



■ NATIONAL

President inspects
Biluchaung Hydro-power
Plant (2) in Kayah State

► PAGE 3



■ NATIONAL

Senior General Min
Aung Hlaing wraps
up China visit

► PAGE 2

■ NATIONAL

Attack on Nurula police
post in Maungtau leaves
one police officer dead

► PAGE 3

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Japan to cooperate in solving conflicts

Rakhine state issue is delicate and needs to be addressed with caution: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

JAPAN's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Myanmar's State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi agreed yesterday to co-operate in efforts to end ethnic conflict in Myanmar, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

The two held talks in Tokyo on several issues including bilateral relations, challenges in the region, ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty-CTBT and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) to be hosted by Myanmar in 2017.

Referring to recent reports of deadly attacks on border guard posts by violent armed attackers in Rakhine State, Kishida told Daw Aung San Suu Kyi: "Any sort of violence should not be tolerated, and I welcome (your) efforts for the peace and stability of Rakhine state," according to the ministry.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the situation in Rakhine state is extremely delicate and needs to be addressed with caution, adding that the government is dealing with it under the principle of the rule of law, according to the ministry.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida prior to their talks at a hotel in Tokyo on 3 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

Any sort of violence should not be tolerated, and I welcome (your) efforts for the peace and stability of Rakhine state: Fumio Kishida

Armed men waged surprise attacks on border guard posts in northern Rakhine State on October 14, killing nine and stealing guns and ammunition.

Following the attacks, the President's Office issued a news

release on 14 October saying that the series of violent attacks were aimed at inciting terrorism in the area, where many Islamists reside. The news release also said the attacks were conspired by Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO)-linked terrorist groups after taking a lengthy period of time to organize them and aided by foreign-based terrorist groups.

In the talks in Tokyo yesterday,

Kishida said Japan will offer a new passenger boat to Myanmar with the aim of supporting its efforts to ease inter-communal tensions in Rakhine, the ministry said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told Kishida that the ship will not only help transport people in Rakhine but also contribute to the development of the state, which faces the Indian Ocean.

There is a dire need for ships

in Myanmar because they are often the primary mode of transport. There have also been a number of deadly sinkings in recent years, so safe boats are in demand, a senior Japanese official said earlier.

Kishida, welcoming Myanmar's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in September, agreed with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to promote the enforcement of the treaty, the

ministry said.

The CTBT aims to establish a verifiable global ban on all types of nuclear explosive tests.

Kishida and (Daw) Aung San Suu Kyi met a day after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to offer 40 billion yen (\$387 million) in aid over five years to fund Myanmar's efforts at national reconciliation.

SEE PAGE 4 >>



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes a submarine during his tour of China. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing wraps up China visit

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Minister of Public Security of China Mr Guo Sheng Kun at the latter's office on Wednesday.

They discussed security affairs on over 2,000 km long border, security cooperation along the Mekong river, drug eradication and human trafficking, transnational crimes and anti-terrorism cooperation.

The Chinese minister hosted a luncheon in honor of the Myanmar

defence services delegation.

On the same day, the senior general visited Guangdong Province and met with Political Officer of Southern Command General Wei Liang, who hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar military delegation.

Then, the senior general and party made a cruise tour along Shu Jiang River and viewed a submarine.

The senior general arrived back in Yangon yesterday afternoon. —*Myawady*

More suspects arrested In Yathedaung and Maungtaw townships

FOR more attackers not to enter Buthitaung and Maungtaw area, Tatmataw troops, Tatmadaw(navy) special marine force and border guard police forces have been conducting area safety patrol. In one of their patrols, on 2 November at 7:50 pm or so, a suspicious looking fishing boat named Maung Tin Shwe was found 4 miles away from Donpike village, Yathetaung township where martial law was imposed.

The patrol team arrested on board the fishing vessel 8 suspected persons—namely, Zarphaukramauk, Mawgu, Hapheik Husong, Mamad Husong, Mamad Inos, Mamauk Rawpheik, same name Mamauk Rawpheik, and Mamauk Rawhein.

They were handed over to Innadin outpost camp to be put on trial.

Similarly, 4 others—Norusong, Iliyas, Nogubashot and

Kharman Husein were also arrested in the grove one mile away from east of Pyaungpike village in Maungtaw township at 8:30 am today and handed over to Kyeinchaung police station, it is learnt. Meanwhile, naval patrol troops arrested four Bangladeshi illegal fishermen namely Harmit, Ismail and Bobosaung in Myanmar's territorial waters.

They were handed over to the Police Station in Maungtaw.—*Myawady*

Harvesting machines sent to Maungtaw in time to reap paddy



Harvesting machines are seen before being sent to Maungtaw. PHOTO: NE LIN

As peace and stability are restored in the Maungtaw region, the Rakhine State Cabinet and ministry of agriculture, livestock and irrigation have sent harvesting machines to local farmers to reap the paddy in time, according to state head office of agricultural department.

U Toe Wai, head of the agricultural department, Rakhine State said, "As the area regained its stability and peace, local ethnic farmers need to harvest their paddy soon. For this, harvesters have been sent to them — 30 units by Rakhine State Government and 10 units by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MALI). Failing that, there may be crop wastage

increasing. Ways of using these machines will be shared with farmers. These can be manipulated even by females. They are convenient for the area as they have small-scale farms."

Each harvester reaps 3 to 5 acres per day and it costs only K10,000 for one acre with a minimal volume of wastage, it is learnt.

U Toe Wai added, "A harvester consumes less labour and time, solving labour problems."

According to local farmers, the Maungtaw area has enjoyed good weather and there will be high yields from paddy. Out of 80,000 paddy growing acres, ethnic locals own some 10,000 acres. *Min Thit (MNA)*

Troops found weapons in Warpeik Village, Maungtaw Tsp



Arms and bullets discovered in Warpeik Village. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Troops comprising members of the Tatmadaw and police force yesterday discovered arms and ammunition looted by armed violent attackers in the October-9 attacks in Maungtaw Township.

The troops found four BA-

94 guns and four cartridges with bullets, one MA-1 with two cartridges with bullets and 20 bullets of 9mm-gun after they dug the suspected site in Warpeik Village in Maungtaw Township.

The troops are conducting

the area clearance campaigns in the area.

Armed violent men attacked border guard posts in Maungtaw Township killing nine policemen and took away arms and ammunition.—*Myawady*

To complain of bribery and corruption

UNION Attorney-General Office is supervising for law officers at different levels to act in accord with the law and to be free from bribery and corruption in performing their duties.

Every individual has the right to complain of officers and staff taking and seeking for

bribes by producing sufficient evidences, complainant's name and phone number, NRC card no, to Union Attorney-general or deputy attorney-general or permanent secretary at 25, UAGO, Nay Pyi Taw. Action will be taken as necessary, it is reported. —*Myanmar News Agency*

President inspects Biluchaung Hydro-power Plant 2 in Kayah State

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw, together with Union Ministers U Than Myint, U Thein Swe and U Pe Zin Tun and Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut, visited Loi-kaw in Kayah State yesterday and met with local officials, entrepreneurs, farmers and residents in Linphonlay Village.

The president said that he was visiting the region to help local corn farmers as he had heard their difficulties and promised to help them in coordination with related ministries.

Then, the president pointed out that cooperation by the government, government agencies and the people is essential in building a nation and urged en-

trepreneurs, who the president said play a vital role, to work in the interests of the people.

Afterwards, the president heard the difficulties of the local people, who reported to the president on market stability, the need for export assistance, land title and life security of farmers, release of confiscated farmland, job opportunities, reforestation and narcotic drugs.

After hearing the public voices, the president and the chief minister of Kayah State attended to the needs of local people as much as they could.

In the afternoon, the president and party arrived at Biluchaung Hydro-power Project,



President U Htin Kyaw inspects the Sluice Gate of the No 2 Biluchaung Hydro-power Plant. PHOTO: MNA

where the managing director of Electric Power Generation Enterprise reported to the president on distribution of power from power stations.

Later, the president proceeded to the seven-tier lake in Dimawhso Township and heard reports on tourism development

in the state before urging officials to preserve traditional culture. Local residents reported to the president on availability of electricity and education and health needs.

Union ministers also explained border trade and investment plans.

Then, the president and party observed traditional weaving methods and products.

Afterwards, the president went to Panpet village, where he met with the Padaung ethnic people before enjoying their traditional dances and handicrafts.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives an honorary doctorate from the president of Kyoto University, Juichi Yamagiwa in Kyoto, Japan on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Attack on Nurula police post in Maungtaw leaves one police officer dead

A police post in Nurula, about three miles away from Maungtaw, was attacked at about 6 pm yesterday by armed men on motorcycles, resulting in the death of one officer.

Violent attackers who arrived on three motorcycles assaulted the two guards of the post with small weapons fire, but members of the post were able to repel the attackers, forcing them to withdraw with injuries and abandon their motor-



bikes. One police officer died of his wounds and the other one was slightly injured.

Police seized one homemade bomb and four pistols together with the motorbikes.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Government accedes to requests of UN resident coordinator and diplomatic missions

UNION officials yesterday said they had satisfied the requirements of diplomatic officials for northern Rakhine State in the aftermath of the deadly armed attacks of 9 October.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin held discussions yesterday morning at the Rakhine State Guest House in Sittway with the UN resident coordinator/humanitarian assistance coordinator and ambassadors of foreign missions. After the meeting, the officials and diplomats visited Rakhine ethnic groups in Mawrawadi Village and Muslims residents of Zawmatat Village, where they were told that the village was peaceful, with no one involved in the recent attacks.

They also visited Alethankaw, a village of over 11,000 inhabitants. Although the majority of the villagers are Muslims, there are a few Rakhine ethnics. Both groups live together peacefully, they said.

They visited Kotankauk Police Station, one of the places that was attacked on 9th October, and Kotankauk Village. The village, which is mostly populated by Muslims, greeted them with a protest holding placards written in English. In Sittway, UN resident coordinator/humanitarian assistance coordinator and diplomats held a press conference at the Sittway Airport.

At the press conference, the representatives and heads of foreign missions advised the govern-

ment to help fulfill the needs of displaced persons, some of whom are beginning to return to their homes and to permit the access of international aid to the region, saying that the government has allowed the international community to monitor the situation. They also said that they were studying the situation on ground and had an opportunity to cooperate with the government, but it was still difficult to tell whether accusations of abuse were true or not. No woman told them that they had been raped, they said. The most important issue of all was the rule of law, they added.

No woman told them that they had been raped: Diplomats

They said that they found some security measures and it was necessary for every country to take such measures in case of such attacks.

