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NEW AUTO LAW DILEMMA

Grace period requested on introduction of left-hand drive cars

Ye Myint

YANGON — Vehicle users including businesspeople in the country's auto market have raised concerns about the mandatory use of left-hand drive cars as stated in Myanmar's new automobile law.

It was one of much-discussed issues concerning the new law enacted last week by attendees to a workshop on a draft automobile policy in Yangon Saturday.

According to the new law, the point is slated to be prescribed in the rules and regulations that must be released within 90 days after the enactment of the new vehicle legislation.

Dr Soe Tun, president of Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Dealers Association, said he wonders what will happen to the over 50,000 right-hand drive imported cars parked in car showrooms under the new regulation that will allow only left-hand drive cars on the country's roads.

In the draft automobile policy that will be submitted to the government soon, it is suggested that use of left-hand drive cars in Myanmar should be mandatory by the end of 2018, he said.

The new law drawn by the Road Transport Administration Department pointed out that use of right-hand drive cars is incompatible with the existing drive-on-the-right traffic system from the standpoint of ensuring road safety in Myanmar.

U Nyan Tun Oo, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity and Industry, suggested a gradual transition from right- to left-hand drive cars.



Following the enactment of the new automobile law on 7 September, there is growing concern that existing right-hand drive cars will be forced to be replaced with left-hand drive ones. PHOTO: YE MYINT

Instead of halting the use of right-hand drive cars across the whole country, taxis and buses should first be switched over to left-hand drive, with the remaining vehicles to be used outside of traffic-congested cities like Yangon and Mandalay, said the minister. "People will suffer losses if they are asked to abandon their right-hand drive cars during a short period of time" he said.

One of attendees to the work-

shop called for a win-win situation while drawing up regulations on left-hand drive car use.

"We have no alternative but to bargain rules and regulations as the law was promulgated", he said, adding that there should be an acceptable timeframe for phasing out use of right-hand drive cars.

"What are we to do with our right-hand drive cars if the regulation banned license renewals for

such cars?" he said.

U Tun Tun Oo, a 40-year-old taxi driver, asked in an interview with *The Global New Light of Myanmar* daily why right-hand drive vehicles cannot stay on the road.

"If we can drive on the left side of the road, the mandatory use of left-hand drive cars is unnecessary."

He disagreed with the policy of allowing left-hand drive cars only, pointing out that any laws

that have been enacted should be acceptable to everyone concerned who also should be ready to follow it.

Although Myanmar drives on the right side of the road, 99 percent of imported cars that are running on the roads are right-hand drive. This is because people prefer made-in-Japan used cars, which are right-hand drive, to Korean and Chinese autos with left-hand drive.—GNLM

Mean streets: Why more elderly people are homeless in Yangon

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON — The number of elderly homeless people in Myanmar's commercial capital is on the rise due to the spiralling cost of living and the erosion of family values, according to non-profit organisations in Yangon.

"With rising living costs,

low-income families are struggling to care for elderly family members. Sometimes things get so desperate that they become completely neglected. We're seeing more and more elderly people begging on the streets," said U Thein Swe, the secretary of Warmly Hands Organisation, which has provided community

based long-term care services to the elderly since 2012.

Daw Phyto Thiri is a volunteer at Save the Aged, which is a philanthropic organisation that was established at the beginning of 2010 to provide care services for the homeless elderly. "Poverty and a lack of offspring are the main reasons why elderly people

become homeless. They scrape by through menial work, such as working as street vendors or domestic helpers. Many turn to begging to survive and can be seen on the streets, pagodas, monasteries in every township," she said.

Daw Phyto Thiri added that some elderly beggars are even supporting their offspring.

U Thein Swe said he believes that the increasing number of abandoned elderly people is due to a "decline in moral standards."

"Some people want to send their old parents to old people's homes because they themselves are too poor to care of them," said a volunteer with Save The Aged.

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Dr. Sai Mauk Kham concludes China visit



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary together with the rectors, professors, faculty members and Myanmar language students at Guangxi University for Nationalities. Photo: MNA

NANNING (CHINA) — During his tour of China, Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, after attending China-ASEAN Business and

Investment Summit and 12th China-ASEAN Expo, visited model plantation firm and Guangxi University for Nationalities in Nan-

ning, China, on Saturday.

In the morning, the Vice President and party visited the model plantation firm and ob-

served flowers and crops plantation grown by Green House system. He planted Hua flower plant as remembrance and took a

documentary photo together with the hosts.

The vice president visited Guangxi University for Nationalities. He was briefed by the rector of the university on background of the university, strength of faculty members and students and producing of graduates. Officials of the university replied to the queries on academic matters, job opportunity and scholarship program raised by the vice president.

The vice president was conducted round the history museum of the university by officials and later had a documentary photo taken together with the rectors, professors, faculty members and Myanmar language students.

Later in the afternoon, the vice president left Nanning and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw. Union Minister U Win Myint, Deputy Minister U Tin U Lwin, Kachin State Planning and Economic Minister Dr Khin Maung Tun and Shan State Planning and Economic Minister U Aung Kyaw Nyunt also arrived back on the same flight.—MNA

Laukkai returns to normalcy

NAY PYI TAW — Before the Union Day on 12 February 2015, MNDAA insurgents led by Pong Kya Shin sneaked into Laukkai region and tried to capture Laukkai town. But, the Tatmadaw spoiled the insurgents' attempt and took control of the whole area.

From 9 February to this date, altogether 483 clashes broke out between the Tatmadaw and the insurgents in Laukkai area and the Tatmadaw seized 226 bodies of insurgents, assorted weapons and ammu-

nitions and other equipments. During the period 48 insurgents were captured alive. Officers and other ranks had to sacrifice their lives for the nation.

As Laukkai area is bordering with China and is located on a rough terrain, the Tatmadaw had to retake the area sacrificing the lives and limbs of its members. As a result, the area has returned to normalcy. For more safety, the Tatmadaw is taking measures with locals and departments concerned.—Myawady



The brave soldiers on the top of the hill they retake from insurgents in Laukkai area. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Mean streets: Why more elderly people are homeless in Yangon

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"But we give priority to those who have no children or relatives because they are the most vulnerable."

"I have a younger brother but he cannot care for me because he too is struggling to make ends meet for his own family. I have no other relatives," said 80-year-old Daw Than Tin, who lives in the care home established by Save the Aged.

"I find the strength to go on because of the organisations that provide care to people like me."

Daw Than Tin never mar-

ried and before her retirement she used to work at a school department head at a basic education primary school in Yangon. She earned extra money through tutoring. When her financial situation became dire, she contacted Save the Aged after hearing about it through a friend.

Daw Phyo Thiri said she approached a 75-year-old female beggar living under an overpass in downtown Yangon and invited her to stay at the home.

"But she refused, saying that she had to keep begging to support family members," she said.

Save the Aged currently provides care and accommodation to around 30 elderly people, three of whom are female beggars from Insein Township and North Okkalapa Township. One is 90 and suffers from tuberculosis.

Around 80 people are cared for at a home established by a local non-government organisation called Sisaryeik Home for the Aged, which was set up in April 2010. The NGO provides care to around 50 sick and abandoned people who are over the age of 70.

"We are at maximum capacity and cannot accept any newcomers. There are about 50 elderly people on the waiting list," said the NGO's spokesperson U Min Thein.

Save the Aged member Daw Phyo Thiri said that every effort is made to help someone in need who contacts the organisation and that there are plans to expand the capacity of the facility.

"Malnourishment, TB infections and mental illnesses are common among homeless elderly people," said U Tun Lin, Medical Social Officer of the Medical Social Work Department at Yangon General Hospital.

Dr Ye Yint Tun, one of volunteers from Save the Aged said; "The most common diseases found in senior citizens who are under our care are heart-related diseases. Kidney problems and paralysis are also common."

"Myanmar needs stronger

laws and assistance programmes to protect vulnerable elderly people," said a spokesperson of the Warm Hands Organisation.

The spokesperson said that civil societies fill a vital hole left by the inadequacies of existing policies. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in co-operation with Help Aged International in 2012 found that nine percent of Myanmar's population is above 60, of which 10 percent are considered economically vulnerable.

According to the initial data of 2014 nationwide census, Myanmar has 2.89 million above 65 years, of which more than 400,000 live in Yangon.—GNLM

President inspects reclamation of three lakes in Mandalay Region



President U Thein Sein meets locals in Wundwin Township, Mandalay Region. PHOTO: MNA

NAY PYI TAW — President U Thein Sein on Saturday afternoon went on an inspection tour of Nyaungyan and Minhla lakes in Thazi township, Mandalay Region, officials said.

After receiving briefings on the inflow of water into the lakes, the president gave instructions on

speedy implementation of lake reclamation.

The Nyaungyan lake has a storage capacity of 9,747 acre feet of water and can irrigate 9,738 acres of paddy plantation throughout the year, while the Minhla lake can store 21,357 acre feet of water and irrigate 19,217

acres of paddy plantation.

The president visited the Shweyinhmyaw pagoda and the lake on the pagoda's compound.

He proceeded to the Hti-hlaing lake in Wandwin township, where he conversed with locals on his government's regional development activities in areas

including water and power supplies, economy and education.

Located in a village two miles west of Wandwin township, the lake was dug in the times of King Anawrahta of Bagan Period. With the passage of time, silt accumulated in the lake and reduced its storage capacity.

The lake has now been reclaimed from the silt and can provide much-needed irrigation water to 1,394 acres of farmland.

On Saturday morning, President U Thein Sein also visited the town of Meiktila in Mandalay Region, where he observed locals taking physical exercise on the circular road of the Meiktila lake.

The president proceeded to the Shwesigon pagoda, where he attended a ceremony to hoist a htee atop the pagoda. During the religious rites, the congregation led by the president took nine precepts from a Sayadaw.

The president, union ministers and Mandalay's chief minister hoisted the jewels-ornamented htee atop the pagoda.

After planting a Bodhi tree on the southwest corner of the pagoda, the president inspected the progress of reclamation work at the Meiktila lake.

On 23 May, President U Thein Sein inspected the reclamation of the north Meiktila lake and urged officials and locals to help maintain the historic facility after reclamation work is over.

The reclamation of the lake started in May at a cost of 7.9 billion kyats with an army of heavy machinery. The historic lake can store 7,200 acre feet of water adequate enough to irrigate 7,350 acres of paddy plantation.—MNA

Senior General attends cash donation ceremony, releases fingerlings

NAY PYI TAW — Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended ceremony to donate cash for nursing home construction at Karuna Home for the Aged in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

Well-wishers families of defence services and companies donated K 2026 million for the

home to be built on 19.46 acres of the land. The construction will also include a replica of Shwe Dagon Pagoda, a dhammyon, an office, a parlor, a clinic, a recreation centre and other facilities.

After attending the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited housing

project for veterans and urged the officials to finish in time with set standard.

In the afternoon, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to release fingerlings into Yezin Dam in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. About 95,000 fingerlings were released into the dam.—Myawady

UEC chairman U Tin Aye inspects posting of voters' lists in Union Territory

NAY PYI TAW — Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye and party inspected posting of voters' list in Union Territory on Saturday.

He urged the responsible persons at sub-commission to help people browsing their name at the voters' lists. He instructed officials at Bayinnaung ward in Pobbathiri Township to appoint the staff of the families as polling station members and to allow early voting for those who actually take the security measures and the rests are to come to the polling station as the township is mostly dwelled by the electorates of servicemen and their families.

He also visited wards and villages and asked the public



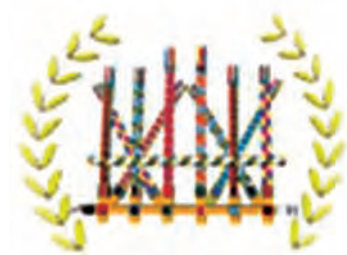
PHOTO: MNA

whether there is any difficulty or anything wrong, or their names are excluded from the list. He explained them saying one can cast his vote only after registered in the voters' list and if not they are to apply for inclusion of their names to be registered in the list by filling forms.—MNA

What they stand for: campaigns aired

Campaign speech was broadcast by the Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State on Saturday.

Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State



U Inn Lam Zaw Khao, member of the party's central committee, said that his party would strive for regional development, full human rights and democratic rights to all ethnic minority groups, and the emergence of union federalism.

He pledged freedom of worship, encouragement to ethnic lit-

erature and culture, introduction of "education for all" policy in cooperation with governmental bodies and civil society organizations.

He added that his party would assure farmers and workers of constitutional rights and all-out efforts for higher socioeconomic status.—GNLM

Media slots for three political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW — MRTV, Hluttaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from People Democracy Party, New National Democracy Party and Bamar People's Party on 20 September.—GNLM

ELECTION COUNTDOWN

Make your voice count. Cast your vote.

49 DAYS

Training for operating farm machinery, maintenance

THATON — Thaton Township's No. 88 Agriculture Mechanization Camp has opened Training Course (2/2015) from September 16 to 26, for operating farm machinery.

"Due to the climate change coupled with scarcity of farm workers, using machinery in agriculture would be more cost-and-time effective. So the farmers must be able to systematically operate the modern agriculture machines," the township

agriculture mechanization officer said.

Mon State's agricultural minister U Myo Nyunt and local authorities attended the opening ceremony and observed the machines which the farmers are going to use. The 30 trainees from the township's 10 village tracts will learn operating and maintenance of diesel engines, power tillers, planting machines, harvesting machines, and tractors at the two-week course.—*Thet Oo (Thaton)*



Farm machinery play vital role in development of the agriculture sector.

68 candidates of Tachilek District ready for upcoming election

TACHILEK — A total of 68 candidates in Tachilek District, bordering with neighboring Thailand, in eastern Shan State will contest for the three Hluttaws in the upcoming November 8 General Elections, according to local

election sub-commission sources. The three Hluttaws for which they are going to vie for are Amyotha (Upper), Pyithu (Lower) and Shan State Hluttaw.

The candidates are individuals as well as from eight par-

ties including Union Solidarity and Development Party, National League for Democracy Party and several Shan, Lahu and Akha national ethnic parties including the National Unity Party. The significant feature in the district is that the representatives of the seven ethnic groups — Intha, Akha, Lahu, Kayan, Kachin, Padaung and Lisu including Bamar — are going to take part in the race. Officials set to open 58 ballot booths where about 95000 eligible voters will cast their vote.

The district police station is taking security measures in the town as well as border areas, during the elections. The district election commission secretary and members have toured to the booths of the town and villages to inspect for correct voters' lists and convenient voting.—*(Myint Moe-Tachilek)*



Correct voters' lists and convenient voting is essential for electorates.

Flash flood destroys bridge in Kyauktaga

KYAUKTDAGA — Flash floods on September 17 swept away part of a bridge spanning Itone creek linking Innpatlei Village and Bontaw Village in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region. The strong flood water swept away the two concrete bases of the 187-ft long and 20-ft-wide bridge. The bridge was constructed in 2013 by the township development committee with locals' donation.

In 2014 also it was destroyed by floods and was rebuilt in June, this year. As it is damaged again, the rural populace of 4172 who are relying on the bridge for their transportation especially over 100 students are facing difficulties. They have to use boats now crossing the danger waters of the creek and are urgently in need of a new stronger bridge.—*(Khin Ko Kyauktaga)*



How to prevent natural disaster is one of the headaches for local authorities.

New transformer installed at Yezagyo Hospital

YEZAGYO — A new 200 KVA transformer is being installed at 100-bedded Yezagyo township hospital in Magway Region. The township development supportive committee said as the hospital was expanded from a 50 to a 100-bed one, the current old 50 KVA transformer had to be replaced with a more powerful facility spending the Health Ministry's 2015-2016 Budget. The new transformer was requested by the township's Amyotha Hluttaw rep-

resentative at the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House). The hospital, was expanded during the present government's term, with more specialists, doctors and nurses. In addition, a plan is being underway to build a 156x56 ft six-unit four-storied building for staff families for which the township has got K 600 million construction green light. The land for the building has already been chosen, said a township source.—*Pe Tun Zaw (Yezagyo)*



Sufficient electricity supply will surely help develop the living standard of citizens.

Bamboo craft course at Banmauk

BANMAUK — A one-month bamboo craft making course was completed on September 14 in Banmauk, Sagaing Region, attended by 20 enthusiasts. The course was sponsored by the township rural development department of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development. The course was aimed at providing job opportunities for locals and enabling them to generate more income as professionals.—*(Township IPRD)*

Rare photographs of WW II Death Railroad to be shown at Thanbyuzayat Railroad Museum

THANBYUZAYAT — Thanbyuzayat Railroad Museum scheduled to be completed in October, will chronicle rare photographs of the labourers of the Death Railroad built by the fascist troops, during World War II at the border of southern Myanmar and Thailand. A total of 120000 (mass amount) of forced-laborers and Allied prisoners of war perished during the construction due to malnutrition, intensive labor, deadly diseases and torture by the Japanese troops.

Rare photos, 3D designs and paintings will be shown at the museum for the public to learn more about the WW II Death Railroad.

The 175- mile railroad from Thailand to Thanbyuzayat was constructed in 1942. The laborers included 16800 prisoners of war from the Allied Forces and 80000 forced labours from Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, India and Myanmar.—Soe Win-SP



A photo of war prisoners laying railroad on Thanbyuzayat Death Railway. PHOTO: THANBYUZAYAT MUSEUM

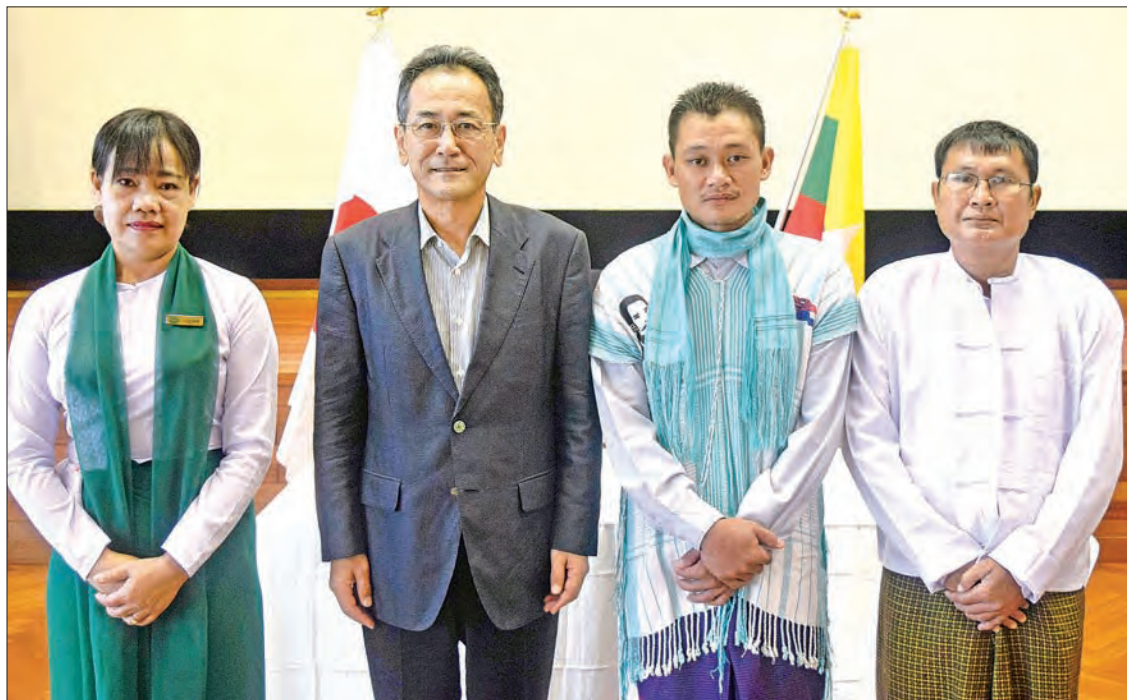
Meikhtila District has over 700000 voters

MEIKHTILA — Meikhtila District has 712,708 eligible voters who are over aged -18, for the coming November-8 General Elections. Among the four townships in the district, Meikhtila has 270,460, Mahlaing 124,614, Thazi 144,411 and Wundwin has 173,223, according to the district election commission.

There will be a total of 293 ballot booths in Meikhtila Township.

A total of 47 candidates from seven political parties and two individual candidates will vie for Amyotha, Pyithu and Region Hluttaws' constituencies of the district, said the township sub-election commission.—GNLM-018

Japan grants US\$153,095 for a school in Kya-in-seikkyi Tsp



Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, seen together with the headmistress and locals after the signing ceremony. PHOTO: JAPANESE EMBASSY

YANGON — Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, and Chairman of Kya Khet Chaung Village School Construction Committee, signed the grant contract of US\$153,095 for the project for construction of Kya Khet Chaung Village Basic Education

Branch High School in Kya-in-seikkyi Township, Kayin State under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme.

The Japanese Government, under its GGP scheme, will support construction of a two-storey R.C.C building with 8 classrooms

and full furniture. It is expected that the project will benefit 654 ethnic students of Kayin and Mon at the school.

The Government of Japan has assisted 729 various grass-roots projects in Myanmar under the GGP scheme since 1993.—GNLM

Rural fishery sector handed out loans from Emerald Green Fund at Myingyan

MYINGYAN — Under the rural development plans of Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development for narrowing gap between urban and rural areas, and for the socio-economic status of the rural people to improve, two villages of Myingyan District were allotted to expand their fishery works from the Emerald Green Rural Fund (Fisheries) on

September 18, at the district Fisheries department.

The two villages, Layaintan and Tansaung, were provided with K30 million each from the fund. With the loans they will be able to produce more which would generate more income and provide food sufficiency to the local community.

(U Zaw Myint Naing- Myingyan)



An official presents cash assistance fund to a local in Myingyan District. PHOTO: Zaw Myint Naing

Educative talks on preventive measures against natural disaster, sustainability of rural libraries

OTTARATHIRI — Shwenantha ward of Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on September 18, held educative talks on preventive measures

against natural disasters. The talks also covered sustainability of local rural libraries.

The township Information and Public Relations officer Daw

Swe Swe Moe spoke on preventive measures against natural disasters and for sustainability of rural libraries at which local community can have easy access

to books. She urged locals to visit the library.

On the occasion, wall posters on natural disasters and narcotic drug control were displayed at the

ward administrative office where the talks were held. A strong wind had damaged the ward library last April and rebuilding is in process.—Shwe Ye Yint

Malaysia PM critic says prevented from travelling to US to lodge 1MDB complaint

KUALA LUMPUR — A former senior member of Malaysia's ruling party said authorities prevented him from boarding a flight on Friday bound for New York, where he planned to lodge a complaint with police against indebted state investor 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Khairuddin Abu Hassan has already lodged complaints in Switzerland and Hong Kong regarding banking activity involving 1MDB, which has been linked to various individuals under investigation in Switzerland for suspected corruption.

Khairuddin said on his official Facebook page that immigration officials prevented him from leaving on orders from Malaysian police, who later asked him to report to Kuala Lumpur's police headquarters at 11 a.m. (0300 GMT) on Monday.

"Just now when I asked during a conversation with the investigating officer, he confirmed that I will be questioned by the police for handing in evidence related to the 1MDB scandal to the Swiss Attorney-General's chambers!!" Khairuddin wrote.

Khairuddin, immigration authorities and the police did not respond to telephone calls and emails seeking comment. 1MDB declined to comment.

In July, the Wall Street Journal reported that 1MDB transferred \$700 million dollars into bank accounts of Prime Minister Najib Razak. Najib, who chairs 1MDB's advisory board, denied taking money from 1MDB for personal gain.

The country's anti-graft agency declared the funds a donation, while the prime minister has faced anti-government protests and calls to step down.

In February, Najib's United Malays National Organisation ousted Khairuddin from the party after he was declared bankrupt. Khairuddin has since travelled to several countries to campaign against Najib and 1MDB, which has more than \$11 billion in debt.

Khairuddin is not the first person to say he had been prevented from leaving the country.

In July, opposition lawmakers Tony Pua and Rafizi Ramli who had been critical of 1MDB said they had been barred without reason from travelling.

On Tuesday, Switzerland's federal prosecutor said Malaysia had agreed to arrange for Swiss officials to interview witnesses in their investigation of alleged money laundering and corruption related to 1MDB.—Reuters

North Korea could seek concession on resort, missile for reunions

SEOUL — If North Korea goes ahead with reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean war it is going to expect rewards from the South in return, perhaps the reopening of a border tourist spot or even tacit acceptance of an expected missile test.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye wants to build confidence with the unpredictable North under her policy of "Trustpolitik".

But the South is loath to rush back into negotiations as it draws up a strategy for government-level contacts to follow an accord in August that defused the latest confrontation between the old rivals.

Reunions of families separated by the war have been held several times since 1985, providing the opportunity for humanitarian cooperation, and perhaps a first step to building ties, amid poignant scenes of elderly folk meeting long-lost loved ones.

The government of South Korea also wins a popularity boost from the reunions.

For the North, not concerned about opinion polls, the reunions, the last of which took place in February 2014, are more of an inconvenience, but one that can be leveraged. Cho Min, vice president of the South Korean government-run Korea Institute for National Unification, said the North saw the family meeting planned for next month as a concession to the South.

"The reunions are a hassle for the North. There is cost in looking for the people, and to feed them and dress them up," he said.

"There are big administrative costs in doing it, so they expect something in return."

North Korea is at least expected to seek the resumption of cross-border tours from the South to its Mount Kumgang resort, Cho said. The tours were once a \$40 million-a-year money spinner for the impoverished North. The North may also expect the South not to raise too much of a fuss if it goes ahead with a widely anticipated missile launch.—Reuters

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

Student killed, 32 injured in S Philippines bus bombing



Police inspect the wreckage of a bus after an explosion in Zamboanga City, the Philippines. PHOTO:XINHUA

ZAMBOANGA CITY — A female student was killed while 32 others were injured when an improvised bomb exploded Friday afternoon inside a bus in a downtown terminal in south Philippine city of Zamboanga, said local police officials.

Diomarie Albarico, commander of Police Station 11, did not identify the lone fatality but described the victim to be in school uniform.

Albarico said the bus with plate number JVN 978 had just arrived at the terminal along Tomas Claudio street near the public market when the bomb exploded at about 2:15 pm.

The policeman said the explosion occurred while most of the passengers have already disembarked from the bus.

He added some of those injured were market vendors and passersby.

The explosion triggered

panic among the civilians in the area and they ran away in fear.

City Police Office Spokesman Joel Tuttuh said two of the victims whom he assisted from the wreckage of the bus were described to be in serious conditions.

The bomb believed to be composed of ammonium nitrate fuel oil totally destroyed the bus.

The police said so far no parties claimed responsibility of the attack.—Xinhua

Gov to revise SDF's rules of engagement in line with new laws

TOKYO — The government has started reviewing the Self-Defence Forces' rules of engagement after security bills enacted early Saturday will expand Japanese troops' role abroad, government sources said.

With the new security laws allowing the SDF's defending of allies under attack and expanding the scope of their use of arms in UN peacekeeping operations, the rules will be revised by the end of the year to redefine when the troops can use arms.

Defence Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters Saturday the government "will need to get (the SDF) sufficiently ready in terms of equipment and training before we send them out for missions in newly allowed areas."

The SDF is expected to start conducting training necessary for missions permitted under the new laws once the new rules of engagement precisely define when and how the troops can use force in such situations as coming to the aid of the United States under armed attack.

The current rules only refer to use of force in self-defence.

The new legislation, pushed through by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and other parties, for the first time since World War II will enable Japanese troops to fight overseas.—Kyodo News

Democratic donors urge Biden to challenge Clinton in US 2016 race



Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the closing session of the US-China Climate Leaders Summit in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — A group of prominent Democratic Party fundraisers on Friday began circulating a letter to encourage a hesitant Vice President Joe Biden to enter the 2016 race for US president.

The letter, signed by nearly 50 people, calls the Obama-Biden administration a “spectacular success.” It cites job creation, a lower unemployment rate, new health insurance policies for nearly 9 million Americans and the end of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“To finish the job, America needs a leader who is respected both home and abroad, and who understands the real challenges facing American families. In our opinion, the next president must be Joe Biden. If he announces

he’s running, we’re all in. It’s a campaign we know he will win,” the letter says.

The signers are donors, Democratic activists and friends of Biden who have yet to throw their full support behind Hillary Clinton, the presumptive front-runner for the Democratic nomination to the November 2016 election. Their call is the most provocative yet for Biden to take her on and suggests a broad network backing the vice president is beginning to take shape.

The letter makes no mention of Clinton.

John Maa, a member of the Democratic National Committee’s national finance committee who is among the signers, said he was contacted this week by an-

other finance committee member to see if he would support Biden financially.

Maa replied he would be happy to raise funds for Biden but that donors were becoming impatient. “Time is precious,” Maa said.

“I know many people who will gladly contribute, and I will absolutely try to organize,” he said.

The letter’s significance goes beyond a simple declaration of support. It appears aimed at pressuring Biden to decide soon. “We are ready if he’s ready,” they write.

Jon Cooper, the finance chairman of Draft Biden, a political action committee formed to advocate for Biden’s entry into the race, said Biden has further support.

“For everyone who signed that letter, there are at least one or two more ready to commit to him the moment he says he’s running,” said Cooper, a Long Island, New York, businessman who raised funds for President Barack Obama’s reelection campaign in 2012.

The fundraisers who initiated the letter consulted Draft Biden in preparing their appeal. Cooper said the effort gained momentum after Biden’s emotional interview with talk show host Stephen Colbert last week. “That really galvanized folks around the country,” he said.—Reuters

Japan foreign minister to visit Russia from Sunday

MOSCOW — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida will visit Russia starting Sunday for talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

Kishida had initially planned a trip to Russia in April last year but postponed it due to tensions stemming from such issues as Japan’s sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine crisis.

Tokyo hopes that Kishida’s trip will lead to a visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin to Japan by the end of this year, as sought by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, according to Japanese sources.

The Russian ministry said the foreign ministerial talks will address the issue of a bilateral peace treaty. Japan and Russia have yet to sign a treaty formally ending World War II hostilities due to a dispute over four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Union at the end of the war.

Progress on the peace treaty issue will not be possible if Japan fails to recognize postwar historic realities, the ministry said, in an apparent reference to the territorial dispute.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry on Saturday confirmed

Kishida’s impending visit. In the talks with Lavrov, Kishida is expected to convey Tokyo’s protest against a visit Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev made to one of the disputed islands in August despite Japanese objections. He will also call for a resumption of deputy foreign ministerial talks to advance territorial negotiations.

“Mr Kishida will come to the meeting with a tough attitude,” a Japanese government source said.

Japan calls the four islands the Northern Territories, while Moscow calls them the Southern Kurils.

The Russian ministry said the upcoming foreign ministerial talks will serve as an opportunity to improve relations soured by the sanctions against Russia.

A meeting of the Japan-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Issues, co-chaired by Kishida and Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov, will be held during the Japanese minister’s trip, it said.

Kishida will be the first foreign minister to visit Russia since Abe returned as prime minister in December 2012. Kishida is scheduled to return to Japan on Wednesday.

Kyodo News

With eye to Rouhani Paris visit, French firms head to Iran

PARIS — A senior French economic and political delegation heads to Tehran on Sunday to lay the groundwork for the first business contracts between France and Iran since an accord to curb its nuclear programme in July.

France’s main business lobby group, the Medef, is sending a delegation comprising more than 100 firms to Iran, including companies such as oil major Total, planemaker Airbus and car manufacturer Peugeot.

“We’re trying to identify areas where we can move forward, but we’re not going to do business at any cost.”

The delegation includes most of France’s CAC 40 companies, but also small and medium enterprises with sectors as wide-ranging as agriculture, finance, luxury goods, pharmaceuticals, construction and transport represented.

Heading it up are Agriculture Minister Stephane Le Foll and Trade Minister Matthias Fekl, who will open a new trade office in the Iranian capital on Sept. 22.

France took one of the hardest lines of the six powers negoti-

ating the nuclear agreement with Iran.

But Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, who travelled in the summer to Tehran to smooth over ties, has said he does not believe that will hurt its companies once international sanctions against the Islamic Republic are lifted. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is due to visit Paris in November.

Officials say Paris may initially secure deals in areas that were not specifically hit by European Union and US sanctions, most notably in the agriculture and livestock sectors, in which France has relatively little activity in Iran.

“We’re going to work on subjects in particular in agriculture and agribusiness,” Le Foll told Reuters.

“We’ll see the potential and the possibilities for trade with Iran and that also means in the agriculture sector, most notably in meat and chicken.”

One official said the visit could lead to expressions of interest that could become agreements by November, although big contracts were impossible until the



Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani (R) welcomes French foreign minister Laurent Fabius in Tehran 29 July, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

lifting of sanctions. Sanctions lifting would begin in the first quarter of 2016 if Iran meets its obligations under the deal, designed to stop it acquiring nuclear weapons.

In the aftermath of the nucle-

ar deal, some French executives have said that their firms have fallen behind their main European, American and Asian rivals.

French imports from Iran fell to just 62 million euros in 2013 from 1.77 billion in 2011. Ex-

ports fell to 494 million euros in 2013 from 1.66 billion in 2011, according to French foreign ministry estimates.

French companies were once heavily involved in the Iranian market, but European Union and in particular US sanctions adopted in 2011 scared them away.

BNP Paribas was fined almost \$9 billion in 2014 for transactions violating US embargoes. Diplomats and executives say that until there are iron-clad guarantees from the United States that companies will not be penalised should sanctions be re-imposed on Iran, they are likely to remain prudent before committing themselves.

“The objective is to discover, learn and understand so that afterwards we can put projects together in the short to medium term,” French agricultural cooperative Axerea’s Secretary General Stephane Michel told Reuters.

“There are still constraints, especially currency problems. The country is not linked to the global financial system and American sanctions have not been lifted.”—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 20 September, 2015

The strength of a nation lies in its educational might

Kyaw Thura

It is globally accepted that education is an effective means of eradicating poverty, building peace and creating sustainable development. These aims cannot be achieved in the absence of quality education to which everyone has easy access. Simply put, education is central to social and economic development.

The governmental bodies should work closer

than ever before with a variety of local and foreign institutions to make the country's education system more effective through policy change. An important point to remember is that there is nothing much in the change of law and policy in itself. It is in fact teachers who are key drivers of education. After all, an education system is only as good as its teachers, no matter how excellent the education law is.

Six decades ago, our country boasted a dreamlike status as an education hub across Asia. Now the glory has long faded away. However, there is no point in crying over spilt milk. All we have to do is not to repeat the same mistakes but leave the educational affairs in the hands of educators, as the quality of education and the quality of teachers go hand in hand. And another important thing we need to do is to stand united to support teachers and encourage quality learning.

In a world of rapid change, teachers are a worthy

investment for the future of the country. The government in cooperation with formal and non-formal educational institutions should arm teachers of today with the skills and knowledge so that they can meet the diverse needs of students and respond to contemporary challenges.

Only when the education of teachers is strong will the education system be strong. Likewise, only when the education system is strong will the nation be strong.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

The country with a long boat tradition Part 2

Maha Saddhama Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

REGATTA and Boat Races were also naval exercise and recruiting of Myanmar kings. No doubt Myanmar traditional warfare mentioned four armed forces (1) Infantry (2) Elephantry (3) Cavalry (Horses) and (4) Chariotry. Theoretically that is in line with the warfare described in *Jataka* stories. In practice, there was no war chariotry in Myanmar military organization. Chariots or coaches were used only for display and ceremonial purposes. Archery and flotillas of war boats were employed in fighting battles. Archery was gradually replaced by gunnery and artillery in the late 14th or 15th century whereas fleet remained as an essential force throughout. Military campaigns were led by land and water [ရေကူးကူးသားနှင့်မြေတိုက်ပွဲသည်] and battles were fought on ground as well as on water. Kings of Inwa defended their capital city or attacked their enemies with army and navy. The location of *Ratanapura Inwa* at the confluence of five rivers [the Ayeyawady, the Samon, the Duhtawady, the Zawgyi and the Panlaung] provided a favourable location for Regatta and boat races in peace time and naval attack on enemies in war time. The same was true of *Mon* capital *Hanthawaddy Pegu* situated on the bank of *Pegu River*. King *Razadarit* [1385-1423 A.D.], Queen *Shin Saw Pu* [1453-1472 A.D.], King *Dhamma Zedi* [1472-1492 A.D.] and King *Bannya Dala* [1747-1757 A.D.] kept good fleets of water conveyances for both peaceful and military uses.

King *Bayint Naung* [1551-1581 A.D.] enlarged his armed forces by building many war boats of various sizes, equipped with modern weapons, supplied by the Portuguese. They were employed in his unifying campaigns, as well as in dispatching his envoys to foreign countries.

With his magnificent fleet, he went in state to the seaport of *Patheingyi* to welcome and receive the religious mission from Ceylon [Sri Lanka] bringing a replica of the Sacred Tooth Relic and other religious gifts for him. In 1553 A.D., he built a grand new palace "Kambawza Thadi" and in 1566 A.D., he founded a new capital city "Hamsavadi". On all such auspicious occasions royal regatta and boat races were held as public celebrations.

Command of the sea was a strategic necessity for the Rakhine Rajas if they were to hold their sway in the Bay of Bengal. So they built strong armadas of war galleons which were stationed along their seacoasts to ward off the invaders from the sea and constructed stone fortresses to defend their capitals against the besiegers. Kings *Minbin* [1531-1553 A.D.] and *Min Yazagyi* [1593-1612 A.D.] were founders of Rakhine Navy which their successors made use of. With a fleet of 200 sea going crafts as big as galleys, King *Myikhamau* [1612-1622 A.D.] broke up the power of the Portuguese in his dominions. King *Sandathudama* [1652-1684 A.D.] repulsed the invading Moguls. The period 1550-1666 A.D. was the peak of Rakhine ascendancy in power sustained by well-armed warships.

Myanmar counterpart of King *Min Khamaung* was King *Anaukphet Lun* [1605-1628 A.D.], the second king in the line of *Nyaung Yan* dynasty. It was he who in the year 1613 marched from *Inwa* to *Thanhlyin* by land and water [usnf;tm;? a&tm;ESifYcsD] to break up the Portuguese stronghold under the command of the notorious Feringhee freebooter-adventurer named Philip de Brito. The king employed 120,000 men and 400 were vessels of considerable strength and *Thanhlyin* was captured

and destroyed and its master de Brito was impaled to death.

Among the *Konbaung* kings, *Alaungpaya* [1752-1760 A.D.] *Sinbyu Shin* [1763-1776 A.D.], *Bodawpaya* [1782-1819 A.D.] and *Thayawaddy* [1837-1846 A.D.] were noted for their naval strength which they used for fighting as well as for display. The first three kings dispatched flotillas of war canoes loaded with men and arms to fight local and foreign wars. In September 1841, King *Thayawaddy* and his court came down to Yangon with 25,000 men via the *Ayeyawady* River, with the declared reason of worshipping *Shwe Dagon Pagoda*. But his ulterior motive was to alarm the British by display of his military strength. Myanmar kings held boat races at the celebrations of the victory of naval battles or military display. Winners in the boat races were recruited to serve in the navy.

In one Myanmar chronicle *Konbaung Set Maha Yazawun Taw Gyi* the last Royal Regatta held by the last Myanmar king was recorded as follows:-

"On the 11th Waxing moon of *Tawthalin*, nobles and high officials came out to the shore of the River *Ayeyawaddy* on the western direction of the Golden capital to make arrangements for the celebration of the annual Regatta and boat race festival.

Min Gyi Min Htin Maha Sithu, Deputy Minister and Lord of *Wet Ma Sut Town* took the charge of preparations for boat races. The first boat at the front had no match to compete with. So it was kept aside. Next, two pairs turned up - *Lete Ywe Gyi* and *Let Thit Hlaw Ka Taw Gyi* in one pair, and *Pyi Long Ant* and *Ywe Gyi* in another pair. They ran the race. Later the following boats came up in sequence in the racing line - 12 *Hlaw Ka Taw Gyi* boats, 22 *Hlaw Ka Taw* boats such as *Paleik Shwe Khe*, *Asey Khan Taung Lone*, *Pwe Taing Kyaw*, *Htwet Taing Ya*; 28 rowing boats such as *Shwe Tone*, *Min San*, *Taung Lone Hmaing*, *Shwe Laung Gyi*, *Yin Pone*, *Mingala*

Yan Hnin, *Kho Taung Shwe Khe*; 29 *Laung Taw* boats such as *Thone Lu Tauk Pa*, *Thone Lu Pu Zaw*, etc; 45 war boats belonging to Royal Gunnery, various *Hlaw Ka Taw* boats belonging to the nobles ministers and high officials.

On the 13th Waxing moon, 22 ships, such as *Setkya Yin Pyan* the sea voyager, *Yatana Yin Thar*, *Yatana Yin Pyan*, *Setkya Yan Hlwint* the riverine ship competed. Finally the two rowing boats *Kho Taung Shwe Khe* and *Mingala Yan Hnin* had second round of race, because objections were raised when *Mingala Yan Hnin* got defeated in the first race held previous day. Royal permit was obtained. So these two boats competed again. This time *Mingala Yan Hnin* plucked the flower of victory. So ended the Royal Regatta and Boat races."

For the revival of patriotic spirit and preservation of cultural heritage and national identity, the previous government the State Law and Order Restoration Council held seven successive Regatta Festivals and Boat Races in *Kandaw Gyi Lake* in Yangon. They were grand displays of Myanmar traditional *Yey Khin Taw* [Royal Regatta Festival of *Tawthalin*]. Boat races were held for nearly two weeks. Winners, individuals and teams were awarded handsomely. Diplomats, tourists, visitors at home and abroad and the public watched the two-week long event. Head of State and cabinet and departmental heads, both civil and military attended the events.

At international sports competitions, Myanmar won in most of water-related sports - swimming, boat race, sailing, rowing, yachting, etc. etc.

With the booming of Myanmar tourism right now State Regatta Festival of *Tawthalin* should be once more revived not merely for the promotion of hotel and tourism industry but also for recapturing Myanmar's glory and greatness of the past.

(Concluded)



Royal Regatta

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

Myanmar Government Employees

POEM:

Government employees are needed in every country to effectively run the Government machinery in line with laws the Parliaments enact through the representatives the people elect.

In Myanmar, employees at various level are serving the Government and the people in the Ministries, Departments, Boards and Corporations as well as in the State, Regional and Local Governments.

From the 'Permanent Secretary' of each Ministry to the lowest level of Government employee, all are involved in running the Government machinery, in administrative, professional, technical or manual capacity.

In performance of their duties they are to abide by the Constitution and laws.

The decision makers are to make decisions truly in line with the legal provisions holding high values of loyalty, honesty and integrity, professionalism, responsibility and accountability.

It'll be for the good of the Organization's future if employees are selected through transparent procedure, properly informed of their responsibilities and duties and are enjoying, salaries, wages and amenities, commensurate with their status to support their families, possibly eliminating the need for moonlighting or by some, sources of illegal income seeking,

Opening up to them advancement opportunities, lifelong learning to enable them in their careers to rise and be no less in knowledge and competency compared with those of their kind in any other country. Myanmar will then have Government employees of quality to move democratization and development with rapidity.

Lokethar

What we expect from university graduates

Myo Myint

ALL over the world, more and more people are pursuing higher education as a means to enhance their job prospects, to raise their social prestige, and to satisfy their thirst for advanced knowledge. Countries, both developed and developing, are also reforming their higher education sector and promoting access as a means of improving their human resources and research capabilities not only to fulfill the human resource requirements of their business, industry and service sectors, but also to be more competitive and innovative, improve the quality of their products and services, be less dependent on overseas expertise, attract foreign capital, and to enhance social and economic conditions. So also in Myanmar, the number of universities and student enrollment has increased tremendously. The increase in Myanmar university enrollment stems from positive factors such as greater access to higher education institutions, and greater demand for advanced knowledge and skills, as well as from negative factors, such as, due to lack of decent paying job and quality vocational education for high school graduates, students having to continue with higher education.

Topmost among the expectations from university students and parents is that, after obtaining a university degree, students will have acquired the latest knowledge, cutting edge technology and research methodology, in commensurate with the degree they have pursued. They also expect that the degree obtained will help graduates secure some kind of well-paying job related to their field of study. For those who wish to continue their education either in Myanmar or abroad, graduates also expect it to serve as a firm foundation to pursue advanced knowledge. On the other hand, employers expect university graduates to come to them equipped with employable skills and to be able to use their new employees with minimal training. In addition, in this age of ICT, employers expect university graduates to have a mastery of basic ICT skills such as, word processing, use of e-mail, the Internet, and certain softwares. On the part of the country, it expects university graduates to possess the required knowledge, and soft skills needed by its various sectors and to be able to leapfrog to economic and social development, as return for the huge investments made in higher education. Moreover, the general public that comes into contact with university graduates, in addition to expecting them to possess sound knowledge about

their specialized field, and a decent command of English which they have studied since their first year in school, also expect them to have a wide range of knowledge about their community, political, legal, administrative, social, economic, cultural, geographic, and historical knowledge of their country, basic knowledge of the region in which the country is located and the world, and familiarity with current international affairs and trends.

But to the chagrin of many persons, a lot of universities do not fulfil many of these utilitarian expectations. Many universities, especially those offering liberal arts, will be quick to defend themselves by stating that not all universities are institutions that teach professional subjects and that some exist to provide pure learning. This is very true, looking at the curriculum of the subjects offered by universities. Internationally too, there are different views on the purposes of universities. Mike Rustin quoted by Harriet Swain (2011) in her article *What are universities for?* (uploaded on the internet) offers two divergent views of universities. "On the one hand, you have the marketised view of universities as equipping people to earn their living, and on the other hand, a traditional view that universities are about pure learning." However, the majority of students from developing countries, who have very little choice but to attend "generalist" universities due to scarcity of, and difficulty to get into professional institutions, however much they may value the pure learning they have undertaken, have high hopes that their universities have provided them employable skills that will help get them decent jobs.

The key answer to the problem of graduate employability is to establish more professional institutes but in developing countries, they are too expensive to establish and run and may not be nimble enough able to provide the skills needed shifting demands. While solutions are being sought, what all universities can and ought to do in the meantime is to teach the soft skills such as communication, collaboration, self-management, and thinking together with the generalist subjects students specialize in. It must be stressed that these soft skills though not technical in nature, are necessary for success regardless of the kind of work that students will do after graduation.

As staff with university education, employers will expect them to be multifunctional. Graduates are expected to effectively be able to lead, negotiate, defend, explain, convince, sell, promote, argue, debate, present, report, offer solutions, reject, criticize, etc. To enable graduates to do so, while providing knowledge about specific fields, it is

vital that university teachers, at the same time, also develop the most important soft skill which is higher order critical thinking skills of their students. Examples of such skills are analyzing to assess the value of information, synthesizing to create new knowledge, logical reasoning, and thinking creatively to come up with new solutions which are all needed for effective management, innovation, problem-solving and decision-making at work, and in novel situations.

Developing self-management skills in students should also form one of the goals of university education as it develops maturity and self-reliance. The first aspect of self-management is dealing with one's emotions. One must be able to keep in check one's strong feelings, manage anger and frustration, and know how to face conflicts and stress in a competitive environment and if necessary how to seek help. The second is the ability to manage one's time to enable one to be well-organized, such as drawing a work schedule and keeping to it, being punctual, giving the appropriate amount of time to each matter, completing work on schedule, etc. The third is the ability to monitor and take care of one's personal matters such as finance, health and social. These include the ability to systematically manage one's income so as not fall into debt, ability to distinguish between harmful food and those beneficial for health, doing regular exercise to improve one's health, and making correct decisions about social matters such as, who to form close friendship and relationship with. Another important quality of maturity is the ability to assess one's abilities and potentials correctly, and to nurture ambition in commensurate with one's strengths and weaknesses in order to avoid unnecessary stress, frustration, and failure.

