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Vol. III, No. 211, 14th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1378 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 13 November 2016



Peaceful coexistence helps students learn in peace as 90 per cent of students in Buthidaung and Maungtaw have returned to school. PHOTO: MIN HTET

History of peaceful coexistence among Buthidaung, Maungtaw students

Ko Ko Thet

ABOUT 90 per cent of students in Buthidaung and Maungtaw have returned to school as security has improved in the area. Teachers are also encouraging parents to send

their children back to school.

"I moved here just in August, but I am trying my best to educate students in cooperation with other teachers," said U Aung Kyaw Zan, who was appointed headmaster of Buthidaung Basic Education High

School three months ago.

There is only one high school in Buthidaung with over 2,000 students, including about 570 ethnic students.

Administrators said there have never been any conflicts in

the history of the school, where students have been learning together for decades.

"They have always lived together. There is no problem," the headmaster said.

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Violent armed attackers ambushes convoy of border guards and government staffs, explodes a bridge in Rakhine

A CONVOY of border guard police and government staffs in Kyikanpyin, Maungtaw, were attacked at Baily Bridge 38 by violent armed attackers near Maunghnama Village yesterday.

The attackers set off an improvised explosive device as the convoy approached the bridge and advanced, but border guards repelled the men, forcing them to retreat. No one was injured in the attack, but a vehicle was damaged. Security forces are pursuing the attackers.—*Myawady*

INSIDE

Jade mining businesses in Hkanti face difficulties due to illegal miners

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One officer, one soldier dead, several injured in fighting continuously erupts in Rakhine

WHILE conducting the area clearance operations in Maungtaw and Yathedaung townships, Rakhine State, the government troops were ambushed by about 60 attackers armed with guns, knives and spears near Mayintaung village at about 6:45am yesterday.

The troops fought back in forcing the attackers to move back to Gwason village which is

located in the southwest of Mayintaung village.

After the skirmish, the bodies of six attackers were found along with one BA-94 weapon and ammunition which are similar to arms taken away by the attackers in the 9th October attacks at the Headquarters of Kyikanpyin Border Guard Post. One soldier died and several were injured in the fighting.

Government troops continued their clearance operation around the village. When they arrived near Pwintphyuchaung village, they were under fire by the attackers in the village.

When the troops fired back, the attackers set fire to the village and withdrew to Gwason village.

In the area clearance operation, the troops arrested 36 men believing to be the attackers in

Pwintphyuchaung village and handed over them to the No. 1 Border Guard Post Headquarters.

Troops who approached Gwason village in search for the attackers were shot by about 500 men armed with small guns, knives and spears near the village.

The troops divided themselves into groups and returned fire.

The troops found themselves under attack and outnumbered by the other enemy until two helicopters from Air Force fired on the attackers, forcing them to withdraw to Gwason village. One officer from the military dead in the encounter near Gwason village.

The troops have stepped up its clearance operations and are actively searching for the attackers.—*Myawady*

MMA-ObGyn Society/MMA, MNMA affirm Joint Statement on Collaborative Practice

THE Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Myanmar Medical Association – (ObGyn Society/ MMA) and Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association (MNMA) signed the joint statement on Friday, affirming maximum coordinative and collaborative efforts.

In the opening remark, Dr. Tin Tin Lay, Director-General, Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management, Ministry of Health and Sports, said “With particular regards to in-service capacity building and continuous professional education (CPE) for midwives, the role of the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Myanmar Medical Association and Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association are playing in critical role as in other countries where these associations are working closely to make policy advocacy and to work with Ministry of Health and Sports to improve the skills and competencies of midwives”.

In the introductory remarks, Dr. Mya Thida, the president of ObGyn Society/MMA, said, “Midwifery services play the most important role in reducing maternal and perinatal death in Myanmar. As we all know that maternal mortality and infant



maximum coordinative and collaborative efforts between MMA, ObGyn Society/MMA and MNMA are aimed at improving maternal and neonatal health in Myanmar. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

deaths are still high in our country according to 2014 census. In order to improve maternal and neonatal health is unfinished agenda and we need to meet the target of sustainable development goals in 2030”.

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society was established in February 1964 under Myan-

mar Medical Association. Now it has active members of 350 and the society has involved in midwifery care and Reproductive Health care of Myanmar in many aspects in collaboration with MOHS, NGOs, INGOs, UN Agencies and other partners including Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association (MNMA).

