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MYANMAR'S PROPERTY SECTOR TO REMAIN SLUGGISH TILL 2016

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 29 Aug — There are no signs that Myanmar's sluggish real estate sector will rebound before the end of the year, market experts have said.

The managing director of the online property trading website iMyanmarhouse.com U Nay Min Thu told The Global New Light of Myanmar that the formerly inflated market will remain muted this year, exerting downward pressure on both sale and rentals.

He said that Myanmar's upcoming general elections are making investors and developers highly cautious about investments, with the majority preferring to sit on the sidelines and adopt a 'wait-and-see' approach.

Another explanation for the slump in the housing market is a lack of public trust in industry standards following media reports of developers using below par materials and technology for apartment building projects in parts of Yangon, he said.

However the managing director was upbeat about the sector's post-election future.

Meanwhile U Myo Myint, CEO of MKT Construction Co., Ltd said that various factors are at play in cooling the housing market.

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A construction site in the heart of the commercial capital of Yangon. Experts have said that the sluggish state of Myanmar's property market will continue until the year end.— PHOTO:YE MYINT

Launch of Yangon Stock Exchange delayed till Dec

A journalist observes how YSX will trade when it launches in December.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 29 Aug — The much-anticipated launch of Yangon Stock Exchange has been pushed back from October to the first week of December, Deputy Finance Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein said on Saturday.

"The idea of setting up Myanmar's first stock exchange was conceived back in 2012. We look forward to its launch in the first week of December," he told reporters at a conference.

The Yangon Stock Exchange's offices will be housed in an 80-year-old building that was originally home to the Union Bank. The building occupies the corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Road in downtown Yangon.

The state-run Myanma Economic Bank and two Japanese firms inked a joint venture agreement to establish the YSX last December, with 51 stakes held by MEB.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar will select around five business companies to begin trading on YSX. In the initial phase, the commission will only grant licenses to public companies, but there are plans to give the green-light to joint venture firms comprising local and foreign partners in the future.

The four kinds of services licenses — underwriters, dealers, brokers and consultants — are permitted to operate with foreign firms as a joint venture. The commission will grant underwriters' licenses before granting licences to dealers and brokers.

"Every transaction will be done in local currency. While the purchase of shares by investors is unlimited, unusually large investments will be scrutinised," said Dr Maung Maung Thein.

The deputy minister will host a seminar on 13 September in Yangon with the aim of raising public awareness about trading on the stock exchange. He said that plans are also underway to engage with business leaders and university students about YSX's operation before its launch.—*GNLM*

India sets up CAT scan plant at Yangon Children's Hospital

YANGON, 29 Aug — The Government of India opened a CAT scan facility and oxygen concentrator plant on Saturday at Yangon Children's Hospital, as part of the country's US$7 million scheme to help Myanmar improve public healthcare standards.

The Embassy of India in Yangon said that the commissioning of the facilities worth US$1.5 million is a sign of India's ongoing commitment to support Myanmar in its goal of raising the quality of national medical care.

According to a statement from the embassy, the oxygen concentrator plant will provide direct oxygen supply through a complex manifold system and augment the refilling capacity of oxygen cylinders.

The 64-slice CT scan (also known as a CAT scan) is capable of performing cardio angiography scans and has an inbuilt intuitive software interface that assists radiologists in achieving the highest levels of precision in analysis and diagnosis, the embassy added.

Union Minister for Health U Than Aung and India's Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Gautam Mukhopadhaya, were present at the opening of the CT scan and oxygen plant.

India has committed US$7 million for upgrading Yangon Children's Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital and is also facilitating various capacity building initiatives through training programmes for Myanmar doctors.—*GNLM*

Union Minister for Health U Than Aung and India's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Gautam Mukhopadhaya formally open the CAT scan and oxygen plant at Yangon Children's Hospital on Saturday.—MNA

Seminar on tax stamps held for restaurant owners

MANDALAY, 29 Aug — A seminar on amendments to the 2015 Union Tax Law and Commercial Tax Law was held at Pyigyidagun Township General Administration Department on 28 August.

Assistant Director U Kyaw Lwin Htoo of the Township Internal Revenue Department explained the recent government directive to stamp tax receipts for customers at restaurants, as well as other amendments to taxation laws. The talk was attended by restaurant and hotel owners and entrepreneurs.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Headmistress Daw Tin Mar Swe presents the first prize and scholarship award to Grade 5 student Ma Pan Thazin Hlaing during an annual meeting of the parent-teacher association at the Basic Education Middle School Branch in Myawady, Kayin State, recently.—TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY TOWN)

Chinese companies and Mingala magazine staff donate relief supplies

MONYO, 29 Aug — Members of the Yangon branch of Mingala magazine donated relief supplies to residents in flood-affected Monyo Township in Bago Region on 27 August.

Magazine staff as well as Chinese companies donated rice, clothes, foodstuffs and personal items worth more than K60 million to the local community at the Dhammayon of Dhammika Pariyatti monastery in Myoma Ward.—*Kyemon*

Education Ministry provides free school uniforms

MYANAUNG, 29 Aug—The Ministry of Education has provided free school uniforms for primary students throughout the nation ahead of the 2015-16 academic year. The Township Education Department has provided uniforms for 21,231 primary students in Myanaung Township, which have been distributed by school officials.—*Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD)*

Taaung literature course delves into rich cultural heritage

NAMHSAN, 29 Aug—The Namhsan Township Taaung Literature and Culture Committee hosted a Taaung literature course at Dhammayon of Myoma Gainggoke monastery in Namhsan, Shan State from 10 to 27 August.

The chairman of the Palaung Self-Administered Zone, U Maung Kyaw, gave a lecture on the history of the Taaung ethnic group literature and vocabulary and course instructor U Aung Khin carried out an assessment of the trainees' comprehension at the conclusion of the course.

Nearly 100 students and 16 Buddhist monks attended the course, which was taught by 11 teachers.—*Aung Moe*

Vice President U Nyan Tun observes search and rescue demonstration at Kandawgyi Lake

YANGON, 29 Aug — Vice President U Nyan Tun observed a search and rescue demonstration preformed at Kandawgyi Lake here on Saturday, officials said.

As the chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, the vice president urged officials to take prompt measures for evacuation, search, rescue, relief supplies and recovery through systematic training exercises and frequent rehearsals.

He went to the Recovery Coordination Centre in Mayangon township, where he inspected the storage of relief supplies and gave instructions on systematic management of donations and timely distributions.

Search and rescue team members demonstrate their skills at Kandawgyi Lake.—MNA

From 2 to 28 August, local and foreign organizations and well-wishers contributed over four billion kyats, 113,955 Thai baht, 2,000 Malaysian ringgit and US$ 55,830 plus 389 tons of foodstuffs and household items.

Vice President U Nyan Tun flew to Hpa-an in Kayin State, where he visited a monastery and inspected the construction of retaining walls and auxiliary spillways at the Yebote dam.

During his tours of nearby villages, the vice president provided local peasant farmers with agricultural machinery and fertilizers.

At a local command in the evening, he heard reports on rehabilitation and rescue efforts and stressed the need to distribute relief supplies without discrimination and develop a resilience to natural disasters in their regions.—*MNA*

Speaker Thura Shwe Mann attends Pyithu Hluttaw bill committee meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Aug — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura Shwe Mann attended coordination meeting on arbitration bill organized by the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee held in Nay Pyi Taw Hluttaw complex on Saturday.

The Speaker urged the participants to prepare the remaining bills and encourage them as they were engaged in non-stop meetings.

Together with the Speaker, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U T Khun Myat, secretary U Saw Hla Tun and committee members, Military representatives to the parliament, members of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, responsible persons from Office of the Supreme Court of the Union and office of the Attorney General of the Union, attended the meeting.—*MNA*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing concludes Thai visit

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Aug — Before concluding his visit to Thailand, Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid homage to Wat Phra Kaew (Mya Temple) in Bangkok, and visited Ancient City in Samutprakan province on Saturday. Thai businessman Mr Lek Viriya established the ancient city in 1963. Visitors can view replicas of famous places and monuments in Thailand there.

Later in the evening, the commander-in-chief left Wing-6 of Thai Royal Air Force, Bangkok, and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw. He was welcomed back by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, senior military officers and Royal Thai Navy Military Attache Captain Apakorn Youkongkaew and officials.

On Friday, Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the dinner hosted by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Worapong Sanganetra.—*Myawady*

Myanmar National Airlines' to add three ATRs to its fleet in Dec

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 29 Aug— Myanmar National Airlines' newly purchased ATR turbo prop planes will arrive in Myanmar from the company's manufacturing base in France in December, said MNA's Chief Executive Officer U Than Tun on Saturday.

This is the national carrier's second purchase from ATR, which is the world's market leader in regional aircraft that seats up to 90 passengers.

"MNA inked an agreement to buy six new aircraft from ATR in May through an installment payment system. Two of the planes will arrive in December, with another three scheduled for 2016 and one more in 2017," he added.

MNA acquired the plans as part of its plans to expand its existing operations to Myanmar's top tourist destinations, such as Bagan, Nyaung U, Heho, Mandalay and Thandwe. The airline also has plans to launch an aircraft maintenance centre in Myanmar, although a timeframe has not yet been disclosed.

MNA will also receive a new Boeing aircraft in October, which will be used to fly from Yangon to Hong Kong and Taipei.—*GNLM*

Myanmar's property sector to remain sluggish till 2016

(from page 1)

"Developers had expected that the condominium law would have been passed in time for the start of the ASEAN Economic Community in late 2015. Those who built condos in the hope of selling them to foreigners will not be able to do so," he explained.

According to unconfirmed sources, the contents of the current draft condominium law are uncertain and will remain so until parliament reconvenes after the general elections on 8 November. Members had disagreed on various aspects of the draft in recent weeks, which led to it being temporarily suspended.

U Ko Ko Htwe, chairman of Tawwin Family Construction Company, had a different point of view on the underlying causes of the stalling property market.

"The market's downward trend began as a result of the high production costs of residential buildings. Skyrocketing land prices as well as other transactional costs – such as high interest rates," said the prominent developer, who is also the vice-chairman of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs' Association.—*GNLM*

The Full Moon Day of Wakhaung

By *Htun Tin Htun*

Wakhaung Symbol — Khatta (*Crimum amoenum*).

The inscriptions of Bagan seldom used the term 'Wakhaung'. Usually in the past it was referred to as "Nankala". In fact 'Wakhaung' connotes the monks' activities during the Buddhist lent. "Wa" means to dwell in a single place at the time of the rain retreat. "Khaung" means far-away or highest stage or centre. Voharalinatthadipani says that "Khaung" is 'far-away', thus the meaning is given as "the month far-away from vassa period".

Honour to the well-known author U Po Lat who states in his "The Burmese Months' Names" that it means 'the middle vassa month', as monks can still observe late pacchima vassa in this month which is the middle of the raining retreat. But this explanation should not be taken seriously as the mid-term vassa belongs to a day after full moon of Wakhaung (August)(this year 30th August 2015) up to a day after full moon of Tawthalin (September). Thus it is better to take it in the sense of 'apex' or 'the highest' as the monks observe vassa at this highest period of time allowed for them.