They also said that the government has abided by the international norms and they also urged it to continue to abide by the international norms. In addition, they said that the government allowed them to visit the villages they wanted to and imposed no restrictions on them, despite the accusations. They said they urged the government to allow international investigative bodies to refute the accusations and other international organisations, saying that every high-ranking official they met was ready to accept their opinions. They were also told to take the opportunity for observers to examine the situation.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Placards held by Muslim villagers, are written in English with good hand writing, revealing the timed movement. PHOTO: MNA

Tenders invited to install new bus stops in Yangon this month



People are waiting for buses at a bus stop. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

THE YANGON Region Transport Authority (YRTA) will invite tenders to implement the first stage of the project to install 250 new bus stops across Yangon this month, its spokesperson said.

Dr Maung Aung, secretary of the YRTA, said officials will announce its tender invitation to build modern public transport infrastructure this month. However, the exact date has not been set yet.

The new facilities will cover new information systems in the city area and both local and

foreign companies are eligible to take part in the tender process, he added.

There are around 2,400 bus stops, including 123 stops installed near the descent of flyovers in the commercial hub of Yangon. Priority will be given to the bus stops located near junctions and traffic lights as well as at the descent of flyovers in six downtown townships after scrutinising the current situation of bus stop facilities.

Initially, about 250 existing bus stops will be reconstructed under the new programme de-

signed to help systematically upgrade bus lines as well as reduce traffic jams and road accidents in the commercial city.

The upgrade of bus stops is part of the authority's plan to improve Yangon's bus transportation system. Ko Tayoke Lay, owner of Bus Line No. 45, commented that the new plan is believed to benefit both commuters and bus owners, saying that there are many difficulties in following the traffic rules due to unsystematic installation of bus stops and gates.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Japan to cooperate . . .

>> FROM PAGE 1

Later on Thursday, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi traveled by Shinkansen train to Kyoto, where she received an honorary doctorate conferred by Kyoto University where she spent time as she did research at its Center for Southeast Asian Studies from 1985 to 1986.

The president of Kyoto University, Juichi Yamagiwa, in his speech at the award ceremony, said it was the first time the university had conferred such a degree on an individual for their commitment to freedom, democracy and human rights.

"This honorary degree expresses the respect the Kyoto University holds for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's work and achievements, which resonate with the university's guiding principles that encourage freedom of thought and

the promotion of a harmonious global society," Yamagiwa added.

"Advancement is a correct word because we have not yet reached our goal. In a sense, with democracy, we can never reach our goal. Our goal has to be beyond reaching because we have to keep working toward," she said in her acceptance speech.

"Once we stop working for democracy, the democracy will fade away, just like the unused muscles. We have to keep it exercised all the time. I keep reminding our people what is important for us is not just to claim the democratic privileges but also to discharge their democratic duties, that we may be able to make our society a vibrant one — politically, socially and economically."—*Global New Light of Myanmar with Kyodo News*

New schedule for container cars to be effective only in mid-Nov

YANGON region government and container owners are discussing whether to take action against operators of container cars which do not run according to the new schedule, according to No 2 traffic police station.

"These days, the container owners are having meetings. They will decide very soon. After that, action will be taken against the owners of container cars which have disobeyed the new schedule. The action will be taken beginning from mid-November," said Police Lt-Col Aung Ko Oo.

Container cars are allowed to run from 9pm to 5am starting

on 1st November on Strand Road, Bayintnaung Road, Minglardon Road, Danyingon Junction, Shwe Pyay Thar Township, Yadanar Road, Waizayantar traffic light, Aung Zayyar Road, Pale Road, Kayaypin Road, Pyinma Road, No.3 main road, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Maha Bandoola Bridge, Shukhinthar Road, Ayarwadi Road, Bago River Road and Kanaung Min Thar Gyi Road.

No. 59 traffic police jointly together with General Administrative Department will check the container cars whether they obey the new schedule or not at mid night.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Officer killed in Kyaikhto car accident

POLICE are investigating a car crash that killed an officer near Taung Kalay village, Kyaikhto township, Mon state on Wednesday evening.

"The officer was driving alone when the vehicle struck a tree after the wheels were blown away," said a police officer from Kyaikhto police station. "The of-

ficer was killed on the spot. The corpse was sent to the Kyaikhto general hospital."

There were no other vehicles involved in the crash nor passengers in the vehicle. Local police filed charges against Lt. Tin Myo Htway under section 304 (A) of the Penal Code.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Yaba seized in Taunggyi, Hpa-An

A combined anti-narcotic squad comprising officers and staff from Taunggyi police force seized 22,000 yaba pills from a motorcycle ridden by Hla Than at Ho Pone patrol station near Ho Ti Village, Hsi Hseng Township on 2 November.

Similarly, police from Eindu

Area Police Station searched a house owned by Kyaw Win at Inlay Ward, Eindu Village, Hpa-An Township. Police discovered 4,066 yaba pills and Than Sein. Police filed charges against them under the Anti-Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

Fire destroys home in Botahtaung township

A fire broke out at around 9pm at an apartment on 52nd street in Botahtaung, Yangon on Wednesday.

The fire caused about Ks1.5 million in damages, said Police Major Ko Ko Oo from the Botahtuang Township police station.

"Siblings were staying together at the house. Before the accident, the brother went outside and left his sister alone. We are still investigating the case," he said.

The fire was brought under control by 50 firemen using 19 fire engines. No one was injured in the accident. The police have filed charges against the boy. The fire accident is the third within the first week of November in Yangon.— *Myitmakha News Agency*



Fire engines are seen at the scene. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

LOCAL Business

MADB grants Ks9.5 billion in farm loans for Mandalay

Aung Thant Khaing

MYANMAR Agricultural Development Bank, the largest financial institution serving the agriculture and rural sector of Myanmar, granted over Ks9.5 billion in loans to farmers across Mandalay Region to grow winter crops.

The bank disbursed a certain amount of agriculture loans to the local growers starting last month, said U Win Myint, manager of the MADB (Mandalay branch), adding that the loans for this season firstly go to Singaing Township.

The head office provided the funds after approving the estimated budgets submitted by the branches. The bank continued its loan programme for farmers to successfully cultivate seasonal crops.

The bank plans to issue a total of Ks9.5056 billion to 15 townships in the region. The majority of loans will go to Madaya Township, followed by Singaing and Singu Township. Mandalay City will accept Ks9 million, the smallest funding under the new loan programme.

According to the new plan, Madaya Township will receive Ks2.38 billion loans, Singaing Township will receive Ks1.8375 billion and Singu Township Ks1.4587 billion.

The bank has disbursed seasonal agricultural loans under both long-term and short-term plans. This season, the bank granted Ks150,000 loans per acre of rice with an 8 per cent interest rate and Ks20,000 per acre for other crops such as pulses, cotton, maize and jute. Those growers wishing to apply for a loan need a recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by the existing laws and regulations relating to loans.

U Myint Zaw, one of local growers, said farmers frequently face financing problems because of the bank's policy that allows loans to cover the first 10 acres of farmland owned by any one farmer.

He added that growers have found it difficult to pay back the loan if crops are destroyed by natural disasters.



A farmer waters chili plants. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Mirrored tables designed by State Counsellor to be sold

MIRRORED tables designed by the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be reportedly manufactured and sold at the stores of the Industry Ministry, it is learnt from the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection.

"The State Counsellor designed the table and our minister guided the plan to manufacture. Most people have expressed their appreciation because of its elegant design", said Daw Aye Aye Win, the director-general from the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offered three designs, with two having been manufactured. The remaining Corner Table design is currently being prepared for production, it is learnt.

The price of the tables are about Ks100,000. The tables have two or three shelves. Its design includes lacquerware feet. The table is manufactured with the use of teak that has been steamed in order for it to be more easily shaped. The high-quality mirror is also designed to withstand a certain degree of impact, said U Zaw Lin Tun from the Industry Ministry.

These tables will be sold at stores owned by the Industry Ministry. They have already been displayed at an event held by the Industry Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, where large orders of table settees designed by the State Counsellor were received, it is learnt.—Myitmakha News Agency



PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Global Treasure Bank and Myanmar Citizens Bank to jointly offer banking operations

GLOBAL Treasure Bank (GTB) and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) have joined hands to enhance their banking operations, according to a statement released by MCB.

They entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to cooperate in a local remittance service. The cooperation can facilitate banking operations and remittance activities, the statement said.

Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) approved Myanmar Cit-

izens Bank to be listed on YSX in accordance with Section 41(c) of the Securities Exchange Law and sections 7 and 8 of the Securities Listing Business Regulations after scrutinising submitted application documents and a deliberate listing examination, it is learnt. MCB has a total of 10,400,986 shares with a capital of 52004.930 million as of 31st July, 2016. Over 20 branches and mini-branches are operational.

Global Treasure Bank was

incorporated on 15th February 1996 as Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank. The bank changed its name to Global Treasure Bank (Public Company Limited) on 1st July 2013, with the permission of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Directorate of Investment & Company Administration. Their capital has reached Ks-70 billion and it is gearing up to be listed on YSX, it is learnt.—Ko Htet

Maungta-Bangladesh border trade returns to normal

TEMPORARILY suspended Maungta-Bangladesh border trade has returned to normal, according to the Maungta Border Trade Chamber.

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh through Maungta, a town in Rakhine State, was suspended due to border attacks in Maungta and Yathetaung townships on 9 October.

Border trade resumed on 14 October, when Myanmar restarted its export relations with neighbours, but there is no im-

port from Bangladesh side, said U Aung Myint Thein, chairman of the Maungta Border Trade Chamber.

During normal times, 90 per cent of border trade is made by the Myanmar side, which exports fisheries products including dried fish as well as other goods to the South Asian nations, which exports kitchen wares and clothing items to Myanmar.

Both sides carry out cross-border trading by mutual agreement. They earn money from the sale of goods only after

an exchange of commodities.

U Aung Myint Thein said that the merchants from Bangladesh do not want to export their goods as they fear that they may lose money due to unstable conditions.

Bangladesh has exported its products to Myanmar mainly through Sittway and Maungta townships.

The cross-border export value reached about US\$500,000 in October, according to the Maungta Border Trade Chamber.—Min Thit (Myanmar News Agency)

South Korean PM nominee says president can be subject to investigation



Kim Byong-joon, a nominee for South Korea's Prime Minister, speaks during a news conference in Seoul, South Korea, on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — South Korea's new prime minister nominee said on Thursday it is his view that the country's president can be subject to prosecutors' ongoing investigation into an influence peddling scandal.

No sitting South Korean president has been subject to an investigation by prosecutors. Some opposition lawmakers have said the ongoing investigation should extend to President Park Geun-hye.