Professor Daw Yin Mya, the president of MNMA, said “Working closely in collaboration with government and non-governmental agencies will strengthen readiness and response for any kind of public health emergencies at all levels as well as social activities on midwifery services” in the intro-

ductory remark.

The Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association (MNMA) is one of the largest local NGOs in Myanmar and has a diverse range of experience on maternal and child health services in Myanmar such as Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), Food Security Project, Child Protection and Nutrition Support for children Sexual and Reproductive Health programme providing training for pre-service midwives on maternal, newborn, and child health.

The Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP), supported by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), facilitates the process of Joint Statement on Collaborative Practice and a call to actions between Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, Myanmar Medical Association (MMA/ObGyn Society) and Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association (MNMA).

This purpose of the joint statement is to record a commitment of collaboration between the two professional associations to build the capacity of midwives and advocate for improved standards of care. — GNLM

History of peaceful coexistence among Buthidaung, Maungtaw ...

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Recent violent attacks in Maungtaw did not have much impact on Buthidaung’s education sector.

“We always consult with elders in Muslim villages, which surround the school, and prevent problems,” he said.

Muslim teachers at the school are also helping the

school management team.

“There are four Muslim teachers at the school. We also told them to help teach students,” the headmaster said.

The school organized its 34th Kathina robe offering ceremony recently. Peaceful coexistence among students, administrators said, has created an environment for learning.

School Building handed over to Pyay No 1 BEMS



Dignitaries and officials open the school building for the No 1 Basic Education Middle School in Pyay. PHOTO: YATI

A NEW school building was handed over to Pyay No. 1 Basic Education Middle School in Pyay on Friday by Shwetaung Group of Companies to the Pyay Township Education Officer.

The two-storey building

which has a seating capacity of 240 school children cost more than 90 million.

The handing over of the school becomes the 89th school donated by the Shwetaung group of companies. — Yati

Crime NEWS

Three traffic accidents happened on Yangon-Mandalay Highway, kills seven

THREE accidents of passenger buses happened on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway yesterday, leaving seven passengers dead.

In the first accident which happened at about 12.15 hrs yesterday between the Mile post Nos 254/3 and 254/4, Yethu-aung Express Bus carrying 49 passengers driven by Thet Nain Swe crashed into the back of Starex vehicle driven by Hla Thein, left one passenger on board of the Starex bus dead and injured two women.

In the second accident, a passenger bus skidded on the road between mile post Nos 149/2 and 149/3 and plunged into a roadside ditch, killing six



Rescuers are seen at the scene of traffic accident which kills six passengers.

passengers and injuring 17. There were 53 passengers on board when the accident happened.

In the third accident, a fire broke out due to overheating of the engine of a chartered bus en-route from Yangon to

Nay Pyi Taw between the mile post Nos 193/7 and 194/0. No casualties nor injuries were reported. Action have been taken against the drivers who involved in the three separate accidents.

— Than Oo (Lay Hmyat Nar)

Yaba pills seized in Mogok

A COMBINED team comprising members of the Myanmar Police Force and a local anti-drug squad, discovered 6,400 yaba pills from a motorbike in Mogok on 10 November, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The team arrested Yaw Na who was driving the motorbike when the surprise check was

carried out. Similarly, the team also found 4,100 yaba pills from a motorbike driven by Yaw Shu in Mogok on the same day. Ma Ar Sar Mi was on board when the motorbike was searched by the police.

A local anti-drug squad in North Okkalapa Township, acting on a tip-off, searched a house owned by Naing Win in

Thitsar Street in the township on 10 November and found 66 yaba pills.

After interrogating Naing Win, the police searched the house with No. 158 in Seinchal Road in the same township and seized 1,238 yaba pills. Action has been taken against those involved in the drug trafficking cases. — GNLM

Bridge linking Buthidaung and Rathedaung in Rakhine to be opened next year

Maung Sein Lwin

PANZINCHAUNG Bridge, which will link Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships in Rakhine State, is expected to be put into service in early 2017.

The bridge, which is the longest span on the route, will contribute to development and flow of goods into Rakhine State.

The government is planning to build ten bridges along the route for increased regional development.