Every moment needs to be careful. According to Vinaya Rules this month is associated with vassa observance. Before this rule was promulgated by the Buddha, many monks (bikkhus) took journeys when and where they wanted even in the rainy season. Therefore they sometimes inadvertently destroyed grassland and paddy plants. They also heedlessly killed insects and pests. The travelling monks became the objects of blame by the people.

Following the advices of the people, the Buddha laid down a rule stating that all monks, during the period of rainy season, must stay at a single place of residence. The first date after Full Moon Day of Waso (July) is the occasion for purima vassa. If this is impossible, a monk should take pacchima vassa starting from the next day of Full Moon Day Wakhaung. So Wakhaung is the last month for vassa (rain retreat) observance according to the Vinaya.

Understanding the fact that even the Exalted One (the Buddha), in 109 Maha Era, observed His seventh vassa in Tavatimsa Devaloka where the Fully Enlightened One preached Abhidhamma for three months to celestial beings headed by deva, previously His own mother. The Abhidhamma was taught there in order to repay the gratitude the Blessed One owed to his mother. Seated on the emerald throne, the Buddha preached the sublime, subtle Abhidhamma to the higher beings. So Wakhaung is also associated with the teaching of Abhidhamma.

Loving-kindness or good will is every living beings looking for. During the time of Buddha, five hundred bikkhus (monks), after taking meditation instruction from him, went to a thick forest near the Himalaya Range. There they practiced samatha and vipassana. Their spiritual and moral power grew so great that the tree spirits could not live on their trees. All had to wander about and sleep on the ground with their children. After some time they got angry and appeared in strange forms before the eyes of the monks who, being afraid, fell ill and sick. They immediately left their places to see the Buddha, vowing that they would observe second vassa in Wakhaung.

Love to live and live to love (true and authentic friendship) by all living beings can preserve the Planet. After hearing their plight, the Buddha preached the famous Metta Sutta. He taught them to practice loving-kindness to all beings and extend it to all places. So bikkhus (monks) returned to their old place and practiced metta bhavana so intensively that the forest devas became friendly. The pacchima vassa observance was possible this time. The exact date of metta sutta is not known but the Wakhaung is the month for practicing metta for these monks. Therefore this noble month is also associated with the practice of Metta Bhavana in thought, word and deed. Wakhaung is most nobly associated with the affairs of Vinaya, the sublime teaching of Abhidhamma and the teaching and practice of Metta and we should say it, "the Auspicious Month of Triple Pitaka". May all persons cultivate noble and sublime thoughts in their hearts and may they extend their loving kindness to all types of people everywhere. (by editorial tem of "The Light of the Dhamma" Vol. VII No. 1 1348 Bur Era the Full Moon Day of Wakhaung-20.8.86, published by the Department of Religious Affairs, Sirimangala Kaba-Aye hill, Rangoon, Burma)

Morality (character/discipline) and Wisdom are essential requisites for building peaceful, secured and happy world. "The world is now witnessing severe international conflicts and tensions which can easily lead to nuclear war among super-powers. And there also exist economic crises bringing social distress and evils in its train throughout the world. The practice of loving-kindness is urgently needed because the situation everywhere is causing anxiety and despair".

Of all the fragrances-sandal, tagara, blue lotus and jasmine-the fragrance of virtue (morality) is by far the sweetest. It is befitting therefore to dedicate ourselves in the way of noble, peaceful path which brings to amicable unity and happiness for all mankind. And especially in this unique month of Wakhaung (i.e. the Full Moon Day of Wakhaung) the Omniscient Buddha had taught the doctrine on loving-kindness, known as the Metta Sutta, for the benefit of all beings.

On hearing the teachings of the Holy One, the wise become perfectly purified, like a lake deep, clear and still. For the practice of Metta is a universal need and it always removes ill-will and envy from the hearts of all beings. In these days of increasing international rivalries and tragic misunderstandings, which often produce shameless brutalities, all nations need to follow the path of peace and sanity. Today man is coming to realize the profound truth that force cannot solve his problem because anger begets anger.

Not the sweet smell of flowers, not even the fragrance of sandal, tagara or jasmine blows against the wind. But the fragrance of the virtuous blows against the wind. Truly, the virtuous man pervades all directions with the fragrance of his virtue (morality). Hence anger must be conquered by love (metta) as the Omniscient Buddha rightly and strongly emphasized. "Hatred is never appeased by hatred in this quarrelsome world; by non-hatred (metta) alone is hatred appeased, this is a Law of Eternal". This maxim is an ancient principle, is an old Dhammapada saying taught by our Lord Buddha when he expounded the doctrine of Loving–kindness.

Do not be heedless! Arise! Lead a righteous life. The righteous live happily both in this world and next. The Buddha was an embodiment of Metta; an exponent of Loving-kindness by precept and example. In the entire canonical scriptures of the Buddhist there occurs not one occasion when the Buddha exposed anger to anyone even to his opponents and foes. In the doctrinal debate He was calm and steady and confronted the antagonists without agitation and anger. When He as scurrilously offended and reproached in ruthless terms. He never lost his serene countenance.

An evil deed is better left undone, for such a deed torments one afterwards. But a good deed is better done, doing which one repents not later. Metta is a Buddhist term, rendered as- friendliness, benevolence, good-will, universal love, loving-kindness, compassionate love and so on. In its essence Metta is the wish for the welfare and blissful life of all beings. It has the characteristic of a benevolent mother looking after her loving only baby. Its antonym is hatred (Dosa); and it is to be distinguished from 'passion' or 'carnal attachment' or 'selfish affectionate desire (Pema)'.

You yourselves must strive; the Buddhas only point the way. Those meditative ones who tread the path are released from the bonds of Mara. Whilst pristine Metta is healthy and cool, the carnal attachment (Pema) is harmful and hot. Sporadically common people entertain thoughts of sensual affection, and misconceiving it for the genuine Metta; they do not realize that they are cultivating sinful passion instead of sublime Metta. Through such carnal lust all evils come to afflict the worldlings. This carnal lust, when obstructed by some event, is transform into Anger or fury or Wrath (Dosa), which creates distress, sorrow, lamentation, grief and anxiety.

One will always be happy by not encountering fools. Good it is to see the Noble Ones; to live with them is ever blissful. The Metta meditation is one of the Buddhist Methods to elevate the spiritual power of man. The meditation of Love is rewarded in terms of eleven benefits of blessing; 1). He sleeps happily; 2). He wakes in comfort; 3). He dreams no nightmares; 4). He is loved by humans; 5). He is dear to non-humans; 6). He is protected by deities; 7). He is invulnerable to fire, poison and weapon; 8).his mind is easily concentrated; 9). His countenance is amiable and serene; 10). He dies peacefully; and 11). He will enjoy in the heavenly abode of the Braham if he does not attain the Arahatship here in this present life.

Full of joy, full of faith in the teaching of the Buddha, the monk attains the Peaceful State, the bliss of cessation of conditioned things. Indeed, vicious thoughts of animosity and cruelty are most detrimental and harmful to the affairs of man. And metta is the best antidote for mankind. Let us therefore extend loving-kindness to all who need it, in order to establish an enjoyable blissful world. Let us now concentrate our mind in the haven of metta Bhavana Meditation to bring peace to the world. (by the editorial team of "The Light of the Dhamma" Vol. II No. 2, 1344 Bur.E the Full Moon Day of Wa Gaung (3.9.82) published by the Department of Religious Affairs, Sirimangala Kaba-Aye Hill, Rangoon, Burma)

May there be every good blessing,
may all the devas protect you,
Through the power of all the Buddhas (Dhamma, Sangha)
may you always be well.

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Thai police arrest foreign man over Bangkok bombing

BANGKOK, 29 Aug — Police hunting for the perpetrators of Thailand's deadliest bombing arrested a foreign man on Saturday they said fitted the description of a suspect seen leaving a rucksack at the site of the Bangkok blast nearly two weeks ago.

Police raided an apartment in a northern suburb of the capital on Saturday afternoon and discovered possible bomb-making materials that could have been used in the Aug. 17 attack in Bangkok's bustling commercial heart.

Police would not confirm where the suspect was from but said he was a foreign national and would be charged initially with possession of illegal explosive materials and held at a military facility. The bomb tore through the crowded Erawan Shrine, one of the country's top tourist attractions and close to high-end hotels and malls, killing 20 people and wounding scores more.

Among the dead were 14 foreigners, including seven from mainland China and Hong Kong, in an attack the military government said was intended to be a strike at Thailand's troubled economy.

The suspect "looks like the one we are looking for", said national police spokesman Prawut Thavornsiri.

"They also found a lot of materials which can be used to make bombs."

The prime suspect in the attack is a young man with shaggy dark hair dressed in a yellow shirt seen on grainy closed-circuit television footage dropping off a backpack and casually leaving the scene before the bomb went off.

Thai television showed a photograph of a handcuffed man in his 20s, shabbily dressed with a beard and hair shaven short. Reuters could not immediately verify the authenticity of the image.

Several channels also showed an image of a passport they said was seized at the apartment where the man was arrested during the raid.

It appeared to be a Turkish passport, belonging to a man born in 1987. Reuters could not confirm whether or not it belonged to the suspect, or if it was found by police at the apartment.

Police and military personnel cordoned off the brown-coloured four-storey budget apartment on Saturday from scores of media and onlookers, and the arrested man could not be seen, a Reuters photographer said.

Police had made little progress in the investigation, and authorities had offered a $85,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the main suspect.

Officials have had different theories about the identity of the man, saying he could be foreign, or a Thai man pretending to be foreign.

Police have been criticised for providing contradictory information, and Reuters reporters on Friday found the authorities had not checked some CCTV footage taken minutes after the blast, which featured a man dressed like the chief suspect.—*Reuters*

An arrested suspect of the recent Bangkok blast is shown in this Thai Royal Police handout released August 29, 2015. —REUTERS

Bangladesh arrests two more suspects over kiling of secular blogger

DHAKA, 29 Aug — Bangladeshi police have arrested two more suspects in connection with the killing of an online critic of religious militancy.

Militants have targeted secularist writers in Bangladesh in recent years, while the government has tried to crack down on hardline Islamist groups seeking to make the South Asian nation of 160 million people a sharia-based state.

Four bloggers were hacked to death in the Muslim-majority nation this year.

Earlier this month, three militants, including a British citizen, were arrested for masterminding the killings of two bloggers, Avijit Roy and Ananta Bijoy Das.

In February, machete-wielding assailants killed Roy, 43, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin and critic of religious militancy, and seriously injured his wife and fellow blogger, Rafida Bonya Ahmed.

Das, 33, was killed in a similar fashion when he headed to work at a bank in the northeastern district of Sylhet on May 12.

Two brothers had been arrested from Sylhet for their role in the killing of blogger Das, a senior police official said on Friday.

Last night, police said they also arrested two members of Ansarullah Bangla Team for alleged involvement in the killing of blogger Niloy Chatterjee on Aug. 7.—*Reuters*

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Tens of thousands turn out for rally against Malaysia's Najib

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 Aug — Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Malaysia's capital Saturday demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak over a corruption scandal.

Defying authorities who declared the rally "illegal," the protestors turned downtown Kuala Lumpur yellow, the signature color of the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, popularly known as "Bersih," which means "clean" in Malay.

They came clad in bright yellow T-shirts despite a ban on any attire that bears the "Bersih" logo.

