

President receives Japanese delegation
PAGE 3



National electrification executive committee meeting held
PAGE 2

ANALYSIS
Is it foolish to keep your money in a bank?
PAGE 8

RARE PRESS CONFERENCE

Military chief hopes to see free, fair election

SENIOR-GENERAL Min Aung Hlaing, the commander-in-chief of the Myanmar Defence Services (Tatmadaw), said he hopes to see a free and fair election in November. He pledged to allow observers access polling stations at battalions and regiments in accordance with the rules set by the Union Election Commission.

During a rare press conference held with journalists in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, the senior-general said the Tatmadaw is currently striving to tackle threats in conflict areas.

He also addressed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, which is slated to be signed in the first week of October. He expressed his belief that the agreement would be signed in the near future, urging all of the involved parties to avoid provocations that may case doubts on the peace process.

He would welcome either a male or female president, the senior-general said in response to a question from a journalist during the press conference, AFP reported.

The commander-in-chief also said the Tamadaw will be upgraded with the aim of becoming a standard army.

The Tatmadaw is planning



Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing and journalists have photos taken together outside Bayintnaung Hall of the military command. PHOTO: MNA

to buy and build naval vessels as part of the effort to boost the capacity of Myanmar's navy, the senior-general said.

During his visit to Israel,

the commander-in-chief of Defence Services also held talks with senior members of Israel defence ministry over strengthening ties and cooperation, es-

pecially in training programmes and personnel exchange schemes.

He said the Tatmadaw is trying at its best to avoid a

crisis involving boat people. He also pledged to hold workshops in order to find ways to improve relations between the Tatmadaw and the media.—MNA

Actual Activities of Sea Food Processing Factories in Myanmar

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (GOM) has been going forward to our targets to reduce the poverty of rural communities of Myanmar. Under this policy, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development has been promoting several measures, and one of which is to revitalize local economy in agriculture, livestock and fishery sector through enhancing its system and productivity. Department of Fisheries lay out three basic plan of action for the development of fisheries targeting to 20 years plan (2011-12 fiscal year to 2030-2031 fiscal year). These plans are (a) sustainable development of fisheries

sector through implementing of supervision, managing, and extension for fishing in line with existing laws and regulations or update and amend fisheries laws and conservation of fish and their habitats (b) development of small scale aquaculture for socio-economic development of rural people and extending of commercial fish farming and (c) food security, production of safety fishery products and improvement of the production of value added fishery products. In the second Five years plan, fisheries sector is targeted to increase 1.3% of gross output value (GOV) annually.

Fishery products export

Department of Fisheries

(DoF) is strengthening seafood exporters to follow up the international guidelines for the improvement of fishery products export. In Myanmar, production of fishery products from inshore fisheries, offshore fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture for 2012-2013 fiscal year is 4716.22 thousand metric tons and for 2013-2014 fiscal year is 5047.53 thousand metric tons. All fishery products are primarily distributed for local food security and the surplus are exported. Fishery products including sea foods and aquaculture fish were exported in the amount of 376845.689 MT in 2012-2013 fiscal years and in 2013-2014 fiscal year,

345267.363 MT was exported. In the fiscal year of 2014-2015, 338290.586 MT of fishery products were exported. The exported amount of fishery products share only 6% of total fishery production.

Status of Sea Food Processing Factories at Myanmar

In the statistic data of 2014-2015 fiscal year, there are 116 cold storages and processing factories including 2 cold storages and 74 seafood processing factories in Yangon region, 19 seafood processing factories in Tanintharyi region, 6 seafood factories in Ayeyarwady region, 7 factories in each Mon state and Rakhine State and 1 cold storage in Shan state.

Recently, 2 soft-shelled crab processing factories are opening and running at Laputta Township at Ayeyarwady region. In Yangon region, except 2 processing factories, the rest are running ordinary and exported 5564 numbers of seafood containers in 2013-2014 fiscal year and 5410 numbers of seafood containers in 2014-2015 fiscal year. Those two processing factories at Yangon region have been temporarily shut down because of they are planning to construct their own plant. DoF allowed 13 factories for importing of sea food raw materials from foreign countries to sustainable running of local processing

See page 2 >>

National electrification executive committee meeting held



Vice President U Nyan Tun addresses meeting of National Electrification Executive Committee.

PHOTO: MNA

UEC chairman meets Japanese election observers

NAY PYI TAW — Chairman U Tin Aye of the Union Election Commission received a delegation from Japan in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday. The delegation was led by Mr Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of the Nippon Foundation and special envoy of the government of Japan.

Mr Sasakawa has been assigned by the Japanese government to observe the upcoming elections in Myanmar.

U Tin Aye and the special envoy discussed strategies for

observing the elections and the UEC chairman explained the transparency measures already in place. According to U Tin Aye, three long-term international election observer teams, including the Carter Centre, have observed campaigning and the compilation of voter lists.

He said international observers are required to submit applications to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and explained the training process for local election observers.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW — The National Electrification Executive Committee held a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Myanmar has been implementing three national projects to achieve 100 percent electrification in cooperation with ADB, JICA and the World Bank.

The executive committee was formed with the aim of effectively managing the international loans for electrification, according to the vice president, who also acts as the patron of the executive committee.

Vice President U Nyan Tun gave a speech at the meeting, which was also attended by union ministers U Khin Maung Soe, U Ohn Myint, U Zeyar Aung, U Maung Myint, U Win Shein and Dr Ko Ko Oo. The vice president also said that building a sustainable national electrification system also

requires providing the best services at reasonable rates, particularly during the implementation phase which involves a US\$790 million loan from the World Bank.

He went on to say that despite forecasting annual needs fiscal budgets, Myanmar still requires international assistance to fulfill the growing demand for electricity.

The Chairman of National Electrification Executive Committee Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe, Vice Chairman Union Minister U Ohn Myint, Union Minister U Zeyar Aung, Union Minister U Win Shen, Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo, Secretary Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo, Joint-Secretary Deputy Minister U Tin Ngwe, reported to the vice president on measures being taken to achieve progress in lighting up Myanmar.—MNA

Parliamentary capacity workshop kicks off in the capital

NAY PYI TAW — The opening ceremony for the Hluttaw Committees Development Workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The workshop was organised by Myanmar's Union Parliament and several INGOs and it will run until 9 October.

Eight scholars from international parliaments and 173 Union

Parliament staff members will participate in the workshop.

Union Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, members of the parliament's Law Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and representatives from the UNDP, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliament of Australia, the

Parliament of Denmark and the UK's House of Commons attended the ceremony.

UNDP chief technical advisor Mr Warren Cahill explained the objectives of the workshop and Thura U Shwe Mann emphasised the importance of improving Union Parliament staff's computer and English skills.—MNA

Media crisis management course begins

NAY PYI TAW — A media crisis management course began in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, which is being organised by the Ministry of Information and the Embassy of Singapore. The course aims to prevent, manage and overcome crises with

the use of the media, according to Director-General U Ye Tint of the Information and Public Relations Department. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information U Tint Swe gave a speech at the opening ceremony and instructor

Mr Justin Fong, Deputy Director of Office of the Prime Minister of Singapore, said the course would arm participants with techniques to publish balanced news.

Over 30 trainees will take part in the three-day course.—MNA

Actual Activities of Sea Food Processing Factories in Myanmar

>> from page 1

factories by the contract processing system. From that system, 1834.80725 MT of sea food were re-exported.

From the results of recently survey marine fisheries biomass conducted by DoF and Norway Government supported with Dr. Fridjot Nansen research vessel, there have limits for the increase of marine fishing activities. Therefore, DoF is coordinating with EU to get project support value for 20 Million Euro in the sector of aquaculture development. Recently, DoF is giving the training of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) supported by EU to be able to increase exporting of aquaculture products to meet the requirements of EU markets.

Even those, for the previous DOF has practiced per-shipment inspection of each contain for export fishers products including document check of price confirmation,

when the new Government period just started 2013-2014 fiscal year and DOF has released (mentioned below) for export, objective of the more effectiveness for trade facilitation. At the present, transportation is more convenient through mountain range areas and rural areas strengthen the local distribution and increasing the local consumption become one of the root causes for decreasing of export quantity. In accordance with the official information from Hotel and Tourism Department, 2014-2015 fiscal year, 3.8 million of tourists came to Myanmar. Therefore, sea food consumption at local hotels and restaurants are also increased due to increase of tourism industry. In conclusion, DoF is supervision and encouraging the Sea Food Processors and 113 numbers of processing factories from total 116 factories are running as a whole and it means 97% of sea food processing factories are running as ordinarily.



Workers sort out prawns at a factory. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

President receives Japanese delegation

NAY PYI TAW — President U Thein Sein on Monday met a Japanese delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mr Taro Aso at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss bilateral relations.

The meeting focused on Japan's assistance to Myanmar's transition to democracy, the prompt implementation of projects in Thilawa Special Economic Zone and cooperation and development projects such as building schools, supplying clean water and providing healthcare services in flood-affected regions.

Views were also exchanged on further collaboration in the banking and financial sectors, Myanmar's nationwide ceasefire agreement and holding a free and fair general election in November.—MNA



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with Japanese delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mr Taro Aso. PHOTO: MNA

Goodwill visit to China

NAY PYI TAW – Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win travelled to China on a

goodwill visit on the invitation of Admiral Sun Jiangou of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Vice-Senior General Soe Win

was seen off at Yangon International Airport by senior military officers and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.—Myawady

U Kyaw Myo Htut concurrently appointed as ambassador of Panama

NA PYI TAW – The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Myo Htut, Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United States of America, concurrently as

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the republic of Panama.—MNA

U San Lwin presents his credentials to President of Austria

NA PYI TAW – U San Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Austria, presented his credentials to His Excellency Dr Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Austria on 14 September 2015, in Vienna.—MNA

U San Lwin presents his credentials to UN, international organisations in Vienna

NAY PYI TAW – U San Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Austria, presented credentials as Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and the international organisations, located in Vienna, Austria in August 2015.

Ambassador U San Lwin presented his credentials to Mr Yury Fedotov, Director General of the United Nations Office

at Vienna (UNOV) and Executive Director of the United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on 5 August; Dr Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) on 17 August; Mr Taizo Nishikawa, Deputy Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on 18 August and Mr Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 20 August.—MNA

What they stand for: campaigns aired

The National League for Democracy, Myanmar National Congress and the Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society aired their campaign speeches on Monday.

