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NEW SME LOAN SCHEME

LOANS WITH OR WITHOUT COLLATERAL NOW POSSIBLE

Khaing Thanda Lwin

A worker makes traditional earthen jars in Twantay, Yangon Region.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

YANGON — Myanma Insurance launched a new credit guarantee insurance service scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises on September 1 that provides, Deputy Finance Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein said on Friday.

The ministry officially announced the new policy of requiring collateral from SMEs in order to obtain a loan during a press conference at Myanma Insurance's head office in Yangon on 4 September.

"Banks will have the right to offer loans with or without collateral," Dr Maung Maung Thein said.

The Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) is likely to provide more than K9 billion (US$7 million) in loans to SMEs through the new scheme, with a 9.5 percent interest rate that includes service charges, its Managing Director U Sann Maung said.

In June 2014, the state-owned insurance firm began selling loan insurance to encourage the expansion of the SMEs, which is a key driver of the country's economic growth, Dr Maung Maung Thein added.

However there was very little interest from bankers, who were reluctant to provide loans without collateral. The previous credit guarantee insurance scheme grants the bank to provide only non-collateral loan for SMEs.

Should an SME be unable to repay the loan, local banks may now lodge a claim with Myanma Insurance, which will reimburse lenders for losses up to 60 percent of the total loan from the SME.

Some banks have already shown interest in granting loans to SMEs, Dr Maung Maung Thein said.

The SMIDB, which mainly offers loans to SMEs, has already granted nearly K22 billion loans to more than 400 SMEs.

Under the new scheme, borrowers will pay a 2 percent premium for collateral loans and a 3 percent premium for non-collateral loans.—*GNLM*

Myanmar flood damage underestimated by media and donors, says UN

YANGON — The damage caused by heavy storms, floods and landslides across nearly all provinces in Myanmar are expected to severely limit the availability of food if aid is not provided to farmers soon, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation warned on Thursday.

"Now that the water is receding, we need to act swiftly to help rural communities get back on their feet, providing them the seeds, equipment and other support they need to grow food, raise animals, restore their livelihoods and build their resilience to future shocks," said Bui Thi Lan, FAO Representative in Myanmar.

"Having seen the scale of it first hand, it's stunning that this emergency situation is widely being underestimated by global media and international donors," she added.

FAO has called for "urgent support" to help Myanmar recover from a month of extreme monsoon weather that was worsened by Cyclone Komen at the end of July. More than 1.6 million people have been affected, with 385,000 households displaced — with thousands more left homeless by landslides. An estimated 1.4 million acres of farmland has been damaged since July.

The deluge also destroyed some 972,000 acres of standing crops — mostly rice paddies — as well as 36,000 acres of fish and shrimp ponds and some 20,000 head of cattle, said the UN agency.

The FAO also stressed the need to provide assistance to farmers in repairing damage to drainage infrastructure and animal shelters and providing farmers with fingerlings and other inputs. It added that in heavy-hit areas, farmers will need to rebuild their farms from scratch.

Severe damage to roads, bridges and railways is making the ongoing relief and recovery efforts challenging for NGOs and the Government of Myanmar. Many UN agencies are also reporting funding shortfalls that prevent them from responding to the best of their abilities.

FAO is preparing the distribution of rice, pulses and winter crops that can be planted as soon as the dry season starts in October. Other likely interventions include vaccination drives for cattle and the distribution of animal feed to help farmers keep their herds healthy.—*GNLM*

Myanmar, China agree to step up cooperation in border management and work together to maintain peace and stability in border areas

President U Thein Sein attended the events to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, on 3 September at the invitation of Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.

The Myanmar-China Joint Press Release was issued after President U Thein Sein held discussions with the President and Premier of the People's Republic of China on 4 September.

At the invitation of H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, H.E U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, attended the events to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War held in China on 2-4 September 2015. President Xi Jinping and President U Thein Sein had in-depth exchanges of views and reached important consensus on further advancing China-Myanmar comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership and deepening cooperation and friendly exchanges on all fronts. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also met President U Thein Sien.

Both sides spoke highly of the traditional "Pauk-Phaw" friendship between China and Myanmar, and agreed that since the establishment of diplomatic relations 65 years ago, the two countries have achieved remarkable progress in bilateral relations in firm commitment to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and on the basis of mutual trust, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. The two sides reiterated that they would take the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries as the top priority, adopt a strategic and long-term perspective in moving China-Myanmar relations in the right direction, and continue the tradition of standing together through thick and thin and supporting each other for greater stability and development of both countries.

Myanmar extended heartfelt gratitude to China for its timely and effective assistance provided in the wake of the recent massive flood that hit Myanmar. China expressed its readiness to continue providing assistance to Myanmar's disaster relief and reconstruction efforts, and supporting Myanmar's economic and social development as well as improvement of people's livelihood.

Myanmar expressed its sympathy and condolences to the victims and affected people for the loss of lives and injuries in the wake of the recent Tianjin Warehouse incident.

The two sides agreed to maintain exchanges of high-level visits and increase friendly exchanges and cooperation at all levels between political parties, government, militaries, localities and peoples. The two sides agreed to promote trade and economic cooperation under the principle of equality and mutual benefit; increase cooperation in infrastructure connectivity between ports, roads, railways, etc, under the "Belt and Road" Initiative and the Bangladesh-China-Myanmar-India (BCIM) Economic Corridor Cooperation Framework; make full use of the China-Myanmar Agriculture Cooperation Committee and the inter-governmental power cooperation mechanism between the two countries to enhance cooperation in agriculture, power production capacity, finance etc, for common development and the well-being of the two peoples.

Both sides agreed to ensure the success of activities in celebration of the 65th Anniversary of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations and hold exchange programs such as "One Hundred Myanmar Youngsters visiting China", carry out and expand people-to-people exchanges in various forms, and advance friendly exchanges and cooperation in areas of culture, education, media, sports, health, religion, etc. to continuously deepen the friendship between the two peoples.

China expressed support for Myanmar in choosing a development path that suits its own national conditions. China expressed its sincere hope that Myanmar could enjoy political stability, economic growth, ethnic solidarity and social harmony. Myanmar appreciated China's positive role in promoting the peace process in Myanmar and welcomed China's continued constructive efforts in that process. Both sides agreed to step up cooperation in border management and work together to maintain peace and stability in the border areas.

UEC allows barred candidate's appeal

NAY PYI TAW — Election candidate U Sai Kyaw Zaw has successfully appealed against a decision not to allow him to stand for election in his constituency in Mandalay, the Union Election Commission said on Friday.

After hearing submissions from the regional election sub-commission and assessment team, a UEC panel granted U Sai Kyaw Saw permission, which had initially been denied by the Mandalay Region Election Sub-commission.—*MNA*

Plan for Myanmar seamen in Indonesia return with chartered aircraft

NAY PYI TAW—One hundred trafficked Myanmar citizens will be flown back to Yangon on chartered flights from Ambon Island in Indonesia on Saturday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said.

Officials said that some of the men had been enslaved on the fishing trawlers for years and that Myanmar citizenship has been verified in each case.

An embassy delegation led by Myanmar's Ambassador to Indonesia has secured lost earnings for 80 men and will continue to negotiate on behalf of the other men. During May and June, 514 seamen were sent back Myanmar by chartered aircraft.—*MNA*

New bridge opens in Ayeyawady Region

Local residents join opening ceremony of Pantaput Bridge in Maubin Township.—MNA

YANGON — A new bridge linking Maubin Township in Ayeyawady Region and Thongwa in Yangon Region was opened to the public on Friday.

The bridge has been named Pantaput and was built at a cost of K3.8 billion to provide better transport links between the two regions, said the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, who funded its construction.

The bridge is 720 ft long and 24 ft wide bridge and can withstand 60 tonne loads.The Ministry of Construction first began constructing it in August last year.—*MNA*

H&M welcomes minimum wage, will promote industrial relations

YANGON — Swedish multinational retail-clothing company H&M has welcomed the introduction of a national minimum wage in Myanmar, which was set at K3,600 (US$2.80) on 28 August.

Establishing an industry-wide minimum wage is essential for sustainable economic growth – not only for the country's garments and textiles industry but for the country as a whole, said the world's second largest global clothing retailer in its 'Sustainability Update' published Wednesday.

H&M said that it supports the idea of reassessing the sum of the minimum wage on an annual basis, with input provided by a multitude of stakeholders, it said in a joint letter sent to the government.

H&M, which has stores in 57 countries and employs more than 137,000 workers, also recently met with Myanmar's Ministry of Labour. It conveyed its support for workers being paid a fair living wage, and said that skilled workers should have the opportunity to renegotiate wages at regular intervals.

"We believe that meaningful collective bargaining is very important and are looking at ways to strengthen it. Workers' ability to organise and negotiate their rights is key to improve working conditions. That is why we have set industrial relations as one of our main areas of focus for sustainability activities and will launch a project to strengthen industrial relations in Myanmar in 2015."

Myanmar's national minimum wage committee carried out a survey of 22,000 households in 108 townships across the country to calculate average living costs among low-income workers.

Several rounds of negotiations with the government, labour organisations, employers and workers were held before a minimum wage of K 3,600 was proposed and subsequently accepted.— *GNLM*

President meets Chinese counterpart in Beijing

BEIJING — President U Thein Sein, who attended the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War, met China's President Mr Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Friday.

The two leaders discussed recovery plans for flood victims, a 900-million-yuan assistance-project for the construction of flood prevention facilities in Myanmar's lower delta region, the promotion of bilateral relations, border stability and cooperation in economics and trade.

President U Thein Sein also met separately with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, with discussions focusing on improved relationships between Myanmar and China and ASEAN and China, bilateral youth exchange programmes, and the development of the Kyaukpyu special economic zone.

Both Chinese leaders reaffirmed their support for Myanmar's peace process and pledged greater cooperation to that end.

President U Thein Sein and his delegates left Beijing for Kunming in the afternoon. At the airport, General Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Party Mr Li Zhihan paid a courtesy call on President U Thein Sein. They discussed the promotion of trade between Myanmar and Yunnan Province and the prospects of implementing the Shweli (Ruili)-Muse economic zone and cooperating to control the narcotic drug trade, human trafficking and illegal logging.

On arrival in Nay Pyi Taw, the president and his entourage were welcomed by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win and union ministers.

At the invitation of China's President Xi Jinping, President U Thein Sein was in Beijing to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the World Anti-Fascist War, together with heads of states from 48 countries and leaders of 10 international organisations.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping.—IPRD

Commander-in-Chief opens renovated school in Latha

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers speech at opening of new school building at Latha BEHS No 1.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the opening ceremony of a renovated school building at Latha Basic Education High School No-1 in Yangon's Latha Township on Friday.

During his address, Senior General Min Aung Haling said that teaching methods should diversify and that producing well rounded students who are skilled at physical activities as well as academic pursuits is key to enhancing educational standards.

The senior general unveiled a stone plaque at the entrance of the new school building. He also donated 500 books on various subjects and 10 computers.

The cost of renovating the two-storey building was K390 million.—*Myawady*

Advanced voting for military will be transparent: UEC

Aye Min Soe

THE Union Election Commission has begun preparations to ensure that the advanced votes of military personnel is in accordance with electoral rules and regulations aimed at ensuring transparency, said U Tin, the chairman of the commission.

During a meeting with a delegation led by Mr Daniel R. Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the United States in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday, U Tin Aye said that the UEC has already begun coordinating with the Tatmadaw for allowing official observers and members of the media to witness balloting by members of the Tatmadaw, reported a news release from Myanmar News Agency (MNA).