Independent news webportal Malaysiakini estimated the crowd size on Saturday to be over 80,000. The rally is scheduled to last 34 hours until midnight Sunday, the eve of Malaysia's Independence Day.

On the eve of the rally, Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi issued an order prohibiting the distribution or possession of the clothing, which he said is likely to be "prejudicial to public order," "security" and "national interest." The government has also blocked Bersih's website.

Najib has been at the center of a political firestorm following a sensational expose last month in the Wall Street Journal that claimed companies linked to the debt-laden state investment fund, 1Malaysia Development Berhad, deposited nearly $700 million into Najib's personal bank account in 2013.

The anti-corruption agency has since cleared Najib, saying its probe showed the money was a "donation" from an unnamed Middle Eastern source.

Najib has not denied receiving the money, insisting that he was merely acting as a trustee of the funds on behalf of the ruling party, the United Malays National Organization.

Despite the pressure for him to resign, he is digging in and showing that he brooks no dissent.

He has sacked his vocal deputy and the attorney general who was investigating the scandal and replaced senior police officers whose loyalty he questioned. He has also shut down two newspapers and banned a website at the forefront of highlighting the questionable dealings behind 1MDB, whose advisory board Najib chairs.

"He should step down. He brought shame to Malaysia," a 30-year old man who wished to only be identified by his surname Lim, told Kyodo News. All attired in the yellow "Bersih" T-shirts, Lim and his 20 friends drove some four hours from southern Johor state to attend the rally. "He is involved in a lot of scandals. It's very ridiculous to explain the 2.6 billion ringgit as a donation," said Lim.

Fauziah Hamzah, 58, travelled overnight with 35 others from northern Perlis state to take part in the rally.—*Kyodo News*

People take part in a demonstration organized by the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, popularly known as "Bersih," in Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 29, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

4 people slain in anti-drug raids in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 29 Aug — Four suspected drug peddlers were killed in an anti-illegal drugs operation in southern Philippines on Saturday, local police said.

Several suspects were also arrested and an undetermined quantity of methamphetamine hydrochloride, locally known as shabu were seized in simultaneous operations at several locations in Davao del Norte province around 5 a.m. local time, said Samuel Gadingan, the provincial police chief.

Gadingan said two suspects died in a shootout with police and anti-narcotics agents in Tagum City, the provincial capital, while two others were slain while resisting arrest in the towns of Asuncion and Sto. Tomas.

Police also confiscated high-powered weapons during the raids.—*Xinhua*

Obama reassures Jewish groups on US-Israel relationship

U.S. President Barack Obama delivers a speech at the Andrew P. Sanchez Community Center in Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana, August 27, 2015.—Reuters

Washington, 29 Aug — President Barack Obama reassured US Jewish groups on Friday that the US-Israel relationship is strong, despite differences over the nuclear deal with Iran, and called for more talks between the two governments on security cooperation.

"As soon as this particular debate is over, my hope is that the Israeli government will immediately want to rejoin conversations that we started long before about how we can continue to improve and enhance Israel's security in a very troubled neighbourhood," Obama said during a webcast focussed on the international nuclear agreement.

Obama said Washington and Israel have been in talks "for months" about getting security talks back on track, and those talks could include the next-generation missile defence and improved intelligence.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been a fierce critic of the nuclear deal, in which six world powers agreed to ease economic sanctions against Iran in exchange for Tehran curtailing its nuclear programme.

Netanyahu's government, and some US pro-Israel groups, have lobbied fiercely against the nuclear agreement, potentially a core foreign policy achievement of Obama's presidency if successful.

Members of Congress have until Sept. 17 to vote on a "resolution of disapproval" of the nuclear agreement. If it passes, and survives Obama's veto, it could cripple the deal by eliminating Obama's ability to waive many US sanctions.

US Republicans are largely united against the agreement, and have allied themselves with Netanyahu's government against it. They angered the White House earlier this year by inviting the Israeli leader to address Congress without consulting the administration. Obama said the U.S. commitment to Israel is "sacrosanct and it is non-partisan."

He added, "Everybody keep in mind that we're all pro-Israel ... We have to make sure that we don't impugn people's motives even as we have what is a very serious debate."

As Congress has considered the nuclear agreement, announced on July 14, its supporters have denounced opponents as "war hawks" and opponents have accused supporters of betraying Israel.

The webcast was part of an intense White House campaign to bolster support for the pact, which has divided the US Jewish community. Earlier on Friday, Democrat Tom Carper of Delaware became the 30th US senator to announce that he would support the nuclear deal. Supporters need 34 of the 100 senators, or 146 members of the 435-seat House, to sustain a veto.—*Reuters*

N. Korea agrees to hold family reunion talks on Sept. 7: Yonhap

Seoul, 29 Aug — North Korea has accepted an offer by South Korea's Red Cross to hold working-level talks on Sept. 7 on resuming reunions of families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War, Yonhap News Agency reported Saturday, quoting the Unification Ministry.

On Friday, the Red Cross proposed that the two sides meet at the village of Panmunjeom inside the Demilitarized Zone that divides the Koreas.

The ministry said it received a letter from the North through a contact channel in Panmunjeom around 1 p.m. Saturday, according to Yonhap.

"The two sides will hold consultations on related matters through the Panmunjeom contact channel," the ministry said.

South Korea has called for holding the reunions on a regular basis as an urgent humanitarian issue, one that should not be linked to other issues as time is running out for the separated family members.

Most of them are in their 70s and 80s and have expressed a strong wish to see their long-lost relatives before they die.

The two Koreas last held reunions in February 2014 at the North's Mt. Kumgang resort, for the first time in more than three years.

The reunions, first held after a landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000, have so far brought together more than 20,000 family members who had not seen each other since the war.

As of the end of 2013, 129,255 people were registered in the South Korean government-run Integrated Information System for Separated Families as members of separated families, of whom 57,176 people had passed away, leaving 72,079 survivors.—*Kyodo News*

Democratic support for Clinton at lowest since 2012 — Reuters poll

Washington, 29 Aug — Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's support among Democrats has dropped to its lowest point since Reuters/Ipsos began polling on her chances of winning the party's nomination for the 2016 election almost three years ago.

But the former secretary of state still has a lead of more than 20 percentage points over her nearest rival, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, the online survey showed on Friday.

Clinton has suffered a steady erosion in the number of people in opinion polls who see her as trustworthy as controversy has grown over her use of a private email account when she served as America's top diplomat.

The Reuters/Ipsos survey, a rolling poll taken over the previous five days, put Clinton at 45 percent, with Sanders at 25 percent.

The lead is Clinton's smallest since Reuters/Ipsos began polling Democrats in late 2012 about who they want to see representing them at the November 2016 presidential election.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton addresses the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Summer Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 28, 2015.—Reuters

Vice President Joe Biden, who is considering whether to challenge Clinton for the nomination, came in third at 16 percent. Biden was polling at around 10 percent a month ago.

A total of 494 people who identified themselves as Democrats took part in the poll, which had a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.1 percentage points.

Clinton's lead is now slightly smaller than the gap between Republican front-runner Donald Trump and his nearest rival, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, in a Reuters/Ipsos survey of Republicans.

Trump, with 33 percent, led Huckabee, with 12 percent, on Friday.—*Reuters*

Japan vows efforts to end human rights violations against women

Tokyo, 29 Aug — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida pledged efforts Saturday to root out human rights violations against women during this century at an international symposium in Tokyo on the empowerment of women.

"Japan will do its utmost to make the 21st century a world with no human rights violations against women," he said in an opening address on the final day of the two-day World Assembly for Women, hosted by the Japanese government as a "women's Davos forum."

Kishida expressed the strong intention to push women's advancement in society, citing a government decision that Japan will "take a lead in the field of women."

He also said, "Making it possible for women to exert their great potential is Japan's immediate challenge," given the country's rapidly aging society.

Following addresses and panel discussions on the first day, Saturday's sessions featured special-interest roundtable discussions, with about 140 female political and business leaders from over 40 countries and international organizations attending the event.

Issues on the agenda include support measures for women facing challenges in the economy, women's work-life management and engaging men in reforms as well as peace-building, international cooperation and education.

The forum also provides a place for discussion among young people.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has modeled the event on the World Economic Forum held annually in Davos, Switzerland, is slated to join some of the discussions.

A statement of proposed solutions to the various issues faced by women that were discussed during forum will be released later in the day.—*Kyodo News*

Venezuela's Maduro to visit China, Vietnam for finance deals

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro (C) waves a national flag during a meeting with the National Union of Women (UNAMUJER) in Caracas, in this handout picture provided by Miraflores Palace on August 27, 2015.—Reuters

Caracas, 29 Aug — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Friday said he will visit China and Vietnam to sign economic and financing deals, as the OPEC nation struggles to make ends meet at a time of low oil prices.

"I leave tomorrow for Vietnam and China to seal agreements for the economic and financial security of Venezuela, and to seek support in these difficult times," Maduro said during a televised broadcast.

He said he had received invitations from the presidents of China and Vietnam. He did not offer further details.

Venezuela has borrowed $50 billion from China through an oil-for-loans agreement created by late socialist leader Hugo Chavez in 2007, which has helped Chinese companies expand into Venezuelan markets amid chronic shortages of consumer goods.

Chinese financing has been crucial for Caracas since last year's oil market rout because Venezuela's borrowing costs on capital markets are the highest of any emerging market nation.

Vietnam's state oil and gas group PetroVietnam is a 40 percent partner with Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA in the Junin 2 heavy oil project in the Orinoco belt. A senior PDVSA source told Reuters in March that PetroVietnam is considering pulling out of the project.

The head of Venezuela's opposition coalition, Jesus Torrealba, scoffed at Maduro's visit at a time when China's slowing economic growth was worrying world markets.

"Only he would think of going to China 'to seek help' the same week that China's financial collapse causes a global crisis," he tweeted. "Pure 'Madurismo'!"—*Reuters*

Poll lead for Greece's Syriza narrows as Tsipras presses for new mandate

Athens, 29 Aug — Former Greek premier Alexis Tsipras urged supporters on Saturday to give him a mandate to complete the country's political transformation, as a poll showed his leftist Syriza party's lead slipping ahead of elections next month.

Tsipras abruptly resigned last week, days after clinching an 86 billion euro ($97 billion) bailout package from Greece's euro zone and International Monetary Fund lenders, aiming to crush a rebellion by far-left lawmakers and tighten his grip on power.

Hopes the lenders might soon resolve differences over how to tackle Greece's existing debt rose on Saturday, when IMF head Christine Lagarde told a Swiss newspaper a form of restructuring rather than outright forgiveness should enable the country to cope. Euro zone creditors, notably Germany, have ruled out a writedown.

But Tsipras' gamble to call early elections, to be held on Sept. 20, could backfire, opinion polls suggest - with most Greeks disapproving of his decision to seek a fresh mandate and how he handled the talks with creditors.

Syriza led the opposition conservative New Democracy party by as much as 15.2 percentage points in May. But the gap has been gradually whittled down since and it dropped to 1.8 percentage points in an MRB poll for weekly newspaper Agora published on Saturday.

Other polls also showed the lead narrowing, suggesting momentum may be shifting towards New Democracy.

Tsipras said he wanted to complete what he started when Syriza won national elections in January.

