo in 2007. Photo: Reuters

‘Peter Rabbit’ coming to big screen, James Corden in voice cast
Surfing spaniels hit the waves in California

LOS ANGELES — More than 60 dogs gave cats a rest and instead chased waves during the eighth annual Surf City Surf Dog competition at Huntington Beach near Los Angeles. Dogs and their owners came from as far away as Australia and Brazil to compete in California on Sunday, with more than 2,000 spectators, as the pets wore lifejackets and tried to avoid wiping out in the unusually high waves. The dogs competed individually or in tandem with their owner and were judged on a variety of skills, including the length of their ride and their confidence on the board. —Reuters

Asian elections for FIFA council postponed

PANJAI (India) — Asia’s top football officials delivered a major snub to FIFA on Tuesday, forcing the postponement of an election for three spots on the world body’s new governing Council in a row over the disqualification of a Qatar candidate.

With FIFA President Gianni Infantino watching on, delegates to an Asian Football Confederation extraordinary congress in Goa, called to conduct the election, voted down the agenda. World governing body FIFA had banned Qatari Saoud Al-Mohannadi from the election on Sunday because of an ongoing ethics investigation, leaving insufficient time for new candidates to join the six remaining in the field.

“There were a lot of people who hoped to file their own nominations,” Praful Patel, AFC vice president and president of the All India Football Federation, told reporters.

“Whether somebody was barred or banned, I wish this process had been done earlier. The others could have had the opportunity to stand and that’s why it got cancelled.”

Fifty-two of the 44 members who had voting rights at Tuesday’s meeting raised a “No” card when AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa called for the agenda of the meeting to be passed.

“This is probably the shortest congress I have ever chaired. The message is clear,” Shaikh Salman said less than an hour after the meeting was opened. “I declare the AFC congress closed.”

The AFC will set a new date for an extraordinary congress in consultation with FIFA, AFC, secretary general Windsor John said. FIFA had set a 30 September deadline for elections to the Council, which replaces the Executive Committee under reforms instituted in the wake of the corruption scandal which has engulfed football’s world governing body over the last 16 months. “I think it’s democracy and we need to look forwards anyway,” Infantino told Reuters. “There’s still a lot of work ahead.” Al-Mohannadi, a vice-president of the Qatar Football Association who denies any wrongdoing, was one of the favourites to win a seat on the new body and had cleared the necessary FIFA integrity check.

A FIFA ethics investigator last month recommended Al-Mohannadi be banned from the game for at least two-and-a-half years for refusing to cooperate with an inquiry.

FIFA did not give details on the subject of the investigation but said it was not related to the 2022 FIFA World Cup, to be hosted by Qatar. —Reuters

At 50, Botswana discovers diamonds are not forever

GABORONE (Botswana) — When David Magag opened Botswana’s first domestic law firm shortly after independence in 1966, he and his country were starting from scratch.

Since then, both he and the former British protectorate, which celebrates its 50th birthday this week, have traveled a huge distance based largely on Botswana’s vast diamond wealth. With those riches running low, the outlook is less rosy.

Trained in London, Magag was one of only two local lawyers — the rest being British or South African — who took up the practice of law in Botswana, an expanse of arid scrubland the size of France, had just 7 km (4 miles) of tarred road and a capital that amounted to little more than a railroad station. “On the face of it Botswana was very poor — good for hunting and not much else. It was basically an agrarian, subsistence society,” Magag told Reuters. “All we had was a railway, and that was owned by South Africa and Rhodesia.”

The 77-year-old is now chairman of a luxury golf and housing estate on the outskirts of Gaborone — still known by some as ‘The Station’ — while Botswana is the world’s biggest diamond producer and one of Africa’s richest and most stable countries.

Its road network stretches for nearly 7,000 km, the government’s credit rating is the highest on the continent and per capita income has risen 13-fold to $7,000 thanks to growth averaging 8.2 per cent a year, according to the World Bank.

Over the past half century, only South Korea and China boast such dramatic increases in national wealth. —Reuters

A visitor holds a diamond during a visit to the De Beers protectorate, which celebrates its 50th birthday.

With FIFA President Gianni Infantino watching on, delegates to an Asian Football Confederation extraordinary congress in Goa, called to conduct the election, voted down the agenda. World governing body FIFA had banned Qatari Saoud Al-Mohannadi from the election on Sunday because of an ongoing ethics investigation, leaving insufficient time for new candidates to join the six remaining in the field.

“There were a lot of people who hoped to file their own nominations,” Praful Patel, AFC vice president and president of the All India Football Federation, told reporters.

“Whether somebody was barred or banned, I wish this process had been done earlier. The others could have had the opportunity to stand and that’s why it got cancelled.”

Fifty-two of the 44 members who had voting rights at Tuesday’s meeting raised a “No” card when AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa called for the agenda of the meeting to be passed.

“This is probably the shortest congress I have ever chaired. The message is clear,” Shaikh Salman said less than an hour after the meeting was opened. “I declare the AFC congress closed.”

