THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume II, Number 147 | 2nd Waxing Day of Tawthalin 1377 ME | Tuesday, 15 September, 2015

Construction begins on Myanmar Art Center

PAGE 3

PERSPECTIVES

The importance of disaster risk reduction

PAGE 8

People from Tha Pyay Gone Ward in Nay Pyi Taw check the voters' list.—THANT ZIN WIN

FINAL VOTERS' LIST ISSUED BY UEC: 32 MILLION ELIGIBLE

"Is your name on the voters' list?"

A MAN scans the voters' list to find the names of his family members and makes notes as he goes on the scrap of a cigarette packet. Others crowd behind U Mya Thoung at the ward election sub-commission in Tha Pyay Gone Ward, Nay Pyi Taw.

With the union election commission announcing the final list of eligible voters for the general election on November 8, people from all corners of the country have been checking voters' lists to find out whether their names are listed and their details correct.

"When I checked the voters' list the first time, I discovered that four members of my family were missing from the list. That's why I'm being very careful this time," U Mya Thoung said.

After checking the lists, he said happily, "Every eligible voter in my family is listed.

"I will now apply for a voting permit for a guest of mine," he said.

The UEC allows those residing outside their constituencies for more than 180 days to cast votes in the constituency where they are based.

Chairman U Kyaw Nyein of Ward Election Sub-commission said that the names of all 1,848 eligible voters in his ward were included in the list and that he was trying to register more voters. These were people who lived in the ward without possessing family registration documents. Such persons are required to apply for voting permits.

Ko Win Naing, who has lived in Nay Pyi Taw for seven years, didn't know where he could check the voters' list.

"The place where voters' lists were have been moved to another location. I will have to ask others," he murmured.

There are over 32 million eligible voters for Myanmar's 2015 general election – it is important for each to check that their details are included on the voters' list.—*Thura Zaw*

Red Cross to open rapid response facility for traffic accident victims

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON — The Myanmar Red Cross Society will open a first aid facility at Milepost No.201 on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway this year, an MRCS spokesperson said.

The facility will provide rapid response services to traffic accident victims and donations are being sought to cover construction costs, which are estimated at K30 million (US$23,300).

MRCS's ambulance services manager Daw Ni Ni Moe said the society has submitted a building application and will begin construction on the 100-square-foot plot as soon as it gets the green light from the government to do so.

"MRCS will build [the camp] using alternative funding sources if donors don't come forward," Daw Ni Ni Moe told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

The facility will provide 24-hour first aid services, pre-hospital care and ambulance services free of charge to victims of road traffic accidents.

"If patients receive first aid care in time, their chances of survival will be higher," Daw Ni Ni Moe said. MRCS is also building a first aid facility at Milepost No.285, near Theegon Toll Gate, with assistance from the Singapore Red Cross Society. The camp is 80 percent complete and will open before the end of the year.

Since 2012, MRCS has provided emergency care to victims of road traffic accidents on the expressway.

MRCS volunteers provide first aid services to around 300 people every year, according to Daw Than Than Myint from MRCS's First Aid and Safety Services Department.

She suggested that first aid training be provided to the general public so that the number of road fatalities in Myanmar decreases.—*GNLM*

All stakeholders in democratization process must pave ways and open up opportunities for citizens of country to fully participate in each and every level of democratic mechanism

NAY PYI TAW — *The following is the full text of message sent by President of the Republic of Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein to the International Day of Democracy which falls on 15 September 2015.*

My Fellow Myanmar Citizens,

On this auspicious occasion of the International Democracy Day which falls on 15 September 2015, I would first of all, wish you all a happy Democracy Day and may you also enjoy the full essence of democracy in your lives.

This year marks the fifth year in which the International Democracy Day has been celebrated in Myanmar with its full significance. Democracy is an administrative system in which each and every citizen has been accorded equal voice in matters of civic or political decision making process and with equal rights and privileges to enjoy the full civic and political life. Democracy will survive and thrive only in societies where there are transparency, accountability and responsibility.

The Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar empowers all its citizens to enjoy the full essence of democracy. Because democracy means "rule by the people", it must be exercised by all the citizens in the country with their participation in the decision making process on matters that affect their lives. A society and democracy must be able to merge together in harmony to enable democracy to flourish and to enable the prevalence of peace and development in the nation.

Every democratic country needs to cultivate the "Culture of Democracy" where democratic civic culture must be firmly accepted and exercised by the society. In order for the culture of democracy to take root in a society, the matters relating to democratic practices, values and attitudes must be widely educated and instilled into the society. This means every citizen must be able to differentiate and balance the rights, responsibilities and accountability which are the essence of democracy.

My Fellow Myanmar Citizens,

With strong resolutions and set goals, Myanmar has embarked on a road to build a society on a firm democratic system. Today, we have achieved certain tangible successes. The fruit of our success is the results of concerted efforts of the people of Myanmar who are committed to work together and aspired to see the emergence of a new, modern and developed democratic state.

The development and progress of democracy is shaped by the unique historical background, societies, traditions, cultures and values, political parties as well as the political, social and economic institutions and all the stakeholders of the country. Hence, while the approaches to building a democratic society may varied and democracy may be manifested in different forms or shapes, the fundamental prerequisites are the people and maturity of their mindsets, their disciplines and their mental abilities to perceive, distinguish and assess the development of a democracy that responses to their needs.

Currently, Myanmar is at an important juncture where Myanmar people hold in their hand the opportunity to realize the aspirations of the people and their future. The upcoming 2015 General Elections are one of the huge tasks for transitioning Myanmar towards democracy. The Government will render all its efforts to ensure that the 2015 General Elections will be free and fair. The voters, on their part, also have responsibilities and duties to ensure the creation of a new democratic state of the future with their votes.

All the citizens who are eligible to vote have a duty to cast their ballots. In casting those ballots, it is important to elect representatives who will truly represent the interests of the people and who truly possess the qualities of good public representatives. Electing the right representatives would be conducive for all the citizens to obtain their goals of building a transparent and free society where democracy will flourish.

Myanmar is a country where ethnic nationalities are residing side by side with their diverse ethnicity, customs and beliefs. In canvassing votes for their candidates, political parties and voters need to refrain from causing disruption to those harmonious communities and wide diversity of beliefs. Similarly, they should also exercise their democratic rights by conduct of discipline and display of maturity of minds and judgment.

My Fellow Myanmar Citizens,

The theme of this year International Democracy Day is "Public Participation for Democracy". The theme highlights and defines the all important role of the public in development of democracy. All the stakeholders in the democratization process must pave ways and open up opportunities for the citizens of the country to fully participate in each and every level of democratic mechanism. Similarly, they must also strive for promotion of public education on democracy in order to ensure that each and everyone can enjoy the full essence of democracy.

Taking this opportunity, celebrating the International Democracy Day, I urge and invite my fellow democratic citizens of Myanmar to join together in our democratic transition process— by upholding the standards and values of democracy, by nurturing the mutual trust and understanding among each other and by accepting the decision of the majority while also respecting the views of the minority—to build and to further strengthen a matured and prosperous democratic society in Myanmar.

Union Minister attends World Economic Forum in China

NAY PYI TAW — Union Minister for Energy and for Communications and Information Technology U Zeyar Aung attended the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of New Champions on 9 and 10 September in Dalian, China.

The forum was opened with a speech delivered by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

It was attended by energy, communication and information technology mministers from more than 90 countries, heads and chief executive officers of companies, entrepreneurs and youth leaders.

The forum focused on a range of issues, such as establishing a digital energy system, reducing carbon emissions, developing the renewable energy sector and future global energy mix and improving the quality of energy to raise living standards in urban areas. Other issues included the world's increasing energy consumption and upgrading energy infrastructure across Asia.

The union minister met the forum's founder and Executive Chairman Professor Klaus Schwab, the head of the Centre for Regional Strategies Mr Philipp Rosler, the Chairman of China National Petroleum Cooperation, officials from the UAE-based Abraaj Group as well as those from Huawei Communication Company. The meetings involved discussions on cooperating in the development of energy, communications and ICT, as well as investment matters.—*MNA*

Seminar on media's role in election held

YANGON — A National Dialogue on Safety of Journalists during Elections was held in Yangon on 14 September.

The seminar was jointly organised by Myanmar's Ministry of Information, the European Union and UNESCO Myanmar.

The retired director of UNESCO Freedom of Expression and Democracy Mr Mogens Schmidt discussed elections and the roles and responsibilities of the media, authorities and political parties.

Participants also discussed a variety of practical safety measures that may be useful during the election period.

The former chair of the Southeast Asian Press Alliance Mr Kavi Chongkittavorn elaborated on how journalists can carry out their duties during the election in a responsible and safe way under the title of concrete measures for securing free and safe journalism during the elections in Myanmar.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information U Tint Swe, the chairman of Yangon Division Election Sub-commission U Ko Ko, Mr Sarder Umar Alam from UNESCO's Yangon office and the deputy chairman of the Myanmar Press Council (Interim) U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thaukkyar-Khat-Moe) gave speeches during the seminar.—*MNA*

Union Minister visits road transport office

YANGON — Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung visited a branch office of Yangon Region's Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) in Myintha, on Monday to inspect its operations.

RTAD staff briefed the union minister on developments within the department, including the expansion of drivers' licence branches, vehicle registration services and road safety activities,according to Yangon Region RTAD officer U Kyaw Aye Lwin.—*GNLM*

Staff members of Yangon Region's Road Transport Administration Department giving services to customers for road transport.—TRANSPORT

Construction begins on Myanmar Art Center

YANGON – President U Thein Sein attended a ceremony to commemorate the beginning of the construction of the Myanmar Art Center in Yangon on Monday.

The president delivered a speech at the event, in which he said art centres would be built in Yangon and Mandalay with the aim of promoting the image of the country, the livelihoods of artists and entertainment.

The Myanmar Art Center will be located on 7.5 acres of land in Insein Township and the seven-storey building will have a 5,000-person capacity.

"It is necessary to hand down cultural traditions and languages to younger generations and to share our traditions with other countries. Building new art centres creates a source of happiness for many, while at the same preserving Myanmar's cultural heritage," the president added.

The president also said that committees should be formed with the purpose of developing Myanmar's traditional fine arts.