"Against us is the old political system that pushed the country into a tragedy, which built the regime that led to the bailouts," he told a gathering of the party's central committee in Athens. "We want to demolish this regime."

He urged supporters to fight back against the old and "hated" political system he held responsible for Greece having needed bailouts, and justified his decision to agree to a third rescue.

"We do not regret having fought nor having chosen at the end to avoid catastrophe," he said.

"Whoever wants to escape has the right to do it but we are moving forward, we have not seen our best battles yet," he said in a reference to a breakaway Syriza faction that has formed the anti-bailout Popular Unity party.

The MRB poll showed Popular Unity was backed by 4.2 percent — above the 3 percent threshold needed to enter parliament — while Syriza was on 24.6 percent and New Democracy on 22.8 percent.

It also supported previous findings that Tspiras's abrupt resignation as prime minister last week had gone down badly with voters, with 68.6 percent disapproving of that decision.

All the recent surveys suggest Syriza has next to no chance of winning an overall majority, and the right-wing Independent Greeks, the ally in Tsipras' former coalition government, look unlikely to make it back into parliament.—*Reuters*

Man who shot Virginia journalists identified with 9/11 attacks — sheriff

Moneta, 29 Aug — The gunman who killed two Virginia television journalists on air carried out a well-planned assault and identified with mass murderers and the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, authorities said on Friday.

The shooter, Vester Flanagan, gave no sign of his destination or next move when he fled after gunning down the journalists from Roanoke station WDBJ7 on Wednesday, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

"It is evident that Wednesday morning's attack was well-planned and premeditated" and Flanagan apparently acted alone, the statement on the shooting investigation said. Flanagan, a former station employee, fired 17 rounds from a .40 calibre Glock pistol when he attacked reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward as they were conducting a live interview at Smith Mountain Lake in southwest Virginia, the statement said.

Flanagan shot himself during a police chase in northern Virginia and died. The woman who was being interviewed was wounded and hospitalized. Evidence and his writings show that Flanagan "closely identified with individuals who have committed domestic acts of violence and mass murder, as well as the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S.," said the statement. Almost 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks.

The statement said two Glock pistols were recovered from Flanagan's rental car. No other firearms have been found. The on-air killings have brought renewed calls for gun control in the United States and in Virginia, where the National Rifle Association gun lobby is headquartered.

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat, vowed to press ahead with legislation on background checks for gun buyers, although the Republican-led legislature has rejected his gun control efforts.

Citing a federal law enforcement source, USA Today said Flanagan had legally bought the handguns. He passed a background check despite his apparent emotional problems, it reported.

In a fax to ABC News the day of the shooting, Flanagan, who was black, called himself a "powder keg" over what he saw as racial discrimination. He was fired from CBS affiliate WDBJ7 in 2013.

A search warrant for Flanagan's rental car said police were tipped to him when he sent a text message to a friend "making reference to having done something stupid." In the car, police found a pistol, 9mm ammunition, more magazines and a pistol case. Other items included stamped letters, a to-do list and briefcase with three licence plates, a wig and sunglasses, the warrant said.—*Reuters*

Flowers are seen at a memorial outside of the offices for WDBJ7 where killed journalists Alison Parker and Adam Warm worked in Roanoke, Virginia August 27, 2015.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 30 August, 2015

Choosing the right ingredients for good governance

By *Kyaw Thura*

As the general elections draw near, each of Myanmar's political parties are jockeying to come out on top in the final voters' tally. For the first time, each and every political party will have the opportunity to take to the air waves to publicly state why they should be chosen to become Myanmar's next government. From 8 September to 6 November, TV and radio listeners will be assessing the performance of political parties during these 15-minute broadcasts. The party which is best able to communicate its commitment to serving the public good is likely to emerge victorious after the general elections on November 8.

The Union Election Commission (UEC) and the Ministry of Information have stipulated some key conditions for the broadcasts, such as reserving the right not to air a political broadcast if it has the potential to harm national solidarity, violate existing laws, encroach on the rule of law and security, denigrate the armed forces, fuel racial and religious tension or curtail individual rights. Political parties are required to submit full transcripts of their broadcasts seven days ahead of the scheduled time to the UEC for scrutiny.

As Myanmar enters a truly historic moment, the public would be well served to listen keenly and think carefully about how they will cast their ballot. Candidates should only secure our votes if they are able to prove to us that they will work together constructively and for the betterment of all members of society. Sustaining national solidarity through the responsible exercise of power is vital.

The people of Myanmar are eager to see further social and economic development – indeed there are no better measures of good governance.

Write for us

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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.

Historical and cultural landscape of Bagan in its heyday

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Famous Bagan Sunset.—GOOGLE

Visitors across the world coming to Myanmar at anytime and any season of the year, would like to go to Bagan, a world-renowned archaeological site, just to get a glimpse of it within the limit of time they could spare. A guide book in hand and a tour guide with them they acquire some sketches of a kingdom which lasted nearly three centuries of its heyday, then followed by its decline taking it into a long oblivion only to be revived as an archaeological site. That is the way which every kingdom, every empire or every civilization took in the past.

The article published in the current number of the esteemed daily *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, presents to the readers " historical and cultural landscape of Bagan in its heyday" as follows;-

Old Bagan lies on the east bank of the Ayeyawady River, the principal river of Myanmar, flowing from the icy Himalyan mountain branch in the extreme north down to the India ocean, for a distance of 1500 miles. Old Bagan is in Mandalay Region, central Myanmar. The climate is arid, there is less rainfall, and it is dry most of the year. Sandy and no thick forest, only deciduous type of thorny vegetation covers it. There is no fertile land for cultivation, nor forest to extract timber wood. The place is not hospitable for human habitation, let alone founding a capital.

Nevertheless the first Myanmar Empire grew up there with its capital which moved to four different places in that area. Geopolitical factors explain its strategic importance. Firstly, being at the heart of the country, access to four corners of the country is easy by land and water communications provided by rivers and land routes. The Ayeyawady River gives outlet to the sea, thus providing contact and relation with the world. The vast irrigated fields in eleven districts lie only over hundred miles to the east. The mountains and hill ranges to the north, south, southeast and west supply plenty of forest products and marshy clay beds around, producing baked brick and rocky hill ranges have quarries to supply stone.

Urbanization: Originally 19 villages of Pyu people at a place called Yone Hlut Kyun, [paralled to Tu-yin hill range, about 7 miles to the south of today Bagan]began to unite into a town known as Pyu-garma. Later it shifted to four places, one after another due to its extended urbanization. These four places were (1) Phugan, (2) Pauk-kan , (3) Thiri-pyit-saya, and (4) Arimandana-pura. The last name was the metropolitan Bagan.

Bagan dynasty lasted from 107 A.D. to 1369 A.D. A line of 55 kings ruled for 1262 years, each ruler's average reign of 22 years and a few months. The founder of the dynasty was King Thamudarit and the last ruler was King Saw mun-nit [1325-1369 A.D.].

There were eleven economic zones in irrigated Kyaukse area. They were (1) Pinle (2) Myitmana (3) Myit-tha (4) Myingondaing (5) Yamon (6) Panan (7) Mekkhaya (8) Tapyettha (9) Thindaung (10) Tamokso and (11) Khan Lu which were frequently referred to in stone inscriptions as "Myit tha Sei tit Khains". Besides there were six economic zones in Minbu area namely (1) Saku (2) Salin (3) Lei Kaing (4) Meipinsaya (5) Phaung Lin and (6) Kya bin. These 11+6 economic zones assured Bagan food and revenue.

River system networks the surroundings of Bagan, providing fresh water and fertile soil brought by the mountains, hills and aquatic bodies.

With efficient management of irrigation system, Bagan had more than enough supply of paddy and other crops from the dry cultivation of the vast areas over which it had administrative command. It was the revenue in kind and religious donations that built thousands of religious monuments. Legend claims that there were over 5000 pagodas, temples and monuments within Bagan proper – an area of 25 square miles. Successive excavations and UNESCO experts have already unearthed the ruins and made a new inventery which listed over 4000.

Due to space constraint in this article, we may briefly study only three kings out of 55 rulers. King Anawrahta [1044-1077 A.D.], who built the First Myanmar Empire which was Bagan kingdom, was the the 42nd ruler in the long dynasty. With his might and main, he set up a strong defense around his domain. Forty-three outpost towns were established along his land borders to the north and east. Land and water forces under his direct command were headed by his five brave and faithful knight errant, (1) Nga Htwe Yu (2) Nga Lone Let Phe (3) Nyaung U Hpi (4) Kyanzittha and (5) Byatta, who dutifully undertook to ward off invaders, to maintain law and order and to manage economic zones. Anawrahta built four weirs to supply fresh water to fields and people.

(See page 9)

ARTICLE

Historical and cultural landscape of Bagan in its heyday

Scenic Beauty of Bagan.—GOOGLE

(from page 8)

Seaports Cosmin [Pathein], Dalla, Martaban, Thanhlyin, Dawei, and Myeik kept seaborne trade with India, Ceylon [Lankadipa or Sri Lanka], Java Malayu and East Indies islands. Land routes connected Bagan with Sina (China), India, Champu (Cambodia) Linzin (Laos), Zinmei and Thaukate (Soukhothai). His land forces composed of four regements (1) Elephantry (war elephants) (2) Cavalry (Horses) (3) Chariotry and (4) Infantry (swordsmen, spearsmen, lancers, archers, and gunners] and his water forces composed of ships, big boats and war canoes.

Introduction and spread of Theravada Buddhism: In 1056 A.D. Theravada Buddhism was introduced to Bagan when Tipitaka [Buddhist canonical texts inscribed on palm leaf] were brought to Bagan by Buddhist missionary monks led by Primate Shin Arahan. They set up monastic schools for teaching and centre for meditation and religious practices with the royal patronage and public support.

Bagan became a holy city: The arrival of Theravada Buddhism in Bagan produced seven happy results. (1) Guided by Tipitaka and learned missionary monks, Buddha Dhamma flourished and spread to the four corners of the kingdom (2) animistic religions and debased Buddhism were gradually stamped out. (3) Theravada Buddhism predominated Mahayana Buddhism (4) in religious institutions Pali replaced Sanskrit (5) Mon alphabet was widely adopted (6) for the first time Myanmar language was put to writing. The earliest stone inscription in Myanmar language dated 1058 A.D. and (7) Bagan grew into a holy city and well-known as the centre of Buddhist learning on par with if not with Taxila, at least with Nalanda.

Kings Kyanzittha and Alaung Sithu: A line of 14 kings followed Anawrahta. But not all of them were equal to him. Some were mediocre, some were despotic and tyrannical. So we deal with only two who could rank with Anawrahta. Kyanzitthar [1084-1112 A.D.] was the unifier of Mon and Myanmar kingdoms. Alaung Sithu his grandson and successor [1112-1167 A.D.] was a noble king. They both promoted religion and welfare of the people. From Anawrahta onwards began a line of temple-builder kings, whose role model was followed by all strata of Bagan society –royalty, aristocracy down to grassroots. Both laity and clergy built religious monuments and carried out social welfare works as an act of merit for the good present life and life hereafter.