The meeting focused on a number of other issues related to the upcoming general election on 8 November, such as ensuring voting rights for all eligible voters by compiling an accurate voters' list, scrutinising candidates, avoiding the politicisation of religion and the 25 percent quota of parliamentary seats held by military personnel.

The UEC chairman reiterated that the use of religion for political purposes whilst campaigning for political office is prohibited by the Code of Conduct and the Election Law.

He added that the commission is vetting candidates in accordance with rules and regulations and will allow all those who are eligible to stand for election.

The Union Election Commission gave the green light on Thursday for political parties to launch their campaigns from 8 September, with the campaigning period closing on 6 November.

The voters' list will be 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, according to the UEC.

During a meeting in Yangon on Tuesday between UEC and various political parties, U Tin Aye called on politicians to adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times and made a public pledge as to the commission's commitment to holding free and fair elections.

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 driver's license or student ID card.

Those whose names are not on the voters' list may apply to regional sub-election commissions in accordance with the Election Law for clarification.

The UEC's reasons for ruling certain candidates ineligible to become ethnic affairs ministers in states and regions drew criticism from some politicians who attended the meeting with the UEC. 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.—*GNLM*

Correction

Please read U Tha Aung Nyun instead of U Aung Tha Nyun in the news at the headline "U Aung Tha Nyun concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Nigeria" on page 3 of this daily issued on 4-9-2015. Error is regretted.—*GNLM*

BEMS branch in Mingaladipa set to enroll more students

NAY PYI TAW— No 97 Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Mingaladipa ward will soon be able to admit more middle school students from neighbouring wards and villages, as a new building is 70 percent completed.

The one-storey school building is 60 feet long and 30 feet wide and it is being constructed by EBG Company.

Pobbathiri Township authorities allocated K21.6 million (US$16,000) to extend the existing school premises in its 2015-16 budget.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

A new school building is under construction at No 97 BEMS (Branch) in Pobbathiri Township.—SHWE YE YINT

Yangon-Mandalay Highway widened in Tatkon

A road section of Yangon-Mandalay Highway being expanded in Tatkon Township.—TIN SOE LWIN

TATKON—The section between mile posts 270/1 and 270/2 near Nagayon Pagoda on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Tatkon Township is currently being widened.

Officials advise passing traffic to reduce speeds while passing the construction works, and to take particular care at night.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*

Famous singers to perform with Myoma Band

MANDALAY—Famous singers will perform alongside Myoma Band during celebrations to mark the 90th anniversary of the band's formation, which will take place at the National Theatre from 4 to 6 September.

Well-known singers such as Soe Paing, Khin Maung Htoo, Ko Min Naung, Yazar Win Tint, Than Myat Soe, Tin Tin Mya, Htar and Yi Yi Thant will be featured during the occasion, as well as the state orchestra.

Auditions for a singing contest were held at the National Theatre between 25 August and 2 September.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

A enthusiast competing in the song contest organized by Myoma Band in Mandalay.—TIN MAUNG

Meeting held to discuss election security arrangements

MYANAUNG—A discussion on security arrangements ahead of the November 8 general elections was held at Aungzeya gymnasium on 3 September, with Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung in attendance.

Township level officials discussed the measures that would be taken to ensure adequate security during the election period.

The chief minister urged officials to actively participate in maintaining public security and ensure that polling booth staff perform their duties satisfactorily. The discussion was also attended by ward administrators, election sub-commission members and staff from 219 polling booths.—*Win Bo (Township IPRD)*

Seiktaramahi housing project

MANDALAY—A progress report meeting about the construction of Seiktaramahi housing project was held at Mandalay City Development Committee on 2 September with MCDC representatives and construction entrepreneurs.

MCDC Secretary U Khin Maung Tin spoke about various construction and sanitation-related tasks at the site, with MCDC members and the project's investors discussing the sewerage system, water supply and drainage system, as well as construction standards rules set by MCDC.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Staff Officer U Win Naing and members of Directorate of Trade are pictured shortly before 540 kilogrammes of illegally imported frozen sausages were incinerated after being seized near Muse border town on 1 September.—MUSE DISTRICT IPRD

Indonesian president orders search for victims of sunken boat off Malaysia

Mohd Aliyas, an official of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), introduces the position of an accident at a press conference in Pelaboham Kelang, Malaysia, on Sept. 3, 2015.—XINHUA

JAKARTA — Indonesian presidential palace Friday said President Joko Widodo has ordered Indonesian rescuers to carry out search operations until the victims of a sunken boat off Malaysia are found. The wooden boat, believed carrying 70 Indonesian migrant workers and heading for Indonesia, capsized Thursday off Malaysia' s western coast.

As of Friday the death toll has risen to 15. Some 19 others have been rescued. "I have ordered for search operation until the victims are found. Evacuate those who have been discovered," President Widodo said in a statement.

Indonesian rescuers from the national search and rescue office have been conducting the operation and also coordinating with the national police for the identification of the victims.

According to Mohd Eliyas, an official from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), there were two possible causes for the accident — overloading and bad weather.—*Xinhua*

Opposition parties to cooperate to block enactment of security bills

TOKYO — Japan's opposition parties agreed Friday to cooperate to prevent a set of government-sponsored national security bills becoming law before the ruling camp puts them to a vote in two weeks, opposition lawmakers said.

The decision was made in a meeting of the heads of six opposition parties. They will meet again next week to discuss concrete measures such as filing a no-confidence motion with the Diet against the Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, they said.

The move came after tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered near the Diet building Sunday, as well as more than 200 locations across Japan, calling for the scrapping of the controversial security legislation Abe seeks to enact to widen the role of Japanese forces abroad. The six parties are the Democratic Party of Japan, the Japan Innovation Party, the Japanese Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, the People's Life Party and the Assembly to Energize Japan. A group of independents also took part.

In Friday's meeting at a Diet building in Tokyo, DPJ leader Katsuya Okada said the parties must take all possible measures to stop the legislation, noting the current Diet session will soon come to an end — on Sept. 27. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito are seeking to take a vote on the bills at the House of Councillors in the week starting Sept. 14, according to coalition sources. The bills already cleared the House of Representatives on July 16. Japan Innovation Party leader Yorihisa Matsuno told the meeting the parties should submit a no-confidence motion against Abe's Cabinet if the ruling camp railroads the bills through the upper house without taking opposition counterproposals into account.

JCP leader Kazuo Shii also said the motion should be submitted. The bills, while expanding the role of Japan's Self-Defense Forces abroad, are aimed at enabling the country to exercise the right to collective self-defense — or defending the United States or another ally when Japan is not directly under attack. Abe's Cabinet decided in July 2014 to reinterpret the Constitution so that the country is allowed to use the right.

Many constitutional scholars have said the legislation is against the defense-oriented Constitution, however.—*Kyodo News*

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Thai probe hits hurdle; no bomb match to suspects' DNA

BANGKOK — Forensic tests on two suspects have failed to find a link to the site of Thailand's deadliest bomb attack, police said on Friday, dealing a blow to the investigation.

DNA examination of the two foreigners tie them to a stash of explosives found in a Bangkok apartment block, but not to evidence collected at the Hindu Erawan Shrine where 20 people were killed on Aug. 17, police said in a televised announcement.

The lack of a link complicates a high-profile case shrouded in mystery, with authorities no closer to establishing a motive for the attack carried out in one of Bangkok's busiest commercial areas.

The military has speculated the perpetrators could have been members of a human trafficking gang frustrated by a police crackdown. Thailand has rejected the possibility a militant group was involved.

Police were testing DNA samples of the second of two foreigners, to establish if he was the chief suspect — a yellow-shirted man caught on surveillance camera placing a rucksack at the shrine before the explosion.

"There's no evidence to confirm he is the yellow-shirt man," police spokesman Prawut Thawornsiri told reporters.

Prawut said police believed he was "definitely involved in the bombing". Police seized a large amount of bomb-making material in raids on two buildings in north Bangkok, but nothing that ties the two men, whose nationalities are unknown, directly to the attack.

People pray after a religious ceremony at the Erawan shrine, the site of a recent deadly blast, after its was repaired, in central Bangkok, Thailand, September 4, 2015. —REUTERS

The bomb killed 14 foreigners, including seven from China and Hong Kong and wounded more than 100 people.

Investigators were trying to match the second detained man, who was arrested at the Thai-Cambodia border on Tuesday, with DNA left by the prime suspect in a cab, on fragments of the backpack and on a banknote given to a motorcycle taxi driver.

The man was carrying a Chinese passport which gave his name as Yusufu Mieraili, and his place of birth as the western Chinese region of Xinjiang, but it was unclear if it was authentic.

If the China link is proven it would add weight to theories by some security experts that the bombing could have been revenge by sympathisers of the mainly Turkic-speaking Uighur Muslims from Xinjiang.

In July, Thailand deported 109 Uighurs to China, where many suffer persecution. That struck a chord in Turkey, which has a large Uighur diaspora.

Police have established a firmer Turkish connection, using the language to interrogate the suspects, one of whom was arrested with fake Turkish passports. Two other suspects are believed to be in Turkey.—*Reuters*

Ahead of Greek election, Syriza's 'lost generation' deserts Tsipras

ATHENS — So divided has Syriza's youth wing become over the direction of Greece's leftist party, that when its council planned to convene at the end of August, the meeting was abandoned. Too many of its 71 members were on the point of quitting.

The incident showed the disillusionment Syriza's twenty-somethings feel with leader Alexis Tsipras, the former Communist student activist they once celebrated as one of their own.

In just seven months as premier, Tsipras, under pressure from Greece's creditors, has backtracked on his pre-election promises to end austerity.

"Syriza's youth is almost over, very few people are staying behind," said one of those who walked out.

Tsipras has called an election on Sept. 20 in an effort to win a fresh mandate to push through the economic reforms that are a condition of Greece's latest 86 billion euro bailout.

But Syriza's lead over its rivals has crumbled, with one poll this week showing the conservative New Democracy party in front.

Support from those aged 18-44 - once the backbone of Syriza's support according to pollsters - has plummeted. The most popular party for 18-24-year-olds now is the far right Golden Dawn, while Syriza languishes in fourth place, data by the pollster Alco show.

A fractured election result could spell more turmoil for a country battered by recession and high unemployment, and risks derailing the implementation of the bailout programme that is up for review by the creditors in October.

"These elections started as something 'easy' for Tsipras and have evolved into something extremely complicated," said Thomas Gerakis, the head of pollster Marc.

"The key issue in this race is what the former Syriza voters will do. Will Syriza manage to rally its former voters?"

Having failed to muster the numbers for a formal meeting, the majority of Syriza's central youth council confined itself to issuing a statement on Tuesday, denouncing the party's "bankruptcy" and withdrawing its support for the election. The council was left with just 27 members at the last count.

It is a remarkable turnaround for a party that stormed to power in January promising voters more jobs and an end to years of wage and pension cuts.

During that election, Syriza's young supporters played an outsize role on the frontline of the campaign, be it handing out leaflets, holding rallies or organising festivals.

At forty years of age, Tsipras became the country's youngest ever prime minister, and to many seemed a breath of fresh air compared to the dynasties that have dominated Greek politics for years. His government's former spokesman is 35 years old.

But after months of bad-tempered negotiations with the country's lenders, and with banks shut and the economy on the brink of collapse, Tsipras capitulated to the creditors' demands to raise taxes and slash spending to tackle Greece's debt.

Even though the standoff with the creditors worsened the country's economic pain, opinion polls initially suggested that Tsipras remained Greece's most popular leader, because he had at least put up a decent fight. His decision to call a referendum on the bailout incensed the creditors but played well at home.

But now many are furious and may switch their allegiance to smaller parties or boycott the vote. Young Greeks have been hit especially hard by the debt crisis, with more than half of those aged 15-24 out of work, the highest proportion in Europe. Many live at home, supported by their parents and grandparents, or emigrate.

"He didn't try hard enough," said Yannis Aggelidis, a 22-year-old university student who voted for Tsipras in January but may abstain or vote for a small anti-capitalist party next time.

"He had a chance and he lost it. If he had fulfilled only part of what Syriza had promised he would have stayed in power for a very long time."

Divisions in Syriza's youth wing began to emerge after Greek voters delivered a resounding 'no' to the bailout terms in July, then saw their government capitulate to Greece's creditors on point after point in the weeks that followed.

For many of Syriza's youth council members, the final straw was an interview Tsipras gave in August to Alpha TV, in which he wrote off the prospects of today's young people but hoped his own younger children could prosper.

Former Greek Prime Minister and leader of leftist Syriza party Alexis Tsipras delivers a speech during a pre-election rally in the western suburb of Egaleo, in Athens, Greece, September 3, 2015. —Reuters

"Sadly, we lost this generation due to the bailouts. The generation of people in their twenties today, young people, young scientists go abroad, unfortunately," Tsipras said.

To be sure, there is still time for Syriza to claw back support. Pollsters say that about half of the undecided voters, especially women, are former Syriza backers.

"The people who were Syriza's core voters are scattered, and are deeply concerned," Dimitris Mavros from pollster MRB said.

But rival parties, including New Democracy and PASOK, which was in power in the early years of the crisis, are stepping up their efforts to win young voters. For example, PASOK has appointed 33-year-old Pavlos Christidis as its new spokesman.

For undecided voters like Nefeli Tsikrika, a 24-year-old law student and former Syriza supporter, it's hard to know which party to turn to.

"We are disappointed. It's not what we expected," she said. "I was a supporter, but I'm not proud of it."

"Then again you reach a deadlock, you don't know what to vote for. Is any government in Greece actually free to govern or is it bound to the demands of foreign powers?"—*Reuters*

Losses from Chinese port explosions seen at up to 2.16 billion pounds

HONG KONG — Explosions in the Chinese port of Tianjin last month could generate insurance losses of up to $3.3 billion (2.16 billion pounds), reinsurance specialist Guy Carpenter & Company said in a report on Friday, nearly double what some analysts had originally thought.

Guy Carpenter, the risk and reinsurance unit of Marsh & McLennan Co Inc, used high definition satellite images to evaluate how buildings, cargo, containers and property around the port were affected by the blasts, the company said.

The damages are seen between $1.6 billion and $3.3 billion, compared with between $1 billion and $1.5 billion Credit Suisse analysts had estimated days after the blast in August.—*Reuters*

A drone operated by paramilitary police flies over the site of explosions at Binhai new district in Tianjin, China, August 17, 2015.—Reuters

British, Spanish prime ministers make joint call for EU reform

MADRID — The prime ministers of Britain and Spain made a joint call on Friday for structural reforms in the European Union to make it more competitive and boost growth, employment and innovation.

The article by David Cameron and Mariano Rajoy for Spanish financial daily Expansion plays into the political agenda of both Rajoy, who is seeking re-election in December, and Cameron, who wants to reform Britain's relationship with the EU before a membership referendum due by the end of 2017.

The centre-right leaders, who are due to hold talks in Madrid on Friday, said both countries had acted to turn around their economies that, five years ago, "were on the edge of the abyss".

"The truth is that the situation in the European Union is not good enough. We have to make the European Union much more competitive and translate the momentum of national structural reforms to the field of the EU," they wrote.

Both countries had shared structural problems such as excessive debt and low competitiveness that, if neglected, "would have led to economic ruin in the long term", but they were now growing and creating jobs.

"We have learned a clear lesson from all this: countries that consolidate their public finances guarantee the sustainability of their welfare state, carry out ambitious structural reforms and incentivise employment, create the greatest number of jobs and bring back confidence in the future," Cameron and Rajoy wrote.

While Britain and Spain had tackled this individually, "the results will be better if we work together to create a European Union that has growth, employment and innovation as its reason for being", they wrote.

Growth should be the EU's main goal, the leaders said.

They agreed that a "real reform" of the euro zone was necessary but that this should not damage the rights of EU members, such as Britain, that do not belong to the single currency.

They urged the EU to tackle barriers to a single EU market in services, proposing a "passport" in areas such as engineering and accountancy, to permit a company that has approval to operate in one EU country to do business in all of them.

They also called for measures to boost the digital economy, such as a simple system for online companies to register in other countries and to have access to Internet domains.

They urged the EU to create a more favourable environment for companies and start-ups and to push forcefully for free trade with the rest of the world. The EU's main priority should be to conclude negotiations on an ambitious EU-US free trade agreement, they said, writing, "Let's make it possible this year."—*Reuters*

Trump accuses talk-show radio host of 'gotcha' question

Donald Trump

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump did not take kindly in a radio interview on Thursday to being asked to identify the affiliations of various militant leaders in the Middle East, saying the host was asking "a gotcha question".

Discussing Islamist extremism, conservative talk-radio host Hugh Hewitt told Trump he was looking for the next president to know who the leaders of major militant groups were, naming the heads of Islamic State, Hezbollah, al Qaeda and its Nusra Front wing in Syria. "Do you know the players without a scorecard, yet, Donald Trump?" asked Hewitt, who will co-moderate the next official Republican presidential debate on Sept. 16 in California.

"No, you know, I'll tell you honestly, I think by the time we get to office, they'll all be changed. They'll be all gone," Trump replied.

"You know, those are like history questions. 'Do you know this one, do you know that one?'" added the billionaire real estate mogul, who has risen to the top of the polls in a crowded Republican field more than a year before the November 2016 election.

When Hewitt said it was not meant as a "gotcha" question, Trump responded: "Well, it sounded like gotcha.

You're asking me names that, I think it's somewhat ridiculous, but that's OK. Go ahead, let's go."

Trump added that when it came to individual players: "Of course I don't know them. I've never met them. I haven't been, you know, in a position to meet them. If, if they're still there, which is unlikely in many cases, but if they're still there, I will know them better than I know you." Earlier in the interview, Trump brought up the Kurds after being asked about the leader of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's Quds forces, before adding: "Oh, I thought you said Kurds, Kurds."—*Reuters*

Biden says cannot say yet whether he will mount White House run

ATLANTA — US Vice President Joe Biden said on Thursday he is still trying to determine whether he has the emotional energy to mount a White House bid in 2016 but cannot say yet whether he will.

In his first extensive public comments about a possible run for the Democratic presidential nomination, Biden said, "I can't look you straight in the eye now and say I know I can do it."

Biden, 72, has been huddling with advisers for weeks to determine whether he will challenge Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who has seen her favorability ratings plummet over her use of a private email server while working as the nation's top diplomat.

"The most relevant factor in my decision is whether my family and I have the emotional energy to run," Biden, who lost his son, Beau, to cancer earlier this year, said in response to a question.

"The factor is, can I do it?" he said. "The honest to God answer is I just don't know."

Biden was in Atlanta on Thursday night to deliver a foreign policy lecture after concluding a two-day visit to the political battleground state of Florida, where he avoided any discussion of a possible White House run.

Biden said he would not be swayed by questions about whether he could raise enough money or mount an effective organization after getting a late start. The only factor, he said, was his and his family's commitment.

"Can my family undertake what is an arduous commitment?" he said.

"Unless I can go to my party and the American people and say I am able to devote my whole heart and soul to this endeavor, it would not be appropriate."

US Vice President Joe Biden speaks at a meeting with Jewish community leaders at the David Posnack Jewish Community Center in Davie, Florida, September 3, 2015.—REUTERS

Biden has stepped up his public schedule, and will travel to Pittsburgh on Monday for Labor Day celebrations and New York later in the week to appear on Stephen Colbert's talk show.

But he said he did not know when he would make a decision. "There is no way to put a timetable on it," he said.—*Reuters*

Russia says Syria's Assad ready to share power

VLADIVOSTOK, (Russia) — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is ready to hold snap parliamentary elections and could share power with a "healthy" opposition.

Russia, along with Iran, has been Assad's principle international ally in the war that has raged in Syria for four-and-a-half years and has claimed a quarter of a million lives.

Moscow has made clear it does not want to see Assad toppled and has seized on gains made by Islamic State in Syria and Iraq to urge his foreign foes, including the United States and Saudi Arabia, to work with Damascus to combat the common enemy.

"We really want to create some kind of an international coalition to fight terrorism and extremism," Putin told journalists on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, saying he had spoken to US President Barack Obama on the matter. "We are also working with our partners in Syria. In general, the understanding is that this uniting of efforts in fighting terrorism should go in parallel to some political process in Syria itself," Putin said.

"And the Syrian president agrees with that, all the way down to holding early elections, let's say, parliamentary ones, establishing contacts with the so-called healthy opposition, bringing them into governing," he said.

Moscow wants the US-led coalition carrying out air strikes on Islamic State positions to coordinate with the Syrian and Iraqi armies and moderate anti-Assad rebel groups on the ground, as well as Kurdish forces.

Assad's enemies have refused to cooperate with Damascus, fearing that would help legitimise his rule in Syria, where the West and Gulf states say he is part of the problem, not the solution, and must go.—*Reuters*

German police say five people hurt in fire at refugee shelter

BERLIN — German police said on Friday five people were injured when a fire broke out at a refugee shelter in the town of Heppenheim in the West German state of Hesse.

There was no immediate indication of how the blaze began. Germany, which expects the influx of refugees and migrants to quadruple to about 800,000 this year, has witnessed more than 100 arson attacks on asylum shelters in recent months.

"One resident who tried to rescue himself by jumping out of a window from the second floor was seriously wounded," police spokeswoman Christiane Kobus said in a statement.

Four people were slightly injured by smoke poisoning, she said. More than 60 refugees from countries such as Syria, Iraq, Somalia and Ethiopia were accommodated in the three-storey residential building.

"The fire was extinguished quickly. According to initial findings, the fire emerged behind the entrance door for unknown reasons," Kobus said. Police and state prosecutors had started an investigation into the cause of the fire, she said.

Members of Germany's technical support unit (THW) fix wooden boards to a building used to house asylum seekers after a fire broke out in the entrance area of the building in Heppenheim, 30km south of Frankfurt, Germany, early morning September 4, 2015.—REUTERS

Most of the recent attacks on asylum shelters in Germany have been on empty buildings slated to become shelters. However, politicians have warned that it was only a matter of time before refugees might be hurt. Europe is facing its worst refugee crisis since the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. The crisis has strained the European Union's asylum system to breaking point, divided its 28 nations and fed the rise of right-wing populists.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 5 September, 2015

It's not who it is, but what it does

By *Kyaw Thura*

STRANGE as it may seem, a country which is sitting on deposits of minerals and natural resources is nevertheless lagging far behind its neighbours in terms of its human resources and use of technology.

This is not a fate Myanmar deserves. The issue to overcome is poor management, plain and simple.

Farmers account for 70 percent of the country's population. It is therefore important for the government to make rural development and poverty reduction the focal point of its policy. So it is encouraging to see that the government has developed a national strategy on rural development and poverty alleviation, which aims to reduce poverty from 32 percent in 2005 to 16 per cent by the end of this year.

But realistically, poverty is still a nightmare and it's ironic that every election candidate is promising to best serve the interests of the country and the welfare of the people. This implies that our politicians share the same goal. If they are all willing to make a sincere attempt to fight poverty, it would not take long for equitable development to materialise.