President U Thein Sein, Union Minister U Soe Thane, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organisation chairman U Lu Min and vice chairman U Aye Kyu Lay, Myanmar Music Association chairman U Tin Oo Lay and vice chairman U Lwin Myint, Myanmar Performing Arts Association chairman Pantra U Mya Kyi and Myanmar Painting and Sculpture Association executive committee member U Tun Win each drove staves for the building and sprinkled the site with scented water. — *MNA*

President U Thein Sein stands with a group of artists and dancers at the project site.—MNA

Election preparedness meeting held

NAY PYI TAW—The Union Election Commission's negotiation committee held a coordination meeting on Monday.

The meeting included UEC officers, state and region sub-commission chairpersons, union ministers and representatives from 10 political parties.

At the meeting, UEC chairman U Tin Aye said the 2015 general election will play an important role in shaping Myanmar's future, and the international community's interest is high.

He also urged the gathered officials to prepare security measures for the election, to distribute accurate information and to follow relevant laws and codes of conduct in resolving disputes during the election.—*MNA*

Accurate data essential for post-disaster assessment: Vice President

NAY PYI TAW — Vice President U Nyan Tun emphasised the importance of collecting accurate data for post-disaster needs assessments during a National Disaster Management Committee held in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Recovery plans in flood-hit areas will be carried out as short-term and long term projects and local governments are very willing to assist in the process of data collection, he added.

The vice president said that the government will actively work to create job opportunities for those affected by the floods, and urged officials to take disaster risk reduction measures into account when rebuilding infrastructure.

He also said that efforts are underway to prevent human trafficking among vulnerable populations, as over a million have been displaced by floods and landslides.

Officials briefed the vice president, union ministers and deputy ministers on recovery efforts. — *MNA*

Vice President U Nyan Tun addresses coordination meeting of National Disaster Management Committee.—MNA

What they stand for: campaigns aired

Campaign speeches were broadcast by the Chin National Democratic Party, Wunthanu Democratic Party and Modern People Party on Monday.

Chin National Democratic Party

Chairman U Zozam said that his party would work to achieve equality between all ethnic groups and to create more opportunities for Chin youths to participate in governance and development activities. The party also seeks the implementation of every action point agreed to during the Chin National Conference of 2013. The party will also call on the government to sign up to every United Nations convention and to include the Chin language in the school curriculum. He also spoke about the party's plans to protect Chin State's borders with Magway and Sagaing regions.

Wunthanu Democratic Party

General Secretary Daw Nang Shwe Kyar said that her party stands for equal opportunities in all spheres of public life. She added that the party has adopted measures to build a peaceful, modern nation and to bring about national reconciliation, unity and genuine multi-party democracy. She said that the party believes in equal rights of workers, farmers, youths and women, and improving the way responsibilities are carried out by the Tatmadaw and government service personnel.

Modern People Party

General Secretary Daw Yi Yi San said that the party stands for a free market capitalist economy and multi-party democracy. Other policies include granting equal rights to the national brethren, building a modern Tatmadaw, preventing gender discrimination, achieving national reconciliation and internal peace, improving industrial relations, conserving the environment, amending the constitution and boosting farmers' livelihoods.—*GNLM*

ELECTION COUNTDOWN
Make your voice count. Cast your vote. 54 DAYS

Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW— MRTV, Hluttaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from Union Democracy Party, Peace and Diversity Party and Chin Progressive Party on 15 September and 15 October.—*GNLM*

Stalls set up ahead of Phaungdaw-Oo Pagoda festival

MEIKTILA — A total of 997 shops will showcase their wares during the upcoming Phaungdaw-Oo Pagoda festival in Meiktila, which will take place from 21 to 30 September.

Over 400 stalls will be set up at the eastern side of Meiktila Lake, with more than 500 on the western side of the lake, according to a pagoda trustee.

In the past, the shops had also been located on the left and right sides of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, but this will not be the case this year, the trustee added.

The ancient pagoda in Mandalay Region sits at the bank of Meiktila Lake, which will feature traditional boat races during the festival. The prize ceremony stage is currently under construction.—*Chan Thar (Meiktila)*

Stalls for shopkeepers at Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Phaungdaw-Oo Pagoda in Meiktila under construction.—Chan Thar (Meiktila)

Fire engine donors honoured

MANDALAY — A ceremony was held on Sunday to thank those who donated a fire engine to Maha-nwezin Ward in Mandalay's Maha-Aungmye Township.

The event held at Maha Bawdipin Pagoda's Dhamma Hall and it was attended by Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moung, officials, ward elders and donors.

Documents related to the fire engine were handed over to officials of the Region Fire Services Department and donors received certificates of honour.

The cost of the Isuzu fire engine was K24 million (US$18,640).—*Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay*

Kidney transplant performed successfully

MANDALAY — A kidney transplant was successfully performed at Mandalay General Hospital on September 9.

Maung Hein Lin Aung of Myittha Township in Mandalay Region received a new kidney from his younger sister Khine Khine Wai, aged 25.

The surgery took four hours and 20 minutes and the brother and sister are recovering well, said nephrologist Dr Khin Maung Kyaw.

The transplant is the fourth of its kind performed at Mandalay General Hospital.

Leading members of the surgical team included Mandalay General Hospital's Nephrologists Professor Dr Min Thu, Nephrology Specialist Dr Khin Maung Kyaw and Health Surgeon Associate Professor Dr Khin Maung Htwe.

The team was assisted by Upper Myanmar Hospitals Supervisor Dr Maung Win, Mandalay General Hospital's Medical Superintendent Dr Tin Tin Moe, and nephrologists and anesthetics from Mandalay University of Medicine-1 and Mandalay University of Medicine.

Medical officers led by specialists of Mandalay General Hospital are providing daily health care services to the both patients.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Specialists perform kidney transplant operation at Mandalay General Hospital.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day observed in Mandalay

Youths participate in demonstration marking Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day in Mandalay.—Thiha Ko Ko

MANDALAY — Mandalay Region observed Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day on September 13 for the third consecutive year. The event was held at Mandalay City Hall and attended by Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Myo Min Aung, Chairman of Region Prevention Committee of Trafficking in Persons U Win Shein, senior region officials, school principles, students, local elders and stakeholders.

Those who had voluntarily taken part in the region's trafficking in persons enforcement programmes were presented with certificates of honour.

World Vision (Myanmar)'s zone manager Naw Emerald San Min spoke on behalf of the stakeholders and a short video about efforts to curb trafficking was presented. A play titled, "Let's prevent trafficking in persons dutifully" was staged and a photo exhibition featuring the activities of anti-trafficking in persons was displayed.

Mandalay Region is intensifying its efforts to tackle human trafficking. From January to August this year, educative talks were given on 149 occasions, reaching more than 17,000 students and 15,000 members of the local community. Posters were placed in visible areas in the wards and pamphlets were distributed as part of efforts to raise public awareness.—*Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay*

Okinawa gov says approval to be revoked for base relocation work

NAHA, (Japan) — Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga said Monday that his government will begin procedures to revoke its approval for landfill work required for a controversial US-Japan plan to relocate a key US base within the southern island prefecture.

"It has been recognized that the approval has defects," Onaga told a press conference of the move to block work to reclaim land from the sea to build a coastal airstrip to replace the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The central government resumed preparatory tasks Saturday for the land reclamation after a monthlong suspension for talks with the prefecture that failed to resolve their standoff.

Tokyo's firm stance to continue with the plan to relocate the base within Okinawa "is extremely regrettable," said Onaga, who was elected governor in November 2014 on a platform of opposition to the plan.

He said his decision "will be the first step to prevent construction of a base at Henoko by every measure." Henoko is the cape where the base is to be transferred.

With the decision, the prefectural government will take necessary procedures to formalize the revocation as early as October, but with the central government expected to take countermeasures, the two sides will likely become embroiled in a court battle.

Despite Okinawa's move, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other top officials in Tokyo said the national government will advance the relocation as planned.

"In line with laws and regulations, we will advance (work) taking into account its impact on residents' lives and the environment," Abe told a session of a House of Councillors panel.

Speaking at a press conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the government sees "no legal flaws" in the approval for landfill work given in 2013 by then Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima. Okinawa's procedures, estimated to take about three to four weeks, will involve hearings with the Okinawa Defense Bureau, an outpost of the Defense Ministry in charge of the reclamation work. The prefecture notified the bureau that the hearings will be conducted with it on Sept. 28.

Once approval is revoked, the central government will likely order the prefecture under the local autonomy law to cancel the step. The defense bureau is also expected to consider asking the land minister to examine the case and temporarily suspend the revocation.

Either move would involve a series of legal measures. The approval for landfill work, which Nakaima gave in December 2013, serves as the legal basis for the bureau to start full-fledged reclamation work.

Prior to the work, it plans to resume later this month a seabed boring survey that began in August 2014 and remains unfinished.

Onaga received a report this July from an advisory panel he had set up stating that the approval has legal defects.—*Kyodo News*

People demonstrate outside the US Marine Corps' Camp Schwab in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, on Sept. 14, 2015, to express opposition to the planned relocation of a key US military base to the area.—Kyodo News

> *"It has been recognized that the approval has defects," — Okinawa's governor Takeshi Onaga*

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Malaysia's Najib delivers $4.6 bn boost for stock market

KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian government will inject 20 billion ringgit ($4.6 billion) into a state equity investment firm to shore up the stock market, Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Monday, in a bid to boost confidence in a country reeling from a political scandal.

Najib told a news conference on Monday that the equity investment firm, ValueCap, will invest in undervalued Malaysian companies. "As such, the government will reactivate ValueCap with funds of 20 billion ringgit," he told reporters at the Prime Minister's office.

"ValueCap was established in 2002 as an entity to support undervalued stocks and the result was effective as it managed to stabilise the stock market," he added.

He also announced that the factory sector would be exempted from import duties until the economy recovers from a slowdown, but did not specify which specific sectors would be affected.

The ringgit's fall reflects a deterioration in Malaysia's trade position because of falling prices for its liquefied natural gas and commodity exports.