Downfall of Bagan: Remote causes of Bagan downfall were (1) central authority weakened (2) Disruption of the kingdom (3) decline in administration (4) Misrule of mediocre kings and despots and tyrants. The immediate cause was the invasions of Tartar armies sent by Emperor Kublai Khan in 1283 A.D.

Cultural Landscape of Bagan: It is no exaggeration to say that you need to stay some years in Bagan to get a full picture of Bagan cultural landscape. The late professor researcher Mr G.H Luce, a life long researcher of Bagan had left his magnum opus 3 elephant size volumes of Old Burma: Early Bagan. He could not finish his work on Middle and Late Bagan. Before he returned to England, he had wished at his farewell party that if he were born human again in his next existence, he would like to come back to Bagan to complete his research.

Four outstanding monuments: There is a Myanmar saying regarding the three Bagan monuments with extraordinary features:

ထုမှာဓမ္မရံ ……. Massiveness that is Dhammayangyi

အနံ့မာသပ္ပညူ ……. Height that is Thatbyinnu

အနုမ အာနန္ဒာ ……. Grace that is Ananda.

To this list Shwezigone pagoda should be added because of its wonderful location, wonderful size and design and wonderful construction.

အံ့စရာစုံ ရွှေစည်းခုံ ……. Wonder that is Shwezigone

Shwezigone: It was built by King Anawrahta in 1059 A.D. but he left it unfinished. King Kyanzittha completed it in 1090 A.D. Today in 2015 it is 925 years old.

History of the pagoda tells us that King Anawrahta brought to Bagan a sacred relic of the Buddha's frontal bone recovered from an old stupa in Sre Kestra. The white elephant which conveyed the relic on its back knelt down on a sandy site in Bagan. The king named the site "Zeya Bhumi" [The Land of Victory] and a pagoda was built to enshrine the relic. Later a replica of the Tooth Relic of the Buddha presented by Sri Lankan King was also enshrined in it. The pagoda was built of stone bricks brought by a human chain from the quarries at the Tuyin hills, about 7 miles away from the site of the pagoda construction. Pious devotees lined up by turn along that distance and stone bricks were passed on by hands to the construction site. The earthquake of 1975 proved that this legend was true for stone bricks fell off from the pagoda proved to be those from Tuyin hill quarries.

Originally named Shwe The Khon because it was built on a sandy site, with deep and strong foundation underneath. Now the name is changed to Shwezigone.

The pagoda is a solid cylindrical structure resting on three square terraces, a prototype of Myanmar stupas. It has a gold waist-band around the bell shaped dome above which raise a series of concentric mouldings ending in a finial and crowned with a decorative umbrella.

Around the terraces there are, set in panels, enameled plaques, illustrating the scenes in the previous lives of the Buddha. On each of the four sides of the pagoda is a hall which shelters a standing bronze Buddha statue, 13 feet high, of the Gupta school of Art. These statues are guilt. The four bronze statues facing four cardinal points, represent four Buddhas already revealed. They are Kakusanda Buddha facing north, Konagamana Buddha facing east, Kassapa Buddha facing south and Gotama Buddha facing west.

Shwezigone is held in great veneration by the Buddhists at home and abroad. Myanmar kings and Myanmar heads of state and government never failed to pay homage to it. Within its precincts are many monuments and objects of artistic and historical interest.

Dhammayangyi Temple: Built by King Narathu [1167-1170 A.D.] this castle-like temple is the most massive and colossal structure among Bagan monuments. Though it was left unfinished due to the untimely end of its builder, its strong and sound architecture is attested by its durability and withstanding in spite of natural elements, earthquakes, wars and old age. Fine brick work is noticed in this temple and its enclosure walls. Local legends say that its builder king often came to supervise the construction and he went up the temple on his elephant mount to test the strength of it.

Dhammayangyi symbolizes the Light of the Buddha's Dhamma. Hence, its original name was Dhammaramsi meaning "The Rays of Truth".

Thatbyinnu Temple: "Thatbyinnu" means "Omniscience" which is one of the attributes of the Buddha. It was built about the middle of the 12th century A.D. by King Alaung Sithu. Standing within the city walls, some 500 yards to the north-west of Ananda Temple Thatbyinnu rises to a height of 201 feet above ground and overtops all other monuments.

The temple has five stories: the first and the second were used as residences for the monks, the sacred images were housed on the third, the fourth storey was used for library and the fifth was a pagoda enshrining sacred relics. Thus the temple is a combination of a stupa, residences, image house and library. Brick concrete staircases were built in the thickness of the four corners of the thick walls ventilated by breeze coming in through light wells in the ceilings.

Ananda Temple: It was built by King Kyanzittha in 1091 A.D. Today in 2015, it is 924 years old. Legend says that it was built according to the design furnished by 8 Indian Buddhist Saints who modeled it on their cave hall in the Nandamula Mountain in the Himalayas. The original Nandamula corrupts into Ananda. But Pali scholars say its name is derived from Pali word "Ananta Panna" meaning endless wisdom of the Buddha.

It is a very graceful structure standing 168 feet above ground and exquisitely decorated inside and outside with all forms of Myanmar visual arts. In the temple are high niches facing four cardinal points. In each of these four niches stands an imposing standing Buddha statue, 31 feet high. Those facing north and south are original, carved out of Saga wood and pine wood respectively. Those facing east and west are replacements. Their facial expressions change, depending upon the eye level of the beholder and the sun light through light wells in the high ceilings.

Almost live size statues of Primate Shin Arahan and King Kyanzittha are placed face to face with their hands in a worshipping style in front of the statues. Scenes from Jataka stories were depicted in stone sculptures around the temple.

Because of its religious and historic significance plus graceful architecture and artistic accomplishment, Ananda Temple is the object of fame and marvel at home and abroad.

Bagan awaits you to see yourself. If one visit is not enough, surely it is not, repeat your visit. More you visit it, more you learn more discoveries you make.

So, let me stop here and wish you a very pleasant and exciting journey through the forests of pagodas temples and monuments in Bagan.

Syrians fear for relatives after Austrian migrant tragedy

VIENNA, 29 Aug — Distraught over missing relatives en route from Syria to western Europe, two young men waited anxiously on Friday for news outside Vienna's forensic department, where some of the bodies of 71 dead migrants found in Austria have been brought.

"We have not heard from them in three days. Last time we heard, they were in Hungary," one of the young Syrian-Kurdish men said, declining to give his name for fear of upsetting his family back home.

He said the missing adults were his cousin and another cousin's spouse.

"And the worst thing is: we tried to contact the smuggler in Hungary, who was meant to take them to Austria, but he has switched off his phone," he added, with hands shaking and tears in his eyes.

The 71 dead men, women and children, presumed to have been on their way across Europe from Syria, or possibly Afghanistan, were discovered in an abandoned truck on a highway on Thursday. They appeared to have suffocated.

The news sent waves of shock and mourning through Austria.

"It is crazy, something like that. I am completely stunned... It has really shocked me," said Waltraud Winkler, walking on a busy shopping street in the centre of Vienna.

"It must have been so agonising for the people inside... They must have been fighting for their lives."

The bodies are now with forensic examiners who are working around the clock to hunt for clues of the victims' identities and establish the cause of death. "Who will stop that madness?" asked daily Kurier in bold white letters on its black front page. Meanwhile Kronenzeitung showed a picture of the truck with one back door open and the bodies of several migrants piled up inside, under the headline "Crammed in like rubbish."

Carla Amina Baghajati, spokeswoman for the Islamic Religious Authority in Austria and married to a Syrian, said her organisation would help those affected in Austria and elsewhere.

"The big problem is to identify the victims, and there is a Syrian community here," she said. "And by way of Facebook, by way of reaching out for possible contacts, we have an easier way to make contact than the official authorities." —*Reuters*

Children of migrants from Syria eat after crossing the border illegally from Serbia, near Asotthalom, near Asotthalom, Hungary July 27, 2015. —REUTERS

UN plans new Libya talks next week in Geneva

SKHIRAT, (Morocco), 29 Aug — The United Nations plans a new round of talks between Libya's warring factions next week in Geneva in an effort to form a unity government and end the country's crisis, a UN spokesman said on Friday.

Western governments see a UN-backed peace deal as the only solution to chaos in Libya where two rival governments battle for control, leaving a security vacuum which has been exploited by migrant smugglers and Islamic militants.

Months of negotiations have been stalled by hardliners on both sides and fighting among armed groups siding with the two loose factions that emerged four years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi.

In the latest delay, delegates from Tripoli's self-declared government dropped out of talks in Morocco this week, saying they needed a new negotiating team after a chief member resigned.

But they said they would attend the next round with the rival internationally recognized government.

Speaking in Morocco, UN envoy for Libya Bernardino Leon said he expected both sides to return to the next round with names for the new unity government. "I do not think it makes sense for any institution that wants to play a relevant role in Libya not to bring names," Leon told reporters.

In the turmoil after the uprising against Gaddafi, a former rebel faction called Libya Dawn took over the capital Tripoli last year, setting up its own government and reinstating the old parliament. The internationally recognised government and its elected parliament now operate out of the east of the country, allied with another coalition of former anti-Gaddafi rebels.

The UN deal on the table calls for a one-year-long government of national accord, where a council of ministers headed by a prime minister, and two deputies, will have executive authority.

The House of Representatives will be the legislative body, but the accord also sees the creation of a 120-member State Council, consisting of 90 members of the Tripoli parliament.

The recognised government agreed to a peace deal last month, but the Tripoli faction refused to sign.The latest round of talks was meant to iron out remaining differences.—*Reuters*

Hungary detains four suspects in migrant deaths

KECSKEMET, (Hungary), 29 Aug — Hungarian prosecutors on Saturday moved to detain for one month three Bulgarians and one Afghani citizen suspected to have transported 71 refugees who were found dead in a truck by an Austrian motorway on Thursday.

The deaths caused an international outcry and highlighted the dangers facing hundreds of thousands of migrants who have chosen to flee violence and poverty in the Middle East and Africa and try to settle in the European Union.

The suspects, handcuffed, led on a leather leash and each carrying a bottle of water, were escorted by special police forces to the court house in the central Hungarian town of Kecskemet, where the truck began its final journey.

A prosecution spokesman told journalists the four faced human trafficking charges involving torture and targeting financial gain.

"The truck left from Kecskemet, picked up the migrants near the southern border (with Serbia), then ferried them through Hungary to Austria," prosecution spokesman Gabor Schmidt told journalists.

The four face prison terms ranging from two to 16 years each.

The four suspects are not being charged with manslaughter in Hungary because they will face that charge in Austria, he said.

The four men arrived at the court house in four separate police vehicles. One older, heavy-set man in his late 40s and three younger men in their 20s or 30s emerged from the vehicles with a heavy police escort. The court has convened to approve the detention for a one-month period, which can be prolonged indefinitely.—*Reuters*

Migrants attend a candle light ceremony at a Budapest railway station in memory of 71 refugees who died in a truck found in Austria, in Budapest, Hungary August 28, 2015.—REUTERS

Car bomb kills 4 in Syria's Homs

DAMASCUS, 29 Aug — Four people were killed and 19 others wounded Saturday when a booby-trapped car went off in a pro-government district of Syria's central city of Homs, state-run TV reported.

The car with fake plates was detonated at Mwasalat roundabout in Zahra'a neighborhood in Homs, said the report, adding that one kid is in grave condition as a result of the blast.