Whatever field a student may specialize in, among the priority skill that universities should develop in their students is communication skills because it is a skill that all students will need at all times while they are studying as well as after they graduate. Some persons, including students and heads of university language departments, may feel that all persons have an innate ability in communicating in the mother tongue and no special instruction, or learning is needed. Although this may be true in the case of certain persons, it is not totally true for many, when it comes to communicating effectively and efficiently in a professional environment judging from the quality of the mother tongue communication skills of many who claim to be university graduates. Language departments should be conscious that awareness building and providing regular and systematic practice using modern

methods and facilities are of great help in developing communication skills. Successful communication is greatly dependent on making oneself aware of the many factors that govern the use of appropriate language, such as, what you are talking about, i.e. the topic (work, family, education, health, etc.), who you are speaking with, i.e. the participants (family, friends, colleagues, superiors, subordinates, strangers, men, women, children, etc.), attitude of participants towards speaker (friendly, respectful, favourable, positive, sympathetic, approving, neutral, negative, critical, unfriendly, hostile, etc.) where you are speaking, i.e. the setting (office, classroom, conference, restaurant, tea shop, market, monastery, etc.), the medium and channel you are using, verbal (face-to-face, telephone, video, etc.) or written (letter, e-mail, fax, printed, etc.), and the purpose (to inform, to instruct, to preach, to persuade, to entertain, to advice, etc.). They influence how you say it i.e. the style (polite, formal, colloquial, specialized)), and the language used (mother tongue, dialect, foreign language). Body language (facial expression, posture, orientation, etc.) provides cue to the attitude of the speaker towards what is being verbally communicated as well as towards the listener, and is therefore an important aspect of communication which one needs to be sensitive to in order to avoid misunderstanding and unnecessarily revealing one's feelings. In addition, for those who have to communicate with foreigners, they need to also have some understanding of the culture of the person concerned to avoid being misunderstood or seeming to be impolite.

Another set of skills expected of educated persons is social skills. Zins et al (2004) as quoted by Kathlyn M Steedly et al (2008) in *Evidence for Education*, Vol III, Issue 2 August 8 (uploaded on the Internet), examining from a social perspective, see these skills as relating to recognizing and managing our emotions, developing caring and concern for others, establishing positive relations, making responsible decisions, and handling challenging situations constructively and ethically. Therefore, it may be concluded that good social skills involve being aware of one's role and status in relation to other persons in an interaction and behaving in an appropriate manner and using appropriate language, and at the same time having concern for the well-being and feelings of others. Other skills that may said to form part of good social skills of educated persons are being well-mannered, having international table manners, having dress sense and knowing how to wear for specific occasions, and being aware of how to behave and participate in group activities,

ceremonies and social events. A person well developed in social skills will be a happy, well-adjusted and adaptable individual possessing a wide circle of friends, both as a student and as a working adult, and being able to work as a responsible member of a team. For that reason, universities must provide training in social skills to ensure that their students graduate with these skills as it is a contributory factor in the formation of social networks, undertaking collaborative tasks and career success.

Another important quality that universities should imbue in their graduates is cultivation of interest in the welfare and progress of their community and country. In order to be a valued member of society, a person needs to contribute to its welfare, either through financial, or material contributions, or volunteering in and giving support and encouragement to social development and humanitarian activities. Consequently, universities must collaborate with local communities to create opportunities for students to be involved in community development work such as taking part in literacy campaigns or teaching underprivileged children.

The imparting of soft skills that all graduates can apply when they start working will require careful thought to incorporate them in the curriculum, individual syllabuses, methodology and teacher training, so that it will be both effective as well as interesting. Soft skills can be taught overtly and theoretically as well as imbedding them in project work, group activities and internships. At the same time more associations such as debate, dramatic arts and language associations that promote skill in language use, student interaction and creativity should be formed on the campus to assist in informal development of soft skills.

A pertinent question while discussing how to make university education more utilitarian is "How much has universities fulfilled the expectations of its client stakeholders, the students, parents, the employers the community and the government?"

Either due to lack of good public relations, or the need for better performance of their graduates, or other factors, there is certainly a need to make the fulfillment of the expectations of the stakeholders better known to the public. At the same time, universities, their administrators and teachers need to carry out self-evaluation quickly to find out their strengths and weaknesses to remedy any shortcomings regarding the fulfillment of the goals of the majority of students in attending university, as soon as possible, without waiting to be urged by higher authorities, so that they remain responsive and relevant to the needs of students and the country.

Castro, Obama speak about pope's visit, new US trade rules

HAVANA — President Raul Castro and US President Barack Obama spoke by telephone on Friday about Pope Francis' visit to both countries starting on Saturday and new regulations relaxing Washington's trade embargo on the island, Cuba's government said.

It said the two leaders also talked about diplomatic relations that were restored in July between the former Cold War enemies.

In a separate statement, the White House added that they "discussed steps that the United States and Cuba can take, together

and individually, to advance bilateral cooperation" and that the countries "will continue to have differences on important issues and will address those differences candidly."

The Cuban government said they spoke as well about the United Nations General Assembly where both leaders were scheduled to speak on Sept 28.

"President Raul Castro stressed the need to deepen the reach (of new regulations) and to eliminate definitively the blockade policy, for the benefit of both countries," the statement



A photograph of Cuba's President Raul Castro hangs next to samples of basic products like rice, sugar and oil that are on sale at a subsidised state store, or "bodega", where Cubans can buy with a ration book they receive annually from the government in Havana. PHOTO: REUTERS

said, referring to new US rules on Friday to further ease trade, travel and investment restrictions.

"They also spoke about the imminent visit of His Holiness Pope Francisco to Cuba and the United States, recognizing his contribution to the start a new stage in bilateral relations."

The pope played a crucial role in facilitating secret talks between Cuba and the United States, including letters he sent to both Castro and Obama in 2014, that led to this year's reestablishment of diplomatic relations.—Reuters

Israeli aircraft strike Gaza after rocket fire

GAZA — Israel carried out air strikes in the Gaza Strip on Saturday after Palestinian militants there fired rockets into southern Israel.

The overnight air strikes targeted two training camps belonging to the Islamist group Hamas, causing no injuries, officials and witnesses said.

Late on Friday, Gaza militants had fired at least two rockets into Israel. One struck a town, damaging a bus but causing no injuries. A second was shot down by a missile defence system.

A Palestinian group that supports the group Islamic State claimed responsibility for one of the rockets fired at Israel.

The cross-border violence came as tension remained high in Jerusalem and the West Bank, where Israeli security forces and Palestinians have clashed over the past week.—Reuters

Lessons from 2010 quake saved lives in Chile

SANTIAGO — Lessons learned from a devastating quake five years ago when Chile's authorities were accused of failing the population helped limit the toll from this week's powerful earthquake, experts say.

Thirteen people were killed in the 8.3-magnitude quake and subsequent tsunami that ravaged a stretch of Chile's northern coast on Wednesday night.

The shoreline in Coquimbo, the worst-hit coastal city, was a jumble of fishing boats, destroyed homes, trucks, vendors' stands and cars washed up by the tsunami waves.

But the human toll was thankfully far lower than in February 2010, when an 8.8-magnitude quake and tsunami left 500 people dead.

"Chile's investment in resilient infrastructure, early warning systems and urban planning have ensured that casualties have been low on this occasion, despite the intensity of the earthquake," Margareta Wahlstroem, head of the UN disaster reduction agency UNISDR, said in a statement on the quake response.

Five years ago, the authorities sent out a series

of mixed messages in the quake aftermath. People returned to their homes on the coast after a tsunami alert was lifted — only for a killer wave to strike in the following hours, claiming more than 100 lives.

Chilean courts are still trying to determine responsibility for the fiasco.

"The 2010 quake, which directly affected 70 percent of the population, triggered an awareness that would not otherwise have come about," said Sergio Barrientos of the Chilean national seismology centre.

This week's quake

was the most powerful recorded anywhere in the world this year, and the sixth strongest in the history of geologically volatile Chile.

But this time, within minutes of the quake, the navy launched a tsunami alert covering the entire country, triggering the evacuation of a million people, who have since gradually been returning home.

"The evacuation of one million people ensured that there was no repetition of the loss of life which happened five years ago," Wahlstroem said.

Chile lies on what is known as the "Ring of Fire" — an arc of fault lines that circles the Pacific Basin and is prone to frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The country has long put in place antiseismic engineering systems, applying a technique known as seismic isolation, or base isolation to protect buildings from the earth's judders.

"Strong quakes are so frequent in Chile that our engineers have designed infrastructure and buildings able to withstand them," said Barrientos.—AFP

Croatia says 'forcing' Hungary to take in migrants

BELI MANASTIR — Croatia said on Saturday it had "forced" Hungary to take in thousands of migrants and would continue sending them to its northern neighbour, amid deepening discord and disarray in Europe over the biggest westwards migration in decades.

More than 20,000 migrants, many of them Syrian refugees, have streamed into Croatia since Hungary on Tuesday barred their route to the European Union through its southern border with Serbia with a metal fence, tear gas and water cannon.

Warning it was losing control, Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic said his country would give them food, water and medical attention, and send them on their way.

There were increasingly ugly exchanges between the two countries, reflecting the anger and ill-feeling between the EU's 28 member states over what to do with the hundreds of thousands

of migrants reaching its shores, fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

EU leaders are to hold a summit on Wednesday, trying again to reach agreement on how to share out about 120,000 people. Even then, more are on their way, flowing by the several thousand every day over Balkan borders having reached Greece from Turkey by boat and dinghy.

Hungary said more than 5,000 had crossed from Croatia by bus and train on Friday. More were expected on Saturday and at least 20 buses on the Hungarian side of the border lined up in the village of Beremend waiting to pick them up.

"There was no agreement (with Hungary). We forced them, by sending people up there. And we'll keep doing it," Milanovic told reporters in the north-eastern town of Beli Manastir, from where many of the buses and trains have been leaving for the short

trip to Hungary. Hungarian soldiers are racing to build a fence like the one on the border with Serbia along a stretch of the Croatian frontier too, and have rolled out coils of razor wire. Milanovic was dismissive of the move. "Borders can only be closed by brute force," he

said, "and that means killing."

On Croatia's western flank, 1,200 migrants have crossed into Slovenia, like Hungary a member of Europe's Schengen zone of border-free travel. Crowds were building on Saturday at border crossings, kept

back by riot police who briefly fired pepper spray late on Friday. Police began letting through small groups.

"I feel frustrated, we're so tired," said Siha, 35, from the Syrian city of Aleppo, the country's commercial hub reduced in many parts

to rubble since the Syrian war began in 2011. With two small children, she was waiting on a bridge in no-man's land at the Harmica border crossing into Slovenia.

"We left Turkey 10 days ago. The trip was very dangerous for the kids. I decided to leave Syria because I want my kids to have a comfortable life, to study," Siha said.

Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar said he would discuss with neighbouring countries the possibility of creating a "corridor" through the country if the influx became too much.

Hungary said it would send a diplomatic protest note to Croatia.

In a telephone call with his Croatian counterpart, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto asked why Croatia was sending "thousands of unregistered immigrants" to their border "in complete violation of European law", the Foreign Ministry said.—Reuters



Turkish police and gendarmes block migrants on a highway near Edirne, Turkey, 19 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Saudi-led warplanes pound Yemen's interior ministry in Sanaa

SANAA — Aircraft from a Saudi-led coalition attacked Yemen's interior ministry in the capital, Sanaa, late on Friday and launched several other raids on sites in the heart of the city, residents and other sources there said.

The air raids by the coalition have intensified in recent weeks as a Gulf Arab ground force and fighters loyal to exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi prepare a campaign to recapture Sanaa, seized by Houthi fighters in September 2014.

Residents said about 10 air strikes were launched on the ministry building in the north of the capital, a police camp close to it and a military building.

The health ministry issued an urgent appeal saying it did not have the capacity to treat all those injured as a result of the strikes on several areas of Sanaa, the official Houthi controlled news agency said on Saturday.

Hospitals lack the basic medicines necessary for treating the wounded and lack fuel to operate ambulances and hospital equipment, a health ministry official was quoted as saying.

The raids also targeted the presidential complex and a party building of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh which had already been destroyed in 2011, residents said.

Several air raids also targeted the Fulaihi area of Old Sanaa early on Saturday morning,



Workers walk at a chocolate factory destroyed by a Saudi-led air strike in Yemen's capital Sanaa. PHOTO: REUTERS

destroying several houses. The Omani foreign affairs ministry said the residence of its ambassador in Sanaa was hit by a strike on Friday and denounced the act.

"Oman received with deep regret yesterday's news targeting the ambassador's home in Sanaa, which is a clear violation of international charters and norms that emphasise the inviolability of diplomatic premises," the statement said.

The statement urged the

Yemeni parties to put aside their differences with each other to ensure the return of stability and security in Yemen.

In Saada province, about 30 people were killed in various strikes in various strikes on Friday, a news agency controlled by the Houthis said.

The coalition began air strikes against the Houthis and their allies — forces loyal to Saleh — in late March after they pushed from their northern stronghold to-

wards the southern port of Aden.

It is pushing ahead with an offensive in Marib, about 120 km (75 miles) east of Sanaa, trying to drive the Houthis out of the province in preparation for a push against the capital.

Sources within the coalition have said they are waiting for "zero hour" to launch a full attack on Marib which will signal the end of the Houthi rebellion, pan Arab television Al Arabiya said.—Reuters

Egypt's Sisi swears in new government, keeps ministers in key posts

CAIRO — Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi kept his finance, investment and interior ministers in a new government sworn in on Saturday as he tries to rebuild an economy battered by Islamist militant violence.

Sisi named former head of the state oil company Tarek al-Mullah as petroleum minister, charged with easing the country's energy crisis and attracting more foreign investment in a strategic sector.

Mullah succeeds Sherif Ismail, seen as one of the best-performing ministers, who became prime minister.

The new government faces many challenges.

Islamic State, which seized

large parts of Iraq and Syria, has gained the backing of the most active militant group in Egypt, the recently renamed Sinai Province.

Militants have stepped up attacks on Egyptian soldiers and police since the army toppled Islamist President Mohamed Mursi in 2013 after mass protests against his rule. Hundreds have been killed in bombing and shooting attacks.

Egypt is struggling to get large volumes of foreign investment after years of political turmoil triggered by the 2011 uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak, even though Sisi's economic reforms have won praise.

The new cabinet includes 16

new ministers out of 33 in total but few important posts were handed to newcomers. The defence, foreign and justice ministers all kept their jobs as did most economy-related ministers such as planning and supplies.

"They could not find candidates and the main reason is that no one wants to be minister for three months; it is not enough time," said Said Sadek, professor of political sociology.

Egypt holds a long-awaited parliamentary election in October and the new chamber will have a say over the government and can even reject Sisi's choice for prime minister, according to the country's constitution.

The election concludes in November and a new government is likely to be named after the results are announced.

As army chief, Sisi orchestrated the overthrow of Mursi, Egypt's first freely-elected president.

Sisi promised to deliver democracy and went on to become elected president. Critics say he has stifled dissent under the toughest security crackdown in the country's history, allegations the government denies.

Security forces killed hundreds of Islamists and jailed thousands of others. Prominent secular activists have also been jailed.—Reuters

Syrian girl dies in new migrant boat sinking off Greece

ATHENS — A five-year-old Syrian girl was found dead on Saturday and several other refugees were believed to be missing when their boat sank in an attempted crossing from Turkey to Greece, the state ANA agency reported.

The Greek coastguard rescued another 13 people and was looking for other survivors, the agency said.

The accident occurred north of the island of Lesbos, one of the Greek islands that have seen a heavy influx of refugees from war-torn Syria this year. Many have perished trying to cross the Aegean Sea in search of a better future in Europe.

Earlier this month, harrowing pictures of three-year-old Syrian refugee Aylan Kurdi, whose body was found washed up on a Turkish beach after the boat carrying his family to the Greek island of Kos sank, caused an outpouring of emotion around the world, pressuring European leaders to step up their response to the refugee crisis. The body of another four-year-old Syrian girl washed up on a beach in western Turkey on Friday.

Migrants have in recent days turned to Turkey's land borders with Greece and Bulgaria to avoid the sea voyage that has cost over 2,600 people their lives in the Mediterranean this year.—AFP

Turkish jets hit Kurdish militant camps in Iraq, at least 55 killed

DIYARBAKIR — At least 55 militants were killed when Turkish warplanes hit Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) camps in northern Iraq overnight, security sources said on Saturday, as Ankara shows no sign of easing up strikes on insurgents ahead of a Nov. 1 election.

The jets took off from a base in Diyarbakir, in Turkey's southeast, and later returned without damage, the sources said.

Turkey's largely Kurdish southeast has been hit by almost daily waves of deadly fighting between PKK militants and security forces since the collapse of a ceasefire in July.

Security forces have responded by launching frequent bombing raids into mountainous northern Iraq where the PKK has camps. It is the worst violence NATO member Turkey has seen in two decades, coinciding with fighting across the border in Syria involving government troops and Islamic State militants.—Reuters

US says Assad must go, timing down to negotiation

LONDON — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Saturday Syria's President Bashar al-Assad has to go but the timing of his departure had to be decided through negotiation.

Speaking after talks with British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond he called on Russia

and Iran to use their influence to convince al-Assad to negotiate.

He said there is an urgency to renewing efforts to find a political settlement to end the four-year war and worsening refugee crisis in Syria.

"We need to get to the negotiation. That is what we're look-

ing for and we hope Russia and Iran, and any other countries with influence, will help to bring about that, because that's what is preventing this crisis from ending," said Kerry.

"We're prepared to negotiate. Is Assad prepared to negotiate, really negotiate? Is Russia

prepared to bring him to the table?"

He said of Assad's removal: "it doesn't have to be on day one or month one ... there is a process by which all the parties have to come together to reach an understanding of how this can best be achieved."—Reuters

Burkina Faso coup leaders offer olive branch as protests mount

OUAGADOUGOU — Leaders of a coup in Burkina Faso said on Friday they had freed the president and reopened borders, in an apparent olive branch as they faced a growing confrontation with crowds of protesters demanding they end their rebellion.

Soldiers loyal to coup leader General Gilbert Diendere still appeared to be in control of key sites in the capital such as the main square and the presidential palace.

But they had to shoot in the air to disperse hundreds of people who threw stones, burned tires and blocked streets in the capital, demanding the return of the interim government.

The junta also came under growing diplomatic pressure to step back as the presidents of Benin and Senegal flew in to mediate and the African Union suspended Burkina Faso's membership of the bloc and warned of sanctions.

Soldiers from Diendere's elite presidential guard (RSP) burst into a cabinet meeting and arrested interim President Michel Kafando and ministers on Wednesday, derailing a delicate political transition in the West African nation.

Kafando had stepped in as an interim leader after the last president, Blaise Compaore, was driven from power last year. The country was less than a month away from Oct 11 elections meant to restore democracy.

The power grab has triggered



A protester gestures in front of a burning roadblock in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, September 18, 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

a wave of condemnations from the United States, former colonial power France and the United Nations, which demanded the restoration of the election schedule.

Senegalese President Macky Sall, the current head of the West African ECOWAS bloc, and Benin's President Thomas Boni Yayi flew to Ouagadougou and met coup leaders and members of the transitional government.

No public statements were released and discussions with minis-

ters and civil society continued on Friday evening.

In an apparent conciliatory gesture, Diendere's junta, the National Democratic Council, released a statement on state television saying it accepted the principle of mediation and reaffirmed "its intention not to stay in power for a long time".

Just before the meeting, Diendere said Kafando had been released and was in his official residence, though the interim pres-

ident did not appear or release any statement himself.

France's ambassador to Burkina Faso, Gilles Thibault, said via Twitter that he had visited Kafando and the interim leader was doing well, without going into further details.

Coup leader Diendere was a former spy chief and the right hand man of the last president Compaore. He says the putsch was triggered by a transitional government proposal to dismantle

his presidential guard and a fear of instability after Compaore's supporters were barred from standing in the vote.

Anti-putsch protests that began in the capital persisted and spread into other cities on Friday.

A crowd of mostly women in Burkina Faso's second largest city Bobo-Dioulasso carrying brooms and spatulas to represent the family marched towards the army base there.

"We simply want ... the return of Kafando so he can complete the transition," said Tore Roland, a protester reached by telephone.

Security forces in the city for a second day appeared to defy the coup leaders and allow the protests to go ahead.

The northern town of Ouahigouya was also paralyzed by anti-coup demonstrations. France warned its citizens to stay indoors to avoid patrolling soldiers and protest marches.

After nightfall, the streets of the capital virtually emptied in compliance with a new curfew.

The last president, Compaore, was driven out of office in October last year, amid mass demonstrations against his attempts to extend his 27-year rule.

That uprising became a beacon for democratic aspirations in Africa at a time when veteran rulers from Rwanda to Congo Republic are seeking to scrap constitutional term limits.—Reuters

US police under fire over black boy's arrest

LOS ANGELES — Police in California are facing intense criticism after a video showing officers tackling a black teenager to the ground for allegedly jaywalking went viral, drawing public outrage.

The video, taken on Tuesday by a passerby in the town of Stockton, in northern California, shows a police officer scuffling with the 16-year-old boy and then using his baton to restrain him and strike him in the face.

The officer is heard saying "stop resisting" while the boy says "get off."

A woman nearby repeatedly screams "he's a kid."

Eight additional officers are then seen surrounding the boy and bringing him to the floor before handcuffing him.

The incident comes as police across the United States

have come under scrutiny and face accusations of using excessive force following a number of incidents involving black suspects.

Stockton police said the officer had tried to stop the teenager, who was on his way to school, from walking in a bus lane but he refused and used obscene language.

Joseph Silva, a spokesman for Stockton police, told AFP the officer used force after the boy tried to grab his baton.

"As law enforcement officers, we cannot and will not

allow anyone to take our weapons," he said.

The incident, however, has met with fury with hundreds of comments left on the Stockton Police Department's Facebook page.

"This is appalling abuse of authority and assault," wrote Phyllis Tabron. "This officer needs to be fired for what he did to this defenseless child for jaywalking which is a minor violation which is never enforced."

Bobby Bivens, head of the Stockton chapter of the National Association for the Ad-

vancement of Colored People (NAACP), denounced the police action.

"The behavior of the officer was totally out of line, there was no reason for him to attack this young man as he did," Bivens said.

Rebecca Farmer, of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), described the video as "horrible."

The boy was released to the custody of his mother and faces charges in juvenile court of resisting arrest and trespassing.

Bivens said the teenager's parents filed a formal complaint against the police on Friday and a full-blown internal affairs investigation was under way.

He said a preliminary probe had determined that the officer who scuffled with the teenager had acted properly.—AFP

"The behavior of the officer was totally out of line, there was no reason for him to attack this young man as he did."

Bobby Bivens,
head of the Stockton chapter of the NAACP

Mexico arrests 13 in connection with Chapo escape

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has arrested 13 more people in connection with the escape of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, including the former director of the high-security prison he escaped from and a government official who oversaw Mexico's prisons.

A total of 20 officials have now been arrested in connection with Guzman's escape from a maximum-security prison in central Mexico in July.

Valentin Cardenas, the former director of the Altiplano prison in central Mexico, and Celina Oseguera, former director of Mexico's federal prisons, were arrested along with 11 prison guards, a person familiar with the arrests said on Friday.

Mexico's attorney general's office said in a press release that 13 people were arrested in connection with Guzman's escape but it did not give details.

Both Oseguera and Cardenas were removed from their positions shortly after Guzman escaped. Four officials, including two members of Mexico's intelligence agency CISEN, were charged this month for their suspected roles in Guzman's jailbreak.—Reuters

Head of UN nuclear agency to visit Iran

VIENNA — The director general of the UN nuclear watchdog, which is investigating whether Iran carried out work aimed at developing an atom bomb, will travel to Iran this weekend, the agency said on Saturday.

Under a roadmap agreement reached alongside a 14 July deal between six world powers and

Iran, the International Atomic Energy Agency will provide an assessment on "possible military dimensions" of Iran's nuclear program by the end of the year.

The assessment is crucial to the implementation of the deal, under which restrictions would be placed on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for a lifting

of sanctions. "IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano will travel to Tehran today for meetings with high-level Iranian officials on Sunday, 20 September," the IAEA said in a statement. A spokeswoman for the agency declined to specify which officials he would meet. The IAEA said 10 days ago it had sent Iran questions

over "ambiguities" in its submissions relating to the assessment of its past nuclear activities.

"Technical-expert meetings, technical measures and discussions will be organized in Tehran prior to 15 October 2015 to remove the ambiguities identified by the IAEA," the agency said in a statement at the time.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (962N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (962N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (15:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Central Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and strong in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 20th September, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Frequent squalls with rough sea will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th September, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th September, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th September, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Utah flood toll rises to 20; dead Zion National Park hikers named



Residents walk across one of the many flooded streets after a flash flood in Hildale, Utah September 15, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

HILDALE — Seven hikers swept to their deaths in a rain-swollen canyon in Utah's Zion National Park were warned in advance that flash floods were forecast as probable but obtained a park permit for the outing anyway, park officials say.

The overall death toll from Monday's flash floods in southern Utah rose to 20 on Thursday with the recovery of the seventh hiker's remains and the body of a man reported missing by his parents in the small town of Hurricane.

Officials named the seven deceased hikers on Friday and published a photo to the group took of themselves before venturing into

the narrow and challenging Keyhole Canyon in the eastern part of the park.

The smiling hikers, who were all in their 50s, are clad in hard hats and backpacks, and several are wearing wet suits to tackle the route, which involves swimming through pools of water and rappelling down steep gorges.

Park officials said six were from the Los Angeles area and one was from Mesquite, Nevada.

The group's leader had experience exploring Keyhole and other canyons, said Cindy Purcell, Zion's chief park ranger.

She said the group obtained its permit for the trip early on Monday, even

though they were advised the National Weather Service had forecast a 40 percent chance of rain and the probability of flash flooding in the park.

"The ranger who handed that permit to that man said, 'I would not go today,'" Purcell said on Thursday.

"However, the people who go make the choice, they sign the paper that says that it is their safety and their responsibility."

She said rangers would only decline to issue a permit if an official flash flood warning was posted. The NWS did issue such an advisory that day, but only after the group had already set out, she said.

The 20th fatality from Monday's floods, a 33-year-old man from Hurricane, Utah, was found in Arizona almost seven miles (11 km) from the Utah border, and six miles (10 km) from his car.

In Hildale, Utah, on the sparsely populated border, crews were still searching for a 6-year-old boy missing since a wall of water swept away two cars packed with occupants on Monday, killing at least a dozen people.

"Even though search areas have been covered, they need to be searched again multiple times," Washington County officials said in a statement. "The goal: Bring Tyson Black home."—Reuters

Eight killed, 37 injured in bus accident in Central Nepal

KATHMANDU — Eight people were killed and 37 others injured when a passenger bus plunged off a mountain highway in Ramechhap District of Central

Nepal on Friday evening, the police said.

The bus veered off the road at Gahirachowk area in Manthali Municipality of the district, some 137 kilometres

east of country's capital Kathmandu, Police Inspector Makhan Yadav told Xinhua over the phone Friday. All the injured passengers are undergoing treatment at

a local hospital in the district, he said. "Preliminary investigation suggests that the driver is solely responsible for the mishap," the police inspector added.—Xinhua

Venezuelan fighter jet crashes on Colombia border

CARACAS — A Venezuelan fighter jet crashed on the border with Colombia during an operation to intercept an "illicit aircraft," killing its two pilots, the government said Friday.

The two countries have been locked in a border conflict for a month after Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro ordered the closure of part of the frontier, say-

ing some of his military were attacked by Colombian paramilitaries during an anti-smuggling operation.

The Venezuelan plane was Thursday night chasing an "illicit aircraft that entered the northwestern part of the country (Venezuela) headed south toward the border with Colombia," Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez said in a statement. He said "gangs in the area are trying

to use our territory to traffic drugs produced in Colombia to Central America and the Caribbean." Lopez later said both pilots of the Sukhoi Su-30 were dead and the aircraft was "completely destroyed."

In a tweet, Maduro expressed "all the support and solidarity of the country for the Bolivarian Military Aviation, lift up the morale and continue the fight."

Venezuela has stepped

up its military presence over the past month.

Maduro has also ordered the deportation of 1,500 Colombians, while about 20,000 others have fled out of fear of being expelled, unleashing a major diplomatic crisis. Maduro and his Colombian counterpart Juan Manuel Santos will meet in Quito on Monday to try to resolve the border spat.—AFP

Emmys celebrate TV's best, but are viewers overloaded?

LOS ANGELES — The Emmy Awards on Sunday will celebrate the best of the hundreds of television shows flooding US airwaves, in what many critics have called the small screen's "golden age."

But have audiences reached saturation point? Is there, in fact, too much good TV?

"We're in this insane expansion — it's getting a little crazy," Tom Nunan, a professor at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television, told AFP.

"I'm a freak addict of these shows but even I can't keep up."

According to industry experts, about 400 television shows will be on offer this year in the United States, up from 371 last year and roughly double the 213 from five years ago.

"This is simply too much television," John Landgraf, head of the cable channel FX Networks, said recently, sparking gasps in the industry.

"My sense is that 2015 and

2016 will represent a peak in US TV, and afterwards we'll see a decline."

The production of television series shot up in the last 15 years as cable channels joined traditional networks in offering original programming.

Streaming services such as Amazon, Netflix and Hulu have since arrived on the scene with their own offerings.

"There are 60 channels who buy or commission scripted content," Nunan said. "It is a strange confluence of new platforms along with overwhelming buying capability."

Sensing the winds of change, acclaimed film actors — from Kevin Spacey on Netflix's "House of Cards" to Viola Davis on ABC's "How to Get Away with Murder" — have flocked to the small screen.

This in turn has not only boosted the quality of the shows on offer, but also increased the

diversity of the projects that are developed for TV.

At this year's Emmys, the shows nominated range from epic fantasy saga "Game of Thrones" to stylish 1960s drama "Mad Men" to ensemble comedy "Modern Family" and Amazon's transgender dramedy "Transparent."

"Mad Men" is seen as one of the best shows in a triumphant era in television that has included mob classic "The Sopranos," cop saga "The Wire" and crime drama "Breaking Bad."

"This is the most exciting period I've ever seen in television, and it's probably the most exciting place to be if you're a storyteller," actor Ron Perlman, star of Amazon's new series "Hand of God," said recently at a meeting of TV critics.

Robert Thompson, a professor of television and pop culture at Syracuse University, said he believes web providers like Net-

flix and Amazon will continue to grow thanks to their ability to take more risks artistically, compared to traditional TV channels that rely on advertising to survive.

And once viewers subscribe to these pay channels, he added, they usually stay.

But he also notes that shows do not necessarily need to be ultra-sophisticated to be good.

"There are a lot of high-quality shows that are less artistically ambitious but very well-executed like 'Empire,' which was a very good show," Thompson said of Fox's breakout hip-hop family drama.

For Nunan, the biggest issue is not the fear that the era of good TV shows will suddenly disappear. It's figuring out how to watch them all. "People are trying to keep quality," he said. "I just think it's getting more and more difficult to find time to watch the shows."—AFP



Actress Sarah Paulson poses at the Entertainment Weekly pre Emmy Awards party in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO: REUTERS

More drama, more music promised as hip hop drama 'Empire' returns

LOS ANGELES — Family conflicts, tempestuous romances and power struggles made hip hop show "Empire" the highest-rated new hit for Fox this year, and viewers can expect a lot more salacious drama in season two.

"If season one was built on the premise of 'who will inherit the throne?', season two is 'warring kingdoms,'" executive producer and writer Ilene Chaiken teased for reporters on Friday.

"Empire" returns to Twenty-First Century Fox's broadcast network on Wednesday after drawing an average of 17.3 million viewers per episode in season one earlier this year.

The debut season followed the Lyon family as they attempted to cement their power in the

world of hip hop. "Empire" centers on drug runner-turned music mogul Lucious Lyon (Terrence Howard), who pits his three sons against each other with the promise that one will inherit his record company, Empire Entertainment.

But it's the show's intensely ambitious, prison-hardened, aggressive matriarch Cookie Lyon who has stood out, with actress Taraji P. Henson earning one of the show's three Emmy nominations in the best drama actress category for this weekend.

"In a matter of moments, (Henson) can go from the most raucous and flamboyant to the most heartwarming and touching," Chaiken said.

"This character hasn't been

on television before." The show failed to pick up a best drama series Emmys nod but was nominated twice in the costume category.

The second season of "Empire" picks up three months after season one left off. Lyon is in prison on a murder charge, while his son Jamal (Jussie Smollett) is running his company.

Chaiken said the changing power dynamics in the family will bring out new sides of the characters as relationships evolve.

"They're people that love and hate one another all at once. You'll see as many moments where they have each other's backs as they are stabbing each other in the back," Chaiken said.—Reuters

Rihanna's new album will be 'something great'



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Singing sensation Rihanna has finally given out details about her eighth studio album, tentatively titled "R8", saying it will be "something great".

The 27-year-old Barbadian singer said the fans have been eagerly waiting for her album and she does not want to disappoint them, reported Acshowbiz.

"To me it's never done until it's done. Until the final moment."

She goes on to promise "something great" from the album because millions of fans have been eagerly waiting for it.

"No matter what I post online, within three comments

there's somebody saying, 'Where is R8? I could post anything. Nothing else matters. They don't care about anything but that. But it makes me excited, because I can't wait to give them something great,' she said.

When asked about the reason behind the significant delay in the album, Rihanna blames her and collaborator Kanye West's busy schedules for it.

"We just have to wait to get back in the studio together. His schedule and mine are totally opposite right now, but I think this month we'll be back in the studio."

The album will be Rihanna's first full-length work since 2012's "Unapologetic".—PTI

Daltrey illness forces The Who to postpone North American tour



Roger Daltrey of The Who. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — British rock band The Who on Friday postponed all remaining dates of its 50th anniversary North American tour after lead singer Roger Daltrey was diagnosed with viral meningitis.

In a statement on its website, the band, which famously sang "I hope I die before I get old" in its 1965 hit "My Generation," called off some 30 dates between now and December.

The Who had last week postponed four dates after Daltrey, 71, fell ill with a mystery virus.

"Initially it was hoped that the rest of the tour might proceed, but after extensive tests the seriousness of his condition became apparent when doctors

diagnosed Roger as having viral meningitis and prescribed a period of rest," the statement said.

Daltrey said doctors told him he will make a complete recovery but that he will "need a considerable time to recover." Several US dates were postponed four months ago because Daltrey had vocal problems.

Guitarist Pete Townshend said all shows would be re-scheduled for the spring of 2016.

Townshend and Daltrey are the survivors of the original line-up following the deaths of drummer Keith Moon and bass guitarist John Entwistle. The Who had its first big hit in 1965 with "I Can't Explain."—Reuters

Anish Kapoor to mask vandalism on Versailles sculpture



Tourists look at the damaged “Dirty Corner” installation by British-Indian sculptor Anish Kapoor at the Palace of Versailles, near Paris, France. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — British-Indian sculptor Anish Kapoor has decided to leave the anti-Semitic graffiti on his “Dirty Corner” installation at the Palace of Versailles near Paris, but will cover it up, palace authorities said on Friday.

The 60-meter (197 feet) abstract steel and rock sculpture that the artist has described as “the vagina of the queen coming into power,” was vandalized shortly after it was installed in June, and again this month.

