THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Uzbekistan
PAGE 3

Water treatment plant to provide clean water to Shwepyitha
PAGE 3

Step up efforts against unsafe foods
PAGE 8

NEW MYEIK TOUR TO LAUNCH IN OCT

Cock Comb's heart-shaped lake in Taninthayi to draw visitors

By *Aye Min Soe*

YANGON, 31 Aug— A number of local travel agencies will offer tours to Cocks Comb Island in Myeik Archipelago for the first time in October, travel industry members have said.

The southernmost part of Myanmar has seen very little tourism to date due to the high prices charged to sail through the archipelago. Its main visitors are wealthy Thais; however this tourist season will see tours aimed at attracting local holidaymakers for the first time. Many in Myanmar's tourism industry believe that the unspoiled archipelago will become one of the country's premier tourist destinations in years to come and that Cocks Comb, the island with a heart-shaped lake, will be one of the area's main focal points.

Cocks Comb Island in Myeik Archipelago.—PHOTO SUPPLIED BY GOOD LIFE MYANMAR

Local and Thai-based travel agencies will begin a tour around Cocks Comb Island and Thahtay Island, as well as the better known destination Kawthoung, which is located at the southernmost point of Myanmar and is 28 miles southwest of Cocks Comb Island, plus the Thai border town of Ranong.

"We can offer private tours of Cocks Comb Island to local travellers," said U Kaung Myat Oo of Good Life Myanmar Travel Agency.

He added that a tour which includes Cocks Comb Island and a two-day trip to Ngwe Saung Beach would cost more than US$3,000 per person for foreign tourists.

The number of tourist arrivals has increased year on year, reaching 0.79 million in 2010, 1.06 million in 2012, 2.04 million in 2013 and 4.4 million in 2014.

The country expects to see the number more than six million tourists in 2017.—*GNLM*

Japan to grant $207 million loan for Yangon Circular Line upgrade

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 31 Aug—Myanma Railways will soon ink a MoU for a loan of US$207 million from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to upgrade the Yangon circular railway line, according to its Senior General Manager (Inspections) U Ba Myint. Parliament recently approved Myanma Railways' proposal to use an ODA loan from Japan for the upgrade, which is scheduled to be completed by 2021. U Ba Myint said during a press conference on Monday that the project will begin immediately after the agreement is signed by the two governments.

Travel times will halve when the upgrade is completed in 2021.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Myanma Railways will purchase trains manufactured in Japan, which will enable it to offer faster and more regular services, which at the moment is limited to 23 locomotives.

"The upgrade will see journey times cut by half," said U Ba Myint.

The project also provides for the installation of automotive train stop (ATS) system and upgrading railway tracks.

"Myanma Railways will not raise the prices of train tickets after the upgrade is complete because we know that many low-income commuters rely on train services on a daily basis," said U Ba Myint.

Around 70,000 people use the circular trains each day, according to Myanma Railways. U Tun Aung Thin of Myanma Railways said that ten train new air-conditioned coaches will arrive in Myanmar from Japan on 5 September. The coaches will service the Yangon circular line as well as the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw route. The Japanese government will continue to provide support for the development of Myanmar's transport sector, especially in software infrastructure enlargement, Mr Takashi Owaki, Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism said.—*GNLM*

Factory bosses urged to sign employment contracts

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug— The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security issued an announcement Monday urging factory owners to sign employment contracts with workers within the first 30 days of their employment.

Factory owners are obliged to sign employment contracts with staff from September, the ministry said. Last week the government set a national minimum wage of K3,600 (US$2.80) for a standard eight-hour work day across all sectors and industries.

Small and family-run businesses with a workforce comprising less than 15 workers also need to sign employment contracts in accordance with a wage agreed between them.— *GNLM*

Networking session held for prospective shop owners and investors

MANDALAY, 31 Aug — A business networking session was held with jewellers and entrepreneurs at the Yadanabon Super Centre in Chanayethazan Township on 30 August and was also attended by Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moung. The purpose of the session was to generate interest in letting out stores in the soon to open Mandalay Yatanar Mall. The mall will open on 1 April 2016 and will comprise 389 gems and ornament shops, a training hall, a quality control hall, banking and money changing services and will be equipped with modern security facilities.

Managing Director U Kyaw Thura of Relax Business Group Co., Ltd. and Director U Zaw Min provided detailed information about Mandalay Yatanar Mall.

To date, more than 200 shops have already been sold to entrepreneurs.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Deep tube-well to supply clean water to residents

TATKON, 31 Aug — The Township Rural Development Department has assigned Myanmar Trading General Service Company to install a deep tube-well in Thankhetaung village, Tatkon Township before the end of this financial year.

The department has allocated K9.45 million for installing the tube-well and building a 2,000 gallon water tank.

Department Staff Officer U Soe Min Latt emphasised the importance of completing the project on time and meeting industry standards. "We have been consuming water from old wells for many years. We're glad that we'll soon have a tube-well to supply potable water to the 1,300 people that live in this village," said a local resident.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Mohnyin Township extends ten more villages for emerald green project

MOHNYIN, 31 Aug — The Rural Development Department conducted a training course on duty and functions for the Emerald Green Project at its office in Mohnyin, Kachin State.

A total of 56 residents from the township attended the three-day course from 28 to 30 August. The Emerald Green Project was launched in 2014 and aims to improve agricultural techniques, livestock breeding and trade and production for farmers.

The project was expanded to include ten villages in Mohnyin Township in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Each village will receive K30 million fund, said the department's Assistant Director U Aye Min Naing. Five villages in Mohnyin Township implemented the Emerald Green Project last year and have seen several tangible benefits as a result, said an official of the Motherland Greening Organisation.—*GNLM 001*

Economists give lectures at Better Future, Better Myanmar 2015 in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 31 Aug — Hub Myanmar Company Ltd organized the business talks on Better Future, Better Myanmar 2015 at Hotel Mandalay in Mahaaungmye township, here, on 29 August, with managers from private banks and companies, young entrepreneurs and students in attendance.

Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet, economic adviser to the president, gave lectures on transforming team while principal U Tin Zan Kyaw of Device Business Management Academy on self management and establishment of association and replied to queries raised by attendees.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Uzbekistan

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and His Excellency Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which falls on 1 September 2013.—*MNA*

Election coordination meeting held

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye addresses speech at electoral coordination meeting with CSOs.—MNA

YANGON, 31 Aug—The Union Election Commission will announce the voters' list in mid-September, UEC Chairman U Tin Aye said during a coordination meeting between UEC and civil society organisations at Park Parkroyal in Yangon on Monday.

He said that a total of 6,189 candidates have been nominated and that district election sub-commissions have begun the process of vetting candidates.

The UEC has issued accreditation cards to local and foreign election monitoring groups, he added.

The chairman said that the UEC plans to train staff on polling booths and will invite election monitoring group members to observe the training.

He said he is confident that voter identity cards will be successfully distributed in all parts of the nation, including those affected by recent floods.

The meeting covered a variety of aspects relating to the election, including voter education, the compilation of a national voters list, the provision of manuals to polling booth staff, the polling booth process, voters' ID and electoral processes.

The commission chairman concluded the meeting by urging civil society groups to cooperate with the UEC and support its efforts to make the 2015 general elections free, fair and transparent.—*MNA*

Deputy Speaker attends bill committee meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa visited the Pyithu Hluttaw bill committee meeting at Hluttaw affairs hall, here, on 31 August.

The deputy speaker appreciated committee members' work on off days.

In the meeting, the committee members discussed the road transport bill submitted by Ministry of Rail Transpiration.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U T Khun Myat, secretary of the bill committee U Saw Hla Tun, and officials from Office of Supreme Court of the Union, office of the Attorney-General of the Union and the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

MNA

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife being welcomed by Malaysian Ambassador Mr Mohd Hanif Adbul Rahman and wife at the reception to mark National Day and Armed Forces Day of Malaysia at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on 31 August.—MNA

Rice research agreement signed

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug—Philippine-based International Rice Research Institute and Yezin Agricultural Research Department signed an agreement to undertake research and human resources training at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Director-General Dr Ye Tint Tun of the Agricultural Research Department, the Rector of the University of Agriculture Dr Myo Kywe and IRRI's Director-General Dr Matthew Morell signed the MoUs.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing held discussions with IRRI and World Bank representatives on cooperation in research works to boost paddy production in Myanmar.

The union minister also viewed cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy by Myanmar New Ayeya Agriculture Company in Dekkhinathiri Township.—*MNA*

Water treatment plant to provide clean water to Shwepyitha

YANGON, 31 Aug—Residents in 13 wards in Shwepyitha Township will soon be provided with clean drinking water from Nyaunghnapin water treatment plant, said Yangon City Development Committee.

New water pipelines will be laid out in the township and existing water pipelines cleaned. The water supply network will include 80 taps dedicated to the prevention of fire. YCDC is currently supplying 205 million gallons of water sourced from Gyobyu, Phugyi, Hlawga dams and Ngamoeyeik water treatment plant.—*Yi Yi Myint, Ohnma Thant*

Workers clean water pipeline before supplying water to Shwepyitha Township.

Japanese company opens paper box factory

YANGON, 31 Aug — A leading company from Japan opened a corrugated paper box factory in Mingaladon Industrial Park on Monday.

A ceremony to mark the opening of Oji GS Packaging Co,. Ltd was attended by Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mohamed Hanif and the CEO of GS Packaging Co., Ltd Mr Kiyotakashindo, each of whom gave opening speeches. The ceremony concluded with ribbon-cutting and factory inspection.

Oji Group has investments in eight countries in Asia and operates 34 factories. Together with Malaysian and Myanmar companies, it has established a joint venture company with a plan to open rubber products and purify water in Thilawa Special Economic Zone. Oji GS Packaging Co Ltd recently donated K5 million for flood-hit victims in Ayeyawady Region.—*MNA*

KBZ's relief supplies go to victims in Chin State

HAKALAY, 31 Aug—Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation on Sunday donated relief supplies to disaster victims in Chin State, one of the worst-affected areas of the country.

Their donation covers rice, eligible oil, household utensils and plastic buckets.

Moreover, the foundation offered K300,000 each to 69 families in Twekhainzan and Hakalay villages in the region who lost their homes because of the receding water of Natmyaung Creek on Friday.—*GNLM*

Laos mulls ferry service connecting capital to Thailand

VIENTIANE, 31 Aug — A cross-border ferry linking downtown Vientiane with neighboring Thailand across the Mekong River is a step closer with commencement of survey and design works, local media reported Monday.

The proposed development includes a terminal which is set to include shops, restaurant and visitor accommodation on the Lao side, state-run media Vientiane Times reported.

The proposal will be subject to a memorandum of understanding between authorities of both countries and representatives of private sector developers once preliminary works are completed.

Vientiane is already connected to the northern Thai city of Nong Khai via the First Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge, located some 19 kilometres from the central business district of the Lao capital.—*Xinhua*

PICTURE OF THE DAY

Malaysia's (L-R) Prime Minister Najib Razak and King Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah wave Malaysian national flags during National Day celebrations in Kuala Lumpur, August 31, 2015. Malaysia's Independence Day celebrations took place on Monday, a day after thousands of protesters took part in the second day of a rally organised by pro-democracy group Bersih in Kuala Lumpur calling for electoral reform and Razak's resignation over a multi-million-dollar payment into an account under his name. —REUTERS

Indonesian workers to stage mass protest against layoffs

JAKARTA, 31 Aug — Indonesian trade unions expect tens of thousands of workers to call for higher wages at a mass protest against job cuts on Tuesday, upping pressure on the government as it struggles to kickstart an economy growing at its slowest in six years.