The 960-foot long bridge was built on 1 April, 2015 and can withstand 60 tonnes of weight.

“The main cause of underdevelopment is poor transportation. Everything, including health, education, economy and social conditions, lags behind other states because of the poor transportation”, said U San Mra Tha, a local resident. “The population decrease of ethnic people in Rakhine State was also caused by poor transportation. Many eth-



Workers construct Panzinchaung Bridge linking Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MIN HTET

nic people have left the state in search of greener pasture”.

“The government needs to give more support to the state,” he added. Buthidaung-Rathedaung road is 36 miles long and it is the first land route between

the two townships. It will also contribute to the interests of local residents along it.

At present, local people have to rely on ferries and hovercraft for transportation and spend a long time travelling. Now the two

townships will be linked by the road and local people can travel from one township to another within a very short time thanks to the road and bridges.

“As transportation is poor and it takes a long time to travel

from a place to another by boat, commodity prices also rise,” another local resident said.

Local residents hope that their lives will improve when the road and bridges along it are put into service.

Rakhine state minister inspects roads and bridges in Maungtaw

RAKHINE State Electric Power, Industry and Transportation Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan and party inspected erosion of the river bank in Maungtaw and roads and bridges along Maungtaw-Taungpyoletwe Road yesterday.

In the morning, the state minister inspected the eroded river bank in Kyaingchaung Village before proceeding to the Kyaingchaung-Bandoola road and Watkyein bridges, whose approaches are being washed away.

Later, the minister and party inspected Maungtaw-Taungpyo-



Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan inspects erosion of the river bank in Maungtaw Township. PHOTO: MNA

letwe Road and met with members of the Myo ethnic group to discuss stability in the area.

Afterwards, the minister and party inspected the border bridge between Bangladesh and Myanmar and the erosion of the river bank on the Myanmar side of the Naf River.

In the afternoon, the minister and party arrived at the hydropower station in Kyikanpyin Border Guard Police Command Centre.

The minister also inspected the waterway of the Naf River by boat earlier day.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Attorney-General attends 10th ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo attended the 10th ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference which was held in Laos from 9th to 10th November.

In his discussion at the conference, Union-Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo said that Myanmar has taken measures to adapt the country's law for fighting drug and human trafficking to the international norms while actively participating in fighting the transnational crimes.

Transnational crime includes drugs and human trafficking which are increasing in scale as

reflected by the large number of young people that fall victim to these crimes. The 10th ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference was held in Vientiane under the theme: Strengthening Cooperation to Effectively Combat Transnational Crime.

At the conference, the representatives of the China and ASEAN member states signed the joint statement, agreeing to do further boosting their joint efforts through bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms to tackle transnational crime.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Prosecutors-General from ASEAN countries and China pose for a group photograph in ASEAN way at 10th ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference. in Vientiane, Laos. PHOTO: MNA

NLD's central committee meets

THE morning agenda of the sixth regular meeting of the first central committee of the National League for Democracy began at the party headquarters in Yangon yesterday morning.

U Tin Oo, patron of the party, U Win Htein, U Nyan Win and U Hanthar Myint, members of the party's secretariat, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win

Myint, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, chief ministers of states and regions, speakers of state/region Hluttaws, state/region chairmen of the NLD and central committee members attended the meeting.

Patron U Tin Oo of the NLD delivered the opening address, and the political report

and work report were submitted by NLD executive secretaries.

U Mahn Johnnie, U Phyto Min Thein and U Aung Soe were approved as NLD's central executive committee members.

U Win Htein submitted five future plans of the NLD and the chairman of the meeting approved them.—*Ko Latt (Myanmar News Agency)*

LOCAL Business

Jade mining businesses in Hkanti face difficulties due to illegal miners

JADE mining businesses in Hkanti are struggling to deal with a lack of enforcement of laws against those who dig for jade without a permit, said U Tun Lin Shein from the Myauk Kyun Thu Ma Ma company recently.

There are 18 legal companies in Namsepun Hmaw and 16 legal companies in Ma Kyan Kha Hmaw in Hkanti.

But hundreds of people who are not employed by mining companies forcibly enter the jade mines and illegally dig for jade, officials said. This leaves the companies with not many jade stones to find, officials said. The companies are struggling even to pay salaries, U Tun Lin Shein said.

