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PLAQUE FOR LOKANAT

Heritage trust recognises former Sofaer Building as architectural landmark

Aye Min Soe

THE Lokanat Building received a blue plaque from Yangon Heritage Trust on Friday in recognition of its importance as one of the city's architectural landmarks. Formerly known as the Sofaer Building, the Lokanat Building is located at the corner of Pansodan Road and Merchant Street in Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

This is the eighth blue plaque to be awarded by YHT, following Yangon City Hall, the AYA Bank Headquarters, the Armenian Church, the Central Fire Station, the General Post Office, the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank and the Central Press.

"This building is an example of diverse uses of living heritage in Yangon's downtown and one of the top attractive sites for walking tourists," said YHT

in a statement released Friday.

Built circa 1906 by the Jewish Sofaer family, the building housed several of the city's most prestigious firms, including legal and financial offices, such as the Bank of Burma and the China Mutual Life Insurance Company. The building also housed

the Vienna Cafe on the ground floor.

The building was bought by a family of Indian Surti traders and renamed the Randeria Building in the 1930s. After World War II, the building was transferred to the government to house various departments, including the Forest Department

on the top floor and a government store run by Ministry of Industry No.1 on the ground floor.

The commemorative blue plaque is part of YHT's efforts to protect and integrate Yangon's architectural and cultural heritage with its future development. —GNLM



A blue plaque mentions history of Lawkanat Building in downtown Yangon. PHOTOS: AYE MIN SOE

Two deaths a day on Yangon's roads

Ye Myint

YANGON — Two people die every day in road accidents in Yangon, with the vast majority of fatalities caused by negligence and recklessness, according to an official from the Traffic Rule Enforcement Supervisory Committee.

Last year, 4,163 people were killed in road accidents in Myanmar, said committee member Dr Thit Lwin. This accounts to 11 people per day.

U Win Myint, a taxi driver with more than 10 years' service in Yangon, blamed speeding, drink-driving, motorcycle hel-

metts and seatbelts for high numbers of road-related deaths and injuries across the country.

Although the Automobile Law came into effect on 7 September making seat belts compulsory, enforcement will be challenging as the use of seatbelts in Myanmar is extremely low.

"It is impossible to ensure road safety by law enforcement officials alone," Dr Thit Lwin told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

According to the preliminary findings of the World Health Organization's report on road safety in Southeast Asia last week,

it said Myanmar looks set to be ranked second behind Thailand in road death per 100,000 people.

Dr Thit Lwin stressed the need of public participation in efforts to ensure more effective enforcement of traffic rules across the country.

With an influx of imported cars following the government's relaxation of rules and regulations on vehicle imports, roads, especially in Yangon, are becoming congested, resulting in a greater number of crashes. Outside of Yangon, accidents involving motorcyclists make up the greatest number of road crashes. —GNLM

Correction

On 17 September, a news item titled 'Joint statement on election issued' contained two errors.

The first was that headline should have been: 'MOFA issues press release.'

The second was that the ministry issued a press release, not a joint statement. The press release was issued in response to a joint statement on Myanmar's upcoming election issued by the embassies of Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America in Yangon. We regret the errors. —GNLM

Italy offers US\$22.5m loan for development projects

NAY PYI TAW—Italy has pledged a US\$22.5 million loan for development projects in Myanmar, with an agreement between both governments in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The loan will be spent on infrastructure projects in 215 village tracts in Kachin, Kayah and Shan states and Bago Region to expand access to electricity, water, sanitation services and healthcare.

Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint and Italian Ambassador Mr Pier Giorgio Aliberti gave speeches at the signing ceremony. The agreement was signed by the Italian ambassador and U Khant Zaw, the director-general of Rural Development Department.

Before the loan, the Myanmar government had allotted \$25,000 for each project under

the development programme, but that amount has now been raised to \$30,000 per project. The duration of the projects has also been extended to four years.

This programme is one of several rural development projects being implemented by the Myanmar government, including the Emerald Green Project, which seeks to raise incomes and alleviate poverty in rural villages around the country.—MNA

KBZ partners with Microsoft to upgrade banking services

YANGON—Kanbawza Bank signed an agreement with Microsoft Corporation in Yangon on Friday with the aim of helping the bank to meet international banking standards.

US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell, Chairman of KBZ Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win and Microsoft's Asia Pacific Vice President Mr Bertrand Launay attended the signing ceremony.

"The banking sector plays an important role in the country's development. Microsoft has joined with KBZ for our first partnership in the country. We can help KBZ upgrade its banking standards and banking security," said Mr Launay.

"As KBZ Bank handles a large portion of Myanmar's banking sector, we chose to partner with Microsoft because of its strong technology and global leadership to upgrade our banking services," said Senior Managing

Director of KBZ Group U Nyo Myint.

Microsoft's Asia Pacific General Manager Ms. Michelle Simmons explained the companies' plans to fulfil their corporate social responsibilities.

Ambassador Mitchell said the partnership would benefit not

only KBZ Group, but also Myanmar's entire banking sector. He also pledged to urge international banks to invest in Myanmar. As part of the agreement, KBZ will use Windows 10 devices, Skype for Business and SharePoint for the development of its IT infrastructure.—GNLM



KBZ Bank Ltd Chairman U Aung Ko Win and official of Microsoft Corporation in Yangon exchange notes. PHOTO: KBZ

Myanmar shipping company eyes services to EU

YANGON—Myanmar Five Star Shipping Line has acquired the U Thar bulk carrier vessel, with which it plans to expand its services to Europe, according to a statement issued by the shipping company.

"MFSL is planning to expand its services to European countries so that Myanmar will be totally freed from the economic sanctions imposed by the

EU," said the statement.

Five Star will also use U Thar for its ongoing shipping services around Asia.

After taking over the over shipping line from the Ministry of Transport on 1 April, 2010, Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd sold its seven vessels in order to reduce its expenses and bought three new vessels.

U Thar was built at Shikoku

Dockyard in Takamatsu, Japan, and can carry more than 18,000 tonnes of cargo.

The shipping line expects two more vessels from Japan, but the statement did not mention when they would arrive in Myanmar.

Myanmar Five Star Shipping Line was established in 1959 by the Myanmar government.—GNLM



The U Tha vessel just before her maiden voyage. Photo supplied by Myanmar Five Stars Line.

36 buildings for government housing under construction

NAY PYI TAW—Union Minister and Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt inspected the construction of dormitories and apartments for civil servants in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Under the supervision of the Department of Buildings under the Ministry of Construc-

tion, private companies are building 15 two-storey male and female dormitories and 21 four-storey buildings for families of civil servants in Zabuthiri Township.

The construction companies plan to complete 720 dormitory units in October and 504 family apartment units in November.—MNA

Financial sector roadmap discussed

NAY PYI TAW—The Steering Committee of the Ministry of Finance held its second meeting to discuss the implementation of the all-inclusive Financial Sector Roadmap on Thursday.

Deputy Union Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein presented plans for some the roadmap's short-term projects, which include financial literacy, mobile banking, increased banking access, financial services for low-income families and

financial services for SMEs. He also explained how the roadmap will be implemented and called on the media to get involved in raising public awareness about financial services. Representatives from the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) attended the meeting.—MNA

Gang in Mon arrested

NAY PYI TAW—Nine gang members were arrested by government troops during a series of security checks spanning several days in Ye town of Mon State.

Two surrendered to law enforcement officials, officials said.

A military security force

stopped a suspect on a motorbike in Yay on 3 September, who was later found out to be a member of the gang known to be led by Nai Mon Cham.

Further investigations led to eight arrests with arms and ammunitions alongside gold and precious gems worth some K12.4 million (US\$ 9,538). —Myawady

Rebels demand voter lists be removed in Kutkai

NAY PYI TAW—Administrators from two village-tracts in Kutkai Township of Shan State were threatened into removing voters' lists at their offices by the presence of rebels, the Union Election Commission said Thursday. According to the commission, an unknown rebel group arrived in Ho-at village-tract at around 6pm and warned the village-tract

administrator not to post the lists.

Likewise, a KIA armed group halted posting voters' lists at Mone Paw village-tract at 10pm on the same day.

Administrators in the two village-tracts therefore decided to take down the voter lists displayed at their offices, said the commission. The electoral rolls had been put up around villages on Monday. —MNA



China's role in ASEAN prosperity is vital: Vice President



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects a booth featuring Myanmar wares at a trade fair in Nanning. PHOTO: MNA

NANNING, CHINA — The 12th China-ASEAN Expo in conjunction with the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit on Friday kicked off at the Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning, China.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham described China and ASEAN as strategic partners of economic cooperation.

China ranks as ASEAN's biggest trade partner, and ASEAN as China's third-biggest trade partner. The bilateral trade value between them stood at US\$126 billion in 2014, up from 14 billion in 2013.

Among regional partners, China was the first country for ASEAN to sign a free trade agreement called the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement.

The vice president said that his country recognised China's important role to play in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), which he said would facilitate closer economic cooperation between the two sides. The China-pro-

posed project called the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road would enhance much-needed infrastructural development in the establishment of the ASEAN Community as part of the master plan. Known as the "One Belt, One Road", the Silk Road has now attracted 57 countries, most of which are along its route. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is expected to be of great assistance to the implementation of the master plan.

China will contribute \$40 billion for countries along the Silk Road to undertake projects in areas including infrastructure, resources and industrial and financial cooperation.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham also witnessed the opening of Myanmar Commodity Hall at the same venue.

Myanmar has more than 80 booths at the trade fair displaying a variety of local products.

The vice president also visited a Chinese Buddhist monastery, the cultural museum and the Myanmar consulate in Nanning.—MNA

I am ready to sign the ceasefire: Commander-in-Chief

NAY PYI TAW — All parties must use foresight when discussing issues involving ethnic armed groups and other internal affairs, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said at a military meeting on Friday.

At the meeting, the senior general reiterated his support for democratisation and devel-

opment and his readiness to sign the nationwide ceasefire agreement.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air force) General Khin Aung Myint and senior officers from the office

of the Commander-in-Chief.

"The armed forces prefer representatives who can work in the interests of the nation through their political, economic, administrative and defence outlooks," he said.

The senior general urged participants in the peace process to strive to overcome challenges.—Myawady

Speaker meets Italian Ambassador



Italy's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pier Giorgio Aliberti meets with Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday. PHOTO: MNA

NAY PYI TAW — Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann met with Italy's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pier Giorgio Aliberti at the parliament complex in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 September.

The meeting was also attended by Daw Aye Aye Mu, member of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

What they stand for: campaigns aired

Campaign speeches were broadcast by the Kaman National Progressive Party, Khamee Nation Development Party and National Democratic Force on Friday.

Kaman National Progressive Party



Chairman U Zaw Win said that his party strives to create a modern and democratic nation by joining hands with national brethren and political parties, to oppose terrorism and extremism, to strengthen friendly relations with the global community through a non-aligned policy, to carry out sector wide development programmes and to educate people against doctrines that do not benefit Myanmar society.

Khamee Nation Development Party



Central Executive Committee member U Than Htay said that the party has laid down policies to cooperate with national brethren to enable Myanmar to stand tall among the nations of the world and to join hands with ethnic people in realising a multi-party democracy and federalist union system. He said the party also encourages all-round development of the Khamee people and other ethnic groups and that it would work to preserve the cultural heritage of ethnic groups.

National Democratic Force



Chairman U Khin Maung Swe pledged to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, to resolve land disputes, to provide assistance for families to get bank loans, to focus on the electrification of all villages by 2020. The party also stands for ensuring the stability of commodity prices and lowered taxes, the privatisation of rail and water transport and to join hands with the people in the internal peace-making process.—GNLM

Media slots for one political party announced

NAY PYI TAW — MRTV, Hluttaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by a representative from Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State on 19 September.

Although three political parties each are allowed to talk daily, the TVs and radios cannot broadcast talks of Kayin State Democracy and Development Party and National Development and Peace Party due to their absence.—GNLM

ELECTION COUNTDOWN
Make your voice count. Cast your vote. **50** DAYS

Malaysian company among those investigated over haze



An officer from the local Disaster Management Agency (BPBD) attempts to extinguish a fire in Sei Rambutan, Ogan Ilir, South Sumatra. PHOTO: REUTERS

JAKARTA — A Malaysian company is among more than 20 firms under investigation by Indonesian authorities in connection with forest fires that have

caused a haze to engulf large parts of Southeast Asia, an Indonesian minister said on Wednesday.

The worsening smog across northern Indonesia, neighbouring

Singapore and parts of Malaysia forced some schools to close and airlines to delay flights this week, while Indonesia ordered a crack-down on lighting fires to clear forested land.

“There is one (company) from Malaysia that is among those being investigated,” Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya told reporters, without elaborating. “We are still checking if there are any from Singapore.”

Police in Riau, at the heart of the haze, said an official overseeing operations at Indonesian palm oil company Langgam Inti Hibrido had been named a suspect for starting fires on the company’s land. It was not possible to reach the company outside of business hours.

Southeast Asia has suffered for years from annual bouts of smog caused by slash-and-burn practices in Indonesia’s Sumatra and Kalimantan islands, but governments in the region have failed to address the problem.

The fires have been exacer-

bated this year by the effects of the El Nino weather phenomenon, as a prolonged dry season in Indonesia has parched the top soil, fuelling the flames.

This year’s haze had already caused trillions of rupiah in losses to the Indonesian economy, with further losses now expected, added Nurbaya.

Authorities have so far declined to name any other suspected perpetrators but are set to announce this week the names of three or four companies that are due to face sanctions including possibly having their land permits revoked.

President Joko Widodo instructed security forces late on Monday to accelerate efforts to extinguish the fires and revoke land permits from companies found responsible.

Nearly 3,000 military and police personnel, 17 helicopters and four cloud-seeding aircraft have been deployed to fight the fires, according to the country’s disaster management agency.—Reuters

Nine missing in boat collision off Taiwan

TAIPEI — A Taiwanese fishing boat capsized off the island’s north coast on Friday morning after colliding with a gravel ship, leaving all nine fishermen on board missing, officials said.

Six coastguard vessels and a team of rescue divers have been dispatched to the scene of the crash to search for the missing, along with a fleet of fishing boats, including a Taiwanese skipper, four Chinese ships and four boats from Indonesia.

“The water around the venue was full of fishing nets, making the search work by divers very difficult,” Tseng Shu-feng, a coastguard official, told reporters.

According to the authorities, the accident happened when the fishing vessel Shih Hui 31 was sailing off Chuwei, a fishing port near Taoyuan city, in the early hours of Friday and collided with the 8,000-tonne gravel ship.

However, officials have yet to provide details about what instigated the crash.—AFP

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Ruling, opposition parties face off as Japan set to pass security bills

TOKYO — Japan’s ruling and opposition parties continued to battle it out on Friday as controversial bills that would mark a major shift in the country’s post-war security policy are set to be enacted despite strong protests from opposition lawmakers and voters.

Making last-ditch efforts to block the bills’ passage, opposition lawmakers filed a series of censure motions in the upper house from Thursday, all of

which have so far been rejected given the majority held by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, the Komeito party.

Political wrangling remained fierce on Friday, as the ruling camp rejected a censure motion, filed by the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, against Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who heads the LDP. A no-confidence motion against House of Councillors President Masaaki Yamazaki was also dismissed.

Following a vote on the censure motion against Abe, the bills are expected to be put to a vote at the upper house plenary session, coalition lawmakers said.

But the process is likely to be further delayed as the DPJ and four other opposition parties filed a no-confidence motion in the House of Representatives against Abe’s Cabinet.

In another delaying tactic, the DPJ filed a censure motion against Yoshitada Konoike, the LDP member who chairs a special upper house committee, where the bills were passed on Thursday during a meeting that was marred by jostling among lawmakers.

“The situation is now at a critical phase. We will take every possible means to block the passage of the bills,” DPJ leader Kat-

suya Okada said at a press conference after meeting with his counterparts in other opposition parties.

The ruling coalition, which holds a majority in both chambers of parliament, wants to pass the security bills at the plenary session by around Friday midnight partly to avert street protests from swelling during a five-day holiday period starting Saturday.

On Thursday, the ruling camp took a step closer to enactment after the bills — which could for the first time since World War II enable Japanese troops to fight overseas — cleared the upper house panel amid a swift vote which caught the opposition members off guard.

The bills were rammed through the lower house in July amid an opposition walkout.

Designed to expand the scope of Self-Defense Forces operations overseas for a more robust alliance with the United States, the legislation would enable 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.

If enacted, the new legislation will put into effect a landmark Cabinet decision in July last year that reinterpreted the war-re-

nouncing Constitution to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense.

Previously, successive governments had interpreted the country’s supreme law to mean that Japan has the right to collective self-defense but cannot exercise it.

Critics argue that the major security policy shift from the country’s postwar exclusively defense-oriented posture would violate Japan’s pacifist Constitution and possibly drag Japan into US-led wars around the world.

In the days leading up to the parliament vote, tens of thousands of voters including students continued their protests, saying they want the bills scrapped and calling for more debate on the security legislation, which remains a sensitive and divisive issue.

Proponents say that even if the legislation is enacted, the exercise of collective self-defense will be limited and there will still be constraints on SDF operations.

With the passage of the legislation, 10 existing security-related laws will be revised, while a permanent law will be created to allow the SDF to provide logistical support to foreign militaries in international peacekeeping activities. Abe wants the bills passed during the current parliamentary session which ends Sept 27.—Kyodo News



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

EU may have last chance to solve migrant crisis next week

GENEVA — Migrant numbers in Europe will build up in coming days and their flows may fragment further into new routes, the UN refugee agency said on Friday, urging the European Union to grasp a last chance to resolve the refugee crisis next week.

UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards said a meeting of justice and home affairs ministers on Tuesday and a European Council meeting on Wednesday would be “crucially important”.

“These occasions may be the last opportunity for a positive, united and coherent European response to this crisis. Time is running out,” he told a news briefing.

The UNHCR has been criticised, including by former staffers and humanitarian policy experts, for not being assertive enough in opening doors in Europe, as it has done in past crises, including the exodus from Hungary in 1956.

“The conditions right now in southeast Croatia are seriously worrying. We’ve had 13,000 people at least who have come across as of about 8 or 9 o’clock this morning. There was very little help on hand,” Edwards told Reuters. He said the European Union



Syrian refugees arrive on a dinghy at a beach on the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing a part of the Aegean Sea from Turkey September 18, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

had failed to get a grip on a manageable problem. Closing borders had diverted flows of refugees from Hungary, where authorities used tactics that the United Nations has called “callous and xenophobic”, to Croatia.

“If routes become blocked in one place you will unquestionably see people moving to routes elsewhere. We have already seen instances of people arriving in Brindisi in Italy from Turkey. You may see more people coming

across on the Libya-Italy route. Closing borders really doesn’t resolve anything at all, it simply pushes it elsewhere.”

Edwards said UNHCR was closely watching the situation in Slovenia, Austria and Croatia, but

the pressure could also return to Serbia if migrant numbers back up there.

“As you push people in different directions it becomes much harder to manage because it’s going in multiple different routes.”

Asked if UNHCR could help to arrange trains to take refugees straight through Hungary and Austria to Germany, he said UNHCR wanted a collective European response rather than a “gravitation towards one country or two countries where the situation might ultimately become unmanageable.”

Joel Millman, a spokesman for the International Organisation for Migration, warned that Europe’s failure to resolve the situation risked returning the continent to the rivalry that led to World War Two.

“It’s very similar to what happened in the 1920s in Europe when the beggar-thy-neighbour policy on trade pitted countries against each other and led to the war. We fear that something similar is happening now with the kind of hardening of borders and as a response to Germany’s decisions.”—Reuters

Experts urge release of details of IAEA inspection at Iran site

UNITED NATIONS/PARIS — Several nuclear security experts are urging the United Nations nuclear watchdog and world powers to release details of how a sensitive Iranian military site will be inspected as part of a landmark nuclear deal reached in July.

The experts, with long experience in international weapons inspections, said the failure to disclose the details was damaging the credibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a view that is rejected by the agency itself, the United States government and another prominent non-proliferation expert.

The confidential plan for the Parchin site has led to differing reports on how it will be carried out, with some critics of the US-administration saying Iran had been given too much leeway to conduct its own inspections, including taking samples.

The inspections are needed to resolve questions about whether Iran did research in the past at Parchin related to building a nuclear weapon. David Albright, head of the Institute for Science

and International Security in Washington, expressed unease about the lack of public details on the arrangement.

“(Details) should be released because it’s undermining the IAEA’s credibility,” Albright said. “Whatever the outcome of the sampling, the secrecy makes it harder to determine whether it’s a credible sampling approach.”

Former IAEA deputy director-general Olli Heinonen, now at Harvard University, said the secrecy could not be justified.

“This is a very unusual IAEA verification approach, which has no reason to be confidential unless a very special reason - proprietary, economic or security - calls for it,” he said.

The IAEA has said it has a legal obligation to keep details of the arrangement confidential, but insists it is technically sound and will ensure the samples are not compromised. One prominent non-proliferation expert, Jeffrey Lewis of the Monterey Institute of International Studies and founder of the ArmsControlWonk.com blog, agreed. Releasing the details under pressure

would undermine countries’ trust in the agency, he said. “This would severely compromise the ability of the IAEA to carry out its mission around the world,” he said.

US Republicans, who tried to sink the July 14 Iran nuclear agreement in Congress, seized on a media report last month that Iran would be able to use its own inspectors to collect samples at Parchin without the IAEA present.

The Associated Press report said the arrangement suggested the IAEA would be not be present at the site during the inspections.

Iranian officials have also said that international experts would not be allowed in.

Four diplomats familiar with the deal told Reuters that UN inspectors would be present at Parchin to oversee the inspections. In the unusual arrangement struck in July, the samples would be taken by Iranian technicians while IAEA experts present at Parchin observe and oversee the process, Western diplomats told Reuters.

The diplomats, who have



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano. PHOTO: REUTERS

knowledge of the deal, said that while the IAEA inspectors will not be next to the Iranian technicians when they take samples, they will be at Parchin overseeing the process. Cameras will record the process.

Iran cannot receive sanctions relief promised under the nuclear deal until the IAEA is satisfied it has answered outstanding questions about the so-called “possible military dimensions” of past Iranian nuclear research. Tehran says its nuclear program is peaceful and that it did not conduct atomic weapons research.

After the AP report, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano rejected as a “misrepresentation” suggestions that Iran would inspect Parchin on the agency’s behalf. In response to Reuters’ questions, the AP said its story had no factual errors and that it stood by the article, which was based on what it said was an authentic draft document and additional reporting.

Reuters has not been able to verify the draft text.

IAEA access to Parchin, a facility the agency has not visited in a decade, was one of the most sensitive issues during the negotiations that led to the nuclear deal.

IAEA inspectors usually take samples themselves when searching for trace nuclear particles that could be a sign of undeclared atomic work.

But as Parchin is a military site the agency had to negotiate special arrangements to get in, diplomats said. Iran is unlikely to agree to release the details, diplomats say, because it would show it has opened up Parchin to foreign experts despite public pronouncements to the contrary.—Reuters

US eyes more sanctions if N Korea test-launches another missile

WASHINGTON — The United States could impose additional sanctions if North Korea conducts what many countries suspect to be a ballistic missile test launch, a Defense Department official said Thursday.

“We put a great many sanc-

tions on North Korea and further sanctions would be one possibility,” David Shear, assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific security affairs, told a congressional session when discussing a possible launch of what North Korea claims to be a satellite.

North Korea issued a statement on Monday saying it plans to launch “a series of satellites into space,” with preparations in their final stage. The statement fueled widespread speculation that it may be planning a long-range rocket launch to mark the 70th anniversary

this October of the establishment of the country’s ruling party. Shear told the Senate’s Armed Services Committee that the United States will discuss the issue with its partners in six-nation talks on North Korea’s denuclearisation.

The China-hosted talks, also

involving Japan, South Korea, Russia as well as North Korea itself, have been stalled since 2008.

“We’re going to be considering what extra pressure we might put on North Korea should they decide to conduct that missile launch,” he said.—Kyodo News

Greece election campaign ends as polls show no clear winner

ATHENS — An election campaign in Greece ends on Friday with opinion polls giving no clear winner, setting the stage for a cliffhanger vote on Sunday between the political left and right, and the near-certainty the next government will be a coalition.

Five opinion polls on Thursday and Friday underlined the tightness of Greece's election campaign, offering different outcomes but all pointing to no outright winner when ballots are cast.

The winner of Sunday's vote will need to oversee deep economic reforms required for an 86-billion-euro bailout brokered in August, a recapitalisation of the country's banks, and the unwinding of capital controls imposed this year to prevent an implosion of the financial system.

All the polls showed the leftist Syriza party of former prime minister Alexis Tsipras and the conservative New Democracy of Vangelis Meimarakis within spitting distance of each other.

In each poll, however, neither party came close to the 38 percent threshold widely believed to be needed to establish a majority in the 300-seat parliament.

Of the five polls published on Thursday and Friday, two put Syriza ahead, two had New Democracy ahead, and one was a tie.

Given that Greece's compliance with the 86 billion euro bailout programme is at issue, many at EU headquarters in Brussels and in other European capitals would like to see a broad coalition emerging from the election.

But Syriza and New Democracy, while both pledging to uphold the bailout terms, disagree on pivotal matters such as freeing up the labour market, collective bargaining and immigration.

Syriza, forced to concede the bailout in August with the threat of a disorderly exit from the euro zone looming over the country, has ruled out any pact with New Democracy. It regards that party as part of an old guard partly

responsible for Greece's economic woes. "I didn't give up the struggle. I took the stance of responsibility after a great deal of effort for this country to remain standing," Tsipras said in a televised interview on Thursday night, referring to bailout talks.

"The crucial (question) at the ballot box is whether there will be a progressive force with Syriza, or a conservative one with New Democracy."

New Democracy has been keen to highlight perceived credibility issues under Syriza, which swept to power in January on the promise of ridding the country of bailouts, only to agree to new stringent austerity terms six months later.

"The question is clear. Should we listen to false promises and wishful thinking, or move forward responsibly and with a national plan?" New Democracy leader Vangelis Meimarakis told cheering supporters in a central Athens square. "It's high time we did



A woman reads a newspaper at a bus stop in front of an election kiosk of former Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' leftist Syriza party in Athens, Greece. PHOTO: REUTERS

away with incompetence. The Syriza experiment ends on Sunday."

One analyst said the biggest question mark surrounded undecided voters, many of whom backed Syriza and Tsipras in January but have been turned off by

his failure to rid Greece of stringent EU austerity conditions in the bailout accord.

"These are questions that are not easy to answer and it seems that we won't have a clear image until the last minute," political analyst John Loulis said.—Reuters

Croatia closes border crossings, but migrants keep coming



Migrants push policemen during a stampede to board buses in Tovarnik, Croatia. PHOTO: REUTERS

SID/ZAGREB — Migrants continued to stream through fields from Serbia into the European Union on Friday, undeterred by Croatia's closure of almost all road crossings after an influx of more than 11,000.

Helpless to stem the flow, Croatian police rounded them up at the Tovarnik railway station on the Croatian side of the border, where several thousand had spent the night under open skies. Some kept travelling, and reached Slovenia overnight.

Migrants have been streaming into Croatia for two days, their path to western Europe via Hungary blocked by a metal fence, the threat of imprisonment and riot police who fired teargas and water cannon on Wednesday to drive back stone-throwing men.

Hundreds evaded Croatian police, trekked through fields and reached the border with Slovenia by train on Thursday, part of a desperate and determined march westwards that is dividing Europe.

Only the main Bajakovo crossing, on the highway between Belgrade and Zagreb, appeared to be open to traffic on Friday, while Slovenia stopped all rail traffic on the main line from Croatia.

Around 150 migrants spent hours overnight stranded at the Dobova railway station on Slovenia's side of the border.

Police first said they would be sent back, but then the train proceeded to the town of Postojna, some 50 km (30 miles) southwest of the capital Ljubljana, where there is a refugee centre.

Slovenia, which unlike Croa-

tia is a member of Europe's Schengen zone of border-free travel, said it had turned back roughly another 100 who tried to cross from Croatia under cover of night.

The two former Yugoslav republics suddenly find themselves on the path of a huge migration of people westwards from war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, the scale of which has sowed discord and recrimination in the European Union.

On Wednesday, the EU called an emergency summit for next week in a fresh bid to overcome disarray in the 28-nation bloc.

Croatian Interior Minister Ranko Ostojic warned on Thursday that Croatia would close its border with Serbia if the flow of migrants continued at the same

rate, saying his country was full to capacity.

The president of Croatia told the military to be ready to join the effort to stop thousands of people criss-crossing the Western Balkans in their quest for sanctuary in the wealthy bloc.

Hungary's right-wing prime minister, Viktor Orban, said on Friday Hungary had begun work overnight to extend a fence along its southern border with Serbia to the Croatian section, after police said hundreds of migrants had entered from Croatia.

Orban said 600 soldiers were working on a 41-km stretch and a further 500 would be deployed on Friday and 700 more over the weekend.

Late on Thursday, Croatian police announced they had banned all traffic at seven border crossings.

"The measure is valid until further notice," police said in a statement.

Serbia's main highway north into Hungary is already closed by Hungarian riot police on the border.

Much of the Croatian-Serbian border follows the Danube river, making it difficult to cross outside the official border crossings. But at Tovarnik, migrants simply walked through fields.

"We are so exhausted," said Hikmat, a bare-footed 32-year-old Syrian woman from Damascus, who said she had been travelling for two months with her son.

"Look at me. I just want to get anywhere where we will be safe," she said.

"We see them, but we pretend not to," said a Serbian police officer.

Serbia warned its neighbours against shutting down the main arteries between them.—Reuters

UK PM Cameron rules out second Scottish independence vote

LONDON — Scotland must move on from its failed bid for independence, Prime Minister David Cameron said on Friday, using the first anniversary of an historic referendum to rule out holding another vote on the issue.

The Scottish National Party (SNP) has seen a surge in support since Scots voted 55-45 percent to reject independence in September last year, winning 56 of Scotland's 59 seats in the Westminster parliament at May's election. Last week SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon said the party would include triggers for a second referendum in its manifesto for Scottish elections in May 2016.

"We all agreed, as do the Scottish public, that the independence referendum should be a 'once in a generation' or a 'once in a lifetime' event," Cameron said in remarks released by his office.

"So now it is time to move on. Some may want to obsess about separation, but I am focused on delivering devolution."

Sturgeon has previously warned that if Scotland were taken out of the European Union against its will in a referendum on British membership due by the end of 2017, then it could seek a second independence referendum.

The SNP has said the government has failed to deliver on a promise of more powers for Scotland, made in the final days of campaigning ahead of the Sept. 18 2014 vote after opinion polls showed a surge in Scottish separatist support.—Reuters

500,000 more children uprooted by Boko Haram



Children rescued from Boko Haram in Sambisa forest at the Internally Displaced People's camp in Yola, Nigeria. PHOTO: REUTERS

LAGOS — Some 500,000 children have been forced to flee Boko Haram militants in the last five months after an upsurge in attacks in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger, the UN children's agency said on Friday.

The additional numbers of children made homeless has taken the total number of youngsters in the Lake Chad region who have been forced to flee to 1.4 million, Unicef said in a statement.

Nigeria was worst affected, with nearly 1.2 million children — more than half of them under five — uprooted by the Islamist insurgency, which is concentrated in the country's remote northeast.

Some 265,000 other children have been affected in neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger, which Boko Haram has increasingly targeted after they joined Nigeria's military in a regional counter-offensive.

"Each of these children running for their lives is a childhood cut short," said Unicef's regional director for West and Central Africa, Manuel Fontaine.

"It's truly alarming to see that children and women continue to be killed, abducted and used to carry bombs."

Boko Haram has been fighting to establish a hardline Islamic state in northeast Nigeria since 2009.

At least 15,000 people have been killed since then, some 1,100 of them in a wave of suicide bombings, deadly raids and bomb attacks since Muhammadu Buhari became Nigerian president on May 29.

Buhari has said he is confident "conventional" attacks will be stopped by November, although suicide and homemade bomb attacks could continue.

Earlier this month, the International Organisation for Migration revised upwards its estimate of those internally

displaced by the conflict from 1.5 million to more than 2.1 million because of the recent surge in attacks.

The IOM's head of mission in Nigeria, Enira Krdzalic, said many IDPs living in host communities had yet to receive basic food and shelter, calling for more to be done.

On Wednesday, the charity Medecins Sans Frontieres also appealed for international help after 16 people died and 172 fell ill in a cholera outbreak at three IDP camps in Maiduguri, northeast Nigeria.

The UN regional humanitarian coordinator for the Sahel region Toby Lanzer, told AFP thousands of Nigerians who fled to a refugee camp in southeast Niger were in an "atrocious" situation.

Unicef said it had increased its operations in the Lake Chad region, including child vaccination programmes, education and psychological counselling.

Nearly 65,000 children under five had received treatment for severe acute malnutrition, it added.

But Fontaine said more funding was needed because the agency had only received a third of the \$50.3 million required to finance its operations in the Lake Chad region this year.

That has left more than 124,000 children hit by the violence unvaccinated against measles. Some 208,000 are out of school and more than 83,000 lack access to safe drinking water.

"With more refugees and not enough resources, our ability to deliver lifesaving assistance on the ground is now seriously compromised," said Fontaine.

"Without additional support, hundreds of thousands of children in need will lack access to basic health care, safe drinking water and education."—AFP

Mexican survivor recounts three-hour aerial bombing ordeal in Egypt

MEXICO CITY — Egyptian warplanes mistakenly bombed a convoy of Mexican tourists five times over three hours, even though security forces on the ground had cleared their passage, one of six survivors of Sunday's deadly attack said.

Susana Calderon's husband Luis was among eight Mexicans killed in what has been described as an accident that claimed 12 lives.

"We were bombed some five times from the air," she told Mexican newspaper El Universal from her hospital bed in Cairo.

Calderon was wounded in the arm and her right leg is paralysed, though doctors believe she will regain movement. President Enrique Pena Nieto has demanded Egypt investigate the attack and assign blame. The Egyptian prosecutor general's office has announced a gag order on all news related to the investigation until its conclusion.

Mexico also has demanded that Egypt compensate the victims.

Pena Nieto later said the six Mexicans who were wounded would be flown home on Thursday aboard his presidential plane.

The group of 22 people had parked on Sunday for a barbecue near the Bahariya oasis, a tourist site in the western desert, when army aircraft began attacking them believing they were militants, security sources and survivors have said. As the tourists tried to flee, forces on the ground fired on them, Egyptian security sources have said.

"I saw my husband when they put me on a stretcher to take me to hospital," Calderon said. "He was very badly wounded. He had a broken arm, like me. He had many wounds on his back, his waist, his whole spine, his legs."

"I heard him tell me he loved me. I told him I loved him, too.

And then I heard nothing more of him," she said, adding that she was told days later that he had died.

Calderon said an Egyptian policeman was accompanying the group when they were attacked. It was supposed to be the start of a trip of a lifetime; she and her husband had planned to continue on to France, Belgium, Germany and Italy.

"The landscapes are beautiful, but there is nothing else. Nowhere to take shelter, nowhere to run," she said of the desert. "God wanted me to know what real fear feels like."

Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country, is battling an Islamist insurgency that has intensified since mid-2013 when then-army chief Sisi ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi, a leading figure in the Muslim Brotherhood, after mass protests against his rule.—Reuters



Police and Mexican embassy members stand outside Dar Al Fouad Hospital, where injured tourists who were mistakenly targeted in a military operation "chasing terrorist elements" are recovering. PHOTO: REUTERS

Islamist rebels attack Somali army bases, retake town

MOGADISHU — The Islamist militant group al Shabaab overran two Somali army bases on Friday and killed at least seven soldiers, both the group and the military said, a day after the group retook a southern town.

The raids on the bases in the town of Yaqbariweyne in the Lower Shabelle region and the retaking of Janale town after African forces quit are the latest gains in an offensive by the group that has helped them seize several towns this month.

The government has dismissed al Shabaab's gains, saying the areas retaken have no strategic value. But the offensive has shown the group can keep up pressure on the Western-backed government.

"We took the two Yaqba-

riweyne military bases in a fierce fighting this morning," Al Shabaab's military operations spokesman, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, told Reuters. Thirteen soldiers were killed, he said.

Osman Abdullahi, a military officer, told Reuters seven soldiers were killed and five others wounded. "The soldiers defended themselves and now they are fighting al Shabaab in the outskirts of the town," he said.

Rebels and officials often cite different casualty figures.

Farah Ali, a resident of Yaqbariweyne, which lies northwest of the capital, Mogadishu, said he had counted six dead soldiers and said the town was now calm. On Thursday, al Shabaab said it had retaken Janale, about 90 km (55 miles)

south of Mogadishu. Ali Nur, the acting governor of Lower Shabelle, confirmed the town's capture.

"This is a great shame and it will be difficult for the residents to trust the Somali government and the AU troops," Nur told Reuters. He said the group now controlled much of Lower Shabelle, a region that extends to the south of Mogadishu.

A military offensive last year by the African AMISOM force and the Somali army pushed al Shabaab out of major strategic centres and into smaller pockets of territory.

But the group, which once ruled much of Somalia, still holds some settlements and rural areas, which can often be used to isolate towns by cutting off supply routes.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 19 September, 2015

Keep calm and carry on, voters

Kyaw Thura

DESPITE there being only 50 days left until the general election, there are still a number of voters who are not paying close attention to a day that will decide the destiny of the nation. This is very unfortunate.

Perhaps the reason for their lack of enthusiasm

stems from a misunderstanding about the real purpose of politics. As a nation that has endured six decades of authoritarian rule, many quite reasonably feel that getting involved in politics is a risky business.

Another issue that may serve to discourage potential voters from going to the polls relates to inaccurate electoral registers. No matter how many times the election commission guarantees that every citizen has the right to vote, some people have become disenchanted with the process of voter registration and have lost trust in local election commissions.

No matter how complex the registration process is, we must endure it because the end goal of being able to vote on 8 November is so important. As responsible citizens, we must take the time to check whether our names are on the electoral registers in our constituencies.

The point is that the upcoming election is a call to individuals to engage themselves in politics – for some it will be the first time in their lives they have done so. The further we walk away from the bad, the nearer we come to the good. There are opportunities afoot to expel selfish politicians from Myanmar's political arena. It is in fact no-one but the voters who have the power to do this.

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The country with a long boat tradition Part I

Maha Saddhama Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

A GEOGRAPHICAL entity of a medium size, Myanmar is the second largest piece of land among the ASEAN, ten of the region, next to Indonesia, but the largest among five peninsular member states of the ASEAN. Its territorial area equals to those of the United Kingdom, France, and Belgium combined, but its population up-to-date is barely 50 million plus. Being Nature's choicest gift the country is open on both land and water fronts. Though high mountains, some of which are snow capped the year round, and forested hill ranges seem to hedge it in, mountain passes and river valleys provide in and out accesses making human migration possible since time immemorial. In addition to the constant supply of the elixir of life, fresh water and communication through the complex network of rivers and streams, aquatic bodies of different sizes within and without the country, have given Myanmar people the long tradition of boat and all water-related cultures.

Across the country are well-known, less-known or unknown water bodies, both nature and human creations. To mention but a few are (1) *Indaw Gyi* Lake in Kachin State (2) *In Lay* Lake in the southern Shan State (3) *Indaw* Lake in Sagaing Region (4) *Yey Myat Kyi In* (5) *Twin Taung In* (6) *Kaung Hmu Taw In* (7) *Maingtone* Lake at Keng Tong (8) *Zaung Kalaw, Tet They In, Nanda, Aung Pin Lei* in Mandalay (9) *Taung Tha Man* at Amarapura (10) *Mon Shi Shar, Meikhtila* reservoirs, *In Ma* natural Lake in The-gone town, (11) *Naga Win tha* spring, *Lokama* fall, *Gyon Gyon Kya* fall at Mawlamyaing (12) heart-shaped natural lake *Re* in Chin State (13) *Kandaw Gyi, Inya, Hpu Gyi, Tha du kan, Gyo Hpyu,*

Nga Mo Yeik reservoirs and recently discovered a heart-shaped natural lake on Cock Comb island in Kawthoung District in Andaman Sea. These may be more aquatic bodies yet to discover in the country.

Therefore, though there are arid zones in the country and occasional visits of drought in some unfortunate years, there is hardly any place in the country that can be termed "desert" in its true sense.

Besides, as Myanmar civilization is hydric, as approved by the locations of its old capital cities on, or near rivers and sea coasts, Myanmar people are water borne and "boat", the oldest and simplest water craft Myanmar grows up with from the womb to tomb.

Religion and history are two other contributory factors of Myanmar's boat tradition. Theravada Buddhism gave Myanmar kings the concept of their descent from the Sakya race of land Gotama Buddha "Adisa Vamsa" race of the solar[sun] dynasty. The legend of *Saka Deva* [Thunder god] whose kingdom "Tavatimsa" has the divinely River "Mandakini" in which *Saka deva* holds the yearly festival of Regatta and boat races in that celestial river. As the true descendants of Sakya race, Myanmar kings believed they had the right to follow the precedents of their solar dynasty and so the regatta festival and boat races of *Saka deva* were yearly held without fail by successive Myanmar kings.

The month of *Tawthalin*, the 6th month of Myanmar lunar calendar corresponds approximately to September. *Tawthalin* is the month I which the monsoon recedes and water bodies become calm if the weather is normal and clement. Old Myanmar



Royal Regatta
- Khin Maung Nyunt (Dr.), <http://www.myanmar.net> 100803
reprod by UKT, TIL, 131205

saying "တော်သလင်း၊ ခြံတွင်း သင်္ဃာဓဇ်" [In Tawthalin, water surface in the river is like a mat spread out]. All water bodies are full to the brim but they are so calm as to favour all kinds of activities and celebrities on them.

The traditional festival of the month of *Tawthalin* is therefore the Royal Regatta festival and boat races. While Yin Ma [*Chukrasia Tabularis*] trees are in full bloom giving out their fragrance, royal orders were issued for the celebration of Royal Regatta Festival, followed by boat races in nearby aquatic bodies, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, shallow sea ports. This festival is called "Yey Khin Taw" [Royal Display of Regatta]. There are some confusions regarding Myanmar word "Khin" and "Khin (ခင်း)" means to display "Kin" (ကင်း) means to patrol. There is Myanmar water patrol in the moat around the royal capital city to guard day and night. A musical troupe on the patrol boat plays water patrol music and songs to signal and alert its duty rounds. In Myanmar it is "ရေကင်းတော်" [Royal Water Patrol] which is entirely different from "ရေခင်းတော်" [Royal Regatta of Tawthalin].

King *Alaung Sithu* [reign 1112-1167 A.D.] of Bagan dynasty of Myanmar history set the legend of Regatta Festival. He was a traveler king

who visited all water bodies within and without the country with his magic and sacred barge. Wherever his barge stopped and stationed he built pagodas to commemorate the event. Till today, these pagodas celebrate festivals with boat races. The *In Lay Phaung daw Upagoda* Festival yearly held in October was his origin.

Myanmar chronicles, history and literature have records and references to the Regatta festival and boat races. One particular literary work which graphically described Regatta was *Tayoke Than Yauck Maw-gun* [a long poem recording the arrival of Chinese Embassy]. *Maw-gun* is a kind of poetic composition that records an event or events of historic importance. The said *Maw-gun* was composed by one Poet Laureate "Nawade the second", whose literary works included 14 *Maw-guns* and 6 *Ratus*.

Myanmar and China had exchanged diplomatic missions with complimentary gifts and religious relics since the time of *Pyu* kings. Successive kings in both countries kept this customary practice as their time honoured tradition. During the reign of King *Bagyidaw* [1819-1837 A.D.] one Chinese embassy arrived, bringing credentials and royal gifts to be presented to Myanmar king. King *Bagyidaw* accorded a grand welcome

and red-carpet reception to the Chinese state guests. A magnificent Regatta was held in their honour. Grand titles were conferred upon them, in addition to the costly presents they received. When they returned home, a Myanmar embassy was sent to the Court of Beijing with royal letters and gifts. Myanmar embassy was accorded equal treatment. They saw the Great Gala of Fireworks held for five successive nights. After fulfilling their assignment Myanmar envoys returned to Inwa. King *Bagyidaw* awarded them with promotion, title and gifts. All these events were recorded in the 62 stanzas of the said *Maw-gun* which was completed and submitted to the king in February 1823 A.D. The holding of the Royal Regatta was described in poetic language in the stanzas 16 to 28. From them we glean and learn that the following barges are boats participated in the Regatta and races.

Ceremonial Barges and Boats in order of Yey Khin Taw Protocol

1. *Pyi Gyi Mun*
2. *Karaweik*
3. *Nawara*
4. *Thone Lu Pu Zaw*
5. *Lin Zin*
6. *Pa Thone*
7. *Pyi Kone*
8. *Thara Bu*
9. *Loka Beik Hman*
10. *Dwa Laung*
11. *Thuwa*
12. *Than Thu Mara*
13. *Manoke Thiha*
14. *Naga Deva*
15. *Thatkadan*
16. *Lwan Kyin*
17. *Tharaka*
18. *E Kin*
19. *Thara Beik Hman*
20. *Kama Kaw*
21. *Thinka Net*
22. *Hlaw Ka Taw Gyi*
23. *Ginga Zeya Hlaw Ka Taw*
24. *Kaw-ka Nuda*
25. *Thu Yaung*
26. *Kein-nari*
27. *Kein-nara*
28. *Pyinsa Yupa*
29. *Thatta Yupa*

30. *Nawa Yupa*
31. *Dattha Yupa*
32. *Dwa Dattha Yupa*
33. *Thone Lu Tauk Pa*
34. *Tala Hein*
35. *Shwe Tone*
36. *Shwe Nan Sin*

War Boats

1. *Yan Naing Hlaw Ka Taw*
2. *Phone Taw Naing*
3. *Pyi Lone Ya*
4. *Thura Nga Gyi*
5. *Set Naya Shwe*
6. *Min Taya Set Kyi*
7. *Pegu Naing-gan*
8. *Sit Hlyin Aung*
9. *Thu Ye Tu Lut*
10. *Ye Hlyant Kyaw*
11. *Ye Mun Taung*
12. *Pyi Lone Naing*
13. *In Byaw*
14. *In Ma*
15. *Taungoo In Ma*
16. *Zinme In Ma*
17. *Pyay In Ma*
18. *Bye Ta Yaw*
19. *Tha Phyu Hlaw Ka Taw*
20. *Thu Ye Kyaw*
21. *Sit Hlyin In Ma*
22. *Kyaw Khaung*
23. *Kaung Myit Sit*
24. *Ye Sit*
25. *Marabin Hlaw Ka Taw*
26. *Pyi Long Yu*
27. *Thu Ye Pala Hwet*
28. *Zala Kha Pin*
29. *Aza Lone*
30. *Phone Taw Naing-yan*

Racing Boats

1. *Let Thin*
2. *Let Ywe*
3. *Pyi Lone Ant*
4. *Ywe Kyi*
5. *Pyi Lone Kyaw*
6. *Pwe Taing Kyaw*
7. *Pwe Lone Tin*
8. *Twe Taing Aung*
9. *Pwe Taing Aung*
10. *Myit Taing Naing*
11. *Twe Taing Win*
12. *Shwe Tanga*
13. *In Pyaw*
14. *Tha Lwin Pyu*
15. *Kyaw*
16. *Htwet Taing Ya*
17. *Pyaing Taing Ya*
18. *Lu Lin Kyaw*
19. *Kat Tu*
20. *Ku Root*
21. *Thanpan*
22. *Lone Pyi*
23. *Shwe Laung*
24. *Pyi Lone Ya*

(To be continued)

Voter education campaign for women in Meiktila



Myanmar Education and Observation New Age distribute pamphlets on voter education to locals.

PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

MEIKTILA — Staff of Myanmar Education and Observation New Age (MEON) are carrying out voter education programmes in Meiktila, Wundwin and Thazi townships ahead of the general elections on 8 November.

Project Manager Daw Su Nanda Hlaing of MEON said that the project is focusing on female voters and that it will launch an official campaign on 19 September.

MEON will host a four-day voter education programme in

Meiktila and two others lasting three days each in Thazi and Wundwin townships.

Pamphlets on issues relating to voting and the election will be distributed as part of the programme.—*Chan Thar (Meiktila)*

Women's tailoring course completed in Zabuthiri

NAY PYI TAW—An advanced tailoring course run by Zabuthiri Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association came to an end on 15 September.

The vocational course began on 27 July and aimed to create job opportunities for women

and boost incomes.

During a ceremony held at Township MCWA hall, Patron of Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Kyin Khaing gave prizes to outstanding trainees.—*Thant Maung (IPRD)*



MCWA officials view works of trainees from tailoring course.

PHOTO: THANT MAUNG (IPRD)

Drivers renew licences at one-stop service centre

MANDALAY— A one-stop service centre housing 13 township-level departments has begun operating in Chanayethazan Township.

The Directorate of Road Transport and Myanmar Insurance, both of which operate out of the one-stop service centre, have begun renewing drivers' licences without reporting any major problems.

To renew a licence, drivers must submit an original driver's licences plus a copy, a copy of their citizenship scrutiny card and a passport-sized photo to each department. Drivers must also pay a K1,200 registration fee for an A-class licence, K2,700 for B-class and K3,000 for C-class. These amounts include insurance fees.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Volunteers clear debris on road after landslide

PALAW—Heavy rains caused landslides in Minhtein and Magyigon villages in Palaw Township and blocked a road on 16 September.

Rubber trees fell from a hill onto the Myeik-Dawei Road in Khamaungdaw village, Palaw Township.

Township administrator U Thura Tun Lin and volunteers

cleared the debris from the road, allowing traffic to pass through by the morning of 17 September.

Later that day, a vehicle travelling from Kye village to Palaw fell into a mudslide near Kade Bridge due to heavy rains. Volunteers removed the vehicle and rescued the driver.—*Palaw IPRD*



A heavy machine remove fallen rubber plants from the road.

PHOTO: PALAW IPRD

Ozone layer awareness programme for students in Taunggyi



Shan State Minister for Finance U Khun Thein Maung and party observe documentary photos on conservation of ozone layer. PHOTO: THAN MAUNG (TAUNGGYI)

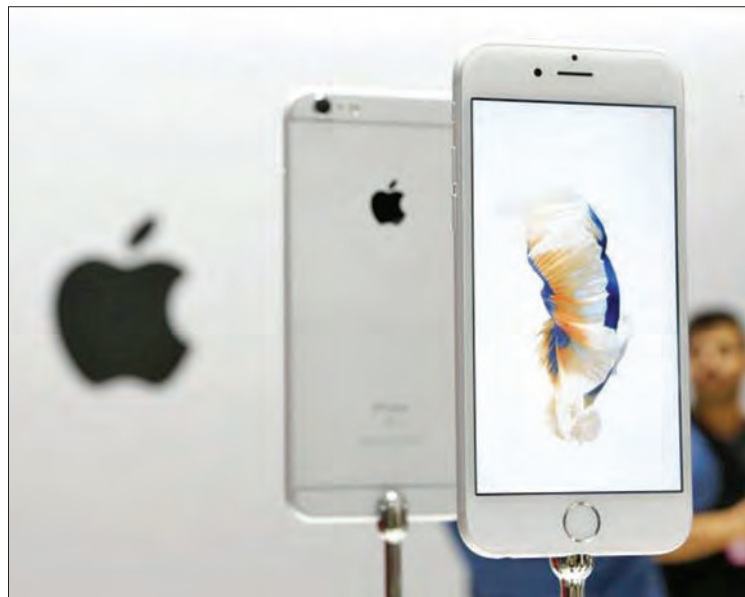
TAUNGGYI — Shan State Forest Department marked the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2015 on 16 September. Ozone layer depletion may cause global warming and

climate change, severely deteriorating bio-diversity and environment, Shan State Minister for Finance U Khun Thein Maung said in his address.

The ceremony was also at-

tended by the Shan State level authorities, departmental officials, teachers and students and an exhibition about conserving the environment was displayed.—*Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)*

Apple to launch online payment in China



The new Apple iPhone 6S and 6S Plus. PHOTO: REUTERS

SHANGHAI — Apple will launch an online payment service in China, media said, as the tech giant seeks to expand in its largest market outside of the US despite fierce competition from local rivals.

An Apple Company offering online payment has launched in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone (FTZ), an area set up as a testbed for financial reforms, China News Service reported late Thursday. Apple didn't give a date for the launch, but the company told AFP that CEO Tim

Cook hopes to set-up Apple Pay in China "as quickly as possible".

Cook previously said that he expects China one day to surpass the United States to become Apple's largest market.

But China's e-commerce giant Alibaba dominates the country's online payment sector, with the Paypal-like Alipay taking around 80 percent of the market.

Internet firm Tencent is also catching up with a similar service provided via its popular messaging application WeChat.—Reuters

Worldpay looks to raise 1.4 bn in London listing

LONDON — British payments processing firm Worldpay Group Ltd plans to raise about 890 million pounds (\$1.4 billion) after deciding to list its shares rather than being taken over by French rival Ingenico.

The company, owned by investment groups Advent International and Bain Capital, said it expected a free float of at least 25 percent when it joins the London Stock Exchange next month.

A question mark had been hanging over the listing after the company attracted interest from a number of potential buyers in recent weeks.

These including French payments company Ingenico, which offered as much as 6.6 billion

pounds including debt, a person familiar with the matter previously said.

Worldpay's private equity backers could have opted for a sale had the US Federal Reserve decided to significantly increase interest rates on Thursday, sources said.

Shares in Ingenico jumped eight percent after it emerged that it would not be buying Worldpay.

Worldpay, which provides platforms that allow merchants to accept payments by cards and other methods, said the IPO would give it access to more capital raising options and help it reduce debt.

As well as Ingenico, rivals offering similar services include

First Data, owned by private equity firm KKR.

The listing also paves the way for Worldpay's existing shareholders, senior management and employees to cut their investment in the firm.

The company's private equity owners bought it from Royal Bank of Scotland in 2010 for about 2 billion pounds.

It plans to pay 20-30 percent of its profits after tax in dividends to shareholders, starting with an interim dividend for 2016. Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley are leading the offer, with Barclays, Credit Suisse and UBS acting as joint bookrunners, the firm said.—Reuters

Volvo plans to build garbage-collecting robot

STOCKHOLM — Global manufacturer Volvo Group on Wednesday said it is looking into developing a robot that would collect refuse and spare truck drivers heavy lifting.

The truck's operating system would instruct a robot developed by Volvo together with Swedish and American researchers to pick up bins and empty them into the garbage truck, the company said in a press release.

"Within Volvo Group we foresee a future with more automation," said Per-Lage Gotvall, project leader for the Volvo Group. "This project provides a way to stretch the imagination and test new concepts to shape transport solutions for tomorrow."

Three universities - Chalmers University of Technology and Malardalen University in Sweden, as well as Penn State

University in the United States - have joined the company to design the robot, as well as the waste-recycling company Renova. Students at Chalmers will develop the operating system that will control the robot, while the research team in the United States will develop the graphics, communication system and the driver's control panel, the company said. The robot is set to be tested in June 2016.—Xinhua

Fed rate decision lifts Asia markets, emerging currencies

HONG KONG — The US central bank's decision to hold off hiking interest rates sent emerging market currencies and most Asian markets advancing Friday, as concerns eased over an outflow of cash as the global economy suffers a painful slowdown.

After one of the most eagerly awaited meetings in years, the US central bank's head Janet Yellen said the ongoing crisis in China and recent turmoil on world markets had played a role in keeping borrowing costs at zero.

The Fed's decision followed widespread warnings about the dire impact a rate increase could have, with the World Bank predicting this week it would cause a "perfect storm" in financial markets.

It also came despite a string of data in recent months showing the US economy, the world's biggest is well on track to recovery.

Yellen told a news conference: "A lot of our focus has been on risks around China, but not just China, emerging markets more generally and how they may spill over to the United States."

"We've seen significant outflows of capital from those countries, pressures on their exchange rates and concerns about their performance going forward,"

Yellen said of the emerging market economies.

"The question is whether or not there might be a risk of a more abrupt slowdown than most analysts expect."

The news pushed the dollar lower. It was buying 119.40 yen in Tokyo trade, compared with 120.90 yen in Asia Thursday. The euro was at \$1.1433 against \$1.1302 a day earlier.

Struggling emerging market currencies, which have been rising this week on hopes the bank would hold fire, were also higher.

The South Korea won added 0.27 percent, the Malaysian ringgit gained 0.64 percent, India's rupee was one percent higher and the Singapore dollar was up 0.06 percent. The Thai baht and Taiwan dollar also laid on further gains.

"For emerging-market central bankers, the Fed has given them some much-needed breathing room," said Jonathan Lewis, a principal at New York-based Samson Capital Advisors LLC.

"Postponing a Fed tightening gives these central bankers room to be more accommodative, without their actions being offset by a tighter Fed," he added, according to Bloomberg News.

Economists had warned a rise now could severely hurt emerging economies as investors



Traders work underneath a television screen announcing that the US Federal Reserve will leave interest rates unchanged on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shortly after the opening of the markets in New York. PHOTO: REUTERS

would likely withdraw more cash to the United States for better and safer returns. This, in turn, would have forced other central banks to hike rates — at the same time as trying to foster growth — in a bid to support their currencies and prevent a flight of capital.

However, analysts pointed out that the uncertainty of when rates will rise could be as damaging to emerging markets as an actual lift off. There is now increasing talk the Fed could wait until 2016 before moving.

Most Asian stock markets advanced with Shanghai ending

0.38 percent higher at the end of another roller-coaster week, while Seoul put on almost one percent and Sydney ticked up 0.46 percent. Hong Kong ended 0.30 percent higher.

However, Tokyo finished almost two percent lower with investors spooked by Yellen's downbeat assessment of the global outlook while exporters were also hurt by the stronger yen.

The comments also weighed on US stocks, with the Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq all ending in negative territory.

Matt Maley, an equity

strategist at Miller Tabak & Co LLC in New York, said that with the decision now out of the way, traders "are going to start focusing more on the problems that caused the correction in August, which is weakness in China and other emerging markets and a rough time on the earnings front."

World markets have witnessed more than a month of wild volatility after China devalued its yuan currency, fuelling worries about the state of the world's number-two economy and main driver of global growth as well as its leaders' crisis control.

The concerns have been exacerbated by a series of weak indicators suggesting growth will come in this year lower than 2014, which was the worst performance in a quarter of a century.

Shanghai reflected the uncertainty surrounding the Chinese economy, with shares seeing wild swings over the week — it fell around six percent over Monday and Tuesday, jumped almost five percent Wednesday and slipped heavily again Thursday.

The index surged more than 150 percent in a year before hitting a June 12 high, since when it has plunged about 40 percent on fears about high prices and the state of the Chinese economy.—Reuters

Dying Dutchman's last wish: to build brain cancer app

AMSTERDAM — Dying of a brain tumour, Frederik van den Broek had one last wish on his "bucket list": serving as his own guinea pig to build a smartphone app for fellow cancer patients.

Now Dutch neurologists say the input from Van den Broek, who died late last month aged 41, has been invaluable in creating what is believed will be the world's most advanced mobile-based app for cancer patients.

MindApp for Android and iPhone mobiles will allow users with a few simple clicks to track and update appointments such as for radio and chemo therapy, to help remember who their doctors are and even to manage the myriad pills they must take.

It will also allow patients to input data — such as when they have had an epileptic seizure — and "talk" to doctors about their condition without having to come into hospital.

Van den Broek told AFP a few days before his death that his idea for a specialised "brain cancer app" was "born out of pure frustration".

"The hospital gave me a print-out of appointments, which medi-

cines to take, and when, as well as a diagnosis of how long I had to live," Van den Broek said in an emailed interview, his last.

"I lost the printout within an hour. These things happen when you've lost a large part of your brain and your short-term memory has gone to pieces," he said.

Van den Broek was intensively involved in the app's development, with himself as the guinea pig: deciding the features it should have and even the colours to be used to give patients maximum ease of use.

"Brain tumour patients often suffer from loss of cognitive abilities, for instance memory loss and changes in behaviour," said Jaap Reijneveld, a neurologist at Amsterdam's Free University Medical Centre (VUMC), who is helping with the app's development.

"This app will be of huge support to patients, particularly those suffering from glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer that's often highly malignant," Reijneveld of the VUMC's Brain Tumour Centre told AFP.

"Patients have a massively complicated treatment schedule, and the app, the most advanced to

date, will help them remember things, but more importantly give constant feedback to us as doctors on the patient's condition," he said. The app complements a growing worldwide trend in which new digital technology allows patients to manage their diseases from home, easing the burden on overstretched healthcare facilities.

Easy to set up, MindApp has four sections that can be accessed by a simple touch on a smartphone screen.

An appointment calendar is updated automatically once confirmed with the hospital; secondly, an alarm reminds the patient to take his or her medicines and is turned off once a pill has been taken.

Thirdly, the app features a daily logbook in which patients can make notes of their condition and record episodes such as epileptic seizures. The information is updated in the patient's file which doctors are able to access.

