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Tentative agreement to sign ceasefire in October

Ye Myint

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein and senior leaders of ethnic minority armed groups held talks on Wednesday that resulted in both sides tentatively agreeing to sign a ceasefire accord in October.

U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC), told the media after the talks that the government had agreed in principle to the ethnic minority's demands for an all-inclusive deal, although it called for a progressive realisation of the truce pact that would involve it being signed by the 15 groups with whom it has already reached bilateral peace agreements.

Of the six groups that the government has so far not included in the deal, an agreement has been reached for three to take part in political dialogue. These three parties include the Lahu Democratic Union, Arakan National Council and Wa National Organisation, MPC's senior adviser said.

Separate talks appear set to be held with the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, while the Taaung National Liberation Army is reportedly likely to sign the national ceasefire accord if it reaches bilateral agreement with the government.

During the talks, the president said that the government hopes that a single agreement may be signed with all three Arakan groups, the Arakan National Council, the Arakan Liberation



President U Thein Sein greets U Hsay Htin, patron of Shan State Progressive Party.—MNA

Party and the Arakan Army – the latter of which is based in the KIO-held territory.

According to the senior adviser, a date for signing the ac-

cord with 15 groups will be set during a meeting between Union Minister U Aung Min and a senior delegation from the ethnic minority armed groups or the Na-

tionwide Ceasefire Coordination Team. The meeting is expected to take place soon.

The president proposed on Wednesday that the accord be

signed on 29 September, however representatives from ethnic minority groups requested that they be given time to explain (See page 3)

ADB, Myanmar sign deal to boost int'l trade

NAY PYI TAW — The Government of Myanmar and the Asian Development Bank signed a framework agreement on Wednesday that will allow ADB to expand its Trade Finance Programme (TFP) into Myanmar, according to a press release issued by ADB.

The agreement was signed by Deputy Finance Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein, and James

Nugent, Director General of ADB's Southeast Asia Department.

"The Myanmar Government welcomes ADB's Trade Finance Programme into the country, as it enhances the capacity of partner banks to provide trade finance to Myanmar's importing and exporting clients," said Dr Maung Maung Thein.

The programme aims to

boost international trade by supporting the extension of trade finance. ADB will guarantee trade finance instruments issued by Myanmar banks, such as letters of credit. ADB will also provide credit facilities and technical assistance to partner banks.

"Trade finance promotes trade and investment and assists domestic Myanmar businesses to enter and compete in internation-

al markets," said Mr Nugent.

"ADB is proud to be associated with Myanmar's efforts to improve its business environment," he added.

The TFP will also help banks in Myanmar forge new relationships with international banks, enhancing local banks' ability to attract new clients and strengthening their capacity to use new trade finance tools

and instruments.

Manila-based ADB works to reduce poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region. In 2014, ADB assistance totaled \$22.9 billion, including \$9.2 billion in co-financing.—GNLM

Construction on Talok-Simeegon asphalt road inspected

MYINGYAN — District deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung and local officials inspected the construction of a 5-mile asphalt section of the Talok-Simeegon road in Myingyan Township on 6 September. The section is part of the 8-mile Myingyan-Talok-Simeegon road, which connects several towns and villages in Mandalay Region.

The officials called for the road to be completed on time and for workers to take appropriate safety measures. The Myingyan-Talok section of the road has already been completed.

After completion of the Talok-Simeegon section, the whole road is expected to provide a more convenient transport route to Myingyan from nearby rural villages. The road section is being constructed by Htaik Htaik Win Construction Company at a cost of K396.86 million.—Zaw Min Naing



Local authorities inspect progress of Talok-Simeegon asphalt road in Myingyan Township.—ZAW MIN NAING

Company donates clean water equipment to Zeyathiri Tsp



Officials of Ye Myat Trading Company donate SkyNet receiver to library through a resident.—TOWNSHIP IPRD

NAY PYI TAW — Ye Myat Trading Company donated SkyNet receivers to 19 village libraries and equipment to provide clean drinking water to rural communities in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 7 September. The company brought the items to the township's General Administration Department.

The donations are meant to ensure a sufficient water supply to Thaikchaung, Shwetwiningon and Aungchantha villages and to equip the libraries to contribute to the development of rural communities.—Township IPRD

Long-term investment in stock exchange may pay off: expert

Ko Moe

YANGON — Long-term investments in the soon to be launched Yangon Stock Exchange are more likely to deliver returns than short-term investments, predicts the economist Dr Aung Thura, founder and CEO of Thura Swiss.

"When the Yangon Stock Exchange comes alive, it will generate quite a bit of interest. Profit

from short term investment is more uncertain than long term, as profits will be determined by investors. If they sell shares at market price, the prices will be low," Dr Aung Thura said.

He urged potential investors in Myanmar to study markets elsewhere before investing in YSE.

"Companies listed on the stock exchange companies are governed by the

stock exchange's rules and regulations. If a company breaches the rules, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has the power to take action," he added.

The Yangon Stock Exchange-Joint Venture Limited will have K32 billion in capital, with three Myanmar directors and two foreign. It will be launched after the November 8 elections.—GNLM

Kalay University holds music and dance competition

KALAY — Kalay music talent show.

University in Sagaing Region held a music and dance competition on 7 September. The competition was held in the university's convocation hall and was attended by Rector Dr Than Win, as well as over 500 faculty members and students.

The competition was organised by the university's culture association.

Fourteen students participated in the dance competition, and 18 students participated in the

Also during the event, faculty members and students who volunteered for this year's Three Rs Campaign (referring to reading, writing and arithmetic) in Hkamti and Mindat townships were presented with certificates of honour.

Female students who attended the culture association's basic traditional dance course were also given certificates of completion during the event.—Aung Aung Soe

Fire victims of Mahaaungmye Township provided with relief items

MANDALAY — The victims of a recent fire in Mahaaungmye Township were provided with clothing, towels, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils and soap by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on 7 September.

Officials of the district and township General Administration Departments also handed over rice and construction materials to each family.

The fire broke out at 8:40 am on 6 September in Haymamarla Ward in Mandalay and burned down six houses, displacing 86 family members from 24 families.

They are now being sheltered at the nearby Shwekyay Dhammayon at the corner of 37th and 79th streets in Mahaaungmye Township.

Members of the social organizations and service personnel have also donated items at the shelter, with local officials saying more donations would be welcomed.

Local authorities of the township have invited well-wishers to donate cash and kind for rehabilitation of the fire victims.—Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)



Officials see off Executive Daw Soe Amy Kyaw of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association at Yangon International Airport on 7 September. The executive will attend ASEAN Gender and Development Forum on Tourism in Metro Manila of the Philippines from 7 to 10 September.—MWEA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and leaders of ethnic minority armed groups gather at post-peace talks dinner.—MNA

Tentative agreement to sign ceasefire in October

(from page 1)

the benefits of signing a national ceasefire accord to their respective group members, and proposed that a signing take place in mid-October.

MPC's U Hla Maung Shwe expressed hope that around 10 and 15 groups would initially sign the accord, with others to follow.

He said that ethnic minority armed groups sought political, military and social guarantees from the government during the talks in Nay Pyi Taw for the groups that will be sidelined from the signing process.

The government pledged that it will clear signatories to the accord from its list of unlawful associations prior to the signing and will ensure non-signatories will be invited to take part in political dialogue and that action will not be taken against them under Section 17/1 of the Unlawful Associations Act.

P'doh Saw Kwe Htoo Win, a member of the senior delegation of ethnic minority armed groups, said that the signatories to the deal would take responsibility for the ensuring that internal peace is lasting and the terms respected.

The ethnic delegation who attended the Nay Pyi Taw high-level talks with the President and government senior officials were Saw Mutu Sae Po, chairman of the Karen National Union, U N' Ban La, vice-chairman of the Kachin Independence Organization, U Hsay Htin from the Shan State Progressive Party, Nai Htaw Mon, chairman of the New Mon State Party and U Abel Tweed, chairman of Karenni National Progressive Party, and three senior delegation leaders — P'doh Naw Zipporah Sein, Dr La Ja and Pu Zing Cung, and member P'doh Saw Kwe Htoo Win.—GNLM

Post-peace talks dinner held

NAY PYI TAW — The Chairman of the Union Peace-making Work Committee, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, hosted a dinner for the leaders of ethnic minority armed groups at the Lake Garden Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

The vice president presented gifts to group leaders through KNU's Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe.

Present at the dinner on the government side were union ministers, the Union Peace-making Central Committee (UPCC), the Union Peace-making Work Committee (UPWC), the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) and the Special Delegation of the nationwide ceasefire talks.

The ethnic armed groups

present at the dinner were Karen National Union (KNU), the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), the Karen National Union and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA), the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), the Chin National Front (CNF), the new Mon State Party (NMSP), the Arakan Liberation Army (ALP), the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), the Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP), the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) and the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF).—MNA

Commander-in-Chief visits Gaza

NAY PYI TAW — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited a memorial to the fallen soldiers engaged in Operation Black Arrow in 1955 at the Gaza Strip in Israel on September 9.

At the Ministry of Defence in Tel Aviv, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Chief of General Staff of the Israel Defence Forces Lieutenant General Gadi Eitenkok and held discussions on bilateral military cooperation and a military trainee exchange programme.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended a dinner hosted by the Head of Policy and Political Military Bureau, Major General (Ret.) Mr Amous Gilard.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also visited Phalmarhim City's Israel Airforce headquarters and Elbit Systems (Defense Electronic Company) in Rehovot City. Officials explained defence electronic matters.—Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Chief of General Staff of the Israel Defence Forces Lieutenant General Gadi Eitenkok.—MYAWADY

State media broadcast campaign speeches



Emblem of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW — Leaders of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, the Pa-O National Organisation and the Democratic Party (Myanmar) gave speeches that were broadcast by state-run television and radio station on Thursday.

In his speech, KDUP chairman U Tun Naing explained his



Emblem of Pa-O National Organisation.—MNA

party's policies of promoting federalism, peace and national unity.

PNO central committee member Daw Nang Kham Bwar spoke about the need to unify Pa-O nationals and promote unity among national races, federalism, democracy and human rights. He also stressed the importance of



Emblem of Democratic Party (Myanmar).—MNA

preserving the cultures and traditions of Myanmar's national races and developing the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.

Daw Than Than Nu of the Democratic Party (Myanmar) delivered a speech that called for justice, national unity, democratisation and peace.—GNLM

Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW — MRTV news channel and Myanmar Radio will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from Kayan Na-

tional Party, Rakhine State National Force and Kayin People's Party on 10 September and 10 October.—GNLM

World's largest bank opens in Yangon

YANGON — The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China has opened a branch in Yangon.

Regarded as the world's largest bank, ICBC announced the official launch of the new branch at a ceremony at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon on 8 September.

Central Bank of Myanmar deputy governor U Set Aung, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Hong Liang and bank CEO Yi Huiman gave speeches at the

launch event. Six Chinese companies operating in Myanmar entered into cooperation agreements with ICBC at the event. The event was followed by a forum titled "One Belt, One Road," which aimed to promote economic and infrastructural connectivity between Myanmar and China.

ICBC was founded in 1984. The bank now has 17,122 branches in China and 388 abroad.—MNA

Myawady

Myawady workers complete vocational training courses

WORKERS who attended a series of vocational training courses in Myawady were awarded completion certificates on 8 September.

