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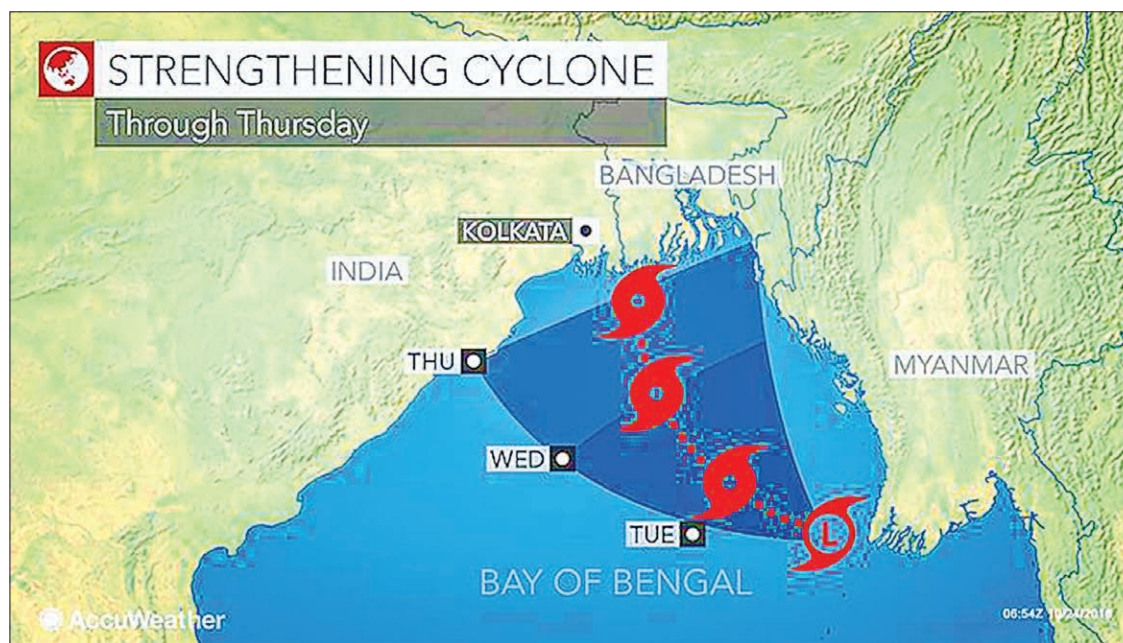
BAD STORMS STILL LIKELY

Weather warning downgraded as storm curves northwest

THE CODE RED weather alert has been lifted for the Ayeyawady Delta and the southern part of the Rakhine Coast, but the weather bureau says severe weather, including rain and flooding, is still likely.

“Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State can see winds of 40 miles per hour as they are still within the affected area of the deep depression,” said the evening bulletin of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH).

The weather bureau said that the tropical depression curved towards Bangladesh last night and is now centred at 160 miles north/northwest of the Coco Islands, about 90 miles northwest of Haigyi Island, about 100 miles west southwest of Pathien, about 100 miles southwest of Gwa and about 180 miles west/southwest of Yangon, said the announcement.



The deep tropical depression can quickly intensify into a cyclonic storm within 24 hours and can move in a north/northwest direction, said the DMH.

General Caution

The probable maximum storm surge is about two to five feet at Labutta District in Ayeyawady Region, Thandwe Dis-

trict in Southern Rakhine, weather officials said.

Under the influence of the deep depression, rain or sometimes heavy thundershowers will

be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and the states of Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon from 24th to 27th October.

Occasional squalls with rough sea will occur along the Myanmar coast. Surface wind speed in squalls could reach 40 miles per hour.

The weather bureau has also warned about the strong possibility of flash flooding and landslides across Myanmar, as the tropical depression approaches the Ayeyawady Delta.

Those living in coastal areas and near rivers have been advised to take precautions against possible flash flooding and high tides.

A strengthening cyclone will unleash heavy rain and strong winds on areas from western Myanmar to eastern India this week.—GNLM

UEC PLEDGES FREE AND FAIR APRIL ELECTION

THE Union Election Commission held a meeting with 70 political parties on the holding of the by-election on 1 April, pledging that the upcoming election would be free and fair.

U Hla Thein, Union Election Commission Chairman, said at the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday that respective election sub-commissions are to launch door-to-door scrutiny activities in vacant constituencies for the correctness of voter lists. The chairman said it was imperative for voters to take an active part in these activities.

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The meeting of the Union Election Commission being held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

KBZ Bank's executive director attends International Leaders Programme in UK



Daw Nang Lang Kham (2nd from left) is seen together with some young leaders from around the world in UK. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Daw Nang Lang Kham, Executive Director of Kanbawza Bank, participated in the UK Government's International Leaders Programme in London last month.

She was invited by the UK government to attend the 10-day programme along with 12 young representatives from around the world.

Daw Nang Lang Kham, who becomes the first young leader of Myanmar to attend the programme, took part in roundtable discussions with British leaders and policy makers.

The programme is designed to meet future leaders around the world who can work together with Britain for future interests of Britain around the world.

The group of rising stars

also held talks with Johnny Hall, Asst. Private Secretary for Foreign Policy at the No.10 Downing Street, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and The Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ms Sally Osman, Royal Families Director Communications at the Buckingham Palace.

The group of talented young leaders also visited Parliament and Newcastle United Foundation.

Daw Nang Lang Kham also held talks individually with Institute of Directors, Department for International Development-DFID, Barclays Accelerator and responsible personnel from Inspiring Women Campaign.

The group also included future leaders from Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, China, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Serbia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Daw Nang Lang Kham is the chairperson of Air KBZ Myanmar International Airlines, Kempinski Hotel-Nay Pyi Taw and KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation and Executive Director of KBZ Bank.

She participated in the Fortune/US State Department Global Women's Mentoring Program held in Washington DC with Walmart CEO Rosalind Brewer.

BFM, chaired by Daw Nang Lang Kham, has spent more than Ks109 billion on philanthropic works in Myanmar.—Thura Lwin (Eco)

POEM:

A Gnash from West Door

- * In an early dawn,
smell of blood
and that of gun powder
mingled and drifted about.
- * Our comrades sacrificed lives
protecting their Mother land
against the cunning vagabonds
heir individual family lives
still being built, now collapsed.
- * News make the whole nation brooding
at such moment
let's reveal whose blood redder.
- * In a sudden,
a sound of gnash
from the West door appeared
it was being listened
by our hero, U Aung Zay Ya,
from an invisible place.
- * He smiled and said,
'Comrades ne'er die,
if do, they ne'er go to hell.'

Yin Nwe Ko (Linn)

(Saluting my fallen comrades from the West door)

Qatar announces the death of HH the Grandfather Emir Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani

THE government of the State of Qatar announced the death of HH the Grandfather Emir Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani on Sunday evening 23 October 2016 at the age of 84, an Emiri Diwan statement said.

The Emiri Diwan statement added: May Allah have mercy on his soul and make his residence paradise, and grant him the best reward for what he achieved to his homeland and nation.

HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, ordered three days of public mourning across the country.



Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani

Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani is the grandfather of the current leader of Qatar and ruled from 1972 until 1995.—GNLM

Walk for Children

THE Sule Shangri-La hotel in Yangon will conduct a walkathon benefiting children on 19th November as part of its 20-year anniversary celebration. About 200 people are expected to participate.

"On 19th of November, we will have a walkathon and will

have about 200 participants walking around Kandawgyi Lake", said Ms.Caroline Cheah, a representative of the Sule Shangri-La. "Each participant will have to raise Ks10,000 as a minimum and this fund will be donated to Yangon Children's Hospital". — GNLM

Research on races in Myanmar to be conducted: Immigration

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population put forth concerted efforts to conduct ten research papers to compile lists of ethnic races existing in the country, according to the ministry.

Negotiations have been made between the ministry and ethnic groups in states and regions to analyse the existing facts and figures issued by international organisations in order to release the correct and exact data of ethnic minorities, said Dr Nyi Nyi, director of the ministry's Population

Department.

The ministry has already released three research papers related to birth, marriage and mortality of pregnant mothers.

Werner Haun, chairman of the International Technical Advisory Board, suggested that the results of the research papers be announced only after making negotiations with respective ethnic groups across Myanmar, ethnic affairs ministries, local and international experts and relevant bodies under the organisation of the govern-

ment.

At the same time, the ministry has also carried out checks on figures and data of the 2014 national population and housing census with the technical support of an independent international body.

The ministry has collected national population and housing statistics every ten years. It released sensitive census data on Myanmar's religious in July this year after holding several coordination meetings with a diverse group of faith leaders.—Myitmakha News Agency



hangri-La hotel being seen from a distance. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Reception held to commemorate 71st Anniversary of United Nations

A RECEPTION to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the United Nations was held at Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw at 6pm yesterday.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Union ministers, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, Chairmen and members of the Hluttaw Committees on International relations, Ambassadors/Heads of the Diplomatic Missions based in Myanmar, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator Ms Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien and Heads of the United Nations agencies in Yangon and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the reception, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Ms Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, delivered their remarks followed by a video presentation of United Nations accomplishments.— *Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes diplomats at the reception to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the United Nations . PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives CEO of IFC



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Mr Philippe H Le Houerou in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Philippe H Le Houerou, CEO of International Finance Corporation—IFC and Executive Vice President of World Bank Group, and his delegation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to IFC’s assistance on Myanmar’s economic development, including private sector development as well as cooperation between Myanmar and IFC in the areas of investment and financial sectors.— *Myanmar News Agency*

UEC pledges free and fair ...

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“It requires us to form an observatory surveillance committee enquiring as to whether political parties and candidates abide by election ethics or not. By-elections will be held above-board, to be free and fair elections with local and foreign observatory teams to be invited”, U Hla Thein said.

He noted that political parties also need to co-operate with election sub-commissions at all levels to ensure free and fair elections in accord with election law and election ethics.

A vacant seat for the State Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Nyaung Shwe constituency 1, whose representative died, will be added to the previously announced 18 vacant constituencies to be held on 1 April.

For respective parties to be able to nominate their candidates who will contest for vacant constituencies, the time schedule has been released in newspapers.

In reply to suggestions on electoral processes made by political parties, UEC chairman clarified, “UEC has been dealing with matters on announcement of compiled voter lists, casting votes in advance, construction of polling booths, and weaknesses found in activities of ward and village tract election sub-commissions.” —*Myanmar News Agency*

MYANMAR GAZETTE

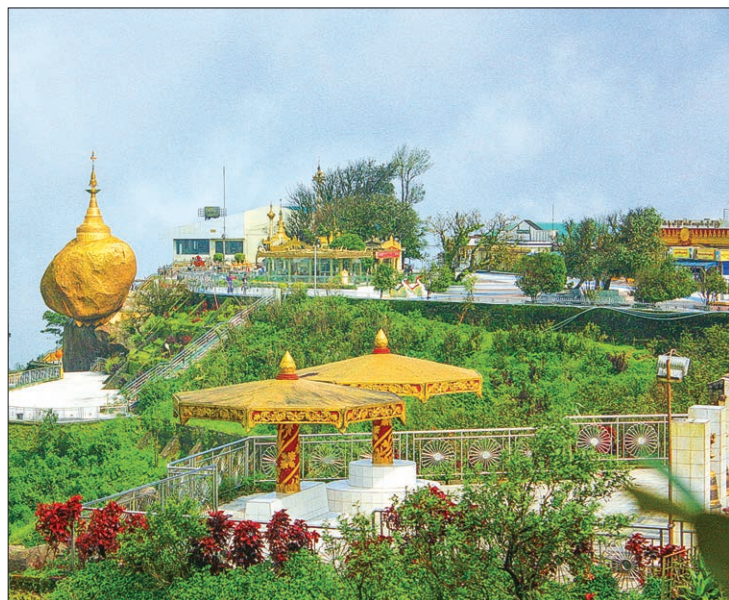
1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Dr Khin Maung Latt, Director-General, Atomic Energy Department under the Ministry of Education as Director-General of Department of Technology Promotion and Coordination from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on the expiry of one-year probationary period from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Daw Kay Thi Lwin	Rector Technological University (Thanlyin) Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Daw Theingi	Rector Technological University of West Yangon Ministry of Education
(3) Dr Kyi Soe	Rector Technological University (Hmawbi) Ministry of Education
(4) Dr Maung Maung Latt	Rector Technological University (Taungoo) Ministry of Education
(5) Dr Nyunt Soe	Rector Pyay Technological University Ministry of Education
(6) Dr Kyi Thwin	Rector Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University Ministry of Education
(7) Dr Daw San San Yi	Rector Technological University (Taunggyi) Ministry of Education
(8) Dr Sint Soe	Rector Technological University (Mandalay) Ministry of Education
(9) Dr Myint Thein	Rector Mandalay Technological University Ministry of Education
(10) Dr Daw Win Aye	Rector Myanmar Information and Technology University Ministry of Education
(11) Dr Daw Saw Sanda Aye	Rector Myanmar Information and Technology University Ministry of Education
(12) Dr Daw Moe Pwint	Rector Computer University (Mandalay) Ministry of Education

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Zaw Aung Deputy Director-General Oil and Gas Planning Department Ministry of Electricity and Energy	Director-General Oil and Gas Planning Department Ministry of Electricity and Energy
(2) Professor Dr Htin Zaw Soe Professor / Dean Field Trip Department Basic Health University (Magway) Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector Basic Health University (Magway) Ministry of Health and Sports

Donations Collected on Opening Day of Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival



Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda being seen from a distance. PHOTO: NZM

KYAIKHTIYO Buddha Pujaniya Festival, also known as the ceremony of the sacred Mountain, is annually held on the Full Moon of Thadingyut.

This year's donations amounted to K 844 lakh, topping last year's amount of K 217 lakh, it is learnt.

In previous years, donation centers collected money under authorised contract, whereas only donation receiving centres collected money under the close watch of the Board of Pagoda

Trusteeships, who disbursed donor acknowledgement slips.

According to the Ministry of Religions Affairs and Culture, the Ministry will carry out programmes for pilgrims to peacefully worship the Pagoda and for the progress of the Kyai-khtiyoe Pagoda in consultation with the Mon State Government.

Necessities of pilgrims will be scrutinised and any activities of the Pagoda will be publicised, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Forum on earthquake preparedness and response held in Mandalay

AN Earthquake Forum organised by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Government of Mandalay Region was held in the Pyinaydazaung hall of Education College in Chanayethazan township, Mandalay on 22 October.

Present at the event were Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, members of Mandalay Region Government, Hluttaw Representatives, the Director-General and officials of the Relief and Resettlement Department, the secretary and committee members of Myanmar Earthquake Committee, chairman and executive members of Mandalay Engineering Society, officials from the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, the Department of Construction, Myanmar Fire Services Department and Myanmar Red Cross Society.

At the forum, Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung gave the opening speech, and the director-general of Relief and Resettlement Department explained the purpose of the forum. The Regional Representative of the European Union spoke words of greeting. The secretary of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee talked about the probability of the occurrence of earthquakes, an official



Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and officials observing relief aids that will be provided in the event of an earthquake. PHOTO: THI KO KO (MDV)

of the Myanmar Engineering Society explained an evaluation of the probability occurrence of an earthquake in Mandalay, an official of Mandalay Region Health Department gave an evaluation of capabilities to provide medical treatment to victims after earthquake, and an official of UNOCH explained the preparedness of Mandalay for the risks of an earthquake. Officials then responded to queries from attendees.

At the classrooms of the Education College, officials held discussions on matters related to the ways to promote public awareness

of earthquakes, earthquake preparedness and immediate response, and transportation of patients after an earthquake and administering medical treatment and rehabilitation measures after an earthquake. The Regional Chief Minister and officials approved future plans submitted by the Relief and Resettlement Department. The Region Chief Minister and officials noted the relief aids displayed at the event by the Myanmar Fire Services Department and Myanmar Red Cross Society and the Relief and Resettlement Department. — *Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Crime NEWS

Man charged for driving unregistered car

POLICE in Thaton Township, Mon State arrested a man on Monday after he was unable to produce documents showing ownership of the the vehicle he was driving.

Aung Phyto, 21, has been charged under Section 8 of the Export and Import Law by Thaton Myoma Police Station.

The investigators say they

pulled over a Honda Odyssey car being driven by Aung Phyto as he drove from Hpa-an Township in Kayin state to Thaton Township in Mon State during routine patrols.

Police have accelerated an operation to seize unlicensed and unregistered vehicles to reduce crime in the region.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



The Honda Odyssey seized for non-registration. PHOTO: MMK

No casualties reported after road accident

NO INJURIES or deaths were reported following a road accident involving a bus along the Yangon-Mandalay highway early Monday morning, police reported.

Loaded with 20 people, including the driver Hsai Li, an express bus owned by the Shwesinsetkyar Bus Line heading from the capital Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon skidded and crashed between mile post Nos. 5/1 and 5/2 at around 5 a.m.

The collision damaged the front part of the vehicle causing damage of approxi-



A Shwesinsetkyar bus being seen after skidding. PHOTO: MPF

mately Ks500,000, but no people on board sustained injuries.

Police have charged the reck-

less driver under Section 279 of the Penal Code. — *Than Oo (Laymyatna)*



Har Tin or Kalar Gyi. PHOTO: MPF

Nearly 6,000 yaba pills seized in Mingaladon Township

A combined team comprising members of a local anti-drug squad and polices in Mingaladon Township discovered 5,955 yaba pills from a man on Sunday, said the police today.

Saw Oo, also known as Har Tin or Kalar Gyi, 45, was searched by the police near a teashop on Htaukkyant-Yangon-Bago Road in the township and action has been taken against him by the police station under the anti-narcotic drug and psychotropic substances law.— *GNLM*

LOCAL Business

South Korea's BXT got approval to invest in Kaladan project

SOUTH Korean BXT International Company is investing in jetty development activity in Kaladan River with the approval of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

The BXT is the first foreign company to make a significant investment in Sittwe, Rakhine State. The project involves land reclamation on the banks of the Kaladan river, creating more job opportunities for the locals, it is learnt.

A Rakhine State minister and a South Korean ambassador to Myanmar discussed how to effectuate development in Sittwe. The land reclamation project is being jointly implemented by the BXT and the Rakhine State government. After the land reclamation is completed, more Korean companies are likely to make investments in Sittwe, the minister said.

Once completed, it would provide employment opportunities for local residents, modern urban housing, international standard buildings, hotels, markets and restaurants, it is learnt.

—200



Workers at a construction site at a new port in Kaladan River, Sittwe in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar's smoking pipes and blackboards to penetrate international market

BUSINESSMEN in Chaungzon, Mon State are attempting to distribute Myanmar's smoking pipes and blackboards, which have already caught the attention of many foreigners to the international market.

Mon State Hotels and Tourism ministry will provide the capacity-building so that Myanmar's smoking pipes and blackboards can more easily enter the international market.

The small-scale businesses will be provided with technical assistance, which is necessary for

the quality products to be manufactured. Efforts are being made to make the products from the small enterprises widely marketable, said an official from the ministry.

The smoking pipe and blackboard businesses are on the verge of extinction. Only the makers of smoking pipes which are traditionally passed down from generation to generation continue to manufacture such items. But now some foreigners have become fond of collecting different styles of smoking pipes, giving the traditional industry a new life.—200



A foreigner evaluates a smoking pipe. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Unlicensed cars selling well after levying income tax

WITH the imposition of income tax on new cars, unlicensed cars are selling well in the southern Shan State car market, it is learnt from local car dealers.

The number of dealers in unlicensed cars are increasing after the imposition of the income tax in the incumbent government's tenure, and the licensed car market is on the decline, it is learnt.

The taxes levied on the cars is high and so, the licensed car market is not doing well. Dealers now prefer the trading of unlicensed cars because they cannot make much profit on li-

censed cars, said a local dealer.

The price of a 1300cc Honda Fit was around Ks9million, including taxes in the previous government's period. The prevailing market price of this car is up to Ks12million. Therefore, there is little or no demand in the market, he added.

Unlicensed Honda Fit cars that flowed through Myawady can be had for only Ks600,000, including road user charges. These cars will be sold for about Ks1.3million, and car dealers can make a profit of Ks100,000 per car at a minimum, said a car dealer.

Car models such as the Honda Fit and the Toyota Vitz with 1300cc engines are popular in the Shan State unlicensed car market. The price of the cars ranges from Ks1.8 to Ks3.2million, depending on the model. A Toyota Mark II (IRS) sells for Ks2million to 3.5million, while a Toyota Crown (2004-2006 model) sells for Ks2million to Ks5million. And a 2008 model Suzuki RVI 1800cc sells for Ks8.5million in the unlicensed market. These aforementioned cars are selling briskly.—Myitmakha News Agency

Automotive bulbs and shell permitted to be replaced for cars over 20 years old

THE Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) will allow cars over 20 years old to replace the automotive bulbs and shells starting at the end of October, it is learnt.

The action aims to facilitate the transportation of the old cars. Three cars have been experimentally replaced. After re-

placement of the auto parts, cars over 20 years old will be permitted to be driven. Only the cars which have received approval for replacement by the RTAD will be eligible to transport. The cars which have been replaced without any official documents will not be allowed to make license extension, said an official

from the RTAD.

The aforementioned department will grant permission for the old cars to make replacement of the auto parts. In the replacing process, the auto parts have to be higher model than the original ones. The shell and automotive bulbs can be easily found at the auto part stores in Yangon.—200

Indian police kill 18 Maoist insurgents in eastern state

BHUBANESHWAR, (India) — Indian police killed at least 18 Maoist rebels in the eastern state of Odisha on Monday after tracking them to a remote, forested area where a gunfight erupted shortly after midnight, police said.

It was one of the heaviest casualty tolls suffered this year by the insurgents, who have fought a decades-long war against the Indian state from jungle hideouts across eastern and central India.

Police acted on a tip-off that around 30 rebels had gathered close to the border with Andhra Pradesh state, Odisha police chief K.B. Singh said.

He said there was no immediate information on police casualties. Officers had seized automatic rifles and ammunition from the scene.

"It was a joint operation by Andhra and Odisha police conducted last

night... The operation is still going on," Singh said.

Maoist rebels accuse the Indian state of plundering the mineral-rich and underdeveloped east and central regions of the country at the expense of the poor and landless, among whom they retain some support.

While the level of violence has fallen in recent years, and the Maoists have lost hundreds of fighters to desertions and battles with security forces, the rebels remain capable of staging regular hit-and-run attacks across several states.