The fourth section provides feedback from doctors based on logbook input, for instance instructions to increase or lower the dosage of medications.

Vincent van Dijk, who collaborated with the terminally ill Van den Broek on MindApp's design until the day he died, said he hoped the first version would be available from so-called "app stores" within the next three months.

Van Dijk told AFP the project is financed through crowd funding and that some 70,000 euros



Terminally ill with a brain tumour, Dutch patient Frederik van den Broek displays a mock-up of his MindApp shortly before his death in Amsterdam. PHOTO: AFP

(\$80,000) was needed to finalise MindApp's development.

Donations so far have totalled some 60,000 euros, and IT giant Microsoft has also offered to help with development, Van Dijk said.

Sadly for Van den Broek, it is too late to benefit from the fruit of his labours. "It's a pity I won't be able to use the app. But it gives me the feeling that at least my illness wasn't for nothing," he told AFP.

"Some people go on a world cruise or make a 'bucket list' when they hear they're going to die," he said. "The MindApp is my bucket list."—AFP

Experimental Ebola drug takes step closer to market

MIAMI — The experimental Ebola drug ZMapp has been granted fast-track status by the US Food and Drug Administration, which could speed its arrival on the market, the drug-maker said Thursday.

Larry Zeitlin, president of LeafBio and Mapp Biopharmaceutical, described the decision by the FDA as an "important milestone." ZMapp was used to treat some of the healthcare workers infected with Ebola during the recent outbreak in West Africa, even though the drug had never undergone a full-scale clinical trial.

Not all those who were given the drug survived, but some who were cured of Ebola believe it worked for them. A clinical trial of ZMapp is taking place in West Africa. The drug has been in development for more than a decade, but it is derived from tobacco leaves and the company has said "very little" of the drug is available.

Prior to getting fast-track status, ZMapp had been granted "orphan drug" designation, which provides financial and other regulatory incentives meant to encourage development. "We are hopeful that this step will accelerate access to ZMapp once safety and efficacy are demonstrated to FDA's satisfaction in ongoing clinical trials," said Kevin Whaley, chief executive officer of LeafBio and Mapp Biopharmaceutical, based in San Diego, California.—AFP

"This app will be of huge support to patients, particularly those suffering from glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer that's often highly malignant."

— Jaap Reijneveld, neurologist

US scientists make tiny invisibility cloak

MIAMI — A tiny invisibility cloak has been invented by US scientists who are edging ever-closer to a real version of what has until now been a staple of science fiction, researchers said Thursday.

The cloak, described in the journal *Science*, is microscopic in size but could conceivably be scaled up in the future, according to physicists at the US Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the University of California, Berkeley.

It works by manipulating

light, changing how light waves bounce off an object so that it cannot be detected by the eye.

"This is the first time a 3D object of arbitrary shape has been cloaked from visible light," said lead author Xiang Zhang, director of Berkeley Lab's Materials Sciences Division.

"Our ultra-thin cloak now looks like a coat. It is easy to design and implement, and is potentially scalable for hiding macroscopic objects."

Using tiny gold fibers known as nanoantennas, researchers made a cloak that is 80 nanome-

ters in thickness and can wrap around a three-dimensional object about the size of a few biological cells.

"The surface of the skin cloak was meta-engineered to re-route reflected light waves so that the object was rendered invisible to optical detection when the cloak is activated," said the study.

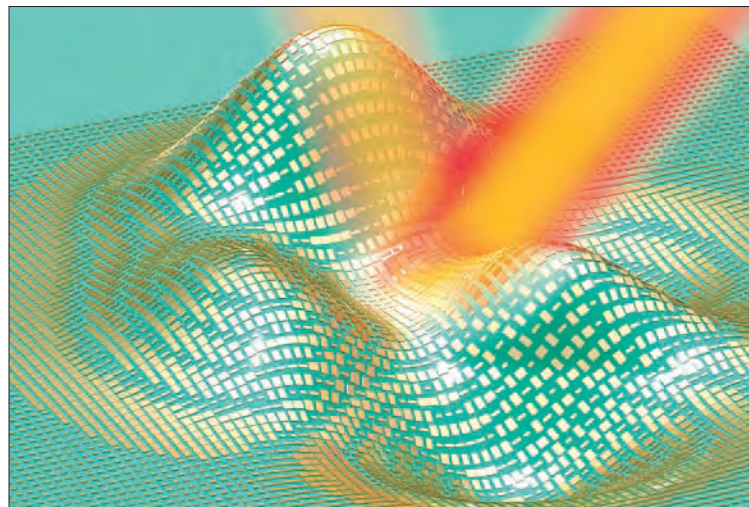
However, this little cloak still has some big limitations.

For instance, the patterns of the nanoantennas must be precisely engineered to match the surface bumps of the object beneath, meaning the object cannot move or it would lose its invisible cover.

Nor can the features be too large or sharp compared to the wavelength of light, because any shadows cast cannot be erased, Zeno Gaburro, a physicist at the University of Trento in Italy, was quoted as saying in an accompanying article about the technology in the journal *Science*.

"The face that is dark does not see the light, so there's no way you can correct for (the shadow) with this technique," Gaburro said.

But Zhang is confident the technology can eventually be scaled up. "I don't see any roadblocks," he said.—AFP



The tiny invisibility cloak has been invented by US scientists who are edging ever-closer to a real version of what has until now been a staple of science fiction, researchers said on September 17, 2015. PHOTO: AFP

McDonald's investor wants it to cut antibiotics in all meats

LOS ANGELES — A McDonald's Corp shareholder group is renewing its call for the fast-food chain to stop buying any meat from animals raised with antibiotics vital to fighting human infections.

The move from the Congregation of Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas, comes amid growing concern from public health experts that the overuse of such drugs is contributing to rising numbers of life-threatening human infections from antibiotic-resistant bacteria dubbed "superbugs."

The sisters withdrew a similar shareholder resolution shortly after McDonald's USA announced in March that within two years it would phase out chicken produced with antibiotics important to human health.

While McDonald's is taking a step forward, it is still far from the congregation's goal, Sister Susan Mika said. She represented the nuns at the McDonald's annual meeting on May 21, where she announced that the resolution had been dropped, although it still cited concern over McDonald's pork and beef supplies.

"This double standard makes no sense to us; what's good for the goose, ought to be good for the gander, or in this case, the whole farmyard," Mika said on Thursday.

So, the sisters are back and pressing the world's biggest restaurant chain to expand its antibiotic policy to include beef and pork, and to take it global.

McDonald's did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

An estimated 70 percent of antibiotics important to human health are sold for use in meat and dairy production.

Veterinary use of antibiotics is legal. However, as the number of human infections from antibiotic-resistant bacteria increases, consumer advocates and public health experts have become more critical of the practice of routinely feeding antibiotics to chickens, cattle and pigs.

"We can reach a lot of people's lives every day if changes are made" at McDonald's and other fast-food chains, said Mika, who added that other shareholder groups of nuns and priests have vowed to back the new resolution.—Reuters

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

September 19, 2015
Invitation No. of IFB: LDC/KEDCF/15-16 (528)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project
for FOC Backbone Network Construction
L/A No.: MYA-8

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from the Export-Import Bank of Korea from the resources of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Republic of Korea in the amount of 55,874,000 (Fifty Five Million and Eight Hundred Seventy Four Thousand) US Dollars toward the cost of Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project and intends to apply a portion of the funds of this loan to payments under the contract for Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project.
2. The Project Executing Agency now invites the sealed bids from the eligible Bidders for Detailed Design, Supply, Construction, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project for FOC Backbone Network Construction on a turn-key basis which mainly consists of Transmission & Access Equipment, FOC & Civil Works, FOC & Civil Works materials & services, and Power Facilities in 37 nodes/cities of four (4) routes under the Project titled "Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project" with the implementation period of eighteen (18) months as per mentioned scope of work in the subsequent clauses in this Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through Competitive Bidding (CB) procedures specified in the Guidelines for Procurement under the EDCF Loans, and is open to all the eligible Bidders that shall have the nationality of the Republic of Korea identified in Section III. Eligible Countries and meet the following minimum qualification criteria.
4. In the case that the Bidder forms a Joint Venture or Association or Consortium (JVA), the number and amount of projects successfully completed by all participating firms will be examined by the sum of the member and amount calculated by each member's participating share-holding ratio in the successfully completed past projects and be summed up for the evaluation. The scope of all the partners of JVA must be mentioned in the JVA Agreement.
5. The qualification criteria for the eligible Bidders are as follows:
 - (a) The Bidders should have "Registration Certificate of Information & Telecommunication Construction" in the Republic of Korea;
 - (b) The Bidder or Main Bidder (Representative) of JVA should have a recent minimum five (5) years of implementation performance record in FOC and OSP (Civil Work) Network construction field;
 - (c) The CB (Corporate Bond) credit rating of the Bidder and its JVA members in case of JVA issued by a reputable credit rating agency located in the Republic of Korea should be equivalent to or higher than B-, or CP (Commercial Paper) or CB(Credit Bureau: Enterprise Credit Evaluation) credit rating of the Bidder and its JVA members in case of JVA should be equivalent to or higher than B-every year from 2012 to 2014 continuously;
 - (d) The Bidder or Main Bidder (Representative) of JVA should have at least one (1) successfully completed overseas FOC and OSP (Civil Work) Network Implementation Project as a prime or subcontractor, or joint venture partner or consortium for the last 10 years from the issuing date of the IFB. The contract amount, however, should be five (5) million USD or higher;
 - (e) The Bidder's and its JVA members' in case of JVA accumulated total contract amount of successfully completed FOC and OSP (Civil Work) network implementation project for the last 10 years from the issuing date of IFB should not be less than fifty (50) million USD (domestic and overseas);
 - (f) A copy of the Bidder's (and its members') company registration document in the country of residence of the Bidder should be issued by Government Authority (including National Tax Service or Regional Tax Service) of the Republic of Korea.

Minimum qualification of a Bidder, if it is JVA, is that the nationality of all partners should be the Republic of Korea and comply with the requirements in accordance with ITB. 6, and the above criteria (a) & (f).
6. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain and may review the bidding documents announced by the Myanmar Posts & Telecommunications (MPT).
7. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 600,000 Kyats (Myanmar Currency) at 9:30 AM ~ 16:30 PM during 19th of September ~ 2nd of October, 2015 (except Saturday & Sunday). The method of payment will be in cash. The document will be delivered directly to Bidder who purchased bidding documents with the purchase receipt at the below address. No bidding documents will be sold by post, e-mail, and internet.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 09:30 AM ~ 10:30 AM on 2nd of November, 2015 MMT (Myanmar Time). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bond) of One (1) million US Dollars. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 11:30 AM on 2nd of November, 2015 MMT (Myanmar Time).
9. The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered as fraud, which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future EDCF-financed procurements.
10. The Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

Communication & Technology Office (1st floor),
Technology Department,
MPT, 125 Pansodan Street, Yangon, Myanmar
Telephone No.: +951 370 456
Facsimile No.: +951 370 458
e-mail: mgmgaye1516@gmail.com

Abstain from the use of narcotic drugs; Stay healthy and stay active.

Death toll in Northern California wildfires jumps to five



The charred remains of Harbin Hot Springs Resort are seen after the Valley Fire whipped through Middleton, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

SACRAMENTO — Two more bodies were found in areas scorched by one of the two devastating wildfires raging in Northern California for the past week, raising the death toll to five from both blazes, even as fire officials on Thursday reported further progress in subduing the flames.

The remains, though not yet positively identified, were believed to be of two men who had been reported missing in separate communities ravaged by the so-called Valley Fire just north of Napa County's wine-producing region, the Lake County Sheriff's Office said.

Earlier in the week, authorities reported discovering the remains of an elderly, disabled woman who was unable to flee her house in the early frantic hours of the Valley Fire on Saturday and perished as flames consumed her home.

Two more people who authorities said de-

fied evacuation orders, lost their lives in the Butte Fire, still burning more than a week after it erupted more than 100 miles (160 km) to the east in California Gold Rush country of the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Ranking as the most destructive wildfires in California this year, the two conflagrations together have blackened more than 145,000 acres (58,000 hectares) while laying waste to more than 800 homes and forcing the evacuation of some 20,000 people.

Fire officials say the two blazes are emblematic of an intense wildfire season in California that is already shaping up as one of the fiercest on record, with much of September and all of October, historically the worst two months of the year, still ahead.

Property losses from the Valley Fire — 585 homes and hundreds more buildings destroyed — stand as the highest among

the thousand of wildfires that have raged across the entire drought-stricken western United States this summer.

But a cooling trend, rain and diminished winds have helped firefighters gain additional ground in recent days against the fires in Northern California.

Containment of the Valley Fire, a measure of how much of its perimeter has been enclosed within buffer lines carved through vegetation by ground crews, stood at 35 percent, more than triple Monday's figure.

In the Sierra foothills to the east, the Butte Fire was 55 percent by Thursday evening, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (Cal Fire) reported.

That blaze may have been sparked when a power line belonging to the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) company hit a tree, the company said.—Reuters

World Trade Centre developer gets new chance for damages

NEW YORK — A federal appeals court has given the developer Larry Silverstein a new chance to recoup more money for rebuilding the World Trade Centre site in New York, on top of the \$4.1 billion of insurance proceeds he has received.

The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals said a lower court judge incorrectly calculated that Silverstein lost just \$2.805 billion on his 99-year lease for the site, signed six weeks before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, and deserved no additional damages be-

cause insurance more than offset it.

Thursday's decision by a three-judge panel clears the way for Silverstein and his World Trade Centre Properties LLC to seek more damages from United Continental Holdings Inc (UAL.N), American Airlines Group Inc (AAL.O), and dozens of financial, real estate and security companies.

Silverstein wants those defendants held responsible for their alleged negligence in failing to prevent the destruction of the Twin Tow-

ers by hijacked United and American planes.

In a 70-page decision for the appeals court, Circuit Judge Debra Ann Livingston said the loss on Silverstein's lease should reflect "pre- and post-attack market values, with the post-attack values measured as if the leased buildings were not reconstructed." She also directed US District Judge Alvin Hellerstein, who oversees much of the Sept. 11 litigation and determined the \$2.805 billion loss, to award Silverstein a higher rate of interest.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (063N)

Consignees of cargo carried on PANJA BHUM VOY NO (063N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.9.2015 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 WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OBSERVATOR VOY NO (CHO145)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OBSERVATOR VOY NO (CHO145) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN ANCHARTERING CO. LTD

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MARIA T.L VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARIA T.L VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T (3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (014W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (014W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S OOCL SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THANH THUY VOY NO (14/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THANH THUY VOY NO (14/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (7) 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 G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (013N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (013N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.9.2015 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (13:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over North Andaman Sea and adjoining Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is moderate in the North Bay and strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 19th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Northern Shan States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Naypyitaw, Mandalay and Magway Regions, (Eastern and Southern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Mon State and isolated heavy falls in Naypyitaw, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

Osaka gov, convenience stores to help find missing dementia patients

OSAKA — The Osaka prefectural government and four major operators of convenience stores on Friday signed an agreement to cooperate in helping to locate missing elderly people suffering from dementia.

Under the accord, the prefectural government will send information about missing elderly dementia sufferers to staff at stores operated by the four firms — Seven-Eleven Japan Co, Lawson Inc., FamilyMart Co and Circle

K Sunkus Co. The operators have some 3,500 outlets in the western Japan prefecture.

Store employees will pay special attention to elderly customers and will alert local authorities if they believe a missing elderly person with dementia has visited the store.

The agreement also calls for the operators to urge store employees to receive training on how to support senior citizens under a program offered by

the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Osaka Gov Ichiro Matsui said at the signing ceremony attended by senior officials of the four convenience store chains, "If this framework of co-operation spreads to other parts of Japan, it will be an effective response to dementia patients."

"I expect family members to tell the elderly to enter a convenience store if they get lost," he said.—Kyodo News

Motorcycle blast kills two in southern Thailand bomb attacks

BANGKOK — A bomb concealed in a motorcycle parked outside a temple in Thailand's southernmost province killed two people and wounded 14 on Thursday in attacks by suspected ethnic Malay separatists, police said.

The bomb was one of five that went off in the late evening in a district of Nar-

athiwat, one of three Muslim dominated provinces where shadowy insurgents are waging a low-level rebellion against the Thai state.

Soldiers were among the dead and injured in the attack, Rangae district police chief Pakdee Preechachon said by phone.

Three unexploded

devices were later discovered in the same area, he added.

As with most attacks in Thailand's deep south, there was no claim of responsibility.

More than 6,500 people have been killed in unrest since 2004 in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat bordering Malaysia.—Reuters

Cambodia attracts 3.3 bn USD investment in 1st half of 2015

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia attracted investment projects with a total capital of 3.3 billion US dollars in the first six months of this year, according to the figures of the Council for the Development of Cambodia on Friday.

Domestic investors topped the chart among all investors in Cambodia with a total venture of 2.92 billion dollars, followed by China with 254 million dollars, Vietnam with 28 million dollars and Japan with 25 million dollars. The figures said some 2.53 billion dollars were invested in infrastructure, 360 million dollars in industries, 352 million dollars in agriculture and 74 million dollars in tourism.

The Southeast Asian country has been encouraging investments in agriculture, agro-industry, transport, energy, export-oriented processing and manufacturing, tourism and oil and gas.

Xinhua

Rock in Rio festival returns to roots on 30th anniversary



A resident reacts in front of a sculpture for the Rock In Rio festival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. PHOTO: XINHUA

RIO DE JANEIRO — Thirty years after their late lead singer Freddie Mercury led an adoring Rio crowd in a legendary rendition of “Love of My Life,” Queen returns to the Rock in Rio festival this weekend.

That performance, with 250,000 people singing along in the rain, was the highlight of the inaugural festival, and this year’s gathering, starting Friday, hopes to recapture the magic.

Queen will take back the stage, with guest frontman Adam Lambert, on Friday.

Some 85,000 people are expected for each day of the concerts, running through Sunday at

Athletes’ Park, close to where much of the Olympics will be held next year.

A second festival session will be held next week, from September 25 to 27.

In 1985, Brazil was just coming out of a long military dictatorship when 1.3 million people attended what was then a 10-day rock festival.

In addition to Queen, this year’s version will feature some of the artists from that original event, including Rod Stewart.

Brazilian golden oldies Paralamas do Sucesso, Lulu Santos and Erasmo Carlos will be there, as

will Metallica, System of a Down, Slipknot, Rihanna, Katy Perry, Elton John and A-ha.

But Queen will be the main draw for many.

At the original concert, guitarist Brian May invited the whole crowd to sing along and got a spine-tingling response.

“You want to sing with us? This is especially for you,” he said. “This song is very special for people of South America.”

This time, Freddie Mercury, who died of AIDS in 1991, won’t be there to conduct the crowd or take over with his famously pure voice.—*AFP*

All guest artists perform at my 1989 tour for free: Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Taylor Swift brought in “The Band Perry” to play at her 1989 tour and said all of her surprise guests come to perform for free.

“The Band Perry” played “If I Die Young”, the 2010 smash single from the band’s self-titled album, at Swift’s concert in Indianapolis, reported Entertainment Weekly.

Before introducing the family band, the 25-year-old “Blank Space” hitmaker addressed fans’ questions about how she chooses special guests to join her on tour.

“I want to remind you

that anyone you see on the 1989 world tour coming out to surprise an audience... They’re doing it for free out of the goodness of their heart because they wanted to come and play for you and surprise you.

“Any guest artist that you see on the 1989 tour stage had the opportunity to surprise any crowd at any show and they chose you, Indy,” she said.

Other guests on her 1989 tour have included actress Julia Roberts, who said she hopped on stage after meeting Swift at the meet-and-greet before the show, Wiz Khalifa, Rachel Platten, Avril Lavigne, Lisa Kudrow, Selena Gomez and Justin Timberlake.—*PTI*

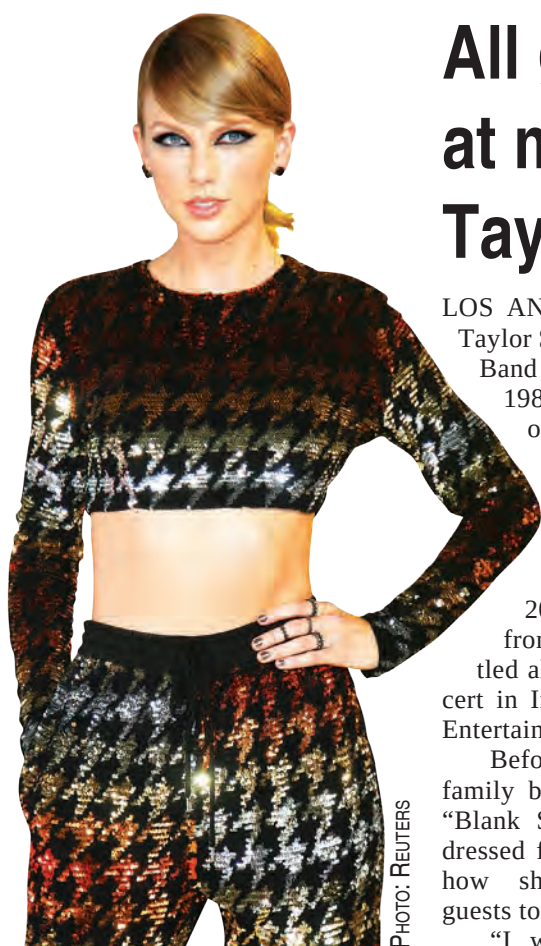


PHOTO: REUTERS

Gerard Butler’s ‘London Has Fallen’ to release in March, 2016

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Gerard Butler’s upcoming action film “London Has Fallen” has been pushed from its original release date January 22 to March 4 next year.

The movie, a sequel to 2013’s “Olympus Has Fallen”, centres on an attack on London during the funeral of the British prime minister, who has died under mysterious circumstances, reported Variety.

Butler, 45, will reprise his role as an ultra-resourceful US Secret Service agent. It is directed by Babak Najafi from a script by Creighton Rothenberger,

Katrin Benedikt and Chad St John. Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman also star in the movie. “Olympus Has Fallen” was released by FilmDistrict, the US distributor led by Peter Schlessel prior to him being named CEO of Focus Features.

The film apparently grossed a solid USD 98.9 million at the domestic box office.

The March 4 date already has four other titles slated for release that day— Sony’s “Grimsby”, Fox’s “Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children”, Disney’s “Zootopia” and Open Road’s “Triple Nine”.—*PTI*

Toronto film fest pulls ‘London Fields’ amid ownership spat



Billy Bob Thornton. PHOTO: REUTERS

TORONTO — The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) has pulled the Friday night premiere of “London Fields” after director Matthew Cullen filed a lawsuit claiming the noir film’s producers had added “incendiary imagery” without his approval.

The film, based on a Martin Amis novel of same name, stars Billy Bob Thornton and was due to be shown on Friday night and then Saturday and Sunday afternoons. All have been canceled.

“With uncertainty surrounding the creative vision of the version of the film scheduled to be screened on September 18th, we feel it is only appropriate that we remove this film” from the festival’s lineup, TIFF said in a statement.

Cullen filed the lawsuit late on Tuesday claiming that producer Chris Hanley and associates had “secretly prepared their own version of the film” to lace it with violent imagery, according to the New York Times.

The lawsuit said the added material included “incendiary

imagery evoking 9/11 jumpers edited against pornography,” the Times said. “In its present form, the narrative is intercut with images of a predatory drone, nuclear blasts, a person tumbling from a World Trade Center tower, and what appears to be a gathering in Mecca,” the Times said after an earlier screening for media and industry. The producers of the film said in a statement they were greatly disappointed that the festival decided to pull the film.

“We have always loved launching our films here, but feel that in this particular case there has been an ill-considered decision made against our rights,” the statement said.

The statement said Cullen did not control the final cut of the movie and that the production company would vigorously oppose the lawsuit.

The Toronto festival earlier had to cancel screenings of the Aretha Franklin documentary “Amazing Grace” after the singer filed an injunction against its producers.—*Reuters*

Taiwan's National Palace Museum to open southern branch at year end

CHIAYI — Taiwan's world renowned National Palace Museum, situated in Taipei, is scheduled to open a branch in the southwestern city Chiayi on a trial basis in December, according to its director Fung Ming-chu.

Fung told reporters traveling with her to the site on Thursday that trial operation of the museum's southern branch, the Asian Art and Culture Museum, will begin on Dec 28.

To attract domestic and international visitors to the remote area, which is a 90-minute journey by high-speed train or three hours by car from the capital, the museum will exhibit two of its most popular items there when it opens to the public.

They are a century-old jade-ite cabbage and a layered stone carved in the shape of a piece of

stewed pork, which together with a bronze cauldron of the Duke Mao comprise the museum's "Three Treasures."

The museum will also hold 10 other exhibitions to celebrate the special occasion, including two loan exhibitions from Japan that will run from December through the end of 2017 and 2018, respectively.

For that purpose, The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka will lend more than 300 ceramic objects — 175 Korean celadon objects and 161 Imari-style porcelain wares from Arita, the cradle of porcelain manufacturing in Japan.

The National Palace Museum will also exhibit its own Imari porcelain and Ju ware collections.

Surviving pieces of Ju ware are exceptionally rare, with fewer

than 70 remaining in the world today. The Palace Museum in Taipei has 21, the most of any collection, while the Palace Museum in Beijing has 20 and the Osaka museum has two of its own.

Following the 10 exhibitions, the Tokyo National Museum and Kyushu National Museum will lend 150 of their most prized artifacts, including 68 national treasures and important cultural properties, for an exhibition at the southern branch from October 2016 to January 2017.

The loan exhibitions from the two Japanese museums were made possible after the National Palace Museum lent more than 200 of its finest artifacts to them last year.

The exhibitions were the first in Japan since the museum settled in suburban Taipei 50 years ago.

The idea for a southern branch of the National Palace Museum arose during the presidency of Chen Shui-bian, of the now-opposition Democratic Progressive Party, who hoped to "balance the cultural, social and economic development" between the north and south.

The project was supposed to be completed before Chen's second four-year term ended in 2008, but it was delayed by contract disputes and project revisions.

Construction of the NT\$7.9 billion (US\$242 million) revised project did not begin until February 2013.

Despite the exposed reinforcing steel bars, scaffolding and heavy machinery, Fung stated confidently that the museum, part of a 70-hectare complex that

also includes a park with an artificial lake, will be open to public as scheduled.

While the National Palace Museum in Taipei features a large collection of the finest Chinese antiquities collected by various Chinese emperors over a millennium, its southern branch will focus on Asian arts and culture including those of Taiwan and China.

Taiwan and China have been governed separately since Nationalist forces led by Chiang Kai-shek were defeated by the Communists under Mao Zedong and fled to Taiwan in 1949, taking with them more than 650,000 art objects.

China views Taiwan as part of its territory and claims the treasures housed in the National Palace Museum.—Kyodo News

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A view of Sanhe Town in Feixi County in China's Anhui Province. Sanhe, an ancient town with a history of more than 2,500 years, has some 180 ancient buildings from the Ming or Qing dynasties. Ancient streets, lanes, bridges, temples, drama stages, civilian houses and tearooms here attract a large number of tourists from home and abroad. PHOTO: XINHUA

Low-budget theater caught in drama on changes to London skyline

LONDON — London's tallest building, a 95-storey gleaming glass tower named the Shard, has changed more than the skyline.

Completed in 2012, it spurred redevelopment at the ground level that ripped at south-east London's cultural fabric by forcing the eviction of Southwark Playhouse, one of the capital's most successful low-budget theaters.

These fringe alternatives to the mainstream West End typically lead hand-to-mouth existences characterized by battles to hold on to makeshift premises. But the drama at the foot of the Shard has a happy ending that could become a trend as London's city planners acknowledge cultural activities do more than coffee chains to build communities. Following an outcry from audiences and a campaign led by writer-actor Stephen Fry and actor Andy Serkis, Southwark Playhouse has been promised a new home in the revamped London Bridge quarter when that is completed around 2018.

"Investors and incoming businesses are now realising that mixed use, liveable commercial areas are more successful and desirable than the bland 20th-century versions that emp-

ty at night-time and weekends," Team London Bridge, set up to develop business in the area, said in an email.

Pending the reprieve, Southwark Playhouse also found itself a venue at the foot of a skyscraper under construction, this time 44 stories high, in a redevelopment to the south at Elephant and Castle. With two secure homes, Southwark Playhouse will be rare among London's off-West End theaters.

Between now and 2018, it is continuing its more than 20-year-old tradition in a warehouse between its two future venues. "We learn something from every home," said Artistic Director Chris Smyrniotis.

More than that, the company has won glowing reviews in running two shows simultaneously in separate performance spaces.

Its defining characteristics include an educational vocation dating back to its founding in 1993 in its first Southwark home: a former chapel in what was then a neglected area of the city.

Partly thanks to the theater, the neighborhood became gentrified, the rent soared and the theater moved to the London Bridge railway arch that it had to leave six years later. —Reuters



The Shard in London. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(19-9-2015 07:00 am~20 -9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Great Shwedagon- The Architectural Heritage
07:53 Am A Monk's Robe
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Thread Charm "A Kayin Threading Ceremony"
08:35 Am Shrinking Footprints
09:03 Am News
09:25 Am Lady Pilot
09:36 Am Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory Of Bago City
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Today Myanmar & ICT: Today Myanmar & E-commerce
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News
07:25 Pm The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting
07:42 Pm Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm The Stories Of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (Ep-1)
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(19-9-2015, Saturday)

6:00 am
• Classical Songs
6:15 am
• Teleplay
6:30 am
• Fashion Show (Music)
6:50 am
• Teleplay
7:00 am
• Cassette Drama
8:15 am
• Musical Programme
8:30 am
• Dramatic Arts
10:15 am
• Myanmar Video

Myanmar Chess Federation to hold qualifying tournament

Ko Moe

YANGON — Qualifying matches for the Myanmar International Open Chess Championship will take place at Aung San Gymnasium from 15 to 23 October, according to the Myanmar Chess Federation.

Chess players can register at the federation by 13 October for a fee of K2,000.

The federation will award a cash prize of K150,000 to winner of this qualifying competition, K100,000 to the runner-up, K70,000 for third place, K50,000 for fourth place and K30,000 for fifth place.

The top 12 contestants will be invited to take part in the 42nd National Chess Championship in 2016.

The top 20 contestants will be able to participate in the Myanmar International Open Chess Championship 2015 in Yangon in this November.

The Myanmar Chess Federation organises the Myanmar International Open Chess Championship, the Mandalay Open Chess Championship and the GM Zaw Win Lay Memory Chess Championship, which are all recognised by the World Chess Federation.—GNLM

Myanmar to compete in Asian Table Tennis Championships

Ko Moe

YANGON — The Myanmar Table Tennis Federation has selected four players to compete in the 22nd Asian Table Tennis Championships in Thailand from 26 October to 3 November.

Nineteen-year-old old players Soe Min Oo, Swan Pyae Tun, Kyaw Hsan and Zin

Min Hein will participate in the men's singles and doubles events.

Myanmar's table tennis team will leave Yangon on 24 October for Pattaya, Thailand.

More than 300 players from 37 countries will compete in the championships, which include men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles and women's doubles events.—GNLM

Chinlone academy to be built in Mandalay

MYANMAR'S first traditional chinlone and sepak takraw academy will be built in Mandalay with the aim of developing the sport and nurturing a new generation of players. The Myanmar Traditional Chinlone Federation will build the academy near Mandalay International Airport.

U Soe Naing, the chairman of the federation, said Myanmar does not succeed in sports because it fails to nurture new generations of athletes.

The academy, which will admit 50 trainees at a time, aims to train 100 players each year. Local instructors will train players in chinlone, while Thai instructors will be hired to teach sepak takraw at the academy.

A hotel and a restaurant will be attached to the academy to fund it, the chairman said.

"Myanmar will become the chinlone and sepak takraw champion within a short period, thanks to the planned academy, but players still need sporting grounds to practice. As of now, they still have to play in streets," said Maung Kaung Pyae Sone, a chinlone player from Tamway Township, Yangon.

Chinlone is a traditional Myanmar sport that is said to have originated over 1,500 years ago, when it was performed for My-



A female chinlone player shows off her skills. PHOTO: MIN HTET

anmar royalty. The sport was introduced by Myanmar to the SEA Games in 2013. There are no teams as such — the sport is judged on the athleticism and skills of indi-

vidual players. National and regional chinlone competitions will be held in Nay Pyi Taw in December.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanmar Alinn)

Frailties abound as Chelsea, Arsenal converge

THE old maxim that a week is a long time in football rings true for both teams ahead of Arsenal's trip to Chelsea in the Premier League on Saturday.

Arsenal won 2-0 against Stoke City last weekend to move into the top four for the first time this season, while Chelsea's 3-1 loss at Everton — their third defeat in four games — left the defending champions a huge 11 points below leaders Manchester City in 17th place.

But while Chelsea were beating Maccabi Tel Aviv 4-0 in the

Champions League on Wednesday, Arsenal were crashing to an embarrassing 2-1 defeat at Dinamo Zagreb, realigning — albeit subtly — their respective trajectories. "We come with a different feeling. We can wake up with a different state of mind," Jose Mourinho told Chelsea TV after his side's mid-week win at Stamford Bridge.

"Saturday is a big match; it's a great rival. This result can put us in a better situation."

While the significance of Chelsea's victory must be weighed against the relative weakness of their opponents, there were en-

couraging signs to be drawn from their performance.

Diego Costa scored, Cesc Fabregas rediscovered his powers of influence and the rejigged defence kept a first clean sheet since the 1-0 win over Crystal Palace on May 3 that clinched last season's title.

Short of a woeful early penalty from Eden Hazard, who is still to recapture the heights of last season, there was little to concern Mourinho, who saw Ruben Loftus-Cheek, 19, turn in an assured display in central midfield.

It was also an opportunity for

the Portuguese to dispatch warnings to some of his most conspicuously under-performing players.

Branislav Ivanovic, captain John Terry and Nemanja Matic all watched the match from the bench and will be expected to return to the fray with the bit between their teeth on Saturday — if, indeed, they return at all.

If Wednesday's Group G victory demonstrated the strength in depth that Chelsea possess, the opposite was true in Zagreb, where Arsene Wenger's decision to make six changes blew up in his face.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain

scored an own goal and Olivier Giroud was sent off on a chastening night for Arsenal, who had appeared to be finding their feet following their shock 2-0 loss at home to West Ham United on the season's opening weekend.

"We need to move on now," said Theo Walcott, who rose from the bench to score Arsenal's goal at the Maksimir Stadium. "We have got a big, important game at the weekend. "Everyone will be very disappointed, but the manager will make sure that it's put to bed in the changing room and that it will stay there."—Reuters

Players' union to file complaint over transfer system

PARIS — The world football players' union FIFPro plans on Friday to file a complaint with the European Commission over football's transfer system, the head of the union said.

FIFPro President Philippe Piat, who is also the head of the French football players' union UNFP, called for an overhaul of the transfer system, and plans in particular to highlight the differing powers of clubs and players to unilaterally terminate contracts. According to FIFPro,

footballers do not enjoy the same rights as clubs to unilaterally end contracts, meaning the professional athletes do not have similar freedoms to other kinds of employees in relation to their employers.

The union said on its website that it would hold a news conference in Brussels at 10:30 am (0830 GMT) to make "a major announcement set to impact the professional football industry worldwide", but did not give further details.—AFP

Ronaldo bears down on Raul as Madrid's all-time best

MADRID — Another piece of Real Madrid history awaits Cristiano Ronaldo as he can become the club's all-time leading scorer when they host Granada at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday.

Ronaldo is officially just two goals shy of Raul Gonzalez Blanco's 323-goal record despite having played over 400 games fewer than the Spanish legend.

However, the club claim he is just one goal behind Raul as they credited Ronaldo with a goal back in 2010 that was awarded to Pepe in the referee's report.

The World Player of the

Year has struck eight times in his last two games to categorically silence the critics for his slow start to the campaign as he failed to score in either of Madrid's opening two La Liga fixtures or in two games for Portugal.

Ronaldo hit five goals in the same game for the second time in five months in a 6-0 rout at Espanyol last weekend and Granada will be fearing the worst as they were the previous recipients of a five-goal haul in a 9-1 humiliation at the Bernabeu back in April.

"I am happy, it is a proud moment for me to be in this posi-

tion," Ronaldo said after netting his 33rd hat-trick for the club against Shakhtar Donetsk in mid-week.

"I have to thank the team, they helped me a huge amount.

"Before I was bad and now I am good because I have scored eight goals," he added in a thinly veiled dig at his critics.

"My teammates believe in me, they give me the service with which I scored goals."

Ronaldo will, though, be devoid of some of Madrid's key creators with Gareth Bale having joined James Rodriguez on the sidelines due to injury.—AFP