Labour-intensive sectors have shed thousands of jobs in recent months, while workers contend with rising food prices that made Indonesia's annual inflation, at 7.46 percent in July, the highest in the region. "We are expecting up to 100,000 layoffs this year...so we ask the government to stop the rhetoric and come up with regulations to save workers' purchasing power," said Subianto, secretary general of the Indonesian Workers Confederation, which has 2 million members and is one of several unions participating in the protest.

Some 8,000 police are expected to be deployed to marshall the protest, with at least 50,000 workers due to march in the capital Jakarta, Jakarta-based risk consultancy Concord Consulting said on Monday.

Unemployment in Southeast Asia's largest economy stood at 5.81 percent in February, according to official statistics, but analysts say that doesn't cover the informal sector and the real figure could be much higher.——*Reuters*

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Former Thai PM appears at Supreme Court over doomed rice subsidy scheme

BANGKOK, 31 Aug — Former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra appeared before the Supreme Court on Monday to review evidence in a case involving rice subsidies that haemorrhaged billions of dollars and could see her jailed for up to 10 years for negligence.

Yingluck's flagship election policy helped sweep her to office in a landslide in 2011, but its failure saw her banned from politics for five years in January by a legislature appointed by the generals who toppled her government.

The grain policy, which has since been discontinued, aimed to boost farmers' incomes by buying their rice at above market prices. Yingluck's government was attacked for refusing to abandon the scheme when the rice and debt piled up.

It caused an estimated $16 billion in losses and left Thailand with a rice mountain it is still struggling to shift. The current stockpile is 13.9 million tonnes.

Prosecutors on Monday provided an evidence dossier of 60,000 pages and 23 additional witnesses in the case.

"These were not seen or reviewed (by all parties)," Yingluck told reporters. "Today we're going to hear about this and hope that we will get justice."

Ousted former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra gestures as she arrives at the Supreme Court in Bangkok, Thailand, August 31, 2015. —REUTERS

She insists she acted honestly in administering the policy, which was widely criticised for distorting global prices and saw Thailand lose its crown as the world's top rice shipper. Yingluck, 48, was greeted with applause and handed red roses by a crowd of supporters as she arrived at the court. "I came to give moral support," said Sangiam Thongnak, 61. "She did the right thing." Yingluck's supporters see the court case as another strike by a royalist establishment threatened by the rapid political rise of a clique of upstart capitalists from outside Thailand's traditional patronage network. She won millions of votes by reviving the populist policies of her billionaire brother and former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, whom the Supreme Court jailed in absentia in 2008 for abuse of power, two years after he was ousted in a coup. Prosecutors expect the Supreme Court proceedings to last at least six months. Some experts have said the junta risks a backlash if Yingluck's supporters perceive the verdict as unfair.—*Reuters*

Drought affects 185,451 hectares of rice seedlings in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 31 Aug — Some 185,451 hectares of rice seedlings have been affected by drought in some areas in 13 provinces and cities of Cambodia, according to a report by Agriculture Minister Ouk Rabun, released to the media Monday.

"A lack of water has affected 185,451 hectares of rice fields in which 9,240 hectares have been completely damaged," the minister wrote in a report sent to Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Rains usually begin to fall from May of the year, but this year, an early-season drought lasting a long time has resulted in a lack of water. He said so far, the country has planted more than 2.12 million hectares of rice seedlings in equivalent to 82.7 percent of the 2. 57-million-hectare production target. Agriculture is one of the four major pillars supporting the country's economy. The Southeast Asian nation produced over 9 million tons of paddy rice last year.—*Xinhua*

Thai police chief rewards officers after mysterious bomb suspect nabbed

BANGKOK, 31 Aug — Thailand's police chief praised officers investigating the country's deadliest bombing and promised on Monday to hand out $83,000 among them as a reward for catching a suspect they have yet to tie directly to the attack.

Standing behind a podium topped with three bundles of banknotes, Somyot Pumpanmuang commended the detective work after the arrest of a foreigner whose name, nationality and affiliation remain a mystery.

"The accomplished work that led to the arrest is truly the work of the authorities and their investigative abilities," Somyot told a news conference, which opened with him pulling the wads of cash from a black holdall.

"This was the work of the Thai authorities, there were no tip-offs."

Police have been criticised for a patchy investigation which until the weekend had uncovered little more than a grainy surveillance video of a bearded man in a yellow shirt with shaggy hair leaving a bag at the site of the Aug. 17 blast.

Police gave contradictory statements on Saturday about whether the man arrested that day was the chief suspect caught on security footage the night when 20 people were killed, 14 of them foreigners.

Police have yet to say if the man has provided any information or if his DNA samples, seized explosives, fake passports or telephone records connect him to the bombing at Bangkok's most famous shrine two weeks ago.

Somyot, who together with his wife made an assets declaration of nearly $10 million last year, said a third of the 3 million baht reward was from his personal funds and the rest donated by an anonymous businessman.

Panthongtae Shinawatra, son of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, said on his Facebook page on Sunday that he was ready to hand out a reward of 7 million when the group behind the bombing was caught.

Police issued arrest warrants for two more suspects on Monday.—*Reuters*

Thai police hunt two bombing suspects after weekend raids

BANGKOK, 31 Aug — Police probing Thailand's deadliest bombing issued arrest warrants on Monday for two suspects after a raid on a suburban apartment block uncovered possible bomb-making materials.

Police were hunting for a 26-year-old Thai woman and a foreign man in his 40s after a weekend search on a property in the Min Buri district uncovered fertiliser, digital watches and an explosives detonator, police spokesman Prawut Thawornsiri said on TV.

That came after a raid on an apartment in the nearby Nong Chok district on Saturday, when police arrested a foreigner and seized explosives and stacks of passports.

The Aug. 17 attack on a Bangkok Hindu shrine killed 20 people and injured more than 100. Fourteen foreigners, seven from mainland China and Hong Kong, were among those killed in a blast the junta said was intended to cripple an already flagging economy.

"We have expanded our search to various residential building after the arrest of one suspect," Prawut said.

A picture of the female suspect showed her wearing a hijab. She rented the room occupied by the foreign man, for whom police issued the second arrest warrant, Prawut said. A sketch of the man showed him with short hair and stubble.

Police have been criticised for an erratic investigation that had, until this weekend, uncovered few clues about who was behind the blast. No group has claimed responsibility.

Security forces raided the bright pink low-budget apartment in Min Buri twice, once on Saturday and again on Sunday.

Police allowed media to observe as they searched rooms on Sunday while residents, many of them Muslim, were present. In some rooms, possessions were spread out on the floor.

Police have not confirmed the identity or nationality of the 28-year-old man they arrested on Saturday in Nong Chok. Many Thai Muslims and foreigners live in the district dotted with colleges, factories, rice paddies and mosques. He is charged with possessing illegal explosives.

Police have since the weekend mentioned an unspecified network they are tracking via cellphones, but have provided no details about the group.

Since the bombing, speculation had focused on groups that could have the motive and capability to carry it out.

These have included southern ethnic Malay insurgents, opponents of the military government, foreign militant groups and sympathisers of Uighur Muslims. Thailand forcibly repatriated more than 100 Uighurs to China last month, prompting international outrage.

Many of the minority Uighurs from China's far west have sought passage to Turkey via Southeast Asia.—*Reuters*

A sketch of an undentified suspect is shown in this Thai Royal Police handout released August 31, 2015.—REUTERS

Two largest opposition parties confirm plan to join forces

Japan Innovation Party leader Yorihisa Matsuno (2nd from L) meets with Democratic Party of Japan chief Katsuya Okada (2nd from R), together with other senior lawmakers of the two opposition parties, at the parliament building in Tokyo on Aug. 31, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 31 Aug — The heads of Japan's two largest opposition parties on Monday confirmed their plan to cooperate in joining forces to challenge the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in future elections.

The move by the largest opposition Democratic Party of Japan and the second-largest Japan Innovation Party comes on the heels of the departure from the latter last week of co-founder and Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto. "We reached an agreement to form a framework after the current Diet session to closely discuss elections and policies," DPJ President Katsuya Okada told reporters after his meeting with Yorihisa Matsuno, the Japan Innovation Party head.

While the possible merger is aimed at building a group large enough to mount a credible challenge to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's dominant ruling party in the House of Councillors election next summer, whether it can be successfully engineered remains to be seen, given reservations in both opposition parties.

Matsuno has voiced the need to form a group with over 100 members in the House of Representatives through realignment within the opposition camp, drawing fire from Hashimoto and another party co-founder, Osaka Gov. Ichiro Matsui, both of whom are on friendly terms with Abe. The rift between the key party members deepened this month after Secretary General Mito Kakizawa backed a candidate for a mayoral election in northeastern Japan before the party decided who to support.

Hashimoto and Matsui left the party on Thursday. Along with party lawmakers representing constituencies in Osaka, they plan to launch a new party by the end of October and aim to secure over 20 lawmakers as members, according to people close to the matter.

The Japan Innovation Party has 40 lower house members and 11 upper house members, while the DPJ has 72 members in the lower house and 58 members in the upper house.

Matsuno apparently believes that by joining forces with the DPJ, it will still be possible to have nearly 100 lawmakers in the lower house even without those expected to join Hashimoto's new party.—*Kyodo News*

China to open high-speed rail link to North Korean border

BEIJING, 31 Aug — China will open a high-speed rail line to the North Korean border on Thursday, state news agency Xinhua said, the latest effort to boost economic ties despite tension between the countries.

The line, under construction since 2010, will run 207 km (127 miles) from Shenyang to the border city of Dandong, which faces North Korea across the Yalu River, and will shorten the train journey from 3 1/2 hours to just over one hour, Xinhua said.

The new link will "raise the region's economic competitiveness", the report cited an unnamed railway official saying.

As much as 80 percent of trade between China and North Korea passes through Dandong, which is near one of North Korea's special economic zones on Hwanggumpyong island.

China has encouraged the development of three special economic zones in North Korea, hoping to tap low labour costs and encourage the North to see the benefits of economic reform, even while publicly rebuking it over its nuclear weapons programme.

While there has been little sign of progress in the new economic zones, China continues to improve infrastructure on its side of the border, including building a bridge from Dandong into North Korea. As relations between China and North Korea have become strained in recent years, China has grown closer to South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy and the North's main rival.—*Reuters*

UK pledges 500 million pounds to refurbish Scottish nuclear base

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne (L) walks along the jetty at the Royal Navy's submarine base at Faslane, Scotland, August 31, 2015. Britain will spend more than 500 million pounds ($769.5 million) refurbishing its nuclear submarine base in Scotland over the next 10 years, Osborne said on Monday.—REUTERS

LONDON, 31 Aug — Britain will spend more than 500 million pounds ($769.5 million) refurbishing its nuclear submarine base in Scotland over the next 10 years, finance minister George Osborne said on Monday.

