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NAGA SEEKS PROTECTION

Naga group discusses ceasefire accord with govt peace committee



Union Peace-making Working Committee vice chairman Union Minister U Aung Min delivers a speech at a meeting between UPWC and Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang.

YANGON — The Union Peace-making Working Committee met with the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) on Wednesday to discuss the signing of the nationwide ceasefire accord. The meeting took place at the Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon.

The accord is likely to be signed by all parties in the first week of October, according to UPWC vice chairman Union Minister U Aung Min.

A work coordination meeting is likely to precede the signing of the ceasefire accord, he added.

The NSCN-K signed a bilateral ceasefire agreement with the Myanmar government [in 2012], the vice chairman noted.

UPWC vice chairman U Thein Zaw described

the Naga Self-Administered Zone as a strategic location for Myanmar. He said Wednesday's meeting would help leaders of both sides to play a constructive role in the peace process and in regional development.

UPWC member U Myint Soe stressed the importance of peace in shaping a better future of the self-administered zone.

Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint pledged his ministry's assistance to promotion of trade in the region in line with the presidential guideline.

"The NSCN-K has attended meetings for the drafting of the nationwide ceasefire accord as an observer five times," said the group's leader, U Kyaw Wan Sein.

(See page 3)



UPWC vice chairman U Thein Zaw.



UPWC member U Myint Soe.



Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint.



U Kyaw Wan Sein of NSCN-K.



U An Kant of NSCN-K.



UPWC member Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Hla Tun.

MNA'S PHOTOS

Myanmar invites FDI at Global Investment Forum

NAY PYI TAW — Renewed business engagement with Myanmar's energy sector may mean an increase of foreign direct investment for the country in 2015 and 2016, said Myanmar Investment Commission chairman U Zeyar Aung. He spoke at the Myanmar Global Investment Forum in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

"FDI will almost certainly increase this year and next, particularly as major announcements re-

lated to oil and gas tenders, solar power projects and other energy sector investments signal a new influx of business engagement," the chairman said.

In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, Myanmar received US\$8 billion in FDI, surpassing the targeted amount of the government's Long Term Foreign Direct Investment Plan, which was set at \$4 billion.

The chairman called for more foreign direct investment into labour-inten-

sive industries, infrastructural construction projects, factories, plantations and industrial zones in order to create more job opportunities in the country.

The government of Myanmar has also invited foreign direct investment into its power-generation sector in an effort to rebuild the sector, which aims to achieve 100-percent electrification nationwide by 2030.

Seventeen power plant projects that are cur-

rently being implemented are due for completion by 2016, and 10 others were completed between 2013 and 2014, according to the MIC.

There are also plans to construct another 87 power plants that will be able to supply 54,608 MW of installed capacity around the country, said U Zeyar Aung.

Meanwhile, multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank, ADB and IFC have planned

projects or loans for power generation in Myanmar to support the government's efforts to attract FDI to the power sector.

Currently, foreign investors from Singapore, Thailand, China, the US, Japan, the UK, Norway and other European and Asian countries have investments in Myanmar's energy sector, including the oil and gas, coal and hydropower industries.

On the first day of the forum, the panel discus-

sion titled "Myanmar in Transition" focused on the upcoming general elections and the future political landscape. Panellists addressed the following questions: How might the business and investment environment evolve? Will economic reforms continue at the same pace? What needs to be done to accelerate Myanmar's integration into the regional supply chain? What is Myanmar doing to reduce poverty, (See page 9)

MoUs signed with Japan for projects in Chin and Kachin states

NAY PYI TAW — Myanmar and Japan have signed three memoranda of understanding on the provision of Japanese financial assistance on Wednesday.

The agreements were signed at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the projects will take place in Kachin and Chin states.

Under the agreement, Japan's government will provide financial assistance of up to US\$34.6 million for projects focused on developing the live-

stock and fisheries sector and rural development more generally, as well as transport infrastructure.

The signing of the three agreements is expected to create new levels of economic cooperation between the two countries and further cement bilateral friendly relations.

The agreements were signed by Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein and Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi.—MNA



Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi and Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein sign three memoranda of understanding on provision of Japanese financial assistance.—MNA

Myanmar scholarship winners return from Japan

YANGON — Myanmar students who won scholarships from the Myanmar-Japan Association have returned to Myanmar after an eight-day visit in Japan.

This is the annual programme organised by the MJA for outstanding students from around Myanmar who have passed the country's matriculation examination with the highest marks. The program aims to promote relations between the two countries.

"This year, the MJA selected 20 outstanding students from various states and regions for the programme," said an MJA spokesperson.

During their trip, the students were given a tour of significant places in Tokyo, including the National Museum of Nature and Science, the Fuji Television



KBZ Bank Chairman U Aung Ko Win presents gifts to Myanmar scholarship student.—KBZ

headquarters, the National Diet Building of Japan and the Sendai Umino-Mori Aquarium. The tour was led by MJA chairman U Saw Hla Min.

The students also participat-

ed in a one-day homestay programme in order to experience Japanese culture. The Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation sponsored the travel expenses for the trip.—GNLM

KOICA to hold 2015 Feedback Seminar and Development Issues Forum

YANGON — Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) will hold its 2015 Feedback Seminar and Development Issues Forum at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on September 18.

The seminar will be held with the purpose of sharing knowledge and experience among KOICA fellowship programme participants.

KOICA sent 100 participants from various ministries for the fellowship programmes focused on Solid Waste Management, Mine Hazards Management for Green Mining, Aviation Security Operation, Road Construction and Maintenance, Enhancing the Trainer's Capacity of Technical Train-

ing Center for Railways during 2014-15. U Soe Tun Aung, Assistant Director from Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation who participated in "Land Consolidation" programme in South Korea in 2014 said that every year, KOICA send officials from various ministries to Korea with the aim of capacity building.

He said, "The feedback seminar will be beneficial to all participants because we can share and exchange our knowledge and experiences learned in Korea to our colleagues, seniors."

Up to 2015, more than 1000 participants have been sent to South Korea for the various fellowship programmes.—GNLM

Festival to celebrate a century of cartoons

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON — Cartoonists will hold a festival to celebrate the centennial of cartoon publishing in Myanmar at the end of November. The Myanmar Cartoon Century Festival will take place in Yangon, but a venue has not yet been chosen, according to one of the event's organisers.

"The organising committee of the Myanmar Cartoon Century Festival submitted an application to the authorities to stage the event at the National Theatre of Yangon five months ago, but no reply has yet been received," said cartoonist Moe Htet Moe, who serves as the festival's infor-

mation officer. "We will fix the exact date only after getting the green light from the authorities," said Moe Htet Moe, who proposed to hold the festival at Thunwunna Stadium in Thingangyun Township if the National Theatre cannot be booked.

"We need a large space for this festival; it will be a big celebration," the cartoonist said.

Myanmar cartoonists from home and abroad will be invited to display two or three cartoons each during the five-day event, Moe Htet Moe told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

"Works may cover a wide range of subjects, but the committee has asked the artists not

to present satirical cartoons," he said.

The works of historic cartoonists and comic writers, including the late U Ba Gyan, will also be exhibited at the festival.

The festival will also include a book fair, a reading and discussion session and a drama performance.

"We're not sure how many cartoonists there are in Myanmar, but we know there are around 200 in Yangon," Moe Htet Moe said.

U Ba Galay, who is also known as Shwe Yoe, rose to prominence in the 1920s and is credited with becoming the first Myanmar cartoonist in 1915.—GNLM



Hlaing Win Thit (Pazundaung)

Myanmar-China Silk Road documentary on the cards



Union Minister U Ye Htut holds talks with Ms Lin Siying, the head of Yunnan Radio and Television.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW — The Ministry of Information and Yunnan Radio and Television held a meeting this week to discuss the possibility of cooperating on a television documentary about the Myanmar-China

Silk Road.

The documentary would focus on the exchange of culture and commodities on the historic road and would be a worthwhile endeavour in fostering already close relations between the

neighbouring countries.

Union Minister of Information U Ye Htut and Ms Lin Siying, the head of Yunnan Radio and Television, also discussed co-organising a festival in the summer of 2016.—MNA

Tax exemption on donated items discussed at meeting

NAY PYI TAW — The first meeting of the International Relations Working Committee of Natural Disaster Management Committee on Wednesday was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here.

The International Relations Sub-Committee was reconstituted as the International Relations Working Committee on 31 August this year.

At the meeting, the participants discussed on the ongoing and further cooperation matters under preview of the working committee. The matters include; inter alia, facilitation for smooth processing of humanitarian assistance to the respective disaster affected areas, coordination between the international donors community and the departments concerned for delivery of donated humanitarian assistance items, receiving fund and tax exemption on the donated items. Moreover, in order to enable requesting fur-

ther the international community, providing detailed information and data related to the need for the flood victims to the Working Committee was also discussed at the meeting.

Moreover, in order to enable requesting further the international community, providing detailed information and data related to the need for the flood victims to the working committee was also discussed at the meeting.

Chairman of International relations Working Committee U Wunna Mang Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, presided over the meeting, and the deputy minister, members of the working committee and others invited guests participated in the meeting.

The Union Minister accepted Consular Commission from U Tun Tun Win, the accredited Honorary Consul of the Republic of Estonia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the ministry the same day.—MNA

Naga group discusses ceasefire accord with govt peace committee

(from page 1)

He said he and the rest of the council would discuss whether they would sign the accord with the Myanmar government.

U An Kant of the NSCN-K expressed his delight at the right to discuss the signing of the accord in the meeting.

UPWC member U Hla Tun,

a Pyithu Hluttaw representative of the Hkamti constituency, said that their discussions would mainly focus on finding ways to bring about regional stability and prosperity.

At the meeting, NSCN-K representatives focused on post-accord measures, focusing on its participation in the writing

of the political framework and political dialogues, the recognition of its council as a legal organisation and governmental protection of its land from foreign intrusion.

Leaders of several other ethnic armed groups are now meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to deliberate on signing the nationwide ceasefire accord.—MNA

Media slots for two political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW — MRTV, Hluttaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from National Development Democratic Party and Union Solidarity and Development Party on 17 September and 17 October.

Although three political parties each are allowed to talks daily, the TVs and radios cannot broadcast talks of Ethnic Nationalities Development Party due to its absence.—GNLM

What they stand for: campaigns aired

Campaign speeches were broadcast by the Inn National Development Party, "Wa" Democratic Party and Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party on Wednesday.

Inn National Development Party



Chairman U Win Myint explained that his party's policies include equality of development for all citizens of Myanmar and advancing economic, education, health and social development. Other policies include maintaining close ties with Southeast Asian countries, establishing a federalist union, amending the constitution, equal rights between political parties, and a free market economy.

"Wa" Democratic Party



Central Committee member U Kyin Wam explained the party would implement policies that oppose the disintegration of the union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity and the perpetuation of sovereignty. Other party policies include the vitalisation of patriotism, community peace and tranquility, rule of law and peaceful co-existence. He said that the party will join hands with other political parties who share similar policies.

Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party



Chairman U Saw Thein Aung said the party believes in non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national unity and perpetuation of sovereignty. He explained that the party is based in Kayin State but seeks to extend its organisational area to Mon State, Taninthayi, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions with the goal of serving the interests of the Kayin ethnic group.—GNLM

Nine Myanmar seamen return from Indonesia

YANGON — Nine more Myanmar seamen were repatriated from Indonesia on Wednesday. They arrived in Yangon on Malaysian Airlines flights from Tanjung Pinang and Malibu Island, Indonesia.

The citizenship of each of the seamen was verified by the Myanmar Immigration and National Registration Department with the help of the Myanmar Embassy in Indonesia and the International Organisation for Migration before they were sent back to Myanmar.

The seamen are from Toun-goo, Thandwe, Bago, Dawei, Mawlamyine, Thanbyuzayat, Thayetchaung, Pantanaw, and Kyunsu townships. They government will assist with their transportation back to their hometowns. This is the sixth group of Myanmar seamen to be repatriated from Indonesia since reports of brutal treatment and abandonment of enslaved Myanmar seamen by Thai trawlers gained international attention.

A total of 176 seamen have been repatriated to date.—MNA



Officials welcome back Myanmar seamen who returned from Indonesia.—MNA

ELECTION COUNTDOWN
Make your voice count. Cast your vote. **52** DAYS

Boats return to upper Chindwin River as water recede



Watercrafts resume transport of passengers and commodities in upper Chindwin River.—Po CHAN (MONYWA)

MONYWA — Water transport services in the upper Chindwin River reopened on 16 September when water levels receded below the 1,000-metre danger level.