“(The sculpture), which was recently vandalized, will be subject in the coming days to an intervention to hide the damage, under the artist’s supervision,” Palace of Versailles authorities said in a statement.

A palace spokeswoman said Kapoor, who was born in India

to a Hindu father and a Jewish mother, decided to mask rather than remove the graffiti, without providing further details.

The artist initially decided to leave the work as it was, prompting a legal challenge by a lawyers’ association and right-wing Versailles city councillor Fabien Bougle calling for the inscriptions to be removed despite Kapoor’s opposition.

French Culture Minister Fleur Pellerin has condemned the vandalism as showing a “fascist vision of culture.”

Last year, vandals attacked another controversial artwork, bringing down Paul McCarthy’s giant green inflatable sculpture on the famous Place Vendôme in Paris after its resemblance to a sex toy sparked an outcry.—Reuters

Reforms prompt worries about future of Japanese study in England

LONDON — Teachers fear the study of Japanese in England could be severely undermined following plans to scrap one of the most important exams in the subject.

From 2017, education firm Pearson is planning to scrap A and A-S levels in Japanese in the light of new requirements that the exam be redeveloped, although discussions are still going on with the Department for Education to try and find a way to save the qualification.

Over 3,500 people have signed a petition calling for the exam to be retained. They argue removing the only qualification in Japanese for 16- to 18-year-olds is likely to reduce the incentive of younger students to take up Japanese in the first place.

“I’m devastated. This is a genuinely retrograde step,” Andrew Hunt, head of languages at Whitgift School, Croydon, told Kyodo News.

Referring to the General Certificate of Secondary Education exams normally sat by those aged 15 and 16, he said, “It will probably have an impact on our GCSE Japanese take-up in the medium term, and in the long term the lack of progression may put off pupils from choosing to start learning the language at all, which would be very sad.”

“Currently a large number of our pupils benefit from the opportunity to gain fluency in Japanese and also take part in a cultural exchange with our partner school in Saitama Prefecture.”

In 2014, there were 260 candidates for the A-level, which attracts native Japanese speakers who want to validate their pro-

ficiency according to English standards as well as native English speakers. A-level Japanese is almost exclusively studied in England, although occasionally a few students in Wales will also sit the exam. Scotland has no similar qualifications in Japanese.

For the A-S level, which is effectively half an A-level and studied in the first year of the two-year A-level course, there were 291 candidates last year, while around 1,100 students take GCSE Japanese each year in Britain.

Sachiko Yamaguchi, who teaches at Aquinas College, Sheffield, said, “Each year, I have students who would like to carry on Japanese at university level and, for them, the A-level is very important.”

The current Japanese A-level is considered to be traditional and demanding. It comprises reading comprehension, translation and essay writing. However, the exam does not test either speaking or listening skills. Regulators want to standardize all language A-levels and bring them into line with the French and German exams which have equal components of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Exam providers like Pearson have decided to scrap A-levels in several low take-up languages because they feel they and the schools do not have the resources to redevelop the exams along the lines required by regulators. Insisting upon tests for speaking and listening will inevitably require more classroom preparation, resources and manpower, they claim.—Kyodo News

Dog’s best friend: canine consoles, seeks help for trapped US hound

SEATTLE — A wayward dog stuck for days at the bottom of a concrete cistern in a Washington state ravine was rescued after a canine companion made frequent trips to find human help when she was not laying next to the well, an animal shelter said on Friday.

Phoebe, the trapped basset hound, and Tillie, a setter mix, were found together earlier this week on Vashon Island, in the Puget Sound southwest of Seat-

tle, after being reported missing on Sept. 8, Vashon Island Pet Protectors said.

“For nearly a week, Tillie stayed by her side with the exception of the few minutes of each day when she went for help,” the shelter wrote on Facebook.

It said they were rescued when the shelter received a tip that a reddish dog had approached a local resident several times over a number of days

before scurrying back toward the ravine.

Shelter volunteers traced its path and found Tillie with her head resting on the side of the well, and below her the basset hound, perched on rubble that held her above the water, Vashon Island Pet Protectors said. A person listed by the shelter as the owner of one of the dogs did not immediately return a call seeking comment.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(20-9-2015 07:00 am~21 -9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:24	Am	Travel To The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw)
07:43	Am	South Okkalapa Pagoda
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Discovering Tribes Pre Kayaw: Their Life and Customs (Part- II)
08:52	Am	Beach Food Delivery
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-1)
09:57	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Entrepreneur “Nan Ei Ei Zar”
10:39	Am	MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)
10:53	Am	Art Students: Theatrical Art
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Pm ~ 04:50 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 08:50 Am)		
04:50	Pm	AFC U-19 Men’s Championship Pre - Qualifying Tournament (Myanmar vs. Thailand)
06:39	Pm	MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)
06:53	Pm	Art Students: Theatrical Art

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Let’s Cook (EP-2) Spaghetti with Dried Chilli and Bacon & Chocolate Covered Strawberry
07:52	Pm	Today Myanmar: Ceasefire
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories Of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (EP-2)
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday 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

(20-9-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am

• Myo Ma Nyein Music Troup

6:20 am

• Myanmar Video

7:45 am

• Fashion Show (Music)

8:15 am

• Game For Children

8:40 am

• Teleplay

8:50 am

• Sing & Enjoy

9:40 am

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

10:05 am

• Myanmar Movie

12:00 noon

• Close Down

4:45 pm

• AFC U-19 Championship Group (G) Football (Live) (Myanmar U-19 Vs Thailand U-19)

FIBA - ASIA Development Plan Coaching Clinic 2015 launched

Ko Moe

YANGON — The FIBA - ASIA Development Plan Coaching Clinic 2015 sponsored by FIBA - ASIA and Myanmar Basketball Federation was opened at Aung San Stadium on Saturday. The training for trainers course had been opened under the aegis of the Myanmar Olympic Committee and Ministry of Sports.

The course was for the development of basketball in Myanmar said Myanmar Basketball Federation's general secretary U Kyaw Kyaw Win. The trainees are to give back systematic coaching to the new generation basketball players across the country, from what they had learnt from the course, he added. Myanmar is facing scarcity of good coaches in the basketball

field, he said.

Instructor Dr Koh Koon Teck of FIBA - ASIA will train 38 trainee coaches comprising 22 men and 16 women at the course to be conducted from 19 to 25 September.

According to Myanmar Basketball Federation, the World Basketball Federation had given training for trainers courses in 2013.—GNLM

Youngsters get Badminton Training in Mandalay

MANDALAY — To turn out new generation badminton players, Mandalay Region Badminton Sub-committee conducted

badminton course from 14 to 18 September and the graduation ceremony for 90 new generation badminton players took

place at No-16 Basic Education School on Saturday. Students from Grade 5 to 7 attended course.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Youngsters seen in group photo after they receive their completion certificates for badminton training in Mandalay. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

Van Gaal defends spluttering Rooney

LOUIS van Gaal refuses to accept that Wayne Rooney is in a scoring slump despite the Manchester United captain going into Sunday's visit to Southampton without a Premier League goal in over five months.

Rooney, who recently became England's leading all-time international goalscorer, has not hit the net in a Premier League game for United since the first weekend in April, although his club manager prefers to focus on the hat-trick the striker scored in the Champions League at Bruges last month rather than his 10-game domestic barren spell.

"He scored against Bruges. He scored," said van Gaal. "It doesn't matter if it's the Premier League or the Champions League. I was very happy when we scored more goals."

"It does not matter to me who is scoring. But we have to score more. When you are so dominant as we are, in all the matches, we have to win these games."

"He has a range of scoring goals. You can count all the goals he's made. In my memory, Rooney

has scored a lot.

"He's nearly the record holder in the Premier League so I hope he will beat that record but I have to wait and see, like you do."

Such a quest is still some distance off, Rooney's 185 career Premier League goals placing him two behind second placed Andy Cole and way behind all-time leading scorer Alan Shearer and his 260.

Rooney, 29, needs to score 76 times to overtake Shearer and, bearing in mind that the past five seasons in total have seen the United man score "only" 79 goals, van Gaal may be disappointed in his wish.

Rooney missed United's victory over Liverpool last weekend with a hamstring injury, but looks certain to return against a Southampton side who van Gaal expects, like defending champions Chelsea, to improve drastically as the season progresses.

"Wayne is back, it was a minor injury and we didn't want to take risks," said van Gaal. "But he has had training and treatment

and I think he can start.

"Southampton have a very good team, not worse than last year, but they started very badly. It's the same with Chelsea, but they shall come back, as we did last year. I don't think is a normal position for them."

Meanwhile, broken leg victim Luke Shaw is due to fly back to Manchester this weekend where he will undergo a minor surgical procedure before being allowed home.

Van Gaal has noted the effect that the horrendous injury had on Shaw's team mates in the United dressing room and hopes it may have a galvanising effect on them.

"There was a question about the mental effect of such an injury and I said I cannot prove that, I cannot see in the heads of the players," he said.

"But I have now read in some papers that some players said it had an influence. Maybe it will have a positive influence in the dressing room. When you see us playing and the spirit we have I don't have any doubts."—AFP

Rodgers vows to defuse Liverpool tensions

LIVERPOOL manager Brendan Rodgers has acknowledged he is under pressure after a poor recent run of form ahead of Sunday's clash with Norwich at Anfield.

Rodgers has pledged to remain calm, but the grumblings against him will only grow louder if his team fail to overcome the Canaries.

Successive league defeats against West Ham and Manchester United have done little for the manager's standing.

But greater disquiet has been caused by the timidity of his team's performances in both matches.

Rodgers, then, will be hopeful that his casualty list is about to shrink significantly, with Jordan Henderson, Daniel Sturridge and Joe Allen all close to

returns from injury.

Captain Henderson is back in training after travelling to the United States for treatment on a troublesome heel problem that has kept him out of Liverpool's last three league matches, none of which were won.

Striker Sturridge is fit again after hip surgery, while midfielder Allen is over a hamstring problem suffered in a pre-season game at Swindon in August.

"Jordan, Daniel and Joe are very important players for us," Rodgers said.

"Daniel's been out for a long time. He's a player who can give us 25-plus goals a season, so we have missed him, for sure."

"Jordan's status has grown in my time here. And Joe is the type of player who gets teams playing."—AFP

Chelsea end slump with win over nine-man Arsenal

LONDON — Arsenal had two players sent off when they lost an ill-tempered derby 2-0 at Chelsea on Saturday as the champions pulled out of their early-season slump with their first Premier League win for almost a month.

Chelsea's 20-year-old French defender Kurt Zouma headed the first after 53 minutes of a fractious game before an Eden Hazard shot deflected off Calum Chambers in stoppage time to make it 2-0.

Arsenal defender Gabriel was red carded for kicking out at Diego Costa just before half-time and Santi Cazorla was dismissed with a second booking for sliding in on former Arsenal skipper Cesc Fabregas after 79 minutes.

Gabriel's dismissal came in the aftermath of a bust-up between Costa and Arsenal defender Laurent Koscielny in the visitors' penalty area a minute earlier when Costa appeared to raise his arms and strike the Arsenal defender.

Cazorla was shown the red card after a rash, sliding challenge on his Spain team mate Fabregas, whose fine free kick eight minutes into the second half was headed in by Zouma.

It was Zouma's first Premier League goal and, perhaps more significantly, he was in the team in place of skipper John Terry, who was not selected for a league match when he was fit for the first time by manager Jose Mourinho.

Arsenal, who beat Mourinho's side 1-0 in the Community Shield at the beginning of August, made few clear cut chances of their own and have not beaten Chelsea in their last eight league matches and not scored against them in their last five.

The result lifted Chelsea from 17th into mid-table while Arsenal, who have had three players sent off this week following Olivier Giroud's dismissal against Dinamo Zagreb on Wednesday, stayed fourth, at least until Saturday's later matches.—Reuters



Kurt Zouma celebrates after scoring the first goal for Chelsea during the Barclays Premier League at Stamford Bridge. PHOTO: REUTERS