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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts the Helen Keller International Humanitarian Award 2016. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

GIVING LIGHT TO THE WORLD

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts Hellen Keller International Humanitarian Award

HELEN Keller International presented the Helen Keller International Humanitarian Award 2016 to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, in recognition of her outstanding dedication to philanthropic causes.

The presentation ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs was attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the State Counsellor's Office, U Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Directors-General from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Sports, delegation members of the Helen Keller International Europe

led by President Dr Howard Cohn and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the ceremony, Dr Howard Cohn delivered his remarks and presented the Helen Keller International Humanitarian Award 2016 to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

"We need to break through from a situation of blindness and deafness, then we open our-

selves to the world at large," said the State Counsellor. "For Helen Keller, her handicaps were difficult. For many of us, the handicaps we face are social, humanitarian, financial and political and these we have to overcome through cooperation

"To give light to those who are blind is an opportunity given to very few of us.

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Attackers involved in Maungtaw violent attacks, 5 Bengali suspects arrested

IN an area clearance operation launched by the Tatmataw troops in Ngarsarkyu village at 6:10am yesterday morning, the troops seized 8 people who got involved in the village of Pyaungpaik in Maungtaw Township—namely Arkularlong, Kharmarhuse, Arbuarlong, Zarutarlong, Nurukarmai, Habuooosong, Juralong, Arbubawshaw.

They were handed over to the No. 1 border guard controlling headquarters, according to the Myawady News.

Likewise, the Tatmadaw troops and police force continued to discover attackers who involved themselves in violent attacks, Abdullah was arrested at his abode in Kyaungtaung village at 7 am yesterday and found Swetarmauk at his house in Kyetmauktaung village, handing them over to the respective stations.

And, during the patrol in the river Nat at 1 am or so this morning, the Vessel patrol group (NAVYSEALs) found 2 suspicious boats in the creek, 300 yards away from south of Ushaykyachaung. They refused to come back to the patrol team and tried to run away. In the pursuit, the troops arrested 5 Bengalis.—GNLM

INSIDE

First case of Zika found in Yangon

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offering Kathina robes.
PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife attend Kathina robe offering ceremony

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offered Kathina robes to monks at the sixth Kathina robe offering ceremony of the families of the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air Force) at the office.

First, the senior general and wife observed the Five Precepts administered by the Patron Sayadaw of Yezin Kan Oo Pariyatti Sathintaik in Zeyarhthiri Township and offered Kathina robes to monks.

Then, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and wife, the union minister for home affairs and wife, the union minister for defence and wife and senior officers offered Kathina robes to monks. Later, the senior general and officers listened to the sermon by the Sayadaw and offered meal to the monks. Families of the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air Force) offered K68.1 million worth of goods.—*Myanmar News Agency*

First case of Zika found in Yangon

A first case of Zika infection has been identified in a pregnant foreigner woman in Yangon, according to Ministry of Health and Sports.

Authorities confirmed the infection in the 32-year old foreign woman yesterday following laboratory test.

“Authorities are stepping efforts for prevention and control of the Zika virus infection,” said the report of the Myanmar Radio and Television.

The Zika virus has also been linked to the birth defect microcephaly.—*GNLM*



PHOTO: REUTERS

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts Hellen Keller International Humanitarian Award

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And to give nutrition to those who are lacking it is opening the way for a better future for our children. The great majority of our children are medically stunted because of lack of proper nutrition. If given the right nutrition, they will be able to develop better mentally and physically. And they will

be able to help build the future of our country in a way that will offer the greatest opportunities in the greatest number.”

The state counsellor expressed thanks to all those involved with Helen Keller International, which aims to make the vulnerable strong and thus capable of building lives that are meaning-

ful and that will contribute to the well-being of the world in general.

“Helen Keller toured the world extensively in spite of the fact that she could not see and could not hear”, Day Aung San Suu Kyi said. “But she managed to communicate with more people than the average human being.”—*GNLM*

Japanese company to build new airport in Haka

A NEW airport is likely to be built in Haka, the capital of remote Chin State, according to the Chin State government.

Chin State Minister for Transport U Shwe Ceu said a Japanese company will make geographical survey in the project area next month. According to the

first survey, the company plans to construct an airfield near mile post 5 on Haka-Htantalan Road. A Japanese company pledged to support both technical assistance and funds for the new scheme. The Japanese company wishes to make its apology for the invasion in World War II by establishing

an airport in the state, U Shwe Ceu added.

An airport has been under construction through the government's budget since 2015 in Falam Township in Chin State. The project is estimated to be finalised within three years.—*Myit-makha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Investigation continues into illegal hardwood seized in Sagaing

POLICE are still investigating a case in which no one will claim ownership of illegally traded teak and hardwood last month in Sagaing Region.

The illegal logs of teak and hardwood weighing over 24 tonnes and worth about Ks5 million were seized by police in Pinlebu Township in Sagaing Region on 16 September. However, no suspects have been brought to justice so far, according to the investigators.

Those ownerless logs and timber including 1.2 tonnes of teak logs and over 20 tonnes of hardwood were found near

Taungmagyi Mountain, located two miles from the east of Kankone Village in the township. Authorities acted on a tip from a member of public.

The owner of the logs escaped from the scene when police raided the area, said the head of Pinlebu Police Station.

According to the investigators, the name of the owner of those illegal items is U Tin Win, who resides in Kankone Village. The authorities on Tuesday opened file a lawsuit against the suspect, who will face legal charges under the law.—*Myit-makha News Agency*

Counterfeit notes discovered in Ingapu

LOCAL authorities seized 58 K 10,000 counterfeit notes in Ingapu Township in Ayeyawady Region on Tuesday, police reported yesterday.

U Aung Min Htike, the administrator of Kwinkauk Village, sent the counterfeit notes to police on October 25.

He collected them from residents in different villages, including two bills from a monk at a monastery in Kungyangon Village, two from Ma Aye Aye Khaing, a seller in Khonegyi Village-tract, four from a buyer who purchased construction materials from U Hla Kyaing Store and the other 50 brought by other residents.

Currently, police members put forth concerted efforts to arrest the owner of the fake notes



A K 10,000 counterfeit note. PHOTO: MMK

across Ingapu Township, said a police officer of Kwinkauk Police Station.

Police opened a counter-

feit note investigation under Section 105/106 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law.—*Myit-makha News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Acting Chairman Tran Anh Tuan of Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam (BIDV). PHOTO: MNA

President receives BIDV acting chairman, Viettel CEO in Hanoi

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received the Acting Chairman Tran Anh Tuan of Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam (BIDV) at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Hanoi yesterday morning. The chairman discussed potentials for engaging in insurance and agriculture sector in Myanmar.

President U Htin Kyaw also received CEO of Viettel Telecom Corporation Nguyen Manh Hung at the hotel yesterday and discussed expansion of communication network in Myanmar.

Also present at the calls were Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu and U Kyaw Win and Min-

ister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tint. Later, the Myanmar delegation led by President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, together with Myanmar ambassador to Viet Nam and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Ha Long Bay, a world heritage site, in Quang Ninh and studied regional development and tourism promotion by boat.

In the evening, the president and the delegation attended the dinner hosted by Chairman Mr Nguyen Duc Long of Quang Ninh State People's Committee. —Myanmar News Agency

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement on date and vacant constituencies for by-elections 27th October, Nay Pyi Taw

THE Union Election Commission, exercising vested duty and rights under Article 10 of the Union Election Commission Law and in accordance with Article 34 (c) and Rule 16 (a) of the respective Hluttaw election law, will hold by-elections for the following vacant constituencies for respective Hluttaws on 1 April 2007 (Saturday).

Vacant Constituencies for Pyithu Hluttaw

	Townships
(1) Monywa Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Monywa
(2) Chaungzon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Chaungzon
(3) Ann Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Ann
(4) Hlinethaya Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Hlinethaya
(5) Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Pyithu Hluttaw (Seikkan) Constituency	Dagon Myothit
(6) Dagon Myothit (East) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Dagon Myothit (East)
(7) Kawhmu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Kawhmu
(8) Kehsi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Kehsi
(9) Mongshu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	Mongshu

Vacant Constituencies for Amyotha Hluttaw

	Townships
(1) Chin State Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 3	Thantlang
(2) Bago Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 4	Kyaukdaga, Nyaunglebin
(3) Yangon Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 6	Kamayut, Kyimyindine, Seikkan, Latha, Hline, Lanmadaw, Ahlone

Vacant Constituencies for State Hluttaws

	Townships
(1) Phruso Township State Hluttaw Constituency	Phruso
(2) Kengtung Township State Hluttaw Constituency	Kengtung
(3) Kehsi Township State Hluttaw Constituency 1	Kehsi
(4) Kehsi Township State Hluttaw Constituency 2	Kehsi
(5) Nyaungshwe Township State Hluttaw Constituency 1	Nyaungshwe
(6) Mongshu Township State Hluttaw Constituency 1	Mongshu
(7) Mongshu Township State Hluttaw Constituency 2	Mongshu

Union Election Commission

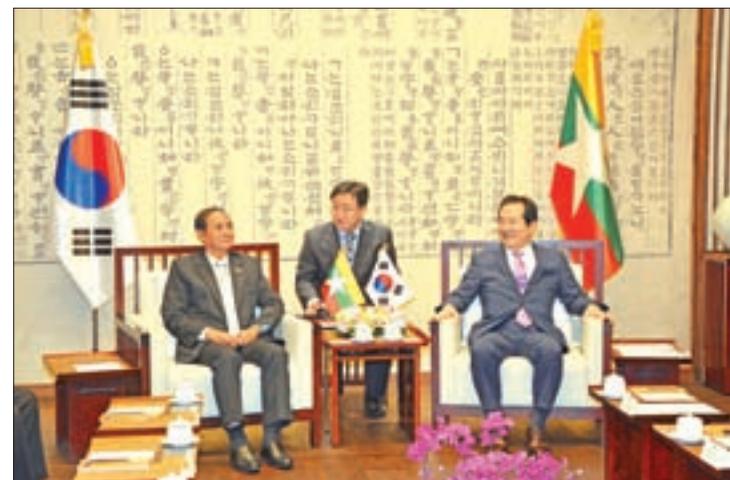
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union election Commission Notification 24/2016 11th Waning Day of Thadingyut, 1378 ME 27th October, 2016

DESIGNATION of dates for submission of names of candidates, withdrawal of application forms for candidates and scrutiny of application forms of candidates for respective Hluttaws Exercising the authorities under Hluttaw Election Rule 16, the Union Election Commission designated the following dates-

- Opening date for submission of names of candidates for respective Hluttaws
14th Waning Day of Tazungmon, 1378 ME(28th November, 2016)
- Closing date for submission of names of candidates for respective Hluttaw
8th Waxing Day of Nadaw, 1378 ME (7th December, 2016)
- Closing date for withdrawal of application forms of candidates, if ever
10th Waxing Day of Nadaw, 1378 ME(9th December, 2016)
- Dates for scrutiny of name submission forms of candidates
from 13th Waxing Day to 4th Waning Day of Nadaw, 1378 ME (from 12th to 18th December, 2016)

Chairman
Union Election Commission

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Korean National Assembly Speaker



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint meets with Mr Chung Sye-kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of South Korea. PHOTO: MNA

A DELEGATION led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint held talks with Mr Chung Sye-kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea at the parliament in Seoul, South Korea.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to cooperation between the two parliaments and legislative affairs.

After the meeting, the delegation visited the main meeting hall of the National Assembly.

Speaker Mr Chung Sye-

kyun hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation.

At the invitation of the Speaker of the National Assembly of South Korea, Speaker U Win Myint arrived at Incheon Airport of South Korea at 07:50 am yesterday. They were welcomed at the airport by Mr Lee Baek-soon, Advisor to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Korean officials and Myanmar Ambassador to South Korea Thura U Thet Oo Maung. —Myanmar News Agency

Five dozens hospitalised for food-poisoning in Mandalay

NEARLY five dozen people were hospitalised for food-poisoning after eating biriyani at a wedding reception in Mandalay yesterday.

"Some suffered from bowel disorders, vomiting and dizziness and it was not known yet whether the incident was caused by chicken meat, biryani or soft drinks," said one of the locals.

Fourteen males and 31

females still have lingering symptoms of slight vomiting and dizziness yesterday after being treated at the Dhammayon, according to U Aung Myint, health assistant 1 of Pyigyidagun, Mandalay

Thirteen hospitalized patients who have to be admitted to a hospital in Mandalay are also recovering, U Aung Myint said. —Aung Thant Khaing

LOCAL Business

Efforts to be made to fulfill up to 1 million labour requirements in garment sector

THE concerted efforts will be exerted to fulfill the requirements of labour force in garment sector, it is learnt from garment enterprise.