The Faslane naval base on the River Clyde, east of Glasgow, is home to the fleet of four Vanguard-class submarines, one of which is on patrol at all times, that form Britain's 'Trident' nuclear deterrent.

The money will be spent on "ship lifts, sea walls, jetties and other major projects" and that work will start in 2017, the government said in a statement.

A decision on replacing the ageing submarine fleet is due next year. Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative government has said it backs the fleet's multi-billion pound renewal and intends to base the new submarines at Faslane.—*Reuters*

Two US F-22 fighter jets arrive in Poland as part of European training mission

WARSAW, 31 Aug — Two advanced US F-22 fighter jets arrived in Poland on Monday for a one-day working visit, the Polish army said, a part of Washington's efforts to reassure allies made uneasy by Russian actions in Ukraine.

The visit is a part of the F-22's first-ever deployment to Europe, where four of the stealth fighters will train with allied air forces and US services through mid-September. The four aircraft arrived at Spangdahlem Air base in Germany on Friday.

"The US is conducting reconnaissance of abilities of operating this type of aircraft at an allied airport," Polish army spokesman Artur Golawski told Reuters. The planes landed at a military air base in Lask, in central Poland.

Earlier this month, US Air Force Chief of Staff General Mark Welsh James said the F-22's deployment in Europe would allow US forces to train with NATO partners across Europe, testing the ability of the jets to communicate and fight together with the Eurofighter and other advanced warplanes.

James said the deployment would also give F-22 pilots more experience with the European terrain. The Air Force has previously deployed the jets in Japan and South Korea but not in Europe.

The stealth tactical fighter aircraft was designed by Lockheed and Boeing Co as a fighter, but it can also be used for ground attack, electronic warfare, and signals intelligence.

The jets formally entered service in December 2005, with the last F-22 delivered to the Air Force in 2012.—*Reuters*

Austria toughens border controls in trafficking clampdown

VIENNA, 31 Aug — Austria toughened controls at its eastern borders in an attempt to clamp down on trafficking of refugees, triggering a queue of vehicles on Monday that stretched some 20 kms (12 miles) back into Hungary. Austrian authorities last week discovered the bodies of 71 refugees in an abandoned lorry that had travelled through Hungary.

"We will do controls for an undetermined length of time at all important border crossings in the eastern region, looking at all vehicles that have possible hiding places for trafficked people," Johanna Mikl-Leitner told ORF radio.

Hungary's M1 motorway leading to Austria, which also borders Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic on its eastern side, clogged up due to the checks, which the firm that maintains the road said had started at the weekend.

Over the past three days, Hungarian police said they had caught 8,792 migrants crossing into the country, most of them from Serbia.

The police said on Sunday they had arrested a fifth suspect in connection with the deaths of the migrants found in an abandoned refrigeration truck.

Austria says 200 refugees, 5 smugglers stopped in border operation

Austrian authorities have uncovered around 200 asylum seekers and arrested five people traffickers as part of a new operation along the country's borders, a senior interior ministry official said on Monday.

Konrad Kogler, director general for public security at the ministry, said: "In the hours since we started implementing these measures that we agreed with Germany, Hungary and Slovakia, we have been able to get more than 200 refugees out of such vehicles and we have been able to detain five smugglers."

Austrian Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner, speaking at the same news conference, said checks being undertaken along the Austrian border were not classic border controls.

"We are not in violation of Schengen," she said.—*Reuters*

A truck, in which up to 50 migrants were found dead on a motorway near Parndorf, Austria August 27, 2015, is towed away. —REUTERS

New Zealand showing commitment to Pacific at leaders meeting

WELLINGTON, 31 Aug — Prime Minister John Key will lead New Zealand's delegation to the annual Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Papua New Guinea next week.

Key said on Monday that the meeting in Port Moresby was an opportunity to discuss the issues faced across the region.

"As a Pacific nation, New Zealand is committed to working with our closest neighbors to build a more secure and prosperous region, " Key said in a statement.

Leaders would discuss a range of issues, including climate change and fisheries, as well as wider development and political issues.

"My attendance at the forum will also provide an opportunity to meet with a number of Pacific regional leaders," he said.

He would be accompanied by Foreign Minister Murray McCully and a small business delegation.

The theme of this year's meeting is "Strengthening Connections To Enhance Pacific Regionalism."—*Xinhua*

Hungary asks Germany to "clarify" legal rules on travel by migrants

BUDAPEST, 31 Aug— Hungary is asking Germany to clarify the legal situation with respect to travel by illegal migrants within the European Union, a Hungarian government spokesman told national news agency MTI on Monday.

Andras Giro-Szasz said under the EU's Schengen rules, migrants can only leave Hungary with valid travel documents and a visa from their destination country. This has resulted in masses of migrants waiting in Budapest railway stations.

Giro-Szasz said Germany has shown a more permissive stance towards illegal immigrants arriving from Syria and news of this has "boosted hopes" among migrants.

"In order to end the untransparent and adverse conditions we ask Germany to clarify the legal situation," he told MTI.—*Reuters*

Islamic State destroys part of Syria's Temple of Bel — monitors

A general view shows the Temple of Bel in the historical city of Palmyra, Syria April 18, 2008.—Reuters

Beirut, 31 Aug — The hardline Islamic State group has destroyed part of an ancient temple in Syria's Palmyra city, a group monitoring the conflict said on Sunday.

The militants targeted the Temple of Bel, a Roman-era structure in the central desert city, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

It is the second temple Islamic State has targeted in Palmyra this month. The group detonated explosives in the ancient Baal Shamin temple on Aug. 25, an act that cultural agency UNESCO has called a war crime aimed at wiping out a symbol of Syria's diverse cultural heritage.

The extent of the damage at the Temple of Bel was not known, the Observatory said, citing its contacts on the ground.

Activists on social media also reported the destruction at the temple, one of Palmyra's most important structures.

Islamic State seized Palmyra in May from government forces in a sudden offensive and is tightly controlling communications in the city, according to activists.

The group, which has proclaimed a caliphate in territory it holds across Syria and Iraq, has regularly demolished monuments it considers sacrilegious as well as carrying out mass killings.

This month the group beheaded the 82-year-old Syrian archaeologist who had looked after Palmyra's ruins for four decades, and hung his body in public, according to Syria's antiquities chief.—*Reuters*

Egypt sets Oct election date, after 3 years without parliament

Cairo, 31 Aug — Egypt will hold a long-awaited parliamentary election, starting on Oct. 18-19, the election commission said on Sunday, the final step in a process to bring back democracy that critics say has been tainted by widespread repression.

Egypt has been without a parliament since June 2012 when a court dissolved the democratically elected main chamber, dominated by the now-banned Muslim Brotherhood, reversing a major accomplishment of the 2011 uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

The election had been due to begin in March but was delayed after a court ruled part of the election law unconstitutional.

A second round of voting in the two-phase election will take place on Nov. 22-23, the election commission told a news conference. Voting for Egyptians abroad will take place on Oct. 17-18.

The then military chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who went on to become president, toppled Egypt's first freely elected president, Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood, in 2013 after mass protests against his rule. The army then announced a 'roadmap' to democracy in Egypt, the most populous Arab state and ally of Western powers.

That announcement was followed by the toughest crackdown on Islamists in Egypt's history. Security forces killed hundreds at street protests and thousands were arrested.

Secular activists were later rounded up mostly for protesting without permission from the police.

The government says the election is proof of Egypt's commitment to democracy.

In the absence of parliament, Sisi has wielded legislative authority to curtail political freedoms but also introduced economic reforms. "The question will remain: will this parliament be an effective check and balance against the executive? There are some signs it may, due to the likely prevalence of big-business interests within it, be argumentative on issues pertaining to economic policy," said H.A. Hellyer, nonresident fellow at the Brookings Centre for Middle East Policy in Washington.

"But on issues of political reform, legislative reform, or security sector reform, there probably won't be much appetite to affect much change from within this forthcoming parliament."—*Reuters*

70 militants, 8 soldiers killed in clashes in Afghanistan within day

An Afghan policeman inspects the wreckage of a police car which had a magnetic bomb attached, at the site of a bomb explosion in Jalalabad, Afghanistan August 31, 2015.—Reuters

Kabul, 31 Aug — Some 70 militants and eight soldiers have been killed during military operations and clashes cross Afghanistan, the Afghan Defense Ministry said on Monday morning.

"Within the past 24 hours, 70 terrorists were killed, 43 wounded and one terrorist was detained in different places of the country while eight Afghan army personnel were also martyred during the same period," the ministry said in a statement. The army specialists found and defused several roadside bombs and landmines and army personnel seized big amount of ammunition and weapons over the same period, according to the statement. The Taliban militant group has yet to make comments.—*Xinhua*

S Africa seals mining jobs deal, proposes platinum plan

Pretoria, 31 Aug — South Africa's mining industry, unions and the government signed a broad plan on Monday to stem a wave of job losses triggered by falling commodity prices and soaring costs.

The document of the blue print seen by Reuters last week included boosting platinum by promoting the metal as a central bank reserve asset.

Mines Minister Ngoako Ramatlhodi said the government planned to negotiate this issue with South Africa's central bank and the New Development Bank which has been launched by the BRICS group of emerging economies.

"I had hoped we can reach a point where it says 'I promise to pay the bearer in platinum equivalent' to add to the basket, so we are looking at internal promotion," he said.

South Africa sits on close to 80 percent of the world's known reserves of platinum, a metal used in emissions-capping catalytic converters which is facing depressed demand.

Platinum's spot price XPT= is pinned near 6-1/2 year lows below $1,000 an ounce.

Commitments to delay lay-offs, sell distressed mining assets instead of closing them, and the creation of a "development fund" to provide possible employment to laid-off miners are also part of the plan.

Ramatlhodi said almost 12,000 mining jobs were on the line in South Africa, which has an unemployment rate of around 25 percent and glaring income disparities.—*Reuters*

Migrant boat sinks off Libyan coast, kills at least 37

Tripoli, 31 Aug — A boat carrying migrants sank off Libya's Mediterranean coast, killing at least 37 people, a local official said on Sunday, the second such fatal accident within days.

"We had reports this morning that there are seven bodies of illegal migrants that sank off Khoms (east of Tripoli)... but we don't have any details how many migrants were on board," said Mohamad al-Misrati, a spokesman for the Red Crescent in Tripoli.

Fishermen later discovered 30 more bodies in the same area near Khoms, a town some 100 km (62 miles) east of the capital, he said. Volunteers of the Red Crescent were trying to recover the dead but were lacking boats.

No more details were immediately available.

On Thursday, a vessel packed with migrants hoping to make it from Libya to Italy sank in waters off the Libyan town of Zuwara, killing up to 200 people.

Lawless Libya has turned into a major transit route for migrants fleeing conflict and poverty by boat to Europe. Smugglers exploit the country's chaos to bring Syrians into Libya via Egypt or nationals of sub-Saharan countries via Niger, Sudan and Chad. The migrants pay thousands of dollars for the land and sea passage with smugglers often beating and torturing them to press for more money for the final leg of the trip by sea in unseaworthy vessels, rights groups say.