Zahra'a neighborhood is inhabited by adherents of the Alawite minority and offshoot of Shiite Islam, to whom the ruling elite in Syria belongs.

The neighborhood along with other districts of Homs loyal to the government has suffered from repeated suicide bombings, as well as rocket and mortar fire from rebels entrenched in the countryside of Homs, Syria's third largest city.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based watchdog group that relies on a network of activists on ground, said the death toll is likely to rise due to the large number of critically wounded people.

Xinhua

Researchers turn to seaweeds to develop new antibiotics

LONDON, 29 Aug — UK researchers are trying to use the antimicrobial properties of seaweeds from the country's coastline to develop a new generation of antibiotics in a bid to fight the growing threat of resistant superbugs, according to a report released Thursday by the University of Exeter.

As the number of multi-drug-resistant bacteria, also known as superbug, rises, there is an urgent need for new drugs that can be used to treat infections when others fail. Natural environments can be a rich source of antibiotics.

A research team from the University of Exeter are trying to uncover properties that could form the basis for a new generation of antibiotics that can curb infections caused by superbugs, such as MRSA.

"Our early experiments have confirmed that seaweeds hold a diverse array of antimicrobial properties. Excitingly, some of these extracts are most effective against some of the more resistant and problematic bacteria and we're hoping our work will help to make the discovery of new drugs quicker and cheaper," said Michiel Vos, who led the study. With its rich abundance of coastline and seaweed species, Cornwall, a coastal area in southwest Britain, is the perfect place for this kind of research.

To take these ideas further, Vos said the team would create a dedicated research project that can really shed light on the potential they were seeing.

Antibiotic resistance is a serious and growing global problem. A previous World Health Organization (WHO) report stated that it is "now a major threat to public health".— *Xinhua*

Bill to regulate e-cigarettes clears California legislative hurdle

SACRAMENTO, (Calif.), 29 Aug — The California State Senate on Thursday passed a bill to regulate electronic cigarettes as tobacco products, sending the measure to the Assembly where a similar bill died earlier this year.

The measure was one of several anti-tobacco bills that advanced in the Senate on Thursday, including one to raise the legal age for buying cigarettes to 21 from 18.

The e-cigarette regulations, introduced by State Senator Mark Leno, a Democrat from San Francisco, would ban use of the devices, also known as vapor cigarettes or vapes, in the workplace, at schools and other places where cigarettes already are forbidden, and would require that they be sold in child-resistant packaging.

Sale of e-cigarettes to minors already is banned but the bill would require businesses wishing to sell them to obtain a license.

E-cigarettes generally contain nicotine, drawn into the lungs after it is heated in a flavored liquid. The vapor also contains some formaldehyde and other chemicals, according to Leno.

Electronic cigarette makers and distributors have said the devices are a safer alternative to smoking. But Leno, whose bill is backed by the American Cancer Society and numerous other public health organizations, said they are highly addictive and can serve as a gateway to tobacco dependence and regular smoking.

Earlier this year, California's former top public health official said electronic cigarettes can lead to nicotine poisoning among children and threaten the state's decades-long effort to reduce tobacco use.—*Reuters*

Space breeding technology used in Tianshui, NW China's Gansu

A worker takes care of a two-meter-tall space-breeded green bell pepper plant at a space breeding base in Tianshui, northwest China's Gansu Province, Aug. 27, 2015. Space breeding is a technology using the space to have seeds mutated in order to have better yields. —XINHUA

Caffeine may chip a couple strokes off golf score

LONDON, 29 Aug — A moderate dose of caffeine may help combat fatigue and shave about two strokes off the scores of skilled collegiate players, according to a small study.

"There's not a lot of caffeine research in golf," said lead author Petey W. Mumford of Auburn University in Alabama. Most studies focus on endurance sports.

Professional golfers may walk up to five miles over four hours for a round of golf, which is physical activity, though not intense exercise, said senior author Dr. Kaelin C. Young of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, also on the Auburn campus.

A golf tournament involves physical and mental fatigue, Young said.

The researchers studied 12 male golfers with a handicap of three to 18 as they played an 18-hole round of golf on two consecutive days for a 36-hole tournament.

The golfers were already used to consuming caffeine in their daily lives.

On each day of golf, the participants were told to avoid any other sources of caffeine and to eat a meal two hours prior to play. On arrival they provided a urine sample and were fitted with a device to monitor their health throughout the day.

The players were randomly assigned to take a caffeine supplement of 155 milligrams (roughly equivalent to one cup of coffee) or a placebo. They took their first dose before being driven to the tee-off point by a research assistant who collected in-round golf data and transported their clubs.

The golfers completed an energy and mood questionnaire before playing.

A coffee machine pours coffee into a paper cup in Kiev March 1, 2012. —REUTERS

After the first nine holes, which they walked without using a golf cart, they were given another dose of caffeine supplement or placebo. They also ate a standard meal to offset any dips in blood sugar, and filled out a second energy and mood questionnaire.

After the final nine holes, the golfers filled out a third questionnaire. For each round of golf, the players in the caffeine group had an average score of almost 77 strokes compared to more than 79 for the placebo group, as reported in Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise. Men in the caffeine group also reported more energy and less fatigue on their questionnaires.

"Getting your total score lower by even one stroke, that could be the difference between getting into a tournament and not," Mumford said. "For a skilled golfer who plays two days in a tournament just to get into the earnings rank, two strokes is huge," Young added. In an accuracy assessment, the researchers found that players in the caffeine group tended to get more balls on the green and have less distance remaining to the hole than the placebo group.

Before caffeine supplementation, players should try more training and practice, said David Bishop of the Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living and College of Sport and Exercise Science at Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia. "For those who have reached a plateau in their performance, and are confident their training or practice can't be improved, they might want to consider it," he told Reuters Health by email. "I would however, recommend that athletes first speak with their doctor or sports dietitian."

Two to three milligrams of caffeine per kilogram of individual body mass will produce a noticeable performance effect in most individuals, said Bishop, who was not involved with the new study.

But high doses can increase heart rate and blood pressure, he said.

"Other common adverse effects of caffeine include insomnia, tremors, headaches, anxiety, dependency, withdrawal, and occasional gastrointestinal distress when drinking strong coffee," Bishop said.

"The effects of caffeine might also be altered when taken in combination with other supplements." Many athletes, including elite ones, do use caffeine to improve performance, Mumford said.—*Reuters*

A Thai veterinarian takes a picture of a 2-year-old orangutan during a health examination at Kao Pratubchang Conservation Centre in Ratchaburi, Thailand, August 27, 2015.—XINHUA

HK health watchdog warns against rising dengue fever cases

HONG KONG, 29 Aug — Hong Kong's health watchdog on Friday warned against a dengue fever outbreak in nearby Taiwan as the number of cases of the mosquito-borne disease reported in Hong Kong also rose to a near record high. "As the dengue activity in popular tourist destinations has remained high and dengue fever has been endemic in some areas, we are most concerned about the dengue risk among travelers," a spokesman for the Center for Health Protection said in a statement.

Taiwan's health authorities had recorded 3,005 dengue fever cases as of Wednesday, including 2,382 cases reported in Tainan and 408 cases in Kaohsiung, in the southwestern part of the island.

As of Thursday, Hong Kong had recorded 68 dengue cases, the highest since the 69 cases recorded in the first eight months of 2013. All but one of the 68 cases this year were imported cases, according to the center.

Regarding popular tourist spots in Asia, 75,795 dengue cases have been recorded in Malaysia, 55,428 in Thailand, 48,872 in the Philippines, 24,968 in Vietnam, 6,250 in Singapore and 151 in Japan.

The disease is contracted via bites from dengue-infected mosquitoes. There are four dengue viral strains, the symptoms of first infection with one strain are usually mild, but subsequent infections with any of the other three strains could lead to a potentially fatal dengue hemorrhagic fever, the center said. There is no medication to treat the disease, only to ease the symptoms. Without proper treatment its fatality rate could exceed 20 percent.—*Kyodo News*

New Turkish cabinet includes opposition, but little policy change seen

ANKARA, 29 Aug — Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu appointed nationalist and pro-Kurdish opposition politicians to an interim power-sharing cabinet on Friday, but left his finance and economy ministers unchanged in a team dominated by ruling party loyalists.

Davutoglu was forced to form the temporary cabinet after his AK Party failed to find a junior coalition partner following the loss of its parliamentary majority in a June election which ended more than a decade of single-party rule.

The uncertainty has unnerved investors in Turkey's $870 billion economy and comes as it battles Kurdish militants at home and Islamic State fighters on its borders, helping send the lira currency to a series of record lows.

The interim cabinet will now lead the NATO member and aspiring European Union candidate to a new election on Nov. 1.

Feridun Sinirlioglu, undersecretary at the foreign ministry since 2009, was named as the new foreign minister, a critical post as Turkish fighter jets prepare to ramp up air strikes with US-led coalition forces against Islamic State in Syria.

Government sources said former development minister Cevdet Yilmaz would meanwhile take over as deputy prime minister in charge of the economy, replacing the highly-regarded Ali Babacan, who leaves office because of a ruling AK Party limit on the number of terms its members can serve in parliament.

Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek and Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci both retained their existing roles.

Reading the list of appointments without commenting further, Davutoglu named Tugrul Turkes, son of the founder of the nationalist MHP, as one of four deputy prime ministers. The MHP had said it would not join the interim cabinet and Turkes could face expulsion from the party as a result.

Ali Haydar Konca and Muslum Dogan, members of the pro-Kurdish HDP, were named EU minister and development minister respectively. The presence of Kurdish opposition politicians in cabinet posts, particularly as clashes between the army and Kurdish militants intensify, could stir nationalist anger.

Istanbul police chief Selami Altinok, who has overseen heavy security measures in Turkey's biggest city in a bid to prevent a repeat of widespread anti-government demonstrations in 2013, was named as the new interior minister.

Speaking earlier on Friday before President Tayyip Erdogan approved the appointments, Davutoglu dismissed the notion that his new team would simply be a caretaker cabinet ahead of the new election.

"On our way to Nov. 1, we will act like a government elected for four years. Our nation should be at ease about this. We will not be working in the mood of an interim government," he said.

But the cabinet is likely to meet only a few times before November and its primary task will be overseeing the election rather than formulating new policy, meaning there is little chance of a shift in direction in key areas such as foreign affairs or the economy, senior officials say.

Two polls this week have suggested the AKP is unlikely to win back its majority in November, raising the prospect of another round of coalition efforts later in the year.

A third survey, by pollster ORC, which has overestimated ruling party support in the past, suggested the AKP would win 43.7 percent of the vote, up from 40.7 in June. But that would still not necessarily be enough to govern alone.

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan (L) meets with Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Ankara, Turkey, August 28, 2015.—REUTERS

"Although polls vary, no single party currently appears able to win a simple majority in the upcoming elections, suggesting another round of fractious coalition negotiations resulting in a minority government or a multi-party coalition," ratings agency Moody's said in a commentary on Thursday.

"Such a government would likely be inherently unstable, and we would expect a high likelihood of additional elections before the nominal end of the parliamentary term in 2019."

Davutoglu had invited opposition members to take up 11 posts in the 26-member interim cabinet, in line with a constitutional requirement to share power in proportion to the seats political parties hold in parliament. But most declined.

Seats not taken up by opposition parties were given to "independent" candidates from outside parliament, many of them, like Sinirlioglu and Altinok, senior officials who have already worked under an AKP government for several years.—*Reuters*

Tropical Storm Erika lashes Caribbean islands, heads for Florida

MIAMI, 29 Aug — Tropical Storm Erika threatened Haiti and the Dominican Republic with heavy rain and strong winds on Friday as it swirled across the Caribbean and geared up for a run at south Florida, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

At least 12 people were confirmed dead on the island of Dominica, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said on Twitter, adding: "The number may be higher."

Due to some likely weakening over mountainous areas, Erika was no longer forecast to make landfall in the United States as a hurricane. But it may still smack the Miami area by late Sunday with sustained winds of 60 miles per hour (97 kph), before sweeping northward up the Florida peninsula, toward Orlando's popular theme parks.

Florida Governor Rick Scott declared a state of emergency on Friday, noting the storm could travel "up the spine of Florida" from Sunday into next week.

Scott said the Tampa area on Florida's Gulf Coast was a major flood concern due to saturation from rain earlier this month.

He urged residents, especially those who have moved to Florida in the decade since Hurricane Wilma - the last major storm to hit the state, in 2005 - to follow news reports and make possible evacuation plans.

US President Barack Obama has asked for regular updates on the forecast for Erika over the weekend, White House spokesman, Josh Earnest said.

The storm also caused cruise lines to adjust itineries for some ships coming in and out of South Florida, rerouting to avoid the storm. The greatest risk over the next few days is heavy rainfall over the Dominican Republic and impoverished Haiti's notoriously eroded hillsides, with up to 10 inches (25 cm) possible in some areas. This could cause "life-threatening flash floods and mud slides," the Miami-based NHC said.

Dominica's prime minister said in a radio broadcast that emergency officials were searching for several missing people after rain-triggered landslides on Thursday on the small, mountainous island with a population of about 72,000.

Overflowing rivers and landslides washed away several roads and bridges there, and the nation's Tourism Minister Robert Tonge posted photographs and video on Facebook showing widespread flooding in the capital. For days, forecasters have described Erika, the fifth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, as unusually hard to predict due to disruption from wind patterns and its interaction over land, which weakens a storm, as well as warm water, which adds energy.—*Reuters*

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MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (961N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (961N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (061N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (061N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims 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.

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MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO (1529)

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Ministry of Industry
Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries
Notice Inviting Tenders for ISO Certification

Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries invites Tender in bid from internationally recognized ISO Certification Bodies for performing Third Party Assessment/ Audit and providing the ISO 14001:2004 UKAS (England) and ISO 9001:2008 UKAS (England) Certification to manufacturing of pharmaceutical at Pharmaceuticals Factory (Insein). The proposal, complete in all respects, shall be submitted to **Deputy Minister's Office, Office No (37), Nay Pyi Taw, Ministry of Industry**. The Tender closing date is **21st, September, 2015**. The detail information concerning the tender documents can be obtained from the following address within official time at working days:

Planning Department
Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries
Office No (37), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 408140 , 408380, 408195

Ministry of Industry
Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries
Invitation to Tender

Tenders are invited for the establishment of Quality Management System (QMS) and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) system for Anti Snake Venom Production Plant Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein), in accordance with PIC/s GMP Guide Lines and for the development of a Validation Master and Validation Program.

Tenders are to be delivered by hand to : Deputy Minister's Office, Office No(37), Ministry of Industry not later than 16:00 hours local time on 21. 9. 2015.

Tenders received after the closing date and time will not be considered. Detail information can be obtained from the following address during official hours at working days:

Planning Department
Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries
Office No (37) Nay Pyi Taw
Ph : 067408140, 067408380, 067408195

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PICTURE OF THE DAY

Chinese Indonesians prepare food to honor their ancestors during the Hungry Ghost Festival in Medan of North Sumatra, Indonesia, Aug. 28, 2015. The Hungry Ghost Festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the seventh lunar month.—XINHUA

Animator Miyazaki to build children's facility in Okinawa isle forest

NAHA, (Japan), 29 Aug — Famed animated film director Hayao Miyazaki is working to build a children's facility in a virgin forest on a small island in Okinawa Prefecture, southern Japan, that will encourage children to enjoy nature through their five senses.

Planned for completion in 2018 on Kume Island, about 90 kilometers west of Okinawa Island, the facility will replace existing playground equipment, local officials said.

A reinforced concrete two-story building to accommodate about 30 people will be erected within the 10,000 square meters of forest being offered by Kumejima town for the project, they said.

The idea was conceived as Miyazaki, whose works are often directed at children and themed partly on humanity's relationship with nature, supported a town program to accept disaster-affected people from Fukushima Prefecture after the March 2011 earthquake-tsunami and nuclear catastrophe.

With the Oscar-winning director bearing the cost of about 300 million yen, construction will start next April and the facility will be donated to the town, according to the officials. Miyazaki is willing to have the facility designed and built by local firms under a "made in Kumejima" concept, using local construction materials as much as possible, and is considering with local people how they will run it, according to a town monthly publication available online.—*Kyodo News*

Wind-powered 'Strandbeests' strut through Boston at start of US tour

BOSTON, 29 Aug — A pair of skeletal sculptures that harness the power of the wind to walk strutted around Boston's City Hall on Friday at the start of the U.S. tour of Dutch artist Theo Jansen's "Strandbeests."

Constructed of PVC tubes and about the size of large sport-utility vehicles, the pair were just a taste of the largest fleet of Strandbeests to go on exhibit at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, north of Boston, next month before heading on to Chicago and San Francisco.

Jansen's vision is that one day herds of the animal-like sculptures would repair eroded beaches, said Trevor Smith, exhibit's curator.

"He had this whimsical observation," Smith said. "Maybe one day we could have an animal that would pile up the sand after storms."

A crowd of hundreds of people gathered to see the sculptures debut.

"It's incredible to see. He is a genius," said Melissa Guimaraes, a 33-year-old high school art teacher, whose 7-year-old daughter, Kanna, had been clamoring to see the "sand monsters" for weeks.

"I'm happy to see my daughter interested in art," Guimaraes said.—*Reuters*

Onlookers watch a display of "Animaris Ordis," one from the series of "Strandbeests" kinetic sculptures by Dutch artist Theo Jansen, at City Hall Plaza in Boston, Massachusetts August 28, 2015.—REUTERS

'The Titan' to star Sam Worthington, Ruth Wilson

Sam Worthington & Ruth Wilson

LOS ANGELES, 29 Aug — "Avatar" actor Sam Worthington, Ruth Wilson and Sofia Boutella have been roped in to star in sci-fi adventure "The Titan."

The shooting of the film is set to begin in Europe in January, reported Variety.

Voltage Pictures will present the project to buyers at the upcoming Toronto International Film Festival.

Based on a story by Amel, the movie will be directed by Lennart Ruff.

"Bear Man" writer Max Hurwitz will pen the script revolving around a military family that is relocated to take part in a ground-breaking experiment about genetic evolution in space.—*PTI*

Karan Johar to start filming 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil' in London

MUMBAI, 29 Aug — Filmmaker Karan Johar is set to begin shooting his upcoming directorial venture "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil" in London, UK soon.

Karan is returning to the director's chair after a gap of three years. He last helmed Varun Dhawan-Alia Bhatt starrer "Student of the Year" in 2012.

The filmmaker is a bundle of nerves as he leaves for London for the film that stars Ranbir Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Anushka Sharma in lead roles.

"Enroute to London!!! Anxious...Nervous and excited!! Will be on set in 10 days....#aedilhaimushkil," he tweeted.

Superstar and Karan's close friend, Shah Rukh Khan, wished him all the luck and even suggested helping him with the cast's costumes.

"@karanjohar u will make the most awesome film my friend. Have fun & the best to your stellar cast & crew. I can help with costumes if u want."

The film dwells deeply on relationships, heartbreaks and how love completes and defines one. —*PTI*

Pop-up exhibition shows life of Kray twins in London's East end

LONDON, 29 Aug — Pictures of the notorious Kray twins and their native London East End go on display in a pop-up exhibition in the British capital on Friday, ahead of the release of a film about the gangsters.

The feared brothers Ronnie and Reggie, who died in 1995 and 2000 respectively, built up a crime empire in the 1950s and 1960s. Murder convictions sent them to jail for life in 1969 but to this day they hold almost mythical status in Britain.

"Legend of the East End" displays photographs of the twins and the area, suits worn by Ronnie Kray and props from the upcoming "Legend" film in which "Mad Max: Fury Road" actor Tom Hardy stars as both of the brothers.

"The exhibition is kind of to contextualise who the Krays were, where they came from ... what the East End means and what it meant," exhibition curator Zelda Cheattle said.

"It puts a new light on maybe a rather cliched and romanticized view of what people have previously thought of the East End."

The exhibition in London's Bethnal Green also features a replica of the twins' mother Violet's living room — with sofas, family pictures and china for tea — where visitors can watch videos of locals talk about the brothers and the area. "Legend of the East End" runs until Sept. 11. The film "Legend" opens in UK cinemas on Sept. 9 and in the United States on Oct. 2.—*Reuters*

Steve Jobs seen as brilliant and brutal in Gibney documentary

NEW YORK, 29 Aug — Four years after his death, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs still fascinates the public, with two major new films this fall analyzing his life and career.

For award-winning documentary maker Alex Gibney, it is also time for re-assessing the hard-driving perfectionist who revolutionized the way people communicate but whose treatment of friends, family and co-workers was sometimes rife with contradiction.

"Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine" breaks no new ground factually. But it contrasts the man who once aspired to be a Buddhist monk with the businessman who initially denied paternity of his first child and presided over a company that paid Chinese iPhone makers a pittance and pared back its philanthropic programs while reaping billions in profits.

"He had the focus of a monk, but none of the empathy," Gibney comments in the film, whose tagline is "Bold. Brilliant. Brutal."

The documentary, arriving in US movie theaters on Sept. 4, uses archival footage of Jobs as well as interviews with journalists, some former friends and ex-Apple employees. Both Apple and Jobs' widow Laurene declined to co-operate.

Gibney says he didn't set out to vilify Jobs, whose death of pancreatic cancer in 2011 was mourned worldwide with an intensity usually afforded a rock star.

"The imperative for me to make this film was why so many people who didn't know Steve Jobs were weeping when he left," he said.

Apple, he added, has a cult aspect that fascinates him.

"There is a passion for the person and the products that is so deep that any criticism can't be tolerated. Why should that be? Is it not possible that we can discuss how pitifully paid are the workers in China... even as we may admire some of the technological aspects of the Apple product?

"There seems to be a need to deify that stuff in a way that brooks all criticism, and that does verge sometimes on the religious," Gibney said.—*Reuters*

A portrait of Apple co-founder and former CEO Steve Jobs is placed on the Federation Tower skyscraper in Moscow's new business district, October 19, 2011.—REUTERS

Russian youngster Kuchina beat field of veterans to win high jump at Beijing worlds

Russia's Maria Kuchina celebrates after winning the women's high jump final at the 2015 IAAF World Championships at the "Bird's Nest" National Stadium in Beijing, capital of China, Aug. 29, 2015.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 29 Aug — Young power is on the rise in women's high jump at Beijing athletics world championships as Russian Maria Kuchina was crowned here on Saturday.