The garment sector is likely to grow five times more than its current status and employ between 300,000 and 1 million labourers by 2024, officials said. Exports from the garment sector earned nearly US\$1.7 billion last year.

The entrepreneurs who are engaged in the garment sector are making a concerted effort so that the garment export value reaches US\$10 billion by 2024. Japan, Europe and South Korea are the main export markets of Myanmar's garment enterprises. The garment export could possibly penetrate America's market, said U Soe Thaw, a garment entrepreneur.

There are over 400 garment businessmen in the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association. The awareness campaigns concerning the rules and regulations of the garment enterprise are being carried out.

Myanmar's garment sector is expected to earn US\$2 billion in this fiscal year 2016-2017.—200



Workers seen on the production line of a garment factory in Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Licensed contractor association established

A licensed contractor's association was established with the aim of ensuring that buildings are securely constructed under the prescribed rules and regulations, it is learnt.

Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has been strictly monitoring the buildings. The freeze in the construction sites caused those who are engaged in the sites to suffer financial difficulties, said the licensed contractors.

The new association can submit reports and problems to the authorities concerned after listening to the public. It can also bring benefits to the public who have purchased the contracted apartments. The contractors can solve the problems of advanced purchases and brokerage cases under the legal contracts and official documents.

There are over 1,200 licensed contractors in Yangon. The formation of an association was celebrated and held during the election of a chief executive on 26th October at the Dolphin restaurant. The positions of chairman, vice chairman, secretaries, auditor and finance-in-charge will be informed through media, it is learnt.

After registration of the association, a public company will be set up, said U Tin Maung Win, the chairman of Taw Win Myanmar Construction.

"Our association will carry out the construction businesses and apartment projects in keeping with the set rules and regulations, ensuring the security of the buildings", U Tin Maung Win said.—Soe Win (MLA)

Peas exports hit over US\$910 million as of mid-October

THE export of various type of peas as of 21st October in the fiscal year 2016-2017 fetched over US\$910 million, which increased by US\$189.95 million when compared to the same period of last fiscal year, it is learnt from the Commerce Ministry.

In the similar period of 2015-2016, the export of peas earned

over US\$720.118 million.

The prices for different varieties of mung bean at Bayintnaung depot were between Ks1,405,000 and Ks1,475,000 per tonne on 26th October.

On 17th October, mung bean sq sold for Ks1,485,000 per tonne while the price of mung bean FAQ was Ks1,425,000 per tonne and

pigeon pea price was Ks1,002,000 per tonne. On 11th October, the prices are Ks1,510,000 per tonne of mung bean SQ, Ks1,425,000 per tonne of mung bean FAQ and Ks1,040,000 per tonne of pigeon pea, it is learnt from pea market.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar's peas, which also flowed into the China market through

border trade. India and Myanmar have reached an agreement to enter into a government-to-government agreement to purchase the peas. India will also provide technical assistance to Myanmar's pea growers.

The agricultural product export as of 21st October fetched US\$1,503.86 million.—Ko Htet



Four firms win high frequency internet services

IN order to provide nationwide high-speed internet service, and also to allow the Union to earn more tax revenue, tender bids were invited by the Ministry of Transport and Communication.

To ensure fair bidding, a Simultaneous Multi-Rounds Auction (SMRA) was exercised. The auctions were held 32 times on October 17, 18 and 19 at the Hotel Royal ACE. Nine out of 20 companies were shortlisted for the auctions.

Auction areas were divided into three geographical sections — Area 1 includes Nay Pyi Taw, Magwe, Bago, Mon, Kayin and Taninthari, with the minimum

bid of US\$3 million.

Area 2 includes Yangon, Ayeyawady and Rakhine, with a bottom bid of US\$7 million. Area 3 consists of Mandalay, Sagaing, Chin, Shan, Kachin and Kayah, and its bottom price is US\$5 million.

Successful companies in area 1 are Fortune International, which bid up to US \$7.3 million and Global Technology, which also bid US\$7.3 million.

In area 2 were Amara Communications Co and Yatanapon Teleport Public Co, bidding US \$95.82 million and US\$83.44 million, respectively. In area 3 were Yatanapon Teleport Pub-

lic Co and Amara, bidding US\$27.24 million and 24.55 million, respectively.

Amara Communications in auctions of area 2 and 3 is to pay over US\$120 million to the State as the license fee, standing in first place out of all successful companies.

"Besides paying the license fees, the company will invest much more by installing high-quality equipment to provide LTD-4G internet line to the public" said Daw Aye Mya Mya Kyi, CEO of Amara Communications. "And we will create more job opportunities for youths."—GNLM

Japan, US, South Korea agree to put more pressure on North Korea

TOKYO — Senior diplomats from Japan, the United States and South Korea agreed on Thursday to increase pressure on North Korea, including through new UN sanctions, following its fifth nuclear test and series of ballistic missile launches.

Vice Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama also agreed with Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken of the United States and Lim Sung Nam, first vice minister of foreign affairs of South Korea, to work closely to implement sanctions of their own.

“We reaffirmed the need to heighten pressure on North Korea so that it will abandon its nuclear and missiles developments and

denuclearise,” Sugiyama told a joint press conference after the meeting in Tokyo.

Referring to unilateral sanctions considered by the three countries, Sugiyama said, “There may be coordination between Japan, the United States and South Korea...but we will consider it by taking into consideration the discussions at the UN Security Council.”

The three diplomats met as the Security Council is debating a fresh resolution to impose tougher sanctions on North Korea in response to the reclusive state’s nuclear test on 9 September, the second this year, following one in January. The North has also launched multiple ballistic missiles in defiance of international opposition.

Japan’s unilateral sanctions on North Korea include an option to blacklist companies based in China or other countries known to be facilitating transactions with North Korea, a Japanese government source said earlier.

“We discussed practical measures we can take to increase costs on North Korea” until it abides by international commitments, Blinken said. “We will not accept North Korea as a nuclear state and we will not accept North Korea’s possession of nuclear weapons.”

At the press conference, Sugiyama said Japan will “sincerely respond” to the announcement from a South Korean official earli-



(From L) US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama and South Korea’s First Vice Foreign Minister Lim Sung Nam attend a joint press conference following talks in Tokyo, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

er Thursday that Japan and South Korea will resume talks on signing an agreement to exchange military intelligence.

Japanese officials have been calling for the signing of the General Security of

Military Information Agreement, or GSOMIA, citing threats posed by North Korea’s nuclear and missile development. In 2012, Japan and South Korea were ready to sign the agreement, but Seoul postponed it at the

last minute due to domestic opposition. GSOMIA facilitates exchanges of sensitive information on military affairs while preventing such information from falling into the hands of other countries. —Kyodo News

Malaysian PM Najib to visit China next week to boost bilateral ties

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak will make a week-long official visit to China from Monday aimed at drawing more

investments and cementing already strong bilateral ties, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

Najib is expected to hold talks with his Chinese

counterpart Li Keqiang, and both will witness the signing of a series of memorandums of understanding and agreements, the minister said.

“The Asian Century has begun and few countries represent the potential of our region better than China and Malaysia. Together, working in part-

nership, I am confident that if we grasp the huge opportunities before us, we will transform the lives of our people and reshape the region and the world for

the better,” Najib said in a separate statement issued Wednesday.

Besides Li, Najib will also call on President Xi Jinping.—Kyodo News

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

Abe has chance to be Japan’s longest-ruling PM after rule change

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has a chance to stay in power through the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and become the country’s longest-ruling leader after his party decided this week to allow its presidents to serve a third straight three-year term.

The rule change by Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party could give Abe a better chance to achieve his controversial goal of revising the post-war pacifist constitution, revered by some as a beacon of democracy but seen by many conservatives as a humiliating symbol of Japan’s defeat in World War II.

Abe took office for a rare second term as prime minister in December 2012, promising to reboot a stale economy and bolster defence. He is now serving a second consecutive term as LDP president, which ends in September 2018.

LDP rules now cap the presidency at two consecutive three-year terms. The rule change to allow a third term must be formalized at an LDP convention set for March next year.

Japanese prime ministers are elected by par-



Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. PHOTO: REUTERS

liament’s lower house and therefore are members of the majority party or a ruling coalition party.

If Abe wins reelection as LDP head and his party remains in power, he could stay on as premier into September 2021, which — combined with his 2006-2007 tenure — would make him the longest-serving leader of a country accustomed to a revolving door of short-term premiers.

“It is certain the environment would be created for him to settle

down and tackle long-term issues such as revising the constitution,” said the conservative *Yomiuri* newspaper in an editorial.

Abe’s reelection as party president, and hence premier, two years from now is hardly a done deal.

His popularity has remained mostly robust — a September *Yomiuri* survey put it at 62 per cent — and the main opposition Democratic Party is languishing in public opinion polls.

But voters were split

on the desirability of extending Abe’s term as LDP chief, with 48 per cent in favor and 43 per cent against.

Doubts persist as to whether his “Abenomics” recipe for revving up the economy with hyper-easy monetary policy, spending and promised reforms is working. The same survey said 55 per cent did not expect the economy to improve under his administration.

Some critics worry that with opposition parties weak and LDP members willing to speak against Abe few and far between, governance could suffer from a lack of checks and balances.

“A lack of competition can lead to complacency and good governance would possibly be in danger,” said Sophia University professor Koichi Nakano.

If Abe lasts until late 2021, he would have served longer than early 20th century premier Taro Katsura and than his great-uncle, Eisaku Sato, Japan’s longest-serving post-war premier. —Reuters

Duterte says Philippines could join sea exercises with Japan, again vents anger at US

YOKOHAMA, (Japan) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Thursday his country could join naval exercises with Japan, but repeated there would be no more war games with long-time ally the United States and again gave vent to his anger against Washington.

Duterte also said he had explained to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in talks on Wednesday just why he resented the United States, reiterating that Washington treated the Philippines like “dogs on a leash” and lectured about human rights in connection with his domestic campaign against drugs.

The Philippine leader’s visit to Japan coincides with jitters about his foreign policy after weeks of verbal attacks on the United States, including threats to end military agreements, and overtures toward China. Duterte last week announced in China his “separation” from the United States, but then insisted ties were not being severed and that he was merely pursuing an independent foreign policy.

“Joint exercise with Japan in general terms is not a problem. Stationing of Japanese troops was not discussed and with the



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (C) speaks to the media after his inspection at Japan Coast Guard base in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, Japan, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Americans, it’s problematic,” Duterte told reporters one day after saying he wanted foreign troops out of his country “maybe in the next two years”.

“I don’t want to embarrass

my defence secretary but the exercises with the Americans will be the last,” he said. Duterte, on the final day of a three-day visit to Japan, made the comments after watching Japan Coast Guard ac-

tivities in the port of Yokohama, near Tokyo.

Duterte’s recent comments pose a headache for Abe, who has tightened ties with Washington while building closer security

relations with Manila and other Southeast Asian countries as a counter-weight to a rising China, which has maritime feuds with several countries in the region including Japan. In their Wednesday talks, Duterte and Abe agreed on the importance of settling maritime disputes peacefully.

Duterte said he had explained to Abe why he was angry with the United States.

“I had told the prime minister some of my sentiments against the Americans. They are treating us like dogs on a leash,” he said. “The prime minister understands that.”

Domestic backing for Duterte is strong, but there is far from the same level of support for his stance on the United States. A peaceful protest outside the US embassy in Manila in support of Duterte on Thursday drew about 500 people.

While Duterte’s anti-US diatribes cast doubts on the future of the US-Philippine security alliance, a clearer picture could emerge next month when defense officials from both sides have a meeting in Manila that takes place annually and typically plans joint exercises for the following year.—*Reuters*

Australian theme park owner to speak to families as it counts cost of deaths

SYDNEY — Australia’s Ardent Leisure Group, the owner of a theme park where four people were killed on a water ride, said it would speak to the victims’ families on Thursday as it defended its safety practices amid intense criticism.

Officials at the company’s annual general meeting said they would offer financial assistance to the families, but rejected media reports that park staff had closed the ride hours before the accident due to safety concerns, only to be pressured into reopening it.

“It’s just a devastating tragedy and it’s still having a lot of problems for all of us to deal with it,” Chairman Neil Balnaves told the meeting in Sydney.

“We will do everything to support the families. It’s a time for grieving and that includes every single one of us.”

Two days before the scheduled meeting, two men and two

women were killed after getting trapped under an upturned raft on the Thunder River Rapids Ride at Dreamworld, near the tourist-magnet Gold Coast district in northeastern Queensland state.

The meeting showed the company still in the early stages of managing the aftermath of Australia’s deadliest theme park accident in four decades, instead of the update on US expansion aims that had been scheduled.

Balnaves, who had previously said he would retire after the meeting, said he would help the company with three inquiries into the accident: by the state workplace safety authority, the coroner and the company itself.

Earlier, Ardent said the ride completed an annual safety inspection less than a month ago.

The company also faces a blow to earnings from the accident, Balnaves said, adding it expects

them to be affected for the rest of fiscal 2017 and into the following financial year before recovering.

Theme parks generate a quarter of Ardent’s earnings, its 2016 annual report shows. In August, the company said theme park earnings rose 8.5 per cent, as a spike in Chinese visitors pushed up admissions by 13 per cent.

The incident also put Ardent under pressure to defend executive pay arrangements, since the meeting had been set to consider a share incentive plan for new Chief Executive Deborah Thomas.

“Four people have died, people are shattered, this is not something people deal with very easily, right now I do not want to discuss transactions,” Thomas told reporters after the meeting, when asked if she would decline the shares.

“I’m a mother, I have a family, I take my family to Dreamworld, I am sympathetic.”—*Reuters*

Japanese man’s murder trial moved to special tribunal in Bangladesh

DHAKA — A government prosecutor dealing with the case of a Japanese national murdered last year said Wednesday the case had been transferred to a special judge’s tribunal from the district court in northern Rangpur district to ensure a speedy trial.

Shah Mohammad Nayan Nur Rahman, the additional public prosecutor, said the trial, which

started earlier this month, has been shifted in accordance with a government order. “The government has given importance to the trial,” he told reporters after four of the eight accused were brought to the district court for the last time.

Rahman said the trial would soon begin at the special tribunal.

Kunio Hoshi, 66, was shot by unidentified attackers on a motor-

cycle in Katchu Alutari village in Rangpur on 3 October last year. The agricultural worker was reportedly shot in the chest, head and leg, and died on the way to hospital. Rangpur Police recently said they were looking for two murder suspects after laying charges against eight militants from the banned Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen group.—*Kyodo News*

Oil, gas industry almost half of New Zealand’s marine economy

WELLINGTON — The oil and gas industry accounted for up to 48 per cent of New Zealand’s marine economy in the year to March 2013, the government statistics agency said in a new report on Thursday.

Overall the marine economy directly contributed 1.9 per cent, or 4 billion NZ dollars (2.86 billion US dollars), to total gross domestic product (GDP) in the March 2013 year, about the same as in 2007, said the Statistics New Zealand report.

Offshore minerals, mainly oil and gas extraction and exploration, was the largest contributor to the marine economy, at 48 per cent, while shipping contributed 24 per cent, and fisheries and aquaculture contributed 22 per cent.

An additional 3.7 billion NZ dollars (2.64 billion US dollars) was estimated to have been generated through supporting industries, contributing a total 3.5 per cent of GDP.

In terms of employment, the marine economy supported 102,400 filled jobs, of which 47 per cent were in shipping and 46 per cent in fisheries and aquaculture.

“While New Zealand’s marine economy is slightly smaller than global estimates, it still constitutes a significant part of

our economy,” environmental statistics manager Danny Oberhaus said in a statement.

The report was released in conjunction with another report on New Zealand’s marine environment issued by the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand.

It listed greenhouse gas emissions as one of three serious concerns for New Zealand’s oceans and marine wildlife, as carbon dioxide emissions resulted in warmer and more acidic seas.

Environment campaigners and opposition lawmakers on Thursday called for greater action in curbing New Zealand’s high per-capita greenhouse gas emissions and further protections for marine environments and wildlife.

The Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand (PEPANZ) said the marine economy report showed oil and gas production and exploration was “incredibly important” to the New Zealand economy.

“There is strong potential for growth in the contribution that oil and gas exploration and production makes to our marine economy over the coming years,” PEPANZ chief executive Cameron Madgwick said in a statement.—*Xinhua*



NATO defence ministers attend a meeting at the Alliance headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Britain, US sending planes, troops to deter Russia in the east

BRUSSELS — Britain said on Wednesday it will send fighter jets to Romania next year and the United States promised troops, tanks and artillery to Poland in NATO's biggest military build-up on Russia's borders since the Cold War. Germany, Canada and other NATO allies also pledged forces at a defence ministers meeting in Brussels on the same day two Russian warships armed with cruise missiles entered the Baltic Sea between Sweden and Denmark, underscoring East-West tensions.

In Madrid, the foreign ministry said Russia had withdrawn a request to refuel three warships in Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta after NATO allies said they could be used to target civilians in Syria.

The ships were part of an eight-ship carrier battle group — including Russia's sole aircraft

carrier Admiral Kuznetsov — that is expected to join around 10 other Russian vessels already off the Syrian coast, diplomats said.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the troop contributions to a new 4,000-strong force in the Baltics and eastern Europe were a measured response to what the alliance believes are some 330,000 Russian troops stationed on Russia's western flank near Moscow.

"This month alone, Russia has deployed nuclear-capable Iskander missiles to Kaliningrad and suspended a weapons-grade plutonium agreement with the United States," Stoltenberg said, also accusing Russia of continued support for rebels in Ukraine.

Those ballistic missiles can hit targets across Poland and the Baltics, although NATO officials declined to say if Russia had

moved nuclear warheads to Kaliningrad. NATO's aim is to make good on a July promise by NATO leaders to deter Russia in Europe's ex-Soviet states, after Moscow orchestrated the annexation of the Crimea peninsula in 2014.

NATO's plan is to set up four battle groups with a total of some 4,000 troops from early next year, backed by a 40,000-strong rapid-reaction force, and if need be, follow-on forces. As part of that, US Secretary of Defence Ash Carter announced a "battle-ready battalion task force" of about 900 soldiers would be sent to eastern Poland, as well as another, separate force equipped with tanks and other heavy equipment to move across eastern Europe.

"It's a major sign of the US commitment to strengthening deterrence here," Carter said. — Reuters

US abstains for first time on UN call for end to Cuba embargo

UNITED NATIONS — The United States on Wednesday abstained for the first time from a United Nations General Assembly vote on a resolution calling for an end to a US economic embargo on Cuba, after opposing such measures every year for 24 years.

For the 25th time, the 193-member General Assembly adopted the resolution with 191 votes in favour. Israel, which opposed the resolution last year, also abstained on Wednesday. Such resolutions are non-binding, but can carry political weight.

Communist-run Cuba and the United States, former Cold War foes, began normalizing relations in 2014. US President Barack Obama has taken steps to ease trade and travel restrictions on Cuba, but only the US Congress can lift the full embargo.

The Republican-controlled Congress has resisted Obama's call to lift Washington's economic embargo after more than 50 years. Republican critics say Obama is making too many concessions to Cuba for too little in return, especially on human rights.

The UN General Assembly applauded when US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power announced prior to the vote that the United States would abstain.

"Abstaining on this resolution does not mean that the United States agrees with all of the policies and practices of the Cuban government. We do not," Power told the General Assembly.

"We are profoundly concerned by the serious human rights violations that the Cuban government continues to commit

with impunity against its own people," she said.

Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez described the abstention as a "positive step for the future of improving relations between the United States and Cuba."

Rodriguez said in September that damage from US sanctions between April 2015 and March 2016 amounted to \$4.6 billion and to \$125.9 billion since the embargo's inception more than 50 years ago.

In March, Obama made the first visit to Havana by a US president in 88 years. His trip was made possible by his breakthrough agreement with Cuban President Raul Castro in December 2014 to cast aside decades of hostility that began soon after Cuba's 1959 revolution. — Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia says its planes, and Syria's, have not flown over Aleppo for nine days

MOSCOW — Russian and Syrian warplanes have not flown closer than 10 kilometres (6.21 miles) of Syria's Aleppo for nine days, the Russian defence ministry said on Thursday.

Rescue workers and a monitoring group have said air strikes by Syrian or Russian warplanes on Wednesday had killed at least 26 people in a village in the rebel-held province of Idlib, which is in northwest Syria near Aleppo. — Reuters

Russia sends 57th humanitarian convoy to eastern Ukraine

MOSCOW — Russia has sent its 57th humanitarian aid convoy to the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbass, the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said on Thursday.

"The convoy of over 40 cars is carrying over 440 tonnes of aid: food products, baby kits and medicine," the ministry's spokesperson said.

According to the ministry, the humanitarian aid arrived from public organisations and trade unions in different regions of Russia.

Since mid-August 2014, Russia has sent over 64,000 tons of humanitarian aid to the restive eastern Ukraine, where residents have been suffering from a serious humanitarian crisis.

The ongoing conflict between Ukrainian government forces and independence-seeking militia began in April 2014. — Xinhua

Italy's Renzi threatens to 'veto' future EU budget over migrants

ROME — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi on Wednesday threatened to block the European Union's next budget with a "veto" should Eastern European countries fail to take in their share of refugees.

"If the Eastern countries who are growing with the help of our money do not open their doors to migrants as has been agreed, then we'll put a veto on the future European budget," Renzi said at a rally in Avellino, Italy, for an upcoming referendum over his flagship reform of the constitution.

The proposal for the next EU budget, for the 2021-27 period, is supposed to be completed by the end of next year. Technically, Italy does not have a veto over the budget, which can be approved with a qualified majority vote, though unanimity is often sought.

The prime minister has frequently denounced a lack of European solidarity amid the migrant crisis as Italy seeks EU approval for an expansionary budget that includes some 3.9 billion euros (\$4.25 billion) in spending on migrants next year, and as he campaigns for a referendum on which he has staked his future. — Reuters

New Calais "Jungle" arrivals cannot use resettlement scheme — prefect

CALAIS, (France) — Migrants arriving at France's Calais "Jungle" since demolition of the camp began cannot expect to be resettled by the local authorities, the government prefect in the region said on Thursday.

A resettlement centre that has been sending camp inhabitants on to reception centres across France as part of the shutdown process was now closed, Prefect Fabienne Buccio told reporters at the site.

"It is not Calais' role to receive all the migrants of Europe. We do not want to create a vacuum. We have asked (those newly arrived) migrants to disperse."

Earlier in the day, a group of about 100 migrants, mainly young people, were seen filing past a group of riot gear-clad police who have been overseeing the camp clearance since Monday. — Reuters

Japan's Prince Mikasa, oldest imperial family member, dies at 100

TOKYO — The 100-year-old uncle of Japanese Emperor Akihito, Prince Mikasa, died on Thursday, leaving only four heirs to the Chrysanthemum throne, the Imperial Household Agency said.

Mikasa's death coincides with renewed attention to the future of the ageing and shrinking imperial family and whether women should be allowed to inherit the throne, breaking a males-only succession tradition that conservatives say is central to an imperial tradition stretching back 2,600 years.

Mikasa was the youngest brother of the current emperor's father, Hirohito, in whose name Japan fought World War II.

The prince, a scholar of ancient Oriental history, taught at colleges, and served as honorary president of the Middle Eastern Culture Centre in Japan and the Japan-Turkey Society. — Reuters

Opinion

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The other side of the development strategies

Khin Maung Aye

There is no single story that does not have two sides. Everything has the other side to be told. In the same vein, the concept of good governance in also discussed, debated and contested by scholars to unfold diversified aspects of the notion. Concerning good governance, one can roughly categorize three debates: the development strategies of the World Bank and IMF; the public sector reforms; and the issues of economic development.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are of the opinion that an active state ought to foster an environment in which contracts are enforced with markets being able to operate efficiently. According to the World Bank and IMF, a state ought to follow pro-growth macroeconomic policies like low inflation, moderate-sized government, sound financial development, enforcement of the rule of law, openness to international trade and raising average income with little impact upon the distribution of income (Dollar and Aart Kraay: 2002).

Nevertheless, the opponents of the development strategies reject the neoliberal assumptions underlying these strategies, arguing that the actual impacts of these strategies have been damaging. Some argue that IMF and The World Bank restrict the economic freedom of the recipient countries in a way that prevents them from adopting more viable growth strategies. Most often, the critics of these development strategies of the World Bank and IMF draw on alternative socio-economic theories to promote different development strategies.