Libya has asked the European Union for help to train and equip its navy which was largely destroyed during the uprising in 2011 that toppled Muammar Gaddafi. But all training and cooperation was frozen in 2014 as the European Union boycotted a self-declared government controlling western Libya, which seized the capital Tripoli a year ago by expelling the official premier to the east.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 1 September, 2015

Step up efforts against unsafe foods

By *Myint Win Thein*

IN Myanmar, one can never be completely certain that the food we're consuming isn't hazardous to our health. Even rice, our country's staple, is sometimes contaminated by pesticide and fertilizer, as are many other locally grown crops.

Equally worrying is a practice among some fruit sellers of using chemicals to quickly ripen their fruits, or using chemical dyes to make them look more attractive to the consumer. For the sake of a quick buck, they are putting their customers at risk of contracting cancer.

Air and water quality in a bustling city like Yangon is lower than it should be and sometimes it is downright dangerous for our health. Weaknesses in monitoring must be overcome by authorities and unsafe foods must be banned without exception.

Every effort should be made to ensure that the only food available is safe and healthy – and the same goes for water and air. If we are lax about it we'll soon end up with massive health problems.

Write for us

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

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

Shareholders of a Public Company

U Win Sein
Former Assistant Registrar
The Ministry of Trade

Myanmar has now opened up its economy, inviting foreign investors to invest in Myanmar. It has also promised earnestly not to nationalize such foreign capitals. In order to utilize the country's natural resources to bring about the mutual benefits for the host country and the investor countries as well, so our country have to give an attractive incentive to the potential investors, thus we can soon witness more direct foreign investments have been increased day by day in such a momentum so that newly set up industries in various special economic zones to go along with our improved commerce and banking systems, modern communications and internet technologies and infrastructure facilities, so much so even the sky-line of Yangon City now has been sprung up with many more different high-rise and modern buildings.

Myanmar has awaken from nearly forty-five years of self-made isolation policy to become a democratically free thinking and unrestrained government so that all citizens can now express their long hidden true desire and idea on all matters. With the great influx of foreign investors and repatriate businessmen to Myanmar, all eagerly trying to set up companies, many are public companies totaling about 150 in number now, doing all kinds of trading and commerce and industries activities for the development and transformation into a modern nation of our lagging behind country Myanmar which following the tails of her neighboring countries.

At first the Myanmar commercial atmosphere of transitional period was in a scramble state. With only the [Burma Companies Act—1914] to prop up and to help the Myanmar Companies Registration Office under the then Ministry of Trade which required that all companies in existence must conduct business in accordance with the though not much helpful, obsolete Burma Companies Act — 1914. The following selected Sections shall give as reference to companies on their parts to carry responsibilities for the shareholders, debenture stockholders.

"Myanmar commercial atmosphere of transitional period was in a scramble state."

Section-25 of Burma Companies Act-1914, stated

(1) Every company shall send to every member at his request and within fourteen days thereof, on payment of one rupee or such less sum as the company may prescribe, a copy of the Memorandum and of the Articles (if any).

(2) If the company makes default in complying with the requirements of this Section, it shall be liable for each offence to a fine not exceeding ten rupees.

Section—108 of Burma Companies Act — 1914, stated

{1} Every country shall within three months after allotment of any of its shares , debentures or debenture stock, and within three months after the registration of the transfer of any such shares, Debentures or debenture stock, complete and have ready for delivery the certificates of all shares, the debentures and the certificates of all debenture stock allotted or transferred, unless the certificates of issue of the shares, debentures or debenture stock otherwise provide.

{2} if default is made in complying with requirements of this Section, the company and every officer of the company who is knowingly a party to the default, shall be liable to fine not exceeding fifty rupees for every day during which the default continues.

Any person, company as other institution can own at least one share of a public company. Shareholders are the company's owners. They have a potential to profit if the company does well, but they have to face consequence when comes with the potential of a loss if the company does poorly. A shareholder may also be referred to as a stockholder. It is important to know that your right as a shareholder in a public company, you have certain rights pertaining to the equity investment.

A public company is owned by a large number of people, each of them owns anywhere from one share to thousands of shares in the company. The profits of the company are divided among the shareholders and paid to them as dividends. These dividends are the primary motivation for most shareholders in investing their money in the public company.

As we have studied Section-25 of Burma Companies Act-1941, thereby stipulated, a shareholder by payment of a sum of money, he is entitled to receive a copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company. In which the company has based on the Burma Companies Act-1914, describing a set of regulations for governing the working procedures of the company. From time to time, due to the present situation of the company, if needed to change any of the regulations in the Memorandum and Article of Association of the company. It can be done, basing on the concerning Sections of Burma Companies Act - 1914, a resolution which must be approved by the General Meeting of the company, in the meantime, it is required to file the resolution of the meeting with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). Until and unless a confirmation order is being received from (DICA) then the company would be able to put the new regulations in place of the old ones and there after the newly changed regulations would be set in force in accordance with the law completely at last.

As stated from above, all shareholders are far more interested in the activities of the public company which they have put in their money and especially those pensioners with their long time saved up money, surely want to take part in running the show of managing the operation of public company, in order to be able to vote on company matters, to vote for the appointment of directors, to inspect the company's books of accounts, to sue for misconducts of directors. But they cannot themselves usurp the powers which by the article vested in the directors, anymore then the directors can usurp the power vested in the articles for the general Body of shareholders. So, to be fair to all shareholders of the public company and the directors, transparency is matter most to be embraced Board in the heart of shareholders and the Board of Directors of the public company. It is the duty of the Board (Section-25 of Burma Companies Act) to send every shareholder a copy of the Memorandum and the Articles of Association, so that all shareholders know completely the rights and limitations for shareholders in regard to the company. (Also eagerly looking forward to the early publication of the new Myanmar Companies Act).

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Transport technology seminar held between Myanmar, Japan

YANGON, 31 Aug—A transport technology seminar between Myanmar and Japan took place at Chatrium Hotel, here, on Monday with the aim of seeking ways to solve the challenges in transport sector of Myanmar.

During the seminar, Myanmar officials discussed current situation in safety measures of maritime transport, future plan of rail network and technical issues for vehicle inspection.

Japanese officials shared their experience on approaches for development of safe and efficient transport network.

GNLM

Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung poses for documentary photo with attendees of transport technology seminar.—TRANSPORT

A Study of Myanmar Puppetry (Part I)

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu, Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Twin inspirations that caused the writer to write this article are firstly the news report in the highly esteemed daily *The Global New Light of Myanmar* of 23rd August 2015 Sunday, by Khaing Thanda Lwin on "Myanmar to share puppetry with Singaporean students", secondly, on that same day the presentation to the writer by U Ye Dway of his national literary award winner book *Marionettes of Myanmar*.

At the invitation of Nan Yang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore, the Mandalay Marionette Theatre led by its Managing Director Daw Ma Ma Naing would go to Singapore to train 20 students for three days from 26 to 28 August only in basic skills in the use of string puppets. The writer knows this lady very well as she was a good history major student at Mandalay University while he was the Professor of History. She should have proceeded with her post-graduate courses so that by now she would be his successor. But she turned to performing arts and chose almost obsolete art – puppetry, with the noble aim of not only reviving it but also bringing it on international stage. In spite of challenges and difficulties, she did achieve her aim and her troupe is making foreign tours almost every year. It is a good news that she is off to prestigious Nan Yang Academy, Singapore.

U Ye Dway is the writer's old colleague. During the writer's 8 years service as Director-General of Fine and Performing Arts Department, Ministry of Culture, he proved one of the writer's helping hands. Besides, in all annual performing arts competitions held at State level he worked with the writer in many capacities. Like Daw Ma Ma Naing, U Ye Dway was a devotee of Myanmar puppetry. Though a college degree holder he put his time and money in reviving and renovating this nearly dying art of puppetry. He formed a puppet troupe Dagon Aung Yokethey. He had been many countries of East and West with puppet tradition, either on invitation for performance or for seminar. When the writer browsed the pages of his book the writer was surprised and overjoyed to find in the bibliography some articles the writer wrote in English and Burmese dailies and monthlies of three or four decades ago.

Here follows the writer's article "A study of Myanmar Puppetry"-

The origin of Myanmar puppetry

Myanmar has a long tradition of puppetry. Our puppetry preceded our dancing and dramatic art and it had enjoyed pride of place in the Myanmar heart. But its origin is still an unsolved mystery. Scholars try to trace its trail far back into the past via archaeology, anthropology, history, literature and many media of arts, but they lose their trek in the welter of facts and guesses. Myanmar's geographical proximity to India and China tempted some scholars to surmise that puppetry came from either India or China. But Myanmar puppetry has nothing in common with those of her neighbours. Chinese puppets are glove and rod types, and the Indian puppets are flat leather figures, whereas Myanmar puppets are wooden marionettes manipulated by means of strings. It is strange that although Myanmar belongs to the region of South East Asia, they wayyang or shadow puppet which has flourished in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia and water puppet of Vietnam never emerged in Myanmar.

Archaeological and historical evidences regarding puppetry in Myanmar, so far traceable, do not go beyond the fifteenth century. But old puppeteers used to chant the following rhyme:

"ရုပ်သေးအစ၊ ကျီးသုံးတန်ခွင်၊ ပုဂံက"

"The puppet show originated in Bagan with three kinds of moat"

Unfortunately we have not excavated Bagan exhaustively neither have we chemically cleaned the walls and ceilings of monuments to recover mural paintings which may have depicted puppets shows of the time.

Right now, of the archaeological evidences the earliest one is the lithic inscription of Inwa Period of Myanmar history. The inscription was dated 1444 A.D. and was known as Sagaing Htu Payone Zedi Daw Kyauk Sar which records the great meritorious deeds of King Narapati. Lines 52 to 55 of this inscription mention the names of the performing artists including puppeteers who performed their talents at the pagoda festival. The following is an excerpt from the inscription:

"အရုပ်သည် သျှင်ပညာတမည် သုမ်၊ စစည် ဖြူတာ၊ အောင်နိုင် ခင်လုကဲ သူချမ်းသာ တောင်ဖက်သာ၊ အရုပ်သည် ရွှေဦး မြေလူ ပညာသည်အပေါင်း ၅ ကျိပ်"

"Puppeteers, artists Nga Thone, Nga Si, Nga Phyu Tar, Aung Naing, Khin Hla Ke, Thu Chan Thar, Taung Pet Thar, Puppeteers Nga Shwe U, Nga Mya Lu---- total number of artists 50."

The next is a literary piece from a famous poem Buyidat Linga Gyi composed in 1484 A.D. by a monk poet Shin Maha Rathata Thara of the Inwa Period. Stanza No. 152 of this poem has the following line:

"အတွေအခဲ၊ တွဲရွဲလျက်၊ ကြိုးဆွဲငင်၍ အရုပ်ကသို့---"

There are hangings and danglings like the dance of the string puppets"

This line specifically mentions the dance of the string puppets.