National League for Democracy



Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that the National League for Democracy was founded in 1988 with the aim of building a genuine federal union, aiming at achieving national reconciliation and protecting human rights. She said the party has strived to achieve these goals for 27 years through non-violence and that it will continue to do so throughout Myanmar's political transition. The party places emphasis on ethnic affairs and internal peace, creating a new constitution that can guarantee the peaceful coexistence and developing an administrative system that safeguards the legal rights of all.

Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society



Chairman U Zin Aung said that his party stands for liberty, equality, peace and unity. The party's economic policies place quality before quantity, he said. Other policies include free and compulsory education, free student meals, free healthcare for mothers and children, technical assistance and investment in agriculture, the freedom to form trade unions and freedom of religion.

Myanmar National Congress



Chairman U Kaung Myint Htut said that the party recognises Senior General Than Shwe as the champion of the country's peaceful democratic transition through the 2008 constitution and that the party would not do anything to amend the constitution in this present decade if elected. The party supports the expansion of the Tatmadaw into a one-million strong defence force and demands the introduction of compulsory military service in Myanmar.

ELECTION COUNTDOWN

Make your voice count. Cast your vote.

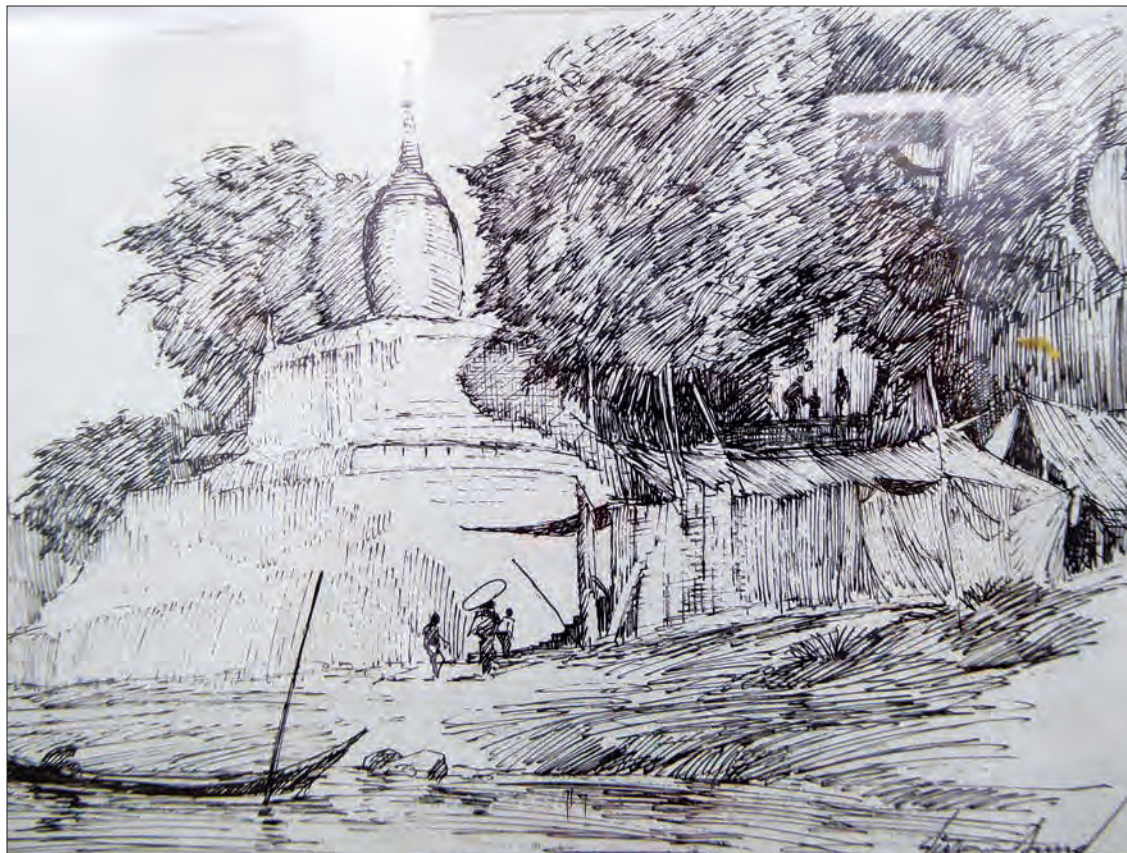
47 DAYS

Media slots for two political parties announced

NAY PYI TAW – MRTV, Hluttaw channel, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio and Shwe FM will broadcast campaign speeches by representatives from Myo National Party and Tai-Leng (Red Shan) Nationalities Development Party on 22 September.

Although the political parties each are allowed to talk daily, the TVs and radios cannot broadcast talks of Kayin Democratic Party due to its absence.—GNLM

Artist gets first solo show in time for 80th birthday



Works by Artist Hla Thein Aung on display at The River Ayeyawady Gallery. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON — A solo art exhibition titled “In Essence” by artist Hla Thein Aung is being held at River Ayeyawady Gallery, featuring ink sketches and watercolours.

“My works have been exhibited at more than a hundred group shows since I entered the art world in 1968, but this is the first time I’ve held a solo show,”

said artist Hla Thein Aung, who is a former high school teacher.

“The event runs from 19 to 23 September, overlapping with the artist’s 80th birthday,” said the gallery’s founder, U Nay Min Latt.

He added that seven of Hla Thein Aung’s ink paintings were sold on the opening day of the exhibition.

Ink sketches will be sold for K50,000 (US\$38), and wa-

tercolour paintings will sell for K200,000 (\$155).

The exhibition features outdoor landscapes, which Hla Thein Aung painted while travelling around Myanmar’s dry central plains, including those in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

The River Ayeyawady Gallery is located on 35th Street in Kyauktada Township in downtown Yangon.—GNLM

Natogyi paddy fields in dire situation

NATOGYI — Over 300 acres of paddy fields in Myinni and Latwae villages in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, lack enough water because the Pyaungpya Dam has stopped supplying water. Farmers said that the drought has further worsened the condition of the paddy, which is now turning yellow.

The dam is also meant to provide water to farmlands in Myingyan township – farmers there have also expressed concern and said that the volume of rainfall is inadequate for the crops.—Htay Myint Maung

Rally along Myanmar-Thai border aims to promote tourism

NAY PYI TAW — A car rally was held along the Myanmar-Thai border of Mawtaung-Singkhon on Saturday and Sunday with the aim of boosting tourism in both countries.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in cooperation with Taninthayi Region government.

A total of 102 vehicles and 350 people led by Mr Weear Sirwathanatrakoon, district commissioner of Prachuap Khiri Khan District in Thailand participated in the two-day event.

After arriving in Myeik Township in Taninthayi Region in Saturday evening, the group paid homage to Theindawgyi Pagoda before attending a dinner hosted by Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko.—MNA



Participants of car rally taking a rest along the Myanmar-Thai border. PHOTO: MNA

Sacked garment workers to take factory boss to court



Ex Asia Rose garment factory worker Thandar Moe addresses the media during a press conference in Yangon on Monday. PHOTO: THIHA THU

Several workers who were sacked when Myanmar’s new minimum wage was enacted on 1 September would file a lawsuit against their former employer, who has refused to reinstate them to their posts.

The workers initially asked an arbitration office to settle the dispute with their former employer, the owner of the Asia Rose garment factory in Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone. The arbitration office ruled that seven

of the 196 laid-off workers should return to their posts, while the rest should be compensated by the factory owner.

At a press conference in Yangon on Monday, some of the workers denounced

the arbitration office’s decision. “The workers decided to take their boss to court as the arbitration office’s decision did not satisfy their demand for the boss to reinstate them at the factory,” said the workers’ press liaison Ma Thandar Moe.

The workers are accusing the factory owner of firing them without giving due notice or allowing the issue to go before the factory’s negotiating committee.

Factory representatives did not answer several phone calls from The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Meanwhile, an official from the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department advised the workers to settle the dispute at a labour dispute arbitration council, which has greater authority than an arbitration office. The workers have refused to go to an arbitration

council. Approximately 500 workers around the country lost their jobs after Myanmar adopted a minimum wage of K3,600 (US\$2.80) for an eight-hour work day on 28 August.

Other factories have reportedly stopped providing free transport and overtime pay in order to maximise their profits. Deputy Minister for Labour and Employment U Htin Aung held talks with factory bosses from industrial zones at the beginning of September to discuss sharing the costs of providing housing and transport services to workers. However no agreement was reached. The deputy minister said he would urge factory owners to provide such services during future negotiations.

The deputy minister expressed hope that those who lost their jobs will find new ones in the same sector,

explaining that several garment factories are now seeking additional workers after receiving new work orders following the enactment of the minimum wage. He added that the minimum wage is expected to spur employment rates.

Yangon Region Labour Minister U Zaw Aye Maung said earlier this month that the minimum wage should be implemented on a trial basis, with an option to amend it after two years.

U Aung Lin, chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions Myanmar, told reporters in early September that with around 250,000 workers employed in Myanmar’s garment and textile industry, the 500 lay-offs will not have a significant impact on the sector, which is tipped to become one of Myanmar’s most valuable.—Thiha Thu and Aye Min Soe

Abe's popularity drops after Japan defence laws passed

TOKYO — Japanese public support for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has dropped in the days since his ruling coalition rammed through legislation allowing the nation's troops to fight abroad, opinion polls showed Monday.

Parliament in the officially pacifist nation passed the contentious security bills early Saturday, a move that could see Japanese troops engage in combat overseas for the first time since the end of World War II.

A weekend poll taken by the top-selling, centre-right newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun showed that public support for the Abe government dropped four points to 41 percent compared with a similar survey taken in mid-August.

Its disapproval rating rose six points to 51 percent, the Yomiuri said. A separate poll taken by the liberal Asahi Shimbun showed the government's approval rating down one point to 35 percent compared with a survey taken a week ago, while the disapproval rating rose three points to 45 percent.

And the Nikkei business daily's poll showed the approval rat-

ing fall six points to 40 percent, while disapproval rose seven points to 47 percent.

A majority of those polled voiced disapproval of what they said was the way the government bulldozed the legislation through Diet and complained that Abe had not offered persuasive and detailed arguments to justify the move.

The legislation had sparked angry street protests with tens of thousands taking part, and fuelled anger among Japan's neighbours.

However, the Yomiuri reported Abe's supporters were relieved to see only a moderate drop in public support.

"A sense of relief spread among government officials and ruling party members as public support fell only by small margins," the Yomiuri said.

The opposition failed to gain momentum because they were not able to offer viable alternatives to the bills, the Yomiuri said, echoing the assessments of survey results by rival media.

Proponents of the legislation have said the measures are necessary to beef up defense against China and North Korea.—AFP

Singapore jails Filipino nurse for 'seditious' posts

SINGAPORE — A Singapore court on Monday sentenced a Filipino nurse to four months in prison for posting inflammatory comments on Facebook against Singaporeans and lying to police investigators.

Ello Ed Mundsel Bello, 29, a former employee of government-run Tan Tock Seng Hospital, had posted comments on Facebook in January insulting Singaporeans and calling for the takeover of the city-state by his countrymen. State Courts Judge Siva Shanmugam sentenced Bello to three months in jail for sedition in relation to his Facebook posts, and another month for lying to police who investigated him following complaints from the public.

Singapore, a densely popu-

lated immigrant nation which suffered racial riots in the 1960s, uses sedition laws to clamp down on locals and foreigners found to have incited ethnic tensions.

In a Facebook post on 2 January, Bello wrote: "Singaporeans are losers (sic) in their own country, we take their jobs, their future, their women and soon we will evict all SG losers (sic) out of their own country hahaha."

In a subsequent comment, Bello said: "we will kick out all the Singaporeans and SG will be the new filipino state."

After an outcry from Singaporeans, Bello took down his posts and claimed to police investigators that his account had been hacked by an unknown person. But he eventually admitted posting the comments. Prosecu-

tors said Bello's misleading statements to the police aggravated his original offences and led to "unnecessary wastage" of investigative resources.

They had sought a sentence of five months in prison to "send a clear message to like-minded individuals that their behaviour will not be tolerated."

Singaporeans who have written or published racist comments about other ethnic groups as well as foreigners have also been prosecuted. The Filipino community in Singapore is estimated at more than 170,000.

About 40 percent of Singapore's population of 5.5 million are foreigners. The wealthy city-state depends heavily on guest workers because of its low fertility rate.—AFP

Jailed Vietnam blogger freed, heads to the States

HANOI — A prominent Vietnamese blogger who was jailed after she wrote about corruption in the Communist country's police and judiciary has been released and left the country, the US embassy said Monday. Ta Phong Tan, a former police officer, flew to the States after her release.

"We welcome the decision by Vietnamese authorities to release Ta Phong Tan," Terry White, the spokesman for Washington's embassy in Hanoi, told AFP.

"She decided to travel to the United States after her release from prison," he added. Vietnamese authorities have yet

to make a statement on her release. Ta Phong Tan, 47, was jailed for 10 years in 2012 under the broad charge of publishing "anti-state propaganda."

She had used her blog to highlight kickbacks and human rights abuses within the country's police force and court system.—AFP

New Philippine senator Poe widens lead in presidential opinion polls

MANILA — A novice senator who is the adopted daughter of a late popular movie action hero has increased her lead as the favorite to win the presidency of the Philippines at elections next year, an opinion poll showed on Monday.

Grace Poe, 47, who formally declared her candidacy last week for the elections in May 2016, was the top-rated candidate among 47 percent of correspondents, up by five points, the latest Social Weather Stations poll showed.

The elections will be closely watched by investors, who fear the political succession in one of Asia's fastest growing economies could derail gains made during President Benigno Aquino's rule.

Under Aquino, the Philippines has seen economic growth of more than 6 percent on average, its best 5-year record in four decades. He has also battled to rein in corruption.

About 54 million Filipinos will be eligible to vote to choose a president, vice president and more than 18,000 local government executives and lawmakers in the general elections, which happen every six years.

The third-quarter poll, published by the Businessworld newspaper, showed that Manuel Roxas, a former interior minister under Aquino, had jumped 18 points to surge into second place with 39 percent approval.

The 1,200 respondents were



Philippine Senator Grace Poe, daughter of late local movie actor Fernando Poe Jr, waves to her supporters during her proclamation rally at the University of the Philippines in Manila. PHOTO: REUTERS

asked in early September — before Poe declared her candidacy — to make their top three choices to replace Aquino.

Roxas overtook Vice President Jejomar Binay, who was steady with 35 percent.

Political analysts say Roxas' sharp rise was largely due to his endorsement by Aquino in late July.

Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, the only son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos who imposed martial law in the Philippines 43 years ago to the day, was well back in the field of potential candidates with 5 percent approval.

Poe, who shot to number one in June, has positioned herself as an alternative candidate to more

traditional politicians like Roxas and Binay.

Even though she is a relative newcomer to the political scene, there is no reason to expect her to propose any drastic changes because she is surrounded by traditional politicians, said Ramon Casiple, executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms.—Reuters

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San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

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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.

New Australia cabinet features first female defence minister

SYDNEY — Australia on Monday swore in its first female defence minister, Senator Marise Payne, who will oversee open-ended military engagements in two countries and some of the country's most important defence contracts in a generation.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull last week ousted long-time rival Tony Abbott as leader of their ruling Liberal Party, citing a chaotic management style and dismal poll numbers.

Turnbull's cabinet which was sworn in on Monday features five women, more than double the previous number.

In a symbolic break from the past, Turnbull jettisoned several ministers seen as close to aging former Liberal Party prime minister John Howard.

Payne, most recently human services minister and a former chair of parliament's foreign affairs, defence and trade committee, as well as its human rights subcommittee, replaces Kevin Andrews after less than a year in defence.

Defence has been a revolving door portfolio over the past five years and badly needs stability as it sets about reforming a bureaucratic procurement pipeline, said Andrew Davies, director of research at the Australian

Strategic Policy Institute.

Abbott centralised decision making in his office and locked his defence ministers out of major decisions such as choosing the A\$50 billion (\$35.80 billion) replacement for the Collins Class submarine fleet, Davies said.

"The good news for her is that the core business of the defence department, which is running military operations, seems to be going pretty well," he said.

"But it's the long lead time stuff. The getting approvals of major projects through and then

managing them, I think that's where the major bureaucratic heartache is going to be."

The Royal Australian Air Force is taking part in the US-led coalition campaign against Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria. Australian troops are also

helping to train Iraqi ground forces.

In August Abbott announced that two naval shipbuilding programmes, the A\$20 billion SEA5000 Future Frigate project and the SEA1180 Offshore Patrol Vessels, would be brought forward to guarantee the continuous domestic construction of surface warships.

But the jewel in Australia's defence crown is the SEA1000 Future Submarine project, one of the world's most lucrative defence contracts and a thorny political topic.

Abbott and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe enjoyed a close relationship that saw Japan emerge as the early front runner for the programme, and his removal is seen as a setback for their bid.

Japan's reluctance to commit to building the submarines entirely in Australia, where manufacturing jobs are a hot political topic, has seen it lose ground to German and French proposals.

Payne joins a small number of woman defence ministers around the world and becomes the first to fill the role in an English speaking nation. Germany, Norway and the Netherlands all have female defence ministers.—Reuters



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull with the female members of his cabinet, (front row L-R) Defence Minister Marise Payne, Minister for Health Sussan Ley, Turnbull, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Minister for Small Business Kelly O'Dwyer (holding baby), Minister for Employment Michaelia Cash and other officials after a swearing in ceremony at Government House in Canberra. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iranian nuclear experts take Parchin samples without IAEA

DUBAI — Iranian nuclear experts have taken environmental samples from the military base at Parchin without United Nations inspectors being present, the spokesman for Iran's atomic energy agency was quoted as saying on Monday.

The procedure for taking the samples, which could shed light on whether Iran's nuclear programme ever had a military dimension, has been under intense discussion since Tehran

reached a nuclear deal with world powers in July. Western diplomats told Reuters earlier this month inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations nuclear watchdog, would observe samples being taken. "Iranian experts took samples from specific locations in Parchin facilities this week without IAEA's inspectors being present," Behruz Kamalvandi was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA.

"They followed regulations and standards and the samples were given to IAEA's experts," the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) spokesman added. He did not rule out IAEA inspectors being present for future samples being taken.

IAEA chief Yukiya Amano visited the site at Parchin on Sunday, the agency's first visit there in a decade. Iranian state media described the visit as ceremonial rather than an inspection.—Reuters

Strike delays hit Australian airports

SYDNEY — Travellers using Australia's international airports faced delays Monday and were warned of more to come as immigration and border force workers went on strike over pay and conditions.

Morning peak-hour travel was held up with long queues forming in Sydney, which along with airports in Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Darwin, Coolangatta and Cairns experienced two-hour stoppages when staff walked out.

"These workers are angry, they're under pressure, they face major cuts to their take-home pay and workplace rights and government simply hasn't listened," said Nadine Flood, secretary of

the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) representing workers.

The strikes affecting those departing and arriving on international flights are set to continue until 30 September.

"Border Force workers feel they have no choice but to act, so they are prepared to strike every day, twice a day over peak periods, over 10 days," Flood said.

The union claims the government wants to reduce rights, conditions and allowances, cutting current annual pay for many staff by Aus\$8,000 (US\$5,735) and have called on new Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to resolve the 18-month dispute.

The Australian Border Force

said passengers travelling in and out of the country over the coming week may experience delays at international airports due to the industrial action.

"Arrangements are in place to protect Australia's borders and minimise the impact on our operations, but if you are going overseas, we advise you to arrive at the airport early," it said in a statement.

Managers stepped in during the strike at Sydney Airport on Monday, but there were still delays.

"We've been about an hour and a half to get through; it's a bit chaotic in there to say the least," one traveller told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.—AFP

Philippine politicians wanted for murder arrested in Thailand

MANILA — Two Philippine politicians wanted over the murder of a prominent anti-corruption crusader have been arrested in Thailand after more than three years on the run, the president's office said Monday.

Joel Reyes, the former governor of Palawan island, and his brother Mario, a former town mayor, were detained on the Thai holiday island of Phuket on Sunday, said presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma.

The Reyes brothers are facing murder charges over the 2011 death of Gerry Ortega, a prominent Palawan environmental activist who had also used a radio show he hosted to frequently accuse the Reyes brothers of massive graft.

The brothers went missing in early 2012 after an arrest warrant was issued for them, and had not been seen since.

"The arrest of the long-wanted Reyes brothers provides an opportunity for pursuing the ends of justice," Coloma said in a statement.

He thanked Interpol and the Thai police for their help in arresting the Reyes brothers, but did not provide further details.

Ortega was shot in the head at point-blank range while shopping in the capital of Palawan, an island known as the Philippines' last environmental frontier but which has suffered from illegal logging, mining and overfishing.

The gunman was caught try-

ing to flee the scene and police said his weapon was owned by one of Joel Reyes's lawyers.

Aside from alleged environmental crimes, Ortega had accused Joel Reyes of syphoning off millions of dollars in revenues from a gasfield off the coast of Palawan when he was governor.