The second debate is about the public sector reforms. Scholars argue that the initial impetus for public sector reform was based upon the belief that the state was too strong and too active. Nevertheless, the developing states often have the opposite problem – the state is too weak and inept. Public sector reforms are found to be restricting the scope of state activity, but the major hindrance to modernization in developing states is lack of the state strength. This being so, the reforms often proved to be improper to developing states. What is needed is to establish bureaucratic institutions with clear lines of accountability, unbiased, incorrupt public officials and abstract rules to guide them.

The third debate is about the relationship between the notion of good governance and the issue of economic development. The opponents to this assumption argue that good governance is not an absolute guarantor for economic growth and development. According to Jomo Kwame Sundaran (2012), corruption, lack of democracy and rule of law, market failures etc continue to be common features in many developing countries. In this juncture, S Woodward also argue that developmental policies need to address governments, considering the capacities and scopes of decision-makers. Such being the case, implementation of abstract concepts has to be grounded by taking into account regional, national and even local characteristics. Maybe, the opponents are against the suggestion that the developed western world is free of ills like political corruption (Quiles: 2013).

Singing Anyeint and Dancing Anyeint

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Sithu, Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

ANYEINT dance is a kind of entertainment in which singing, music and dancing are harmoniously blended. It provides sensual pleasure to sight and hearing. The word "Anyeint" itself suggests "softness" "suppleness" "grace" and "harmony". There is no harsh music, no vulgar song, and no jerky movement in Anyeint performance.

Some Westerners try to find its counterpart in their dances. They say that Anyeint dance is somewhat similar to operetta or cabaret. The writer has seen the performance of operetta and cabaret in France, Italy, Germany, Russia and United Kingdom many times. He begs to disagree with them. The following are the meanings and definitions of operetta and cabaret quoted from The American Heritage Dictionary.

Operatta - A theatrical production that has many of the musical elements of opera, but is lighter and more popular in subject and style and contains spoken dialogue. It originated in Italy.

Cabaret — A restaurant or night club providing short programs of live entertainment. The floor show billed by a cabaret.

The operatta the writer saw in Russia also had comedians who made jokes to raise laughter among the audience, while the dance was taking a short rest.

The cabaret the writer saw, in France and Italy was at the Restaurant and night club. The performer was a female singer— dancer who could sing and dance classical, pop and hip hops. She moved around the diners and audiences, who gave her cash award if they appreciated her talent.

Myanmar Anyeint is not similar to operatta or cabaret. Though singing, dancing, music and jokes are combined in it.

Myanmar Anyeint is so soothing and pleasing that it is believed as well as experienced to have a refreshing and stabilizing effect upon the watcher. It is said that in days of yore Myanmar medicine men prescribed Anyeint performance with string instrument especially harp to mental patients for cure. Even today some Myanmar psychiatrists would recommend mentally deranged patients to listen to soft music and to watch soft dance for releasing their stress and strain.

Generally, there are two types of Anyeint, namely
1. Singing Anyeint and

2. Dancing Anyeint

The former preceded the latter in development. Originally, both types were performed at the royal courts, great houses of nobility and aristocracy for private entertainment.

Evidences of early Anyeint performances can be traced in the mural paintings and sculptures of ancient temples and pagodas and references to Anyeint dances can be gleaned from Myanmar chronicles, history, archaeology and literature.

The following are some pictorial evidences of early Anyeint performances:

(a) In the mural paintings inside the Ananda Brick Monastery (Ananda Ok Kyaung) at Bagan, there is a mural picture of an Anyeint performance of the Konbaung Period of Myanmar history. In it you see two female dancers dancing, one female musician playing a string musical instrument called *Mi-chaung*, one lady squatting nearby watching the performance, two ladies of high rank sitting in the verandah of a mansion house watching the show, and another female dancer holding a mirror to her face and completing her facial makeup. Unfortunately, this brick monastery was destroyed by the great earth quake of 1975. But most of its frescoes were traced and copied by the local branch of Archaeology Department.

(b) Within the Sulamuni Temple at Bagan, there is another picture of Anyeint dance of Konbaung Period, depicting one drumlet, one wind instrument a pair of "Khotsi drum, one harp and a female dancer dancing.

(c) In one white parabite (folding papers) belonging to King Mindon (1752-1878 A.D) there is a miniature painting of an Anyeint show held in the interior chamber of the palace. In it we find one female dancer to the music of the two female musicians, one playing harp and the other beating drum. In the background is a queen or a princess watching the show, while reclining leisurely on her golden couch, as her court maid is massaging her.

Literary evidences tell us performance of Anyeint dime as early



A fresco depicting an Anyeint dance group on the wall of a temple in old Bagan.

as Bagan Period. In the lithic inscriptions of Bagan we oftentimes mention of such professional artists as "drum player" (စော့ပုလဲ) "cymbal player" (ခွက်ခွက်သံ) "wind instrumentalist" (နွဲ့ ပုလဲ) "dancer" (ကစားသမား) singer (သီချင်းသံ) and at the opening ceremonies of newly built temples, pagoda or monasteries, cultural performances were held, we may safely assume that Anyeint must have included in the program.

In history, the Glass palace chronicle records the performance of an Anyeint pwe at the royal reception of a religious delegation from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) by Bagan King Narapati Sithu. One of the members of the delegation monk Ashin Yahula was so bewitched by the charms and grace of a talented Anyeint female dancer that he persistently begged his leader monk Ashin Sapada to re-iert him to a layman so that he could marry the dancer. Ashin Yahula was banished. He went to Marlaryu to become a layman and he came back to Bagan to marry the dancer.

There were mentions of Anyeint dancers in the verse of the Inwa period of Myanmar literary history they described special Anyeint musical instruments as follows:
The first two lines are quoted from two Pyo poems and the second one line is quoted from one Linka verse.

1. ညွှန်းနှင်းမိချောင်း၊ စောင်း၊ အောင်း၊ တလေး၊ ရွှေရေ၊ ပတ္တလား၊ အပြိုင်အတူတူ (Kuthu Pyo by monk poet Mongway Sayadaw) Hnyin, Michaug' Saung (Hurp) Aunggalay, Gold gilt Xelophone (string and wind instrument and percussion)
2. စောင်း၊ ညွှန်း၊ မိချောင်း၊ အောင်း၊ တလေး၊ ပတ္တလားနှင့် လက်ဖျားသံနှင့်၊ တယောဟူသည်၊ ခြောက်ပည့်ပြိုင်ချီ

(Narada Pyo by monk poet Monywa sayadaw Ashin Adesa Yanthi) Harp, Hnyin, Mi-chaung, Aunggalay, Xelophone and Violin are six musical instruments used in Anyeint

3. စောင်း၊ ညွှန်း၊ မိချောင်း၊ အောင်း၊ ပတ္တလား၊ တယောအားဖြင့်၊ ခြောက်ပည့်ပြိုင်ချီ (Magadewa Linka by monk Manlei sayadat)

Six Anyeint musical instruments are Harps, Hnyin, Michaug, Aung galay, Xelophone and Violin.

Origin and development of Anyeint

According to the so far available and traceable research data, one may say that the singing Anyeint (သိုင်းဆိုအပြိုင်) must have originated prior to the Bagan Period. In the early kingdoms of Pyu and Mon, there were court bards, singers and jesters who attended the royal audience to inform, to educate and to entertain by means of their professional skill and talent. Court poets were also chroniclers (historians of the time) to record in prose or verse great events of the time that took place at the court or in the kingdom or achievements (especially of social and religious works of the kings). Their prose or verses were read out to the king sitting in court in professionally trained tone and style by royal readers (စာတော်ဖတ်).

As verse-reading was always in a sing song style, music had to accompany the verse-reading. We can find this kind of singing Anyeint even today. At the wedding ceremony or novitiation ceremony to-

day ratu verse or Mingala aubasa are read out in a sing song style by a professional lady or gentleman singer with accompaniment of soft music played by string and wind instruments such as harp (စောင်း) and flute or oboe (နွဲ့ ပုလဲ). That kind of entertainment in course of time came to form a singing, Anyeint.

Anyeint — a trio of the reader (စာတော်ဖတ်), the singer (သီချင်းသံ), and the musician or instrumentalist (တူရိယာသည်). Since no male, other than their relatives, was allowed in the Apartments of the Queens and Princesses, both singing Anyeint (သိုင်းဆိုအပြိုင်) and later dancing Anyeint (အကအပြိုင်) performed in these buildings were by female artists. In Bagan Period, mural paintings depicted the singing Anyeints performed not only in indoor but also outdoor in royal parks.

Later dancing was introduced into singing Anyeint for two obvious reasons: namely;

- (1) Continuous singing is quite tiresome for the performer and becomes boring to the audience, so to alternate it, dancing was introduced.
- (2) Court maidens were accomplished performing artists. They were trained by art masters in classical performing arts. They, each in turn, were obliged to display their talents. So dancing maidens participated in the singing Anyeint much to the pleasure of the royal audience. At first it was a solo dance (တစ်တိုင် အက) or prima donna. Later more female dancers were added to become couplet (for two dancers) triplet (for three dancers) quartet (for four dancers) and group dance called *Yeim* (ယိမ်) for more than four dancers. But "Yeim" performed at the court did not exceed more than

eight as the performing area was limited in the court.

Until the end of the Konbaung Period of Myanmar history, the Anyeint of both types remained the exclusive entertainments of the royalty and the courtiers. However, with the British annexation of Upper Myanmar in 1885 and the termination of Myanmar monarchy after the last Myanmar King Thibaw and his family were deported to Eatanagiri in India, all royal entertainments including Anyeint began to emerge out of their royal seclusion, and they soon developed into public entertainment and popularity of Anyeint was due to the following reasons. Firstly, it had escaped from royal taboos and restrictions and was now free to make innovations and improvements. Secondly the middle class which appeared in the British Colonial Period consisting of wealthy merchants and high salaried government servants patronized Anyeint, because Anyeint was a lively entertainment lasting only for not more than a couple of hours unlike the whole night show of drama (*zat pwe*) and puppet showi was most suitable for social occasions. Thirdly, unlike dramatic show, puppet show and musical Ensemble (*saing waing*), Anyeint could easily absorb the impact of Western cultures, especially English. Fourthly, comparatively, Anyeint performance cost less and involved less labour and required less performing space. It can be performed, anywhere, at anytime and on any occasion. Because of these favourable factors and circumstances, we may rightly, say that Anyeint reached the height of its progress glory and popularity during the British colonial period.

Anyeint dance II

To substantiate the above statement we may take note of the following innovations and improvements of Anyeint brought about during the British colonial period

- (a) From a courtly floor show, Anyeint grew up to become a public stage show
- (b) Anyeint dance steps and style, Anyeint songs and music were systematized thanks to the proper training and supervision by .such, veteran accomplished artists like Ma Htwe Lay, Daw Sein Thone, U Chit Hpwe, U Pe Pyu, Einda deva U Maung Gyi, U Kan etc.
- (c) Composition of Anyeint troupe was enlarged — three to five musicians, two dancers and two comedians (Lu Pyet)
- (d) Later with the introduction of western musical instruments such as piano, horn violin,

band, Indian gingle etc, more instrumentalists were added, so that a modern Anyeint troupe came to consist of ten or twelve- members. Later two types of instrumental music appeared in Anyeint performance (1) traditional Anyeint music and (2) western Anyeint music band popularly known to Myanmar public as English band (England Band - အင်္ဂလန်ဂဘာ ဘင်္ဂသံ)

- (e) Procedure of Anyeint performance was formalized.
- (f) Stage decoration and dance costumes, hairdos of the dancer were stylized.

A typical Anyeint show may be described thus;

A stage of about 12 to 14 square feet with four poles at the four corners is constructed of bamboo and mats. There is no curtain, no backdrops, nor setting. The stage is open on all sides. The only hanging on the stage is a silk or velvet piece of oblong shape on which the name of the Anyeint troupe, the names of the dancers and the names of the comedians are either painted or embroidered. It is hung above the musicians who occupy the back part of the stage but in the centre. A wooden xelophat and its player are placed in the centre, and other instrumentalists squat around them in a semi circular position. Night show begins about 8 pm or 9 pm and finishes at about 11 or 12 pm.