Similar reference is found in another poem of the same monk poet, composed in 1529 A.D. The poem was titled "Than Wara Pyo". Stanza No. 168 of this poem has the following rhymes:

"ပျော်မှုတသီး၊ ရုပ်ကြီးရုပ်ငယ်၊ မီးဝယ်ကြည့်ပွဲ၊ အုံအဲမနိုင်၊ အဆိုင်ဆိုင်လျှင်၊ အဲတိုင်၊အဲခံ---"

"Entertainment such as marionette at night to be seen under the

Daw Ma Ma Naing stages Myanmar marionette show. (Photo supplied by Daw Ma Ma Naing)

light is very wonderful. A variety of performances with the songs Eh-chin and An-chin---"

Performance of marionettes was also referred to in the satirical poem "Yama Yakan" composed in the years Myanmar Era 1113-1158 [1751-1796 A.D.] by a lay poet named U Toe. The following passage from his poem has mention of puppet show:-

"ကင်းလျှိုးလမ်းလျှောက်၊ ဓါးမြှောက်ရုပ်စုံ၊ မြေကြီးများတုန်အောင်၊

ဘိန်းပုံလိမ့်၊ ပိန့်ဘောင်းသာနှင့်လေး"

"Acrobats doing handstand and headstand stants,

Jugglers playing with daggers, puppets dancing, and

Sonorous music resounding till the ground trembled."

The Great Chronicle named U Kala Maha Yazawun Gyin compiled by a lay historian U Kala during the reign of King Taninganwe [1714-1733 A.D.] records the grand royal banquet followed by performances of artists accorded on the first day the waning moon of the month of Taboung [March] in the Myanmar Era 980 [1615 A.D.] in honour of the Envoy of Mogul Emperor Akbar, the Ambassador from Colchonda [a kingdom on the Coromandle Coast of India] and the Ambassador from Achin [an island kingdom in the East Indies]. A variety of entertainments including marionette show was staged at this reception. Eyewitness U Kala records as follows:-

"ထိုနေ့က၊ ကချေသဘင်စုံခံရသည်။ မွန်ပတ်တဆယ့်လေးဆိုင်း၊ မြန်မာပတ်တဆိုင်း၊ ကချေ ၁၃၊ အရုပ်ကြီးအရုပ်ငယ် သဘင်စုံခံရသည်"

"On that day, a variety entertainment was staged. Fourteen Mon musical Ensembles, one Myanmar musical Ensembles, thirteen dancers, and puppet and marionette shows were performed---"

The Konbaung Period [1752-1885 A.D.] of Myanmar history provides abundant evidences both pictorial inscriptional and historical, of the performance of marionette plays. Marionette shows were depicted in the mural paintings on the ceilings and walls of religious monuments and pagodas, and carvings and sculptures of wooden monasteries or brick and stone buildings at and around old capital cities such as Shwebo, Sagaing, Pinya, Inwa, Amarapura and Mandalay.

King Bodawpaya whose reign lasted long [1782-1819 A.D.] 37 years was the sixth king in the Konbaung dynasty. He was a great royal patron of art, architecture and literature. He appointed a learned man named U Thaw as Minister in charge of entertainment. U Thaw continued to serve under the next king Bagyidaw [reign 1819-1837 A.D.]. On the 9th day of waxing moon of Tabaung [March] in the Myanmar Era 1183 [1821 A.D.] King Bagyidaw issued a set of rules and regulations regarding Myanmar marionette show. [English translation of these rules and regulations on marionette show will be appendixed at the end of this article.]. All puppeteers in his kingdom were bound to abide by them, or pain of punishment.

In the year 1823 A.D. King Bagyidaw built a royal monastery named Maha Aung Myey Bon Tha Kyaung Taw at his capital city Inwa. In line 77 of the stone inscription set up in the compound of this monastery which recorded that great religious merit are mentioned sundry entertainments including puppet shows, performed at the ceremony of the Royal Donation. The line runs thus:-

"မီးပုံဆင်းပွဲ၊ ဝွမ်းထိုးတိုင်တက်၊ ပချုပ်ဒှက်ထွက်၊ သရက်သီးဆွတ်၊ လမွယ်၊မြွေဖမ်း၊ လက်ပန်းလက်ပွေ့၊ ဇာတ်ကြိုး၊ရုပ်သေး၊ ရှုံး၊ယွန်း၊ယိုးဒယား၊ ကုလား၊ ဝေဿာလီ၊ တရုတ်တရက်၊ ဘာသာအဖွဲ့၊ အခြီး၊ အတီး အက၊ ယင်းသို့စသော ပွဲမျိုးစုံတို့ဖြင့်---"

"Camp fire, some result, pole climbing, magic, snake-charming, wrestling, puppet and marionette shows--- Performances of music and dances by such nationalities as Shans, Yuns, Thais, Vesali, Indian, Chinese, Tartars, and similar variety of entertainments were staged."

One white parabike [white folding book] of the Konbaung Period contains a colour fully illustrated scene of a puppet show, depicting the stage in progress of performance, the music troupe in action, and the spectator audience in a rejoicing mood. It vividly conveys to us a realistic picture of a marionette show in its contemporary setting.

Major Michael Symes, an English Envoy dispatched to the Court of Inwa in 1795 A.D. during the reign of King Bodawpaya recorded fully the Myanmar marionette show he was honoured to watch after the Ihingyan New Year water festival he participated at the great house of the Myo-wun [Mayor] of the Dagaon Town. The entertainment of a dance and puppet show lasted till eleven. [Vide Michael Symes, An Account of the Embassy to the Kingdom of Ava, London, 1800 pp. 178-180]

In the writings of English and western visitors, servicemen and tourists in the British colonial period Myanmar puppet shows were penned appreciatively with photographic illustrations. Prominent among them were Grant Browne, J.G. Scott [Shway Yoe] R.Boileau Pemberton, Maurice Collis.

The fact that the above evidences are not earlier than the 15th century does not rule out the possibility of the emergence and existence of Myanmar marionette show prior to tat century. More research is needed and archaeology and cultural anthropology have yet to turn up hitherto unearthed data regarding this subject.

(To be continued)

Asian stocks set for worst monthly drop in three years as Fed, China loom

HONG KONG, 31 Aug — Global financial markets looked set for another rough week on Monday, with stocks and commodities falling ahead of data that could give clues on when the US will raise interest rates and surveys which are likely to point to further weakness in China.

Confusion over policy direction in the world's two largest economies sent global markets into turmoil early last week, with the wildest price swings in years pushing investors to the exits.

European shares looked set to follow Asian shares and US stock futures lower on Monday, with Germany's share index .GDAXI expected to open down 1.35 percent and France's CAC 40 . FCHI likely to fall 1.39 percent, according to IG. The UK market is closed for a public holiday.

US stock futures ESc1 slid 1 percent, suggesting weakness on Wall Street later in the session.

"This is a market that is walking on glass; China seems to be the central theme feeding into a lot of these things but today the focus is very much on US interest rates again," said, James McGlew, executive director of corporate stock broking at Argonaut in Australia.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS shed more than 1 percent and is set to fall 10 percent this month, its worst monthly drop since May 2012.

Selling intensified as China markets extended losses. Shanghai stocks .SSEC, the epicentre of this month's whip-saw action, were down more than 3 percent at one point. They have plunged more than 40 percent since mid-June.

Japan's Nikkei .N225 and Australia were down 2 percent before paring losses.

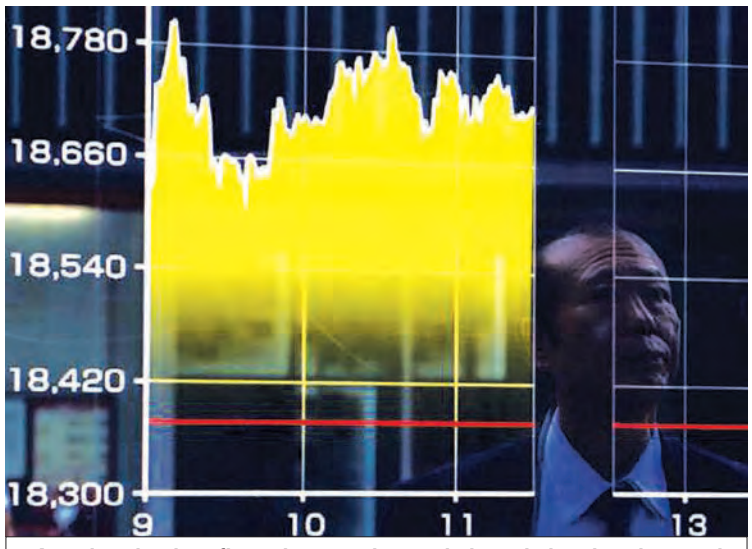
"A pull back in the market was to be expected as some investors are taking profits after the two-day rally," wrote Gerry Alfonso, director of Shenwan Hongyuan Securities, referring to a brief rebound late last week.

"Investors seem to be waiting until the manufacturing PMI figure is released later this week before making significant decisions."

A Reuters poll showed China's official factory sector activity likely fell to a 3-year low in August. Other surveys on Chinese factory and service sector activity will also be released on Tuesday.

Traders are also on edge ahead of US business surveys, factory orders, trade data and Friday's nonfarm payrolls this week, after comments by a top Federal Reserve official suggested that a September rate rise was more likely than some investors expected.

Fed Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer, speaking at the central bank' conference in Wyoming, said recent volatility in global markets could ease and possibly pave the way for a rate hike.



A pedestrian is reflected on an electronic board showing the graph of the recent fluctuations of the Japan's Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan, August 27, 2015.—REUTERS

Prospects of higher interest rates and returns in the United States combined with China's slowdown have diminished the appeal of emerging markets as investors have dumped riskier assets.

Investors sold $5.9 billion of emerging market assets between Aug. 20-26, a sharp increase from $1.5 billion the week earlier, according to Nomura fund flows data.

Credit markets, often a harbinger of things to come for equities, spelt further pain in store for emerging markets.

An index for Asian high-yield credit has fallen sharply this month compared to a relatively steady performance in the investment grade index, according to Thomson Reuters data.

The dollar eased 0.6 percent to 121.03 yen JPY= after rising to the week's high of 121.76 on Friday following the Fed officials' comments that kept prospects of a September hike alive.

The euro was up 0.6 percent at $1.12550 EUR= after touching an eight-day low of $1.1156 on Friday.

The market will watch the European Central Bank's policy meeting on Thursday to see if it will be inclined to ease monetary policy further in the wake of the recent global market mayhem, though no imminent change is expected.

US crude oil prices dipped as their biggest two-day surge in quarter of a century ran its course.

US crude CLc1 was down 1.3 percent at $44.62 a barrel after jumping more than 6 percent on Friday on frenetic short-covering fuelled by violence in Yemen, a storm in the Gulf of Mexico and refinery outages.

The contract was still down nearly 5 percent on the month, when it hit a 6-1/2-year low last week in the wake of China-led global growth fears.

Gold struggled to recover from last week's losses, even in the face of a softer dollar. Spot gold XAU= was flat at $1,133.98 an ounce, after dropping more than 2 percent last week in its steepest decline in five weeks. For the month, the metal was up 3.5 percent.—*Reuters*

BNY Mellon expects to fix pricing glitch before markets open

A BNY Mellon sign is seen on their headquarters in New York's financial district, in this January 19, 2011 file photo.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 31 Aug — BNY Mellon Corp (BK.N) expects to fix the computer glitch that disrupted pricing of US mutual funds and exchange-traded funds before markets open on Monday, its chief executive said. The resolution of the issue, which affected the calculation of billions of dollars of assets last week, has taken far longer than expected, CEO Gerald Hassell said on a conference call, a transcript of which was made available to Reuters. "We expect to complete Friday's NAVs for all but one of the affected fund clients by tomorrow morning ... Our goal is to provide fund clients with system-generated NAVs for Monday by tomorrow night," Hassell said on Sunday night.

The bank has completed calculating net asset values (NAVs) for all funds through last Thursday with the exception of those of one mutual fund client, Hassell said, without identifying the client.

An accounting system BNY Mellon relies on to calculate the prices of clients' mutual funds and ETFs broke down last weekend, disrupting pricing on nearly 5 percent of US mutual funds and ETFs with about $404 billion in assets, according to data from Morningstar and Lipper.

Hassell said the bank still didn't know the root cause of the failure and would seek assistance from independent third-party to work on the issue. Last Thursday, financial services software provider SunGard, which hosts an accounting platform that helps the world's largest custody bank calculate NAVs for its funds clients, apologized for the glitch that happened during a systems upgrade.—*Reuters*

World to Fed: We're prepared for US rate hike, so don't delay

JACKSON HOLE, (Wyo), 31 Aug — Central bankers from around the world are telling their American counterparts that they are ready for a US interest rate hike and would prefer that the Federal Reserve make the move without further ado.

In private and in public at last week's global central banking conference in Jackson Hole, the message from visiting policymakers was that the Fed has telegraphed an initial monetary tightening and, following a year-long rise in the dollar, financial markets globally are as ready as they can be.

The powerful group gathered at the end of a roller-coaster week in markets in which the Dow tanked by 1,000 points on Monday on concerns of a slowdown in China but recovered to trade higher by the end of the week. Remarks by Fed officials that liftoff could come in September were blamed by some for that volatility.

But for Agustin Carstens, the top central banker in Mexico, a rate hike by his neighbor sends an encouraging sign of economic health, even if it does force growth-challenged Mexico to also raise rates within days.

"If the Fed tightens, it will be due to the fact that they have a perception that inflation is drifting up, but more important that unemployment is falling and the economy is recovering," Carstens told Reuters in an interview.

"For us, that is very good news," he added.

While Yao Yudong, head of the People's Bank of China Research Institute of Finance and Banking, last week blamed the Fed for the market turmoil and said a US hike should be delayed, most central bankers from emerging markets contacted by Reuters at Jackson Hole and over the past month shared Carstens' view.

An end to more than six years of rock bottom US rates will touch off a wave of potentially painful adjustments as countries deal with the likelihood of an even stronger dollar as well as capital outflows from some emerging markets and changes in the relative prices of traded goods. An end to uncertainty for policymakers, however, could outweigh those difficulties.

Effects of the Fed's easy money have been felt in countries as diverse as Chile and Switzerland. Annual inflation in Chile has consistently come in above the bank's target range of 2 percent to 4 percent.

In Switzerland, the central bank has been forced to keep rates negative since it removed its cap on the franc at 1.20 to the euro, sending the currency soaring and putting a major strain on the export-dependent Swiss economy.

"Latin America has seen a surge of inflation" as countries "internalize" the evolution of Fed policy, Central Bank of Chile Governor Rodrigo Vergara told the conference.—*Reuters*

A detail from the front of the United States Federal Reserve Board building is shown in Washington October 28, 2014.—REUTERS

The screen shot of a CNTV video shows that one of China's largest UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) has completed its maiden flight successfully.—XINHUA

New food ingredient may lead to slower melting ice cream

LONDON, 31 Aug — Scientists have discovered a naturally occurring protein that can be used to create ice cream that is more resistant to melting.

The protein, known as BslA, binds together the air, fat and water in ice cream, creating a super-smooth consistency.

The new ingredient could enable ice creams to keep frozen for longer in hot weather. It could also prevent gritty ice crystals from forming, ensuring a fine, smooth texture like those of luxury ice creams, researchers said.

The development could also allow products to be manufactured with lower levels of saturated fat — and fewer calories — than at present.

Researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and Dundee developed a method of producing the new protein — which occurs naturally in some foods — in friendly bacteria.

They estimate that ice cream made with the ingredient could be available within three to five years. The protein works by adhering to fat droplets and air bubbles, making them more stable in a mixture.

"We're excited by the potential this new ingredient has for improving ice cream, both for consumers and for manufacturers," said Professor Cait MacPhee, School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh.

Using the ingredient could offer significant advantages for ice cream makers. It can be processed without loss of performance, and can be produced from sustainable raw materials, researchers said. Manufacturers could also benefit from a reduced need to deep freeze their product, as the ingredient would keep ice cream frozen for longer.

The supply chain would also be eased by a reduced need to keep the product very cold throughout delivery and merchandising, researchers said.—*Reuters*

Even 'safe' levels of air pollution up heart attack risk

LONDON, 31 Aug — Particulate matter and nitric dioxide emissions from industrial plants or vehicles increase the risk of heart attacks, despite being within 'safe' levels of air pollution, a new study has claimed.

The study examined the effect of short term exposure to air pollution on the risk of ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI).

This type of myocardial infarction (heart attack) has the worst prognosis and is caused by thrombotic occlusion of a coronary artery that damages the heart.

Ambient air pollution is a mixture of particulate matter (PM) and gaseous pollutants such as sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitric dioxide (NO2) and ozone (O3).

Fine particle pollution, also called PM2.5, has the ability to reach the lower respiratory tract and carry a large amount of toxic compound into the body.

PM2.5 and NO2 originate predominantly from the combustion of fossil fuels such as emissions from industrial plants or vehicles.

Data on PM10, PM2.5, O3 and NO2 levels were obtained from Belgian Environmental Agency air pollution records.

Data on STEMI incidence came from the Belgian Interdisciplinary Working Group on Acute Cardiology (BIWAC) STEMI registry, using STEMI hospitalisation as a proxy indicator.

Between 2009 and 2013, there were 11,428 hospitalisations for STEMI.

Researchers found that 10 microgrammes per cubic metre increases in ambient PM2.5 concentrations were associated with a 2.8 per cent increase in STEMI while 10 microgrammes per cubic metre rises in NO2 were associated with a 5.1 per cent increased risk. These associations were only observed in men.

"The association between STEMI and air pollution was observed within one day of exposure," said Jean-Francois Argacha, a cardiologist at University Hospital Brussels in Belgium.

"This was despite the fact that concentrations of air pollutants were within the European air quality standard," said Argacha. A subgroup analysis according to age showed that patients aged 75 years and above developed more STEMI in relation to PM10 exposure, while those 54 years and under were more susceptible to NO2.

"Considering that NO2 is more related to vehicle emissions, one explanation for this finding could be that the younger population may be exposed to excess NO2 from road traffic due to a higher level of social and professional activities," said Argacha. —*PTI*

Bayer moves heart drug to final tests after mid-stage success

LEVERKUSEN, 31 Aug — Bayer will move a new heart failure drug into final-stage testing this year, boosting its ambitions in cardiovascular medicine, after the experimental medicine proved better than an older rival in a mid-stage trial.

Having done well with recently launched drugs like stroke prevention pill Xarelto and eye treatment Eylea, the German group is eager to show it has another potential billion-dollar-plus winner in finerenone.

Finerenone, which is still several years from reaching the market, is an improved version of an troublesome class of heart drugs called mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists (MRAs).

Existing MRAs spironolactone and eplerenone, branded as Inspra by Pfizer, are unsuitable for many patients since they can cause abnormally high levels of potassium in the blood, leading to irregular heart beat or even cardiac arrest.

The two older medicines, whose patents have expired, are also linked to kidney problems.

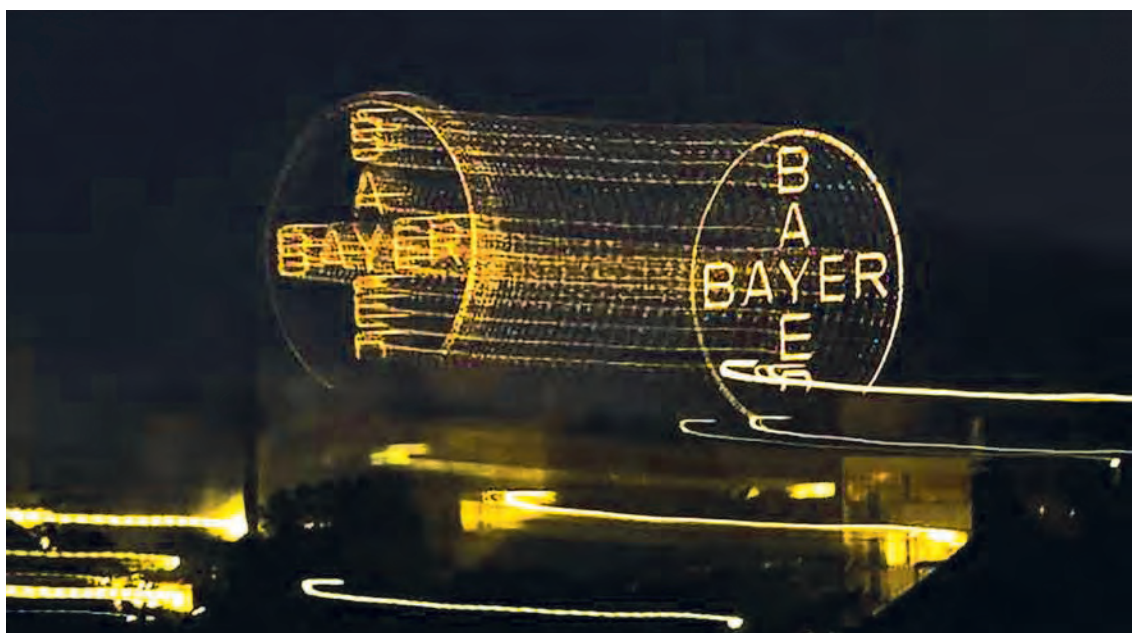
Bayer's pill, however, works in a different way and appears to avoid these issues, so cardiologists are watching its development closely.

"If you can eliminate hyperkalaemia (high potassium) that would be a huge benefit to patients," said Mary Norine Walsh, vice president of the American College of Cardiology, who was not involved in the research.

Phase II trial data presented in London on Monday showed finerenone led to fewer deaths and fewer hospital admissions among participants during 90 days of initial treatment, when compared to a control group on eplerenone.

"We didn't expect to see these clearly better results already in Phase II," said Frank Misselwitz, head of the therapeutic area cardiovascular and coagulation at Bayer. He added that potassium levels in the blood were also better.

A blood reading to measure stress on the heart, which was the trial's primary efficacy measure, was at levels comparable to the control group, as was the level of overall side effects, according to results presented at the European Society of Cardiology annual meeting. Bayer will enroll more than 3,600 patients with heart failure and diabetes and/or kidney disease in its final-stage Phase III study. It has said previously it would also start Phase III tests of the drug in diabetic kidney disease. There has been little progress for more than a decade in treating heart failure, in which the heart fails to pump enough blood around the body, but competition is starting to heat up.



The logo of German drugmaker Bayer is seen in Leverkusen April 26, 2014. —REUTERS

Novartis recently won approval for its drug Entresto that can cut the risk of both cardiovascular death and hospital admissions by a fifth, and which is forecast by analysts to generate annual sales of more than $5 billion by 2020.

Finerenone may only reach the market in 2020 or 2021, according to analysts, leaving its prospects uncertain, although Berenberg and Deutsche Bank have penciled in potential sales of $1.8 billion and $2.0 billion respectively.—*Reuters*

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

(14/2015)

Open tenders arc invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats,

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-044(15-16)	Well Servicing Equipment (15) Items	USS
(2)	IFB-045(l 5-16)	Well Control Accessories (9) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-046(15-16)	Spares for Mack Oil Field Truck (17) Items	USS
(4)	IFB-047(15-16)	Spares for Well Servicing Truck (1) Item	USS
(5)	IFB-048(15-16)	Spares for 50 Ton Hitachi Sumitomo Hydraulic Crawler Crane (10) Items	US$
(6)	IFB-049(15-16)	Ariel Compressor JGK-4 and Cooper MH64 with Waukesha P-9390 GL Spares (11) Items	US$
(7)	IFB-050(15-16)	AJAX DPC 600 Spares (25) Items	US$
(8)	IFB-051(15-16)	NKK Compressor KJB2 & KB2 with Waukesha L7G042GU & H 2475 Engine Spares (10) Items	US$
(9)	IFB-052(15-16)	Cementing Head and Accessories (11)Items	US$
(10)	DMP/L-007(15-16)	SAE 15 W 40 Diesel Engine Oil (1) Lot	Ks

Tender Closing Date &. Time - 29-9-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1st September, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph.+9567-411097 /411206

Indonesia favouring China over Japan in railway bid — govt sources

JAKARTA, 31 Aug — Indonesia is leaning towards China over Japan in an aggressive bidding battle to build the Southeast Asian nation's first high-speed railway, two government sources involved in making the decision said.

The two Asian giants have both sent envoys to lobby Indonesian officials over the past two weeks, each sweetening the terms of their bid for the contract worth about $5 billion.

Analysts believe that whoever wins will likely become the front runner for other high-speed rail projects coming up in Asia over the coming years, including one linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

A cabinet-level committee led by chief economic minister Darmin Nasution will meet on Monday to make its recommendation on which country should build the rail line between the capital, Jakarta, and textile hub of Bandung.

President Joko Widodo is expected to announce the winner within days.

"Indonesia is leaning towards China because their proposal is less financially burdensome on the Indonesian government and because the issue of safety has been adequately addressed," a government source told Reuters.

A second government source said Indonesia wanted to strike a balance between the two powers in handing out high-profile infrastructure projects. Japan already holds contracts to build Jakarta's mass rapid transit system and the biggest coal-fired power plant in the region.

Both sources declined to be identified due to the diplomatic sensitivity of the issue for Jakarta and the economic stakes. Japan is Indonesia's second-largest investor, while China is its top trading partner.

"We have two partners and it will be good if we can maintain both of them. We have to be smart when taking this decision," Luky Eko Wuryanto, Indonesia's deputy minister of infrastructure and regional development, told Reuters last Friday after meeting China's ambassador to Indonesia.—*Reuters*

PICTURE OF THE DAY

Mount McKinley is shown in this January 11, 2011 handout photo provided by the National Park Service in Alaska. President Barack Obama will officially restore Denali as the name of North America's tallest mountain, ending a 40-year battle over what to call the peak that has been known as Mount McKinley.—REUTERS

Prince William makes rare public appreciation of grandmother Queen Elizabeth II

BEIJING, 31 Aug — Prince William has made a rare public appreciation of his grandmother Queen Elizabeth II as she is about to celebrate her becoming the longest serving monarch in the history of Great Britain.

In the preface of a new biography, Elizabeth II: The Steadfast, the Prince said this. As the Queen, 89, approaches Sept. 9, the day when she will break Queen Victoria's record reign, William highlighted her "example and continuity," that is "rare among leaders."

Praising her "kindness and sense of humor" and love for her family and her home, Prince William wrote she has been a "model for a life of service."

"From a personal point of view, I am privileged to witness the private side of the Queen, as a grandmother and a great-grandmother," he wrote.

"The Queen's kindness and sense of humor, her innate sense of calm and perspective, and her love of family and home are all attributes I experience first-hand."—*Xinhua*

Sword-wielding Hardik Patel threatens Modi's "model" in India

Hardik Patel

AHMEDABAD, (India), 31 Aug — Hardik Patel, a sword-wielding 22-year-old activist has emerged overnight as the most pressing political threat to Narendra Modi, accusing the Indian prime minister of breaking a promise to provide jobs that helped him win last year's general election.

Patel, by his own admission, scraped through college and failed to land a steady job. But he has proven to be a talented organiser and rabble-rousing orator, creating a mass movement in a matter of weeks.

The explosive issue he has locked on to is caste: He says India's policies of affirmative action have shut his community the Patels, also known as Patidars, out of university places and government jobs.

Patel has stirred upheaval in Gujarat, the state Modi ran for 13 years before he became prime minister — an era of rapid industrial growth that his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) successfully pitched to voters as a "model" to bring prosperity to India's 1.2 billion people.

Patel calls the model hyped, saying Modi "tried to sell platinum when all he had was steel". Protests culminated last Tuesday in a rally by half a million people in Ahmedabad, Gujarat's largest city. Violence broke out across the western state after police detained Patel briefly, leading to at least seven deaths.

"Brother Modi is very angry with me and my community - we have exposed the flaws in his economic and social model," Patel said in an interview on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. "But he shouldn't forget that we supported him."

Gujarat still bears the scars of sectarian bloodletting in 2002 when more than 1,000 people were killed, mostly Muslims. Modi has long faced accusations of failing to quell those riots.

Modi's calls for calm now cut no ice with Patel: "I am ready for a fight to protect the Patels against the economic domination of the lower castes," Patel, a slight man with a broad face and thick hair, told Reuters late last week. Patel came on Sunday to New Delhi to meet leaders of other castes that also harbour jobs grievances. Brandishing a sword before his supporters, he vowed to launch protests across India.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1529)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1529) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.9.2015 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-475)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-475) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 1st September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and Shan State, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in the Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st September, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Egyptian president visits Singapore to promote ties

SINGAPORE, 31 Aug — Singapore's President Tony Tan Keng Yam and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Monday met with visiting Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi. Sisi is on a state visit to Singapore from Sunday to Tuesday at the invitation of President Tan.

This is the first state visit by an Egyptian president to the city state since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties in 1966, according to Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. President Tan held a welcome ceremony at Istana for the Egyptian president on Monday morning. Following the courtesy call on President Tan, Sisi met with Lee Hsien Loong.

The Egyptian president on Monday morning also attended an orchid naming ceremony at Singapore Botanic Gardens. On Sunday, he met with local Muslim community and inter-faith leaders at the Harmony Center.—*Xinhua*

Amitabh Bachchan's Twitter account hacked

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan

MUMBAI, 31 Aug — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan's Twitter account, which boasts of over 44 thousand followers, has been hacked.

The 72-year-old "Piku" star alleged the hacker planted adult sites in the 'following' section of his account on the micro-blogging site.

An upset Bachchan tweeted, "WHOA!... My Twitter handle hacked! Sex sites planted as 'following'! Whoever did this, try someone else, buddy, I don't need this!"

A social media savvy, Big B uses different platforms — Twitter, Facebook and his blog — to interact with his fans and update them with his projects and personal life.—*PTI*

Swift leads winners but West, Cyrus rule MTV Video Music Awards

LOS ANGELES, 31 Aug — Taylor Swift may have won the most Moonmans on Sunday but it was her reunion with rapper Kanye West on the MTV Video Music Awards stage that stole the show, as West declared he will run for the US presidency in 2020.

West, who famously stormed the stage and snatched the microphone from Swift in 2009 during her acceptance speech, was given the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award on Sunday by Swift, in a VMA moment that came full circle.

"Everyone in the world knew about our infamous encounter at the VMAs, but something you may not know is Kanye West's album 'College Dropout' is the very first album I bought on iTunes," Swift said.

She added, in a parody of West's 2009 speech when he hijacked her award, "to all the other winners tonight, I'm really happy for you and Imma let you finish, but Kanye West has one of the greatest careers of all time."

After a standing ovation, West rehashed the 2009 incident along with many other musings on the authenticity of artistry, at one point criticizing awards shows and MTV for replaying the Swift incident over and over for "more ratings."

"If I had a daughter at that time when I went on stage and grabbed the mic from someone else ... after that night, the stage was gone, but the effect it had on people remain," he said. He ended his speech by declaring, "I have decided in 2020 to run for president," quickly riling up social media.

Swift won video of the year, the night's top award, for the star-studded music video of her revenge song "Bad Blood," which is reportedly about her feud with singer Katy Perry.

"I know there's been a lot of discussion about what this video means but I'm just happy that in 2015 we live in a world where boys can play princesses and girls can play soldiers," the 25-year-old singer said.

Perry did not attend this year's awards show.

Viacom Inc-owned MTV's annual VMA hands out Moonman statuettes to the year's top achievements in music videos, but is better known for delivering irreverent and unexpected moments.

Sunday's show was all about the shock factor as a scantily clad Miley Cyrus, 22, cursed her way through her hosting duties, flashed her bare breast accidentally and performed a new song about smoking marijuana.

Taylor Swift accepts the award for best female video for 'Blank Space' at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, California August 30, 2015.—REUTERS

Singer Justin Bieber returned to the VMA stage after a two-year break to perform two new tracks, tearing up at the end of his performance.

Swift led the winners with four Moonmans including best female video and best pop vide for "Blank Space."

New Jersey rapper Fetty Wap was named artist to watch, Bruno Mars and Mark Ronson's summer hit "Uptown Funk!" was named best male video and Nicki Minaj's "Anaconda" won best hip hop video.—*Reuters*

Photo shows the winner Louisa Mak (C), the first runner-up Ada Pong (L) and the secondrunner-up Karmen Kwok (R) of the Miss Hong Kong Pageant 2015. The final was held in Hong Kong, China, on Aug. 30, 2015.—XINHUA

Rap music film "Straight Outta Compton" continues to lead North American box office

LOS ANGELES, 31 Aug — Rap music film "Straight Outta Compton" continued to dominate box office in North America this weekend.

The movie, distributed by Universal Pictures about the rise and fall of the Compton, California hip hop group N.W.A., was on track to fetch another 13.2 million US dollars in tickets earnings this weekend, down 50 percent from last weekend, which will bring its three-week gross sales to 134.1 million dollars in North America and 140.9 million dollars worldwide. "Straight Outta Compton" is the fourth film to lead the box office for at least three consecutive weekends this year.

The other three films are Warner Bros' "American Sniper" and two Universal releases of "Furious 7" and "Jurassic World."

"War Room," a Sony movie aimed at religious audience, debuted in the second place with 11 million dollars in ticket sales. For opening, the film was screened at 1,135 locations. In breakdown, the audience for "War Room" skewed towards female moviegoers (60 percent) and heavily towards moviegoers over the age of 25 (85 percent). The critics, however, gave it a poor 17 percent in approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

In its fifth week of exhibition, Paramount's "Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation" was ranked in the third place, with 8.3 million dollars in weekend sales and a running total of over 170 million dollars in North America.

The R-rated action thriller "No Escape" opened in the fourth place with 8.3 million dollars in weekend sales from 3,355 locations. It received a "B+" rating on CinemaScore and 41 percent in positive rating from critics on Rotten Tomatoes. Rounding out the rest 10 most popular movies in the United States and Canada were "Sinister 2" (4.7 million dollars), "Man From U.N.C.L.E." (4.4 million), "Hitman: Agent 47" (3.9 million), "The Gift" (3.1 million), "Jurassic World" (3.1 million) and "Ant-Man" (3 million).—*Xinhua*

Shah Rukh wraps 'Dilwale' shooting in Iceland

MUMBAI, 31 Aug — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has wrapped the shooting of a song with actress friend Kajol in Iceland for his upcoming film "Dilwale".

Shah Rukh, 49, who will be seen with Kajol on the big screen after five years, took to Twitter to share the news. "In films just as you start living a story, it's time to end it so you can start a new one. Iceland road trip coming to end. Will miss the lites & Ice." Filmmaker Farah Khan has choreographed the song for the Rohit Shetty-directed action-comedy.

"A really special song wrapped for #Dilwale... With my favoritest Kajol N @iamsrk who has clicked this pic! Timelessness!" Farah tweeted alongside a picture of her and Kajol. "Bye bye to the lovely Icelandic crew... Iceland is "Niceland " because of its people thank you for all your support," she added. "Dilwale" also stars Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon, Boman Irani, Vinod Khanna, Sanjay Mishra, Johnny Lever among others.

The film, which has music by Pritam, is scheduled to release on December 18 and will clash with Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra-starrer "Bajirao Mastani", directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali.—*PTI*

Kenya tops medals standings as Beijing worlds concludes as "best ever"

BEIJING, 31 Aug — Star runner Asbel Kiprop won Kenya one more gold on the final matchday of the 15th IAAF world championships on Sunday as the east African country finished atop the medals standings for the first time with seven gold, six silver and three bronze medals.

Sprinting power Jamaica finished second with a 7-2-3 record. The United States came third with six golds, dropping out of the top two for the first time.

New IAAF president Sebastian Coe gave an thumbs-up to the Beijing worlds by saying it was a "great, great championships".

"China staged a wonderful championships and it's been sensational. I left the stadium last night with people who have been to many championships before saying: Arguably the best world championships ever!"

"Great crowd, full stadium, passionate and noisy people, inform athletes that are competing at the highest level," added Coe, who will officially take over the world's athletics governing body from Monday.

Kiprop's 1,500m win was one of the most stunning victories in the championships, with the Kenyan starting his late charge from the last place to first only in the last half-lap for the gold.

It was also his third successive world title after the 26-year-old impressively claimed the title in both 2011 and 2013.

"I am so proud of myself to become a member of this exclusive club of the three times world champions but I would love to defend the title also fourth time again in London 2017," said Kiprop.

In the women's 4x400m relay, Jamaica overcame the United States for the title.

Jamaica's Novlene Williams-Mills overtook America's Francena McCorory in the final meters to win the title in 3:19.13 seconds, a world leading time.

The US men's relay team saved face by winning the 4x400m relay gold at a time of 2:57.82.

Ethiopia became the biggest winner on the final day as Mare Dibaba won the women's marathon title first in day session and then their women runners had a clean sweep of medals of all colors in the women's 5,000 meters event, with world leader Almaz Ayana taking the title in a championships record time.

"It is great for our country that we won gold, silver and bronze," Ayana said.

Germany's Katharina Molitor won the women's javelin gold with her final throw and denied host China a second title of the world athletics championships.

As Chinese Lyu Huihui had a chance of landing the gold with a new Asian record of 66.13 meters on her fifth try, Molitor hurtled the javelin to 67.69 meters to nail the title.

"Perfect! My first international medal," said Molitor, who had never previously won a medal at a major championships.

In the men's high jump, Canada's Derek Drouin cleared 2.34 meters in a three-man jump-off to win the gold medal.

China's Zhang Guowei and Ukraine's Bohdan Bondarenko shared the second place on 2.33 meters.—*Xinhua*

Silver medalist Kenya's Helah Kiprop celebrates during the awarding ceremony of the women's marathon event at the 2015 IAAF World Championships at the "Bird's Nest" National Stadium in Beijing, capital of China, Aug. 30, 2015.—XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

(1-9-2015 07:00 am~2-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Insight Myanmar - Media & Election
07:45 Am Kambawzathardi Golden Palace - A Treasured Legacy Of Golden Days
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Myanmar Traditional Bullock–Cart & Equestrain Racing
08:36 Am Myanmar Betels
08:51 Am Tea
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw
09:43 Am Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"
09:52 Am Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
10:03 Am News
10:27 Am Life of Sea Urchin Diver
10:37 Am Atuladhipati Mahamunisacca Koe Htat Kyee Pagoda
10:53 Am Writer

(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
07:26 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:52 Pm Thin Byu Mat
08:03 Pm News
08:27 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle)
08:49 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Win Pe

(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 Entertainment Channel

(1-9-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am
• Mono Classical Songs
6:50 am
• Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
7:10 am
• TV Drama Series
7:55 am
• TV Drama Series
8:40 am
• Musical Programme
9:00 am
• Myanmar Video
10:25 am
• Myanmar Video
12:00 noon
• Close Down.

Big motorbikes rev up again under Iranian reforms

DUBAI, 31 Aug — The joy of riding big Japanese and American motorbikes was just one of the pleasures taken away from Iranians after the country's Islamic revolution. But three decades on, to the delight of enthusiasts, there are signs of restrictions being eased. This month a dozen bikers on pre-revolutionary and newer models were allowed a strictly regulated ride in Tehran.

It was still a far cry from the open highways of "Easy Rider".

Special permission is needed to ride just one weekend per month and the cruise is limited to specific streets during daylight hours. Women are still prohibited from riding bikes. It fits in, however, with other developments as Iran opens up to the West again under reform-minded President Hassan Rohani.

The ban outlawing motorcycles with engines above the size of 250 cubic cm was introduced in the early years of the revolution to halt drive-by killings of Iranian officials by the opposition.

It was also part of an effort to eradicate vestiges of an un-Islamic Western lifestyle that had prevailed under the monarchy overthrown in 1979. Women were barred from riding motorcycles as it was seen as incompatible with Shi'ite Islamic values. Motorbikes with big engine power were used exclusively by the Basij, the government's plain-clothes security force, which often paraded on them around Tehran in a show of power.

Under the reprieve, authorities select members of the Tehran Motorcycling and Car Racing Association to license for street riding after running them through security checks, the association's manager Mehrdad Hemmatian said.

Police and Interior Ministry agents monitor the riders while they are on the road.

"We are hopeful that the restrictions on full-sized motorcycles will be revised and lifted," Hemmatian said. "The restrictions are outdated." The government-linked association is also lobbying to bring down import tariffs on sports bikes to 6 percent from 100 percent.

People involved with the government are mostly behind the demand for motorcycles as it is easier for them to obtain special permission and they are better able to afford the expensive American-made Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Bikers who are not from the elite can manage to afford cheaper Japanese sports bikes for use on race tracks.—*Reuters*

Performers participate in the Jermber Fashion Carnival 2015 in Jember of East Java, Indonesia, Aug. 30, 2015.—XINHUA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

2nd Waning Day of Wagaung 1377 ME | SPORT | Tuesday, 1 September, 2015

National golf tournament held in PyinOoLwin

PyinOoLwin, 31 Aug — Hla Myo of Mizuno Club came first with a-five-under-par 283 in the 5th Myanmar Golf Tournament in PyinOoLwin on 30 August.

The runner up was Naing Naing Lwin of New Star Club with 284 and third place went to Bo Bo of Han Golf Academy with 287.

Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut and Vice Chairman of CB Bank U Yan Aung presented Hla Myo with a cheque. Commandant of Defence Services Academy Maj-Gen Myint Maw presented first, second and third prizes to Kyaw Thet Oo, Zaw Zaw Tun and Hlaing Min Htet for the men's amateur event, while PyinOoLwin District's Deputy Commissioner U Aung Zaw Latt presented first, second and third prize to female competitors May Oo Khaing, Yin May Myo and Khin Mar Nwe respectively.—*MGF*

AFF U-19 Championship result (31.8.2015)

East Timor U19	1-1	Singapore U19
Myanmar U19	0-2	Vietnam U19

Aungmyethazan Tsp takes home chess trophy

Mandalay, 31 Aug — Chanayethazan Township won first prize first in a chess competition that attracted more than 300 players from 21 townships in Mandalay on 30 August. Aungmyethazan Township was the runner-up, while in the traditional chess event, the first prize also went to Aungmyethazan, the second to Mahaaungmye and third to Chanayethazan township.

The president of the Myanmar Chess Federation U Maung Maung Lwin presented winners with medals, trophies and cash prizes. The Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing awarded overall championship trophy and cash award to Aungmyethazan Township team on behalf of Mandalay Region's Chief Minister.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

US Open leading men cheering for a Serena Grand Slam

Serena Williams of the US speaks during a news conference at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center ahead of the 2015 US Open tennis tournament in New York, August 27, 2015. Play begins at the US Open on August 31.—Reuters

New York, 31 Aug — Serena Williams is on the brink of the grandest achievement in tennis, the single season Grand Slam, and even the leading men at the US Open championships starting on Monday are cheering her on.

The 33-year-old American, with the 2015 Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon trophies already on her crowded mantle, will be gunning to complete the first season's sweep of the slams since Steffi Graf in 1988. The last man to accomplish the feat was Rod Laver in 1969. "I am sending her good vibes, I hope she does it," says US Open men's top seed Novak Djokovic, winner of nine majors. "She's a true champion and she's impressive what she's managed to do so far at her age to win three grand slams. It's

quite incredible. I know how tough it is, both men's and women's tennis. The competition is really high."

Victory at Flushing Meadows would lift Williams to 22 career grand slam singles crowns, tying her with Graf for second on the all-time list, two behind Margaret Court. "I hope she does it, number one," said second seed Roger Federer, who stands atop the men's all-time slams list with 17. "Number two, of course it's intriguing and interesting to see. You don't get this kind of an opportunity many times in tennis, so it will be very interesting to follow."—*Reuters*

Sharapova pulls out of US Open due to leg injury

New York, 31 Aug — Maria Sharapova, winner of five grand slam events, has pulled out of the US Open tennis championships due to a leg injury, the Russian said on Sunday.

Sharapova, 28, has not played a match since losing to Serena Williams in the Wimbledon semi-finals in July and withdrew from hardcourt tournaments in Toronto and Cincinnati in August, citing a right leg strain."Unfortunately, I will not be able to compete in this year's US Open," she tweeted.

"I have done everything possible to be ready but it was just not enough time. To all my amazing fans, I will be back in the Asian swing in a few weeks and look forward to finishing the year healthy and strong."

It marks the second time in three years that the 2006 champion has withdrawn from the year's last grand slam event.

Her absence robs the US Open of some star power and a possible marquee showdown.

Sharapova, who has won each of the four grand slam tournaments during her career, was seeded to meet top-seeded American world number one Serena Williams in the semi-finals. The 33-year-old Williams is campaigning to win a fourth US Open title in a row that would give her a rare grand slam sweep of the year's four majors.—*Reuters*

Amara Nyein, first prize winner in Miss Myanmar International 2015 held at National Theatre in Yangon on 30 August will represent Myanmar in the Miss International 2015 to be held in Japan on 5 November.—Photo: Min Htet

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