The brothers' escape reinforced the Philippines' reputation for having a "culture of impunity", with powerful men free to kill or intimidate political opponents, journalists and other critics without any punishment.

At least 168 journalists or media workers have been killed since the restoration of democracy in the Philippines in 1986, but only 13 cases have seen murder convictions, according to local press groups. Patty Ortega, widow of the murdered activist, told AFP a task force assigned to capture high-profile fugitives had informed her of the arrests. She expressed relief but also said she was worried about whether the Reyes brothers could still evade justice.

"We still feel anxiety. Our judicial system is not that fast. We know our opponents have a lot of advantages. They have money, influence. They slipped through immigration. So it is not far from our thoughts that something else might happen," she said.

"I want to see them handcuffed and facing a court and in jail."—AFP

Turkey police block new migrant march to Greek border

ISTANBUL — A new march by migrants trying to reach Europe overland from Turkey was blocked by police outside Istanbul Monday.

Around 700 mostly Syrian men, women and children from a group that had been blocked for the past week at Istanbul's main bus station set out overnight on foot for the northwestern city of Edirne, 250 kilometres (150 miles) away.

After spending the night camped on the hard shoulder of the motorway, some of the migrants, who carried bags over their shoulders, managed to clamber aboard buses or private vehicles.

But a few hundred continued to walk along the emergency lane, in the midst of snarling morning traffic, before being brought to a halt by police about 50 kilometres (31 miles) from Istanbul, an AFP photographer witnessed.

Situated around 10 kilometres (six miles) from the Greek border and 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Bulgarian frontier, Edirne has become a new rallying point for migrants trying to reach Europe.

Encouraged by the #Crossingnomore social media campaign, which calls for migrants to be allowed to travel overland to Europe rather than risk their lives at sea, around 2,000 refugees flocked to the city last week.

Hundreds more who attempted to follow in their path found themselves stuck in Istanbul after bus operators, acting on orders from the authorities, refused to sell them tickets for the journey.

Edirne's governor has warned that any migrants trying to smuggle illegally into Europe through his province will be returned to refugee camps in southern Turkey.

On Saturday, a group of migrants that spent five days camped behind police lines on the road outside Edirne, under a scorching sun, agreed to disperse after talks with a group of refugees and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. "We are ready to send people to countries who open their doors to them, but unfortunately no country has given a favourable response so far," Davutoglu wrote afterwards on Twitter. Many of the Syrians pouring into Europe have been living in Turkey for months, sometimes years. Turkey has taken in over two million Syrians since 2011, of whom around 260,000 live in refugee camps.

Their "guest" status in Turkey gives them limited access to basic services and jobs, fuelling the current exodus to the European Union.—AFP

Greek leftist Tsipras returns in unexpectedly clear election win

ATHENS — Greek leftist Alexis Tsipras stormed back into office with an unexpectedly decisive election victory on Sunday, claiming a clear mandate to steer Greece's battered economy to recovery.

The vote ensured Europe's most outspoken leftist leader would remain Greece's dominant political figure, despite having been abandoned by party radicals last month after he caved in to demands for austerity to win a bailout from the euro zone.

In a victory speech to cheering crowds in a central Athens square, he promised a new phase of stability in a country that has held five general elections in six years, saying his mandate would now see him through a full term.

"Today in Europe, Greece and the Greek people are synonymous with resistance and dignity. This struggle will be continued together for a full four years," he said. He made no specific reference to the 86 billion euro (\$97 billion) bailout, but Syriza campaigned on a pledge to implement it, while promising also to introduce measures to protect vulnerable groups from some aspects of the deal.

"We have difficulties ahead of us but we also have a solid ground, we know where we can step, we have a prospect. Recovery from the crisis can't come magically, but it can come through tough work," he said.

Tsipras's first task after forming a government will be to persuade European Union lenders that enough agreed steps have been made to ensure the next payment. The bailout programme is due for a review next month.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutch head of the Eurogroup of finance ministers that use the single currency, said he looked forward to the swift formation of a new Greek government with a mandate to implement the bailout.

"Ready to work closely with the Greek authorities and to continue accompanying Greece in its ambitious reform efforts," Dijsselbloem tweeted.

Tsipras will also need to grapple with Greece's central role in Europe's refugee crisis, as the main entry point for tens of thousands of migrants who arrive by sea and trek up the Balkan peninsula to richer EU countries further north. He meets EU colleagues at an emergency summit over the



Former Greek prime minister and leader of leftist Syriza party Alexis Tsipras waves to supporters after winning the general election September 20, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

crisis on Wednesday.

In a near repeat of January's general election, his Syriza party fell just shy of an outright majority but will form a coalition with his former partners, the small right-wing Independent Greeks party.

With 99.5 percent of votes counted, Syriza had claimed 35.5 percent of the vote, easily seeing off the main conservative challengers New Democracy on 28.1 percent.

The interior ministry said that gave Syriza 145 seats in the 300-

seat parliament, just four fewer than when Tsipras first stormed to power early this year.

The result was more decisive than had been indicated in opinion polls, which had predicted a close race.

New Democracy swiftly conceded defeat. Leader Vangelis Meimarakis said: "The electoral result appears to be concluding with Syriza and Mr Tsipras in the lead. I congratulate him and urge him to create the government which is needed."—Reuters

Refugee crisis to test EU at summit of divided leaders

BRUSSELS — Bitterly-divided European leaders will seek to find a credible response to the continent's worst migration crisis since World War Two at an emergency summit this week.

German chancellor Angela Merkel called on her peers on Sunday to accept joint responsibility.

"Germany is willing to help. But it is not just a German challenge, but one for all of Europe," Merkel told a gathering of trade unionists. "Europe must act together and take on responsibility. Germany can't shoulder this task alone." Striking a more sceptical tone on migration than in previous weeks, Merkel also warned that Germany could not shelter those who were moving for economic reasons rather than to flee war or persecution. "We are a big country. We are a strong country. But to make out as if we alone can solve all the social problems of the world would not be realistic," she told a gathering of the Verdi trade union.

European Council President Donald Tusk, who chairs European Union summits, said on Twitter on Sunday following a weekend visit to Jordan and Egypt that the EU needed to help Syrian refugees find a better life closer at home.

That will be one of the topics of discussion for Wednesday's summit in Brussels as hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants brave the seas and trek across the impoverished Balkan peninsula to reach more affluent countries in northern Europe.

The 28-member bloc has struggled to find a unified response to the crisis, which has tested many of its newer members in the East



An Afghan family walks towards a registration camp after arriving by dinghy on the Greek island of Lesbos, on 20 September, 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

that are unaccustomed to large-scale immigration.

On Sunday Hungary erected a steel gate and fence posts at a border crossing with Croatia, the EU's newest member state. Overwhelmed by an influx of some 25,000 migrants this week, Croatia has been sending them north by

bus and train to Hungary, which has waved them on to Austria.

Around 10,700 migrants walked into Austria from Hungary on Sunday, some 200 more than on Saturday. The influx of migrants, most of them fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, has led to bitter recrimina-

tions between European governments while the temporary closure of national borders has undermined one of the most tangible achievements of the Union.

"If you don't cope with this crisis, then I think the EU will fall apart," said a senior EU official.

The official said European leaders would discuss longer-term strategies for dealing with the crisis, particularly increasing cooperation with Turkey and the countries bordering Syria to keep the millions of refugees at home. Tusk said more aid to the World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would also be on the agenda.

Beefing up the EU's asylum agency, Frontex, into a full border and coastguard agency, and working on hotspots and a list of "safe countries" whose citizens would not normally qualify for asylum, would also be up for discussion, the official said.

On Saturday, German Vice-Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel said the EU needed to provide 1.5 billion euros (\$1.70 billion) to the two agencies to address funding shortfalls. The EU prides itself on cementing peace among countries that until World War Two fought bloody battles and fostering prosperity by removing internal barriers among its member states through the so-called Schengen agreement.

But the more than 500,000 people crossing the Mediterranean into Europe this year alone and Hungary's use of water cannon and razor wire on its border with Serbia have seen the EU's ambitions to act as one fall short.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Is it foolish to keep your money in a bank?

Myint Win Thein

IT may sound strange to say that someone who deposits money at a bank is naive. Yet in Myanmar, it's not as odd as it sounds. Those who do deposit their money with Myanmar banks get an interest rate of around 8.25 percent. Generally speaking, this

is much higher than rates in most other countries – including the United States. Does this mean that those who use banking services in Myanmar are able to save more than their US counterparts? Not exactly, because when we factor in 8 percent inflation, there's little surplus left. That's one reason why so few people avail themselves of banking services. And when inflation jumps to 13 percent at the end of this year as predicted by IMF, depositors could actually lose money!

A further reason why most of the country is unbanked is that there are more lucrative markets for investment. For example, the US dollar has greatly strengthened against the kyat – since last year it's risen from around 900 kyat

to the dollar to K1,300. Those who invested in US dollars made a 50 percent profit in a short space of time. So it's really no surprise that some people think those who keep their money in banks are naive.

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Settlement of disputes and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea News analysis

U KHIN MAUNG
A retired diplomat

STATES have sovereignty over three kinds of territories. They are land territory, sea territory and air space over the sea territory. And state-parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea shall settle disputes between them, concerning the interpretation or application of the convention by peaceful means.

The dispute over the East China Sea between China and Japan, the second and the third biggest economies in the world and the two neighbouring countries in Asia, has remained to be one of the top news items for quite a time. Similarly China's assertive claims over most of the South China Sea, believed to be rich in oil and natural gas deposits, despite overlapping or rival claims with Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan, has also been another news item, drawing the entire world's attention, and drawing its huge interest.

With malice toward none, with charity for all and with firmness in the right, or in other words, with a good-will towards all parties in the dispute, I, a retired civil servant, with some sort of legal background, would like to submit my simple and sincere views on these disputes from international law point of view in general, and from that of the United Nations convention on the law of the Sea in particular. Well, where there is a dispute among states, it should be settled by diplomatic means, in good faith and with good-will. It is a well-established, time-tested and long-lasting doctrine that diplomacy is the first line of defence when it comes to settling a dispute. In other words, any assertion, any claim and any dispute should be

settled peacefully and by diplomatic means. It is a universally accepted rule of international law.

Before dealing with the above-mentioned territorial disputes, I would like to present the relevant provisions of the U.N Convention on the law of the Sea as follows.

