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MYANMAR'S BIG MISSION

State Counsellor meets with Myanmar Permanent Mission to UN in New York

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with members of the Office of Myanmar Permanent Mission to the United Nations at the residence of the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the UN in New York on 18 September.

The State Counsellor cordially held talks and asked about their requirements during the meeting.

The Office of Myanmar Permanent Mission to the UN then hosted a luncheon in honour of the State Counsellor.

The State Counsellor and officials then discussed matters related to the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets members of the Office of Myanmar Permanent Mission to the United Nations. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Dawei SEZ project

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Committee, went on an inspection tour of the Dawei SEZ project in Dawei, Taninthayi Region yesterday.

Accompanied by Union Minister Dr Than Myint and Deputy Ministers Dr Tun Naing and U Kyaw Myo, the Vice President heard reports on land use, establishment of a new town, regional development undertakings, progress of the Dawei SEZ project implementation and works to be done, electricity supply works for the SEZ and its environs, progress in construction of a small port and future works and implementation of the project through a trilateral cooperation of Myanmar, Japan and Thailand.

In his address, the Vice President called for creation of pre-assessments on environmental and social impacts and ensuring electricity and water supply and road transport.

He stressed the need of collaborative efforts between local people and officials, including those from Dawei SEZ management committee to bring benefit to the country, saying that the project will be of benefit to tourism development in Dawei region, including Maungmagan beach.

Next, the Vice President and party inspected the small port built to facilitate shipments of construction materials for implementation of the project and a deep-sea port and designated industrial zones.

They then went to Maungmagan beach and held talks with officials concerned on preparation for development of the beach and utilization of lands in line with the law and rules and regulations.

Myanmar and Thailand agreed to implement the Dawei SEZ plan in 2008. In November, 2010, the two countries inked an agreement to expedite the project and the two foreign ministers signed an MoU in February, 2012. Plans are underway for successful implementation of the project through the trilateral cooperation of Myanmar, Japan and Thailand.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits Dawei Special Economic Zone project in Dawei, Taninthayi Region. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw approves bill to amend Ward or Village-tract Administration Law

PYITHU Hluttaw approved the third revised bill to amend the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law during its 35th day meeting yesterday.

Speaker U Win Myint announced Pyithu Hluttaw's approval for the Bill following a debate on paragraphs and sub-paragraphs amended and approved in Amyotha Hluttaw by lawmakers.

During yesterday's session, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe responded to calls for revision of the 1945 Police Act to be in line with the present situations and removal of buildings, shops and trees blocking drivers' view of pedestrians and traffic at dangerous turns on motorways.

Works are underway to approve the Myanmar Police Force draft law, with the ministry preparing for the release of an order by the President and seeking the remarks of the Union Attorney-General's Office regarding the 1945 Police Act, added the deputy minister.

Regarding traffic safety, the deputy minister said that members of the traffic police corps are stepping up efforts on road safety awareness and traffic rules enforcement in cooperation with relevant departments.

Actions have been taken against those who occupied land in the road boundary without the Ministry of Construction's permission in accord with the Expressway Law and Roads Law, added the deputy minister.

Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

According to Section 7 (a) of the Roads Law, those who constructed buildings in the road boundary without permission will be subject to fines to at least from K100,000 to K500,000. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Chin State's Kennedy Peak to be designated as natural area, says Union Minister

LAY THAR TAUNG, also known as Kennedy Peak, in Tiddim Township, Chin State will be designated a natural area, a step toward being protected environmentally, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win told Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

During the 33rd day session of Amyotha Hluttaw, the Union minister said that, with the participation of local people and the regional government, an effort will be made to get Kennedy Peak designated as protected natural land in order to conserve its biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

Likewise, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut responded to a call for construction of housing for education staff in Kyaikmaraw Township of Mon State, saying that priority to any action will depend on the allocated funds and the regional government's remarks on it.

According to the deputy minister, the ministry received K8, 265.40million for construction of staff quarters for this fiscal year.

Next, Union Minister U Ohn Win replied to a question about chain saws, saying that chain saws control has been established to prevent illegal logging and measures are being taken against its use and import by the Forest Department in cooperation with related departments, including the Myanmar Police Force.

The Union minister elaborated on actions taken against illegal logging near Myanmar-China border posts, east of Khaunglanphu Township of Kachin State. A total of 1,939.86 tonnes of illegal logs were seized along with the arrests of 117 locals and seizure of 104 pieces of machinery during this fiscal year in Kachin State.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Efforts are being made to prevent illegal logging and transport of timbers illegally logged across the border in cooperation with Tatmadaw's military columns and the local police force, added the Union minister.

He pledged that punitive actions will be taken against those involved in illegal logging, saying that no revenue and entry of vehicle were collected and listed as no border trade camps were set up at border crossings where timber are transported illegally. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu, Amyotha Hluttaw committee chairmen meet with 3MDG Fund Board

MP Dr San Shwe Win and MP Dr Than Win hold talks with 3MDG Fund Board. PHOTO: MNA

CHAIRMAN of Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee Dr San Shwe Win and Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Sports and Cultural Affairs Committee Dr Than Win held talks with the 3MDG Fund Board in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they discussed matters related to HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria control, health infrastructure requirements, public funds usage, health manpower management and more assistance to underdeveloped areas such as the Naga region.

The 3MDG Fund Board has a five-year project on the health sector in Myanmar, from 2012 to 2017. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Odd-job workers receive skills for SMEs

THE SME Development Department and the Consumer Protection Association of Myanmar jointly conducted a livelihood training program yesterday in Hlaingthayar, attracting more than 30 trainees.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Win Maw, Deputy Director of the SME Development Department, said that the training is aimed at expansion of home-industry business.

The department has carried out the programs as part of an effort to reduce poverty and help people build their lives.

During the one-week course, the trainees will learn how to use chemicals to preserve food and how to produce personal goods.

The training has allowed mostly grassroots-level residents in the outlying areas of Yangon to create job opportunities and to improive their lives through SMEs.—*Kay Khaing*

Peace festival on September 24

A PEACE festival will be held in Aung San Stadium in Yangon on 24 September, part of an effort to raise awareness of the important role of people in the peacemaking process in Myanmar.

U Thura, a political activist and comedian, said peace is the most important thing in Myanmar and the festival is aimed at delivering that message to the people.

Furthermore, sustaining peace is more important than just achieving peace, he said.

The festival will be organised by organisations, peace lovers and the Myanmar comedy group known as Thee Lay Thee, who will perform at the event.

Soccer players, members of ethnic armed organizations, former political prisoners, artists and singers will also participate in the festival, which will be held free of charge.

About 10 charity groups will donate food to all festival-goers. — *Kay Khaing*

Union Information Minister stresses media cooperation among Silk Road countries

Forum of Ministers Responsible for Information in progress in China. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint stressed the need of media cooperation among the countries along the Silk Road in his address at the third Forum of Ministers Responsible for Information held in China yesterday.

The Silk Road was an ancient network of trade routes that for centuries were central to cultural interaction through regions of the Asian continent connecting the East and West from China to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Union minister highlighted the importance of media cooperation for ensuring regional economic development as well as effectuation of peace and stability in the region.

The Union minister said that Myanmar has prioritised media freedom and development with revision of outdated laws and implementation of capacity-building programs for the country's media industry.

The forum, held under the title: "New Opportunities for Media Cooperation", attracted 35 representatives and 1,000 media persons from 14 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia and Southeast Asia.

During the forum, participants exchanged views on realisation of One Belt, One Road Initiative through media cooperation involving promotion of interactions between the peoples of different countries and cultural and information exchange.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mandalay Police Force conducts crime reduction campaign

MANDALAY Region Police Force launched a campaign educating the people as part of an effort to reduce crime in Mandalay.

During the campaign, the police displayed the functions of local police force, traffic police unit, anti-narcotic squads and anti-human trafficking activities and facts about criminal cases in the region on the crime educative vehicle.

They also distributed pamphlets educating people with dos and don'ts for reducing crime.

Mandalay Region Police Force will expand its campaign to Kyaukse, Meikhtila, Yamethin and Nyaung U townships using the educative vehicle.

The Pyithu Hluttaw documented a proposal calling on the Union government to implement a crime reduction program as soon as possible after 16 representatives discussed last month at the parliament. MPs stressed the need to identify and eliminate the causes of criminal activity in order to meet success in the fight against crime. Crimes can be attributed to graft and corruption, lack of the rule of law, a growing gap between rich and poor, unemployment, availability of alcohol beverages and drugs, lack of education and times of hardship when people forget the laws they need to follow and respect, said U Myat Lay Oo of the Htilin Constituency.—*Kay Khaing*

Eighty-five per cent of Haka residents consumes alcohol

EIGHTY-five per cent of residents from Haka, the Chin State capital, either consume alcohol or use drugs, a survey by the Chinland Research Initiative has revealed.

The survey was reportedly conducted at a total of 219 households in the town, which straddles a wind-swept mountain ridge in the heart of the state.

According to the survey, alcohol, cigarettes and the ubiquitous betel nut were among legal products consumed with drugs among illegal substances.

But the results come as a shock to some. "I don't think the survey's result are possible," Anthony Cung Mang, founding director of Grassroots Empowerment and Ecosystem Nurturing (GREEN), confessed to Myitmakha News Agency. "If it was 85 per cent of [Haka] males, then it's possible. But 85 per cent of the whole town's population? That means it includes women as well."

Civil society organizations in Chin State are reportedly trying to combat the consumption of alcohol in the region by holding discussion workshops and conducting educational awareness initiatives.

Others, however, are not so surprised, citing the high per centage of alcohol drinkers stemming from a dearth in alternative recreational activity.

"The government needs to create a lot of different leisure activities for the town's people. It's not surprising people tend to drink alcohol in their free time when there's nowhere to go and nothing else to do," said Salai Aung Khine, a Haka resident.

The only public park in Haka was closed back in 1989, while the Everest Cinema shut-up-shop in 1996, according to local residents.

"Residents of Chin State cherish alcohol as though it's their mother's milk. If the time's right, they buy it to take-away and drink it where they see fit," said Deputy Police Chief Hla Ri of the Haka Police Department.

As well as making efforts to prohibit usage of drugs and other illegal substances, the Hahka police force reportedly also spend their time cracking down on illegal home-brewing of traditional alcohol.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar allocates land for textile & apparel special zone

Workers are seen at a production line of a garment factory in Hlaingthayar. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

THE Myanmar ministry of industry which had initially mooted the idea of creating a special zone for textile and garment industry earlier in August has decided to allocate 3,000 acres of land for the project.

