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Union Minister for Information U Pe Myint addresses the 5th Conference on Myanmar Media Development in Yangon attended by government officials and media. PHOTO: MNA

5th Conference on Myanmar Media Development Held

Myanmar Government pledges more cooperation with local and foreign media

MYANMAR kicked off the 5th conference on Myanmar media development in Yangon under the title of “Inclusive Independent Media In A New Democracy,” calling for responsibility and accountability in the media sector and pledges for cooperating with local and international media for the country’s media development.

The remarks were made by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint at the opening of the two-day conference held with the theme “Inclusive Independent Media In A New Democracy”.

“It is needed for journalists to abide by the media ethics as well, without claiming only one voice, ‘freedom of expression,’” said the Union Minister in his



Mr. Staffan Herrström, Ambassador of Sweden PHOTO: MNA

opening speech.

The conference will focus on media laws, safety of journalists, gender issues, right to information, sustainability of the independent media, enhancing the voices from social media and community media through discussions.

Media conferences have

been held in Myanmar for 5 consecutive years, aimed at developing the realm of media in Myanmar.

The conference is aimed at holding frank discussions among members of the media with a view to developing the media sector and to overcoming challenges in the media world.

“Compared to situations in the past 5 years, the media is more accessible than ever. Yet, there are still some restrictions in collecting news and information by journalists. Some difficulties found in accessing news were discussed among fellow members of the media,” said Dr Pe Myint.

“Arrangements for the fourth estate to have access to its related panels are under way. Spokesper-

sons in the administrative sector have been chosen to conduct training courses on relations with media,” he added.

Media law and laws on printing and publishing have been enacted in the country.

Abolition of the 1962 law on printing and publishing that required Press Scrutiny Boards is a sign of progress. Likewise, laws on television and broadcasting were promulgated in August, 2015. Some amendments are being made, to be submitted to Hluttaw after completion.

The drafting of the Right to Information Law is under way. It is designed for the benefit of the whole populace. By-elections are to be held in April, 2017.

The Ministry of Information

will make arrangements for journalists to smoothly collect news and information during by-elections by reassessing the difficulties encountered in previous general elections in cooperation with not only media in Yangon, Mandalay and big cities but also ethnic media, according to the Union Minister.

“The media needs to pay special attention to writing news sensitive to races and religion, to choose news from confirmed sources, to follow media ethics and to report on reasonable findings”, the Union Minister said. “Unreasonable reports may lead to misunderstanding. Some news has been found to have included opinions, conclusions and comments”.

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C-in-C of Defence Services holds talks with EU Military Council Chairman



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, meeting with General Mikhail Kostarakos, Chairman of the European Military Council General Mikhail Kostarakos, in Brussels, Belgium. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, met with General Mikhail Kostarakos, Chairman of the European Military Council General Mikhail Kostarakos, in Brussels, Belgium, at 2.45 pm local time yesterday.

At the meeting, they dis-

cussed exchange of visits between the Tatmadaw and armed forces of the member countries of EU, promoting relations between Myanmar and EU, training and future cooperation.

Before the meeting, the Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited the Memorial 1815-the battle

of Waterloo memorial site, and Namur town in Wallonia.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also met with staff of Myanmar Embassy and presented gifts to them.

Staff families of the embassy hosted dinner in honour of the delegation.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Ammunition dump fire at Sittwe Regional Headquarters under investigation

AT the regional command headquarters of Sittwe, Rakhine State a fire burnt an ammunition dump stored in the arsenal this morning at 11:55, extinguished by Tatmatawmen and members of the township fire brigade. The fire

was put out at 1:10 pm or so.

The fire destroyed the left hand side of the arsenal and its contents—some of the ammunition. The fire did not spread to the western part of the room with no one injured, it is learnt.

According to the preliminary enquiry of the case, the cause of fire may be the chemical reaction. The enquiry committee consists of experts, who will find out as to whether it was linked with terrorists.—*Myawady*

Crime NEWS



Yawha and Soe Myint being seen together with seized yaba pills. PHOTO: MPF

Yaba pills seized in Monghsat

A combined team including members of Anti Narcotic Drugs Squad based in Monghsat searched a motorbike driven by Yawha, 20, with Soe Myint, 21, on board, at the Sitekaung Wheel Tax gate at the entrance to Monghsat and seized 20000 yaba pills on 6 November. Police have filed charges against them under the Psychotropic Substances and Anti Narcotic Drug Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Myanmar Gazette

Confirmation and Appointments

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Dr Ye Tint Tun, Director-General of agricultural department, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation with effect from the date of the completion of one-year probationary period.

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

Name	Appointment
(1) U Aye Lwin Deputy Director-General Department of Population Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population	Director-General National Registration and Citizenship Department Ministry of Labour, Immigra tion and Population
(2) U Aung Kyaw Than Deputy Director-General Monetary Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Monetary Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar

Fire destroys two buildings in Myinlut, Maungtau Township

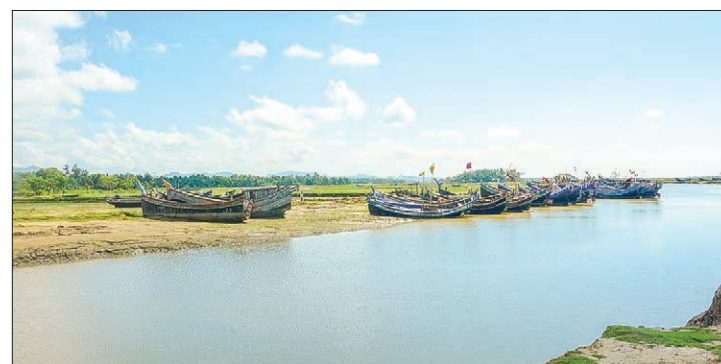
TWO buildings constructed for teachers in Myinlut, Maungtau Township, caught fire yesterday.

The fire started at about 6:45pm yesterday and was extinguished by troops and villagers by about 7pm.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by authorities.

Teachers at schools in Myinlut and in some villages are currently living in Maungtau while waiting for the opening of their schools.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Multiethnic Alethankyaw stable and peaceful



THE 9 October violent attacks on border guard police outposts left border guard policemen dead and a number of weapons and ammunition lost.

As a result, members of Defence Services and border guard police are clearing the areas, but Alethankyaw Village, whose residents are from different religious and ethnic groups, are as safe and peaceful as before.

"Most of us are engaged in agriculture and fishery. People here believed either in Buddhism or Hinduism or Islam, but all of us have been living together peacefully without any problem. However, recently, business activities were stagnant as a result of the violent attacks. Schools and markets are still open," U Zaw Htoo, village administrator of the village said.

The market in Alethankyaw is open every day with over 160 shops. The market is busiest on Sundays and Thursdays.

The village has potential for an offshore fishery industry,

according to Deputy Director U Naing Win Thein of the Fishery Department.

"We have two kinds of fishing at sea, one being near shore fishing and another being off-shore fishing. In inland waters, we have freshwater fishing and we have about 15,000 fishery workers and about 120 trawlers and about 1,700 traditional fishing boats. Fish caught in the region were consumed locally and the remaining are dried and exported to a neighbouring country," he said.

However, the residents of the village are not able to go to sea due to the security situation of the region. They are not allowed to go to sea due to security reasons.

"We are negatively affected by the violent attacks. We cannot fish in the sea at present. Many workers have suffered.

We denounce the violent attacks," U Maung Myint, a trawler owner said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

VP Inspects Training School for Ethnic Youths from Border Areas



Vice President U Myint Swe inspects teaching aids at Khanti Basic Education High School. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Myint Swe called on students at the Development Training School for Ethnic Youths from Border Areas to study hard for the development of the nation and their respective regions yesterday.

Accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Myint Htwe, Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing, Commander Brig-Gen Thet Pon and

deputy ministers, Vice President U Myint Swe arrived at the school yesterday, meeting and speaking with students.

The meeting with the students was followed by an inspection of hostels and the dining hall.

The vice president proceeded to the government technical institute and technical high school, observing students in classes and receiving on-the-job training at

workshops. U Myint Swe told the teachers that their vocational knowledge shared with students would result in their earning more per capita income and would allow the education and training sectors to develop.

GTI, Khanti, was opened in 2009, offering 3-year diploma courses specialising in four subjects and 2-year training and vocational courses suitable to their

respective regions, it is learnt.

Afterwards, the vice president met with district and township education officers, the headmaster and teachers at Khanti Basic Education High School, listening to reports on examination results year by year and learning about the number of students and teachers and the school's needs. The facts and figures were submitted by the headmaster.

"Teachers need to try for students not to drop out without completion of their primary education", the Union Minister for Education said. "Only well-qualified teachers can produce qualified students. Thus the ministry will provide, depending upon their capacities and supply the needs of the school as much as possible."

The vice president added: "We are here to fulfil the needs of regional development of Khamti in education, health and border affairs. The State has formed the commission for national education policy for development of educational sector. To do so, we need a great number of educated persons, spending much more of the budget than usual. And to pro-

mote qualifications of teachers, it needs to conduct training courses in cooperation with international organisations."

Afterward, the vice president gave exercise books for basic primary schools in Khanti to the township education officer, followed by an inspection of the science laboratory physics and chemistry laboratories, the domestic practical classroom, the computer room and the school library.

At the worksite of construction of the Chindwin bridge being built by the No. 3 bridge construction team, the vice president was presented with reports on the location of the bridge, the cost of the project, the budget allotted, and situations on completion by the director and responsible officials.

Chindwin Bridge is being built on Khanti-Hsinthay-Lahai road, with a length of 449.5 meters, 8.5 meters in width. It is a steel-framed bridge and its piles are reinforced concrete. Now 27 per cent complete, it is targeted to be completed in November 2017, it is learnt. —*Myanmar News Agency*

5th Conference on Myanmar Media Development Held



Head of UNESCO (Myanmar) Ms. Min Jeong Kim delivers speech at the 5th Conference on Myanmar Media Development. PHOTO: MNA

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Afterwards, speeches were heard from the head of UNESCO (Myanmar) Ms. Min Jeong Kim and the Swedish ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Staffan Herrström, followed by the presentation of an audio file sent by U Khin Maung Lay (Pho Thaukkyar).

After the address made by U Thiha Saw, executive director of Myanmar Journalism Institute, Dr Daw Thida Tin, U Myint Kyaw, U Khin Maung Win and Mr Oliver Spencer the head of Article 19, Asian Region, discussed "Media Laws and reas-

essment of weakness in them.

The issues discussed were security of newsmen, crimes and offences, affairs on genders and the effect of social media. The 1st media conference's title was The Way Forward, that of the 2nd was The Role of Media in Democratic Transitions: Success, Challenges and the Way Forward, the 3rd was Moving Towards a Sustainable Media Environment, the 4th New Dynamics in Myanmar Media and this year's is Inclusive Independent Media in a New Democracy, it is learnt. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers address at anniversary of GAD

THE staff of the General Administration Department are important to the success of government policies, because they perform duties at all levels, from the ward/village-tract level up to the union level, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said at the anniversary of GAD held at the Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

While the success of the policies of the government depends on nation-building and internal peace, the staff of the GAD are responsible for organising people in many different places to participate in nation-building and internal peace, the vice president added.

In conclusion, the vice president urged staff of the department to strive to become a government agency with responsibility and accountability.

After delivering the speech, the vice president presented prizes



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the booth set up at anniversary of the General Administration Department. PHOTO: MNA

es to the winners of best one-stop service offices. Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Lt-Gen Ye Aung and officials awarded prizes to winners from central institutes for civil services and management development schools.

The vice president also viewed exhibition booths of the department and posed for documentary photos with participants before enjoying the anniversary dinner of the department. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Pair suspected in October violent armed attacks arrested



Phawra Ahmed and Marmed Tarhe. PHOTO: MYAWADY

A COMBINED team comprising Tatmadaw troops and border guard police yesterday detained two villagers on suspicion of involvement in the 9 October violent armed attacks in Maungdaw.

Phawra Ahmed and Marmed Tarhe were arrested during an area clearance operation in Phawwachaung Village (Ywahaung), Maungdaw Township.

The two suspects were handed over to the station of border guard police forces in Maungdaw yesterday. —*Myawady*

Correction

PLEASE READ "Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Commission for Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues" in the news story "Union Government offers Kathina robes to monks on page 3 of November 7 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. —*Ed*

LOCAL Business

Right-hand drive passenger buses will be denied registration in 2017

THE Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) will not permit registration of right-hand drive passenger buses in 2017.

Currently, old buses are allowed to deregister when they are replaced with newly imported buses. Additionally, the import of left-hand drive buses will not require the presentation of a registration slip.

Also, the RTAD will reportedly not permit the import of left-hand drive buses unless the vehicle has seatbelts.

The RTAD will soon release an official announcement concerning this matter, said an official from RTAD.—200



A passenger bus seen plying in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Airport planned for Haka in Chin State

TO deal with the requirement of road infrastructure in Chin State, an airport is planned to be constructed in Haka by a Japanese company, said the transportation department of the Chin State government.

The airport in Haka would become the second airport in Chin State, with an airport in Falam already built. The Japanese company has reportedly conducted feasibility studies for the construction of the airport in Haka earlier this month. If the study shows positive results, the company will commence construction, providing technical expertise and construction costs.

Chin State has attracted the attention of an increasing number of tourists with its natural scenic beauty. The number of visitors to Chin State has risen every year, officials said. However, the state is still weak in infrastructure. Therefore, the state government has planned the new airport project in Haka.

Chin State is one of the most underdeveloped areas in Myanmar. Currently, hotel and tourism business is growing and creating job opportunities for the locals. Chin State was previously accessible only by road transportation. The construction of a second airport will facilitate transportation to the state from around the world, it is learnt.—200

Arabica coffee export to America to quintuple in 2016

THE export of Arabica coffee to America will increase by five times in 2016, it is learnt from Winrock International.

Arabica coffee is produced in Ywangan Township, Shan State. Winrock, a U.S. based non-profit organization that aids development around the world, helped Myanmar's quality Arabica coffee to penetrate international market. Forty tonnes of quality Arabica

coffee were exported to America in 2015, it is learnt. Over 2,000 metric tonnes of coffee were produced last year, it is learnt from the Myanmar Coffee Association.

Winrock International is conducting rural development projects with the assistance of United States Agency for International Development.

Myanmar looks to have a promising future in the coffee

industry, but the country has not gained a firm place in the market like Brazil and Columbia. At the present time, they cannot keep abreast of those countries in this highly competitive market.

The export volume of Myanmar coffee is small when compared to Brazil, which yearly exports over 50 million tonnes of coffee to the market yearly, and Viet Nam, with an export volume

of over 17 million tonnes of coffee per annum. But industry experts say the quality of Myanmar's coffee might be able to keep up with top coffee producing countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia.

The export price of special quality coffee fetches nearly US\$7,000 per tonne. The coffee plantations are found in Shan State, Pyin Oo Lwin area and Chin State. —Mon Mon

80,000 Thilawa SEZ shares traded so far this month

THE stock trading of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) Limited resumed on 4th November, with a total volume of nearly 80,000 shares. The base price for an MTSH share was Ks5,100, it is learnt.

A total of 78,269 shares of MTSH were traded and the share prices at the closing time rose to Ks5,200 per share on

4th November, amounting to Ks412,442,200. Meanwhile, First Myanmar Investment (FMI) traded 3,395 shares whereas Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) traded 843 shares.

Only shares of FMI and MCB were traded at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) during trading suspension of MTSH shares. The stock trading of

these two companies declined.

According to YSX's market statistics monthly report, September is recorded to have the lowest trading value with over Ks2.4 billion. The split of MTSH's shares attracted the attention of those engaged in stock trading and the share price rose in October. Additionally, the stock trading value at YSX hit

over 4 billion.

On 7th November, the share prices were Ks16,500 per share of FMI and Ks9,600 per share of MCB. But, the share price of MTSH dropped to Ks4,900 per share at closing time. A total of 46,675 shares of FMI, MTSH and MCB were traded at YSX on 7th November, it is learnt.—Ko Htet



Tourists seen at an antique shop. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Antiques selling well with increasing number of tourists

WITH an increasing number of tourists coming to Myanmar, the sale of antiques are also on the rise, it is learnt.

The antique shops are dependent on tourists because they have the appreciation, knowledge and income to collect antiques. The shops are found mostly in Yangon, Mandalay, Inle, Bagan and Nyaung U. Antique store owners as well as street vendors who deal in antiques are doing well in Yan-

gon. The number of street vendors selling antiques is increasingly found at the places where tourists pass through. Tourists come from European countries — the UK, France, Italy and Germany — as well as from Asian countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, mainland China and Taiwan are often seen purchasing antiques. In demand by tourists are antique cameras, telephones, lenses, bells, kettles, glasses and coins.—200

Prominent UK rights activist, fearing for safety, leaves Thailand

BANGKOK — Prominent British rights activist Andy Hall left Thailand early on Monday, saying he feared for his safety amid legal problems and growing harassment from companies that have been “irrational, vindictive and aggressive”.

Hall, who has worked on the rights of migrant workers in Thailand for 11 years, has recently faced defamation lawsuits by companies he has accused of labour violations.

“The situation is not good right now,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone on Sunday before his flight, speaking from Mahachai, a town near Bangkok and the centre of Thailand’s seafood processing industry.

“It’s rapidly deteriorating. It doesn’t feel safe. There are people who are intent on wearing me down. I’ve worked with so many companies in Thailand, and it’s rare to have a company that is so irrational and so vindictive. It’s enough to wear anyone down.”

In September, Hall was

handed a suspended three-year jail term and fined 150,000 baht (\$4,300) for criminally defaming Natural Fruit Company, a pineapple wholesaler that supplies the European Union.

Rights groups called the verdict an alarming precedent in the fight against labour exploitation.

Emboldened by the ruling, a chicken farmer who lost his EU contracts and had to shut down his 1.6 million-chicken operation after Hall exposed alleged labour violations on one of his three farms, said he planned to pursue his own defamation case and has hired the Natural Fruit lawyer.

Supported by Hall, 14 chicken farm workers had sued the farmer in September, alleging forced overtime, unlawful salary deductions, confiscation of their passports and limited freedom of movement. They demanded \$1.3 million in compensation and civil damages.

Chicken farmer Chanchai Pheamphon,

owner of Thammakaset farms, countered with defamation lawsuits filed in October against the 14 migrant workers, and another one against Hall, filed last week at the Bangkok South Criminal Court, which handed down the guilty verdict in September.

“I didn’t know he was going to flee. I already filed the lawsuit last week,” Chanchai said by telephone. “Everyone who has made me lose my business - I have sued them all.”

Asked how many lawsuits he had filed, he said: “Many - a lot.”

Thailand, one of the world’s key food exporters, employs an estimated 3 million migrant workers, mostly from Myanmar. Many migrants face labour violations, such as unpaid wages, confiscated travel documents and limited freedom of movement.

Hall’s legal problems began after he conducted research for Helsinki-based Finnwatch for a 2013 report called “Cheap has a high price”. A company in

the report, Natural Fruit, filed four defamation cases against Hall.

One case related to an interview Hall gave to Al Jazeera in Myanmar in 2013 about the legal fallout of the Finnwatch report. A court in Bangkok dismissed the charges, but Thailand’s attorney general and Natural Fruit appealed.

The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected that appeal. The verdict had originally been scheduled to be read on 25 November, but Hall said he requested the court to move the date forward because of his increasingly precarious situation.

“It’s time for the good companies, the good actors, to speak to these people. I work with a lot of good companies ... I fear for my safety because of the unstable situation. I don’t want to be here another three weeks,” he said.

“My work is not productive at the moment. It’s like walking on broken glass. I don’t feel secure to be working here. Why would you want to put

yourself in this situation where you’re just being worn down and stuck in the court system?”

Chanchai, the chicken farmer, took issue with Hall’s fear for his safety and said he was pursuing justice strictly through the courts.

“Using the law doesn’t make anyone unsafe,” Chanchai said.

“I had to sue in order to reveal the truth, so the world can see whether the things they claimed were true or false. If he’s confident that the things he said were true, then he has to fight this in the court. Don’t say that you’ve been threatened and that my country is unsafe.”

Kriboon Suadsong, a senior police official who met with Hall last Wednesday to discuss the case of the chicken farm in Lop Buri province, said the government was prepared to work with him to resolve the issues.

“The government has worked continuously to solve the problems of human trafficking,” said Kri-

boon, head of management for the anti-human trafficking centre of the Royal Thai Police.

“In the case from Lop Buri, we were planning to go there to see what problems there were, in order to resolve the issues, improve relations and work more closely together. If Andy were here, I would have invited him to go with us.”

Because of the cases, Hall has had his travel restricted since June 2014 and his passport confiscated by two different courts. He was unable to live outside Thailand and had to ask the court’s permission each time he left the country.

“You’re at the whim of this corrupt, mafia system, and you can’t get out of it ... I’ve done everything I’m legally obliged to do, and now is the time to step away and see if this will get better.” He said once the chicken farmer filed criminal defamation charges against him, he would be subject to travel restrictions again - another reason to leave now.—Reuters

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UN chief drops to second place poll favourite to lead South Korea

SEOUL — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, once seen as the front-runner to become the next president of South Korea if he decides to run, has slipped to second place in public support amid a political crisis engulfing the current leader, a poll suggests.

Ban has been expected to join the conservative Saenuri Party of President Park Geun-hye if he runs for the top post in the election scheduled in December 2017, although the UN chief has yet to declare he is considering a run.

Support for Ban slipped to 17.1 per cent in an opinion poll conducted last week according to Realmeter on Monday, the first time he has dropped from first place since June when South Korean pollsters began including him among potential candidates.

He was overtaken by the likely candidate for the opposition Democratic Party of Korea, Moon Jae-in, who received 20.9 per cent, the poll, conducted with 2,528 people, showed.



United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon sits at his desk as he poses for a portrait in his office at United Nations Headquarters in the Manhattan borough of New York, New York, US, on 21 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Park’s presidency has been rocked by a scandal involving an old friend, Choi Soon-sil, who is alleged to have used her closeness to the president to meddle in state affairs.

Park, 64, has publicly apologised twice for the scandal but her approval rating has plunged to just 5 per cent according to a Gallup poll released on Friday, the lowest since

such polling began in 1988.

Ban’s support base was expected primarily to be older voters and those in the conservative southeastern region, the same voter bloc that was core to Park’s election win in 2012. The decline in Ban’s support came amid a rapid flight of Park and Saenuri supporters, Realmeter said in an analysis.

Park last week named a new prime minister and finance minister but the moves were denounced by opposition parties as a bid to divert attention from the scandal. Tens of thousands of people, possibly as many as 100,000 according to rally organisers, filled the streets of downtown Seoul on Saturday calling for Park to step down.—Reuters



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte delivers a speech at Philippines Economic Forum in Tokyo, Japan on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Philippine's Duterte cancels police rifle deal with US

MANILA — President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the cancellation on Monday of Philippine's purchase of police rifles from the United States, after US senatorial aides said last month that Washington was halting the sale due to concerns about human rights violations. "We will not insist on buying expensive arms from the United States. We can always get them somewhere else. I am ordering the police to cancel it. We don't need them," Duterte said in a televised speech at a event attended by Mus-

lim rebel leaders.

"We will just have to look for another source that is cheaper and maybe as durable and as good as those made in the place we are ordering them," Duterte said.

The relationship between the United States and the Philippines, a long-time ally, has been complicated lately by Duterte's angry reaction to criticism from Washington of his violent battle to rid the country of illegal drugs.

More than 2,300 people have been killed in police operations or

by suspected vigilantes as part of government's anti-narcotics efforts, which was the linchpin of his election campaign. Last month, Senate aides told Reuters that the US State Department halted the planned sale of some 26,000 assault rifles to the Philippines' national police after Senator Ben Cardin said he would oppose it because of concerns about human rights violations. Duterte has said in the past that Russia and China had shown willingness to sell arms to the Philippines.—Reuters

India investigates sexual abuse of indigenous girls at boarding school

MUMBAI — Officials in western India have set up a special investigation team to look into allegations of sexual abuse of girls at a boarding school for indigenous children after a 10-year-old was reported to be pregnant.

Parents of at least 12 girls from the school in Buldhana district of Maharashtra state have filed complaints with the police, while 11 staff, including the headmaster, were arrested last week, said district police superintendent Sanjiv Baviskar.

"Women police officers have been sent to talk to the victims and record their statements. We are looking for two more suspects who have absconded," Baviskar said.

Tribal development minister Vishnu Savara said the school's registration has been cancelled and charges will be filed within a month.

The allegations come on the heels of reports of the deaths of hundreds of indigenous children in state-run schools over the past decade.

The National Human Rights Commission has accused Maha-

rashtira state of negligence and asked for a report.

Maharashtra, one of the wealthiest states in the country, has about 550 boarding schools for children from poor tribal areas. Run by the state, they are meant to improve literacy levels and provide basic healthcare for the children.

The schools were set up more than two decades ago across India and are the only option for many living in remote areas.

But they are badly run, with inadequate staff and poor facilities for the students, said Vivek Pandit, founder of Shramjivi Sanghatana, which works with vulnerable people in Maharashtra.

"Officials have turned a blind eye to the appalling conditions in the schools and the routine abuse of children for years," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"If they cannot run them in a proper manner, they should shut these schools down. They should not be entrusted with the lives of vulnerable children."—Reuters

Floods kill 15 in Viet Nam, thousands evacuated

HANOI — Floods in Viet Nam's central, central highland and southern provinces have left 15 people dead and six missing and displaced thousands, the Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control said on Monday.

Flooding from very heavy rain brought by cold air and a tropical low pressure system last week have blocked roads, destroyed more than 200 houses and inundated more than 40,000

other houses in 12 provinces, the department said in a report.

A combined 12,000 hectare of crop land were flooded while more than 40,000 cattle and poultry were dead or washed away, the report said.

Last month, floods following torrential rain killed dozens of people in Viet Nam's central region of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces and inundated more than 100,000 houses.—Reuters

China parliament bans some private, for-profit schools

BEIJING — China's parliament has banned private, for-profit schools that teach first- through ninth-graders, a move to tighten government control over education that may cool a fast growing but poorly regulated sector.

Leaders of the National People's Congress adopted a revised law on private education that banned the schools, according to a document released on Monday at the end of a bi-monthly session. The education sector has boomed in China in recent years - and become a magnet for investment - as the government relaxed restrictions to help meet growing demand and to increase options.

Regulation has been weak,

however, leading to widely varying standards of quality.

Chinese children are entitled to nine years of free, compulsory education, from elementary to junior high school.

The document said it was acceptable to set up private, profit-generating schools at other grade levels, "but they cannot establish compulsory education (level), for-profit, private schools".

The adoption of the revised law comes not long after the Shanghai government told principals from 21 international and bilingual schools in the city to offer China-specific subjects, according to the news magazine Caixin last week.

Greater government control of education follows a tightening of oversight of a range of areas since President Xi Jinping became Communist Party boss in 2012, including over information, news and the internet. The government has campaigned against the spread of "Western values" at universities.

Caixin last week quoted unidentified sources as saying the legislators were motivated by concern that the proliferation of often-expensive private schools would widen inequalities in access to basic education.

The change would affect about 10,700 schools and as many as 12 million students, it reported.—Reuters

Japan to assign new task to troops joining UN mission 15 November

TOKYO — The Japanese government plans to make a controversial new role for the Self-Defence Forces official 15 November, prior to a new batch of troops beginning UN peacekeeping operations in South Sudan, government sources said Monday.

The new mandate, which allows troops to go to the rescue of UN staff and others under attack, is part of the expanded role for the SDF under Japan's new security legislation that took effect in March. The legislation, among other issues, has given personnel more leeway in their restricted use of weapons during UN peacekeeping operations.

It is the first time that the Japanese government will give SDF members the mandate to actually carry out any of the expanded roles under the security legislation.

The new role will be assigned to Ground Self-Defence

Force troops who will be sent to South Sudan starting from 20 November to replace the current 350-member unit engaging in the construction of roads and other infrastructure as part of the UN mission called UNMISS.

Infrastructure-building will remain the main task of the next batch of troops, but the government plans to enable them to additionally engage in a rescue mission in response to an urgent request. The troops are expected to finish preparations and become ready to perform the task around mid-December, the sources said.

The government also plans to assign the troops another new role now possible under the security legislation, namely defend UN peacekeepers' camps jointly with troops from other nations.

The government plans to seek Cabinet approval on 15 November on the assignment of the rescue role in general. But the

base camp defence role does not require Cabinet approval.

The issue of assignment of the two new roles has stirred controversy among people who are afraid that the new tasks could draw SDF members into military action for the first time since World War II and cost the lives of the troops or local people. Expanding the role of the SDF overseas have been controversial in Japan in connection with its war-renouncing Constitution, which also bans the use of force to settle international disputes. Apparently to ensure the safety of the SDF personnel as much as possible, the Japanese government plans to limit the SDF activities to the South Sudan capital of Juba and nearby areas, according to the sources.

The Japanese government has maintained that the situation in Juba, where the GSDF personnel are stationed, is relatively calm.—Kyodo News



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton speaks at Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US, on 6 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Clinton gets boost from FBI as tight White House race hits final day

WASHINGTON — Democrat Hillary Clinton heads into the final day of a tight White House race against Republican Donald Trump on Monday with new momentum after the FBI's announcement that no criminal charges were forthcoming in the probe of her email practices.

Both Clinton and Trump will spend the day racing across a handful of key battleground states that could swing Tuesday's election, which polls show is extremely close but tilting toward Clinton.

FBI Director James Comey sent shockwaves through the race by telling Congress on Sunday that investigators had worked "around the clock" to

complete a review of newly discovered emails and found no reason to change their July finding that Clinton was not guilty of criminal wrongdoing in her use of a private email server while secretary of state.

Whether the announcement came in time to change minds or undo any damage from days of Republican attacks on Clinton as corrupt was uncertain. Tens of millions of Americans had cast early votes in the 10 days since Comey first told Congress of the newly discovered emails.

Clinton's Democratic allies hoped the FBI finding would be enough to push her over the finish line and end the uncertainty and Republican attacks on her

character that dogged her campaign for the last 10 days.

"The FBI's swift and thorough review should finally close the door on this Republican sideshow," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said, adding the election would now be decided "on the merits of the candidates" rather than innuendo.

But Republicans kept up their criticism of Clinton despite Comey's announcement.

"She simply believes she's above the law and always plays by her own rules," House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan said in a statement, arguing that Clinton's use of a private email server "compromised our national security." —Reuters

Trump says he would not admit refugees without community support

STERLING HEIGHTS (Mich) — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump told crowds in Michigan and Minnesota on Sunday his administration would not admit refugees without local support, using appearances in states with growing Muslim communities to criticise Democrat Hillary Clinton's support for accepting people fleeing Syria.

Trump said in Minneapolis that people there had already seen the results of "faulty" vetting with Minnesota's community of Somali Muslims. He said what was happening in Michigan, home to several cities with Muslim communities, was "disgraceful."

Trump held rallies in both states as part of his final push toward Tuesday's presidential election, even though Michigan and Minnesota traditionally support Democrats in White House races.

"Here in Michigan, you've seen firsthand the problems caused with the refugee programme ... it puts your security at risk and it puts enormous pressure on your schools and your community resources," Trump told an outdoor rally in Sterling Heights.

"A Trump administration will not admit any refugees without the support of the local community."

Muslim American groups have criticised Trump for comments such as endorsing police profiling as an anti-terrorism tactic. He initially called for a ban on Muslims entering the United States, later changing it to bar immigration from what he called "terror-prone" regions until extensive vetting measures were in place.

Clinton has praised Democratic President Barack Obama's

plan to accept 10,000 Syrian refugees in 2016 and said the United States could do more.

Trump said her plan to admit refugees from Syria would import "generations of terrorism, extremism and radicalism."

His vow to block people fleeing Islamic State violence in Syria and instead form "safe zones" in the Middle East has been a theme of his campaign.

On Sunday, Trump framed the issue in local terms. What was happening in Minnesota was a "disaster," he told the crowd at a Minneapolis airplane hangar.

"Some of them, they're joining ISIS, they're spreading their extremist views all over the country," he said of refugees there, citing a September stabbing attack in St. Cloud, Minnesota, as justification for his proposals. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fighting in Somalia's Galkayo city kills 29

GAROWE (Somalia) — Fighting between regional militias in a city in central Somalia killed at least 29 people and wounded more than 50, officials from both sides said on Monday.

The latest in a spate of clashes in Galkayo, a city divided between the semi-autonomous regions of Puntland and Galmudug, erupted on Sunday following a dispute over building plans.

Col. Mohamed Aden, a Puntland military officer, said 16 soldiers serving in the region's armed forces had been killed and 30 wounded.

The mayor of southern Galkayo, Hirsi Yusuf Barre, said the toll on the Galmudug side was 13 dead and 20 wounded.

Doctors at hospitals in north and south Galkayo, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals, put the overall death toll at at least 50. Both militias offer political support to Somalia's U.N.-backed government, based in the capital Mogadishu. But the clashes between them underscore the tenuous grip it exerts on Somalia's powerful regions. —Reuters

Southern Mali town attacked, prisoners freed — justice minister

BAMAKO — The Mali town of Banamba, about 100 kilometres (62 miles) north of the capital Bamako, was attacked late on Sunday and 21 prisoners were freed from jail, Mali's justice minister Mamadou Ismael Konate said on Monday.

A prison guard was missing after the raid, Konate said, but he provided no further detail. A spokesman for the army confirmed the attack, which he said occurred around 2100 GMT.

It was not clear who was responsible for the raid and whether the town was still under siege on Monday morning. —Reuters

Russia says ceasefire in Syria's Aleppo in place unless militants attack

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said on Monday Russia's air force would stick to the ceasefire in Syria's Aleppo unless militants launch an offensive.

"The (Russian) president deems a regime when Russian air forces don't carry out strikes on eastern Aleppo as reasonable if militants don't start combat action," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. —Reuters

Int'l Red Cross chief visits Nagasaki A-bomb memorials

NAGASAKI — Peter Maurer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, visited Sunday the Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum commemorating the victims of the 1945 US atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

Maurer laid flowers at the ground zero monument in the park and met with atomic bomb survivors in the southwestern Japan city. Maurer told reporters that he was impressed by Nagasaki citizens' strong hearts and peace messages while remembering the atomic bombing.

In a meeting with Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, Maurer said he intends to advance the process to eliminate nuclear weapons in cooperation with Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the first city devastated by a US atomic bombing. —Kyodo News

Incandescent bulb likely caused Tokyo fire that killed boy

TOKYO — An incandescent bulb was likely the source of a fire Sunday at an outdoor art event in central Tokyo that killed a 5-year-old boy trapped in a burning jungle gym exhibit, a source at the university whose students made the wooden structure said Monday.

In addition to a light-emitting diode bulb, the incandescent light bulb was inside the art work where kindergartener Kento Saeki is believed to have been playing before the accident, according to the Nippon Institute of Technology source.

"The incandescent light was on the ground next to some woodchips," the source said. The accident in the Meiji Jingu Gaien area late Sunday afternoon injured the boy's father and another man.

A witness has reported seeing the fire spreading from the woodchips to the wooden structure. Police are investigating the accident on suspicion of professional negligence resulting in death and injury. —Kyodo News

Opinion

Write for us

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Our National Anthem Highlights Our Rights and Our Duty!

Khin Maung Oo

IN spite of our advancing ages, we are still reminiscent of our younger days. It is none other than the national anthem heard through school campuses in the vicinity of our dwellings or while passing near schools. Its lyrics had ever been on our lips some time in the past. While listening to it, I cannot help entertaining the thought of the past. Nearly half a century ago, we used to willingly and whole-heartedly sing it in unison every morning assembly hour in our school days. Some sang in whisper with a few students closing their lips, but there could be the sound heard even outside our school compound. The words of the song are meaningful and it is not an exaggeration to say that it was really sweet in our ears. It is unarguably the most effective song that instills the spirit of patriotism in us, not forcefully indoctrinating the spirit into our

minds. Comprehending the essence of the anthem fully will help us learn to love our motherland. Throughout the history, our forefathers showed their patriotism and gained the Independence. We savored the fruits of the freedom gained by our ancestors' efforts.

Although we had no chance to depict ours in the same way, we too had the latent huge reserve of that spirit in us. Patriotism is not the thing to be repeated in public. When it comes to showing it, we will never be conspicuous by our absence. This is not our rhetorical attitudes toward the motherland. We need to reciprocate the gratitude of the country by being dutiful to the nation. It is the most important thing for us to never ever betray our country intentionally or otherwise. As known by all, patriotism means love for one's country and willingness to defend it. We

must also keep it in our mind that blind patriotism or chauvinism can lead to xenophobia and racism which nobody accepts in our civilized world.

The lyrics in our national anthem composed in 1940 and adopted in 1947 by Sayar Tin highlight our rights as well. As described in it, for our country to be a just fair and independent one, we need to have a clean government and good governance so that we can enjoy peace and tranquility. And equal rights will be granted to us. Here, rights and duties need to be adjusted. Failing that, administration will be in chaos and we will not be able to get out of vicious circle of the evil. Our national anthem can be said to be a roadmap for all of us residing in the country including our government. As long as independence exists, we can develop our country. Not to lose our independence, in other words, for any

aggressors not to offend the sovereignty of our nation, we are all responsible. In Article 385 of the Constitution of Myanmar, 2008 it is definitely stated that every citizen has the duty to safeguard independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and in Article 386 as well it is clearly written that every citizen has the duty to undergo military training in accord with the provisions of the law and to serve in the Armed Force to defend the Union.

In a developed country like the Republic of Korea, the mandatory military service system has been exercised for years, to be exact, since 1965. Its citizens are not bellicose jingoists but they are ready to safeguard their land. It is time for our leaders to deeply think about what we shall do to protect our mother country and sovereignty from aggression of subversive elements.

Good Governance

Tin Shein

THERE has been much talk about good governance (GG) in the media. GG encompasses two levels: corporate level and Government level. GG at the corporate level means that corporate bodies need to practice GG.

It is all the more necessary for public companies in which the public has invested their money by buying their shares. So public interests are involved in the public companies. Now that the stock exchange has come into existence, public-listed companies have now started selling their shares on the stock exchange. Thus the fate of their shareholders hinges on the financial performance of those companies.

If their performance is good, i.e. if they rack up profits, the value of shares in their hands will rise. But if their performance is poor, i.e. if they run into losses, the value of their shares will fall on the stock exchange, and holders of their shares shall suffer economically thereby. Thus the rise and fall of shares on the stock exchange will depend on the twists and turns of the fortunes of such companies.

Now the role of GG comes in here. We may need to explore

what is meant by GG, what elements or factors constitute GG and how to implement GP.

GG means absence of corrupted practices, use of accounting gimmicks to doctor their financial statements either to evade income tax by deflating profit or to project a good image of their financial health by inflating their profits beyond what they actually are. To start with the corporate bodies, they must carry out their business operations and manage their financial affairs with complete transparency and accountability. That is, they must manage their financial affairs economically, efficiently and effectively, putting the company's interests above theirs. Management of those companies must observe their respective professional ethics. They must follow Myanmar Accounting Standards (MAS) and Myanmar Financial Reporting Standards (MFRS) that are prescribed by the Myanmar Accountancy Council since 2009 in preparing their financial statements, so that they will show a true and view of their financial results and the financial position at the fiscal year-end. Their financial statements must be free from misstatement of facts, accounting or financial errors, manipulation of accounts to mislead the shareholders and stakeholders. It is the responsibility of management of

corporate bodies to do whatever they can to safeguard their assets, properties and financial interests on behalf of shareholders and stakeholders.

Toward that end, there must be put in place an effective control system, including internal audit and internal check, whose job it is to ensure that all day-to-day transactions involving both cash, stocks and assets are carried out in accordance with the procedures, rules and regulations, directives, etc. prescribed by management. Only then will misuse of financial powers, accounting errors, frauds, misappropriations of money and stocks, etc. could be minimized, if not eliminated altogether. Thus, GG will prevail in the corporate bodies much to the advantage of shareholders, stakeholders and the country, too.

Moreover, they must also recognize their legal obligations to pay taxes—income tax, commercial tax, withholding tax, etc.—due on their profits, sales, services, etc. to the Internal Revenue Department (IRD). Here it will not be wrong to say that tax is to the Government what rice is to our people. Unless the Government receives the taxes due from the public, corporate entities, joint ventures, state-owned enterprises, etc., it will surely find it difficult to carry out its functions and responsibilities as mandated

by the Constitution for the welfare of the people and development of the national economy. In the same way, without rice which is the staple food of our country, our people will not be able to have adequate supplies of rice for their comfortable day-to-day living.

Therefore, it is a 'must' for the authorities to take strong measures to enforce effective collection of all kinds of taxes from top to lowest levels of sources where taxable incomes can be located. There are many Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and family-run convenience stores in big cities and small towns around the country whose incomes might have reached taxable levels. If only we could tap those sources for tax collection through the different levels of IRD tax offices across the country, it wouldn't be too much to say that we would have no deficit budget and no need to resort to borrowings from anybody. Even surplus budget may result thereby. However, most important of all, the mind-set of IRD personnel should change in line with the spirits of the times. They can't be allowed to do their job in the old way they collect taxes by making secret deals with the taxpayers at the cost of the country. Strict enforcement of anti-corruption law is indispensable; severe punishment, including imprisonment and fines, should be meted out to both the bribers and the bribe-takers as well as those who misuse power for own benefits as a deterrent to future corrupted persons.

But the good news is that with the financial and technical assistance of IMF, a tax reforms program has been launched. Under that program the tax payers have to fill up the tax forms prescribed by IRD with the accounting and financial data, the correctness of which has to be certified by the tax payers themselves. As far as is known, those data are keyed into the computer that checks them against its built-in criteria on the correctness of the financial statements submitted to IRD by taxpayers in line with the self-assessment system. That program aims at ensuring that no direct contact between the tax officer and the taxpayer can take place to make secret deals regarding the tax assessment. However, human ingenuity and greed are so great that it is difficult to take it for granted that such a system itself will be fool-proof enough to prevent cheating the accounts to evade tax. If I may be allowed to venture the opinion, almost every businessman knows full well that corruption and bribery exist to a lesser degree at some levels of administration of departments like, for example, Customs, Immigration, Port(s), Trade, etc. where the maxim "no machinery operates smoothly and efficiently without grease" is likely to be applicable. The implication is that no prompt transactions involving clearance certificates from Customs and Port(s), import or export permits from Trade, etc. can be done within a reasonable period of time unless some forms of payoffs and

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1st Collective Maha Kathina Robe offering ceremony of Mandalay Region Hluttaw took place in Mandalay



The first Collective Maha Kathina Robe offering ceremony of Mandalay Region Hluttaw in progress.

PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

THE first Collective Maha Kathina Robe offering ceremony of Mandalay Region Hluttaw was held in the meeting room of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw on 6 November.

Monks led by Presiding Monk of Zinaman Aung Monastery in Dagundaing Ward of Pyaygyi Dagon Township attended the ceremony.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw

Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo, Vice Speaker Dr. Khin Maung Htay, Region Hluttaw Representatives, members of the Mandalay Region Government, vice chairperson Daw Win Mya Mya and members of the National League For Democracy of Mandalay Region, Districts and Townships attended the ceremony and observed five precepts administrated by the

Sayadaw and listened to the recitation of Parittas by monks.

Next, the Hluttaw Speaker and officials donated robes and offertories to the monks and listened to the sermon by the Presiding monk of Zinaman Aung Monastery and shared the merits gained. At the ceremony, offertories and cash amounting to over Ks4million were donated to the monks.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Rice, cash donated for security forces, the needy IDPs

RESIDENTS from Rambre Township, out of patriotism and their own volition, donated rice and cash for members of security forces and needy internally displaced persons in northern Rakhine State yesterday.

A ceremony was held at the Maungdaw District General Administration Department Office, with the Social Affairs Minister of Rakhine State making a speech.

Township residents donated Ks2.5 million for members of the defence services, another Ks2.5 million for members of the Border Guard Police Force and rice worth Ks9 million for villages of ethnic nationals.

Then, the state social affairs minister and local people from Rambre donated rice worth Ks2 million to local people in Mawrawadi Village.

“We are donating rice to local people as we are well aware of the trouble of the local people. We mainly donated rice and we still have arrangements to donate rice in the future,” U Aung Soe, an elder from Rambre, said after the donation.

“We are feeling very unhap-



Rice, cash donated for security forces, needy IDPs.

PHOTO: MNA

py with the situation in Rakhine State, and are determined to solve the problems together with the government to protect the western gate of the country,” he added.

In addition, international organisations such as the World Food Programme, the Myanmar Heart Development Organisation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Office for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs are also cooperating with representatives to donate food for two weeks to Wapate, Ngasakyu, Pyaungpik and Kyetyoepin villages today, according to officials.

The 9 October violent attacks on border police outposts left at least 9 members of the border police dead and many injured while scores of local people abandoned their homes.—*Myanmar News Agency*

POEM:

“Counsel To Boys”

- Whatever you are, leave a good history, boys!
Life is a kind of secret drama or mystery, boys!
Do overcome every hardship.
Do have a good friendship.
Remember, life is a matter of joy and misery, boys!
- Whatever you are, try to be an optimist, boys!
One who's hated by the public is a pessimist, boys!
What have you done for your mother land?
To implement a developed land, give a hand.
Always be against the terrorist, boys!
- Whatever you are, be simple and honest, boys!
Let people say, “You're the best!” boys!
Do good if you live or die.
Don't forget the brave never tells a lie.
Every now and then, never to a pest, boy's!
- Whatever you are, be impressive and honorable, boys!
Make yourself respectable boys!
Differentiate between what's right or wrong.
Defend the poor and the weak. Be strong.
Be Myanmarlike, always be friendly and hospitable, boys!

Daw Aye Aye Pyone
(Retired Teacher)

Good Governance

>> from page 8

kitbags are given to those who handle the processing of the required documents. On the Government side, too, in my humble opinion, it is most important that GG should be put on the top of the agenda of the Government, as it involves vital wellbeing of the whole nation. So every effort needs to be made to launch a program to implement GG in the Government administration, so that there will emerge an inclusive clean Government over time. If ever it comes about, we will have created a Government where there will be no corruption, bribes, misuse of power, much-talked-about cronyism, favoritism, impartiality, injustice, etc. that have been the rule rather than the exception even now at the lower levels. All Government personnel or, shall I say, servants as they were called when we were in public service shall bear in mind all the time they are in service that their salaries and costs of facilities provided for them are paid out of the state budget which

is nothing but the funds contributed by the public in terms of taxes and other dues. They must realize that they from top to down to the lowest clerk have been appointed to their respective posts of trust, power and responsibility to serve the interests of both the public and the country, complying with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Government. In spite of the reforms being undertaken by the new Government within the 100-day work plan, GG can't be accomplished completely overnight, as malpractices have been deep-rooted. It may take time to remedy this situation. It need not be overemphasized that corruption is the bane of human society as a whole, because it can disrupt or impede the flow of trade and commerce that contribute much to the economic growth of the country and the well being of the people. After all, we may say that these malpractices—corruption, cronyism, etc.—are stumbling blocks that stand in the way of achieving good clean governance that we all hope for.

In case of use of stoves

1. Place a person to keep vigil.
2. Don't overuse fuel fire power.
3. Put out the remnants of fire.
4. Place heat-resistant barriers between stove and roof/ wall.
5. Don't leave the oil pan forgotten.

Warning

1. Don't run away in case of fire. Seek help from the people nearby.
2. Prompt extinguishing of fire reduces losses and damages.
3. Keep dry chemical powder extinguishers and/or fire extinguishers in all apartments, buildings and shops to put out fire promptly and protect against the danger of fire.

Iraq peshmerga attack Islamic State town as army battles in Mosul

BASHIQA (Iraq) — Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga forces attacked an Islamic State-held town northeast of Mosul on Monday, trying to clear a pocket of militants outside the city while Iraqi troops wage a fierce urban war with the jihadists in its eastern neighbourhoods.

As the campaign against Islamic State's Iraqi stronghold entered its fourth week, fighters across the border launched an offensive in the Syrian half of the jihadist group's self-declared caliphate, targeting its base in the city of Raqqa.

The assault on Raqqa, held by Islamic State for nearly three years, will be spearheaded by armed groups backed by the United States and supported by US-led air strikes. Unlike in Iraq where the army is leading the assault, however, it not being coordinated with President Bashar al-Assad or the Syrian army.

In Bashiqa, some 15 km (10 miles) from Mosul, the first waves of a 2,000-strong peshmerga force entered the town on foot and in armoured vehicles or Humvees.

Artillery earlier pounded the town, which lies on the Nineveh plains at the foot of a mountain.

"Our aim is to take control and clear out all the Daesh (Islamic State) militants," Lieutenant-Colonel Safeen Rasoul told Reuters. "Our estimates are there are about 100 still left and 10 suicide cars."



A military vehicle of Iraqi security forces is seen at Hammam al-Alil, south of Mosul, during a battle with Islamic State militants, Iraq on 6 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Islamic State fighters have sought to slow the offensive on their Mosul stronghold with waves of suicide car bomb attacks. Iraqi commanders say there have been 100 on the eastern front and 140 in the south.

A top Kurdish official told Reuters on Sunday the jihadists had also deployed drones strapped with explosives, long-range artillery shells filled with chlorine gas and mustard gas and trained snipers.

As a peshmerga column moved into Bashiqa on Monday, a loud explosion

rocked the convoy, and two large plumes of white smoke could be seen just 50 feet (15 metres) away. A peshmerga officer said two suicide car bombs had tried to hit the advancing force.

"They are surrounded... If they want to surrender, OK. If they don't, they will be killed," said Lieutenant-Colonel Qandeel Mahmoud, standing next to a Humvee, supported by a cane he said he has needed since he was wounded in the leg by two suicide car bombers four months ago.

In eastern districts of Mosul, which Iraqi spe-

cial forces broke into last week, officers say jihadists melted into the population, ambushing and isolating troops in what the special forces spokesman called the world's "toughest urban warfare".

Mosul, the largest Islamic State-controlled city in either Iraq or Syria, has been held by the group since its fighters drove the army out of northern Iraq in June 2014.

The Mosul campaign, the most complex military operation in Iraq in a decade, brings together a force of around 100,000 soldiers,

security forces, Shi'ite militias and peshmerga, backed by a US-led coalition, to crush the Sunni jihadists.

Across the border, US-backed Syrian fighters have launched their own campaign, called Euphrates Anger, to recapture Raqqa.

Twin offensives on Raqqa and Mosul could bring to an end the self-styled caliphate declared by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque in 2014.

Baghdadi, whose whereabouts are unknown but who is believed to be

in northern Iraq close to the Syrian border, has told his followers there can be no retreat in a "total war" with their enemies.

The militants in Mosul have been waging a fierce and brutal defence, although they have lost ground on all fronts outside the city itself.

To the south of Mosul, security forces said they had recaptured and secured the town of Hammam al-Alil from Islamic State fighters, who they said had kept thousands of residents as human shields as well as marching many others alongside retreating militants towards Mosul as cover from air strikes.

The security forces on the southern front have continued their advance, reaching within 4 km (2-1/2 miles) of Mosul's airport, on the southern edge of the city and on the western bank of the Tigris River which runs through its centre.

To the north, a military statement said the army's Sixteenth Infantry Division had also recaptured the village of Bawiza and entered another area, Sada, on the city's northern limits, further tightening the circle of forces around Islamic State.

Shi'ite militias known as Popular Mobilisation forces are also fighting to the west of Mosul to seal the routes to the Islamic State-held town of Tal Afar and its territory in neighbouring Syria, to prevent any retreat or reinforcement.—Reuters

Suicide bombers in ambulances kill 21 people in Iraq

TIKRIT (Iraq) — Suicide bombers driving ambulances packed with explosives detonated their vehicles at a checkpoint and a car park for Shi'ite pilgrims in two Iraqi cities on Sunday, killing at least 21 people and wounding dozens, officials said.

The twin attacks took place in Tikrit and Samarra, as Iraqi troops and security forces battled to retake the northern city of Mosul from Islamic State militants who have controlled it for more than two years.

They appeared to be part of a series of diversionary attacks by the ultra-hardline Sunni Islamists, who have struck the Kurdish-controlled city of Kirkuk, the capital Baghdad and a western desert town during the three-week Mosul campaign.

Islamic State's Amaq



People gather at the site of a blast where a suicide bomber blew up his explosives-laden ambulance in Iraq's holy city of Samarra, north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 6 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

news agency said the attacks were carried out by the militant group.

In Tikrit, a bomber detonated his explosives-laden ambulance at the southern entrance to

the city during the morning rush hour, killing 13 people, police and hospital sources said.

Another attacker detonated a vehicle in a car park for pilgrims visiting one

of Shi'ite Islam's holiest shrines, al-Askari mosque in Samarra, south of Tikrit.

The bomb killed at least eight people, local officials said, including two Iranian pilgrims. The local

operation command, a joint military and police unit, said the vehicle used in Samarra was also an ambulance.

Authorities in both cities declared curfews, fearing possible further attacks.

Amaq said two suicide bombers struck in Samarra, the first detonating a car bomb and the second activating an explosives vest among a group of people who survived the first blast. It said the Tikrit attack was carried out by a single car bomber.

Iraqi troops and security forces, backed by a US-led international coalition, are battling Islamic State in the northern city of Mosul. Special forces have entered eastern districts, where they faced fierce resistance from the militants who deployed car bombs, snipers and mortar fire against them.—Reuters

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Dated. 8 November 2016

Samsung to launch AI assistant service for Galaxy S8

SEOUL — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) said on Sunday it would launch an artificial intelligence digital assistant service for its upcoming Galaxy S8 smartphone, seeking to rebound from the Galaxy Note 7's collapse and differentiate its devices.

The world's top smartphone maker in October announced the acquisition of Viv Labs Inc, a firm run by a co-creator of Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) Siri voice assistant programme. Samsung plans to integrate the San Jose-based company's AI platform, called Viv, into the Galaxy smartphones and expand voice-assistant services to home appliances and wearable technology devices.

Samsung is counting on the Galaxy S8 to help revive smartphone momentum after scrapping the fire-prone Galaxy Note 7, which will hit its profit by \$5.4 billion over three quarters through the first quarter of 2017.

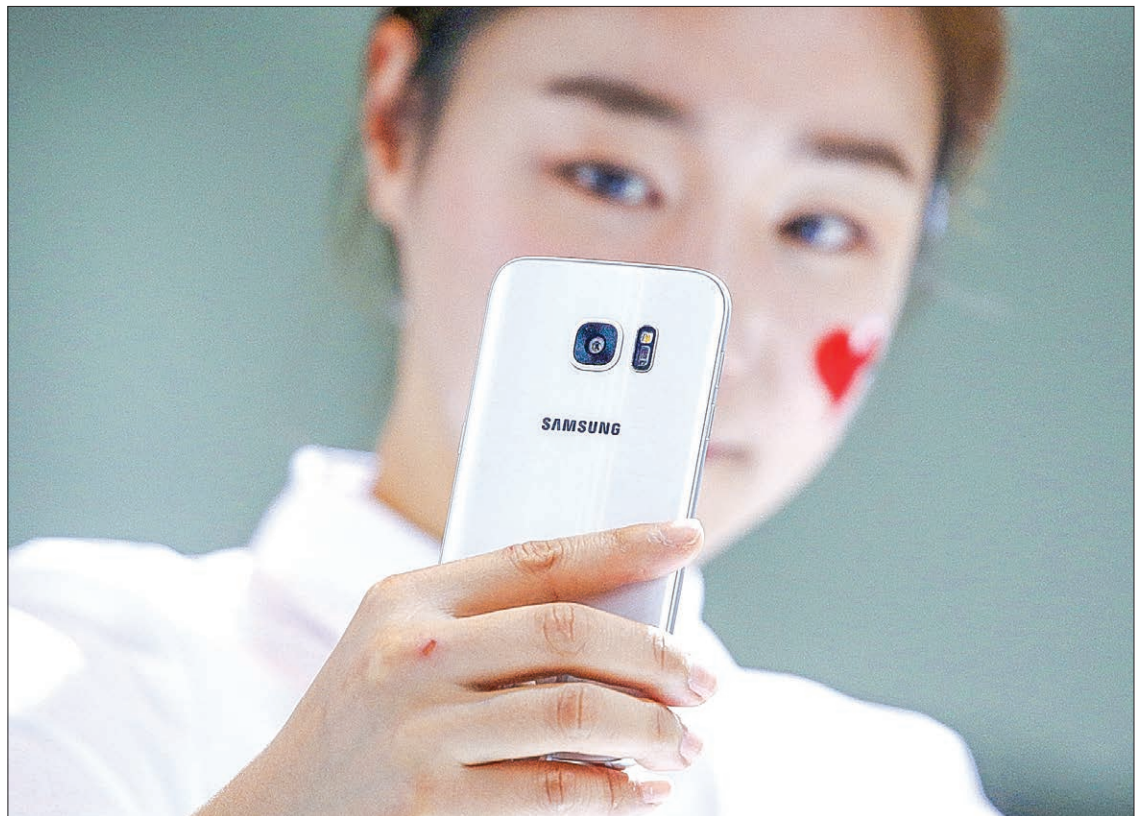
Investors and analysts say the Galaxy S8 must be a strong device in order for Samsung to win back customers and revive earnings momentum.

Samsung did not comment on what types of services would be offered through the AI assistant that will be launched on the Galaxy S8, which is expected to go on sale early next year. It said the AI assistant would allow customers to use third-party service seamlessly.

"Developers can attach and upload services to our agent," said Samsung Executive Vice President Rhee Injong during a briefing, referring to its AI assistant.

"Even if Samsung doesn't do anything on its own, the more services that get attached the smarter this agent will get, learn more new services and provide them to end-users with ease."

Technology firms are locked



A model demonstrates a Samsung Electronics' new smartphone Galaxy S7 during its launching ceremony in Seoul, South Korea, on 10 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in an increasingly heated race to make AI good enough to let consumers interact with their devices more naturally, especially by voice.

Alphabet Inc's Google (GOOGL.O) is widely considered to be the leader in AI, but

others including Amazon.com (AMZN.O), Apple and Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) have launched their own offerings including voice-powered digital assistants.

Samsung also hopes to differentiate its devices, from phones to fridges, by incorporating AI.

Competition from Google's new Pixel smartphones, armed with the US firm's voice-powered digital assistant, adds to the urgency.

The South Korean firm has said it plans more acquisitions to bolster its AI and other software capabilities.—Reuters

Tesco Bank stops online transactions after 20,000 hit by fraud

LONDON — Tesco Bank's chief executive said on Monday that it was temporarily stopping online transactions after about 20,000 customers had money removed from their accounts after an attack by fraudsters over the weekend.

The bank, wholly owned by supermarket chain Tesco, said it had discovered there had been "significant" fraudulent criminal activity on customers' current accounts late on Saturday and early Sunday morning.

Benny Higgins, the bank's chief executive, said 40,000 of current accounts had experienced suspicious transactions and about half had money taken from their account.

He said they had now stopped online transactions until they got the situation under control, although customers could still use their cards in shops and to withdraw money from ATM machines.

"Any financial loss that results from this fraudulent activity will be borne by the bank," he told BBC radio. "Customers are not at financial risk."

He said the cost to the bank, which says it has nearly 8 million customer accounts, would be a "big number but not a huge number". "It's 20,000 customers, we think it would be relatively small amounts that have come out but we're still working on that," he said.—Reuters

Toyota mulls fully entering electric vehicle market by 2020

NAGOYA — Toyota Motor Corp. is considering fully entering the electric vehicle market, with mass production slated to begin by 2020, company sources said Monday.

The world's biggest carmaker plans to position EVs as a pillar of its environmentally friendly car offerings along with hybrid and fuel cell vehicles, the sources said.

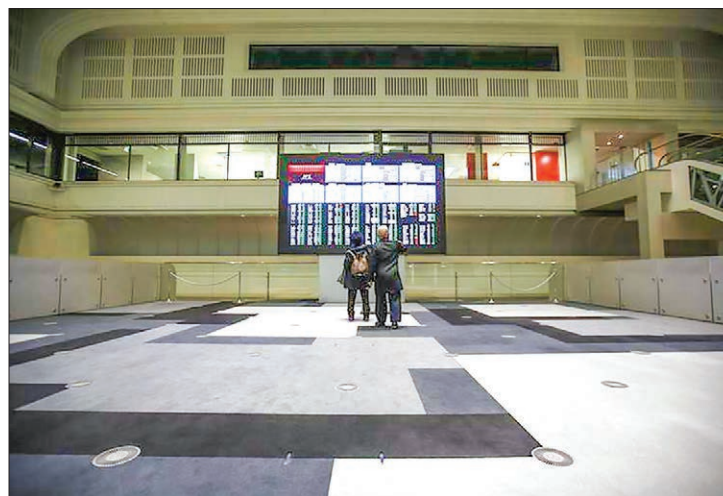
Toyota marketed the RAV4 EV, an electric version of its sport-utility vehicle jointly developed with Tesla Motors Inc., in the United States for about three years from the summer of 2012,

while in Japan it has released ultra-small EVs for urban driving.

The range that electric vehicles can travel on a single charge has increased with improvements in battery performance.

Mazda Motor Corp., a partner of Toyota, has also said it will advance EV development and is set to discuss cooperation in the area. Toyota rolled out its latest Prius hybrid model last December and is planning to launch a new plug-in hybrid vehicle model this winter. The company expects demand for plug-in hybrids to soar over the medium term.—Kyodo News

Asia stocks bounce as optimism over Clinton grows; dollar strong



Visitors look at an electronic board showing the Japan's Nikkei average at the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) in Tokyo, Japan, on 9 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

HONG KONG — Asian stocks bounced and the dollar strengthened on Monday after the FBI said it stood by its earlier recommendation that no criminal charges were warranted against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The news lifted a cloud over Clinton's presidential campaign two days before the US election, and boosted S&P 500 Index futures ESc1 by 1.2 per cent, a gain that is likely to snap a nine-day losing streak in the US stock index - its longest in more than 35 years.

European stock indexes were expected to follow Asia higher. But volumes were thin, indicating many investors had

already taken to the sidelines ahead of the vote.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS advanced 0.8 per cent. Leading regional gainers were Australian stocks and Japanese shares .N225 with gains of 1.3 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively.

"This will surely boost the chance of Clinton's victory. Barring another unexpected scandal on her side, it looks likely that she will win the race," said Norihiro Fujito, senior investment strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities in Tokyo.

"Given that the market

had been slipping for nine days, there will be short-covering."

The biggest winner was the Mexican peso MXN=, which has acted as something of a bellwether of sentiment as Republican Donald Trump's proposed policies are considered to be deeply negative for the country. It rose to a 1-1/2 week high earlier.

Investors had been unnerved by signs of a tightening presidential race between Clinton and Trump, whose stance on foreign policy, trade and immigration has rippled through financial markets.

Clinton is seen as a candidate of the status quo and her policies are viewed as more predictable than her Republican rival, a political novice.

The FBI said on Sunday it stood by its earlier finding that no criminal charges were warranted against Clinton for using a private email server for government work, lifting a cloud over her presidential campaign two days before the US election.

However, despite giving a boost to Clinton's prospects, investors are unlikely to make big bets given Trump's gains in polls recently may not be entirely due to the FBI probe.

Initial results of the Tuesday vote are expected to begin rolling out by Wednesday morning Asia time.—Reuters

Don't be swayed by disgust, jury in grisly Hong Kong murder trial told

HONG KONG — A Hong Kong judge ordered the jury in British banker Rurik Jutting's double murder trial not to allow its verdict to be influenced by "passion or disgust" over the torture, rape and killings but to weigh the evidence intellectually.

Jutting has pleaded not guilty to murdering two Indonesian women in his Hong Kong apartment in 2014 on grounds of diminished responsibility due to alcohol and drug abuse and sexual disorders. He has pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

The jury of four women and five men is due to start considering its verdict on Tuesday. Murder carries a mandatory life sentence, while the lesser charge of manslaughter carries a maximum of life.

Jutting, a former vice president and head of Structured Equity Finance and Trading (Asia) at Bank of America Corp, is charged with murdering Sumarti Ningsih, 23, and Seneng Mujiasih, 26, in his luxury high-rise apartment.

The trial, in its third week, has attracted global attention due to the 31-year-old Cambridge graduate's profile and the brutal nature of the killings in a city where serious crime is rare.

The jury has viewed graphic video taken by Jutting on his iPhone of him torturing Ningsih before he cut her throat. Her mutilated body was found in a suitcase on the balcony, while Mujiasih's was found inside the apartment with wounds



File photo of Rurik George Caton Jutting, a British banker charged with two counts of murder after police found the bodies of two women in his apartment, sitting in the back row of a prison bus as he arrives at the Eastern Law Courts in Hong Kong in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

to her neck and buttocks.

He has not faced separate charges connected to the rape and torture.

Deputy High Court Judge Michael Stuart-Moore told the jury to consider whether Jutting was of "abnormal mind" at the time of the killings which diminished his responsibility.

The jury should approach its verdict intellectually, rather than be "coloured by passion or disgust that you feel at the dreadful acts which the defendant has admitted he carried out", said Stuart-Moore.

The defence has argued that Jutting suffers from cocaine and alcohol abuse and personality disorders of sexual sadism and narcissism which impaired his ability to control his behaviour.

The prosecution has

rejected this, stating Jutting was able to form judgments and exercise self control before and after the killings, filming Ningsih's torture and shooting hours of footage where he discussed the killings, binging on cocaine and his graphic sexual fantasies.

Stuart-Moore, speaking in a packed courtroom stacked with international media, law students and members of the public, said the fact that Jutting "has an appalling private life is neither here nor there". The fact that Jutting has not testified himself during the trial doesn't prove one thing or another, he added.

He said the defence needed to prove whether it was more likely than not that Jutting's mental responsibility for his actions was "substantially impaired",

taking into consideration factors including whether his "perception, understanding, judgment and self-control" were abnormal and whether there was an "inherent cause or induced by disease or injury".

Stuart-Moore summarised both sides for the jury, including evidence from Jutting's own filmed transcripts and the evidence from a series of qualified psychiatrists and experts.

"Yes he was impaired, everyone agrees, but was he substantially impaired?" he said, trying to focus the jury on the nuance they would be deciding.

He quoted Jutting in one of his filmed monologues where he discussed going to jail.

"How many life sentences can one serve?" he said.—Reuters

Magnitude 5.0 quake strikes near Cushing, Oklahoma — USGS

OKLAHOMA CITY — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.0 struck near Cushing, Oklahoma, on Sunday damaging several buildings and prompting evacuations, but there were no reports of injuries, authorities said.

The quake was centered 2 miles (3.2 km) west of Cushing, a small city of about 8,000 people some 50 miles west of Tulsa, which is the location of intersecting oil pipelines and is considered a hub for crude oil shipment.

The oil and gas division of the Oklahoma Corporation commission said in a statement that they are in contact with pipeline operators, but so far there were no immediate reports of damage to pipelines.

Cushing authorities said the downtown area was being evacuated due to gas leaks and infrastructure inspection.

The quake was among the larger tremors felt recently in Oklahoma, part of a flurry of seismic activity geologists say is linked to energy production and is fueling growing concern.

People posting on Twitter, including some as far away as Kansas City, Missouri, reported that they felt the shaking.

Pictures on Twitter showed broken concrete that apparently fell from buildings in downtown

Cushing and products littering the aisles of stores after being shaken from shelves.

Cushing High School canceled classes on Monday in order to assess damage, according to a message on its Facebook page.

Two smaller earthquakes, one at a 3.1 magnitude and the other at a 3.6 magnitude, rattled the area around Perry, Oklahoma, earlier on Sunday.

About two months ago a magnitude 5.6 quake, one of the strongest ever recorded in Oklahoma, shook the area.

Most earthquakes occur naturally, but scientists have long linked some smaller tremors to oil and gas work underground, which can alter pressure points and cause shifts in the earth.

In a report released last year, the Oklahoma Geological Survey said that the earthquakes were linked to the practice of injecting wastewater from oil production into the ground.

Some of that is related to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which involves injecting water, sand and chemicals at high pressure into rock to extract natural gas or other products. But the report said fracking is responsible for only a small percentage of the wastewater injected into wells in Oklahoma.—Reuters

Body of German woman found in yacht floating

MANILA — A spokesman for the Philippine military said on Monday that Filipinos found a bullet-ridden body of a woman on a yacht flying a German flag.

Army Maj. Filemon Tan said the body of a female victim in her 50s was found on the floor of the yacht with the markings "ROCK ALL" on Sunday near Laparan Island in Pangutaran of Sulu province. "The cadaver was found to have had gunshot wounds and a gun was found beside the body," Tan said in a statement.—Xinhua

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MV NINOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Acknowledgement

The special thanks would go to the dedicated the person who has participated in the "Discussion on Traffic Accident Prevention, Rescue and Treatment for Traffic Accident Victims" on 5th November, 2016 at KhoFu restaurant, in Yangon Regional Division.

Our appreciation would go to **U Aung Myint** (Chairperson of the Myanmar Engineering Society), the vice-president of Myanmar Organization For Road Safety; **Mr MD. Monsur Moharmmed** (CEO, Allengers Medical Systems Limited, India) from Bangladesh; **Professor Dr. MD. Iqbal Qavi** and the doctors from Bangladesh; **Professor Dr. U Aung Thein Htay** (Yangon General Hospital); the Associated Professor **Dr. Maw Oo** (University of Medicine - I); **Dr. Aye Mo Mo Lwin**, the Department Head (Admin), the University of Public Health; **Dr. Aung Lin**, the manager of the Emergency Ambulance Service Foundation, the Myanmar Medical Association; **Daw Zin Mar Lat @ Sonier** (MD Sincere Zin Trading Co. Ltd) as a Master of Ceremony; all the **attendees** of the ceremony - all the head of the Government hospitals and Private Hospital, the media, the owner and all the staffs of KhoFu for the best service and all the members of MORS.

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Delhi imposes 'emergency' measures to combat hazardous smog

NEW DELHI — The Delhi government on Sunday put all construction projects on hold, shut down schools and advised residents of the Indian capital to stay indoors as part of an "emergency" plan to deal with dangerous levels of air pollution.

New Delhi ranks among the world's most polluted cities. In the past week, a thick layer of smog has enveloped the city, with people complaining of irritated eyes, throats and lungs.

A combination of smoke from burning farm residue in surrounding states, fireworks for the Hindu festival of Diwali, dust from construction works and vehicle emissions has pushed up levels of the most dangerous particles, known as PM 2.5, to more than 15 times the safe limit.

Hundreds of people, including children, on Sunday staged a protest in New Delhi over the worsening air quality, demanding immediate and effective steps



Girls play with a balloon under a flyover amidst the heavy smog in New Delhi, India, on 6 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

from authorities. New Delhi's chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, who has called the city a "gas chamber", said all construction and demolition would remain on hold for five days and schools would be shut for three days. He also banned the use of all diesel-powered electricity generators for the next 10 days. The local administration

will start vacuum cleaning roads and sprinkling them with water, Kejriwal said.

"We all need to cooperate and work together to find a solution," he said. "The situation is such that we need to take some urgent measures."

Air quality is usually poorest in Delhi's winter months of December and January. Authorities have

responded with such measures as a ban on old trucks from entering the city and briefly trying a scheme that limited use of private vehicles to alternate days. Experts say those have done little to reduce pollution.

Kejriwal said his government was contemplating another round of restrictions on the use of private cars.—Reuters

City gets e-mail threats for requesting 'Pokemon Go' driving ban

NAGOYA — The central Japan city of Ichinomiya has received nine threatening e-mails after it requested the operator of the smartphone app "Pokemon Go" to disable the game when a player is driving following the death of a boy struck by a truck.

The municipal government received the similarly worded threats, which were sent from different addresses, on Wednesday when media reported the city's action, an official of the city in Aichi Prefecture said Saturday. "Drop the request or your families will receive divine punishment," a message quoted by the official said. "Would you like to see the city office in flames?"

Keita Noritake, 9, was fatally hit by a truck while crossing a street in the city in late October. The 36-year-old driver,

Nobusuke Kawai, later admitted to police that he was playing Pokemon Go, the police said. Aichi Prefecture has logged a total of seven accidents linked to the game, including another fatality.

On 4 November, the city asked US software company Niantic Inc., which released the game in Japan in late July, and its Japanese unit to disable Pokemon Go for players other than pedestrians.

The GPS-controlled game issues a speed warning if the smartphone detects the player is moving too fast, as when in a moving vehicle, but it can be dismissed by the player by touching the "I'm a passenger" pop-up message that appears on the screen.

Ichinomiya city has consulted prefectural police about the threats and will file a complaint if they continue, according to the official.—Kyodo News

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Bieber, Gaga win at MTV Europe Music awards; Bruno Mars & Green Day shine

ROTTERDAM — Justin Bieber edged out Lady Gaga as biggest winner on Sunday at the MTV Europe Music Awards in Rotterdam, taking home three awards on the strength of support from his fans - the “Beliebers”.

Bieber, who was nominated in five categories, won for “Biggest (Most) Fans”, “Best Canadian Act”, and “Best Song” for “Sorry”.

Gaga, who is on tour in Japan, won for “Best Female” and “Best Look”.

American funk revivalist Bruno Mars kicked off the show with his first big-stage performance of 24K Magic, the follow-up to his smash 2014 hit Uptown Funk.

“Show time! Show time! Guess who’s back again?” Mars sang, showing off disco moves that were synched with lights on the stage floor. Veteran US act Green Day gave the night a political tinge, closing it out with their signature 2004 song “American Idiot”, their protest against the Bush administration, calling for people to ignore propaganda and think for themselves.

On the red carpet before the



Canadian singer The Weeknd poses with his trophy during the 2016 MTV Europe Music Awards. PHOTO: REUTERS



Bruno Mars performs on stage at the 2016 MTV Europe Music Awards at the Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands. PHOTO: REUTERS

show, lead singer Billy Joe Armstrong said US politics were “an American heart attack right now”, and that “the big thing is to get the right kind of liberal brain inside the Supreme Court”.

Green Day also performed “Bang Bang” from their new album “Never Too Old”, and were honoured with a “Global Icon” - career achievement - award.

They had been nominated in the “Best Live” category but were edged out by rising US stars Twenty One Pilots, who also won in the “Best Alternative” category.

Other big names who won but did not perform on Sunday included Coldplay for “Best Rock” and Drake for “Best Hip Hop”.

Beyoncé, who, along with Bieber had been nominated in five categories, won nothing.

Canadian R&B star The Weeknd won for “Best Video” with “Starboy”, featuring Daft Punk, and he performed the gloomy, pulsing number live, emerging from a star-covered dome on centre stage.

Canadian Shawn Mendes, a favourite with the many teenage

girls in the audience, won in the “Best Male” category and played a piano rendition of his ballad “Mercy”. He dedicated the win to his mother, saying it was her birthday.

European artists featured heavily in the performances, with Dutch DJ Martin Garrix performing “In the Name of Love” together with the show’s American host, Bebe Rexha.

Rexha, who went through 15 different outfits during the evening, also performed the live debut of her single, “I’ve Got U”. Garrix won in the “Best Electronic” and “Best World Stage”, or past MTV performance, categories.

Honoured as “Best New Act,” Swedish teen Zara Larsson performed a medley of her biggest hits, “Lush Life” and “Ain’t My Fault” in an all-white suit with thigh-high boots reminiscent of ABBA.

Other winners included US disco-dance group DNCE for “Best Push”, or breakthrough act, and girl band “Fifth Harmony” for “Best Pop”. The awards themselves were coloured purple, in honour of Prince, who died in April.—Reuters

Zayn Malik to star in new TV show

LONDON — Singer Zayn Malik is in negotiations to star in a new television series “Boys”, based on the formation of a successful boy band.

The 23-year-old former One Direction star has apparently teamed up with “Law & Order” creator Dick Wolf and his wife Noelle to also help executive-produce the show, reported Femalefirst.

“Zayn has started talks with his fellow producers about him appearing in a couple of episodes of ‘Boys’.” “He’s really keen to kick of his acting career and sees this as the perfect opportunity to do so, especially as he will have a lot of creative control,” a source said.

The source also added that the singer might play himself in the upcoming TV series. “The discussions are still ongoing and there is still a chance he may just play himself in the show. “Either way he is taking his role as executive producer very seriously and sees this as a big stepping stone to working more on TV and film in the future,” the source said.—PTI

‘Doctor Strange’ Trounces ‘Trolls’ with \$32.6m on Friday

LOS ANGELES — “Doctor Strange” is doing its part to heal what has been a recent box office slump by earning \$32.6 million on Friday at 3,882 locations, raising its estimated opening weekend total to about \$84 million.

After earning \$12.3 million on Friday at 4,060 locations, “Trolls” is also adding a boost, toying with an opening of about \$44 million. Both films are leading Mel Gibson’s “Hacksaw Ridge” which shot to \$5.2 million on Friday at 2,886 theaters and should end up with about \$14 million by the weekend’s end.

“Doctor Strange,” from Marvel and Disney, follows neurosurgeon Stephen Strange who injures his hands in a car accident, and in the process of healing, gains mystical powers. Scott Derrickson directs the film with a \$165 million price tag. In addition to Benedict Cumberbatch as “Strange,” Rachel McAdams, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Tilda Swinton also star.

DreamWorks Animation’s “Trolls” calls on the voices of Justin Timberlake and Anna Kendrick to play characters who are complete opposites, but must band to-

gether to on an adventure. Mike Mitchell and Walt Dohrn directed the film based on a script by Jonathan Aibel, Glenn Berger and Erica Rivinoja.

“Hacksaw Ridge,” widely considered an Oscar contender, stars Andrew Garfield as US Army medic Desmond T. Doss during World War II. The Lionsgate film was written by Andrew Knight and Robert Schenkkan

and also stars Vince Vaughn and Sam Worthington.

Another Awards Season contender, Focus Features and Universal Pictures’ “Loving,” from director Jeff Nichols, opened in 4 locations for a Friday total of \$55,000. The film centres around the Supreme Court case that declared laws prohibiting interracial marriage unconstitutional. Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga star as

the central couple with supporting work from Nick Kroll and Michael Shannon.

This weekend’s box office jolt is at least in part due to the critical consensus for all the major releases. “Strange” currently holds a 90% fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes, while “Trolls” sings 74%, “Hacksaw Ridge” shoots 84% and “Loving” embraces 89%.

The estimated weekend total would put “Doctor Strange” ahead of other Marvel film openings like “Thor” (\$65.7 million) and “Ant-Man” (\$57.2 million), but behind characters with higher name-recognition like 2008’s “Iron Man” (\$98.6 million) and, of course, films that band together multiple heroes like “Marvel’s The Avengers” (\$207.4 million). Within the Marvel Cinematic Universe, “Doctor Strange” is posting numbers that most closely align with 2013’s “Thor: The Dark World” (\$85.7 million). Last time this year the Bond film “Spectre” topped the box office with \$70 million.

The next expected release in the MCU is “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,” which is slated for May 2017.—Reuters



Benedict Cumberbatch poses with his wife Sophie Hunter as he arrives at the launch event of ‘Doctor Strange’ at Westminster Abbey in London, Britain on 24 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

China had largest number of outbound tourists globally in 2015

WUHAN — China had the largest number of outbound tourists in the world in 2015, a new report showed.

The number of China's outbound tourists increased almost ten-fold from 2001 to 2015, reaching 128 million last year, far exceeding those of the United States and Britain, according to a report released by the Wuhan Branch of the China Tourism Academy.

Chinese consumers spent a whopping 292.2 billion US dollars overseas, a year-on-year increase of 10 per cent and accounting for about 23.2 per cent of all outbound consumption in the world last year, according to the report.

The country's tour-

ism sector also generated more than a quarter of the jobs in the world's tourism industry in 2015, according to the report.

Hu Jing, head of the branch, said that China ranked first globally in the numbers of tourists travelling domestically, outbound tourists, domestic tourism consumption, outbound tourism consumption and tourist-related employment.

"The tourism boom is a result of a good environment for the industry in China, including favourable policies, the number of days with good air quality and better treatment of garbage," Hu said.

The report has been published annually since 2011. —Xinhua

Peruvian teaches over 100 people practicing Taiji



Juan I. Vasquez (front) practises Taiji with his learners in Lima, Peru, on 5 October, 2016. 63-year-old Peruvian Juan I. Vasquez started to practise Taiji when he was 17 years old and has taught more than 100 Peruvian practising Taiji in the last decades. PHOTO: XINHUA

Sydney set to host one of biggest Lunar New Year celebrations outside of Asia in 2017

SYDNEY — Australia's Sydney is set to host one of the biggest celebrations of the 2017 Lunar New Year Festival outside of Asia with more than a million visitors set to enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of the celebration. City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore in a statement on Monday said the Sydney Chinese New Year Festival Celebration to be held from 27 January to 12 February will be an internationally renowned celebration among the Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai and Korean communities.

"From its humble beginnings in Chinatown, the festival now extends all the way to Sydney Harbour and

last year attracted 1.3 million people, making it the third largest annual event in Sydney," Moore said.

"Featuring the Lunar Lanterns and 80 traditional and contemporary events across Sydney, the 2017 Lunar New Year celebrations has something for everyone," he said.

Among them will be the Lunar Lanterns trail around Circular Quay from the Sydney Opera House to Dawes Point. Twelve spectacular zodiac animal lanterns designed by Australian Chinese artists and varying in size up to 10 metres high will line the foreshore for the entire 17-day festival.

Festival curator, Clau-

dia Chan Shaw said the Lunar Lanterns walk will create a vibrant precinct around the Sydney harbour for visitors and families to explore. "Following the enormous success of last year's inaugural Lunar Lanterns exhibition, in 2017 we will introduce several new lanterns that will amaze and delight visitors," Shaw said.

"And being the year of the Rooster, an animal that loves being the centre of attention there will be two hero Rooster lanterns, one at the Sydney Opera House and the other in the festival's cultural heart in Chinatown," she said.

She said the city will collaborate with principal

partner Westpac in lighting Sydney's most famous landmarks in auspicious red for three nights to welcome the Year of the Rooster from 27 to 29 January. Painting the town red will highlight the sails of the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Circular Quay Station, Sydney Town Hall and other Sydney landmarks.

Westpac's General Manager for Retail and Premium Bank Bernadette Inglis said the bank recognised the incredible contribution the Chinese community makes to Australia and is excited to partner with the City of Sydney for the second year in a row to celebrate the Lunar New Year. —Reuters

Hol Xil natural reserve reviewed for world heritage

XINING — China's Hol Xil nature reserve in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau has gone through an initial evaluation to become a world heritage site.

The eight-day evaluation was conducted by Chinese and foreign experts, including the completion of the first ever aerial survey of the reserve, according to Buqung, leader of the reserve's management bureau.

Professor Lyu Zhi with the School of Life Science at Peking University, a member of the team, said that the reserve boasted rare natural landscape, abundant wild species and rich biodiversity. "Through

initial evaluation, experts have recognised its value as a natural heritage site and its competitive edge," she said.

At an average altitude of 4,000 metres above sea level, the reserve in Qinghai Province is the habitat of endangered Tibetan antelopes, wild yaks and wild asses, and has more than 7,000 lakes and 255 glaciers.

An inspection report will be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Center, while the final findings are expected to be released in the summer of 2017 at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee. —Xinhua

More birds found in Beijing wetland reserve

BEIJING — Seven breeds of birds have been added to species list for Beijing's Yeya (Wild duck) Lake Wetland Reserve.

According to a report published by the reserve on Saturday, 302 kinds species have been recorded in the wetland, the largest such reserve in the capital, seven of which were newly in 2016.

Among the newly found birds is the first grade nationally-protect-

ed Pallas's fish eagle. Also new to the list are the speckled reed warbler, black-winged Kite, pheasant-tailed jacana, long-tailed shrike, long-tailed minivet, and a species of nightjar.

Yeya Lake Reserve became Beijing's first wetland conservation area in 1997. It functions as an ecological defense to Beijing, protecting the city's water source and providing a habitat for wild animals. —Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(8-11-2016 07:00am ~ 9-11-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Game Changers (Ep-4)
07:51	Am	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Real Dream of Accidental Gift
08:52	Am	Lines & Wash Painting
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Life In NightArt In Life (Ep-2) (Part-2)
09:53	Am	Yoghurt Vendor
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Martial Art (EP-1)(Bando)
10:45	Am	Young Artist: Maw Thu Da Nu

10:51 Am Today Myanmar: Community Center & Mobile Library

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:52	Pm	Wet Markets of Yangon: Thirimingalar Market
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Rakhine Monte Ti)
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Leading Lady "Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe"

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

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

Man United's big guns Zlatan and Pogba fire at last

LONDON — Jose Mourinho's wretched week ended on a high note as Manchester United's big guns Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Paul Pogba finally began firing, both finding the target in a 3-1 win at dismal Swansea City on Sunday.

Mourinho watched from the stands at the Liberty Stadium following his touchline ban imposed by the Football Association on Wednesday and was buoyed to see Ibrahimovic score twice — his first league goals in eight weeks — and Pogba net a superb volley.

United, vastly improved

after their midweek Europa League defeat at Fenerbahce, went ahead with a 15th minute strike from Pogba worthy of his 89 million pounds price tag before Ibrahimovic ended his goal drought with a sharp first-half double in the space of 12 minutes.

Mike van der Hoorn offered winless Swansea manager Bob Bradley brief hope of an unlikely salvage job when he headed in Gylfi Sigurdsson's 69th minute free kick but his Swans remain mired in relegation trouble, on five points, the same as bottom club Sunderland.—Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney in action with Swansea City's Ki Sung Yueng. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ronaldo agrees new five-year contract with Real Madrid

MADRID — Cristiano Ronaldo has agreed to extend his contract with Real Madrid until 2021, the European champions confirmed on Sunday.

Ronaldo, Real's all-time top scorer with 371 goals in 360 games, will sign the new deal on Monday at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium before giving a news conference.

Ronaldo is reported to be in line for an increase on his current salary, estimated to be 21 million euros (\$23 million), making him the highest-paid player at Real Madrid.

The Portuguese has collected one La Liga title, two King's Cups and two Champions League titles since joining Real from Manchester United in 2008 for a then world record 96 million euros but has had an inconsistent start to the current campaign.

The forward failed to hit the target in a near anonymous display in Real's 3-0 win over Leganes on Sunday to mark five games without scoring at the Bernabeu, his longest run without a goal in front of Real's fans since he joined the club.

Ronaldo's last goal at the Bernabeu came against Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League on 14 September. His only goal there in the league was against Osasuna on 10 September.

Ronaldo has scored seven goals in the league and Champions League this term and made amends for his worst start to a season since joining Real by hitting a hat-trick in last week's 4-2 win away to Alaves.

The 31-year-old missed a series of chances against Legia Warsaw on Wednesday, however, and was seen venting his fury at Bale for not passing to him in the second half against Leganes.—Reuters

Messi inspires Barca comeback, Bale keeps Real top

BARCELONA — A mesmeric Lionel Messi helped Barcelona to come from behind and beat Sevilla 2-1 in a thrilling encounter on Sunday as the champions kept the pressure on La Liga leaders Real Madrid, who saw off Leganes 3-0 thanks to a double from Gareth Bale.

Barca were put under immense pressure from kick-off and fell behind to Vitolo's 15th minute strike.

Messi levelled just before halftime following a slew of missed chances from the hosts. After the break, Barcelona took control and Luis Suarez fired in the winner in the 61st minute.

Barca stay two points behind Real, who lead the standings with 27 points.

Villarreal beat Real Betis 2-0 to move up to third, three points behind Barca. Fifth-placed Sevilla, on 21 points, trail Atletico Madrid on goal difference.



Barcelona's Luis Suarez & Lionel Messi. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sunday's meeting between Jorge Sampaoli's relentless Sevilla and a Barcelona side smarting from defeat at Manchester City promised a lot and lived up to the hype as a breathtaking end-to-end encounter ensued.

Sevilla opened the scoring as Luciano Vietto's through ball caught Sergi Roberto unawares and Vitolo swooped in to slot past

Ter Stegen.

Sevilla grew in confidence and looked to grab another, Vietto firing wide from a tight angle and Vitolo crashing over the bar.

But Barca drew level following a wonderful break by Messi which drew in Denis Suarez and Neymar before the Argentine finished off.

Sevilla were punctured by the goal and Barca dominated the second half.

Ivan Rakitic and Messi were both denied by Sergio Rico but Suarez showed more composure, sliding the ball through the goalkeeper's legs and ending Sevilla's 100 per cent record at home in the league and Europe.

"Comebacks like this always make a team stronger, especially when you remember no-one else has won at this ground," said Barca coach Luis Enrique.

"It was a wonderful game for attacking players, who wanted the ball and wanted to take risks. It made for a hectic game. They took the lead then we found solutions. I'm very happy with how the day has gone."

Earlier on Sunday, Madrid got off to a slow start against neighbours Leganes, but Bale put them in charge in the 37th minute.

The Wales international raced onto a through ball from Isco that split the visiting defence and rounded goalkeeper Jon Serantes to tuck the ball inside the near post from a tight angle. Bale followed on with his 150th career goal, cashing in on poor defending from a free kick.

Morata rounded off the win in the 76th minute as Real preserved their unbeaten run in all competitions and also kept a first clean sheet in 11 games.—Reuters

Murray just wants to enjoy No 1 status for now

PARIS — As the new world number one, Andy Murray could be troubled by the weight of expectations on his shoulders at the ATP World Tour Finals, but the Briton just wants to enjoy his new status.

The three-times grand slam champion, who will officially dethrone Novak Djokovic on Monday, won the Paris Masters title by beating American John Isner 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-4 on Sunday.

Murray will have little time to rest, though, as the season-ending tournament starts next Sunday at London's O2 Arena — where he and Djokovic will both be in a race

to secure the year-end top ranking.

Asked whether he would feel different on court now that he is world number one, he replied: "It might only be for one week. So I might as well try and enjoy it because I could lose it at the Tour Finals and never be there again."

Although he felt nervous before going into Sunday's final in Paris, Murray, who secured the top ranking when Milos Raonic withdrew from their semi-final on Saturday, insisted he was focussed on his match. "I felt really nervous before the match, I didn't feel flat, or anything like that, that was the

most pleasing thing about today for me," he explained.

"Obviously it's great to win, but sometimes after you achieve something big or something that you maybe didn't expect, it can be quite easy to have a letdown and feel a little bit flat.

"I felt really nervous before the match today, and I was happy about that." Murray, who has yet to win the Australian Open and the French Open, struggled to look past the World Tour Finals although winning in Melbourne is the next step for the double Olympic champion.—Reuters



Andy Murray poses for pictures after winning at Paris Masters tennis tournament men's singles final on 6 November. PHOTO: REUTERS