The courses took place from 21 to 23 and offered training in tile laying, motorcycle mechanics and cooking to over 100 locals. The courses aimed to boost local employment, enhance workers' efficiency and improve living standards. They

were organised by Myanmar's Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Regional officials from both countries attended the completion ceremony.

An official from the township labour office said the training courses would improve the workers' socioeconomic status.—*Htin Lin Aung*

Myawady holds traffic safety meeting

THE Myawady District general administration office held a meeting to discuss traffic safety measures on 9 September.

Myawady District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo said that strategies to avoid traffic congestion must be devised through collaboration between district officials and the local community.

He said the local govern-

ment must offer education to local residents on the dangers of traffic accidents and on the rules for motor vehicles and drivers.

The deputy commissioner also stressed the importance of car maintenance and said reckless drivers would face stiff penalties, including arrest. — *Hein Lin Aung*

KBZ explains insurance policies

MANDALAY — International Kanbawza Insurance Company shared information about their services at the Mandalay Region Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 7 September. Mandalay Region Traders and Industrialists Association vice president U Kyaw Min gave the opening speech.

The insurance company's assistant general manager U Kyi

Sein Win and marketing manager U Myo Thant explained that its services can be used to insure commodities transported over waterways and roads.

They also explained the company's policies on fire insurance, health insurance, car insurance, life insurance and express highway traveling insurance.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Mandalay Chief Minister discusses model village plans with KOICA

MANDALAY — Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint met a visiting delegation from the Korea International Cooperation Agency at the Mandalay Region government headquarters on 9 September.

The chief minister and KOICA officials discussed plans to build model villages in the region

Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than, Mandalay Region Government Secretary U Win Shein also attended the meeting.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency delegation was led by project manager An Sung Soo.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Mandalay mayor calls for greener city



Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun inspecting tasks of nursery in Mandalay.—*THIHA KO KO*

MANDALAY — Mandalay mayor U Aung Moun and city officials inspected the city's parks and sporting grounds on 8 September.

The mayor, who is also the development minister for Man-

dalay Region, encouraged local plant nurseries to plant resilient seedlings for the weekly tree-planting ceremonies during monsoon season.

He also said that trees must be planted around the city as part

of its civil development.

Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, is undergoing a year-long campaign to promote green living under the Mandalay City Development Committee.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Country's first steel box girder bridge opens



Various vehicles passing through New Ngamoeyeik Bridge linking Thingangyun and Thakayta Townships.—*SOE WIN (MLA)*

YANGON — Myanmar's first steel box girder bridge was opened to the public on 9 September in Yangon.

The bridge connects Thingangyun and Thakayta townships and spans 240-metres, with two lanes for vehicles and two for pedestrians.

The first few cars to cross the bridge were given gifts by

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and senior regional officials. The construction of the bridge started in September 2014.

The bridge can bear up to 75 tonnes, and the clearance of the bridge is 5.99 metres high and 100 metres wide.

Vehicles travelling from Thakayta Township to Thuwunna of Thingangyun Township can

use the new bridge, while those travelling in the opposite direction must use the older, Japanese-funded Ngamoeyeik Bridge, according to regional officials.

The new bridge shares the same name as the original Ngamoeyeik Bridge.

The official opening of the new bridge will take place in two weeks.—*Soe Win (MLA)*

Mahathir returns to Malaysia ready for probe over anti-Najib comments

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's veteran former leader Mahathir Mohamad returned from an overseas trip on Wednesday saying he would comply with any police investigation into comments he made against Prime Minister Najib Razak at an anti-government rally last month.

Mahathir has led calls for Najib's resignation over alleged mismanagement and corruption at indebted state investment fund 1MDB.

The strong stand by Mahathir, and Najib's actions to stifle dissent in the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) has raised fears of a split in a party that has led every government since Malaysia gained independence from colonial rule in 1957.

The political uncertainty has nagged at investor confidence in an economy whose ringgit currency has lost 19 percent of its value against the dollar so far this year, and is down to levels unseen since the Asian



A supporter kisses the hand of former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad as he arrives at Subang airport, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, September 9, 2015. —REUTERS

financial crisis 17 years ago.

The 90-year-old Mahathir surprised many in UMNO, as well as the opposition parties, when he joined tens of thousands of protesters in a two-day rally in Kuala Lumpur, organized

by anti-corruption activists last month.

Speaking at the rally, which was declared illegal by city authorities, Mahathir called Najib a corrupt leader and said the people did not want him.

Malaysian police have said those comments warranted investigation, but the country's longest-serving prime minister remained defiant.

"(Let them) investigate... that's their job," Mahathir told reporters and dozens of supporters gathered at the airport to receive him on his return from a private trip to Jordan.

When asked about the possibility that he could be arrested for exercising his constitutional rights, Mahathir said: "I don't think they should, but I will comply." Najib is faced with the biggest crisis of his political career following media reports of a mysterious transfer of more than \$600 million into an account under his name. Najib has denied any wrongdoing and says he did not take any money for personal gain. But with the scandal refusing to die down, the prime minister has tightened his grip on power through a series of steps to sideline dissenters and muzzle critical media. —Reuters

Vietnam sees increasing presence of ASEAN bank branches

HO CHI MINH CITY — More banks from ASEAN member countries are expected to open branches in Vietnam when it is opening its banking market wider to meet the requirements of the emerging ASEAN Economic Community and the World Trade Organization, local media reported Wednesday.

The Siam Commercial Bank of Thailand, which has quickened the pace of bank branch establishment in Vietnam along with Malaysia, Singapore and other ASEAN members, is waiting for approval from the State Bank of Vietnam to establish a branch.

Siam Chief Executive Officer Arthid Nanthawithaya said the branch is expected to come into operation by the end of this year with capital reserves of 75 million US dollars.

Another Thai lender, Kasikorn Bank, opened two representative offices in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City earlier this year.

In March, the Vietnamese central bank approved, in principle, of Kuala Lumpur-based Public Bank Berhad's setting up a wholly-Malaysian invested bank in Vietnam, while Malaysia's Maybank already has two branches in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. The Singapore-headquartered United Overseas Bank is also seeking to establish a wholly Singaporean invested bank in Vietnam.

The ASEAN Economic Community, to be formed at the end of 2015, requires member states to open the service markets in general, and banking-finance market in particular, to a level of at least 70 percent at the end of this year, and 100 percent by 2020. To meet its commitments to the World Trade Organization, Vietnam has to fully open its banking sector to foreigners by 2020. —Xinhua

Sixteen Indonesian airports affected by haze

JAKARTA — The ongoing forest fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan have affected the operation of 16 airports, leading to flight delays and cancellations due to low visibility caused by the thick haze, a senior official at the Indonesian Transportation Ministry said on Tuesday.

Transportation Ministry Spokesperson Julius Adravid Barata said that the haze has lowered visibility in those airports, forcing planes to reschedule or even cancel their flights for safety reason. "Visibility was significantly affected, making it difficult for planes to land or take off," Barata said in a statement.

Airports in Kalimantan influenced by the haze include Melalan

Melak Airport in Kutai (East Kalimantan), the Syamsudin Noor Airport in Banjarmasin (South Kalimantan), the Beringin Airport in Muara Teweh, the Iskandar Airport in Pangkalan Bun, the Haji Asan Airport in Sampit (Central Kalimantan), the Supadio Airport in Kubu Raya, Pangsuma Airport in Putussibau, the Susilo Airport in Sintang, the Rahadi Usman Airport in Ketapang, the Tjilik Riwayat Airport in Pontianak (West Kalimantan) and the Atty Besing Airport in Malinau (East Kalimantan).

In Sumatra, the airports that saw severe impacts from the haze were Dr. Ferdinand Lumban Tobing Airport in Sibolga, the Silangit Airport in North Tapanuli (North Sumatra), the Sultan Thaha Air-

port in Jambi, the Sultan Syarif Kasim II Airport in Pekanbaru (Riau), and the Depati Amir Airport in Pangkal Pinang, Bangka Belitung, Barata said.

The Indonesian government has imposed haze emergency status to address the forest fire. The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) is teaming up with police, military and volunteers to extinguish the fires on the ground while making artificial rain to help the efforts. Indonesia has been experiencing massive forest fire in Sumatra and Kalimantan in the last 18 years. Legal measures have been strengthened against individuals and firms responsible for setting the fires in the forest in the last few years. —Xinhua

Typhoon Etau crosses into Sea of Japan after battering central Japan

TOKYO — Typhoon Etau crossed into the Sea of Japan on Wednesday afternoon after making landfall in central Japan in the morning, leaving at least five people injured, flooding roads and homes along its path and disrupting air and rail transport.

The typhoon also brought heavy rain to Tokyo and other parts of eastern Japan, prompting the Japan Meteorological Agency to issue flood and landslide warnings for parts of the region, including Tokyo and Kanagawa.

The weather agency is warning that although the typhoon is expected to weaken into an extratropical depression, heavy rain will

likely continue mainly along Japan's eastern Pacific coast on Thursday. The typhoon made landfall on the Chita Peninsula in Aichi Prefecture around 10 a.m. and moved northward before moving out to the Sea of Japan several hours later.

Local authorities in Mie Prefecture urged around 14,000 residents to evacuate due to the risk of landslides and flooding of rivers. Roads were flooded and houses were inundated in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture.

Three people in Aichi and two people in Shizuoka are reported to have sustained injuries. One of them, a 77-year-old woman in

Toyohashi, Aichi, broke her leg after winds knocked her over.

Some railway services were suspended and parts of expressways closed in central Japan. The typhoon also led airlines to cancel more than 50 flights that were scheduled to leave or arrive at Chubu airport in Aichi Prefecture in the morning. At 4 p.m., the typhoon, with an atmospheric pressure of 998 hectopascals at its center and packing winds of up to 90 kilometers per hour, headed north-northwest at a speed of 40 kph over the Sea of Japan, or about 90 km northwest of Komatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture. On Wednesday morning, the city of Toba in Mie Prefecture saw

75.5 millimeters of hourly rainfall and Hakone, a hot spring resort area near Tokyo, logged 55 mm, while winds of 109 kph were observed in Tahara, Aichi.

Due to the unstable atmosphere, heavy rainfall of 200 mm per hour is expected in the Kanto-Koshin area, which includes Tokyo, and northeastern Japan over a 24-hour period through Thursday noon. The weather agency forecasts high waves of up to 7 meters from the main island of Kyushu to northeastern Japan and strong winds with maximum speeds of 126 kph across a wide area of central and western Japan for Wednesday. —Kyodo News

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Hungarian TV journalist fired for tripping up fleeing migrants



A migrant carrying a child tripping on TV camerawoman Petra Laszlo and falling while trying to escape from a collection point in Roszke village, Hungary, September 8, 2015.—REUTERS

BUDAPEST — A camerawoman for a private television channel in Hungary was fired late on Tuesday after videos of her kicking and tripping up migrants fleeing police, including a man carrying a child, spread in the media and on the internet.

In separate videos, the woman, who was not named by the channel, is seen kicking a girl and tripping up the man and child as hundreds of migrants, many of

them Syrian refugees, broke away from police on Hungary's southern border with Serbia.

Hungary's right-wing government has taken a hard line on the flow of migrants across its borders en route to western Europe, portraying them as a threat to European prosperity and "Christian values".

"An employee of N1TV today showed unacceptable behaviour at the Roszke collection

point," N1TV, also known as Nemzeti TV, said in a statement. "We have terminated the contract of the camerawoman with immediate effect today."

Hungarian news website 444.hu identified the camerawoman as Petra Laszlo.

N1TV runs a weekly chat show with Gabor Vona, leader of the far-right, anti-immigration opposition party Jobbik, according to the channel's website

<http://www.n1tv.hu/>.

The channel says it stands for "national issues." Over 150,000 migrants, many of them refugees from conflicts in the Middle East, have been recorded entering Hungary so far this year. Police have been trying to round them up and register them in line with European Union rules, but many migrants refuse, fearing that they will then be forced to stay in Hungary.—Reuters

Lufthansa pilots strike for second day, 1,000 flights cancelled

FRANKFURT — Pilots at German airline Lufthansa started a second day of strikes on Wednesday, grounding around 1,000 flights and affecting 140,000 passengers, and said more strikes would come if management did not improve their offer in a row over cost cutting.

Lufthansa had tried to stop the strike, the 13th in 18 months, with a temporary injunction but on Tuesday night two courts ruled in favour of the pilots' union, Vereinigung Cockpit.

"If there's no new offer from Lufthansa we will call for a further strike," VC spokesman Markus Wahl told Reuters at Frankfurt airport. He said strikes could occur at any time, though the union would give 24 hours' notice.

The pilots are striking over retirement benefits, pay and Lufthansa's plans to expand low-cost operations.

They want Lufthansa to halt the expansion of Eurowings, which has an Austria operating licence, while negotiations continue.

Lufthansa management has said it must achieve cost cuts in order to compete with budget rivals such as Ryanair, which are targeting the German market. Ryanair on Wednesday raised its full-year profit guidance again, this time by 25 percent, thanks to strong summer traffic.

German employers' association BDA said the strikes were damaging the entire German economy and the aims of the pilots were legally questionable.

"The question of which planes, which carriers and which company units to use on which routes falls under the freedom to make commercial decisions and should not be attacked through industrial action," BDA President Ingo Kramer told a regional German paper.—Reuters

British Airways passengers, crew escape plane fire in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS — A British Airways jetliner engine caught fire in Las Vegas as the plane was about to leave for London on Tuesday, forcing the pilots to abort takeoff, but all 172 passengers and crew escaped the smoke and flames that quickly enveloped the aircraft.

Several passengers and crew suffered minor injuries and were taken to the hospital as a precaution, a spokeswoman for the airline said. She did not say how many people were injured.

Video and photographs from the scene showed Flight 2276, a Boeing Co (BA.N) 777 bound for Gatwick, engulfed in flames and thick black smoke at McCarran International Airport.

Passengers were evacuated from the twin-engine, wide-body jet to the runway using emergency slides, officials said.

"Our crew evacuated the aircraft safely and the fire was quickly extinguished by the emergency services at the airport," the British Airways spokeswoman said.



A British Airways passenger jet is shown after a fire at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas September 8, 2015.—REUTERS

According to preliminary information, the plane's left engine burst into flames on takeoff, said Ian Gregor, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration's Pacific Division. He said the plane was carrying 159 passengers and a crew of 13. British Airways said the plane suffered a technical difficulty. A photograph posted by the airport of the immediate aftermath of the fire showed the plane idled

on the runway with its fuselage charred. The fire temporarily delayed flights across the western United States. Jacob Steinberg, a sports journalist for Britain's Guardian newspaper, wrote on Twitter that he had fallen asleep on the plane during takeoff and felt the jetliner come to "crashing halt."

"Could smell and see smoke but was on other side of plane. One person said fire melted a couple of

windows," Steinberg wrote. "They opened the back door and slide went down and smoke started coming in plane, followed by mad dash to front."

A lot of panic." A spokeswoman for British Airways, which is owned by IAG (ICAG.L), said safety was always the top priority and the airline was providing passengers with hotel accommodation and other needs.—Reuters

Clinton apologises for using private email as US secretary of state

NEW YORK — US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton for the first time apologised on Tuesday for using a private email server at her New York home for her official communications as secretary of state.

"That was a mistake. I'm sorry about that. I take responsibility," Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic Party's nomination in the 2016 presidential election, said in an interview with ABC News, while still insisting that she violated no rules.

"What I had done was allowed, it was above board," she said. "But in retrospect, as I look back at it now, even though it was allowed, I should have used two accounts. One for personal, one for work-related emails."

In two earlier interviews in the past week, Clinton had declined to apologise for the controversial email arrangement while working as the nation's top diplomat, saying it was allowed by the State Department.

Clinton has been forced to

defend herself against growing public scrutiny of how she handled sensitive government information since the email arrangement first came to light in March.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is now examining the email server to see whether any information, including classified information, was mishandled.

In addition to persistent criticism from opponents and media questions, the State Department's court-ordered

monthly releases of the more than 30,000 emails in question has kept the issue in the public

"That was a mistake. I'm sorry about that. I take responsibility,"

—Hillary Clinton

eye, roiling Clinton's efforts to nail down the nomination.

Recent polls have found more than half of all voters say she is untrustworthy.

On Tuesday, US officials said the State Department plans to move about 50 workers into temporary jobs to bolster the office sifting through her emails and grappling with a vast backlog of other requests for information to be declassified. The move illustrates the huge administrative burden caused by Clinton's decision to use a private email address as secretary of state and a judge's ruling in a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit that they be released.—Reuters

Security forces lock down Beirut ahead of meeting, protest

BEIRUT — Lebanese security services locked down central Beirut on Wednesday ahead of a meeting of politicians aimed at discussing ways out of a political crisis that has paralysed government and fuelled a wave of street protests.

Activists mobilising against government failures including a waste disposal crisis that has allowed garbage to pile up in Beirut have called protests to coincide with the “national dialogue” called by parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri.

Hundreds of soldiers lined entrances to downtown Beirut early on Wednesday, locking down the area home to the parliament building where the dialogue was due to begin at 11 a.m. (0800 GMT). Armoured vehicles lined streets in the sweltering summer heat as a sandstorm engulfed Lebanon for a second day.

“This government is afraid of its people, closing the roads to a constitutional institution - the parliament. We should be protesting today in front of the parliament, peacefully,” said Marwan Maalouf, one of the founders of the “You Stink” campaign.

“This government is scared of the voice of anger of its people that has been going into the street for two months,” Maalouf



Politicians attend a session of the national dialogue, aimed at discussing ways out of a political crisis at the parliament building in downtown Beirut, Lebanon, September 9, 2015. —REUTERS

said in a televised interview with New TV.

He said the movement would go ahead with a protest at 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) in nearby areas.

A small group of protesters, some holding Lebanese flags, had already gathered at one of the

newly erected barbed wire barricades blocking the way to parliament.

The dialogue comes after several weeks of protests that have occasionally turned violent. The protests have been organised independently of the main sectar-

ian parties, posing a challenge to these parties.

Parliament, like other institutions of state, has barely functioned in recent years in a political crisis linked to wider regional turmoil, including the war in neighbouring Syria.

A unity government led by Prime Minister Tammam Salam has struggled to take even basic decisions, while the presidency reserved for a Maronite Christian has been vacant for more than a year because there is no consensus on who should fill it.

Berri was quoted as saying the presidency would be the first item on the agenda. “We will expend every effort to reach a result in this regard but if that is not feasible we will move to other items,” he was quoted as saying in As-Safir newspaper.

But underscoring the challenges, one of the candidates for the presidency - Maronite politician Samir Geagea - was quoted by National News Agency as saying the dialogue would not resolve anything.

Public discontent in Lebanon over problems including daily power cuts has come to a head over the waste disposal crisis. The government has yet to resolve the problem triggered by the long-scheduled closure of Beirut’s main rubbish tip in July.

Salam’s cabinet includes Shi’ite Muslim group Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, and the Future Movement, led by the Saudi-backed Sunni politician Saad al-Hariri, together with rival Christian parties.—Reuters

Khamenei says Iran will not negotiate with US beyond nuclear talks

DUBAI — Iran’s Supreme Leader has said Tehran will not negotiate with the United States on any issue after the landmark nuclear deal with world powers in July, according to his official website on Wednesday.

The comments appeared to contradict more moderate president Hassan Rouhani, who said on Tuesday the Islamic Republic was ready to hold talks with the United States on ways to resolve Syria’s civil war.



Ayatollah Khamenei

“We negotiated with the US on the nuclear issue for specific reasons. (The Americans) behaved well in the talks, but we didn’t and we won’t allow negotiation with the Americans on other issues,” Ayatollah Khamenei was quoted as saying.

“The Americans are not hiding their animosity towards Iran... Negotiations are a tool for them to influence Iran and to impose their will,” Ayatollah Khamenei said to hundreds of

visitors to his offices.

Following the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, several high diplomatic delegations from Europe have visited Iran, in a possible sign of a thaw to a decade of isolation brought on by international sanctions.

But long-time rivals Tehran and Washington have yet to normalise relations or open a dialogue on their contending policies in the war-torn region.—Reuters

Bomb blast kills 2 children, wounds 3 in N Afghanistan

KUNDUZ, (Afghanistan) — Two children were killed and three others sustained injuries as a bomb blast hit Imam Sahib district in the northern Kunduz province on Wednesday, a local official said.

“A mine planted by militants under a bridge in Imam Sahib district went off at around 10:00 a.m. local time (5530 GMT), killing two children and injuring three others, including two children and a woman,” district governor Imamudin Qurishi told Xinhua. He also blamed the attack on the enemies of peace, a reference to the Taliban militants. However, the armed group, which is fighting the government and are active in parts of Imam district and the neighboring Dasht-e-Archi district, has yet to claim responsibility.—Xinhua

South Africa watching suspects after US alert, sees no imminent threat

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa said on Wednesday it was monitoring a number of people linked to a reported threat to US interests, but was satisfied that no one in the country faced any imminent danger.

The US Embassy warned its citizens on Tuesday of a possible attack by “extremists”, a rare se-

curity alert in a stable democracy seldom associated with Islamist militancy.

South African State Security Minister David Mahlobo told Talk Radio 702 on Wednesday the US embassy had shared information linked to the warning with his officials. He referred to “the information that they have shared with us

and the individuals concerned that we are following”.

“This is not a new information, the information has been shared over the past few days, the information has been acted upon,” he added. “In terms of our own threat analysis, we had to do a threat analysis, who is the source and what is happening, and came

to the conclusion that there is no immediate danger.”

In Washington, State Department spokesman John Kirby said he could not elaborate on what prompted the embassy announcement, adding: “the embassy had information indicating a potential terrorist threat.”—Reuters

Syrian air base falls to rebels, troops exit : state TV

AMMAN — Syrian troops have pulled out of a major air base in northwestern Syria, state television said on Wednesday, after a two-year siege by Islamist-led insurgents, increasing pressure on government-held coastal areas north of the capital.

A group monitoring the war said the Syrian military had been

completely driven out of the northwestern province of Idlib after the fall of the base.

Rebel sources said al Qaeda’s Nusra Front had played a leading role in the capture of the airport. Nusra is part of a coalition of Islamist groups called the Army of Conquest which has seized most of the surrounding

Idlib province.

In a newsflash, Syrian state television said the army garrison that had defended the Abu al-Duhur military airport had evacuated the post.

The airport, which was one of the last remaining military strongholds in Idlib province, has been under siege for almost

two years by rebels. Another major base east of Aleppo, Kweiris, is currently besieged by ultra hardline Islamic State militants.

Nusra Front has made gains in northwestern Syria alongside other insurgent groups since May, seizing the city of Idlib, the town of Jisr al-Shughour and bringing them closer to govern-

ment-held coastal areas north of the capital.

Rami Abdulrahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said members of a local pro-government militia remained in two Shi’ite villages in Idlib province but the army itself had withdrawn from the province.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 10 September, 2015

An absence of war isn't peace

By Myint Win Thein

AFTER years of intense negotiations, the union government and a majority of ethnic armed groups on Wednesday tentatively agreed

to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in the first week of October, according to media reports. The truce will be a great achievement for Myanmar and it will pave the way for political dialogue to be held to resolve the root causes of six decades of civil war.

However because the absence of war does not necessarily equal peace, it is vital that these fundamental issues be addressed so as to achieve long lasting peace. It is expected that the political dialogue will be held again next year, after the truce agreement has been signed. It is critical that all parties involved in these talks work in earnest to find a solution that is agreeable to all.

Equally important is for all groups to abide by the provisions of the nationwide ceasefire

agreement so that genuine peace materialises nationwide. If not, we risk the resumption of armed conflicts, which would do great damage to Myanmar's development and future prosperity. It is up to everyone to ensure that the signing of this agreement is exactly that: a historic milestone for peace in Myanmar.

Write for us

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

Wonder Tree: Neem

Khin Maung Myint
(MPT Retired)

THE neem trees are native to India and Myanmar. In Myanmar, they are found in abundance in the dry zone where there is only little rain and water is scarce. The landscape there is arid and semi-desert like, where low thorny shrubs and cactuses are common sights. In those places, the neem trees are the largest and tallest, except for a few other species, and they provide good shades where temperatures can soar very high.

Today, the neem tree is attracting much interest even in countries where they are not found. Many countries in the West are experimenting and researching the neem tree and its products. Among them, Australia had been experimenting with the neem tree plantations since 1940 in the Northern Territories to provide shades for the life-stocks and also to retard the desertification process. Today, they had expanded the plantations to other regions. These trees easily adapt to Australia and flourish because they are hardy and can survive droughts and hot weathers and can thrive in semi-desert like conditions of the Australian outback. This ability made them useful in repelling the desertification and it must be the reason for growing them in Australia.

Apart from the anti-desertification ability, they have quite a large number of properties and uses. The neem leaves, oil and barks are very useful ingredients in the traditional medicines in India, Myanmar and many South East Asian countries since the ancient times. Though I was familiar with the healing effects of neem for certain diseases, from hear says, I am not aware of its diverse benefits to health until a few days ago.

During a conversation, my elder brother told me of his experience on one occasion when he attended a conference in Pune,

India. At the conference, he met a German scientist who was well informed about the properties and uses of neem, as he had done research on that specie. Although he had researched and was well informed about neem, he admitted, he had never seen a neem tree. He was delighted when my brother pointed out to a neem tree that happened to be right behind him. It was the first time he had ever seen a neem tree. He told my brother that he did his research by reading books. What a surprise, a researcher who is doing a research on neem had never seen one until then.

That story intrigued me to learn more about the neem tree. I was born in Upper Myanmar among the neem trees. However, apart from eating its young leaves or shoots and buds as side dish like most Myanmar do, and was bathed with boiled neem leaf liq-

neem trees. One is called the Bamar neem (*Bamar Tamar*) and the other, the Indian neem (*Kalar Tamar*). People in Upper Myanmar consume only the *Bamar Tamar* as vegetable and *Kalar Tamar* is used only for medicinal purposes. There may even be a third variety, because when I was young we had a tree in our compound in Pyin-Oo-Lwin, that looked nothing like the *Bamar* or the *Kalar tamar*. The foliage looked somewhat similar to other *tamars* on the first glance, but when observed closely the shape and size of the leaves were totally different. That tree is simply called *Taung Tamar*, meaning mountain neem. The leaves and buds are tastier than the others as they are less bitter, but I am not sure about its medicinal values.

It may be true, as the Wikipedia stated, that it was the Indians who discovered the health benefits

"The neem leaves, oil and barks are very useful ingredients in the traditional medicines in India, Myanmar and many South East Asian countries since the ancient times"

uid after I contracted measles rashes, I am not really aware of the other properties and uses. So I turned to the Internet for help. There is a treasure strove of information, which I had never known before and an idea came to my mind—to write an article on neem and share with my readers.

According to the Wikipedia, neem trees are endemic to India and the Indian sub-continent and had spread to the neighbouring countries. However, in my opinion it is also native to Myanmar as I had mentioned in the first line of this article. I have strong reasons to disagree with the Wikipedia. In my native place, Upper Myanmar, we are aware of the presence of two distinctly different types of

of neem and used them in their Ayurvedic medicines since ancient times, because the traditional medicines of the S E Asian nations have their roots in the Ayurvedic medicines. Neem is said to possess anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, anti-viral and anti-diabetic properties, thus it is used to cure numerous diseases. To mention a few, it is said to suppress the cancer cells, thus preventing the cancer from setting in, and as the neem leaves are rich in anti-oxidants they are used in treating heart diseases. Also, because of its anti-diabetic property, it is useful in the treatment of diabetes and its anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties render it effective in treating various skin diseases, in-



In the shade of a neem tree people living in arid zone can cool themselves.—GOOGLE

cluding leprosy. It is also used as contraceptive. The most well known use is in the treatment of tuberculosis (TB). Even the scent of the neem flowers carried along by the breeze that blew past the neem grove is beneficial for TB patients.

Other than the medicinal uses neem is also used in agricultural sector too. The organic pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers made from neem products are gaining popularity in many countries. In India and in some neighbouring countries cosmetics such as: soap, shampoos, tooth pastes, skin lotions and creams are made from neem and are being successfully marketed. I will not be dwelling further on the medicinal and health benefits and uses of neem and start my discussion on its anti-desertification ability.

The neem trees are classified as evergreen trees, though they may shed most or all of their leaves under severe drought conditions and extreme high temperatures. They can grow in tropical and sub-tropical regions on different types of soil, but they prefer deep sandy soil. They are hardy and can survive in arid places and do not need much rainfall. An annual rainfall of less than 16 inches is enough for them to survive, depending on the ground water level. They can reach heights of 100 feet or more, depending on the soil and availability of water. The ability of the neem tree to withstand drought and thrive in arid places inspired me to make a suggestion as to how that ability should be ex-

ploited and used to our advantage.

Those who had been to the dry zone would be familiar with the terrain and the vegetation there. For those who are not familiar, I will try to depict the scenery briefly. The land is arid and sandy and lacked large shady trees. The only vegetation one could expect to see are some low thorny shrubs and plants of the cactus family that are commonly found in semi-desert like terrains. Those places are also devoid of lush green pastures for cattle, so the only life-stocks raised commercially in those areas are goats and sheep. The goats and sheep will eat anything including the thorny shrubs and whatever grass and small plants they come across. Their indiscriminate ways of grazing could deplete whatever vegetations there were and could lead to desertification. If left unchecked some parts of the dry zone could turn into a desert in the distant future.

To avert desertification in those areas, neem trees should be extensively planted. In every town and village in the dry zone, the neem trees can be seen in abundance, so there is no doubt the soil there is very suitable for neem trees. There must still be large tracts of thinly vegetated wasteland on which, the experimental plantations can be implemented. In the nineteen fifties, our country had experimented with Acacia trees (*Kandarya pin*) in the dry zone. It was initiated after the trees proved to be successful in halting the progress of desertification and

(See page 9)

UEC Chairman meets Club de Madrid delegation

NAY PYI TAW— Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye met a delegation of the Club de Madrid comprising former chancellor of Austria Mr Alfred Gusenbauer and former prime minister of Bhutan Jigme Yoser here on Wednesday, officials said.

At the call, the chairman explained the organizational

structure and functions of the commission, the electoral systems and a brief account of the history of elections in the country.

In response to queries about the preparations for the upcoming elections and possible difficulties, U Tin Aye expounded on measures taken for individual voting rights and programmes

for voter education and training.

The UEC and the Club de Madrid discussed how to ensure free and fair election campaigns and deter the exploitation of faiths for votes.

The commission has urged political parties to make constructive cooperation with the winning party in all sectors of national development. —MNA

Border Affairs Ministry provides K47 million to schools

NAY PYI TAW—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe provided K47.68 million (US\$37,300) to seven schools to cover the cost of rice and other food items during the 2015-16 fiscal year. The schools are located in Sittway, Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Kyauktaw, Taungpyo Letwe and Paletwa

townships.

The minister delivered the biannual grant at the ethnic youth development school in Sittway on 8 September.

At Sittway's emergency co-ordination centre, the union minister urged officials representing UN agencies and other international organisations to cooperate

with the government to improve transport, food and water accessibility and sanitation in the region.

The union minister also met victims at relief camps in Sittway. Housing, education and healthcare in the camps is funded by the Border Affairs Ministry. —MNA

Education standards improving: Union Minister

YANGON—Remarkable progress has been made in improving the standards of formal and non-formal education in recent years, said Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi during a ceremony marking International Literacy Day at Yangon University on 8 September.

The union minister said that the government is striving to increase school enrolment rates and

pass rates and is working with UNESCO and other non-government-organisations to develop the non-formal education sector.

She said that the government is developing a strategic plan spanning 2015 to 2030 which includes increasing spending on education, broadening learning opportunities in middle school grades, adding information and communication technology to the

core curriculum, expanding vocational training and enhancing teacher training.

After the speech, UNESCO Myanmar's head of project office Mr Sardar Umar Alam read out a message on behalf of UNESCO's Director-General. During the ceremony, Myanmar Thabin Foundation formally donated more than K10 million (US\$7,800) to flood-affected schools. —MNA

Myanmar Five Star to purchase oil tankers

Ko Moe

YANGON—The Myanmar Five Star Shipping Corporation plans to buy several oil tankers to meet the growing demand for oil shipments from Myanmar, said the company's assistant general manager U Maung Maung Soe.

The company is yet to decide the exact number of oil tankers it will purchase.

He also said there are a very small number of oil tankers currently operating in the country.

"Freighters outnumber merchants, posing a great challenge to the shipping industry," U Maung Maung Soe said.

"But oil tankers are doing fine because there are only a few shipping lines that use them."

China and India, two major

importers of Myanmar oil, are reported to be planning the construction of oil-storage facilities to ensure their strategic oil reserves.

Established in 1959 and taken over by the Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd in 2010, the Myanmar Five Star Shipping Corporation has 19 vessels and provides shipping services locally and overseas. —GNLM

Wonder Tree: Neem

(from page 8)

reclaiming land for agriculture in Israel. However, it was not successful in our country due to the fact that the trees have long hard prickly thorns and their low branches posed dangers to the cattle passing under them or trying to eat the leaves as cattle feed was scarce. Thus the locals were reluctant to grow them or look after them. Such campaigns cannot succeed without public participation.

I would like to suggest a way to plant neem trees on a large scale on the wastelands of the dry zone at a minimal cost. The success of that project would depend

entirely on the public participation. First of all, the services of the NGOs and environmental activists should be sought to make the public aware of the benefits of the neem tree, especially its anti-desertification abilities. Emphasis should be placed on the necessity of the forestation of the arid wastelands. Pointing out to them that the outcome would be, not only the prevention of the desertification but it would also control the carbon emissions and hence reduce warming, locally if not globally. Furthermore, the dense forests would bring more rain to the area than before.

Once the public is thoroughly

aware of the benefits to be gained from the neem plantation project and also convinced of the necessity to implement it, they would readily volunteer to participate. With their participations, neem seeds, which are abundant in the dry zone itself, should be gathered and scattered on the wastelands using every imaginable means. In my opinion, if we can get the public really interested, they would improvise viable methods to scatter the seeds. The scattered seeds would germinate during the monsoons after a few rain showers and being hardy and fast growing by nature, most of the young saplings would hopefully survive the dry season until the next monsoon. Even if ten per cent of the seeds scattered grow into trees it should



Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye cordially shakes hands with guest of Club de Madrid delegation.—MNA

Garment Industries Transparency Initiative held in Yangon

YANGON— Union Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint attended the Garment Industries Transparency Initiative (GITI) conducted by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Yangon on Tuesday.

GITI founder Mr Peter Eigen and the Union Minister gave

the opening speeches at the event for the initiative, which aims to support to the development of garment industries worldwide.

Issues such as the challenges for GITI, GITI's processes and administrative structure, procurement companies, rights in negotiation, challenge and benefit on wages and future plans for GITI were discussed.—MNA



be deemed a success. Whatever few trees that survived the first dry spell would take care of the propagation in a natural process. It would be necessary to look after them in the early stages and earnestly hope the public would take care of them.

Here, I would like to relate a very interesting method of spreading the seeds, which we should take as an example. In the early nineteenth century, one Johnny Appleseed, an American pioneer spread the apple seeds, single handedly, in many states across the United States. He used to travel almost always on foot and took along apple seeds to be spread along his route. He did that for forty nine years and his relentless efforts earned him a place in the

American history. He is an American legend up to this day. So why can't we do the same? People young and old who are capable, should take some neem seeds wherever they go, whether by trains, buses, cars, cycles, carts or on foot and scatter them along the way. Lastly, if someone who owns a helicopter should generously volunteer to scatter the seeds while flying over the arid wastelands enroute to his business destinations or offers the use of his helicopter for that purpose, it would definitely be of great help.

I hope my suggestions would not seem too absurd. Sometimes unconventional ways of thinking can bring about surprisingly good results and hopefully, this is one of those.

Microsoft, Amazon video to join Disney's cloud movie service

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney Co's studio unit said customers of Amazon.com Inc and Microsoft Corp's video services will get access to the collection on its cloud-based movie storage service from Tuesday.

Studios like Disney, which has made blockbuster films like "Frozen" and Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy," have been attempting to steer movie fans towards digital purchases as sales of DVDs decline.

Walt Disney Studios added that it would launch the app on video streaming-device maker Roku Inc and Google Inc's Android TV on Sept. 15, coinciding with the DVD release of "Cinderella."

The collection in Disney Movies Anywhere can be accessed through its new app for the Microsoft Xbox 360 and for Amazon's Fire tablets, Fire TV and Fire TV Stick.

The media company launched Disney Movies Anywhere in February 2014 with Apple Inc's iTunes, and in November partnered with the Google Play online store and Walmart Stores Inc's online store Vudu.

The two new additions come on the same day as its early digital release of Marvel's "Avengers: Age of Ultron." —Reuters



The entrance gate to The Walt Disney Co in Burbank, California. —REUTERS

Instagram opens up to advertisers worldwide



Instagram is shown displayed on an Apple iPad in Encinitas, California August 14, 2013. —REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO — Instagram opened its platform to most advertisers across the globe on Wednesday as the photo-sharing app seeks to make more money and compete with popular rivals such as Snapchat.

Ads, previously available only in eight countries, will debut in more than 20 others including Italy, Spain and India, Instagram said. More than 200 countries will have ads by Sept. 30.

With 300 million monthly active users, Instagram has a key advantage over rivals because parent Facebook Inc's vast trove of consumer data allows it to target audiences more accurately, a major selling point for advertisers.

"It would have taken us years to build some of this technology without Facebook. We can take advantage of years of experience," James Quarles, global head of business and brand development at Instagram, said in an interview last week. But users who have grown comfortable with mostly ad-free Insta-

gram feeds of photos from people they follow may rebel. For the past two years, Instagram has only allowed ads by certain brands, such as Victoria's Secret and Old Navy.

Until Wednesday, Instagram ads had only been available in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, Germany, France and Brazil.

A sponsored ad on Instagram over the weekend said more ads would be coming soon, but did not specify when. Many users expressed concern, said Debra Aho Williamson, social media analyst at eMarketer, noting that the changes need to be rolled out slowly.

Advertisers have been clamoring for the chance to get on the increasingly popular app to tap its user base of teenagers to young adults, and its ability to leverage data from Facebook, the world's largest social network with 1.5 billion users. Facebook, which bought Instagram in 2012 for \$1 billion, dominates mobile advertising, with more than 75 percent of its \$3.8 billion ad revenue coming from phones.

Instagram ad revenue is projected to reach \$1.5 billion in 2016, according to eMarketer, a research firm, and nearly double by 2017 to \$2.8 billion.

Instagram has been working to provide more creative options for advertisers. In addition to its signature square, new layout options introduced last month for pictures and videos allow more design flexibility. —Reuters

UK oil, gas output to rise for first time in 15 years

ABERDEEN, (Scotland) — British oil and gas production is set to rise for the first time in 15 years this year as investment in more efficient technology pays off, the industry's association said on Wednesday.

Britain's oil and gas output has more than halved in the past 10 years due to easy-to-reach resources running low and a lack of investments in new areas.

This trend will likely reverse this year when production is expected to rise 3-4 percent, the first increase since Britain's oil and gas output peaked in 2000, lobby group Oil & Gas UK said.

"Despite a very difficult business climate we

are beginning to turn a corner," Mike Tholen, economics director for Oil & Gas UK, told Reuters at the launch of the association's yearly economic report.

"We are turning a corner in terms of the massive spend on North Sea fields pulling production up with it and on top of that we're now beginning to get to terms with the cost base to find ways to make businesses cope in a much weaker environment."

Preliminary government data showed oil and gas output over the first six months of this year rose 3 percent compared with 2014.

The increase comes after years of investments in new technologies that have

meant new fields are run more efficiently.

However, the recent slump in oil prices has tightened oil companies' purse strings and Oil & Gas UK expects capital expenditure to fall to 10-11 billion pounds (\$16.91 billion) this year, down from 14.7 billion pounds last year.

Low oil prices in combination with high operating costs in the North Sea have caused many operators to question the economic viability of continuing to run some of their oldest fields.

Maersk Oil said last month it would file for early decommissioning permission for its Janice field in the North Sea.

"Inevitably there will be some more fields decommissioned as a result of low prices," Tholen said.

"It's a significant concern but it's not the edge of the cliff."

Bringing down operating costs in the North Sea is a key priority for operators and the British government which hopes a rebound in production will also increase tax revenue.

Since the start of oil production in the 1970s, the industry has paid over 330 billion pounds in taxes to the British government.

Oil & Gas UK expects operating costs to fall by more than 2 billion pounds, or 22 percent, by the end of 2016 as companies work more efficiently. —Reuters

Toyota to launch new Prius from year-end, starting in Japan

TOKYO — Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) plans to sell a new version of its Prius petrol-electric hybrid from the end of 2015 in Japan and in other regions thereafter, at a time when tumbling gasoline prices are sapping demand for environment-friendlier cars.

The new Prius will run on smaller, lighter motors and batteries than its

predecessor, and be at least 10 percent more fuel-efficient, Toyota said, without stating mileage. The previous model can run at 51 miles a gallon.

Thermal efficiency - or ratio of work performed to energy consumed - will be 40 percent, up from 38.5 percent, the company also said.

The car, unveiled in

Las Vegas late on Tuesday, is the first model built under the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA) strategy, a new approach to development to improve its cars' fuel efficiency, styling and other features, partly by using more common components.

The launch comes at a challenging time for Toyota.

US petrol prices are at their lowest for this time of year since 2004, pushing consumers to trade in hybrids and electric vehicles in favour of sports utility vehicles. August Prius sales in the US fell 24 percent from the same month a year earlier to 17,757 cars. Last year, US Prius sales totalled 207,372 vehicles. —Reuters

Sino-Russia co-engineered heavy helicopter debut in China

TIANJIN — A heavy-lift helicopter jointly developed by China and Russia made its debut in China on Wednesday.

On display at the Tianjin International Helicopter Exhibition, the chopper is specially designed to suit

China's geographical conditions, and can operate smoothly at high altitudes and temperatures, said Huang Chuanyue, deputy chief engineer with the helicopter division of the Aviation Industry Corp. of China. With a maximum

cruising speed of 300 km/h, and the ability to take-off carrying 38.2 tonnes, it can carry excavators, cargo containers and light tactical vehicles, Huang told Xinhua.

China and Russia on May 8 signed a framework agreement agreeing to take

the project to the next stage, which specified that all future models will be manufactured in China, Huang said. These heavy-duty helicopters will be used in rescue and disaster missions, as well as maritime affairs, Huang said. —Xinhua

US astronomers get image of earliest galaxies' formation

LOS ANGELES — Astronomers at the University of California, Irvine got a more focused image of the formation of the earliest galaxies 500 million years after the Big Bang, according to a doctoral student's paper published in the journal *Nature Communications* Tuesday.

Ketron Mitchell-Wynne was the lead author of the paper with help of other astronomers from Baltimore's Space Telescope Science Institute.

The study used about 10 years of data from the Hubble Space Telescope to create "one mosaic image of the sky." Scientists then removed all of the stars and galaxies. Using statistics with the new image, they

were able to get a better image of the fainter galaxies from the universe's earliest days, Mitchell-Wynne said.

In essence, the scientists were taking a look back in time to the "epoch of reionization," a few hundred million years after the Big Bang.

"The questions a lot of people have are, 'Where do we come from and how did we get here?' Observing these first galaxies plays a big role in answering those questions," he said.

The most significant finding from the new data was that there are early galaxies that are "much more different" than the familiar ones such as the Milky

Way.

"They're progenitors of our whole environment," Mitchell-Wynne said.

"The questions a lot of people have are, 'Where do we come from and how did we get here?' Observing these first galaxies plays a big role in answering those questions," he said.

The astronomers are excited about how the new data will help them get a better picture of what they're seeing when they launch the James Webb Space Telescope in 2018. The telescope will provide greater resolution with its images.

"It could be possible that we'll see those galaxies individually," Mitchell-Wynne said. —Xinhua

China aims to land Chang'e-4 probe on far side of moon

BEIJING — China is planning to be the first country to land a lunar probe on the far side of the moon, a Chinese lunar probe scientist said Tuesday.

The mission will be carried out by Chang'e-4, a backup probe for Chang'e-3, and is slated to be launched before 2020, said Zou Yongliao from the moon exploration department under the Chinese Academy of Sciences at a deep-space exploration forum Tuesday.

Zou said government organs have ordered experts to assess the plan over the past 12 plus months. "China will be the first to complete the task if it is successful."

The State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National

Defense announced earlier this year that Chang'e-4 will be launched before 2020. The far side of the moon, or "dark side of the moon" as it is more commonly called, is never visible to Earth because of gravitational forces. According to Zou, the far side of the moon has a clean electromagnetic environment, which provides an ideal field for low frequency radio study. "If we can place a frequency spectrograph on the far side, we can fill a void."

Zou said Chang'e-4 is very similar to Chang'e-3 in structure but can handle more payload. It will be used to study the geological conditions of the dark side of the moon. China plans to launch its Chang'e-5 lunar probe

around 2017 to finish the last chapter in China's three-step (orbiting, landing and return) moon exploration program.

Li Chunlai, one of the main designers of the lunar probe ground application system, said Chang'e-5 will achieve several breakthroughs, including automatic sampling, ascending from the moon without a launch site and an unmanned docking 400,000 kilometers above the lunar surface. Chang'e-5 will also have a new launch site and launch rockets, said Li.

Chang'e-3 landed on the moon in 2013, making China the third country after the Soviet Union and the United States to soft land a spacecraft on lunar soil. —Xinhua

Child death rates cut by half, but UN target missed



A child is given an injection as part of a malaria vaccine trial at a clinic in the Kenya coastal town of Kilifi.—REUTERS

LONDON — Children are half as likely to die before their fifth birthday now than they were in 1990, researchers said on Wednesday, but a United Nations target has not been met.

Of all under-five deaths, almost half occur during a baby's first four weeks, said a new report by the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Bank and United Nations, with one million babies dying per year on the first day of life.

"In order to get that further down, we need to focus on neonatal mortality," said Flavia Bustreo, the WHO's assistant director general.

This makes early interventions by healthcare professionals to tackle killers like asphyxia and sepsis critical, as well as encouraging breastfeeding and early immunisations, Bustreo told the Thomson

Reuters Foundation.

The report came as leaders prepare to meet in New York later this month to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a new plan of action for ending poverty.

Covering the next 15 years, the SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which expire this year.

One of the MDGs was to cut the death rate of under-fives by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015. The rate fell by 53 percent, according to Wednesday's report.

"We have to acknowledge tremendous global progress," said Geeta Rao Gupta, deputy executive director of the United Nations' children's fund (UNICEF).

"But the far too large number of children still dying from preventable causes before their fifth birthday ... should impel

us to redouble our efforts to do what we know needs to be done."

Nearly half of all under-five deaths are associated with malnutrition, said the study, which also said the rate of improvement is accelerating, with child mortality falling quicker since the millennium than it did in the 1990s.

Under-fives in sub-Saharan Africa are 12 times more likely to die than those in rich countries. Nevertheless, many poor African countries, including Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania, hit the two-thirds target.

"We know how to prevent unnecessary newborn mortality," said the WHO's Bustreo. "Quality care around the time of childbirth ... can save thousands of lives every year."

Around 16,000 children under five still die each day.—Reuters

Half of Americans have diabetes or prediabetes

WASHINGTON — About half of US adults have either diabetes or prediabetes, a new study said Tuesday.

The study, published in the *Journal of American Medical Association*, found that the prevalence of diabetes among US adults was 12 percent to 14 percent in 2012 while the prevalence of prediabetes was 37 percent to 38 percent.

Additionally, the prevalence of diabetes for all American adults went up, from nearly 10 percent to over 12 percent between 1988 and 2012.

Diabetes prevalence also went up in every age,



Photo: XINHUA

sex, level of education, income and racial and ethnic subgroup, said the study, which used results from a large national health survey. Despite an increase in diabetes prevalence between 1988 and 2012, prevalence estimates changed

little between 2007 and 2012, suggesting the rise of diabetes in the US may be leveling off.

"This plateauing of diabetes prevalence is consistent with obesity trends in the United States showing a leveling off around

the same period," said the study.

"Although obesity and type 2 diabetes remain major clinical and public health problems in the United States, the current data provide a glimmer of hope," William Herman and Amy Rothberg of the University of Michigan Health System said in an accompanying editorial. "Multifaceted approaches addressing both environmental factors and individual behaviors appear to be slowing the increase in obesity and diabetes ... but expanded and sustained efforts will be required." —Xinhua

India has highest number of under-5 child deaths globally

NEW DELHI — India has the highest number of under-five child deaths in the world, a new study led by UNICEF has revealed.

According to the study, some 1.5 million children under the age of five years died in India in 2015, which is about 20 percent of the world's under-5 deaths.

That means one in every 21 children being

born in India die before reaching the age of five.

Globally, 5.9 million under-five child deaths were reported in this year, the report says.

Infectious diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhea are the main killers of children under five years of age, according to the study. The findings have been published in medical journal *The Lancet*. —Xinhua

Queen Elizabeth becomes UK's longest-reigning monarch

EDINBURGH — Queen Elizabeth, who ascended the throne aged just 25 as her exhausted country struggled to recover from the ravages of World War Two, makes history on Wednesday when she becomes Britain's longest-reigning monarch.

At about 5.30 p.m. (1630 GMT), Elizabeth, who now aged 89 is also the nation's oldest ever monarch, will surpass the 63 years, 7 months, 2 days, 16 hours and 23 minutes that her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria spent on the throne.

British Prime Minister David Cameron led tributes to the queen.

"Over the last 63 years, Her Majesty has been a rock of stability in a world of constant change and her selfless sense of service and duty has earned admiration not only in Britain, but right across the globe," Cameron said.

"It is only right that today we should celebrate her extraordinary record, as well as the grace and dignity with which she serves our country."

Those close to the queen say she is fairly blase about the milestone, believing it represents



Britain's Queen Elizabeth marks the moments she receives documents and papers from government officials in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.—REUTERS

little more than the fact she has lived for a long time.

"It's business as usual as far as she is concerned," said one senior aide.

Initially she did not even intend to mark the event publicly,

but she has bowed to public pressure and will now undertake an official engagement in Scotland, where she traditionally spends her Summer holiday.

Along with her husband Prince Philip, who has been at her side throughout her reign, she will take a journey on a steam locomotive to mark the opening the longest domestic railway to be built in Britain for more than 100 years. A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said she might even make a rare public speech afterwards.

"It's inevitable that I should

seem a rather remote figure to many of you, a successor to the kings and queens of history," she said in her first televised Christmas broadcast in 1957.

"I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice. But I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations."

As a young princess, Elizabeth had not expected to become monarch as her father George VI only took the crown when his

elder brother Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

She was 25 when she ascended to the throne on Feb. 6, 1952, following her father's death.

That made her the 40th monarch in a royal line that traces its origin back to Norman King William the Conqueror who claimed the throne in 1066 with victory over Anglo-Saxon Harold II at the Battle of Hastings.

The year she became queen, the Korean War was raging, Joseph Stalin was leader of the Soviet Union and Britain announced it had the atom bomb.

"There is a motto which has been borne by many of my ancestors - a noble motto, 'I serve,'" Elizabeth said in a televised speech to mark her 21st birthday.

"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

Since becoming queen, she has seen 12 prime ministers, starting with Winston Churchill, and there have been 12 US Presidents, from Harry S. Truman to Barack Obama.

Not only has Elizabeth reigned the longest but according to a poll in the Sunday Times this week, Britons also think she is the country's greatest monarch, ahead of her Tudor namesake Elizabeth I and Victoria, who was queen for much of the 19th century when Britain built up its empire.—Reuters

"I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice. But I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations."

— Queen Elizabeth

Australia to take 12,000 refugees, extend air strikes into Syria



Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott (2nd R) announces Australia's acceptance of Syrian refugees alongside (L-R) Australian Defence Force Chief Mark Binskin, Defence Minister Kevin Andrews and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.—REUTERS

SYDNEY — Australia will accept 12,000 refugees from Syria on top of its current humanitarian intake quota, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Wednesday, bowing to pressure from an angry opposition, and extend air strikes against Islamic State in Iraq into Syria.

Abbott had said on Sunday that Australia would allocate

more spaces in its 13,750 annual quota to those fleeing violence in Syria, without boosting overall arrivals.

The one-off move to offer refuge to those fleeing the four-year-old civil war in Syria would prioritise members of persecuted minorities, Abbott said.

"Australia remains committed to the international effort to

counter Daesh, which threatens stability in Iraq and the Middle East and the security of Australians at home and in our region," he told reporters in Canberra, using an Arabic name for Islamic State.

At least 850,000 people are expected to cross the Mediterranean seeking refuge in Europe this year and next, the United Nations said on Tuesday, giving estimates that already look conservative. The UN refugee agency UNHCR called for more cohesive asylum policies to deal with the growing numbers.

The Royal Australian Air Force is already taking part in the US-led coalition campaign against Islamic State targets in Iraq, but its aerial role in Syria has so far been limited to refuelling and intelligence gathering.

The decision to expand air strikes was in response to a formal request from Washington, Abbott said.

"This is not an attempt to build a liberal pluralist market democracy overnight in the Middle East. That's been tried and it didn't magnificently succeed,"

Abbott said.

"Surely all human beings are entitled to a government which doesn't commit genocide against them."

Australia also committed to directly pay for the support of 240,000 displaced people in countries neighbouring Syria and Iraq, Abbott said, at a cost of A\$44 million (\$31.03 million).

Refugee advocates praised the decision to allow in the displaced Syrians. "(It) is an important first step and shows to the world that Australia is willing to support those who are in great need," the Refugee Council of Australia said in a statement.

At the same time, the move to wade deeper into the conflict in Syria drew harsh rebukes from Abbott's political opponents. "At a time when our community is desperate to show compassion to people fleeing war in Syria, Tony Abbott is dropping bombs," opposition Greens Party leader Richard Di Natale told reporters. (\$1 = A\$1.4)—Reuters

Polish PM says EU summit on migrants may take place earlier than planned

WARSAW — Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz said the European Council which is to deal with Europe's migrant crisis is likely to take place earlier than planned.

"These negotiations will start on Monday, when our ministers of the interior are present in Brussels and just after that there will be the summit," Kopacz told public television TVP Info late on Tuesday.

"Most likely the summit will be moved to an earlier date from what I know after talks with my European Union colleagues".

The next European Council is scheduled for the middle of October.

Earlier on Tuesday, Kopacz said Poland could accept more migrants than the 2,000 declared, but under certain conditions, while newly elected President Andrzej Duda said he was against any migrant quotas.—Reuters

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Yangon, 10th September 2015

Fireproof paper pots served at Shanghai restaurant

SHANGHAI — At a theme park in Shanghai, visitors can cook hot pot over open flames — in a paper dish that does not catch fire.

The non-toxic paper can resist temperatures of up to 240 degrees Celsius and can be reused up to 12 times. The paper's molecular structure is especially dense, making it more resistant to heat.

A steel mesh separates the pot and the ingredients inside, helping the paper retain its strength.

The restaurant is part of a paper-themed park in Shanghai. The park includes other shops and entertainment venues.

“We call it ‘stone paper.’ It resists heat and can be washed with kitchen cleaner,” the park's manager Luck Hong explained.

The restaurant also features furniture made of paper, including tables, chairs and even cash registers.

The restaurant, the first of its kind in Shanghai, opened in April.—Xinhua

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Tel: 376318 G.P.O Box: 666
Yangon, 10th September 2015

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (271)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (271) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.9.2015 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.

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Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) Invitation for Application to Foreign Language Courses

The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Thai and Myanmar.

Commencement date of course	: 5-10-2015
Commencement date for submission of applications	: 28-9-2015
Closing date for applications	: 2-10-2015
	(language the day on which the targeted number of applicants is reached)
Application to be submitted to	: Yangon University of Foreign Languages
Days on which classes held	: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
Time	: 5:20 – 7:00 p.m.
Documents required	: Certificate of Matriculation (or) Marks Certificate (or) Degree Certificate (Both Original and copy are required)
Enquiry	: Student's Affairs Section, YUFL
Phone	: 514372 (Ext - *809)
Application must be submitted in person.	

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (7/2015) (TENDER NO. MPPE/JET A1/T/2(2015-2016))

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of JET A1 (282,000 bbl ± 10%)
2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 24-9-2015, 12:00 Hr
3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 24-9-2015 13:00 Hr
4. Delivery Time - 1st November 2015 to 2nd January 2016
5. Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 10-9-2015 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000.) per set.
6. Only bid form tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise

Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

Contact Phone No.

067-411487/ 411486/411280



WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak in the North Bay and moderate in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 10th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Six men jailed for cross-border phone scam in HK

HONG KONG — Five men from the Chinese mainland and one man from China's Taiwan have been jailed for between 16 months and two years in connection with a cross-border telephone scam in which victims lost 2.5 million Hong Kong dollars (about 323,000 U.S. dollars).

The defendants pleaded guilty to money laundering charges, according

to local radio report on Wednesday.

The District Court heard that three women from Taiwan, including a retired professor, received calls from people claiming to be nurses or law enforcement officers, and asked them to deposit money into various bank accounts in Hong Kong. The defendants later received or attempted to receive the

money that had been transferred to the accounts.

Hong Kong was recently inundated with a wave of similar telephone scams which saw victims lose tens of millions of dollars. However, police said the number of such calls has decreased recently and there have been fewer reports of people being cheated out of their money.—Xinhua

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A staff member of the Swiss company Flyability displays the new product Gimball, a drone that has the function of crash-proof, during the 2015 New Leaders Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, Sept. 9, 2015. The three-day meeting will last from Sept. 9 to 11. —XINHUA

French director Tavernier honored with lifetime achievement award in Venice

VENICE, (Italy) — French director Bertrand Tavernier received the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement of the 72nd Venice International Film Festival here on Tuesday.

A ceremony was held Tuesday afternoon after the screening of the 1989 film *La vie et rien d'autre* (Life and Nothing But), a masterpiece of Tavernier.

The film, which won the Best Foreign Language Film at BAFTA Awards in 1990, tells a story of a man whose job is to identify unknown dead soldiers after World War I, and the romance and dilemma that occur during this complex and emotional journey.

The decision was made by the Board of Directors of the Biennale di Venezia, chaired by Paolo Baratta, upon recommendation of the Director of the

Venice Film Festival Alberto Barbera.

Barbera referred to Tavernier as “central figure in French filmmaking.”

“He is also a fervid film critic, with a decidedly anti-academic leaning and a predilection for discovering and re-assessing unknown artists,” Barbera said.

“He has put this talent to good use in memorable writings that are required reading for anyone interested in exploring the history of French, American or Italian cinema in particular,” Barbera added.

Tavernier previously presented two films in competition at the festival, *Round Midnight* in 1986 and the detective film *L. 627* in 1992.

He has also participated in two other major European film festivals in Berlin and Cannes,



Director Bertrand Tavernier. —PHOTO: XINHUA

winning significant awards in both. *Round Midnight* also won an Oscar for Best Original Score.

The 72nd edition of Venice

International Film Festival runs from Sept. 2 to 12 in the island of Lido, with 21 film competing for the Golden Lion and 15 making world premieres.—Xinhua

Spice Girls in talks to reunite: Geri Halliwell

LONDON — Singer Geri Halliwell has confirmed her girl group Spice Girls is “in talks” to reunite for the 20th anniversary of their debut single “Wannabe” in 2016.

The 43-year-old singer said it would be “nice” to celebrate “in some way,” reported Daily Mirror.

“I think it’s really flattering that people are so supportive of the Spice Girls individually and collectively. It’s one of those things that have been discussed.

“I think it’s nice to celebrate it in some way. I can say that there’s been talks. That’s fair and honest,” she said.

The group consisted of Melanie Brown, Melanie Chisholm, Emma Bunton, Geri Halliwell, and Victoria Beckham.—PTI



Singer Sam Smith

Sam Smith says ‘at the top’ with Bond film ‘Spectre’ song

LONDON — After months of speculation, Grammy Award winner Sam Smith confirmed on Tuesday he will sing the theme for the next James Bond movie, “Spectre”, the first time in 50 years that a British male solo artist has recorded the title song for a 007 film.

The “Stay With Me” singer co-wrote the track, “Writing’s On The Wall”, with fellow Grammy Award winner Jimmy Napes, with whom he collaborated for his best-selling 2014 debut album “In the Lonely Hour”.

As he joins the likes of Adele and Shirley Bassey in performing a Bond film theme, Smith said he recorded the track late last year and found it difficult to keep the project a secret.

“It was harder than normal because everyone kind of guessed at the beginning and said it was going to be me and I had to just be really good at lying,” the 23-year old told Reuters.

“(Recording the track is) at the top for me ... I never expected this to happen.” Speculation had mounted over who would sing the “Spectre” tune which, like Adele’s Oscar-winning “Skyfall” theme,

is likely to storm music charts around the world.

Other contenders had included Ellie Goulding and Radiohead — with one British bookmaker suspending bets after someone tried to place a 15,000 pound wager on the band getting the gig.

The last solo British male to sing a Bond theme was Tom Jones with “Thunderball” in 1965.

“I wanted to inject as much me as I could into the song and then dress it in a Bond way,” Smith said. “I sing love songs ... and that’s what I wanted to do.”

Daniel Craig reprises his role as secret agent 007 for the fourth time in the film directed by Academy Award winner Sam Mendes. The film, out this autumn, also stars Italian actress Monica Bellucci and Oscar winner Christoph Waltz.

Smith declined to say much about the song—because it would give away the plot. The singer, who had vocal cord surgery this year, described how challenging it was to perform.—Reuters

Excited to work with James Foley on ‘Fifty Shades of Grey’: Dakota Johnson

LOS ANGELES — Actress Dakota Johnson says she is looking forward to collaborating with director James Foley on the sequel of her erotic-romance “Fifty Shades of Grey”.

Sam Taylor-Johnson, who helmed the first part decided to leave the franchise and not to return for the second movie.

Foley, who directed some of “House of Cards” episodes, recently signed a deal to direct the sequel.

Dakota, 25, admitted that she

was afraid at the beginning, but she was grateful later to know that it was Foley who would replace Taylor-Johnson, reported Ace-showbiz.

“It’s quite exciting,” she said of teaming up with Foley.

“There was a moment of being afraid, because I didn’t know what it was going to be like. I had an experience with Sam and then that all went away. Now I’m excited. I think James is a talented filmmaker. How often do you get to reconvene with the same people

and have a different spin?”

“Fifty Shades Darker” is yet to start its production.

The franchise is the adaptation of author EL James’ best-seller series of the same name.

James’ husband, Niall Leonard, writes the script with Michael De Luca, Dana Brunetti and James tapped as producers.

The second instalment of “Fifty Shades” movie series is slated for a US release on February 10, 2017. The first part starred Jamie Dornan opposite Dakota.—PTI

After 50 years in film, Italy’s Bellocchio calm in Venice

VENICE — Italian director Marco Bellocchio, 75, said on Tuesday as his latest film “Sangue del mio sangue” (Blood of My Blood) had its premiere at the Venice Film Festival that after half a century of filmmaking he can take such events in his stride.

“I am actively participating and also affected emotionally but with a certain sense of calm,” Bellocchio told Reuters in an interview.

“Whatever will happen, I don’t think I will get too down,” he said, regarding his film which is one of 21 competing for the festival’s top Golden Lion award to be announced on Saturday.

The film is based on a true story from Bellocchio’s hometown of Bobbio, south of Milan, about a 17th-century noblewoman who becomes a nun and is accused of witchcraft after she seduces a priest and later his twin, who is an army officer.

Bellocchio cast his son Pier Giorgio as his leading man and daughter Elena in a smaller role.



Actress Elena Bellocchio attends the red carpet for the movie ‘Blood Of My Blood’ at the 72nd Venice Film Festival, northern Italy, September 8, 2015.—REUTERS

His brother Alberto also makes an appearance as a cardinal.

The story time shifts from the 17th century to modern times and back again, but at the same time that it is telling a tale of witchcraft and love, it also touches on events from Bellocchio’s long career in film, Pier Giorgio said.

“We are talking about a per-

son who has been making films for 50 years and his made a great number of films which have dealt with diverse issues. In this film, I think you can find a summary of them all,” Pier Giorgio said.

“It is a script in which I found so many things about his life, about his cinema, past and future,” he added.—Reuters

Kane hopes to take England form back to Tottenham

LONDON — Harry Kane is hoping to reproduce his international form for Tottenham Hotspur when the Premier League resumes this weekend and has set his sights on overhauling Wayne Rooney's newly established England scoring record.

The Manchester United captain broke Bobby Charlton's record when he smashed home an 84th minute penalty to notch his 50th England goal in a Euro 2016 qualifier against Switzerland at Wembley on Tuesday.

Kane scored the third goal of his burgeoning international career to break Switzerland's stubborn resistance in the 67th minute before Rooney sealed a 2-0 victory, England's eighth win in as many Group E games.

The Tottenham striker was a second-half substitute and found the back of the net 10 minutes after coming on to earn his fourth England cap with a smart left-footed finish from Luke Shaw's low cross.

The international break has been productive for Kane, who came off the bench to score against San Marino, a 6-0 victory that booked England's ticket to next year's finals in France, and Switzerland.

The striker, who scored 31 times last season, is yet to open his Premier League account in four games so far but is confident of kick-starting his campaign when he returns to club football against Sunderland on Sunday.

"Any striker wants to be scoring goals, so it's great to



England's Harry Kane applauds the fans at the end of the match. REUTERS

come away and get a couple," the 22-year-old Kane told reporters.

"I'll go back and focus on Spurs but if I don't score at the weekend it's not the end of the world. "Hopefully I can get some chances for the club now and start scoring goals and really kick on this season," he added.

Kane is also hopeful that he can one day overtake Rooney as England's top scorer.

"Rooney has set the mark and will probably go on to score quite a few more hopefully for us," Kane said. "We'll see where he ends up and hopefully I'll be chasing him down. I'm sure he's very proud of what he has achieved."—Reuters

Djokovic repels net-charging Lopez to advance

TOP seed Novak Djokovic was tested by net-charging Spaniard Feliciano Lopez in a duel of volleys and passing shots before booking a berth in the US Open semi-finals in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

On a hot, humid night at Flushing Meadows, Djokovic waged an entertaining battle with the 33-year-old serve-and-volleyer, before finishing off the 18th seed 7-2 in the fourth set tiebreaker to complete a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(2) victory.

Lopez won 28-of-41 serve-and-volley points, while Djokovic countered with 33 forays to the net that produced 19 points for the world number one.

"He's one of the rare players who actually serves and volleys after the first and second serves," said Djokovic, winner of this year's Australian Open and Wimbledon championships. "He's got a very big serve."

Lopez served up 14 aces, while Djokovic registered nine.

"It was anybody's game in the fourth set," the Serb said. "I'm just glad to get through in four."

Djokovic had beaten Lopez in their five previous meetings but the lefty was confident, coming off a Cincinnati hardcourt event where he reached the quarters with wins over Milos Raonic and Rafa Nadal before losing to world number two Roger Federer.

"My game plan was to be aggressive," Lopez said. "He was having some trouble reading my serve."

"The match from my side was great. I have to be satisfied with the match I played with the number one player in the world. I couldn't do any better today. He just was better in the tiebreaker in the fourth. I think I played a great match."

Djokovic, 61-5 with six tournament titles this season, will face defending champion Marin Cilic of Croatia in the semi-finals. The ninth-seeded Cilic ad-

vanced with a five-set win over France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. Nine-times grand slam winner Djokovic reached his ninth successive US Open semi-finals and the 2011 champion expects another challenging match against Cilic, despite owning a 13-0 record against him. "He hasn't lost a match (here), 12 matches in a row, so I'm sure he feels confident," Djokovic said. "I know him very well. I have played him many, many times. We are great friends. "I know what to do and I'm hoping I can execute the game plan."—Reuters



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot to Feliciano Lopez of Spain on day nine of the 2015 US Open.—REUTERS

Int'l culture festival to roll in Vietnam's HCM City

HO CHI MINH CITY — Sixteen countries will participate in a festival from Sept. 10-13 in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, showcasing their cultural identities, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Tuesday.

The four-day festival themed Ho Chi Minh City - Development and Integration will feature music shows, costume shows, a food fair,

folk games, performances of traditional martial arts, and much more. International troupes, foreign communities living in the city will also put up art shows. More than 500,000 foreigners live, study and work in the city which receives 4.5 million foreign arrivals every year. When the annual festival made its debut in 2013, it attracted 500,000 visitors. —Xinhua

Famed cartoonist Brad Anderson dies at 91

BEIJING — American cartoonist Brad Anderson, the man who created the long-running comic strip "Marmaduke" in 1954, has died, according to his syndicate, Universal Uclick.

Anderson became a cartoonist by the time he was a teenager, having sold his first cartoon to Flying Aces magazine when he was 15. He continued cartooning while he served in the Navy in World War II. He became a full-time freelance cartoonist and start-

ed "Marmaduke" in 1954.

Marmaduke has since been syndicated in over 500 newspapers in 10 countries. The mischievous, the lovable curious dog Great Dane and his loving family also appeared in a feature film in 2010. Anderson has been honored by numerous awards, most recently the NCS's Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. Anderson continued working on Marmaduke until his death. —Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(10-9-2015 07:00 am~11-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Shan Novices To Be.....
07:41	Am	A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-2)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Khin Maung Zaw
08:35	Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
08:50	Am	Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products of Myanmar - Seashells Products
09:44	Am	Coin Collectors
09:52	Am	Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations- Gem Stone Painting
10:44	Am	Development Momentum Of Sittway

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
07:52	Pm	School for the Blind
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Rising Glory Of Myanmar Arts
08:54	Pm	Pretty Play Things From Pakokku

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



Entertainment Channel

(10-9-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am

- Mono Classical Songs

6:20 am

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:35 am

- Fashion Show

6:50 am

- Teleplay

7:00 am

- TV Drama Series

7:45 am

- TV Drama Series

8:30 am

- Myanmar Video

9:30 am

- Musical Programme

9:40 am

- Myanmar Video

12:00 noon

- Close Down

Late goals spare Argentine blushes in draw with Mexico

ARLINGTON, (TX, USA) — Late goals from Sergio Aguero and Lionel Messi gave Argentina a 2-2 draw with Mexico on Tuesday and saved their blushes after they had dominated the match but failed to convert chances in an open friendly game in Dallas.

Aguero scored after 85 minutes when Ezequiel Lavezzi took advantage of a blooper by the Mexican goalkeeper and crossed for him to side-foot into the empty net.

Three minutes later Messi chested down the ball inside the box and then half volleyed home to rob Mexico of the win.

"Mexico scored the goals but I think Argentina controlled the game," coach Gerardo Martino said after the match. "We had as many chances but we didn't put them away."

The Mexicans went in 1-0 up at half time after Javier 'Chicharito' Hernandez scored from the penalty spot and the former Manchester United and Real Madrid striker should have made it two but blazed over with just the keeper to beat.

Hector Herrera got Mexi-

co's second after 70 minutes as Ricardo Ferretti's team harried their opponents with quick counter attacks but Argentina's superstar double put a more realistic tint on the scoreline with their late goals.

The result extends Argentina's unbeaten streak to 11 games and Martino's team must now concentrate on their upcoming World Cup qualifying campaign.

After losing the final of the 2014 tournament to Germany, they kick off their Russia 2018 campaign at home to Ecuador in Buenos Aires on Oct. 8. Five days later they go to Asuncion to play Paraguay. Ecuador beat Honduras 2-0 in one of the evening's other friendlies, while a last minute penalty from Jefferson Farfan gave Peru a 1-1 draw against Colombia.—Reuters

Venezuela and Panama also shared the spoils in a dour 1-1 draw, Brazil hammered the United States 4-1 in Massachusetts, and an early Bryan Ruiz goal gave Costa Rica a 1-0 victory over Uruguay.—Reuters

Training for cyclists ahead of Malaysia race

NAY PYI TAW — Myanmar Cycling Federation will hold a training event for cyclists taking part in the Langkawi International Mountain Bike Challenge on Langkawi Island in Malaysia

from 18 to 24 September.

LIMBC 2015, as it is known, bills itself as "the hottest mountain bike race in Malaysia and South East Asia."

The training event will start

from Mount Pleasant cycling track in Nay Pyi Taw at 8 am on 19 September. Cyclists can register for the training event by calling the federation on 09 2502 05651.—GNLM

Cycling event promotes Thai-Myanmar friendship



Myanmar and Thai cyclists on 6 September.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW — A cycling event across the Thailand-Myanmar border was held on 6 September to promote tourism and friendship between the neighbouring countries. The

governments of both countries cooperated in planning the event.

A total of 1,836 cyclists participated in the event, which started in the Thai province of

Prachuap Khiri Khan at 6:45 am and ended at Yanpay-Manpay-Maha Pagoda in Myeik District, Myanmar, at 10:10 am.

The Thai cyclists returned to Thailand later that day.—MNA

Substitute Neymar inspires Brazil to 4-1 win over US

FOXBOROUGH (Massachusetts) — Substitute Neymar scored two second-half goals to inspire Brazil to a 4-1 win over the United States in Massachusetts on Tuesday.

The Barcelona striker came on at half time with his ahead 1-0

quickly doubling their lead with a penalty then grabbed his 46th international goal in 67 international appearances a few minutes later.

Playing at the Foxborough home of the New England Pa-

triot's NFL team, Brazil took the lead after eight minutes thanks to Hulk, the Zenit St. Petersburg striker who was recalled to the squad this month after a year out in the cold.

Willian whipped over a cross

that came back off the upright and Hulk was on hand eight metres out to fire home his second goal in two games.

Brazil caused the US all sorts of problems on the wings, with Marcelo forcing Brad Guzan into

two good saves from the left and Willian turning one of his best ever international performances on the right.

However, they needed the brilliance of substitute Neymar to get a second goal.—Reuters

Rooney breaks Charlton's scoring record in England win

WAYNE ROONEY became England's all-time record scorer when he smashed home his 50th international goal from the penalty spot as England beat Switzerland 2-0 in their Euro 2016 Group E qualifier at Wembley on Tuesday.

Rooney, who pulled level with Bobby Charlton's 45-year-old mark of 49 goals when he scored with a penalty against San Marino on Saturday, again made no mistake from the spot when he thundered the ball past Swiss keeper Yann Sommer after Granit Xhaka had fouled Raheem Sterling.

Harry Kane, who came on as a 57th-minute substitute broke the deadlock with a well-taken left-foot shot after 67 minutes of a largely drab

encounter.

England, who qualified for next year's finals in France after beating San Marino 6-0, preserved their 100 percent record in the group to move on to 24 points from eight successive wins. With two matches remaining Switzerland have 15 points and Slovenia, who beat Estonia 1-0, have 12.

Apart from Rooney's historic goal, and Kane's earlier strike, there will be little to remember from a flat dull game which had the feel of a pre-season friendly, especially in the first half.

Switzerland, who could have secured their own place in the finals with a victory if the match between Slovenia and Estonia ended in a draw, were just as lacklustre as England for long periods.

Although they did play with

slightly more ambition than the hosts, at least until they fell behind, they rarely troubled England goalkeeper Joe Hart.

The atmosphere at Wembley became more and more subdued

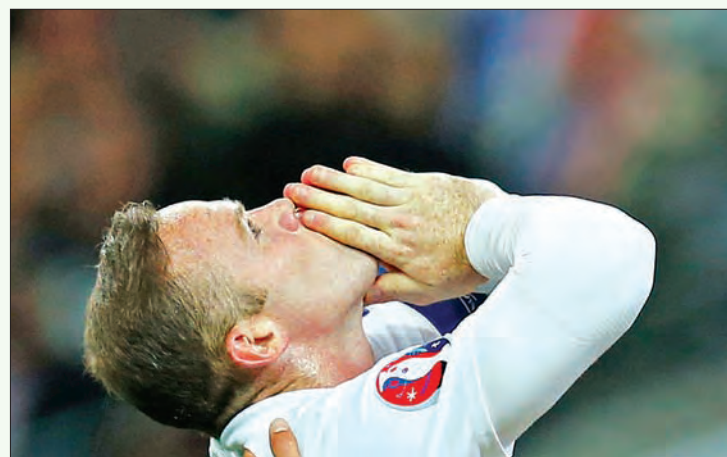
as the pace and tempo of the game dropped, and the only time there was any hint of excitement was when Rooney looked like having an attempt at goal. The second half was not much more

exciting although both teams did at least have some attempts at scoring.

Swiss midfielder Xhaka forced Hart to push the ball away for a corner with a close-range header, while at the other end Rooney tested Sommer with a header and a long-range shot that he fired straight at the keeper.

Kane pepped up the England attack when he replaced midfielder Jonjo Shelvey after 57 minutes and he then produced a rare moment of quality when he swept home with his left foot for his third goal for England in his four appearances 10 minutes later.

It was left to Rooney to have the last word and he finally found the net to rewrite England's record books.—Reuters



Wembley Stadium, London, England - 8/9/15 - Wayne Rooney celebrates with Harry Kane after scoring the second goal for England from the penalty spot and becoming England's all time leading goalscorer.—REUTERS