The AFC will set a new date for an extraordinary congress in consultation with FIFA, AFC, secretary general Windsor John said. FIFA had set a 30 September deadline for elections to the Council, which replaces the Executive Committee under reforms instituted in the wake of the corruption scandal which has engulfed football’s world governing body over the last 16 months. “I think it’s democracy and we need to look forwards anyway,” Infantino told Reuters. “There’s still a lot of work ahead.” Al-Mohannadi, a vice-president of the Qatar Football Association who denies any wrongdoing, was one of the favourites to win a seat on the new body and had cleared the necessary FIFA integrity check.

A FIFA ethics investigator last month recommended Al-Mohannadi be banned from the game for at least two-and-a-half years for refusing to cooperate with an inquiry.

FIFA did not give details on the subject of the investigation but said it was not related to the 2022 FIFA World Cup, to be hosted by Qatar. —Reuters

Panaji (India) — Asia’s top football officials delivered a major snub to FIFA on Tuesday, forcing the postponement of an election for three spots on the world body’s new governing Council in a row over the disqualification of a Qatar candidate.

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Bayern braced for another bruising battle with Atletico

MUNICH — Carlo Ancelotti’s perfect start with Bayern Munich will be put to the test against Champions League runners-up Atletico Madrid at the Vicente Calderón on Wednesday in a re-run of last season’s scintillating semi-final tie.

The Bundesliga leaders have won eight games out of eight under the Italian coach in all competitions, with five league victories accompanying glory in the German Super Cup and an easy win in the German Cup.

Bayern thrashed Rostov 5-0 in their Champions League Group D opener but midfielder Xabi Alonso warned they will come under much greater scrutiny against Atletico, who have conceded two goals in seven games in all competitions.

“We’re happy with the start we have made but we know that this is the first really powerful team we’re going to face. What we’ve achieved up to now could all fall apart in 90 minutes,” Alonso told Spanish newspaperMarca on Monday.

Atletico knocked Bayern out of the competition last season on away goals in a thrilling two-legged tie and Alonso is expecting more of the same from Diego Simeone’s side.

“I think they are a very similar team to last year, they are competitive, hard-working always well organised. They have positive aggression, they always compete to the last,” Alonso added.

Ancelotti has won a joint-record three Champions League titles, his 2014 triumph coming at the expense of Atletico with local rivals Real Madrid. The Italian also oversaw Atletico’s elimination at the quarter-final stage the following season.

For Alonso, the Italian coach, who also had two Champions League triumphs with AC Milan, has not altered much since succeeding Pep Guardiola in the summer.

“The base has been here since the team won the triple (Bundesliga, German Cup and Champions League in 2013),” Alonso said. “It’s a very important nucleus in the team and everyone who comes to the team works alongside that core.” — Reuters

Burnley beat Watford 2-0 in first top-flight meeting

LONDON — Burnley struck the second half with headers from Jeff Hendrick and Michael Keane to claim a 2-0 Premier League home win over Watford on Monday in the first top-flight meeting of the two clubs.

Forward Hendrick broke the deadlock before defender Keane scored to lift the Clarets into 13th spot where they joined five clubs on seven points from six games, including Watford and champions Manchester United who they trail on goal difference.

Steven Defour laid on both goals with Hendrick heading home his corner in the 38th minute and Keane rising to nod in the winger’s left wing cross five minutes into the second half.

Belgian international De- four was man of the match with Keane and manager Sean Dyche saying he gave Burnley extra quality.

“He’s played brilliantly ever since he came into the team, you can see the quality he’s got,” said Keane.

Dyche, a former Watford player and manager, said Burnley had worked hard to sign Defour, who is closing in on 50 caps, for a club record £8 million ($10.38 million) in August.

“His quality rubs off on others, he’s got a bit more of an assured manner in possession,” said Dyche. Watford were aiming for a third straight league win but could not find the form that helped them comfortably beat Manchester United 3-1 and West Ham United 4-2.

Burnley defended well, in contrast to Watford’s poor marking at set pieces, and kept Etienne Capoue and captain Troy Deeney, who forced a fine point-blank save from Heaton, at check.

“We got bullied over the pitch,” a disappointed Deeney said. “Burnley set up and we couldn’t handle it.”

“We played so well against Manchester United recently but it never really looked like it was going to happen.” — Reuters

Quota on foreign players could harm England team — Reed

MANCHESTER — A quota on foreign players in the Premier League could hinder rather than help the England team, according to former FA technical director Les Reed.

Andy Burnham, the opposition Labour Party’s home affairs spokesman, opened the Soccerex Global Convention by suggesting one of the advantages of Britain’s exit from the European Union could be the introduction of limits on foreign players, which would provide greater playing time for English talent.

But Reed, now director of football at Southampton, believes that would stunt the development of English players.

“I disagreed with what Andy Burnham said about Brexit and that quotas could be better for the England team,” Reed, 63, told Reuters.

“We supply more players to England at every age group than any other club and part of their development is training with the first team.

“England Under 21s captain James Ward-Prowse — who has trained with them since he was 16 — has to cope with Jordy Clase, Oriol Romeu and Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg in centre midfield every day.

“There is a big risk that quotas would not enrich the experience of English youngsters.

“Players in the (second tier) Championship would be promot-