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A file photo of the confluence of Maikha and Malikha rivers in Myitkyina, Kachin state. PHOTO: REUTERS

First Report of the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects

Following is the First Report of the Investigation Commission for the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects to the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.—Ed

THE Investigation Commission for the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects was formed by No.58/2016 of the Order of the President Office on 12th August 2016. According to the Article-6 of the Order, the first assessment report of the Commission has to be submitted to the President on the date of 11th November, 2016.

The Investigation Commission for the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects held eleven

meetings and collective consulted in order to all round review and scrutinize several documents and data regarding to the projects during the period from 22-8- 2016 to 8-11- 2016.

The 14 commission members, chaired by the secretary of the Investigation Commission for the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects, conducted a field survey at the Myitsone Hydropower Project, the Chipwinge Hydropower Dam, Chipwinge Power Plant,

and Aungmyintar and Maliyan new villages which are built for the five villages within the operation area of Myitsone Project in Kachin State, on 15-16 September, 2016. The members of the Commission met the officials at the levels of state, districts and townships, administrators, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and elderly of the local, and explained undertakings of the Commission. It was also conducted tasks with the submission of the opinions and recommendations by the respec-

tive CSOs and locals and issuing the press release by the Commission.

The Commission held its first meeting with the officials of CPI Yunnan International Power Investment Co.,Ltd (CPIYN) and Changjiang Institute of Survey, Planning, Design and Research (CISPDR) in Nay Pyi Taw, on 11th October, 2016, and friendly discussed related to the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects.

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TNLA heavy-weapon injures nine-year old child on thigh

WHILE the government troops covering an area on 10 November near Lwehaungtaung Village in Namkham Township in Shan State (North), confronted with about 40 members of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army-TNLA and seized an M-21, two cartridges, 30 rounds of bullets, one RPG shell, one walkie-talkie and two uniforms bearing TNLA badges.

The TNLA group also attacked the position of the government troops near Mongwee Village in Namkham Township yesterday with heavy weapons and then withdrew about 2.45 pm as the government troops returned fire.

A heavy weapon fired by TNLA group fell near houses in the village. Because of a bomb-splinter, a nine-year old boy named Maung Kyaw Ma Aung, son of U Ail Sai, who was playing in front of his house, injured seriously on his thigh.

The government troops provided emergency medical care for the child and sent him to hospital in Monwee Station hospital.—Myawady

INSIDE

Trade deficit reaches nearly \$2 billion this FY

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More suspects in 9th October attacks arrested

AT about 4:15 am on Friday, the military (Navy) troops during an area coverage operation found a boat crossing the Naf River to enter the neighboring country between Magyichaungwa and Maung Ni villages. Three out of four on board dived into the river

and escaped, and the last one—Mamud Shawshi was arrested.

Similarly, during the patrolling operation launched by the combined force of military and border guard police forces at nearby Hlaphogaung village, a suspect named Mawstar was arrested at

about 4:15 a.m this morning.

Moreover, Rawhi Mullah and his brother Aman Ullah were arrested in Bagonenar village in an area clearance raid with a mobile telephone this evening. It is said that the former has spread several defamatory rumors on social web-

site under the facebook account “Ma Shwe Zin” which intends to humiliate the dignity of the military.

At 3:30 p.m or so on November 10, three more suspects — namely Demo Harmed, Mawlawi Sawpiharlong and Mamad Arlong

— were arrested in the area clearance raid by the combined forces in Kamoung Seik village. All arrested suspects were handed over to Maungtaw police station and Kyikanpyin border guard outpost in order to take action against them in accord with the law.—Myawady

Senior General visits Goriziane Group



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits ABS Steel Works at the company headquarters of Danieli. PHOTO: MYAWADY

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, currently on a visit to Venice in Italy, visited Goriziane Group in Villessee, Gorizia Province at 11 am local standard time on 10 November, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Italy U Myint Naung. The senior general

and delegation were conducted around the factory and briefed on the operation of the factory by the responsible personnel from the Goriziane Group.

In the afternoon, the senior general and delegation members arrived at the company headquarters of Danieli where the respon-

sible personnel briefed the senior general and the members of the delegation on the operational activities of their company.

Afterwards, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party were conducted around ABS Steel Works near the company headquarters.—MNA

Winners for National Literary Awards announced

NATIONAL Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee yesterday announced the award winning writers and publications for the 2015.

In the collection of short stories category, Madamyar-hlyan-tan written by Tha Toe won the national literary award while in the collection of poems category, Pann-Nu-Kyi-Pyar poems by Zaw Myo Han (Ngathaingchyoung).

In the Sarpadaythar genre, the compilation of Kyan-myar-a-si-bar-ra-ti and other articles by Dr

Ma Khin Myint won the award; in the Myanmar Culture and Arts genre, research on history of discs in Myanmar by Researcher Maung Maung; in the child literature genre, Tar-wun-ko-si-shi-kya-thi by Chan Wunna Soe Win (Taikkayi); in the translation (non-fiction) genre, kha-yi-kan-dar by Nyo Arnt; in the Thutapadetha (Art) genre, History of Taninthayi Region by Maung Lay Tint; in the Thutapadetha (Applied Science) genre, Yin-thwe-do-aywe-tha-bar-wa-alike-pyu-su-pyo-haung-yay

by Dr Khin Myo Han, Paediatrician; in the political literature genre, history of politics during AFPFL Period; in non-fiction literature genre in (English), Ancient Jewellery of Myanmar from Pre-history to Pyu Period by Terence Tan and in fiction literature genre in English, Beloved Country by Aung Myo Min.

No body wins awards for novel, play, youth literature, translation (fiction), non-fiction (pure science) genres for 2015.—Myanmar News Agency

Winners for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards announced

LITERARY works which won Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2015 were announced yesterday by the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards Scrutinizing Committee.

In the novel genre, Yat-kan-sin-taung-che-dwin-shin-hmwelun-nay-thi by Zan Linn Htet won the first prize while the second and third awards were secured by Mee-nghat-ta-gaung-ye-chin-that-le-byan by Taungdwin Ko Yin Aw and Ayardaw-kan-chay-ka-lwan-ma-pyay by Zaw Lwin Oo (Hinthada).

In the collection of short-stories genre, the first award goes to Yaw-pa-so-hnit-kywa-ke-bar and other stories by Thuti Awbar (Hsinpaungwe); the second award to Hna-lon-thar-htay-ka-khe-lat-yay and other short stories by Maung Nay Chi (Pyay) and the third to Ayon-kyin-lo-lin-lu-pyi-ko and other short stories by Kan Myint Maw.

In the collection of poems genre, Moe-thauk-gita poems by Chan Mya Thaw won the first award while Wae-ye-ye-kyway-ye-ye-say-ta-nar-pan-pwint-myar by Hket Hlaing Kyaw won the second award and Myanma-gon-yi by Hsan Lwin (Myanmarsar) the third. In the Thutapadetha (Art) genre, Sikhon-taw-tha-mine-hnit-Sagaingdwin-Mawgun-twin-ke-thae-po-

aggol-myar by Nandar Min Lwin won the first award; Thu-kyun-makhan-sayar-san by Zwe-thanlyin (Thonze) the second and Sat-taw-yar-Anu-pyin-nya by Maung Yin Hlaing (Pyinmamaing). In the Thutapadetha (Science and Applied Science) genre, the first award goes to Myama-theik-pan-nikya-Tarissan-sayku-pyin-nyar by Aung Soe (Veterinarian); the second award to Sinsat-ma-pyat-pwint-phyo-hmuar-lone-ei-yi-ywe-chat by Dr San Win (University of Forestry) while the third goes to Ake-sat-chin-hnit-kyan-mar-yay by Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin).

In the Sarpadetha genre, Maezar-myaing-ganaing-twin-hmarpan-ta-khin-pyo-ge-tae by Shwenyaung May Maung San Myint won the first award; Kan-dar-ra-wadyngwe-taung-pyay-Tho by Zaw Lwin Oo (Hinthada) the second and May-shin-bawa-gita-yoke-shin by U Thaung Ngwe the third.

In the Myanma Culture and Art Literature genre, Myanmar-and-pagyi-anu-pyinnar-pya-taik-myar by Pagyi Moe Kyaw Thant won the first; Pabe-swan-ar-myanma-minlan-dar by Zaw Lwin Oo (Hinthada) and Rakkha-pura-yin-kyay-hmuah-hla by Withizzka (Bago) the third.

In the children's literature gen-

re, Nay-chi-nu-nu-pan-galay-myar by May Zun Aye won the first; Phu-ngon-pan-galay-myar-lan-lan-shwin-shwin-apyone-wai-lwin and other short stories by One Htet Moe (Zeint-Aunglan) the second and Nyein-chan-te-su and children poems by Nandar Moe Kyae the third.

In the youth literature genre, Sar-thwin-khwint-ya-ta-kha-na and letters during scholarship period by Aung Hnin won the first award and Myit-aye-yar-nadi-kyaw-wae by Ko Shwe Than (Myanmarsar).

In the play literature genre, Yamayana-so-ngo-pyay-zattawgyi by Waziya Win Kyin won the first while Ma-chwe-yet-kyway-yet-ke-myaw by Kyarno Chit Wai (Shwethokemyay) the second and Pan-thit-sar-so-ke-phu-par-thi and short plays by Wutye Khin (Bago).

In the English manuscript genre, Amnesty Winning Poems During Myanmar Monarchy by Maigyi Soe won the first while Myanmar Ramayana (Manuscript) by Ye Dway and Wanderings in and around Yangon and Other Articles by Dr Saw Mra Aung the third. In the translation literature genre, "Oak-choke-hmu-hnit-naing-ngan-thar-phyit-hmu by Tin Maung Than (Ywama) won the first award.—Myanmar News Agency

Man of October Awards go to bus driver and conductor

MAN of the month award for October went to a bus driver named U Myo Thant from Shwe Mann Thu Highway Bus line and his fellow worker U Maung Maung, the bus conductor from 1L/4506.

The award winners were assigned by Shwe Mann Thu Highway Bus line to conduct around the city of Yangon U Aung Ko Ko (Parahita) group from 13th to 16th September. The driver and the conductor found a money bag containing US\$ 80,000 while carrying out cleaning inside the bus at

0940 am on 15th September. They immediately contacted the group leader to inform of their finding. The owner of the money bag is a Korean called Mr Bak Chou Chou.

This act of honesty has won them man of the month award presented monthly by the office of the state councillor.

The state counsellor, in her letter of appreciation, calls upon all citizens to be honest like them in their contribution to national development.—Myanmar News Agency

Two writers emerge winners of Lifelong National Literary Award

TEKKATHO Win Mon and Tekkatho Tin Kha were announced winners of lifelong national literary award yesterday.

The winners will be hon-

ored at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon, Yangon Township on 30 November.—Myanmar News Agency

Poultry farmers to receive US\$ 1.6m loan from Famsun

FAMSUN, a Chinese company, will disburse nearly US\$1.6 million loan to local breeders to build a new animal feed processing plant and three poultry farms in major regions, said Daw Hla Hla Thein, executive director of Green Field Co.

The new project will be implemented in Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regions in the third week of this month, she added.

Under the scheme, 12,000-hold poultry farms with a good air conditioning system and an

animal feed processing plant with a capacity of five tons per hour will soon be constructed in the target areas. According to the agreement, the 40 per cent of the total loan has to pay back by Myanmar side at the beginning of construction works.

Local breeders have to pay back the rest with 12 per cent per annum interest rate within two years in installments. Thanks to the new plant and poultry farms, the price of meat can decrease in the domestic market in future.—200



A worker feeds chicken at a farm near Tatkon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

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.

Myanmar delegation to attend information, communication and media cooperation forum



The Myanmar delegation being seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Paris. PHOTO: MNA

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint left for Paris, France, to attend a forum on development of cooperation in information, communication and media sectors between the two countries.

The delegation also includes Chairman of the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee U Thein Swe, MP U Than Soe Aung of

Pyithu Hluttaw, Director-General of the Myanma Radio and Television U Myint Htwe, Director of the Information and Public Relations Department U Myint Kyaw and U Aung Shin (Monywa Aung Shin).