But capital outflows accelerated in July as Najib became enmeshed in a political scandal raging around indebted state fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

The prospect of government support for the share market helped lift Malaysia's benchmark stock index slightly as it went into the midday break 0.56 percent higher at 1,612.52 points. The ringgit was largely unmoved.

The severity of the ringgit's depreciation prompted Najib to form an economic task force, including some of the country's top financiers, to find ways to restore confidence. "The ringgit's decline is not expected to have adverse impact on government debt as 97 percent of the debt is denominated in ringgit and mostly funded by domestic sources," Najib said.

The Prime Minister's failure to explain how 1MDB racked up $11 billion debt, or who deposited over $600 million in a bank account held in his name, or why has led to mounting public unease over his leadership.

The prime minister has denied wrongdoing.

He said on Monday that the rationalisation plan for 1MDB is on track. He also reiterated that there were no plans to introduce capital controls, adding that the government was on track to achieve fiscal consolidation target for 2015.—*Reuters*

Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak announces measures to strengthen the economy at a news conference in Putrajaya, Malaysia, September 14, 2015.—Reuters

Three detained in Malaysia for suspected links with Bangkok bomb blast

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian police have arrested three people suspected of having ties to the deadly bomb attack in Thailand last month, the police chief said Monday.

Khalid Abu Bakar, the Malaysian police inspector general, said a Pakistani man and two Malaysians — a man and a woman — were picked up a few days ago. "These arrests were made following a tip-off received from our counterparts in Thailand," he told reporters.

The attack on the Erawan shrine in central Bangkok on Aug. 17 killed 20 people, mostly foreign tourists, and injured more than 100 others.

So far no group has claimed responsibility, and while the motive is unclear Thai courts have issued arrest warrants for 11 people — a Thai woman, four Turkish men, one Chinese man and five foreign men whose nationalities have not been identified.

Khalid said at present the three suspects would not be handed over to the Thai authorities yet.

"We are working together with our Thai counterparts. Let us investigate the matter first," he said.—*Kyodo News*

Australia gets new PM as Abbott loses out to rival Turnbull

CANBERRA — Australia will get its fifth prime minister in eight years after the ruling Liberal Party on Monday voted out Tony Abbott in favour of longtime rival Malcolm Turnbull, following months of infighting and crumbling voter support.

Malcolm Turnbull.—Reuters

Turnbull, a multi-millionaire former tech entrepreneur, won a secret party vote by 54 to 44, Liberal Party chief whip Scott Buchholz told reporters after the meeting in Canberra.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop was elected deputy leader of the party which, with junior coalition partner the National Party, won a landslide election in 2013.

"Ultimately, the prime minister has not been capable of providing the economic leadership our nation needs," Turnbull told reporters at parliament house ahead of the vote.

"We need a different style of leadership."

Abbott pledged to fight the challenge but was ultimately unsuccessful in overcoming the "destabilisation" that he said had been taking place within the party over months.

He walked stony faced out of the party room following the vote and did not speak to reporters.

Abbott ousted Turnbull as leader of the Liberal Party in 2009 although Turnbull has consistently been seen as a preferred prime minister.

However, Turnbull's support for a carbon trading scheme, gay marriage and an Australian republic have made him unpopular with his party's right wing.

The challenge came as Australia's $1.5 trillion economy struggles to cope with the end of a once-in-a-century mining boom and just days before a by-election in Western Australia state widely seen as a test of Abbott's leadership.

Abbott emerged badly weakened from a leadership challenge in February, which came about after weeks of infighting, and pledged a new spirit of conciliation. He and his government have since consistently lagged the centre-left opposition Labor Party in opinion polls, helping to fuel speculation over how long his party would give him to turn things around.

Abbott had earlier dismissed reports about a challenge as "gossip", saying he refused to play "Canberra games".

Peter Chen, a political scientist from the University of Sydney, said Turnbull faced the same problem as Kevin Rudd, a former Labor prime minister toppled by his own party.

"He is popular with the public, but not necessarily within his own party, Chen said.

Abbott has continued to defy popular opinion inside and outside his party, despite pledging to be more consultative, blocking his MPs from supporting same-sex marriage and announcing an emissions reduction target criticised as inadequate by environmental groups.

He agreed last week to take in 12,000 Syrian refugees but the news was overshadowed by rumours of a cabinet reshuffle and an insensitive gaffe about climate change, caught by a microphone at a meeting, by Immigration Minister Peter Dutton. A Fairfax-Ipsos poll published on Monday showed that voters in the seat of Canning in Western Australia could deliver a swing of up to 10 percent against the government in Saturday's by-election.—*Reuters*

Global warming hiatus could be coming to an end: UK's Met Office

LONDON — Record temperatures and changes to climate patterns in the world's oceans are among signs that a global warming pause is coming to an end, Britain's Met Office said in a report on Monday.

The report comes just over two months before negotiators from almost 200 countries meet in Paris to thrash out a UN deal to curb global climate change. In 2013, a United Nations report on climate science made an observation that temperatures had increased at a slower rate in the years since 1998 than the preceding 50 years.

But on Monday, the Met said in a report that observations of climate patterns in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans combined with record global temperatures last year and expectations 2015 and 2016 would be near record highs pointed to a changing trend.

"All of these signals are consistent with what we would expect to see at the end of the slowdown," Adam Scaife, one of the reports authors, said at a press briefing. Last year was the warmest since records began in the 19th century, according to the UN World Meteorological Organization. The El Nino weather phenomenon — a warming of sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific — is likely to contribute to another year of record temperatures in 2015. But Scaife said man-made contributions to global warming would also play a part.

"A lot of things can occur without the influence of human beings. However, they are now occurring on top of the influence coming from man's activity," Scaife said. "When an El Nino comes and raises the global temperature... that is the extra bit that creates a record," he said.

One of the main goals of the UN climate pact is to stop global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, what scientist say is needed to prevent the most catastrophic effects of climate change such as worsening floods, droughts, storms and rising seas.—*Reuters*

Tourists evacuated amid volcanic eruption on Mt Aso

TOKYO — Mt Aso in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Kumamoto erupted Monday, leading to tourists being evacuated and flights cancelled or diverted, authorities said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The eruption occurred at around 9:43 a.m. at one of the peaks that make up one of the world's largest caldera, shooting ash 2,000 meters into the air and scattering large rocks, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, adding that pyroclastic flows may have occurred.

The agency raised the alert level for the 1,506-meter Mt. Nakadake, one of the five peaks that constitute Mt Aso, to level 3 on the scale of 5, calling on people not to approach the mountain. It said there was danger from falling rocks and smoke from the plume.

A 2,000-meter column of smoke was last seen in December 1994 and the alert level was raised to 3 for the first time since the system was introduced in 2007, a local meteorological observatory said.

An aerial view shows an eruption of Mount Aso in Aso, Kumamoto prefecture, southwestern Japan, in this photo taken by Kyodo September 14, 2015.—Kyodo News

An area within 4 kilometers of the No. 1 crater of the mountain was declared off-limits by local authorities, which said there are restaurants and a museum but no houses in the area.

Police and other local authorities said they evacuated about 30 tourists who were near the crater at the time of the eruption.

The crater of Mt Nakadake is accessible to tourists, offering the sight of an active volcano that emits smoke continuously and occasionally erupts. The operator of Kumamoto Airport, about 20 km west of the mountain, said flights have been cancelled or diverted to nearby airports.

All Nippon Airways Co cancelled six flights to and from Kumamoto Airport while Japan Airlines Co. canceled two.

The government has set up a headquarters to deal with the eruption.

The mountain has continued erupting on and off since last November. The weather agency had maintained the alert level at 2, advising people not to approach the crater, since raising it to that level on Aug. 30, 2014.

The latest eruption was bigger in scale, the agency said.—*Kyodo News*

Red Cross condemns attack on Nepali ambulance, killing of policeman

KATHMANDU — Red Cross organisations condemned on Monday an attack in Nepal by anti-government protesters who stopped an ambulances and killed an injured policeman during unrest over a proposed new constitution.

Protests have erupted in the southern plains of the Himalayan country since a draft of a constitution to set up a federal system was presented last month, with members of a minority group rejecting the plan to divide their region. The ambulance was carrying a policeman injured in clashes and was ambushed on Friday. The attackers dragged the officer out of the vehicle and killed him, police said.—*Reuters*

UN to issue Sri Lanka war crimes report on Wednesday

GENEVA — The United Nations will release a major report on Wednesday on war crimes committed during Sri Lanka's civil war that ended in 2009, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said on Monday.

The UN investigation into alleged atrocities by government troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam was to have been published in March but was delayed for six months to allow the island's new government to address a failure to bring perpetrators to justice.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein, in a speech to the main UN rights forum on Monday, welcomed "the vision" shown by President Maithripala Sirisena and commitment of his government.—*Reuters*

Thousands flee California wildfire as homes go up in flames

Flames from the Valley Fire cover a hillside along Highway 29 in Lower Lake, California September 13, 2015.—Reuters

MIDDLETOWN — A swiftly spreading wildfire destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of residents to flee as it roared unchecked through the northern California village of Middletown and nearby communities, fire officials said on Sunday.

The so-called Valley Fire, now ranked as the most destructive among scores of blazes that have ravaged the drought-stricken Western United States this summer, came amid what California fire officials described as "unheard of fire behavior" this season.

A separate fire raging since Wednesday in the western Sierras has leveled more than 130 buildings and was threatening about 6,400 other structures, with thousands of residents under evacuation orders there, too, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) reported.

Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in both areas, and mandatory evacuations were expanded as shifting winds sent flames and ash from the Valley Fire toward a cluster of towns in the hills north of Napa Valley wine country.

Reuters video footage from Middletown showed a smoking, devastated landscape of blackened, burned-out vehicles and the charred foundations of buildings that had been reduced to ash.

"While crews have not had a chance to do a full damage assessment ... we know hundreds of structures have been destroyed," Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said in a Twitter post.

Property losses included "countless homes and other buildings," he added in a subsequent video news briefing.

The Valley Fire has consumed more than 50,000 acres (20,200 hectares) since igniting Saturday in rural Lake County, California, about 50 miles (80 kms) west of Sacramento, the state capital, fire officials said on Sunday.