“My position is an investigation is possible. But since (she) is the head of state, its process and method requires circumspection,” the nominee, Kim Byong-joon told a press conference, a day after Park named him to be the next prime minister, as part of a broader cabinet reshuffle. —Reuters

“My position is an investigation is possible. But since (she) is the head of state, its process and method requires circumspection,” the nominee, Kim Byong-joon told a press conference, a day after Park named him to be the next prime minister, as part of a broader cabinet reshuffle. —Reuters

Insurgent bomb and gun attacks kill three in southern Thailand

BANGKOK — Insurgents in mostly-Muslim areas of southern Thailand killed three people in a spate of bomb and gun attacks overnight targeting military personnel and commercial property, the military said on Thursday.

The insurgent attacks were the first since the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej last month, and defied a request by the military junta to desist while the nation mourns a much-loved monarch who had reigned for seven decades.

Three people were killed, including two security guards and a soldier, according to Pramote Promin, a spokesman for the military's Internal Security Operations Command.

The latest attacks took place in Narathiwat and Pattani province, two of three Muslim-majority provinces in predominantly Buddhist Thailand where a separatist insurgency has been raging since 2004, and in neighbouring Songkhla province.

“It was the work of in-

surgents who want to create unrest and destroy trust in the government,” Pramote told Reuters.

No group has so far claimed responsibility.

The overnight attacks were the biggest since a series of bomb blasts across Thailand's south in August which killed four people and injured dozens, including foreigners.

Talks aimed at bringing peace to the troubled south between the military government and an umbrella insurgent group in September failed to reach any breakthrough.

Over 6,500 people have been killed in Thailand's southernmost provinces of Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat over the past 12 years as part of the insur-

gency. “This attack shows that the insurgency situation in the south is isolated from what goes on in the rest of Thailand,” Srisompop Jitpiromsri, director of Deep South Watch, a group which monitors the conflict, told Reuters.

“Any request by the junta for a halt in the violence is unlikely to have any effect.”—Reuters



A military personnel inspects the site of a bomb attack in Nong Chik district in the troubled southern province of Pattani, Thailand, on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Cambodian PM Hun Sen backs US Republican candidate Trump

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Thursday he wanted US presidential candidate Donald Trump to win next week's election because Trump would reduce tension with Russia and be good for world peace.

Hun Sen is a self-styled strongman whose has ruled for three decades. He has at times reacted angrily to US concerns about the state of human rights and corruption in Cambodia.

Most recently, the United States, European Union and United Nations have expressed concern about rising tension between Hun Sen's govern-



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen. PHOTO: REUTERS

ment and the opposition ahead of a general election in 2018.

“I really want Trump to win,” Hun Sen said in a speech to thousands of police officers at police academy ceremony.

“If Trump wins, the world will change and may be in a good situation because Trump is a businessman so he doesn't want war ... there can be friendship between Trump and Putin,” he said, referring to Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

Putin has praised Trump as “very talented”, while the Republican candidate has said the Kremlin boss is a better leader than US President Barack Obama. Trump's Democratic rival Hillary Clinton has accused Trump of being too cozy with Putin and questioned his business interests in Russia.

Hun Sen, who has met Clinton on several

occasions including twice when she visited Cambodia as Secretary of State, criticised the Democrat candidate saying she had advised Obama to launch attacks in Syria.

He said the relationship between the United States and Russia may worsen if Hillary won next Tuesday. The then Soviet Union supported Cambodia for a decade after the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge were driven from power by Vietnamese forces in early 1979. The two countries have recently improved their relationship as Russia has taken steps to re-build ties in Southeast Asia. —Reuters

Indonesia presses aviation sector to meet tourism targets

JAKARTA — Indonesia is pressing its aviation authorities to boost up the number of plane seats in a bid to meet targets in tourism sector that has been set as the nation's core business.

Sufficient number of plane seats is the key for the nation's success in attaining foreign visitor number targets as 75 per cent of them are accom-

modated by flights, Tourism Ministry Arief Yahya said at a signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Tourism ministry, airport administrators and air navigation agency.

“Foreign visitors very much rely on airlines. Through the MoU we intend to encourage Angkasa Pura I and II, AirNav and airlines to im-

prove their contribution in attaining the target of 20 million foreign visitors by 2019,” the minister said.

He said that to achieve the 2019 tourism target, the country needs to increase plane seats provided by domestic and international airlines to 30 million.

The current 19.5 million plane seats are only capable to meet 12 million

foreign visitors targeted by the government this year, he said.

Under the MoU, related institutions agree to exchange data and information, undertake joint tourism promotion, jointly conducting market and connectivity analysis, synchronize airport capacity and tour destination expansion plans. —Xinhua

Thailand's junta seeks to reassure powerful rice farmers amid price plunge

BANGKOK — Thailand's military government has rolled out a series of rescue packages in a bid to help rice farmers, most of whom hail from the political heartlands of the government it toppled, amid tumbling prices of the grain.

Farmers in Thailand, the world's second-largest rice exporter, have traditionally been politically powerful and many helped elect former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra in 2011.

Her administration was removed in a 2014 military coup.

The military government has been anxious to head off potential confrontation with farmers but said in its first year in power that it also wanted to wean them off expensive populist schemes such as a rice scheme introduced by Yingluck which bought rice from farmers at above-market rates.

But in recent weeks the military government has announced measures worth at least 59.28 billion baht (\$1.70 billion) aimed at curbing market supply and stabilizing rice prices.

The measures come as the ruling junta is trying to ensure a smooth transition following the death of much-loved King Bhumibol Adulyadej and to maintain stability ahead of a 2017 general election.

"There's a possibility for tension, which could be used to incite political gatherings," said Kan Yuenyong, executive director of Siam Intelligence Unit think-tank.

"The government fears the



A farmer works in her rice field in Suphan Buri Province, north of Bangkok, Thailand, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

situation would get out of control, so they have to intervene," he said.

Global rice prices have plunged over the past months as the world's largest rice producers anticipate an influx of new stocks towards the end of the year.

Some Thai rice farmers have taken matters into their own hands and are turning to social media network Facebook to sell their grain, shunning rice millers, the industry's traditional middlemen, whose prices they say are

simply too low.

Nim Inthasorn, 33, who hails from the northeastern province of Kalasin, said she has received orders for over 50 tonnes of rice since she started a Facebook page in October.

"I would hold the rice until prices improve, but that isn't practical so this is what I can do now," she said.

Her family's jasmine rice fetches around 7 baht (\$0.20) per kilogram from rice millers, but on Facebook she can sell it for 23

baht (\$0.66) to 34 baht (0.97) per kilogram, she added.

But the trend is unlikely to take over traditional methods of selling rice, said Pisanu Sangyoo, an analyst at the Thai Rice Exporters Association.

"Most farmers still have to do business with rice millers and exporters," he said.

Government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd said this week the government supports farmers selling their grain online.—Reuters

Four killed, 12 injured in Viet Nam flood

HANOI — Heavy rain in central Viet Nam has caused four deaths, one missing and 12 injuries as of Thursday morning, according to local authorities.

Specifically, among the death toll, two are reported in Quang Binh province and two in Quang Tri province. Meanwhile, one person remained missing in Quang Binh province, according to the Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control under Viet Nam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

As many as 367 houses, 300 classrooms and six healthcare facilities are flooded. At the same time, over 300 hectares of rice and crop are drowned, while over 6,250 cattle and poultry are washed away by flood.

According to Viet Nam's national hydro-meteorological forecasting center, from now till Saturday, the country's central region will continue to experience downpours with total rainfall of around 100 mm, and even over 250 mm in some areas.—Xinhua

Pakistan express train collision kills at least 20

ISLAMABAD — A long-distance train collided into stationary coaches in the Pakistani port city of Karachi on Thursday, killing at least 20 people, hospital officials said, in the country's second major rail collision in less than two months.

Television footage showed mangled and overturned carriages, and media reported rescuers were working to free people trapped in the wreckage.

Train traffic between Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, and the rest of the country was suspended after the collision near the city's Landhi station, television news channels reported.

Sixty-five people were injured in the collision, said Seemin Jamali, head of the emergency department at Karachi's main Jinnah hospital.

The collision occurred between the moving Zakaria Express and the stationary Fareed

Express, the railways ministry said.

Minister Khwaja Saad Rafique pointed at negligence as a possible cause, with a stop signal being ignored. The whereabouts of the driver and assistant driver of the Zakaria Express were unknown, he said.

He ordered an investigation which would be completely within 72 hours.

"Facts will be brought forward, and whoever is responsible will not escape legal action and punishment," he said.

In September, at least four people were killed and 93 injured when an express train collided with a freight train near the city of Multan in Punjab Province.

Pakistan's colonial-era railway network has fallen into disrepair in recent decades due to chronic under-investment and poor maintenance.—Reuters



Rescue workers use heavy machinery on the car of a train which crashed outside Karachi, Pakistan, on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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Concocted stories spread among people to instigate suspicion

Maung Maung Myint Swe

IN a violent armed attack on a border guard police outpost on October 9, policemen were killed with arms and ammunitions lost.

In area clearance operations launched by combined forces of Tatmataw troops and police, five soldiers were killed while those suspected of involvement in the armed attacks were arrested, some alive and some dead. They are being investigated under

the proper rules and regulations.

During clearance operations, attackers, those involved in attacks and those who have participated in destructive activity fled villages after burning some homes in villages with a view to displacing people and to instigating suspicion.

Some houses on roadsides and at the edges of Kyikanpyin, Wetpeik, Sabeigone,

Pyaungpik, Ngarsarkyu and Ngakhuya villages caught fire. Most of them were huts and small houses. Contents of those buildings were found to have been decluttered, with nice buildings found intact. Troops of the Tatmadaw and police forces extinguished the fires but Islamists in the village did not take part in fighting the fire, it is learnt.

On November 2, while responsible officials were ex-

plaining to representatives from UN organisations and diplomats about the situation on the ground in Maungtaw district, displaced people gathered at the site, telling fabricated stories.

Events were intentionally planned conspiracies before, after and during the attacks. Responsible officials continue to carry out safety and security measures in collaboration with the people.

A Glimmer of Hope for the Planet Earth

Khin Maung Myint

IT is learnt that, as of 1 November 2016, 92 out of the 192 parties (countries), which had signed the agreements reached on 12 December 2015 at the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held in Paris, had already ratified it. The minimum number of countries needed to ratify the treaty or the threshold to get it into force was set at 55, accounting for at least 55% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions. As it has acquired more than the necessary numbers set, the agreement will finally take effect on 4 November 2016. That information is a very welcoming one as it provides a ray of hope for our planet Earth, and some relief for those who are concerned about the threats of the climate change.

As we all know, the world today is facing the freak weather conditions that are getting worse year after year. All these are the adverse consequences of the effects of the climate changes: the most significant being the global warming, the results of the excessive emission of the greenhouse gases. Today the world is reeling under the unprecedented temperature rises causing extensive melting of the glaciers and severe draughts all over the globe. If these situations cannot be curbed and brought under control, the ocean levels will rise and inun-

date the low lying areas, shrinking the land masses. Also, due to severe draughts many pasture lands around the world, especially in China, had disappeared as they were turned into deserts.

These situations will deprive us of the land areas for dwellings, agricultures, raising of livestock, and for industries, etc. The worst case scenario would be when there are only a few habitable and arable lands remaining on Earth and everybody wants a piece of it. Social unrests and armed conflicts will ensue as people will fight for their survival.

Such a situation will become a reality if something cannot be done to rein in the deteriorating climate change in time. Thus, the United Nations is trying its utmost best to get the climate change problems solved. The previous climate change conferences were unable to get the largest emitters of the greenhouse gases, such as China and USA, to sign the agreements. However, the latest one held in Paris from 30 November to 12 December 2015 was more successful in getting it done.

At this juncture, I would like to recount the agreements reached by consensus at COP21. The first and most important is to hold the temperature rise at 2°C and eventually to bring it down to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial levels. The second consensus is to increase the adaptability to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emission de-

velopments in a manner that does not threaten food production. The third agreement is to make money flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. It is the world's first comprehensive climate change agreement.

It is quite evident from the above agreements that the reduction of the greenhouse gases is the main objective in harnessing

contribution of that ratifying country. This NDC is an obligation that country must fulfill to bring about the reduction of the greenhouse gases.

However, it is not bound by any law and no legal action can be taken, apart from "naming and shaming" of the country that failed to fulfill the pledge made. Some notable NDCs among the countries, which had already ratified the treaty are those of China

gers on the horizon. It now remains for us to wait and see whether the targets pledged could be met and our hopes realized.

Although our country has not yet ratified the treaty, we are witnessing many positive actions taken by our authorities lately: such as the banning of loggings in certain regions and extensive conservations of forests being carried out. In my opinion these undertakings would contribute much to the reduction of the greenhouse gases.

I admit that I'm not an expert, but just a layman who is obsessed with the climate change issues, which are becoming more threatening to the environment and hence to the future of mankind and deemed it a duty to make others aware of the devastations it could cause. Thus I had been persistently advocating to counter the climate change as much as possible and again I would like to urge my fellow countrymen to participate in the fight against climate change---our immediate enemy.

In conclusion, I would like to state that if we should have conserved our once lush and dense tropical rain forests properly, we could be taking pride in being a **carbon negative** country or may be even designated as a **carbon sink** today, instead of being a greenhouse gas emitting one. However, it's not too late yet; if we strive together, we can still achieve those goals.

Reference:
Wikipedia,

"Today the world is reeling under the unprecedented temperature rises causing extensive melting of the glaciers and severe draughts all over the globe. If these situations cannot be curbed and brought under control, the ocean levels will rise and inundate the low lying areas, shrinking the land masses. Also, due to severe draughts many pasture lands around the world, especially in China, had disappeared as they were turned into deserts".

the climate change and bring about the control on the temperature rises. Thus all the participating countries were required to pledge their **intended nationally determined contribution (INDC)** at COP21. These are determined by individual country on their own. On ratifying the treaty, the **INDC** becomes the **NDC** or **nationally determined**

at 20.09%, the USA at 17.89% and India at 4.10%. Myanmar had pledged an **INDC** of 0.10%, but I cannot find her in the list of the ratifying parties as yet. Anyway, as the total **NDC** pledged by the 92 parties accounted for 65.82% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, it is very encouraging and a glimmer of hope for our planet Earth lin-

Commentary: Shwe Maung fails to confess the truth about Rakhine

Pho Swe

"In the small hours of October 9 — 1:15am or so, we started to hear frequent bursts of firearms. We stayed awake the whole night in silence. And we dared not flee anywhere out of fear."

"Attackers were said to have rushed into Wetpeik village to violently invade. According to some in nearby villages where mostly Muslims reside, Tatmataw troops discovered many bullet shells in searching for weapons and suspects in the village. During the search, villagers fled. Meanwhile, there were gunshots heard."

What Ma Mya Htwe of Aungmingalar village in Maung-taw Township recounted is still occupying my mind.

She was telling the gory details about the October 9 violent armed surprise attack at Koetankauk police outpost and Ngakhuya police station under the control of No. 1 border guard police camp at Kyikanpyin, in Maungtaw, Rakhine State.

Frightened by the gunfire and the violence, Ma Mya Htwe and her family escaped from the village to the Sittwe rescue camp via Maungtaw.

"In the Sittwe rescue camp, everything is convenient for us", Ma Mya Htwe said. "Displaced people like us were provided with food, clothing and medical care, having no worry about living here."

Steps are being taken to find the attackers, officials said.

"Area clearance operations are being carried out under rule of law with three objectives — firstly co-operating by combining Tatmataw troops, police force and ward and village societies to recapture weapons taken away by attackers, secondly finding out those who were involved in the attacks to take deterrent action against them under rule of law, and thirdly discovering those who abetted with attackers and punishing them in accordance with the law", said Col. Htein Lin, minister for security and border affairs, Rakhine State Cabinet.

It is customary for every country and society to punish any-



Police forces prepare to patrol in Maungdaw township at Rakhine State, northeast Myanmar, on 12 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

one who commits a crime. There should be no room for suspicions and complaints on the government's ways of solving the problems, as they have been being carried out in accord with international standards.

In the armed attack made by terrorists, 9 policemen were killed and 48 firearms of various kinds were lost, including 6,624 bullets, 47 bayonets and 164 cartridges. In the response attack, 8 terrorists were killed and two were seized alive.

Attackers wandered about the Maungtaw district, waging assaults. Combined forces of Tatmataw troops and police forces launched anti-terrorism operations, performing area clearance activities in places assumed to be their hideouts to confront the terrorists. This was described in a news release 1/2006 issued by the President's Office on 14 October.

The news release also stated that 2 arrested attackers and 2 others repatriated by neighbouring Bangladesh were investigated. According to the preliminary investigations, the present events were born of a systematically conspired plan, planned over a long period of time, with the monetary aid and support of foreign-based terrorist organisations. Their plans include taking a stronghold in Buthitaung-Maungtaw region and organizing Islamists residing

there by indoctrinating them with the spirit of extremism to occupy that area. And it is also described in the news release is that internal destructive elements took a tidy amount of money from extremists in the Middle East linked to the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO)-related Akalmul Mujaheddin. The State Counsellor has issued instructions to deal with this problem in accordance with the law. In launching area clearance operations, Tatmataw and Myanmar Police Force are performing their tasks according to law, it was reported.

All assess that the present incident is not a usual terrorist attack, but completely intended to

front of the Myanmar Embassy, it was learnt.

By seeing this, all are well convinced that the accusations of international media of violations of human rights of local residents during Maungtaw area clearance operations were intentionally fabricated in collusion with terrorist groups.

In the VOA live broadcast debate program, U Tun Aung Kyaw of the Arakan National Party (ANP) bluntly said that the violent armed attacks were done intentionally to harm the sovereignty and affairs of the State.

"Attackers rushed into the area where police border outpost were situated to attack, tak-

Police sent those arrested and suspects to trial as instructed by the State Counsellor so that ICRC can come to investigate anytime. The situations are totally different from those of 2012.

harm the sovereignty of the State.

In today's VOA live broadcast debate program, U Shwe Maung, the former parliamentarian for Buthitaung Constituency, accused Tatmataw troops, border guard police and Arakanese youth of burning down Muslim villages, raping their nationals and killing children.

U Shwe Maung, currently in the USA, led the demonstration in

ing a lot of bullets and firearms, claiming many lives. Yet, we are feeling that Tatmataw and police forces are carefully dealing with sympathetic minds", U Tun Aung Kyaw said.

U Shwe Maung disagreed with U Tun Aung Kyaw's assertions.

What U Shwe Maung reiterated about October 9 attacks so that people might be easily

deceived is not surprising. But strangely enough, he did not mention even a word as a man who had ever lived in Myanmar — as to starting to harm the sovereignty of the State, failing to confess and denounce RSO's subversive plans and lacking a word reminding terrorists of stopping their attempts to the best of their calibre. Their belief and attitude are weird enough. They seem to take the ethic — A stranger must not insult his host — for granted. They do not understand that the interests of the country must be prioritised over the interests of individuals, family, town or race.

Many analysts know well that the Tatmataw and the Myanmar Police Force are performing their duties to defend the sovereignty of the State as a national duty, not launching area clearance operations to find faults with everyone.

U Sithu Aung Myint, a journalist, said, "Since the advent of the occurrence, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi convened an emergency meeting, instructing to exercise rule of law, that is, for Tatmataw and Police force's response not to be extreme attacks. Afterward, she instructed teams led by the minister for information to reach sites of the attacks to keep racial conflict under control. Those arrested were sent to courts of justice. Police officials concerned said that they sent those arrested and suspects to trial as instructed by the State Counsellor so that ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) can come to investigate anytime. The situations are totally different from those of 2012.

U Shwe Maung still asserted that there was no one who burnt their house by themselves in the world. He continued to deny the arson cases by burning houses with stacks of straw on roofs.

U Tun Aung Kyaw of the Arakan National Party (ANP) added: "I would like to say about situations on the ground. Attackers were still at large. They are hiding in hideouts of villages. It is not reasonable to accuse of rape cases in time of risking their lives."

Here I firmly claim that his opinions are simple ones. It is like the "elephant in the living room."

Water supply project for 81 villages to be completed in December

A water supply project that would pipe in water to individual residences for 81 villages from Myaing township, Pakokku district and Magwe region conducted by Rural Development Department and UNICEF will be completed in December, according to Myaing township Rural Development Department.

"Our Rural Development Department implemented this project jointly together with UNICEF. So far, the project has been completed in 59 villages.

Another 22 villages still remain, said U Kyaw Min Tun from the Myaing township Rural Development Department.

For this project, UNICEF provided the pipelines and Myaing township Rural Development Department conducted the technical portion of the effort. "The village essentially needed the water well and dispensers. We conducted the project with the assistance of the local people," he added. Having door-to-door water supply can solve the

water shortage problems and the danger of fires in the summer, according to the local people.

"Previously, we used to go and get the water from the well. But, now we are using the water with our own meter," said Ko Zaw Lwin Soe from Daung Oho Gyi village, Myaing township.

The door-to-door water supply project which was implemented in Paakokku district was a three-year project that started in 2014.— *Myitmakha News Agency*



A villager seen standing on the water wagon at a rural village. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Britain could still change its mind over EU divorce, says man who drafted Article 50

LONDON — Britain could still change its mind about Brexit after triggering its formal divorce talks with the European Union, the man who drafted Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty told the BBC.

Prime Minister Theresa May has said she will invoke Article 50 by the end of March, kicking off two years of divorce negotiations.

"You can change your mind while the process is going on," John Kerr, a former British ambassador to the EU who drafted Article 50, told BBC TV.

"During that period, if a country were to decide actually we don't want to leave after all,

everybody would be very cross about it being a waste of time," he said. "They might try to extract a political price but legally they couldn't insist that you leave."

The High Court will rule on Thursday whether May has to get parliament's approval before triggering Article 50, which both the claimants and the government have said is irreversible once invoked.

Attorney General Jeremy Wright, the government's top lawyer, told the High Court last month that a notification invoking Article 50 — probably with a letter from May — was irrevocable.

Kerr, who the BBC said was advising the Scottish government, said that Article 50 was "not irrevocable". If Article 50 could be revoked, Britain's Brexit negotiations could be follow a significantly different path.

Kerr wants either parliament or the public — through an election or a second referendum — to revisit the decision to leave the EU in a year to 18 months time, the BBC said.

He added that if Scotland were to vote for independence, they would probably get membership of the EU pretty quickly. —Reuters



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton greets voters outside of an early voting site in Lauderhill, Florida, US, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump, Clinton blast each other on character; Clinton rises in poll

PENSACOLA, (Fla.)/ LAS VEGAS — Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump attacked one another's character as they pushed their closing arguments six days before the US presidential election, while the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll showed Clinton's lead over Trump rising back to the margin she held last week.

Many national polls have shown Clinton's lead over Trump narrowing since the re-emergence Friday of a controversy over her use of a private email while secretary of state. But the latest Reuters/Ipsos daily tracking poll released on Wednesday showed Clinton's lead over Trump rising back up to 6 percentage points, the same advantage she held before the FBI announcement related to her email practices.

Signs of a tightening race have rattled financial markets as investors started to factor in the possibility that the New York businessman might pull off a victory on 8 November.

World stocks, the dollar and oil fell on Wednesday, while safe-haven assets such as gold and the Swiss franc rose. Clinton has been regarded as the candidate who would maintain the status

quo, an important factor to financial markets, which generally do not like uncertainty.

Campaigning in Pensacola, Florida, Trump predicted he would win, telling supporters at the outdoor rally, "It's feeling like it already, isn't it?"

"We've got to be nice and cool, nice and cool. Alright, stay on point, Donald, stay on point. No sidetracks, Donald, nice and easy," said Trump, whose campaign has at times been damaged by controversial unscripted remarks. Trump argued that Clinton was unqualified to lead the country, calling her "totally unhinged."

Speaking to supporters in Las Vegas, Clinton blamed Trump for pitting Americans against one another, citing his rhetoric on groups like Muslims and Mexican-Americans. Trump, she said, is "out of his depth," and she called his proposals on foreign policy issues "incredibly dangerous."

"He doesn't have a clue," Clinton said. Investor anxiety has deepened in recent days over a possible Trump victory given uncertainty about his stance on issues including foreign policy, trade relations and immigrants.

Trump, who has never pre-

viously run for elected office, has run an unorthodox campaign, with policy proposals including reviewing trade pacts such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and imposing a temporary ban on Muslims seeking to enter the country.

Currency traders have sold the dollar this week in part because they suspect Trump would prefer a weaker dollar given his protectionist stance on international trade, and in part because the uncertainty surrounding a Trump win might lead to a more dovish stance from the Federal Reserve in the months ahead, instead of the interest rate hike that many expect by year-end. A rise in US interest rates would make the dollar, and dollar-denominated assets, more attractive to investors.

A Reuters equity market poll last month showed a majority of forecasters predicted that US stocks would perform better under a Clinton presidency than a Trump administration.

An average of polls compiled by the RealClearPolitics website showed Clinton just 1.7 per cent ahead of Trump nationally on Wednesday, with 47 per cent support to his 45.3 per cent. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey removes 1,218 gendarmerie from duty: interior ministry official

ANKARA — Turkey suspended 1,218 gendarmerie personnel on Thursday, an official from the interior ministry overseeing the force said, as part of investigations into a failed coup in July.

Turkey has already sacked or suspended more than 110,000 civil servants, judges, prosecutors, soldiers and others over suspected links with the network of Fethullah Gulen, a US-based cleric blamed by Ankara for orchestrating the failed coup. —Reuters

US Navy base in Sasebo briefly locked down on 'shooting' report

SASEBO, (Japan) — A US naval base in Japan's Sasebo was put on temporary lockdown Thursday following a report of a shooting around 9:30 a.m., the Navy said, adding the alert was soon lifted.

"All clear (at the Sasebo base)," US Naval Forces Japan tweeted. "No evidence of a shooter. No casualties. Base has returned to normal operations," it said.

Japanese and US authorities began a joint security drill at the Sasebo base in the southwestern prefecture of Nagasaki on Wednesday, according to a Sasebo city official.

The US naval base told the city that the incident was not related to the drill, the official said. —Kyodo News

Development of new technologies Serbia's strategic priority

BELGRADE — Serbia is on a good path to implement new technologies, but citizens also need to accept and use them more as we live in a world that has obviously changed greatly, it was said at the BIZIT conference on Wednesday.

State Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications Tatjana Matic noted that currently five out of the world's six most successful companies work in the field of new technologies and that ten years ago the situation was the opposite, with only Microsoft in the top ten.

"The world has obviously changed greatly. The government has understood the importance of modern trends, as could be seen in PM Vucic's programme, which noted development of new technologies is among the government's strategic goals", said Matic.

Strategies and laws that will contribute to further development of new technologies are being drawn, she said. —Tanjug

Pakistan withdraws six diplomats from New Delhi

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has called back six diplomats from its High Commission in New Delhi who have already flown back to Islamabad, official sources said.

Those who have been called back include four diplomats whose names were included in a confession statement extracted by the Indian authorities from Pakistani diplomat Mohammad Akhtar expelled by India last week.

Akhtar was picked up by the Indian intelligence on 26 October and forced to sign a confession to being a spy and to name four other diplomats at the High Commission to be indulging in spying work.

A Foreign Ministry statement issued the following day said the Indian action had shrunk "diplomatic space for the working of Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi." —Kyodo News

Two US military personnel killed in northern Afghanistan

KABUL — Two US service members were killed on Thursday while assisting Afghan security forces in operations against the Taliban around the northern city of Kunduz, a US military statement said.

"The service members came under fire during a train, advise and assist mission with our Afghan partners to clear a Taliban position and disrupt the group's operations in Kunduz District," the statement said.

It gave no details on the identity of the personnel or what units they served with.

The deaths underline the precarious security situation around Kunduz, which Taliban fighters managed to enter last month, a year after they briefly captured the city in their biggest success in the 15-year long war.

Although US combat operations against the Taliban largely ended in 2014, special forces units have been repeatedly engaged in combat, providing assistance to Afghan army and police. —Reuters

In a West Bank refugee camp, political struggle turns to violence

BALATA REFUGEE CAMP (West Bank) — Hundreds of bullet holes scar the concrete walls, shop fronts and trash-strewn alleys of Balata, the West Bank's largest refugee camp, the result of furious clashes earlier this week between Palestinian security forces and local gunmen.

The heavily armed force came before dawn on Monday, hunting for a handful of locals they say are criminals and thugs. For six hours the gunfire raged, shattering windows and piercing metal, before the security squad withdrew, empty handed.

Two days on, one of the men sought that night walks brazenly down the main street, past the meat hanging outside the butcher's shop and the fresh, warm pita from the bakery oven, proud that the camp stood firm and repelled the assault.

"Balata is a fortress," 31-year-old Khatam Abu Rezak told Reuters, dragging on a cigarette as he sat in the sparsely furnished front room of a friend's rundown house, the curtains firmly drawn, a fading portrait of Yasser Arafat on the wall. "We don't let the Palestinian Authority in because they will take us, torture us," he said, referring to the administration run by President Mahmoud Abbas that has limited self-rule in the Israeli occupied West Bank. "We are not criminals. The youth of Balata are angry because they are not being listened to. We



Palestinian school boys stand in front of a wall damaged by bullets during a clash between Palestinian security and gunmen, in Balata refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus, on 1 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

want dignity, we want better lives." To an increasingly large extent, the future of Palestinian politics and the fate of Abbas, now 81 and in power for 11 years, are being forged in Balata, a heartland of both the first and second Palestinian uprisings against Israeli occupation.

The camp of nearly 30,000 people, all refugees or descendants of refugees from the 1948 war that followed Israel's founding, is one of the most destitute places in the West Bank. Over the decades, through intifadas and Israeli security clampdowns, the population has grown ever angrier and more marginalized, its struggle to escape poverty ever harder.

During Arafat's time that frustration was directed squarely at Israel, with Balata's young men willing recruits to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, the armed wing of the Fatah Party that Abbas now heads. These days most of the wrath is aimed at Abbas himself and his failure to keep his promises.

Until Arafat's death in 2004, and in the early years of Abbas's rule, Fatah remained a tightly unified party, the overwhelming force in Palestinian politics. But in recent years, as discontent has grown with the leadership's failure to deliver an independent Palestinian state, competing factions have emerged.

Among Abbas's big-

gest rivals is Mohammed Dahlan, 55, a former Fatah security chief who lives in self-imposed exile in Abu Dhabi.

Born in a camp in Gaza, Dahlan has always courted support among the refugees. But in Balata he has a particularly strong base, helped by charitable donations he makes and the support, residents say, of a powerful local politician, Jamal Tirawi.

Abu Rezak, the wanted local gunman, doesn't namecheck Dahlan so much as Tirawi, seeing him as a grassroots Fatah figure "with initiative, someone we can trust". Abbas, on the other hand, has lost any sense of how the camps are feeling, he says.—Reuters

With Iraqi troops at Mosul's gate, Baghdadi promises victory

BAGHDAD — With Iraqi troops battling inside Islamic State's Iraqi bastion of Mosul, the militants' leader told his followers to fight to the death in what he said was a war against Shi'ite Islam, Western "crusaders" and the Sunni "apostate" countries Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Expressing confidence in victory, despite the broad alliance of Iraqi and international forces arrayed against a few thousand Islamic State fighters in Mosul, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi called on the jihadists to "wreak havoc".

He also urged them to target Turkey and Saudi Arabia, Sunni Muslim regional powers he said had entered the war against Islamic State.

"This raging battle and total war, and the great jihad that the state of Islam is fighting today only increases our firm belief, God willing, and our conviction that all this is a prelude to victory," Baghdadi said in an audio recording released online by supporters on Thursday.

Iraqi regular troops and special forces, Shi'ite militias, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and other groups backed by US-led air strikes launched a campaign two weeks ago to recapture Mosul.

Winning back the country's second biggest city would mark the defeat of the Iraq wing of a crossborder caliphate which Baghdadi declared from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque two years

ago. Islamic State also holds large parts of neighbouring Syria.