In July, Maoists killed at least 10 members of an elite Indian police force in the south of Bihar state. According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, 337 people have been killed in left-wing extremist violence so far this year, more than half of them alleged insurgents.—Reuters

South Korea's Park proposes multiple-term presidency

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Monday proposed amending the constitution to allow presidents to serve multiple terms or to establish a parliamentary system, saying the single-term presidency has served its purpose after nearly 30 years.

The South Korean presidency was limited to a single five-year term in the 1987 constitutional amendment that ended the country's military dictatorship.

South Korean presidents serving a single five-year term typically become lame ducks in the second half of their tenure, limiting their effectiveness. Park herself would not be able to serve a second term.

"Through the single-term presidency, it is difficult to maintain policy continuance, see results of policy and engage in unified foreign policy," she said in an address to parliament at the start of annual budget deliberations.

Critics of the presidency believe a parliamentary system in which the exec-



South Korea's President Park Geun-hye arrives at the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Laos on 7 September 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

utive branch centred on a prime minister and the cabinet would allow for more stable policymaking and ensure greater accountability.

Park, the first woman president of South Korea, is in the fourth year of a term which ends in February 2018.

A Realmeter poll released in June found 70 per cent of South Koreans think the existing constitution should be revised and 40 per cent say allowing a president to serve two four-

year terms would be preferable.

Park asked parliament to form a special committee to discuss revising the constitution, calling for the change to be completed before her term ends.

In South Korea, the president or parliament can propose a constitutional amendment, which must be approved by a two-thirds majority in the single-chamber assembly and then by a majority in a national referendum in which

more than half of eligible voters participate.

Under the current constitution, the sitting president is barred from serving again under any potential amendment.

"I've reached a conclusion that we can no longer delay discussing amending the constitution, which was also my campaign promise, to break down limits we face in the big picture for the Republic of Korea's sustainable development," Park said.

Despite broad public consensus for constitutional reform, it is not clear how debate will play out, with political power split between a powerful presidency and a fractious parliament.

Park's proposal was welcomed by her Saenuri Party but drew suspicion from rival parties which saw it as a move to divert attention from an influence scandal involving old acquaintances and to keep herself relevant as her presidency winds down.—Reuters

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China says Taiwan, Hong Kong activists hatching 'futile' independence plots

BEIJING — China said on Monday that "diehard" independence supporters in Taiwan and Hong Kong were seeking to link up to hatch separatist plots, but that they would never succeed.

Dozens of pro-Beijing lawmakers walked out of the Hong Kong legislature last Wednesday to prevent the swearing-in of two pro-independence activists, setting the scene for a new constitutional crisis in the Chinese-controlled city.

Asked about the case the following day, Chiu Chui-Cheng, spokesman

for Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, said the two had been directly elected and called on China and Hong Kong to respect the will of the public.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office said on Monday the "one country, two systems" model for Hong Kong had been fully implemented since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997, receiving widespread support in Hong Kong and internationally.

"We resolutely oppose the Taiwan authority meddling in and interfering with Hong Kong's imple-

mentation of 'one country, two systems' and words and actions that damage Hong Kong's prosperity and stability," it said in a statement.

"Diehard Taiwan independence elements on the island and Hong Kong independence elements are colluding with each other, making futile attempts to split the country.

"This will certainly be opposed by compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Strait and in Hong Kong and cannot succeed."

Ray Wong of the "localist" group Hong Kong Indigenous also visited

Taiwan last week. The topic of independence has long been taboo in Hong Kong.

China considers self-ruled Taiwan a wayward province and has never renounced the use of force to bring the island under its control after defeated Nationalist forces fled there at the end of a civil war with the Communists in 1949.

Relations between China and Taiwan have worsened since the election of Tsai Ing-wen from the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party as Taiwan president in January.—Reuters

Rights activists urge Thai junta to drop sedition charge against lawyer

BANGKOK — Human rights activists on Monday called on Thailand's junta to drop sedition charges against a rights lawyer in the first such case against an attorney since the military took power in a 2014 coup.

Sirikan Charoensiri was charged with sedition and with disobeying authorities on Saturday after she refused to hand over the mobile phones of her clients, 14 student activists who were arrested following a protest against the junta last year.

Since taking power, the junta has moved to silence critics and has come under sharp criticism from the international community for trying civilians in military courts, arresting dissidents and detaining some critics, including political activists, journalists and students, at military facilities for days before releasing them.

Sirikan is the first lawyer to be charged with sedition under the junta, according to iLaw, a Bangkok-based legal monitoring

group. The junta had used the law to target pro-democracy protesters, it said. The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), a Geneva-based non-governmental organisation made up of judges from around the world, called for the charges against Sirikan to be dropped.

"She was targeted for the job of representing her client," Sam Zarifi, Bangkok-based regional director of the ICJ, told Reuters.

"The junta are using

her as an example to frighten other lawyers and activists." Representatives of the junta were unavailable to comment on Monday, a national holiday.

Sirikan said police needed to produce a warrant in order for her to hand over the phones, something they did not do, according to Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, the organization Sirikan works for.

She faces up to seven years in prison if found guilty of sedition.—Reuters

US diplomat says Philippines an ally, but drug killings a concern

MANILA — THE most senior US diplomat for Asia assured the Philippines on Monday that Washington remained its “trusted” ally and that it supported Manila’s blossoming ties with China.

US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel however warned that growing concern about drug-related killings in the Southeast Asian country was “bad for business”.

Russel was the first high-level visitor from Washington after President Rodrigo Duterte provoked alarm last week by announcing his country’s “separation” from the United States and realignment with China while on a visit to Beijing.

Explaining Duterte’s “Good-bye America” remarks, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay said on Saturday the United States remained the “closest friend” of the Philippines, but Manila wanted to break away from a “mindset of dependency and subservience” and forge closer ties with other nations.

Russel, speaking to reporters after meeting Yasay, said Duterte “has already walked back”.

He said Washington



US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel attends a news conference in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 10 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

supported direct dialogue and negotiations between the Philippines and China. “So, it’s a mistake to think that improved relations between Manila and Beijing somehow come at the expense of the US,” he said.

“We don’t want countries to have to choose between the US and China.”

During his meeting with the Philippine foreign minister, Russel however said he expressed his concern the “succession of controversial statements, comments and a real climate of uncertainty about the Philippines’ intentions has created consternation in a number of countries”.

He added, “This is not a positive trend.”

Duterte has been scathing about US criticism of his anti-drugs campaign in which about 2,300 people have been killed since he took office on 30 June.

Russel said the United States supported Manila’s anti-narcotics campaign, but due process and human rights should not be disregarded.

“The growing uncertainty about this and other issues is bad for business,” he said. “This is a very competitive region.”

Russel’s trip to Manila is part of a three-nation swing through Southeast Asia that also includes Thailand and Cambodia, the US State Department announced on its website.—Reuters

South Korean President Park calls for discussion to revise Constitution

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Monday called for a discussion on revising the nation’s Constitution, under which a president is barred from seeking re-election.

“After thinking long and hard about it, I have reached the conclusion that discussions on constitutional revision should not be further delayed, in order to achieve sustained development of the nation and to resolve limited situations we face in a broader framework,” she said in an address to the National Assembly, the country’s parliament.

Under South Korean law,

approval by two-thirds of the 300-seat unicameral single legislature is required for revising the Constitution.

Park said restricting the presidency to a single five-year term makes it difficult to maintain continuity of diplomatic policies and for national tasks to be carried on by the succeeding administration.

“The social environment has undergone fundamental changes since the Constitution was last amended in 1987,” Park said, adding that most lawmakers agree on the need for constitutional revision.—Kyodo News



South Korean President Park Geun-hye addresses the National Assembly, the country’s parliament, in Seoul on 24 October. Park called for a discussion on revising the nation’s Constitution. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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Sound economic policies contribute to stability

Myint Win Thein

ECONOMY is the relationship among trade, production and money supply in a particular region or country. In this sense, economy is mainly concerned with those who are engaged in commerce, manufacturing and financial businesses. Growth of these sectors is generally considered to be economic growth. It is also generally accepted that economy is stagnant when activities in such sectors slow down. As a result, investment in such sectors are encouraged when

governments want to revive their economies. So investors seem to be important for an economy to grow. This can be termed as the problem of the rich. However, their problems can also affect the entire population or lives of poor millions.

On the other hand, economic problems are mainly concerned with the general public. When an economy slows down, people have to deal with unemployment, inflation, poverty and many other problems. Some people

think these are social problems that can be solved when the economy is vibrant. More often this is not the case, because economic growth is not equally distributed among the population. So, while this can be termed as the problem of the poor, it can also lead to economic crises for the rich.

A stable economy should be able to address both issues. Although some economies place an emphasis on the problem of the wealthy while others prioritise the problem of the indigent, it can be seen

that the best way to manage an economy is to find a way for prosperity for all and equally distribute wealth among the entire population so that the majority is satisfied with economic policies. That is why the union government recently urged the business community to work in the interest of the country and the people while guaranteeing their legal right to do business. Sound economic policies must be able to strike a balance between the interest of the rich and the poor.

“Thadingyut in Full Swing with Kite Flying”

Maung Phyo (WYU)

IN Myanmar, Thadingyut usually unveils itself with outdoor activities and annual festivals. Thadingyut is equivalent to October in the Gregorian calendar. As a matter of fact, Thadingyut reminds the busy-bees in the urban and peri-urban areas of its coming with children flying kites at the pale, westering sun usually accompanied by a cool weather. The workaholics would wake up to notice that Thadingyut is under way. The rain is also withdrawing and the monsoon abating. Sometimes the north wind sets in. Of course, it is about time kite-flyers took off their reels from the iron hook on the wall, cleaned and readied them for kite-flying.

In retrospect, huge paper kites decorated with various figures and long, beautiful tails were flown very high. They were well caught in the rustling wind, standing immobile against the wind. They were called Myanmar kites. Flying lines for Myanmar kites are big with thick strands. The line of Myanmar kite caught in the wind was usually hanging low due to its weight. These lines of Myanmar kites were not hmanza¹-coated. Therefore, fighter kites never came to attack them. This is kind of an unspoken law among kite flyers.

Fighter kites are smaller in size. They are of one and a half square feet at most. They are made of plain or colorful papers

sometimes with figures. Fighter kites made out of wax-paper fetch higher price. They are also called Indian kites. Hmanza or hmanza-tike “မှန်တတိုက်” is an act of passing flying lines or strings through hmanza to get abrasive and be able to snag other kites. Ground glass or glass has to be pounded and mixed with glue or sago seeds. The mixture has to be boiled. The strings or lines are to be spun on the big reel after passing through well-boiled hmanza. The strings have to be left on the spinning reels under the sun long enough to get dry. Finally, a reel of hmanza-coated lines is ready for kite-fight. In general, hmanza is of three categories: fine, medium and rough dependent upon quality. Hmanza-tike fare varies according to quality of string, size of spindle, length of line and frequency of hmanza-coating. The price may also vary (possibly higher) if hmanza-tike or hmanza-coating masters are prize-winners in kite-fighting contests. Local spindles are of poor quality and therefore only usable in sewing. Hmanza-coated lines also fall into two types namely “လျှော့ကြိုး” (a type of hmanza-coated line that the kite-flyer has to release by turning the reel anticlockwise in order to cut down another line of fighter kite when in entanglement during kite-fight) and “ခွဲကြိုး” (another type of hmanza-coated line that the kite flyer has to pull by turning the reel clockwise for the same purpose as above). A kite flyer has to de-

cide whether his fighter kite is well caught in the current and he has taken position as appropriate (below or above his opponent's kite in the air) before he moves on to cut his opponent. Kite-flying or kite fight is a popular pastime in Myanmar. Kite fight, of course, is eye-catching. None, young and old, can look away from the scene of intense kite-fight. It is very likely that pedestrians look up to the skies where colorful fighter kites are swiping or ducking in their attempts to

known as “တိုင်ကယ်ချိတ်/တိုင်ကယ်လှိုက်” among the kite fighters. Unfortunately, they were apt to lose their own ones while in entanglement with the defeated kite due always to an uncontrollably strong current.

Naturally, it goes without saying that kite runners always perfect the scene of kite fight. Wherever there is an intense kite fight, there also are kids to run after defeated kites adrift in the low current. They equip themselves with bamboo pole atop of which

and it's mine” just to let others know his catch. Then, it is very likely that other kite runners gave in. In some instances, two kite runners tended to catch the same flying line. Then, they engaged in a strong argument over the ownership. Often, the problem resolved itself as share of flying line and that of kite went to each catcher respectively. It is because they valued the hmanza-coated flying line. When they could not afford to buy a reel, they saved those lines by winding on a makeshift bamboo reel or a tin. It was not for nothing. In the afternoon when they took shelter from the intense sun, they would tie the hmanza line to a stone at one end, hold the other end and try to snag on with one another to test whose line was better and stronger. The adults and the elderly people were accustomed to warning the kite runners against accidents. For, looking always up to the sky and following the direction of the drifting kite, some slipped and fell down, others bumped into the pedestrians, many ran into a lamppost or a car and the few fell into the ditch or as they never looked down. Now today kids especially in the outskirts are having what we once used to have—“Great Fun” with kite flying, fight and running. This is at least what childhood pastime in Myanmar is, and not in the whole year round but only at Thadingyut.

¹ Hmanza is a mixture of ground glass powder and glue

“They were called Myanmar kites. Flying lines for Myanmar kites are big with thick strands. The line of Myanmar kite caught in the wind was usually hanging low due to its weight. These lines of Myanmar kites were not hmanza-coated. Therefore, fighter kites never came to attack them. This is kind of an unspoken law among kite flyers”.

take the better part. Onlookers forecast the winners in the fight as is the case elsewhere. Some enthusiasts are sometimes so moved by the fighting scene that they snatched the reel from the kite fighters to prove what they thought is right. When a kite is cut off or defeated by its opponent, it is drifted in the air, which the kite flyers always called “up-turned kite” literally (“စွန်တော့” “စွန်လန်”) (defeated kite cut off by the opponent). There always are some among kite fighters who try to hook the drifting kite with his own. Their purpose is to get a new kite for free. Such act is

thorny branches like plum are tied in order for them to be able to hook the flying line of the kites. They can guess where a defeated kite in the air would fall and they would dart out to that place hurrying in treble. They would try to get hold of the falling kite with their bamboo pole and other dry branches. Most of the time, the poor fallen kite ended up in being torn to pieces during the kite runners' attempt. Sometimes, it turned out that a bare-hand kite runner caught the flying line of the upturned kite before the equipped kite runners. At that moment, he shouted “I catch it



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton greets supporters during a campaign rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, US, on 23 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Clinton calls Trump a 'sore loser'

CHARLOTTE/NAPLES — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called Donald Trump a “sore loser” on Sunday because of his refusal at their debate last week to commit to accepting the results of the 8 November election.

Clinton, a former secretary of state, said Trump’s comments were more consistent with what dictators in non-democratic countries might say about their opponents.

“To say you won’t respect the results of the election, that is a direct threat to our democracy,” Clinton told a rally at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “The peaceful transfer of power is one of the things that makes America America.”

“And look, some people are sore losers, and we just got to keep going,” she added.

Earlier on Sunday, Kellyanne Conway, a top Trump adviser, acknowledged that the Republican presidential candidate was lagging behind Clinton ahead of the election.

Conway said Clinton had “tremendous advantages,” including a large campaign war chest that had allowed her to spend millions on television ads.

“We are behind,” Conway said on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” But she added the Trump campaign was looking to sway undecided voters not ready to support Clinton.

As the polling gap has widened, Trump has said repeatedly the election is being “rigged” against him. He has not offered evidence and numerous studies have shown that the US election system, which is decentralized and run by the states, is sound.

At last week’s debate with

Clinton in Las Vegas, Trump was asked if he would honor the result of the US election.

“What I’m saying is that I will tell you at the time. I’ll keep you in suspense. OK?” Trump said.

As she visited North Carolina, Clinton urged her supporters to participate in early voting.

“From now until 5 November, you can vote early at any voting location in your county. And you know, this is a big deal,” Clinton said at a campaign event in Raleigh.

Campaigning in Naples, Florida, on Sunday, Trump also encouraged voters to go to the polls to vote both for him and Republicans running for Congress and other offices.

“You have 16 days to make this happen, but you have to get out and vote, and that includes helping me re-elect Republicans all over the place.”

“I hope they help me too. Be nice if they help us too, right?” said Trump, who has sparred with many prominent members of his party, including US House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan, the country’s top elected Republican.

The latest Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Friday had Clinton leading Trump by 4 percentage points, and the most recent State of the Nation project showed Clinton with a 95 per cent chance of winning the 270 Electoral College votes needed to secure the presidency.

An ABC News poll released on Sunday morning had Clinton leading with 50 per cent of likely support, compared with Trump’s 38 per cent. The poll found that the number of Republicans who said they were likely

to vote fell 7 percentage points from mid-October.

As Trump battled to win over undecided voters, advisers and members of his inner circle sought to downplay his remarks about the integrity of the election, in an indication he would come under significant pressure to accept the election results if he were to lose.

Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus said that by asking Trump to agree to concede, the media were making an extraordinary request. He said Trump would only fight if the election were close and was not trying to dispute a fair election.

“That’s not quite what he’s saying. What he’s saying is he wants to reserve all options and if there is ground for a recount, I’ll reserve all options,” Priebus said on CBS’s “Face The Nation.”

Trump’s son Eric said on Sunday that Trump would “100 per cent” accept the results of the election if the outcome is “fair.”

“I think what my father is saying is, ‘I want a fair election,’” Eric Trump said on ABC’s “This Week.” “If it’s a fair outcome, he will absolutely accept it. There’s no question about that.”

On Sunday, Trump picked up his first endorsement of the general election from a major newspaper when the Las Vegas Review-Journal backed his candidacy. The newspaper is owned by Republican mega-donor Sheldon Adelson, who has been reluctant to donate to Trump. In 2012, Adelson spent about \$150 million trying to help elect Republican Mitt Romney. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese vice foreign minister visits North Korea — Kyodo News Agency

SEOUL — Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin arrived in the North Korean capital on Monday, in the first visit to the country by a high-ranking Chinese official since February, Japan’s Kyodo news agency reported.

Liu’s reported visit comes as Washington and its allies urge Beijing to agree on tough new United Nations Security Council sanctions against North Korea after it conducted a fifth nuclear test in September.

China is North Korea’s main ally but is angered by Pyongyang’s nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

China’s foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.—Reuters

North Korea’s top diplomat to visit Viet Nam, Indonesia

BEIJING — North Korea’s top official in charge of foreign affairs, Ri Su Yong, arrived Monday in Beijing en route to Viet Nam and Indonesia. Ri, a vice chairman of the Workers’ Party of Korea, was seen exiting through a VIP gate of the Chinese capital’s international airport after arriving from Pyongyang. He was received by officials from the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang, speaking at a regular press briefing, said he has no information to offer about Ri’s travel, besides being aware that he will later visit Indonesia, when asked about the possibility of him holding talks with Chinese officials while he is in Beijing. Ri will attend the 18th International Meeting of Communist and Workers’ Parties in Hanoi, which will run for three days from Friday, North Korea’s official media said. In Indonesia, he is expected to hold talks with senior officials to discuss bilateral cooperation.—Kyodo News

Russian Energy Minister to discuss oil market with OPEC SecGen

VIENNA — Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said on Monday he plans to discuss the situation on the oil market with OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo.

Speaking in Vienna, Novak said Russia was a responsible player on the oil market and an agreement in OPEC will allow talks to resume between producers inside and outside the cartel.—Reuters

Israeli aircraft strikes Gaza after militants fire rocket — military

JERUSALEM — An Israeli aircraft struck a militant target in the northern Gaza Strip on Monday after a rocket was fired towards Israel, the military said.

No casualties were reported following the air strike, Gaza residents said. The rocket fired towards southern Israel set off sirens after tracking systems monitored the launch but it landed inside the Gaza Strip, a military statement said.

Small jihadist cells in the Gaza Strip, which is controlled by Islamist group Hamas, sometimes launch rockets into Israel.

Hamas has observed a de facto ceasefire with Israel since 2014, when 2,100 Palestinians and 73 Israelis were killed in a war.

But Israel says it holds the groups responsible for all rocket launches from the territory. —Reuters

Shark bites leg of Australian surfer

SYDNEY — An Australian surfer was bitten in the leg by a shark on Monday, the third attack off the beaches of New South Wales in a month, Australian media reported.

Jade Fitzpatrick, 36, was surfing at Cape Byron, 780 km (484 miles) north of Sydney, when he was knocked off his board by a shark that left three puncture wounds in his left leg.

He managed to fend off the shark and swim to shore with his damaged board.

“Halfway in I started to panic a bit because I touched my leg and I felt it was all slick from the blood,” he told Australia’s Seven Network.

It was the third reported shark attack in the area in a month. The state government is expected to propose a six-month trial deployment of shark nets to deter attacks on the northern New South Wales coast.

Fitzpatrick said he opposed the plan because the nets could trap other marine animals. “I don’t want animals dying just to make us feel safe,” he said.—Reuters

Turkish army says hits Islamic State, Kurdish YPG targets in Syria

ANKARA — Turkey's military struck dozens of Islamic State and Kurdish YPG militia targets in Syria over the last 24 hours, depriving both groups of the ability to move around, the army said on Monday, as its operation there entered a third month.

Backed by Turkish tanks, special forces and air strikes, rebels fighting under the banner of the Free Syrian Army crossed into northern Syria on 4 August and took control of the border town of Jarablus from Islamic State largely unopposed.

In the latest moves in the operation, dubbed "Euphrates Shield", strikes by "fire support vehicles" hit 27 Islamic State targets and 19 belonging to the YPG, leaving both groups "without maneuvering capacity", the

written statement said.

President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday the Turkish-backed forces would press on to the Islamic State-held town of al-Bab, emphasizing Ankara's drive to sweep its militants and Syrian Kurdish fighters from territory near its border.

The Syrian military said the presence of Turkish troops on Syrian soil was unacceptable and a "dangerous escalation and flagrant breach of Syria's sovereignty."

Erdogan also said Turkey would do what was necessary with its coalition partners in Syria's Raqqa, but would not work with the Syrian Kurdish fighters.

Differences over Syria have caused strains between NATO allies Turkey and the United



A rebel fighter jumps from a military vehicle on the outskirts of Syria Democratic Forces (SDF) controlled Tell Rifaat town, northern Aleppo province, Syria on 22 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

States. Washington is backing the YPG militia, seeing it as an effective partner in the fight against Islamic State. Turkey fears the militia's advance will

embolden Kurdish militants at home.

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey and

its Western allies, has fought a three-decade insurgency that has killed more than 40,000 people, mostly Kurds, in Turkey's largely Kurdish southeast.—Reuters

Battle for Mosul can shape or break Iraq further

ERBIL — It has taken two years of training a demoralized army, backed up by the air cover and special forces of the world's greatest powers, for Iraq to mount an offensive to recapture Mosul from Islamic State.

Almost week into the US-led onslaught, many of those running the campaign say the battle to retake the city could be long and hard. But they have also identified what they think is a chink in the jihadists' armor.

If local fighters in Mosul can be persuaded to drop their allegiance to Islamic State, there is a chance that the battle can be brought to a more speedy conclusion, and that could have major implications for the future of Iraq.

Against a background of splits and rebellions in the Islamic State ranks in Mosul, some opposing commanders believe that a successful attempt to win over those local fighters could mean the battle lasts only weeks rather than months.

Mosul, Iraq's second biggest city, is where IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared his Sunni caliphate in 2014, after his alliance between millenarian Islamists and veteran officers from the disbanded army of Saddam Hussein roared back into Iraq from bases they set up in the mayhem of Syria's war. Five Iraqi army divisions melted away before jihadis numbered in hundreds.

Now the battle to retake Mosul pits an unwieldy coalition of a 30,000-strong Iraqi regular force backed by the US and Europeans, alongside Kurdish and Shi'ite militias, against jihadis who have exploited the Sunni

community's sense of dispossession in Iraq and betrayal in Syria.

Not just its outcome but the political sensitivity with which this battle is handled could determine the future of Islamic State and Sunni extremism, as well as the shape of this part of the Middle East, which is being shattered into sectarian fragments.

Islamic State fighters, estimated at between 4,000 and 8,000, have rigged the city with explosives, mined and booby-trapped roads, built oil-filled moats they can set alight, dug tunnels, and trenches and have shown every willingness to use Mosul's up to 1.5 million civilians as human shields.

Islamic State would seem to have a plentiful supply of suicide bombers, launching them in scores of explosives-laden trucks against Kurdish peshmerga fighters converging on Mosul from the east and northeast, and Iraqi forces, spearheaded by counter-terrorism units, advancing from the south and southwest.



Smoke rises at Islamic State militants' positions in the town of Naweran, near Mosul, Iraq, on 23 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Mosul will be a multi-month endeavor. This is going to take a long time," a senior US official said in Iraq.

Karim Sinjari, Interior Minister in the self-governing Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) of northern Iraq, said IS would put up a fierce fight because of Mosul's symbolic value as capital of its self-proclaimed Islamic caliphate.

"If Mosul is finished the caliphate they announced is finished. If they lose in Mosul, they will have no place, just Raqqa (in Syria)," Sinjari said.

Adept at exploiting divisions among its enemies, last Friday's dawn assault by IS on Kirkuk, for example, was not just an attempt to divert Iraqi and Kurdish forces and relieve pressure on the main front.

It was also intended to galvanize Sunni Arab opinion against the Kurds, whose Iraqi peshmerga and Syrian Kurdish militia have fielded the most effective ground forces against IS.

That is why many of those invested in the battle for Mosul stress the need to break the cohesion of IS and the allegiance it has won or coerced among alienated Sunni, in Mosul and beyond.

The opportunity is there, they say.

They believe that while foreign jihadis will fight to the finish to protect their last stronghold in Iraq, the Iraqi fighters, many from Mosul itself, may lay down their arms.

"Most of the (IS) fighters now are local tribal fighters. They have some foreign fighters, they have some people from other parts of Iraq and Syria, but the majority are local fighters," says a senior Kurdish military intelligence chief.

"If we can take this away from them, the liberation of Mosul is a job of a week or two weeks."

Fissures are widening inside the IS camp, with Iraqi, Kurdish and Western sources reporting resistance in Mosul and a spate of attacks on its leaders.

Sinjari, also the KRG acting defence minister, says there is growing resentment against the group's brutality.

"There is information that many people are revolting and carrying out attacks against IS. A number of Daesh members were killed on the streets at night," Sinjari said. This was confirmed by the US official but could not be independently verified.

It fits with accounts of a recent abortive uprising against IS, led by a former aide to Baghdadi, that ended with the execution of 58 Daesh dissidents.—Reuters

Yazidis say Islamic State offensive blocked in Sinjar, west of Mosul

BAGHDAD — US-backed Kurdish fighters blocked an offensive launched by Islamic State on Monday in Sinjar, a Yazidi territory west of Mosul, a provincial official in the region said.

The attack was an apparent bid to distract Iraqi forces attacking Mosul, Islamic State's last major city stronghold in Iraq.

Islamic State confirmed in an online statement having carried out a suicide attack on a peshmerga position at the western entrance of Sinjar.

"It was the most violent attack on Sinjar since a year ago," Yazidi provincial chief Mahma Xelil told Reuters. Islamic State committed some of its worst atrocities in Sinjar when it swept through the Yazidi region two years ago, killing men, kidnapping children and enslaving women. Kurdish fighters took back the region a year ago.

Xelil said at least 15 militants were killed in the two-hour battle and a number of vehicles they used in the attack were destroyed, while the peshmerga suffered two wounded.

Islamic State said two peshmerga vehicles were destroyed and all those on board were killed. Iraqi and Kurdish forces launched an offensive on Mosul a week ago, with air and ground backing from the US-led military coalition.—Reuters

Type 1 diabetes often comes with other autoimmune diseases

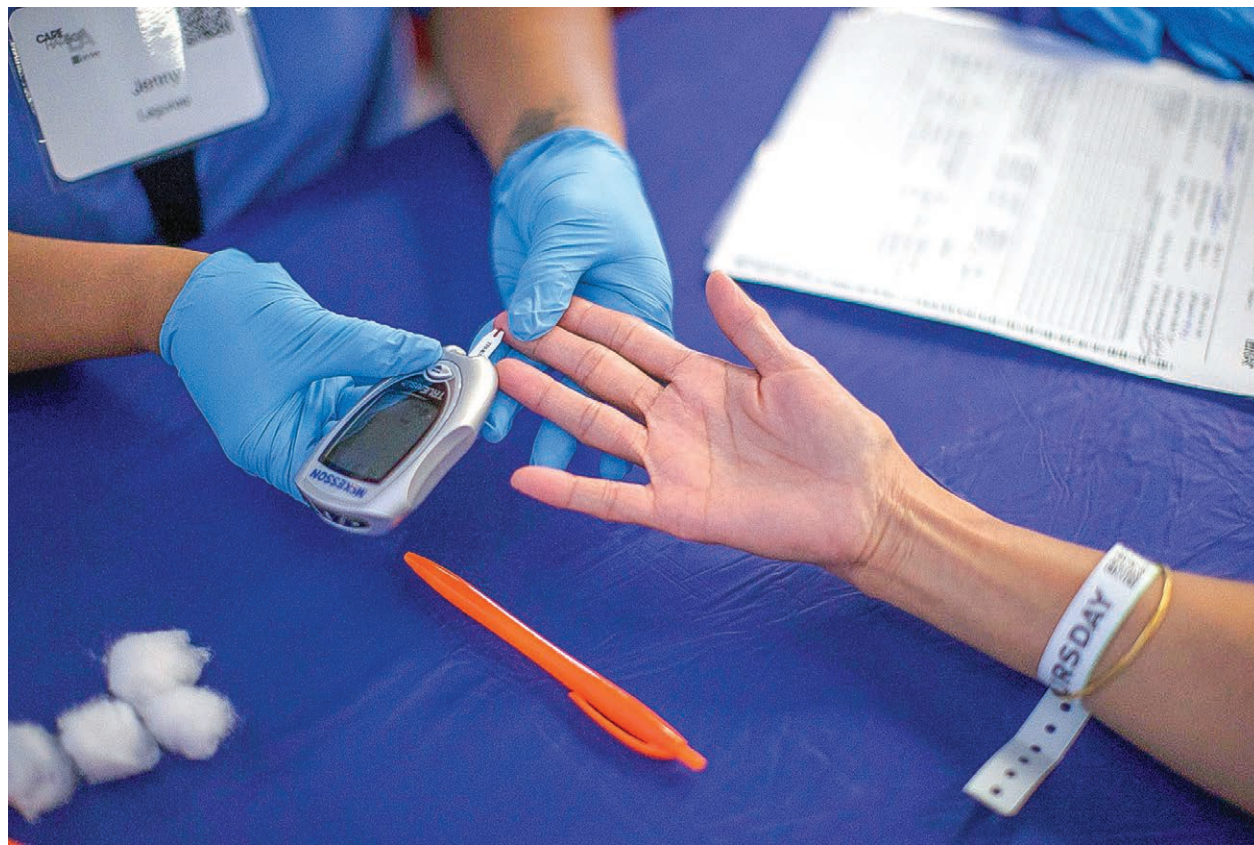
WASHINGTON — People with type 1 diabetes often develop other autoimmune disorders, such as thyroid and gastrointestinal diseases, and a recent study yields new information about this link.

In type 1 diabetes, the immune system attacks the pancreas and destroys its insulin-producing cells. Patients often develop other immune system diseases, too. Indeed, in the current study, 27 per cent of patients had at least one other autoimmune disorder.

But the new study also held some surprises about how early and late in life these added health problems might surface, said lead author Dr. Jing Hughes of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

"The pattern that emerged was striking: autoimmune diseases begin early in childhood, where nearly 20 per cent of those under age 6 already have additional diseases other than type 1 diabetes," Hughes said by email.

"Another surprise finding was that, while we had expected that autoimmune diseases may peak at a certain time of life, we found instead that the autoimmune burden continues to increase as patients age,



A person receives a test for diabetes during Care Harbor LA free medical clinic in Los Angeles, California in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

to the extent that nearly 50 per cent of those over age 65 have accumulated one or more additional autoimmune disease," Hughes added.

The findings are drawn from data on nearly 26,000 adults and children being treated for type 1 diabetes at 80 endocrinology practices in the US between 2010 and 2016.

Of those with other

autoimmune disorders in addition to diabetes, 20 per cent had one additional problem and 5 per cent had at least two additional diseases, researchers report in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*.

Participants with one or more additional autoimmune disorders were more likely to be older, female and white, the study found.

They also tended to have been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at an older age, and to have lived with the condition for longer.

Thyroid diseases were the most common autoimmune disorders, affecting about 24 per cent of the participants. In most of these cases, the thyroid gland was underactive, which can lead to constipation, weakness, weight

gain, depression and a slowed heart rate.

Celiac disease was the second most common autoimmune problem, affecting about 6 per cent of participants. Celiac disease damages the small intestine and interferes with the absorption of nutrients if patients consume gluten, a protein in wheat, rye and barley; it can lead to complications like malnutrition, low bone

density, lactose intolerance and infertility.

Other diseases included Graves disease (overactive thyroid), rheumatoid arthritis and vitiligo.

One limitation of the study is that researchers lacked data on how old patients were when the autoimmune disorders developed, making it impossible to determine if participants gradually accumulated these diseases over time or if they were clustered around a certain age, the authors note.

Even so, the findings suggest that people with type 1 diabetes should get routine screening for other autoimmune diseases — particularly celiac disease and thyroid disorders — the authors conclude.

"The take home message is that kids with type 1 diabetes are at increased risk for developing other autoimmune diseases compared to kids who don't have type 1 diabetes," said Dr. Laurie Tsilianidis, an endocrinologist at Cleveland Clinic Children's in Ohio who wasn't involved in the study.