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Information and the minister of French embassy in Yangon.—*Myanmar News Agency*

CEO, chief editor of Eleven Media in police custody

Ko Moe

Dr Than Htut Aung, Chief Executive Officer, and U Wai Phy, Chief Editor of the Eleven Daily, were remanded at Tamway Township Court yesterday.

"They submitted themselves up to Yangon East District Police. We will collect evidences and build the case according to the police procedures and we will charge them as soon as legal advice is available," said Pol Lt-Col Myint Htwe, head of Yangon East District Police.

Case has been filed against the CEO and the chief editor under Section 66 (D) of the Telecommunications Law.

"Section 66 (D) of the Telecommunications Law should have been repealed," Dr Than Htut Aung told reporters outside the court.

Dr Than Tun Aung has been accused of defamation against the government in his editorial in "One Year After the Election, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phy Min Thein said at a press briefing at the Office of the Yangon Region Government.

In the editorial, which was also published by the Asian News Network, an organization of major news agencies in Asia, he wrote that how can most ordinary citizens who have to live on about US\$ 2.5 a day could be pleased with the news that a chief minister who earns only about US\$ 2,500 could buy a Patek Philippe watch.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phy Min Thein said that he wore a Rolex, bought for him by his wife at a press briefing at the regional government office.

U Maung Weik, who held a

press conference about the watch in question at Hotel Novotel recently, was also summoned to Tamway Police Station for interrogation.

In response to the editorial, Yangon Region Government sent a question to the Eleven Media Group, asking them to explain who the person accused in the editorial of winning the tender for New Yangon City Project during the government transition is and who the person that always wears Patek Philippe is.

However, the media refused to answer the questions as they have neither written the name of Yangon Region Government or the chief minister in the editorial.

Yangon Region Government filed a case against the accused under Section 66 (D) of the Telecommunications Law.

Voices coming from a sanctuary-like shelter

BEFORE we recognized, it reached one month and several days that October 9 violent armed attack happened in northern Rakhine State.

Under the leadership of Union Government and Rakhine State Cabinet, Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force are performing duties in accord with the law, rules and regulations for the security and development of the area, arresting and investigating those involved in the attack.

Malikha speed boat which left Sittwe at 7 a.m reached Buthitaung at noon, and we called at 50-bed hospital of Buthitaung township to collect tidings before proceeding to our final destination, Maungdaw township. Dr Aung Nang Lin, civil assistant surgeon said, "The hospital comprises 5 assistant surgeons including the medical superintendent and 15 nurses. There are 11 patients in the new 50-bed hospital and 11 patients in the OG ward of 25-bed hospitals receiving medical treatment. About 40 out-

door patients are expected to come daily. For now, in the hospital are patients with common infections. Regardless of race and religion, we are giving patients treatments without discrimination. As there is almost no cases of snake-bite in the region, we have no anti-venom injection here, no need to do so. Cases of dengue also did not happen to us this year, with some cases reported in Minbya."

Buthitaung township has a population of 345262 in all, with 22251 in urban area and 323011 in rural area. According to the statistics, 10620 are children under 1-year age, 55615 under five, 114164 under 15. For the populace, 2 station hospitals, 32 rural health care centres are giving medical treatment. A patient at the OG ward, said "I am here to have a baby delivered. Due date for the delivery is over, so I must undergo the process of caesarean operation. Living here is convenient for us. Drugs were also given out free of charge." Dr Khin Thu Zar said,

"Expectant mothers lack medical knowledge and they come late to the hospitals. Patients going to discharge from the hospital were explained as much as possible, as to why difficulties occurred to them. As regards the public health care, Dr Than Tun Kyaw, head of township health department provides health education."

U Tin Hlaing of 7 ward of Buthitaung township, currently in the hospital, said "I am eking out my living as an errand worker—coolie and trishaw-man. Now I am feeling better, but my limbs are still trembling a little bit. It favors me to cost me not much. Some drugs that are not available here were bought from drug shops. Doctors also make regular round checks."

Mohammed Zaw Kawria of Pho Khaung Chaung village, Buthitaung township said, "My son aged only 4 fell down from a tree, breaking his arm. Now we arrived here for 3 days, provided necessary treatment and drugs free of charge. Some had to be purchased



A displaced woman receives physical examination. PHOTO: MNA

from outside. After the attack, no problems happened in our village whereas schools are still closed. I grow paddy and run a business of fish breeding pond under the lease from others. It is convenient for me in all."

Daw Khin Htwe of Buthitaung said, "I have given birth to a baby three days ago. This time as well I had a caesarean operation made. Due to former stitches, I was not allowed yet to discharge. The first caesarean was made in Bahosi Hospital, with the present one in this hospital. All are convenient and we were granted FOC."

Daw Khin Thu Zar said, "Cleft lip patients' cases are not known between 4 and 8 weeks of gestation. Some did not know they were pregnant and they used any kinds of medicine. Their lack of knowledge can be said to be attributed to the cleft lip cases. The ministry of health is providing 90 percent of necessary amount of medicine."

Buthitaung sees sellers, pedestrians and students going about the town, seeming to be revitalized again as a sign of peace and stability.—*Ko Thet (Reporters from the Myanmar News Agency also contributed to the feature.)*

First Report of the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects

>> FROM PAGE 1

The officials of CPI Yunnan International Power Investment Co., Ltd (CPIYN) came and met with the Commission for the second time in Nay Pyi Taw, on the date of 25th October 2016, and re-submitted the operating activities of the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects.

The Commission appointed the Myanmar Environment Institute as a technical assistant group in order to conduct environmental impact assessment and social im-

port assessment effects which are described in the initial Environmental Impact Report.

The 18 local scholars and 2 foreign experts from the Myanmar Environment Institute will perform screening the initial Environmental Impact Report of the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects, scoping the undertaking activities and the terms of reference, and conducting a Field survey and Rapid Assessment, and also observe the impacts on socio-environment and health issues.

The Commission has compiled the first report for the Investigation of the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects and submitted it to the President on 10th November 11, 2016. Hydropower sources available in Myanmar for electricity production and electricity requirements, the formation of the Ayeyarwady-Myitsone Upstream River Basin Hydropower Projects, contracts and agreements connecting with the Myitsone Hydropower Project, information of Myitsone Hydropower Projects

and actions of the Commissions are figured in the Factual Report. The Commission will continue to conduct further interviews with concerned persons and organizations, and assessments. It is displayed that analysis and recommendations are not described in this first report as the Commission is still implementing its activities.

We are here to announce that the Final Report will be submitted to the President after accomplishing such responsibilities of the Commission as considering costs and benefits upon socio-environ-

ment including the ecosystem and natural environment by the project, the impact upon the sustainability of Ayeyarwady River, the possible damages of water resources within Ayeyarwady River, desires and opinions of local people and societies, potential effects on foreign investment, mutual benefits based on amity of being neighborhood, and evaluating and giving recommendations on means of coordination and negotiation between Myanmar and foreign investors, and whether these projects should be implemented ahead or not.

Construction of Reed lake view point completed

REED Lake in Chin state is known as one of the most bucolic spots in Myanmar, and now it can be enjoyed from a scenic viewing point. The heart-shaped lake is situated in Falam township of Chin state. The viewing station for Reed Lake was built at a cost of Ks1.5 million by the Bwarnae Company. Under the guidance of Reed Khaw Da Town Administrator, the construction of the scenic viewing station was done with labour contributed by officials from

various departments and ward administrators.

Situated between Chin and Indian mountain ranges near the Indo-Myanmar border, Reed Lake is 2,800 feet above sea level, has a 3-mile circumference and is about 60 feet deep. An attempt was made to drain the lake during the British colonial era, but, according to lore, all the workers died of a mysterious plague. The lake turns into a reddish color every December.—*Myanmar Alin*



The view point of Reed Lake.

Japan grants US\$71,543 for a flood affected school



Students posing for a group photo with their teachers and officials. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has granted US\$71,543 for the Project for Construction of Hta Naung Gone Village Basic Education Branch High School in Pwint Phyu Township, Magway Region.

This is the first handover ceremony for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 493 schools requested by the Myanmar Government to the Japanese Government.

The handover ceremony of

the project took place in Pwint Phyu Township on 8th November 2016. Mr. Hideaki MATSUO, Counselor of the Embassy of Japan, Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, Chief Minister of Magway Region, Committee Chairperson, committee members of the construction project, and local residents attended the ceremony.

Due to the lack of sufficient classrooms, students of Hta Naung Gone Village Basic Education Branch High School have been studying in congested classrooms for years and often have been disturbed by noise

caused in classrooms. Furthermore, the flood occurred in July 2015 caused serious damages to the school Building 2, which nearly collapsed and was in dangerous condition for the students to study.

To address these challenges, the Japanese Government, under its GGP scheme, provided funding for construction of a 120'x30' one-storey R.C.C building with full furniture.

The project will benefit 728 students of the school and promote disaster prevention in the area.—*GNLM*

Second round of national drug policy consultations completed in Myanmar

THE second round of inter-agency consultations on a new national drug policy have concluded this week in Nay Pyi Taw. The consultations come on the back of high-level discussions between the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in late June on strengthening Myanmar's response to the production, trafficking and use of illicit drugs, and a subsequent first round that took place in mid-October.

The sessions—a third round is planned between 21 and 28 November—have been organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Myanmar Police Force (MPF) Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and UNODC, focusing on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement and supply reduction, alternative development, and new and cross cutting challenges.

As MPF Brigadier-General Kyaw Win, Commander of the Drug Enforcement Division and Joint Secretary of CCDAC, stated during the first round of consultations, Myanmar drug control policy has “traditionally focused on supply reduction and law enforcement, which has led to limited results”. A comprehensive national drug control policy that is fit for the times is urgently required, not only because of the limited results of the previous policy, but because the challenges Myanmar is current-

ly facing are significant, including areas of high and potentially rising opium poppy cultivation and heroin production, increases in methamphetamine production and trafficking, cross-border precursor chemical trafficking, and increasing drug use and associated harms.

In addition to the five thematic areas being prioritized, the Government of Myanmar is also emphasizing cooperation with neighbouring countries of the region to deal with the transnational nature of organized drug crime, and the significant two-way trade of precursors being trafficked into the country, and drugs being trafficked out. The priority for regional cooperation that the policy will align with will be the Mekong MOU on Drug Control, supplemented by cooperation with ASEAN, China and India.

Drug policy is not an isolated field. The Government of Myanmar has signaled that the coming national drug policy will address cross-cutting issues including public health, human rights and the needs of women and children, and it will also contribute to sustainable development. The approach taken by the Government of Myanmar with the support of UNODC is also intended to contribute to several of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs. Olivier Lermet, Regional Advisor on Drugs and Health and HIV/AIDS, emphasized during



Police Colonel Zaw Lin Tun briefs media on the need for a balanced drug policy. PHOTO: UNODC

the discussions, “different aspects of the policy need to be looked at together, and implementation will require engagement of many parts of the Government of Myanmar including those more traditionally aligned with social and economic development plans. While the Myanmar Police Force will maintain a leadership role, it will mean a much greater role for health and local authorities.” Mr. Lermet further emphasized that the coming update of the 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law in 2017 will complement the new policy.

Aside from organizing the three rounds of consultation rounds, the Government of Myanmar and UNODC will partner to undertake a national drug use

survey in 2017 to better understand the nature and extent of drug use and associated health risks and harms.

The combination of drug policy and law reform, and ongoing alternative development work in Shan State, regional cooperation, the introduction of community based drug treatment and harm reduction standards and services, and a first ever national drug use survey, will contribute to a renewed approach to managing the drug situation. Ultimately the intention is to reduce illicit drug production and transnational trafficking, while alleviating social problems and improving the health of people and communities across the country.—*UNODC*

Crime NEWS

Two vehicles hit road-dividers on highway

NO one was injured in separate accidents as two vehicles hit the road-dividers on Yangon-Mandalay highway on the morning of 11th November. A Mitsubishi Canter driven by Nyi Nyi Tun en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon hit the road-divider as the driver was sleepy. The accident took place between mileposts 79/0 and 79/1 near Myo Chaung Highway Police Station. Two persons on board the Carter were not injured but the damage of the vehicle amounts to Ks 7 lakh. The reckless driver has been charged by Myo Chaung Highway Police under Section 279 of the Penal Code.

An hour later, a light truck en route from Yangon to Mandalay collided with the concrete electric lamp post on road side only to hit and stay on the road-divider as the car slipped because of the rain. The accident happened between mileposts 242/6 and 242/7 near Pay Pin Lay Highway Police Station. Five persons on board the truck were not injured. The truck was damaged amounts to Ks 3 lakh. The reckless driver has been charged by local police under Section 279 of the Penal Code.—*Than Oo (Laymyethnar)*

LOCAL Business

Price of millet increases by Ks5,000 per bag

Aung Thant Khaing

ALTHOUGH price of maize seed continues to decline in local market, the export price of millet has increased by Ks5,000 per bag these days, merchants from Mandalay say.

The demand for millet, which is used to make alcoholic beverage, from China has steadily risen starting from earlier this month. The price went up to Ks23,000 this month from Ks18,000 per bag, which can hold approximately 10.8 lb, in October.

Currently, the demand is exceeding supply because of low production this season, said U Soe Win Myint, a local merchant, clarifying that unexpected weather condition destroyed some parts of maize plantations this year.

That is why price of millet has increased by Ks3,000 compared to the same period last year, when growers received at most around Ks20,000 per bag, he added.

Millet, one of many diverse crops grown in Myanmar, has been cultivated mostly in central arid regions including Monywa, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Wundwin, Myingyan and Taungtha townships.

Growers prefer the millet than other crops as they spend only a low amount on agriculture costs for millet plantation.

Millet is a good source of some very important nutrients, including copper, manganese, phosphorus, and magnesium. The crop is being used for alternative applications such as livestock fodder and alcohol production.

Approved Standard Prices for Real Estate In Mandalay Released Officially

Aung Thant Khaing

According to U Tin Htwe, assistant director of Internal Revenue Department, Mandalay Region, IRD approved the standard prices for real estate market in Mandalay Region on November 1, showing 10% drop compared to that of previous rates.

He added, "In answer to the submission to the Mandalay Region Cabinet, the standard prices for real estate were reduced like this for the benefit of the public."

With the help of township administrators, IRD made list of basic prices of real estate in wards and villages be compiled and following 3-time-meeting, it was submitted to the Region Cabinet. It is learnt that tax-pay-

ers are required to have their possession registered in the registration offices and to testify their belongings in the presence of respective revenue officers.

Under the prescription of the law, 30% taxes are levied on income from undisclosed sources and capital gains. According to the standard prices, only 15% are to be paid as tax.

Under section 22 of Union Tax and Revenue Law, in buying real estate such as land plot, 15% tax must be imposed upon K 1 to K 300 lakhs in value, 20% tax upon K 300 lakhs above to K 1000 lakhs and 30% tax on K 1000 lakhs above, it is learnt.

Previous income tax rates were 3% tax on Kyats 1000 lakhs, 5% upon K 5000 lakhs and 10% tax on K 10000 Lakhs.



The photo shows aerial view of Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHING

Trade deficit reaches nearly \$2 billion this FY



A truck runs in Muse Township, northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

THE total trade value between Myanmar and its trade partners from April to the beginning of this month has reached over US\$15 billion while the country has racked up almost \$2 billion trade deficit, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April and 4 November this year, the external trade value hit over \$15.5 billion, including over \$6.79 billion from export sector and \$8.78 billion from import sector resulting in a trade deficit of over \$1.9 billion.

This year's trade value has

decreased by \$140.15 million when compared to the same period last year, according to the ministry. The country had a trade deficit of \$2.987 billion over the same period last fiscal year.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, fisheries products, mining products, forest products and industrial goods.

The country normally imports industrial raw materials, personal goods, construction equipment, automobiles and capital goods etc mainly from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germa-

ny, France and Hong Kong.

According to the second five-year National Development Plan from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021 FY, efforts are being made by the ministry to promote the country's export sector by shipping new valued-added products from manufacturing sector within the next five years.

It is estimated that the country's trade deficit is likely to hit over \$3 billion this FY, with the ministry planning to reduce the trade deficit by reducing the import of luxury goods.—*Khine Khant*

Cross-border gates to upgrade beyond 2018

THE MINISTRY of Commerce plans to upgrade trade facilities at cross-border gates beyond 2018 to meet ASEAN standard, which is vital to promoting trade relations with its neighbours, a spokesperson of the ministry revealed.

Border trade plays an important role in developing the country's economy. This is the reason why the ministry plans to implement the project to improve all border gates to regional level

trade zones through three phases.

In phase one, the staff assigned at the border gates will be promoted to a higher position with a good salary.

Secondly, the ministry will improve technology relating to checking services. The new technology will include an alarming system which will help inspectors uncover the illegal transport of restricted goods through border.

The third phase will benefit

both the traders and the authorities to ensure swift and smooth flow of commodities through one stop service counters.

According to the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the import earnings from border gates reached over US\$1.4 billion between April and September. The country exported over US\$2 billion worth commodities to neighbouring countries through border trade camps over the past six months.—200

Temporary license for refining oil to issue starting Nov

TEMPORARY license for oil refining business is planned to be issued starting this month by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, according to a new announcement released by the license provider on November 10.

The ministry announced that the temporary license will be granted to those oil refining business operators between 16 November this year and 31 March next year in line with the existing rules and regulations.

The license applicants have

to collect crude oil raw materials from the registered firm producing the crude oil from hand wells, said Daw Nila Oo from the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE).

The applicant must describe the volume of crude oil and the target region in which the crude oil will be collected. The rule is that the target region must not be in a forest area as well as on a farmland, she added.

According to the existing rules, an oil refinery shall have a production capacity of at least

1,000 gallons and at most 3,000 gallons per day. The refinery shall be located at least one mile away from the hand wells.

The applicants have to submit the detailed plans including the layout plan and the category of target petroleum.

According to the official figures collected by the state and region governments, a total of 237 businesspersons have been operating oil refining business across the country.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Japan now paying 'enough' for hosting US forces: defence minister

TOKYO — Japan is now paying “enough” for the cost of stationing US forces in the country, Defence Minister Tomomi Inada said on Friday, though she was silent on how the government would respond if the next US administration led by Donald Trump demands an increase in Japan's budget.

“I believe it is enough. We are bearing the costs of what we ought to pay at present,” Inada told a press conference, referring to the nearly 200 billion yen (\$1.9 billion) in so-called host-nation support paid every year.

Attention is growing in Japan to how the Japan-US alliance may be influenced under the presidency of Trump, who has called for Japan and other US allies to pay more toward the cost of stationing US forces there and even threatened to pull troops out of the countries unless

they do so.

Asked by a reporter whether Japan will reject any US requests to increase the host-nation support, Inada said, “I'm not in a position to answer a hypothetical question.”

The defence minister, meanwhile, highlighted the significance of the US forces stationed in Japan amid the tough regional security environment.

“The Japan-US alliance is the linchpin of our country's security and the US military presence in our country is important not only for our defence but also for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region,” she said.

The host-nation support, which began in fiscal 1978, covers various expenses such as salaries for workers and utilities at US military facilities and is shouldered voluntarily by Japan. —Kyodo News

Strong Japan-India ties can help stabilise the world, says Modi

TOKYO — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday praised the “growing convergence” of views between his nation and Japan, saying strong ties will enable them to play a stabilising role in Asia.

Modi is in Japan to sign a landmark nuclear energy pact and strengthen ties as China's regional influence grows and Donald Trump's election has thrown US policies across Asia into doubt.

India, Japan and the United States have been building security ties by holding three-way naval exercises, but Trump's “America First” campaign promise has stirred concern about a reduced US engagement in the region — an approach that could draw Modi and Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe closer.

Modi told Japanese business leaders that the 21st century is Asia's cen-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) talks with Japan's Emperor Akihito during a meeting at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tury, urging them to invest in India.

“The growing convergence of views between Japan and India and our special strategic and global partnership have the capacity to drive the regional economy and development, and stimulate global growth,” he said.

“Strong India and strong Japan will not only enrich our two nations, it will also be a stabilis-

ing factor in Asia and the world.”

The nuclear agreement, which Modi and Abe are set to sign later in the day, follows a similar one with the United States in 2008 which gave India access to nuclear technology after decades of isolation, a step seen as the first big move to build India into a regional counterweight to China.

The Yomiuri newspa-

per said the main accord will likely be accompanied by a separate document stipulating that Japan, the only country to have suffered a nuclear attack, will suspend nuclear cooperation if India conducts a nuclear test. Initially, Japan wanted that inserted into the agreement itself, but India resisted, it said.

India has declared a moratorium on such testing since its last explosions in 1998.

The two countries have also been trying to close a deal on the supply of amphibious rescue aircraft US-2 to the Indian navy, which would be one of Japan's first sales of military equipment since Abe lifted a 50-year ban on arms exports.

India's Defence Acquisitions Council met earlier this week to consider the purchase of 12 of the planes made by ShinMaywa Industries, but failed to reach a decision.—Reuters

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Thailand's crown prince returns from abroad for official duties: sources



Thailand's Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn attends an event commemorating the death of King Chulalongkorn, known as King Rama V, as he joins people during the mourning of his father, the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, at the Royal Plaza in Bangkok, Thailand, on 23 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Thailand's Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn returned to Bangkok on Friday, just weeks before he is due to ascend the throne, four senior military sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Fresh questions about the succession arose when the prince flew to Germa-

ny last month to attend to personal business.

Thailand is making preparations for the prince to ascend the throne on 1 December, though a formal coronation will be at least one year from now.

The country has been without a monarch since revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej died on 13 Oc-

tober and has been ruled by regent Prem Tinsulanonda, the 96-year-old former head of the royal advisory council.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said last month that the prince had asked to delay his ascension to the throne while he mourns his father.

“His Highness has

arrived back in Thailand from Germany and will attend an event this evening at the 1st Infantry Regiment, King's Own Guards. This is confirmed,” said a senior military source who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The prince's return to Thailand, will likely ease any concerns about the succession, said Bangkok-based lecturer and analyst Gotham Arya.

“His return will likely stop any lingering rumours that the ascension process, when it happens, will not proceed smoothly,” he told Reuters.

The prince has spent much of his adult life abroad, and has a home in Germany where his son, Prince Dipangkorn, is enrolled at a private school.

Thailand's military government submitted a new constitution for royal endorsement on Tuesday. Prayuth Chan-ocha has said that only the new monarch can approve the charter.

By law, the monarch or regent, has 90 days to approve the constitution after it is submitted.—Reuters

Philippine leader says honouring defence pacts with 'friends' US



President Rodrigo Duterte speaks during a gathering of businessmen in Pasay city, Metro Manila, Philippines, on 13 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Friday he would respect defence treaties with “friends” and “ally” the United States, but still wanted foreign troops to leave his country by the end of his term.

Duterte spared the United States one of his trademark verbal lashings and took a more conciliatory tone than usual, although he hinted at revoking the 2014 Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) that gives US troops rotational access to Philippine bases.

“We are friends, with an ally, we have a military pact that would bind us,” he told a pre-dawn news conference upon his return from a visit to Malaysia.

“We will maintain our co-operation ... and respect is there,

and in all matters between the two countries, especially the treaties we signed with them, so many agreements, we will honour all of these things.”

Duterte has been strongly against, at times furious about, dependence on the former colonial power and has called for the scrapping of dozens of joint exercises.

He said the Philippines did not need the exercises and by the end of his six-year term he wanted no foreign soldiers in his country.

“We do not need any foreigners to train Filipino troops. By themselves they are warriors,” he added. He also said he would be turning to other countries for defence procurements, like China, Israel, Japan and Russia, because US “gadgets” were expensive.

Duterte, who is often dubbed

“Trump of the East” due to his fierce rhetoric and outrageous comments, was asked by a reporter if he thought the Donald Trump comparison was accurate.

“I am just a small molecule on this planet, he is now president of the most powerful country in the world. I am just a president struggling barely just above the water,” he responded.

“No I don’t think so, what we share in common maybe is the passion to serve.”

A change at the White House would not affect his decision to build closer alliances with countries beyond the United States, like China and in Southeast Asia, he said.

“I will pursue what I started, I’m not into habit of reneging on my work,” he said. —Reuters

Malaysia again rebuffs Swiss request for help in 1MDB probe

ZURICH — Malaysia has again rebuffed Switzerland’s request for legal assistance in probing suspected corruption linked to scandal-hit state fund 1MDB, the Swiss attorney general’s office said on Friday.

But it said Kuala Lumpur’s decision would not hinder the Swiss probe as it works with other countries on the case.

“We respect Malaysia’s independent decision on this matter. However, the Malaysian authorities remain free to use the information provided in Switzerland’s requests for assistance in their own investigations,” Attorney General Michael Lauber said, confirming a report by the *Financial Times*.

“What is certain is that our own criminal proceedings, which are about maintaining the integrity of the Swiss financial system, will continue. We will ask other

jurisdictions for support — for example Singapore, with which we have worked very well, other European jurisdictions and the US”

The FT cited the Malaysian attorney-general’s chambers as saying it was unable to accede to Switzerland’s requests because of a continuing criminal investigation by Malaysian police in relation to matters concerning 1MDB. Malaysia was committed to co-operating with international partners and there was “no issue of Malaysia blocking the Swiss criminal inquiry”, it added, according to *the FT*.

A source familiar with the discussions told Reuters that while Swiss officials publicly allude to expectations that Malaysia will cooperate, privately the Malaysians have demanded that the Swiss drop their investigation.—Reuters

Thailand cancels, adjusts flights ahead of lantern festival

BANGKOK — Dozens of flights to northern Thailand will be canceled or rescheduled when the country celebrates its annual Floating Lantern festival next week, airport officials said on Friday.

Chiang Mai International Airport, the main airport in northern Thailand — a destination popular with foreign tourists — said some flights would be canceled between 12 November and 16 November as floating lanterns released during the festival could affect safety.

The Floating Lantern festival is celebrated at the end of the so-called “rainy season” when paper lanterns are launched into the air to coincide with a full moon.

In recent years, authorities

have asked revelers to refrain from launching the lanterns because they pose a fire risk. In 2015, a Bangkok Airways flight was canceled after a lantern was sucked into the plane’s engine.

The government has asked that activities held during the festival be scaled back this year as a sign of respect for revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died on 13 October.

Thailand is officially in a one-year period of mourning for the late monarch.

National carrier Thai Airways International said in a note on Thursday that it would cancel some roundtrip flights from the Thai capital Bangkok to Chiang Mai, adding that it would adjust its flight schedule and increase flights to compensate.—Reuters

Smog lifts, but companies’ view of polluted Delhi skies is dim

NEW DELHI — As New Delhi grappled with its worst smog in 17 years, the head of India’s largest mobile payment firm got on a plane and left, one of thousands of professionals escaping pollution that could cost the capital and the broader economy dear.

Vijay Shekhar Sharma, founder of PayTM payment start-up, left last Sunday for a temporary stay in Mumbai, worried about the impact of hazardous clouds of dust, smoke and fumes that hang over Delhi during the winter months.

“It became very visibly clear that it is going to be tough in Delhi, especially with young kids,” Sharma said in Mumbai.

“We were worried that it could create long-term (health) problems.”

His company, which has considered moving from its base outside Delhi, has installed air purifiers, brought in plants and masks and offered extra health assistance.

Telecoms operator Idea Cel-

lular and others have allowed more employees to work at home, and hired buses so that car traffic is reduced — all at their own expense.

A few companies are thriving from the heavy smog hanging over the city earlier this month — providers of face masks and air purifiers have seen sales soar.

But others, like the car manufacturers, are in the firing line of local and national politicians who want to reduce the deadly haze, while estate agents and tour operators have complained of a slowdown in business.

Delhi, home to around 17 million people, is among the fastest growing states in India. Its \$84 billion economy has been expanding at more than 8 per cent for the past two years, faster than a 7.4 per cent national average.

Its air quality, meanwhile, has deteriorated, even by the standards of a country with some of the world’s most polluted cities. Conditions had improved by Fri-

day, but the problem is perennial and has been particularly acute this winter. Companies have yet to tot up the cost of a week of coughing, spluttering and watering eyes, but local industry lobby group Assocham estimates “several billions of dollars” of new investments are under threat.

A study by the World Bank shows Asia’s third-largest economy lost 8.5 per cent of its GDP in 2013 due to air pollution.

Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), a global real estate services firm serving large corporates, said some clients were reconsidering Delhi as a base, as costs of working there rise. “This is increasing their operational costs as they are being made to spend more to provide a healthy workplace to their employees,” said Santosh Kumar, a senior executive at the firm.

Delhi’s image is deteriorating more widely, a headache for tour promoters and a government tout-ing “Brand India”.—Reuters



Traffic drives through smog in Delhi, India, on 7 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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Bandwagon, transfer, testimonial and card stacking propaganda

Khin Maung Aye

THE use of propaganda has come into existence during the First World War along with the advent of modern media outlets. Propaganda – spreading ideas, information or rumours for a politically motivated objective – was refined into an art. Mr Edward Filene helped establish in 1937 the Institute of Propaganda Analysis, the goal of which was to help educate the American people as well as to understand the techniques by which propaganda is spread. Filene and his fellow researchers have identified the seven techniques for the propagandists to employ in fulfilling their objectives be

they political or economic, social or educational.

One technique known as name calling involves application of negative or discriminatory words. The propagandists use such words to incite people into suspicion and prejudice. The objective is to cause a general dissatisfaction for a group of people. This technique is frequently employed in ridiculing cartoons or writing.

Another technique is use of slogans or simple catchphrases. Propagandists use slogans to make generalized statements which attract their audience. Generally, such statements include the notions of love, honour,

glory, peace, family values, freedom, patriotism – anything general enough to inspire pride.

Another famous technique is called transfer. A transfer links a reversed symbol with an idea that is wanted to promote. A testimonial makes an association between a respected or authoritative person and the cause. The expectation is that the respected person can impose his ideas upon other people. It is, in fact, something like an endorsement by a celebrity of a product. There is also a technique called the plain folks, the objective of which is to make the audience convinced that the spokesman is

like them and shares their woes and concerns. Application of plain language and mannerisms can build trust by his followers. The sixth technique is known as bandwagon. In truth, this technique capitalizes on the human drive to be part of a crowd, a member of the winning team. The propagandists, creating the illusion that there exists the widespread support, expect those sitting on the fence to join the cause. Last but not the least, the card stacking technique involves mere use of those facts that support their ideas. By stacking cards against the truth, the propagandists can control the beliefs of their audience.

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

DR Poonam Khetrpal Singh

The future livelihoods of tobacco farmers matter. Seeking out and securing market-based alternatives is of vital importance.

SUPPORTING tobacco farmers find alternative livelihoods is both necessary and proper. As demand for tobacco products among wealthier countries declines, and as measures to roll-back tobacco consumption in the developing world take effect, farming communities must have the tools needed to secure their future.

This is especially so in the WHO South-East Asia Region. Ten of the Region's 11 countries are Parties to WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Each one of them is taking meaningful, evidence-based steps to slash tobacco consumption and demand, which at present kills around 1.3 million people in the Region every year. And each one of them is looking for ways to shore-up the economy, avoid tobacco-related costs and fast-track development in an age of unrivalled opportunity.

Though it is true that tobacco farming accounts for a negligible percentage of GDP in the Region's tobacco-growing countries, and though it is also true that tobacco farming is a driver of biodiversity loss and the depletion of soil nutrients, the concerns of tobacco farmers themselves are important. Their future livelihoods matter.

As outlined in Article 17 of the FCTC, economic viability must be at the very core of efforts to find alternative livelihoods and plan for a tobacco-free world. While promoting such alternatives will help tobacco farmers diversify their income as demand for tobacco ebbs, it may also alert them to more lucrative crops or other livelihood options before this happens. Not only would this leave them better off financially, but it would also free them of the onerous, anti-market contracts so beloved of tobacco oligarchs.

To make this happen, governments and local authorities can take a number of proactive steps.

First, appropriate research on market opportunities should be pursued. This research should take into account the many variables that affect a community's ability to prosper, including the natural, human, physical and financial capital that a community can access, as well as the market linkages they are able to tap in to. Through the production and dissemination of high-quality information, tobacco farmers can make decisions that harness market forces to their advantage and best reflect their interests.

Second, adequate human, material and financial resources



should be made available. This includes providing training that gives the skills needed for tobacco farmers to diversify their crops and income, while also emphasizing tobacco's harmful environmental and health outcomes for consumers and

farmers alike. Authorities should consider creating incentives for promoting, supporting or shifting to alternate livelihoods, including by facilitating access to rural credit, crop and income insurance, and infrastructure and services among other possibilities.

Third, obstacles to crop diversification should be mitigated or removed. Where appropriate, this could include addressing key concerns that prevent farmers leaving tobacco cultivation, such as tobacco-related debts. Despite a farmer's best intentions, excessive debts written in to supply contracts often leave them tied to tobacco farming, limiting their ability to diversify their income and creating a vicious circle of indebtedness and poverty. Government programs must meet and overcome such challenges.

Finally, industry strategies to promote tobacco farming must be identified and regulated. Policies should be developed to protect tobacco growers and workers from industry practices that fix prices or create conditions that are disadvantageous. This means raising awareness among tobacco farmers so that they can increase their autonomy, as well as creating a network of civil society organizations able to monitor industry malpractice. It also means creating government mechanisms that can do the same, only with the full weight of the law.

By discussing these and other initiatives at the COP7 meeting in New Delhi this week, health authorities and governments across the South-East Asia Region – and indeed the world – will explore how best they can support tobacco farmers as demand-targeted initiatives make their mark.

Though this is already happening in several countries in the Region, there is scope for assistance to be scaled up. WHO is pleased to facilitate this process and emphasizes the ongoing

need to work with tobacco-growing communities while circumventing the vested interests of the tobacco industry. No matter the half-truths circulated, a tobacco-free world is one of opportunity rather than loss.

This point deserves emphasis. Through the FCTC countries across the globe have gained the legal and technical support they need to resist Big Tobacco's incursions. They are now making the changes needed to support healthier populations and to lower the social and economic burden of tobacco-related illness and death. Alongside the clear benefits these changes bring, they also provide opportunities for present-day tobacco farmers to diversify their income and breakout from an industry in terminal decline. The notion that a tobacco-free world should come at their expense is an untruth. And it is an untruth that is cynical in the extreme.

Trump praises protesters' 'passion' after calling them 'unfair'



Students hold a sit-in strike in front of City Hall protesting the election of Republican Donald Trump as President of the United States in San Francisco, California, US, on 10 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK — US President-elect Donald Trump on Friday praised demonstrators for being passionate about their country, just hours after he accused them of being “professional protesters” incited by the media.

“Love the fact that the small groups of protesters last night have passion for our great country. We will all come together and be proud!” Trump tweeted early on Friday.

On Thursday night, the president-elect had posted: “Just had a very open and successful presidential election. Now professional protesters, incited by the media, are protesting. Very unfair!”

Mostly peaceful and orderly protests took place in at least eight cities following the Republican businessman’s defeat of Democrat Hillary Clinton in Tuesday’s election. Demonstrators have voiced concern Trump would harm Americans’ civil rights.

Trump’s critics worry that his often-inflammatory campaign rhetoric about immigrants, Muslims, women and others — combined with support from the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists — could spark a wave of intolerance against minorities.

East Coast protests took place on Thursday in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, while on the West Coast, demonstrators rallied in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Oakland in California, and Portland, Oregon.

After Clinton conceded defeat early on Wednesday, Trump took a far more conciliatory tone than he had often displayed during his campaign, promising to be a president for all Americans.

His campaign rejected a Klan newspaper endorsement days before the election, saying Trump “denounces hate in any form.”

But civil rights groups and police reported an uptick in attacks on minority groups, some by people claiming to support Trump.

More anti-Trump demonstrations were planned for the weekend. Trump takes office on 20 January, succeeding President Barack Obama. Thursday’s gatherings were generally smaller in scale and less intense than Wednesday’s, and teenagers and young adults again dominated the racially mixed crowds. Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus on Friday acknowledged the tight race with

Clinton, but said anti-Trump protesters had to accept the election results. He pointed to Trump’s call for unity and meeting with Obama and Republican leaders as reasons for reassurance.

“Everyone needs to just take a deep breath, take the weekend ... count our blessings, and let’s come back on Monday,” Priebus said. Police set up security barricades around two Trump marquee properties that have become focal points of protests — his newly opened Pennsylvania Avenue hotel near the White House and the high-rise Trump Tower in Manhattan, where he lives.

About 100 protesters marched from the White House, where Trump had his first transition meeting with Obama on Thursday, to the new Trump International Hotel several blocks away.

At least 200 people rallied there after dark, many chanting, “No hate! No fear! Immigrants are welcome here!” and carrying signs with such slogans as “Impeach Trump” and “Not my president.”

“I can’t support someone who supports so much bigotry and hatred. It’s heart-breaking,” said Joe Daniels, 25, of suburban Alexandria, Virginia.—*Reuters*

German defence minister says Trump can’t treat NATO like a business

BERLIN — US president-elect Donald Trump needs to clarify his views on Russia, and to understand that NATO must be treated as an alliance of shared values rather than a business, Germany’s defence minister said.

“What his advisors will hopefully tell him and what he needs to learn is that NATO isn’t just a business. It’s not a company,” Ursula von der Leyen told a ZDF talk show on Thursday. “I don’t know how he values NATO.”

During his election campaign, Trump threatened to abandon US allies in Europe if they do not spend enough on defence.

“You can’t say ‘the past doesn’t matter, the values we share don’t matter’ but instead try to get as much money out of it (NATO) as possible and whether I can get a good deal out of it,” she said.

Von der Leyen advised Trump against getting too close to Russian President Vladimir Pu-

tin, noting that NATO had stood by the United States after the 9/11 attacks.

“Donald Trump has to say clearly on which side he is. Whether he’s on the side of the law, peace and democracy or whether he doesn’t care about all that and instead he’s looking for a best buddy (with Putin),” she said.

Trump has expressed admiration for Putin, condemned by the West for his actions in Ukraine.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asked about Trump, Pope says his concern is for politicians’ impact on the poor

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis declined to give a personal judgment on US President-elect Donald Trump in an interview on Friday, saying he was interested only in the impact of politicians’ choices on the poor.

Asked what he thought of the real estate mogul who won Tuesday’s US presidential election, the Argentine pontiff was quoted in Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* as saying: “I do not make judgments on people and political men, I only want to understand what suffering their behavior causes to the poor and the excluded.” Francis went on to say that his greatest concern at the moment is for refugees and migrants, declaring: “We must knock down the walls that divide.”—*Reuters*

World Bank to support Viet Nam in building five water-supply plants

HANOI — The World Bank (WB) will help Vietnam build five water-supply plants, according to Viet Nam’s Ministry of Construction (MoC) on Friday.

Nguyen Hong Tien, head of the MoC’s Department of Technical Infrastructure was quoted by Viet Nam’s state-run news agency VNA as saying that the ministry is coordinating with agencies and the WB to study building water-supply plants for the Mekong Delta region. Statistics showed about 250,000 households in Viet Nam’s Mekong Delta face shortages of water for daily use.

Five plants are expected to be built with a total capital of 1.3-1.7 billion US dollars in three stages, said Tien, adding that capital for the first phase from 2017-2023 is estimated at 440 million US dollars.—*Xinhua*

Gunmen kidnap five Vietnamese crew in Philippines: authorities

MANILA — At least 10 gunmen on Friday abducted five Vietnamese crew of a foreign vessel off Basilan province in the southern Philippines. The Philippine coast guard reported that armed men seajacked a Vietnamese vessel, MV Royale 16, around 7 am Friday near Sibago Island in the Basilan Strait, a strait of water separating the islands of Mindanao and Basilan province.

Maj. Filemon Tan said in a statement that the coast guard had immediately reported the incident to the military. “Sea and naval assets already deployed to search and rescue the kidnap victims,” he said.—*Xinhua*

Six killed as a ten-storey building collapses in western Kenya

KISII, (Kenya) — At least six people have been confirmed dead while 44 others have been rescued alive after a 10-storey building that was under construction collapsed on Thursday in Kisii town in Western Kenya, officials said on Friday. Pius Masai, the deputy director at the National Disaster Management Unit, said rescue operations were still ongoing on Friday with people believed to be trapped under the rubble. “Search and rescue operations are ongoing. We are appealing to people with cutters, drillers to bring and support as more rescue have been sought from Nairobi,” Masai said.

He said many people are suspected to have been trapped inside the building which has been condemned by the National Construction Authority (NCA) which had approved a three-storey building, but the developer went ahead and added seven more floors.—*Xinhua*

Japan executes 17th inmate in 4 years under Abe government

TOKYO — Japan executed a death row inmate Friday, the Justice Ministry said in announcing the 17th execution in about four years since the current government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was inaugurated in December 2012. The ministry said Kenichi Tajiri, 45, was hanged for murdering two women in Kumamoto Prefecture. This was the first execution ordered by Justice Minister Katsutoshi Kaneda since he assumed his post in August.

The latest execution is the second involving an inmate who was sentenced to death in a lay judge trial. Japan’s lay judge system, in which three professional and six lay judges hear a case, began in 2009. The justice minister said in an interview shortly after he took office that the issue of the death penalty needs to be handled carefully since it is an extremely serious penalty that involves the taking of human life, while also noting that court judgments must be strictly carried out in a nation governed by law.—*Kyodo News*

Museum to Yasser Arafat offers facts, leaves open questions

RAMALLAH — The battle for Palestinian statehood consumed Yasser Arafat's life and a new museum in his name puts the nature of that fight front and centre — the sub-machine gun on his desk, the AK-47 assault rifle in the corner, the pistol at his side.

Twelve years after his death in Paris at the age of 75, the Yasser Arafat Museum opened its doors in Ramallah on Thursday, attempting to flesh out some of the facts behind a divisive figure who remains something of an enigma long after his demise.

Arranged along four corridors over two floors, the museum takes visitors through a potted history of the Palestinian libera-

tion movement: the exile in Tunisia and Lebanon, the return to the West Bank, the shared Nobel Peace Prize in 1994, and the violent first and second uprisings against Israel.

The corridors lead to the inner sanctum of Arafat's besieged life in the Muqata, the Palestinian headquarters in Ramallah, where he was holed up for nearly three years in a pokey bedroom. Arafat's body is now buried in the Muqata compound.

While revered by many Palestinians, Arafat was a thorn in the side of several Arab states and a ruthless killer in the eyes of Israelis. The museum largely lauds his legacy, while spending

little time on those who stood by and with him, including his wife, Suha, and his successor, Mahmoud Abbas.

Hanging in the simple wardrobe next to the single bed in his hideout are his khaki military jackets and a pile of black-and-white keffiyehs, the chequered scarves he nearly always wore and which remain a symbol of resistance for Palestinians. On the desk in his office, a pile of papers held down by a submachine gun, a copy of the Koran, and in a guards' room an AK-47 leaning against the wall. In a separate display case, the ornate revolver he often wore in a holster on his hip.

The museum begins at the

start of the 20th century and charts the rise of Palestinian nationalism, the struggle for international recognition, the confrontation with Zionism and with Israel after the state's founding in 1948.

Archival photos and videos mark high and low points: handshakes with then-US President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak; bulldozers knocking down parts of the Muqata, which Arafat barely left during an Israeli siege from 2002-2004; a landmark 1974 address to the UN General Assembly.

Palestinian attacks, including the killing of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics, the hijacking of airplanes through-

out the 1970s and deadly suicide bombings during the second intifada (uprising), are covered in a purely factual way.

Yet while lots of background and history are provided, several elements of Arafat's life remain a conundrum. The museum relates that Arafat was born in the Old City of Jerusalem on 4 August, 1929, and was later taken to Cairo. But historians say the evidence suggests he was born in Cairo and brought to Jerusalem at the age of four, when his mother died.

Others believe he was born in Gaza, the Palestinian territory on the Mediterranean coast. —Reuters

Taliban claim deadly attack on German consulate in Afghan city



Afghan security forces and NATO troops arrive at the site of explosion near the German consulate office in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, on 11 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MAZAR-I-SHARIF (Afghanistan) — A Taliban suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into a wall around the German consulate in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif late on Thursday, killing at least four civilians and wounding scores, officials said.

A NATO spokesman said the explosion had caused "massive damage" to the building, where around 30 people normally worked. Heavily armed attackers followed up the blast, battling with Afghan and German security forces late into the night.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in retaliation for NATO air strikes against a village near the northern city of Kunduz last week in which more than 30 people were killed.

The Islamist movement's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said by telephone that heavily armed fighters, including suicide bombers, had been sent "with a mission to destroy the German consulate general and kill whoever

they found there".

Noor Mohammad Faiz, the head doctor in Mazar-i-Sharif provincial hospital, said four dead bodies and 120 wounded had been brought to the hospital and that the numbers may rise.

The attack highlighted the security problems spreading across Afghanistan in recent months, with heavy fighting in areas from the volatile southern province of Helmand to Kunduz in the far north.

More than 30 people, many of them children, were killed last week when US aircraft carried out air strikes in support of Afghan and US special forces who came under attack during a raid against suspected Taliban militants threatening Kunduz.

Germany, which heads the NATO-led Resolute Support mission in northern Afghanistan, has about 850 soldiers at a base on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif, with another 1,000 troops coming from 20 partner countries.

A foreign ministry spokes-

man in Berlin said the attack was suppressed in the early hours of Friday by Afghan and German security personnel, as well as NATO special forces.

"All German employees of the Consulate General are safe and uninjured," he said. It was not yet known how many Afghan civilians and security personnel were killed or wounded, the spokesman said. The explosion occurred about an hour before midnight local time, a spokesman for the German military joint forces command in Potsdam said.

Witnesses reported sporadic gunfire from around the consulate and said the huge blast had shattered windows in a wide area around the compound.

"It was a prepared attack for which we made all arrangements," Mujahid said. "As per our plan, first a suicide bomber driving an explosives-laden vehicle rammed the main building of the consulate and that enabled other fighters to move in and kill all the foreigners there." —Reuters

Accused New York bomber faces charges in federal court

NEW YORK — The man accused of injuring more than two dozen people in September bomb attacks in New York and New Jersey made his first appearance in federal court on Thursday to face charges of using a weapon of mass destruction.

Ahmad Khan Rahimi, 28, did not enter a plea during a brief morning hearing. He was charged with injuring 30 people by setting off a homemade bomb on a crowded sidewalk in Manhattan's Chelsea neighbourhood on the night of Saturday, 17 September.

The attack came hours after federal prosecutors contend a pipe bomb planted by Rahimi went off along the course of a charity road race by the New Jersey shore, without injuring anyone. Prosecutors say he was driven by a radical jihadist ideology.

"The alleged Chelsea bomber was brought today to Manhattan to face terrorism charges," Preet Bharara, the US Attorney for the Southern District of New York said in a statement.

Using an alternate spelling for the suspect's name, he said: "For his alleged acts of terror, Rahimi will now face justice in a federal courthouse just blocks south of where he allegedly planted his bombs."

Rahimi sat quietly during the proceedings, dressed in beige prison clothing.

He was arrested two days after the bombing following a gunfight with police, who found him sleeping in the doorway of a bar in Linden, New Jersey.

His court-appointed attorney, David Patton, said Thursday he was concerned Rahimi would not receive adequate care for his wounds. The 28-year-old, Afghan-born naturalized US citizen "nearly lost the use of one of his hands," has an open wound and "is suffering from serious liver damage," Patton said.

He said he had raised these concerns with the jail where Rahimi will now be held, adding, "They gave a generic response they could handle it, but I'll be honest, I don't have great confidence." —Reuters

Terrorists use chemical weapons in Syria's Aleppo: Russian Defence Ministry

MOSCOW — Russia's Defence Ministry said Friday that it has discovered proof of terrorists using chemical weapons against civilians and the Syrian military in the southwestern outskirts of the Syrian city Aleppo.

"Experts of the Russian Defence Ministry have found unexploded artillery ammunition of the terrorists containing toxic substances," the ministry's spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.

An express test of the mu-

nitions, shell fragments and soil samples in a mobile laboratory revealed with a very high probability that the substances used were chlorine and white phosphorus, the statement said.

A profound analysis of the toxic substances found in Aleppo will be conducted in the laboratory of the Scientific Center of the Russian Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops, licensed by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), it added. —Xinhua



INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily
TG-2302	15:00	16:55	Daily
TG-306	19:45	21:40	Daily
PG-706	6:15	8:30	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily
PG-708	15:20	17:15	Daily
PG-708	18:20	20:15	3
PG-704	20:00	21:55	Daily
BM-335	7:40	9:25	Daily
BM-331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	15:10	19:20	1,3,5
UB-017	17:50	19:20	2,4,6,7
UB-019	8:05	9:35	7
UB-019	8:30	8:00	1,2,3,4,5,6

YGN TO DMK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily
FD-256	13:25	15:10	Daily
FD-254	17:30	19:05	Daily
FD-258	20:05	21:55	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:50	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:00	Daily
SL-207	20:05	21:45	Daily

YGN TO CAN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
BM-711	20:30	01:05+1	5
BM-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,7
CZ-3056	11:25	16:15	3,6
CZ-3056	17:30	22:35	1,5

YGN TO SIN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
BM-231	8:20	12:50	Daily
SQ-997	10:35	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6
MI-533	13:10	20:15	2
3K-584	18:15	23:50	2,5
3K-582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	Daily
UB-001	7:30	12:00	Daily

YGN TO NRT			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
NH-814	21:45	06:50+1	Daily

BANGKOK TO YANGON			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
TG-303	7:55	8:50	Daily
TG-2301	13:15	14:10	Daily
TG-305	17:50	18:45	Daily
PG-701	8:50	9:40	Daily
PG-707	13:45	14:35	Daily
PG-703	18:25	19:15	3
PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
BM-336	10:40	11:25	Daily
BM-332	19:15	20:00	Daily
UB-020	11:00	11:30	7
UB-018	20:20	20:50	Daily
UB-020	9:15	9:45	1,2,4,5,6

DMK TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-255	12:05	12:55	Daily
FD-253	16:20	17:00	Daily
FD-257	18:05	18:55	Daily
DD-4234	10:25	11:15	Daily
DD-4230	6:20	7:05	Daily
DD-4238	19:30	20:15	Daily
SL-200	9:05	10:00	Daily
SL-206	18:15	19:05	Daily

CAN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
BM-712	2:45	4:20	6
BM-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,7
CZ-3055	8:50	10:25	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:30	1,5

SIN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
BM-232	13:50	15:20	Daily
SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-522	11:00	12:20	4,6
MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,5
MI-533	11:00	12:20	2
3K-583	17:05	18:35	2,5
3K-581	8:55	10:25	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2822	7:20	8:45	Daily
UB-002	13:15	14:45	Daily

NRT TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
NH-813	11:00	15:40	Daily

YGN TO ICN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily

YGN TO KUL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily
AK-503	19:30	23:45	Daily
BM-501	7:50	11:50	1,3,5
MH-741	12:15	16:30	Daily
MH-743	15:45	20:05	1,4,6,7

YGN TO KMG			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
CA-416	12:15	15:45	Daily
MU-2032	15:20	18:40	2,4,5,6,7
MU-2012	12:25	18:40	3

YGN TO TPE			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
CI-7916	10:45	16:15	1,2,3,4,6

YGN TO PEK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	3,7

YGN TO HAN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:30	1,3,5,6,7

YGN TO SGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
VN-942	12:10	15:00	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
KA-251	1:10	5:45	1,2,3,4,6,7
KA-251	1:30	5:55	5
UB-8027	9:45	14:15	1,5,7

YGN TO DOH			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
QR-919	8:15	10:55	1,4,6

YGN TO CNX			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
PG-724	13:10	15:05	Daily

YGN TO DAC			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
BG-061	18:15	18:00	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
FD-245	12:45	15:00	Daily

ICN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
KE-471	18:45	22:25	Daily

KUL TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
AK-502	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-502	17:50	19:00	Daily
BM-502	12:50	13:50	1,3,5
MH-742	13:40	14:50	1,6,7
MH-740	10:05	11:15	Daily

KMG TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
CA-415	10:45	11:15	Daily
MU-2031	14:00	14:30	1
MU-2011	08:15	11:25	3
MU-2031	13:55	14:30	2,4,5,6,7

TPE TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:45	1,2,3,4,6

PEK TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	3,7

HAN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
VN-957	16:50	18:10	1,3,5,6,7

SGN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
VN-943	9:35	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

HKG TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
KA-250	21:45	23:30	1,2,3,5,6,7
KA-252	22:50	00:30+1	4
UB-8028	15:15	16:55	1,5,7

DOH TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
QR-918	20:40	6:25	3,5,6

CNX TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
PG-723	11:40	12:35	Daily

DAC TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
BG-060	12:45	15:30	1,3,6

DMK TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
FD-244	10:50	12:15	Daily

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE



AIRLINE CODES

8M = Myanmar Airways International	AK = Air Asia
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines	CA = Air China
MH = Malaysia Airlines	CZ = China Southern
MU = China Eastern Airlines	FD = Air Asia
NH = All Nippon Airways	KE = Korea Airlines
SQ = Singapore Airways	QR = Qatar Airways
PG = Bangkok Airways	TR = Tiger Airline
UB = Myanmar National Airlines	
VN = Vietnam Airline	
3K = Jet Star	
AI = Air India	
CI = China Airlines	
DD = Nok Airline	
KA = Dragonair	
MI = Silk Air	
TG = Thai Airways	

DAY		4 = Thursday
1 = Monday	5 = Friday	
2 = Tuesday	6 = Saturday	
3 = Wednesday	7 = Sunday	

MDL TO SIN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
MI-533	15:20	20:15	2
MI-522	13:40	20:15	2,6

MDL TO BKK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
PG-710	14:05	16:30	Daily

MDL TO KMG			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
MU-2030	14:05	16:45	Daily

NYT to BKK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
PG-722	20:25	22:35	2
PG-722	19:30	22:30	1,2,3,4,5,7

SIN TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
MI-522	11:00	12:50	2,6
MI-533	11:00	14:25	2

BKK TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily

KMG TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

BKK TO NYT			
Flight no.	Dep	Arr	Days
PG-721	18:25	19:35	2
PG-721	17:00	19:00	1,2,3,4,5,7

‘Mud Dragon’ fossil shows dinosaurs thrived on eve of destruction

WASHINGTON — In a humid, tropical jungle in southern China eons ago, a remarkably bird-like dinosaur with wing-like arms, a toothless beak and a dome-shaped crest atop its head became trapped in mud, struggled in vain to escape and died.

Workmen blasting bedrock while building a school near the city of Ganzhou unearthed a beautifully preserved fossil of the roughly 6.5-foot-long (2-meter-long) dinosaur, nicknamed the “Mud Dragon,” still in that contorted position, scientists said on Thursday.

The Cretaceous Period creature, called *Tongtianlong limosus*, lived 66 to 72 million years ago, at the twilight of the dinosaurs’ more than 160-million-year reign on Earth. It was a member of a group called oviraptorosaurs, one of the closest relatives to birds, which evolved earlier from small, feathered dinosaurs.

Paleontologist Steve Brusatte of Scotland’s University of Edinburgh, who worked on the study

published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, said the fossil adds to the understanding of dinosaur evolution on the eve of destruction.

The discovery of *Tongtianlong* and five other oviraptorosaur species in southern China showed this group was still blossoming and diversifying during the last few million years before an asteroid struck Earth about 66 million years ago, wiping out the dinosaurs, Brusatte said.

“The fact there were so many of them is a testament to just how well the dinosaurs were doing right up until the end,” Brusatte added

Brazil's Rousseff alleges President Temer received illegal funds

SAO PAULO — Lawyers for Brazil's former President Dilma Rousseff, impeached and removed from office in May, filed documents with a top electoral court Thursday which they said proved her former vice president and now-leader Michel Temer took a large bribe.

Brazil's top electoral court has for months investigated whether illegal funds were used in Rousseff's successful 2014 re-election campaign for the Workers Party (PT).

If the court rules that occurred, it could reverse her entire ticket's win. That would mean Temer, a member of the Brazilian

Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), would also be removed from office.

Fears that Rousseff's filing meant Brazil's sweeping anti-corruption investigations were creeping closer to Temer helped push Brazil's currency down as much as 5.7 per cent to 3.39, the weakest since late June, before ending at 3.385. The nation's benchmark Bovespa stock index fell 2.66 per cent to 61,578.

Temer's camp has asked the top electoral court to separately judge his and Rousseff's campaign donations, arguing that Rousseff, as head of the ticket, held all responsibility for any wrongdoing.



Brazil's former President Dilma Rousseff reacts during a news conference for foreign journalists at Alvorada Palace in Brasilia, Brazil, on 2 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The court has yet to indicate if it would judge the cases separately.

The Folha de S.Paulo newspaper reported in Sep-

tember that Otávio Azevedo, the former chief executive officer of construction firm Andrade Gutierrez, testified as part of a plea

bargain deal that he made a 1 million reais (\$297,150) bribe to Rousseff.

Azevedo, who was embroiled in a sweeping investigation probe of kickbacks at state-run oil company Petrobras, said he made the payment on 10 July, 2014.

Rousseff's lawyers handed over to the top electoral court copies of documents showing that Andrade Gutierrez transferred the 1 million reais (\$295,351) directly to the PMDB's general campaign finance fund.

They also presented a copy of a cheque for 1 million reais dated 10 July, 2014, that the PMDB finance fund deposited di-

rectly into Temer's personal campaign fund.

That, Dilma's lawyers said, proved that Azevedo lied when he told the top electoral court that he made a bribe to the PT — it actually went to Temer, proving that he received illegal funds and should be removed from office.

The PMDB said in a statement that the campaign donation from Andrade Gutierrez was legal and duly declared before the electoral court. It denied that it was a bribe. Alexandre Parola, a spokesman for Temer, reiterated the PMDB's argument and said Temer had done nothing wrong.—Reuters

Year-old Paris attack probe sights new suspect, but mastermind elusive

PARIS — French investigators believe they have identified a Belgian militant in Syria as a coordinator of the deadly Islamic State (IS) attack on Paris, but a year on they are still struggling to pinpoint the mastermind.

Just ahead of the 13 November anniversary of an assault that killed 130 people and injured hundreds, victims and relatives of the dead still seek answers. And the only living person believed to be part of the hit-team, now behind bars, refuses to talk.

A painstaking investigation led by an exceptionally large team of six judicial magistrates has inched forward in search of the "remote-controllers" - those who pulled the strings from abroad, at IS bases in Iraq and Syria or elsewhere.

A source close to the

investigation told Reuters this week that a new name had been added to the web of militants involved as coordinators — Oussama Atar, a 32-year-old from a Brussels suburb, now believed to be in Syria.

"It's a very strong suspicion," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We are wary of being definitive while the investigation is still under way."

Atar was jailed in Iraq on arms-trafficking charges before ultimately joining IS ranks in Syria in 2012, and is suspected of playing a key coordination role in the 13 November rampage, but not of being "mastermind in chief", the source said.

In particular, Atar is suspected of having recruited two Iraqis who blew themselves up outside the Stade de France sports stadium north of the French

capital as part of a broader series of assaults in the heart of Paris on Nov. 13 last year.

He is also suspected of being the person to whom other suicide bombers reported before blowing themselves up in further attacks in Belgium that killed 32 on 22 March this year.

Atar, the latest addition to France's suspects list, was identified in a group of photos shown to a militant arrested in Austria. But that advance means little for the survivors of the attacks, in which 90 of the 130 killed were shot or blown up by armed suicide bombers at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris. "Even if there's little chance of bringing the attack mastermind to justice, it would be nice to know his name," said Emmanuel Domenach, who was at the Bataclan when it was attacked.—Reuters

UK campaigners win appeal case over preventative HIV drug

LONDON — The state health service in England has the legal power to fund an HIV pill to prevent infection, the court of appeal ruled on Thursday, in a victory for AIDS campaigners who have been calling for its widespread use.

But it is still unclear whether the state system will have the financial resources to make the drug widely available.

So-called pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) against HIV can cut the risk of getting the virus during sex by more than 90 per cent, according to clinical studies.

NHS (National Health Service) England had argued it was not in a position to fund the medicine because PrEP was a preventiva-

tive service and therefore the responsibility of local authorities.

The NHS lost that argument in an initial court case in August, prompting the appeal.

"We are delighted to have been vindicated by the court a second time," said Deborah Gold, chief executive of the National Aids Trust (NAT), which brought the case.

The NAT argues that PrEP is a potential game-changer and is urgently needed in Britain, where more than 4,000 people acquire HIV annually.

NHS England said it would now formally consider whether to fund PrEP. It noted the court ruling established that the NHS

had the ability but not the obligation to pay for the medicine.

Gilead Sciences' Truvada is currently the only drug approved in Europe for PrEP, although several generic companies in India make cut-price versions of the product.

The original Gilead drug costs around 400 pounds (\$500) for a month's supply and its unavailability on the state health service has prompted some people to turn to online "buyers clubs" to get cheaper copies delivered from India.

NHS England said it would ask Gilead to reconsider its current "excessively high pricing" and would also explore options for using generics.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (14 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-064(16-17)	Assorted Sizes of Casing Centralizer (4) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-065(16-17)	Spares for Aspro Compressor (89) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-066(16-17)	Spares for Synchronizing Panel Ex Gas Generator (14) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-067(16-17)	Spares for Rotary Swivel (Wash Pipe & Packing) (5) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-068(16-17)	Spares for ZJ 50D Drawwork (71) Items	US\$
(6)	DMP/L-014(16-17)	Electrical Spares (3) Items for ZJ 50D Sr-I Rig	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 7-12-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 9TH November, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206



Campaign supporters place 1,638 candles around a large red ribbon representing the number of dead victims claimed by HIV/AIDS in the Philippines since 1984 as part of their commemoration of International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day in Quezon city, metro Manila in the Philippines, on 14 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ADB chief calls for continued US involvement in Asia

TOKYO— The chief of the Asian Development Bank on Friday called on the United States to maintain its economic involvement in the Asia-Pacific region in the wake of Republican Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election.

"A continued involvement by the United States will lead to the stability and prosperity (of the Asia-Pacific region) and have economic and security advantages for the United States,"

ADB President Takehiko Nakao told a symposium in Tokyo.

Nakao, a former Japanese bureaucrat, added that Japan and Asian countries will urge the United States to keep playing a significant role in investment and trade in the region following Trump's protectionist remarks during his election campaign.

Touching on the Asian economy, Nakao said while the Chinese economy has been decelerating, "Taken

as a whole, the theory of a long-term deceleration is not applicable in Asia. Asia is still continuing to grow."

He said countries such as India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam possess great potential to push up the whole Asian economy in the future.

Developing countries in Asia saw a nearly 10 per cent economic expansion in 2010, but the rate has dropped to 5.9 per cent in 2015 due partly to a slowing economy in Chi-

na, according to the Manila-based bank.

On speculation about a US interest rate hike within the year, he shrugged off concerns about capital flight from Asia.

"Even if the interest rate is raised slightly...that would not have a big impact on Asia," he said, adding there is unlikely to be a wild fluctuation in foreign exchange rates as a result.

While the number of participating countries in the China-led Infrastruc-

ture Investment Bank is likely to exceed that of the ADB, which is mainly funded by Japan and the United States, Nakao said he has no intention to try to expand the ADB membership, such as by inviting Russia and countries in the Middle East.

"Rather than focusing on expanding member states, it is better to include states with a strong will and capacity," to support Asian economic development, he said.—Kyodo News



Asian Development Bank President Takehiko Nakao gives a lecture in Tokyo on 11 November, 2016. Nakao indicated the Asian economy remains on a growth track, with India and other nations leading the sustainable growth in the region. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Boat deaths cast spotlight on Indonesian illegals in Malaysia

JOHOR BAHRU, (Malaysia) — When Malaysian officials went to an island near the site of a boat accident that killed dozens of Indonesians on their way home last week, they were told the vessel was plying illegally with more than double the permitted number of passengers aboard.

For Paul Khiu, commander of the marine police in Johor state at the southern tip of peninsula Malaysia, the discovery came as no surprise.

"These boats can take 30 to 50 people, but they always overload," Khiu told Reuters on his return from Batam island, on the other side of the Singapore Strait.

The boat had come from Johor, a one-hour voyage, carrying Indonesian workers and their families before it capsized near Batam.

Hundreds of thousands of Indonesians are illegal migrants in Malaysia, doing construction, plantation and domestic work that pays much more than they could earn at home. Some have lived in Malaysia for years and have also brought over their families.

Advocacy groups say



Belongings of survivors are laid out at a temporary holding area after their boat capsized off Batam, in Nongsa, Batam, Indonesia, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the illegal workers are subjected to many abuses and the two governments are doing little to address the situation. Between 600 and 700 illegal Indonesian workers die in Malaysia each year of various causes, including disease, work accidents, drowning and starvation, said Anis Hidayah of the Migrant Care group.

A spokesman for Indonesia's foreign ministry, Armanatha Nasir, said il-

legal workers remained "a challenge" but both governments were committed to finding a solution.

Malaysia's Home Affairs Ministry said it would soon be meeting Indonesian Embassy officials for preliminary talks on the illegal workers issue, but did not give any further details.

The government had said in March that it would stop bringing in new foreign workers in a bid to encourage businesses to

hire locally and also to stop illegal migration. It had launched a major exercise to legalise foreign workers in 2011, including an amnesty that expired in 2014.

Some of the migrants make the illegal crossing across the Strait of Malacca separating Indonesia's Sumatra from peninsular Malaysia, but most slip over the sprawling land border between the two countries on the island of Borneo.—Reuters

South Korea president's approval rating remains at all-time low: Gallup

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye's approval rating remained at an all-time low for a second week amid a deepening political crisis, according to a Gallup Korea poll released on Friday, underscoring the challenges faced by her administration.

Park's presidency has been rocked by allegations that a personal friend of hers used her ties to meddle in state affairs and wield improper influence.

Gallup said its survey of 1,003 South Koreans from 8-10 November showed that 90 per cent of participants disapproved of her performance, up from 89 per cent last week and a new high.

Park's support dipped to single digits across the country, including in her traditional support base in the conservative stronghold of the southeast. She had zero support among people under the age of 30, the poll showed.

The results of the Gallup poll came after Park

gave her second public apology last week and indicated she was willing to relinquish some power.

Park offered to withdraw her nominee for prime minister this week if parliament recommended a candidate that opposition parties could agree upon, but her offer did little to quell public anger. The post of prime minister is largely a figurehead role in South Korea, where power is concentrated in the presidential office. The two main opposition parties have rejected Park's offer and demanded she hand over most of her presidential authority to a new prime minister and the Cabinet. Some lawmakers have called on her to step down but the main opposition parties have not raised the idea of launching impeachment proceedings.

A large crowd was expected at an anti-Park rally on Saturday, with organizers saying the number could reach 1 million, according to Korean media reports.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (131N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (131N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JIN SHENG VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JIN SHENG VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(S'PORE) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928



Stella McCartney.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Stella McCartney inspired by Dad for debut men's fashion line

LONDON — Fashion designer Stella McCartney drew inspiration from her Beatle father Paul when creating her first menswear collection, unveiling both relaxed and tailored looks for the male wardrobe.

The British designer showcased the line on Thursday alongside her women's spring 2017 resort collection at a star-studded event at London's Abbey Road music studios, where the Beatles recorded hits in the 1960s.

In one of the studio's large rooms, male models wearing striped pyjama-like shirt and shorts or drawstring trousers combinations as well as black or blue suits lounged about in makeshift living room settings, chatting and dancing to music. Old records were scattered around them.

"It just felt like the right time, it felt like the womenswear was really in the perfect place to then have her man in her life and just to offer that wardrobe to men," McCartney told Reuters.

Asked if her famous father would wear the new line, McCartney said: "Yeah definitely, there's a lot of inspiration obviously in him in the collection, so ... he better be wearing it." —Reuters

A Minute With: Amy Adams on 'Arrival,' awards and 'Disenchanted'

LOS ANGELES — Despite having five Oscar nominations under her belt, actress Amy Adams said she feels "inauthentic" campaigning for herself during Hollywood's awards season, although buzz is building around her latest role as an intuitive linguist in sci-fi film "Arrival."

"I have to make it something other than myself because promoting myself just feels inauthentic to me," she told Reuters, adding she would rather bring attention to people "that maybe aren't on the poster" for the film.

She discussed "Arrival," in theaters on Friday, along with language intricacies and reprising her role as Princess Giselle in the "Enchanted" sequel. The following are edited excerpts.

Q: What does "Arrival" offer that is so different from what we usually see in sci-fi alien films?

A: What we've become accustomed to in recent times are films that offer you action and high stakes inside of that action, and we do have high stakes and we do have action, but it's told in a very patient, laid back way that keeps you engaged without distracting you with a lot of effects. There's also this really deep emotional through line that takes you through the movie.

Q: How did you understand how linguists like your character Dr. Louise Banks work?

A: When I came into this, I wrongly assumed that a linguist was more of an interpreter, or just a translator, but they really do work with language barriers, communication barriers, the way that we,

different cultures, approach language.

When I learned Mandarin, the small amount that I learned for the film, just changing the tone of your voice changes the entire meaning of a sentence, and that's something that speaking English, we don't necessarily understand.

Q: How does this film resonate with the world right now?

A: I think even in the year since we've made it, it has become even more relevant unfortunately. It has become relevant, and it's become clear on a day-to-day basis how the divisions we create (then) create fear, create violence. (It) doesn't really move us forward as a world society.

Q: Are you excited about "Disenchanted," the sequel to 2007's "Enchanted"?

A: Absolutely, all of us. The cast members, if we're lucky enough to get everybody back, we've all had such lives we've all lived in the past 10 years, and it'll be really interesting to see ... I like the title, I think it's timely, I kind of feel like, I feel like it's perfect. —Reuters



Actress Amy Adams.
PHOTO: REUTERS

J.K. Rowling hopes Potter fans embrace 'Fantastic Beasts' movie



Author J.K. Rowling.
PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — A nervous J.K. Rowling said on Thursday she hoped fans would like her new wizarding movie "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," even though it does not feature beloved characters like Harry Potter and his Hogwarts friends.

Speaking ahead of Thursday's New York premiere of the first of five planned "Harry Potter" spin-off films, the British author hinted that familiar names would appear in future "Fantastic Beasts" movies.

"We have done the very best job that we can. I have told a story I really wanted to tell. I hope that people love it," Rowling told a news conference.

"It's true that Harry is not in the movie, because he's not born yet, but this (film) is very much

of that world. There are characters you will learn more about," she added.

"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" takes place 70 years before the events in the first Harry Potter books and features a new cast of characters with magical powers. Set in 1926, it centers on Newt Scamander, a "magizoologist" who arrives in New York with a case full of strange creatures that quickly escape.

No reviews have yet been published.

The Warner Bros film arrives nine years after the last of Rowling's seven Harry Potter books was published and five years after the last of the movies that made \$7 billion at the global box office.

Rowling said she was aware of the hunger for more Harry Pot-

ter stories, but said she was done with the boy wizard.

"I had some ideas about Newt (Scamander) and I was intrigued by Newt, and when I was asked 'will you write more?', at the back of my mind was Newt," she said.

"This is what I really, really wanted to write. This hasn't been created in response to a need."

Rowling said that Albus Dumbledore, the beloved elderly headmaster of Hogwarts School, would be featured as a younger and "quite troubled" man in the second "Fantastic Beasts" film that she is writing for release in 2018.

The author had previously said that Dumbledore is gay, and said Thursday, "as far as his sexuality is concerned, watch this space." —Reuters

Leonard Cohen, rock music's poetic visionary, dies at 82

LOS ANGELES — Leonard Cohen, rock music's man of letters whose songs fused religious imagery with themes of redemption and sexual desire, earning him critical and popular acclaim, has died at age 82, a statement on his Facebook page said.

"It is with profound sorrow we report that legendary poet, songwriter and artist, Leonard Cohen has passed away," a statement on the Facebook page said. "We have lost one of music's most revered and prolific visionaries."

The statement did not provide further details on Cohen's death,

and representatives for the singer could not be reached immediately for comment. It said a memorial was planned in Los Angeles, where Cohen had lived for many years.

"R.I.P. Leonard Cohen," singer-songwriter Carole King said on Twitter.

Singer Roseanne Cash echoed the lyrics from Cohen's song "Anthem" when she said in a tweet: "Leonard Cohen is dead. There's a crack in everything. No light yet."

Cohen, a native of Quebec, was already a celebrated poet and novelist when he moved to New

York in 1966 at age 31 to break into the music business.

Before long, critics were comparing him to Bob Dylan for the lyrical force of his songwriting.

Although he influenced many musicians and won many honors, including induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the Order of Canada, Cohen rarely made the pop music charts with his sometimes moody folk-rock.

But Cohen's most famous song, "Hallelujah," in which he invoked the biblical King David and drew parallels between phys-

ical love and a desire for spiritual connection, has been covered hundreds of times since he released it in 1984.

"Hallelujah's" long road to mass appeal was matched by Cohen's own painstaking approach to writing it. He spent five years penning drafts, at one point banging his head on the floor of a hotel room in frustration.

Many of Cohen's songs became hits for other artists, including Judy Collins, who helped Cohen gain fame by recording some of his early compositions in the 1960s. —Reuters



Leonard Cohen.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Madame Tussauds London gets to work on new Trump wax figure

LONDON — A new addition will soon be coming to Madame Tussauds, London's famed wax museum, which on Thursday showed some of the behind-the-scenes work on making a replica figure of US President-elect Donald Trump.

The museum had already created clay sculptures of the Republican Trump and his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, before Tuesday's election. It is now embarking on the full wax figure in time for Trump's 20 January inauguration.

On its Facebook page, Madame Tussauds on Thursday revealed the wax head for the Trump figure, with a hair inserter slowly starting work on the New York businessman's distinctive blonde hairstyle. —Reuters



The clay models of the then Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are seen in a photo handed out on behalf of Madame Tussauds and dated on 21 July 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Belgrade, Serbia at Shanghai Int Travel Mart

BELGRADE — The Tourism Organisation of Belgrade, supported by the Tourism Organisation of Serbia, will take part in an international tourism fair in Shanghai, China — International Travel Mart — on 11-13 November.

At one of the most prominent international tourism fairs in Asia, Serbia will be presented at a booth shared with Montenegro at the Shanghai New International Expo Center under the motto of "Wild Soul of Europe".

After the fair, a workshop will be organised for representatives of the tourism sector in the Equatorial Hotel on November 14, with 60 of Shanghai's leading agencies expected to attend.

In 2016, the num-

ber of Chinese tourists in Serbia rose by 40 pct due to enhanced promotional activities on the Chinese market, the Statistics Sector of the Administration Secretariat of the City of Belgrade data said. —Tanjung

Cambodia welcomes 3.5 million foreign tourists in nine months

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia received 3.5 million foreign tourists in the first nine months of 2016, up 4.8 per cent over the same period last year, according to a tourism report released on Friday.

During the January-September period this year, Viet Nam topped the

chart among the top 10 arrivals to Cambodia with 695,670 tourists, up 0.1 per cent, followed by China with 577,280 tourists, up 12.5 per cent, and South Korean visitors at third with 263,880, down 11 per cent.

The Southeast Asian country is famous for two

cultural sites in the UNESCO's World Heritage List. One is the 12th century Angkor archeological park and the other is the 11th century Preah Vihear Temple.

Besides, it has a number of attractive eco-tourism sites, including a 450-km pristine coastline

stretching across four provinces in the country's southwestern part.

Tourism is one of the four pillars supporting the economy. Last year, the country greeted 4.78 million international tourists, earning a gross revenue of more than 3 billion US dollars. —Xinhua

Rubik's Cube loses EU trademark fight over its shape

BRUSSELS — Rubik's Cube, a multicoloured three-dimensional puzzle, lost a trademark battle on Thursday after Europe's top court said its shape was not sufficient to grant it protection against copycats.

The toy, invented in 1974 by Hungarian Erno Rubik, is popular among young and old, with more than 350 million cubes sold worldwide.

British company Seven Towers, which manages Rubik's Cube intellectual property rights, registered its shape as a three-dimensional EU trademark with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) in 1999.

But German toy maker Simba Toys challenged the trademark protection in 2006, saying that the cube's rotating capability should be protected by a patent and not a trademark.

Patents allow inventors to block rivals from making commercial use

of their inventions without their approval for a certain period of time while trademarks give intellectual property owners' an exclusive and perpetual right to their designs, logos, phrases or words as long as they use them. The German company took its case to the Luxembourg-based European Union Court of Justice (ECJ) after EUIPO and a lower EU court dismissed its lawsuit.

ECJ judges agreed with Simba Toys' arguments. Their decision is final and cannot be appealed.

"In examining whether registration ought to be refused on the ground that shape involved a technical solution, EUIPO and the General Court should also have taken into account non-visible functional elements represented by that shape, such as its rotating capability," they said.

EUIPO will now have to issue a new decision based on the ECJ judgment. —Reuters



Competitors solve Rubik's cubes as they prepare for the Rubik's Cube European Championship in Prague, Czech Republic, on 15 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(12-11-2016 07:00am ~ 13-11-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon — Charitable Associations
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Annually Held Hot-Air Balloon Releasing Festival
08:38	Am	Reflected Glory
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Discovering Tribes "MUUN" (Ep - I)
09:50	Am	Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market

10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Next Generation "May Melody"
10:36	Am	The World's Largest Book

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
07:54	Pm	Now in Yangon
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (Ep-1)

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

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

MRTV (12-11-2016, Saturday)

6:00 am	• Parittra by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	4:35 pm	• NHK Programme "Top Technology" (Playing with Tops)
7:35 am	• Hyper Sports	5:15 pm	• Documentary
8:35 am	• Pan Pyo Khin (Part-5)	5:35 pm	• Teleplay
9:35 am	• Business News	6:35 pm	• Tasty Trip
10:35 am	• Poem for Children	7:15 pm	• India Drama Series
11:15 am	• Health and Vegetables	8:00 pm	• News/ International News/ Weather Report
11:35 am	• Game for Children	8:35 pm	• Towards All Sector Development
1:15 pm	• Weekly Entertainment News	9:00 pm	• News
2:20 pm	• HUMAN DIGNITY FILM INSTITUTE (A Story teller, The Chess)	9:15 pm	• Gitadagale Phwintbaohn
3:15 pm	• TV Drama Series	9:30 pm	• Musician's Talk

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Brazil blitz hapless Argentina in 3-0 win

SAO PAULO — Brazil dealt Argentina's hopes of reaching the 2018 World Cup finals a serious blow on Thursday with a resounding 3-0 win that dropped the world's top ranked side into sixth place in the 10-team South American qualifying group.

First half goals from Philippe Coutinho and Neymar were followed by a third from Paulinho after 58 minutes to sink the Argentines and extend their winless run to four games.

The result means Brazil remain top of the group with 24 points from 11 games.

Argentina are sixth on 16 points, with the top four teams qualifying automatically for the finals in Russia and the fifth-placed side going into a play-off with the Oceania winners.

"Today we imposed ourselves, the fans helped from the first minute and we leave here very happy," Coutinho said in a

pitchside interview.

Argentina's Lionel Messi, who returned to the side after three games out injured, was anonymous in a match lit up by brilliant moments from the home side.

Brazil took the lead after 24 minutes when Neymar slipped the ball to Philippe Coutinho on the left with the deftest of touches and the Liverpool midfielder hammered an unstoppable drive into the top corner of the net.

The Barcelona striker was lucky not to concede a penalty after he handled in the box 12 minutes later but he was always dangerous at the other end and he doubled Brazil's lead just seconds before half time when he coolly slotted home after taking a defence-splitting pass from Gabriel Jesus.

Paulinho sealed it 13 minutes into the second period when the midfielder charged into the



Brazil's Paulinho scores his goal against Argentina during World Cup 2018 Qualifiers at Mineirao stadium, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on 10 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

box between defenders and poked home a cross from Renato Augusto.

Brazil were dominant in a rampant second half and could have scored more with Neymar and substitute Roberto Firmino

both coming close.

In the evening's other games, Peru got four goals in the second half to beat Paraguay 4-1 away in Asuncion, while Josef Martinez became the first Venezuelan to score a hat trick in

World Cup qualifiers in the 5-0 win over Bolivia.

Earlier, Colombia drew 0-0 at home to Chile and stay in third, while Uruguay beat Ecuador 2-1 to remain second, a point behind Brazil.—Reuters

World number one might be a step too far, says Wawrinka

ZURICH — A lack of year round consistency is likely to ensure that three-times grand slam champion Stan Wawrinka does not topple Britain's Andy Murray from the top of the rankings, the Swiss has said.

Murray recently ended Novak Djokovic's 122-week spell as world number one but might still need to win the final ATP tournament of the year in London to ensure he finishes the year at the top of the rankings.

Wawrinka, who won his third grand slam title by beating Djokovic at the US Open this year, has been drawn in the same group as Murray at the ATP Finals, but feels he does not have the consistency to leap to the top of the rankings.

"I don't think so. Right now I'm 31," the world number three Wawrinka told Sky Sports when asked whether he could become the top ranked player. "I know I can beat every player, I need to do it more often in the year if I



PHOTO: REUTERS

want to think about that, but so far I'm way off that."

Wawrinka expected the 29-year-old Scot, who won Wimbledon and his second Olympic gold medal as well as six other titles this year, would handle the pressure of being number one and was the man to beat at the O2 Arena in south-east London.—Reuters

Wie continues comeback with two-under start in Mexico

MEXICO CITY — Michelle Wie, back at the tournament where she posted her first professional victory, continued to re-emerge from a slump with a good opening round at the Lorena Ochoa Invitational in Mexico City on Thursday.

Wie birdied three of the first seven holes en route to a two-under-par 70, ending the day three

behind leaders Carlota Ciganda of Spain and Australian Sarah Jane Smith at Club de Golf Mexico.

Wie, 27, had been mired in an awful form slump for the best part of two years until she tied for 10th at the Blue Bay LPGA in China three weeks ago.

Plagued by multiple injuries and a subsequent loss of confidence, her form spiralled down-

wards until her visit to China, where she finally produced a performance she credited to being healthy again and practice.

Wie broke her LPGA duck seven years ago at the Lorena Ochoa Invitational, albeit at a different venue than this week's event, a success that was expected to open the floodgates.—Reuters

Sharapova to resume as UN goodwill ambassador in April

NEW YORK — Maria Sharapova will be allowed to resume her role as a United Nations (UN) goodwill ambassador when her drug suspension ends in April, the body said on Thursday.

Five-times grand slam champion Sharapova became an ambassador for the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 2007, but was dropped in March after admitting she had used the banned substance meldonium.

The United States-based Russian was originally banished from the sport for two years, a

suspension that was later cut to 15 months.

She will return to action in time to contest three of the four grand slams next year, missing only the Australian Open.

"The UNDP is glad to learn that Maria Sharapova can return to the sport she loves sooner than expected and we will lift the suspension of her role as our goodwill ambassador once the reduced ban expires," the UN said in a statement.

The UNDP works to tackle inequality and poverty.—Reuters



Maria Sharapova. PHOTO: REUTERS



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