The procedure begins with two comedians coming out (sometimes three) first and by turn sing "Khan Htau" song which is either a description of the season, or beauty of nature or the significance of the occasion for which the Anyeint is performed. Then they announced the name of the first dancer and call upon her in an extempore verse. The dancer comes out from the right side of the musicians and sits in front of the xylophone, facing its player but backing the audience. The comedians then call upon the dancer to rise up and dance. The call is always in verse form properly rhymed with fine high flown Burmese. The dancer sings the first part of her song and dances. To give her short respite, the comedians crack jokes, or mime that stir up laughter. They introduce the dancer to the audience extelling her youth, beauty and talent. The dancer pays her respects to the audience and blessings. Then her singing and dancing are interluded by the jokes and mimicry of the comedians.

Both song and dance of Anyeint have each three parts (movements) composed in accordance with three types of timing namely Naree (နရီစည်း) wa latt (ခလောက်စည်း)

and si sone wa sone (စဉ်းစုံ ဝါးစုံ) respectively. In international musical scale parlance s these three types are slow, medium and high. When the first performer has completed her part she goes in, followed by the principal dancer. The same procedure is repeated Round about 12 pm or so, the performance is concluded. All musicians, comedians and dancers come out and pay respect to the audience by putting their two hands together in a worshipping mariner and bowing their heads while the audience was clapping their applause.

In 2001, Ministry of Culture published a "Dictionary of Myanmar Performing and Plastic Arts" fully illustrated. On pages 124 and 125 of this dictionary "Anyeint" is defined and explained in both Myanmar and English as follows:-
"အပြိုင် - သာယာဖြူညောင်းသော အတီး၊ အဆို၊ အကကို အခြေခံ၍ တော်လမ်း၊ တော်ကွက်မပါဘဲ၊ မင်းသမီးနှင့် လျှောက်သော ပါဝင်ကပြသောပွဲ"
"Anyeint in is a non-dramatic performance in which an artiste signs and dances to the accompaniment of light music, supported by comedians.
The dictionary also gives the names of the five musical instruments of Anyeint performance.
Myanmar Comedians (Lu Pyet)
Here we need to explain Myanmar Comedians. Originally the Anyeint had no comedian. But there was a male elocutionist (စာပြောဆရာ) or mime (သံနဲ့၊ ထိုင်ဆို သံပြတ်၊ သံတူ) who initiated actions or voices of animals and men, women, children and babies so as to raise laughter among the audience, which the dancer and musicians are having a brief rest. Out of such men of mimickery grew Comedians. Their role is many sided, not only to fill the time groups between performances but to break the monotony by cracking jokes, and to inform and educate the public. Myanmar comedians are a jack-of-all trade's type. They are mostly products of monastic education, well versed in Pate, Buddhist scriptures and Myanmar literature. They can dance, sing and compose impromptu speech and cans extemporize verses. They possess sense of humour, wit, sharpness of mind and up-to-date in current affairs. They are the mouthpiece of Myanmar public (ပြည်သူ့ တစ်ဝိုင်း). In a joking fashion they expose or inform about bribery and corruption of the government, ministers and servicemen. They report news of the world by means of their talents in speech, singing action and mimichery. It is said that a good singer or dancer is made but a good comedian is born.
(To be continued)

Turkey vows to press Syria offensive despite warning from pro-Assad forces

ANKARA/BEIRUT — Turkey said on Wednesday it will press its military offensive in Syria until Islamic State is driven from the town of al-Bab, despite a warning from forces allied to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and a helicopter attack on the rebels it backs.

Turkey's incursion into Syria, launched two months ago to drive Islamic State militants from its border and prevent Kurdish fighters from gaining ground in their wake, has complicated an already messy battlefield in northern Syria.

As the Turkey-backed rebels push south towards al-Bab, an Islamic State-held town 35 km (22 miles) northeast of Aleppo, they face confrontation with both Kurdish and pro-Assad forces, whose frontlines lie close by.

The field commander of the forces allied to the Syrian leader — which include the Lebanese group Hezbollah, Iraqi militias and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards — warned Turkey any advance towards their positions north and east of Aleppo would be met “decisively and with force”. The commander, who was not identified by name, nationality or affiliation, made the comments during a tour of frontlines to the north of Aleppo in a written statement sent to Reuters. They came a day after what the Turkish military said was a barrel bomb attack on the rebels its backs by a Syrian helicopter.

“This kind of attack will not stop our fight against Daesh (Islamic State),” Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told a news conference in the capital Ankara.

“This operation will continue until al-Bab. The operation needs to continue, and it will,” he said.

President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey's military operations in Syria aimed to secure al-Bab and the town of Manbij, which a group of Kurdish and Arab militias seized from Islamic State in August, but were not intended to stretch to Aleppo.

“Let's make a joint fight against terrorist organisations. But Aleppo belongs to the people of Aleppo ... making calculations over Aleppo would not be right,” he said in a speech in Ankara.

US President Barack Obama, in a telephone call with Erdogan on Wednesday, recognised Turkey's contributions to the fight against Islamic State, especially is supporting Syrian forces that have cleared the jihadists from the Turkish border, the White House said.

Obama “noted the need for close coordination” between the two countries to apply sustained pressure on Islamic State in Syria, the White House said in a statement. The two leaders also agreed on the importance of denying Kurdish PKK militants a safe haven in northern Iraq, it added. —Reuters



A still image taken from a video footage and released by Russia's Defence Ministry, on 14 August 2016, shows a Russian Tu-22M3 bomber dropping off bombs near what the ministry said is the city of Deir ez-Zor, Syria. PHOTO: REUTERS

A third of Germans fear war erupting with Russia over Ukraine, Syria — poll

BERLIN — One in three Germans worry that tensions between the West and Russia over Crimea, Ukraine and Syria could lead to a military confrontation, according to an opinion poll by the respected Forsa institute published on Wednesday.

The survey found that 32 per cent of 2,504 Germans polled believe it is possible that war could break out between Russia and the European Union and its allies in the United States. But a majority of 64 per cent said they did not share those fears.

Fears of war traditionally run high in Germany, a country sensitive to tensions that could lead to conflict after the devastation of World War II and the partition of the nation into West Germany and East Germany during the Cold War.

The survey found supporters of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party were especially worried, 63 per cent of them telling Forsa that war could break out.

Some 41 per cent of all those polled said relations between Russia and the West were

poor, 51 per cent not good and only six per cent said relations were good.

Chancellor Angela Merkel met in Berlin last week with Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Francois Hollande about Syria and Ukraine.

Merkel and Hollande pressed Putin to extend a pause in air strikes on rebels in Syria and halt the “criminal” bombardment of civilians, and said four-way talks aimed at ending violence in eastern Ukraine made some progress.—Reuters

Iraqi army tries to reach site of Islamic State executions south of Mosul

SOUTH OF MOSUL, (Iraq) — The Iraqi army was trying on Thursday to reach a town south of Mosul where Islamic State has reportedly executed dozens to deter the population against any attempt to support the US-led offensive on the jihadists' last major city stronghold in Iraq.

Eleven days into what is expected to be the biggest ground offensive in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion of 2003, army and federal police units were fighting off sniper fire and suicide car bombs south of Hammam al-Alil, the site of the reported executions on the outskirts of Mosul, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

The militants shot dead dozens of prisoners there, most of them former members of the Iraqi police and army, taken from villages the group has been forced to abandon as the troops advanced, officials in the region said on Wednesday.

The executions were meant “to terrorize the others, those who are in Mosul in particular”, and also to get rid of the prisoners, said Abdul Rahman al-Wagaa, a member of the Nineveh provincial council. Some of the families

of those executed are also held in Hammam al-Alil, he said.

UN human rights spokesman Rupert Colville on Tuesday said Islamic State fighters had report-

edly killed scores of people around Mosul in the last week.

A Reuters correspondent met relatives of hostages south of Mosul. One of them was a policeman

who had returned to see the family that he had left behind when his village fell under the militants' control two years ago.

“I'm afraid they will keep

pulling them back from village to village until they get to Mosul. And then they will disappear,” he said, asking not be identified to protect family members still in the hands of the fighters.

Islamic State fighters are keeping up their fierce defense of the southern approaches to Mosul, which has held up Iraqi troops there and forced an elite army unit east of the city to put a more rapid advance on hold.

The fall of Mosul would mark Islamic State's effective defeat in Iraq. The city is many times bigger than any other that Islamic State has ever captured, and it was from its Grand Mosque in 2014 that the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared a “caliphate” that also spans parts of Syria.

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said on Tuesday an attack on Raqqa, Islamic State's main stronghold in Syria, would start while the battle of Mosul is still unfolding. It was the first official suggestion that US-backed forces in both countries could soon mount simultaneous operations to crush the self-proclaimed caliphate once and for all.—Reuters



An Iraqi soldier stands next to a detained man accused of being an Islamic State fighter, at a check point in Qayyara, south of Mosul, Iraq, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gene study clears 'Patient Zero' as cause of US HIV epidemic

CHICAGO — Genes taken from archived blood samples show the US AIDS epidemic started in New York in the early 1970s, definitively debunking the long-held belief that the virus was spread in the early 1980s by a flight attendant who became vilified as "Patient Zero" for seeding the US outbreak.

Scientists have long suspected that HIV had been circulating in the United States for a decade before the first few AIDS cases were identified in Los Angeles 1981. The new study, published in the journal *Nature*, offers some of the first genetic proof.

"What we've done here is tried to get at the origins of the first cases of AIDS that were ever noticed," said Michael Worobey, the evolutionary biologist at the University of Arizona who led the study.

Using a painstaking new approach, Worobey and colleagues pieced together the entire genetic sequence of the HIV virus from eight archived blood samples taken in 1978 and 1979 from gay and bisexual men participating in a hepati-

tis B study. The team traced genetic changes in the virus samples taken from male patients in New York and San Francisco. The researchers found that the HIV virus first jumped from the Caribbean to New York City around 1970, triggering the North American epidemic.

The team used the same approach to extract the full HIV genetic code from "Patient Zero," a flight attendant identified as Gaetan Dugas in the Randy Shilts 1987 best-seller "And the Band Played On."

Shilts, who wrote his book after Dugas had died, identified him as playing a key role in spreading the virus; media accounts painted him as a villain. The new study, however, found no biological evidence suggesting Dugas was the primary cause of the HIV epidemic in North America.

Dugas was first associated with the epidemic through a study by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention that connected AIDS to sexual transmission of the disease in a cluster of 40 homosexual men.

In the study, Dugas was identi-



A giant red ribbon hangs from the North Portico of the White House to mark World AIDS Day, in 2013, in Washington. PHOTO: REUTERS

fied as "Patient O" because he was from outside of California, where the outbreak was believed to have started. That letter "O" was later mistaken for the number "0" and Dugas eventually became known as "Patient Zero," meaning the first patient infected in an epidemic.

"This individual was simply one of thousands infected before HIV was recognised," study co-author Richard McKay, a medical historian at the University of Cambridge, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Worobey said the technique developed to extract and restore

HIV genes from old blood samples borrows from technology used to identify ancient DNA.

Once they had the genetic code, the team evaluated the mutations made by the virus as it copied itself. This allowed the team to build an HIV family tree. Worobey believes a chimp first infected a human in Africa in the early 20th century. The virus that caused the US epidemic emerged from Africa in the mid to late-1960s, and caused an outbreak in Haiti and other Caribbean countries.

In 1970 or 1971, this strain hopped from Haiti to New York,

making the city a hub of transmission, Worobey said. The virus spread to a large number of people "many years before AIDS was noticed," he said.

The team believes the virus arrived in San Francisco in 1975. The first five cases of AIDS were identified in California 1981, and they were first attributed to HIV in 1984.

"Our analysis shows that the outbreaks in California that first caused people to ring the alarm bells and led to the discovery of AIDS were really just offshoots of the earlier outbreak in New York City," Worobey said.—*Reuters*

Aust'n scientists to begin trials to wipe out zika-carrying mosquitos

CANBERRA — Australian scientists are leading the charge in defeating mosquito-borne viruses such as zika and dengue fever.

Australia's peak scientific body, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has announced it will partner with James Cook University and US research company Verily to attempt to mitigate the damaging effects of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which often carries deadly diseases. The CSIRO has been developing a bacteria called *wolbachia*, which renders the male mosquitoes sterile. Throughout the study, scientists will monitor the mating habits of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. Dr Rob Grenfell from the CSIRO said the team hopes that, when the males mate with the females, the *wolbachia* will eventually transmit to the females, which

will then be unable to produce larvae — in effect wiping out the disease-carrying female mosquitoes. "This is completely safe, the bacteria has absolutely no effect on humans and is only mosquito bacteria," Grenfell told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Thursday. "The other issue is that the male mosquitoes, which we are using to carry this, do not bite humans — they actually feed on nectar." A pilot trial is expected to take place later this year in the tropical Queensland town of Innisfail, but Grenfell said they still required the approval of the community before they proceed.

If the trial is a success, the research could be fast-tracked to ensure other nations — in which zika and dengue fever are prevalent — can begin to wipe out the potentially-deadly mosquitos.—*Xinhua*



PHOTO: XINHUA

China's space lab searches for strongest blasts in universe

BEIJING — A square-shaped probe dubbed as "Little Bee" and placed atop China's second space lab currently orbiting the Earth is searching for gamma-ray bursts, the strongest explosions in the universe.

The formal name of the probe, placed on Tiangong-2, is POLAR (an abbreviation of Polarimetry of Gamma-ray Bursts), state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Tiangong-2, an experimental space lab launched by China with two astronauts, is currently orbiting the Earth.

The device will help open a new window in the study of gamma-ray astronomy, said Zhang Shuangnan, principal investigator on the POLAR project and a chief scientist at the High Energy Physics Institute of the

Chinese Academy of Sciences.

POLAR is the only international cooperation project on Tiangong-2, involving scientists from the University of Geneva, Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland and Poland's Institute of Nuclear Physics, the report said.

"The 30-kgs device can be regarded as a telescope, but it is different from other telescopes, as it consists of 1,600 sensitive components to detect the polarisation of gamma-ray bursts. They are like the 1,600 facets in the compound eyes of bees. That's why we call it 'Little Bee'," Zhang said.

Zhang said the project was aimed to "better understand the process of how the violent explosions happen."

Gamma-ray bursts are ex-

plosions that have been observed in distant galaxies. They are the brightest electromagnetic events known to occur in the universe.

Bursts can last from 10 milliseconds to several hours.

The intense radiation of most observed gamma-ray bursts is believed to be released during a supernova or hypernova as a rapidly rotating, high-mass star collapses to form a neutron star, quark star or black hole.

Another aim of "Little Bee" is to determine whether gamma-ray bursts are related to gravitational waves.

"If we can detect gamma-ray bursts at the same time gravitational waves happen, it will help us better understand gravitational waves," Zhang said.—*PTI*

Indian government issues health alerts in wake of bird flu

NEW DELHI — India's federal government has issued a health advisory to its states, asking them to minimise bird-human interface to prevent an outbreak of bird flu, officials said Wednesday.

"Health secretary CK Mishra has sent an advisory to chief secretaries of all states and union territories in wake of the bird flu," an official said.

The advisory has stressed upon usage of personal protective

equipment while handling dead or sick birds, besides surveillance and proper medication of persons exposed to the affected birds.

During the last week birds in New Delhi and Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior zoos were found to have died due to avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu.

Following the scare of bird flu, authorities closed zoos for indefinite period as a precautionary measure for the safety of visitors

and to control spread of the influenza.

According to WHO, avian influenza is an infectious viral disease of birds. Most avian influenza viruses do not infect humans. However, some, such as H5N1 and H7N9, have caused serious infections in people.

In May this year authorities closed Delhi zoo for few days after 46 of its spotted deer died of rabies.—*Xinhua*

Venezuela protests against Maduro escalate, dozens injured

CARACAS — Venezuela's increasingly militant opposition stepped up its push to oust leftist leader Nicolas Maduro on Wednesday with protests that drew hundreds of thousands but also saw unrest leading to dozens of injuries and arrests.

In an incident sure to inflame the already polarized situation, a policeman died after being shot on Wednesday night in central Miranda state.

The government blamed opposition activists clashing with security forces on a highway out of Caracas. The police force of Miranda, whose governor is opposition leader Henrique Capriles, confirmed the death but did not link it to protesters.

Enraged by last week's suspension of their push for a referendum to remove Maduro and determined to end 17 years of socialism in the South American OPEC nation, Venezuela's opposition has sharply ramped up its tactics in recent days.

After launching a political trial against Maduro on Tuesday in the National Assembly, the opposition coalition held nationwide marches dubbed "Takeover of Venezuela" on Wednes-



Demonstrators clash with members of Venezuelan National Guard during a rally demanding a referendum to remove Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro in San Cristobal, Venezuela, on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

day. "This government is going to fall!" crowds chanted, many wearing white and waving national flags as they congregated at nearly 50 sites across the country.

"This needs to keep growing so that the government understands once and for all that we're doing this for real," said two-time pres-

idential candidate Capriles, blaming authorities for what he said were over 120 people injured and some 147 protesters detained.

Clashes occurred in several cities outside Caracas, witnesses said, including the Andean city of Merida and the volatile western town of San Cristobal that was an

epicenter of violence during 2014 anti-Maduro protests.

Opposition politicians and student leaders said there were protesters struck by bullets in Merida and San Cristobal as well as Venezuela's second-largest city Maracaibo.

Rights group Penal Forum said there were more

than 208 arrests nationwide, with 119 people still detained on Wednesday night. The government gave no figures on injuries or detentions.

Coalition leaders called for a national strike for Friday, and a 3 November march to the Miraflores presidential palace in Cara-

cas, unless the election board allows the referendum.

Maduro, the unpopular 53-year-old successor to Hugo Chavez who has presided over an unprecedented economic crisis, accuses the opposition of seeking a coup with US help and has vowed there will be no plebiscite on his rule.

"They are desperate, they have received the order from the north to destroy the Venezuelan revolution," he told a counter-march of red-shirted government loyalists. Despite sitting on the world's biggest oil reserves, Venezuela is in the throes of a punishing recession that has many poor families skipping meals amid scarce food and triple-digit inflation.

Foes say Maduro, a former bus driver and union leader who narrowly won election after Chavez's death in 2013, is an incompetent autocrat who is to blame for the economic problems.

"I'm not scared of protesting. It's the food lines that scare me, that's where you see all the misery," said health worker Auly Gonzalez, 36, as she and hundreds of others in the Punto Fijo city on a Caribbean peninsula marched to a naval base.—Reuters

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI) for Cooperation in Htauk Kyant Plant under No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry
Htauk Kyant Plant (Area- 14 acres including Buildings) under No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry is intended to cooperate with Local (or) Foreign entrepreneurs.

As a first step, companies who interested in that cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) not later than 3:00 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), on 7 November 2016 to Planning Department, No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No. 30, Naypyitaw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entities can take over the EoI Form and other indications at above office commencing from (31.10.2016) by presenting the document of company profile.

Document of Company Profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of Company
- Name of Foreign's Technical Cooperator

(For more information: 067-405059, 067 405322)

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI) for Cooperation Joint Venture at No. 24 Heavy Industry (Dagon) Solar Factory and LED Factory under No.2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

No. 24 Heavy Industry (Dagon) Solar Factory and LED Factory under No.2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry are intended to cooperate with Local and Foreign entrepreneurs as JV in production of Solar and LED.

As a first step, Companies who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) not later than 3 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), on 22 November 2016 to Planning Department, No.2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No. 41 Naypyitaw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entities can take over the EoI Form and other indications at above office commencing from 1-11-2016 by presenting the document of company profile.

Document of company profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Record and Regulation of Company
- Name of Foreign's Technical Cooperator

(For more information: Please Contact 067-408372, 067-408298)

More Republicans expect Clinton, rather than Trump, to win US election — Reuters/Ipsos poll

NEW YORK — More Republicans now think Democrat Hillary Clinton, rather than Donald Trump, will win the presidency, as their party's candidate struggles with difficulties including allegations of sexual misconduct and his suggestion he may not honour the outcome of the election.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Wednesday and conducted from 20 October to 24 October found that 41 per cent of Republicans expected Clinton to win the 8 November election, versus 40 per cent who picked Trump.

That reflected a sharp decline in confidence from last month, when 58 per cent of Republicans said they thought their party's nominee would win, versus 23 per cent who expected Clinton to prevail.

Among Trump's supporters, 49 per cent in the latest poll said they believed Trump would win, down from 67 per cent

who felt that way at the beginning of the month.

"There's still hope, I guess. I just don't have a great deal of faith in a good portion of the American public," said Bert Horsley, 38, of Belgrade, Montana, who said he planned to vote for Trump even though he believed Clinton would win.

Horsley said he felt the country was leaning increasingly socialist and that voters were more inclined to focus on Trump's problems than on issues facing Clinton, including allegations she mishandled classified emails while secretary of state.

"The nation's willing to overlook certain things in some people and not in others," he said.

Despite the growing pessimism, Trump, who trails Clinton in national opinion polls, still enjoys overwhelming support from members of his party. Some 79 per cent of likely Republican voters said they would vote



Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton speaks at a campaign rally in Tampa Florida, US on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

for him. Many said their support was rooted in an expectation he would promote a conservative agenda in Congress and appoint conservative justices to the Supreme Court.

Democrats appear to be strongly anticipating a Clinton presidency. Some 83 per cent of Democrats said in the poll they thought she would win, while only 8 per cent predicted Trump

would become president. Among Clinton's supporters, 92 per cent expected her to win, up from 83 per cent a month earlier.

Clinton held a commanding lead in the race to win the Electoral College and claim the presidency, according to results from the Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project released on Saturday.—Reuters

Mudslide kills at least seven on Colombian highway

BOGOTA — A mudslide killed at least seven people and buried more than 10 others along a mountainous stretch of Colombia's main highway between Bogota and Medellin, authorities said on Wednesday.

The avalanche of mud

and rocks, triggered by recent heavy rains, spilled across four lanes of the highway and knocked out power lines, according to a statement from the government of Antioquia province.

Rescue workers were

still searching for possible survivors among the people unaccounted, the statement added.

The road, in Copacabana municipality near the western city of Medellin, is likely to be closed for several days, officials said.

Many parts of Colombia have entered the rainy season, a time of year when swollen rivers often break their banks in the Andean nation and mudslides destroy homes or block mountain roads.

—Reuters

Strong earthquakes hit central Italy; no deaths reported

ROME — A series of strong earthquakes rocked a wide area of central Italy on Wednesday, striking fear among residents rattled by a deadly tremor in August, but there were no reports of casualties and few serious injuries.

The three quakes, which struck about two hours apart from each other, caused the collapse of several old structures, including a number of historic rural churches that were empty at the time.

The first measure magnitude 5.4, the second 6.1 and the third 4.9, according to the US Geological Survey.

About five hours af-

ter the first quake, Civil Protection department chief Fabrizio Curcio said "tens" of people were reported hurt but only four suffered serious, non-life threatening injuries.

"The reports are not as catastrophic as we feared," he said.

All indications were that the damage would not approach that caused by the major quake that struck the Marche, Lazio and Umbria regions on 24 August, which devastated several towns and killed nearly 300 people.

Amateur video footage on television showed clouds of dust rising as parts of buildings col-

lapsed in some towns, including Camerino in the Marche region, where a bell tower fell on a building.

Massive boulders, some the size of cars, fell on the main north-south road of the Nera River valley that links mountain communities.

The tremors sent residents running into the streets in the rain and were strong enough to be felt as far south as the outskirts of Naples more than 250 km (150 miles) away and as far north as Venice, some 300 km (180 miles) away. Masonry fell from some buildings in Rome.

The epicentres of the

quakes were near the town of Castelsantangelo sul Nera in the Marche region.

The historic late 15th-century rural church of San Salvatore in Campo, near Norcia in the Umbria region, which had been weakened by the August quake, collapsed.

Electrical power was lost in some of the areas and some roads were closed.

Wednesday's earthquakes caused more damage to already precarious structures in Amatrice, the town worst hit by the 6.2-magnitude tremor in August, officials said, but there were no injuries.

—Reuters

Wildlife populations plunge almost 60 per cent since 1970: World Wide Fund for Nature



An elephant breastfeeds its young one at the Amboseli National Park, southeast of Kenya's capital Nairobi, on 25 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

OSLO — Worldwide populations of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles have plunged by almost 60 per cent since 1970 as human activities overwhelm the environment, the WWF conservation group said on Thursday.

An index compiled with data from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to measure the abundance of biodiversity

was down 58 per cent from 1970 to 2012 and would fall 67 per cent by 2020 on current trends, the WWF said in a report.

The decline is yet another sign that people have become the driving force for change on Earth, ushering in the epoch of the Anthropocene, a term derived from "anthropos", the Greek for "human" and "-cene" denoting a geolog-

ical period.

Conservation efforts appear to be having scant impact as the index is showing a steeper plunge in wildlife populations than two years ago, when the WWF estimated a 52 per cent decline by 2010.

"Wildlife is disappearing within our lifetimes at an unprecedented rate," Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF Inter-

national, said in a statement of the group's Living Planet Report, published every two years.

"Biodiversity forms the foundation of healthy forests, rivers and oceans," he said in a statement. "We are entering a new era in Earth's history: the Anthropocene," he said. WWF is also known as the World Wide Fund for Nature. The index tracks about 14,200 populations of 3,700 species of vertebrates — creatures that range in size from pea-sized frogs to 30-metre (100 ft) long whales.

The rising human population is threatening wildlife by clearing land for farms and cities, the WWF's report said. Other factors include pollution, invasive species, hunting and climate change.

But there were still chances to reverse the trends, it said. "Importantly ... these are declines, they are not yet extinctions," said Professor Ken Norris, Director of Science at ZSL.—Reuters

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES— FIRMS SELECTION)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project

Credit No.: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: Administration of Myanmar's Independent Power Producer Program

Reference No.: MEPP-CS-10

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the following scope:

1. Assist Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) and Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) officials in reviewing IPP contracts and related agreements. The consultants shall prepare a summary of existing IPP contracts and related agreements to facilitate contract administration, highlighting MOEE/EPGE's contractual obligations (e.g. tariffs, fuel charges, liquidated damages, force majeure payments, termination payments and their timing).
2. Assist MOEE and EPGE officials in reviewing the current authorizing and record-keeping procedures for the administration of IPP projects and recommend improvement to these procedures. This includes, among others, the procedures for confirming IPP invoices and making payments to IPP (e.g. electricity payment, fuel charges, liquidated damages, force majeure payments, termination payments, etc.).
3. Assist MOEE and EPGE in developing staff capacity on IPP financial modeling and reviewing financial aspects.
4. Provide case studies of tariff structures for IPP schemes from comparator countries, covering thermal, hydro, wind and solar power. The case studies should also cover tariffs adjustment/escalation methodologies, contractual compensation aspects. The consultant to make recommendations on improving Myanmar's existing IPP tariff structures.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of twelve months, starting in March 2017.

The Electric Power Generation Enterprise now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The **shortlisting criteria** are:

1. The interested consulting firms should have at least 10 years of experience in IPP scheme advisory for electric power utilities; and
2. At least 3 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past 10 years.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by November 24, 2016.

Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Attn: Daw Zaw Zaw Than, General Manager for Finance
Building-27

Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Nay Pyi Taw

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone: +95-67-810-4275

Facsimile: +95-67-810-4276

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Adele is a diva: Bruno Mars

LOS ANGELES — Singer Bruno Mars gushed about his experience of working with Adele calling her a diva and a superstar.

The “24K Magic” hitmaker was all praise for the Oscar-winning singer, with whom he recorded song “All I Ask,” reported ET online.

“She’s incredible. There was a moment when she was singing in the booth, and I’m not exaggerating at all and the water was vibrating.

Like you know that scene

in Jurassic Park. She’s got some pipes on her, and she’s just a superstar.

“She walks into the studio, she’s got all this attitude, she’s a diva, she’s like, ‘I don’t want to do this. I don’t like that’. And then as soon as we hit a couple chords that she liked, we started rolling, and that’s where we got that song from,” Mars said.

The 31-year-old singer said he would love to perform the tune with Adele. “I don’t know what she’s waiting on, man.”—PTI



Bruno Mars. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Mechanic: Resurrection’ rules Chinese box office

BEIJING — Hollywood action film “Mechanic: Resurrection” topped the Chinese box office for the week ending 23 October, earning 166 million yuan (24.5 million US dollars) after debuting on 21 October, China Film News reported Wednesday.

Domestic action film “Operation Mekong” took second place, taking 127 million yuan in the week after its release on 30 September. “Heartfall Arises,” a

Hong Kong gangster film, came third with 80 million yuan in sales after hitting Chinese screens on 20 October.

“The BFG,” a US fantasy adventure film directed by Steven Spielberg, ranked fourth, taking 45 million yuan last week. Rounding out the top five was domestic romance “I Belonged to You”, which grossed 40 million yuan during the week after its release on 29 September.—Xinhua

Scientology has helped me incredibly in my life: Tom Cruise

LONDON — Hollywood star Tom Cruise says Scientology has helped him in achieving his goals in life.

The 54-year-old actor, who rarely speaks about his belief in the religious practice, said he is

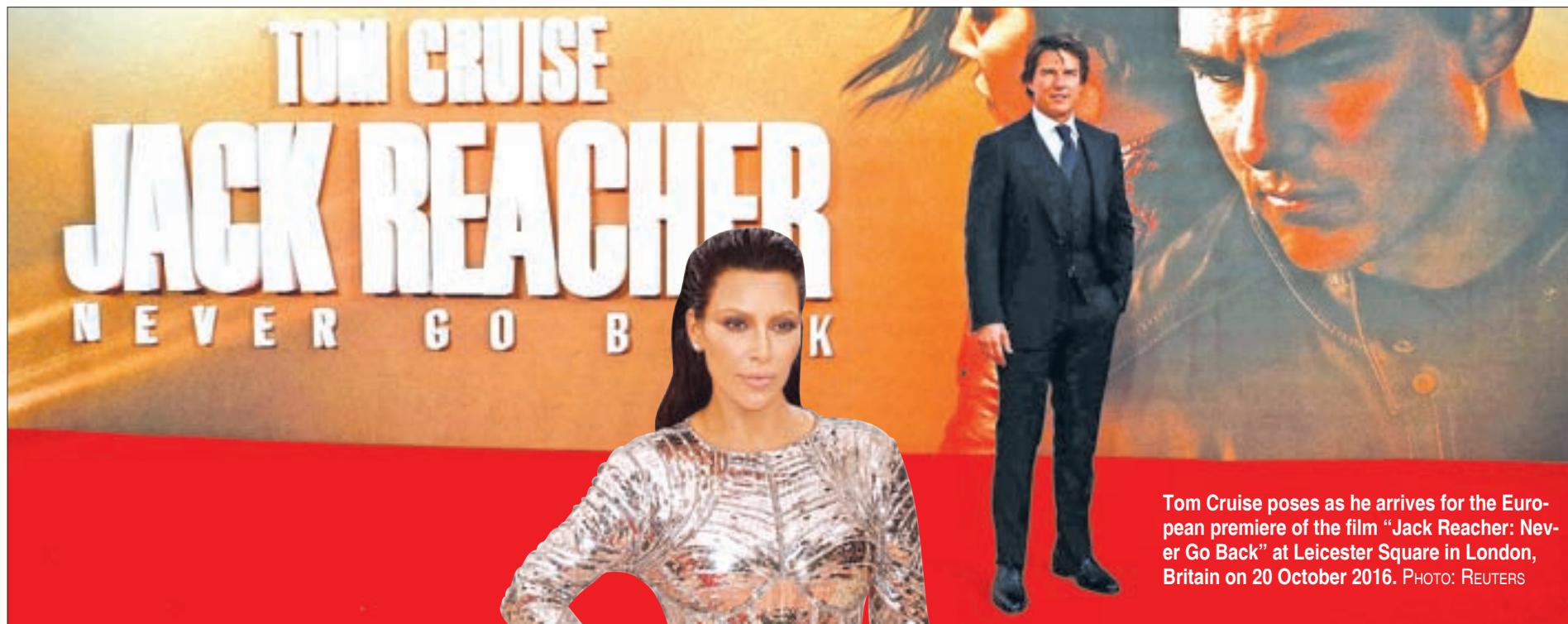
proud of being a follower, reported Female First. “It’s something that has helped me incredibly in my life; I’ve been a Scientologist for over 30 years. It’s something, you know, without it, I wouldn’t be where I am. So it’s a beautiful

religion. I’m incredibly proud,” Cruise said.

The actor said the methods developed under the religion have helped him overcome his dyslexia. “I asked myself if I was normal or an idiot. I would try to concen-

trate but I felt anxiety, frustration, boredom. When I graduated from high school in 1980 I was functionally illiterate.” Cruise was first introduced to the church by his first wife Mimi Rogers, whom he was married to from 1987 until

1990, while he was still trying to make it as a global star. The actor is one of the highest-ranking Scientologists has been hailed by leaders of the faith as the “chosen one” who will spread the word of the religion.—PTI



Tom Cruise poses as he arrives for the European premiere of the film “Jack Reacher: Never Go Back” at Leicester Square in London, Britain on 20 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kim Kardashian resumes filming E! reality TV show after robbery

LOS ANGELES — Kim Kardashian has returned to filming the reality series “Keeping up with the Kardashians,” the E! network said on Wednesday, following a brief hiatus from the show after she was robbed in Paris earlier this month.

A network spokesperson said in a statement that full production had resumed and Kardashian was filming with her family. There were no details about the focus of the latest season.

A representative for Kardashian did not respond to a request for comment.

Kardashian, 35, was seen at her husband Kanye West’s Los Angeles concert on Tuesday, according to E! Online and MTV.

E! Online said she was seen backstage with mother Kris Jenner, sisters Kendall Jenner and Kourtney Kardashian, and friends, and that there was heavy security.

The show, which documents the lives of the Kardashian family, went on hiatus after Kardashian was held at gunpoint inside her Paris residence on 3 October and robbed of \$10 million in jewelry. She has kept a low profile since then.

Khloe Kardashian appeared on the Ellen DeGeneres show a week after the robbery, where she said her sister was “not doing that well,” and that the incident was “a wake-up call” to the family.—Reuters

Kim Kardashian. PHOTO: REUTERS

Film director Takeshi Kitano receives France’s Legion of Honour award

PARIS — Japanese film director Takeshi Kitano received the Legion of Honour, France’s most prestigious award, on Tuesday for his impact on contemporary arts.

“I feel (this award) has empowered me to try and conquer new genres,” Kitano, 69, said at an award ceremony held in Paris.

Kitano was named an Officer, the fourth-ranked honor in the L’ordre National de la Legion d’honneur.

Former French culture minister Jack Lang presented the award to Kitano, praising the Japanese film director for his novel approach in film and television.

Kitano told reporters af-

ter the ceremony, “I am very thankful to France for appreciating (my work).”

The Legion of Honour, founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, recognises eminent service in fields such as culture, science and business. Among the approximately 1,500 foreigners given the honor, 10 per cent are Japanese, according to the French Embassy in Tokyo.

Kitano, who is also a television personality, has been twice awarded France’s Order of the Arts and Letters, reaching Chevalier, the third rank, in 1999 and Commandeur, the first rank, in 2010.

The order, founded in 1957, is awarded by the culture ministry.—Kyodo News

Egyptians aghast at breathtaking shows of Shaolin Kung Fu



Buddhist monks from China's Shaolin Temple perform Kung Fu during a show in Cairo, Egypt, on 25 October 2016. The show is part of the 2016 China-Egypt Culture Year jointly launched by Egypt and China to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations. PHOTO: XINHUA

CAIRO — The audience at Egypt's Gomhoriya Theatre in Cairo applauded excitedly and stood from their seats in reaction to breathtaking shows of Chinese Shaolin warriors who perform in Egypt for two days.

"I'm stunned; I could not believe it was going to be that great," Mariam Ahmed, a 20-year-old Chinese language college student told Xinhua after the show. "I have seen this before in movies, but could not believe that it even looks greater in reality."

The show of the Buddhist Shaolin Temple Monks in Henan Province is part of the 2016 China-Egypt Culture Year jointly launched by Egypt and China to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic

relations. The show performed at the night from 25th to 27th October, is hosted by the Chinese Cultural Centre in Egypt with the goals of enriching and intensifying the already strong mutual cultural ties.

"These events are very important specially for people who are learning Chinese like me...this gives us much more knowledge about China as it brings the Chinese culture to us," Ahmed said.

During the 90-minute show, adult monks took the audience, which also included many Chinese, on a journey through China's mysteries and ancient history through their magical displays.

Performers from the Shaolin Temple showed their supernatural abilities

by displaying extremely complicated moves and skills such as a two finger Zen, group fighting, Shaolin traditional boxing, Shaolin hard Qingong in addition to other skills like the professional use of Kung Fu weapons.

Effortlessly, the monks flew unbelievably through the air in a series of back flips and spins, holding their Shaolin weapons.

Shaolin Kung Fu, also called Shaolin Wushu, is among the oldest institutionalized styles of Chinese martial arts. It originated and was developed in the Buddhist Shaolin Temple in Henan Province, Central China. During the 1500 years of its development, Shaolin Kung Fu became one of the largest schools of Kung Fu. The performance

turned more attractive as warriors mixed drama with the traditional Chinese martial arts when they performed drunken boxing, sword and rod, a traditional dramatic show that was warmly applauded by the audience. Observing the reactions of the spectators, Shi Yan'ao, a Shaolin Master invited a number of the audience on stage to teach them some techniques of the Chinese martial arts.

"This is incredible; it's the first time I go through such a marvelous experience. I thought it would be easy to perform these moves, but this really requires great concentration and flexibility," Hossam Mustafa, a college student said after being trained for a few minutes by Master Shi.—Xinhua

Major commercial complex to open in Tokyo's Ginza in April

TOKYO — A major commercial complex will open in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district next April with the aim of attract foreign tourists as well as Japanese shoppers, developers said on Wednesday.

The "Ginza Six" facility will house 241 stores, including luxury jewelry shops and flagship outlets for six international brands including Celine, as well as a traditional Noh theater, offic-

es, restaurants, a tourist service Centre and a bus terminal.

The complex, co-developed by J. Front Retailing Co. and Sumitomo Corp., will open 20 April on the site formerly occupied by Matsuzakaya department store, one of Ginza's most legendary landmarks. The 19-story building with six underground floors will have a total floor space of around 148,700 square metres.—Kyodo News

Move over Picasso: first-ever emojis to hang in N.Y. Museum of Modern Art

NEW YORK — Smiley faces and images of food and cats designed almost 20 years ago by a Japanese phone company and used in digital messages worldwide have now attained the status of art.

The Museum of Modern Art in New York has been licensed to display the emojis in its permanent collection alongside works by Pablo Picasso and Jackson Pollock, it said on Wednesday.

It was not clear how the emojis would be displayed at MoMA, but the installation is due to open in early December.

Japanese national carrier Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, or NTT DOCOMO, developed the original set of 176 emojis and released them for cellphones and pagers in 1999.

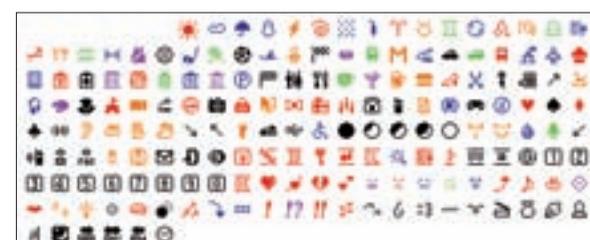
The 12 x 12 pixel images of hearts, arrows and hand gestures were the blueprint for the emojis widely used today, and they expanded the ways to communicate using the limited screen space available on devices of

the time.

Paola Antonelli, a senior curator at MoMA's Department of Architecture and Design, said part of the museum's mission had always been to collect and display timeless art and design.

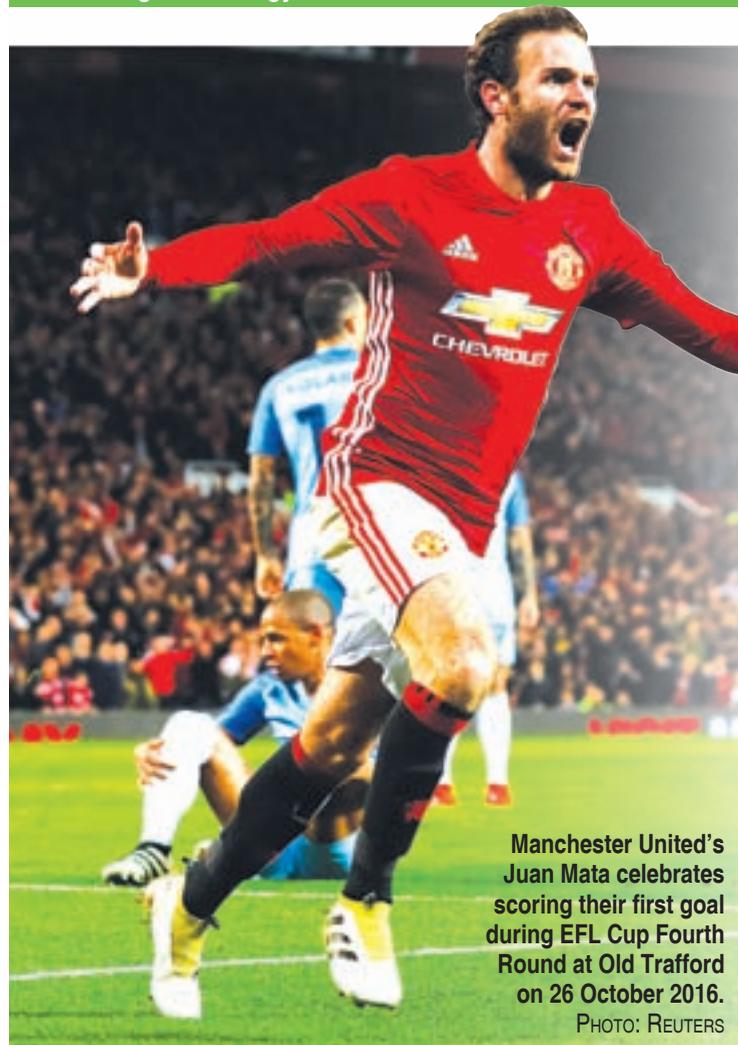
"Emojis as a concept go back in the centuries, to ideograms, hieroglyphics, and other graphic characters, enabling us to draw this beautiful arch that covers all of human history," Antonelli said in a statement.

The original emojis, designed by developer Shigetaka Kurita, proved very popular in Japan, and the rest of the world soon caught on. By 2006, Alphabet Inc.'s Google (GOOGL.O) was offering emojis for use in its Gmail service, and Apple (AAPL.O) added them in 2011 to its iOS messaging app. The emoji display comes six years after MoMA made headlines when it added the @ symbol — used in email addresses and on social media — to its collection, citing its "design power."—Reuters



The set of 176 original emoji characters which have been donated to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City are seen in an undated handout image. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International		10:37 Am Image of The Monks
		10:53 Am Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Thursday 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 Am	News	
07:26 Am	Discovering Tribes: Akha- Their Life and Customs (Part-1)	07:48 Pm Gemstone Sculptor
07:47 Am	Gardener: King Orange Plantation	08:03 Pm News
08:03 Am	News	08:26 Pm Taste of Myanmar (Papaya Salad)
08:26 Am	The Richly Blessed Gem Land	08:45 Pm A Simple And Peaceful Life
08:52 Am	Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay	
09:03 Am	News	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
09:26 Am	Myanmar's Beauty and Nature "Beach"	(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
09:52 Am	School for the Blind	(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)-Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
10:03 Am	News	
10:26 Am	Green Corner (Episode- 8) 3 D Shadow Box	(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Manchester United's Juan Mata celebrates scoring their first goal during EFL Cup Fourth Round at Old Trafford on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mata fires Manchester United into League Cup quarters

LONDON — Juan Mata swept home to steer Manchester United into the League Cup quarter-finals with a 1-0 win over holders and bitter local rivals Manchester City on Wednesday as Jose Mourinho got one over old adversary Pep Guardiola.

Mata rifled in a low finish past City keeper Willy Caballero early in the second half at Old Trafford on a night of few chances but plenty of derby fervour as United boss Mourinho won the tactical battle against Guardiola's much-changed City side.

The result lifted some of the pressure off Mourinho following Sunday's 4-0 defeat to Chelsea, but for his old sparing partner, Guardiola, it was a sixth successive game without victory, his longest winless

streak as a manager.

West Ham United also moved into the last eight after they overcame Chelsea 2-1 in a London derby spoiled by ugly scenes of fan violence at the end of the game, while Southampton heaped more misery on struggling Sunderland with a 1-0 victory.

Recent results and the gathering pressure on both Mourinho and Guardiola ensured the clash at Old Trafford had all the usual spice of a derby encounter even if City made nine changes to their side against a virtually full-strength United team.

City should have gone ahead after two minutes, but Kelechi Iheanacho darted in front of his marker to direct his header hopelessly off target from close range.

United offered little attacking threat, but gained control of possession as the match wore on and were the more dangerous side for

most of the encounter.

It took until the start of the second half, however, for them to create a meaningful chance when Paul Pogba's low shot was turned onto the post by Caballero, sparking an onslaught from the home side that ended with Mata's opener on 54 minutes.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic shrugged off a challenge then played the ball back towards Ander Herrera, who went down dramatically in the box but Mata was following up to powerfully steer the ball home.

Then it was just a case of holding on, which they did comfortably, as Mourinho recorded his fourth victory over Guardiola in a rivalry spanning 18 matches.

The greater satisfaction for the Portuguese, however, seemed to be erasing some of the negativity of Sunday's thrashing by his former club Chelsea.—Reuters

Perfect Kerber helps Cibulkova advance in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Angelique Kerber eased into the last four of the WTA Finals with an unbeaten record when the world number one thrashed Madison Keys 6-3, 6-3 in the Red Group finale at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on Thursday.

The 28-year-old German won all three of her round robin matches and her straight sets triumph over Keys ensured Dominika Cibulkova would join her in the semi-finals after the Slovak had earlier ground out a 6-3, 7-6(5) victory over Simona Halep.

Kerber has enjoyed a breakout season with grand slam victories at the Australian and US Opens, and her baseline hustling and resilient defence proved far too strong for an erratic Keys, who was broken six times in nine service games.

"It's always tough to play against Madison so I was focussed on playing my best and going for it when I had the chance," Kerber said. "I moved and returned well

fourth straight time.

The American's high-risk aggressive game is vulnerable against a defensive master like Kerber but after hitting too many unforced errors in the first set, Keys found her range at the start of the second to open a 2-0 lead with an early break.—Reuters



Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia celebrates after defeating Simona Halep of Romania at Singapore Indoor Stadium, Singapore, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

and it feels incredible to be in the semi-finals for a first time."

The first set featured five consecutive service breaks before the German took control by neutralising Keys's powerful forehand.

Kerber staved off another break point in eighth game to edge 5-3 ahead and the German claimed the first set when Keys was unable to hold serve for a

Unacceptable says Bilic as crowd trouble mars West Ham victory

LONDON — Crowd trouble marred West Ham United's continued resurgence as fans clashed at the London Stadium near the end of their 2-1 League Cup derby victory over Chelsea on Wednesday.

Goals from Cheikhou Kouyate and Edimilson Fernandes earned West Ham a third consecutive win to put them in the quarter-finals of the competition while Gary Cahill's stoppage time consolation went almost unnoticed as trouble brewed. Special security measures had been put in place

for the most volatile match yet staged at West Ham's new stadium, including an alcohol ban and a reduction in tickets on sale.

For the most part the 45,000 crowd were boisterous but orderly until, with victory virtually secured for West Ham, rival fans began surging towards each other behind the goal guarded by home keeper Darren Randolph.

Stewards had their hands full trying to keep hundreds of fans apart and several plastic seats were ripped out and thrown from the home fans towards the Chelsea section.

Police in riot gear finally arrived to quell the trouble before it got out of control although further disturbances were reported outside the ground.

In a statement, the club said: "West Ham unreservedly condemn the behaviour of individuals involved in incidents during this evening's fixture with Chelsea. "Once identified, those found to have acted improperly will be banned from attending any West Ham United fixtures for life."—Reuters

Nishikori advances to Swiss Indoors q'finals

BASEL, (Switzerland) — Japanese ace Kei Nishikori advanced to the quarterfinals of the Swiss Indoors with a straight-sets win over Paolo Lorenzi on Wednesday.

In his second match back since suffering an injury at the Japan Open in early October, world No. 5 Nishikori made 18 unforced errors in the first set but cleaned up in the second to overcome the plucky 38th-ranked Italian 7-6(3), 6-2 in 98 minutes.

"There was frustration," Nishikori said of the first set in which he squandered a number of break opportunities.

"I missed break points time after time and that made things difficult. But I was able to put pressure on my opponent and the chances kept coming," added

the Rio Olympic singles bronze medalist.

Nishikori reduced his errors in the second set and after winning his first break point in the third game, the 26-year-old never looked back.

"I think I played really good tennis in the second set," said Nishikori, who will face either Belgian fifth seed David Goffin or Argentina's Rio Olympic singles silver medalist Juan Martin del Potro in the last eight.

Nishikori suffered an injury to his left glute at the Japan Open earlier this month and opted out of the 9-16 October Shanghai Masters.

He is seeking his second title of the season, having won at the Memphis Open in February.—Kyodo News



Kei Nishikori of Japan faces off against Paolo Lorenzi of Italy during a Swiss Indoors second round match in Basel, on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS