

■ NATIONAL

Laws on trade and services to be strengthened: VP U Myint Swe

▶ PAGE 3



■ NATIONAL

C-in-C Senior General meets Vice Chairman of Chinese military

▶ PAGE 9



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, accompanied by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, inspects the guard of honor before their meeting at the state guest house in Tokyo, Japan 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan offers 800 billion yens to Myanmar to assist in development, peacemaking

JAPAN's public and private sectors will contribute about 800 billion yens (US\$7.73 billion) over five years to aid nation-building in the democratizing country, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Myanmar's State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday.

"As a friend of Myanmar, Japan will give the new government our full support across the public and private sectors," Abe said at the outset of the talks in Tokyo.

"I expect this to contribute to

the country's development," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said at a joint press conference after the meeting at the Akasaka Palace state guesthouse.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Japan Tuesday for a five-day visit, her first visit to Asia's second-largest economy since the pro-democracy party that she leads took power in March following a landmark election.

The State Counsellor expressed thanks to the Japanese government and the people,

pledging that aid from Japan will be spent on the peace process, ensuring transparency.

She also thanked Japan to provide aid for the private investment sector, and asked for assistance in sectors including agriculture, transportation, electricity and human resources.

Japan's prime minister said his country fully supported Myanmar's transition to a modern democracy. "I want to reiterate my respect for the nation-building (you) are carrying out under

the universal values we share -- freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law," Abe said, adding that Japan hopes to use Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's visit as an opportunity to "dramatically develop" bilateral ties.

"As we in Myanmar carve out a new page in our history, I believe that Japan will continue to walk side by side with us as a good friend and trustworthy partner," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi replied.

SEE PAGE 2 >>

False accusations on violating human rights exposed to the world

AT the request of the UN representative who coordinates humanitarian aid, ambassadors to Myanmar, UNDP representatives and others led by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister and minister of state for foreign affairs U Kyaw Tin left Yangon for Sittwe, Rakhine State by air yesterday morning to assess the Myanmar government's performances after a series of armed attacks on the villages of Maung-taw and Rathetaung townships, Rakhine State on October 9.

At the Sittwe Airport assembly hall, Union Minister and Rakhine State Chief Minister clarified to diplomats and UNDP representatives: "After the attacks which happened in Maung-taw and Rathetaung townships, the Union Government is solving problems in accord with laws and rules. There were false accusations of Islamist genocidal cases, and offences of arresting Muslims without evidence, rape cases and burning homes in villages were committed by the forces. Now that actual situations on the ground were shown to the visitors to know the truth, you yourselves can interview the Islamists. As instructed by the State Counsellor, the Union Government and Rakhine State Cabinet are carrying out tasks in accordance with laws, rules and regulations under the close supervision of responsible officials at different levels."

SEE PAGE 2 >>



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False accusations on violating ...

>> FROM PAGE 1

In the briefing hall of the Kyikanpyin No. 1 Border Guard Outpost, officials from the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Rakhine State Government clarified recent events using records as evidence about the violent armed attacks that happened in Maungtaung Township.

They also replied to answers raised by the diplomats.

Afterwards, the diplomats and Union ministers went to the Village of Warpeik and viewed the site where houses were burnt down by arsonists.

At the visit to the Kyikanpyin Village, where the violent armed attack happened, Muslim villagers who had fled came out from their hiding places and met with the union ministers and diplomats.

They also met with Islamic people of the village of Zinpaingnyar Village.

In the afternoon, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung, UNDP representatives and ambassadors visited the village of Kyeingyoung where Rakhine, Dainat and Myo ethnic peoples and Islamic villagers are living together in peace.

They also visited the Village of Pyaupaik, where five members of the Tatmadaw were killed in the violent armed attack, and met with Muslim residents living near the village.

During the trip, authorities hoped to expose the truth behind accusations of human rights violations during area clearance operations by members of the Tatmadaw and police force.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Islam community gather to meet with diplomats at Kyikanpyin Village. PHOTO: MNA

Mahn Win Khaing Than attends First Intha National Day

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mahn Win Khaing Than and Union Minister for Hotel and Tourism U Ohn Maung attended the first Intha National Day ceremony held at the Inlay Phaudaw Pagoda in Nyaungshwe on Sunday and presented honorary prizes.

At the ceremony, Mahn Win Khaing Than said that he was proud to get the opportunity to par-

ticipate in the first Intha National day, which falls on 1 Waxing Day of Tazaungmone and urged Intha nationals to preserve their culture and at the same time build trust with other ethnic groups.

The messages of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and the minister for ethnic affairs were read out at the ceremony by Hluttaw representatives.—*Maung Maung Than(Taunggyi)*

Mid-year gems emporium likely to attract western jewelry merchants

WITH sanctions against Myanmar by the United States recently lifted, gem merchants from western countries are likely to visit the mid-year gems emporium this year, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win told the meeting of the Central Committee for Organizing Gems Emporiums yesterday.

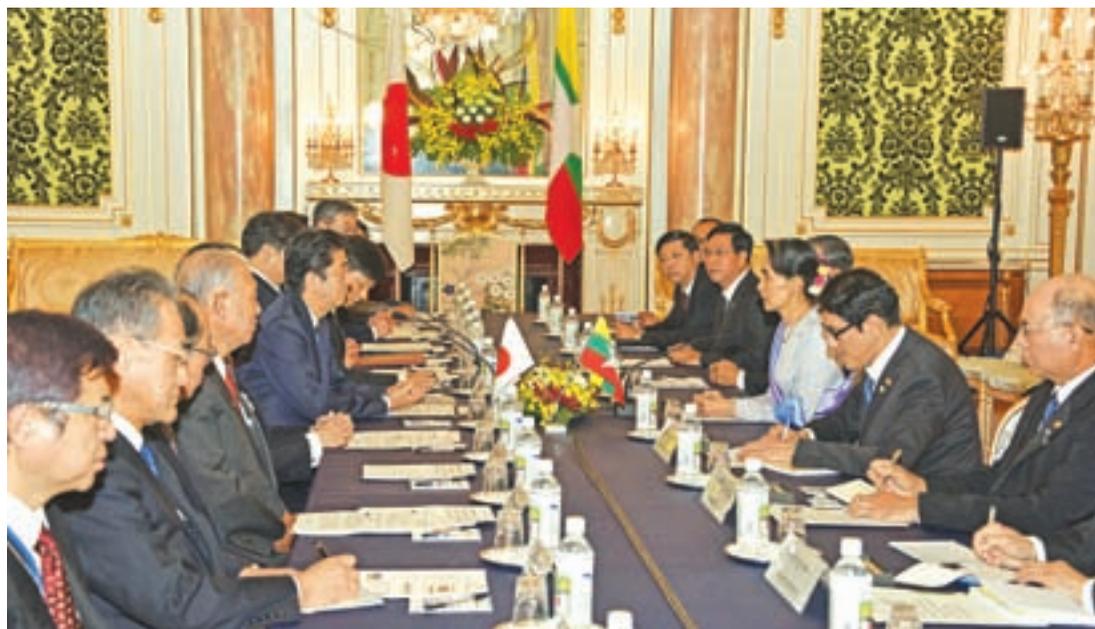
The union minister urged the

officials to organise the emporium in accordance with international standards. The emporium will be held from 20 to 29 November and gems will be sold through the open tender system from 23 to 27 November and through the auction system on 28 and 29 November. The emporium is the 90th emporium in which gems will be sold in foreign currencies.

—*Myanmar News Agency*

Correction

Please read "...No.1 Border Guard Police Force (Kyikanpyin), Kottankauk and Ngakhuya..." in first paragraph of the news story "Authorities clarify ground situations in Rakhine on page-3 of November 2 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.— Ed



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. PHOTO: MNA

Japan offers 800 billion yens to Myanmar ...

>> FROM PAGE 1

After the meeting, the two leaders also witnessed the signing of the Exchange of Notes for the dispatch of volunteers to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the Japan Overseas Volunteers Programme between the governments of Myanmar and Japan. The document was signed by Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Tateshi Higuchi.

At an event with members of Japan's Myanmar community earlier in the day, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said Myanmar's

economy "needs to be developed in every sector," with a slowdown in global growth adding to the country's economic difficulties.

"We need a lot of investment and many economic experts with fresh ideas," the Nobel Peace Prize laureate said.

Japanese officials have described Myanmar as the "final frontier within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations," citing its potential given its natural resources.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is scheduled to hold talks Wednesday morning with Foreign Min-

ister Fumio Kishida, Japanese officials said. Kishida is expected to flesh out offers of support made in the leaders' talks.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spoke to more than 1,000 people from Myanmar living in Japan at a hotel in Shinjuku District, admitting that her government is finding it hard to improve the country's economy, with the global economic slowdown also contributing to the strain.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said "we have to double or even triple our efforts."—*Myanmar News Agency with Kyodo News*



Intha ethnic people prepare for boat racing at the ceremony to mark the first Intha National Day. PHOTO: MNA

Schools, markets reopen as peace in Rakhine is restored

FOLLOWING the 9 October violent armed assaults on the No. 1 border police outpost in Maungtaung district, Rakhine State, in which arms and ammunition were stolen, people residing in the village of Kyeinchaung in Maungtaung Township lived in fear, with schools and markets closed as a result. Now that stability and peace have been restored, schools and markets were reopened and the area resumed its normal routines, buzzing with commuters, buyers and sellers.

In the market of Kyeinchaung village, all shops and stalls were reopened, crowded with people in the early morning. Kyeinchaung village has

more than 1,000 households with a population totalling 8,493, who profess Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism.

"Our village is actually the result of a combined 3 villages — South, North and Middle villages — where Rakhine nationals and Islamists are living together in peace and stability", said U Ko Ko Aung, administrator of Kyeinchaung village. "On account of the 9 October violent armed attacks, schools and markets were temporarily closed, but now have been returned to their normal state. There have been no more problems."

In some parts of Kyeinchaung village, village elders

and auxiliary fire brigade members called on villagers not to flee for the safety of the village and to conscientiously find attackers and inform authorities.

On the afternoon of November 2, Union Ministers, Rakhine State Chief Minister, representatives of UN organisations and diplomatic corps reached the Kyeinchaung village.

In interviews with villagers, a Muslim resident in response to a question from a diplomat said such peaceful coexistence that is being experienced at present is attributed to our favourable economy and our good education.—*Myawady*

Laws on trade and services to be strengthened : VP U Myint Swe

THE government is preparing to write laws on trade and services to strengthen the country's export and import sectors, said Vice President U Myint Swe.

The vice president made the remarks at a meeting with development partners for enhancement of the trade sector in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"Laws on protecting consumers from harm and related principles on trade have been enacted. Our export and import laws have many weaknesses compared to international rules and regulations and they do not cover the working process carried out in the ministry, so measures are being taken to write a law on trade and services", the vice president said.

He also stressed the need to effectively use Myanmar's geo-political role for the nation's trade sector development.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, who was also present at the meeting, said in order for Myanmar's trade sector to develop, the government needs to prescribe strong regulations

and provider protections.

The ratio of Myanmar's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to its Gross National Product (GNP), that is, its trade dependency, is up to 30 per cent, officials said.

Myanmar's export and import sectors play a key role, and it depends on how rapidly the nation will integrate with the global market that will determine development growth. Goals for sustainable development have been laid down, which include 2 goals — creating suitable jobs for all, all-inclusive cooperation in lifting up long-term economic development and emergence of consumption and production types for long-term benefit.

"For this, DTIS (Diagnostic Trade Integration Study) was made in collaboration with World Bank. Further, the Ministry of Commerce and Trade is continuing to formulate Medium Term Plan by combining Action Matrix drafted by Actions Matrix and its aligned institutions," said U Myint Swe.

Myanmar has laid down 12 principles for long-term economic development. A country's economic development and situation on trade are closely related. It is essential for economic institutions to reduce framework on trade, boost qualification standards and reduce unnecessary expenses to the lowest level.

The trade deficit is an indicator of Myanmar's need to upgrade export volumes as it may cause inflation in the country and adversely affect its monetary value, said the Vice President.

At the meeting, Mr Abdoulaye Seck, regional representative to Myanmar for the World Bank, extended a cordial greeting.

Present at today's meeting held at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw were Union Ministers, Members of Parliament, regional and state ministers for commerce and trade, merchants and industrial entrepreneurs, partner institutions and representatives from ministries — altogether about 200 participants. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers an address at the meeting with development partners for enhancement of the trade sector in Nay Pyi Taw on 2nd November, 2016. PHOTO: MNA

Displaced persons including pregnant women receive medical care at Buthidaung Hospital

A MUSLIM woman who left her home after the violent attacks of 9 October in Maungtau gave birth yesterday to twins at Maungtau Township Hospital, according to hospital officials.

Ma Mawdi Khar Tu from Ywama Village in Buthidaung Township expressed thanks to the medical staff at the hospital, saying that she is still receiving care at the hospital as her health condition needs to be under care.

About 50 out-patients, on average, mostly Muslims, come to the hospital a day to receive medical care provided by six doctors, 17 nurses, mid-wives and staff.

Meanwhile, displaced people who have been sheltered at temporary camps in Buthidaung, Rakhine State, after the violent attacks in Maungtau have received health care services provided by medical teams.

Two days after the violent attacks on the police outposts in which nine policemen were killed and various weapons and ammunition looted, more than 1,300 villagers from both communities fled their homes in border areas in Buthidaung Township and were sheltered at a camp set up inside a high school building.

"We have provided medical

care to everyone there on a daily basis," said Dr Than Tun Kyaw, Buthidaung Township Medical Officer.

About 36 displaced people from the camp have been moved to a monastery after the remaining people returned home.

Due to the violent armed attacks, local residents left their homes for safer places such as rescue camps. Now that the Tatmadaw and police forces are combined to conduct area clearance operations and have restored stability and peace, the displaced people can return home on their own accord. — *Myanmar News Agency*

UEC to accept applications for observing by-elections

WITH effect from today until 15 March 2017, people from home and abroad can apply to Union Election Commission for the right to observe by-elections for vacant parliamentary seats in respective constituencies to be held in April 2017, it is learnt.

According to UEC, there were over 10,000 local election observers and more than 1,000 international election observers in the previous 2015 multi-party general elections.

UEC has already released dates and vacant constituencies

to hold by-elections on October 11 and time schedules for targeted working processes for the by-election on October 18.

The process for inland observers to perform in the Hluttaw Election at different levels was released under notification 1/2016 and the process for international observers under notification 2/2016 on 31 October whereas interested persons are accessible to official website of UEC: <http://uecmyanmar.org/> and able to download, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

DELIGHTFUL NOVEMBER AT SEDONA HOTEL YANGON



WEEKEND BUBBLY BRUNCH

Relax this weekend away from the hustle and bustle at Sedona's 'Bubbly' Brunch that serves up an indulgent spread of mouth-watering delicacies and cuisine, with seafood, sushi, sashimi, carving & 'live' cooking stations and an extensive salad bar for the health conscious!

Immerse yourself in luxurious surroundings with 'Live' Entertainment, comfort and 5* services at our lavish Weekend 'Bubbly' Brunch every Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday from 11.30pm to 3.00pm at D'Cuisine.

*Inclusive of free flow wine, champagne, beer & soft drinks
*Free use of swimming pool for brunch diners.
*Senior above 60 yrs and children below 12 yrs old enjoy 50% discount.
*Free Parking

SEAFOOD AND BBQ BUFFET DINNER

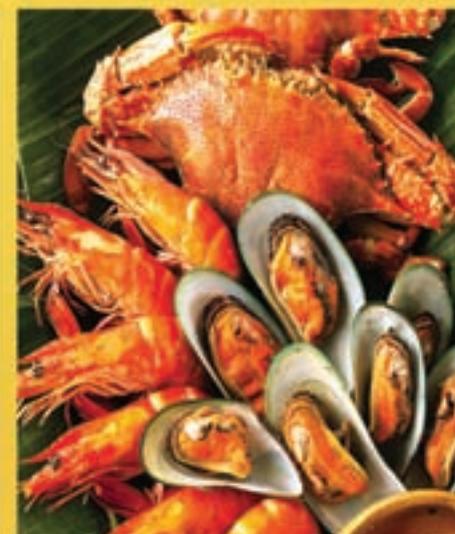
Escape the everyday packed and noisy environs to enjoy a delicious, leisurely dining setting in luxurious comfort of D'Cuisine.

Indulge yourself, family and friends in our spectacular seafood night with our wide selection of Seafood and grill items from the Cold Buffet to the BBQ sections plus a selection of delicious dishes.

Time : Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
6.30pm to 10.00pm

Venue : D'Cuisine All Day Dining Restaurant

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



New housing project in Mawlamyine estimated to produce about 2,000 units



Photo shows Thirimingala affordable housing for staffers built during the term of the previous government. PHOTO: MMK

THE Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction plans to implement a new housing project in Mon State estimated to build about 2,000 new units.

The department submitted a proposal to the Mon State government in September to carry out the housing project on vacant plots in the east of Mawlamyine-Kyaikmaraw Road, said U Min Kyi Win, Mon State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The minister said the new plan has been scrutinised by the state chief minister, who encouraged the establishment of low-

cost housing in the state for the public interest.

The affordable housing programs can generate economic benefits to local communities, he added.

The Mon State Hluttaw on 5 October approved the proposal submitted by Dr Aye Zan from Kyaikhto Constituency to speed up the urban plan for development of affordable housing projects to balance housing requirements with the growing population in the state.

Plans are underway to develop housing projects in Min Village of Mawlamyine Township and Phaungsein Village of

Thanbyuzayat Township, said U Wunna Kyaw, Mon State Minister for Planning, Finance, Immigration and Population at the parliament.

Residents may buy the apartments through an instalment system, a credit sale in which payments are made in instalments over a period of time, in connection with the Construction and Housing Development Bank. The CHDB allows buyers to purchase a low-cost apartment via eight-year instalment plans. The buyer first needs to pay 30 per cent as down payment to the bank.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Wild elephants destroy paddy field near Ngwe Saung Beach

A group of wild elephants near Ngwe Saung beach destroyed paddy fields and became aggressive when villagers were near, according to residents.

Villagers living close to the foothills were not able to cultivate any crops on their land because of the presence of aggressive wild elephants.

“The previous year, two or three elephants came into the village, but they did not attack us. But, this year a large number of elephants entered our villages and destroyed the crops. On October 30, two wild elephants destroyed the crops of the villages near the Hotel Zone. So the villagers threatened them with firecrackers,” said U San Shwe, Yay Wady guest house owner.

On October 31, 10 elephants

entered the village and destroyed crops which are cultivated in Phone Maung Kyine village near Ngwe Saung beach. On November 1, the villagers who were going to the Ngwe Saung town to sell tomatoes went back to the village when they saw the wild elephants on their way.

“During the harvest time, the wild elephants usually come near the Ngwe Saung beach. We are ready to help the villagers if the wild elephants attack the villagers,” said Inspector of Police Tun Tun Soe from Ngwe Saung police station. Last September 8, a farmer named Ko Zaw Win Naing, 45, from Phone Maung Kyine village, was killed by wild elephants in his paddy field, according to the local people. — *Myitmakha News Agency*



Paddy fields near Ngwe Saung Beach destroyed by the wild elephants. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Five out of every 1,000 people in Myanmar infected with HIV: MoHS

AN ESTIMATED 10,000 people become infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) each year in Myanmar, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Dr Than Win from the AIDS programme in Mandalay Region said the research found that people between the ages of 15 and 45 years of age are the most likely to become HIV positive. Five out of every 1,000 people in Myanmar

have contracted the deadly communicable disease.

There are almost 200,000 people living with HIV in the country, of whom 23 per cent are injecting drug users and 7 per cent have had same-sex relations.

After 2015, the deadly virus was found mostly in young people between the ages of 14 and 18 due to poor health education, Dr Than Win said.

To control the disease, an-

tiretroviral therapy (ART) drugs have been prescribed by the Ministry of Health and Sports in partnership with non-government organisations such as Public Services International (PSI).

Since late 2005, the Ministry has issued ART not only to seriously ill HIV patients, but also to those who are in the early stages of HIV infection to prevent the risk of getting acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS),

a syndrome caused by the HIV virus.

The majority of HIV transmissions occurred among commercial sex workers, injecting drug users and same-sex lovers.

To raise HIV awareness among the public, the ministry and its partners are continuing educative programmes through various campaigns. — *Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

Yaba pills seized in Maungtaw, Hsenwi, Nawngkhio

POLICE members of Taungpyo (right side) police station under the Border Guard Police Force Unit 4 searched a motorbike driven by Win Naung at the Kyeinchaung-Taungpyo (left side) road in Thayargone village, Maungtaw Township on 1 November and subsequently seized 99,650 yaba pills.

On the same day, police from the Anti-Drugs Squad Unit 24 based in Lashio searched a Shwe Mandalay passenger bus near the Oriental toll gate near the access to Hsenwi on 1 November and seized 43 soap boxes containing opium weighing 516 grams from passengers KawlinShwin and Twinyinpauk.

Similarly, police searched a Manshweypi Express bus near a toll gate at the access to Nawngkhio and seized 20,000 yaba pills from Ma Aye Nwe on 1 November.



Win Naung being seen together with seized packages of yaba pills. Photo: MPF

Police are preparing to charge them with the Psychotropic Substances and Anti-Narcotic Drugs Law. — *Myanmar Police Force*

Crime NEWS

Kitchen fire damaged a house in Paung Township

A kitchen fire badly damaged a house in The Gon village (North), Paung township, Mon State around 4 pm on Tuesday.

“We found only a grandmother in the house. She was boiling hot water when the fire started,” said U Soe Kyaw Thu, a member of the fire service department from Paung township.

A villager found Daw Ohn Myint’s house being consumed

by the fire and informed the fire service department. The fire was put out by the firemen with the help of neighbours.

The fire rendered the house unlivable until repairs are made, officials said. No one was injured in the accident.

Action is being taken against Daw Ohn Myint, who will be charged under section 285 of the Penal Code.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Transportation and communication sector receives largest investment

OUT of 93 investment businesses, the transportation and communication enterprises have received the largest investments as of the end of October in this fiscal year, it is learnt from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The transportation and communication sector is placed at the top with an investment of US\$1,014.48million, followed by the electricity sector with an investment of US\$605.672million. The livestock and fisheries sector is seen to have the lowest investments of US\$9.54million, it is learnt.

Singapore has made the largest investments in the transportation and communication sectors, whereas China invests in the electricity sector. Investments for the agriculture sector are only on the table yet, said U Than Aung Kyaw, the deputy director from the DICA.

The investment businesses are given priority to effectuate the development in regions and states. A proposal to set the investment zone is submitted to the region and state government.



Passengers are taking a circular train in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Tax exemptions are also allowed in a limited period depending on the investment areas.

In the agriculture and livestock sector, foreign direct investments (FDI) are allowed only for joint ventures with local businessmen, it is learnt.

The relaxation is

required to persuade investors to put money in agriculture and livestock businesses. No grant for land ownership in Myanmar resulted in virtually no FDI in this sector, said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, the vice chairman of Myanmar Fish Federation (MFF).

The investments are

approved only after scrutiny of the investment proposals and regularly issuing notifications about sector-specific developments, creating job opportunities, state revenue, domestic and foreign market, local food consumption, technology sharing, innovation, environmental as-

essment and liability, it is learnt.

There are 63 foreign investment businesses from April to October in 2016, with FDI of US\$2,043.289million and 29 local investment businesses with US\$155.895million.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Cement import license seekers found the highest in Myitkhina, Kachin State

Out of export and import license seekers through border areas, the number of cement import license seekers is found to be the highest in Myitkhina, Kachin State.

The cement licensees are the highest there because there are not many license seekers in Myitkhina, said U Htein Lin, the assistant director from Myitkhina import and export office.

Over 3,500 tonnes of cement have been permitted for import in this fiscal year 2016-2017 by the Myitkhina office. The importers are applying for permission to import Chinese made Teng Yue and US\$80 will be levied on the import of a tonne of cement, it is learnt.

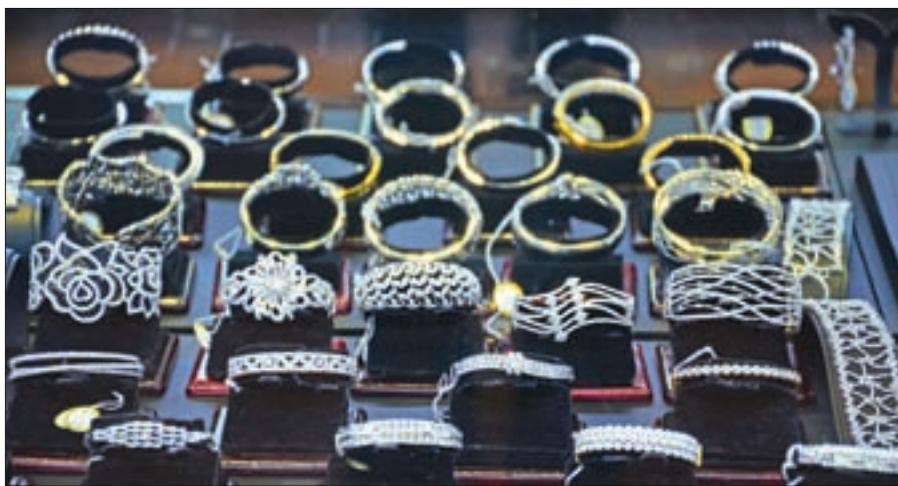
Ginger, rubber, rice and Penang bags are also exported through Myitkhina. Twenty tonnes of ginger, 100 tonnes of rubber, 500 tonnes of rice and 60 tonnes of Penang bags have already been exported this year, according to the statistics of trade promotion department under the Ministry of Commerce. There are three offices at which the trade license is granted in Kachin State: Kan Pike Tee, Lwe Je and Myitkhina.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Domestic gold price likely to hit Ks900,000 per tical

THE domestic gold price is supposed to reach Ks900,000 per tical due to global price of gold and the dollar, the goldsmiths said.

The local gold price is positively related to the dollar price and world gold's price. Although the world gold's price is currently stable, the local gold price has risen in keeping with an increase in dollar exchange rate. As a result of this, the gold market is not seen well.

The exchange rate



Golden wares being displayed at a jewellery in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

of US dollar is above Ks1,290 per dollar and the local gold price reached over Ks880,000 per tical on 1st November, it is learnt from gold and jewellery market.

Starting from 27th October, the USD exchange rate has been on the rise at the black mar-

ket. The rates per dollar are Ks1,292 on 27th October, Ks1,293 on 28th October, Ks1,291 on 29th, 30th and 31st October and Ks1,292 on 1st November respectively, it is learnt from black market.

The Central Bank of Myanmar set the exchange rate at Ks1,285 per dollar

on 27th, 28th, 31st October and 1st November.

Those who want to purchase gold need to keep abreast of the US exchange rate. If the dollar price goes down, the gold price cannot be expected to drop to the same extent, said the businessmen.—*Mon Mon*

Rubber market back to normal in northern Shan State from the rise of Chinese Yuan

THE rubber market has been brought back to normal in Northern Shan State, resulting from a rise in the price of the Chinese Yuan, it is learnt.

The price of rubber remained unchanged in 2015 and 2016 at 9,000 Chinese Yuan (CHY). The merchants stored the rubber in September watching the CHY exchange rate. The rubber market returned to its place again after the rise in CHY price in October.

"We sold out the rubber at the offered price in the previous years, but we stored them to watch the right time to sell this year. We sold the rubber due to the high exchange rate of

CHY", said U Win Tin, a local rubber grower.

However, the rubber price is stable. The Chinese merchants are able to purchase the rubber only when the Yuan exchange rate is high.

"We always come to purchase rubber. We cannot help with the depreciation of Yuan. The growers sell the rubber due to oppression of Yuan", said a Chinese rubber merchant.

The exchange rate of the Yuan was Ks180 per Yuan in early 2016. One Yuan is exchanged rate Ks190 in October. The rubber market has come back again with Yuan.—*Myitmakha News agency*

Refugees languish in Greek limbo as alarm grows in Brussels

ATHENS — Seven months after the European Union and Turkey struck an agreement to turn back the tide of Syrians fleeing west, not a single refugee has been sent back from Greece, and Brussels is losing its patience as overcrowded camps grow violent.

The agreement reached in March was designed to reduce the number of migrants crossing into Europe from Turkey, after more than a million people arrived in Europe last year, most reaching Greek islands by boat and continuing by land to Germany.

Under the deal, the European Union declared Turkey “a safe third country”, meaning those who make the crossing can be returned there, even if found to have fled Syria or other countries as refugees deserving protection. Turkey agreed to take them back, in return for a range of EU concessions.

At around the same time, Balkan countries along the land route north closed their borders, so that migrants who once poured



Refugees and migrants wait to be registered at the Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, on 5 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

across Greece to reach other parts of Europe are now trapped there and prevented from pressing on.

For the most part, the goal of stemming the tide has been achieved so far. Only 17,000 people, around half of them Syrians, have made the hazardous sea crossing from Turkey since the deal was signed, a tiny fraction of hundreds of thou-

sands that arrived the previous year to pass through Greece.

But for the deal to continue to work for the longer term, European officials and experts say refugees will have to be sent back to Turkey. As long as those crossing are still able to stay in Greece, there is a risk that more will decide to come.

“There’s the deterrence effect. If it’s proven that people are being turned back, it can force people to think twice about even trying,” said James Ker-Lindsay, an expert on southern Europe at the London School of Economics.

Only about 700 people who arrived since the deal was signed — just four percent of the total — have gone back to Turkey, and

none was ordered back after being recognised as a refugee.

Of those who returned, most were economic migrants from countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh who left without seeking asylum in Greece. Around 70 people who did claim asylum in Greece gave up on the process and asked to leave before it was over. The rest are still in Greece, prey for smugglers who offer to take them to northern Europe.

Some 61,000 migrants are still scattered across Greece, including 15,900 in overcrowded island camps that have grown violent as the delays mount, with around 2,500 more arriving each month. The camps are now holding three times as many people as they held when the deal was signed, and twice as many as they were built for.

The EU blames the delays on Greek inefficiency.

“The goal of ensuring returns ... has mostly been hampered by the slow pace of processing of asylum ap-

plications at first instance by the Greek Asylum Service and of processing of appeals by the newly-established Greek Appeals Authority,” the EU Commission said in a progress report.

“Further efforts are urgently needed by the Greek administration to build a substantially increased and sustained capacity to return arriving migrants, which is considered to be the key deterrent factor for irregular migrants and smugglers.” Athens says it is simply overwhelmed and cannot speed up the painstaking process of evaluating claims. It has asked the EU to send more staff, but European officials say that would not help without more effort from Greece to improve its system.

Interviews with asylum-seekers and officials involved in the process suggest Greek staff are indeed stretched, but red tape, inefficiency, the lack of a unified plan across refugee camps and a lengthy appeals process are also to blame.—Reuters

Four elementary school pupils injured after being hit by truck

CHIBA — Four elementary school pupils were injured, one seriously, Wednesday morning after a truck hit them while they were walking to school on a street in Chiba Prefecture, just east of Tokyo, police said.

The pupils, three boys and one girl, were walking in line on a street in the city of Yachimata when the truck driven by a 19-year-old man ran into them, leaving one boy seriously injured, the police and firefighters said, adding the pupils were taken to a nearby hospital. Police arrested the truck driver, a company employee, on suspicion of negligence while driving resulting in injuries, they said. Police believe the driver steered in wrong direction as he told the police he was “preoccupied with chatting with his colleague” who was sitting in the passenger’s seat. The driver was on his way to work, police added. The children are second to fifth graders at nearby elementary school. They were among about 10 pupils who were walking to the school in a group.—Kyodo News

Colombia’s Santos wants closer trade ties with post-Brexit Britain

LONDON — Colombia hopes to strengthen trade and investment ties with Britain following its exit from the European Union, President Juan Manuel Santos told lawmakers in London on Tuesday.

Santos, whose three-day trip is the first state visit to Britain by a Colombian president, said British investment would be able to grow once a peace deal

with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebel group comes into effect.

“We must build on existing foundations and identify new opportunities that will allow us to substantially increase our bilateral trade and investment,” Santos told lawmakers in parliament’s grand Robing Room.

According to the British government, bilateral

trade was worth around 1 billion pounds (\$1.22 billion) last year and the UK has been Colombia’s third largest foreign investor over the past decade.

Britain’s trade with the European Union was worth 30 billion pounds in August alone.

Santos, who is due to hold a meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday, said Britain and Colombia would re-

move one barrier to trade by signing a double-taxation agreement.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Colombian leader was formally welcomed to London by Queen Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip.

Santos is scrambling to save a hard-won peace deal with FARC, hammered out over almost four years of negotiations, which was narrowly re-

jected in a plebiscite last month. Many voters believed the plan was too lenient on the rebels.

Santos, who last month won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end the 52-year old conflict that has killed more than 220,000 people, said he hoped a national dialogue to listen to the public’s views would ensure a new agreement can be reached.—Reuters

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Iraqi forces advance on town where Islamic State accused of executions

BAGHDAD/BARTELLA, (Iraq) — US-backed Iraqi forces moved closer on Wednesday to a town south of Mosul where aid groups and regional officials say Islamic State has executed dozens of prisoners.

A military statement said security forces advanced to the edge of Hammam al-Alil, a thermal water resort, after an elite unit breached the eastern limits of Mosul, the ultra-hard-line group's last major city stronghold in Iraq.

The battle that started on 17 October with air and ground support from a US-led coalition is shaping up as the largest in Iraq since the US-led invasion of 2003.

Mosul still has a population of 1.5 million people, much more than any of the other cities captured by Islamic State two years ago in Iraq and neighbouring Syria.

The United Nations cited reports on Tuesday

that Islamic State, which is also known as ISIL, is attempting to displace Hammam al-Alil's estimated population of 25,000 for use as human shields and protection against air and artillery strikes.

"We have grave concerns for the safety of these and the tens of thousands of other civilians who have reportedly been forcibly relocated by ISIL in the past two weeks," UN human rights spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said.

The town, 15 km (9 miles) south of Mosul, had a pre-war population of 65,000, a local official said.

Aid organisations, local officials and Mosul residents have cited reports that IS has executed dozens of people in Hammam al-Alil and barracks nearby on suspicion of planning rebellions in and around Mosul to aid the advancing troops.

Abdul Rahman al-Waggaa, a member of the Nineveh provincial

council, told Reuters last week that most of the victims were former police and army members. The men were shot dead, he said, quoting the testimony of remaining residents of the villages and people displaced from the area.

Security forces advancing north on the western bank of the Tigris River recaptured five villages on Wednesday, the closest of them just 5 km (3 miles) from Hammam al-Alil, according to military statements.

Just across the river from those forces lie the ruins of the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud, which the Iraqi government says was bulldozed last year as part of Islamic State's campaign to destroy symbols which the Sunni Muslim zealots consider idolatrous. Army troops heading north on that side of the Tigris have yet to reach the area.

The United Nations has said the Mosul offen-

sive could trigger a humanitarian crisis and a possible refugee exodus if the civilians inside in Mosul seek to escape, with up to 1 million people fleeing in a worst-case scenario.

The International Organisation for Migration said nearly 21,000 people have been displaced since the start of the campaign, excluding thousands of villagers taken into Mosul by retreating jihadists who used them as human shields. Elite Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) troops were the first to breach Mosul's official boundary this week. They said on Tuesday they were in control of the state television station.

A CTS commander, Lt. General Abdul Ghani al-Assadi, told reporters in Bartella, a village east of Mosul, that the unit will pause its advance on the eastern front because of some rainfall early on Wednesday.—Reuters

Russia extends moratorium on Aleppo air strikes until Friday

MOSCOW — Russia's Defence Ministry said on Wednesday it was extending a moratorium on air strikes against targets inside Syria's Aleppo until Friday evening to give rebels more time to leave the city.

Since 18 October, Russia and its Syrian allies say they have halted air attacks in Aleppo. Western governments had alleged that the strikes had been killing civilians in large numbers, an allegation Moscow denied.

A Kremlin spokes-

man said on Tuesday that the moratorium was still in force, but could not be extended if rebels in the city did not halt their attacks.

The Defence Ministry said on Wednesday it was rolling over the moratorium until 1900 local time on 4 November "to avoid senseless victims" and called on rebels to use the opportunity to leave Aleppo with their weapons using two special corridors. It said the rebels had taken heavy losses during fighting and were unable to break out on their own.—

Reuters

Opposition leads protest against Zuma in South Africa's capital

PRETORIA — South African opposition parties, civic groups, unions and businesses marched in the capital Pretoria on Wednesday in a protest against President Jacob Zuma and a string of scandals linked to him.

Hundreds of people gathered at various points in the city. Some chanted outside a court where Zuma's application to delay the release of a report over allegations of political influence by his wealthy friends was due to be heard on Wednesday.

Since taking office in 2009, Zuma, 74, has survived several corruption scandals almost unscathed, with the backing of top echelons of the ruling African National Congress (ANC).

But South Africa has had to bear the cost as the economy has stagnated and

investors worry about its political stability, business climate and rule of law.

"South Africans must ... stand up against the anarchy of Zuma," the radical leftist party Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), which called for the marches as a show of force against Zuma, said on its official Twitter feed.

"Our supporters will make it loud and clear that we will not stand by and allow our hard-won democracy to be assaulted by Jacob Zuma," the opposition Democratic Alliance party said in a statement.

Paul Mashatile, chairman of ANC's Gauteng province which includes Pretoria and the economic hub of Johannesburg, said his group would take part in the marches, even without the blessing of the national party.—Reuters



Iraqi special forces take part in an operation against Islamic State militants in Kokjali, west of Mosul, Iraq, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS COENS ENERGY COMPANY LIMITED (YANGON REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE)

It was resolved that the COENS Energy Company Limited (Yangon Representative Office) be wound up with effect from September 30, 2016 at the Head Office Company's Board of Directors' Meeting held at the company's Head Office on March 29, 2016.

For such winding-up, U Maung Maung Aung, C.P.A. is appointed as the Attorney and Liquidator of the COENS Energy Company Limited (Yangon Representative Office).

All persons claiming to be creditors of the Yangon Representative Office as at September 30, 2016 are therefore requested to submit their claim or claims, with documentary evidence to the undersigned at, No. 64 (B), First Floor, Shwe Gon Plaza, Komin Kochin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region **within one month from the date of publication of this notice.**

Maung Maung Aung
Attorney and Liquidator
COENS Energy Company Limited
(Yangon Representative Office)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY. NO ()

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

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

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Opinion

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A lie told often enough becomes the truth

Tha Sein

IT is known that a lie told often enough becomes the truth, and this largely supports the saying that might is right.

Some local and foreign media working hand in glove with the perpetrators who were involved in the armed attacks that took place in northern Rakhine State on 9 October fabricated news that accused members of the Tatmadaw who were conducting an area clearance operation

of committing arson, looting, rape and sexual harassment. The media attempts were aimed at jeopardizing the government's efforts towards restoring peace and stability in the affected area and scaring local people to flee their villages in order to undermine the image of the government.

When it comes to the recent incidents that occurred in Rakhine State in which nine security personnel were killed and four injured, State

Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her meeting with Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister said that the government is handling the case fairly and squarely in accordance with the law while probing into what are said to be human rights violations, with the definition of human rights being very wide and subtle.

As a matter of fact, the incident is not a racial and/or religious conflict but simply an act which is detrimental to

sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is the reason why the government has addressed it in such a way as to ensure the rule of law and protect lives and property of local national races.

As the incident has turned out to be a particularly sensitive issue, the government will deal with it in accordance with the law. An investigation is underway to expose the attackers involved and to bring them to justice.

Convocation and Graduation: Minority Parents' Emotional Feeling At NRDC

Dr. Nyan Tun

THE 13th convocation and 14th graduation grand events were held at the convocation hall of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (NRDC) (Yangon). The colorful traditional dresses of the parents create the atmosphere as a small Union family gathering at the campus of the college and how colorful, lovely costume we, Myanmar people, possess! Holding convocation or graduation, actually, recommends the effort of the students or participants the levels they had performed in respective academic fields and recognizes them as the able persons who have the ability and worthy of sufficient knowledge accepted around the world and such events are conducting in every academic institution when the academic term is completed. This is the process of producing human resources to build and develop the family, society, organization and the nation. In fact, NRDC is one of the smokeless factories that produce educated reliable governmental human resources for the present and the future of the nation.

NRDC is affiliated with University of Yangon, once the leading University in Asia that produced well-known scholars and the products of NRDC are nothing to say the reliable human resources for the forces of the nation especially in the border areas and hill regions. In his convocation address, **Dr. Pho Kaung, Rector of the University of**

Yangon, shed light on the gratitude of the successive government and reminds to the graduate students as follow: "The government provides you everything from the time you join into this college so by reflecting the gratitude, you have duty and responsibility to return it with the knowledge and technology in the fields you are assigned."

At the graduation function which was held in the following day (27th, October), **H.E. Lt. General, Ye Aung, Union Minister for Border Affairs**, delivered proudly his address and he said, "We have produced the children of our ethnic brothers for the future of the country for 14th times. Today is the proud of nationality brothers living in the regions, states and Self-Administered regions as well as for the country that produces increasing resource governmental staff. The college is a true place where human resources are being produced so I believe you are going to perform your work dutifully: the development tasks of social, economic, health, education and so on as good citizens assigned to you in the separated places. As ethnic youths, in addition to the assigned duties, you should actively carry out by joining hands together on going peace process."

In response to the media, **Dr. Min Thant, the principal of NRDC** said, "We, priority, accept only boys since the college was opened and now we are arranging to accept girls as demanded. We have trained and produced over 2200 nationalities

youths with the financial support of the government. We are giving those students two sections in our college: one is giving them related knowledge in their Arts, Science and Engineering subjects and another is training them to be ready in serving as government servants in separated departments. We are lecturing Arts and Science subjects as the syllabus of University of Yangon for engineering subjects as Yangon Technological University. In addition to those subjects, computer skills, ethical behavior and applied culture are taught. Students are providing financially everything such as boarding, messing and so on from 1st year up to 4th year and even pocket money are given to them. The government has to spend eight lakh per student in a year. As adopted policy, we accept the minority nationalities young boy students those who have little chance in their education living in border areas and hill regions."

What I would like to focus on here is the emotional feeling of minority parents who participated at the convocation and graduation ceremony due to their graduate sons and to whom I interviewed. Whenever hearing their response, it makes me to write this article how our little brothers are lack of knowledge and how pitiful they are! I don't want to blame any persons who are responsible for this miserable concept that created urban, rural area and hill regions totally different but what a thought I have is due to poverty, leased developed every corner of the regions, unprivileged, conflict and

unstable which forces both our major and minor brothers and sisters especially for minority ethnic in the country to live behind the world.

U Wai Mu Shay, the father of Mg Kyaw San Myint, Rakhine ethnic, living in Panninna village, Punnagyun Township, Rakhine State. I asked the first question to him what degree his son would be conferred: Arts or Science or Engineering. His response made me so shock, "I don't know Sir. I know nothing about his education." Actually, his son was a B.Sc degree holder. He kept on saying "I have six children and he is the fourth one. Only he has got this degree in the family. I'm really happy seeing this event." I put him another question 'How did you send your son in this college?' he responded to me the same answer "I don't know, Sir." So who took him to this college? I sent him to Sittway monastery to attend this college and I did not know the name of the monastery. Sir, I'm a farmer how I could know this step. He continued saying, "I really think to my son some." It makes me wonderful again and I asked him why. "Sir, I have been to Yangon and this college and pay homage to Shwedagon Pagoda and visit other famous places due to my son." That is why he thanked his son. "I think all of you and the government by bringing my son up as a graduate one as well as a civil servant that makes my head turn up in my village." The last question what I asked him was 'How much money do you have to send to your son for pocket money?' "Sir, we

are very poor and I can't send sufficient money to my son but my youngest son is working in China and when he sent money to us I can send it to him." He wished his son to be a senior officer and he wanted his son to serve near them. Anyway, as a teaching staff, I'm proud of him for letting up his son to be a graduate even though being illiterate.

U Nyay Ral, Kayah ethnic, the father of Pha Rae Ral, a B.Sc degree holder, Wetheku south village, Demawso Township, Kayah State. I wanted to know how he brought up his child and I raised the question and he told me that his son was taken to Wakema parahita (social welfare) monastery in Ayeyawaddy Region from his young hood by his uncle and when the child was high school standard he was brought to Demawso social welfare monastery and he joined this college from that monastery so I asked him the names of the two monasteries but he replied to me in negative. He even did not know that the college provides everything free to all students but he knew that his son will be a civil servant after graduation. He has to send five lakh to his son per year. He was really appreciating the gratitude of the teachers as well as the government. He wanted his son to support them while serving his duty. This is what every parent wishes their kids to return to them for parent-children relation play the most important role in our society and this is fair wish for every parent.

See page 9 >>

C-in-C Senior General meets Vice Chairman of Chinese military commission



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing with Gen. Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of the central military commission.
PHOTO: MNA

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who has been on a goodwill visit to People's Republic of China, met Gen. Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission, at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse on 1 November.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to border region stability, coordinated efforts for peace with ethnic armed groups, promotion of socio-economic betterment of people living in border areas, exchange of goodwill visits, discussions between the two militaries

and promotion of cooperation in training.

Later in the evening, the Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Talks on promoting knowledge, ideas of youths held in Mandalay

MANDALAY Region Chamber and Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) organised a talk titled "Wisdom Talk of MRCCI" at Yadanabon Super Centre in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay on Monday 31 October.

MRCCI chairman U Aung San Win explained that MRCCI

has been organising round table talks to widen the business knowledge of youths in the last week of every month this year.

U Maw Maw of the Aung Thamadi gold refining business then gave a talk on "Knowledge about Gold", followed by a presentation by U Soe Myint Than on

"Small Business, Big Impact". Afterwards they responded to the queries from attendees.

The round-table talks are being held once a month with a view to enriching the knowledge of the youth and also to spark novel ideas, it is learnt.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

POEM:

Like the Way She Walks

Under the pressures of life
and the harsh realities, and defeats,
I admit I sometimes feel weighed down, and depressed,
But the moment I recall her image to my mind,
her laser sharp eyes, her bushy eyebrows, and her unfurling roses,
and the way she walks briskly_
Yes, I like the way she walks_
She always walks, tilting her head a bit sideways,
Swinging her hands energetically
as if swimming with a good unrelenting stamina
but gliding beautifully like a butterfly,
Yes, the moment I recall the way this old lady walks,
Blown away are my dull torpor and dark despair,
And feeling blissful, and energetic,
I feel really grateful to her.

Zaw Tun

Authorities to crack down on illegal migrants along border areas in Kawkayeik

AUTHORITIES plan to crack down on migrants who illegally enter the country through the border areas near Paingkalai Village in Kyaikdon and Phayathonesu townships in Kawkayeik District, Kayin State.

A combined task force including members of the Myanmar Police and agents from the Immigration and Population Department will begin the operation this month along border towns in Kawkayeik District in Kayin State, said Police Superintendent Zaw Thiha.

Kayin State is bordered by Mae Hong Son, Tak, and Kanchanaburi provinces of Thai-

land to the east; Mon State and Bago Region to the west and south; Mandalay Region, Shan State and Kayah State to the north.

Although there are checkpoints along the border between Myanmar and Thailand, illegal migrants continue to enter the country via the target areas and nearby regions.

Police urged the public to raise their participation in preventing illegal migration, inviting them to immediately inform the authorities when they discover suspicious looking persons in the country.—*Sow Htet Aung (Kawkayeik)*

Convocation and Graduation: Minority Parents' Emotional Feeling At NRDC

>> from page 8

U San Mhat, Palaung ethnic, the father of San Aye, a B.Tech degree holder, Manlon village, Namsan Township, Northern Shan State. He came from Palaung Self-Administered Region and earning with tea plantation in his village and he had been to Yangon when his son got his degree. They came the whole family to Yangon and they had got great chance so they went to Shwedagon, Kyaikhteeyo, Kyauktan and other interesting places taken by their son. For them, their son is a hero who brought them to metropolitan. He wanted his son to perform his work dutifully but did not want his son to serve at their region because the region is not safe place due to arm conflict and he was afraid of his safety what he wanted from his son was that when he got salary, he wanted him to give them a little. "I really thank responsible persons and I don't know how to say the gratitude of the government", he said.

U Yin Kyan, the father of Yin Kyan Zone, B.Sc degree holder, Lachaint (Kachin group), Yinkyanzon village, Kwonlon

Township, Northern Shan State. He said that he had eight children and Yin Kyan Zone was the fourth one and studied at Youth Training School in Lashio. U Yin Kyan can speak Myanmar language very well, speak friendly and openly and I could guess how clever he was so I asked him the job what he was doing. He is earning animal husbandry in his village and he kept on saying that he was a village administrator. That is why he can communicate very well and he told me that he was a member of people's council in Myanmar Socialist Programme Party and carried out the job till the party collapsed down and then became a member of village track administrator since State Peace and Development Council took the power and till today in his village. He told me that he wanted his sons to be graduate persons even though he was illiterate. His vision to the future of his son is very clear and he said, "My son belonged to the government for they graduated from this college that provides everything for minority ethnic like us so now he had got his degree so he must

serve as a civil servant as the government assigned to him." To my knowledge, he is the real father that he has a farsighted one for the future of his children and this is due to his clever and bright knowledge that learned through his real life so called the life of school. Every parent should be like U Yin Kyan either graduates or not, there is no boundary either lives in remote area or in a township but the mindset should be applied through one's personal experience or the atmosphere we live in.

U Ba Khin, the father of Kyaw Nyein San, B.Tech degree holder, Bhutheetaung Township, Rakhine State. He told me that he has three children and Kyaw Nyein San is the eldest one and the most reliable one in our family. He came here bringing all his family members because of recent attack in their town and due to security concern. He said, "I want my son to persuade his further studies as possible as he can. I served as a lower clerk for 25 years as a government servant and now earning my family by selling bamboo." He thanked his

son for bringing him to Yangon and he and his family have never been to Yangon so he was a luck one to pay homage to Pagodas. Dealing with current attacks, not only him but also the entire nationalities feel so shock and it alarms us to be united keeping our national and Union spirit among our brotherhood. He kept on saying that according to official statistic there are only one lakh our Rakhine population in Bhutheetaung and Maungdaw but over 7 lakh Bangali. He does not want his son to carry out his job in Rakhine State due to unrest and unsafe area.

The last one to whom I interview was U Kyaw Than, the father of Kyaw Ye Aung, B.Sc degree holder, Maungshin village, Myaepon Township. He is doing odd job and he has six children and his son is the third one and it was only him who had got a degree and he was sent to Sittway Youth Training School and attended this college from that school. He expected his son to be a head master in Sittway. He had never been to Yangon and due to graduation he came to this college. He was really proud

of his son and he thought that no one is bright than his son in their township. He also said to me, "I really thank all of teachers who bring up my son as a graduate one as well as the people and government who provide everything for my son."

In conclusion, in this convocation and graduation, there are 371 students occupying their respective B.A, B.Sc, B.Tech degree. I just wanted to know the emotional feeling of some parents of the students and so long as the questions put forwards to another parents I'm sure I'll hear unusual and astonished respond of them. Most of the parents are minority because only the minority students are priority accepted in this college. Most of them are simple, honest, illiterate, have know knowledge of atmosphere what is happening around them and they even have never been to metropolitan but they are proud of the success of their sons as the future leaders of the country and they really thank the people, the government, the teaching and administrative staff of NRDC.

South Korea names new PM, finance minister amid scandal, angering opposition

SEOUL — South Korea's presidential office on Wednesday named a new prime minister and finance minister, the highest-level shake-up since President Park Geun-hye's administration was rocked by a scandal involving a friend accused of meddling in state affairs.

But opposition parties denounced the reshuffle as a bid by Park to divert attention from the political crisis, which has dragged her approval rating to an all-time low.

The Blue House named Financial Services Commission Chairman Yim Jong-yong as finance minister and deputy prime minister. Yim, who replaces incumbent minister Yoo Il-ho, has been well-regarded by policy-makers and market participants in his current role.

Kim Byong-joon, a senior presidential secretary during former president Roh Moo-hyun's administration, is expected to replace Hwang Kyo-ahn as prime minister. The prime minister's role in South Korea is largely administrative and requires parliamenta-



Kim Byong-joon, a nominee for South Korea's Prime Minister, speaks during a news conference in Seoul, South Korea, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ry approval. Kim initially scheduled a news conference but later called it off, saying he would speak further on Thursday.

"This situation is moving pretty quickly and I will voice my thoughts tomorrow after having listened to those around me," Kim told reporters, declining to comment further.

Appointing Kim, who has a reputation as a liberal, appears to be a bid by the conservative Park

to placate the opposition and soothe public anger over the scandal involving Park's friend, Choi Soon-sil, who is in custody and under investigation by prosecutors.

But the shake-up, which included a new minister of public safety and security, did little to please the opposition.

"This replacement of the prime minister and finance minister can't be happening without discuss-

ing it with the opposition," Park Jie-won, leader of the opposition People's Party, told a party meeting.

"We won't stand by such a move to turn around the current situation with the personnel change," said Park, adding that his party would boycott nomination hearings.

South Korean stocks and the won currency did not react to the cabinet changes.

Neither incumbent

Yoo or Hwang have been implicated in the scandal, although Yoo had been under pressure from opposition lawmakers over his close relationship with Park.

"The Blue House named Kim as the right person to lead the cabinet for the country's future and to overcome current hardships," presidential spokesman Jung Youn-kuk said.

A growing number of opposition politicians, as well as many members of the public have called on Park to step down, although the opposition has not called for impeachment proceedings.

Despite numerous scandals over the years, no South Korean president has ever resigned or been successfully impeached.

If Park, 64, were to step down before the end of her five-year term, an election would be held in 60 days, with the winner serving five years, making for a high-stakes race for which neither of the main parties has prepared.

Park apologised on television last week for giving Choi access to draft

speeches during the first months of her presidency, but that did little to deflect demands that Park reveal the full nature of her ties with Choi and whether she enjoyed favors because of her friendship with the president.

Choi, 60, arrived at the prosecutors' office on Wednesday morning in handcuffs for a third day of questioning.

Prosecutors asked a court for a warrant to arrest Choi after charging her with abuse of power and attempted fraud, a court official said.

Prosecutors have said they are looking into allegations Choi forced conglomerates to donate funds to non-profit foundations using her friendship with the president and whether she benefited financially through the foundations.

Choi told South Korea's *Segye Ilbo* newspaper last week that she received drafts of Park's speeches after Park's election victory but denied she had access to other official material, influenced state affairs or benefited financially. —Reuters

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US officials say North Korea preparing missile launch: report

WASHINGTON — North Korea is preparing to launch an intermediate-range ballistic missile in the next three days, Fox Business Network reported on Tuesday, citing two unidentified US officials.

The communist nation planned the launch for between 24 and 72 hours, the cable network reported. It would be the latest in a series of launches by the isolated country this year in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, supported by China, that ban all ballistic missile-related activities by the North.

North Korea, which is under UN and other international sanctions for its nuclear and missile programmes, has conducted repeated missile tests this year, the most recent on 20 October.

That latest test, believed to be an intermediate-range Musudan, failed immediately after launch, the US and South Korean militaries said. It came in spite of the threat of further UN sanctions under discussion.

The failed launch was the eighth attempt in seven months by North Korea



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un provides field guidance to the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Site Souvenir Factory in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 7 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

to launch a weapon with a design range of 3,000 km (1,800 miles) that can be fired from road mobile launchers, the US and South Korean militaries said.

News of that launch came during the third and final debate for the 8 November US presidential election.

A study published last month by a US-based North

Korea research project said North Korean missile and nuclear tests and other major "provocations" had clustered increasingly closer to US elections.

Washington's Centre for Strategic and International Studies said the trend also suggested the possibility of an act during the December transition period for the next

US administration.

North Korea conducted its first nuclear test in 2006 and has since defied UN sanctions to press ahead with the development of the weapons and missiles to carry them, which it says it needs for defense.

It carried out its fourth nuclear test in January and fifth and largest on 9 September.—Reuters

MH370 report says plane in 'increasing rate of descent' when it vanished

SYDNEY — A report into missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 by the Australian safety investigator leading the search supports its view that the aircraft descended rapidly after running out of fuel with no human intervention, the agency said on Wednesday.

Flight MH370 disappeared in March 2014 en route to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur with 239 passengers and crew onboard in one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) report released on Wednesday said analysis of wing flap debris showed the aircraft was not configured for a landing.

It also said satellite communications from the aircraft were consistent with it being in a "high and increasing rate of descent" when it vanished, colloquially known as a death dive.

The 28-page report contains new end-of-flight and drift simulations that suggests experts



Family members of passengers on board the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 comfort a crying woman as they gather to pray at Yonghegong Lama Temple in Beijing on 8 September 2014, on the six-month anniversary of the disappearance of the plane. PHOTO: REUTERS

believe the current search area is the most likely to contain the crash site. It coincides with the start of a three-day meeting of international experts to develop potential plans to continue the search.

ATSB search director Peter Foley told media on Wednesday that analysis of a wing flap had "enhanced certainty" at what had happened.

"It was probably in a non-extended position which means the

aircraft wasn't configured for a landing or a ditching," said Foley, referring to the practice of extending wing flaps to allow an aircraft to travel safely at slower speeds in preparation for a landing.

"You can draw your own conclusions as to whether that means someone was in control or not."

The question of whether there was human intervention during the descent is crucial because if the aircraft glided, the debris field could be outside the 120,000 sq km (46,330 sq mile) search zone which has almost been exhausted.

Authorities assume the plane had no "inputs" during its final descent, meaning there was no pilot or no conscious pilot. They believe it was on auto-pilot and spiraled when it ran out of fuel.

But the engineering group leading the search, Fugro, has previously raised the prospect someone could have glided the aircraft to explain why it hasn't

been found.

Jason Middleton, head of aviation at the University of New South Wales, said the wing flap analysis was of limited benefit.

"It meant the pilot was not alert, awake or planning a safe landing — that's all it means," Middleton told Reuters.

He said the new drift simulations only showed the aircraft was "in that generic part of the ocean" that is being searched and did not help define a new search area in the Indian Ocean.

In a separate development, a lawyer for the families of four Australian victims told Reuters that Malaysia Airlines had agreed to release information about the missing plane as part of a compensation case.

John Dawson, a partner at Carneys Lawyers, said he had been advised he would receive the information by the end of the month. The information is to include the most recent medical certificates held by the flight crew.—Reuters

His war on drugs well underway, Philippines' Duterte now tackles labour reform

MANILA — In four years, Ivan Rey Tan worked with seven Philippine businesses. From a doughnut shop to a baby products store, the firms only hired workers on short-term contracts to rein in costs, and none of his jobs lasted longer than five months.

Tan is among 28 million Filipinos employed on short-term contracts, an astonishing 70 per cent of the Asian nation's workforce. Now, new President Rodrigo Duterte's government is aiming to bar the employ-on-contract practice because it offers no job security, health or other benefits and tramples on workers' rights.

The government is still to amend any of the labour laws, but Duterte has already warned employers to stop hiring workers on such contracts.

His plans have not created as much of a furor as his controversial war on drugs, but employers in one of the world's fastest growing economies are up in arms. They say ending short-term contracts would mean up to 30 per cent additional costs for businesses, forcing them to hire fewer people and driving away prospective investors.

If the state forces all companies to make all their employees permanent, "we will bring the government to court," said Donald Dee, head of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines. "You cannot do that."

"In today's business environment, there is no such thing" as

permanent employment, Dee said. "If they push that, no madman would do business here."

Other employers said pushing the reform could mean a downturn in the Philippines' enviable rate of economic growth, which at 7 per cent in the second quarter was among the highest in the world.

Philippine law allows employers to hire workers to meet demand at peak times. These contracts typically span five months to avoid a six-month rule that would require employers to make an employee permanent.

The practice is popularly called "endo", an abbreviation of "end of contract".

In 2011, the labour agency allowed companies to engage contractors to supply workers for short-term jobs, helping spread the practice of "endo" to job-intensive sectors such as retailing and manufacturing.

Duterte has said he wants the number of jobs with these contracts halved by year-end and eradicated next year.

There are pending bills in Congress to end such contractual work in what would be the first overhaul of the Philippines' labour law since 1989 but no legislation has yet been passed.

Nevertheless, Duterte ordered an inspection of all companies shortly after assuming office on 30 June, warning that any company that would not end short-term contracts risked closure.—Reuters



Firefighters work after a fire broke out at a karaoke lounge in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 1 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Viet Nam PM orders probe after karaoke blaze kills 13

HANOI — A fire that broke out at a karaoke lounge in Viet Nam's capital killed at least 13 people, the government said on Wednesday, in a rare accident of its kind for which the prime minister demanded an investigation and punishment for safety violations.

The fire started around lunchtime on Tuesday in a crowded residential area on the outskirts of Hanoi and flames quickly spread to engulf three neighbouring houses as clouds of black smoke filled the air, a Reuters witness said.

It took more than two hours for fire teams to put out the flames to allow rescuers to start searching for victims, the government said in a statement on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc "instructed Hanoi police to soon investigate and find the cause as well as to deal strictly with any violations," the government said in an earlier statement.

Phuc also asked Hanoi city government to close down karaoke parlors and restaurants which fail to

observe fire preventive measures.

Police in charge of fire fighting ordered an urgent inspection on fire preventive measures in public places in major cities nationwide, focusing on karaoke parlors, discotheques, bars and restaurants, the government said.

Karaoke remains popular in Viet Nam and is often picked as entertainment for large groups of people. However, fire drills at such places are rarely conducted and exits not always provided.—Reuters

Clinton camp says FBI should say what it knows about Trump's Russia ties

WASHINGTON/FT. LAUDERDALE, (Fla.) — A top aide to Hillary Clinton urged the FBI on Tuesday to disclose what it knows about any ties between Donald Trump and Russia, accusing the agency of unfairly publicizing its inquiry into Clinton's email practices while staying quiet about the Republican presidential candidate.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation opened a preliminary inquiry in recent months into allegations that Trump or his associates might have had questionable dealings with Russian people or businesses, but found no evidence to warrant opening a full investigation, according to sources familiar with the matter. The agency has not publicly discussed the probe.

A week before Election Day, the Clinton campaign was trying to contain damage from the announcement by FBI Director James Comey on Friday that his agency was looking into newly discovered emails that might relate to Clinton's use of a private server while she was secretary of state.

Clinton has voiced confidence the FBI will not find anything problematic.

She campaigned on Tuesday in the battleground state of Florida, where she was joined in Dade City by former Miss Universe Alicia Machado, whom Trump had mocked for gaining weight. Chants of "Lock her up!" from dozens of Trump supporters gathered nearby could be faintly heard while Clinton spoke.

In Ft. Lauderdale, a young man who yelled, "She's a liar" was escorted out of the rally. Several other protesters removed during the course of her speech.

"I am sick and tired of the negative, dark, divisive, dangerous vision and behaviour from people who support Donald Trump," Clinton said as another protester was removed from the rally.

Trump and other Republicans have seized on Comey's announcement, which did not indicate any wrongdoing by Clinton, to ratchet up criticism of the Democratic candidate. She leads in most opinion polls ahead of the 8 November election.

Trump urged people on Tuesday who voted early for his Democratic rival to cancel their ballots and switch to him.

"This is a message for any Democratic voters who have already cast their ballots for Hillary Clinton and who are having a bad case of buyer's remorse, in other words you want to change your vote," Trump told a Wisconsin rally.

"So if you live here or in Michigan or Pennsylvania or Minnesota, you can change your vote to Donald Trump."

Several states, including those cited by Trump, have a process to allow voters who cast early ballots to change their votes, either by



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton walks offstage at a campaign rally in Sanford, Florida, US 1 November 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

submitting new ballots or showing up at their polling place on Election Day.

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook questioned why the FBI director had not released any information about the agency's Russia inquiries.

"If you're in the business of releasing information about investigations on presidential candidates, release everything you have on Donald Trump. Release the information on his connections to the Russians," Mook said on CNN.

The FBI inquiry reviewed allegations that Trump or his associates might have violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act or engaged in contacts or commerce with people in Russia who are subject to US or international financial sanctions.

The US government has blamed Russia for cyber attacks on Democratic Party organisations. Democrats criticise Trump for taking what they say is a pro-Russia foreign policy stance.

Russia's possible role in the campaign again came into focus when online magazine Slate said a group of computer scientists had been alarmed by records showing thousands of apparent connection attempts between an email server operated on behalf of the Trump Organisation and computers inside a Russian company, Alfa Bank in Moscow.

Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks said the server, which had been used to send out hotel marketing material, had been dormant for years.

Prominent US cyber security company FireEye said it had been hired by Alfa Bank to investigate the records and had been granted access to the bank's systems in Moscow to look for evidence of any relationship with Trump's company or any signs of hacking or infection. FireEye said so far it had found no emails being sent back and forth or any other link.

Opinion polls showed Clinton's lead has narrowed slightly since early last week but it was too early to say whether the email controversy was hurting her.

Clinton led businessman Trump in the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll of likely voters released on Monday, by 44 per cent to 39 per cent. Clinton, hoping to be the first woman elected president, strengthened her lead over Trump in polls after the release last month of a 2005 video in which the Republican bragged in vulgar terms about groping women.

But in a dramatic twist, Comey told Congress in a letter on Friday that the FBI was reviewing the newly discovered emails.

Comey had announced in July that the FBI had completed a probe into the email practices, concluding there were no grounds to bring any charges.

Clinton's team has been pressing the FBI to provide details on the new trove of emails, which Comey said may or may not be significant in the case.

Little is publicly known yet about the emails, other than that they were found during an unrelated probe into former US Representative Anthony Weiner, the estranged husband of top Clinton aide Huma Abedin.

Comey's letter has provided Republicans with fresh fodder for attack in the waning days of the campaign. US House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan said on Tuesday that a Clinton presidency would bog down in "scandal baggage."

Congressional Republicans, who had been concerned Trump risked damaging their majorities in the House and Senate, were also encouraged by his recent statements on efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare. A campaign aide said if Trump wins, he would ask Congress to begin working on legislation to repeal the law before the 20 January inauguration.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vucic: EU membership, regional stability priorities

BELGRADE — The Serbian government will continue to pursue a responsible policy whose foreign policy priorities are EU membership and regional stability, PM Aleksandar Vucic told French Ambassador Christine Moro Tuesday.

Vucic and Moro agreed that bilateral relations between the two countries are very good, as confirmed by Vucic's recent visit to France.

Vucic and Moro also spoke about Serbian-French economic projects, whose implementation is becoming more certain considering the good indicators of Serbia's economic progress.

Moro said that France continues to strongly support Serbia's EU path and the reforms conducted by Vucic and the Serbian government. Vucic expressed gratitude for France's support, stressing that the government will continue to pursue its responsible policy, with EU membership and regional stability as the foreign policy priorities.—Tanjung

France begins transferring Calais child migrants to reception centres

PARIS — French authorities began moving about 1,500 unaccompanied child migrants from the site of a demolished camp to reception centres across the country on Wednesday, as a standoff with Britain over who takes care of the youths dragged on.

A Reuters photographer witnessed the departure of the first bus at around 0830 AM (0730 GMT). The minors have been housed temporarily in converted shipping containers in the northern seaside town of Calais after demolition teams tore down the "Jungle", a ramshackle camp of shacks and tents. Thousands of other migrants have already been relocated across France.—Reuters

20 killed, 34 missing after boat sinks in western Indonesia

JAKARTA — A boat carrying 93 people capsized off Indonesia's west Batam Island early Wednesday, leaving at least 20 dead and 34 others missing, the local and national search and rescue offices said.

The boat capsized in Tanjung Bebam waters off Batam Island after leaving from Malaysia, said Azman MP, head of emergency department of the disaster agency in Batam Island.

Extreme weather and overloading were blamed for the shipwreck, he revealed.

"Over capacity and strong winds with tidal waves were believed to be the trigger of the sea incident," Azman told Xinhua. Meanwhile, spokesman of the National Search and Rescue Office Marsudi said a search and rescue operation for the missing was underway.—Xinhua

Missing Australian tourist found in Borneo's 'Hidden Valley'

KUALA LUMPUR — Rescued after two weeks lost in a Borneo jungle, Australian tourist Andrew Gaskell was recovering on Wednesday in a Malaysian hospital, having survived his ordeal by eating wild ferns.

The 25-year-old Tasmanian was airlifted out of a deep ravine known as the 'Hidden Valley' on Tuesday following a search by 60 Malaysian fire and rescue personnel in Mulu National Park, Sarawak, on the northern part of Borneo island.

Gaskell, who lost his bearings while trekking alone, told ABC's Australia radio that he had survived on a "few wild ferns" and "plenty of water". "If I had a GPS or navigational equipment I would have been fine. That was extremely stupid of me, really," Gaskell said.

Aside from being hungry and having infected cuts on his feet, Gaskell said he had suffered no major injuries.—Reuters

Swiss take hard line on EU immigration before Merkel talks

ZURICH — Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann staked out a hard line on EU immigration before meeting German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday, insisting it could not be linked to a broader treaty Brussels wants.

In an interview aired by broadcaster SRF before Wednesday's meeting in Berlin, he also said Swiss plans to curb the influx of European Union citizens by giving local people hiring preference may not require any more EU negotiations. Switzerland, which is not an EU member, must implement next year the result of a 2014 referendum in which voters demanded quotas on EU workers.

Such limits would violate bilateral treaties that give the Swiss enhanced access to the EU single market, their largest trading partner, in return for citizens' freedom of movement.—Reuters

Lady Gaga in Japan to promote new album 'Joanne'



Singer Lady Gaga kisses a Japan Airlines (JAL) staff upon her arrival at Narita International airport in Narita, Japan, on 1 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NARITA (Japan) — Dozens of screaming fans holding banners and posters greeted US pop singer Lady Gaga in Tokyo on Tuesday as the Grammy Award winning songstress arrived in Japan to promote her US chart-topping album "Joanne".

Dressed in a backless-black outfit and pink hat — an accessory she wears on the "Joanne" album cover — the singer-songwriter signed autographs and thanked fans for "inviting me back".

"(I) just wanted to bring happiness to everyone today and I

think a pink hat makes every day happy," she said.

"Joanne" is Lady Gaga's fifth studio album. The rock-infused record debuted at the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday. —Reuters

Japan anime film 'your name.' continues to soar, music plays part



Japanese animation film director Makoto Shinkai (L) and RADWIMPS singer Yojiro Noda appear in an event in Tokyo on 27 October, 2016. Shinkai's film "your name." was featured at the Tokyo International Film Festival from 25 October to 3 November. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — There seems to be no stopping the soaring popularity of Japanese animated film "your name." directed by Makoto Shinkai, as the body-swapping fantasy continues to attract fans at home and abroad.

Film critics list several reasons to the film's box office success, and the perfect connection between the story and music is certainly one of them. Shinkai himself has admitted to the great weight music carries for his film that is featured in the Tokyo In-

ternational Film Festival ending Thursday.

Shinkai, considered one of the heirs apparent to his country's iconic and internationally renowned director Hayao Miyazaki, was all praises for Yojiro Noda, composer of the musical score for "your name." and vocalist of popular Japanese rock band RADWIMPS.

"I thought I could entrust Yojiro-san not only to provide music but to do so in a way that the music will (supplement) the

dialogue or monologue of the characters," Shinkai said before a packed audience including repeat viewers at a film screening in Tokyo's Roppongi district.

"While I do want the characters to express themselves, it is hard to convey (certain feelings)...so Yojiro-san could fill in through songs," said the 43-year-old from Nagano Prefecture.

The film, marking a feat in terms of movie revenues for Japanese animation films other than works by Miyazaki, includes four songs of RADWIMPS such as the upbeat "Zenzenzense" and the melancholic "Nandemonaiya," whose lyrics "convinced" Shinkai that what he had in mind for the film's ending will deliver.

The story depicts the strange gender-swapping between Mitsuha, a high school girl living in the countryside and yearning for life outside, and Taki, a high school boy in Tokyo, in their dreams, although they have never met.

Noda, whose songs were inspired by the love story of the two main characters, said he was worried his music could "get in the way" of the flow of the story and initially focused on instrumental music. He was in for a surprise, though, when the director asked him for "more words." —Kyodo News

Johnny Depp enters Rowling's magical world in 'Fantastic Beasts' sequel

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Depp has swashbuckled as a pirate, played a mad hatmaker and will next step into "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling's wizarding world of magic in the "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" sequel, film trade publications said Tuesday.

Depp, 53, one of Hollywood's top actors and box office draws, will co-star in the 2018 sequel to "Fantastic Beasts," due out in theaters on 18 November, Deadline.com, The Hollywood Reporter and Variety said, citing unnamed sources.

The reports also said Depp will make a cameo in the first film, but did not reveal what part he will play.

Time Warner Inc.-owned Warner Bros studios did not formally announce Depp's casting, and a representative for the studio did not immediately return requests for comment.

Little is known about the plot of "Fantastic Beasts," which stars Oscar-winner Eddie Redmayne with a screenplay by Rowling, featuring new characters, story and set in New York

in 1926, long preceding the "Harry Potter" books and films, which were set in England in the 1990s.

Rowling revealed earlier this month that "Fantastic Beasts" will be the first of five new movies set in her wizarding world.

The new franchise will trace the rise of a powerful wizard named Gellert Grindelwald and his eventual 1945 duel with Albus Dumbledore, the popular wizard headmaster from the Potter stories.

Rowling's seven-book "Harry Potter" series sold more than 450 million copies worldwide, and the film franchise, which ended in 2011 with "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," took in more than \$7 billion at the global box office. Depp leads Disney's hit franchise "Pirates of the Caribbean," in which he plays Captain Jack Sparrow, and "Alice in Wonderland," in which he plays the Mad Hatter. He is known for often playing eccentric, unpredictable and off-kilter characters. —Reuters



Johnny Depp of the band Hollywood Vampires attends a charitable event with Starkey Hearing Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal on 27 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fans welcome back Kim Kardashian after social media silence

NEW YORK — Reality star Kim Kardashian has returned to social media, posting on Facebook for the first time since a robbery in Paris last month forced her to retreat from her busy public life.

Kardashian, who grew a multimillion-dollar brand through her prolific Twitter, Instagram and other social media postings that attract tens of millions of followers, put up three Facebook entries late on Monday, but made no reference to the robbery at gunpoint in Paris. Instead she posted a link to old Kardashian Halloween family videos, linked to Halloween costume ideas from her personal assistant, and shared what appeared to be an old photo of herself sitting and looking at her cell phone.

Fans, writing in French, Spanish, Portuguese and English,

welcomed her return. "Kim you were so missed, so happy you are coming back to us," commented Rebecca Vassimon. "Welcome back to social media Kim from Morocco. We love you," wrote Laila Amri.

Last week, the 36-year-old resumed filming her TV show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," which was put on hold after the 3 October attack when she was tied up and held at gunpoint while her jewelry was taken. No arrests have been made. Kardashian, who has used social media and the TV show to document every detail of her life and that of her sisters, adopted a low profile after the attack following criticism that she had made herself vulnerable by constant displays of her wealth. —Reuters

World Othello Championship kicks off in game's Japanese birthplace



Players compete in the World Othello Championship in the eastern Japan city of Mito, the birthplace of the board game, on 2 November 2016, its opening day. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

MITO (Japan) — The World Othello Championship began in the eastern Japan city of Mito on Wednesday, bringing the premier competition of the board game back to its birthplace for only the second time.

A total of 84 people, aged 9 to 69, from 29 countries and regions are taking part in the championship in Mito, where Goro Hasegawa, the inventor of the game, was born. He died in June aged 83.

“I look forward to playing against people from many different countries so I can learn new tactics and become stronger,” said 11-year-old Masaki Wada, who is from Sendai, north-eastern Japan.

Among the contestants

is reigning champion Yusu-ke Takanashi. The 24-year-old from Kuki, Saitama Prefecture, has claimed the championship four times since 2009.

Othello was put on sale in 1973 based on a trial product designed by Hasegawa. About 2 million units were sold in the first three years, according to the World Othello Federation website.

Othello is a game for two players who use black and white pieces on a board. Each player is assigned a colour and the winner is the player who has the most pieces displaying their colour when the board is filled.

Hasegawa devised a prototype of Othello shortly after the end of World War II, using reversible light and

dark pieces conceived from the stones used in the traditional game of Go.

Hasegawa's father, Shiro, named the game after the Shakespeare tragedy Othello, according to the federation.

After the preliminary round on Wednesday and Thursday, the championship will end on Friday when semifinal and final matches will be held. The final is scheduled to be live streamed on the Internet.

The first World Othello Championship was held in Tokyo in October 1977 and has been held every year since. Hasegawa sought to have the championship held in his birthplace Mito, and his wish was realised in 2006.—Kyodo News

Japan launches backup weather satellite Himawari-9

TANEGASHIMA (Japan) — Japan successfully launched a weather satellite Wednesday from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan to serve as a backup satellite for the currently operating Himawari-8.

An H-2A rocket carrying the Himawari-9 weather satellite lifted off at 3:20 pm. The launch was delayed from Tuesday due to unfavourable weather, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

The Himawari-9, weighing about 1.3 tons and the same type as the Himawari-8 that was launched in 2014, is equipped with a high-end camera that can shoot colour images.

It also has high resolution graphics to display the images.

It will be tasked with providing observational data with over 30 countries and regions in Asia and the Pacific region.

The newly launched satellite is expected to begin full operations in 2022, replacing Himawari-8.

The 31st H-2A rocket was launched by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., the maker of the rocket. The space agency farmed out the launch in 2007 to Mitsubishi Heavy to reduce costs by introducing private-sector know-how and boost Japan's international competitiveness in the space business.—Kyodo News



An H-2A rocket carrying the Japan Meteorological Agency's new weather satellite "Himawari-9" waits for lift off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: KYODO: NEWS

Japan filmmaker wants hand in saving 'dying' art of hand-drawn anime

TOKYO — Times change and with it the approach in doing things, but Japanese animated film director Mamoru Hosoda wants to continue breathing life into the “dying” art of hand-drawn animation.

“Since the art of drawing by hand is being lost, this art is becoming most invaluable,” Hosoda said in a recent interview with Kyodo News and other media outlets. “Using this valuable technique, I would like to create good films. I want to stick to that.”

The 49-year-old director, who has bagged awards at home and abroad and is touted as a key successor to Japan's famed animation film director Hayao Miyazaki, is featured at the ongoing Tokyo International Film Festival which runs through Thursday.

A retrospective of his works includes box office hits such as “The Boy and the Beast,” a 2015 film which amassed a revenue of 5.85 billion yen (\$55.75 million) and became one of the highest grossing films in Japan last year.

Hosoda, whose films have also been featured at film festivals abroad such as in South Korea, China, Taiwan, Britain and the United States, observes that artists in and out of Japan are increasingly relying on computer graphics.

“With computer graphics, things have become one-dimensional, and this is very boring... What happens is that the pictures



Japanese animation film director Mamoru Hosoda is interviewed in Tokyo, on 27 October 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

become more or less similar,” he says, lamenting at how the animation industry is being deprived of diversity.

“It was different before. There was tradition. There was a lot of diversity in the way animation was expressed,” he recounts of animated films from Asia, Europe and the United States in the past, when time-saving computer graphics were not the norm.

Hosoda does not want animation films to be relegated to a particular kind of genre or a film with a specific audience. He has high hopes about the boundless potential animated films have in terms of expressing feelings and situations, and is adamant about proving this through his films. Every detail counts, he notes, referring to the attention he puts in expressing, for example, the swaying of leaves and flowers in the “Wolf Children.”—Kyodo News

Myanmar International

(3-11-2016 07:00am ~ 4-11-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh	07:03 Am News	07:26 Am Ancient Shwe-San-Taw Pagoda	07:41 Am A bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Ep-1)	08:03 Am News	08:27 Am Shrinking Footprints	08:52 Am Sweet Delicacy of Pathein	09:03 Am News	09:27 Am “Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture” Tea	09:53 Am A Girl Guide	10:03 Am News	10:26 Am Myanmar Traditional Instruments — Myanmar Harp (Episode-1)	
	10:51 Am	PyinOoLwin Sweater										
	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday Repeat(07:00 Am~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)											
	Prime Time											
	07:03 Pm	News	07:27 Pm	A Trip to The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine	07:46 Pm	The Iron Rider	08:03 Pm	News	08:26 Pm	The Rising Glory of Myanmar Arts	08:54 Pm	Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)-Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)											
	(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)											



Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne celebrates scoring their second goal. PHOTO: REUTERS



Barcelona's Lionel Messi in action with Manchester City's Fernandinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

Guardiola cheer as Man City floor old club Barca

MANCHESTER — Coach Pep Guardiola was left thrilled after Manchester City revived their Champions League bid by beating his old club Barcelona 3-1 in a gloriously open Group C encounter at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday.

Ilkay Guendogan scored twice and Kevin De Bruyne netted a superb free kick in a magnificent display from the home side that ended Barcelona's 100 per cent record and made handsome amends for City's 4-0 drubbing at the Nou Camp two weeks ago.

Guardiola's men now have seven points from four matches,

two behind leaders Barca. Borussia Moenchengladbach are on four points after drawing 1-1 with bottom club Celtic.

City's victory looked unlikely when Lionel Messi followed up his hat-trick in the game at the Nou Camp with a dazzling opener on the counter attack in the 21st minute and Barca were in control before Guendogan cashed in on a Sergi Roberto mistake.

In a game peppered with fine attacking and dubious defending, City then ran Barca ragged as the exceptional De Bruyne netted in the 51st minute before helping set up Guendogan's second after 74.

City's best Champions League night left Barca frustrated as they failed to gain the win that would have sealed their place in the knockout stages for a 13th successive season.

The home side's big night started brightly as Raheem Sterling appeared to be brought down in the box by Samuel Umtiti only to be booked, harshly perhaps, for diving.

Then, in a devastating counter attack initiated by Javier Mascherano when he broke up a City thrust in his own box, Messi found Neymar on the left before marauding down the field to latch

on to the Brazilian's pass and claim his 90th Champions League goal.

Barca looked poised to take over, threatening a second goal until Sergi Roberto stroked a pass carelessly across his own defensive line, allowing Sergio Aguero to intercept and feed Sterling who crossed for Guendogan to tap the ball in.

A poor touch from Sterling stopped him putting City ahead at the start of the second half but they did not have to wait long to go ahead as De Bruyne's free kick dipped over the wall and beat the despairing dive of

Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

De Bruyne came close to adding to the lead as the hosts flooded forward.

Barca should have equalised when a stray back pass from John Stones led to Andre Gomes hitting the bar when it seemed easier to score.

City, though, earned reward for their domination and some wayward defending by the visitors when De Bruyne's pass cut them apart and set up Jesus Navas to whip in the cross that eventually fell to Germany midfielder Guendogan who hammered his fourth goal in two games.—Reuters

Trophy tour takes high road to AFF Suzuki Cup 2016

THE AFF Suzuki Cup Trophy Tour kicked off yesterday in Yangon, Myanmar, marking the start of a thrilling countdown to the region's biggest and best football tournament, which begins on 19 November.

Myanmar's star players Aung Thu, Kyaw Zin Phyo, Nanda Kyaw and Yan Aung Kyaw attended the occasion along with VIPs, officials, and sponsors at the Sedona Hotel, Yangon.

The AFF Suzuki Cup Trophy Tour heads next to Jakarta on 5 November, followed by Ho Chi Minh on 10 November, then Manila on 12 November.

"The AFF Suzuki Cup Trophy Tour is the perfect way to raise the curtains on this year's tournament, which heads here to Myanmar very soon," said Mr. Takayuki Sugiyama, Managing Director of Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Company Limited.

"We are proud that Yangon has launched The Trophy Tour on

its four-city swing of the region. This is a wonderful way to help celebrate this popular tournament in this region and show the passion that the Suzuki Motor Corporation has for the AFF Suzuki Cup."

As part of today's celebrations Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Company Limited also unveiled the brand new Suzuki Ciaz, which will be the first time they have produced and launched an authentic sedan in Myanmar. The Suzuki Ciaz boasts three unique selling points over other sedans of the same class. The "Exceptional Design" and "Roomy Passenger Cabin" will impress discerning drivers with an outstanding large space in the rear seat, and a 1.4 litre engine with superior driving dynamics and excellent fuel efficiency.

Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Company Limited is going to display the Suzuki Ciaz at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon when the AFF Suzuki Cup Group stages are played on 20th, 23rd and 26th



PHOTO: MFF

November.

"We look forward to customers in Myanmar getting a chance to experience and get a feel for the Suzuki Ciaz at the Thuwanna Stadium," added Mr. Sugiyama.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the AFF Suzuki Cup

and for the first time Myanmar are hosting one of the Groups along with the Philippines, who are also debuting as Group hosts.

Defending champions Thailand play Indonesia in the opening game of the AFF Suzuki Cup in Group A in the Philippines. Later

in the day the Philippines are pitted against Singapore.

The following day the Group B matches kick off here in Yangon with 2010 champions Malaysia facing Cambodia before Myanmar battle it out against Viet Nam, who won this event in 2008.—GNLM