"This is particularly true once they become adults, and Caucasian women carry the greatest risk," Tsilianidis added by email.—*Reuters*

Radical plan for Aussie CEOs to link salary with workers' well-being to be considered

CANBERRA — Respected former Australian politician and the chairman of mental health organisation Beyondblue, Jeff Kennett, has floated a radical plan for business CEOs to tie their salary or bonuses to the overall mental well-being of their workers.

Kennett, former premier of Victoria and respected Liberal Party member, will on Monday discuss the plan with the Business Council of Australia (BCA), which has asked the Beyondblue chairman to explore how

Australian business leaders can help foster mentally healthy workplaces.

He told News Corp on Monday that linking CEO wages or bonuses to the mental health of their employees

would not only raise morale, but also productivity.

"What I would like to see in every head of department of a bureaucracy, in every CEO's performance and every direct report's KPIs, is a KPI



about the mental health — the well-being of their workforce," Kennett said on Monday.

"When you talk about pay performance, when you talk about bonuses, I want to see a KPI in place that addresses this, because

that will focus their mind more than anything else.

"If some of these people think this is all sort of rubbish and over the top, well, tie their bonus to it, tie their salary to it. Let them understand that this is a major contributor to the effectiveness of their administration."

Kennett said businesses should survey their employees annually to track well-being, while he encouraged senior executives to submit annual health assessments to psychologists.—*Xinhua*

Now, self-healing batteries for wearable electronics

BEIJING — Scientists have developed a thin, flexible, lithium ion battery with self-healing properties that can be safely used in wearable electronics.

Even after completely breaking apart, the battery can grow back together without significant impact on its electrochemical properties, researchers said.

Electronics that can be embedded in clothing are a growing trend. However, power sources remain a problem.

Existing lithium ion batteries for wearable electronics can be bent and rolled up without any problems, but can break when they are twisted too far or accidentally stepped on — which can happen often when being worn.

This damage not only causes the battery to fail, it can also cause a safety problem: Flammable, toxic, or corrosive gases or liquids may leak out.

Researchers from

Fudan University in China, the Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology in South Korea, and the Samsung R&D Institute in China have now developed a new family of lithium ion batteries that can overcome such accidents thanks to their amazing self-healing powers.

In order for a complicated object like a battery to be made self-healing, all of its individual components must also be self-healing.

The electrodes in these batteries consist of layers of parallel carbon nanotubes. Between the layers, the scientists embedded the necessary lithium compounds in nanoparticle form.

In contrast to conventional lithium ion batteries, the lithium compounds cannot leak out of the electrodes, either while in use or after a break.

The thin layer electrodes are each fixed on a substrate of self-healing polymer.—*PTI*

New method can detect false posts on FB, Twitter

NEW YORK — Scientists have developed a new method for spotting people who post false reviews, comments or tweets from multiple social media accounts to espouse opinions.

Researchers from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) in the

US, describe a statistical method that analyses multiple writing samples — a practice known as 'astroturfing'.

They found that it is challenging for authors to completely conceal their writing style in their text.

Based on word choice, punctuation and context,

the method is able to detect whether one person or multiple people are responsible for the samples.

Researchers used writing samples from the most prolific online commenters on various news web sites, and discovered that many people espousing their opinions online

were actually all linked to a few singular writers with multiple accounts.

"Astroturfing is legal, but it is questionable ethically. As long as social media has been popular, this has existed," said Kim-Kwang Raymond Choo, associate professor at UTSA.—*PTI*

Chile's president forgets to sign name at voting booth, leaves behind ID

SANTIAGO — Chilean President Michelle Bachelet had a rocky go of voting in the nation's local elections on Sunday, having to return to the polls twice after leaving her ID behind and forgetting to sign her name.

Bachelet, voting in the upper-middle class Santiago neighbourhood of La Reina, first forgot to grab her national identification card from poll workers after casting her vote.

She retrieved the ID from the voting area and then walked outside to address journalists. However, Bachelet had to return to the booth again to sign a voter registry as required by law, after failing to do so in previous voting attempts.

"I missed you all very much," Bachelet joked to the poll workers.

Bachelet later told reporters

the worker in charge of the poll where she voted became nervous and forgot to present her with the registry to sign. The poll worker in question gave the same account.

The episode proved amusing to local media with national newspaper La Tercera saying it was "as unusual, as it was embarrassing."

In Chile's local elections for mayors and councillors, the right is set to make gains against Bachelet's centre-left governing coalition, which could provide a boost for the right in next year's presidential and parliamentary elections.

However, high abstention rates by Chileans disenchanted by a string of political corruption scandals in the South American nation have made exact predictions difficult.—Reuters



Chile's President Michelle Bachelet casts her ballot during the mayors and councillors elections in Santiago, Chile, on 23 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

May to offer Scotland, Wales, N.Ireland talks with Brexit minister

LONDON — Representatives of the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments will get a chance to tell Brexit minister David Davis how they hope Britain's future relationship with the EU will work, under plans the government announced on Monday.

At a meeting on Monday, Prime Minister Theresa May will offer the leaders of the three devolved governments, which have varying degrees of autonomy, formal discussions on Brexit at least twice before the end of the year, her office said.

"The country is facing a negotiation of tremendous importance and it is imperative that the devolved administrations play their part in making it work," May said in a statement her office released before the meeting.

"The new forum I am offering will be the chance for them all to put forward their proposals on how to seize the opportunities presented by Brexit and deliver the democratic decision

expressed by the people of the UK" Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the Scottish National Party, has said her government is preparing for all possibilities including independence after Britain leaves the EU.

Scots voted by a large margin to remain in the bloc and Sturgeon has said Scotland wants to keep as many of the advantages of membership of the EU's single market as it can and is looking for a bespoke deal to do so.

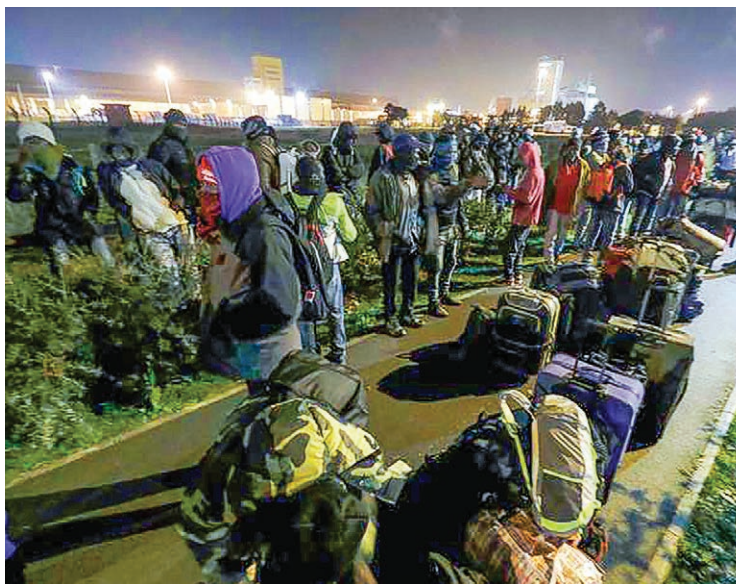
The British government has said it will negotiate a one-size-fits-all Brexit deal on behalf of the whole United Kingdom.

May, who has dismissed labels such as "hard Brexit" and "soft Brexit" for describing how clean a break Britain makes with the EU, will also tell the devolved leaders no final decisions have been taken on the EU exit strategy, and that how Britain leaves the bloc will not boil down to a binary choice.—Reuters



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May arrives at the EU summit in Brussels, Belgium, on 21 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

France starts clearing 'jungle' migrant camp in Calais



Migrants with their belongings queue as their evacuation and transfer to reception centres in France, and the dismantlement of the camp called the 'Jungle' in Calais, France, starts on 24 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CALAIS, (France) — France began clearing the sprawling "Jungle" migrant camp in Calais on Monday, with hundreds carrying suitcases queuing outside a hangar to be resettled in reception centres across the country.

The first buses departed less than an hour after immigration workers started the operation and officials predicted some 2,500 would leave on the first day.

Armed police fanned out around the warehouse and across the squalid shanty-town after a night during which small groups of migrants burned toilet blocks and hurled stones at security forces in protest at the plans to dismantle the camp.

The Socialist government says it is closing the camp, home to 6,500 migrants fleeing war

and poverty, on humanitarian grounds. It plans to relocate them to 450 centres across France.

"I hope this works out. I'm alone and I just have to study," said Amadou Diallo from the West African nation of Guinea. "It doesn't matter where I end up, I don't really care."

Many of the migrants and refugees hail from countries like Afghanistan, Syria and Eritrea and had wanted had reach Britain, which bars most of them on the basis of EU rules requiring them to seek asylum in the first European country they set foot in.

But even as the process began, the fate of about 1,300 unaccompanied child migrants remained uncertain. On Friday a French Interior Ministry official said negotiations continued over

who should take children with no family ties in Britain.

The migrants will be separated into families, adults, unaccompanied minors and vulnerable individuals, including elderly people and single women.

They will then be bussed to the reception centres where they will receive medical checks and, if they have not already done so, decide whether to apply for asylum.

The far-right National Front party said the government plan would create mini-Calais camps across France.

Officials expect 60 buses to leave the camp on Monday. The government expects the evacuation will take at least a week.

While calm prevailed on Monday, charity workers expect hundreds will try and stay and cautioned the mood could change later in the week when work begins on dismantling the camp.

"There's a risk tensions increase in the week because at some point the bulldozers are going to have to come in," said Fabrice Durieux from the charity Salam.

Others warned that many migrants who remained determined to reach Britain would simply scatter into the surrounding countryside, only to regroup in Calais at a later date.

"Each time they dismantle part of the camp it's the same thing. You're going to see them go into hiding and then come back. The battles will continue," said Christian Salome, president of non-profit group Auberge des Migrants.—Reuters

Greenhouse gases reach symbolic milestone; opens 'new era'-WMO

OSLO — Greenhouse gases rose to a symbolic milestone in 2015, taking climate change into a new phase which could last generations even if governments act to curb man-made global warming, the UN World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said on Monday.

Globally averaged concentrations of carbon dioxide, the main man-made greenhouse gas, reached 400.0 parts per million (ppm) in the atmosphere for the first time on record and were 44 per cent above levels before the Industrial Revolution, it said.

The rise, continuing in 2016, contrasts with records by almost 200 governments to start reining in emissions, led by the Paris Agreement last year to phase out fossil fuels in favour of renewable energy in the second half of the century.

"The year 2015 ushered in a new era of optimism and climate action

with the Paris climate change agreement. But it will also make history as marking a new era of climate change reality with record high greenhouse gas concentrations," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

Carbon dioxide levels had reached 400 ppm in some places and some months but "never before on a global average basis for the entire year," the WMO said in an annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin.

And the gas is set to keep building up in the atmosphere unless scientists develop new technologies to extract carbon from the atmosphere.

Man-made warming is blamed for causing heatwaves, downpours, droughts and rising ocean levels.

"The real elephant in the room is carbon dioxide, which remains in the atmosphere for thousands of years," Taalas said.—*Reuters*

Thirteen killed, 31 injured in California tour bus crash

PALM SPRINGS — A tour bus crashed into the back of a tractor-trailer on a Southern California highway before dawn on Sunday, killing 13 people and injuring 31, authorities said.

The bus was traveling west on Interstate 10 when the crash occurred near Palm Springs, a city about 100 miles (160 km) east of Los Angeles, California Highway Patrol (CHP) Chief Jim Abele told reporters.