Just as the saying goes, "all hands make light work," all political stakeholders should act in the best interests of the common good. What the next government will do is more important than who will be its next president.

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Discriminating Against Women Keeps Countries Poorer

Sri Mulyani Indrawati

IN 100 countries around the world, women are barred from doing certain work solely because they are women. Over 150 countries have at least one law that is discriminatory towards women. And only 18 countries are free of any law disadvantaging women.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of legal barriers for women to achieve their full economic potential. New World Bank Group research in the Women, Business and the Law 2016 report shows that in 32 countries women cannot apply for passports in the same way as men and in 18 countries they cannot get a job if their husbands feel it is not in the family's interest. Jordan and Iran are among them. In 59 countries, there are no laws against sexual harassment at work. Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Armenia are among 46 countries where there is no legal protection against domestic violence. In a nutshell, the research makes for depressing reading when you care about inclusion and ending poverty.

Countries whose laws discriminate against women and do not promote gender equality suffer economically. Previous research tells us that gender gaps in women's entrepreneurship and labor force participation account for estimated income losses of 27% in the Middle East and North Africa, 19% in South Asia, 14% in Latin America and the Caribbean and 10% in Europe. These are losses that many countries can't afford, particularly those facing high levels of poverty.

There is good news too: Countries like Bangladesh are encouraging female participation in the workforce. If they stay on track their female workforce will grow from 34 to 82 percent over the next decade, adding 1.8 percentage points to their GDP. In the 1990s very few countries had laws protecting women from violence, now 127 do partially because the world is more aware of the human and economic cost of mistreating women.

When women are allowed to work in a profession of their choice, when they have access to financial services and when they are protected, by law, from domestic violence, they are not only economically empowered, they also live longer. The more say they have over the household income and the more they participate in the economy, the more girls are enrolled in secondary school, the larger the benefits for their children, their communities, and their countries.

To achieve equality for women globally and harness its poverty fighting potential, laws that make different rules for men and women need revision. While much progress has been made in the last two decades, there are still many countries where women are not afforded the same legal protections as men. In fact, every additional year of primary school boosts girls' eventual wages by 10 to 20 percent, and an extra year of secondary school by 15 to 25 percent.

Critics will argue that in some countries where gender-specific laws exist, there is limited enforcement. While that is true, better rule of law is associated with having more gender equal laws on the books. Specialized courts that tackle cases of acts of violence against women can help provide effective legal action. In Brazil, the Maria da Penha Law allowed for the creation of domestic and family violence courts.

East Asia and the Pacific has made substantial progress towards equalizing the field between men and women in the past two years. Hong Kong SAR, China, Lao PDR and Singapore have introduced paid paternity leave, while Taiwan, China increased the length of paternity leave. Tonga recently enacted its first law providing protections to women against domestic violence.

The private sector benefits too. A multinational survey of 6500 firms showed that where women had greater representation on boards, those organizations were less likely to be hit by scandals like bribery or fraud. Yet surprisingly, only nine countries have laws where at least one woman has to be a board member of a publicly listed company.

The link between the fight against poverty and gender equality is strong, which is why we work with many countries to tackle gender-based barriers. We have worked with countries like Cote d'Ivoire in removing legal provisions that discriminated against women. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, we supported the government in drafting a new family code that would remove restrictions on women's participation and improve the business climate for them.

Policymakers have a choice. They can use the overwhelming evidence that shows the economic benefits of equality by ridding their system of discriminating laws that are holding women back. Or they can maintain the status quo and condemn whole societies to remain poorer then they need to be.

Sri Mulyani Indrawati is the Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of the World Bank.

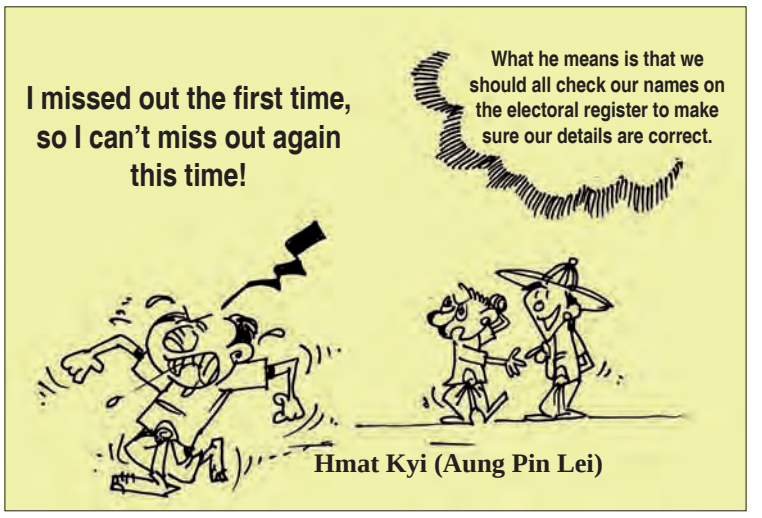
"Countries whose laws discriminate against women and do not promote gender equality suffer economically"

Preparation for secure, free and fair general elections discussed

NAY PYI TAW—Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko received a delegation led by Mr Daniel R Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, at the ministry, on Friday.

They discussed preparations for successfully holding the secure, free and fair general elections. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe and officials of the Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department, Bureau of Special Investigation, Myanmar Correctional Department and Fire Services Department.—*MNA*

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko meets Mr Daniel R Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and party.—MNA



A Study of Myanmar Puppetry (Part III)

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

The procedure of performance

TRADITIONALLY for every puppet show there should be three successive night performances. Permission must be obtained from the local authorities concerned who will see to the security and the needs of the show. Myanmar dramatic and puppet shows are all night shows beginning in the late evening around 9 p.m. and finishing in the following morning at about 6 a.m.

The premier show is preceded by a ritual overtune of music which depicts the destruction of the world by wind, water, earth and fire, and creation of a new world by earth, water, fire and wind. To symbolize the destruction of the world sonorous and deafening music is played by percussion instruments four times to represent four elements. After the music of destruction subsides, the music of creation of a new world by four elements of nature follows suit, ushering in a *nat* votaress which enters from the middle entrance of the bar. Her appearance indicates that a new world has been created. Only experienced veteran puppeteer can manipulate the *nat* votaress figure because this puppet has to invoke and perform all dance steps postures and sing all appropriate songs of the 37 *nat* spirits of Myanmar Pantheon. It is said that in olden days the *nat* votaress puppet had as many as 60 strings attached, by which it could make almost all human movements. The writer had seen such *nat* votaress puppet with 60 strings but not manipulation of them.

The *nat* votaress invokes all *nat* spirits one by one according to their protocol and dances and sings their respective dances and songs while the music is played their respective music numbers. She begins with *Thagyar [Sakka deva* or Thunder god] and ends with the last nat spirit *Shin Hne Mi* in the 37 order, praying and begging for their favours. The following is the first song, addressed to *Sakka deva*, extolling his power and glory. English translation was made by G.E.R. Grant Brown, I.C.S. It was the first published in the Journal of Burma Research Society [J.B.R.S.] Part 1-2, 1911-1912.

ewoyp **Prologue**

မင်္ဂလာရယ်မှ မဏ္ဍိုင်လေ၊	[“Blessed source of four fold light,
ရောင်ဆိုင်ငယ်မှ လေးလီ	Wondrous rays that reach to heaven.
သာမောရယ်စည်၊နတ်ပြည်ထိလု၊	To the joyful hosts divine!
ဗျော်ဖွယ်ကောင်း၊ နတ်ပေါင်းစုံလို့	On the crown of Mt. Meru.
မေရုဇဟို၊ မြင့်မိုရ်ထိပ်မှာ	Tier and tier the palace rises
ဝေယ္ယန္တာက၊ သူဇာနန္ဒ၊	Where the maiden Thuza, Nanda.
စိတြနှင့် စိတ္တ ဓမ္မာ	Seitra, Seithadama dwell
ကြင်ယာအများ၊ မိဖုရားအပေါင်း	With thousand and ten thousand queens,
ထောင်သောင်းမက၊ ငါသိကြားမှန်	There above all worlds enthroned
ထက်များရယ်စံ၊ ဝန်းရံခ၏	I, the Lord *Thagya* receives
နတ်များအမျှ၊ လူတို့ပြည်တွင်၊	Worship from the’ encircling throng
ငါအရှင်သည်၊ ဗျော်ရွှင်မြူးစည်၊	Now into this world of mortals
လာသည်တကား၊ မင်္ဂလာရယ်မှစံခင်း	delegates of all the gods
ပွဲများဘောင်တွင်၊ ဂုဏ်ရောင်လင်းပါတဲ့	I descend, on pleasure bent,
မင်းအများတို့။	Where illustrious sons of men
	have prepared in merry measure
	Dance and song for my delight.”]

The *nat* votaress puppet figure is very beautiful and graceful and elegantly dressed. Jewellery she wears are real. She had diamond earrings, gold bangles, gold and green emerald or jade, necklaces, diamond ring on her finger and gold anklets on her heels. She pays respects to the stage which in Myanmar is called *Sin Taing Gyin*. She also pays homage to the local authorities and also to the audience so that they all cooperate in the successful performance of the show. The extraordinary feat she exhibits is the raising and carrying of the *Kadaw pwe* {a votive tray with one green coconut with 3 bunches of banana around with flowers, lit candles and scent sticks [which is quite a load for a human girl]} three times upward move and conveying in her two hands as she dances walking the entire performance area! In fact the said *Kadaw pwe* load is manipulated by black strings by two puppeteers concealed. But their manipulations and the movements of the *nat* votaress figure are so perfect in harmony with music and dance steps that you get the illusion of the puppet figure itself is executing with the power of *nat*-spirits. When she comes to the performance of the dance of Myanmar wine *nat* Alcoholic *Pakhan Min Kyaw* the puppet votaress assumes the posture of a drunkard, singing and dancing like a drunkard. The following are a few lines:

အတူလေးရယ်တဲ့ယှဉ်ကာယှဉ်ကာပြိုင်	Let’s together all of us
ပန်းမွေ့ယာ၊ ရွှေကော်ဇော၊ ရောနှောလို့ထိုင်	Squat on golden carpets and cushions
သောက်တော်ဘူးရယ်တဲ့၊ ကိုယ်မကွာ ကိုယ်မကွာ	My liquor bottle is always with me,
မင်းကျော်မိုလို့၊ လွန်ထင်ရှား၊ မိုးကျနတ်သား	I’m well-known, heaven born *nat* spirit
ညနေ ညနေ၊ စည်တယ်လေ၊	In the evening my house is happy noisy
ကိုကြီးကျော် စံကွန်း၊	with my fellow Drunkards
ကိုကြီးကျော်ပလီလွန်းတယ်	Ko Gyi Kyaw is a philanderer.
ဆေးရှိုက်တဲ့ကျွန်း	Ko Gyi Kyaw is a polo player.
ကိုကြီးကျော် ပလီ [ဝူလီ] ရှိုက်တဲ့	He is also a smoker.”
ဆေးရှိုက်တဲ့ကျွန်း၊ ကျွန်း၊ ကျွန်း	

As the votaress puppet dances like a young male drunkard she assumes and displays many amusing gestures to the point of obscenity, [She winks, rolls eyeballs, puts tongue out, shakes head, chin shoulders, breasts, hips etc. flirtatiously] but much to the delight of male youths who give a resounding applause, throwing some cash to the votaress puppet as their award.

When the *nat* votaress goes in, the scene of the Himalayan Forest appears as a green bunch is set up in the middle of the performance area. The first flora that grows in a new world is grass and horse is the first animal to eat grass. Therefore the first animal that comes out dancing is horse. First, slowly then changing steps till gallops. It is a male horse exhibiting all anatomical parts of its body including its gender organ. The audience is moved to laughter. The elephant, the tiger, the monkey, the ogre, the garuda, the parakeet, the necromancer [*zawgyi* or alchemist], the crocodile, the fish, etc. the old man, the old woman, enter following one another dancing stylistically to their musical accompaniments and songs. All winged creatures and mythical creatures enter and exit from above the bar, and all crawling and watery creatures enter and exit the stage from below the bar. The end of the Himalayan Forest scene marks the end of the first part of the show.

There is an interval of about one hour for public convenience – toilet, snacks, tea or coffee at the nearby stalls.

The second part begins with the entrance of four ministers. They are somewhat like chroniclers in a Shakespeare drama. They announce the name of the *zat* [drama or play] to be performed that night and they also introduce the synopsis of the play to the audience, using elegant language of the court. Then they announce return of the crown prince from Taxila after completion of his higher education and training in 18 princely arts and sciences. The crown prince has brought with him his lover or fiancé who is a princess royal, whom he met at Taxila. They are now having a rest in the forest, because the princess royal is very tired and her feet are aching. So saying, the four ministers go in, followed by a romantic sylvan scene.

In this scene, the prince and princess converse all nice, sweet and romantic things. They sing troth-plighting [သစ္စာထား] songs and dance duet. Here the manipulators of these two puppet figures not only display their skill in manipulating but also their talent in singing and miming. To mime the voice of a young lady is equally difficult like miming her movements. This scene is called “*Myaing Hta*

Two Myanmar marionettists manipulate puppet figures in their show.—PHOTO SUPPLIED BY DAW MA MA NAING

Hnitpa Thwa”, a duet dance in a forest. Two or three court jesters tease them jokingly. Court jesters are public mouthpieces. Through them people can make complaints and demand for redress while authorities concerned are present at the show. Mimicry, jokes or satirical songs disclose social and economic ills people are suffering. But blatant jokes, abusive language and personal affront are strictly forbidden. This scene lasts nearly two hours.

The performance of drama begins at round about 3 a.m. and carries on till dawn or 6 a.m. The plays performed are all melodramatic and mostly comic tragedies. The dialogues are grandiloquent and in verse, interspersed with rhymes, which master puppeteers compose extempore, in addition to the set classical songs they sing by heart. Like Myanmar live high drama, *Jataka* stories have been the main themes and plots of Myanmar puppet plays. Although there are *pyazats* or secular plays written by native playwrights, the master puppeteers prefer *Jataka* stories to any other. There are reasons for this preference. Firstly *Jataka* stories are easy to dramatize and present on the stage. Secondly, Myanmar dramas, whether live or puppet are not merely entertainments. They are meant to educate the spectator-audience morally and culturally, with the background of a *Jataka* story.

There are two old Myanmar sayings in rhymes regarding Myanmar dramatic performance:-

“ဇာတ်သမားလာရင်၊ မှတ်သားစရာပါရမည်” and “ဇာတ်သမားပြန်ရင်၊ မှတ်သားစရာကျန်ရမည်” “When the dramatic actor comes, he must bring with him something worth noting.” And “When the dramatic actor leaves, he must leave behind some moral lesson.”

Thirdly, it is said that the *zat* [drama] must have the trinity of themes, namely *Loka* [secular or temporal], *Dhamma* [religious or spiritual] and *Yaza* [Royal or kingly or state or government] so as to instruct and admonish both high-born and low-born, clergy and laity, adult and young, and king and commoner. *Jataka* stories fulfil all these requirements. Besides, they have all essential features of a dramatic plot – exposition, complications, climax, and anti-climax or denouement.

Therefore, it is no exaggeration to say that Myanmar puppet show is many sided. As in the case of Myanmar high live drama, Myanmar puppet show is all in one operatic, tragic, comic, farcical and melodramatic. All essential characters of a classical play are found in every plot of Myanmar puppet play, such as hero, heroine, villain, king, queen, prince, princess, hermit, astrologer, *nat* spirits, ministers, jesters etc. etc. Whatever the plot is, there is always a moral lesson for the young, and religious instruction for the adults. It always ends with a poetic justice—reward for the good and punishment for the evil. The hero and the heroine are reunited in the final scene and they live happily ever after.

The spectator-audience return home sleeplessly retired but much satisfied and elated with the show.

(To be continued)

Islamic State militants blow up Palmyra's ancient tower tombs — Syria's antiquities chief

Columns are seen in the historical city of Palmyra, Syria, June 12, 2009.—REUTERS

DAMASCUS — Islamic State has blown up three ancient tower tombs in Palmyra built between the years 44 and 103 AD, Syria's antiquities chief said on Friday, having also destroyed two ancient temples at the site in central Syria in the last few weeks. Maamoun Abdulkarim told Reuters that sources in Palmyra had confirmed the destruction of three tombs including that of Elahbel, built in 103 AD, which he said was four storeys high and had an underground floor. Islamic State militants blew up two temples at the Roman-era, UNESCO World Heritage site, which it has controlled since capturing Palmyra from Syrian government control in May. The group considers the buildings sacrilegious.—*Reuters*

For many refugees, journey to Europe begins on Facebook

BEIRUT/ISTANBUL/BUDAPEST/BELGRADE — Would-be migrants hoping to flee war in the Middle East are using Facebook as their compass for finding the people smugglers they hope will get them to a better life in Europe.

The US-based website and other social media that were once used to help mobilise the "Arab Spring" uprisings now host information services for those escaping the Syrian civil war and other conflicts in the region.

There refugees can find much of what they need to know, right down to the prices, fees, bribes they will have to pay on a journey fraught with dangers ranging from drowning at sea to suffocating in a lorry. On top of this, messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Viber help them en route to contact smugglers, friends and families alike while Internet mapping ensures they don't get lost.

In Facebook groups set up in Arabic, users post phone numbers of contacts they say can take refugees from the Turkish coast to nearby Greek islands or even further into Europe, a continent struggling to cope with the migration crisis.

For those seeking a boat ride to Greece, details on where best to cross the Serbian-Hungarian border, or the price for being smuggled all the way from Turkey to Germany, users of these groups appear to offer many of the answers.

An ad posted this week offered a late availability seat in rubber dinghy departing from the Turkish seaside city of Izmir, one of the main points of departure for Syrian refugees trying to reach Greece. The price: $1,200.

"The trip is tomorrow, 100 percent, for sure," it said. "They'll give you a free life jacket." Another post offered places on a more comfortable "tourist yacht" at 2,500 euros ($2,800).

Facebook guides refugees before they even leave Syria, said Muhammed Salih Ali, head of the Izmir-based Association for Solidarity With Syrian Refugees.

Many are told on Facebook pages to make their way to the Izmir district of Basmane, the informal headquarters in Turkey for traffickers and those hoping to make the passage.

"They are able to make contact on Facebook with intermediaries. Once they are in Basmane, they can also spend three or five days at hotels and investigate their options. They speak with others about which smuggler is more affordable or has a reputation for safety," he said in an interview.

Social media have played a crucial role throughout the turmoil that has gripped the Arab world since 2011. It helped activists to mobilise protests against their rulers in countries such as Egypt, Libya and Syria itself at the start of the Arab Spring, and then became a means for citizens to report on the violence that followed.—*Reuters*

Drowned migrant boys buried as Hungary warns of 'mass inflow' of refugees

KOBANI, (SYRIA)/BUDAPEST — A Syrian father on Friday buried his wife and his two little boys, drowned as they tried to flee to Europe, while Hungary's leader told Europeans they risk becoming a minority on their own continent.

With desperation and anger deepening among people escaping conflict and poverty, around 300 migrants broke out of a Hungarian reception camp while about 200 others scuffled with police on a Greek island. Austrian police also said the driver of a truck found abandoned last week with the bodies of 71 migrants in the back was among a group of people arrested in Hungary.

The Syrian family and the 71 migrants, who suffocated in the truck, were among many casualties as hundreds of thousands make their way by sea and land towards wealthy northern European countries such as Germany, hoping to find safety and a new life. Many are refugees from the four-year-old civil war in Syria.

In the Syrian town of Kobani, 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi was laid to rest alongside his mother and five-year-old brother at "Martyr's Cemetery" in the predominantly Kurdish community near the Turkish border.

Images of the tiny body of Aylan washed up on a beach near the Turkish resort of Bodrum prompted a global outpouring of sympathy this week. He drowned with his brother Galip, his mother and nine others while trying to cross in a small boat to the Greek island of Kos just a few kilometres away.

While pressure is rising on European governments to tackle the crisis more effectively, the boys' weeping father, Abdullah Kurdi, called on countries closer to home to act. "I want Arab governments — not European countries — to see (what happened to) my children, and because of them to help people," he said in footage posted online by a local radio station.

Nevertheless, the head of the United Nations' refugee agency, Antonio Guterres, called on Friday for Europe to mobilise its "full force" to help the migrants.

In Austria, police said the 71 dead migrants found alongside a motorway near the Hungarian border were Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan nationals but not a single one of them has been identified. They included a baby girl and a young boy.

Riot police stand guard in front of a migrant reception centre in Roszke, Hungary, September 4, 2015.—REUTERS

The people had had enough air for no more than 90 minutes and appeared to have slowly lost consciousness, suffocating before the truck had crossed from Hungary. The driver was among five people arrested in Hungary, they added.

In southern Hungary, around 2,300 migrants in the reception camp were threatening to follow 300 who had already broken out unless their demands were not met within two hours, police said.

Many migrants are refusing to register in Hungary, fearing this will prevent them from getting to their preferred final destination, often Germany. Police gave chase to the 300 migrants and called a riot unit to secure the camp near the town of Roszke.

Elsewhere, hundreds of migrants started walking from Budapest's eastern railway station, saying they were heading to Austria. On the Greek island of Lesbos about 200 unregistered migrants trying to board a ship on Friday scuffled with police and coastguard officials.

The UN refugee chief's appeal contrasted with the tough line from Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who warned about the consequences of "a mass inflow of people", which he said could possibly number tens of millions. Guterres said the EU needed to help more migrants enter legally and provide about 200,000 relocation places, according to a preliminary estimate, as well as provide more support to countries under pressure such as Greece, Italy and Hungary.

"It now has no other choice but to mobilise full force around this crisis. The only way to solve this problem is for the Union and all member states to implement a common strategy, based on responsibility, solidarity and trust," Guterres said.

More than 300,000 people have risked their lives this year trying to cross the Mediterranean, and more than 2,600 people have died doing so. Turkish authorities stopped 57 people trying to cross to the Greek island of Kos on Thursday night, as migrants remained undeterred by Aylan's drowning on the same route.

Hungary's parliament passed a series of laws on Friday to control the flow of migrants into the country, giving police more authority and setting out strict punishments including prison terms for illegal border crossing.

Orban defended his government's hardline stand on the crisis. "The reality is that Europe is threatened by a mass inflow of people. Many tens of millions of people could come to Europe," he said before the laws were passed.—*Reuters*

Key radar fails on $1 billion NASA environmental satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL — A key instrument on a $1 billion NASA satellite has failed, reducing scientists' ability to capture data to measure the moisture in Earth's soil in order to improve flood forecasting and monitor climate change, officials said on Thursday.

A second instrument remains operational aboard the 2,100-pound (950-kg) Soil Moisture Active Passive satellite, though its level of detail is far more limited.

The satellite's high-powered radar system, capable of collecting data in swaths of land as small as about 2 miles (3 km) across, failed in July after less than three months in operation, NASA said. The cause of the failure is under investigation.