In his first audio message released in nearly a year, Baghdadi called on the population of Mosul's Nineveh Province "not to weaken in the jihad" against the "enemies of God".

He also called on the group's suicide fighters to "turn the nights of the unbelievers into days, to wreak havoc in their land and make their blood flow as rivers".

Addressing those who might consider fleeing, he said: "Know that the value of staying on your land with honour is a thousand times better than the price of retreating with shame." The exact location of Baghdadi, an Iraqi whose real name is Ibrahim al-Samarrai, is not clear. Reports have said he may be in Mosul itself, or in Islamic State-held land to the west of the city, close to the border with Syria. The authenticity of the 31-minute-long recording could not be immediately verified, but the voice and style closely resembled those of previous speeches Baghdadi has delivered. The recording appeared to be recent as it focused on the Mosul offensive, although Baghdadi did not mention the city by name. 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.—Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **GUALA CLOSURES S.p.A.** a company incorporated in Italy and having its principal office at Spinetta Marengo (Alessandria, Italy), via Rana 12, Zona Industriale D6, 155122 is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:-

NIPCAP

(Reg: No. IV/9691/2016)

in respect of :-

"Stoppers, caps, crown caps non in metal; stoppers, caps, crown caps all made of plastic" in Class 20

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates
for **GUALA CLOSURES S.p.A.**
BY ITS ATTORNEY
ACTIP IP LIMITED
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 01-372416
Dated: 4th November, 2016

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE

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Aung Naing Moe (Advocate)
Ong Minn U (Advocate)
May Phyo Kin (H.G.P)
For Altacor Inc.
Myanmar Global Law Firm
Ph:0973220023
Dated. 4 November 2016

Kenya says withdrawing its troops from a UN mission in South Sudan

KAMPALA — Kenya said on Wednesday it would withdraw its troops from the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan after it sacked a Kenyan who led the force and was accused of not responding to an attack on a hotel in the South Sudanese capital Juba in July.

A UN inquiry accused the force, known as UNMISS, of failing to respond to the attack on Hotel Terrain despite multiple requests.

The inquiry also found that during assault by South Sudanese government troops civilians in the hotel were subjected to and witnessed crimes including murder, intimidat-

tion, sexual violence and torture.

Ban Ki-moon, the UN secretary general, expressed alarm at UNMISS' failures and said he had asked for immediate replacement of the force's commander, Lieutenant General Johnson Mogoa Kimani Ondieki, from Kenya.

The Kenyan government said it rejected the findings of the inquiry and the request by Ban to replace the commander, who had been in charge since June.

"The process leading to this unfortunate decision not only lacked transparency but did not involve any formal consul-

tation with the government of Kenya," the statement.

It said Kenya would withdraw its troops in UNMISS as its continued deployment in South Sudan was "no longer tenable and is inimical to their safety and well-being".

The country also said it would stop participating in a peace process for South Sudan and discontinue plans to contribute troops to a proposed regional force to be deployed in Juba.

Kenya said UNMISS was stymied by "fundamental structural and systemic dysfunctionality", and that blaming the force's failures on its officer was scapegoating.—Reuters

South Africa watchdog calls for probe on influence peddling in Zuma's government

PRETORIA — South Africa's anti-graft watchdog called for a judge to investigate allegations of influence peddling in President Jacob Zuma's government, in a report released on Wednesday as thousands of protesters called for the president to step down.

The 355-page report, titled "State of Capture", stopped short of reaching conclusive findings, but is likely to add to pressure on Zuma by demanding a full inquiry within 30 days into the biggest crisis of his scandal-plagued presidency.

The report was finally released after the president withdrew a court bid earlier on Wednesday that had sought to delay its publication.

Police fired stun grenades and used water cannon to disperse demonstrators who had marched to the Union Buildings, where



A protester throws a bottle at police during demonstrations calling for the removal of President Jacob Zuma outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria, South Africa, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Zuma's offices are located. Outside the High Court, protesters carried "Zuma must go" placards.

Zuma denies providing

special favours for wealthy friends, including three brothers who run a business empire from media to mining and who also deny

wrongdoing.

The carefully-worded report stopped short of asserting that crimes had been committed, saying

the watchdog lacked the resources to reach such conclusions.

It focused on allegations that the brothers, Ajay, Atul and Rajesh Gupta, influenced the appointment of ministers, and called for an investigation into whether Zuma, some of his cabinet members and some state companies acted improperly. In one case it cited "extraordinary and unprecedented" government intervention in a private business dispute involving Zuma's friends and his son. This, it said, may have created "a possible conflict of interest between the President as head of state and his private interest as a friend and father".

The affair has rattled markets in Africa's most industrialized economy, which faces the risk of ratings downgrades later this year. Divisions within the

African National Congress (ANC) have widened since the ruling party suffered its worst-ever local election results in August.

The rand rose by as much as 2 per cent to the dollar when the court ordered that the report be released, although it later pared some of its gains. Analysts said allowing the report to be released was an indication the country still had strong institutions.

The release of the report has been a central demand of Zuma's opponents since its publication was suspended on 14 October, the day its author, Thuli Madonsela, reached the end of her tenure as public protector, South Africa's anti-graft watchdog.

The presidency said in a statement that Zuma had decided "in the interests of justice" to withdraw his bid to delay it.—Reuters

Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Electric Power Generation Enterprise
INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION (EPGE G-02)
Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (Phase I)
Loan Agreement No. MY-P2

This invitation for prequalification follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business of 31st October 2016 on-line.

The Republic of The Union of Myanmar has received a credit from Official Development Association (ODA) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of the *Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (Phase I), (MY-P2)* and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Package 2 "Renovation Works of Transmission System" which includes Rehabilitation Work to four Substations at the existing Gas Turbine Power Plants (Ahlone, Hlawga, Ywama and Tharkayta) in Yangon Region. The Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) intends to prequalify contractors for supply and rehabilitating of four Substations which will supply as much electricity as possible to the grid.

It is expected that invitations for bid will be made after prequalification. Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures specified in JICA Guidelines: Procurement under Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans dated April 2012 and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Prequalification notice with following contents;

1. Package Name:	Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (Phase I) Package two (2) "Renovation Works of Transmission System"
2. Prequalification Document issuance time:	10:00 to 15:30 on 4 th November 2016.
3. Prequalification Document fee:	Three Hundred Thousand (300,000) kyat only
4. Application submission closing date and time:	26 th December 2016 by 14:00 (Myanmar Standard Time)
5. Submission place:	Procurement Department Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
6. Others:	Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, and be clearly marked " <i>Application to Prequalify for Renovation Work to Four Substations in Yangon Region (ICB EPGE-G-02)</i> "

Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document between 10:00 - 15:30 hrs at:
Thermal Power Department
Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE),
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Phone : + 95 67 8104282
Facsimile number : +95 67 810 4280
E-mail : epgethermal@gmail.com

Philippine fishermen put Duterte diplomacy to test, visit disputed shoal

SUBIC, (Philippines) — On his first voyage as captain, Philippine fisherman Joel Banila was more worried about being battered by Chinese coastguard ships than he was about the impending storm on the horizon in the South China Sea.

His was one of the first boats to gamble on the big catches on offer in and around the disputed Scarborough Shoal since Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte made surprise overtures towards China, which sees the area as its sovereign territory.

For four years, Chinese ships have blockaded the tranquil lagoon rich in fish stocks and forced fishermen from the Philip-

pires to travel further for smaller catches, reflecting tensions in the South China Sea where several countries have overlapping claims.

Frosty relations between China and the Philippines have improved markedly, however, as Duterte shifts away from traditional ally the United States and closer to Beijing, and some fishermen have decided to take a calculated risk.

"I felt a bit nervous because it was my first time serving as captain," 32-year-old Banila told Reuters, a day after making the 10-hour, 124-mile journey back to the shores of the northwest Philippines.

"We heard what happened before, that they (Chinese ships) ram the boats, so I was moving slowly around the shoal but nothing happened."

There has been considerable confusion at sea since Duterte's diplomatic shift, with China's foreign ministry saying this week that the situation at Scarborough Shoal "has not changed and will not change".

Philippine officials said fishermen could return, but confirmed no agreement had been reached when Duterte visited Beijing two weeks ago in search of investment, trade, and unimpeded access to the shoal.—Reuters

Indonesians scour waters for dozens missing after speed boat crash

JAKARTA — A 280-strong search-and-rescue team scoured the waters off an Indonesian island for dozens missing on Thursday, a day after a speedboat carrying mostly migrant workers struck a reef and sank, the national disaster mitigation agency said.

The accident happened as the boat was heading from the southern Malay-



Police prepare a boat for a search and rescue operations after a boat capsized off Batam, in Nongsa, Batam, Indonesia, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

sian state of Johor towards Indonesia's Batam island, just south of Singapore.

The boat, carrying 98 workers and three crew, hit

the reef in strong winds and big waves. Eighteen people were killed, 39 were found alive and 44 were missing.—Reuters

Biggest threat to forests, beef lags in push to cut supply chain deforestation

BARCELONA — More companies have promised to cut back deforestation in their supply chains for agricultural commodities since the Paris climate change deal last December, but progress in implementing those pledges is mixed, research groups said on Thursday.

Under the New York Declaration on Forests, launched in September 2014, some 190 governments, companies, indigenous peoples' organisations, green groups and think tanks are aiming to help the private sector eliminate deforestation from the production of agricultural commodities by 2020.

The first report to track such corporate sustainability promises said 108 companies had announced 212 new commitments since December 2015, boosting the total to 415 businesses.

Levels vary between commodities: of around 630 companies assessed, 59 per cent of those that source or produce palm oil had made commitments, and 53 per cent in the wood and paper

industry. But for soy, it was only 21 per cent, and for cattle products as low as 12 per cent.

Those big four globally-traded commodities are responsible for 40 per cent of deforestation.

Marco Albani, director of the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, wrote in the report that with just four years left to the end of 2020, "there is still a lot to be done".

"More companies need to commit, and many more need to move much faster to operationalize those commitments," he said.

Less than half the assessed companies have time-bound action plans, robust monitoring systems remain rare, and only 45 percent of firms are reporting on compliance with deforestation policies, the report added.

Most of the companies with forest commitments are manufacturers and retailers, of which nearly 90 per cent are headquartered in Europe, North America or Australia — where they

are more likely to feel the heat from green consumers.

Producers, processors and traders of commodities, as well companies based in developing countries, have been slower to act, the report noted.

The exceptions are palm oil producers in South-east Asia and meat-processing companies headquartered in Brazil, it added.

Charlotte Streck, director of Climate Focus, a think tank that led the report, said a large, unknown number of traders and small and medium-sized producers "are all very happy to deforest and then supply to China" and other emerging markets.

"This is the part that cannot be captured by the supply chain commitments of the big companies - this needs to be coming from governments," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Governments should enforce laws and regulations, and crack down on the corruption that helps fuel deforestation, she added.—*Reuters*



Hams are seen in a collapsed factory following an earthquake in Norcia, Italy, on 31 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Earthquake hits already battered central Italy, no casualties

ROME — A strong earthquake hit the same area of central Italy on Thursday that has already been battered by a spate of recent tremors, but there were no reports of casualties or further serious damage.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) initially measured the quake at 5.0 but later revised it to 4.8. Its epicenter was in the Marche region, one of three areas hit repeatedly since Au-

gust. Nearly 10 hours after the latest quake, there were no reports of casualties, injuries or serious damage to buildings already weakened by previous tremors. Earthquakes measuring 5.5 and 6.1 hit the area on 26 October, followed by a 6.6 magnitude quake on Sunday, the biggest tremor to strike Italy for 36 years. The recent quakes have reshaped more than 600 square km (230 square miles) of land,

lowering areas around the epicentre by up to 70 cm (28 inches), according to data released by Italy's National Institute for Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV)..

Central Italy was hit by an initial earthquake on Aug. 24 that killed 300 people, most of them in the town of Amatrice. Since then, some 21,600 aftershocks have battered the region, the INGV said, driving most residents from their homes.—*Reuters*

Obama says US mulling alternate routes for North Dakota pipeline

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said the US government is examining ways to reroute an oil pipeline in North Dakota as it addresses concerns raised by Native American tribes protesting against its construction.

Obama's comments late on Tuesday to online news site Now This were his first to directly address the escalating clashes be-

tween local authorities and protesters over Energy Transfer Partners' \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline project.

"My view is that there is a way for us to accommodate sacred lands of Native Americans. And I think that right now the Army Corps is examining whether there are ways to reroute this pipeline," Obama said in the video interview.

The US Department of Justice did not comment on Obama's statement regarding rerouting the line, citing pending litigation involving the tribes and an ongoing review of permitting by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

"Ultimately, this is a determination the Army must make based on its own review, and we don't yet know what that decision

will be," a Justice Department spokesman said.

On Wednesday, protesters on the banks of the Cantapeta Creek confronted law enforcement, as they attempted to build a wooden pedestrian bridge across the creek to gain access to the Cannon Ball Ranch, private land owned by ETP, according to a statement from Morton County officials.

The US Justice and Interior Departments along with the Army Corps of Engineers halted construction on part of the pipeline in September due to protests by Native American tribes who contend the pipeline would disturb sacred land and pollute waterways supplying nearby homes.

The affected area includes land under Lake Oahe, a large and culturally important reservoir on the Missouri River where the line was supposed to cross. The Army Corps of Engineers confirmed Wednesday that it let law enforcement go into this land to prevent further campsites from being set up.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MALACCA STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALACCA STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185



A person pours a pepper spray antidote into a protester's eyes during a protest against the building of a pipeline on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation near Cannonball, North Dakota. PHOTO: REUTERS

Taylor Swift tops Forbes' 2016 list of highest paid women in music

NEW YORK — With earnings of \$170 million, pop singer Taylor Swift was 2016's highest-paid woman in music, *Forbes* magazine said on Wednesday.

Swift, 26, smashed the Rolling Stones' North American touring record, pulling in a total of more than \$200 million on the North American portion of her "1989" world tour. Last year, the "Bad Blood" singer came in second to Katy Perry with an estimated \$80 million.

Swift was honoured with the first-ever "Taylor Swift Award" at the BMI Pop Awards in May, quipping that she "would be kind of bummed" if the award had gone to someone else.

British "Hello" singer Adele, 28, ranked second on *Forbes*' list with \$80.5 million in earnings, her highest total yet. Adele, whose album "25" swiftly became the biggest seller of 2015, enjoyed continued success with album sales this year and grossed millions per night for her arena shows.

Madonna, who was named the highest-paid woman in mu-

sic in 2013, ranked third this year. Her recent "Rebel Heart" tour grossed \$170 million, bringing her career total on the road to \$1.4 billion pretax, according to the magazine.

In the past 12 months, Madonna, 58, earned a total of \$76.5 million.

That was slightly more than Barbados-born Rihanna, who earned \$75 million and also received a lifetime achievement award at the MTV Video Music Awards on 28 August.

"Lemonade" artist Beyonce, who was 2014's top earner, ranked fifth at \$54 million.

Collectively, the 10 women on *Forbes*' list earned more than \$600 million this year.

Forbes compiled the list after estimating pretax income for the 12 months from June 2015 to 2016 based on interviews with managers, agents, lawyers and some of the stars.

It also looked at data from the Pollstar, the Recording Industry Association of America and tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.—*Reuters*



Taylor Swift performs in Times Square on New Year's Eve in New York, New York, US, on 31 December 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS



Musician Garth Brooks poses backstage with his award for Entertainer of the Year during the 50th Annual Country Music Association Awards in Nashville, Tennessee, US, 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Garth Brooks win top prize, but Beyonce takes Country Music Awards' centre stage

NASHVILLE — It's billed as country music's biggest night, but it was pop-R&B queen Beyonce who commanded the spotlight at the 50th annual Country Music Awards on Wednesday with a thumping performance of "Daddy Lessons."

Accompanied by the Dixie Chicks, the Texas-born star appeared more than two hours into the more-than three hour long show, which was broadcast live from Nashville on ABC, frustrating fans who tuned in specially and expected her widely touted performance to open the show.

Working a glittering, beaded gown, Beyonce brought the A-list audience to its feet with the country-blues "Daddy Lessons" from her newest album "Lemonade," joined by a bevy of on-stage musicians and the Dixie Chicks.

Social media lit up with posts debating Beyonce's inclusion on an awards show traditionally featuring few people of colour.

"Tim McGraw on point with that diversity theme performing 'Humble And Kind,'" wrote one

Twitter user, while another posted "This the first time black twitter has live tweeted the CMAs. Hilarious."

Legendary country stars Dolly Parton and Garth Brooks were among the big honorees, with Brooks taking home the top award Entertainer of the Year, presented by Taylor Swift.

Parton was lauded with the Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award, quipping "I would cry, but I didn't want to mess up my eyelashes."

The crowd roared with appreciation at Parton's observing that her Willie Nelson Award "is an absolute high, for me," as she emphasized the word 'high' in a nod to Nelson's well-documented marijuana use.

Kenny Chesney was presented the special Pinnacle Award, only the third time the honour has ever been presented.

Female vocalist of the year went to Carrie Underwood, her fourth win in the category.

After blurting thanks to the many legends in attendance, Un-

derwood was seemingly at a loss for words, saying "I've just become suddenly stupid."

Chris Stapleton was named male vocalist of the year, and ended his speech saying "It takes a village," a line often associated with US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Co-hosts Brad Paisley and Underwood also mined the presidential campaign in opening banter that included the lines "this show is rigged," "will you accept tonight's results?" and "You're a nasty woman."

Other top awards included single of the year, won by Thomas Rhett for "Die a Happy Man," and Lori McKenna's "Humble and Kind," named song of the year.

An emotional Maren Morris won for new artist, noting "Last year I sat across the street in a bar and watched this show."

Eric Church won album of the year for "Mr. Misunderstood." Other awards went to Little Big Town for vocal group of the year and the Brothers Osborne, named vocal due of the year.—*Reuters*

'Loving' spotlights interracial couple who changed US marriage laws

LOS ANGELES — When Mildred Loving, a black woman banned from her rural Virginia hometown for marrying a white man, wrote to US Attorney General Bobby Kennedy in 1963, she never imagined that she was about to change the course of American history.

Kennedy referred Mildred and Richard Loving's case to the American Civil Liberties Union, and in 1967, eleven years after the couple had been exiled from Virginia for violating the state's anti-miscegenation laws, the US Supreme Court struck down legislation that prohibited interracial marriages. Nearly 50 years after the landmark ruling, the quiet,

working class Lovings are showcased in the film, "Loving," out in US theaters on Friday. Behind every cause are the people that fight for something they believe in, and in this case, the Lovings' unwavering devotion to one another was what inspired writer-director Jeff Nichols.

"We stop thinking about the humanity at the centre of these things, and that's what Richard and Mildred show us," he said.

In "Loving," the couple from Caroline County, Virginia, travel to Washington, D.C. to get married, bypassing Virginia's strict laws preventing interracial marriage. They return to their home to live quietly under the radar, but

the police are tipped off and the Lovings, who are expecting their first child, are arrested and given a suspended prison sentence on the condition that they leave Virginia.

The film centres on the Lovings' quiet daily lives, with little dialogue between the couple, but their discomfort living in cramped quarters in a noisy big city and their desire to go back to Virginia is the catalyst for their case. The Lovings "weren't standing on podiums shouting and inciting crowds. They were literally kind of pushed through an already open door; they weren't kicking it in," said Joel Edgerton, who plays Richard Loving. "They're very identifiable, unwilling heroes," he added.—*Reuters*

Ang Lee tackles war drama in 'Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk'

TAIPEI — Oscar-winning director Ang Lee brought his latest movie "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" to his native Taiwan on Wednesday, a war drama the filmmaker has sought to turn into a strikingly immersive experience.

The film, about a young US private returning home for a victory tour following a battle in Iraq, was produced for a 3D presentation in 4K with a high frame rate of 120 per second.

Newcomer Joe Alwyn plays the protagonist in the film, based on the novel of the same name, and the cast includes Vin Diesel, Chris Tucker and Kristen Stewart.

"The whole thing was so special. The chance to work with a director like Ang at any stage of anyone's career would be the most amazing opportunity," Alwyn said. "For it to come around for me so early on with such a groundbreaking film, which is trying to do so much and push boundaries, is incredible."

Lee, known for "Life of Pi" and "Brokeback Mountain", told reporters at the premiere in Taipei he hoped "everyone will love this movie" despite not all cinemas able to show it in its groundbreaking format.

"I hope that everyone can happily embrace a new kind of experience," he said.—*Reuters*

Kenyan conservationists to track elephant ‘corridors’ between parks

AMBOSEL (Kenya) — Scientists in Kenya are fitting radio collars on elephants to help secure the “corridors” they use between national parks, part of a conservation drive that has seen the nation’s elephant population double within the last 35 years.

“The purpose for collaring the elephants is that will provide information on its movements across this landscape,” said Steve Jumbe, head of programmes in East Africa for the conservation body International Fund for Animal Welfare.

“Those movements will define critical corridors and dispersal areas that the elephants use ... so that we can secure [these areas.]”

Conservationists used a combination of helicopters, four-wheel-drive vehicles and elders from the local Masaai tribe to track the elephants across the grass savannah.

Two more elephants were fitted with collars on Wednesday, making a total of 14 elephants being tracked under the programme.

Both were darted out-

side the limits of Amboseli National Park in southern Kenya, in areas where herders were grazing livestock, underscoring the potential for conflict with humans.

Elephants also often raid crops and farms as they migrate between parks, angering villagers who rely on their produce to feed their families. But tracking data from the IFAW project showed elephants could be deterred by electric fences around farms, suggesting a way for the animals and their human neighbors to live together more peacefully.

The collars can also provide rangers with an early warning if the elephants are straying too close to human habitation.

The Kenya Wildlife Service said elephant numbers had rebounded to 32,000 from a low of 16,000 in 1989, the year that the world conservation body CITES banned sales of ivory from African elephants. Kenya’s Wildlife Service was set up a year later. But elephants remain threatened by poaching and habitat loss.

—Reuters



A male elephant attempts to stand on its feet after it was fitted with an advanced satellite radio tracking collar to monitor their movement and control human-wildlife conflict near Mt. Kilimanjaro at the Amboseli National Park, in Kenya, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tiny Slovenia world’s best at preserving environment to boost prosperity

LONDON — Protecting the environment makes nations more prosperous, a think tank said on Thursday, as a study showed Slovenia is the country best at using nature to improve the wellbeing of its citizens.

In its study, the London-based Legatum Institute for the first time included governments’ efforts to reduce pollution, preserve biodiversity and limit the exploitation of natural resources in a formula to calculate its annual prosperity index.

“Protecting the environment, leaving citizens with a nicer, cleaner and even prettier environment, is strongly linked to wellbeing,” Alexandra Mousavizadeh, director at the Legatum Institute, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The index is published amid increased global efforts to tackle climate change and foster sustainable growth.

In September last year UN member states set a number of ambitious tar-

gets to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030.

In December, nearly 200 nations agreed to keep global temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius to curb global warming, as part of the landmark accord reached in Paris.

The Legatum Institute’s index measures the prosperity of 149 countries based not only on their wealth but also on a series of other factors including education, personal freedoms, how safe people feel and how they get on with their neighbours.

In 2016 New Zealand was ranked first, followed by Norway, while Slovenia came top in the category dedicated to the natural environment.

Its ranking was due to the “aggressive” environmental policy Slovenia has adopted over the past decade, which has included the creation of large protected areas on land and sea, according to the institute. —Reuters

Michelin dishes stars to 26 Chicago restaurants

CHICAGO — Michelin said on Wednesday it awarded its coveted stars to 26 Chicago restaurants in the latest edition of its dining guide that will be launched on 7 December up from 22 in last year’s edition.

The latest guide cast a spotlight on a burgeoning food scene where local chefs showcase their interpretation of American cuisine.

“Chicago is not a coastal city. You don’t have the Asian influence like in San Francisco and the international influence in New York. You have a more American take on food,” said Michael Ellis, international director of the Michelin Guide.

Michelin’s anonymous reviewers rate restaurants in 28 countries and its stars are seen as a sign of top-notch dining around the world. It rates restaurants in three other US regions: New York, the San Francisco area and Washington.

Alinea and Grace retained their three-star status, Michelin’s highest accolade, for their “exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey.”

There are more than 100 restaurants in the world with the three-star distinction.


“Every restaurant have to earn their stars (each year). It’s not a lifetime achievement,” Ellis said.

Two Chicago restaurants, newcomer Oriole and veteran Tru, moved up to its two-star category for their “excellent cuisine, worth a detour,” joining Acadia, 42 Grams and Sixteen.

Michelin lauded Oriole, which opened in March, for “a consistently exciting blend of contemporary food that embraces familiar global flavour,” under head chef Noah Sandoval.

Tru, which had been a one-star eatery since 2011, improved its menu with dishes that have “interesting flavour combinations and appealing visual presentations” overseen by executive chef Anthony Martin, Michelin said.

Michelin handed out one star to 19 restaurants in its 2017 guide on the third most populated US city, praising them for being “very good” in their category.—Reuters



Myanmar International

(4-11-2016 07:00am ~ 5-11-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	DAINGNAK STYLE
07:39	Am	A bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Ep-2)
07:56	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Those Who Never Give Up(Ep-6)- In Pursuit of a dream
08:56	Am	Rvwang Dance
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	News Extra - Korea-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
09:45	Am	Shan Novices To Be.....
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Green Corner (Episode - 9) Mixed Media Bottle
10:37	Am	A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas
10:50	Am	Well-trained Elephants

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: Ngwe Saung Beach
07:47	Pm	Grow Back For Posterity “The Dawn of Development”
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques (ဦးစိန်မြင့်, ရွှေချည်ထိုးရေးဟောင်းပစ္စည်း)

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

Higuain hero and villain as Juve blow early lead

TURIN (Italy) — Gonzalo Higuain converted an early penalty for Juventus and then missed a sitter before Olympique Lyonnais hit back late in the game to grab a 1-1 draw in their Champions League match on Wednesday.

Corentin Tolisso's 85th-minute header, the first goal that the Italian champions have conceded in four games in Group H, kept alive the French side's slim hopes of reaching the last 16 and kept Juve waiting for at least one more game to book their spot.

Juventus are second with eight points, two behind leaders Sevilla, and should still progress, while Lyon have four.

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri was angry with his team for trying to grab a late winner instead of settling for the draw.

"We ran too many risks towards the end and we could have undermined our whole campaign in the Champions League," he said. "You go to war when there's a chance of winning; you don't go to war when there's a chance of losing."

Juve were gifted an early lead when Higuain burst down the left and found Stefano Sturaro who was clumsily pushed over by Mouctar Diakhaby.

The Argentine stepped up and sent Anthony Lopes the wrong way from the spot.



Olympique Lyon's Corentin Tolisso celebrates after scoring first goal during their UEFA Champions League Group Stage, Group H at Juventus stadium, Turin, Italy, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

However, Higuain turned villain shortly before halftime when he scooped the ball over the crossbar with the goal at his mercy after Mario Mandzukic had won possession off a defender and set him up with a glorious opportunity.

In between, Claudio Marchisio sent a low drive agonisingly wide from just outside the penalty area.

Juventus, who won 1-0 in

Lyon two weeks ago, appeared to sit back after halftime and the visitors enjoyed plenty of possession although they struggled to turn it into genuine chances.

Already missing Giorgio Chiellini from their so-called 'BBC' defence, Juventus also saw Leonardo Bonucci limp off in the 67th minute when he had to be replaced by Mehdi Benatia.

The revamped defence were caught out with five minutes left

when Rachid Ghezzal delivered a superb free kick into the Juve area which was attacked by three players, with Tolisso getting there first to head past Gianluigi Buffon.

Juventus threw themselves forward in search of a late winner and Lyon threatened to snatch the points when Alexandre Lacazette ran on to a through ball but Buffon did well to narrow the angle.—Reuters

Joshua, Klitschko set for WBA title fight in 2017

LONDON — Anthony Joshua has received official sanction to fight veteran Wladimir Klitschko for the vacant WBA heavyweight title in the spring of 2017, but the British boxer must first defend his IBF title against Eric Molina in Manchester on 10 December. Joshua said on Tuesday he would put his IBF belt on the line against the 34-year-old Molina, his second defence of the title since stopping American Dominic Breazeale in the seventh round earlier this year to take his professional record to 17-0.

Klitschko lost his IBF, WBO and WBA belts to Tyson Fury last November but their scheduled rematch was first called off when the Briton picked up an injury in training before it was jettisoned due to the champion's mental health issues.

Fury, who has admitted to taking cocaine to deal with depression, has since vacated the WBA and WBO titles, and Joshua was linked to a Klitschko bout that fell through partly due to confusion over whether the WBA title would be on the line.

On Wednesday, the WBA officially sanctioned the match between the two fighters for the vacant title.

"It's been an arduous wait to gain official approval but we were delighted to receive the news that the WBA will officially sanction the fight," Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn said in a statement.

"We will now move forward with (Klitschko's manager) Bernd Boente and Team Klitschko in planning the date and venue knowing that victory against Eric Molina in Manchester on 10 December is more important than ever."—Reuters

Djokovic cruises, Murray struggles, Wawrinka out in Paris

PARIS — Novak Djokovic began his bid to hold on to his number one ranking with an easy win over Gilles Muller in the Paris Masters second round while Andy Murray struggled through and Stan Wawrinka faltered on Wednesday.

Serb Djokovic, who could be dethroned from the top spot by Wimbledon champion Murray this week, broke Luxembourger Muller once in each set to secure a drama-free 6-3, 6-4 victory.

The 29-year-old will hold on

to his ranking if he reaches the final in Paris.

"I try to focus on playing match after match and putting quality and value into my game. I know that if that's the case, then I can challenge anybody on the world in any surface, in any conditions," Djokovic told a news conference.

It went less smoothly for Murray, who overcame a blip to down Spaniard Fernando Verdasco 6-3, 6-7(5), 7-5 before US.

Open champion Wawrinka was knocked out by German qualifier Jan-Lennard Struff 3-6, 6-7(6), 7-6(1).

A long season eventually took its toll on the world number three from Switzerland, who started brightly but ran out of gas after being forced into a second-set tiebreak.

Struff broke in the seventh game of the third set but Wawrinka broke back to send the match into a decisive tiebreak, which the

German easily won.

Murray strolled through the opening set but lost his focus in the second, netting a backhand to allow Verdasco to level the match.

The Scot, however, recovered quickly, breaking to open a 2-0 lead in the decider, only for his opponent, who relied on his heavy forehand and a sliced backhand, to break back and set up two break points at 5-5.—Reuters

61st Kayin State Day to celebrate from 6-10 November

A TRADITIONAL boat race and a Thai-Myanmar Lethwei challenge fight will be held in celebration of Kayin State Day, according to the Department of Sports and Physical Education in Hpa-an District. The 61st Kayin State Day, a holiday marked by the state government, which has organized an annual fair and a traditional dance competition, is planned to take place between 6 and 10 November with a wide range of entertainment programmes, including market festivals and sports events.

The main aim of holding a traditional boat race at the celebration is to revitalize the tradition and culture of the Kayin people.

This type of sports event was held during the term of Dr Saw Hla Htun, former chairman of Kayin State and father of the current Kayin State chief minister, said U Sa Tin Aung Myint, head of the department.

The boat race is scheduled to be held from 6 to 8 November at Kanthaya Lake. All participating teams have already begun their sports training activities at the lake. Audience will also see the five-day Lethwei (boxing) competition at the boxing stadium located in the west of Thiri Sports ground starting 7 November, according to organisers.—Myitmakha News Agency



Participants in the Kayin State Day boat race seen training on Kanthaya Lake. PHOTO: MMK