The water transport committee for Upper Myanmar temporarily stopped river transport services while the water level on the Chindwin River remained

above 1,000 metres from 5 to 15 September.

"I'm so happy that I can now go back to Homalin," said a trader who has been stranded in Monywa.

"I bought an advance ticket three days ago. Thankfully the goods I had bought were dry commodities. Waiting in

Monywa for 12 days cost me a lot. I hear that floods in the upper areas also went down. That's wonderful news," he said.

The river's current water level rests at 997 metres. Local authorities are monitoring fluctuations as many vessels are once again plying the river.—Po Chan (Monywa)

Crackdown on illegal bus businesses in Meiktila

MEIKTILA

Township Private Road Transport Supervision Committee and Work Licence and Transportation Supervision Department inspected vehicles at Thapyewa toll gate on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Meiktila on Tuesday.

The purpose of the inspections was to catch those running businesses without the necessary paperwork.

The inspection teams focused on checking the express line passenger buses that may have been operating without work licences.—Chan Tha-Meiktila



Officials check express bus for operating work with licence. CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

K781 million spent on development projects in Papun Township

PAPUN — Papun Township in Kayin State has been allotted K781 million (US\$606,000) by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development to carry out development projects during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The budget will fund the construction of rural roads, bridges, water and electricity distribution infrastructure, rural housing and fly-proof toilets in the Kayin State town.

The ministry's Rural Development Department is supervising the construction and installation of a 7.5-mile-village road, five bridges, 12 water supply units, electricity cables, solar electricity panels for 1,121 families in remote villages, 53 village homes and 52 fly-proof toilets.

On 13 September, Head of Kayin State Rural Development Department U Nay Oo and officials construction companies visited Whaynaung village to inspect progress in construction of the housings in Whaynaung Village in Papun Township.—Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)



A road linking Thangyigon and Magyisu villages in Kyaukpadaung Township under construction. Ko NAY-KYAUKPADAUNG

Road to connect villages in Kyaukpadaung

KYAUKPADAUNG — A road connecting Thangyigon and Magyisu villages in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region will open soon.

The construction of the one-mile road is being funded by the Rural Development Department of Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development as part of its budget allocation for the financial year of 2015-16.

The 18 foot-wide road will link nearby areas, including four villages with a total population of 3138, and will allow villagers to more easily transport their goods to local markets.—Ko Nay-Kyaukpadaung

Construction begins on Tamway flyover

YANGON — The construction of a Y-shaped flyover has begun at Tamway Junction in Tamway Township and is expected to take 18 months to complete.

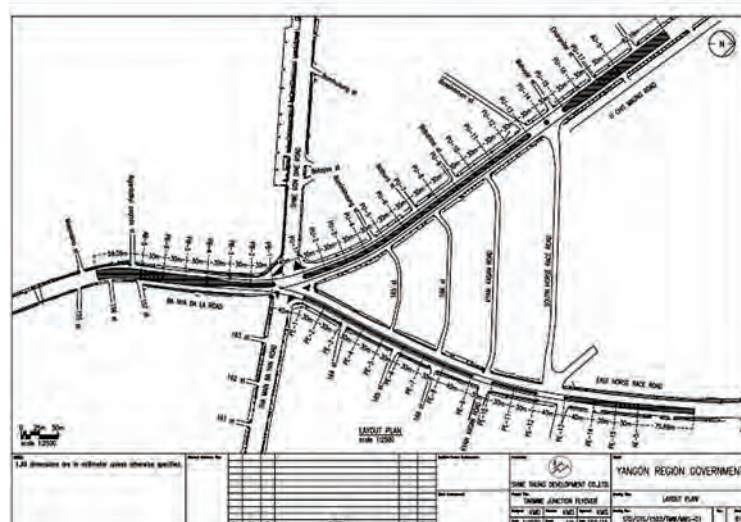
Shwetaung Construction Co, a private local company, began building the steel-framed flyover at the intersection of East Race Course, U Chit Maung and Banyadala roads.

A two-way, four-lane section of the flyover will be 876 metres

long and 13 metres wide and it will run between U Chit Maung Road and Banyadala Road. Tamway Junction is regarded as one of Yangon's most congested.

The other one-way, two-lane section will have be seven metres wide and 601 metres long and run over East Race Course Road.

The flyover will be able to bear up to 75 tonnes per vehicle, and its clearance will be 16 feet high.—Soe Win (SP)



A map for Y-shaped overpass in Tamway Township.—TIN HLA MAUNG

Malays march in support of Malaysian government

MALAYSIA — Thousands of ruling-party supporters marched through Malaysia's capital Wednesday to support the embattled government and assert the political dominance of the Malay majority, in a demonstration whose racial overtones have sparked concern.

The demonstration was organised by figures in the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) in response to massive street rallies last month calling for Prime Minister Najib Razak's resignation over a financial scandal.

The vast majority of those marching in Kuala Lumpur Wednesday were young ethnic Malay men wearing UMNO red, with some carrying banners and shouting slogans such as "Long live the Malays."

"I came to defend Malay rights," said Aswad Shaari, 25, who was among large numbers of Malays bussed in by organisers from the countryside.

UMNO has controlled multi-ethnic Malaysia for 58 years, reserving economic and other advantages for Muslim Malays. Malaysia also has sizeable ethnic



Pro-government ethnic Malay hardliners wave flags and shout slogans during a demonstration in Kuala Lumpur on September 16, 2015.—AFP

Chinese and Indian minorities.

But UMNO's government has suffered worsening election setbacks amid growing disgust with money politics, corruption, and allegations of repression and electoral chicanery.

The party has increasingly

resorted to racial rhetoric to shore up Malay Muslim support, raising ethnic tensions.

The demonstrators had planned to march through commercial and tourist districts dominated by ethnic Chinese-run businesses. Chinese make up

about a quarter of Malaysia's population.

But authorities have said they would be diverted from those areas to avoid trouble.

Hundreds of police were deployed throughout central Kuala Lumpur, and some Chinese com-

mercial areas were sealed off, leaving bemused tourists to wander among the heavy security and shuttered shops.

A rally was scheduled at a central park area later.

Organisers have vowed the demonstration would be peaceful.

But the rally has been criticised by both ruling-party and opposition figures as racially provocative in a country where deadly sectarian riots in 1969 are still regularly cited as a cautionary tale.

Najib, who was already under fire over huge sums of money missing from a state firm he launched, has been deeply tarnished by the revelation in July that Malaysian investigators had discovered nearly \$700 million in deposits into his personal bank accounts.

His government has called them "political donations" from Middle Eastern sources but has refused to give details.

Najib subsequently sacked his attorney general and made other personnel moves critics say were intended to hamper criminal investigations.—AFP

Ruling bloc pushes for enactment of Japan's security bills by Friday

TOKYO — Japan's ruling camp agreed Wednesday to push by the end of the week for the enactment of contentious security bills despite mounting opposition over what would be a major shift in the country's postwar security policy.

Political wrangling in parliament has entered a crucial stage, with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner the Komeito party aiming to put the bills to a vote Wednesday night at an upper house panel and the opposition camp taking various steps to delay the vote.

At the center of the debate is a set of bills designed to expand the scope of activities by the Self-Defense Forces abroad. Particularly controversial is enabling Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense, or coming to the aid of the United States and other friendly nations under armed attack, even if Japan itself is not attacked.

Tensions remained high as a regional public hearing was held in Yokohama. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was due to attend a final question-and-answer session Wednesday after the hearing.

Thousands of protesters including students have rallied in front of the Diet building in recent days, clamoring for scrapping the bills, termed by them "war legislation."

After the bills are put to a vote at a House of Councillors



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
KYODO NEWS

committee, the legislation is set to be enacted by the upper house in a plenary session, and pass into law as early as Thursday, according to lawmakers.

Some opposition parties led by the Democratic Party of Japan, however, could boycott the voting at the panel.

They have vowed to take every possible measure to block the bills. Steps include submitting a no-confidence motion to the House of Representatives against Abe's Cabinet and a censure motion in the upper house against Abe.

Despite the delaying tactics, it appears certain that the LDP-Komeito coalition will enact the legislation given its majority in both chambers of parlia-

ment. The ruling camp rammed bills through the lower house in July.

Meanwhile, three other opposition parties are expected to support the bills after they agreed Wednesday with the LDP and Komeito to ensure through Cabinet approval a greater role for the Diet in approving SDF dispatches overseas as a way to put restraints on SDF operations.

If enacted, the new legislation will put into effect a landmark Cabinet decision in July last year that reinterpreted the war-renouncing Constitution to allow Japan to use the right of collective self-defense.

The right can be exercised under three conditions — if a friendly nation is under attack which results in a threat to Japan's survival, if there are no other appropriate means to repel the attack, and if the use of force is limited to the minimum extent necessary.

Advocates say the bills are needed to deal with the changing security environment facing Japan, citing China's increasing military assertiveness.

But constitutional scholars and other critics argue that the security policy shift — which could allow Japanese troops to fight abroad for the first time since World War II — would violate the Constitution and possibly push Japanese troops into involvement in US-led operations.—Kyodo News

Thai prime minister says election likely in July 2017

BANGKOK — A general election in Thailand could come in July 2017 and not much sooner, despite efforts by the military government to hasten the process, the prime minister said on Wednesday.

The ever-shifting timeframe for Thailand's return to democracy after a May 2014 coup has been delayed a year by the acrimonious rejection of a new constitution 10 days ago by the junta-appointed National Reform Council (NRC).

"The next general election could be organized around July 2017," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha told reporters. "It would not be much earlier than this, though the government has tried to speed up all the work."

The hot-tempered general has been irked by opponents' claims that he is clinging to power and his tolerance of criticism has been severely tested of late.

Prayuth carried out the military's second overthrow in a decade of an elected government led by the billionaire Shinawatra family. He has portrayed himself as a reluctant leader who intervened amid street protests and political paralysis to prevent a descent into chaos.

Prayuth appeared to rule himself out of the running to be premier after the election, and was asked on Wednesday if anyone had requested he stay on.—Reuters

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N Korea 'hot cell' unit could mean better, larger nuclear bombs

SEOUL — North Korea could be separating isotopes used to manufacture sophisticated and more powerful nuclear bombs, US experts warned Wednesday, after Pyongyang announced its main atomic weapons complex was fully operational. The head of the North's atomic agency said Tuesday that all facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex — including a uranium enrichment plant and a five-megawatt reactor seen as the country's main source of weapons-grade plutonium — had "started normal operations".

He also claimed the North was "steadily improving" its nuclear weapons in terms of "quality and quantity." The announcement came just hours after the chief of the national space agency hinted at a satellite rocket launch next month — seen by the US and its allies as a step towards the development of a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile.

Both statements — accompanied by a routine threat that nuclear weapons could be used against the United States at "any time" — were seen as military muscle-flexing for both domestic and international audiences.

At home, the North is planning a massive military parade to mark a key political anniversary on October 10, while Pyongyang's nuclear capabilities will feature high on the agenda of an expected summit later this month between the Chinese and US presidents. The Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) said satellite imagery analysis was unable to confirm all Yongbyon facilities were fully functional, although there were multiple indications that the reactor and uranium enrichment plant were, at the very least, operating intermittently.

ISIS also raised a red flag

over what appeared to be a new "hot cell" facility under construction at Yongbyon, that could be dedicated to separating isotopes from irradiated material produced in the reactor.

"The signatures visible through an historical analysis of satellite imagery are consistent with an isotope separation facility, including tritium separation," the think-tank said.

Tritium is a key component in the design of more sophisticated thermonuclear weapons with far greater yields than those made only of plutonium and uranium.

North Korea has carried out three nuclear tests — in 2006, 2009 and 2013. The first two were plutonium devices, while the third was believed — though not confirmed — to have used uranium as its fissile material.

"Whether North Korea can make nuclear weapons using tritium is unknown although we believe that it remains a technical problem North Korea still needs to solve," ISIS said.

"Solving this problem would likely require more underground nuclear tests," it added. If, as has been widely speculated, the North pushes ahead with a rocket satellite launch to mark next month's 70th anniversary of the founding of the ruling Workers' Party, then the possibility of a fourth nuclear test would come into sharper focus. The North's last rocket launch in December 2012 triggered a surge in military tensions that culminated in the North's third nuclear test just two months later. The United States on Tuesday urged North Korea to refrain from "irresponsible provocation" that would only serve to aggravate regional tensions. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Pyongyang should "focus instead on fulfilling its international obligations and commitments." —AFP

Child among four killed in Nepal by police during charter protest



Nepalese riot police personnel form a line to prevent Hindu activists from marching toward a restricted area near the parliament during a protest rally demanding Nepal to be declared as a Hindu state in the new constitution in Kathmandu, Nepal September 14, 2015.—REUTERS

BIRATNAGAR — Police in Nepal fired rubber bullets into a crowd of demonstrators, killing four people including a four-year-old boy, officials said on Wednesday, the latest in a series of clashes over a plan to set up a federal system.

More than 40 people, most of them protesters, have been killed since a draft of a new constitution was presented in August, with members of minority groups in the southern plains rejecting the plan that would divide their homeland.

Proponents of the long-awaited charter, which could be made into law as early as Sunday, say it will bring much-needed political and economic stability to a nation recovering from years of civil war and, more recently, two devastating earthquakes.

But fierce opposition continues to the plan, which would set

up a federal system that would break up a belt of the southern plains, known as the Terai, and merge it into larger provinces with other ethnic groups.

Protesters in the southern district of Rupandehi threw stones and petrol bombs at a convoy of trucks being escorted by police on Tuesday evening, said chief district officer Bishnu Prasad Dhakal.

"The police fired tear gas to try and disperse the crowd, but were unsuccessful. Then they resorted to rubber bullets," said Dhakal. He said no live bullets were used.

A four year old boy was killed in the clash and three protesters later died of their injuries, he said. Five protesters and 20 police were injured.

An official at Universal Medical College, who declined to be identified, confirmed five civil-

ians were undergoing treatment for bullet wounds in the hospital, but declined to say whether the wounds were inflicted by live or rubber bullets.

The United States and India have both called for security forces to exercise restraint in responding to the protests.

This week, lawmakers have met in the capital, Kathmandu, to vote on each clause of the draft constitution, including one that was rejected on Monday that proposed to make Nepal a Hindu state.

If the document is endorsed by a two-thirds majority of the legislature, the president could enact the constitution as early as Sunday.

The government invited protest leaders from the Terai to Kathmandu for talks last week, but the agitating groups have rejected the overtures.—Reuters

New Australian laws to crack down on global firms avoiding tax

SYDNEY — Global firms accused of diverting profits offshore to lower their tax bill will come under fresh scrutiny in Australia after new laws were introduced Wednesday to ensure they pay their "fair share of tax".

The bill was put before parliament amid an international push to stop firms using complex corporate structures to avoid tax, and targets more than 1,000 multinationals generating turnovers of over Aus\$1 billion (US\$700 million), Treasurer Joe Hockey said.

The complex methods allegedly used by firms include book-

ing revenue in lower-taxing countries to reduce tax on profits in higher-taxing jurisdictions, with governments collectively losing billions of dollars in the process.

"It is patently unfair for a large multinational with sophisticated structures not to pay its fair share of tax," Hockey told reporters in Canberra.

"Under this new law, when we catch companies cheating, they will have to pay back double what they owe, plus interest," the treasurer added in a statement.

Australian Tax Office (ATO) commissioner Chris Jordan said the bill also strengthened his

agency's abilities to go after firms that continue to shift profits to lower-taxing nations such as Singapore, adding that there were currently "billions of dollars" not being booked locally.

Hockey said the new laws would take a different approach from Britain, which in March introduced a so-called "Google tax" on companies that divert profits overseas, although treasury officials have been working closely with London on the issue.

The legislation will require public companies with income of more than Aus\$100 million a year to disclose their tax affairs from

December 1.

Rules will also be tightened so heavily geared firms cannot shift profits overseas through the guise of paying interest, while funding to the ATO will be boosted to increase its focus on tax avoidance.

Hockey said at this stage he could not put a number on how much more corporate tax could be raised through the amendments.

An Australian parliamentary inquiry into corporate tax avoidance last month recommended naming and shaming firms that avoid paying tax, after hearings with senior executives from gi-

ants such as Apple, Google, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson.

The firms said they had operated within local and international tax laws.

International efforts to tighten laws have been led by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a grouping of wealthy nations.

Under the G20, which encompasses the world's top 20 economies, Hockey said "very integrated and... wide-ranging" proposals on how to allocate profits from multinational firms between countries were also being discussed.—AFP

UN names Argentine to head Syria chemical weapons probe

UNITED NATIONS — A disarmament expert from Argentina has been appointed to head an independent panel tasked with determining who is behind chemical weapons attacks in Syria, the United Nations said Tuesday.

Virginia Gamba, who has been the director of the UN disarmament office for the past two years, will work with two deputies during the one-year mission to assign responsibility for the use of the banned deadly agents.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution in August setting up the joint investigation in a rare display of unity over how to address the four-year war.

After some delay over Russia's reservations with the panel's mandate, the mission got the final go-ahead from the council last week.

Gamba has been working on disarmament issues for more than 30 years, including with think tanks and assisting two previous missions on chemical weapons in Syria. The three-person panel will work with The Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Ban also intends to appoint Adrian Neritani of Albania and Eberhard Schanze of Germany to the panel, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

The United States pushed for the UN chemical weapons probe

after a wave of chlorine gas attacks that the West blames on President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

A key Assad ally, Moscow has maintained that there is no concrete proof that the attacks were carried out by regime forces. The panel is due to report to the Security Council on its first findings 90 days after it begins work. Investigators will be charged with determining who is responsible for the attacks, which could lead to sanctions or further action to demand accountability.

But any such sanctions would require a new resolution, which Russia could veto.—AFP

Strike at Chilean airports grounds tens of thousands

SANTIAGO — Airport workers staged a 24-hour strike Tuesday in Chile, grounding flights across the country and disrupting travel plans for some 50,000 passengers.

The strike was called by air traffic controllers, ground support staff and other airport personnel to demand better retirement benefits.

Government spokesman Marcelo Diaz said that "never in Chilean history" had there been such a large shutdown. At least 324 flights had to be canceled.

Several airlines operating in the South American country, including LATAM, Air France and Sky Airlines, had contacted affected clients to reschedule their departures free of charge.

But hundreds of passengers were stranded at the international airport in Santiago, the country's

main hub.

"They told us to come three hours before our flight despite the strike, and now they tell us we'll have to change," said Nori Carrillo, whose flight to Colombia was canceled.

"The problem is, people have hotel reservations at our destinations, and no one is taking responsibility for that."

While many passengers were upset at the inconvenience, there were no incidents reported at any airport, officials said.

Labor Minister Ximena Rincon condemned the strike as "illegal," saying the workers were public employees.

The action was due to end at midnight (0300 GMT Wednesday) with flights expected to resume at that time.—AFP

First migrants arrive near Croatian border



Children of refugees sleep at the Hungarian border with Serbia near the town of Horgos on September 16, 2015.—AFP

SID — The first migrants arrived near the Croatian frontier on Wednesday, potentially carving out a new route through Europe after Hungary sealed its borders.

The group of 30-40 mostly Syrian or Afghan migrants arrived at the Serbian border town of Sid early in the morning. They had travelled by bus from the Macedonian border at Presevo, 500 kilometres (300 miles) to the south.

Among the mixed group of men, women and children of all ages was Amadou, 35, from Mauritania in western Africa.

"We heard that Hungary was

closed, so the police told us we should come this way," he said.

"We don't know what we should do now. Do we have to catch a boat?"

He was pleased to hear there was no water to cross and it was only about 10 kilometres to the border. He was also surprised to hear the group was thought to be the first to attempt this route into northern Europe.

Until this week, the vast majority of migrants and refugees travelled up from Greece, through Macedonia and Serbia into Hungary.

But Hungary sealed its

southern border Monday as part of a wider crackdown on migrants entering the country.

The new route takes the migrants to Croatia, from where they will have to travel through Slovenia to get to northern Europe.

Like others at the bus station in Sid, Amadou had never heard of Croatia and did not know it was in the European Union.

"We want to go anywhere there is peace," he said. "There is so much suffering in Mauritania, so many problems for our family, no work." He and his friend looked very thin, ex-

hausted and slightly afraid. Many were trying to get some rest after the long bus ride. A man huddled on the ground in a sleeping bag suddenly turned to ask: "What country are we in?" He hoped to reach France and wanted to know the cost of the bus ticket. They paid 35 euros (\$40) to get to Sid from Presevo. Mohammed Qadir, 20, from Pakistan had never heard of Croatia before. He just wants to work.

"There is no money, no food, no electricity where I am from. I have to earn some money for my brothers and sisters."—AFP

Russian pleads guilty in major hacking case

WASHINGTON — A Russian national accused of hacking payment systems of major retailers and the Nasdaq stock market, resulting in \$300 million in losses, pleaded guilty Tuesday to US criminal charges.

Prosecutors said Vladimir Drinkman, 34, pleaded guilty in New Jersey federal court to charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and to unauthorized access of protected computers. Drinkman was arrested in the Netherlands in 2012 and extradited to the United States in February of this year.

He is set to be sentenced on January 15, according to the Justice Department.

Drinkman was accused of leading what officials called "the largest international hacking and data breach scheme ever prosecuted in the United States." "This hacking ring's widespread attacks on American companies caused serious harm and more than \$300 million in losses to people and businesses in the United States," Assistant Attorney General Leslie Caldwell said in a statement.

US Secret Service director Joseph Clancy said the case "highlights the effectiveness of global law enforcement partnerships in the detection and dismantling of criminal enterprises targeting US citizens."

Drinkman and his co-defendants were charged with hacking into the Nasdaq, retailers 7-Eleven, Carrefour, JC Penney and other companies, with losses estimated at more than \$300 million between 2005 and 2012.—AFP

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 17 September, 2015

Believing the unbelievable

Myint Win Thein

PEOPLE sometimes come to believe in certain ideologies and concepts as a result of the specific circumstances under which they live. The following scenarios offer an illustration of my point.

No government in the world actually admits that they use the military, police, the prison and the court of law to oppress their subjects. Gov-

ernments simply say that these institutions are used to defend the national interest and protect its territory, the people and the rule of law. According to democratic practices, governments must convince the public that they are behaving in a manner consistent with these purposes. If governments succeed in convincing the majority of people that their actions are benevolent, they are likely to be considered to be providing good governance, even in the midst of economic chaos. There have been many notable governments in world history that have achieved such a feat. They have, in essence, confused their people into believing the unbelievable.

On the other hand, according to authoritarian political ideology, the military, the police, the court of law and prisons are basic mechanisms of

oppression. Subjects of an authoritarian system may be convinced that a government is incapable of good governance if the national interest appears to be taking second place. Under such circumstances, the people are suppressed by the mechanisms of oppression. They are forced to believe in authoritarian political ideology through sheer bad governance.

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MYANMAR CULTURE : AN ASSESSMENT OF LETWE NAWRAHTA U NE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL LITERATURE (1)

Kyaw Swe Oo

Introduction

"History" and "Culture" are interdependent. They cannot exist and prosper independently. Metaphorically speaking, they are two essential parts of a tree—"History" is the **root** and "Culture" is the **fruit**. "Culture" without "History" has no **root**, whereas "History" without "Culture" bears no **fruit**. A nation is like a tree. If it has no "History", it will never survive and grow, and if it has no "Culture", it will never develop and progress. A nation with "History" and "Culture" alone is a long-living and flourishing tree that can weather any storm and withstand any climate. Literature is one element of "Culture", and to study literature, historical background is necessary. {This is an extraction from Prologue of a book known as *An Outline History of Myanmar Literature (Bagan Period to Konbaung Period)* written by Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt in 1999.}

Methodology

It is going to present Lives and Attempts of some prominent Contributors who contributed to the development of Myanmar historical literature in the Konbaung period (1752-1885). According to the historical approaches, an assessment of each Contributor is focused on Times that he lived and contributed to flourishing the literary genres such as Yazawin (Chronicle), Ayeidawbon (Treatise on Royal Affairs), Mawgun (Poetic Record), Travelogue and Diary. In this assessment, it is trying to be capable of making the concluding remarks for some events in accordance with the historical method of examining cause and effect.

Life and Attempts of Letwe Nawrahta U Ne (1723-1791)

Letwe Nawrahta U Ne started his service as an official at the Court from the time of the last king of the Nyaungyan dynasty,

King Mahādhammarājādhipati (1733-1752). He continued his service at the Court in high positions under the early kings of the Konbaung dynasty: King Alaungmintaya (1752-1760) at Ratanāśīṅgha Capital; King Dapayin (1760-1763) at Capitals of Ratanāśīṅgha and Mahājeyapūra; King Myedu (1763-1776) at Ratanāpūra Capital; and King Singu (1776-1782) at Ratanāpūra Capital. He served these Konbaung Kings first as a clerk for the reading and writing of letters, then later as a minister in the Palace. In the final portion of his life (1782-1791), Letwe Nawrahta U Ne served as 'Atwin-wun Mahathetdawshay' meaning 'Minister of Long Life of the Inner Palace' under King Badon (1782-1819) at Amarapūra Capital.

Letwe Nawrahta U Ne, during his service at the Court in the late Nyaungyan and early Konbaung periods, produced various literary works that contributed to the development of Myanmar literature, especially to the development of historical literature. His works covered court, administration, ethics, history, grammar, literature and music, but most of his works were concerned with providing knowledge (only his songs belong to the literature of imagination.) although there were other writers of his time who wrote imaginative literature. During his life of service at the Court, U Ne was conferred the title of Letwe Thondara, a title which was also conferred on U Myat San later. With both U Ne and U Myat San receiving the same title - Letwe Thondara, U Ne has been confused with U Myat San who was prominent in the field of imaginative literature and many students commit mistakes in attributing the authorship of some literary works. U Ne, after receiving the title of Letwe Thondara, was later conferred the title of Letwe Nawrahta by Alaungmintaya and

from the evidence of his works in which he used the title, U Ne seemed to take pride in the title of "Letwe Nawrahta".

Letwe Nawrahta U Ne was born as Maung Ne in July 1723 in Monywa village, Monywa district (now, in Sagaing Region). Unfortunately, account concerning his parents have not been found yet in any sources and records. Although his parents' lineage cannot be traced, it is known that he had a younger brother, Maung Myat Tha Wai and a younger sister, Amae Phyu. Maung Myat Tha Wai became a Minister Thiri Mahathura in King Badon's reign. Letwe Nawrahta and his younger brother built Laykyunn-yan-aung Pagoda in Monywa in 1783. Of his later lineage, he had two sons, Maung Chan Nyein Ya and Maung Chan Nyein Tha, and a nephew, Maung Pu who was born from his

Ne was the author of many works, literary works make no mention of his pursuit of education in the early stage of his life. Even though the details are not available, it can be assumed that Maung Ne received the traditional monastic education, and acquired much religious and secular knowledge from learned Buddhist monks in his native village as well as in the neighbouring villages. Although his monk-mentors are not known definitely, Ashin (the Reverend Monk) Gunavanta and Ashin Mahā Vicittabirāma in Monywa village were likely to be his monk-mentors. Ashin Gunavanta was Abbot of Monywa Thasanmin Monastery and Ashin Mahā Vicittabirāma was First Monywa Zetawun Hsayadaw (Abbot of Monywa Zetawun Monastery). The King also offered Ashin Mahā Vicittabirāma the

evident that Maung Ne was an efficient royal servant and an intelligent counsellor throughout his life of service from the latter part of King Mahādhammarājādhipati's reign to the early part of King Badon's reign.

Although it is not clear how he came into the service of the Court, it is known that Maung Ne began his service at the Court of Innwa in the reign of Mahādhammarājādhipati of the Nyaungyan dynasty. At the age of twenty, in 1743, the King ordered Maung Ne to serve under Viceroy of Sagaing, Sagaing Bayin, giving him the position of Akyeedaw (Chamberlain or Mentor) of Sagaing Bayin's eldest son, Sīrimahāsudhammarājā. Sagaing Bayin means the person who was appointed to govern Sagaing as a Viceroy by King Mahādhammarājādhipati due to an evasion of omen. Formerly, Sagaing Bayin had been a Tutor, Shwe Phyo with the title of "Bayin" (King), and a Counsellor with the title of Rājananda, of the Crown Prince (later, King Mahādhammarājādhipati). Then, he became Atwin-wun with the title of Nandameitkyawhtin and later, Bayint Naungdaw (King's Brother) and Myauknan Bayin (King of the Northern Palace). He was also known as Sagaing Rājā. When Hanthawady forces captured Sagaing, he moved to Innwa. There is no information about him thereafter. {Letwe Nawrahta, *Chronicle on Royal Affairs and Biography of Alaungmintayagyi called Letwe Nawrahta Yazawin*, typescript, 25579}

Maung Ne was given Taungdwin village while serving as Akyeedaw. Although the reasons for the conferment of the titles is unknown, he was conferred the titles of Yantakyawswa and Pyanchikyawhtin by King Mahādhammarājādhipati {*Bell Inscription of Monywa Tiloka Pagoda*, 1765}.

(See page 9)

“Although Letwe Nawrahta U Ne was the author of many works, literary works make no mention of his pursuit of education in the early stage of his life”.

younger sister {*Stone Inscription of Monywa Tiloka Pagoda*, 1773}. Maung Pu could build Zetawun Monastery in Monywa in 1763-1765. Personal accounts of Maung Ne's wife have not been found yet in the records that have been studied. Similarly, the lineage of his wife has not been traced in any document. It seems that Maung Ne was born to a common family and his parents attained no particular prominence in their native area; however, he showed himself capable of acquiring the knowledge that contributed to his gaining eminence in the service of the Court in the early Konbaung period.

Although Letwe Nawrahta U

title of Vicittalankāra Sāsanadhara Mahādhammarājādhipati. Maung Ne filled out his education with copious reading, being guided by other learned monks who lived in the surrounding areas.

During his life of royal service, he must also have acquired knowledge of the theories and concepts regarding the system of royal government through studying traditional manuals and texts in the Palace. His study particularly focused on texts about royal ceremonies and etiquette. Through an examination of his accomplishments in the conduct of various court practices, and especially in the establishment of new Capitals of the Konbaung Kings, it becomes



Myanmar Global Investment Forum in progress at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Myanmar invites FDI at Global ...

(from page 1)

improve education and develop human capital? How is Myanmar affected by the increase in US interest rates?

On the first evening of the forum, the panel discussion titled “Developing Myanmar’s Financial Sector” focused on monetary policy and exchange rate volatility; banking sector modernisation and consolidation; the role of

foreign banks; financing private sector growth and development; microfinance and financial inclusion; the potential of Myanmar’s insurance market; and developing a bond market.

On Wednesday, the panel discussion titled “The Outlook for Foreign Direct Investment” focused on the Foreign Investment Law. Panellists addressed the following questions: Has the pace

of reform and policymaking met expectations? Are multinational companies still eager to enter Myanmar? What are the main concerns of potential investors with a wait-and see-approach? Which countries are Myanmar’s top foreign direct investors? In which sectors have they mainly invested? Which sectors need more investment? Has FDI slowed in the run-up to the general election? How are foreign companies helping to create local prosperity?

The panel discussion titled

“The Potential of Myanmar’s Tourism Sector” included a primer on Myanmar’s fast-growing tourism sector. It also focused on Myanmar’s Tourism Master Plan; the role of the new Myanmar Tourism Development Bank; Myanmar’s hotel and resort market; investment and partnership opportunities in the underdeveloped hospitality sector; and human capital, infrastructure and legal considerations. Panellists addressed the following questions: How open is the sector to foreign investments? What are the up-and-coming destinations?

The panel discussion titled “Real Estate and Construction” focused on the real estate outlook for office, retail, residential and industrial properties; the effect of high land and construction costs on foreign investment; emerging business and commercial centres in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay; the ability of the construction industry to meet the demand for projects; the impact of new land laws; mechanism for zoning and rezoning; sustainable development and heritage protection; and urbanization, evolving demographics and low-cost housing.

The panel discussion titled “Trade, Infrastructure and Greater Mekong Subregion Connectivity” offered an overview of GMS cross-border trade and Myanmar’s role. Panellists also discussed developing the region’s trade and prioritising infrastructure projects; the effect of political uncertainty on regional infrastructure development; the progress of the

Thilawa, Dawei and Kyaukpadaung special economic zones; financing Myanmar’s vast infrastructure needs; the viability of public-private partnerships (PPPs); and the role of export credit agencies and development banks.

The panel discussion titled “Energy and Power Development” focused on Myanmar’s energy and power outlook and development plans; the implications of low oil prices; the prospect of more onshore/offshore oil and gas block licences being issued; foreign investment in energy and power development; the tension between energy exports and domestic usage; competitive, sustainable solutions to alleviating electricity shortages; and regulatory, tax and technical considerations.

Nikkei Asian Review gave a special briefing titled “Outlook for 2015 Elections and Beyond”, which discussed the outlook for election day; the role of ethnic parties and the significance of a ceasefire agreement; prospects and dynamics of post-election reform; potential changes in the role of investors and in the regulatory climate for investment; general reform priorities; and the role of parliament and relations between the executive and legislative branches.

Bangkok Bank also held a workshop called “Understanding Myanmar Consumers”, and Siam Commercial Bank held one called “Doing Successful Business in Myanmar” on the second day of the forum.—GNLM

MYANMAR CULTURE : AN ASSESSMENT OF LETWE NAWRAHTA U NE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL LITERATURE (1)

(from page 8)

When the Hanthawady forces captured Sagaing City in February 1752, occupied Innwa, and took away King Mahādhammarājādhipati to Hanthawady in March 1752, Maung Ne went back to his native village of Monywa. In Maung Ne’s early career in the royal service (1743-1752), he showed his skills of teaching and supervising his charge the young Prince Sīrimahāsudhammarājā. However, the struggle between his patron, the King of Innwa and the rebellious ruler of Hanthawady that ended with the fall of the Nyaungyan dynasty in March 1752 brought an end to Maung Ne’s career of service for the Nyaungyan dynasty. In any case, it seems probable that Maung Ne had his first exposure to court practices in this period.

U Aungzeya assumed the title of “Alaungmintaya” in April 1752, and endeavoured to unify the upper regions of Myanmar and defeat the various rival forces. Here, “Alaungmintaya” means the King who aims at gaining the nascent Buddha (the would-be Buddha) and who rules his kingdom as a King abided by the Dhamma (Teachings and Doctrines of Lord Buddha).

When his Commander Minkhaungnawrahta brought Maung Ne before King Alaungmintaya, the King was satisfied with Maung Ne’s intelligence and experience at the Court of the Nyaungyan dynasty. The King considered that the name “Ne” was a good omen; and that it would light on a new victorious dynasty. Thus, in April 1752, the King included Maung Ne as the last member of the Elite Corps of sixty-nine that had been organized earlier of his trusted comrades. After the inclusion of Maung Ne in the Elite Corps, the total number of its members increased to sixty-nine and it became known the Elite Corps (Myin-yee-tet) of sixty-nine {Letwe Nawrahta, *Chronicle on Royal Affairs and Biography of Alaungmintayagyi called Letwe Nawrahta Yazawin*, typescript, 25579}

In 1753, Alaungmintaya conceived the idea that Moksobo possessed the qualities for the founding of a new Capital; that people would be peaceful and happy to live in the new Capital; and that he would gain distinction in posterity as founder of a new Capital {Letwe Nawrahta, *Chronicle on Royal Affairs and Biography of Alaungmintayagyi called Letwe Nawrahta Yazawin*, typescript, 25579}. Alaungmintaya therefore decided to build a new Capital at Moksobo. He assigned Maung Ne to planning the disposition of the capital city of Ratanāsīṅgha (Focal Point of Jewels) and to building the Seven Htanas (Places or Departments) in line with the traditions and procedures of the building of former royal Capitals. The Seven Htanas are City Palace, Moat, Mahānanda Lake, Shwe-chettho Pagoda, Shrine of Devas, Drum and Tower. At the ceremony of occupation of the Golden Palace in Ratanāsīṅgha, Alaungmintaya conferred the title of Letwe Thondara on Maung Ne in 1754 {Letwe Nawrahta, *Chronicle on Royal Affairs and Biography of Alaungmintayagyi called Letwe Nawrahta Yazawin*, typescript, 25579}.

The King appointed Maung Ne as an official (Royal Clerk) for the reading and writing of royal letters, and as a counsellor in the conduct of the military campaigns leading to the creation of the Konbaung Kingdom. Close to the King as an official for the writing of letters and records, Letwe Thondara U Ne accompanied Alaungmintaya on his march to Hanthawady. After occupying Guhtut Lunsei, the King renamed it Myan-aung (Town of Speedy Victory), Letwe Thondara gave his services to the King in rebuilding the town and in planning the town’s administration. Similarly, after capturing Dagon, the King renamed it Yangon (Town of Ending Strife). Letwe Thondara participated in the rebuilding of the town and assisted the King in the reorganization of his forces to seize Dala and Thanlyin. Thus, Letwe Thondara accompanied and served the King in the military campaigns for the capture of Hanthawady.

(To be continued)

(Kyaw Swe Oo residing in Yenanchaung is an Associate Professor of Dept. of History, Yncg. Degree College.)

EU orients its roadmap of support to CSOs

YANGON — The Council of the European Union outlined a roadmap for achieving greater engagement with civil society organisations in Myanmar during a presentation at Yangon’s Novotel Hotel on Wednesday.

Ms Isabel Faria de Almeida, Head of EU Development Cooperation in Myanmar, told representatives from approximately 50 civil society organisations (CSOs) that the EU has developed a new policy which aims to facilitate closer cooperation among CSOs around the world.

She said the EU believes that CSOs have a vital role to play in shaping democracy, good governance, peace, and inclusive and sustainable development.

The roadmap evaluates the role of local CSOs and the challenges facing them, as well as identifying ways to develop capacity, enhance relationships with governing bodies and support their networks to consolidate and organise members.—Myat Sandi Thin Zaw

Top Russian diplomat proposed Assad exit: negotiator

LONDON — Russia's ambassador to the United Nations offered in 2012 to have Syrian President Bashar al-Assad step aside, a senior negotiator told The Guardian daily in comments confirmed to AFP on Wednesday.

Former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari, who was involved in back-channel talks with UN Security Council members, said Vitaly Churkin, a trusted Kremlin insider, met with him privately and suggested finding "an elegant way for Assad to step aside".

"He said three things: One — we should not give arms to the opposition. Two — we should get a dialogue going between the opposition and Assad straight away. Three — we should find an elegant way for Assad to step aside," Ahtisaari told Britain's Guardian daily. A representative

from Ahtisaari's Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), a conflict resolution consultancy in Helsinki, confirmed to AFP that the ex-president had spoken to Churkin about Syria and that the Russian diplomat had detailed his three-point plan. Ahtisaari, awarded the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to resolve conflicts, told the Guardian he believed Western powers ignored the proposal as they thought Assad was about to fall anyway.

Russia has always maintained public support for Assad, and had said that his removal could not be a prerequisite for any deal to end the conflict, which erupted in 2011 and has left more than 240,000 people dead and millions displaced. Ahtisaari said he forwarded the proposal to representatives from the United States, Britain and France but that "nothing

happened because I think all these, and many others, were convinced that Assad would be thrown out of office in a few weeks so there was no need to do anything."

Ahtisaari met the missions of the UN Security Council's permanent five nations -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- in New York as part of his work with The Elders, a group of former world leaders advocating peace. John Jenkins, who became Britain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia in the first half of 2012, told the newspaper that "I never saw a reference to any possible flexing" in Putin's support for Assad. "I think it is true that the general feeling was Assad wouldn't be able to hold out," he said. "But I don't see why that should have led to a decision to ignore an offer by the Russians."

"The weakest point is Aht-

isaari's claim that Churkin was speaking with Moscow's authority," he added, saying he would have "wanted to hear it from (Russia President Vladimir) Putin". "Even then I'd have wanted to be sure it wasn't a Putin trick."

A European diplomat based in the region at the time also cast doubt on the claim, saying: "I very much doubt the P3 (Britain, France and the US) refused or dismissed any such strategy offer at the time."

Putin on Tuesday pledged to continue military support for Assad after Washington sounded the alarm over an alleged military build-up by Moscow in the war-torn country. Moscow has been pushing for a broader coalition of forces to take on IS, but key regional players such as Saudi Arabia have ruled out fighting alongside Assad.—AFP

Two killed, 34 injured in Molotov attack on S Africa bus

SAFRICA — Two people were killed and 34 others injured in a Molotov cocktail attack on a bus at the Strand seaside resort in South Africa, local officials said in a statement.

"At this stage the reason behind this callous attack is still unknown," the statement from the Cape Town municipality said.

The early evening attack on a bus in the town 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Cape Town resulted in "the death of two passengers while 34 were seriously injured", the statement added.—AFP

Arab solidarity, fear of Iran bring hi-tech Gulf troops to Yemen desert



Emirati armoured vehicles are seen on the Yemeni frontline province of Marib.—REUTERS

SAFER — The glitzy skyscrapers and 21st century comforts of Dubai feel very distant from the barren sand dunes of Marib in central Yemen, the latest strategic prize in a regional power struggle pitting the wealthy Gulf Arab states against Iran.

But Salem, who plies the featureless landscape in an SUV that pulsates with American hip hop music, has no regrets about joining thousands of other young soldiers from the United Arab Emirates in one of the poorest corners of the Arab world.

"Me, I don't know very much about Yemen, but Sheikh Mo-

"They're not foreigners to us, they're brothers"
— UAE-trained Yemeni soldier

ammed knows much more and we must do our duty," said Salem, referring to the ruler of Dubai who is also the prime minister of the UAE. "I know Yemen's an important country and next to all of ours. Whatever happens here

we can't ignore - it will spread to Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. Iran won't stop until it spreads its Persian empire over everywhere here," said Salem, a bearded youth wearing a camouflage head wrap and designer sunglasses.

Armed with high-tech Western weaponry, Gulf Arab soldiers are fighting with newfound determination against what they see as the expanding influence of Iran, their non-Arab and Shi'ite Muslim arch-foe, in a war that has ravaged Yemen for six months.

The oil-producing province of Marib has become a key battlefield between Iranian-allied Houthis

and a coalition of Yemenis and Emirati, Saudi and Bahraini troops. Marib forms a gateway to the Yemeni capital Sanaa 120 km (75 miles) to the west, which the Houthis seized last year. Mindful of similar sectarian-fueled conflicts fragmenting other Arab states such as Iraq and Syria, the Gulf Arab and Yemeni fighters see their common cause in Yemen helping to revive a sense of Arab solidarity.

"They're not foreigners to us, they're brothers," said UAE-trained Yemeni soldier Abdul Wahad al-Shadaddi, sitting in the bed of a Toyota pickup with comrades who, like him, tote AK-47s and have bandoliers of bullets draped over their shoulders.

"For six months we've fought and suffered in Marib, keeping just a few small districts until they came to our aid. Because they fight for a just cause, God will grant them and us victory, and our province will be ours again in two weeks."

The coalition wants to restore a Yemeni government ousted by the Houthis in March, a development seen by the Sunni Gulf Arab states as a sign of Shi'ite Iran's expansionist intentions. Tehran denies providing military support to the Houthis. The coalition intervention in Yemen was initially limited to air strikes but now also includes a ground war and, despite the Gulf Arabs' far superior firepower, it is not proving easy.—Reuters

Australian warplanes make first air strike in Syria

SYDNEY — Australian warplanes have carried out their first air strike against Islamic State group in Syria, destroying an armoured personnel carrier, Defence Minister Kevin Andrews said Wednesday.

"This is part of our logical extension in the fight against Daesh to operate not just over northern Iraq but also to operate over eastern Syria in order to degrade and destroy Daesh Forces," the minister told reporters using the Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

A Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18A Hornet fighter destroyed an IS armoured personnel carrier with a guided missile two days ago, Andrews said.

"Two of our Hornets identified the personnel carrier, which was hidden in a Daesh compound."

"That information was reported back to the combined operations centre by our Wedgetail command and control aircraft, and upon receiving authorisation to proceed, one of the Hornets employed a precision guided weapon to destroy the target," he said.

"Sorties are being flown over Syria and Iraq, the majority of our missions are still over Iraq and we're doing them on a very regular basis," Andrews added.

The United States, Canada, Turkey and Gulf states have already been involved in strikes on IS militants in Syria, while France has been carrying out surveillance flights over Syria in preparation for air strikes.—AFP

Syrian archeological sites looted 'on industrial scale'

SOFIA — Archeological sites in Syria are being looted "on an industrial scale," with proceeds being used to fund Islamic State extremists, the head of UNESCO warned Wednesday.

"Satellite imagery shows that archeological sites in Syria are dotted by thousands of illegal excavations... that show there is looting on an industrial scale," Irina

Bokova said in Sofia. "Limiting the trafficking in cultural property is a top priority because it finances the actions of the extremists," she told a news conference.

"The world expects from us to undertake decisive and uncompromising actions... to stop this source of funding for the extremists." In four years of civil war and with Islamic State controlling large

swathes of the country, the Association for the Protection of Syrian Archaeology (APSA) says that more than 900 monuments and archeological sites have been looted, damaged or destroyed.

The jihadists have blown up several famed tower tombs at the UNESCO-listed world heritage site of Palmyra, which they captured in May. In August, they mur-

dered the 82-year-old retired head of antiquities in Palmyra, Khaled al-Assad, and hung his mutilated body in public. Bokova said the destruction at Palmyra "is an impudent crime against civilisation because it was a symbol of cultural dialogue, a material proof of the ability of cultures to interact... This is what the extremists are seeking to destroy."—AFP

Japan output seen flat in third quarter on China slowdown

TOKYO — Japanese factory output will remain flat in the current quarter and an expected pick-up in October-December is clouded with uncertainty as shipments to Asia take a hit from China's slowdown, the Bank of Japan said on Wednesday.

Slumping growth in emerging economies is hurting Japanese machinery makers, while electronic parts makers are suffering from weak exports of smartphone parts to China, the central bank said in a monthly report for September. "Based on surveys we are conducting on companies, industrial output is expected to move sideways in July-September from the previous quarter," it said.

"Output is expected to rebound in October-December,

although there is strong uncertainty on overseas developments." The cautious assessment underlines a waning conviction among central bank policymakers that Japan's economy will make a solid rebound in July-September after shrinking in the second quarter.

Some economists see a chance of another contraction that would put the country into its second recession in as many years.

Contrary to the gloomy view on exports and output, the BOJ maintained its optimism that capital expenditure and household spending are holding up and set to increase steadily. The BOJ maintained its massive monetary stimulus at a policy meeting on Tuesday but cut its assessment on exports and output, nodding to a

slew of recent weak data that cast doubt on the strength of Japan's economic recovery.

The monthly report is usually issued a day after the policy review to offer a more thorough analysis on each components of the economy. Factory output unexpectedly fell in July and manufacturers see further declines in September after a modest rise in August, data showed last month, as companies struggled with high inventory on weak demand in China.

BOJ officials argue that the weakness in exports and output will be temporary, and that there was no need to expand monetary stimulus unless overseas headwinds directly hurt domestic consumption and business confidence.—Reuters



A man works around a metal procession machine at a factory in Urayasu, east of Tokyo
REUTERS

HP to cut up to 30,000 more jobs in enterprise business



A Hewlett-Packard logo.
REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO — Hewlett-Packard Co, which is splitting into two listed companies later this year, said on Tuesday it expects to cut another 25,000 to 30,000 jobs in its enterprise business as the tech pioneer adjusts to falling demand.

The latest cuts, on top of layoffs of 55,000 workers previously announced under Chief Executive Officer Meg Whitman, notably will be in the company's faster-growing corporate hardware and services operations, to be spun off as Hewlett Packard Enterprise, or HPE, on Nov 1.

The latest job cuts indicate a reduction of the company's total workforce by at least 10 percent, based on the company's most recent number of more than 300,000 employees as of Oct 31, 2014, and reflecting the previously announced reduction of 55,000. The company indicated the cuts will be global, but provided no specifics.

Under the split into two

companies, the other company, HP Inc, will comprise the computer and printer businesses, which have been hit hard by a relentless decline in sales of personal computers.

"We've done a significant amount of work over the past few years to take costs out and simplify processes and these final actions will eliminate the need for any future corporate restructuring," Whitman said in a statement. The job cuts, aimed at saving \$2.7 billion a year, will result in a charge of about \$2.7 billion, beginning in the fourth quarter, HP said. Job cuts have become a way of life at the company in recent years as it has digested a series of acquisitions that failed to revive its fortunes. "The number is sadly larger than some people might have expected, but I think it's a reflection of how much trouble HP has been having with its services," said Charles King, president and principal analyst of Pund-IT, a Silicon Valley IT consulting firm. Hewlett-Packard's chief financial officer, Cathie Lesjak, said last month that HP expected the previously announced job cuts of 55,000 under Whitman to increase by up to 5 percent by the end of October. "I'm frankly not sure if HP is finished with the layoffs," King said, saying he expects the job cuts and the shuffling of people and positions to continue well into

2016. HP said it is moving more of its workers to lower-cost locations as part of its efforts to cut costs.

In its 2013 fiscal year, the company said 36 percent of the employees in the unit of HPE called enterprise services worked in what it called low-cost locations. This year 42 percent do, and executives said they plan to increase that percentage to 60 percent by 2018. In its fiscal third quarter ended July 31, HP's revenue from personal computer and printer businesses, its largest, fell 11.5 percent.

Of the units to be housed in HPE, which will be run by Whitman, sales in enterprise services dropped 11 percent, while revenue at the enterprise group rose 2 percent. HPE will have revenue of more than \$50 billion, and is expected to report adjusted profit of \$1.85 to \$1.95 per share in 2016, HP said on Tuesday.

The business is expected to report free cash flow of \$2.0 billion to \$2.2 billion in 2016, at least half of which is expected to be returned through dividends and share buybacks.

HP shares fell 1.4 percent to \$26.73 in extended trading on Tuesday after the news. Maxim Group analyst Nehal Chokshi blamed the market reaction on the cash flow target, which he said looked short of the contribution needed from the enterprise unit to meet analysts' forecasts.—Reuters

Twitter tries to spur growth with shopping and political donations

CHICAGO — Twitter Inc's plans to let users buy goods and make political donations through tweets offer a path to reach new customers and build profit at a time the company has struggled to increase its audience.

On Tuesday, Twitter announced it has partnered with mobile payment company Square Inc to accept online donations for US political campaigns. A day earlier, it tied up with payment processor Stripe Inc to let shoppers buy products directly with a tweet.

Both moves, aimed at increasing customer engagement, come as the social messaging service struggles to expand its audience base and as it looks for a new chief executive. Acting CEO Jack Dorsey is also the chief of Square. "Being a conduit for a financial transaction is a very sweet position for a platform, but there are a lot of fundamental challenges that the company has to overcome," said Brian Blau, research director at Gartner.

Despite a recent run of



A portrait of the Twitter logo.—REUTERS

new products, Twitter in July said monthly user growth was the slowest since the company went public in 2013. It has just over 300 million users who sign in at least once a month.

Chief Financial Officer Anthony Noto said he did not expect to see sustained growth until the company reaches out to the mass market and payment industry consultants. Analysts said Twitter's entry into e-payments is a strategy to do that, which could deliver high-margin growth. It may also help Twitter increase engagement with existing users. Twitter does not take a cut of tweeted political donations, but candidates can pay

to promote the tweet, a company spokesman said.

He declined to say what Twitter gets from retailers and manufacturers for purchases made via its platform, but analysts said terms were likely to be better than for other products.

"By facilitating transactions, Twitter is opening itself up to revenue streams that are potentially more lucrative than traditional advertising models," said Kevin Grieve, partner and head of the North American cards and payments practice at Strategy&, part of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Typically, social media platforms earn revenue of 8-10 percent of the value of transactions made on their sites, Grieve said. Payment companies that process such transactions get 2-3 percent, he said. This in turn is more attractive for a social media platform than revenue generated from banner advertisements and click-throughs, which divert traffic out to merchants' websites.—Reuters

Honda hits milestone, builds 30 million vehicles in North America

NEW YORK — Honda Motor Co announced Tuesday that its North American production has reached the major milestone of 30 million automobiles since it started manufacturing at the Marysville plant in the US state of Ohio in November 1982.

The Japanese automaker currently operates eight assembly plants in the United States, Canada and Mexico. They produce 11 different models and have a capacity to build 1.92 million units per year.

In 2014, they produced just over 97 percent of all Honda cars, including those under the Acura luxury brand, sold in the United States. Of the 30 million units, the Marysville factory accounted for around 40 percent.—Kyodo News

Drones and troops protect Mexico sea turtle eggs

SAN PEDRO HUAMELULA — A small drone buzzes above a pristine Pacific beach in Mexico as troops stand guard, seeking to deter poachers from snatching sea turtle eggs that end up on restaurant menus.

The drone, with six rotors that sound like a menacing hornet, has a GPS system and a camera to spot would-be “hueveros” (egg robbers) who hide between dunes and cacti along the Morro Ayuta beach in Oaxaca state.

Used for the first time this year, the surveillance aircraft “helps to map and identify the footpaths” made by thieves, said one of the 20 marines guarding the 18-kilometer (11-mile) stretch of beach near the town of San Pedro Huamelula.

The robbers storm the beach by the dozens on horseback, wielding machetes and sometimes guns, the marine said on condition of anonymity as he rest-

ed in a hammock. Five years ago, he recalled, hundreds of hueveros arrived on the beach with guns blazing to steal the eggs of the endangered sea creatures.

“It looked like Troy,” he said, referring to the Trojan war. While troops have been deployed in the past, the authorities are using for the first time two drones that were donated by Mexico’s College of Environmental Engineers.

Members of the indigenous Chontal and Zapotec indigenous communities have historically sold and consumed sea turtle eggs, a practice banned since 1990.

Poachers risk up to nine years in prison and a nearly \$12,000 fine if caught grabbing eggs out of the sand nests.

Since July, one person has been detained and around 14,000 eggs have been seized by the authorities in Morro Ayuta and the

neighboring beach of Escobilla.

In one night, some 70,000 turtles come ashore to lay eggs on those two beaches, according to the federal prosecutor’s office for environmental protection (Profepa).

Despite the drones, soldiers and prison threats, thieves find a way to snatch eggs under the cover of darkness as the aircraft only work during daylight, said Nereo Garcia, the regional Profepa official.

The poachers are the first link in a clandestine market that ends with eggs sold in markets of the nearby village of Juchitan and as far away as Mexico City’s crime-ridden Tepito neighborhood.

About 100 of the golf ball-sized eggs, which are believed to be an aphrodisiac, sell for just 30 pesos (\$1.70).

On restaurant menus, a half-dozen cooked eggs are

priced at 60 pesos.

An austere restaurant in Juchitan offers a “super-vitamin-added seafood soup” — a spicy broth with herbs, snail, clams and two turtle eggs for 100 pesos.

“It sells pretty well. Tourists order it out of curiosity,” said a waitress, whose restaurant serves boiled eggs on a bed of lettuce with lime.

Every year, six of the seven species of sea turtles in the world nest on the coasts of Mexico between July and March. Some arrive all the way from Japan. Morro Ayuta mostly sees olive ridley sea turtles that come by the tens of thousands, invading the beach to dig their nests and lay on average 100 eggs each.

In the 2014 season, more than 1.1 million olive ridley sea turtles nested in Mexico, up from just under one million a year earlier, according to official figures.

Despite the improvement, Mexican authorities are keeping their guard up as humans are not the only threat.

Birds and wild dogs feed on the eggs, and only 35 percent hatch after the 45-day incubation period.

Once the baby turtles are out, they must dodge predators as they scurry toward the ocean. Only one out of 1,000 reach adulthood, according to experts.

Conservationists fear another danger lurking: Mexico’s tourism sector. Eduardo Najera, director of the non-governmental organization Costasalvaje (Wild Coast), fears that investors will spot the untouched beachfront and seek to build on the beach.

“They’ll want to build 40-story hotels, a golf course, an airport, and then the miracle is over,” said Najera, who is lobbying to have the beach declared a conservation area. —AFP

Digital era hits income for writers

WASHINGTON — The digital era is cutting into income for book authors, making it more difficult to live off writing alone, a survey by the Authors Guild said Tuesday.

The survey said income for full-time US authors in 2015 fell 30 percent from 2009 to \$17,500, and part-time authors saw a 38 percent drop in income to \$4,500.

“Authors’ income is down. This is the result of a confluence of factors,” the study found.

“The ubiquity of e-books means that online book piracy is more of a threat than it was in 2009. We’ve seen major consolidation within the traditional publishing industry, which means less diversity among publishers and their increased focus on the bottom line.” Traditional publishers’ dominance of the marketplace meanwhile is being eroded by the rise of self-publishing, the study noted. The report also singled out Amazon — a frequent target of

the writers’ group — saying its dominance has led to the shuttering of thousands of brick and mortar bookstores and has “made the business of authorship both more diverse and less profitable than it was six years ago.”

Publishers Weekly, which first reported the findings, said the study found a majority of authors would be living below the US poverty line if they relied solely on income from their writing.

“The picture’s not pretty, but there are silver linings,” the study said. “The rise of hybrid authorship is an exciting development: authors can now have more freedom in choosing a method of publication and promotion that suits the needs of the specific book they’re trying to market.”

And it noted that “the opportunities for author-reader engagement are unsurpassed in the history of book publishing — even if this engagement competes with an author’s writing time.” —AFP

PICTURE OF THE DAY



People sit at table with food models as the gastronomic festival “Moscow Autumn” takes place near the Kremlin and the State Historical Museum in central Moscow, Russia, September 16, 2015. —REUTERS

Wildfires threaten California’s treasured Sequoias

MIDDLETOWN — Wildfires sweeping across California are threatening the US state’s famed Sequoia trees, with firefighters scrambling to protect the national treasures.

The so-called Rough Fire, the largest of more than a dozen burning across northern and central California, has edged closer to the giant trees in recent days with firefighters scrambling to protect them.

“The fire has moved into a number of Sequoia groves in King’s Canyon National Park and Sequoia National Forest and we are taking preventive measures to make sure nothing happens to them,” park spokesman Mike Theune told AFP.

Of particular concern is the

General Grant tree, the second largest Sequoia in the world. It stands 268 feet (81.7 meters) tall.

Theune said firefighters are monitoring the tree round-the-clock, spraying water and clearing the area around Grant grove.

“We have some of the best firefighters in the world working on this fire in order to protect these national treasures,” he said. Theune said crews had also installed a sprinkler system around the Boole Tree, the sixth-largest tree in the world.

Although the Sequoias, which are a major attraction for tourists worldwide, need low-intensity fires to reproduce, extreme heat like that from the Rough Fire is too much for the giants to handle.

The Rough Fire has burned 139,000 acres near Sequoia and King’s Canyon National Parks. More than 3,700 firefighters are battling the blaze, which is 40 percent contained, according to the US Forest Service.

Thousands of firefighters further north are also battling two fast-moving wildfires — the Valley Fire and the Butte Fire — that erupted over the weekend.

The blazes killed at least one person, forced the evacuation of more than 23,000 and destroyed more than 700 homes.

Of the two fires, the Valley one has been the most devastating and difficult to contain. Officials said 9,000 homes are still threatened in the area.

Middletown, a small ham-

let north of San Francisco, was completely gutted by the flames that left an apocalyptic scene and shocked even seasoned firefighters with its speed and strength.

Residents trickled back to the town on Tuesday to check on their still smoldering homes. Officials said at least 400 homes and businesses had burned to the ground. “Everyone in here could tell you a horror story you wouldn’t believe,” said Ashley Mayhew, manager at Hardester’s, a market in the heart of Middletown that stayed open during the inferno.

She said desperate residents had flooded the store over the weekend, buying everything from water, groceries, tools and other supplies.

“People... were hosing down their houses to try to save them,” Mayhew told AFP.

Fire officials said there was reason for hope in battling the Butte Fire, and that some residents of the San Andreas area should even be allowed back to their homes.

But although temperatures are expected to be much cooler this week than last, fire officials remain on alert due to hot conditions and landscape left bone dry by a four-year drought.

Governor Jerry Brown, who has declared a state of emergency in the affected counties, said Monday he did not see an end to the fire season in the months ahead, blaming climate change in part for the blazes. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (418N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (418N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.9.2015 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (444N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (444N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.9.2015 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185



WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (12:30) 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 (12:30)hrs MST today, the tropical storm "Vamco" which has crossed Southern Vietnam Coasts, has downgraded into the land depression and is moving Westwards.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 16th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, 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.

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Thein Aung B.Sc., R.L.D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel:376318 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon. 17th September 2015

Chinese American scientists tell of spy case ordeal

WASHINGTON — Two Chinese American scientists who were indicted by the United States for spying only to see their charges abruptly abandoned spoke out Tuesday against the ordeal they had been put through.

The cases have led some US lawmakers and Chinese American community groups to demand a probe into whether they were unfairly targeted because of their background.

Professor Xiaoxing Xi, former chair of physics at Temple University, learned last week he would not be charged with spying for sharing a schematic with a Chinese colleague.

In March, another naturalized US citizen, government hydrologist Sherry Chen, discovered she would not be tried for accessing sensitive data and lying to federal agents.

In both cases, their lawyer said, Department of Justice prosecutors dropped

the criminal cases against them once confronted with detailed explanations of the facts.

Neither face further criminal prosecution, but Chen remains distraught at losing the job she loved working at the US National Weather Service on a model to predict river flows.

On Tuesday, they spoke of the pain their arrests brought their families — and their supporters demanded government act to prevent such mistakes from happening again.

Sherry Chen had been in America for two decades and an exemplary Weather Service employee building a detailed model of water flows in US rivers for eight years.

She saw her work as protecting US lives and property from flood and was left shattered after she was accused of crimes that could have seen her spend 25 years in jail. Chen was arrested last

year, aged 59, at her office in Wilmington, Ohio — handcuffed in front of her colleagues a few days before the start of the US holiday season.

"I love Christmas lights," she told reporters, her voice cracking and her eyes swelling with tears after she and her husband drove eight hours to Washington to tell her story.

"I really, really enjoy the Christmas season, but not last year," she said, describing how television vans pulled up outside her house after news of the case broke.

"The few times I ventured outside of my house to get some fresh air, I tried very hard not to look at those lights. Those decorations were not as beautiful as I remembered." Xi also grew emotional as he told of how in May federal agents came to his home, handcuffed him and led him away in front of his uncomprehending wife and daughters.—AFP

A-bomb survivor helps Cambodia rebuild

PHNOM PENH — A 73-year-old atomic bomb survivor runs a free facility in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh called Hiroshima House, built by a group of Hiroshima citizens because the two cities share the experience of ruin.

"I remembered those old days as if I had been drawn back into them," Keiko Kunichika recalled of her first visit to Cambodia 21 years ago, she said.

Cambodia had been brought to its knees as a result of the genocidal rule of Pol Pot and his communist Khmer Rouge movement in the second half of the 1970s. Adults were despondent, while children were cheerful, playing with cards, skipping ropes or whatever else they had to hand.

These were similar scenes to what Kunichika witnessed when she saw Hiroshima after the bombing in 1945.

Kunichika was with her parents near Hiroshima Station when the atomic bomb was dropped on the city. As she was three years old at the time, she remembers almost nothing except the huge sound of a massive explosion and unspeakable dread.

Kunichika's father walked around in the city to look for his sister and friends. He became bedridden soon after, developing

symptoms of radiation sickness, and died in less than a year.

One day, US soldiers gave her a large number of chocolates and cookies that she brought home. But her mother threw them away, saying, "You mustn't receive anything from Americans." Seeing the sad expression that clouded her otherwise good-natured mother's face, Kunichika recognized this was painful territory and the two of them stopped referring to the atomic bombing and the war.

In 1994, Kunichika worked as a volunteer helping Cambodian athletes who were participating in the Asian Games for the first time in 20 years.

At a farewell party for the Cambodians after the completion of the games, which had been held in Hiroshima, one of the athletes tearfully questioned if Cambodia could rebuild itself and make its children "as happy as those in Hiroshima."

Moved by this, Kunichika and other volunteers decided to build a facility to help Cambodians overcome the legacy of hardship left by the Pol Pot regime, aware that Hiroshima had been able to rebuild itself thanks to the support of so many people from home and abroad.

The group of citizens, which became the Associa-



Keiko Kunichika—KYODO NEWS

tion for Exchange between Hiroshima Citizens and Cambodians, built Hiroshima House little by little over more than a decade before completing the project in November 2006.

The four-story brick building is located in the compound of Wat Ounalom, a monastery serving as the headquarters of Cambodian Buddhism.

Hiroshima House offers lodging as well as educational programs.

Children who cannot afford to go to school receive lessons for two hours a day in English, Khmer, social studies and arithmetic.

"Japan rebuilt itself over the past 70 years despite lots of casualties it suffered in the war," a teacher told students in a weekly class on peace and Japan's postwar reconstruction. "You should study hard and make (Cambodia) a better country."—Kyodo News

Thai customs nab Bolivian with 5kg of cocaine in luggage

BANGKOK — Thai authorities said Wednesday a Bolivian had been charged with drug trafficking after more than five kilograms of cocaine was found hidden in his luggage at Bangkok's main airport.

Jose Alberto Martinez Soto, 45, was arrested at Suvarnabhumi Airport on Tuesday afternoon when authorities discovered the 5.2 kilogram (11.5 pound) haul on his arrival from Sao Paulo via Dubai. Airport officials found five plastic bags of white powder hidden in special compartments when they X-rayed his two pieces of luggage, the Thai Customs Department said in a statement released Wednesday.

A test revealed the substance was cocaine with a street value of 20.8 million baht (nearly \$580,000), it added.

Soto was handed over to police. He faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment if convicted of attempted drug smuggling and trafficking, according to an anti-narcotics official.—AFP

Dragons and deaths may lead 'Game of Thrones' to Emmy victory

LOS ANGELES — "Game of Thrones," HBO's wildly popular medieval fantasy series, may have served up gory beheadings, scintillating sex scenes, fire-breathing dragons and an ever-expanding battle for the Iron Throne, but it has never won the most important crown of all: the Emmy award for best drama series.

Despite commanding a formidable fan base with 20 million viewers per episode, 16 million Facebook fans and 3 million Twitter followers, "Game of Thrones," based on George R. R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" novel series, has yet to win over Emmy voters.

The show premiered in 2011 and has been nominated four times in the best-drama race. But voters of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, deciders of the Emmy awards, traditionally shun fantasy in favor of realism in drama.

All that could change at Sunday's Emmy Awards.

"Thrones" has a leading 24 nominations, and all 18,000 members of the Television Academy can vote for best drama, compared with around 1,000 in the past, said Tom O'Neil, founder of awards tracker Gold Derby (www.goldderby.com).

"Everyone is voting online, so you will get more broad-based popular results that would benefit 'Game of Thrones,'" he said.

The biggest competitors for "Thrones" are AMC's period drama "Mad Men," which concluded this year in a widely praised fina-



Fans wait for guests to arrive at the world premiere of the television fantasy drama "Game of Thrones" series 5, at The Tower of London.—REUTERS

le, and Netflix's political thriller "House of Cards," according to Entertainment Weekly TV writer Lynette Rice.

"Simply by virtue of lack of competition, it looks good for 'Game of Thrones,' but also this season was an extraordinary year for the show," Rice said.

"Homeland," "Downton Abbey," "Better Call Saul," and "Orange is the New Black" round out the drama series contenders.

The fifth season of "Game of Thrones" featured new lands and an army of the walking dead. But it proved controversial for its scenes of brutality against women, including a violent rape, burning a little girl at the stake and shaming a major female character with a naked walk through a city.

Emmy wins don't seem to be a primary concern for "Game of

Thrones" fans. Instead, after season five became the most-watched series ever for Time Warner Inc's HBO and concluded in June with the death of hero Jon Snow (played by Kit Harington), fans online are consumed with whether the character will return.

Speculation has ranged from sightings of Harington on set in Ireland to the actor's decision not to cut his shoulder-length brown locks, which have become a trademark of his character.

"Game of Thrones," has already won eight statues at last week's Creative Arts Emmys for visual effects, make-up, stunts, casting and other categories.

But its only major Emmy came in 2011 for best supporting actor Peter Dinklage, who plays series favorite Tyrion Lannister.—Reuters

Helen Mirren, Robert Redford to receive Gotham Awards Tributes

LOS ANGELES — Acclaimed actors Helen Mirren and Robert Redford will be honoured at the 25th Anniversary IFP Gotham Independent Film Awards.

They are made part of the Awards as Actress and Actor Tributes, reported Aceshowbiz. "We are thrilled to recognise the careers and achievements of such lauded industry veterans as Robert Redford, Helen Mirren, and Steve Golin as part of our 25th anniversary celebrations," said Joana Vicente, Executive Director of IFP and the Made in NY Media Center.

"To celebrate these individuals who have contributed so much to the independent film community and to the entertainment world at large – and in such a landmark

year for the Gothams – is truly an honour."

Redford, 79, is selected because he "has made an indelible mark on the independent film world and is a true artist, in addition to being a dedicated environmentalist, businessman, and political activist."

Mirren, 70, is deemed "one of the most internationally acclaimed performers of our time."

At the event, Mirren and Redford will join founder and managing partner of Anonymous Content Steve Golin who will receive the Industry Tribute.

Todd Haynes was previously announced as Director Tribute recipient. The event will be held at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City on November 30.—PTI



Actors Helen Mirren and Robert Redford.—PTI

Rita Ora's new album to come out in November

LONDON — Singer Rita Ora is all set to release her new album in November this year.

During a show at New York's Irving Plaza, the 24-year-old "I Will Never Let You Down" hitmaker said she recorded the follow-up to 2012's "Ora" in London, reported Digital Spy.

"I recorded it all in London because I wanted to keep my roots from where I grew up and I sat down and (had) a brainstorm to make sure my message comes across," Ora said.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

Sofia Vergara to invite 400 guests to her wedding

LOS ANGELES — Actress Sofia Vergara says her nuptials with Joe Manganiello will be a private affair with 400 guests present on the occasion.

"We're very excited. We kind of keep it like a little private but it's kind of impossible because people have been very excited," the "Modern Family" star

said on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!".

When the host jokingly asked, "For you private it's like a thousand people, right?" she replied, "No, actually it's like 400."

The Colombia-born actress said there will be no bridesmaids and they will only have flower girls and a ring boy as the wed-

ding would be of Colombian tradition.

"I don't think that tradition (bridesmaids) would have ever lasted one second in Latin America. How do you pick your bridesmaids? All your cousins are your best friends – the whole wedding would be dressed in the same outfit!".—PTI

Justin Timberlake to raise hair as singing troll



PHOTO: REUTERS

COPENHAGEN — Award-winning singer, actor and heartthrob Justin Timberlake will star in "Trolls", a DreamWorks animated musical about the spiky-haired Danish dolls, the studio said on Tuesday.

Timberlake will play Branch, a "hilariously hardcore survivalist", joining Anna Kendrick as Princess Poppy in the first movie adaptation starring the Danish toys, which have already played cameos roles in Pixar's Toy Story movies.

The blank-gazed dolls with colorful spiky hairdos were inspired by Scandinavian troll folklore. They were first crafted in 1959 by Danish woodcutter Thomas Dam, too poor to afford a Christmas present for his daughter, and grew in popularity in the sixties.

The movie will be directed by Mike Mitchell, who is well qualified by virtue of his experience on DreamWorks' other troll franchise, Shrek. It will be released on Nov 4, 2016 by 20th Century Fox.—Reuters

Bosnia revives landmark museum of ethnic treasures

SARAJEVO — Bosnia's National Museum, a custodian of culture for a region torn by ethnic divisions, re-opened on Tuesday after a three-year closure, displaying treasures including a medieval Jewish book of Passover rites.

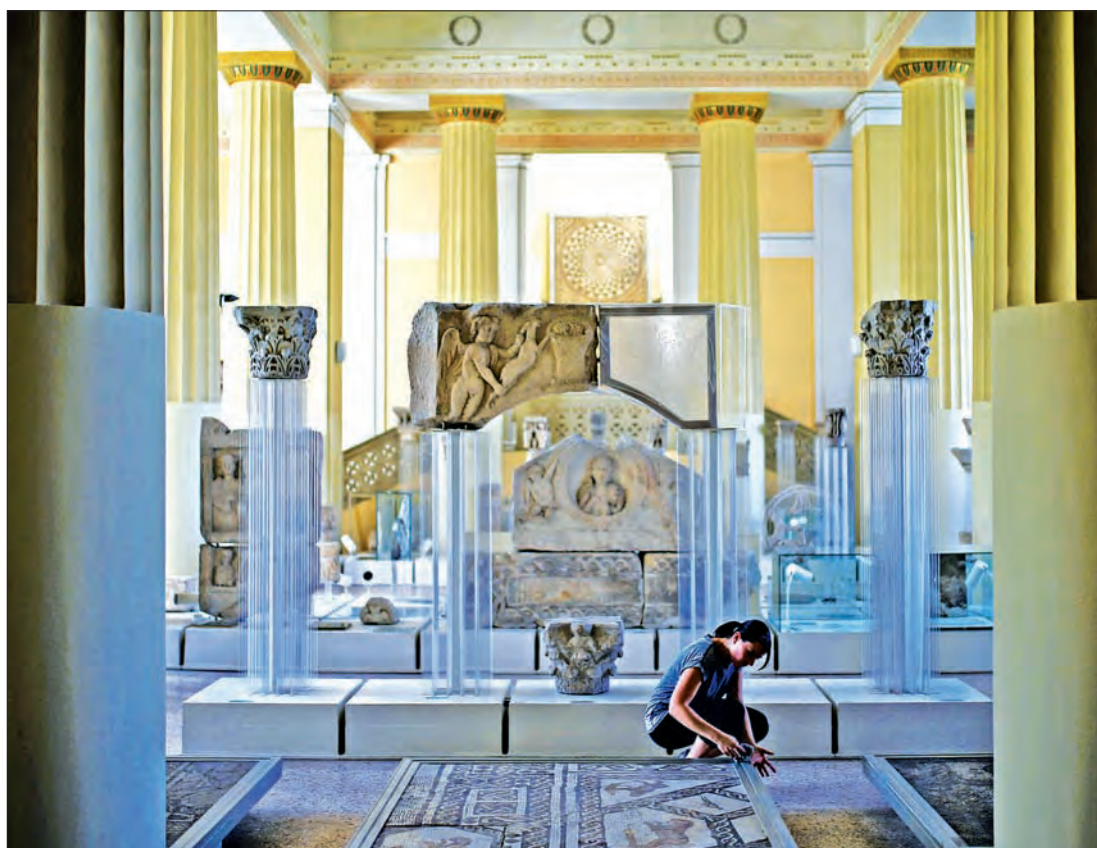
After Bosnia's divided authorities finally agreed on a way to finance the landmark Sarajevo institution, school children and citizens filled the chambers and garden that had been closed in 2012 for lack of funding.

Its status has remained unresolved for years after the 1992-95 war that split Bosnia into two ethnically-based regions.

"It's so nice that the museum re-opened," said Abdulah Sarajlic, a Sarajevo high-school student. "I was so displeased when they closed it."

Under public pressure, the authorities from different layers of Bosnia's complex government on Tuesday signed a deal pledging financing for the museum and six other national cultural institutions based in the Bosnian capital. The autonomous Serb Republic refused to take part, saying these institutions were not in its territory. "The National Museum is the national treasury of all citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina," Bosnia's Prime Minister Denis Zvizdic said, promising to work towards finding regular funding for all seven institutions.

The funds that were pledged can cover the museum's financing needs for one year, said museum director Adnan Busuladzic, who



National Museum employee Ana Maric cleans archaeological excavations in the National Museum in Sarajevo.—REUTERS

surprised everyone when he handed in his resignation saying that with the re-opening of the museum he has completed his duty.

"My resignation is not the result of negative but positive feelings and intentions," Busuladzic told reporters after the ceremony. "I stayed with museum workers until the end." The museum complex, with its 4 million artifacts in departments of archaeology, ethnology, natural sciences and a rich

library which includes the Sarajevo Haggadah, the 14th century Jewish book of Passover rites, is the largest such institution in the region.

It had outlived the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire, two world wars and the break-up of Yugoslavia but has barely survived Bosnia's post-war system based on ethnic quotas.

The US Embassy in Sarajevo on Tuesday pledged 1.1 million Bosnian marka (\$637,000) for

the museum's renovation, and committed to bring US experts to help its management. A civic action "I am the Museum" has drawn about 3,000 people to the museum over the past six weeks to guard its heritage along with museum workers.

"The biggest success was that we handed the museum over to the citizens from politicians," said Aida Kalender, who started the civic initiative.—Reuters

Jamaican on Booker Prize shortlist for Marley-inspired novel

LONDON — Marlon James on Tuesday became the first Jamaican shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction, with a novel inspired by an assassination attempt on Bob Marley.

James, 44, was nominated for "A Brief History of Seven Killings", his third novel, which explores the 1976 attack on the Jamaican reggae music legend.

Two Americans, two Britons and Nigerian writer Chigozie Obioma were also among the six shortlisted for the annual prize, one of the highest-profile awards in English-language literature.

British author Tom McCarthy, the only nominee to have been shortlisted before, is recognised for "Satin Island", while compatriot Sunjeev Sahota was nominated for "The Year of the Runaways".

Obioma, shortlisted for his debut novel "The Fishermen", is the second Nigerian to be nominated, following 1991 winner Ben Okri. Obioma is the youngest nominee this year at 28.

US writers Anne Tyler ("A Spool of Blue Thread") and Hanya Yanagihara ("A Little Life") also made the cut from the 13-strong longlist.

There are no former winners among the nominees.

"The writers on the shortlist present an extraordinary range of approaches to fiction," said Michael Wood, chair of the five-member judging panel.

"They come from very different cultures and are themselves at very different stages of their careers."

Until 2013, the Booker Prize was awarded for the best original full-length novel written in English by a citizen of the Commonwealth, the Republic of Ireland or Zimbabwe. But last year the field was widened to any novel originally written in English and published in Britain.—AFP

mitv Myanmar International

(17-9-2015 07:00 am~18-9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Novicehood in Myanmar
07:50	Am	Kayah Style
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Traditional Snacks
08:32	Am	Delicacies From Magwe
08:40	Am	Lucrative Businesses Of Tanintharyi Region
08:55	Am	Young Talent "Animator Swan Thura Htun"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products Of Myanmar - Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar
09:42	Am	Travelogue: "Anyar Myay" or Upcountry (Episode-3)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)
10:42	Am	Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Alaungdaw Kathapa
07:44	Pm	A Way of Life: Karate-do
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 3) The Sphinx Of Egypt And The Manousiha Of Myanmar
08:41	Pm	Shop Shop Shop - Bogyoke Market
08:53	Pm	Snake Dancer
09:03	Pm	News
09:26	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-1) Savory Dory Steak with Lemon & Mixed Berry Smoothie
09:51	Pm	Amazing: May Phoo Han

(10:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (10:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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



Entertainment Channel

(17-9-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am
• Mono Classical Songs
6:20 am
• Myanmar Seires
6:50 am
• Teleplay
7:10 am
• TV Drama Series

7:55 am
• TV Drama Series
9:55 am
• Myanmar Video
12:00 noon
• Close Down

Sony to distribute Cuban music to world

NEW YORK — Classic Cuban recordings will soon have a new outlet to the world as Sony Music signed a deal Tuesday to distribute the catalog of the state-owned label.

Sony, one of the three major global labels, said it would exclusively license overseas recordings from Cuba's Egrem dating as far back as the 1960s.

"This landmark agreement will help expand international awareness and appreciation of Cuban culture, Cuba's rich musical heritage and its many wonderful artists," Doug Morris, chief executive officer of Sony Music Entertainment, said in a statement.

Egrem artists that come under the deal would include legendary pianist and composer Bola de Nieve, the Afro-Cuban

singer Ibrahim Ferrer and Celina Gonzalez, the singer of traditional Cuban countryside music who died earlier this year.

Egrem's managing director, Mario Angel Escalona Serrano, said that the joint management of the back catalog with Sony "represents the best way to give new momentum to the worldwide distribution of Cuban music."

Cuban music reflects the rich cultural legacy of the island — influences include African rhythms, Spanish classical instrumentation and US jazz improvisation — and has enjoyed a wide following worldwide for more than a century. Egrem — an acronym for the Empresa de Grabaciones y Ediciones Musicales, or the Musical Recordings and Publications Company — was created when Fidel Castro na-

tionalized the industry following the 1959 communist takeover.

The company was a monopoly until the late 1980s and remains by far the biggest record label in Cuba with some 95 percent of the market. Other labels such as Ojala, Bis Music and Adbala have since started with private participation, but remain much smaller than Egrem.

The deal with Sony Music, a New York-based company that is a subsidiary of the Japanese electronic and entertainment conglomerate, comes weeks after the United States and Cuba restored diplomatic relations as they seek to move past decades of hostility.

US sanctions remain in place but Sony Music said the deal would be exempt under a clause in US laws that allows cultural and artistic exchanges.—AFP

Myanmar to host two traditional Korean wrestling tournaments

YANGON — Myanmar will host the Asian Ssireum Championship and the 5th World Ssireum Championship at the National Indoor Stadium in Thuwunna from 20 to 23 September.

Ssireum is a form of traditional Korean wrestling which was introduced to Myanmar for the first time in April this year.

Myanmar's national ssireum team comprises Rakhine traditional wrestlers and judo players and it is undertaking an intensive training programme ahead of the tournament. The Myanmar Ssireum Federation has said it hopes to secure at least three gold medals.

A total of 14 Myanmar men and women athletes will take part in both tournaments in 60, 70, 80, 90 and 120 kilogramme events.

Teams from Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos and Cambodia will also participate in the championships.—*Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)*



Myanmar athletes train at a camp to prepare for the Asian Ssireum Championship and the 5th World Ssireum Championship.—MIN HTET

Golf Championships nurture youth talent

YANGON — Thiha Htay secured first prize with 151 strokes in the 19-24 age category in Pun Hlaing Junior Golf Championships 2015 on 13 September.

The two-day championships were held at Pun Hlaing Golf course in Yangon's Hlinethaya Township.

Ma Pwint Phu Nadi Khaing won the 16-18 age category with 161 strokes, while Thiha Myo Hset won first prize with 147 strokes in the 13-15 category. Phyo Zan won the 10-12 age event with 164 strokes.

Joint General Secretary of Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF) U Myint Aung and officials presented prizes to the winners.

The tournament was sponsored by Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM) and Pun Hlaing Golf Course under the supervision of MGF.—*GNLM*

Football jersey sponsorship deal to be inked

Ko Moe

YANGON — A football jersey sponsorship deal has been agreed between Football Thai Factory Sporting Goods Co. Ltd and Myanmar Football Federation, said a MFF official on Tuesday.

A deal will be inked for the sponsorship of jerseys of Myanmar's national

football teams before the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 Championship qualifiers take place in Yangon from 28 September until 6 October.

MFF said that Myanmar's home uniforms will be red and its away uniforms, white.

FBT exports jerseys to more than 40 countries worldwide and has an annual

turnover of more than US\$50 million. It sponsored Myanmar's football team jerseys in 1994 as well as 2007 and 2008.

Myanmar's national team wore jerseys featuring FBT's logo in white and blue in a friendly match against UAE on 28 August. From June 2014-15, players' uniforms sported the Lotto logo.—*GNLM*

2015-16 AFC Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament (16-9-2015)

Jordan	0 - 3	Chinese Taipei
Myanmar	1 - 2	Thailand

Spanish clubs make impressive Champions League start

SPANISH clubs gave another demonstration of their efficiency in Europe when Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Sevilla began their Champions League campaigns without conceding a goal in convincing victories on Tuesday.

Real, the record 10-times winners and 2014 champions, crushed 10-man Shakhtar Donetsk 4-0 at the Bernabeu, Atletico won 2-0 at Galatasaray and Europa League holders Sevilla thumped Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-0 at the Sanchez Pizjuan.

Champions Barcelona and Valencia, back in the continent's elite club competition after a two-year absence, can make it five wins out of five for La Liga sides when they play at AS Roma and host Zenit St Petersburg respectively later on Wednesday.

The success of Spanish clubs marked a sharp contrast with their rivals from the English Premier League, with Manchester United and Manchester City both surrendering their lead in 2-1 defeats at PSV Eindhoven and at home to Juventus.

Real forward Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to reach 80

Champions League goals when he netted a Group A hat-trick against Shakhtar, who had midfielder Taras Stepanenko sent off five minutes into the second half.

Portugal captain Ronaldo, who hit

five past Espanyol in La Liga on Saturday, moved three clear of Barca forward Lionel Messi on the all-time scoring chart.

Afterwards, the 30-year-old hit back at critics who had suggested he might be past it after he failed to score in Real's

opening two La Liga games of the campaign. "Before I was bad and now I am good because I score eight goals," Ronaldo told Spanish television.

Antoine Griezmann struck twice for Atletico, the 2014 runners-up, as Diego Simeone's side made light of what can be a intimidating trip to Galatasaray's stadium in Istanbul.

The France forward said the Group C victory would help the team put Saturday's 2-1 La Liga defeat at home to Barca behind them.

"We knew the importance of starting the group phase with a win," he told reporters.

Sevilla coach Unai Emery said his side's Group D performance against Gladbach, when they missed one penalty but scored from two others, would help boost confidence as the Andalusians try to get their stuttering La Liga campaign going following a defeat and two draws in their opening three matches.

"Today we found the identity we are looking for this season," Emery told a news conference. "It gives us confidence to help turn around our results in La Liga."—*Reuters*



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his second goal during their Champions League soccer match against Shakhtar Donetsk at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, September 15, 2015.—REUTERS