The sovereignty of a coastal state extends, beyond its land territory and internal waters and in the case of an archipelagic

toms, fiscals, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations within its territory, or territorial sea or in a zone contiguous to its territorial sea. The convention also allows the coastal states certain rights in a zone that shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the breadth of the territorial sea. That zone is called exclusive economic zone. In this exclusive economic zone, the coastal states enjoy certain rights for

zone, and it may not extend beyond 24 nautical miles from the breadth of the territorial sea. As regards the exclusive economic zone, it shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. In exercising the rights and performing its duties in the exclusive economic zone, the coastal state shall have due regard to the rights of other states and shall act in a manner compatible with the stipulations of this convention.

The convention unequivocally stipulates the rights and obligations of a coastal state as explained above. In essence, all states, coastal, land-locked or geographically disadvantaged will have to cherish and respect a very crucial stipulation that the resources of the deep seabed or the resources under the sea-bed of the high seas, are the "common heritage of mankind". And the world community's interests in the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention of use of force in the

settlement of disputes between states have been advanced by the mandatory system of dispute settlement in the convention.

Conclusion

In presenting this news analysis, I bear no prejudice and bias against any party in the disputes. And I have also no iota of authority whatsoever to give advice to any of them. I am just presenting this analysis with my own academic interest, pure and simple. If you have any comments to make or point out any mistakes, you are most warmly and respectfully welcome. Thank you.

Reference:

- (1) The Law of the Sea. United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea.
- (2) Black's Law Dictionary BKYAN.A.GARNER.
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"Well, where there is a dispute among states, it should be settled by diplomatic means, in good faith and with good-will."

state, its archipelagic waters, to an adjacent belt of the sea, described as the territorial sea.

This sovereignty extends to the air space over the territorial sea as well as to its bed and sub-soil.

The sovereignty over the territorial sea is exercised, subject to this convention and to other rules of international law.

As regards the breadth of the territorial sea, Article (3) prescribes that every state has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 12 nautical miles measured from the baselines measured in accordance with this convention. In order for the coastal states to gain economic benefit from areas further off their shores, they can also establish the contiguous zone, and the exclusive economic zone. And the coastal states may exercise some controls inter-alia over such measures so as to prevent infringement of its cus-

the purpose of economic advantage notably rights over fishing and exploitation of non-living resources. At the same time, however, neighbouring land-locked and geographically disadvantaged states must be allowed to have access to those resources of the zone that the coastal state does not exploit. As regards this particular zone, there is a very important point we should take note. That is, the coastal state must observe and maintain the traditional freedoms of the high seas in this specific zone.

We should also take note of one crucial point concerning the territorial sea.

Subject to this convention, all states, whether coastal or land locked, shall enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea. And the coastalstate may exercise the control over a zone contiguous to the territorial sea. Such a zone is called a contiguous



KBZ foundation donates US\$76,000 to medical clinic

YANGON — The Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated K100 million (US\$76,441) to the Luyichuan (“outstanding student”) Free Clinic in New Hlaingthaya Township, Yangon.

The clinic has 28 doctors, 17 of whom are 17 specialists. The clinic has treated approximately 13,000 patients free of charge since it was founded in August 2014 by a group of outstanding medical graduates and private donors.

Other members of the public donated K26 million (\$19,875)

on Sunday. The donations were accepted by a Dr Pe Thet Khin, a former outstanding student and adviser to the Luyichuan Organisation from 1964 to 1988.

KBZ Group national senior administrator U Nyo Myint, who was a former luyichuan, also donated to the clinic.

The organisation’s president, Dr Tin Myo Win, thanked the doctors at the clinic and presented them with gifts.

The Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation is a social welfare foundation within the KBZ Group.—GNLM



Donations for Luyichuan (“outstanding student”) Free Clinic in New Hlaingthaya Township, Yangon. PHOTO: KBZ

Additional Emergency Assistance to Myanmar to the Flood Disaster

YANGON — On Tuesday, September 15, the Government of Japan decided to provide 10,000 mosquito nets as emergency relief goods to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in response to the request from the Government of Myanmar following serious damage from the floods in that country, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

In Myanmar, the floods has occurred as a result of ongoing torrential rain in the country’s north central region since July 16. According to an announcement from the Government of

Myanmar, as of September 2, this floods had caused 122 fatalities and affected 1.6 million people, and 476,000 households remain evacuated.

Originally, the Government of Japan provided blankets, sleeping pads and plastic sheets as emergency relief goods on August 4, and then on August 14, it also decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of 2.6 million US dollars (approximately 325 million Japanese yen) via international organizations, but because the number of victims has continued to increase, the Government has also decided to provide additional emergency assistance.—GNLM

Primary school inspected in Natogyi

NATOGYI — Chairman of the Myingyan District Construction Inspection Committee U Myint Tin Aung visited the construction site of a primary school in Natogyi Township on 19 September and

spoke about the importance of on-site safety measures.

The construction of the 2,400-square-foot brick building will cost K28.8 million (US\$21,403). In recent years, the

Myanmar government has emphasised the development of the education sector as an important component of the country’s overall development.—U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



Myanmar government has emphasised the development of the education sector. PHOTO: ZAW MIN NAING

Emerald Green project inspected in Kyangin Township

KYANGIN — Officials from the Kyangin Township Rural Development Department visited Kyantaw village on 19 September to evaluate the effect of loans locals provided by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development’s Emerald Green Rural Development project.

The second instalment of loans from the rural development fund provided K33.779 million (US\$25,821) to 76 farmers, 20 livestock breeders and six villagers in other vocations.

Kyangin village, located in Ayeyawady Region, has a population of 423 people.—Township Rural Development Office



76 farmers, 20 livestock breeders and six villagers get loans in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Muse candidates meet district election commission

MUSE — Candidates from political parties in Muse, Shan State, met the local district election sub-commission on 21 September

to discuss appropriate conduct during the run-up to the election. They also discussed safety measures, election laws and anti-bribery

measures in place. The meeting was also attended by township officials, town elders and media personnel.—(L Soe Htan Too)



Industrial Bank of Korea donates Cash for flood victims

NAY PYI TAW — Department of Social Welfare, Director General U Soe Kyi received Industrial Bank of Korea’s donation for flood victims of USD \$50,000 presented by Vice President of Industrial Bank of Korea, Mr. Yoon Joon Koo in Donation Ceremony in Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Nay Pyi Taw on 17-9-2015.—GNLM

Two Americans, Briton, three Saudis released from Yemen



Tribesmen loyal to Yemen's government ride on a pick-up truck in the frontline province of Marib, September 20, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

DUBAI — Two US citizens, one British national and three Saudis held for months by Yemen's Houthi group were freed on Sunday and have arrived in Oman, US, British and Omani officials and Houthi sources said.

Their release appeared to be a goodwill gesture ahead of talks between Yemen's dominant Houthis with the United Nations envoy to Yemen on efforts to end nearly six months of fighting.

Oman's Foreign Ministry said in a statement it had worked with Yemeni authorities in Sanaa to ensure the release of the Americans.

The ministry statement, carried by ONA state news agency,

added that three Saudi nationals and the Briton held by Houthi authorities were also freed and flown to Muscat aboard the same flight.

The three Westerners had been held by the Houthis since the early days of a Saudi-led military campaign in March on charges of entering the country without proper visas.

The White House said the release of the two Americans was arranged with the help of Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said. A spokesman for the White House National Security Council also called for the immediate resumption of peace talks aimed at ending the fighting in Yemen.

One of the freed US citizens

is Scott Darden, 45, said the Louisiana-based logistics company that employs him. The other freed American is Sam Farran, 54, a security consultant from Michigan, according to the Washington Post.

A third US captive was still believed to be held by Houthi rebels, with many governments and organisations working to free that individual, said a person familiar with the matter.

Britain's Foreign Office confirmed that a British national had traveled to Oman from Yemen and said that embassy staff had met the flight. It gave no further details.

Darden had been helping oversee the transport of human-

itarian supplies in Yemen for New Orleans-based Transoceanic Development, which confirmed his release. Darden's wife, Diana Loesch, posted on Facebook: "It's official my husband has finally been freed and Yemen and he's on his way to Muscat!!!"

A Saudi-led coalition intervened militarily in Yemen in March to shore up President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi after the Houthis, backed by supporters of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, launched a push against his southern stronghold in Aden.

More than 4,500 people have been killed in the fighting since March, according to UN figures. —Reuters

Coalition hits Sanaa as Yemen rebels mark its seizure

SANAA — Saudi-led warplanes pounded rebel positions in Sanaa on Monday as the rebels called a mass rally to celebrate the first anniversary of their seizure of the Yemeni capital.

Despite six months of coalition air strikes in support of exiled President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, expanded into a ground operation in late July, the rebels still control much of the north and centre of the country.

They overran the capital unopposed one year ago with the support of renegade troop still loyal to Hadi's ousted predecessor Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The pre-dawn air strikes on Sanaa targeted Saleh's supporters as well as the Shiite Huthi rebels, witnesses said.

One raid targeted the home of a leading lawmaker from Saleh's General People's Congress party, Ahmed al-Kahlani, the witnesses said.

Others targeted arms depots in the east of the capital controlled by pro-Saleh army units.

Saleh is himself a Shiite but the Huthis' alliance with the ousted strongman was widely seen as marriage of convenience as they had led repeated rebellions against his rule before his overthrow after a bloody Arab Spring-inspired uprising in 2011.

The rebels called on their supporters to turn out in numbers to mark the anniversary of their seizure of Sanaa and "prove to the world that the people stands by the leadership of the revolution."

The rebels have lost five southern provinces to forces loyal to the exiled president since July and are battling an offensive in Marib province east of the capital. —AFP

Kenya mourns Westgate siege anniversary

NAIROBI — Kenyans held prayers and lit candles in Nairobi on Monday to mark the second anniversary commemorations of the Westgate shopping mall attack by militants from Somalia's Al-Qaeda-affiliated Shebab.

In the Nakumatt supermarket inside the mall, where many of those who died in the attack were killed, staff held prayers, as shoppers went about normal business in the redecorated building.

"We are commemorating a time where many of our friends were lost, many of our friends had their destinies shattered," said preacher Dennis Pamba, as staff in the supermarket lit lines

of white candles to remember those killed. The attack began on 21 September, 2013, when four gunmen entered the mall, spraying shoppers and staff with machine gun fire and tossing grenades into crowds of Saturday shoppers and diners. The attack left 67 dead.

"Though they killed the 67, they never killed our spirit," said supermarket manager David Muri.

"My appeal to all Kenyans all over the world is people to come and shop at Westgate, Westgate is safe... we will continue with the same spirit."

Apparently inspired by the Mumbai attack of 2008, the gun-

men hunted down shoppers in supermarket aisles and singled out non-Muslims for execution. They then fought it out with Kenyan security forces before the siege was finally declared over four days after the first shot was fired.

"If we work together towards the good of the Lord, we shall always be victorious in our war with terrorism," Nakumatt worker Francis Kimotho said.

The Shebab said the attack was revenge for Kenya's sending of troops to fight the extremists in Somalia. They have launched a string of subsequent attacks in Kenya, including their biggest attack to date earlier this year — the massacre of 148 people, most

of them students, at Garissa university in the northeast.

All four gunmen were believed to have died in the mall, their bodies burned and crushed by tonnes of rubble after a section of the complex collapsed following a fierce blaze started by the fighting.

The Westgate mall, Nairobi's most upmarket shopping centre and a magnet for the east African nation's growing middle class and expatriates, reopened in July after extensive renovations.

Prayers were also held on Sunday in Nairobi's Karura forest at a site where a memorial stone and a plaque bearing the names of the dead, as well as newly plant-

ed trees, was unveiled a year ago. Survivors and relatives of those killed remembered the attack.

"We cannot even understand how it happened, and we honestly hope that it will never happen again," said Rupal Mital Shah, whose husband was killed, speaking at the memorial on Sunday.

"We miss him dearly, we still love him and we are just here because we planted all these trees for all the victims."

"It was absolutely horrendous," said attack survivor Amanda Belcher. "I think everyone who was there will be scarred in their memories for the rest of their lives." —AFP

Asian shares slump on global growth concerns, US selloff

SINGAPORE — Asian shares and emerging currencies fell on Monday after the US Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates at record lows raised fresh concerns about growth globally, particularly in China.

European markets were set to follow suit, with financial spreadbetters expecting Britain's FTSE 100 .FTSE to slip 0.4 percent, Germany's DAX .GDAXI 0.5 percent, and France's CAC 40 .FCHI 0.2-0.3 percent.

US stock futures ES1 slipped 0.4 percent during the Asian day, suggesting further weakness on Wall Street after major indexes fell more than 1.3 percent on Friday on worries that slower overseas demand will hurt corporate profits.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS fell 2 percent, with Hong Kong .HSI down 1.2 percent, Australia 2 percent and South Korea .KS11 1.6 percent. Japanese markets are shut through Wednesday.

China was the sole Asian market to defy the downtrend, with the Shanghai Composite index .SSEC up 1.1 percent and the CSI300 .CSI300 rising 1 percent.

Investors will be focusing on flash manufacturing activity readings from China and the eurozone on Wednesday for pointers on where the global economy is heading.

A Reuters poll showed economists expect the flash September China factory PMI headline reading to edge up to 47.5 from a final reading of 47.3 in August.

But it likely remained near 6/1-2-year lows, pointing to a seventh straight contraction in activity on a monthly basis.

"It looks like a continuation of the growth worries that have hampered markets for the last few months now," said Shane Oliver, head of investment strategy at AMP Capital in Sydney.

"European and US shares had sharp falls, after initially benign reactions to the Fed, and this is now flowing through to Asian markets today," he said.

Global markets have recoiled after the Fed opted on Thursday to hold rates steady, saying it would like to see further improvements in US labour markets and inflation and stressing that the global economic outlook appeared less certain.

The US dollar, which retreated after the Fed decision, rose 0.3 percent to 95.365 against a basket of six currencies .DXY but slipped 0.1 percent to 119.86 yen on Monday.

The euro was little changed at \$1.1312.

US and European debt yields also tumbled on Friday, with the policy-sensitive two-year yield US2YT=RR falling to 0.678 after hitting a four-and-a-half year



A pedestrian taking shelter from rain walks past an electronic board showing the stock market indices of various countries outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan, 4 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

high of 0.819 percent earlier in the week.

The 10-year German Bund yield EU10YT=RR fell 12 basis points to 66 basis points, its biggest one-day drop since early July. Bund futures FGBLC1 opened up 17 ticks on Monday.

"The monetary-policy-watcher world has now turned decidedly bearish" after the Fed meeting, Evan Lucas, market

strategist at trading services provider IG in Melbourne, wrote in a note.

"If emerging market risk, coupled with low-growth European environment is affecting Fed decision making, sentiment uncertainty will amplify," he said.

The resulting safe-haven demand led gold to hold near its highest level in nearly three

weeks. Spot gold XAU= held steady at \$1,138.9 an ounce, after gaining 3 percent in the previous three sessions.

Oil prices climbed as US drilling slowed, after slumping on Friday on the selloff in US stocks.

US crude futures CLC1 were up 1.3 percent at \$45.24 per barrel. Brent futures LCOC1 rose 1.1 percent to \$47.99.—Reuters

Vietnam Airlines flies new A350 aircraft to Japan



Vietnam Airlines Co's new A350 aircraft. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CHIBA — Vietnam Airlines Co flew its new A350 aircraft between Ho Chi Minh City and Narita near Tokyo on Sunday, becoming the first carrier to operate the new Airbus on a commercial service to or from Japan.

The airlines brought in the 305-seat A350-900 jet as a one-time replacement for the normally used A330.

Vietnam Airlines became

the second operator in the world in June to receive the A350.

It has yet to decide whether to regularly use the aircraft for the Vietnam-Japan route, the company said. According to the airline, the cost of operating the new Airbus jet is about 25 percent cheaper than that for the competitor Boeing 777 thanks mainly to its lower weight.—Kyodo News

Apple's iOS App Store suffers first major attack

BOSTON — Apple Inc said on Sunday it is cleaning up its iOS App Store to remove malicious iPhone and iPad programmes identified in the first large-scale attack on the popular mobile software outlet.

The company disclosed the effort after several cyber security firms reported finding a malicious program dubbed XcodeGhost that was embedded in hundreds of legitimate apps.

It is the first reported case of large numbers of malicious software programmes making their way past Apple's stringent app review process. Prior to this attack, a total of just five malicious apps had ever been found in the App Store, according to cyber security firm Palo Alto Networks Inc.

The hackers embedded the malicious code in these apps by convincing developers of legitimate software to use a tainted, counterfeit version of Apple's software for creating iOS and Mac apps, which is known as Xcode, Apple said.

"We've removed the apps from the App Store that we know have been created with this counterfeit software," Apple spokeswoman Christine Monaghan said in an email. "We are working with the developers to make sure they're using the proper version of Xcode to rebuild their apps."

She did not say what steps iPhone and iPad users could take to

determine whether their devices were infected. Palo Alto Networks Director of Threat Intelligence Ryan Olson said the malware had limited functionality and his firm had uncovered no examples of data theft or other harm as a result of the attack.

Still, he said it was "a pretty big deal" because it showed that the App Store could be compromised if hackers infected machines of software developers writing legitimate apps. Other attackers may copy that approach, which is hard to defend against, he said.

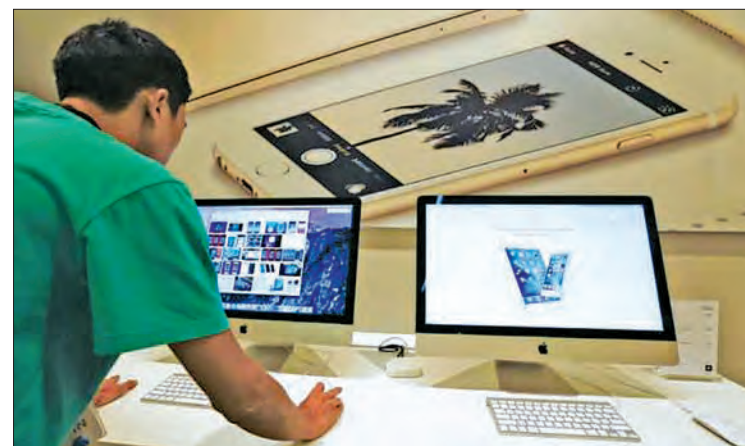
"Developers are now a huge target," he said.

Researchers said infected apps included Tencent Holdings Ltd's popular mobile chat app WeChat, car-hailing app Didi Kuaidi and a

music app from Internet portal NetEase Inc. The tainted version of Xcode was downloaded from a server in China that developers may have used because it allowed for faster downloads than using Apple's US servers, Olson said.

Chinese security firm Qihoo360 Technology Co said on its blog that it had uncovered 344 apps tainted with XcodeGhost.

Tencent said on its official WeChat blog that the security flaw affects WeChat 6.2.5, an old version of its popular chatting app, and that newer versions were unaffected. A preliminary investigation showed there had been no data theft or leakage of user information, the company said. Apple declined to say how many apps it had uncovered.—Reuters



A sales assistant shows features of iOS 9 on an Apple iMac at an Apple reseller shop in Bangkok. PHOTO: REUTERS

**SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
(PROCUREMENT OF GOODS / WORKS)
REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
NCDDP – NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:H-814MM**

Contract Title: TABLETS with power bank and high protection carry case

Reference No. : ICB G 22

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of tablets. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of 900 (nine hundred) tablets with power bank and high protection carry case. The tablets and their accessories will be delivered in the DRD central warehouse in Nay Pyi Taw. The delivery time is limited to 30 (thirty) days to be counted from the date of signature of the contract.

Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be sent by e-mail only.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 26 October 2015 11.00 Hrs Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened at the address below on 26 October 2015 12.00 Hrs Myanmar time. Further information and bidding documents may be obtained through Mr. Kyaw Swa Aung, Director of DRD, (drdmyanmar@gmail.com) during office hours Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 16.00 Hrs at the address given below.

All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Securing Declaration".

The address referred to above is:

Department of Rural Development

Attn: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General

Office No 14, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Tel: +95-067-409413, 409071 (office)

Email: drdmyanmar@gmail.com, Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org

**SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
(PROCUREMENT OF GOODS / WORKS)
REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT- NCDDP
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:H-814MM**

Contract Title: MOTORCYCLES 105cc (LOW CLEARANCE)

Reference No. : ICB G 17 (a)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of Motorcycles.

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of 810 (eight hundred and ten) motorcycles with low ground clearance (scooter type). The motorcycles will be delivered in the DRD central warehouse in Nay Pyi Taw (CIP Nay Pyi Taw). The delivery time is limited to 90 (ninety) days to be counted from the date of signature of the contract.

Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.

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Tel: +95-067-409413, 409071 (office)

Email: drdmyanmar@gmail.com, Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FSL SANTOS VOY NO (0013N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL SANTOS VOY NO (0013N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185



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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 22nd September, 2015:

Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Naypyitaw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Chin and Rakhine states, widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:

Thundery condition in the central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd September, 2015:

Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd September, 2015:

Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd September, 2015:

Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Eiffel Tower closed for hours after intruder spotted

PARIS — Paris's Eiffel Tower was closed for several hours on Sunday after an intruder with a backpack was spotted inside the iconic monument before its daily opening hours, officials said.

The tower was reopened at 2:45 pm (1245 GMT) after being closed to the public for the morning, the press department for the tourist attraction said.

Before it opened on Sunday morning, "an individual was seen in the structure with a backpack", a source close to the matter said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"To remove all doubt, a helicopter was sent to

carry out an inspection of the structure."

Firefighters were also dispatched to the site, but "found nothing", according to a fire department spokesman.

A policeman at the scene said the intruder may have been an adventurer seeking to parachute off the tower, which is 324 metres (354 yards) tall -- a sight not uncommon in the French capital. In 2005, however, a Norwegian man died while attempting a similar feat.

The "Iron Lady" attracts around seven million visitors a year, of which nearly nine in 10 are foreign tourists.—AFP

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Elderly and middle-age people exercise with wooden dumbbells during a health promotion event to mark Japan's "Respect for the Aged Day" at a temple in Tokyo's Sugamo district, an area popular among the Japanese elderly, on 21 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Congratulations

Our heartiest welcome and warmest congratulations
on the successful opening of



Yangon branch in Myanmar on 22nd September 2015.

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to benefit the economic development of Myanmar.



Chairman
and Board of Directors
KBZ BANK LTD.

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:
- | Sr No. | Tender No | Description |
|--------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. | 15(T)1/MR(E)
2015-2016 | Raw Material for Concrete Sleeper Production (3)Items
(a) 3 mm Ø 3ply HT Steel Strand (200) M.Ton
(b) 3.6 mm Ø 3ply HT Steel Strand (470) M.Ton
(c) 18mm Ø Spring Steel (100) M.Ton |
- Closing Date & Time - 19.10.2015(Monday)(12:30)Hrs
2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 18.9.2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994,

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV TOKYO TRADER VOY NO (1511)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOKYO TRADER VOY NO (1511) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1039W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1039W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1531)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1531) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.9.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

'Veep,' 'Game of Thrones' sweep fresh air into TV's Emmys



The cast of HBO's 'Game of Thrones' poses backstage with their award for Outstanding Drama Series during the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California 20 September, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — HBO shows "Game of Thrones" and "Veep" won the top prizes at the Emmy Awards for the first time on Sunday, bringing a breath of fresh air to television's biggest night on an evening that also made history for black actresses.

Jon Hamm finally snared an Emmy for his lead role as Don Draper in AMC's 1960s advertising drama "Mad Men," winning a standing ovation from the audience.

"There's been a terrible mistake clearly," said Hamm, who

clambered onto the stage rather than walking up the stairs. "It's incredible and impossible for me to be standing here."

Hamm said playing a character like the secretive Draper for so long had been both a blessing and a curse.

"It doesn't come without a cost and a lot of mental and emotional baggage that gets torn through and weighs on you after a while," he told reporters backstage.

But "Mad Men," a four-time best drama series winner, was shut out of all the other categories and had to be content with just Hamm's Emmy after closing its final season earlier this year.

Instead, the 18,000 voters of the Television Academy threw their support behind the HBO medieval fantasy series "Game of Thrones," which was the night's biggest winner with 12 Emmys.

The top Emmy prize had always eluded the series, which is based on George RR Martin's books about blood-thirsty nobles and warring kingdoms, despite its 20 million viewers in the United States.

On Sunday, it also won awards for writing, directing and for supporting actor Peter Dinklage.

Backstage, co-creator Dan Weiss said the "Thrones" team had known it would take a while to win over the

Television Academy.

"We knew there'd be some resistance to the idea that a show set in this genre, as opposed to crime shows or Westerns, could be a serious drama," he said.

"(But) we knew if we did our jobs and were fortunate to be blessed with the cast and crew that we have, we'd get there eventually."

HBO's "Veep" ended the five-year Emmy reign of ABC's "Modern Family" as best comedy series. Julia Louis-Dreyfus won best comedy actress for the fourth consecutive year for her role as the egotistical President Selina Meyer in the series, while Tony Hale, who plays her bag man, was again named comedy supporting actor.

"I think we just get better with every season we do, but also she became president so that gave us lots of challenges," "Veep" creator Armando Iannucci told reporters about the show's rise to the top.

"Everything Selina does now has terrible international impact, so it made everyone raise their game."—Reuters

Sebastian Stan slams Zack Snyder over 'Ant-Man' remarks

LONDON — Marvel's Winter Soldier actor Sebastian Stan has hit back at Zack Snyder's damning comments about "Ant-Man".

"Batman vs Superman" filmmaker Snyder recently said Marvel's "Ant-Man" is just a "flavour of the week," but the studio now has Stan, 33, defending their ethics, reported Digital Spy.

"I read some of those comments where he said something about Batman and Superman, I can't remember where I read that, somewhere... Something about, 'It's not going to be your flavour-of-the-week Ant-Man'."

"I was like, 'Oh thanks, Zack. That's great. Way to do something original'. But I would say we're still making something very original in our own way," he said.

The Romanian-American actor took a dig at 49-year-old "Man of Steel" helmer saying Marvel is not trying to copy Batman trilogy director Christopher Nolan.

"I mean, the Russos are coming in and taking something people are used to and they're shaping it up and changing it in a very different way. They're not trying to mimic a better Christopher Nolan movie or something like that.—PTI

Kidnapping tale 'Room' takes top prize at Toronto film festival



Actor Brie Larson, Jacob Trembley and Joan Allen arrive for the premiere of the movie 'Room' during the 40th Toronto International Film Festival. PHOTO: REUTERS

TORONTO — "Room", an adaptation of the Man Booker Prize-nominated novel about a mother and child held captive for years, won top prize at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sunday.

The People's Choice Award, chosen by the votes of audience members, has in the past gone to Oscar winners such as "Slumdog Millionaire," "The King's Speech" and "12 Years a Slave." Last year, it was won by Best Picture nominee "The Imitation Game."

"Room" was based on the 2010 novel written by Irish-born author Emma Donoghue, who

now lives in Canada.

The novel and film bear similarity to the real-life case of Austria's Elisabeth Fritzl, who was held captive for years in a concealed part of her father's home and gave birth to his children after suffering sexual abuse.

"Room" tells the story of a boy named Jack, who has only ever known the space he and his mother have been confined in, and the further challenges they face after emerging into the outside world.

Director Lenny Abrahamson, who did not attend the awards ceremony, issued a statement in

which he thanked Donoghue, "whose beautiful novel started everything."

Other award winners included "Desierto", a thriller starring Gael García Bernal about a group of would-be immigrants from Mexico to the United States who find themselves hunted by a deranged vigilante.

It won a prize from the International Federation of Film Critics for movies in the festival's special presentations programme.

García Bernal, who accepted the award, said the issue of migration is very pertinent given the "discourse of hatred" being heard in the political world. He said the movie was dedicated to people who migrate "not because they choose to, but because they need to."

The People's Choice Award for top documentary went to "Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom," which will appear on Netflix next month.

The People's Choice Award for top film in the Midnight Madness program, which often showcases horror and offbeat films, went to "Hardcore" by Russian director Ilya Naishuller.

The action-adventure movie, about a cyborg hunting for his past, was entirely shot from the first-person perspective.

Now in its 40th year, the Toronto festival often serves as a launch pad for films and performances that go on to win Academy Awards, as well as international movies seeking distribution deals.—Reuters

Neerja Bhanot's story will inspire young women: Sonam Kapoor

MUMBAI — Sonam Kapoor will be seen in the biopic of Neerja Bhanot, a Pan Am cabin crew member who died saving passengers on a hijacked flight, and the actress says the flight attendant's story will inspire young women of the country.

Bhanot, the senior most flight attendant on board a Pan Am Mumbai-New York flight, was shot dead by terrorists, who hijacked the flight at Karachi in 1986, in her courageous bid to save the lives of passengers. She became the youngest recipient of India's highest peacetime military award for bravery, the Ashok Chakra.

"I thought doing this film just reaffirms that it is about not bowing down. She (Neerja) had won the Arjuna Award for bravery and is the youngest and only female to win it. I think it's commendable. It is an inspiring story for me to do. I am blessed," Sonam told PTI.

The 30-year-old star chose to do the film because she felt young girls could imbibe the virtue of courage by watching the movie. "The reason I chose to do this film is because I feel that girls need to have a lot of courage. I have lot of it when I speak about certain things and when I have to stand up for myself. There were times when many people were advising me not to speak up for something that I believe was wrong," she said.—PTI

Obituary

Michael Yu

Age 78 years

Ex UBA/ BAC

Son of the late Malcolm and Anne Yu beloved husband of Winsome father of Stephanie and David, Natalie and Troy, grandfather of Lachlan, Emily, Eathan, Connor and brother of Gerry and Lwin, Sheila, Jeannie, Mary Ann and Dawn, passed away peacefully on Saturday 12th September in Perth Australia.

Hourglass in Japan recognized by Guinness as world's largest



The sand clock in the city of Oda was recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

MATSUE — An hourglass at a museum in Shimane Prefecture in western Japan that measures the duration of a year has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's largest, the museum said Sunday.

The hourglass, built at the Nima Sand Museum in Oda, Shimane, is 5.2 metres tall and has a diameter of 1 metre. It began ticking on 1 Jan, 1991, using quartz sand from Yamagata Prefecture.

One ton of the sand is designed to fall through the glass container over a year. The record was published on 10 September.

Previously, the world's largest hourglass in Guinness World Records was 1.06 metres tall with a diameter of 38 centimetres.

It was made by an American. The recognition came after the publisher of Guinness World Records confirmed the size of the museum's hourglass and sounded it out about registering the device, according to a museum official.

The hourglass, named Sunagoyomi (sand calendar), is housed inside a pyramid-shaped glassy structure and serves as the museum's centrepiece.

The device is turned upside down every year to start ticking again.

"I have always wanted to see it and am happy that I was able to come after it was recognized (as the world's largest)," said 57-year-old Sawako Yano, who travelled to the museum from Osaka Prefecture with her family.—Kyodo News

Divided Mongols find unity in common ancestor Kublai

ULAN BATOR — Eight centuries after the ruler of the greatest land empire in history was born, descendants of the mighty Mongol Kublai Khan are a people divided between his homeland and the China he conquered, with both claiming him as their own.

Kublai Khan's birthday was 800 years ago Wednesday, when Mongolia will commemorate the anniversary in Ulan Bator. In China a statue of him has been set up at the site of his summer capital during the Yuan dynasty, founded in 1271.

Under Kublai — a grandson of Genghis Khan, who first started the Mongols' epic expansions — the realm reached its greatest extent, stretching from eastern Europe to the Korean peninsula, the largest contiguous land domain ever.

But the Yuan emperors ruled China for less than a century, and after they fell the roles were reversed, with the Chinese later establishing themselves over Mongolia.

Geopolitical earthquakes in the 20th century, such as the collapse of China's Qing dynasty and the rise of the Soviet Union, finally saw Mongolia break away as an independent country, only to quickly fall under the sway of Moscow.

"Kublai Khan, being a Mongol, would have had great difficulty establishing control over China, so he had to make himself a Chinese emperor and thus found the Yuan dynasty," John Man, author and authority on Mongol history, told AFP.

"It's one of the world's greatest historical ironies that modern Chi-

na gets most of its borders, minus Mongolia, from a barbarian from the North, from Kublai Khan who was a Mongol, not a Chinese at all."

Nonetheless, China proclaims itself as the world's oldest civilisation and has a tendency to co-opt successful invaders and declare them Chinese.

Modern Mongolia has a population of only three million, the vast majority ethnic Mongols. But almost twice as many — nearly six million — live in the People's Republic of China, where they are one of dozens of minorities.

Some divided nations have reunified, such as West and East Germany. But despite some Mongolian nationalists' fantasies, the country's geopolitical weakness and economic dependence on China make a single Mongol state impossible, says D Shurkhuu of the Institute of International Affairs in Ulan Bator.

"This is a very sensitive issue in political terms, especially for politicians in Mongolia," he told AFP.

On both sides Mongols agree on the glory of their shared history — first brought to the West in "The Travels of Marco Polo", which recounts the Italian voyager's encounters with Kublai.

"Genghis Khan is the ancestor of ethnic Mongols and Mongolians," said Baigali, a guide at a complex in China's Inner Mongolia region billed as the mausoleum of Kublai's grandfather. Foreign historians reject the claim, though the site of Genghis' grave has never been identified and remains one of the world's great unsolved historical mysteries. Baigali,

who goes by a single name, said the two peoples are essentially the same, although those in China use traditional vertical Mongolian script, while Mongolians write in the horizontal Cyrillic alphabet inherited from the Soviet Union.

"And they think they are superior to us because they are pure Mongolian and we are Sinicised," she added, hinting at underlying tensions.

Hada, an ethnic Mongol dissident who spent almost 20 years behind bars in China before being freed last December, says his people have been marginalised by Communist authorities and "downgraded... to an 'ethnic minority'".

"It is an undeniable fact that they are the indigenous people of a great nation," he wrote of China's Mongols in an article published online this month by the US-based monitoring group Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Centre.

"It serves a political agenda of the Chinese to belittle the Mongolian nation, diminish national self-confidence and cause them to abandon any aspirations of self-determination," he continued.

Beijing denies it oppresses minority groups and counters it has delivered economic development and raised living standards.

Mongol herders in China sporadically demonstrate against their resource-rich pastures being infringed upon by developers and coalminers — one named Tumur hanged himself in protest earlier this year — drawing attention and support from activists in Mongolia.—AFP

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(22-9-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am

- Mono Classical Songs

6:50 am

- Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:10 am

- TV Drama Series

7:55 am

- TV Drama Series

8:40 am

- Teleplay

8:55 am

- Myanmar Video

10:20 am

- Myanmar Video

6:15 pm

- AFC Women's Olympic Football Tournament Rio 2016 (Live) (Myanmar Vs Chinese Taipei)

mitv

Myanmar International

(22-9-2015 07:00 am~23 -9-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Insight Myanmar (Child Protection) "Overview of Child Protection Program"
07:48	Am	Amazing "Sayargyi Nyein Chan Aung"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part-II)
08:46	Am	"Moe Hnyin Than Buddhé", The Unique Pagoda In Monywa
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Bagan Choral Dance
09:31	Am	Lively Group Folk Dance of Kayan Nationals
09:36	Am	Reflected Glory
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	On the River
10:47	Am	MURAL PAINTING BAGAN

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 06:30 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 10:30 Am)

06:30 Pm Second Round AFC Women's Olympic Football Qualifying Tournament For Rio-2016 {Myanmar Vs. China (Taipei)}

Prime Time

08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	Let's Cook (EP-2) Spaghetti with Dried Chilli and Bacon & Choco late Covered Strawberry
08:52	Pm	Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter

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

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

U-13 football final held at Taungtha

TAUNTHA — An U-13 football final was held in Taungtha Township on September 20, with Soe Paing FC clinching the championship title by defeating High School FC by 2-1.

The winning team was awarded the Taungtha Management Committee Chairman's Bowl and a cash prize of K100,000. High School FC received K70,000.

Football matches in Mandalay Region were held from September 7 to 20.—*Kyaw Myo Naing*



Young footballer of Soe Paing FC accepts the winning trophy for U-13 football final in Taungtha, Mandalay Region. PHOTO: KYAW MYO NAING

Medals for Myanmar in Korean traditional wrestling competitions



Myanmar medalists at the Asian Ssireum Championship and the 5th World Ssireum. PHOTO: MIN HTET

YANGON — Myanmar won awards at the Asian Ssireum Championship and the 5th World Ssireum, which was held at the National Indoor Stadium in Thunwunna, Yangon.

In the 50 kilo weight division, Tin Tin Win won a gold medal and Naw Phaw Lar Eh a bronze, while

in the 60 kilo division, Ma Ei Phyu Aung won silver, Nan Cherry Kham won bronze in 70 kilo weigh level and Ma Thin Myat Aye took home a silver medal.

Myanmar's male athletes fared well in the 70, 90, 100 kilo weight division. Aung Htay won a silver medal and Lar Haung Lei

won bronze. By the second day of the event, Myanmar's team had been awarded one gold, four silver and three bronze medals in total.

Next up are the 80 and 120 kilo competitions for men and the 50 and 70 kilo weight levels for women.—*Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)*

City lose perfect record, Barca cruise

LONDON — Leaders Manchester City lost their 100 percent Premier League record with a 2-1 home loss to West Ham United while Barcelona, Borussia Dortmund and Inter Milan all won to stay top.

Premier League leaders Manchester City suffered a surprise 2-1 home defeat by West Ham United that ended their 100 percent record and cut their advantage over second-placed local rivals Manchester United to two points.

West Ham became the first team to score a league goal versus City this term when Victor Moses struck after six minutes and they doubled their lead through Diafra Sakho before 55 million pounds (\$85.44 million) man Kevin de Bruyne pulled a goal back. Struggling champions Chelsea are eight points off the pace after winning 2-0

against visitors Arsenal, who finished a fiery match with nine men, after goals by Kurt Zouma and Eden Hazard.

Manchester United's newly-signed French teenager Anthony Martial scored twice in a 3-2 win at Southampton that took them above a West Ham side in third place and level on 12 points with Leicester City, who drew 2-2 at Stoke City.

Lionel Messi struck twice and missed a penalty as Barcelona thrashed Levante 4-1 to maintain their 100 percent record in La Liga.

Barca struck three times in 11 second-half minutes thanks to goals from defender Marc Bartra, Neymar and a penalty from Messi. Victor pulled one back for Levante before Messi fired another spot-kick over the bar but the Argentine striker made amends with his second

goal in the 90th minute.

A Karim Benzema header gave Real Madrid a narrow 1-0 win at home to Granada who were left angry that a Youssef El-Arabi goal was wrongly ruled offside.

Real are two points behind Barcelona and level with Villarreal and Celta Vigo on 10 points.

Borussia Dortmund cruised past Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 to reclaim top spot in the Bundesliga and stretch their perfect start to five wins out of five league games. Champions Bayern beat Darmstadt 98 3-0 to move to 15 points with a fifth win but Dortmund's victory, their 11th consecutive in all competitions, put them ahead on goal difference.

VfL Wolfsburg beat Hertha Berlin 2-0 to cling on to third spot, while Schalke 04 needed talented teenager Leroy Sane to beat struggling VfB Stuttgart

1-0 and move up to fourth place.

Borussia Moenchengladbach coach Lucien Favre resigned on Sunday as a result of their poor run of results, with his side having lost their opening five league matches.

Inter Milan kept up their perfect Serie A record when Mauro Icardi gave them a 1-0 win at unbeaten Chievo to leave them as the only team with 12 points from their opening four games.

Torino are second, two points behind, after a Fabio Quagliarella double earned a 2-0 win over Walter Zenga's Sampdoria.

Francesco Totti, 39 this month, scored his 300th competitive goal for AS Roma in their 2-2 draw at home to Sassuolo.

Titleholders Juventus claimed their first league win of the season when they beat Genoa 2-0 away with an own goal by goalkeeper Eugenio Lamanna and a Paul Pogba penalty. Paris St Germain retained their Ligue 1 lead despite being held for the second time in a row in a 1-1 stalemate at Stade de Reims on Saturday. With 14 points from six games, the champions lead Stade Rennais and St Etienne by one point.

Ten-man Olympique de Marseille and Olympique Lyonnais shared the points in a 1-1 draw in the clash of the weekend on Sunday with the game interrupted for 23 minutes by crowd trouble.—*Reuters*

Real keeper Navas seeks to extend clean sheets record

BARCELONA — A few weeks ago Real Madrid's Keylor Navas seemed about to leave but now has a club record five clean sheets since the start of the season which he will aim to extend against Athletic Bilbao in La Liga on Wednesday.

Navas has shown poise and dexterity in goal since his move to Manchester United collapsed at the end of the transfer window and has quickly won the admiration of the Bernabeu crowd.

The Costa Rican international, who was reportedly included in a deal to bring David De Gea to Real that was not registered in time, has yet to concede in four league games as well as the Champions League match with Shakhtar Donetsk last Tuesday.

He has already bettered the previous best start to a campaign by a Real keeper when Miguel Angel kept four clean sheets at the beginning of the 1975-76 season.

There were also four clean sheets at the start of the 1957-58 campaign when two goalkeepers Rogelio Dominguez and Juanito Alonso were used.

"It was a difficult night for me at the end of the transfer market but that is now in the past," Navas told reporters.

"Now I am thinking of the present and the coach (Rafa Benitez) believes in me. I have had the chance to stay and I will give my best. I am very grateful to the Real fans for their support which is not easy to earn." —*Reuters*



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates with teammate Neymar after scoring against Levante during their Spanish first division soccer match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 20 September, 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS