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PROTECTION FOR MYANMAR MIGRANTS

Collaborative efforts needed to get lists of undocumented migrant workers

PYITHU Hluttaw debated a proposal to protect Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries from exploitation and abuses, following discussion over the proposal at the parliament yesterday.

MPs discussed the proposal which urges the government to effectively help and protect abused and exploited Myanmar migrant workers collaboratively, government to government.

Regarding the discussion, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe said the ministry is making efforts to create decent job opportunities and to help workers at home and abroad receive basic rights and safety in their migration.

During a session of Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday, he also called for participation of every citizen to help in the government's efforts to compile a list of illegal Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries.

The Union minister also explained the government's prioritised measures for protection and promotion of the rights and skills of workers at home and abroad.

Labour attachés have been appointed in Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand to enable Myanmar migrant workers to enjoy legal protection in host countries, said the Union minister, adding that Myanmar Embassies in the countries with no labour attaché have looked after them.

The ministry formed the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation and supervised the signing of a code of conduct by the agencies, said the Union minister.

The Union minister went



Workers from Myanmar sort fish at a port in the southern province of Pattani, Thailand. PHOTO: REUTERS

on to say that punitive measures were taken against 20 agencies, including termination and suspension of licenses.

The government issued documents to undocumented Myanmar workers in Thailand and Malaysia to be able to work legally there following coordination between the countries, added the Union minister.

A specific law for the protection of migrants should be adopted in Myanmar as there are still exploitations by the agents even

“ A specific law for the protection of migrants should be adopted in Myanmar as there are still exploitations by the agents.

though MoUs are signed between the government and overseas employment agencies, said Htwe Htwe Thein, director of the Confederation of Trade Unions My-

anmar (CTUM) at the workshop in Yangon.

It is estimated that about 4 million Myanmar migrants work in Thailand, which is the most pop-

ular destination for Myanmar migrants workers followed by Malaysia, Singapore, Korea and Japan.

Because of a shortage of job opportunities, people move to urban or overseas to work. The numbers of migrants who work overseas outnumber those who migrate internally, the Director of CTUM added.

During the yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw session, the Myanmar Investment Bill was also approved.—*Myanmar News Agency*



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Amyotha Hluttaw



Dr Myo Thein Gyi. PHOTO: MNA

Education Ministry to organise Students' Sports Festivals

THE Ministry of Education will organise a Students' Sports Festival to promote competitive sports in schools in cooperation with relevant ministries and sports federations, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi told the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

Myanmar participated in the 18th ASEAN University Games in Singapore as well as sporting events in other countries, said

the Union minister, adding that arrangements are being made to host the 2018 ASEAN University Games in Myanmar.

The ministry is ready to make all possible efforts towards the country's plan to host the Games, said the Union minister.

The Students' Sports Festivals were held eight times from 1990-1991 to 1997-1998 in different regions and states with Nay Pyi Taw hosting the fes-

tivals twice in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 (academic years).

According to the Union minister, the ministry has organised basic education inter-school sports competitions and universities and colleges sporting events in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports and sports federations.

During the 40th day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Bill Committee read out its findings

and remarks on the Bill to Protect Citizens' Privacy and Security, which was sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Next, the committee's report on the Bill to amend the 1973 Law of Myanmar Board of Examination was read out, and approval was sought from the parliament.

The Bill was approved as amended by the Amyotha Hluttaw. — Myanmar News Agency

Viet Nam's National Assembly Chairperson and party arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

A VIETNAMESE delegation led by Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngân, Chairperson of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials welcomed the chairperson and party at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. — Myanmar News Agency



A Vietnamese delegation led by Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngân is welcomed by Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung. PHOTO: MNA

Local oil dealers want to eradicate dangerous cooking oil in the market

SHORT-TERM and long-term plans will be adopted to eliminate entry of dangerous cooking oil into the market, said U Khin Soe, the chairman of the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association.

The association is set to cooperate with the departments concerned in the fight against cooking oil mixed with chemicals, said the chairman, stressing the need for help from the government in its efforts.

He called on the public to inform the association of information about dangerous oil in the marketplace, pledging to report on the public information to the ministries concerned. According to sources, dangerous cooking oil accounts for 80 per cent of edible oil sold in local markets. Warning the public of the health risks from the dangerous cooking oil, the association said that local oil millers are suffering sales declines as they are unable to match the low prices of the edible oil mixed with chemicals.—Ko Moe

Pyay administrators bans use of loudspeakers by charitable groups

ACCORDING to the Pyay administration office, charitable groups around Pyay Township will not be allowed to use loudspeakers in West Bago Region.

There are existing rules and regulations for using loudspeakers, administrators said, but they are in the process of being refined this month, officials said.

"The local charity groups are not being allowed to use loudspeakers at the moment," said Dr Sit Aung Latt, Pyay temporary

administrator. "They can only use sound boxes".

Township-level administration organisations and local charitable groups met on 23rd September, 2016, during which it was claimed that groups using loudspeakers made local elders and patients afraid and annoyed.

"Some are using the loudspeakers too much for the religious affairs. It is better for all when they do the charitable cases using ways that can be less of a

disturbance to the local people," said a man from Pyay.

It was announced that a permit is needed for charity events that will cause noise. According to the rules, charitable groups must not use loudspeakers. Those organizations cannot do their charity work beyond the date of expiry on the permit sheet.

In addition, motor vehicles have to stop when charitable groups want to stay at one place. For instance, when members of

the public donate money or when donations are collected. Young children are not allowed to do charity and only five people from the both sides of the road may participate.

In accord with Pyay general administration office, there are about 74 charitable groups which are active around Pyay Township and only 30 which have a permit from the authorities concerned. Thiha Iwin / Myitmakha News Agency



Mr Klaas Haytema leaves the court after hearing. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Dutch citizen on trial for violation of tourist visa rules, regulations

A MAN from the Netherlands, charged under section 4 (2) and 13 (1) of the Myanmar Immigration Act, appeared in Maha Aungmyay Court in Mandalay yesterday.

Charges were filed against the man following his arrest for unplugging cables connected to an amplifier at Thusarita Dhammayon, a religious hall in Yadanabummi East Ward of Maha Aungmyay Township in Mandalay, where recitations of reli-

gious verses were being blared on the night of 23 September.

The Immigration officer of the township said that the charge has been filed against the man for violating tourist visa rules, adding that foreigners who visit Myanmar have to agree to follow the host country's existing laws, religious traditions and customs during their visa application process.

Mr Klaas Haytema, the Dutch man, aged 30, was staying

at the Four Rivers Hotel situated near the hall. He said that he did not deliberately 'insult religion' by unplugging the offending speaker and that he did not know that the hall was a religious building.

The defendant arrived in Mandalay on 20 September via Kunming, China, using a visa he had applied online, said the head of the Maha Aungmyay Township Immigration Department. — Aung Thant Khaing



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe shakes hands with Chinese Minister of Public Security Mr. Guo Shengkun at the fifth Myanmar-China Ministerial Meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar-China Ministerial Meeting on Rule of Law, Security Cooperation held

THE fifth Myanmar-China Ministerial Meeting on the Rule of Law and Security Cooperation took place in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Chinese Minister of Public Security Mr. Guo Shengkun who is also the Member of the State Council of the PRC,

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Chinese Vice Ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials.

During the meeting, the two ministers from Myanmar and China spoke on the occasion and those present held discussions on ongoing bilateral cooperation in border management, ensuring the rule of law for Mekong River,

operations against drug trafficking, cybercrimes and human trafficking and counterterrorism measures.

Moreover, matters related to capacity-building programmes for the rule of law and security cooperation and Chinese cooperation in protection and conservation of natural resources were discussed.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ministry warns action against companies for poor standards on state projects

CONSTRUCTION Union Minister U Win Khaing has warned that action will be taken against companies for any damage caused to state projects resulting from a breach of set standards.

The union minister responded to a query at the Amyotha Hluttaw on Tuesday.

The government has outlined the criteria to be met by contrac-

tors in the implementation of its projects, with the union minister stressing the need for construction companies to meet the required standards as mentioned in the contracts. "Any damage associated with poor standards is punishable by the regulations," he said.

The move is designed to tighten control and supervision over companies responsible for

implementing state-owned projects like the construction of roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and markets. As suggested by experts, the Ministry of Construction laid down the guidelines for construction companies to follow and distributed the copies to related departments across the country on 6 September.—*Wai Phyto (Myitmakha)*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order 55/2016
12th Waning of Tawthalin 1378 ME
28th September 2016

Appointment of Judges of Taninthayi Region High Court

In accordance with provisions under paragraph (IV), sub-section (b) of Article 308 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, sub-section (d) of Article 19 of the Union Government Law, Article 45 of the Union Judiciary Law and sub-section (d) of Article 18 of the Region or State Government Law, following persons approved by the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw, are appointed as judges of the Taninthayi Region High Court:

- (1) U Khin Maung Maung
- (2) Daw Khin Mar Htay

Sd Htin Kyaw
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Sales of FDA-restricted foods persist at schools and markets in Hlaingthaya

THE sales of foodstuff prohibited by the Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) persist in basic education schools and markets in a satellite township, Yangon Region, according to the Consumer Protection Association (CPA).

The association estimated the sales to remain at around 90% in Hlaingthaya township, despite checks being made to locate banned foods. Such checks have been conducted since 2013.

The CPA pointed out the need for the government to exert greater cooperation in its launch of surprise checks to curb junk foods at schools and markets.

The satellite township still sees the continued sales of forbidden foods and household

products, regardless of the association's series of efforts in 2013, 2015 and 2016.

The Department of Food and Drug Administration announced the lists of banned foods through state media in 2013 and 2014 and followed up this action by conducting awareness campaigns.

Shop owners said sales will continue as long as distributors fish for customer delight.

"We use chemical dyes just to attract customers. Nobody will buy things that look pale," said a woman who sells chicken at a market in Hlaingthaya.

The Customer Protection Association inspected two markets and four basic schools in the township on Tuesday.—*Paing Htet (Myitmakha)*

LUXURIOUS & TRANQUIL WEEKEND 'BUBBLY' BRUNCH AT SEDONA YANGON



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6.30pm to 10.00pm

SEAFOOD AND BBQ BUFFET DINNER
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
6.30pm to 10.00pm

**Inclusive of free flow of wine, beer & soft drinks



2014 census shows 4.6 per cent of people in Myanmar have a disability

THE 2014 housing census shows that people with disabilities constitute 4.6 per cent of the total population of Myanmar, it has been learned from the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law coordinating meeting which was held on Tuesday in the Mandalay region Hluttaw meeting hall.

At the meeting, the Regional Hluttaw speaker, vice speaker and Hluttaw representatives discussed matters related to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities law.

“According to the 2014 census, five out of 100 people in this country suffer from a disability. We need to think about what we can do for them,” said Mandalay region Hluttaw vice speaker Dr. Khin Maung Htay.

“We shouldn’t neglect such a big number of people. So, we have to make whole hearted efforts to find effective and efficient ways and means to help them,” he added.

Assistance is being provid-

ed for people with disabilities in Mandalay region. But, there were difficulties when we collected the data. According to the WHO, 15 per cent of people are suffering from a type of disability in the world, said the TLMM Head of Program.

The UN defines people with disabilities as those who have physical, mental, sensational and intellectual defects permanently, and those who are faced with hindrances in their ability to take active and effective part in the community on an equal level with others.

“There are four types of people with disabilities in Myanmar. So, we need to provide reasonable accommodation for them. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law was enacted in 2015,” she added.

The Washington group collected the data on people with disabilities. Disability prevalence starts to increase at the age of 35. —*Aung Thant Khaing*

WCS, TSA save the turtles in Myanmar

DAW KALYAR, in charge of the turtle species survival department, talks about turtle conservation in Myanmar and the rare turtle species in



Daw Kalyar talking about turtle conservation.

Ayeyawady Region at Maubin University on 27 September.

Working in conjunction with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) works to implement recovery programs for some highly endangered endemic species in Ayeyawady Region – the Myanmar roof turtle, the Myanmar star tortoise and the Rakhine forest turtle.

Students and monks lend a hand in transferring a total of 36 turtles — 11 Yellow Tortoise and Indotestudo elongate, 25 Morenia ocellata — from the Thandarmyae home for the aged and the Monastic school in Kyaukphyu, Rakhine State to Panpyoelet monastic school in Kyauktan village of Bago township, Bago Region on 27 September. —*Htinkozaw (WCS)/WinKoKo(WCS)*

Counterfeit K10,000 notes seized in Mandalay Region

THE owner of a game centre turned in counterfeit local currency notes to a local police station in Maha Aungmyay township, Mandalay Region, on Tuesday, police have said.

The man reported the case to police after he received K140,000 worth of the notes from customers. Police suspect the counter-

feit notes may enter the country through the border area with Thailand as their investigation suggests a key link to counterfeit notes seized by several police stations and the Myanmar Economic Bank in Thandwe of Rakhine State. According to police, the newly discovered notes have the same serial numbers as those

seized in Thandwe.

The notes were printed on wood-free paper and are 1 millimetre longer in length and 1 millimetre shorter in width than legitimate banknotes. The denomination is paler while the security thread glows violet and remains unchanged, according to the authorities. —*Aung Thant Khaing*

Crime NEWS

Yaba and heroin seized

LOCAL police from Shwe Nyaung police station seized yaba from a hut in Hlaing Bon Thar ward, Shwe Nyaung town on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the hut and found 2,360 yaba pills in the possession of one Kyi Soe.

On the same day, police from Muse town stopped and searched a motorcycle being ridden by one Kyint Kan Shwe at the entrance gate of Man Kham village, Nam-Kham township and discovered heroin inside two soap boxes weighing 26 grams and 100 yaba pills. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*



Kyi Soe and Kyint Kan Shwe.
PHOTO: MPF

Vehicle plunges down into a drain

A 22-wheel vehicle carrying sugar bags plunged into a drain near Pa Aung village, Nyaun-

glaybin township, Bago region on Wednesday.

According to an investi-

gation, the 22-wheel vehicle, heading to Mandalay from Yangon, was being driven by one Zaw Min Tun, 40, with conductor Tun Naing, 27, on board when it plunged into the drain and overturned between mileposts 96/7 and 97/0 when the driver lost control. No one was injured in the accident.

Police have opened a case presuming the driver guilty of careless driving.— *Nay Lin (Nyaunglaybin)*



Vehicle seen after plunging down into a drain.
PHOTO: NAY LIN (NYAUNGLAYBIN)

Motorcycle crashes into stopped vehicle

A VEHICLE accident occurred in Kawhmu township, Yangon region on Monday. According to an investigation, a motorcycle en route to Dala from Kawhmu being driven by one Tun Naing, 36, with Ma Aye Aye Twe on board crashed into a truck carrying bamboo which was parked

beside the road.

Emergency responders rescued the passengers and sent them to Yangon general hospital. The police have filed charges against the reckless motorcycle rider under section 337/338 of the Penal Code.— *Kawmuthar*

50 illegal logs confiscated near Myinmu toll gate

A COMBINED investigation team comprising an officer and staff from the forestry department confiscated illegal logs from a vehicle near Myinmu toll gate on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, police stopped the vehicle en route to Mandalay from Monywa. The vehicle was being driven by one Thura Win, 35,

with Gadon, 38, on board. Upon searching the vehicle police discovered 50 illegal logs weighing 0.6762 tonnes. When interrogated, the driver said that the vehicle belonged to one U Myint Lwin. The two suspects are being charged under section 6(1) of the Public Property Protection Act by police.—*Ko Ko Naing*



50 illegal logs confiscated near Myinmu toll gate being inspected.
PHOTO: KO KO NAING

LOCAL Business

Over Ks220 billion of cultivation loans planned for winter crops

MYANMAR Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) will provide cultivation loans of over Ks229 billion for winter crop plantation in this fiscal year.

MADB has been providing cultivation loans for rain crops as well as winter crops to the farmers, offering Ks150,000 per acre of rice and Ks20,000 per acre of other crops.

The cultivation loans for rain crops are provided annually between May and August. Over Ks1,400 billion of cultivation loans have been provided for rain crop cultivation in this fiscal year. The cultivation loans for winter crops are provided annually in November.—200

Man-made landfill construction to start near Kyauk Phyu SEZ project

CONSTRUCTION of man-made landfills will be required in order to open restaurants, resulting in activity at the Kyauk Phyu SEZ project in Rakhine State, it is learnt.

Three private entrepreneurs are engaged in environmentally friendly, aesthetically pleasing landfill constructions on 5-acre plots of land near the shore in Than Pan Chaung ward, Kyauk Phyu town and plan to use the remaining 15 acres for landfill construction, it is learnt.

“This place will become a central point with the scenic beauty of the sea”, said a landfill developer from Than Pan Chaung ward, Kyauk Phyu. “Therefore, we have a plan to

extend the construction with a hope of the promising economic project there. We will ensure the construction will be eco-friendly.”

There is no virtually real estate market in Kyauk Phyu town except for houses in suburban areas that are for sale for as much as Ks30million for a 40x60 foot yard. Real property in the commercial sector sells for Ks50-70 million, said U Maung Gyi, a real estate agent.

The price of real property has risen in the special economic zone, Min Phyin, Zin Chaung and Gawtu beach, caused by the Kyauk Phyu SEZ project.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

300 commodities no longer need registration

ABOUT 300 goods will no longer need to seek licence come October because the Ministry of Commerce has decided to grant relaxation on additional products, it is learnt from the Commerce Ministry.

“We have been relaxing the rules and regulations since April, making some products free from registration and cutting down on processing time and cost”, said U Yan Naing Tun, the director-general from the Trade Promotion Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Over 200 categories, including machines and tools, were taken off the list of goods that need to be registered in order to be sold.

The ministry is currently

seeking permission for gold export, for which a permit licence is still required, said U Yang Naing Tun.

The Ministry of Mines, the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association and other interested parties have been negotiating to ease the restrictions on the export of gold. However, any statement or rules changes have not yet been released. If gold export is not allowed, all sales will be considered illegal trade, said U Zaw Zaw, a member of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association. Restrictions on a total of five out of 12 controlled export goods have been relaxed by the Union Government, it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

KBZ wins permission from Central Bank of Malaysia to open office in KL



People walk past KBZ bank logo in Kamyut, Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Thura Lwin (Eco)

KANBAWZA (KBZ) Bank announced yesterday that it got the nod from the Central Bank of Malaysia on Tuesday to open a representative office in Kuala Lumpur.

“We will open the representative office in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in the near future. We will announce the place for the representative office and the date for the opening ceremony soon,” said U Nyo Myint, Senior Executive Direc-

tor of the Kanbawza Groups of Companies.

The bank branch in Kuala Lumpur would become the third overseas representative office for KBZ, following offices in Thailand and Singapore.

KBZ Bank, one of the largest private commercial banks in Myanmar, will open its second overseas representative office in Singapore on 6th October after the Monetary Authority of Singapore issued the firm a license on 15 June, 2016, according to an official of the bank.

KBZ Bank opened its first representative office in Bangkok on 28 April, 2016, after winning permission from the Central Bank of Thailand.

KBZ Bank has opened more than 420 branches nationwide in Myanmar employing more than 17,000 staffers and also providing services linking with international banks.

KBZ Bank and its KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation-BFM has spent more than 109 billion kyats from 2007 to date on philanthropic works.

Value of fisheries export through border trade camps rises by US\$40million

THE value of fisheries export through border trade camps during five months in this fiscal year scaled up US\$40million when compared to that in the similar period of last fiscal year, amounting to US\$140million.

Over 100,000 tonnes of fisheries products are exported through nine border trade camps: Kawthaung, Myeik, Muse, Myawady, Sittwe, Maung Taw, Tamu (Reed),

Chin Shwe Haw and Htee Khee. The volume of export from April to September is over 30,000 tonnes higher than the previous fiscal year.

The export through both border trade and normal trade as of 16th September totaled US\$212.857million which rises by 31.836 million than that of last fiscal year, it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.

The fisheries export is expect-

ed to earn higher this fiscal year. However, the merchants are still faced with difficulties in boosting the export volume of the fisheries due to the strict rules laid down by the foreign counties, said a fisheries exporter. The fisheries export is expected to yearly fetch US\$700 million. However, the fisheries export in last fiscal year 2015-2016 earned US\$502.63million, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

US Dollar price jumps due to local demand

THE price for the US dollar jumped recently as a result of local demand, mirroring a rise in price in international countries, it is learnt from experts who monitor the currency market.

The demand of US dollar is on the rise because of the burgeoning import volume to Myanmar. Addi-

tionally, the price set by the Central Bank of Myanmar was on the rise in the past three days, experts said.

“As far as I’m concerned, the Central Bank of Myanmar should control the high price of US dollar, without keeping in line with the black market”, said a currency market expert.

The exchange rate of one US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar rose from Ks1,232 to Ks1,240 on 27th September and Ks1,245 on 28th September. The price of selling is Ks1,265 whereas the price of buying is Ks1,250 on 27th September at the black market, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

Thai junta allows 'culture of torture' to flourish — rights group

BANGKOK — International human rights group Amnesty International on Wednesday accused Thailand's military government of allowing a "culture of torture" to flourish since the army seized power in a 2014 coup.

The military took power in Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy after months of street protests against a populist government, saying it had to step in to prevent violence and restore order.

It rejects accusations of rights violations and a government spokesman said on Wednesday investigations into allegations of torture had found no evidence of any such abuse.

Since the coup, dozens of government critics have been held in military detention, although the exact number has not been released.

Amnesty International

said in a report it had documented 74 cases of alleged torture at the hands of soldiers and police, and post-coup decrees had allowed authorities to detain people incommunicado.

The group cited allegations of beatings, smothering with plastic bags, waterboarding and electric shocks on detainees by authorities.

"Empowered by laws of their own making, Thailand's military rulers have allowed a culture of torture to flourish, where there is no accountability for the perpetrators and no justice for the victims," said Rafendi Djamin, Amnesty International's director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The government denied accusations of torture, said General Sansern Kaewkamnerd, spokesman in the Prime Minister's Office.

"Our investigations



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha speaks during an announcement the junta's two year accomplishments at Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

into such allegations have shown no indication of torture, I have seen no indication of torture and the Thai people have seen no indication of torture," Sansern told Reuters.

Amnesty International was due to hold a news conference at a Bangkok hotel to release the report.

But minutes before the event, men wearing jackets with tags identi-

fying them as Ministry of Labour officials, accompanied by police, said the speakers could face arrest under labour laws.

In response, organisers cancelled the launch, Omar Waraich, media manager for Amnesty International in Asia, told Reuters.

"We are here on business visas, we have an office in Thailand, we are not singling out the Thai government," Waraich, said, adding that Amnesty had received no communication from the government on the report or the launch.

In March, the government gave soldiers powers of arrest and detention saying there were not enough police to tackle crime. Rights groups said the powers would only help strengthen a crackdown on critics.

Thailand came under fire in May at a UN review of its rights record with

some member states expressing concern over the rights situation.

Amnesty said torture tactics were encouraged by "legal incentives", including martial law, which the military ditched in 2015 and replaced with Article 44 of an interim constitution which gives the military similar powers to those it had during martial law, and which critics have dubbed a "dictator law".

A junta order issued in April 2015 allows the military to detain people for up to seven days without charge.

Junta chief Prayuth Chan-ocha, who is also prime minister, has frequently defended the 2014 coup saying it was necessary to bring order back after years of on-off political unrest.

He has promised an election will be held next year.—Reuters

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China to prosecute former chief in Xinjiang city of Hotan

BEIJING — China will prosecute a former Communist Party boss in the western city of Hotan, in the troubled Xinjiang region, an anti-graft watchdog said on Wednesday, as President Xi Jinping pushes on with a years-long crackdown on corruption.

Chen Yuanhua, 50, was removed from his post as party secretary in Hotan and expelled from the party for "serious violations of discipline", the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said in a statement on its website.

Authorities announced an investigation into Chen earlier in the year.

Chen let others pay for luxury hotels, abused his post for the benefit of others, sought and accepted a huge amount of assets, as well as cash and gift cards, "swallowed public funds", and "maintained long-term inappropriate sexual relations" with others, the commission said.

His case would be transferred to judicial authorities, the country's main anti-graft agency said, indicating he would be prosecuted.

Party members can be punished for adultery as they are supposed to be upstanding members of society. The charge is frequently

levelled against high-ranking suspects as a way of showing they are morally degenerate and worthy of punishment.

Chen could not be reached for comment.

Since assuming power almost four years ago, Xi has waged an ambitious campaign against corruption. Dozens of senior officials have been jailed, including a powerful former domestic security chief, Zhou Yongkang.

Xi, like others before him, has warned that the graft problem was so severe it could affect the party's ability to maintain power.

The CCDI last year

sent inspectors to Xinjiang, including to the southern, one-time Silk Road outpost of Hotan, considered part of the heartland for the region's largely Muslim ethnic Uighur minority.

Hundreds of people have been killed in Xinjiang in the past few years in violence between Uighurs and ethnic majority Han Chinese.

Chen is Han, though in 2014, authorities investigated Hotan's then Uighur mayor, Adil Nurmemet, for corruption. The two officials' tenure in the city overlapped, according to their biographies posted online.—Reuters

Over 100 women call on UN chief to help formally end Korean War

NEW YORK — More than 100 women activists from 38 countries called on UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday to help bring about a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War before he steps down at the end of the year.

"He's done his two terms, he is safe and he has an opportunity to make him a hero," Cora Weiss, one of the activists and president of the Hague Appeal for Peace, said at a press conference.

The letter signed by 138 women urges the UN chief, a former South Korean foreign minister, to "lead the process of bringing formal closure to the longest standing war before you leave your post in the

United Nations."

The letter was submitted by WomenCrossDMZ, a nongovernmental organisation that staged a walk across the demilitarized zone from North Korea to South Korea last year.

The 1950-53 war was ended by an armistice agreement signed on 27 July, 1953, by leaders from the United States, North Korea and China. But although they were due to reconvene later to sign a peace treaty, that never happened.

Specifically, the group asked Ban to work with the UN Security Council president to replace the armistice with a binding peace treaty by 2018. It also urges him to make sure that women are

represented in the process.

The group's call comes amid increasing tensions on the Korean Peninsula, exacerbated by the North's 9 September nuclear test — its fifth. The isolated country has been subject to five sanctions resolutions and negotiations are now underway among Security Council members to hammer out a new resolution in response to its latest test.

"We are aware of their request and are looking with our offices to follow up," said Ban's deputy spokesman Farhan Haq.

Ban "has tried to work on the situation in the Korean Peninsula" during his tenure, with multiple rebuffed attempts to visit the

country, he said. "Some of this is outside of our hands."

Among the panelists at the press conference was Kozue Akibayashi, president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, who said the heightened tensions impact the broader region as well, including people in Japan and the Korean diaspora who live there.

"It should be very much an issue for Japanese citizens to bring peace on the Korean Peninsula," she said. "We call for diplomacy, rather than military force to solve any problems."

Ban will step down after 10 years as UN chief on 31 December.—Kyodo News

MH17 was shot down by Russian-made missile fired from rebel-held area

NIEUWEGEIN, (Netherlands) — A Malaysian airliner shot down in eastern Ukraine was hit by a Russian-made Buk missile launched from a village held by rebels fighting Ukrainian government forces, international prosecutors said on Wednesday.

The findings challenge Moscow's suggestion that Malaysia Airlines flight 17, en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur in July 2014, was brought down by the Ukrainian military. All 298 people on board, most of them Dutch citizens, were killed.

The prosecutors cannot file charges but victims' relatives have been seeking details of who shot the plane down in the hope that it might lead eventually to prosecutions over an incident which led to a sharp rise in East-West tensions.

The Buk missile system used to shoot down the plane fired one missile from the village of Pervomaysk and was later returned to Russia, said the prosecutors, from the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine.

They told a news conference in the central Dutch city of Nieuwegein that the investigative team had identified 100 people who were described as being of interest to them but had not yet been formally identified individual sus-



A Malaysian air crash investigator inspects the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, near the village of Hrabove (Grabovo) in Donetsk region, Ukraine, on 22 July 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

pects. It was not clear whether an order had been given for fighters to launch the missile or whether they had acted independently, the prosecutors said. A civilian investigation by the Dutch Safety Board also concluded last year that MH17 was hit by a Buk missile fired from eastern Ukraine, but Moscow denied that pro-Russian rebels were responsible.

Repeating those denials on

Wednesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "First-hand radar data identified all flying objects which could have been launched or were in the air over the territory controlled by rebels at that moment."

"The data are clear-cut...there is no rocket. If there was a rocket, it could only have been fired from elsewhere," he said.

The investigators said they

had not had access to the new radar images on which Moscow was basing its latest statements.

Victims' families were informed of the findings shortly before the prosecutors' news conference.

At the time of the incident on 17 July 2014, pro-Russian separatists were fighting Ukrainian government forces in the region. The Boeing 777 (BA.N) broke apart

in mid-air, flinging wreckage over several kilometres (miles) of fields in rebel-held territory.

Prosecutors cannot file charges because there is no international agreement on what court a case would be heard in. Speaking before the news conference, Silene Fredriksz, whose 23-year-old son Bryce was on the airplane with his girlfriend, Daisy Oehlers, said the victims' families wanted justice.

"As a family we are impatient. We want to know what happened, how it happened and why. We want those responsible to face justice," she said. The downing played a significant part in a decision by the European Union and United States to impose sanctions on Russia over the Ukraine conflict.

Ukrainian and Western officials, citing intelligence intercepts, have blamed pro-Russian rebels for the incident. Russia has always denied direct involvement in the Ukraine conflict and rejects responsibility for the destruction of MH17. Prosecutors have sought legal assistance from Moscow since October 2014, and visited in person for a week in July.

"Russian authorities have offered information in the past, but have not answered all questions," they said in a statement at the time.—Reuters

China's top brass to convene 4-day meeting on 24 October

BEIJING — China's Communist Party will convene a meeting of senior officials on 24 October, during which one of the major agenda items is expected to be revising internal discipline rules, official media said Tuesday.

China's state-run Xinhua News Agency reported the dates of the sixth plenary session of the 18th ruling party's Central Committee, without providing further details.

China's official media reported in late July that about 200 members of the committee will focus on issues concerning strict management of the party during

this year's closed-door meeting in Beijing. It is expected to be the party's last plenum before it will hold a once-every-five-years congress next year, most likely in the autumn. President Xi Jinping, who heads the party and is continuing his sweeping crackdown on corruption, seeks to further cement his power after the congress.

At last year's plenum, their discussions concentrated on a new five-year economic plan, and the party decided to allow two children for all couples, amid growing concerns that a rapidly aging population in China could constrain its growth.—Kyodo News

Japan, Mongolia to cooperate over North Korea's nuclear ambitions

TOKYO — Japan and Mongolia agreed Tuesday on coordinated action to press North Korea to stop its nuclear and missile programmes after the reclusive state forced through its fifth nuclear test earlier this month despite international condemnation.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his Mongolian counterpart Tsend Munkh-Orgil also confirmed cooperation between their countries in addressing the long-stalled issue of Pyongyang's abductions of Japanese nationals decades ago, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

Mongolia has diplomatic ties with North Korea while Japan does not. Ulan Bator has served as a venue for Japan-North Korea talks over the abductions issue on several occasions.

North Korea is now posing "a threat that has a dimension different from before and we must send a strong message," Kishida told Munkh-Orgil, according to the ministry. Munkh-Orgil agreed to raise pressure on North Korea.

Following North Korea's latest nuclear test on September, Japan is seeking a fresh UN

Security Council resolution to impose additional sanctions on North Korea, stressing the need for the international community to send a strong message that it will not tolerate further provocation by North Korea.

"Mongolia is an important regional partner that shares principle values" with Japan, Kishida said at the outset of the meeting, which was open to the media.

The ministers also agreed to strengthen economic ties between Japan and Mongolia after a bilateral free trade accord went into force in June.—Kyodo News

China shuts schools and recalls fishing boats as typhoon hits

SHANGHAI — China shut schools and cancelled dozens of flights as Typhoon Megi made landfall in the southern province of Fujian on Wednesday with winds of close to 120 km per hour (75 mph), the official Xinhua news agency said.

Megi, which has killed four people and injured more than 523 in Taiwan since roaring in from the Pacific, made landfall at 4:40 am local time (2040 GMT Tuesday). Chinese authorities issued their third-highest severe weather warning in anticipation of the storm. Xinhua said more than 120,000 people who work close to

shore or at sea have been moved by Fujian authorities. The province's 31,700 fishing boats have been recalled to port to avoid the high winds.

China Southern Airlines said it had cancelled 24 flights beginning from Tuesday.

More than 14,700 people were evacuated in Taiwan, while millions lost power and hundreds of thousands of homes were without water. Typhoons are common at this time of year, picking up strength as they cross warm Pacific waters and bringing fierce winds and rain when they reach land.—Reuters

Indonesian rescuers evacuate climbers from erupting volcano

JAKARTA — Indonesians rescuers have been evacuating 120 climbers, including 112 foreigners, from a volcano that erupted near the resort island of Bali, a government official said on Wednesday.

Late on Tuesday, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said that at least 389 climbers, including 333 foreigners, might have been on Mt. Barujari, a 2,376-metre-high volcano on Lombok Island, east of Bali, when it erupted.

Maj. Gen. Heronimus Guru, deputy chief of operational affairs

for the National Search and Rescue Agency, said that, during the eruption, only 120 climbers had in fact remained on the volcano — the others having already left.

"The (remaining) climbers are now in the process of evacuation," he said.

Mt. Barujari erupted at 3 pm local time Tuesday, spewing volcanic ash as high as 2 kilometres into the air. The eruption forced the Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation to raise the alert level of the volcano, which is located inside the caldera of the larger Mt. Rinjani.

The agency also recommended people living on the slopes of Mt. Rinjani, along with visitors and tourists, to not conduct any activities inside the caldera of Mt. Rinjani or within a radius of 3 kilometres from the crater of Mt. Barujari. The eruption has not affected Lombok's two airports or Bali's I Gusti Ngurah Rai international airport, near Denpasar, but Australian airlines Virgin Air and Jetstar have cancelled flights to and from Bali.

About 33,700 people live on the slopes of Mt. Rinjani.—Kyodo News

Opinion

Write for us

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Strike a proper balance between early and late marriages

Khin Maung Aye

MYANMAR has been experiencing, like other Asian societies, a change in marriage patterns for three decades or so. Men as well as women are marrying later, with some coming to practice permanent celibacy – i.e. staying single and never marrying. So, delayed marriages of both genders and permanent singleness, chiefly on the part of the female gender, are the major characteristics of change of marriage patterns in Myanmar.

As in other Asian societies, the process of modernisation compels women in particular to pursue higher levels of education, resulting in women holding the golden

key that opens the door to better-paid employment opportunities. Additionally, there are now growing opportunities for educated women to work in formal sectors once dominated by males. Formal education, better employment opportunities and participation in the formal sector workforce have had a dramatic impact upon the changes in marriage patterns in Myanmar.

As known to all, pursuit of tertiary education and accessing occupations in the modern sector definitely takes time to accomplish, thereby delaying marriage. With consistently increasing education levels and women's partici-

pation in the labor force, the age at first marriage of Myanmar women will be on the increase in the near future. Again, late marriage creates a decline in the rate of fertility, which can reach the replacement level. If this happens, there can arise other significant implications like a shortage in the labour force and a situation where there are more elderly people and fewer young people.

Another point worth mentioning is that first marriage at a later age has an impact on the reproductive health of adolescents. However, there are some advantages of late marriage. The positive side of late marriage is that

women can enter the life of marriage with greater emotional and physical maturity to overcome the challenges of family life. This makes the women marrying late be able to play more active roles in their community and participate in the development of the nation. Another good thing is that there will be less adolescent childbearing, which is a great risk because adolescents are physically and psychologically immature for the hardship of giving birth and raising a baby. On the other hand, women delivering babies at a later age also runs the risk of losing lives due to maternity complications.

Italian City of Anzio and C2A NGO celebrate one year activities for Myanmar art and culture

Prof. Mauro Salvemini

H.E Ambassador Mr. Myint Naung, the Distinguished Mayor of City of Anzio Mr. Luciano Bruschini, and the councillor for the tourism of City of Anzio Ms. Laura Nolfi, together with more than seventy qualified participants were present on September 24 at the event which was held at the Hotel Lido Garda supported by the Hotel Lido Garda itself and the Polverini Company a local company specialised in furniture. The event titled "From Myanmar to Anzio and many ideas for coming back" it has been devised by Prof. Mauro Salvemini, former university professor and international expert which is the president of the foundation Culture 2All – Mauro Salvemini, to tell what has been done during the

first operational year and what are the future plans of foundation.

The Italian Ambassador in Yangon H.E. Mr. Pier Giorgio Aliberti was not physically present but sent a message to praise the initiative stating that "I learn with real pleasure of the good initiative that you have organized as art and culture, always a source of dialogue and encounter, are two elements that unite Italy and Myanmar. "He also recalled that" In April this year the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr. Paolo Gentiloni was the first member of a Western government to have had an official meeting with the new democratic institutions of Myanmar and the second Minister of Foreign Affairs to have met his Burmese counterpart, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi." Ambassador U Myint Naung and Myanmar delegation



Prof mauro Salvemini participating in the event.



H.E Ambassador U Myint naung giving a sonvemir to the Anzio Mayor.

started the visit of Anzio from Villa Spigarelli, a privately owned villa not open to the public which seats on the fantastic ruins of a Roman villa of the second century before Christ. The ambassador U Myint Naung completed the visit at the city of Anzio on Sunday 25 visiting the Villa where Emperor Nero was born, the Archaeological Museum and the Museum of the Beach Head of World War II and the Anzio port very famous for fishing and leisure activities.

Prof. Mauro Salvemini, President of the NGO Culture2All (www.culture2all.com) and promoter of the initiative has described the activities of NGO since August 2015, when the City of Anzio along with the Embassy of Myanmar in Italy decided to sponsor the first art exhibition "Images of Light" of artist Khin Maung Zaw watercolours and his photographs, the show was also exhibited at EXPO in Milan in the Myanmar pavilion until the spring of 2016 when the first exhibition in Europe of the 10 contemporary

Burmese artists [Aung Myint, Chan Nyein Kyaw, Tin Maung Oo, Khin Maung Zaw, Khin Zaw Latt, Mon The, Aung Sint, Saw Moe Zaw, Kyaw Nyo, Myint Nang] was placed at the Milan Triennale 2016 the most famous world exhibition for design. During the Anzio event their artworks together with some photographs of Burmese landscape of Mauro Salvemini were showcased.

"The NGO CULTURE2ALL was born with the aim to create a bridge based on the culture of different and far communities, said Mauro Salvemini, and to circulate on this bridge in both directions: art, people, ideas and sustainable development opportunities in order to join the two sides of the bridge. "The NGO's 2017 program foresees actions in some Myanmar villages for giving support to artistic education in primary school and for mapping not yet well known cultural heritage buildings present in the villages' territory. The action's purpose is to create local awareness in very

young generations in order to increase competences and to avoid the internal migration of people who abandon areas because the cultural heritage is not yet seen as an opportunity for developing tourist activities. The fund raising campaign has been also open during the event.

The meeting has been closed by the voices of the Mayor and of the Ambassador. The two personalities have absolutely shared the intention to continue mutual trade and have announced that they intend to explore possible ways of cooperation in the light of existing agreements between the two National Governments and in the framework of the excellent relations of friendship fostered by Mauro Salvemini and NGO Culture 2 All are working.

Prof. Mauro Salvemini
Distinguished Professor,
Sapienza University Roma
Presidente AMFM GIS Italia
- www.amfm.it

Numbers of train passengers high when Yangon circular train run on time



Passengers seen in a coach of a circular train. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

ACCORDING to an official from Myanma Railway Division 7, the numbers of passengers increases when the Yangon circular train runs on time on holidays.

Only 65,000 passengers used the circular train per day on previous holidays. Currently, up to 75,000 passengers use the

train on holidays, with 77,000 daily riders on office days.

As the train diesel locomotives are replaced with Railway Bus Engines (RBEs) in the Yangon circular train portion, the trains can run on time.

When the trains were powered with all diesel locomotives, the

trains ran on time only 85 per cent of the time. The on-time percentage is now 90 with increasing use of RBEs in the circular trains.

At present, 11 RBE locomotives and twelve diesel locomotives are being used in running the circular trains. —200

Auto & Power Myanmar exhibition to be held in Yangon for the 4th time

OVER 120 entrepreneurs from Japan, South Korea, China, Viet Nam, Singapore, India, Thailand, China (Taipei) and Myanmar will participate in the Auto and Myanmar 2016 exhibition, which will be held from 29 September to 2nd October at Tatmadaw hall.

This exhibition is the fourth

of its kind in Yangon, where customers who wish to buy the products shown in the exhibition can directly contact the companies.

Entrepreneurs will be present to explain details about their products.

“Various kinds of electrical products and motor spare parts

will be shown in that exhibition. The private businessmen can buy by directly contacting the international companies which will be showing their products in the exhibition,” said Mr. Michael J.C. Yeh, director of Taipei World Trade Center and the main sponsor of the exhibition in Yangon. —Thiri



Myanmar young entrepreneurs delegation left for Japan to participate in the 2nd batch of the 2016-JENESYS program (theme-Economics) from 25th September to 4th October. —Myanmar News Agency

Telenor marks 2nd anniversary with interactive donation campaign

TELENOR Myanmar Limited (“Telenor”) yesterday launched an interactive donation campaign in conjunction with the company’s 2nd Anniversary. Under the theme “Stronger 2 gether”, Telenor has pledged donations of Ks170 million – 10 Kyat for each of its 17 million customers – and seeks the participation of customers to channel these donations to any of the three identified organizations.

The campaign begins September 29th and will end on October 8th, 2016. During this time, all customers are invited to select their favourite recipient organisation via SMS. The 10 Kyat per customer donation and the SMS will NOT be deducted from the subscriber’s main balance. The donation amount that will be received by each organization will be based on the percentage of customer votes they receive.

Telenor launched its services in Myanmar in Mandalay on 27th September, 2014, with 68 towers and 1,150 point-of-sales (POS). Today, the company operates Myanmar’s largest mobile data network with more

than 6,400 towers nationwide and over 85,000 points-of-sale, serving 17 million customers nationwide.

The three identified organisations are See Zar Yeik Old Age Care Center, Residential Nursery and Training School for Girls under Department of Social Welfare, Mandalay Region, and Network Activities Group (NAG). To select their favourite recipient organization, customers can send assigned code numbers - D1 for See Zar Yeik, D2 for Residential Nursery and Training School for Girls, and D3 for NAG – to 6060 during the campaign duration. The final split of the votes will determine the ratio of the pledged MMK170 million fund received by the individual organisations.

Telenor devised this 2nd Anniversary campaign in tribute to Myanmar society’s sense of charity, said its Chief Marketing Officer Joslin E Myrthong. “Over the past two years, we have witnessed the charitable nature of the people of Myanmar on numerous occasions. —Ni Ni Myint

Mobile military medical team gives healthcare services to 52 older persons in Mawlamyine



A medical team giving medical treatment to the old persons and volunteers of Taungwaing home for the aged in Mawlamyine.

PHOTO: C-IN-C’S OFFICE

A mobile military medical team of Southeast Command helped provide healthcare services to 52 older persons (male and female) and volunteers of Taungwaing home for the aged in Mawlamyine town, Mon State on 27 September.

The team also gave medical

treatment to those who have bone and nerve and muscle diseases, dental diseases, cardiovascular diseases and those with infections. Those in need of further treatment were taken to Mawlamyine military hospital. —Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

53 drivers charged with speeding

A TOTAL of 53 drivers were charged with speeding by highway police at milepost 201 on the Yangon-Mandalay highway yesterday.

On the same day, police arrested 28 drivers for speeding near the toll gate at the junction of No.3 Highway near Yangon.

Police have been stopping drivers for speeding since 1

September along the highway. So far, a total of 1,049 drivers have been arrested for breaking the speed limit, which is set at 100 kilometres per hour.

According to sources close to the traffic courts, the fines levied on the offending drivers are expected to exceed K50 million. —Than Oo (Laymyethnar)



US President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle stand with US ambassador to Cuba, Jeffrey DeLaurentis (L), as they meet with embassy staff in a hotel in Havana on 20 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Obama nominates career diplomat as US ambassador to Cuba

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Tuesday nominated career diplomat Jeffrey DeLaurentis to be the first US ambassador to Cuba in more than five decades, setting up a fierce confirmation battle with Republicans in Congress opposed to Obama's opening with the communist-ruled island.

The appointment of DeLaurentis, who has been the top American official at the US embassy in Havana since relations were restored last year, marked Obama's latest move to go as far as he can in normalizing ties between the former Cold War foes before he leaves office in January.

The nomination must be approved by the Republican-con-

trolled Senate, which is seen as a long shot, especially in a presidential election year and given strong resistance expected from Cuban-American lawmakers such as Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Senator Ted Cruz of Texas.

"Jeff's leadership has been vital throughout the normalisation of relations between the United States and Cuba, and the appointment of an ambassador is a common sense step forward toward a more normal and productive relationship between our two countries," Obama said in a statement.

DeLaurentis had been widely tipped as Obama's favourite for the post. But he held off naming him until now despite Cuba's appointment of its own ambassa-

dor to Washington shortly after embassies were reopened in both countries' capitals in July of last year. He would be the first US envoy to Cuba in 55 years.

Obama visited Havana in March, a trip made possible by his breakthrough agreement with Cuban President Raul Castro in December 2014 to cast aside decades of hostility that began soon after Cuba's 1959 revolution.

While Obama has since chipped away at travel and trade restrictions, the US embargo against Cuba remains in place, a continuing irritant in relations. Only Congress can lift the embargo, and the Republican-controlled legislature is not expected to do so anytime soon.—Reuters

Trump-Clinton showdown breaks TV debate ratings record as 84 million watch

NEW YORK/LOS ANGELES — The first presidential debate between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump drew 84 million US television viewers, a record for such an event and numbers rarely seen on TV in the age of digital streaming and social media.

The audience for the Monday night face-off beat the 1980 record of 80.6 million set by the Jimmy Carter-Ronald Reagan presidential debate, when viewers had far fewer entertainment options. But it fell short of the 100 million viewers some analysts had predicted.

The estimated ratings figure from Nielsen included people who watched the raucous encounter across 13 US cable and broadcast networks and public television station PBS.

The TV figures did not include millions of people who watched the debate online through Twitter (TWTR.N), Facebook (FB.O) and other social media, including in large groups in bars and restaurants.

Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL.O)

YouTube reported nearly 2 million live concurrent streams of the debate on its platform.

The National Football League's annual Super Bowl attracts more than 100 million viewers, making it the biggest US TV event.

Monday's debate was the first of three scheduled between Clinton and Trump before the 8 November election. The other two are set for 9 and 19 October.

Fox News Channel (FOXA.O) grabbed the biggest cable audience with an average 11.4 million viewers, early Nielsen data showed. NBC CMSCA.O, whose "Nightly News" anchor Lester Holt moderated the contentious exchanges about race, the economy and national security, was first overall with an estimated audience of 18.2 million.

TV networks had promoted the debates for days beforehand and reported strong demand compared with four years ago for commercial time during pre- and post-debate programming. Ad rates were far higher than for typi-

cal news programming.

CNN (TWX.N) charged more than \$55,000 (42,258.93 pounds) for 30-second ad spots as part of packages ranging from \$800,000 to \$1 million that included future debates and election night, according to a person with knowledge of the matter. CBS (CBS.N) charged between \$200,000 to \$225,000, according to another source.

Both CNN and CBS have limited availability left for the next debate on 9 October, the sources said.

"Clearly the debate did really well last night," said Michael Law, managing director of video investments at Dentsu Aegis Network.

Law said he did not expect ad rates for the next debate would rise significantly based on Monday night's audience. The 9 October face-off airs against an NFL matchup of two popular teams — the Green Bay Packers and New York Giants. "The NFL will likely do well on that night, but will probably see some fall-off during the 90 minutes of debate," Law said.—Reuters



UN Secretary General's message on World Maritime Day

29 September 2016

Everybody in the world benefits from shipping, yet few people realise it. We ship food, technology, medicines, and memories. As the world's population continues to grow, particularly in developing countries, low-cost and efficient maritime transport has an essential role to play in growth and sustainable development.

Shipping helps ensure that the benefits of trade and commerce are more evenly spread. No country is entirely self-sufficient, and every country relies on maritime trade to sell what it has and buy what it needs. Much of what we use and consume in our everyday lives either has been or will be transported by sea, in the form of raw materials, components or finished articles.

Maritime transport is the backbone of global trade and the global economy.

The jobs and livelihoods of billions of people in the developing world, and standards of living in the industrialized and developed world, depend on ships and shipping. The shipping industry has played an important part in the dramatic improvements in global living standards that have taken millions of people out of acute poverty in recent years. It will be just as critical for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the plan agreed by all global leaders last year for people, peace, planet prosperity and partnership.

Yet the vast majority of people are unaware of the key role played by the shipping industry, which is largely hidden from view.

This is a story that needs to be told. And that is why the theme for World Maritime Day 2016 is "Shipping: indispensable to the world."

The theme focuses on the critical link between shipping and the everyday lives of people all over the planet. The International Maritime Organization plays a vital role as the international regulatory body for an industry that spans the globe.

The importance of shipping in supporting and sustaining today's global society makes it indispensable to the world, and to meeting the challenge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.—UNIC/ Yangon

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed, three hurt in riot in Philippine main penitentiary

MANILA — A high-profile inmate was killed and three others were injured when a riot took place Wednesday morning inside the Philippine New Bilibid Prison (NBP), a senior government official said.

The stabbing incident happened at around 7:40am local time at Building 14 where the high profile convicts are being housed, said Department of Justice (DoJ) Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre. The DoJ, through the Bureau of Corrections, has supervision over the NBP located in Muntunlupa City, Metro Manila. Authorities identified the fatality as Tony Co, a convicted drug lord, while those hurt were Vicente Sy, Peter Co and Jaybee Sebastian.—Xinhua

Asiana Airlines flight returning to Los Angeles over smoke in cargo area

LOS ANGELES — An Asiana Airlines flight bound for Seoul, South Korea, with more than 350 people on board was returning to Los Angeles on Tuesday after smoke was reported in the cargo section, a spokeswoman for Los Angeles International Airport said.

Asiana Flight 201 left Los Angeles about 12:30pm (1930 GMT) and alerted the airport within several hours that it was returning after smoke had been reported in the bulkhead, or cargo, area, LAX spokeswoman Nancy Castles said.—Reuters

Israel's Peres won Nobel prize but his Mideast peace dream remained elusive

JERUSALEM — Shimon Peres, who died on Wednesday at the age of 93, never realised his vision of a new Middle East built upon a 1993 interim peace deal he helped shape with the Palestinians.

But Israel's elder statesman won world acclaim and a Nobel prize as a symbol of hope in a region long plagued by war fuelled by deep religious and political divisions.

Peres was hospitalised following a stroke two weeks ago and his condition had improved before a sudden deterioration on Tuesday, doctors said. In announcing his passing, family members said that he did not suffer pain, and as a last act after death, he donated his corneas for transplant.

"Don't forget to be daring and curious and to dream big," Peres urged first-graders at the start of the school year in a posting on his Facebook page earlier this month. The comment seemed to sum up his own credo.

In a career spanning nearly seven decades, Peres, once a shepherd on a kibbutz, or communal farm, served in a dozen cabinets and twice as Labour Party prime minister, but he never won a general election outright in five tries from 1977 to 1996.

"I am a loser. I lost elections. But I am a winner — I served my people," Peres, who held the largely ceremonial post of president from 2007-2014, once said in a speech.

He shared the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize with Israel's late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for a 1993 accord that they and



Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhak Navon, Prime Minister Shimon Peres (2nd R), Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin (3rd R) are briefed by army Chief of Staff Moshe Levy (L) during a large scale military maneuver in Israel in this 4 December, 1985 file photo released by the Israeli Government Press Office (GPO). PHOTO: REUTERS

their successors failed to turn into a durable treaty.

When a far-right Jewish Israeli opposed to the peace deal assassinated Rabin in November 1995, the torch passed to Peres.

But Palestinian suicide bombings that killed dozens of Israelis and an aggressive campaign by Likud battered Peres's rating and he lost the 1996 election to Benjamin Netanyahu by less than 30,000 votes.

In 2000, the failure of final-status peace talks with the Palestinians and the eruption of a Palestinian uprising rife with suicide bombings further damaged Israel's left and Peres's leader-

ship prospects.

In 2005, Peres left the Labour Party to join then Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's new party, Kadima, which had spearheaded Israel's unilateral pullout from the Gaza Strip earlier that year. Following Kadima's 2006 election victory, Peres served as vice prime minister.

Born in 1923 in what is now Belarus, Peres immigrated to British-ruled Palestine with his family a decade later.

Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion groomed him for leadership. He oversaw arms purchases and manpower in the Hagana, the Zionist fighting

force, before Israel's establishment.

Peres is widely seen as having gained nuclear capabilities for Israel by procuring the secret Dimona reactor from France while defence ministry director-general in the 1950s.

As defence minister he oversaw the dramatic 1976 Israeli rescue of hijacked Israelis at Entebbe airport in Uganda.

Peres was popular in his first term as prime minister in 1984-86 as part of a power-sharing pact with Likud. He pulled troops back from Lebanon, normalised relations with Egypt and cut inflation from 445 per cent a year to

below 20 per cent.

Despite his key role in building Israel's defences, Peres never gained broad popular trust in his security credentials as Rabin, his Labour rival and former army chief, or Sharon enjoyed.

Most Israelis, hardened by frequent conflict, dismissed his vision that a new age for the Middle East was dawning hand-in-hand with peace deals.

He was seen abroad as an urbane diplomat but at home often as an ego-driven manipulator in domestic politics who eroded his party's identity out of a thirst for cabinet posts after election losses to Likud.

Nevertheless, during his last years, the last of Israel's founding fathers saw a rise in his popularity among Israelis.

He used the presidency as a pulpit for advocating peace and maintained an active public schedule, encouraging Middle East diplomacy and technological innovation.

He is also known for his stewardship of the Peres Center for Peace, a non-governmental organisation focused on building closer ties with the Palestinians, improving healthcare and developing local economies.

Earlier this month, after a series of health scares including a mild heart attack, Peres received an artificial pacemaker.

"I feel great. When can I get back to work already? I'm bored!" he told reporters at the time.

Peres wrote several books including "Entebbe Diary", "The New Middle East" and "Battling for Peace". His wife, Sonia, died in 2011. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.—Reuters

US strike in Afghanistan kills 18, most militants but possibly civilians too

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan) — A suspected US drone strike against Islamic State in Afghanistan killed 18 people on Wednesday, most of them militants but possibly including some civilians, Afghan officials said.

Civilians casualties in US air strikes against Taliban and other militants in Afghanistan have long been a source of friction between the allies who have been fighting since 2001 to end militant opposition to the government in Kabul.

The strike in Nangarhar province, on the eastern border with Pakistan, killed 18 people, 15 of them militants and three civilians, said Mohammed Ali, police chief of Achin district where the attack occurred.

"They were in a house to visit someone who had just come from the Hajj pilgrimage," he said. "A drone targeted the house and killed most of them."

Provincial police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal said several Islamic State leaders had been killed, but he denied there were any noncombatants among the victims.

Islamic State has enticed hundreds, perhaps thousands, of fighters in Afghanistan and Pakistan to join, and it holds some territory in Nangarhar, with Achin a stronghold.

But it has not been able to expand its influence in Afghanistan beyond a few districts and the Taliban remain the dominant Islamist force.

A spokesman for the US military command in Kabul confirmed that US forces conducted a "counter-terrorism" air strike in Achin, but would not discuss the details of the target.

"US Forces — Afghanistan takes all allegations of civilian casualties very seriously," said Brigadier General Charles Cleveland.

"We are aware of some claims of Afghan casualties, and are currently reviewing all materials related to this strike. We are continuing to look into these allegations."

Determining which victims were civilians and which were militants would not be possible until an investigation was complete, said Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

Thousands of US troops remain in Afghanistan, with many recent air strikes and special operations missions aimed at Islamic State in Nangarhar, as well as helping Afghan forces in their fight against the Taliban in various parts of the country.

Between January and August this year, American aircraft released more than 800 weapons and flew more than 3,500 close air support missions in Afghanistan, according to US military reports.—Reuters

Blasts kill at least 17 in Baghdad — police, medics

BAGHDAD — Three blasts killed at least 17 people and wounded more than 50 in predominantly Shi'ite Muslim districts of Baghdad on Tuesday, police and medical sources said.

A suicide bomber detonated his explosive vest in a commercial street in the eastern Baghdad al-Jadida area of the Iraqi capital, killing nine people and wounding more than 30, they said.

Another suicide attack hit a commercial street of Bayaa in western Baghdad, killing six and wounding 22, the sources said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a gathering of cattle herders and merchants in al-Radhwaniya, also in western Baghdad, killing two people, they said.

Islamic State claimed the two suicide attacks, but did not mention the third assault.

The hardline Sunni Muslim group has intensified bomb attacks in government-held areas this year as it loses territory to US-backed Iraqi government forces and Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias.

The group claimed a truck bombing in July that killed at least 324 people in the Karrada shopping area of Baghdad — the deadliest single attack in Iraq since the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The group continues to control vast areas in northern and western Iraq, including the city of Mosul, captured in 2014.—Reuters



Police direct traffic in the central business district (CBD) of Adelaide after severe storms and thousands of lightning strikes knocked out power to the entire state of South Australia, on 28 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lightning storms knock out power to entire Australian state

SYDNEY — Severe storms and thousands of lightning strikes knocked out power to the entire state of South Australia on Wednesday, energy authorities said. South Australia is the country's fifth most populous state, with 1.7 million people, and is a major wine producer and traditional manufacturing hub.

"No upstream supply from the transmission network. State cur-

rently w/out power," state energy provider SA Power Networks said in a statement.

The Bureau of Meteorology said a vigorous cold front was moving across the state with an intense low pressure system due on Thursday. "We'll have gale-force winds and large seas (across the south of the country); also heavy rain and thunderstorms, which will lead to renewed river rises," it said

on its website.

"Currently, though, we have gale force wind warnings for the coastal waters extending from Perth all the way across to Adelaide."

SA Power Networks said repairs to its transmission network were expected to be completed later in the day.

"There were more than 21,000 lightning strikes recorded

over a 12-hour period from midday yesterday on the West Coast, and as a result it is likely some damage has occurred to our distribution network," it said.

No power was flowing from the neighbouring state of Victoria into South Australia, said a spokesman for the Australian Energy Market Operator, which operates the power systems in southern and Eastern Australia.—Reuters

Turkey arrests some 32,000 in coup plot investigation since July

ISTANBUL — Turkey has formally arrested 32,000 people in its investigation of a religious movement the government blames for staging a military coup attempt on 15 July, Justice Minister Bekir Bo-

zdag said on Wednesday.

In a live interview with broadcaster NTV, Bozdog also said a total of about 70,000 people have faced legal proceedings on suspicion of links with US-based cleric

Fethullah Gulen, whom the government says engineered the failed coup. Gulen, who lives in the United States, denies any involvement. Turkey is building a new courthouse in the town of Sincan, near

the capital Ankara, and needs more facilities in order to prosecute all of the Gulen followers implicated in the coup plot, Bozdog said. Turkey deems the Gulen movement as a terrorist organisation.—Reuters

Dubai airport shuts airspace for nearly 30 minutes due to drone activity

DUBAI — Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest airport for international travel, closed its airspace for almost 30 minutes on Wednesday morning due to unauthorised drone activity, causing flights to be disrupted for nearly an hour.

It is at least the second time in recent months that the airport's airspace was closed because of nearby drone activity.

On its Twitter feed, government-owned Dubai Airports, which operates Dubai's two main airports, said airspace around Dubai International was closed from 8.08am to 8.35am, resulting in a number of flight delays. Arrivals resumed at 8.35am and departures at 8.40am, with full operations resuming at 9.07am, it said.

"Safety is our top priority and we remind all UAV [Unmanned Aerial Vehicle] operators that activities are not permitted within 5km of any airport or landing area," it added.

Around the world the use of civil drones, whether for commercial purposes or just as a leisure activity, is rising.

The United Arab Emirates will soon finalise laws to more heavily regulate drones, aiming to minimise risks posed by unmanned aerial vehicles, an official at the aviation regulator said on Monday.

In June, Dubai International Airport closed its airspace for 69 minutes due to unauthorised drone activity, causing 22 flights to be diverted.—Reuters

Billionaire Elon Musk outlines plans for humans to colonize Mars

GUADALAJARA, (Mexico) — SpaceX is developing a massive rocket and capsule to transport large numbers of people and cargo to Mars with the ultimate goal of colonizing the planet, company chief and tech billionaire Elon Musk said on Tuesday.

Musk outlined his plans for the Mars rocket, capable of carrying 100 passengers plus cargo per voyage, even as SpaceX is still investigating why a different rocket carrying a \$200 million Israeli satellite blew up on a launch pad in Florida earlier this month.

SpaceX intends to fly to Mars about every 26 months when Earth and Mars are favorably aligned. Musk said he would like to launch the first crew as early as 2024, a schedule he said was optimistic.

Musk said there would be no guarantee of survival for anyone signing up with SpaceX for the "incredible adventure" of

a trip to Mars.

"The risk of fatality will be high. There's no way around it. Basically, are you prepared to die, and if that's OK then you're a candidate for going," he said at a presentation at the International Astronautical Congress meeting in Guadalajara. Though Musk said he envisions humans living in a large colony on Mars and possibly terraforming the planet, he added that one key issue will be getting the cost low enough to attract customers.

"You can't create a self-sustaining civilization if the ticket price is \$10 billion per person," he said. "Our goal is to get it roughly equivalent to (the) cost of a median house in the United States, about \$200,000." Mars colonists would not have to sign up for a one-way journey since reusing the space-ships keeping the transportation costs low, Musk said.

"The number of people willing to move to Mars is much greater if they have the option of returning, even if they never do," he said.

Musk said it would be a challenge to fund the Mars effort, with development costs estimated at \$10 billion. "I'm personally accumulating assets in order to fund this," he said, adding that "ultimately this is going to be a huge public-private partnership."

SpaceX, which Musk founded specifically with the purpose of colonizing Mars, is one of several private and government-funded ventures vying to put people and cargo on the Red Planet and other destinations beyond Earth's orbit.

Mars is typically 140 million miles (225 million km) from Earth and landing the first humans there, after what traditionally has been a six- to nine-month journey, is an extremely ambitious goal. Musk expects his rocket to be able to cut



SpaceX CEO Elon Musk unveils his plans to colonize Mars during the International Astronautical Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 27 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the transit time to as little as three months and released a four-minute video showing the craft. Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin space venture is also designing a heavy-lift vehicle and capsule

called New Armstrong, that will be capable of Mars transport, company President Rob Meyerson said.

The US government is also stepping up efforts to venture beyond the moon.—Reuters

Bulgaria announced new candidate Georgieva for UN leadership race

SOFIA — The Bulgarian government on Wednesday said it was nominating Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources, for the post of United Nations Secretary General, and that it was withdrawing support for candidate Irina Bokova. Bokova, director general of UN cultural organisation UNESCO, came sixth among nine contenders in a secret ballot at the UN Security Council on Monday. The ballot showed former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres is still leading the race to replace incumbent UN chief Ban Ki-moon.

Sofia had warned it would reconsider its support for Bokova if she did come first or second in the last ballot.

Prime Minister Boiko Borisov announced the nomination of Georgieva during a meeting with the cabinet attended by reporters.

“We consider that this will be a more successful nomination,” Borisov told his ministers.

Foreign Minister Daniel Mitov said Bulgaria



European Budget and Human Resources Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva holds a news conference after a meeting of the EU executive body in Brussels, Belgium, on 27 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

needed to support a candidate who has a bigger chance to become the first Eastern European to lead the global organisation.

“This was a difficult decision, but it was necessary, so that we give a chance to the (UN) Eastern European group to have its secretary-general,” Mitov told reporters.

Mitov said UN procedure did not allow for

a country to withdraw the nominations and that Bokova would have to decide how to proceed.

Bokova was not immediately available for comment but had, prior to the government’s announcement on Georgieva, told a Bulgarian newspaper that she saw no reason to quit the race.

Monday’s secret ballot was the fifth held by

the security council in this leadership race, and these polls will continue until a consensus is reached. The council will then formally recommend the candidate to the 193-member General Assembly for election.

The next ballot is scheduled for 5 October.

Ban steps down at the end of 2016 after serving two five-year terms.—*Reuters*

Aussie rapper charged for having sex with 12-year-old

SYDNEY — An Australian rapper from Sydney’s southwest has been charged with having sex with a 12-year-old girl he met through social media, Fairfax Media reported on Wednesday.

Noor Raad, who raps under the name Thundah MC, was arrested at his home in Bankstown, in Sydney on Tuesday after a tip-off to the New South Wales State Crime Command’s Child Abuse Squad that an underage girl had been pro-

cured online for sex.

Police will allege Raad, 21, spoke to the young girl on social media and then arranged to meet her in person.

They allegedly met once in May and had sexual intercourse.

He has been charged with sexual intercourse with a child aged 10-16 and using a carriage service to procure persons under 16 years of age.

Police searched his unit on Tuesday and seized

a mobile phone, desktop computers, laptops, cameras, portable media and storage devices including USBs.

Two days before his arrest, he posted a message on Facebook saying: “Feeling really down atm [at the moment].”

Raad appears to be an avid social media user with a small fan base across Facebook, Instagram, Periscope, Snapchat, Kik and Soundcloud.

In one his social me-

dia post, he said he started rapping this year and practises every day, hoping to achieve “greatness”.

He is an occasional user of live video-sharing website YouNow and has shared videos of young girls singing pop songs or talking to him.

Raad had applied for bail in Bankstown Local Court on Tuesday but was refused. He will reappear in Burwood Local Court on 23 November to answer to those charges.—*Xinhua*

At least 17 Somali soldiers killed in inter-regional fighting

MOGADISHU — At least 17 soldiers were killed in clashes overnight between forces from two semi-autonomous regions of northern Somalia, local officials said on Wednesday.

Soldiers in Puntland and Galmudug have clashed repeatedly over territory and political rivalries in recent years.

As well as fighting in

a civil war that began in 1991, national forces, loyal to the Western-backed Mogadishu-based government, and regional militias are battling an Islamist insurgency.

The militias sometimes also attack each other.

Puntland said it had killed Islamist militants in an air raid but Galmudug

said its soldiers were targeted.

“This [story of] killing militants is propaganda. Seventeen of our soldiers were killed and two of our military vehicles were destroyed by the air strike,” Abdi Hussein, the deputy governor of Galkayo, the capital of the Galmudug region, told Reuters by phone.

Galkayo hospital confirmed it had received 17 dead and 15 wounded soldiers. A Puntland police colonel insisted the raid killed militants.

“Puntland security forces launched a planned attack last night. We killed over a dozen militants and destroyed their vehicles,” Colonel Abdullahi Nur said.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (012)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (012) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAWEI STAR VOY. NO (003N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY. NO (003N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YOSSA BHUM VOY. NO (191)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YOSSA BHUM VOY. NO (191) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

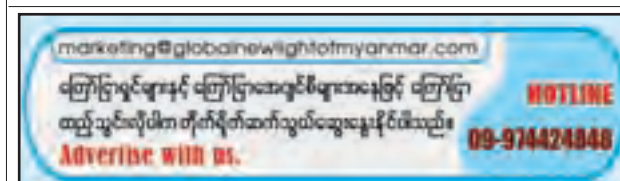
Phone No: 2301185

DURGA PUJA (2016) INVITATION

THE SARA DIYA DURGA PUJA (Sandhi Mai Daw Puzaw Pwe) will be celebrated from Friday the 7th October 2016 to Tuesday the 11th October at **Hindu Temple Sri Sri Durga Bari No 307, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.**

All are cordially invited to attend the Durga Puja Celebration with family and friends.

Durga Puja Celebration Committee 2016



Actor Mark Wahlberg hopes 'Deepwater Horizon' movie honours victims

LOS ANGELES — Actor Mark Wahlberg said “the biggest responsibility” for himself and the makers of the new movie, “Deepwater Horizon,” was to honour the real-life victims of the 2010 oil rig disaster.

“The oil can ultimately be cleaned up, (but) those 11 men can’t be replaced,” Wahlberg told Reuters at the film’s London premiere on Monday.

“Those were fathers, brothers, husbands, uncles, cousins. We can’t replace those guys and so when they approached me about doing this film, I thought, ‘What better way to promote their story,’” he added.

“Deepwater Horizon,” due out in theaters on Friday, focuses on the hours before and after the BP Plc rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010,

leading to the worst offshore oil disaster in US history. Eleven workers were killed and millions of barrels of oil spewed onto the shorelines of several states for nearly three months.

In the movie directed by Peter Berg, Wahlberg plays Mike Williams, one of the last people to escape from the burning rig.

The real-life Williams joined Wahlberg at the premiere that was also attended by cast members Kurt Russell, Gina Rodriguez, John Malkovich and Kate Hudson.

“The focus wasn’t really on who made what mistakes and who was responsible. Really, it was about the heroics of the 11 people and the inspiring things that they did to survive and help one another,” Wahlberg said. —Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Beyonce, Bieber lead MTV Europe Music Awards nominations



Beyonce and Justin Bieber. PHOTO: REUTERS



LONDON — Music stars Beyonce and Justin Bieber lead the nominations for this year’s MTV Europe Music Awards, earning five nods each at the major music event.

Beyonce is in the running for Best Video for her song “Formation”, Best Female, Best Live, Biggest Fans and Best Local Act (United States).

Bieber, who triumphed at last year’s awards in Milan with five wins, was nominated for Best Song for “Sorry”, Best Male, Best Pop, Biggest Fans

and Best Local Act (Canada).

British singer Adele got four nominations, including Best Song for her world hit “Hello”, Best Female and Best Live, alongside band Coldplay who also got four nominations, including Best Video for single “Up&Up”, Best Live and Best Rock. Danish band Lukas Graham and Canadian singer Shawn Mendes also earned four nominations.

The MTV Europe Music Awards will be held in Rotterdam on 6 November.—Reuters

Rap star Jay Z prevails in lawsuit over Roc-A-Fella logo

NEW YORK — A federal judge has dismissed a \$7 million lawsuit accusing Jay Z of breach of contract and copyright infringement against a Bronx, New York clothing designer who claimed to have created the logo for the rap star’s Roc-A-Fella record label.

In a decision on Monday, US District Judge Andrew Carter in Manhattan said Dwayne Walker was not entitled to royalties under a contract allegedly signed two decades ago by Roc-A-Fella co-founder Damon “Dame” Dash. Walker plans to appeal, his lawyer Gregory Berry said.

The plaintiff claimed in his July 2012 lawsuit to have created artwork in 1995 depicting a vinyl record that became the basis for the Roc-A-Fella logo.

Jay Z, Dash, Roc-A-Fella and its parent Universal Music Group Inc, a unit of France’s Vivendi SA, countered that a Roc-A-Fella art director created the logo.

The logo includes a superimposed “R,” and has been used on items generating hundreds of millions of dollars of sales.

In a 32-page decision, Carter found a lack of evidence that the contract even existed.

He said only two people other than Walker claimed to have seen it, and their testimony was not strong enough to be used.

“This leaves only plaintiff’s own self-serving testimony that he drafted the contract, that he and Dash signed it, and that he lost track of it in 1998,” the judge wrote. “This testimony alone is not enough.”

Carter also said Walker took too long to bring his copyright claim, having waited five years rather than three to sue after learning, by his account, that he was owed royalties.

“The decision is quite startling,” Berry said in an email.

“Walker made the logo in 1995,” he continued.

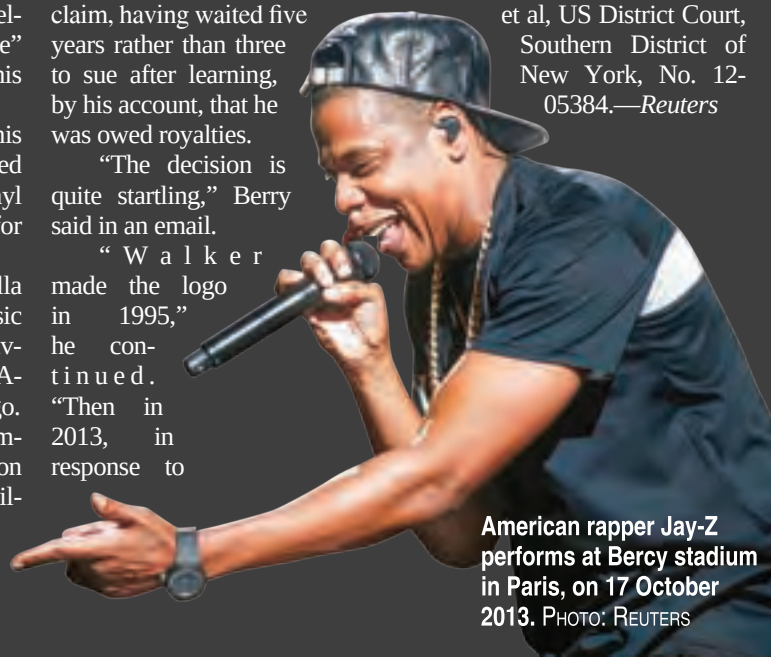
“Then in 2013, in response to

this suit—never before—the defendants find a guy who is willing to claim now that HE made the logo.... Sound like a factual question for trial? We agree.”

Jay Z’s given name is Shawn Carter. He is not related to the judge.

Cynthia Arato, a lawyer for several defendants, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The case is Walker v Carter et al, US District Court, Southern District of New York, No. 12-05384.—Reuters



American rapper Jay-Z performs at Bercy stadium in Paris, on 17 October 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

Britney Spears on pop inspiration and why she’s not making a comeback

LONDON — After a career spanning two decades that include highs and lows, pop singer Britney Spears discussed her inspirations and why her latest album should not be seen as a return to music.

“I don’t really see it as a comeback. I’ve been here for a really long time,” the singer told Reuters ahead of her performance at the Apple Music Festival in London on Tuesday.

Hundreds of fans cheered, sang and danced at the Roundhouse music venue in Camden as Spears and a troupe of male and female dancers performed her chart-topping hits including “...Baby One More Time” and “Oops!.. I Did it Again.”

The singer donned a variety of outfits during the gig, ranging from a sparkly sequined leotard to a schoolgirl-inspired skirt, shirt and tie.

The concert comes a month after Spears’ ninth album “Glory” came out and she delivered a steamy, high-octane performance at

MTV’s Video Music Awards, thrusting the singer back in the national spotlight.

“I feel like it’s been a while since I brought new music to the table,” Spears said. “I didn’t want to do a typical pop record for this. I wanted to do something really different.”

Spears, 34, said “Glory,” which features the hit song “Make Me,” is still her style but with “a little bit of a flair to it,” drawing inspiration from pop singer Selena Gomez’s most recent “Revival” tour.

“I just love her music. I think she’s really great. So I was really, really inspired by her work,” she said.

The new album cements a steady return to music after Spears took a hiatus following a personal and career meltdown in 2006-2007 that included shaving her signature blonde locks, losing custody of her two children and being placed under a court-ordered conservatorship.

She made a comeback in late 2008 and since 2013 has helmed a successful residency show in Las Vegas, extended through 2017.—Reuters



Singer Britney Spears. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fashion features tropics and layers at Paris show opening

PARIS — Paris Fashion Week displayed colourful and tropical-inspired creations from Paule Ka and layered printed and patterned looks by Dutch designer Liselore Frowijn as it opened on Tuesday.

Several designers will make their debuts for some of the world’s top luxury labels in Paris, which is the final leg of the womenswear spring/summer 2017 catwalk calendar after fashion weeks in New York, London and Milan.

Fashionistas are eagerly awaiting the debut of new Christian Dior artistic director Maria Grazia Chiuri, who joined from Italian fashion house Valentino and presents her first line for the French brand on Friday. Chiuri is the first woman to hold the position of artistic director for women’s haute couture, ready-to-wear and accessories in Dior’s 70-year history and follows in the footsteps of designers like John Galliano and Raf Simons.

Her longtime design partner Pierpaolo Piccioli will debut as sole creative director at Valentino on Sunday.

Among those also showing on Tuesday are Saint Laurent, where Belgian designer Anthony Vaccarello presents his first collection as creative director after replacing Hedi Slimane, who successfully introduced rock chic looks for the brand.

Vaccarello, known for asymmetric designs, was previously creative director at Italian fashion house Versace’s Versus Versace label. He also has his own fashion brand. On Wednesday, fashion house Lanvin will unveil the first womenswear collection of designer Bouchra Jarrar, who took the helm after the departure of Alber Elbaz last year.



Models present creations by Dutch designer Liselore Frowijn as part of her Spring/Summer 2017 women’s ready-to-wear collection during Fashion Week in Paris, France, on 27 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Jarrar, who has her own brand and joined the prestigious haute couture club of designers in 2013, has previously worked at Balenciaga and Christian Lacroix.

The shows in the French capital, also home to renowned fashion houses like Chanel and Louis Vuitton, run to 5 October. —Reuters



The largest known blue topaz stone, owned by philanthropist Maurice Ostro, is displayed to media at the Natural History Museum in London, Britain, on 27 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Blue topaz gemstone, largest of its kind, to go in display in UK

LONDON — A flawless blue topaz gemstone, said to be the largest of its kind, is set to go on display at London’s Natural History Museum.

The Ostro stone weighs around 2 kg (4.4 lb) and will be exhibited from 19 October, on permanent loan from British entrepreneur and philanthropist Maurice Ostro, the museum said. Its value was not disclosed.

“The original rough material that the gemstone was cut from was discovered three decades ago by British explorer Max Ostro in Minas Gerais, Brazil,” it said in a statement.

“The Ostro stone is the largest cut topaz to go on show at the museum...It is an impressive 9,381 carats and will be displayed alongside specimens from one of the world’s most important mineral collections.” —Reuters

Ukrainians turn ammunition into art to depict horrors of civil war

KIEV — For two Ukrainian artists seeking to portray the civil conflict in their country, paint and canvas were not enough and they chose to make pictures and sculptures out of the materials of war: bullets, shell cases and shrapnel.

“You cannot describe what is going on on the front line, what is going on in Ukraine, just with paint,” said Daniel Green, co-creator with Daria Marchenko of the art works that will soon be touring the United States.

One picture, “Heart of War”, shows a giant human torso which on closer inspection can be seen to be a collage of bullets that the artists say were brought back from the front line of the conflict in eastern Ukraine that has killed more than 9,600 people since 2014.

“This material describes the energy of the war in the best possible way,” Green said. Another work in the collection is a portrait of Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom Kiev and Western states accuse of providing military backing to the insurgency, something Russia denies. The artists said they would take their art works to US universities. —Reuters



Ukrainian artist Daria Marchenko gives comments to journalists near the artworks ‘Heart of War’ (L) and ‘Brain of War’ from the series ‘Five Elements of War’, created in cooperation with her colleague Daniel Green and made of bullet and shell cartridges from the frontline of a military conflict in eastern Ukraine, shoulder straps and other military items, at a studio in Kiev, Ukraine, on 26 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar International

(29-9-2016 07:00am ~ 30-9-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh	
07:03	Am News
07:26	Am A Visit To Ye
07:47	Am Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
08:03	Am News
08:26	Am Traditional Thatch Roof- Thet Nge
08:40	Am Tigers, Lions and The Guardians
08:50	Am Philatelic Pleasure
09:03	Am News
09:26	Am “Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture” Myanmar’s Secret Beautifier
09:49	Am A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-2)
10:03	Am News
10:26	Am Shwe U Min Natural Cave In Kalaw
10:43	Am Welcome to the southernmost part of Myanmar

10:53 Am Art Students: Sculpture

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm News
07:25	Pm Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep- II)
07:39	Pm Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
07:52	Pm Maha Muni Pagoda
08:03	Pm News
08:26	Pm Myanmar Traditional Identity The Sphinx of Egypt And The Manousiha of Myanmar
08:41	Pm Chinlone and the dreams of the player
08:54	Pm Now in Yangon

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

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

'Silly' Allardyce says error of judgement led to shock exit

LONDON — An emotional and apologetic Sam Allardyce said on Wednesday an error of judgement had led to his shock exit as England manager following a newspaper sting.

The 61-year-old was compelled to leave on Tuesday for seeking a lucrative sideline role while talking to undercover reporters from Britain's Daily Telegraph.

The paper said it had hundreds of pages of transcripts from the meeting in which Allardyce was negotiating a deal worth 400,000 pounds to represent a Far East firm seeking advice on the transfer market.

Allardyce said it had been a "silly thing" to do but he had been trying to help out someone he had known for 30 years.

"Unfortunately it was an error in judgement on my behalf. I have paid the consequences," a clearly emotional Allardyce told reporters outside his home in northern England.

"Entrapment has won on this occasion and I have to accept that. I've apologised to (the Football



Sam Allardyce. PHOTO: REUTERS

Association) and all concerned."

Earlier he issued a statement in which he offered a "wholehearted apology" to the Football Association (FA) for embarrassing the governing body.

"It was a great honour for me to be appointed back in July and I am deeply disappointed at this outcome," Allardyce, who replaced Roy Hodgson after England's dismal Euro 2016 cam-

paign. The former centre half who built his managerial reputation by getting the best out of unfashionable or struggling clubs met FA chairman Greg Clarke and chief executive Martin Glenn and offered a "sincere and wholehearted apology" for his actions.

"Although it was made clear during the recorded conversations that any proposed arrangements would need the FA's full ap-

proval, I recognise I made some comments which have caused embarrassment," he said in his statement.

"...I was asked to clarify what I said and the context in which the conversations took place. I have co-operated fully in this regard."

"I also regret my comments with regard to other individuals," he added.

Allardyce won his only game in charge of England, a World Cup qualifier in Slovakia earlier this month, by 1-0. He will be replaced by under-21 coach Gareth Southgate for the next four matches as the FA searches for a successor.

He told reporters on Wednesday he could say no more about the sacking as he had a confidentiality agreement with the FA and was going abroad.

"I'm going to go away and reflect on it. I'd like to wish all the England lads, Gareth, and the staff all the very best," he said.

When asked if this was his last football job, he replied: "Who knows. We'll wait and see." —Reuters

Tokyo panel to propose venue changes as costs mount

TOKYO — Japanese authorities reviewing the cost of hosting the 2020 Summer Olympic Games will propose major changes for three planned venues — including moving rowing and canoeing some 400 km (240 miles) from the capital, media reported on Wednesday.

A Tokyo city government panel will release a report on its findings on Thursday after recently elected city governor Yuriko Koike ordered a review of ballooning costs, Kyodo News and other media said.

The proposed changes, which would require the approval of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and each sport's international federation, are the latest in a series of setbacks and broken promises for organisers who had won the bidding largely on Japan's reputation for efficiency.

Tokyo's bid proposal said the majority of venues would be within 8 km (5 miles) of the Olympic Village in central Tokyo. —Reuters

Slimani scores again as Leicester beat Porto

LONDON — Leicester City forgot their domestic struggles to secure a second successive Champions League victory as Islam Slimani tormented a familiar foe by grabbing the only goal in a 1-0 win over Porto on Tuesday.

Leicester sit top of Group G with six points after Slimani headed powerfully home from a Riyad Mahrez cross in the first half for his sixth goal in his last four matches against Porto, having joined Leicester from Sporting Lisbon in August.

It was the first time Leicester had tasted Champions League football at home and they came into the game on the back of a 4-1 defeat to Manchester United and a run of poor form in the Premier League, but they looked comfortable throughout against Porto.

The visitors, who have one point from their opening two group games, did manage to rattle the post late on through Jesus Corona, but they were unable to exert sufficient pressure as they failed to win for the 17th time in England. —Reuters

Dortmund's Schuerle denies Real victory in thriller

DORTMUND — Borussia Dortmund's Andre Schuerle came off the bench to snatch a late goal as they twice came from behind to earn a 2-2 draw with Champions League holders Real Madrid in a compelling Group F encounter on Tuesday.

The Germany international lashed the ball high into the net from inside the area to level in the 87th minute after Raphael Varane had restored Real's advantage in the 68th.

The France defender's goal made up for an earlier slip that allowed Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to cancel out Cristiano Ronaldo's 17th minute opener towards the end of the first half.

Dortmund and Real each have four points with the Germans top on goal difference, while Sporting Lisbon are third on three points after beating visitors Legia Warsaw 2-0.

"My players played very well and I think we deserved a little more but this is not a bad result," Real coach Zinedine Zidane told a news conference after a third successive draw following two in la Liga.

"We suffered a little because Dortmund pressed us a lot, although we knew we were coming to a difficult ground against a difficult opponent.



Real Madrid's Toni Kroos and Cristiano Ronaldo react after scoring during UEFA Champions League group stage, Group F at Signal Iduna Park stadium, Dortmund, Germany on 27 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The annoying thing is we have now drawn three games but we're going to turn this around. We're not going to stop."

The hosts made an electric start at the Westfalenstadion after Ronaldo tested goalkeeper Roman Buerki with an early free-kick as Gonzalo Castro and Aubameyang each shot straight at Real stopper Keylor Navas and Ousmane Dembele fired over.

Just as a Dortmund opener looked inevitable, Real struck from a perfectly executed coun-

ter-attack involving Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale which Ronaldo finished off by arrowing the ball into the far corner.

Thomas Tuchel's side stuck with their game plan of pressing Real high and hitting them with lightning speed, although their equaliser came from a free-kick.

Navas, making his first appearance of the season for Real, weakly punched Raphael Guerreiro's shot at team mate Varane and the ball trickled towards the goalline where it was helped

across by Aubameyang.

The home side kept up the tempo after the break, although Real also grew in confidence.

Bale and Benzema wasted chances before Varane put Zidane's side ahead again, tapping home after Benzema had crashed a shot against the bar.

Dortmund again raised their game, though, and while Navas turned away two shots from lively substitute Emre Mor, he was powerless to keep out Schuerle's rocket. —Reuters