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VOTERS' LIST MADE PUBLIC ON 14 SEPT

UEC committed to holding peaceful, fair election in Nov

Aye Min Soe

THE Union Election Commission will make the voters' list publicly available at UEC township offices from 14 to 27 September so that those eligible to vote in the general election have the opportunity to confirm their names and details.

During the sixth meeting between the UEC and political parties in Yangon on Tuesday, UEC's Chairman U Tin Aye said that persons without national ID cards can still cast their ballot on 8 November if they can provide other forms of identity that prove citizenship, such as a driving license or student ID card.

He said the measure is being taken to maximise the number of people who turn out to vote and said that those whose names are not on the voters' list can apply to regional sub-election commissions in accordance with the Election Law for clarification.

Representatives from 69 of Myanmar's 91 political parties attended the meeting with the UEC.

U Tin Aye called on politicians to adhere to the Code of Conduct throughout the election period. He said that the commission is committed to holding a peaceful and fair election and will not interfere in the electoral process.

The UEC also clarified certain electoral processes, including campaign directives and compliance, candidate campaign financing disclosures, the provision of manuals to polling station staff,



People check voters' list at West Sawyanpaing Ward in Ahlon Township.—Po HTAUNG (FILE PHOTO)

polling booth processes, mediation, security and monitoring committees, electoral dispute resolution and candidate agents.

A total of 6,189 candidates have been nominated and district election sub-commissions have

begun the process of vetting candidates.

The UEC's reasons for ruling certain candidates ineligible to become ethnic affairs ministers in states and regions drew criticism from some politicians who at-

tended the meeting. Eligibility is determined by the 1982 Citizenship Law, which automatically classifies a person to have inherited their father's ethnicity unless a person states a preference to be identified as the same ethnicity

as their mother at the age of 18. The UEC has issued accreditation cards to local and foreign election monitoring groups and will invite election monitoring group members to observe the training of polling booth staff.—GNLM

A Study of Myanmar Puppetry (Part II)



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Senior US diplomat Russel to visit Myanmar, China, Mongolia

Daniel Russel, a senior US diplomat handling Asian issues, will visit Myanmar, China and Mongolia starting Thursday, the State Department said Monday.

Russel, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, will meet in Myanmar with government

officials as well as opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi to discuss preparations for the Nov. 8 general elections during a stay from Thursday, the department said.

Russel will arrive in Beijing on Sunday for a three-day stay and meet with senior Chinese officials ahead of

President Xi Jinping's visit to the United States planned for September.

In Ulan Bator on Sept. 8 and 9, Russel will meet with senior Mongolian officials and congratulate the country on the 25th anniversary of its move to democracy.

Kyodo

Inlay designates tobacco free area

The tourist hotspot of Nyaungshwe in Shan State's Inlay Lake region has been designated a tobacco-free area from September.

During a workshop held in Nyaungshwe on Monday, Inn National Race Minister U Win Myint and the head of the District Public Health Department Dr Khin Maung Yin discussed the details of the ban and the ramping up of efforts to curb tobacco consumption in Myanmar. This includes rolling out more public awareness campaigns about the health risks associated with tobacco,

the logistics of enforcing tobacco-free areas and the need for community engagement.

The decision to create tobacco-free areas came as part of an agreement reached between the Ministry of Health and the South East Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) during the 3rd Regional Meeting on Tobacco Control in ASEAN in the Philippines last May.

Tobacco-free areas already exist at some of Bagan's most famous temples, while the Pindaya caves in Shan State will soon follow suit.—*Nay Myo Thurein*



Inn ethnic catching fish in Inlay Lake in their tradition.—NAY MYO THUREIN

Royal Thai Army provides free medical treatment to residents in Myanaung Township

Major General Parinya Khoonasee and other members of the Royal Thai Army travelled with

Myanmar Health Ministry officials to the severely flooded delta township of Myanaung on Monday.

Free medical treatment

was provided to more than 560 patients, including children, at the local hospital.

The delegation also visited nearby Kau-

ngmyattaw village and donated mosquito repellants and water purification tablets.—*Win Bo (Township IPRD)*

Monsoon paddy crops re-cultivated in Ingapu

As water levels recede in Ayeyawady Region's Ingapu Township, monsoon season paddy crops are being re-cultivated, according to township agricultural officials.

More than 30,000 acres out of a total of 53,000 used for farming were damaged by heavy rains and high river tides in late July. As of August 30, over a thousand acres of paddy

have been replanted. The Ayeyawady Region government distributed short-term paddy species seeds to farmers with a referral payment system. Farmers in the township will be able to replant 10,000 acres of monsoon paddy during the remaining season and there are plans to cultivate beans on the other 20,000 acres. Farmers have said they are keen to also receive fertilizers.—*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*

Fundraising football match raises K1.1 million

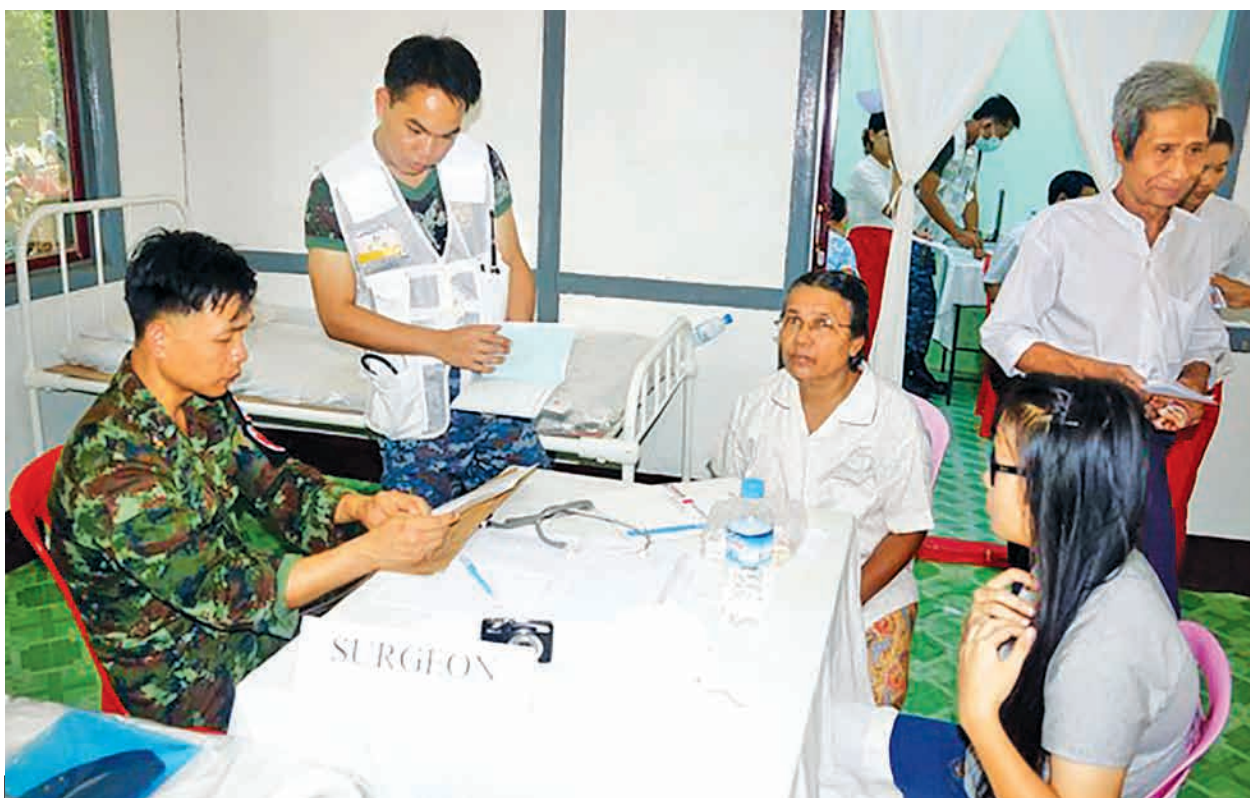
A fundraising football match arranged by Helping Hands Pyinmana Philanthropic Association raised more than K1.1 million for flood victims on 29 August.

A youth football team comprising members of the association defeated Best Friends FC 6-5 in the fundraising match, which took place at Paunglaung Sports

Ground in Pyinmana.

Before the match, singers Yone Lay, Thein Lin Soe, Shwe Htoo, Sha Htet Eindra and Pearl Win performed for the crowd.

Best Friend FC is made up of film stars Thu Htoo San, Paing Zay Ye Tun, Tun Tun (Examplez), Kaung Khant and Ko Pauk.—*Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)*



Medical officers from Royal Thai Army providing health care services to local people in Myanaung.—WIN BO

'One Stop Shop' Public Service Office opens

Pobathiri Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area's Ottara District opened a Public Service Office on 31 August.

Its purpose is to provide the public with a convenient 'one stop shop' service from the nine departments

housed in the same office. The opening ceremony was attended by the Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Deputy Director General of General Administration Department U Kyaw Myint and senior officials.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

Maternal health tips shared, food and funds donated in Myingyan

Mandalay Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee held talks on public health issues at the Dhammayon in Nyaungbin village, My-

ingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on 30 August.

Committee chairperson Daw Su Su Lwin shared tips on maternal health and childcare, how to cook nutritious food,

and increase a family's income through small businesses. She presented gifts and cash donations to new mothers.

The chairperson and other committee members

visited a delivery room in Myingyan Township's MCWA and provided clothes and nutritious food to pregnant women.—*Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)*

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Viet Nam

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which falls on 2 September 2015.—MNA

Reshuffle of regional ministers

THE President Office on 1 September announced that Ministers for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Zaw Lin Aung from Magway Region Government and Colonel Maung

Maung Win from Ayeyawady Region Government will be re-assigned to their former military responsibilities. A separate order assigned Colonel Naing Oo and Colonel Kyaw Swa Hlaing

from the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) at region Ministers for Security and Border Affairs of Magway and Ayeyawady Region governments respectively to assume the positions.—GNLM

Well-wishers donate relief supplies in Ygn, Mdy and Nay Pyi Taw

WELLWISHERS donated 25 bags of instant noodle, two bags of torches, 75 bales of clothes, soft drink bottles, purified drinking water bottles, medicines,

salt, traditional medicines, steel pots and 200 bags of cement to Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw Department of Relief and Resettlement on 30 August.

Likewise, officials accepted

11 bales of clothes and bottles of purified drinking water at Mingaladon Airbase.

Arrangements will be made to send relief supplies to the flood-affected areas.—MNA

President's message to be broadcast on radio

A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes on 2 and 3 September.

Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan, Thazin Radio and Yangon City FM will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively.—MNA

Vice Presidents send messages of felicitations to Viet Nam

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Vice Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, have sent messages of felicitations to Her Excellency Madame Nguyen Thi Doan, Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which falls on 2 September 2015.—MNA

Ancient Pinya temples undergoing restoration



Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin inspects progress in renovation works at Golden Palace Monastery in Mandalay.
MNA

DEPUTY Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin inspected renovation works at three ancient temples built during the Pinya era in Mandalay Region's TadaU Township on 29 August.

Pinya was a royal capital city that was ruled by six kings between 1312 and 1364 AD. The ancient region represents a promising tourist destination should the surrounding infrastructure be developed.

The Department of Archaeology and

the National Museum are working together to renovate one of three temples in a cluster within the first phase of the 2015-16 fiscal year. The deputy minister also observed the excavation of the inner wall at the ancient city of Inwa and maintenance of Nanmyint Tower, as well as preservation works on stone inscriptions and plaque chambers at Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda.

UNESCO added the stone plaques to

its Memory of the World register in 2013. In 2014, department and national museum staff embarked on a three-year Pali translation project with assistance from the Japanese Foundation Chuo Academic Research Institute (CARI) and Australia's Sydney University. The deputy minister also inspected the progress of renovations at the Golden Palace Monastery.—MNA

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Olivier Richard as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the France Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Yangon.

Mr. Olivier Richard was born on 13 March 1963. He holds a Master's Degree in Chinese, a Bachelor's Degree in French Modern Literature and a Certificate from Cambridge University. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the France Republic in 1989 working in the African Department of the Ministry. From 1990 to 1993, he served as Third Secretary, Second Secretary and First Secretary respectively in the French Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan; from 1993 to 1996, he served as First Secretary in the French Embassy in Beijing, China; from 1996 to 1999, he was the Deputy Director of the French Institute in Taipei, Taiwan; from 1999 to 2002, he headed the Asia and Oceania Desk at the Division of Cooperation and Development in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; from 2002 to 2004, he served as Director of the French Development Agency (AFD) in Niamey, Niger; and from 2004 to 2007, as Director of the French Development Agency (AFD) in Beijing, China; and from 2007 to 2009, he was the Head of Division at the Department of Cooperation and Development in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2010 to 2011, he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the France Republic to Zambia, with residence in Lusaka. Since November 2011, he has been serving as Director of the French Institute in Taipei, Taiwan.—MNA

Policing Course opens in Mandalay

Policing Course (3/2015) was launched at the Mandalay Region's Police Headquarters on 31 August, with an opening speech by the region's Police Col Han Tun.

The opening was also attended by senior police officers. The course which will conclude on September 25, is attended by 32 police officers.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Educative Talks held at Mandalay school

An educative talk on trafficking in person, danger of narcotic drugs and traffic enforcement was held at Basic Education Middle School No (11), on 31 August in Mandalay.

Responsible police personnel of the respective offices made the educative talks.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



Daw Sanda Tun, Joint Secretary-3 and member Daw Mya Mya Kywe of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Thailand to attend Product Market Identification for GMS Training in Khon Kaen from 31 August to 4 September.—MWEA

Mobile health clinic visits Lewe Tsp



Officials of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association meet students and teachers at health educative talks in Lewe Township.—MMCWA

The President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Thazin Nwe visited Intawtha Village in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 August, together with health officials and a MCWA mobile health clinic team.

The health team gave a talk about dysentery and seasonal dengue fever, provided medicines and food to the elderly, prena-

tal care supplies to pregnant women and donated magazines to the village library.

Educational health talks were also given at nearby Sa-Ma Hill Monastic Education School.

MCWA donated bicycles, infant formula and vitamins to girls living in the orphanage.

MMCWA has been conducting monthly mobile health clinics in rural areas since 2010.—MMCWA

Preparations gear up for Phaungdaw-U Pagoda Festival

Marker posts along waterways in Meiktila Lake have been set up ahead of the traditional boat race that takes place during the Phaungdaw-U Pagoda festival.

Some 15 teams will take part in the race, while more than 600 individual stores will display their wares during the festival, which runs from 21 to 30 September. Although the ancient festival is usually held annually, the most recent festival was back in 2012.—*Chan Thar (Meiktila)*

Electrician training course opens in Mandalay

Avocational course for electricians began at No.2 Industrial School in Mandalay on 31 August. The deputy ministers for Industry and for Electric Power U Myo Aung and U Maw Tha Htwe addressed the 50 trainees, which include two females and 14 civil servants.

The course is divided into nine subjects and will run for three months. Those who successfully pass course requirements will be presented with a certificate of their qualification in ASEAN's Electrician (Building) Level 1, which is likely to increase their job opportunities.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Mandalay's Culture University presents 11th graduation exhibition

The graduation class of 2015 of Mandalay's National University of Arts and Culture presented their graduation works at the National Theatre in Mandalay on 31 August.

Various works of music, traditional dance, paintings, and sculptures totaling 33 were on display which were viewed by Mandalay Region Chief

Minister U Ye Myint, Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Swe and officials of the Culture Ministry.

The university in Mandalay opened since 2001, has four-year undergraduate courses as well as post graduate courses. The motion picture / play majoring class was opened during 2014-15 academic year. There are also diploma courses, it is learnt.—*Thiha Ko Ko*



Students of National University of Arts and Culture in Mandalay perform their brilliant skills at graduation concert.—THIHA KO KO

Singapore ruling party for first time faces election fight for every seat



Singapore's People's Action Party (PAP) secretary-general Lee Hsien Loong crosses a street with his supporters to submit his papers during nomination day, ahead of the general elections in Singapore September 1, 2015.—REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's ruling People's Action Party will face a fight from opposition candidates in all 89 parliamentary seats for the first time since independence 50 years ago, nominations showed on Tuesday.

Singapore goes to the polls on Sept. 11, more than a year before a deadline for the next election, with the government seen riding the feel-good factor of the wealthy city-state's 50th birthday last month amid slowing economic growth.

The PAP, co-founded by the Prime Minister's father, the late Lee Kuan Yew, has ruled Singapore since six years before independence in 1965. The party is trying to improve its performance from 2011 when its share of vote fell due to unhappiness over then high housing prices, the cost of living and immigration.

Since then, the government has introduced curbs on foreign workers, measures to cool a red-hot property market and subsidized health-care cover for the elderly.

"This is about your future, vote seriously for the PAP to make sure that we can work together with you, for you, for Singapore," Lee said to

waving party supporters in central Singapore after filing his nomination papers.

The candidates for the 16 group representation constituencies — comprising four to six seats each — and 13 single-member constituencies were confirmed at the close of nominations, state-owned Channel NewsAsia reported.

"We expect the PAP to remain in power, with the possibility of better performance, and arrest the fall in its popularity," said Nomura analysts said in a note to clients last week.

The election comes at a time when Singapore is seeing slowing growth. The government last month revised its official gross domestic product growth forecast for 2015 to 2.0-2.5 percent from 2-4 percent previously. The legacy of Lee Kuan Yew, who died on March 23, will be fresh in the minds of voters and the PAP will be keen to convince people it is best placed to ensure Singapore's success over the next 50 years. Lee drew praise for his market-friendly policies, but also criticism at home and abroad for his strict controls over the press, public protest and political opponents.—Reuters

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Thailand arrests second foreign suspect in Bangkok blast probe

BANGKOK — Police hunting those responsible for Thailand's deadliest bombing arrested a second foreign suspect on Tuesday, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said.

The man was arrested in Sa Kaeo province, on the border with Cambodia east of Bangkok. The suspect was being transferred to Bangkok for questioning.

"We have arrested one more, he is not a Thai," Prayuth told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting. He did not elaborate.

Television footage of the suspect showed a thin man in a baseball cap, sunglasses and with a short moustache.

The arrest came after security forces detained a first foreign suspect in weekend raids on the outskirts of Bangkok, in which they also

found explosives.

Thai police say arrested man played key role in Bangkok blast

A foreign man arrested by Thai police on Tuesday played a key role in the deadly bombing that ripped through a Bangkok shrine in August, Thai police spokesman Prawut Thawornsiri said.

But Prawut said he could not confirm if the arrested man was the chief suspect seen on CCTV footage leaving a bag at the site of the Aug. 17 blast, which killed 20 people and stunned Thailand.

The arrested man was also involved in a second smaller explosion in Bangkok on Aug. 18, Prawut said.

Thai police have issued arrest warrants for three more foreign male suspects, he said.—Reuters

Indonesian employers resist workers' calls for higher wages

JAKARTA — An Indonesian employers association labelled workers' demands for steep annual wage hikes as "unrealistic" on Tuesday, and warned there could be more layoffs at companies struggling amid a slowdown in Southeast Asia's largest economy.

Labour-intensive sectors like manufacturing and mining have shed thousands of jobs in recent months as economic growth in the second quarter slowed to its weakest pace in six years.

"The economy is slowing and companies all over the country are already either closing down or cutting jobs," said Hariyadi Sukamdani, head of the Indonesian Employers Association.

"And this could get worse if the annual wage increase is too high," he said, adding that firms

in the association had cut 50,000 jobs since January.

Thousands of workers marched in several cities on Tuesday to protest layoffs and call for higher wages as they contend with rising food prices that made Indonesia's annual inflation stay above 7 percent in August, the highest in the region.

Union leaders have called for at least a 22 percent rise in minimum wage in the capital Jakarta, which is seen as a bellwether for the rest of the country. Jakarta last year saw a rise of 11 percent in its minimum wage to 2.7 million rupiah (\$191.56) a month. Annual negotiations are getting underway between workers, employers, and local administrations to determine minimum wages later this year.

Unemployment in Southeast Asia's largest economy stood at



Central Jakarta police chief Hendro Pandowo stands next to razor wire as Indonesian trade union workers hold a protest outside the Presidential Palace in Jakarta September 1, 2015.—REUTERS

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.

"We realize economic conditions in Indonesia are not very good at the moment, but the gov-

ernment needs to realize it's the workers and poor people who get hit the hardest," said Bambang, a Jakarta factory worker who had participated in the rallies.

"We are the ones who need to be protected."—Reuters



School children wearing padded hoods to protect them from falling debris, prepare to evacuate during an earthquake simulation exercise at an elementary school in Tokyo September 1, 2015. —REUTERS

Japan holds annual disaster drills nationwide

TOKYO — Japan held antidisaster drills across the country on Tuesday to test emergency response systems, with around 1.67 million people in 34 of the 47 prefectures taking part. On the 92nd anniversary of a massive 1923 earthquake in the Tokyo area, the central government held a drill based on the scenario that a magnitude 7.3 earthquake had occurred in western Tokyo in the morning, while local governments held similar drills. The annual exercise was held as Japan seeks to establish an effective disaster prevention and mitigation system in view of a possible major earthquake in western Japan.

The country experienced a devastating earthquake in northeastern Japan in March 2011, and has seen a series of volcanic eruptions in the past year. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe summoned an emergency headquarters' meeting and attended a teleconference with the Tokyo metropolitan emergency headquarters to check the steps for grasping the extent of the disaster. "The government will put top priority on protecting people's lives and focus all of its power to counter" disasters, Abe said at a subsequent press conference, urging citizens to remain calm and try to obtain accurate information when emergencies occur. Other local drills involved transporting casualties and medical teams between airports and Self-Defense Forces facilities using helicopters and transport aircraft. Sept. 1 is known in Japan as Disaster Prevention Day, after the magnitude-7.9 earthquake that hit the Kanto region including Tokyo on the same day in 1923, claiming the lives of over 105,000 people.—Kyodo News

S Korea to demand Japanese daily remove article insulting Park

SEOUL — South Korea has decided to demand that The Sankei Shimbun, a Japanese conservative daily, retract a column it published on Monday on grounds that it seriously insulted President Park Geun-hye, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

"We plan to demand for the retraction of the column and an assurance that similar things will never recur," the official said.

The column has drawn criticism in South Korea for having likened Park to Empress Myeongseong, who was assassinated by Japanese agents in 1895 after aligning herself with Russia in the wake of Japan's victory over China in the First Sino-Japanese War. It criticized as "toadyism" Park's plan to attend a military parade set for Thursday in Beijing to commemorate what China calls its victory in its war against Japanese aggression. As for how the demand will be made to the newspaper, Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kwang Il said the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo will do it "through an appropriate way." "It's not worthwhile at all to make a comment on some figures in Japan and a related news organization distorting the historical facts and repeating shameless claims," Noh told reporters. In October 2014, South Korean prosecutors indicted the Seoul bureau chief of The Sankei Shimbun for allegedly defaming Park in a column, in a move that raised questions about South Korea's media freedom.—Kyodo News

Referendum to decide preferred alternative to current NZ flag

SYDNEY — New Zealand on Tuesday unveiled a shortlist of four flags, which will be voted on in the coming months in a national referendum and may replace its century-old national flag.

A national referendum to be conducted from Nov. 20 for three weeks will see voters asked to rank their preferred design based on the four shortlisted by the government-appointed Flag Consideration Panel. Three of the four designs feature the silver fern, a New Zealand native plant, in various colors. The multiple points of the fern leaf represents New Zealand's peaceful multicultural society, and

the single fern spreading upwards represents that New Zealanders are all one people growing onward into the future, according to a description given about the flag design on a New Zealand government website.

The fourth design features a black-and-white koru, a symbol of creation often used in Maori art, and is based on the shape of an unfurling fern frond. The koru represents new life, growth, strength and peace, according to the description.

None of the shortlisted designs feature the Union Jack, which sits on the top left corner of the current flag and is prominent on flags of

some former British colonies including neighboring Australia. Local media have reported that Prime Minister John Key prefers the silver fern design. The results of the referendum will be announced at a later date which is yet to be decided.

A second referendum scheduled for March will see voters choose between the preferred alternative and the current flag, which has represented the country since 1902. The estimated cost of the project is NZ\$25.7 million (US\$16.4 million), and over 10,000 designs were submitted for consideration.—Kyodo News



Supplied photo shows a shortlist of four flags unveiled on Sept. 1, 2015, by the New Zealand Flag Consideration Panel. A national referendum to be conducted from Nov. 20 for three weeks will see voters asked to rank their preferred design based on the four flags shortlisted. —KYODO NEWS

US State Dept says 150 more Clinton emails have classified information

WASHINGTON — About 150 more of Hillary Clinton's work emails have recently been designated as containing classified information, the US State Department said on Monday ahead of the public release of the latest batch of emails Clinton handed over last year.

The department does not know for sure if any information was classified at the time it was sent or received on the private email server Clinton used for work, department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters.

"It's not an exact science," Toner said in a media briefing, where he described the 150 emails as being "upgraded." "When we've upgraded, we've always said that that certainly does not speak to whether it was classified at the time it was sent."

The latest finding brings the total number of Clinton emails considered to contain classified information to more than 200 when prior batches are included.

The US government forbids transmitting classified information outside secure, government-controlled networks.

Clinton, the front-runner to become the Democratic Party's nominee for next year's presiden-



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton

tial election, has said her use of a private email account connected to a server in her New York home broke no regulations.

She has said she sent no information via email that was classified at the time and received none marked that way.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation now has Clinton's server and is investigating.

Clinton gave the State Department about 55,000 pages of work emails from her four years as secretary of state in December.

Earlier this year, she asked

for them to be made public, and the State Department is now releasing them in monthly batches through January.

The latest batch, due to published on the department's website late Monday evening, contains more than 7,000 pages, Toner said.

The 150 emails with classified information will have sensitive passages redacted.

In earlier releases, more than 60 emails from Clinton and her senior staff were redacted because they contained classified information, though none was originally marked as classified.

More than half of those emails consisted of a special category of classified information, according to the State Department: information shared in confidence by foreign government officials to US counterparts.

The department's regulations say this information "must" be safeguarded as classified. Asked whether Clinton followed these regulations, Toner demurred on Monday.

"I'm just not going to answer that question," Toner said, citing "other reviews" that were under way. "It's not our goal, it's not our function."—Reuters

Cameron promises tough fines for not paying minimum wage



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron speaks to guests at an event to promote investment in the north of England in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 30, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON — British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Tuesday he would introduce tough fines for company bosses who fail to pay the so called 'national living wage' which will hit 9 pounds (\$13.86) an hour by the end of the decade.

The current minimum wage for those aged 21 and over is 6.50 pounds an hour and will rise to 6.70 pounds in October. Osborne said that from April 2016 employers will have to pay a 'national living wage' of at least 7.20 pounds to over-25s.

"The national living wage will only work if it is properly enforced," Cameron said in an article for The Times newspaper

that was published on Tuesday.

"Businesses are responsible for making that happen, and today I'm announcing how we will make sure they do."

Fines for non-payment will double, opening up employers to a penalty of 200 percent of unpaid wages up to a maximum of 20,000 pounds, the Times said.

Bosses who fail to pay face disqualification as company directors for up to 15 years, the newspaper said.

"To unscrupulous employers who think they can get labour on the cheap, the message is clear: underpay your staff, and you will pay the price," Cameron said.—Reuters

Turkish police raid offices of conglomerate close to cleric Gulen — NTV

ISTANBUL — Turkish police raided the offices of a Turkish conglomerate and media group with close links to US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, a fierce critic and rival of President Tayyip Erdogan, Turkish media reported on Tuesday.

Broadcaster NTV said police were searching the premises of the Koza-Ipek Group in the capital Ankara.

Neither company representatives nor the police were avail-

able to comment despite repeated attempts to contact them.

Late last year, police detained dozens of people in raids on media outlets with ties to Gulen, whom Erdogan accuses of establishing a parallel structure in the state through his supporters in the judiciary, police and other institutions, and of wielding influence through the media.

The Koza-Ipek group is active in sectors including media, energy and mining.—Reuters

Migrants protest as Hungary shuts Budapest train station

BUDAPEST — Hundreds of angry migrants demonstrated outside Budapest's shuttered Eastern Railway Terminus on Tuesday, demanding that the station be reopened and they be allowed to travel on to Germany, a Reuters reporter at the scene said.

Migrants waved tickets, clapping, booing and hissing, and shouting "Germany, Ger-

many" with police lined up at the entrance to the station.

Government spokesman Zoltan Kovacs, when asked why the railway terminus was closed, told Reuters in an e-mailed statement that Hungary was trying to enforce EU law, which requires anyone who wishes to travel within Europe to hold a valid passport and a Schengen visa.—Reuters

Hungary closes main Budapest station, hundreds of migrants waiting

BUDAPEST — Hungary closed Budapest's main Eastern Railway station on Tuesday morning with no trains departing or arriving until further notice, a spokesman for state railway company MAV said.

There are hundreds of migrants waiting at the station.

People have been told to leave the station and police have lined up at the main entrance, national news agency MTI reported.

Trainloads of migrants arrived in Austria and Germany from Hungary on Monday as European Union asylum rules collapsed under the strain of a wave of migration unprecedented in the EU.—Reuters



Hungarian police officers watch migrants outside the main Eastern Railway station in Budapest, Hungary, September 1, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 2 September, 2015

The link between safety and peace

By Myint Win Thein

FOR thousands of years, humans have wielded weapons as a means of self protection. After the division of labour occurred, the use of weapons was limited to cer-

tain members of the community, which allowed others to forget altogether about carrying weapons and do other things. However this does not mean that such persons would hesitate to pick up arms if the need arose, whether that be due to a new threat or from losing trust in those responsible for protecting them.

Myanmar has been trying to restore peace with its ethnic minorities for decades, but success remains elusive. The main reason for this is because the rights of ethnic minority groups lack genuine protection. The current political situation makes them feel vulnerable, so they refuse to put down their arms. It is vital to ensure that every member of every ethnic group feels safe from harm. Failing to do so will render peace

building efforts futile. And we'll continue to read the oft-repeated line, 'Successive governments have tried to restore peace with ethnic minorities for decades without success for various reasons...'

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.

A Study of Myanmar Puppetry (Part II)

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu, Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

The nature and characteristics of Myanmar puppetry

In olden days, Myanmar puppet show was called "Amyint Thabin" [အမြင့်သဘင်] literally translated, it was "performance on the high level", because it was performed on a raised platform or stage high above the ground. All other entertainments were performed on the grounds. So these on ground performances were called "Aneint Thabin" [အနိမ့်သဘင်] that is performance on the low level.

Many conventions, traditions and taboos govern the Myanmar puppetry and puppet show. Rules and regulations were prescribed regarding the carving of the puppet figures, hairdos, dresses, jewellery, makeup, consecrations of the puppet figures, protocol of puppet figures, construction of puppet stage, the procedure of puppet performance, qualification of puppeteers and gender discrimination.

Only the authorized sculptors who had the puppet tradition were allowed to make puppet figures. Traditionally there are minimum twenty-eight puppets in the show, namely (a) **two** nat [spirit] votaresses (b) **one** horse (c) **two** elephants [one black and the other white], (d) **one** male tiger (e) **one** male monkey (f) **one** parakeet (g) **two** ogres (h) **one** zawgyi [necromancer or alchemist] (i) **one** dragon (j) **one** garuda [mythical bird], (k) **one** deva (l) **four** ministers [two with red gowns and two with green gowns] (m) **one** king (n) **one** prince (o) **one** princess (p)

two prince regents (q) **one** astrologer (r) **one** hermit (s) **one** old woman and (t) **two** court jesters. However there are different versions. As the above characters are most common in the plays performed by puppeteers the total number 28 is the minimum which is enough for the performance of any play, because the themes and plots are invariably taken from the 550 Jatakas [Buddha's birth stories.]. Fables and historical episodes are occasionally reenacted.

The making of the puppet figures

The puppet sculptors are required to observe the strict rules regarding the choice of the prescribed type of wood for carving particular figures, the prescribed proportions of the figures befitting their roles and correct human anatomy including gender organs. Thus, for example, figures of deva, king, and hermit are to be made of Ayekayit wood [*millingtonia hortensis*], the figures of horse, elephant, human and nat-spirits are to be made of Yamanay wood [*Gmelina arborea*]. All the rest are to be made of Letpan wood or Thanthut wood.

The prescribed proportions of the puppet figures were described in rhymes, so that the puppet figure makers could easily memorize. The following is one such rhyme:

For further detail on this

aspect of Myanmar puppetry the writer recommend the readers a series of learned research articles titles "Anatomy of Myanmar Puppets" by Dr. Tin Maung Kyi which appeared in the August to December issues of the Guardian monthly magazines 1992. He is a medical doctor by profession but his live long hobby is Myanmar puppetry. He himself is carving puppet figures.

Two classifications of the puppet figures

After the puppet figures are carved according to the prescribed rules and conventions and correctly dressed, richly adorned and ornamented, they are classified into two categories namely the right group and the left group. To the right group belong (1) the hermit (2) the deva (3) the king (4) the ministers (5) the prince (6) the princess (7) the astrologer (8) the zawgyi [necromancer or alchemist] whereas (1) nat votaress (2) the horse (3) the tiger (4) the elephant (5) the monkey (6) the parakeet (7) the ogres (8) the dragon (9) the garuda (1) the old woman and (11) the court jesters form the left group. They are kept in two separate chests – the right chest for the right group and the left chest for the left group. When they are hung up on the bar at the rear of the stage, similar protocol order is followed. The right group puppets hung on the right side of the bar and the left group puppets on its left side.

The rite of consecration "La-maing Tin Pwe" [Putting life into the figures]

A special rite is necessary to animate [to give life to] the wooden puppet figures. It is called "La-maing Tin." "La-maing" is a guardian nat-spirit to be



Myanmar puppeteers staging marionette show.—PHOTO SUPPLIED BY DAW MA MA NAING

propitiated in cultivation, hunting and performing arts. Tin means to offer something to propitiate. Offerings are a green coconut placed in the middle of a raised tray, three bunches of bananas are arranged around it. White and red ribbons are adorned on the coconut. Packets of pickled tea and betel nuts with betel are placed between bunches of bananas. Flowers and Thabyey [Eugenia Sprigs] glutinous rice, fried fish and rice cake are offered. Incense sticks and candles are lit. Either spirit medium or senior puppeteer invoked the La-maing spirit

in a sing song chant with the accompaniment of the music of the musical ensemble. All manipulators pulling the strings of puppet figures in a worshipping style pay homage to the arriving La-maing spirit many times telling her to awaken the puppet figures and to give her help in every performance and no disturbance and hindrance of any kind. La-maing nat spirit is a female spirit. She is the daughter of the wise Sage "Kawa- La-maing" whom Saka Deva [Thunder God] and the Asi Brahman consulted regarding the solution of their heatedly contended

mathematical problem. She inherited all wisdom and power from her father. She is propitiated for good harvest by farmers, for good games by hunters and good success by performing artists.

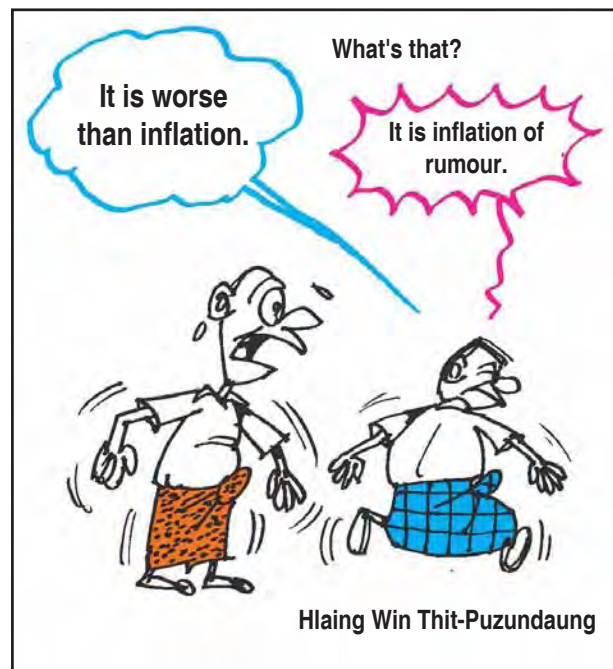
After performing this rite, the "consecrated" puppet figures are believed to be animated, as such they are regarded as "alive" and the puppeteers treat them as though they were their children. The puppeteers have now parental duty to look after the welfare of their puppet children. The puppets are now ready for performance.

(See page 9)

Deputy Attorney-General receives international legal expert

A delegation led by international legal expert Ms Anne Gallagher of the United Nations called on Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo at the hall of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They discussed Myanmar's cooperation with other countries in criminal cases, legal affairs and trafficking in persons.—MNA



Regions and States receive lifeboats for rescue works

The Fire Services Department has distributed 100 lifeboats, donated by the People's Republic of China, to regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The 40-Hp lifeboats equipped with modern rescue facilities can carry 10-15 persons each. Each fiber glass lifeboat is worth US\$16,129.

The department delivered one life boat to Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, five to Kachin State, one to Kayah State, five to Kayin State, one to Chin State, 11 to Sagaing Region, four to



Rescuers demonstrate skills with the use of lifeboat.—Win Win Maw

Taninthayi Region, eight to Bago Region, six to Magway Region, eight to Mandalay Region, three to

Mon State, nine to Rakhine State, five to Yangon Region, eight to Shan State and 10 to Ayeyawady Re-

gion, including five to FSD Head Office in Nay Pyi Taw and 10 in Yangon Branch.—Win Win Maw

US\$65m in government funds spent on flood relief

The government has spent K84.444 billion (US\$65.8m) from a special fund to provide relief and rehabilitation to flood-hit victims since the start of June, according to information received from Myanmar News Agency on

1 September.

Some of the funds have gone towards lessening the impact of future natural disasters through preparedness projects.

Meanwhile, the President's Office released an announcement on 31 August

that reiterated its commitment to repair damage and restore livelihoods to flood-hit communities in Chin and Rakhine states and Sagaing and Magway regions. It urged the natural disaster management committee to intensify its efforts to min-

imise the destructive impact of the floods, to evacuate residents left homeless or needy and continue rehabilitation and resettlement projects for residents in Bago and Ayeyawady regions, as well as Kachin, Kayin and Mon States.—GNLM

A Study of Myanmar Puppetry (Part II)

(from page 8)

Special stage for the puppet show

As the performance area is frontal and horizontal the stage for the puppet show has longer length in the front than it is in the rear. It measures about 25 feet in the front, about 16 feet in the rear and about 20 feet in depth. It slopes from the rear to the front. Actual performance area is much smaller and the major space of the stage is occupied by the puppeteers and their belongings. The bamboo bar behind which the manipulators stand is about four feet high. A space of about 2 to 3 feet on either side of the stage front is left unbarred for the entry of the puppets. The bar is overhung with a long black cloth to conceal the puppeteers as well as black strings of the puppets and to serve as a back drop. Right in the middle of the bar is also another entrance but it is covered when not in use.

In constructing the puppet stage only bamboo and thatch or *dani* [nipa palm] or *in* leaves of a timber tree [*Dipterocarpus tuberculatus*] must be used. Other materials are tabooed. The façade of the stage is decorated with a

hanging of a white cloth curtain, the motif of lotus petals. Scene change is done by music and symbolic stage setting. For example, if a bunch of green leaves or a branch of tree is set up in the middle of the performance area it is a forest scene. A court scene is presented by a throne, with two white umbrellas either side and the music of the court.

The site for the stage is either in the open space in the paddy field, in the precincts of pagoda or the compound of the monastery if the abbot permits.

The music troupe occupies the ground right in front of the stage. It is the same type of music used in drama "zat saing" ဇာတ်ဆိုင်း. The musical ensemble is composed of (1) one *pat-waing* or a circle of 21 drums in the order of seven tones in three sets – totaling 21 (2) one *kyi waing* or bronze gongs circle of 18 bronze gongs (3) a big double face drum called *Pat magyi* (4) a set of six drumlets called *Chauk Lone pat* (5) one *sit-toe* drum (6) one *sa-kunt* (7) one *bon-taung* (8) one set of six bronze gongs called *maung saing* (9) none big and one small oboe plus a



Young puppeteers show their skills.—PHOTO SUPPLIED BY DAW MA MA NAING

bamboo flute (10) a pair of big bronze cymbals (11) two to four bamboo clappers called *Wa Let Khut* (12) a big gong called ခြောက်စာ: for announcement or royal proclamation.

Gender discrimination of traditional puppet shows

Myanmar traditional puppet show used to be an exclusively man's world. No

fairer gender was allowed. The roles of both genders were played by men. It is believed that nat-spirits do not allow fairer gender on the stage. Besides, in olden days feminine modesty and dignity inhibited Myanmar women to appear in public on the stage with men. In other cultures also, in early days performing arts were

the monopoly of men. For example in Shakespeare's play of Elizabethan Age women's roles were played by men. In Japan till today Kabukee is the play performed by men only. In the performance of Ramayana and Mahabarata also men took all roles. Women felt socially inhibited to appear on stage.

Since Myanmar regained independence that masculine monopoly was gradually done away with as women flowed into all fields of professions. Today in Myanmar the world of performing arts is populated more by fairer gender than their male counterparts.

Islamist militants attack African Union base in southern Somalia

Five Palestinians, Israeli policeman wounded in West Bank raid

MOGADISHU — Al Shabaab militants attacked an African Union (AU) base in southern Somalia early on Tuesday, the Islamist group and residents said, and said they had killed dozens of soldiers.

The al Qaeda-aligned militants said one of their fighters rammed a car bomb into the base and then gunmen poured inside the facility run by the AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia, AMISOM.

Al Shabaab said 50 peacekeepers were killed in the attack on Janale base, about 90 km (55 miles) south of the capital, Mogadishu. In the past, the group has exaggerated the number of troops it has killed and officials have played down losses.

“Now Janale base of AMISOM is under our control,” Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, Al Shabaab’s military operations spokesman, told Reuters.

AMISOM disputed al Shabaab’s claims that the militants had routed its peacekeepers.

“AMISOM can confirm that the base is still under AMISOM control. Reports that the base

has been taken over and our weapons captured are false,” the AU peacekeeping force said on its Twitter feed, without giving details on casualties.

Captain Bilow Idow, a Somali military officer based in a town near Janale, said the base was effectively cut off as the militants had destroyed a nearby bridge.

“No reinforcement can reach there,” Idow said. “There is much death and damage.”

Government officials could not be reached for comment.

“After morning prayers we heard a big explosion followed by heavy gunfire in the AMISOM base. We do not have further details as we are indoors,” Janale resident Ahmed Olow told Reuters.

Al Shabaab, which wants to topple a Western-backed government and impose its own strict interpretation of Islam on Somalia, has also carried out attacks against neighbouring countries such as Kenya and Uganda to retaliate for troops being sent to Somalia as part of the AU peacekeeping force.—Reuters

JERUSALEM — Five Palestinians and an Israeli border policeman were wounded in a raid in the occupied West Bank to arrest a Hamas militant, the Israeli army and local medical officials said on Tuesday.

The fate of the wanted man was not immediately clear. The army said soldiers demolished a house, in the city of Jenin, in which he was suspected of hiding, after they were shot at.

A Hamas source in Jenin said the suspect was Bassam al-Saadi, a member of the Islamic

Jihad group. The source said two Hamas activists were detained by the Israeli forces.

In a statement, the army said hundreds of Palestinians had gathered at the scene during the operation late on Monday and that the crowd threw rocks and petrol bombs at the soldiers.

Palestinian medical officials said five Palestinians were wounded by rubber bullets. Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon, in speech on security issues in Tel Aviv, said a member of an Israeli special forces unit

was shot and wounded, apparently by friendly fire.

Israeli troops frequently enter Palestinian-controlled territory to detain people suspected of militant activity.

Palestinian officials condemn this practice as an encroachment on the limited self-rule they hold in parts of the West Bank. Palestinian militant groups have accused the Western-backed Palestinian Authority, which cooperates with Israel on security, of turning a blind eye to such operations.—Reuters

Car bomb damages Italy’s ENI joint venture office in Libyan capital

TRIPOLI — A car bomb went off in Libya’s capital Tripoli on Monday in front of the headquarters of Mellitah, an oil and gas joint venture between Italy’s ENI (ENI.MI) and Libyan state oil firm NOC, witnesses said.

“The explosion damaged the buildings around the ENI complex and burned three cars,” said Omar Khadrwai, a senior security official. “No one was hurt.”

A Reuters reporter said there were broken windows and

damaged doors at the building located next to a state bank.

In a text message, an ENI spokesman played down the extent of the damage. “Nobody wounded and no significant damage to the office buildings,” he said. ENI’s joint venture partner NOC said in a statement the blast had caused only minor damage and would not impact Mellitah’s operations.

ENI is still active in Libya, a major oil producer gripped by chaos and fighting. Like other

Western companies, ENI has withdrawn expatriate staff.

Mellitah’s biggest asset, the El Feel oilfield, has been closed for months due to a protest by local security guards. The Wafa oil and gas field and its offshore operations are still working. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the car bombing. Islamic State has claimed in the past a string of killings of foreigners as well as attacks on embassies and oil fields in Libya.—Reuters

Roadside bomb kills 6 civilians, wounds 3 in Afghanistan

GHAZNI, (Afghanistan) — A roadside bomb claimed the lives of six civilians including three children and injured three others in the eastern Ghazni province of Afghanistan with Ghazni city as its capital, 125 km south of Kabul on Tuesday, spokesman for provincial government Shafiq Nang said.

“Six innocent civilians including a man, two women and three children were killed and three more innocent children sustained injuries as a roadside bomb organized by militants struck a vehicle in Deyak district in the morning rush hour today,” Nang told Xinhua.

Without giving more details, the official said that investigation has been initiated into the case.

Civilians often bear the brunt of war in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan as 1,592 civilians had been killed and 3,329 others injured in the first six months of this year, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in report released here early August. —Xinhua

Gunmen kill two Yemeni militia leaders in Aden

ADEN, (Yemen) — Unidentified gunmen on motorbikes shot dead two leaders of the loyalist militia controlling the southern Yemeni port of Aden in separate attacks on Monday, officials said.

Rasheed Khaled Saif and Hamdi al-Shutairi were military leaders of the Popular Southern Resistance, a loose alliance which fought the siege of the city by Houthi militia forces with support from Gulf Arab states.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the killings, which followed the shooting of a senior security official in Aden on Sunday.

Militias loyal to exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who is currently based in Saudi Arabia, recaptured Aden in July.

Since then, a power vacuum has grown, with Al Qaeda militants moving into a main neighbourhood and unknown assailants blowing up the intelligence headquarters.

Residents have complained that police have largely quit the streets and that despite the victory against the Houthis, Hadi’s government has yet to return from Saudi Arabia.



A Houthi militant walks past graffiti painted by pro-Houthi activists on the gate of the Saudi embassy in Yemen’s capital Sanaa August 31, 2015.—REUTERS

Plans to set up a temporary administration in Aden have been dogged by the chaos.

“We finished the war and the Houthis, but this series of assassinations is really worrying us. There’s a security vacuum, the people hope some kind of authority can be established and

the police will be deployed so we can be put at ease,” said local construction worker Mohammed Ahmed Salem.

The northern-based Houtis seized the capital Sanaa in September 2014 then took control of much of the country. Loyalist forces, supported by air strikes

from a Saudi-led coalition, have made significant advances since July however.

Gulf states see the Houthis as a proxy of their archrival Iran, while the group says it is fighting a revolution against corrupt officials beholden to the West.—Reuters

SpaceX rocket grounded for 'couple more months,' company says

CAPE CANAVERAL — SpaceX plans to keep its Falcon 9 rocket grounded longer than planned following a launch accident in June that destroyed a space station cargo ship, the company president said on Monday.

The privately held company, owned and operated by technology entrepreneur Elon Musk, previously had slated Falcon 9's next flight for no earlier than September. "We're taking more time than we originally envisioned, but I don't think any one of our customers wants us to race to the cliff and fail again," SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell said at a webcast panel discussion at the AIAA Space 2015 conference in Pasadena, California.

The company is "a couple of months away from the next flight," she added. The June 28 accident is believed to have been triggered by a flawed support strut in the rocket's upper-stage engine.

The metal strut broke about two minutes after the rocket lifted off from Florida, releasing a bottle of helium that caused the second-stage engine to become over-pressurized. Seconds later,



The unmanned SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the Dragon capsule waits for its launch to the International Space Station, on Launch Complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida in this April 13, 2015 file photo.—REUTERS

the rocket exploded over the Atlantic Ocean. A Dragon cargo ship was destroyed when it hit the water.

The accident, along with the

failed Oct. 28 launch of an Orbital ATK Antares rocket, has left NASA dependent on Russia and Japan to resupply the \$100 billion International Space Station, a re-

search laboratory that flies about 250 miles (400 km) above Earth.

SpaceX also has been cleared to compete against industry stalwart United Launch Alliance, a

partnership of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co, to fly US military satellites.

SpaceX has a backlog of nearly 60 launches, worth more than \$7 billion, on its schedule.

The cause of the June accident is "an easy problem to go fix," Shotwell said, adding the company would take extra time to "make sure we're not seeing something like that anywhere throughout the vehicle or the supply chain."

The next mission on SpaceX's launch calendar had been a US government ocean-monitoring satellite called Jason 3, but Shotwell indicated that a commercial communications satellite would move to the front of the line.

Luxembourg-based SES SA has a contract to fly on the first Falcon 9 rocket that features an upgraded first-stage engine.

"We rely on SpaceX and we have full confidence in them," SES spokesman Markus Payer said. The Falcon upgrade will better position SpaceX to land its rockets at the launch site so they can be refurbished and reflown. The Jason 3 satellite is slated to fly aboard the standard Falcon 9.—Reuters

90 pct of seabirds now eating plastic: study



WASHINGTON — About 90 percent of the world's seabirds today have consumed some form of plastic, a study estimated Monday.

The study, published in the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, is important in revealing the pervasive impact of plastic on seabirds.

"This is a huge amount and really points to the ubiquity of plastic pollution," lead author Chris Wilcox, a senior research scientist at Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) Oceans and Atmosphere Business Unit, said in a statement.

The investigators' analysis of studies published since the early 1960s showed that plastic is increasingly common in seabirds' stomachs.

In 1960, plastic was found in the stomachs of less than five percent of seabirds; by 2010 that figure had risen to 80 percent.

Based on current trends, the researchers predicted that plastic ingestion will affect 99 percent of the world's seabird species by 2050.

The plethora of plastic comes from bags, bottle caps and plastic fibers from synthetic clothes that have washed out into the ocean from urban rivers, sewers and waste deposits.

Birds mistake the brightly colored items for food or swallow them by accident, and this causes gut impaction, weight loss and sometimes death, they said.

The researchers also found that the highest area of potential impact might be in the Tasman Sea, between Australia and New Zealand.

There was still the opportunity to change the impact plastic had on seabirds, they noted.

"Improving waste management can reduce the threat plastic is posing to marine wildlife," said study coauthor Denise Hardesty from CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere Business Unit.—Xinhua

Fukushima-related child cancers unlikely to rise: IAEA

UNITED NATIONS — An increase in thyroid cancer among children is unlikely after the meltdown at Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant four years ago, but it remains unclear exactly how much radiation children in the vicinity of the plant were exposed to, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog said in a report released on Monday.

Increased thyroid cancer is generally the leading health concern after exposure to nuclear radiation, but that may not be the case after the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi plant in March 2011, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency said.

"Because the reported thyroid doses attributable to the accident were generally low, an increase in childhood thyroid cancer attributable to the accident is unlikely," the report said.

"However, uncertainties remained concerning the thyroid equivalent doses incurred by children immediately after the accident," it added.

Those uncertainties are largely due to a lack of reliable personal radiation monitoring data immediately after the accident, which released radioiodine and other radioactive materials into the environment, the report said. In the case of Fukushima, the earthquake and following tsunami cut off power to the plant and made emergency response measures difficult, if not impossible, to implement.

Adding to the uncertainty was the fact that the administration of "stable iodine" to protect children's thyroid glands was not done uniformly at the time, "primarily due to the lack of detailed arrangements," the report said.

Detailed screening of children's thyroid glands is being undertaken now in Japan as part of a survey aimed at the early detection and treatment of diseases.

The report highlighted areas where improvements were needed in the wake of the Fukushima accident. The IAEA said more sustainable solutions were needed for the management of highly radioactive water and radioactive waste being collected at the plant, "including

the possible resumption of controlled discharge into the sea."

It added that countries should prepare detailed scenarios and train workers for coping with worst-case natural disasters, including situations where more than one disaster is combined with a nuclear accident. They should also plan for clean-up operations in the wake of such incidents.

The report also called for strengthened international cooperation in the event of such accidents.

Japan began encouraging residents to return to homes 12 miles (19 km) from the plant last year, but many residents have mixed feelings about returning to abandoned towns.—Reuters



A worker takes radiation readings on the window of a bus at the screening point of the Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima prefecture June 12, 2013.—REUTERS

With glaciers as backdrop, Obama uses Alaska trip to push climate agenda

ANCHORAGE, (Alaska) — President Barack Obama arrived in Alaska on Monday for a three-day tour aimed at showing how the state's melting permafrost and eroding coastlines are a preview of bigger disasters to come unless the world does more to slow climate change.

With 16 months left in office, Obama is trying to build support for tough new rules on carbon emissions from power plants ahead of a hoped-for international climate deal at a U.N. summit in Paris in December that could cement his legacy on the issue.

"None of the nations represented here are moving fast enough," Obama told a meeting of foreign ministers from countries with Arctic interests.

"This year, in Paris, must be the year that the world finally reaches an agreement to protect the one planet we've got while we still can," Obama said.

The White House has said Obama will announce new policies this week to help Arctic communities adapt to climate change.

But the main purpose of his trip is to draw attention to the threats facing the state to convince Americans to reduce fossil fuel use and boost renewable energy production.

"It's a really important punctuation mark on what he's saying is a top priority for him," said Sharon Burke, a former Pentagon official who worked on energy issues for Obama.

The hype for the tour began on Sunday with an announcement that Obama would rename North America's tallest mountain as Denali, restoring the traditional Alaska native name to what maps and tourists currently call Mount McKinley.

Obama snapped a photo of Denali from Air Force One and posted it on Instagram shortly before meeting with a group of native leaders on the ground.

"They described for me villages that are slipping into the sea," Obama said. "It's urgent for them today, but that is the future for all of us if we don't take care."

He spent part of his seven-hour flight to Alaska talking with Governor Bill Walker, who said he thanked Obama for a recent decision to allow Royal Dutch Shell to drill in the Chukchi Sea.

Environmental groups have howled about that move, saying it contradicts Obama's message on climate. "Shell no!" a small group of protesters shouted outside the Arctic summit, waving skulls made to look like the company's logo.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Obama plans to head out of Anchorage to hike the receding Exit Glacier in Seward, visit the salmon fishing center of Dillingham and then fly north of the Arctic Circle to the small town of Kotzebue.

"People are just beside themselves. They're probably not going to believe it until he's actually here," said John Baker, a Kotzebue resident famous for being the first Alaskan Inupiaq to win the Iditarod sled dog race in 2011.—Reuters

Japanese fishing boat returns home after Russia's seizure in July

KUSHIRO, (Japan) — A Japanese salmon fishing boat seized by Russian authorities on July 17 for fishing more than allowed returned home Tuesday.

The Hoko Maru No. 10 arrived early Tuesday morning at Hanasaki Port in Nemuro in Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido from Kunashiri, one of the Russian-held islands claimed by Japan.

Skipper Masato Ito, 60, and 10 other crew members on the 29-ton ship had been operating in Russia's exclusive economic zones in early July. The ship was seized for exceeding the sockeye salmon quota by more than 470 kilograms by Russian border guards on July 17 at a checkpoint about 50 kilometers southeast of Cape Nosappu in Nemuro.

A court on Kunashiri ordered captain Ito on Aug. 20 to pay a fine of 200,000 rubles (\$3,100) for illegal fishing. The vessel was not confiscated. While the crewmembers were not detained, they had to stay on the boat offshore until the ship was allowed to leave Monday.—Kyodo News



Photo taken Sept. 1, 2015, at a port in Japan's northeastern city of Nemuro shows a Japanese salmon fishing boat, the Hoko Maru No. 10, which was seized by Russian authorities in July for fishing more than its quota.—Kyodo News

Fire in Venezuela prison kills 17 people, prosecutor says

CARACAS — A fire at Venezuela's central Tocuyito prison killed 17 people and injured 11 early on Monday, the state prosecutor said in a statement.

Eight women and nine men were killed by the fire at the prison in the state of Carabobo, the statement said. The cause of the blaze was being

investigated but there was no immediate indication of how it started, it said.

Carlos Nieto, director of prison rights group Window To Freedom, said inmates told him an electrical fault had caused the fire. "It was due to negligence by authorities in not having adequate prison conditions," Nieto said.

Prison authorities did not respond to requests for comment.

Jails in Venezuela are severely overcrowded, housing 55,000 inmates even though they are designed for around a third of that number, Nieto said.

Riots, breakouts and deaths are common. Jails are often run by heavily armed inmates who have easy access to drugs and cellphones.

In October, authorities relocated more than half Tocuyito's inmates, or just over 2,000 people.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Traditional Chuka drummers celebrate as they welcome the national athletics team at the Jomo Kenyatta airport in Nairobi, Kenya, September 1, 2015, after they topped the medals table at the recently concluded 15th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships at the National Stadium in Beijing, China.—REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (139N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (139N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SIMON SCHULTE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIMON SCHULTE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 F.H BERTLING CHARTERING
& SHIP MANAGEMENT PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

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

(14/2015)

Open tenders are 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	US\$
(2)	IFB-045(15-16)	Well Control Accessories (9) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-046(15-16)	Spares for Mack Oil Field Truck (17) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-047(15-16)	Spares for Well Servicing Truck (1) Item	US\$
(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

IMF's Lagarde sees weaker-than-expected global economic growth

JAKARTA — Global economic growth is likely to be weaker than earlier expected, the head of the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday, due to a slower recovery in advanced economies and a further slowdown in emerging nations.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde also warned emerging economies like Indonesia to "be vigilant for spillovers" from China's slowdown, tighter global fi-

nancial conditions, and the prospects of a US interest rate hike.

"Overall, we expect global growth to remain moderate and likely weaker than we anticipated last July," Lagarde said in a prepared speech at the start of a two-day visit to Indonesia's capital.

The IMF in July forecast global growth at 3.3 percent this year, slightly below last year's 3.4 percent.

Lagarde said China's economy was slowing, although not sharply or unexpectedly, as it adjusts to a new growth model.

"The transition to a more market-based economy and the unwinding of risks built up in recent years is complex and could well be somewhat bumpy," she said.

"That said, the authorities have the policy tools and financial buffers to manage this transition."—Reuters

Three dead, two missing after fishing boats capsize in southwest Japan

NAGASAKI — Three people are dead and two others missing after six fishing boats capsized in southwestern Japan early Tuesday, the Japan Coast Guard said, as a low pressure system brought strong winds and heavy rain to the region. Five fishing boats capsized off Tsushima Island in Nagasaki Prefecture and eight crew members were thrown into the sea.

Seven of the eight crew members were pulled from the water but three were later confirmed dead, while another remains missing. Two of the boats requested help around 3:40 a.m., according to the coast guard.—Kyodo News

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 2nd September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Chin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in the Upper Sagaing Region and Chin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Malaysia, France discuss on interest to purchase Mistral warships



France's Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (L) and Malaysia's Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein leave a news conference about Malaysia's proposed purchase of France's Rafale fighter jets in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, September 1, 2015.—REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian government discussed Tuesday with France on its interest to purchase Mistral helicopter carriers during French Defense Minister's visit to the country, according to

Bernama, Malaysia's state news agency.

It said that Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak held a high-profile meeting with French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and French de-

fense industry representatives at the prime minister's office in Putrajaya, with the attendance of Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein.

It quoted a member of Le Drian's delegation as

saying that the two sides discussed on Malaysia's interest to purchase Mistral helicopter carriers.

Two Mistral helicopter carriers were initially built by France for Russia. However, the deal signed in 2011 was suspended in September 2014 and Paris decided to not deliver the warships to Russia over Moscow's alleged role in the Ukrainian conflict.

France is now looking for other buyers for the two ships, and the French La Tribune newspaper recently suggested that Malaysia was also a possible contender for purchasing one of the Mistral aircraft carriers.

According to La Tribune, Malaysia had been interested in buying an aircraft similar to a Mistral for at least 10 years.—Xinhua



Supplied photo taken Aug. 31, 2015, in Shingu, Wakayama Prefecture, shows film director Keiko Yagi. Kyodo News

Japan film tries to question Oscar-winning antiwhaling documentary

SHINGU, (Japan) — A Japanese filmmaker said Monday she hopes her documentary on whaling in western Japan will shed light on stories not shown in the Oscar-winning 2009 US film “The Cove” that criticized dolphin hunts in Japan.

“I tried to show things hidden in ‘The Cove’ and also the background in which antiwhaling (movements) developed,” said 48-year-old Keiko Yagi, director of “Behind ‘THE COVE’” which was filmed in the whaling town of Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture.

It has long been a practice in Taiji for fishermen to catch dolphins in drive hunts, or herding dolphins into coves by banging metal poles against their fishing boats. The practice, however, has drawn controversy after the documentary “The Cove” showed the actual slaughter of the mammals by the method. Yagi’s film will be screened at the Montreal World Film Festival in Canada on Sept. 4. “I’d like to raise awareness on the whaling issue in the world,” Yagi said at a press conference in Shingu, Wakayama.—Kyodo News

Daniel Craig influences James Bond scripts

LOS ANGELES — James Bond actor Daniel Craig likes to get as involved as he can with the scripts for his iconic character. The 47-year-old actor — who is about to return to the big screen for the new Bond movie “Spectre” — said he likes to have some input into the writing, even if he ends up upsetting some people in the process.

When asked how involved he gets with the scripts, Craig said, “As much as I possibly can without treading on toes, although you have to offend some people sometimes to move on.”—PTI



College finds manuscript of song that inspired ‘Happy Birthday’

NEW YORK — A college librarian in Kentucky has found the 19th-century manuscript of a musical number that gave rise to one of the most widely performed songs in the world, “Happy Birthday to You,” University of Louisville officials said on Monday.

The discovery will likely intensify interest in a high-profile US court case over whether Warner Music Group has a valid copyright to the “Happy Birthday” song and can continue to reap from it an estimated \$2 million in royalties every year.

The university said its library director, James Procell, recently found the only known manuscript of “Good Morning to All,” a melody that the public eventually began to sing with the familiar tribute, “Happy Birthday to You.”

The document was found in a sketch book belonging to Louisville native Mildred Hill, who wrote the “Good Morning” song along with her sister Patty, a kindergarten teacher, and published it in a children’s song book in 1893.

The manuscript and other papers were donated to the library in the 1950s by a friend of the Hill sisters, but were not cataloged. They remained hidden in its archives for decades.

The university made no mention of a copyright notice on the manuscript, and its first page is missing. It is unlikely to have a direct impact on the federal lawsuit, filed by a group of artists who argue the song has been copyright-free for decades, said their lawyer, Mark Rifkin. The artists, a musician and three filmmakers, filed their putative class action against Warner in 2013 seeking a return of the fees Warner has collected over the years for use of the song, mostly in TV and film. Warner’s copyright in the song originates with the Clayton F. Summy Co, later known as Birch Tree and acquired by Warner. Summy had obtained registrations to “Happy Birthday” in 1935, according to court papers.—Reuters



Library director James Procell poses with sheet music for the song Good Morning To All in an undated photo provided by the University of Louisville, Kentucky. REUTERS

Titanic’s last luncheon menu expected to fetch up to \$70,000 at auction

NEW YORK — More than a century after first-class passengers aboard the ill-fated Titanic ate grilled mutton chops and custard pudding in an elaborate dining room, the ship’s last luncheon menu is expected to fetch up to \$70,000 in an online auction, a curator said on Monday.

The luxury cruise liner sank in the Atlantic Ocean on April 15, 1912 after striking an iceberg during its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York.

Tuesday marks 30 years since the wreckage of the ship, which had been dubbed unsinkable, was discovered on the ocean floor by a team of researchers.

The luncheon menu will be auctioned on Sept. 30 by Invaluable, a live online auction house, along with a letter written by one of the ship’s survivors and a ticket from the Titanic’s Turkish baths weighing chair, used to measure a person’s weight.

David Lowenherz, owner of Lion Heart Autographs, the rare manuscripts dealer behind the auction, said only two or three other menus from the ship’s last lunch are known to exist. He estimated the menu at auction would sell for \$50,000 to \$70,000.

The artifacts are all associated with passengers who survived the sinking of the Titanic on Lifeboat No. 1. Nicknamed the “money boat,” it became controversial amid accusations that wealthy passengers bribed crew members to row away from the sinking ship before the



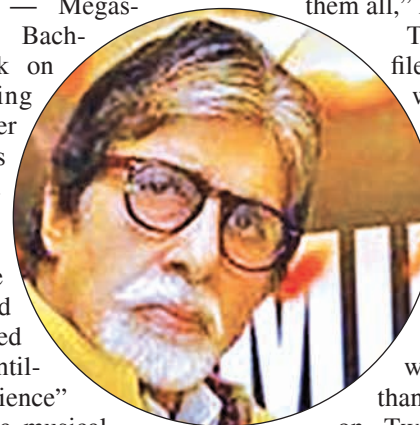
The last first-class luncheon menu from the ill-fated luxury cruise liner, the Titanic, dated August 14, 1912, is seen in this undated handout image courtesy of Lion Heart Autographs. REUTERS

lifeboat was full. About 1,500 people died during the Titanic’s sinking, and third-class passengers suffered the greatest loss. “This is not an anonymous artifact from an anonymous survivor,” Lowenherz said.

“There’s such a story behind the history of the boat and the people who were in it and how their lives were affected by the event,” he said. The menu was saved by first-class passenger Abraham Lincoln Salomon and is signed on the back by Isaac Gerald Frauenthal, a passenger from New York who likely had eaten lunch with Salomon that day, Lowenherz said.—Reuters

Big B resumes Twitter, supports Dharavi kids’ effort

MUMBAI — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan is back on micro-blogging site Twitter after it was hacked and adult sites were planted on it. The 72-year-old actor tweeted about his “scintillating experience” of attending a musical performance by the slum kids of Dharavi. “Moments with the ‘Dharavi Rock Band’... Scintillating experience... RJ Malishka and organisers, well done!! Kids from band of Dharavi, arguably world’s largest slum, were all ‘rag pickers’... Music changed



them all,” he tweeted.

The “Piku” star filed a complaint with the police against the “dirty, abusive” smses that he has been receiving for the past one year.

Bachchan, who boasts more than 16 million fans on Twitter, requested

the police to investigate the matter and take action against the perpetrators.

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

Japan nuclear power outlook bleak despite first reactor restart

TOKYO — The number of Japanese nuclear reactors likely to restart in the next few years has halved, hit by legal challenges and worries about meeting tougher safety standards imposed in the wake of the Fukushima disaster, a Reuters analysis shows.

The country has been inching back to nuclear energy, turning on its first reactor in mid-August after a two-year blackout, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and many in industry looking to cut fuel bills despite widespread public opposition to atomic power.

But the analysis shows that of the other 42 operable reactors remaining in the country, just seven are likely to be turned on in the next few years, down from the 14 predicted in a similar survey last year.

The findings are based on reactor inspection data from industry watchdog the Nuclear Regulation Authority, court rulings and interviews with local authorities, utilities and energy experts. They also show that nine reactors are unlikely to ever restart and that the fate of the remaining 26 looks uncertain.

“Four-and-a-half years after



No.1 (L) and No.2 reactor buildings are pictured at Kyushu Electric Power's Sendai nuclear power station in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima prefecture, Japan, July 8, 2015.—REUTERS

the events started unfolding at Fukushima Daiichi, the Japanese government, the nuclear utilities and the NRA have not succeeded in overcoming complete planning insecurity for investors. The outlook for restarts is as cloudy as ever,” said Mycle Schneider, an independent energy consultant in Paris.

Japan's utilities have been burning liquefied natural gas (LNG) in record quantities to make up for lost nuclear capacity, bolstering international markets

for the fuel.

Legal challenges from local residents have hit all atomic plants, with the country's most nuclear-reliant utility Kansai Electric Power issued with court rulings preventing the restart of four reactors despite two of them already receiving NRA approval to switch on.

Kansai has appealed the judgments but the court cases may take years to resolve if the rulings are not overturned on the first appeal.

Tougher safety standards and stricter implementation of rules since Fukushima have also been hitting restarts. Japan Atomic Power has been battling a regulatory ruling that one of its reactors sits above an active fault, meaning it must be decommissioned.

And highlighting the pitfalls of rebooting the industry, Kyushu Electric was forced to slow the ramp up of power from its Sendai No. 1 reactor after it restarted around mid-August due to problems with pumping equipment. Engineers warn that firing up reactors that have been offline for prolonged periods could be fraught with such troubles.

But offering some hope to nuclear operators, some aging units may be given a new lease of life as the NRA considers applications for operation beyond the standard 40 years.

Two Kansai units, both around 40 years old, are being vetted for extensions. The regulator has said it would be very strict on granting permission, but Kansai is pushing for acceptance of less costly measures on fire-proofing thousands of kilometers of wiring.—Reuters

Tokyo 2020 scraps controversial logo

TOKYO — Tokyo Gov. Yoichi Masuzoe said Tuesday the Tokyo 2020 Olympic organizing committee has scrapped the controversial logo for the Games that has sparked accusations of plagiarism and nationwide scorn.

The organizing committee held an emergency meeting Tuesday afternoon to address the issue, attended by Tokyo 2020 chief Yoshiro Mori, Olympic minister Toshiaki Endo, Masuzoe and Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda.

“I believe the organizing committee made a decision based on various circumstances,” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said. “The Olympics must be one celebrated by the entire public.”

The logo designer, Kenjiro Sano, has been accused of plagiarism by Belgian Olivier Debie, who has filed a lawsuit to prevent use of the design.

Masuzoe spoke ahead of the meeting, saying, “I feel like we’ve been betrayed.”

Sano could not be immediately reached for comment. His firm, however, said, “If we are to announce anything, we will do so through our website.”—Kyodo News



(2-9-2015 07:00 am~3-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Lucky Boy
07:42	Am	A Tourist Destination Of Shan State
07:54	Am	Kyeikhteyyoe: Welcome All
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Gardener: King Orange Plantation
08:39	Am	Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
08:50	Am	Philatelic Pleasure
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Living in off-season
09:39	Am	Traditional Customs of Holy Waso
09:52	Am	Chuang Tha Souvenir Business
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) “Osi”
10:40	Am	Egg Shell
10:49	Am	Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday 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 Visit to Kyauk Kyi
07:43	Pm	Great Minds of Myanmar(Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: Impacts of Social Media (Part-2)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Tapestry - A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
08:45	Pm	Gardener: Rose Plantation
08:51	Pm	Traffic Police

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

Was ‘difficult’ to work with Van Gaal, says Di Maria

PARIS — Angel Di Maria has admitted to clashing with former manager Louis Van Gaal during his ill-fated stint at Manchester United and hinted that his poor relationship with the Dutchman contributed to a dip in his performance.

The former Real Madrid player joined United for a British record 59.7 million pounds (\$92 million) last season, but after an impressive start at Old Trafford, with three goals in his first four games, he suffered a two-month injury layoff and failed to score again in the league.

Towards the end of the season he was regularly left out by Van Gaal and was sold to French champions Paris St Germain for a reported 63 million euros (46.11 million pounds) after the campaign.

“It is difficult to adapt to Van Gaal because he points to his philosophy,” the British media quoted Di Maria as telling ESPN Radio in Argentina, where he is currently on international duty preparing for the game against Bolivia on Saturday.

“Everyone takes what he

wants and does. I started very well with him and then had a couple of clashes.

“There came a time when I did not have a good relationship with Van Gaal and that influences much in a player's mind,” the 27-year-old Argentina winger added.

“At Manchester United I played very well but then got injured. Things did not work out and I also changed my position.

“The coach was the one who decided that and I ended up being more on the bench than in the team.”—Reuters



News Channel in Brief

(2-9-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am	9:30 am
• Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	• Head Line News
6:25 am	9:35 am
• Documentary(Mingun Sayadaw)	• Science and Technology Programme
6:40 am	10:30 am
• Physical Exercises	• Head Line News
7:00 am	11:35 am
• News/ Weather Report	• MRTV's Youth Programme
7:35 am	12:00 noon
• Money Talk Myanmar	• News/ International News/ Weather Report
8:00 am	12:35 pm
• News/ International News	• TV Drama Series
8:35 am	1:30 pm
• People's Talks	• Teleplay

3:00 pm

• News/ International News

4:35 pm

• University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year(Oriental)

5:30 pm

• Head Line News

6:00 pm

• News / Weather Report

7:35 pm

• Documentary

8:00 pm

• News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

• News

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

• Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

Selections announced for women's Olympic football qualifiers



Myanmar Football Federation on Monday announced the names of those selected to represent Myanmar in the second round of the women's Asian Zone qualifiers for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Myanmar's team includes goalkeepers Mya Phu Ngon, Khin Thida Aye and Thanda

Oo, defenders Khin Than Wai, Zin Mar Win, Wai Wai Aung, Phu Pwint Khaing, Zin Mar Tun, Zar Chi Oo, Lily Hlaing and Aye Aye Moe, midfielders San San Maw, Than Than Htwe, Naw Ahlo Wah Phaw, Khin Moe Wai, Aye Myo Myat, Yupa Khaing and May Sabei Phu. The forwards are Yi Yi Oo, Win Theingi Tun, May

Thu Kyaw, Hla Yin Win and Nilar Win.

In preparation for the qualifiers, the women's team will undertake a rigorous training programme in Nanjing, China, until 8 September.

Myanmar will play the second round qualifiers for the Olympic Games together with Thailand,

Vietnam, China (Taipei) and Jordan. The qualifiers will be held at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay from 14 to 22 September.

The top team of the round-robin matches will go on to play the third round qualifiers against Japan, South Korea, North Korea, China and Australia.—MFF

Chess tournament to honour grandmaster Zaw Win Lay

Ko Moe

A chess tournament will be held at Mandalay's Bahtoo Gymnasium from 29 September to 3 October in honour of Myanmar's first chess grandmaster Zaw Win Lay, who passed away on 3 October 2014.

The tournament will include an open event, an over-50s event and under-18 event.

The winner of the open event will be awarded a cash prize of K300,000 and second and third place winners will receive K200,000 and K100,000 respectively. Prizes will also be given to the best performing players in the other three categories.

Those who wish to compete in the tournament must register at Bahtoo and Aung San stadiums before 27 September and pay a K3,000 registration fee to the Myanmar Chess Federation.—GNLM

Top seeds in a hurry on day of US Open upsets

NEW YORK — World number ones Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic launched their US Open title bids in ruthless style on Monday, while Kei Nishikori's hopes of making another magical run to the final came to a shuddering halt.

Opening day at Flushing Meadows produced plenty of shock and awe as Djokovic delivered a jaw-dropping performance, speeding past Joao Souza of Brazil 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 as if the Serb had a taxi metre running outside the National Tennis Center.

Williams also played as if she had an appointment to keep as she began her final push towards a calendar year Grand Slam by pounding Vitalia Diatchenko 6-0, 2-0 before the ailing Russian waved the white flag and retired injured.

Eighth seed Rafa Nadal, a two-time US Open champion, needed a bit more time to get the job done, the Spaniard taking nearly three hours to fight off a

challenge from 18-year-old Croatian prospect Borna Coric 6-3, 6-2 4-6, 6-4.

Following a Broadway-style opening ceremony complete with orchestra and choir, Williams stepped onto centre court under a spotlight to loud applause from an adoring New York crowd just seven matches from her quest to sweep this season's slams.

The six-time champion would exit Arthur Ashe Stadium just 30 minutes later to more applause and her target reduced to six more wins to join the exclusive club of calendar Grand Slam winners Maureen Connolly, Margaret Court and Steffi Graf.

"It's been really amazing, I can feel the support and the love on my journey for this milestone," said Williams, who won the first of her 21 majors at Flushing Meadows 16 years ago.

"I'm so ready. Whatever happens I'm here, I'm at home where it all began in 1999, so this is incredible for me to still



Novak Djokovic of Serbia chases down a return against Joao Souza of Brazil during their match at the US Open Championships tennis tournament in New York, August 31, 2015.—REUTERS

be here and playing well.

"It's kind of awesome that this is the last grand slam of the year, because if it were in a different country, I think I would still love it but it's not the same as being an American playing in New York, playing for that ultimate goal."

Frenchman Benoit Paire provided the big shock of the day, grinding out a 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6(6), 6-4 win over Nishikori, after the Japanese fourth seed squandered two match points in

the fourth set tiebreak.

Marin Cilic, who beat Nishikori in last year's final, had no such opening day hiccups as the ninth-seeded Croat began the defence of his title with a 6-3, 7-6(3), 7-6(3) win over Argentine qualifier Guido Pella.

"It's always very sad to lose in the first round, but I think he was playing good tennis," Nishikori lamented. "I don't think I played badly. Didn't play great, but still, it's never easy first match."

The 25-year-old had plenty of company at the departure lounge following a string of shocks that included Serbian seventh seed and former world number one Ana Ivanovic, eighth seeded Czech Karolina Pliskova and 10th-seed Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain.

A hot, muggy day got off to an ominous start when 50th-ranked Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova dispatched Ivanovic 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.—Reuters