Launched in January, SMAP was designed to spend at least three years in orbit, taking measurements on the amount of water in the upper two inches (5 cm) of the Earth's soil.

Scientists had hoped to combine SMAP's high-resolution measurements with data from the lower-resolution instrument to get a better understanding of how much water, ice and slush is in the planet's top soil.

"The project will do all it can to meet the expectations of the science community," lead researcher Dara Entekhabi, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told Reuters in an email.

He said scientists would rely on advanced data processing, coupled with other data from the mission, to help fill in gaps.

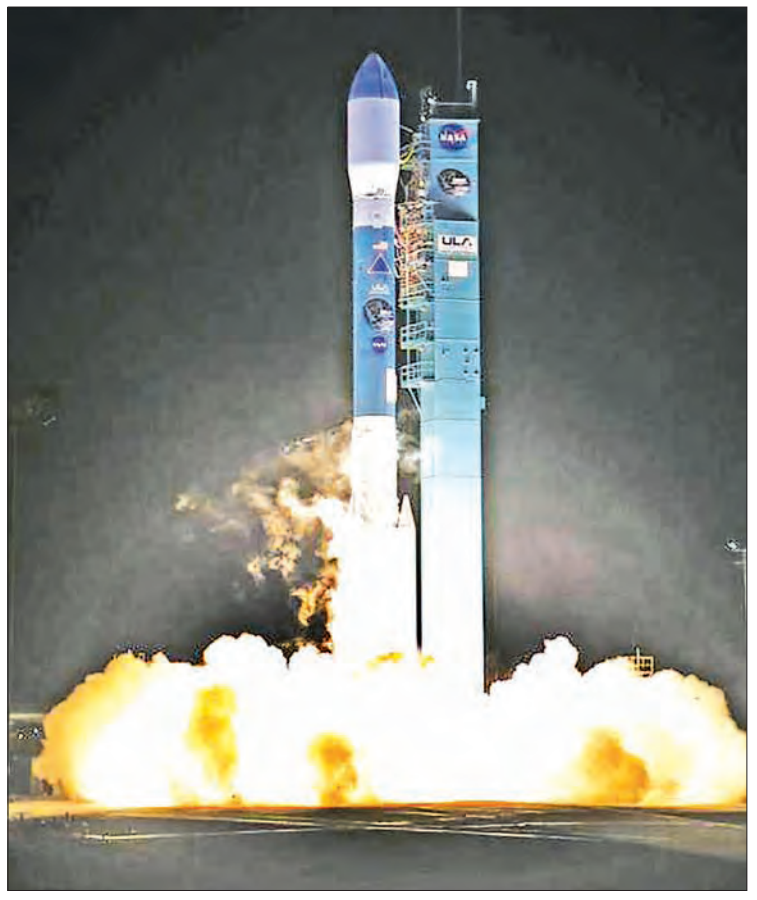
"What I will miss most about the SMAP radar is the opportunity for chance discovery. It was unique among the other instruments in orbit now because it provided frequent microwave mapping of the Earth's surface," he said.

Efforts to troubleshoot the problem were not successful, and NASA this week declared the radar system failed.

Overall, soil moisture accounts for less than 1 percent of the planet's total water reservoir, with 97 percent in the planet's oceans and nearly all of the rest locked in ice, Entekhabi told reporters before SMAP's launch in January.

Currently, scientists estimate soil moisture using computer modeling.

The tiny amount of soil moisture links Earth's environmental systems — its water, energy and carbon cycles — as well as determining whether particular regions are afflicted with drought or flooding. "It's the metabolism of the system," Entekhabi said in January.—*Reuters*



A 127-foot (39 meter) rocket built and flown by United Launch Alliance blasts off at 6:22 a.m. PST (14:22 GMT) from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California in this January 31, 2015 file photo.—REUTERS

Aussie researchers find cure for rare, fatal infant brain disease

MELBOURNE—Australian researchers have found a cure for a rare brain disease, which causes death in infants. No child had ever survived Molybdenum cofactor deficiency (MoCD) , until doctors from Monash Health in Melbourne teamed up with a German laboratory.

The Melbourne researchers found a compound being tested on animals in Germany could be employed to treat the type A variant of the disease. MoCD is an incredibly rare condition, affecting one in 100,000 to 200,000 newborn babies.

The condition results in the disintegration of brain tissue due to an enzyme deficiency, which eventually leads to the build-up of toxic levels of sulphite in the body.

The first infant given the compound, known as "Baby Z," had her sulphite levels return to normal and survived, albeit with severe disabilities. After the encouraging results, the group contacted 16 babies diagnosed with MoCD from 2008 to 2011, and eight could be further treated due to possessing type A. Three of these eight type A patients, who were treated right from birth, remain seizure free and have shown near normal brain development. Neonatologist and Monash University researcher Dr Flora Wong told News Corp on Friday that the results of the program, published in medical journal Lancet, would foster awareness about the disease. "It's a rare disease and diagnosis is difficult, so we suspect there are a lot of kids who are underdiagnosed just because people don't think of this rare disease," Wong said. "I think it's going to be a long education process to get all clinicians thinking about it, to know that a treatment is actually available. "It's important to start treatment as soon as possible, and then work out whether it's type A or B later, because that can take another few days." The Melbourne doctors hailed Baby Z as the "heroine" for developing the cure. "Being the first patient in the world, we had to go through a lot more hurdles than the others," Wong said. "Without her, all these other kids would not have benefited from it."—*Xinhua*

Extra screen time drags down teenagers' exam grades, study finds

LONDON—Teenagers who spend an extra hour a day surfing the internet, watching TV or playing computer games risk performing two grades worse in exams than their peers who don't, according to research by British scientists.

In a study of more than 800 students aged 14 and 15, researchers from Cambridge University also found that physical activity had no effect on academic performance.

Since this was a prospective study, in which the researchers followed the pupils over time to see how different behaviors affected performance, the scientists said it was reasonable to conclude that too much screen time reduced academic achievement.

"We only measured this.. in Year 10, but this is likely to be a reliable snapshot of participants' usual behavior, so we can reasonably suggest that screen time may be damaging to a teenager's grades," said Kirsten Corder of Cambridge's Centre for Diet and Activity Research, who co-led the work.

The study, published in the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, found the average amount of screen time per day was four hours.

An extra hour in front of the TV or online at age 14-and-a-half was linked with 9.3 fewer exam points at age 16 — equivalent to two grades, for example from a B to a D. Two extra hours was linked to 18 fewer points.

Unsurprisingly, the results also showed that pupils doing an extra hour of daily homework and reading scored better - getting on average 23.1 more points than their peers.

The scientists said further research was needed to confirm the effect conclusively, but advised parents worried about their children's grades to consider limiting screen time.

In a breakdown analysis of different screen activities, the researchers found that TV came out as the most detrimental in terms of exam performance.—*Reuters*

Scientists explain why farm children less likely to have asthma

WASHINGTON — A European team on Thursday proposed a new explanation for why children growing up on farms are far better protected against asthma and allergies.

The protective effect may be created by a particular anti-inflammatory protein called A20, which the body produces upon contact with farm dust, according to the team, led by researchers from Belgium's Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) and Ghent University.

The findings, published in the leading journal Science, may represent a major step forward towards the development of an asthma vaccine.

For the study, the researchers first exposed mice to farm dust extract, a bacterial component called endotoxin, every other day for two weeks.

They then presented these mice with allergy-driving house dust mites, which often cause asthma in people, finding that mice that had been regularly exposed to endotoxin did not develop allergic features, while control mice did.

Further research found that endotoxin exposure appears to have protected the mice by squashing the ability of the animals'lung epithelial cells to generate pro-inflammatory molecules, but this protective effect only worked in the presence of the A20 protein. "When we inactivate the A20 protein in the mucous membrane of the lungs, farm dust is no longer able to reduce an allergic or asthmatic reaction," study author Professor Hamida Hammad of VIB and Ghent University said.

These findings were then tested in patients. The results showed that people suffering from allergies and asthma have a deficiency in the protective protein A20, explaining why they react to allergens so severely.

"Discovering how farm dust provides this type of protection has certainly put us on the right track towards developing an asthma vaccine and new allergy therapies," Hammad said. "However, several years of research are required still before they will be available to patients." Some experts cautioned that the newly uncovered mechanism does not entirely explain the protective effect of farm life.

For example, it is commonly known that drinking raw cow's milk can provide protection against allergies, but that effect is unlikely to involve the lung epithelium, Gary Huffnagle of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, told Science.—*Xinhua*

US men who thwarted France train attack to be honoured in California parade

SACRAMENTO — Three young men who disarmed a suspected Islamist militant on a high-speed train in France will be honoured with a parade in their hometown in California next week, officials said, as the last of the trio returned to the United States on Thursday.

The three friends, Anthony Sadler, 22, Spencer Stone, a 23-year-old US airman, and Alek Skarlatos, 22, a National Guardsman, charged the gunman on a train headed to Paris from Amsterdam on Aug. 21, helping to wrestle away a pistol and an AK-47 assault rifle.

The efforts of the three Americans, along with Briton Chris Norman, earned them France's highest honour, the Legion d'honneur.

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson announced on Thursday that a parade honouring the men, who grew up in the Sacramento area and attended middle and high school together, was set for Friday, Sept. 11.

"Our community has been anxiously awaiting the return of our three hometown heroes — Anthony, Alek and Spencer — so that we can celebrate and honour their incredible courage," he said in a statement.

The parade will also honour the victims and first responders who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York City and Washington, the mayor's office said.

Stone, whose thumb was almost severed by the attacker in France, was the last of the three friends to return to the United States, arriving on Thursday after receiving medical treatment at a US Army hospital in Germany.

Stone has also been credited with saving the life of another train passenger who had been shot and was bleeding profusely.

Sadler, Skarlatos and Stone were touring Europe, partly to celebrate Skarlatos' return from duty in Afghanistan, when they noticed accused gunman Ayoub el Kazzani.

They have said they had no choice but to intervene when the gunman cocked the rifle.

US President Barack Obama has hailed their bravery.

Air Force Secretary Deborah James said Stone's unit was nominating him for the Air Force's highest medal for non-combat bravery. Skarlatos will receive the Soldiers Medal, the US Army's highest non-combat medal, Army officials said last week.

Sadler, a senior kinesiology major at Sacramento State University, was to be thanked for his actions by school president Robert S. Nelsen.—*Reuters*

PICTURE OF THE DAY

An Israeli antiquities authority worker cleans a 1,800 year-old sarcophagus outside the Israeli antiquities authority storage facility in Beit Shemesh, Israel, on Sept. 3, 2015. The ancient sarcophagus was discovered at a construction site in southern Israel's coastal town of Ashkelon, Israel's Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced in a statement Thursday. —XINHUA

Japan, China, S Korea agriculture ministers to meet in Tokyo

TOKYO — Japan, China and South Korea will hold a meeting of agriculture ministers on Sept. 12-13 in Tokyo, the first such meeting in over three years, Japanese Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said Friday.

Hayashi said the trilateral meeting "holds a great significance in terms of seeking sustainable agricultural growth and stable supply of food."

On the sidelines of the meeting, Japan plans to hold bilateral sessions with its two Asian neighbors to urge the repeal of regulations they have imposed on imports of Japanese agricultural and marine products after the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in 2011.

The three parties are scheduled to exchange memorandums of cooperation in preventing the spread of animal disease, such as foot-and-mouth disease and bird flu.

They will also seek to promote an information exchange on farming and trade policies, according to the minister.

The farm ministers' meeting, last held in April 2012 in South Korea, was set while the three countries plan on holding a trilateral summit, possibly late next month, after a hiatus since May 2012.—*Kyodo News*

US suspects more freed Guantanamo inmates returned to battlefield

Weeds and flowers grow near the fence at Camp X-Ray, a prison formerly used to house detainees at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, March 7, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON — The number of detainees freed from the US Guantanamo detention camp who are suspected of "re-engaging" with militant groups overseas increased over the first six months of 2015, the Obama administration said on Thursday.

Figures released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence showed that, as of July this year, of 121 detainees released since President Barack Obama took office in 2009, six were confirmed to have gone back to the battlefield and a further six were suspected of having done so.

Figures released in January had shown that Obama had released a total of 115 Guantanamo inmates, six of whom had returned to the battlefield, but only one of whom was then "suspected of re-engaging."

Between January and July this year the administration released six detainees.

The data did not identify any individual detainees. The detention facility for terrorism suspects at the US Naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba, which opened after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, now holds 116 prisoners. The administration of Obama, a Democrat, has said the number of those who returned to fight after being transferred out of Guantanamo under his presidency is lower than under his Republican predecessor George W. Bush, who set up the facility.

Obama has vowed to close Guantanamo before he leaves office in January 2017 but he is hampered by a slow bureaucratic process and by laws passed by Republicans in Congress barring the transfer of detainees to prisons on US soil. Obama is due to submit a report to Congress soon outlining a new plan for closing the facility.—*Reuters*

Gunman kills one student, wounds two others at Sacramento college

SACRAMENTO, (Calif) — One student was killed and two others injured after a fistfight at a Sacramento community college escalated into a shooting, a school official and police said, but classes were to be held as normal on Friday.

The gunman, who police said was of Pacific Island descent and wearing cargo shorts and no shirt, was still at large.

Sacramento City College has not released the names of the three male students. One of those injured was taken to hospital, Sacramento police Sergeant Doug Morse said, and the other had graze wounds and was not badly hurt.

Police locked down the college after the 4 pm (2300 GMT) shooting near its baseball field and gave the all-clear about four hours later after searching buildings and allowing students and staff to go home, college spokesman Rick Brewer said.

The incident started as a quarrel which led to a fistfight, he said. "Then one of them took out a semi-auto pistol and began shooting," he said. Police had initially said the shooting was across the street from the campus but later said it was on the college grounds near the baseball field.—*Reuters*

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MV BC SANFRANCISCO
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (0013W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BEHSHAD VOY NO (SCY 1004)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BEHSHAD VOY NO (SCY 1004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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 LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (010N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (010N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.9.2015 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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CHAMPION OF FRIED CHICKEN
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The above registered trademarks are used in respect of goods classified under Class 29 of the International Classification of Goods and Services for "Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; eggs, milk and milk products; edible oils and fats, Foodstuff Products"; and Class 43 of the International Classification of Goods and Services, for "Services for providing food and drink."
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U YE NOOS (Advocate) 5341
YE NOOS & ASSOCIATES (Law Firm)For JUPITER FOODS PTE. LTD.
(ye.noos1@gmail.com)

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(l 5-16)	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

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.

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Bangladesh charges 13 over 2012 garment factory fire

DHAKA — A Bangladesh court on Thursday charged the owners of a garment factory and 11 staff with homicide in connection with the deaths of 112 workers in the country's worst industrial blaze nearly three years ago.

The court indicted Delwar Hossain and his wife, Mahmuda Akter, the owners of the Tazreen Fashions, and 11 employees, including factory managers and security guards, in connection with the November 24, 2012, fire on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka.

The trial will start on Oct. 1, public prosecutor Khandakar Abdul Mannan told reporters. If convicted, they could face life in prison. Many of those who died in the multi-storey building died because supervisors ordered workers back to their stations even as an alarm rang and smoke rose through an internal staircase.—*Reuters*

New Zealand looks to break down barriers in APEC markets

WELLINGTON — New Zealand Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Paul Goldsmith will be seeking to break down behind-the-border trade barriers at an Asia- Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial meeting on structural reform in the Philippines next week.

"Structural reform looks to open up trade and markets by removing any behind-the-border barriers to doing business. These barriers could be regulations, government policies or institutional frameworks which act as obstacles to trade and investment between members," Goldsmith said in a statement Friday. New Zealand would be chairing the APEC Economic Committee, which takes a leading role in promoting structural reform within APEC, through to 2016.

"I am looking forward to participating in these meetings where APEC members gain insight on reform progress in each economy and learn from each other on how to overcome obstacles," said Goldsmith. "By working on behind-the-border impediments to economic growth, we can further the APEC goals of sustained growth and better regional economic integration," he said.—*Xinhua*

Models display creations at Elle Fashion Week 2015 in Bangkok

Models display creations of the TU'i Fall/Winter collection at the Elle Fashion Week 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, Sept. 3, 2015.—XINHUA

Actor Chris Evans makes directorial debut in 'Before We Go'

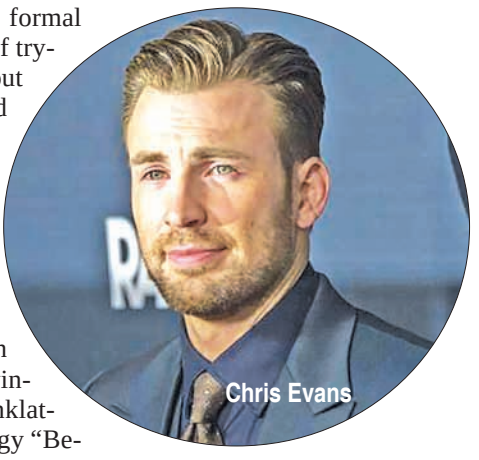
LOS ANGELES — Hollywood actor Chris Evans has swapped his "Captain America" shield for the director's chair in "Before We Go", a romantic drama he also stars in along with British actress Alice Eve.

Evans makes his directorial debut with the movie about two strangers who meet in New York one night, and whose initial acquaintance turns into a more trusting relationship.

Speaking at the film's screening in Los Angeles on Wednesday night, Evans said he was "just getting my feet wet" directing his first feature film.

"It was kind of a new kid at the first day of school, it was understood that I had no formal training so it's a matter of trying to not make a fool out of yourself," Evans told Reuters.

"But I was surrounded by a lot of good people and I had a lot of good advice from a lot of talented departments."


Chris Evans

The movie has drawn comparisons to award-winning director Richard Linklater's romantic drama trilogy "Before Sunrise", "Before Sunset" and "Before Midnight".

"Richard Linklater is a phenomenal director and if this is a homage to him then that's a great achievement for Chris," Eve said when asked about the similarities between the films.

"Before We Go" opens in US cinemas on Friday.—*Reuters*

Stan Lee jokes about 'Fantastic Four' failure

LOS ANGELES — Comic legend Stan Lee has joked that the reason for the box-office debacle of Josh Trank's "Fantastic Four" was his absence from the movie.

The 92-year-old former president and chairman of Marvel Comics also joked that the story of the latest movie was not discussed with him, reported Aceshowbiz.

"Well, it was probably because I didn't have a cameo in it. And they didn't discuss the story with me," Lee said jokingly.

"I haven't seen it yet, so I really can't comment," he added. —*PTI*

Comic legend Stan Lee has joked that the reason for the box-office debacle of Josh Trank's "Fantastic Four" was his absence from the movie.—PTI

Justin Bieber shows off vulnerable side as comeback gets under way

NEW YORK — Oh Baby! Justin Bieber's comeback is getting off to an emotional start with the Canadian pop sensation showcasing his sensitive side as he seeks to put his bad boy past firmly behind him.

Bieber, now 21, broke down in tears at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards show after his first performance there in five years.

The sobs, he told Jimmy Fallon in an appearance on "The Tonight Show," were authentic.

"Honestly, I just wasn't expecting them to support me in the way they did. Last time I was at an award show I was booed," Bieber told Fallon on Wednesday.

Bieber is back on the promotional trail ahead of the fall release of his first album of new material in three years, most of which were marked by bad behavior off stage and a string of court cases that risked damaging his image as a family-friendly teen heartthrob. Bieber first found fame as a 13 year-old and went on to become a global pop phenomenon with hits like "Baby" and "Believe."

He said in January that he was aiming to shed the "arrogant" and "conceited" attitude that led to arrests for careless driving, pelting a neighbor's home with eggs, assaulting a photographer, and abandoning a pet monkey at a German airport.

"I just had a bunch of knuckleheads around me," he told Fallon of his wild child period. "That was pretty much it. You have to figure out what you are okay with, and what you're not okay with, but you have to test the waters. I just happen to be in front of a spotlight and they caught all those moments."

In the first of a series of week-long promotions on NBC's "Today" show on Thursday, Bieber's work with the Make a Wish Foundation was highlighted in interviews with two young female fans who had personal meetings with him when they were seriously ill.

Bieber's latest single, "What Do You Mean?" released last week, is expected to give him his first top 10 hit since 2012. He is expected to promote it to his "Belieber" fans in a free "Today" show concert in New York City on Sept. 10.—*Reuters*

Singer Ella Eyre eyes solo success with debut album

Manchester United Legends v Bayern Munich All Stars - Old Trafford - 14/6/15 - Singer Ella Eyre performs before the game.—REUTERS

LONDON — Ella Eyre, the British singer known for her bold vocals, has just released her debut album, after collaborations with drum and bass band Rudimental and rapper Wiz Khalifa. But the 21-year-old says becoming a pop star was not her childhood dream.

"I never got picked for the solos in the school choirs or school plays ... so it was never something I really considered strongly," she said in an interview.

Aged 16, Eyre, whose real name is Ella McMahon, was cast as Tallulah in her school production of "Bugsy Malone", which she enjoyed so much she went to study musical theater for two years. "I loved musical theater, but I felt like I was quite restricted by playing a character and singing someone else's words and someone else's lyrics. I felt like I had something to say, so I started writing," she said.

Eyre's career began when she lent her vocals to tracks such as Rudimental's "Waiting All Night", which went on to top the British charts and win a BRIT Award.

The singer released her debut EP in late 2013 and three Top 20 singles followed. The release of her debut album, "Feline", was delayed last year, only going out last week.

"It is a completely different album to how it was supposed to sound," she said. "There are newer, better songs."

Eyre writes most of her tracks and says she has wanted to avoid being moulded.

"I've always been quite strong-willed and bull-headed about the way I wanted to be as an artist," she said ahead of a performance on Wednesday to launch the new Fiat 500 car at London's Tower Bridge.

"Taking songs was never an option for me because as a performer I want to translate the message and emotion that comes from that song, so if I haven't written it how am I supposed to understand it?"—*Reuters*

How green should a course be in times of drought?

Golf patrons wander the foggy grounds during player practice rounds ahead of the 2015 Masters at Augusta National Golf Course in Augusta, Georgia April 8, 2015.—Reuters

LOS ANGELES — For the non-golfer, the image is an unsettling one — lush golf courses sprawling across the desert areas around Palm Springs in arid California while the state is suffering a drought for a fourth consecutive year.

Similar scenes can be found in states such as Nevada, Texas and Arizona where golf courses appear to be getting more than their fair share of water in an era of climate change when usage is increasingly restricted in the private and public sectors.

For the United States Golf Association (USGA), however, a much bigger picture must be viewed when it comes to assessing the management of resources on golf courses, which can play a significant environmental role in urban areas.

"Golf adds such a benefit to communities," Kimberly Erusha, managing director of the greens section for the USGA, told Reuters. "You think about the green space golf courses offer, the benefits of the habitat they offer.

"Golf courses provide oxygen, they are a great cooling sink for the community and it's a great recreation that you can play from young to old.

"We also have to look at what's going on behind the scenes, at very efficient irrigation systems and at golf course superintendents who are trained to be able to apply water as efficiently as possible."

USGA green section agronomists have made more than 80,000 consulting visits to golf courses in the United States since the 1950s and the governing body has given more than $40 million to fund research into turf care and development.

Erusha says she has been especially excited by the USGA's development of an electronic resource management tool which will aid golf course superintendents in identifying areas where irrigation, mowing and fertilizer can be greatly reduced.

"This tool is not completely available to the public as of yet," said Erusha. "This summer, we have been field testing it with 39 different golf courses across the US to build up the content in the data base.

"The idea behind the tool is to be able to look at how golfers are utilizing the course and then balance that with how the golf course is being maintained."

An integral component of the tool is a GPS tracker which is fitted to golfers to monitor their movements out on the course.

"You then take those tracks and lay them down over a Google Earth image of the golf course and see where exactly the players are going," said Erusha.

"We can then identify areas that are not being used as much, and those areas can be put under less irrigation, less mowing, less fertilizer and they don't have to be maintained.

Ultimately that's going to help with the bottom line."

Golf course superintendents also benefit from an array of other tools, including soil sensors and hand-held moisture meters, while grasses have been developed by the USGA that require less water and less fertilizer.

California's ongoing drought and escalating talk in the US about climate change globally have unquestionably heightened public awareness about water usage.

July was the warmest month ever on record worldwide and 2015 has been so far the hottest year, according to a report last month by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

As people adjust to the impact of water use in both the private and public sectors, golfers' perceptions are gradually evolving and the lure of beautifully manicured, emerald green courses is no longer the 'Holy Grail' for everyone.

"Mother Nature is not perfect so shades of green can be a good thing on a golf course," said Erusha while pointing to the examples of Pinehurst and links-style Chambers Bay, which were sandy and brownish in hue as venues for the last two US Opens.

"Golf course superintendents have had the abilities to provide a lot of the conditioning that golfers have wanted in the past.

Now we've got to come back a little bit more to balance that out.

"We have to make sure we're being sustainable in the management of courses while also recognizing you can have terrific playing quality, although it may not be uniformly green from one edge to another."—*Reuters*

Spain need win over Slovakia to assure Euro 2016 hopes

MADRID — Spain coach Vicente del Bosque is likely to use the Chelsea collection when he side play their key qualifying game for the 2016 European Championships on Saturday night.

The Spanish entertain Slovakia in Oviedo knowing that a win over the Slovaks would go a long way towards taking them to the leadership of their qualifying group, but that a defeat could leave them looking over their shoulder.

Slovakia are the only team who have beaten Spain in qualifying with a 2-1 win a year ago and have a 100 percent record in qualifying with 18 points from 6 games, whereas the Spanish have 15 points from the same number of games: three more than the Ukraine, who are third in the group.

Del Bosque had few surprises in the squad he named a week ago, although he did give a return to striker Diego Costa, who subsequently commented he was 'in debt' with his adopted country. The Brazilian born forward is likely to have a chance to repay that debt on Saturday as Del Bosque looks likely to pair him with former Barcelona forward, Pedro Rodriguez, who is now Costa's clubmate after joining Chelsea in the summer.—*Xinhua*

mitv Myanmar International

(5-9-2015 07:00 am~6-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon- Charitable Associations
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	Shwe Myanmar And Full Moon Day Of Waso
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Leading Woman "May Sabai Phyu"
09:38	Am	Visiting A Serene Village In The Northwest of Myanmar
09:53	Am	Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Pa O in the Union
10:50	Am	Myanmar's Export: Mango

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Friday 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	Interesting Features of Rakhine
07:47	Pm	Today Myanmar: Impacts of Social Media (Part-2)
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Unique Pattern Of Myanma… A Trend Of Chin Traditional Dress
08:58	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art

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

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

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(5-9-2015, Saturday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:15 am
- Documentary (Mingun Sayadaw)

6:35 am
- Physical Exercise

6:45 am
- Documentary

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

7:30 am
- Head Line News

7:35 am
- Hyper Sports

8:00 am
- News/ International News

8:30 am
- Head Line News

8:35 am
- The Farmer

9:00 am
- News/ International News

9:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

10:35 am
- Science and Technology Programme

11:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

11:35 am
- Game For Children

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

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

1:10 pm
- Teleplay

1:50 pm
- Myoemanyein Music Troupe (Part-4)

2:10 pm
- Documentary

3:00 pm
- News/ Weather Report

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Fouth Year (Zoology)

5:00 pm
- News

5:15 pm
- Documentary (Part-1)

5:30 pm
- Head Line News

5:35 pm
- Documentary (Part-2)

6:00 pm
- News/ Weather Report

6:15 pm
- Teleplay

6:30 pm
- Head Line News

7:00 pm
- News/ Weather Report

7:30 pm
- Head Line News

7:35 pm
- Business News

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

9:00 pm
- News
- Gitadagale Phwintbarown
- Teleplay

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

6th Waning Day of Wagaung 1377 ME | SPORT | Saturday, 5 September, 2015

Aung San Stadium to undergo major repairs

Ko Moe

YANGON—Hundreds of millions of kyat will be spent on repairing and upgrading facilities at Aung San Stadium, with funds provided by Myanmar Football Federation, the Ayeyawady Foundation and football fans, the MFF said.

"Continuous football matches and heavy rains have damaged the field. We estimate that the total costs for repairs will be somewhere between K400 million and K700 million," media director U Soe Moe Kyaw of MFF told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on 2 September.

In addition to repairing the wear and tear on the field, the project will also include replacing search lights, stands, dressing rooms, ceilings and referee rooms. The media director said that the repairs will be carried out in phases.

The head coach of Ayeyawady United FC requested MFF to change the venue of the General Aung San Cup Football Tournament final on 27 October, claiming the grounds were too badly damaged.

Myanmar will be hosting the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Suzuki Cup 2016, the date of which has not yet been set. It will take place at Thuwanna Stadium's Youth Training Centre, with Aung San Stadium being a back-up venue should the repairs not be completed in time, U Soe Moe Kyaw added.

Aung San Stadium has a capacity of 40,000 seats and maintenance works have been carried out just once since MFF leased the stadium from the Sports and Physical Education Department in December 2009.

U Soe Oo, a stadium official, said, "We expect the repairs to take around two months to complete. The lawns, search lights and dressing rooms should be repaired at the same time."

Manaw Myay FC of Myanmar National League uses Aung San Stadium as its home ground. At present, Myanmar National League-1 and League-2 and General Aung San Cup are held at Aung San Stadium.—*GNLM*

U-16s team selections made after trial matches

YANGON — Myanmar U-16 team will play a round of matches against local and national football clubs as part of the lead-up to the 2016 Asian Football Confederation U-16 Championship qualifiers, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The U-16s will play Myawady FC, which won the Myanmar National League 2 on 5 September before playing either Myanmar's U-18 or U-19 team on 11 September. MFF will release the finalists of the U-16 team following these matches.

Myanmar is included in the Group (J) of the qualifier, together with Australia, Vietnam and Guam.

Myanmar will play against host country Vietnam on 16 September, Australia on 18 September and Guam on 20 September.

Myanmar took second place in the AFF U-16 Championship last year after being defeated by Thailand in the final.—*GNLM*

Thais crowned champions after hitting sixer past Vietnam

VIENTIANE — Thailand proved their superiority with an amazing 6-0 win over Vietnam in the final of the AFF Under-19 Championship at the National Sports Complex Stadium tonight. The Thais, after taking a one-goal lead at the break, took time before they found their rhythm and exploded with five more goals.

Tonight's result, which matches the biggest scoreline in the tournament, was by no means a true reflection of the match itself. The Vietnam players fought to the very end, but as the many chances they had all failed to hit its mark, the players spirits were clearly crushed. The Thai players took advanatge and began their plunder of goals.—*aseanfootball.org*

Laos out-shoot Malaysia to claim bronze

VIENTIANE — Hosts Laos found some consolation in finising third in the AFF Under-19 Championship when they edged Malaysia 3-2 (1-1) in a thrilling penalty shootout at the National Sports Complex Stadium here on Friday.——*aseanfootball.org*

Murray overcomes two-set deficit in New York heat

Andy Murray of Britain celebrates after winning a point against Adrian Mannarino of France during their second round match at the U.S. Open Championships tennis tournament in New York, September 3, 2015. REUTERS

NEW YORK — Andy Murray made another of his trademark stirring fightbacks as the third-seeded Scot powered past Frenchman Adrian Mannarino after dropping the first two sets of their second round encounter at a sweltering US Open on Thursday.

Murray, who looked befuddled early on, recovered to beat the left-hander 5-7, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 as he overcame a two-set deficit to record victory for the eighth time in his career.

The world number three finished off the extreme turnaround with his 21st ace to end the three hour, 17 minute match on an oppressive afternoon at the US National Tennis Center.

The crafty Mannarino, ranked 35th despite having no ATP Tour titles to his credit, seemed to put Murray in a daze early on with a shifting variety of groundstrokes, drop shots and volleys at the net.

"I'm proud of the way I fought," Murray told reporters. "It was not an easy match to come through at all. He was making it extremely difficult for me.

"I thought he played some really, really good tennis. He has such an unorthodox game, I didn't really feel that comfortable at many points out there in the match."

The Briton did have several early opportunities but failed to cash in, converting only one-of-seven break points in the opening set.

However, Murray has survived enough of these type of tests to know not to panic.

"When you're not playing your best, you find a way to come through matches like that. It can give you confidence. You feel a little bit like you're fortunate to still be in the event and you're a bit more relaxed going into the next matches," he said.

"When you've done it in the past, you have the belief that you can come through and do it again. That definitely helped me here today," Murray added in a raspy voice caused by a head cold.

Two sets down and with his back against the wall in the second-round match at Arthur Ashe Stadium, Murray snapped into focus and started to hit his strokes with piercing accuracy.

He ran the tiring Frenchman ragged in streaking through the remainder of the match, not allowing a single break point in the final three sets.

"You don't always have the luxury of winning in straight sets," said Murray. "Sometimes you have to fight through."

Next up for Murray will be Brazilian Thomaz Bellucci, a 6-0, 6-3, 6-4 winner over Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka.— *Reuters*

World Cup Asia Qualifier

Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium, Doha, Qatar 3.9.2015

Kuwait	**9**	**-**	**0**	**Myanmar**

Tottenham striker Kane dismisses 'one-season wonder' tag

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur and England striker Harry Kane has shrugged of suggestions that he is a one-season wonder after failing to find the net in his four games this campaign, British media reported.

The 22-year-old scored 31 goals in his breakthrough campaign for Spurs last season, including 21 in the Premier League, and is in the England squad for their European Championship qualifiers against San Marino and Switzerland.

"As a striker, you are going to get chances where you miss and, after that, it is about how you cope. Some strikers go down a bad path and lose their confidence but not me," Kane, who also scored on his England debut in March, was quoted as saying.

"My start to the season has been okay. It could have been better. I would like to have scored by now but football doesn't always work like that," he added.

The centre-forward revealed that he had sought the advice of England captain Wayne Rooney and ex-skipper Alan Shearer on how to end his drought.

England's Harry Kane during the press conference.—REUTERS

Rooney is one short of Bobby Charlton's record of 49 goals for England, while Shearer scored 30 times for the national team.

"Wayne has done it year in, year out," Kane said.

"I like talking to players like that and seeing how he has dealt with it.

"Shearer is a top man. It was good to talk to him. He's been in the same sort of situation as I am now and he gave me some good tips."—*Reuters*

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