Thousands of evacuees from Middletown, Cobb, Hidden Valley Lake and the Harbin Hot Springs resort gathered in shelters, restaurants and friends' houses in nearby Kelseyville and Calistoga to await word on their homes, horses and dogs.

The mountain town of Cobb was hit first Saturday afternoon, and the blaze reached Middletown before sunset a few hours later, Cal Fire spokeswoman Amy Head told Reuters. The two communities, each with a population of roughly 1,500, were among the areas that bore the brunt of the flames. A combination of drought and a heat wave last week had left vegetation tinder dry and highly combustible, setting the stage for a conflagration that thwarted the best efforts of firefighters to contain it, Berlant said.

"Every time they made progress, the fire would burn right past them," he said, adding that embers carried by the wind were sparking new blazes and enlarging the fire zone.

During its first 12 hours, the blaze had devoured 40,000 acres of forest, brush and grasslands at what Head called an "unprecedented rate" of spread for a wildfire. Four firefighters were hospitalized with second-degree burns in the early hours of the blaze and were listed in stable condition on Sunday, but no other casualties were reported, Head said. Thick smoke later kept water-dropping helicopters and airplane tankers grounded, she said.—*Reuters*

UN rights chief urges Europe to expand migration channels

GENEVA — The top United Nations human rights official urged Europe on Monday to build on a surge of sympathy for refugees by setting up comprehensive policies to expand migration channels.

Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, in a speech opening the UN Human Rights Council, called for a halt to detention and "ill-treatment" of asylum seekers, especially children, who are fleeing war and persecution in countries including Syria. "We need expanded channels of regular migration and resettlement — two measures which would prevent deaths and cut smuggling," Zeid told the 47-member state forum in Geneva.

European states should "build on this surge of human feeling" caused by the photograph of the dead Syrian toddler Aylan Kurdi, whose body washed up on a shore in Turkey 10 days ago as the family tried to reach Greece, he said.

Germany re-imposed border controls on Sunday after Europe's most powerful nation acknowledged it could scarcely cope with thousands of asylum seekers arriving every day.

Divided European Union justice and home affairs ministers were due to meet on Monday to discuss the migrant crisis.

Zeid, in a rare criticism of world powers, voiced concern at efforts by governments including China and Russia to silence critics. He criticised China's detention and interrogation of more than 100 lawyers in recent months and the "stigmatisation" of foreign-funded activist groups under a new Russian law. He welcome Iran's deal with major powers to curb its nuclear programme, adding: "I urge Iran to make commensurate progress in human rights." "Accelerated use of the death penalty, concerns about the right to a fair trial, and the continued detention of journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders remain a major cause for concern," Zeid said.—*Reuters*

Cameron in Lebanon to visit refugees from Syria

BEIRUT — British Prime Minister David Cameron arrived in Beirut on Monday to visit refugees from the war in neighbouring Syria, which has driven well over a million people into Lebanon and tens of thousands towards Europe, Lebanese media reported.

Cameron will visit refugees and then meet with his Lebanese counterpart Tammam Salam. Lebanon, where one in every four people is a refugee, is hosting the greatest number of refugees per capita of any country in the world. It has called on other countries to share the burden.

The Syrian war, which has killed 250,000 people since 2011, has forced half of all Syrians from their homes, creating 4 million refugees and displacing some 7.6 million more within the country. It is the worst refugee crisis since World War Two.

Some refugees in Lebanon live in informal tented settlements without easy access to electricity and clean water while others rent garages, spare rooms or empty buildings to house their families.

Tens of thousands of refugees have been trekking from Greece via the Balkans and Hungary towards western Europe. The crisis has prompted some European leaders to announce a greater refugee intake, led by Germany which expects an estimated 800,000 people to arrive this year.

Britain has said it will take in 20,000 Syrian refugees over the next five years.—*Reuters*

Prime Minister David Cameron meets a Syrian refugee family in a settlement camp in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, September 14, 2015. —Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 15 September, 2015

The importance of disaster risk reduction

By *Myint Win Thein*

MANY people believe that the loss of life and property caused by the forces of nature cannot be prevented. Although it is undeniable that major meteorological or geological events cannot be prevented, the dangers posed by natural disasters can be reduced dramatically if risk reduction measures are applied systematically before disasters strike.

Disaster risk reduction means taking preventive measures against disasters as part of our everyday activities. For example, teaching schoolchildren how to find safe places during an earthquake and building earthquake-proof buildings are risk reduction measures that have proved successful.

Teaching community members how to respond to flash floods is also a risk reduction measure that can save lives. Places where risk reduction measures are not applied systematically suffer disproportionate losses of life and property due to natural disasters.

Japan is well prepared for earthquakes and generally suffers lower degrees of destruction from earthquakes than unprepared countries like Iran or Nepal, even though all three are located in earthquake-prone areas. In Japan, even young schoolchildren are taught how to survive earthquakes.

In Myanmar, the lack of preparedness for flooding and landslides left over a million people displaced and more than 120 dead. By slightly altering our daily routines, we can mitigate the risks of disaster so that we avoid such heavy losses next time nature strikes.

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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.

The Mangrove Forests: the Sentinels of Our Coastline

Khin Maung Myint
(MPT Retired)

THE mangrove forests are nature's gift to protect the coastal areas, especially where the river deltas exist. Without them the coastline would retract as the seas would erode them away. Lack of mangrove forests to guard the coastal fronts could give rise to devastating damages in the coastal areas, due to extraordinarily high waves instigated by storms or tsunamis that could inflict extensive devastations.

The 2004 tsunami was the worst ever to hit the Indian Ocean area in modern history. Many countries, even as far away as the east coast of Africa, were affected, though the extents of damage varied. It is only natural that places further away from the epicenter suffered lesser damage than the closer ones. However, the fact that in Sri Lanka, some places suffered more than the others although they are almost equidistant from the epicenter was noteworthy. Those places that were spared severe damages and fatalities were found to have dense mangrove forests on their shorelines to guard them while those, which were hardest hit, lacked that endowment. This was evident from the fact that in one village that had an intact mangrove forest along its coast suffered only two deaths and damages to properties were minimal. Whereas, in the other village where there was no mangrove forest, the death toll was up to six thousand and the extent of damage to properties was overwhelming. This experience of Sri Lanka proved beyond any doubt that the mangrove forests are of vital importance to safeguard the coastal regions.

The mangroves are evergreen trees that are found in more than 120 tropical and sub-tropical countries. They are able to grow in seawater. Their strong stilt-like root systems allow them to thrive in swamps, deltas and coastal areas. These root systems act like shoring that support the trees, making them sturdy and withstand very strong waves and wind, rendering them as in-penetrateable barriers. The stilt-like root system also served as nurseries for various species of fish and shell fish, such as shrimps, prawns and crabs that go on to populate the surrounding seas. Healthy fish populations, sustained by healthy mangrove forests had provided lively-hoods and foods for millions of small scale fishermen and their families for generations.

The mangroves can sequester the carbon from the atmosphere more efficiently than other kinds of tree and thus play important roles in reducing carbon emissions, which are the main instigators of global warming and climate changes. Apart from protecting the coastal areas and providing foods and lively-hoods for communities on the coastal areas, the mangrove forests are bio-diverse and thus they should be conserved at all cost. Sri Lanka had been earnestly rehabilitating the mangrove forests and has become the first country in the world to implement such project on the country-wide scale.

"The success of any conservation project depends on their awareness of the importance and necessity of the mangroves"

In Myanmar, the mangrove forests are found in the Ayeyawady Delta, some places in the Rakhine and in the Taninthayi areas. It is learnt from some reports and research papers that more than fifty per cent of the mangrove forests, world-wide had been destroyed during the last century and our country is no exception. According to the reports and the research papers by the NGOs and other foreign institutions, the mangrove forests in our country had been reduced by 64.2 per cent during the past three to four decades. Some reports blamed the depletion of the mangrove forests on the concessions granted for paddy growing.

However, my opinion is they were being abused in numerous ways for decades since our Independence. The mangroves from the delta were being felled for the purpose of selling them as timber or fire wood. The bulk of those woods were shipped to Yangon until some years ago. The clandestine charcoal kilns that once dotted the mangrove forests were also consumers of the mangrove wood. In the old days, boats laden with fire woods, logs or charcoal baskets were common sights along the waterways all over the delta region and especially in the Twantay canal, headed for Yangon. The salt pans and shrimp or fish farms are also responsible to certain extents for causing the mangrove forest shrinkages. This I know for sure, as I had seen them with my own eyes, some forty years ago, in the lower Ayeyawady Delta. In those days I had traversed that area from east to west and vice versa with a ship that I commanded. As required by the nature of my duty, I had to pass, criss-crossing, the labyrinth of narrow creeks, streams and estuaries through dense mangrove forests. During such trips, I had observed clearings in some places in the forest where they were used for evaporating the sea water to produce salt and a few abandoned paddy fields. Also on many occasions I had seen charcoal kilns with smoke bellowing out of their stacks with nobody in sight, as they must be hiding on hearing the roaring engine sounds of my ship. Those places were very remote and as there were still insurgents in some areas, the concerned authorities might have difficulties going into those forest areas to check. However, in those days there were no shrimp or fish farming in those areas and the practice was not widespread as yet.

Mangrove forest thriving on delta's islands in Myanmar.

In those days, I had been to very remote places inside the mangrove forests. The mangroves were still intact in many places and in such places we could not see more than a few yards through the thick forest on both sides of the narrow streams that were barely a few feet wider than the width of our ship. As far as I can remember, the areas around the river mouths below *Dedaye*, *Pyapon*, *Bogale*, *Mawgyun*, *Labutta* and *Ngaputaw* were covered with dense mangroves. The mangroves were so thick that in some places they provided safe havens for smugglers, who were rampant in those days. The most notorious place was on the *Mingyikyun*, close to the sea, where the smuggling boats returning from the neighbouring countries used to rendezvous with their accomplices to off-load their contraband goods. Sometimes, even fishing boats from a neighbouring country entered those areas to load fishes and shrimps that the local fishermen sold them. The dense mangrove forests provided the perpetrators good opportunities to conduct illegal trades unnoticed, as the authorities had no control of those areas at all times, because of the difficulty of access. These were the conditions of the mangrove forests that I remembered from those days.

However, after I came across an article that mentioned the alarming rate at which, our mangrove forests are being depleted I was compelled to learn more, as those places used to be my old stomping grounds. Thus I made a quick research of my own. It may not be comprehensive as it was not done in the field but on the Internet.

(See page 9)

Post-signing steps of peace deal laid out

YANGON — The steps to be taken after signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement were explained to political parties at Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon on Monday.

"Political parties and ethnic groups needs to understand that the peace process requires cooperation and coordination of everyone involved. After signing the NCA, committees will be set up to implement the terms of the peace process, such as UPDJC [committee]. The government has fulfilled the timetable requested by ethnic groups," Union Minister U Aung Min said.

MPC Director Dr Min Zaw Oo set out a timetable for post-signing meetings and the types of committees that will be formed.

"The president invited ethnic groups for peace talks on 18 August 2011. There were only 16 ethnic armed groups back then. Kokang group was formed as a self-administered zone. We learnt that there was a group called MNDAA Kokang group only when fighting broke out against them on 6 February this year. The group was not in existence when the government invited ethnic groups for peace talks. They were not included in the 16 ethnic groups. Similarly, the Arakan Army had not been formed at the time the peace talks began," U Aung Min explained.

He went on to say that talks with the Palaung group were initially unsuccessful.

"However, the government won't leave them [out] and it will also allow other small groups to participate in political dialogue," he said.

Questions by participants were answered by U Aung Min as well as senior advisor U Hla Maung Shwe and MPC's Dr Min Zaw Oo.—*Ye Khaung Nyunt, Myat Thanda Maung*

Union Minister U Aung Min and officials of Myanmar Peace Center seen at multi-stakeholders meeting for framework for political dialogue.—PHOTO: PO HTAUNG

20 returned seamen from Indonesia may have been trafficked: officials

YANGON — Twenty Myanmar men returned home from Indonesia's Ambon Island on Monday, after spending years working on fishing trawlers – possibly under duress.

"We are in the process of investigating whether the men were trafficked. If that turns out to be the case, we'll take action," said Police Major Ye Win Aung from No.6 Anti-Human Trafficking squad.

Each of the men has been confirmed as citizens of Myanmar by Myanmar's Embassy in Indonesia and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

IOM provided a sum of K200,000 to each worker in addition to assisting with repatriation preparations. "We have also provided travel arrangements so that they can return to their homes as soon as possible – in fact some already have. We will continue to provide food and shelter to those yet to return to their family homes," said IOM's logistics and transport officer U Yo Shan.—*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*

Leadership and diversity workshop held for governmental officials

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON — A workshop titled 'Leading and Managing Diversity' began at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon on Monday.

The 30 participants are officials from different ministries such as the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Energy – another 30 officials will take part in a second training session on 16 and 17 September.

The workshop is being jointly organised by the Royal Thai Embassy and Dale Carnegie Training (Thailand), a well known training institute with headquarters in New York.

"The workshop is part of an in-house programme that the embassy has been organising for Myanmar officials from different ministers and departments for the past four years," Thai Ambassador Mr Pisanu Suvanajata said in his opening remarks.

The course covers key concepts in developing personal leadership skills, creating an inclusive work environment and improving work performance and management skills.

The course includes an interactive session for participants to share ideas and discuss issues related to effective management.

"Effective management and leadership skills are essential in today's job market, as workloads are increasing and often more demanding," said Mr Pisanu Suvanajata. Daw Than Than Nu from the National Planning and Economic Development Ministry said, "This is a good opportunity for us because we really need capacity building training so that we can improve our skills and better contribute to the development of the country." Around 200 officers had already received the training under the programmes, said Ms Patitta Sriboontham, consultant at Dale Carnegie Thailand, who remarks Myanmar people are very eager to learn.—*GNLM*

The Mangrove Forests: the Sentinels of...

(from page 8)

What I did was, to download a satellite map of the Lower *Ayeyawady* Delta and some research papers and reports related with mangroves. To my dismay, apart from the *Meinmahlakyun*, a protected reserved forest and a wildlife sanctuary, other places where there used to be dense mangrove forests are now almost barren. I also noticed many salt pans, shrimp and fish farms and large clearings devoid of mangroves that used to cover those areas in the past, close to the sea shores. I assumed those large tracts of clearings to be abandoned paddy fields, because due to their proximity to the sea there could be high rate of salinity in the soil and the paddies could not prosper well in those areas. Thus, the yields would not be good enough to justify the hard labour that the farmers had to invest. I had seen such abandoned paddy fields in the areas south of *Kyauktan* in the Yangon Region close to the sea, while we were volunteering to help the farmers to harvest their crops, in 1980.

In the old days, places like *Amar, Kadonkani* and *Ayer*, just below the *Meinmahlakyun* were bestowed with lush green mangroves. Also the *Thanhtaik* area below *Dedaye* and *Pyapon, Pyinsalu, Theikpankongyi, Chaungwa* and the *Hainggyikyun* areas were covered with dense mangrove forests. Those forests were so dense and bountiful in food that they attracted wild elephants, tigers, deer, crocodiles, wild boars, wild buffalos, bisons, many varieties of reptile—such as snakes and lizards, different varieties of small mammals and birds—both native and migrant species. Now as the forests had drastically been depleted, the habitats may no longer exist and the wildlife, too, may have disappeared today.

After studying the research papers and reports by concerned departments and UN organization, such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and some NGOs, I came to realize that the mangrove forests, if left neglected without proper conservations would disappear altogether, in a few decades, as some experts predicted. However, it was a great relief to learn that the responsible state departments, UN sponsored organizations and NGOs are endeavoring to rehabilitate and conserve the mangrove forests.

Here, I would like to discuss what caused the shrinkage of the mangrove forests. There are many opinions and outlooks on that matter. Some blamed the concessions granted to grow rice in the forest areas, emergence of fish and shrimp farming and salt pans and indiscriminate cutting down of the trees for fire wood and for making charcoal. These are visible points even to casual observers. Another factor, which is silently causing the destruction of the mangrove forests, that only the experts knew, is the excessive depositions of sediment in the lower delta regions in the recent years. The Ayeyawady River had been bringing along sediments and depositing them in the delta region for centuries without affecting the environment. In recent years, due to extensive deforestations in the upper and central parts of the country, excessive amount of sediments were being brought down and deposited in the lower delta region, causing rapid shrinkage of the mangrove forests. According to the experts, that effect coupled with the encroachments of the mangrove forests, if left unchecked, would cause them to disappear in a few decades.

However, the good news is—the conservation works are in progress, thanks to the endeavours of the departments concerned, FAO, NGOs and some local communities who are participating in the conservation programmes. It is undeniable that the agricultural and aqua-cultural industries in the mangrove forest areas would provide livelihoods for the rural populations in those areas who are living under the poverty line and raise their living standards somewhat. However, great care and considerations should be taken, not to disturb the environments or the ecosystems when granting such concessions. According to the experts, if there had been a healthy and intact mangrove forest on the coastline of the delta during the Nargis Cyclone, the 3.5-meter waves might not be able to create havoc of such magnitudes as it had done. So, let us conserve the mangrove forests for the future generations with the participations of the rural populace of those areas. The success of any conservation project depends on their awareness of the importance and necessity of the mangroves.

Al Qaeda chief urges lone wolf attacks, militant unity

Al Qaeda's Ayman al-Zawahri speaks from an unknown location, in this still image taken from video uploaded on a social media website June 8, 2011.—Reuters

CAIRO — Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri called on young Muslim men in the United States and other Western countries to carry out attacks inside there and urged greater unity between militants.

"I call on all Muslims who can harm the countries of the crusader coalition not to hesitate. We must now focus on moving the war to the heart of the homes and cities of the crusader West and specifically America," he said in an audio recording posted online on Sunday, referring to nations making up the Western-led coalition in Iraq and Syria.

He suggested Muslim youth in the West take the Tsarnaev and Kouachi brothers, who carried out the Boston marathon bombings and Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris respectively, and others as examples to follow.

It was not clear when the recording was made but references to former Taliban leader Mullah Mohamed Omar as being alive suggest it is at least two months old. Omar's death was announced by Afghanistan's government in late July.

Zawahri reiterated his position on Islamic State, repeating what he said in a recording posted on Wednesday — that he viewed the group's claim to be a caliphate as illegitimate but would join them in fighting Western and secular forces in Iraq and Syria.

Former Egyptian doctor Zawahri urged unity between Islamist militant factions in Syria and Iraq, where a Western-led coalition is bombing Islamic State targets, but recognised it would he be difficult. He called for the formation of an independent sharia court to settle disputes.—*Reuters*

Afghan Taliban storm jail, release hundreds of prisoners

GHAZNI — Taliban insurgents stormed a mud fort being used as a prison in Afghanistan on Monday, killing police and releasing more than 400 inmates, and then attacked troops rushing to help, officials said.

The latest Taliban prison raid, on the outskirts of the central city of Ghazni, comes after setbacks for the government in different parts of the country and deadly attacks in Kabul which have dashed hopes for peace talks.

A Reuters reporter outside the prison in Ghazni, 120 km (75 miles) southwest of the capital, Kabul, saw the bodies of two men who appeared to be suicide bombers and a blown-up car that had apparently been used to destroy the main entrance.

Mohammed Ali Ahmadi, deputy city governor, said more than 400 prisoners had escaped. About 80 had been recaptured and 352 were on the run, including about 150 Taliban.

Seven Taliban and four members of the security forces were killed in the attack, he said.

"Roads to the prison were covered with land mines in advance to avoid reinforcement," Ahmadi told reporters. "An army vehicle coming for reinforcements was blown up by a roadside bomb while trying to reach the prison."

Ahmadi said the prison did not have heavy security because it was so close to Ghazni — only seven km (4.3 miles) from the city centre — and it was believed that reinforcements would get there quickly in the event of trouble.

One security official said the attackers, armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles, were wearing Afghan security force uniforms. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said gunmen and three suicide bombers attacked the prison at 2 a.m. (2200 GMT Sunday). Three bombers were killed, he said.

"Forty Afghan security forces and prison guards were killed in the prison break and important military mujahideen officials have been freed," he said, referring to Islamist fighters.

The Taliban often exaggerate casualty tolls in statements about their attacks.

The Taliban are fighting to overthrow the foreign-backed government of President Ashraf Ghani, expel foreign forces from Afghanistan and impose a strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The insurgents have on several occasions attacked jails to free hundreds of prisoners including their comrades in both Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan.

Security at the prisons is often poor, with untrained, poorly equipped police guarding crumbling facilities.—*Reuters*

An Afghan policeman (R) walks outside a prison building after an attack in Ghazni province, Afghanistan September 14, 2015.—Reuters

10 killed in bomb explosion in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least 10 people were killed and 59 injured in a bomb explosion at a busy bus station in Multan in Pakistan's Punjab province on Sunday night, local police said.

The explosion occurred following a head-on collision between a motorcycle and an auto rickshaw at the Vehari Chowk bus station, Multan city police chief Zahid Salim Gondal said.

"The explosion was caused by a bomb blast. Two mutilated bodies of what would be suicide bombers have been found from the site," he said.

It was yet to be determined which vehicle the bomb was planted on and where it was meant to explode.

Among the injured, 20 were seriously hurt, according to doctors at Nishtar Medical College.—*Kyodo News*

Egypt security forces accidentally kill 12, including Mexican tourists

CAIRO — Egyptian security forces killed 12 Mexicans and Egyptians and injured 10 "by accident" on Monday, mistaking a tourist convoy for militants they were chasing in the country's western desert, the ministry of interior said.

At least two Mexicans were killed, Mexico's foreign ministry said in a statement.

A joint force from the Egyptian police and military was chasing militants in the country's vast western desert, which borders Libya, when it inadvertently opened fire on the convoy.

The convoy was made up of four four-wheel drive vehicles, the Egyptian interior ministry said in a statement, and there will be an investigation into how and why the tourists entered an off-limits area.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto condemned the attack on his Twitter account, describing it as a tragic incident and demanding a full investigation.

"Mexico condemns these deeds against our citizens and has demanded an exhaustive investigation of what has occurred," he tweeted.

Egypt's tourism ministry spokesman told state news agency MENA the convoy was at an off-limits site and was using unlicensed cars. The convoy was taking part in an unapproved safari, he said.

Mexican ambassador Jorge Alvarez met with five Mexicans who were in stable condition in hospital, Mexico's foreign ministry said.

The Mexican ministry said an "undetermined" number of its country's nationals had been attacked and that it was in the process of identifying the two who had been killed.

Egypt is battling an insurgency that gained pace after the military ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood in mid-2013 after mass protests against his rule. The insurgency, mounted by Islamic State's Egyptian affiliate, has killed hundreds of soldiers and police and has started to attack Western targets.

Earlier on Sunday Islamic State released a statement carried by its supporters on Twitter saying it had repelled an attack by the Egyptian military in the western desert.

While the insurgency has been largely based in the Sinai Peninsula, attacks have taken place in Cairo and other cities.

In August, an Egyptian military aircraft crashed in the western desert near the Libyan border while on a mission against Islamist militants, killing four people.

Security officials say militants operating from Libya to the west of Egypt have been trying to forge ties with Islamists in the Sinai on the east side of the country.

Egyptian jets bombed Islamic State targets in Libya in February, a day after the group there released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians, drawing Cairo directly into factional conflict across its border.—*Reuters*

Asia pulls higher as markets on edge ahead of Fed meeting

TOKYO — Asian shares rose in choppy trade on Monday after Chinese markets were hit by soft economic data, while the dollar sagged as investors questioned whether the US Federal Reserve will be confident enough to raise rates for the first time in almost a decade.

But financial spreadbetters predicted more upbeat openings for European bourses, with Britain's FTSE 100, Germany's DAX and France's CAC 40 all seen opening up to 0.9 percent higher.

"European equities are set to start with modest gains this morning off the back of mild gains in the US on Friday," Jonathan Sudaria, dealer at Capital Spreads, said in a note.

"Given the size of the looming risk event this week, barring some epic black swan event, it's going to be very difficult to nudge markets out of this very well-worn groove until we've heard what the Fed has to say on the future of monetary policy," he said.

An investor speaks in front of an electronic board showing stock information at a brokerage house in Fuyang, Anhui province, China, September 14, 2015. —Reuters

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was up 0.3 percent in afternoon trading, after spending much of the session wavering between positive and negative territory.

Chinese shares slipped after disappointing data over the weekend, with the CSI300 index and Shanghai Composite Index down 3.2 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively.

Growth in China's investment and factory output missed forecasts in August, raising the chances that China's third-quarter economic growth may dip below 7 percent for the first time since the global crisis.

"China's economy faces relatively big downward pressure, so investor sentiment remains weak," said Gu Yongtao, strategist at Cinda Securities.

US stock futures pared earlier gains but were still up about 0.1 percent from late US levels in Asian trade, building on Friday's solid daily and weekly gains on Wall Street.

But Japan's Nikkei stock index erased an early rise and ended down 1.6 percent.

Ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, the Bank of Japan's own two-day meeting will wrap up on Tuesday. Policymakers are widely expected to hold steady, despite increasing evidence that Japan's inflation and growth remain in the doldrums.

"The majority of investors do not expect a policy change for now, but there is a slight expectation that the bank will ease some time soon," said Chihiro Ohta, general manager at investment research and investor services at SMBC Nikko Securities, adding the market will scan BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda's post-meeting speech for policy clues.

Slowing demand from China was likely to keep a lid on commodity prices.

China's output of key industrial commodities including coal and steel weakened in August, as government measures to prevent smog from affecting World War Two commemorations further cut production already lowered by a slowing economy.

Influential Wall Street trader Goldman Sachs cut its outlook on oil late last week, lowering its 2016 forecast for US crude to $45 a barrel from $57 previously, citing oversupply and concerns over China's economy.

The investment bank said crude could even fall to near $20 a barrel.

US crude futures reversed earlier gains in Asian trade, skidding about 0.4 percent to $44.47, after losing 3.0 percent last week. Brent crude tumbled 0.9 percent to $47.70.—*Reuters*

Gold hovers near one-month low as traders eye Fed meeting

SINGAPORE — Gold was trading near its lowest in a month on Monday, as investors waited for a Federal Reserve policy meeting later this week for clarity on when the US central bank will hike interest rates. Spot gold was steady at $1,108.06 an ounce by 0633 GMT, after losing 0.3 percent on Friday. The metal had fallen to $1,098.35 in the previous session, its lowest since Aug. 11.

US gold edged up 0.4 percent to $1,107.40, but also near its lowest in a month.

The Fed will kick off a much awaited two-day policy meet on Wednesday. Many expect traders to remain on the sidelines until the Fed statement on Thursday, though prices could drop because of persistent uncertainty.

"Should the Fed choose not to raise rates, and issue dovish guidance, we would expect gold to rally," said HSBC analyst James Steel.

"How strong that rally may be could depend on how equity and currency markets also react to the Fed's decisions," he said.

Gold prices have been hurt this year by uncertainty over the timing of the Fed's first rate hike in nearly a decade.

Bullion has benefited in recent years from ultra-low rates, which cut the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding gold while weighing on the dollar, in which it is priced. Concerns over slowing economic growth in China, mixed economic data and volatility in financial markets have increased doubts about the timing of any US rate increase, which had been expected as early as this month.

Data on Friday showed US consumer sentiment hit its lowest in a year in early September and producer prices were flat in August, signalling moderate economic growth and tame inflation that could weigh on the Fed's decision whether to hike interest rates. A small majority of forecasters are sticking to their guns and predicting the Fed will pull the trigger this week.

Investor positioning has not been encouraging for gold prices.

Hedge funds and money managers cut their bullish stance in COMEX gold contracts to a three-week low in the week ended Sept. 8, while boosting their short positions, US Commodity Futures Trading Commission data showed on Friday.

Gold prices may retest support at $1,099, with a good chance of breaking below this level and falling further to the next support at $1,089, said Reuters technical analyst Wang Tao.—*Reuters*

Cyber insurance to triple to $7.5 bln by 2020, attracting disruptors

LONDON — The cyber insurance market will triple in size to $7.5 billion in annual premiums by 2020 and the insurance industry could face competition from disruptors such as Google if it does not act fast to develop products, a report said.

Insurers and reinsurers are charging high prices for cyber cover and putting a ceiling on potential losses, deterring companies from buying cyber polices, consultancy PwC said in the report.

Some insurers have kept out of the market, wary of the risks involved. "If the industry takes too long, there is a risk that a disruptor could move in and corner the market by aggressively cutting prices or offering much more favourable terms," PwC said.

Millennials - people in their 20s and 30s - are more likely to trust brands such as Google or Apple than conventional insurers, Paul Delbridge, insurance partner at PwC, told Reuters.

"I can see Google being very creative," Delbridge said.

Technology companies may also be better equipped than insurers to price cyber risk, he added.

Most of the $2.5 billion written in cyber insurance last year was in the United States, where requirements to notify data breaches have focused attention on cyber protection.

But the European Union is expected to follow suit, contributing strongly to growth in cyber insurance, Delbridge said.

A separate report last week from German insurer Allianz said the cyber insurance market could grow to $20 billion by 2025. "There is a general trend towards tougher data protection regimes, backed with the threat of significant fines in the event of a breach," said Nigel Pearson, responsible for cyber at Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty.—*Reuters*

Google hires Truecar's Krafcik to head its driverless car unit

File photo of John Krafcik, then president and CEO of Hyundai America, at the 2013 Los Angeles Auto Show, November 20, 2013. —Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Google Inc said it named auto industry veteran John Krafcik as chief executive of its self-driving car project from late September.

With the hiring of Krafcik, currently the president of automotive pricing terminal Truecar Inc and a former CEO of Hyundai Motors America, Google is starting to look at the project as a potential and relevant business in the near future.

Chris Urmson, who has been head of the self-driving car program since 2009, will continue overseeing the project as its technical lead, the company said in an emailed statement.

Google's pet project of driverless cars started in 2009 with an intention to revolutionize the automobile industry.

The project is still a part of Google X lab, though the company did not rule out the possibility of it being a part of its parent Alphabet in the near future.

Google X lab also works on other projects like Loon, which aims to provide wireless Internet to the most-remote areas in the world via smart balloons and is currently being tested in the Southern hemisphere.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGTZE PIONEER VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGTZE PIONEER VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T (2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THAI BINH 28 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 28 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P. T (3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULNATEE VOY NO (06/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (06/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (090N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (090N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO (007W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO (007W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THE SHIPPING CORP. OF INDIA LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-657)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-657) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO (1039)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1039) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO (1007W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO (1007W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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Apology Announcement to Canon Inc., Japan

U Ye Thu Ya, 9/Pa Ma Na (N) 170790, the manager of **LASER IT & MOBILE SHOP** Nay Pyi Taw. No. 246, Padauk Street, Tha Pyae Kone Quarter, Nay Pyi Taw, hereby apologize **Canon Inc., Japan** for selling Counterfeit/fake Canon Cartridges and I am sincerely did not know that sales of Fake Canon Cartridges would affect the Owners/Manufactures of Canon and being first time offender, I make this public apology and also agree to stop all sales of all imitation Canon products and remove all fake Canon items/Canon Cartridges from my shop. I thank Canon Inc., Japan for their cooperation and understanding.

U Ye Thu Ya, 9/Pa Ma Na (N) 170790, the manager of LASER IT & MOBILE SHOP Nay Pyi Taw.

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (15:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (15:30)hrs MST today, the tropical strom over South China Sea "Vamco" is centred at about (70)miles Southeast of Da Nang, Vietnam. It is forecast to move West ward.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 15th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kachin and Shan States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Regions, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of Southwest monsoon withdrawal from the Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th September, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

"Congratulations to KBZ Bank"

for achieving the following international awards
from Euromoney, London:

"Best Bank in Myanmar 2015"

&

"Euromoney Achievement Award for Corporate & Social Responsibility (CSR) 2015"

We are very proud of you for receiving these awards
on the 14th, September, 2015 and wish you the very best
to continue your dedicated support for
the welfare of our Myanmar people.

EUROMONEY ACHIEVEMENT IN CSR 2015

EUROMONEY AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2015

from Chairman & CEC Members
Union of Myanmar Federation of
Chambers of Commerce and Industry
(UMFCCI)

Kelly Clarkson cancels 6 tour dates to rest voice

BEIJING — America singer Kelly Clarkson canceled six upcoming US tour dates after doctors advised the singer to rest her voice.

"So bummed that I have to cancel some of my tour dates. This kills me, but doctors are saying I need to rest my voice!" Clarkson wrote in her social media account, "Please know that I never cancel anything unless it's absolutely necessary." Clarkson's rest continues through Sept. 20. She has canceled six shows: two in Vienna, Va, one in Tampa, Fla.; one in West Palm Beach, Fla.; one in Raleigh, N.C.; one in Camden, N.J.

Clarkson will resume her North American Piece by Piece Tour on Oct. 1 at the Canadian Tire Center in Ottawa.—*Xinhua*

Kelly Clarkson.—Xinhua

Ranbir will bounce back after a rough phase: Katrina

MUMBAI — Ranbir Kapoor's recent films may have failed to do well at the box office but his rumoured girlfriend, actress Katrina Kaif says the "dedicated, passionate and focused" actor is sure to bounce back.

Ranbir is going through a rough patch in his career as his last few films — "Besharam", "Roy" and "Bombay Velvet" failed to grab eyeballs.

"His movies not doing well is a sad thing. But he gives his heart and soul for a film. I know it hurts and pains him deeply that maybe he is not able to live up to the expectations and satisfy his audience," Katrina told PTI.

"He loves his audience... he wants people to love his films... he wants that acceptance from audience. So all this is hurtful to him," she said.

The 32-year-old actress is hopeful that Ranbir will bounce back.

"But as an actor, I haven't seen anyone more passionate and focused about his work. It is just a matter of time. Every actor goes through ups and downs. I am sure with his passion, dedication and God's blessing, things will change," she said.

Talking about her recently-released film "Phantom", Katrina says she is happy with the audience's response.

The actress is now excited for Nitya Mehra's film with Sidharth Malhotra, for which she has started shooting. The film titled "Baar Baar Dekho" is a love story, which happens over a period of time.

"Nitya's film is an amazing love story. It is an idea that shocked me when I first heard it. I have not seen or heard a film like this in long time," she said.

"Most of the love stories are of similar types, but this seemed new and exciting. There is lot of performance in it," she said.—*PTI*

Georgia contestant Betty Cantrell crowned 2016 Miss America

ATLANTIC CITY — Georgia contestant Betty Cantrell was crowned 2016 Miss America on Sunday in a pageant that was overshadowed by events from three decades ago.

Singer, actress and former Miss America Vanessa Williams received a public apology from the pageant organization that famously ordered her to give up her crown amid a nude photo scandal in 1984.

"I want to apologize for anything that was said or done that made you feel any less than the Miss America you are and the Miss America you always will be," said Sam Haskell, CEO of the Miss America Organization.

Williams, the first African American woman to wear the crown, has maintained that the photos published by Penthouse Magazine in 1984 were unauthorized. Williams served as the pageant's chief judge during its 95th anniversary on Sunday in Atlantic City.

"I think this was something in the back of her mind that she also wanted to do at some point," said 1989 pageant winner and Fox News Host Gretchen Carlson, speaking on the red carpet before the event.

Sunday's pageant came as it struggles to maintain its relevance after it was dropped by ABC in 2004 following a steep ratings decline. It returned to ABC in 2011 after years on cable television, but its ratings have remained below what they were in 2004.

Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell reacts after being crowned Miss America 2016 at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, September 13, 2015. Reuters

Last year, comedian John Oliver used a segment of his show Last Week Tonight to lambaste the Miss America Organization over its claim that it had provided $45 million in scholarships.

As it turned out, the organization was counting scholarship offers made to contestants, not those that the contestants actually accepted, a discrepancy that inflated the totals. This year, officials are out with a new figure, saying the pageant awards $5.5 million in scholarships.

Pageant judges score contestants from all US states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, based on a talent competition, a personal interview, answers to an on-stage question, and appearances in gowns and swimsuits.

Cantrell was crowned to the song "Miss America," the first time the song has been played at the pageant since 2012 amid a licensing dispute with the estate of the song's author.

The new winner will inherit a lifestyle that could see her log 20,000 miles of travel per month. Kira Kazantsev, the 2015 winner from New York, said she can make as many as nine appearances on behalf of a charity per day.—*Reuters*

Jacksons pay tribute to Michael Jackson at Bestival

King of Pop Michael Jackson.—PTI

LONDON — The Jackson brothers paid tribute to their brother, King of Pop Michael Jackson at Bestival.

Jermaine, Tito, Marlon and Jackie took the stage at Robin Hill Country Park on the Isle of Wight for a set featuring some of The Jackson 5's biggest hits – and the foursome took a moment to honour the late singer, reported Contactmusic.

Jermaine told the crowd: "Thanks to our little brother Randy and, of course our brother who's here just in spirit, Michael."

The Jackson brothers played a string of hits including "I'll Be There", "Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground)", "ABC" and "Want You Back".

They also played Michael's hit song "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin" from his hit album "Thriller". The siblings' sister Janet Jackson also made a return to the stage earlier this month, kicking off her "Unbreakable" world tour in Vancouver, Canada, on September 1.

The 49-year-old star paid tribute to Michael during her set and broke down in tears as she performed "Scream", the pair's hit 1995 duet. Michael Jackson died in June 2009 at the age of 50.—*PTI*

Toronto film festival targets drones

TORONTO — Toronto film festival movies on Sunday delved into the ethical and legal quagmire created using drones to kill US enemies overseas from a base in the Nevada desert.

"Eye in the Sky," stars Academy Award Winner Helen Mirren as a colonel who hunts the world's most wanted terror suspects from an underground bunker in London, and Aaron Paul ("Breaking Bad") as a drone pilot based at Creech Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The tense action thriller shows how a drone strike risks becoming a flashpoint when a civilian wanders into the kill zone.

The film by "Tsotsi" director Gavin Hood follows British and US drone authorities and political leaders as they urgently debate the legal, moral and military merits and consequences of a strike on terror suspects in a friendly nation.

The attack would eliminate three of the allies' most wanted, including an American and a Brit who travelled abroad to join the terror group, and would almost certainly kill an innocent child selling bread at a market near their compound. But not launching the American MQ-9 Reaper Drone's Hellfire missiles and destroying the safe house in a Shebab militia controlled neighbourhood in Eastleigh, Nairobi risks allowing the targets to escape to carry out imminent deadly attacks with upwards of 80 civilian deaths.—*AFP*

DAW HLA NWE

Age: 80 years
Wife of Dr. Tun Yee
Passed away peacefully on Saturday
12 September 2015. Dearly missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Daughters:	Sons-in-law:
Kay Thi Tun	Augn Maw Hein
Nwe Ni Tun	U Win Bo
Grandchildren:	
Arkar (Oscar)Hein	Dolly Bo
Theint Sandi Hein	Richie Bo
	Mikey Bo

Funeral will be held on Wednesday
16 September 2015 from 8 am at BIk 37
Sin Ming Drive #01-573, Singapore 575711
Buses will leave at 11.45am for Mandai
Crematorium Hall 3 for cremation at 12.45pm.
Hp; Dr Tun Yee 9781 2646 &
Kay Ti Tun 9325 9501

Museum crowds wait six hours to see ancient scroll

BEIJING — The appearance of a rare artistic treasure in Beijing over the weekend resulted in crowds waiting in line for six hours at the Palace Museum, also known as the Forbidden City.

The crowds were eager to see Along the River During the Qingming Festival, the best-known scroll painting in Chinese art history, at the Hall of Martial Valor. The work is sometimes referred to as China's Mona Lisa.

The scroll by Zhang Zeduan (1085-1145), measuring 24.8 centimeters wide and 5.29 meters long, depicts a flourishing landscape in Bianjing today's Kaifeng in Henan province.

Faced with its huge popularity, the Palace Museum said it would organize another exhibition of the work in 2020, the 600th anniversary of the Forbidden City.

"With growing public demand for exhibitions of national treasures, waiting in line for hours has become routine," the museum said in a statement. "For example, in 2002, when the scroll was displayed in Shanghai, viewers also waited six hours in line."

The work is seldom displayed because of its fragility.

Wang Qi said she drove hundreds of kilometers from Hohhot in Inner Mongolia to visit the exhibition, and it took her most of the day to finally see the scroll. "It was too exhausting, but I still think it was worthwhile," Wang said.

The scroll forms part of a special exhibition titled The Precious Collection of the Stone Moat, which comprises 283 ancient paintings and calligraphy masterpieces once recorded in the Qing Dynasty emperors' catalog.

The display is a main event marking the 90th anniversary of the museum's opening to the public.

Li Geng, 32, from Beijing said he headed to the museum early in the morning. He is a fan of Letter to Boyuan, the only surviving calligraphy from the Jin Dynasty (265-420) with an authentic signature by the writer.

"I arrived only 15 minutes after the opening time. I thought I was there early, but I could see that many people had waited for a long time," Li said. "Even so, I still waited for four hours to enter the exhibition hall. People who arrived after me waited for at least six hours.

"Only 200 people at a time are allowed into the hall, so this slows things down," Li added. "We could linger only for a few minutes because the staff asked people to keep moving to avoid a logjam."

Shan Jixiang, the Palace Museum director, had earlier anticipated huge crowds. "However, we still need to let more people know about the exhibition because it took 10 years for them to have this opportunity," Shan said.—*Xinhua*

105-metre-long scroll created at Qomolangma base camp

LHASA — A Chinese artist completed a 105-meter-long scroll at the Mount Qomolangma base camp on Sunday as a gift for the 50th birthday of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Crafting calligraphy using a 15-kilogram brush tailored for the task, Rong Tie spent five hours creating the scroll while 5,200 meters above sea level. He described the task as a test of both his professional proficiency and physical strength.

He filled the scroll with encouraging statements such as "Ji Xiang Zhu Feng", meaning auspicious Mount Qomolangma, and "Ren Jian Sheng Di", meaning a holy land on earth, written in both Chinese and Tibetan.

Rong said his style was an unorthodox fusion of calligraphy and painting.

"It was a mysterious experience, a perfect combination of nature and art," he said, adding he hoped the work inspired respect for nature.

Earlier this month, the regional capital Lhasa hosted a grand ceremony to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the region's autonomy. —*Xinhua*

mitv Myanmar International

(15-9-2015 07:00 am~16-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Climate Context: Flood in Myanmar 2015 (Part-1)
07:44 Am Climate Context: Flood in Myanmar 2015 (Part-2)
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Ywar Thit's Monhinkhar
08:40 Am Myanma Agarwood
08:54 Am Goldsmith
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am The Strokes of Myanmar
09:52 Am Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am The Man and The Elephant (Part-1)
10:41 Am The Man and The Elephant (Part-2)
10:55 Am Waso or the Buddhist Lent

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Monday Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 06:26 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 10:26 Am)

06:26 Pm Let's Cook (EP-1) Savory Dory Steak with Lemon & Mixed Berry Smoothie
06:52 Pm Waso or the Buddhist Lent

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
07:51 Pm Philatelic Pleasure
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad)
08:44 Pm Chef Life "Oliver E Soe Thet"

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

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

PICTURE OF THE DAY

A woman takes a selfie in front of an open-air lion cage at the Tbilisi Zoo on September 13, 2015. The zoo reopened today after being destroyed by floods last June. —AFP

Comic Con comes to Beijing

BEIJING — China has a voracious appetite for Hollywood celluloid. Movies like Ironman and the Transformers are as familiar as The Monkey King to younger Chinese audiences. It only makes sense for the pop culture phenomenon of the Comic Convention (Comic Con) to finally hit the Chinese capital. Yesterday at Geek Hall (a bar for gamers), organizers ReedPOP told the press to mark their calendars for June, 2016.

Comic Con started in San Diego, back in 1974, and since then has become a massive multi-genre comic and entertainment industry exhibition that spans the continents. What started out as modest geek gathering for comic book fans, has branched out to movies, sci fi, gamers, cosplay communities and more. This past May in Shanghai was the first time Comic Con was held in China, attracting over 14,000 fans.

In 2016, both Shanghai and Beijing will host events, sure to pull in the crowds. At this point, there's no word on which guests will be a part of it, but hopefuls have their fingers crossed that there could be something on the scale of this year's San Diego event (which had all the key players from the new Star Wars movie on a panel).

Lance Fensterman, founder of the New York Comic Convention, buzzes when he discusses the upcoming event, and his vision of Chinese fans developing their own Comic Con culture. He discusses how Comic Con in Beijing could differ from Comic Con in the states, mixing international elements of the event with elements developed by a local team to suit the Beijing crowd.

Comic Con is famous for attracting the most hardcore comic fans out to strut their stuff. It's a place where being a Star Trek nerd will put you in a social status stratosphere. —*Xinhua*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT

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Tuesday, 15 September, 2015

Myanmar team bound for AFC U-16 Championship qualifiers

Myanmar's U-16 football team.—Min Htet

YANGON — Myanmar's Under-16 football team is travelling to Vietnam to take part in the 2016 Asian Football Confederation U-16 Championship qualifying round, which runs from 16 to 20 September.

Myanmar will play against host Vietnam on 16 September, Australia on 18 September and Guam on 20 September at Vietnam's Youth Football Training Center in Hanoi.

Myanmar's team has been trained by head coach Eric Williams, assistant coach U Tin Maung Win and goalkeeping coach U Myint Oo.

In August, Myanmar's U-16 team placed second in the ASEAN Football Federation U-16 Championship. Thailand defeated Myanmar 3-0 in the final match.

The Myanmar team's current lineup includes goalkeepers Htet Wai Yan Soe, Aung Myint Myat and Han Naing Soe, defenders Aung Wunna Soe, Kyaw Phyo Wai, Min Myat Thu, Sithu Moe Khant, Pyae Phyo Maung, Thet Paing Htwe, Dway Ko Ko, Thura San and Bo Bo Aung, midfielders Pyae Sone Naing, Ye Win Tun, Tun Sai, Thiha Zaw, Htet Phyo Wai, Myat Khaung Khant, Aung Chit Oo Ko, and forwards Kyaw Kyaw Htet, Win Naing Tun, Hein Htet Aung and Thet Paing Htoo.—*Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)*

Golfers to take part in Thailand's Putra Cup

YANGON — Myanmar's golf team travelled to Thailand on Sunday to take part in the 55th Putra Cup 2015, which will be held at Singha Park Khon Kaen Golf Club.

A spokesperson from the Myanmar Golf Federation said that it is keen for more Myanmar players to compete in international tournaments, as doing so provides invaluable experience and boosts skills.

Myanmar's delegation is led by U Aung Hla Han and includes four male golfers—Maung Maung Oo, Kyaw Thet Oo, Sithu Ye Yint and Hein Sithu — and three female golfers — Yin May Myo, May Oo Khaing and Nang Aye Aye Aung.

MGF's President U Ko Ko Aye also left for Thailand to attend the annual general meeting of the ASEAN Golf Federation.—*GNLM*

2015–16 AFC Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament

(14-9-2015)

Chinese Taipei	1 - 0	Vietnam
Myanmar	2 - 0	Jordan

Amarapura (A) FC clinches championship trophy

AMARAPURA — Amarapura (A) Football Club won a men's football tournament after scoring a 1-0 victory over Mandalar Football Club on 13 September.

The tournament was held as part of the Buddha Pujaniya festival at Yadanagu Pagoda and it was hosted by Amarapura (A) Football Club.

Township authorities and officials from the Sports and Physical Education Department presented medals to individual players and the second prize trophy to Mandalar Football Club.

The award for best goalkeeper went to Min Htet Aung of Amarapura (A) FC; while best defender went to Khin Zaw of Amarapura (B) FC; best midfielder to Aung Ye Kyaw of Amarapura (B) FC; best forward award to Aung Thu of Mandalar FC. The most progressive player award was given to Soe Thet Oo of Amarapura (A). Amarapura (A) Football club received a cash award of K550,000 (US$420) in addition to the championship trophy.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Footballers of Amarapura (A) FC and Mandalar FC fighting the ball.—Tin Maung

Djokovic conquers Federer at US Open for 10th major title

NOVAK Djokovic closed out the grand slam campaign in style beating long time rival Roger Federer to claim the US Open on Sunday, leaving the Serb a hair away from one of the greatest seasons of all-time.

The 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory gave Djokovic three of the year's four grand slam titles with a loss to Stan Wawrinka in the French Open final his only blemish.

Although there was no way to tell how big his four-set loss to Wawrinka would be, it ended up denying the Serb a chance to join the men's calendar year grand slam club that includes just two members, Rod Laver (twice) and Don Budge.

"It's been an incredible season. Next to 2011 probably the best season of my life," said Djokovic, who won the same three grand slam titles in 2011.

"But I'm enjoying this year more than any previous one because I'm a husband and I'm a father and that makes it even more sweeter.

"I love this sport."

It was the 10th career major for Djokovic but only his second US Open.

The 28-year-old Serb had known more frustration than success on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts having previously reached the final five times and lifting the trophy just once in 2011.

It was more grand slam misery for the 34-year-old Swiss who, for the second consecutive grand slam, reached the final only to be denied an 18th title by Djokovic.

"I had a wonderful last two weeks," Federer, who has been stuck on 17 grand slam title since 2012, said after competing in his first US Open final in six years. "I'm very pleased where my game's at.

"Being back in the finals is where you want to be. Playing against a great champion like Novak is a massive challenge and I enjoyed it. I thought it was a great match."

Meeting for the 42nd time the rivalry between the elegant Swiss and the dominating Djokovic has developed into one of the sporting world's best and the latest installment, perhaps fittingly, deadlocked the head-to-head series at 21-21.

While the women's draw produced an improbable all-Italian final between two players virtually unknown outside of tennis circles the men's showcase featured the sport's two biggest names and dynamic figures.

The buzz lacking in Saturday's women's final gave way to an electric atmosphere inside Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday with David Beckham, Sean Connery and Robert Redford among the many celebrities taking in what turned into a night match after the start was delayed three hours by rain.—*Reuters*

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Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532
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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

"Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629."