The project was earlier planned to be set up near TadaU in Mandalay, but challenges of transportation, forced the ministry to find another place.

"We have discussed the first part of the project. The union government plans to provide 3,000 acres of land for the special zone and we are now choosing the project area," U Thein Lwin, general manager of the ministry of industry, told Myanmar Business Today.

The ministry of industry had formed the Myanmar Textiles Manufacturers' Association in June to strengthen the development of the textile and garment sector by bringing all textile-related business under one umbrella.

"The special zone will collectively organise all textile-related businesses at the same place, which will be advantageous for the sector," U Myo Aung, member of the Myanmar Textiles Manufacturers' Association said. —*Fibre2Fashion*

Over 100 schools to be built across Mon State

THE UNION government has allotted over K4.6million for a project to construct 108 school buildings across Mon State this fiscal year, according to the state's education office.

The local government is currently in the process of scrutinising bids to choose the winners of the contract to build the schools as quickly as possible, said U Myo Tin Aung, Mon State Education Officer.

Action will be taken against the tender winning companies that fail to follow the construction agreement, said Daw Cho Cho Myat Aung, deputy director of finance department under the Education Department.

The project is planned to begin after the rainy season and is slated to be completed in March, she added.

When the project is completed, 30 pre-schools, 47 primary schools, 12 middle schools and 13 high schools as well as five laboratory rooms will be added to the state.

To provide better education services, the township general administration department, the construction department and relevant bodies are carrying out the construction as well as the renovation of school buildings. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Office of the State Education Officer, Mawlamyaing, Mon State. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Crime NEWS

Man arrested for stealing Buddha statue in Mogok township

A MAN on Saturday was arrested by police when he was unable to produce documents proving ownership of a Buddha statue.

Authorities collected the one-foot-high sitting Buddha statue from Sein Win, who was found in Peikswek ward in Mogok, a town in the PyinOoLwin District in Mandalay Region, when police were on patrol at around 6.30 p.m..

The suspect is facing charges under the Criminal Law. Police are still investigating the case to discover the owner of the stolen property.—*Nay Wah (Mogok)*

Sein Win. PHOTO: NAY WAH (MOEKOK)

Nobody injured in home fire

NO ONE was injured in a home fire that occurred on Sunday morning in Lashio, a town in Shan State, police reported yesterday.

The blaze was apparently caused by a candle placed in a Buddhist shrine in the 60x30 feet house owned by U Rankuma, 61, on Kyarni Street in Ward 3 in Lashio. The fire station sent four fire engines and five auxiliary vehicles. The flame was brought under control by 80 firefighters within 25 minutes.

The house owner is facing legal charges under the law. — *Han Htay (Lashio)*

Fire fighters bringing the blaze under control. PHOTO: HAN HTAY (LASHIO)

Six arrested for jade trafficking

SIX PEOPLE on Saturday were arrested by local authorities after they were found in possession of a large cache of raw jade stones in Monywa Township in Sagaing Region.

Over 38 kilograms of raw jade stones were seized from the traffickers when a combined team of law enforcement officials raided a jetty in Zephugon Ward in Khamti Township after receiving a tip-off.

Action is being taken against those suspects — Hu Pan, Kyaw Swa, Zaw Lay, Ngwar Sa La, Tin Ngwe and Sai Won — under Section 42 (a) of the Myanmar Gemstones Law. — *Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

Woman found dead beside creek in Taungdwingyi

A WOMAN was found dead beside Yanpel Creek near Aungkhaing Village in Taungdwingyi Township in Magwe Region last Friday, police said yesterday.

According to the investigators, Wah Wah Khaing, 45, of Kukogone Village was last seen alive near the creek in the back of Aungkhaing Village on 14 September.

The forensic surgeon will determine the cause of death and the investigation is ongoing, police said. — *Kyaw Zeya*

Yaba pills worth over K1billion seized in Maungtaw Township

OVER K1.3billion worth of yaba pills were seized on Saturday from drug traffickers in Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State, according to police.

After a tip-off to police from a member of public, police raided a firm beside Maungtaw-Buthitaung road near Thonemile Village and discovered a total of 682,500 yaba tablets from the scene.

Moe Zaw Oo, 28, and Shaung Ru Zu Ha, 32, were placed under arrest.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the firm's owner U Nyi Chit, who is on the run.—*Myat Wai*

Moe Zaw Oo and Shaung Ru Zu Ha. PHOTO: MYAT WAI

LOCAL Business

No need to seek approval from MIC for investment except for businesses with environmental impact

INVESTMENT businesses are no longer required to seek approval from Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) apart from the businesses needing environmental impact assessments.

Those investment businesses can apply for registration at the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) branches in the regions and states concerned. Currently, more DICA branches will be opened in Kayin State, Magwe and Bago regions this year.

MIC grants permits for use of heavy investment after scrutinizing the environmental impact assessment. Some enterprises such as mineral enterprises cannot directly seek permits from MIC. They can submit the proposal to MIC only after obtaining approval from the ministries concerned, said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of the MIC.

The new investment law has already been submitted to the parliament. MIC has requested that the government institute an investment policy. Currently, there are over 200 public companies and over 10,000 monopolists, it is learnt.

According to the new investment law concerning the Foreign Investment Law and the Myanmar Investment Law, foreign investors will enjoy the benefits of exemption from income tax if they locate their investments in underdeveloped areas.

"As far as I am concerned, we have to give priority to the private economic sector", said U Kyaw Min, a businessman.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Farmers plant paddy traditionaly at a field in Pauktal Village, Bago Region. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Export price of rice to China on the decline unlike stable domestic rice price

Aung Thant Khaing

THE price of rice exported to China through the Muse trade channel has been on the decline, unlike the domestic rice price, which remains stable said U Kyaw Min, the secretary of Mandalay Rice Depot.

Rice is exported to China mostly through the Muse and Lweje border trade camps, but the rice trade is declining because of enforced confiscation of Myanmar rice by Chinese authorities. Thus Chinese merchants who wish to purchase rice from Myanmar are forced to do so illegally. The lower demand from China has resulted in the decreased rice price, U Kyaw Min added.

If the trade of rice from Myanmar to China is legalised, there are examination procedures for imported rice to China. A permit from the Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) is also required. Some local varieties of rice grown in Myanmar are not able to pass this process.

The domestic rice price is still stable at a high price. The domestic rice price has risen due to the torrential rain in Sagaing, Magwe, Ayeyawady and Bago regions.

The rice export market is dependent on demand from China. The export price of rice has slumped by 5 yuans per bag. The domestic rice price is likely to decline at the harvest time of the rain crops.

JCMCs to be organized in Taninthayi

A local-level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JCMC) will be formed in Taninthayi Region, according to the Karen National Union (KNU) liaison office in Dawei.

"The objective of the JCMC is to negotiate to avoid armed conflicts between the government army and the signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). We will conduct a study to launch an awareness campaign to the public concerning JCMC", said a member of the JCMC.

The awareness campaign related to the ceasefire monitoring activities will be carried out in Dawei, Ye Phyu, Palaw and some villages by two groups organized with young activists from Kayin.

The group is closely monitoring 17 issues concerning the public welfare, including freedom of movement, the land ownership issue and ensuring that local people are not subject to extortion and do not suffer from torture. If those guidelines are not followed, the group will submit a report to the JCMC, according to a person in charge in Dawei.

The formation of the JCMC with local people can provide detailed and accurate information, said the responsible person from JCMC.

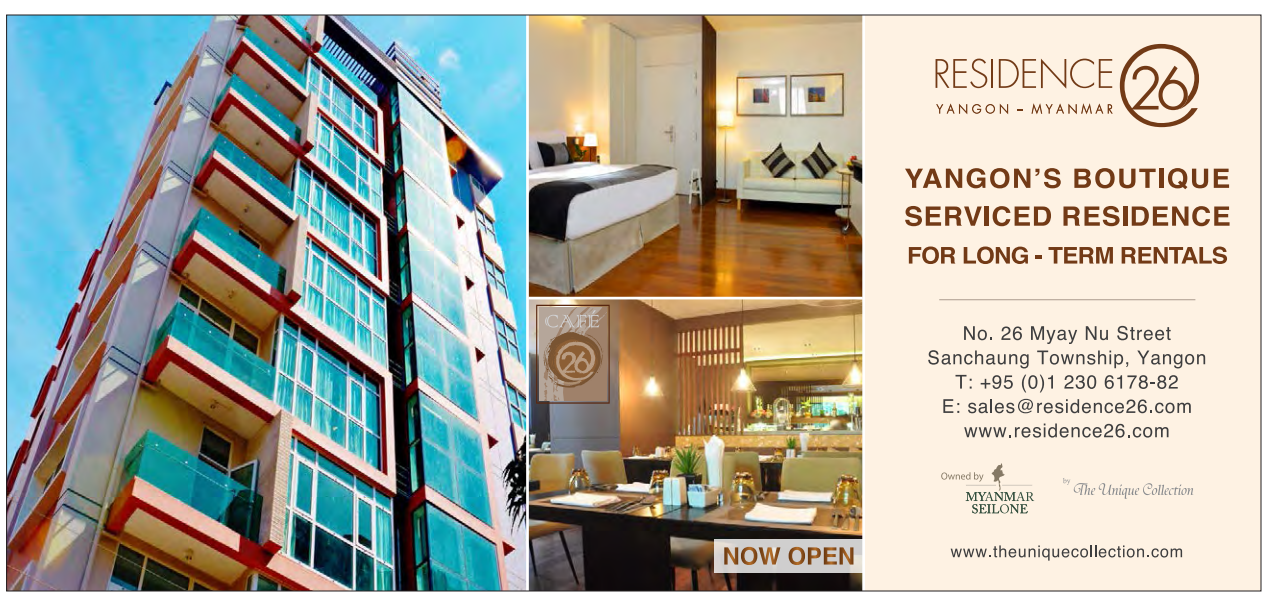
JCMC offices are slated to be opened in Kayin State in October. The JCMC consists of fourteen members including the group leaders, the commander, the authorities concerned and the public.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

New hotel construction prohibited in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Nyaung Shwe and Kalaw

CONSTRUCTION of new hotels has been halted in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Nyaung Shwe and Kalaw due to the burgeoning number of rooms at hotels, motels and guest houses that far outnumber the demand from tourists, it is learnt from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

According to ministry statistics, 46 per cent of the rooms at the hotels in Yangon are vacant. Only 51 per cent of all hotel rooms in Mandalay are booked, while a mere 28 per cent of all rooms in Nyaung Shwe are occupied. The rate of occupancy is only 43 per cent in Taunggyi, and 18 per cent in Kalaw.

The prohibition on new hotel construction will be lifted depending on the supply and demand. There are a total of 1,371 licensed hotels consisting of 53,716 rooms across the nation, according to the ministry. —*200*



Philippine central bank ordered to return recovered money to Bangladesh bank

MANILA — A Philippine regional trial court has ordered the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to return to the Bangladesh central bank a recovered portion of the $81 million that was stolen from the bank earlier this year, a government lawyer said on Monday.

The court has declared Bangladesh as the rightful owner of the funds, totalling $15 million, Ricardo Paras III, chief state counsel of the Philippines' Department of Justice, said while reading a copy of the court's ruling to a Reuters reporter.

Unknown hackers tried to steal nearly $1 billion from the Bangladesh central bank's account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in early February, and succeeded in transferring $81 million to four accounts at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp in Manila.

During a Philippine Senate hearing into the heist which ended in May, a casino junket operator claimed to have received $35 million of the stolen funds but only returned $15 million. It is not clear what happened to the remainder of the money.

Bangladesh had to file a petition staking its claim to the money before it could be turned over to them. "(The) court ordered the release of the cash now in the BSP vault in favour of the People's Republic of Bangladesh," Paras told Reuters.

Bangladesh is also seeking to recover another $2.7 million frozen by the Philippines' casino regulator.—*Reuters*

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Verdict due on Thai defamation trial against British activist

BANGKOK — A Thai court is set to deliver a verdict on Tuesday on a closely watched criminal defamation case against a prominent British rights activist who alleged ill-treatment of migrants at a fruit factory in southern Thailand.

Andy Hall faces up to seven years in prison if found guilty of defamation and computer crimes over a report he helped author in 2013 alleging abuses by Natural Fruit Co Ltd, Thailand's biggest producer of canned pineapples.

Natural Fruit denies the allegations made in "Cheap Has a High Price", the report by Finnish rights organisation Finnwatch. The company filed two criminal and two civil lawsuits against Hall but did not sue Finnwatch.

Rights groups say the country's defamation laws allow politicians, corporations and businessmen to muzzle critics.

"The cases are widely considered an example of judicial harassment by companies and governments and an attempt to silence a human rights defender," Finnwatch said a statement.

US-based Human Rights Watch called for Thailand's criminal defamation laws to be abolished.

"Andy Hall coordinated important research about abuses of workers' rights in Thailand and he should never have been prosecuted for his actions," Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said in the statement.

Adams said the court fight has had a "chilling effect" on other activists pressing for workers' rights in Thailand.

"Prosecuting Andy Hall for his association with independent efforts to document rights abuses raises serious questions about Thailand's readiness to protect workers' rights."

Foreign governments and non-governmental organisations are closely watching the case against Hall as a gauge of how serious Thailand is about addressing exploitation of migrant workers.

Thailand has been at the centre of scores of reports about labour rights violations in its food industries, with migrant workers often the most exploited.

The country has more than 3 million migrant workers, mostly from neighbouring Myanmar.

Thailand has passed laws to crack down on human trafficking and forced labour, and has stepped up prosecutions.

Here are some details about the case against Hall, including information from a statement issued by Finnwatch:

- Natural Fruit produces canned pineapple and pineapple juice concentrate, and in 2012 supplied juice concentrate to Finnish retailers.

- In 2012, Finnwatch hired Hall as a researcher to coordinate field research in Thailand for a project on social responsibility of products sold in Finnish supermarkets.

- Hall interviewed workers at Natural Fruit, with assistance from translators and news assistants.

- Natural Fruit cited Hall's name on the report as evidence of him being author and responsible for the report.

- Finnwatch Executive Director Sonja Vartiala told the court in July that Finnwatch was "solely responsible for analysing, writing and publishing online the report, "Cheap Has a High Price".

- The verdict on Tuesday morning is for a case for criminal defamation and computer crimes, punishable by up to seven years in prison.—*Reuters*

Cambodia sentences four rights activists to six months in prison

District Security Guards line up as protesters hold banners and a portrait of land activist Tep Vanny during a demonstration in front of the Municipal Court of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 19 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PHNOM PENH — Four women land rights activists were sentenced to six months in prison by a court in Cambodia on Monday for insulting and obstructing public officials during a 2011 violent land rights protest.

Seizure of land for development is a major cause of protests in Cambodia and other countries in the region, including Laos.

Last year was the deadliest on record for land rights campaigners, with more than three people killed each week protesting agribusiness firms, loggers, mining firms and hydro-electric dams, according to London-based NGO Global Witness.

The court in the capital Phnom Penh found activists Tep Vanny, Heng Mom, Kong Chantha and Bo Chhorvy guilty following a three hour trial and sentenced them to six months in prison over a protest in November 2011 which turned violent.

Suong Sophal, a lawyer for Phnom Penh Municipality told the court that the four women joined the protest in 2011, blocked roads, insulted and hit officials at the scene. Two security guards were injured, he said. Following the verdict, the activists yelled "injustice! injustice! injustice!" Tep Vanny has been in pretrial detention since last month over a 2013 protest outside Prime Minister Hun Sen's house. The other three activists remain free.

All four have a month to appeal the verdict. Activists Vanny and Chantha said they would appeal.

"I did not commit the crime," Vanny said. Around 50 protesters gathered outside the court on Monday calling for the case to be dropped while hundreds of police deployed to keep the peace looked on.—*Reuters*

Chinese paper calls opposition to Myanmar dams 'extreme'

BEIJING — Opposition to Chinese-invested hydro-power schemes in Myanmar is being orchestrated by "extreme" groups in the country and has been extremely damaging to joint investment projects, an influential Chinese newspaper wrote on Monday.

The suspension in 2011 of the $3.6-billion Myitsone megadam project by former president Thein Sein remains a sore point between the two countries.

Myanmar suspended the project citing environmental worries, but the decision was also seen as an attempt to distance itself from Beijing. Uncertainties arising from that controversy have held back other Chinese investment plans.

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party swept to power Myanmar's first free national vote in 25 years last November, said on a visit to China last month that her new government was willing to look for a resolution that suits both countries. A Myanmar commission is reviewing the project, and other proposed hydro-power dams. But Suu Kyi is under pressure at home from civil society groups not to simply give in to Beijing. *The Study Times*, published twice a week by the Central Party School, which trains rising Chinese officials, said in a commentary that the dam projects were being unreasonably attacked. "Before and after Suu Kyi's China trip, some extreme Myanmar media, non-government organisations and people heatedly opposed the Myitsone Dam and other large-scale projects on the Salween River" and demanded the projects be stopped, the newspaper said. "Certain Myanmar media even said that stopping these dams was an important step to show that Myanmar is throwing off its over-reliance economically on China," the paper said.

While it's hard to know how representative these voice are, their "extreme comments" have dominated privately-run media in Myanmar, the paper added.

"This has had a hugely negative affect on public opinion and has been hugely damaging for joint cooperation projects," it said.

Finding a solution to the Myitsone project is important for Suu Kyi who needs China's cooperation in talks with Myanmar ethnic minority armed groups operating along the border with China. The Study Times praised Suu Kyi for making China her first port of call apart from countries in the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) since her government took power, saying it was a recognition of how important ties are. China is no fair-weather friend, it added.

"China is willing to invest basic infrastructure projects in Myanmar that the West is not willing to invest in," the paper said. —*Reuters*

China says Japan trying to 'confuse' South China Sea situation

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin (DDG 89) transits in formation with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force ships JS Kirisame (DD 104) and JS Asayuki (DD 132) during bilateral training in South China Sea on 21 April, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China on Monday accused Japan of trying to "confuse" the situation in the South China Sea, after its neighbour said it would step up activity in the contested waters, through joint training patrols with the United States.

Ties between Asia's two largest economies have long been overshadowed by arguments over their painful wartime history and a territorial spat in the East China Sea, among other issues.

China has repeatedly denounced what it views as interference by the United States and its ally Japan in the South China Sea.

Japan will also help build the capacity of coastal states in the busy waterway, its defence minister said last week during a visit to Washington.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said countries in the region had reached a consensus that the South China Sea issue should be resolved through talks between the parties directly involved, and that China and Southeast Asian countries should jointly maintain peace and stability there.

"Let's have a look at the results of Japan's throwing things into disorder over this same time period ... trying to confuse the South China Sea situation under the pretence of (acting for) the international community," Lu told a daily news briefing, when asked about Japan's announcement. Japan's actions have simply pushed other countries away from it, and it has failed to compel other nations to see its point of view, he added.

"China is resolute in its determination to protect its sovereignty and maritime interests," Lu said.

China claims almost all of the South China Sea, through which ships carrying about $5 trillion in trade pass every year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims in the sea, which is also believed to be rich in energy resources and fish stocks. In July, an arbitration court in the Hague said China's claims to the waterway were invalid, after a case was brought by the Philippines. Beijing has refused to recognise the ruling.— *Reuters*

Japan, US, South Korea aim for tighter UN sanctions on North Korea

NEW YORK — Japan, the United States and South Korea on Sunday affirmed closer coordination in the swift drafting of a new UN Security Council sanctions resolution on North Korea in response to its fifth and largest nuclear test earlier this month.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, US Secretary of State John Kerry and South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se also agreed to cooperate in strengthening each country's respective sanctions on North Korea, Kishida told reporters after their meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

"We agreed to closely coordinate for the swift adoption of a new Security Council resolution with further sanction measures, as well as for each country (to implement) measures of their own, so as to deal with a series of provocative acts by North Korea," which has raised the threat-level in regional security, Kishida said.

In a joint statement issued after the trilateral meeting, the ministers condemned North Korea's "accelerated, systematic and unprecedented campaign to develop an operational nuclear capability," including the 9 September nuclear test, only eight months after the country conducted its fourth such test.

Pyongyang's "flagrant disregard for multiple United Nations Security Council Resolutions expressly prohibiting its ballistic missile and nuclear programmes requires even stronger international pressure on the regime" of leader Kim Jong Un, the statement said. Washington, Tokyo and Seoul are pushing for a new Security Council sanctions resolution after the latest provocation in defiance of UN sanctions that were tightened in March. —*Kyodo News*

Advert for A-6 Scoping Report

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd (Woodside) proposes to undertake a drilling program in Block A-6, located offshore Ayeyarwady Region, Myanmar. This is scheduled to commence in early 2017 using a dynamically positioned mobile offshore drilling unit. The area in which the wells will be drilled in is located at least 21 miles (35 km) from the nearest coastline.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Woodside is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed activity. The EIA is being conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and E Guard Environmental Services (E Guard), on behalf of Woodside, in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015). Associated stakeholder engagement has been undertaken at the national and local levels in Yangon, Naypyidaw and Ayeyarwady Region.

More information about the proposed activity and Woodside's operations in Myanmar can be found on Woodside's webpage woodside.com.au/myanmar-consultation. Any queries, comments or suggestions on the Project on the report can be provided in writing to feedback@woodside.com.au, info@eguardservices.com by 21-10-2016.

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

The trust gap that needs bridging

Khin Maung Aye

POLITICAL analysts in Myanmar often assert that the political parties and their party system are central to the effective function and eventual consolidation of democracy. According to their beliefs, there is a trust gap in mass attitudes towards the ruling party and the opposition party. And their belief is assumed to have been based on the 2015 election results, which indicate that the overwhelming majority of the people lack trust in the current major opposition party. This is, in fact, not a good sign for democracy, which requires the balance of power.

In this regard, it is worth noting that the mother-like public figure is said to have told a top leader of the opposition party to strengthen the latter's party through drastic reform, because her party needs competition. As known to all, perfect competition, in an ideal democracy, is necessary. Political competition plays a crucial role in the democratic cycle, be it as a possible mainspring of political participation or as the essential element of democratic accountability and responsiveness. Thus, it is quite obvious that opposition plays an important role, holding the ruling party accountable and responsive.

Nevertheless, it is also of utmost importance for the opposition to make constructive criticism and have a positive approach in addition to harboring the correct attitude, not bent upon attacking the government. Such actions, activities and attitudes will only be counterproductive and they can widen the trust gap in people's attitudes towards the ruling party and the opposition. Such being the case, the opposition should build confidence through structural reformation and changing the mindset of the members of the party organizations at all levels. It will take time, as people naturally resist change, merely wishing to maintain the status quo. Short-term change management courses or sessions are recommended along with recruitment of good and able party members, young and old. One important piece of advice is not to bother with seniority in membership or age in assigning of duties. What counts is not the seniority but the ability, loyalty, sincerity, honesty and efficiency.

A New Chapter in China-Myanmar Relations

Yap Kwong Weng and Sun Xi

LAST MONTH, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi made her first official visit to China after taking office as State Counsellor, deliberately before her trip to another giant, the USA.

The visit to China was believed to aim at repairing and strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations that once had a much closer relationship. The term "baobo" (brothers and relatives) was often used to describe their level of closeness years back.

To begin with, Myanmar (then Burma) was the first non-Communist country to recognize the People's Republic of China founded in 1949. In turn, China stood firmly together with Myanmar, even when its former military-run regime was isolated by the international community.

In recent years, bilateral ties have been strained especially during the recent transition period of Myanmar's new government. However, this is likely to change for the better.

One could argue their relationship has become more transactional. With billion-dollar infrastructure deals high on the agenda, there is little doubt that the emphasis is focused on the bottom lines. Relationship building is of course as important but there is a saying that business comes first. Perhaps this is the stage where both countries are equally at.

If anything, China's show of support in the recent peace talks between Myanmar government and its ethnic groups was an encouraging move. It takes pride to maintain friendships and to develop existing ones where possible. This could be their first step towards longer term cooperation, regardless of the outcome of the peace talks.

A win-win situation is envisaged from Myanmar's end as it seems committed to work with China in the long run. This is clearly in its benefit and is a logical step to take.

Myanmar needs China to grow faster. It wants to build large-scale infrastructure projects such as ports, bridges and highways. China has been doing so. Since the 1990s, China has helped Myanmar build its hydropower plants, oil pipelines and key bridges, which have played a supporting role in ensuring the country's long term stability. Today, China is Myanmar's largest foreign investor, far ahead of those countries in ASEAN.

Likewise, China needs Myanmar to support its strategic development, especially the Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor and the ambitious "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

All this comes at a time where existing banks in Myanmar, including big players from Asia, are not ready to fully finance large government projects. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have supported several Myanmar projects, but that is not enough to meet the country's development gaps.

Clearly, China wants to participate towards the growth of Myanmar in a peaceful and harmonious way. As the world's largest exporter, it brings an efficient system of work ethic and systems. It also brings about thousands of years of culture and heritage to the table. But business is business.

It is, therefore, in the interests of China to invest appropriately in Myanmar at this time. As a rising economic power with global stature, China continues to bear some implicit responsibility, which could also be viewed as a thankless role. For example, if China takes an aggressive investment stance in Myanmar, the US and Japan would be put on guard. If China does not support Myanmar in development, then it could be seen as a well-to-do neighbour unwilling to assist during difficult times.

In reality, China has been misunderstood as a country that is aggressive and overbearing. Many in Myanmar believe that the Chinese are out to exploit them, so they do not trust them completely. Reports of jade smuggling into China across Myanmar borders in past years have worsened China's public image.

However, we do not have the impression that China is seeking power over Myanmar. We are not persuaded either that China is trying to take advantage of Myanmar's circumstances during development.

What we are certain about is China's determination to oppose any attempt by any other country or group of countries, to impede its "Chinese Dream". The question is how it would treat smaller countries more gently and responsibly like Myanmar, a neighbouring country that holds historical and strategic significance.

Clearly, China wants to participate towards the growth of Myanmar in a peaceful and harmonious way. As the world's largest exporter, it brings an efficient system of work ethic and systems. It also brings about thousands of years of culture and heritage to the table. But business is business.

Brotherhood is no more than a propaganda slogan. China should re-evaluate its diplomacy to maintain more sustainable relationships with others. The consequences can be quite heavy if this is not managed well.

Its past split with the "big brother" Soviet Union and the ongoing dilemma with its "little brother" North Korea are vivid examples that show tensions caused by such fluid dynamics. Bringing it back to Myanmar's case, the key point is: actions speak louder than words especially when development is now the priority.

As China-Myanmar relations enter a new chapter, commercial initiatives are expected to guide its mutual cooperation. In the future, China and Myanmar may no longer look like close brothers as before, but at least their new type of partnership will be more sustainable.

Yap Kwong Weng is CEO of Leap Group, a Singapore company based in Myanmar. He is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

Sun Xi is a China-born independent commentary writer based in Singapore.

Collection of antiquities brings hope for emergence of Shwe Settaw Museum

THE Board of Trustees of the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda in Minbu are collecting antiques related to the history of the pagoda in an effort to establish a museum that would permanently display the artifacts.

Cultural art objects and antiquities dedicated to the pagoda in the past successive periods have not yet found a place for public display.

The history of the pagoda tells us that in the 12th year after Lord Buddha attained his Enlightenment, He came to this area with a retinue of 500 followers.

Mann Shwe Settaw (The Golden Footprints) pagoda is one of the most venerated pagodas in Myanmar. There are two foot prints, namely the Auk Set Taw Ya, or the Lower, and the Ahtet Set Taw Ya, the Upper.

From fossils and other items from the Stone Age along with bricks, pipes, beads and earthenware from the Pyu era found near the Mann Creek have been collected in order to be displayed at the museum.

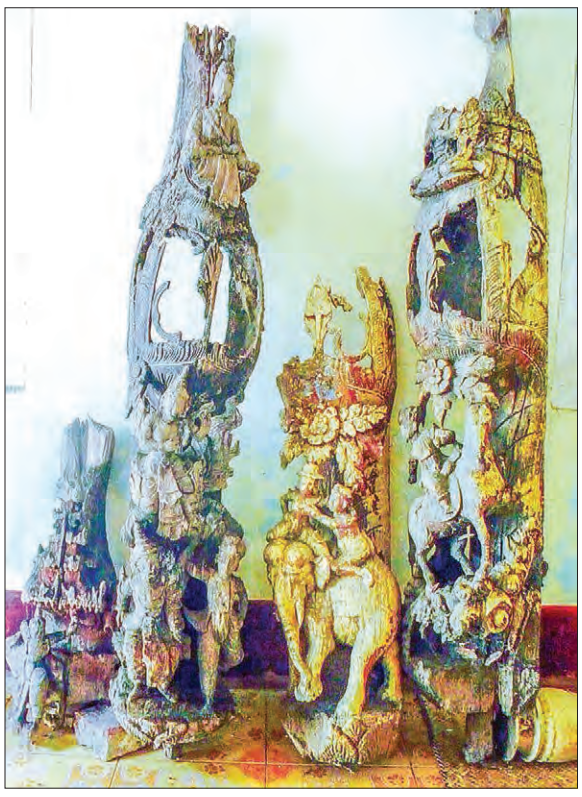
Supporters say antiquities of Konbaung era and colonial period would be a source of pride for those who care about the pagoda.

About 200 historic photos and the Buddha's footprints in foreign countries have been collected by the pagoda's board of trustees.

A museum dedicated not only to the pagoda but also to the history of Myanmar should be established in order to make historic items available for public viewing.— *Kyaw Sein Win*

Statues dating back to Konbaung Era. PHOTO: KYAW SEIN WIN

Golden palm leaf manuscript. PHOTO: KYAW SEIN WIN



Sculptures dating back to Konbaung Era. PHOTO: KYAW SEIN WIN

Bricks dating back to Pyu Era. PHOTO: KYAW SEIN WIN

A young man seen making a guitar. PHOTO: MMK

Local guitar makers struggle to compete with imported brands

GUITAR manufacturers in Mandalay, Sagaing and Yangon are struggling to compete with imported brands from China, according to local entrepreneurs.

The quality of guitars produced locally is better than the imported ones, but are more expensive, merchants said.

The price of a guitar made in Myanmar has steadily increased due to a higher labour wages. Currently, local craftsmen will sell a guitar anywhere from K20,000 to K200,000 in the domestic market, while Chinese brands have been sold at about K100,000 per guitar.

The country needs to produce related accessories for the sustainable development of local guitar industry, local guitar makers said. The market competition between the local manufacturers and Chinese producers is not so heated at present, but there will be stiff competition in the future, predicted U Zaw Naung Hein, the owner of Hein Min Guitar Production Firm in Minsan Ward in Sagaing Region.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Pro-Putin party wins landslide victory in Russian election

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister and Chairman of the United Russia party Dmitry Medvedev and secretary of the United Russia party's General Council Sergei Neverov visit the party's campaign headquarters following a parliamentary election in Moscow, Russia, on 18 September 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSCOW — Vladimir Putin's political allies won a landslide victory in a parliamentary election in Russia, near final results showed on Monday, paving the way for Putin to run for a fourth term as president in 18 months if, as expected, he chooses to do so.

The ruling United Russia party, founded by Putin almost 16 years ago after he first became president, was on track to win 343 seats or 76 per cent of 450 available seats in Russia's Duma, the lower house of parliament, the Central Election Commission said, after 93 per cent of ballots had been counted.

That is up from 238 seats in the last parliamentary election, in 2011, and would allow United Russia to change the constitution, although Putin can run again under the existing one as he was prime minister between his second and third terms.

Liberal opposition parties failed to win any seats, after holding just one before.

Not everything went Putin's way though. Near complete results showed turnout was around 48 per cent, down from nearly 60 percent in 2011, suggesting apathy among some Russians and a softening of enthusiasm for the ruling elite.

Putin, speaking to United Russia campaign staff a few minutes after polling stations closed on Sunday night, said the win showed voters still trusted the leadership despite an economic slowdown made worse by Western sanctions over Ukraine.

"We can say with certainty that the party has achieved a very good result; it's won," Putin said at the United Russia headquarters, where he arrived together with his ally, Dmitry Medvedev, who is prime minister and the party's leader.

Alluding to the spluttering economy, which is forecast to shrink this year by at least 0.3 per cent, Putin said: "We know that life is hard for people, there are lots of problems, lots of unresolved problems. Nevertheless, we have this result."

Putin's aides are likely to use the result as a springboard for his own re-election campaign, though he has not yet confirmed he will seek another term.

Other parties trailed far behind United Russia.

According to the near complete official vote count, the Communists were on track to come second with 42 seats, the populist LDPR party third with 41, and the left-of-centre Just Russia party fourth with 21 seats.

All three of those parties tend to vote with United Russia on crunch issues in parliament and avoid direct criticism of Putin. Sergei Neverov, secretary of United Russia's General Council, hailed the result on Monday as an endorsement of Putin and his policies.—*Reuters*

Obama tells Clinton fundraiser US still grapples with powerful women

NEW YORK — US society is uncomfortable with powerful women and that is why the United States has not yet elected a woman president, President Barack Obama said on Sunday.

Obama, who is eager to see fellow Democrat Hillary Clinton succeed him in office, told a fundraiser for her in New York that the election between his former secretary of state and Republican businessman Donald Trump should not be close.

However, political polarization in the country would make it tight, he said.

The first African-American US president then told the group of donors why he thought a woman had never held the office.

"There's a reason why we haven't had a woman president," he said. "We as a society still grapple with what it means to see powerful women.

And it still troubles us in a lot of ways, unfairly. And that expresses itself in all sorts of ways."

Obama has often spoken about the role of strong women in his life, including his mother, grandmother, wife and daughters. Polls have tightened between Clinton, a former US senator and first lady, and Trump, a real-estate tycoon.

"This should not be a close election, but it will be," Obama said. "And the reason it will be is not because of Hillary's flaws, but rather because, structurally, we've become a very polarized society," he said.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syrian army ceasefire expires, no statement of extension

BEIRUT — A seven-day ceasefire declared by the Syrian army expired at midnight, with no immediate announcement of its extension on Monday. The "regime of calm" was announced on 12 September following a ceasefire brokered by the United States and Russia.

Both rebels and the government have accused each other of numerous violations of the ceasefire, the second this year.

In its statement announcing the "calm", the army had said it would expire at 11:59 p.m. (2059 GMT) on Sunday. —*Reuters*

Strong typhoon nearing SW Japan's Kyushu

TOKYO — The weather agency warned Monday of strong wind and heavy rain in extensive areas of Japan as a strong typhoon was nearing the southwestern Japanese main island of Kyushu.

Typhoon Malakas, the season's 16th, may cause downpour in western and eastern Japan on Tuesday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Heavy rain fell in some areas Monday already, including precipitation of 110 millimetres per hour in Okazaki, Aichi Prefecture.

The typhoon was in the East China Sea some 170 kilometres west of Yaku Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, as of 5 pm Monday. It was heading northeast at 30 km per hour, according to the agency.

The storm was packing winds of up to 216 kph with an atmospheric pressure of 945 hectopascals near its centre.—*Kyodo News*

Turkey's Erdogan: Syrian rebels don't want interference from US forces

ISTANBUL — The Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army does not want interference from US special forces, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday, blaming the "behaviour" of US officials for exacerbating tension with the rebels.

Erdogan made the comments at a news conference in Istanbul before departing for New York, where he is due to address the United Nations General Assembly. He was referring to a small number of US forces who entered the Syrian town of al-Rai last week as part of operations to coordinate air strikes against Islamic State but were then forced to withdraw toward the Turkish border after rebels protested against their presence. —*Reuters*

Japanese bachelors learn the art of parenting to help find wives

TOKYO — Japanese bachelors looking for love can now learn child-rearing skills to boost their chances of finding a partner.

The new, all-male 'ikumen' course teaches men how to bathe and dress a baby and also helps them understand a woman's perspective on child-rearing, says Ikumen University, the Osaka-based company behind the course.

Participants in one session on Sunday in the Japanese capital wore a 7-kg (15-pound) pregnancy jacket, were taught how to improve communication with a potential spouse and filled out a worksheet stating traits women were deemed to dislike in men.

"I wanted to create a form of certification proving a man's child-rearing skills and support for married life," course instructor Takeshi Akiyama told Reuters.

"Matchmaking agencies can advertise such men as having 'extra value,' by letting potential partners know he will support the marriage." —*Reuters*

FBI executing search warrant in Elizabeth, NJ —mayor

WASHINGTON — The FBI was searching a location in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on Monday morning, the mayor said, after authorities detonated an explosive device left at a train station in the city, one of as many as five potential bombs found at the site.

"The FBI is executing a search warrant," Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage said on CNN. "They will be there for the next few hours, going through this location to find any evidence possible, whether it's in relation to this incident or the Chelsea incident." —*Reuters*

Afghan police killed by US air strike — Afghan officials

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan) — A US air strike killed as many as eight Afghan policemen outside the embattled provincial capital of Uruzgan province, Afghan officials said on Monday, as security forces, supported by US strikes, battle resurgent Taliban militants.

An initial air strike late on Sunday killed one policeman, while a follow up strike targeted first responders, killing at least seven, said Rahimullah Khan, commander of the reserve police unit in Uruzgan.

Another official, Uruzgan deputy police chief Mohammed Qawi Omari, put the death toll at six but also reported the police were killed by a foreign air strike.

The US military command in Kabul confirmed its warplanes had conducted an air strike in the area, but said they targeted "individuals firing on, and posing a threat to" Afghan national security forces.

"We don't have any further information on who those individuals might have been or why they were attacking ANDSF (Afghan national defense and security forces)," US military spokesman Brigadier General Charles Cleveland said in a statement.

"US, coalition, and Afghan forces have the right to self-defence and in this case were responding to an immediate threat."

Afghan officials said they were investigating the attack and were in contact with the US-led coalition.

Afghan security forces, supported by American air strikes and international military advisers, are battling Taliban militants who have fought a 15-year insurgency against the Western-backed government in Kabul.

Taliban fighters briefly entered Uruzgan's capital city, Tarin Kot, in early September, according to provincial officials, before being pushed back by security forces.—*Reuters*

UN war crimes panel on Syria seeks access to refugees in Europe

GENEVA — UN war crimes investigators on Monday called on European countries to let them interview more newly-arrived Syrian refugees to document fresh violations, saying it had become increasingly difficult.

The panel, set up five years ago, says it has compiled a confidential list of suspects on all sides of the conflict that have carried out war crimes or crimes against humanity. It has repeatedly called for major powers to refer Syria to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

"We are appealing to countries inside Europe hosting newly arrived Syrian refugees to grant us access and remove any barriers to our work," Paulo Pinheiro, chairman of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria, told the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

He did not name the European countries hampering the investigators' access to Syrian refugees. Many went to Germany after travelling through Greece, Italy and Turkey.

"Time is of the essence, particularly if the Commission is to continue preparing well-documented reports on the current situation in the country, rather than reports of a historical nature," Pinheiro said.

The Syrian government had recently disclosed information to the United Nations which the panel was examining in the context of its investigations into crimes committed by Islamic State and mass graves found in Palmyra, he added.

The panel said earlier this month that it has a database of some 5,000 detailed interviews and information, some of which is being shared with national jurisdictions seeking to prosecute their nationals serving as foreign fighters.—*Reuters*

Free Syrian Army fighters launch a Grad rocket from Halfaya town in Hama province, towards forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad stationed in Zein al-Abidin mountain, Syria, on 4 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkey-backed rebels could push further south in Syria, Erdogan says

ISTANBUL — Turkey-backed rebels may extend their zone of control in northern Syria by pushing south and were now focused on heading toward the Islamic State-held town of al-Bab, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday.

Speaking at a news conference before departing for New York where he is due to address the United Nations General Assembly, Erdogan said Turkey's "safety zone" in the region could eventually span an area of 5,000 square kilometres (1,930 square miles).

Turkey last month launched its operation in northern Syria, dubbed "Euphrates Shield", aimed at clearing Islamic State from Turkey's Syrian border and stopping the advance of Syrian Kurdish fighters. So far, Turkey has secured a narrow strip of land along its border.

"As part of the Euphrates Shield operation, an area of 900 square kilometres has been cleared of terror so far. This area is pushing south," Erdogan said.

"We may extend this area to 5,000 square kilometres as part of a safe zone."

Turkey has long argued for the need for a "safe zone" or a "no-fly" zone along its Syrian border, with the aim of clearing out Islamic State and Kurdish fighters and of stemming a wave of immigration that has caused tension in Europe.

But Western allies have so far balked at the idea, saying it would require a significant ground force and planes to patrol, marking a major commitment in such a crowded battlefield.

Erdogan also said the Turkey-backed rebels — a group of Syrian Arabs and Turkmen fighting under the loose banner of the Free Syrian Army — were now targeting the Islamic State-held town of al-Bab.

"Jarablus and al-Rai have been cleansed, now we are moving towards al-Bab... We will go there and stop (Islamic State) from being a threat to us," he said.—*Reuters*

ADVERTISEMENT FOR AD-7 EIA REPORT

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte. Ltd (Woodside) proposes to undertake a drilling program in Block AD-7 located in the Rakhine Basin, Union of Myanmar (Myanmar). This is scheduled to commence in early 2017 using a dynamically positioned Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit. The area in which the wells will be drilled is located a minimum of 37 miles from the nearest coastline.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law, Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015), Woodside was required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) for the proposed activity. The EIA was conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and E Guard Environmental Services (E Guard), on behalf of Woodside. Associated stakeholder engagement has been undertaken at the national and regional levels in Yangon, Naypyidaw and Rakhine State.

The EIA report can be viewed at:

- Woodside's webpage: woodside.com.au/myanmar-consultation;
- Woodside's office in Yangon: 70/LA-2, Golden Valley Road, Bahan Township, Yangon;
- E Guard's office in Yangon: No. 99, Mya Kan Thar Lane, Nyein Chan Yay Street, 10 Miles, Pyay Road, Saw Bwar Gyi Gone, Insein Township, Yangon;
- Yangon Myanmar Fisheries Federation, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar;
- Sittwe District General Administrative Department (GAD) Office, Chin Pyan Street, Ball-Lone Kwin Quarter, Sittwe;
- Department of Fisheries, Rakhine Regional Office, Tha-Ta Htar Na Street, Pyi-Thaw-Thar Quarter, Sittwe.; and
- Department of Fisheries Kyaukphyu District , District Department of Fisheries, Kannar Road, Than Pan Chaung Qr., Kyauk Phyu.

Feedback on the report can be provided in writing to feedback@woodside.com.au, info@eguardservices.com or directly to staff at Woodside's and E Guard's offices in Yangon by the 21 October 2016.

Woodside and POSCO Daewoo Corporation (Daewoo) hold 40% and 60% interests respectively in AD-7. Woodside is the operator for the deepwater drilling activities and Daewoo is the operator for all other operations.

Robot detonates New Jersey device in latest bomb discovery

NEW YORK—Five potential bombs were discovered overnight near a New Jersey station, one of which blew up on Monday as a bomb squad robot tried to disable it, after a weekend of attacks and security alerts in the United States.

The devices were found late on Sunday, a day after a pressure-cooker bomb packed with shrapnel exploded in New York City's Chelsea district, wounding 29 people, and a pipe bomb went off along the route of a New Jersey charity run without hurting anyone. Also on Saturday, a man armed with a knife wounded nine people at a Minnesota shopping mall.

Investigators were probing possible links between the attacks, which came as world leaders begin converging on New York for the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday.

While officials described the weekend bombs and the Minnesota attack as deliberate, criminal acts and said they were investigating them as potential acts of terrorism, they stopped short of characterizing the motivation behind any of them until more evidence is uncovered.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials label and collect evidence near the site of an explosion which took place on Saturday night in the Chelsea neighbourhood of Manhattan, New York, US, on 18 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

In the latest incident, five potential explosive devices were found in a backpack left in a trash can near a train station and a bar in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Mayor Christian Bollwage told reporters.

After cordoning off the area, a bomb squad used a robot to cut a wire to try to disable the device, but inadvertently set off an explosion, he said.

No one was hurt, but Bollwage said: "I can imagine that if all five of them went off at the same time, that the loss of life could have been enormous if there was an event going on."

The incident took place less than 15 miles (24 km) southwest of Manhattan.

Two men discovered the backpack and reported it to police after they saw "wires and a pipe" in the package, Bollwage said.

No suspects were immediately identified in the New York and New Jersey attacks or the latest incident in Elizabeth.

A similar, unexploded device to the one that went off in Chelsea on Saturday was found a few blocks away later that night. CNN reported that police had reviewed surveillance video showing a man leaving both devices earlier that day.

No international militant group has said it was behind the the New York blast. But New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said the act of blowing up a bomb in a crowded area of Manhattan "is obviously an act of terrorism."

A pair of Massachusetts brothers used pressure-cooker bombs to kill three people and wound more than 260 in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

The Islamic State militant group quickly claimed responsibility for the Minnesota attack by a man who police said made references to Allah and asked at least one person if he or she was Muslim before assaulting the individual. An off-duty police officer fatally shot the assailant.

Police did not immediately identify the Minnesota attacker, citing an ongoing investigation.

No immediate connections were established between the Minnesota attack and the bombings in New York and New Jersey.

Some 135 heads of state or government are expected to attend this week's event at the United Nations, and city officials said they had bolstered an already heavy security force with 1,000 more uniformed police officers and National Guard members.

Federal Bureau of Investigation experts have examined remnants of the Chelsea device, the second one found nearby, and and the pipe bomb that blew up at the charity race in Seaside Park, New Jersey, some 80 miles (130 km) south of New York City.

"The crudity of the devices in all three cases certainly doesn't point to any group that's been developing (improvised explosive devices) for years," said a US official involved in the investigation who requested anonymity to discuss the inquiry.

The official added that the apparent low level of planning had some investigators concerned the blasts were just a test of New York's security.

"That's what worries us: Was this some kind of test run, not just of the devices, but also of the surveillance in New York and the response?" the official said.—*Reuters*

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS

Amendment of Invitation for Bids

Date: 19th September 2016
Loan Agreement No: MY-P4 dated 5th September, 2014
IFB No: MR/BD/107

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of the Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase I. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for **Package CP107: FD Clips and Sleeper's Moulds.**

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries. The Eligible Nationality of the Applicants shall be Japan in the case of the prime contractor. In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.

3. The Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the procurement of 370,000 units of FD Clips and 256 sets of Sleeper's Moulds. ("the Goods").

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Head Office of Myanma Railways at the address shown below, during office hour from 09:30 a.m. to 16:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
   Address : Tender Office Myanma Railways Head Office,
   Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound,
   Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
   Telephone: +95-67-77026, +95-67-77024
   Facsimile number: +95-67-77108, +95-67-77164
   Electronic mail address: gmengnm.rail@gov.mm, dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee Myanmar Kyat one hundred and twenty thousand (120,000 Ks.) or United Stated Dollar one hundred (US$ 100).

6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents under Japanese ODA Loans for the Procurement of Goods.

7. Bids must be delivered to the above address at or before 14:00 p.m. on 3rd November 2016 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Japanese Yen twenty five million (JPY25,000,000) or United States Dollars two hundred twenty thousand (US$220,000)..

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 14:00 p.m. at the office described above.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways,

France still needs more resources to fight terrorism — Hollande

PARIS — French President Francois Hollande said on Monday more resources were needed to combat terrorism in a country where more than 230 people have been killed in militant attacks since the start of 2015.

Hollande, who has said in the past that anti-terror measures took precedence over spending cutbacks to meet targets reducing the public deficit, made his comments at a commemoration ceremony for victims of attacks.

"We must ensure that the action taken is sustained and here I am talking about all the measures taken to foresee attacks, deter them and stop them. It's a constant battle and will need still more resources than those I have called for," Hollande said. Islamist militants killed 17 people including journalists from the satirical Charlie Hebdo newspaper in January, 2015. Coordinated attacks claimed by Islamic State killed 130 in Paris last November and a man who drove a truck into crowds in Nice in July killed 86. Other attacks have included the killing of a policeman and his partner as well as a priest this summer.

France has been under emergency law since the Paris attacks. Hollande's government has stepped up hiring of police and put thousands of extra police and soldiers on the streets to protect sensitive sites.—*Reuters*

French President Francois Hollande delivers a speech during a ceremony in tribute to victims of terror attacks in Paris, France, on 19 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

China threatens countermeasures after Dalai Lama speaks at EU Parliament

BEIJING — China expressed anger on Monday and threatened countermeasures after exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama spoke at the European Parliament in the French city of Strasbourg and met its president, Martin Schultz.

China regards the 80-year-old, Nobel Peace Prize-winning monk as a separatist, though he says he merely seeks genuine autonomy for his Himalayan homeland, which Communist Chinese troops "peacefully liberated" in 1950.

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, is welcomed by European Parliament president Martin Schulz at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. PHOTO: REUTERS

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the European Parliament and Schultz had ignored China's "strong opposition" about meeting the Dalai Lama, which ran contrary to the European Union's promises to China on the issue of Tibet.

"China is resolutely opposed to the mistaken actions of the European Parliament," Lu told a daily news briefing, adding that its leaders' insistence on taking an erroneous position had damaged China's core interests.

"China absolutely cannot remain indifferent, and we will make the correct choice in accordance with our judgment of the situation," he added, without elaborating on what China may do. Few foreign leaders are willing to meet the Dalai Lama these days, fearful of provoking a strong reaction from China, the world's second-largest economy. Last week, Beijing warned Taiwan not to allow the Dalai Lama to visit, after a high-profile Taiwan legislator invited him to the self-ruled island Beijing claims as its own.

Tibet's spiritual leader told the European Parliament last week he hoped the Tibetan issue would be resolved but urged the outside world and the European Union in particular not to hold back from criticising Beijing.

The Dalai Lama, who also met the European Parliament's foreign affairs chairman, Elmar Brok, fled to India in 1959 following a failed uprising against the Chinese.

Rights groups and exiles accuse China of trampling on the religious and cultural rights of the Tibetan people, charges strongly denied by Beijing, which says its rule has brought prosperity to a once backward region.—*Reuters*

Bolivia's President Morales calls for unity among people of Latin America

CARACAS — Bolivian President Evo Morales called for unity among the people of Latin America to stop the "imperialist onset" against the region.

In an interview with the press at the 17th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Venezuela, Morales highlighted the urgency of maintaining the unity and integration promoted by former Venezuelan president, Hugo Chavez.

"I continue to believe that the best homage to Chavez is unity. Unity will always be the triumph of the people of Latin America," he said from the island of Margarita, where the NAM Summit is being held.

"The rotating presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement must be in the hands of anti-imperialist countries and governments," said Morales, adding that he wishes great success to his Venezuelan counterpart, Nicolas Maduro, whose country holds the presidency for the next three years.

According to Morales, Venezuela will guarantee a representation for non-aligned countries, adding he wants to apply for Bolivia to take the NAM presidency in 2019.

The Bolivian leader said that two models are facing each other in Latin America, the capitalist model and the humanist model, which focuses on social needs above all and where human beings are seen as greater than wealth.

"The best way to defend our revolutions is with unity and conscience. They will try to divide us as always, with aggression, and we have the obligation to defeat them while thinking of our future," he said.

"There is a profound difference...of privatizers versus nationalizers," concluded Morales, also pointing to regional leaders such as Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez whom he called "the liberating force of our continent."—*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CALIMERO VOY. NO (0428)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CALIMERO VOY. NO (0428) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.9.2016 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 Claim's 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 KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.9.2016 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 Claim's 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SSL TRUST VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SSL TRUST VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

ဒေါ်ခိုင်သီတာဦး (၁၂/မဂတ(နိုင်)၀၈၇၂၁၅) ထံမှ ရရှိရန် ငွေကြေးများ ရရှိပြီးဖြစ်ကြောင်း ကြေညာခြင်း

၄-၉-၂၀၁၆ ရက်နေ့ထုတ် Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာ၊ ၅-၉-၂-၁၆ ရက်နေ့ထုတ် ကြေးမုံသတင်းစာနှင့် ၆-၉-၂၀၁၆ ရက်နေ့ထုတ် မြန်မာ့အလင်း သတင်းစာပါရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး၊ မင်္ဂလာတောင်ညွန့်မြို့နယ်၊ ကန်တော်ကလေး၊ ဒေါ်သိန်းတင်လမ်း၊ အမှတ် (၈၀)တွင် တည်ရှိသော True Media & Advertising ၏ Director ဒေါ်ခိုင်သီတာဦး ထံမှ Global New Light of Myanmar သို့ ပေးရန် ကျန်ရှိသော ကြေးမုံပြင်ပကြားညှပ်အချပ်ပို ကြော်ငြာပုံနှိပ်ခ ကြွေးကျန်ငွေ ကျပ် ၆,၆၈၀,၀၀၀/- (ကျပ် ခြောက်ဆယ့်ခြောက်သိန်းရှစ်သောင်းတိတိ) ကို ၈-၉-၂၀၁၆ ရက်၊ ကြာသာပတေးနေ့တွင် Global New Light of Myanmar သို့ လာရောက်ပေးချေသည်ကို လက်ခံ ရရှိပြီးဖြစ်ပါကြောင်း အသိပေး ကြေညာအပ်ပါသည်။

ဦးမောင်မောင်သန်း၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ
Global New Light of Myanmar Co., Ltd.
ဖုန်း ၀၁-၈၆၀၄၅၃၀

‘Game of Thrones’, ‘Veep’ win Emmys again, newcomers also feted

LOS ANGELES — Fantasy drama series “Game of Thrones” and comedy “Veep” proved repeat winners for cable giant HBO at the Emmy awards on Sunday, but newcomers and actors of colour also made their mark in a ceremony where election-year politics played large.

Fan favourite “Game of Thrones,” went into Sunday’s show with a leading 23 nominations and won a total of 12 Emmys, including for best drama series, directing and writing. It beat off a challenge from USA network’s “Mr. Robot,” as well as Netflix’s dark Washington D.C. drama “House of Cards.”

“We’re standing up here because George Martin created the world that we all live and play in,” said co-creator Dan Weiss.

True crime was also a big winner.

“The People v. O.J. Simpson,” FX’s 10-hour dramatization of the former football player’s 1995 double murder trial and sensational acquittal won nine Emmys, including for best limited series and for actors Sarah Paulson, Courtney B. Vance and Sterling K. Brown.

Paulson, who played losing Los Angeles trial prosecutor Marcia Clark in the show, brought Clark along with her to the Emmys.

“The more I learned about the real Marcia Clark... the more I had to recognise that I along with the rest of the world had been superficial and careless in my judgment,” said Paulson, accepting her first Emmy. Host Jimmy Kimmel opened Sunday’s show with a string of jokes about Republican presidential contender and former “Celebrity Apprentice” star Donald Trump. “If Donald Trump gets elected and he builds that wall, the first person we are throwing over it is Mark Burnett,” quipped Kimmel, addressing Burnett, the British producer who created “Celebrity Apprentice.”

The cast of HBO’s “Game of Thrones” pose backstage with their award for Oustanding Drama Series at the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California US, on 18 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

“Veep” star Julia Louis-Dreyfus won her fifth straight Emmy for her role in the satirical White House comedy in which she plays a graspingly ambitious and inept president battling to stay in power.

Louis-Dreyfus apologised for what she called “the current political climate,” seven weeks before the presidential election.

“I think that ‘Veep’ has torn down the wall between comedy and politics. Our show started out as a political satire but it now feels like a sobering documentary,” she quipped, in an oblique reference to the presidential campaign.

Sunday’s Emmys were notable for having a record 21 nominees of color, in contrast to this year’s all-white Oscars acting lineup.

Several took home Emmys, many for the first time. Along “O.J. Simpson” winners Brown and Vance, Egyptian-American Rami Malek beat veterans Kevin Spacey and Liev Schreiber to scoop his first Emmy for playing a socially inept computer hacker in “Mr. Robot.”

“Oh my god. Please tell me you are seeing this too,” said a stunned Malek, 35.

Indian-American Aziz Ansari shared a writing Emmy with Asian-American Alan Yang for their comedy series “Master of None,” while black actress Regina King won for her role in “American Crime” and African-American comedians Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele were honored for their sketch series “Key & Peele.”

Other Emmy newcomers included Canadian Tatiana Maslany, a surprise best drama actress winner who beat out presumed front runner Robin Wright for playing a woman with multiple cloned personalities in “Orphan Black.”

Elsewhere, Jeffrey Tambor won best comedy actor for a second time for his role as a father who transitions to a woman in Amazon’s ground-breaking “Transparent.”

“Saturday Night Live” comedian Kate McKinnon, who plays Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, won supporting comedy actress, and John Oliver’s biting “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver” won the Emmy for variety talk series.—*Reuters*

Bold hues and cool cutouts stand out on Emmys red carpet

LOS ANGELES — Striking hues and subtle cutouts grabbed the spotlight on the red carpet at the Emmy Awards on Sunday, as television’s stars managed to stay cool in the Los Angeles heat.

Dresses in various jewel tones dominated the carpet, such as “UnREAL” star Shiri Appleby’s cobalt sequinned Diane von Furstenberg column dress.

“It just felt like it was really fresh and really fun,” Appleby told Reuters on the red carpet.

America Ferrera, one of the award presenters of the night, also wore a deep blue, strapped sequin dress by Jenny Packham, an outfit that won praise on social media.

“Transparent” nominee Melora Hardin wore a cobalt blue Zac Posen gown, while model-actress Emily Ratajkowski wore a navy structured Posen gown.

Yellow and red gowns confirmed the stars’ penchant for primary colors at television’s top honours.

“American Horror Story” star Angela Bassett wore a mustard yellow Christian Siriano gown, “Empire” Emmy nominee Taraji P. Henson opted for a canary yellow custom Vera Wang column dress while “Quantico” actress Priyanka Chopra spun and smiled for photographers in her red Jason Wu dress, with cutouts on the shoulder and waist.

“What stood out to me was some of these more modern dresses,” said Rickie De Sole, W Magazine’s fashion market and accessories director. “There were also a lot of people doing cutouts — some doing them better than others,” De Sole added, pointing to Tracee Ellis Ross’ spot-on Ralph Lauren look.

“Orphan Black” nominee Tatiana Maslany also opted for subtle cutouts in her red Alexander Wang dress, while “Mr Robot” actress Portia Doubleday’s red long-sleeved gown featured a plunging central cutout.

And then there were those who turned to the black dress, despite the unseasonably hot day.

“Game of Thrones” actress Sophie Turner opted for a black lace Valentino dress, telling Reuters, “It’s beautiful and gorgeous.”

“Modern Family” star Sarah Hyland bucked the trend for dresses, wearing black pants and a strapless trained top by Monique Lhuillier. “Fargo” nominee Kirsten Dunst opted for a plunging beaded black Givenchy number, while pregnant “Scandal” star Kerry Washington wore a black Brandon Maxwell gown with cutouts.

“It’s great to see her (Washington) support a young designer,” said De Sole. Eric Wilson, fashion news director at InStyle, highlighted the “the metallic and hyper-textured look” as a head-turning trend, demonstrated by Heidi Klum in a silver Michael Kors dress and Claire Danes, nominated for best actress for drama “Homeland,” in a gold Schiaparelli gown.

“I want to see more of that,” Wilson said.—*Reuters*

Model Emily Ratajkowski arrives at the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, on 18 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘La La Land’ musical takes top prize at Toronto film festival

TORONTO — “La La Land,” a musical tale of star-crossed lovers chasing their dreams in Hollywood, won the top prize at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sunday.

The People’s Choice Award, chosen by the votes of audience members, makes “La La Land” an early front-runner in the Oscar best picture race. Other recent winners of the Toronto prize have gone on to win the top Oscar, such as “Slumdog Millionaire,” “The King’s Speech” and “12 Years a Slave.”

Starring Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling, “La La Land” follows the two leads as their lives converge in poetic chaos while they try to make their respective dreams come true in the midst of a blossoming love affair.

“La La Land” is from 31-year-old writer-director Damien Chazelle, who made a splash with his 2014 film “Whiplash,” an intense study of a jazz drummer’s quest to perfection. That film won three Oscars.

“Getting to even make this movie was a dream come true,” Chazelle, who was not present, said in statement read at the ceremony. “To see it connect with Toronto audiences in this way is deeply gratifying.”

Now in its 41st year, the Toronto festival ranks with Cannes and Sundance as one of the world’s top movie gatherings. The sprawling festival, with more than 400 films screened, often serves as a launch pad for films and performances for the awards season that culminates with the Oscars.—*Reuters*

Over 37 million train trips made during Mid-Autumn Festival travel rush

BEIJING — Nearly 37.2 million train journeys were made during the four-day Mid-Autumn Festival travel rush that ended Saturday, said the China Railway Corporation on Sunday.

On Saturday, the last day of the holiday, 10.4 million railway trips were made, 11.7 per cent more than last year.

During the holiday, 1,265 trains were laid on to handle the extra of passengers. Some services in coastal areas ran at reduced speed, changed route or were canceled due to gales and downpours caused by Typhoon Meranti.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is the second most important holiday for the Chinese after the Spring Festival. Many people go home to be with their families or visit tourist attractions.

A report by travel agent Lvmama showed the number of travelers during the holiday more than tripled this year.

Hangzhou, the host city of G20 Summit early this month, and Jiuquan, where China launched its second space lab on Thursday, were among the hottest destinations.—*Xinhua*

Viet Nam to teach Chinese language in primary school from 2017

HANOI — Viet Nam will begin to teach Chinese language in primary school from 2017, according to the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) on Monday.

The MoET is building a general education program for Chinese, Japanese and Russian languages and the three languages will be taught as the first foreign language to local students from grade three to grade 12. Nguyen Minh Chau, deputy head of education and training department of Viet Nam's northern Lang Son province, said on local Dan Tri (People's Knowledge) online newspaper on Monday that as his province borders China, it will be favourable to develop Chinese language teaching. Lang Son will continue to teach English as the first foreign language in schools and teach Chinese as the first foreign language in some classes to meet with pupils' demand.

In the 2016-2017 academic year, Korean, French and German will be taught as the second foreign language.—*Xinhua*

Chinese artists perform during Tocati Int'l Street Games Festival in Italy

Chinese artists perform during the opening ceremony of Tocati in Verona of Italy, on 16 September 2016. The 14th edition of Tocati, an International Street Games Festival, kicked off Saturday in Italy's Verona and would last until 18 September. Artists from different places of China, the guest of honour of the 14th Tocati, brought traditional games, rituals, music and dances to the streets and squares of Verona's historical center. PHOTO: XINHUA

Charmian Carr, who played 'Sound of Music's Liesl, dies at 73

Actors who played the children of the Trapp family in the legendary movie "The Sound of Music" pose in Salzburg on 1 November 2000. (L to R) Kym Gareth (Gretl), Charmian Carr (Liesl) (2nd L) , Angela Cartwright (Brigitta), Nicholas Hammond (Friedrich), Duane Chase (Kurt), Debbie Thurner (Martha) and Heather Menzis (Louisa) were re-united on the original film sets for a British television production 35 years after the movie was shot in the west Austrian province. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Charmian Carr, beloved by fans for her role as the rebellious daughter, Liesl Von Trapp, in the Academy Award-winning film "The Sound of Music," has died at the age of 73, her family said on Sunday.

Carr died on Saturday of complications from a rare form of dementia in the Los Angeles suburb of Woodland Hills, the family said in a statement. Carr was in her early 20s when she played Liesl, the eldest of the seven children of stern widower Captain Von Trapp, played by Christopher Plummer, in the 1965 musical starring Julie Andrews. Her romantic dance scene with screen boyfriend Rolfe in a gazebo during a thunderstorm while singing "Sixteen Going On Seventeen" was considered one of the movie's most charming scenes. After "The Sound of Music," Carr appeared in the TV musical "Evening Primrose" with Anthony Perkins but then stepped back from acting to start an interior design business and raise a family.

But her enthusiasm for "The Sound of Music" remained undiminished and in 2000, she started hosting sing-alongs of the movie across the United States, which drew thousands of fans dressed as their favorite characters. Carr also wrote two books — "Forever Liesl," in 2000, in which she detailed the making of the movie, and "Letters to Liesl" in 2001, which was inspired by the fan mail she received from around the world. Carr was born in Chicago on 27 December, 1942, and moved to California when she was 13. She is survived by two children and four grandchildren.—*Reuters*

MRTV News Channel

(20-9-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 am
- Socio Economic Scenes

8:35 am
- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competions

8:40 am
- Law Affairs

9:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

10:35 am
- MRTV Education Programme

11:15 am
- Documentary

11:35 am
- MCN Dedate

12:50 pm
- TV Drama Series

1:10 pm
- TV Drama Series

2:30 pm
- Karaoke World
- Championships (KWC) Myanmar 2016 (Level-1) (Group-6)

3:35 pm
- Socio Economic Scenes

4:35pm
- Football Magazine (Ayeyarwady United)

5:35pm
- Money Talk Myanmar (Part-2)

6:35 pm
- Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:15 pm
- TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
- News/ International News/ Weather Report
- Documentary

9:00 pm
- News
- Yes or No Talk Show (Choice on Degree) (Part-4)
- TV Drama Series

Note/Hourly News Bulletlns (Local + International)

mitv Myanmar International

(20-9-2016 07:00am ~ 21-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township
07:49	Am	Sightseeing in Yangon: Inya Lake
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Man and The Elephant (Part- I)
08:41	Am	The Man and The Elephant (Part- II)
08:55	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Strokes of Myanmar
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: Sim Card Registering
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Prehistory
10:50	Am	Egg Shell

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
07:51	Pm	Myanmar Puppet
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Thached Roofs: IN-LEAF
08:43	Pm	Dances of Myanmar "Gaybar Kayin Traditional Dance"
08:47	Pm	Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant

(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)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

4th Waning of Tawthalin 1378 ME | Tuesday, 20 September 2016

Real Madrid equal La Liga record for successive wins

MADRID — Real Madrid brushed off the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale to beat Espanyol 2-0 away and maintain their 100 per cent start to the league season while matching the La Liga record of 16 consecutive victories.

James Rodriguez scored his first Real goal in five months to give the visitors the lead in stoppage time before the break and Karim Benzema sealed the points in the 70th minute with a close-range finish past former Madrid goalkeeper Diego Lopez.

Athletic Bilbao beat Valencia 2-1 to pile more pressure on the visitors' beleaguered coach Pako Ayesteran, Villarreal downed Real Sociedad 2-1 thanks to a sensational 50-yard strike from Nicola Sansone, while Celta Vigo drew 0-0 at Osasuna. Real stay top of La Liga on 12 points, three above Barcelona and Las Palmas, having equalled Barca's record of 16 straight league wins achieved under Pep Guardiola in the 2010/11 season. "We played a great game from the start with concentration and enthusiasm. The best way to get the points is to come out fired up like we did today," Zidane told Movistar Plus.

The Frenchman's Real side also broke the Madrid club's record for consecutive league wins, overtaking the 15-game winning streak under Miguel Munoz in the 1960/61 season.

"Of course, the record means a lot to us because it's proof of the phenomenal work all the players are doing. Getting points is the most important thing but it's also nice to have a record like this," added Zidane.

Ronaldo missed the trip to Espanyol with a sore throat, having scored five goals in a 6-0 thrashing last season, while Bale is recovering from a hip injury sustained in Wednesday's last-gasp 2-1 Champions League win over Sporting Lisbon. The absence of the pair allowed Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio to face their former club, while Rodriguez came in for Germany international Toni Kroos in midfield.

Colombia's 2014 World Cup Golden Boot winner has not enjoyed a consistent run in the side since Zidane took charge but seized the opportunity, nutmegging an Espanyol defender outside the area and stroking the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

Benzema had looked far from match fit against Sporting but was given another chance by Zidane and, after having an effort ruled out for offside in the first half, the Frenchman tapped in Asensio's low cross to finish off a classy team move.

Villarreal forward Sansone scored from just over the halfway line as they beat Sociedad to move up to sixth in the table, level on eight points with Atletico Madrid and Sevilla.

The 13 million euros ($14.50 million) close-season signing from Serie A side Sassuolo let fly from the right hand side of the field to beat goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli in the 25th.

Italian Sansone had also given the hosts the lead three minutes earlier from inside the box after the Brazilian former Chelsea striker Alexandre Pato had missed a penalty.—*Reuters*

Real Madrid's Karim Benzema celebrates a goal with his team mates during Spanish La Liga Santander at RCDE stadium, Cornella in El Prat, Spain on 18 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Exhausted Murray desperate for a break

Andy Murray. PHOTO: REUTERS

GLASGOW (Scotland) — Andy Murray is itching for a break after an exhausting few months, the world number two said, after defending champions Britain were knocked out by Argentina 3-2 in the Davis Cup semi-final.

The 29-year-old had a busy European summer when he reached the French Open final, followed by his second Wimbledon triumph, and then successfully defended his Olympic gold at Rio.

A tired Murray then lost to Japan's Kei Nishikori in the quarter-finals of the US Open.

Murray was involved in both the singles and doubles matches in the Davis Cup semi-finals defeat against Argentina, including a five-hour marathon against Juan Martin del Potro.

"I have played so much tennis in the last few months, I need a break and I need it now," Murray was quoted as saying by the Times.

"I knew I was going to be in some pain this weekend and I spoke to my team about that it was going to be really hard. But my expectations were less than what I'm feeling now."

Murray is scheduled to next play in the China Open, beginning on 3 October, followed by the Shanghai Masters.

He had a thigh injury worry during his straight-sets win against Guido Pella in the reverse singles. "I've never really had any muscle injuries before. That was worrying for me and thankfully I managed to get it done in straight sets," Murray said.—*Reuters*

Paralympics closing ceremony pays tribute to Bahman Golbarnezhad

RIO DE JANEIRO — The president of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Philip Craven, was among those to pay tribute to Iranian cyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad during Sunday's Paralympic Games closing ceremony here.

Golbarnezhad died after an accident while competing in the C4-5 road race on Saturday.

"Tonight is a celebration of the last 12 days of sport but it's also a very somber occasion following yesterday's extremely tragic events," Craven said during a speech at the Maracana stadium. "The passing of Iranian cyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad has affected us all and left the whole Paralympic movement united in grief.

"Tonight, I would like you to join me in paying our condolences to his family, friends, his teammates and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran by observing a moment of silence in his memory."

Flags were lowered to half mast at the Paralympic village and Iran took a photo of Golbarnezhad on to the podium after winning their sitting volleyball gold medal on Sunday.

"There is one bitterness and one sweetness," said Masoud Ashrafi, the secretary general of Iran's Paralympic Committee. "Today we are so happy because the sitting volleyball team were able to win the gold medal. And we are going to present this gold medal to the soul of Bahman Golbarnezhad."

It was the first time an athlete has died during competition in the 56-year history of the Paralympic Games. Local authorities have launched an investigation into the crash, according to the IPC.—*Xinhua*

Midfielder Alli extends contract with Spurs to 2022

LONDON — Midfielder Dele Alli has signed a new deal with Tottenham Hotspur which will keep him at the north London club till 2022, the Premier League side said on Monday.

The 20-year-old, who had also signed a contract extension in January, enjoyed an excellent season last campaign, scoring 10 goals and providing 11 assists in 46 matches.

The former Milton Keynes Dons midfielder picked up the Professional Footballers' Association Young Player of the Year award and was also named in the PFA Premier League Team of the Year last season.

Ali's dazzling performances at Spurs also earned the midfielder his England cap last October and he was part of the country's Euro 2016 squad.—*Reuters*

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