Abele said because of the bus' speed, the truck's trailer pushed about 15 feet into the bus. The bus driver was among the 13 killed, he said. Abele said he believed the 31 injured passengers had minor to moderate injuries, but some could be worse.

"In almost 35 years I've never been to a crash where there's been 13 confirmed," deaths, Abele said. "So it's tough. It's tough for all of us."

Abele said the bus had been inspected as recently as April and there was no indication of mechanical problems. He said several survivors reported most of the passengers, all of whom were adults, were sleeping at



Workers cut away debris from the front of a bus involved in a mass casualty crash on the westbound Interstate 10 freeway near Palm Springs, California, on 23 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

the time of the crash.

Photographs from the scene showed the front of the tour bus wedged inside the back of the trailer, with emergency workers using metal ladders to reach the inside of the bus.

The injured were being treated at hospitals while all westbound lanes of the interstate were closed near the crash, officials said. Abele said the lanes would likely be reopened around 4 pm.

Abele said the bus appeared to be ferrying casino-goers back to Los Angeles from the Red Earth Casino after a night of gambling. The Los Angeles-area bus company, USA Holiday Bus, could not immediately be reached for comment. The local *Desert Sun* newspaper reported the driver was one of the company's owners. Abele said USA Holiday appeared to be an "owner-operator" company

and that the totaled bus was the only one owned. The National Transportation Safety Board said it will investigate the crash and is sending an investigative team to the site.

Abele said it was not immediately clear if alcohol, drugs or fatigue was a factor in the crash. He said it was not clear whether the bus was speeding, but said it was traveling "significantly faster" than the tractor-trailer.—*Reuters*

Plane crashes after take-off in Malta, at least five dead



Rescue services at the scene of a light aircraft crash at the airport in Valletta, Malta, on 24 October. PHOTO: REUTERS

VALLETTA — A light aircraft crashed shortly after take-off from Malta on Monday, killing at least five people on board in the island nation's worst peacetime air accident, airport sources and witnesses said.

Airport officials initially said the plane was believed to be carrying officials from EU border agency Frontex. The organisation put out a statement saying it had not deployed the plane, but stopped short of saying whether its staff were on board.

The crash happened at about 0530 GMT as the plane was heading for Misrata in Libya, airport officials told Reuters.

Television footage showed flames rising from

wreckage near the runway, sending thick black smoke into the sky.

All flights to and from Malta International Airport were halted, The Times of Malta said on its website.

There was no immediate details on the identity or nationality of the victims.

The plane, a twin-prop Metroliner, can carry around 10 people.

Three French defence ministry staff, two contractors die in Malta crash.

Three French Defence Ministry officials and two private contractors died when their plane on a surveillance mission over the Mediterranean crashed at an airport in Malta during take-off, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said.—*Reuters*

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR EXPLORATORY DRILLING OF OFFSHORE BLOCK M-8

Berlanga Myanmar Pte. Ltd. (Berlanga) proposes to undertake an exploratory drilling program in Block M-8 offshore Ayeyarwady Region, Myanmar. This is scheduled to commence in early 2018 or later using a dynamically positioned Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit. The area in which the wells will be drilled is located at least 16 km from the nearest coastline and 130 km from the Mainland. Berlanga has conducted engagement at the national, state and township levels in Ayeyarwady Region.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Berlanga is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. Environmental Resources Management (ERM), on behalf of Berlanga, is currently undertaking an EIA Study, which includes associated-stakeholder engagement. The EIA will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

More information about the proposed activity and Berlanga operations in Myanmar can be found on Berlanga's webpage www.berlanga-group.com. Any queries, comments or suggestions on the Project Report can be provided in writing to yangon@berlanga-group.com by 11 November 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR EXPLORATORY DRILLING OF ONSHORE BLOCK MOGE-4

CAOG PTE. LTD. (CAOG) proposes to undertake an exploratory drilling program in onshore Block MOGE-4 in southern central Myanmar. The potential well locations are all located in the Ayeyarwady Region. This is scheduled to commence in late 2017 with site preparations followed by drilling using a suitable land drilling rig. Two wells in the Kyangin Township of Ayeyarwady are proposed to be drilled to a total depth, unlikely to exceed 2,500 m each. CAOG has conducted engagement at the national, state and township levels in Ayeyarwady Region.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, CAOG is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. Environmental Resources Management (ERM), on behalf of CAOG, is currently undertaking an EIA Study, which includes associated-stakeholder engagement. The EIA will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2016 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

'Madea Halloween' Edges Out 'Jack Reacher 2' With \$27.6 Million

LOS ANGELES — It was a battle of the sequels at the multiplexes this weekend, as "Boo! A Madea Halloween" narrowly edged out "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" to claim first place at the domestic box office.

The latest film in the long-running Madea series racked up \$27.6 million. Comedian Chris Rock may be entitled to a percentage of the gross. Creator Tyler Perry was inspired to take his pistol-packing grandma trick-or-treating after Rock's comedian character in 2014's "Top Five" joked that his latest movie, a passion project about a slave revolt, was going head-to-head at the box office with "Boo! A Madea Halloween." What was once intended as satire eventually became a seasonally appropriate reality.

"This isn't the end of the series, it's just the beginning," said Jeff Bock, box office analyst with Exhibitor Relations, who noted that Perry also scored with 2013's "A Madea Christmas." "There are so many holidays left. There's Easter, St. Patrick's Day, and he hasn't even done a Thanksgiving one yet."

Don't look for "Boo!" to end up in the Oscar race or on many reviewers' "ten best" lists, but the Halloween comedy is a hit for distributor Lionsgate and reaffirms Perry's star power. Despite being routinely derided by critics, the film series has an extremely loyal fan base. Collectively they've earned nearly \$380 million, enjoying capacious profit margins given that most of the movies cost less than a Papa



Actors Cobie Smulders, Danika Yarosh and Tom Cruise arrive for the German premiere of the film "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" in Berlin, Germany, on 21 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

John's Super Bowl spot to produce. The latest Madea cost \$20 million to make, and attracted a more diverse crowd. Typically the films have an audience that's between 80% and 90% African-American, but this installment's crowd was only 60% African-American, with the rest of ticket buyers made up largely of Caucasians and Hispanic movie-goers.

"The film crossed over and it expanded the audience," said David Spitz, co-president of domestic distribution at Lionsgate. "Madea is such a beloved character and the timing helped.

There are not many comedies in the marketplace right now and Halloween is right around the corner."

"Never Go Back" was right behind, with the action sequel earning a solid \$23 million. The film brought back Tom Cruise as Reacher, an ex-military investigator with a penchant for ass-kicking. The films are based on a popular series of books by Lee Childs, but despite their best-selling pedigree, a sequel to "Jack Reacher" wasn't exactly a given. The first film ended up making money for Paramount in 2012, grossing \$218.3 mil-

lion worldwide on a production budget of \$60 million, but it wasn't exactly a blockbuster. The film did, however, have a healthy after-life on home entertainment platforms.

"It felt for awhile like every time I'd go on a plane, it was the movie every person was watching," said Megan Colligan, Paramount's president of worldwide distribution and marketing. "It was a movie that expanded its audience."

The studio made sure that costs didn't escalate on the sequel, keeping the budget locked at \$60 million, a feat since most

franchises increase their spending with each subsequent installment. They were rewarded for the cost consciousness. "Never Go Back" improved on "Jack Reacher's" \$15.2 million debut from four years ago. It's worth noting, however, that the previous film debuted days after the Sandy Hook elementary school killings, which may have depressed turnout for the violent adventure film. Overseas, "Never Go Back" performed well, earning \$31 million.

"Ouija: Origin of Evil," the follow-up to 2014's low-budget horror hit "Ouija," picked up \$14.1 million, a respectable return given its \$9 million budget. Universal distributed the Blumhouse production, which got markedly better reviews than the original, but couldn't translate the critical notices into a bigger opening than its predecessor. The first film in the series kicked off to \$19.9 million before going on to make \$103.6 million globally. Platinum Dunes and Hasbro produced the board game adaptation.

"Origin of Evil" is set in the 1960s and centers on a scam sen- sance artist who unwittingly invites evil spirits into her home. The film's PG-13 rating meant its audience skewed younger, with 57% of ticket-buyers clocking in under the age of 25. Universal believes the film will benefit from the holiday next week.

"Based on the fact that we're the only wide release horror film on Halloween, we're expecting to hold well," said Nick Carpou, Universal's domestic distribution chief.—Reuters



Actor and comedian Bill Murray. PHOTO: REUTERS

Comedian Bill Murray awarded Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize

WASHINGTON — Comedian Bill Murray was awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at a star-studded Kennedy Center ceremony on Sunday, with friends and fellow actors praising him for the joy he has brought to audiences worldwide.

Murray, the 65-year-old star of such movies as "Groundhog Day," "Ghostbusters" and "Rushmore," said his success was grounded in love from his family and the talented people he had worked with for more than four decades.

"There's love, that's what we came with, that's what we go with. I love you, let's try to repeat that to each other," Murray said after accepting the award named for the 19th century American author and humorist. The comedian, known for his spontaneity and irreverence, handed the award, a bust of Twain, down into the audience to be passed around.

"When I can't see it any longer, that's when I'm coming down the steps," said Murray, an Illinois native, before closing the show by singing a version of "Sweet Home Chicago."

Murray was awarded the 19th Mark Twain Prize for making an impact on US society similar to Twain's. Previous winners include Richard Pryor, George Carlin, Lily Tomlin, Neil Simon and Eddie Murphy.

Murray is among the best-known stars to emerge from NBC's "Saturday Night Live." He performed on the groundbreaking television comedy show from 1977 to 1980 and honed his skills portraying lovably smarmy characters.

Murray was nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award for his portrayal of a jet-lagged movie star in "Lost in Translation." He has won two Emmy Awards.

Appearing in a video clip, Steve Martin, himself a Mark Twain Prize winner, said, "I'd like to say to you, welcome to the club. And to the Kennedy Center, I'd like to say - really?"

ABC late night TV host Jimmy Kimmel called Murray both a genius and fearless extrovert who can get away with stealing French fries off diners' plates and crashing a White House press conference.—Reuters

Mikijiro Hira, actor known for rich theater career, dies at 82

TOKYO — Mikijiro Hira, an actor known for his rich theater career, including the title character in William Shakespeare's "Hamlet," died Sunday. He was 82.

Hira's family found him in the bathroom of his home in Tokyo late Sunday afternoon. When a police officer arrived, he showed no vital signs, according to police. Police all but ruled out foul play.

A native of Hiroshima city in western Japan, Hira started his acting career at the renowned Haiyuza theater company in the 1950s. He earned praise for his role as Hamlet in 1968.

Beginning in 1976, Hira joined hands with the late



Popular actor Mikijiro Hira is seen giving an interview in this file photo taken October 1998 after receiving the Medal with Purple Ribbon award from the government. Hira died on on 23 October 2016, at 82. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

theater director Yukio Ninagawa and performed key roles in his numerous plays, including the critically acclaimed "Medea."

Hira also appeared in numerous TV dramas and movies. His death came as he was playing the grandfather of the lead character in the TV drama "Cain and Abel" that had begun last week.—Kyodo News

New technique developed for designing multiple species wildlife corridors

SAN FRANCISCO — Researchers at several US institutions have developed a computer model that could be applied to wildlife corridors for multiple species.

The efforts, by researchers at Oregon State University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, the US Forest Service Research and Development, Cornell University and the US Geological Survey, will assist managers of public and private lands that provide routes for animals to roam.

Researchers have known that such migration corridors are crucial for conserving rare and endangered species. However, focusing on one species at a time has proved to be expensive. And the new method can meet most of the migratory needs of two species simultaneously while reducing the total cost of buying land by about three quarters.

Results of the collabora-

rated work over a five-year period was published in the journal *Conservation Biology*.

“We demonstrate that a lot of potential gain can be made at moderate increases in cost as you try to connect habitat areas,” Claire Montgomery, a forest economist at Oregon State and one of the researchers on the project, was quoted as saying in a press release. “Looking at trade-offs between target species is something that no one has done, as far as I know, in terms of corridor design.”

Species such as grizzly bears and wolverines range over large areas, some of which overlap, and the animals need to be able to move between wilderness, parks and other reserves to avoid becoming inbred and losing genetic diversity.

Asked to help identify parcels of potential interest if opportunities arose

to purchase land for wildlife corridor purposes, the researchers developed a method for combining two types of landscape data in a computer model: tax records that show the market values of land and ecological information about the ease with which animals can move across the landscape. They then applied the model to the design of corridors to serve grizzlies and wolverines. The cost of buying land to serve as ideal migration corridors for wolverines and grizzlies separately came to about 31 million US dollars. By combining corridors that meet most of the animals’ needs, the researchers cut the cost to about 8 million dollars.

The corridors pass through key breeding habitat for wolverines in western Montana, a state in the western United States, and connect the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in and

around Yellowstone National Park with the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, which extends as far north as the Canadian border. The closest points of the two reserves are 130 miles, or 211 kilometers, apart as the crow flies, but the corridors are longer, reflecting the animals’ complex habitat needs. A corridor that meets the ideal needs of grizzlies was calculated to be about 231 miles, or 372 kilometers, long.

Presented as a potential example of connectivity, the corridors were not an actual project involving a land purchase. More information would be useful to implement such a proposal. “Even with high-profile species like grizzly bears and wolverines, more data about habitat needs would be beneficial for long-term planning,” said Rachel Houtman, a research assistant at Oregon State.—Xinhua

Cultural festival in Acapulco, Mexico showcases Chinese art

ACAPULCO — The International Nao Festival of Acapulco kicked off here about 380 km south of Mexico city over the weekend with a performance of Peking Opera inaugurating the weeklong event.

It is the 10th edition of the cultural festival in the Pacific coast resort, whose ties to China go back around 450 years to the famous China Galleon, or La Nao de China, which had for centuries sailed between the port city and the Far East.

As the guest country of the festival, China’s culture is being showcased throughout the week.

Peking opera performance from China’s southwest province of Guizhou, for example, will stage its production of “Don Quixote,” the classic by great Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes.

“We have tradition here, we have culture here,” Acapulco Mayor Evodio Velazquez said during the opening ceremony on Saturday night, adding that “there are many ties connecting us to Asian countries and Asian traditions.”

The ceremony was held at Acapulco’s historical San Diego Fort, which was decked with red Chinese lanterns and multicolored parasols. The fort dates back to the 17th century. “To speak of the China Galleon is to speak of one of Acapulco’s historical eras,” the mayor said.

Minister counsellor at

China’s embassy in Mexico Lin Ji said the festival offers an opportunity for residents of Acapulco, one of Mexico’s five most popular tourist destinations, to learn more about China and the maritime trade route that connected the two countries during a span of centuries.

Dance, music, drama and cuisine from the Philippines, Japan, Spain, Britain and Colombia are also part of this year’s festival.

Diego Prieto, the director of Mexico’s National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), said the event serves to highlight Acapulco’s rich cultural heritage, thanks to its role as a meeting point between Asia, Europe, through the Spanish conquistadors, and the Americas.

“This globalization, which at one time was accompanied by conquest and violence, has to develop into a globalization that leads us to fraternity, cultural enrichment and understanding between peoples,” said Prieto. As part of the festival, an exhibit titled “Memories of the Oracle Bone Inscriptions” is showing at the San Diego Fort’s museum origins of today’s complex Chinese characters system. Museum curator Victor Hugo Jasso said the exhibit, which will run through 31 January, shows ancient Mesoamerican and Chinese civilizations had certain elements in common, despite being separated by time and distance.

—Xinhua



Makepung buffalo races in Bali to celebrate bumper harvest

Jockeys spur buffalos during the Makepung buffalo races at Jembrana in Bali, Indonesia, on 23 October, 2016. Makepung is a tradition for farmers to celebrate a bumper harvest in Bali. PHOTO: XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

(25-10-2016 07:00am ~ 26-10-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Game Changers (Episode-2)
07:50	Am	Next Weekend
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-1) Mingalar Byuha
08:50	Am	Youth & Library
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Strokes of Myanmar
09:51	Am	Sticky Shan Snack
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Halin, A Treasure Trove of The Ancient Pyu City

10:50 Am Today Myanmar: Drone & RC Plane Technology

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-5)
07:52	Pm	Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
08:55	Pm	Trishaw Man

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

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

MRTV

(25-10-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 am
• Mytta Pawana By Min Gun Sayadaw Phayagyi
7:35 am
• Soci Economic Scenes
8:35 am
• Law Affairs
9:35 am
• MRTV’s Youth Programme
10:35 am
• MRTV’s Education
11:35 am
• MCN Debate
12:35 pm
• TV Drama Series
1:25 pm
• TV Drama Series
2:05 pm
• Yes or No Talk Show “View on Mountaineering Sport or Adventure”
2:15 pm
• “KARAOKE World Championships (KWC)

Myanmar 2016” (Level-3) (Group-2)
3:15 pm
• TV Drama Series
4:15 pm
• Documentary
4:35 pm
• Football Magazine (Ayeyarwady United FC)
5:35 pm
• Money Talk Myanmar (Part-3)
6:35 pm
• Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
7:15 pm
• TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
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Balanced Kerber revels in return to Singapore

SINGAPORE — Angelique Kerber left Singapore in a bad-tempered huff a year ago after she failed to advance from the round-robin stage of the WTA Finals, a collapse which made the German determined to make amends on her return.

On Sunday, world number one Kerber dug deep to edge out Dominika Cibulkova 7-6(5), 2-6, 6-3 in her opening Red Group tie, emerging victorious from a baseline slugfest after managing to keep her emotions in check and her focus on victory.

Her smiles in the media centre were in sharp contrast to the frown she wore last year when, after needing only to win a set off the already eliminated Lucie Safarova, Kerber buckled under pressure and was bundled out of the tournament by her Czech opponent.

“Yeah, it was for sure a little bit better than the last match I played here against Safarova last year, but it’s always tough to play the first matches here,” a relieved but happy Kerber told reporters at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.—*Reuters*



Angelique Kerber of Germany in action against Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia during Singapore WTA Finals Singles in Singapore on 23 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bad day for Guardiola, but much worse for old foe Mourinho

LONDON — Pep Guardiola may have thought it a bad day when he suffered a fifth match without a win on Sunday but it was nothing compared to the nightmare that befell his old managerial rival Jose Mourinho on an extraordinary afternoon of Premier League action.

Guardiola’s Manchester City went back to the top of the table on goal difference after a 1-1 draw at home to Southampton, leaving him to reflect glumly on a five-game winless streak for only the second time in his garlanded career.

A couple of hours later, though, his Manchester United rival Mourinho, a general not used to humiliation, was forced to sit at a ground he once commanded and see his side ripped apart 4-0 as Chelsea produced one of the standout displays of the season at Stamford Bridge.

The results saw the battle at the summit hot up with only one point now separating the top five.

City lead Arsenal and Liverpool, with all three teams on 20 points, while Chelsea’s triumph shoots them up to fifth, level on 19 with fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur.

United, though, are now seventh on 14 points, one adrift of Everton, and with the pressure mounting on Mourinho, Wednesday’s League Cup clash with Guardiola’s men at Old Trafford takes on huge significance.

This was only the second time that a Mourinho team have conceded four goals in the Premier League.

For that to happen at Stamford Bridge was unthinkable for the Portuguese, who began the day with a hug from John

Terry and ended it with what appeared some bitter words in the ear of his opposite number Antonio Conte.

United had just been ripped apart with goals from Pedro — the quickest in the Premier League this season

— Gary Cahill, Eden Hazard and N’Golo Kante, and, as the clock ticked down, the Italian gesticulated to the crowd for even more noise.

Neither manager would reveal what was said in the post-match exchange but Conte said he was entitled to act as he did. “If you want to cut my emo-

tion, then I go home and change my job,” he said.

Having held out for 90 minutes in the goalless affair at Liverpool on Monday, United fell behind after just 30 seconds when a range-finder from Marcos Alonso found Pedro in space behind United’s defence.

It set the scene for a woe-ful United defensive performance that angered Mourinho, who was forced to watch real excellence from the same Chelsea players who had failed to perform for him in the build up to his sacking last December.



Chelsea’s Gary Cahill celebrates scoring their second goal with Diego Costa. PHOTO: REUTERS



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

“We made incredible defensive mistakes and you pay for that,” said Mourinho, whose only previous Premier League experience of seeing his side leak in so many goals was when Chelsea were beaten 5-3 by Tottenham Hotspur in 2015.

“If we score a goal like we almost did for 2-1 the game would be different,” added Mourinho, whose day was made worse by a serious knee ligament injury to defender Eric Bailly.

Wednesday’s match should prove some managerial joust with Guardiola, who won their first Manchester derby, also sounding a mite desperate to get back on the winning trail again.—*Reuters*

Morata strikes late to send Real Madrid top of La Liga

BARCELONA — A scrappy late finish by Alvaro Morata earned Real Madrid a 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao and allowed them to dislodge Atletico Madrid as La Liga leaders on Sunday after Diego Simeone’s men went down 2-1 at Sevilla for their first defeat of the season.

The result proved costly for Atletico as they slipped to fifth in the standings, behind Real, Sevilla, Barcelona and Villarreal, 2-1 winners over Las Palmas thanks

to Cedric Bakambu’s injury time winner.

Former Juventus striker Morata bundled the ball into the net in the 83rd minute after Real had squandered several chances to retake the lead following Sabin Merino’s equaliser for Athletic that cancelled out Karim Benzema’s first-half opener.

Benzema knocked the ball through the legs of Athletic goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz to put Real ahead in the seventh minute after

an impressive run and cut-back from Isco.

Athletic hit back later in the half when Javier Eraso pounced on indecisive Real defending to win the ball back in the box, quickly squaring for Merino to ram the ball home.

Inaki Williams skied a great chance to put Athletic ahead at the start of the second half although Real did most of the attacking after the break, with Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Ma-

teo Kovacic all going close. The European champions found their winner thanks to the persistence of Morata, who followed up after his shot was repelled by Iraizoz to give Real a third straight win in all competitions.

“We know we can never give up and today we kept our heads and got the three points, always remembering that this is football and you have to suffer,” Real coach Zinedine Zidane told a news conference.

“We have to produce thorough performances in every game and play well because there won’t be any easy games and we’ll have to suffer until the end. That’s the message I want to transmit.”

Real Madrid lead the table on 21 points, while Sevilla are second on 20 after Steven Nzonzi’s second-half strike gave them a 1-0 win over 10-man Atletico Madrid. Champions Barcelona are on 19 alongside Villarreal, while Atletico are on 18.—*Reuters*