World indoor champion Kuchina, 22, cleared 2.01 meters, beating a field of well accomplished veterans to take Russia's second gold medal in the Bird's Nest National Stadium.

Two-time world champion Blanka Vlasic, 31, who also cleared the bar at 2.01 but with one more attempt at 1.92, returned to the scene of her silver medal performance at the 2008 Olympic Games and ended with another silver here.

The Croatian, world champion in 2007 and 2009, showed signs of returning to her best with successive 1.97m clearances before injury derailed her plans of a competitive July.

World leader and London Olympic champion Anna Chicherova settled for a bronze as the 33-year-old Russian veteran failed to repeat her best performance this season which was a successful 2.03m en route to victory in Lausanne last month.

Spaniard Ruth Beitia, 36, came fifth in her seventh straight world championships.—*Xinhua*

Judge releases Argentine FIFA suspects from house arrest

BUENOS AIRES, 29 Aug — An Argentine judge on Friday released Hugo and Mariano Jinkis from house arrest while he examines a US request for their extradition to face corruption charges related to alleged graft inside FIFA, football's world governing body.

Judge Claudio Bonadio's ruling came after he halted processing the extradition request this week for 30 days in order to seek more information from US justice officials.

Argentine nationals Hugo Jinkis, 70, and his son Mariano, 40, are among corporate executives and former and current FIFA officials indicted on racketeering charges. "Taking into account the satisfactory way Hugo and Mariano Jinkis have been fulfilling the house arrest conditions imposed on them, it is feasible to reconsider how they wait out this process," Bonadio wrote in separate rulings for each defendant.

Football was thrown into turmoil in May when US authorities accused the Jinkis and 112 others of corruption by taking part in a criminal scheme involving more than $150 million in bribes and kickbacks. Court documents showed that under new conditions laid out by the judge, neither Jinkis can stay away from his home for more than 24 hours at a time without the permission of the court. Both are forbidden from travelling more than 60 kilometres (37 miles) from the court in the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires.

The passports of the father and son, who are controlling principals of sports marketing business Full Play, will remain confiscated and neither is allowed to travel outside the country.

A third Argentine businessman caught up in the FIFA investigation, Alejandro Burzaco, last month pleaded not guilty in a US court to charges including conspiracy to commit racketeering and conspiracy to commit wire fraud.—*Reuters*

Sand sculpture "The Beauties of Ancient China" made by Chinese artists Zhang Yan and Yang Lidong is on display during the 2015 International Sand Sculpting Pairs Competition at the 137th Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Canada, Aug. 28, 2015.—XINHUA

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(30-8-2015 07:00 am~31-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre- Hmawbi
07:38 Am Myanmar Weaving
07:49 Am A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-2)
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-1)
08:51 Am Sagaing: Youth Leader
09:03 Am News
09:27 Am Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
09:48 Am Products Of Myanmar - Kachin Traditional Knife
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-5)
10:39 Am Chinlone & The Dreams of the players
10:52 Am Creations of a Designer

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Monday 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
07:27 Pm Food Trip (Ep-8) (Part-1)
07:53 Pm Today Myanmar: Social Media in Myanmar (Part-2)
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm Hanthawaddy U Win Tin "A Fearless Man" (Episode - 2)
08:44 Pm Myanmar Master Class "Artist Pann Kyi"

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

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(30-8-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:35 am
- Myatta Pawana By Mingun Sayadaw Phayagyi

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

7:35 am
- Myitta Akar Taw Nay Tayartaw

8:00 am
- News/ International News

8:35 am
- Meet The Successful

9:00 am
- News/ International News

9:15 am
- Nine Precept

9:35 am
- Weekly Entertainment

10:00 am
- News/ International News

10:35 am
- Documentary

11:35 am
- Amazing World

12:00 noon
- News/ International News/ Weather Report

12:35 pm
- Round Up Of The Week's International News

1:00 pm
- Myanmar Movie

2:30 pm
- Head Line News

3:35 pm
- Business News

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year(Chemistry)

5:35 pm
- People's Talks

6:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

7:35 pm
- Documentary (Women In Myanmar Society)

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

9:00 pm
- News
- Tasty Trip
- Sing & Enjoy
- Myitta Suttan Sermon By Sidagu Sayadaw

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(30-8-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am
- Myo Ma Nyein Troupe

6:20 am
- Myanmar Video

7:50 am
- Fashion Music

8:10 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:30 am
- Musical Programme

8:45 am
- Teleplay

9:00 am
- Sing & Enjoy

9:50 am
- Myanmar Movie

12:00 noon
- Close Down

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Fullmoon Day of Wagaung 1377 ME | SPORT | Sunday, 30 August, 2015

Myanmar stun Malaysia to keep semis hopes alive

VIENTIANE, 29 Aug — Myanmar turned in their best performance of the AFF Under-19 Championship tonight which was just what they needed to stun Malaysia 1-0 and keep them in the running for a precious semi-final berth.

Striker Kyaw Ko Ko Oo delivered the winner for Myanmar in the 50th minute. The Malaysians, who were without the services of their star striker Muhammad Jafri Firdaus Chew, tried all they could but were unable to recover from the goal.

Today, Malaysia only required a draw to confirm their place in the last four but will not have to wait it out for the final group match between Vietnam and Myanmar to see if they will advance. The last group match is on Monday which happens to be Malaysia's Independence day.

As it stands now, Vietnam top Group B with seven points. Malaysia and Myanmar also have seven points each. Malaysia, however, is in second spot as they have a better goal difference. In fact, for Myanmar to qualify for the semis, they must draw or beat Vietnam. Losing is not an option at all for Myanmar as a defeat will mean they will finish third in the group and hence exit the tournament.

Myanmar's German coach, Gerd Friedrich Horst Zeise said the team played differently from the earlier two games. "We had some discussions and made some changes for today. It was a different team. We had a good first half with chances and could have scored more."

"Against Vietnam, it will be very tough. Their players are from the Arsenal Football School and combine very well. We will try our best and give them a good fight."

The game was only two minutes old when Myanmar had their first whiff at goal. Ko Ko Oo, from way over on the right, sent a long ball across the goal which found Sis Min. His solid header however was pushed out by goalkeeper Muhammad Hazrull Hafiz.

Myanmar had a great chance in the 20th minute however Zar Nay Ya Thu was unable to get a clean shot in front of goal.

Just prior to that, Malaysia had their chance but Muhammad Nazirul Afif's powerful shot sailed to the left of the post. Coach Hassan Sazali Mohd Waras then brought in striker Mohamed Syamer Kutty Abba to add more sting to their attack. And two minutes later, Syamer's shot swerved just off the mark.

Soon after the break, Ko Ko Oo, who was constantly lurking around the Malaysian goal, saw his chance and stunned the Malaysians with what turned out to be winning goal of the match.

As the game progressed, it became more intense as both sides wanted to win. In the end the referee, Ahmed Sifan Abdul Raheem from Maldives dished out four yellow cards.

Meanwhile, Malaysian coach Hassan congratulated Myanmar for their performance. "It's not an easy competition. We had two tough games, against Vietnam and today against Myanmar. We will now have to wait for the outcome of the game between Vietnam and Myanmar on Monday."—*aseanfootball.org*

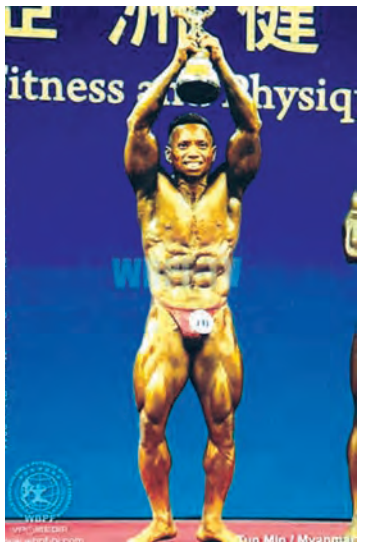
Myanmar to compete in bodybuilding championships in Uzbekistan

By *Ko Moe*

YANGON, 28 Aug — Myanmar's Tun Min, Chit Ngwe and Nyi Phyu will compete in the 49th Asian Bodybuilding Championship and Physique Competition in Uzbekistan from 29 September to 5 October.

Reigning world champion of the 60 kilogramme category Tun Min will be defending his title this year, while other Myanmar athletes include Chit Ngwe and Nyi Phyu, who will be competing in the 65 and 70 kilogramme competitions respectively.

Nann Lao Kham and Naw Cherry Phaw, two Myanmar athletes who showed great promise during last year's National Sports Festival, are gearing up to take part in the Physique Sports championships.—*GNLM*



Myanmar's Tun Min holds up the 2014 champion's trophy at the 49th Asian Bodybuilding Championships and Physique Sports in Macau, China.— WORLD BODYBUILDER AND PHYSIQUE FEDERATION-(WBPF)

International boxing match to test Myanmar champs

NEWS: *Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)*
PHOTOS: *Min Htet*

YANGON, 29 Aug — Myanmar's best known boxers will go head to head against their international counterparts at Yangon's Theinbyu stadium on 30 August.

The All Star Fight will feature reigning champion Tun Tun Min will fight Jackson of Brazil, while the well-known boxer Tu Tu will challenge Matthew of Canada.

Jackson is a prominent boxer in his native country and is known globally for his skilled Muay Thai techniques and high profile boxing matches in the region — most notably in China, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Jackson of Brazil (left) and Matthew of Canada (Right)

Matthew was knocked out in three rounds by Tun Tun Min last year, which was his first attempt at Myanmar traditional boxing. The Canadian fighter said that he hopes to prove a tougher test against Tu Tu this year.

Along with the big names, boxing enthusiasts will have the chance to watch lesser known but emerging talents.

Arsenal labour to victory over 10-man Newcastle

LONDON, 29 Aug — Arsenal laboured to their second win of the season with a highly-charged 1-0 victory against 10-man Newcastle United at St James' Park on Saturday.

Having defended manfully following the 16th-minute dismissal of Aleksandar Mitrovic, Newcastle captain Fabricio Coloccini deflected Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's goal-bound shot into his own net in the 52nd minute.

"You always want more goalscorers but I believe that at the moment we have not fired on all cylinders offensively," manager Arsene Wenger told BT Sport.

"Our finishing has maybe not been absolutely clinical and we have to focus on that. Of course I was (nervous) but we were always on top."

Arsenal had begun the season in indifferent form taking just four points from their opening three matches but started strongly and had an early penalty appeal turned down for a foul on Hector Bellerin.

Having failed to win any of their previous eight home Premier League matches against the Gunners, Newcastle had Mitrovic dismissed for a mistimed yet unmalicious challenge on Francis Coquelin.

In a match that also featured seven yellow cards Arsenal dominated possession but were far from their dazzling attacking best and have only scored three goals, including two own-goals, in four games this season.

Mitrovic had also been booked twice in his first three league games.

With a man advantage Arsenal dominated possession but struggled to break down the hosts' resolute defence.—*Reuters*

Arsenal's Theo Walcott in action with Newcastle's Tim Krul during their Barclays Premier League at St James' Park on 19 August, 2015.—REUTERS

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