“We are interdependent, and so we want to give jobs more to the local people”, he said.

“We can take legal action

against those who are digging for jade without a permit. Also, we can take action against them if we find them not holding a license”, said assistant director U Tun Wai from Hkanti jade mining camp.

U Tun Wai said the violators cannot be arrested because he does not have enough staff. But video recordings of the unlicensed people digging for jade have been compiled.

Only about 200 out of 3,000 illegal miners are local people. The rest are from other regions. They trespass on the companies’ land, said U Soe Soe from Paw Mai ward, Hkanti town.

The companies from Hkanti town have donated funds to build classrooms and are also actively participating in the community’s social activities by donating cash and in kind donations.—

Aung Thant Khine



Migrant workers search jade stones in Hpakant. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHINE

Japanese firm opens steel factory in Myanmar’s Yangon



Officials of Japanese iron and steel trader R&K Trading Co. attend a ceremony in Yangon, Myanmar’s largest city, on Nov. 11, 2016 to inaugurate a state-of-the-art steel factory. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

YANGON — Japanese iron and steel trader R&K Trading Co. inaugurated a 1.5 billion yen (\$14 million) state-of-the-art steel factory in Yangon, Myanmar’s largest city, on Friday.

The factory covers an area of 19,950 square meters at the Japanese-backed Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

With a production capaci-

ty of 120,000 tonne per year for steel plates and section steel, among others, the factory will basically cut and shape imported steel rolls from Japan to be used in construction projects in emerging Myanmar. Chairman Yoshiyuki Morita said at the opening ceremony that he hopes the factory will contribute to Myanmar’s industrialization.—*Kyodo News*

E-licenses for hotel and tourism not very popular yet

RELATIVELY few people have applied for the e-license for the tourism industry, according to U Tint Thwin, director-general of the ministry of Hotels and Tourism at Panda Hotel on Friday.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been offering online registration since July with the aim of faster and easier issuance of licenses. The e-license reduces tax

corruption and facilitates the application process. The ministry has so far received twenty-six applications - eight for hotels and guest houses, sixteen for tour licenses and two for travel agency licenses.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has issued licenses to 1,391 hotels and 2,335 tour companies and 17,413 travel agencies.— 200

Decline in inshore, offshore fishing causing financial hardships to Mon State fish firms

FISHING businesses in Mon State have suffered losses this season due to rising costs, fishing restrictions and a decline in supply from both inshore and offshore fishing.

Frequent storms at the beginning of the season prevented workers from going out to sea to catch fish, resulting in a smaller stockpile of fish. “The decline in fish this year is 70 per cent lower than that of the previous year.

Besides, the labour costs have dealt a severe blow to the fishing businessmen,” said an entrepreneur in Ye, Mon State.

“We have not been able to get the fishing season in full-swing yet due to climate change and storms,” he added.

A businessman has to invest from Ks50 million to Ks100 million to start up a fishing business.

Last month, the fishery department designated some is-

lands in Kyunsu, in the southern Taninthayi region, as restricted areas for fishing, clarifying that the move is aimed at protecting the fingerlings near these islands by preventing fish larvae from being caught.

The authorities said it will carry out patrols around the restricted areas to make sure there is no illegal fishing, adding that violators will face penalties.— *Nay Myo Htut (Ye)*

Fruit zone to be built in Mawlamyine

A fruit zone will be built in Mawlamyine with the aim of making it easier for fruit and related products to enter local and international markets, said U Soe Than Min Din, Chairman of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (FFVPEA)

at a ceremony held yesterday at UMFCCL.

The fruit zone is expected to be built on a 1,000-acre plot of land in Mawlamyine. The association will submit a proposal to the regional government by the end of December.

Building the fruit zone will

enable the growers to systematically cultivate fruit and foster better conservation habits.

Currently, around 0.6 million tonnes of watermelon, over 0.1 million tonnes of musk melon and over 0.04 million tonnes of mangoes are being exported, it is learnt.— 200

Over 200 apply for temporary licenses for oil refineries

Over 200 businessmen have applied for a temporary license to operate oil refineries in various regions and states, according to the Ministry of Electrical Power and Energy.

Ministry of Electrical Power and Energy accepted applications starting on 25 September, receiving a total of 237 applications, it is learnt from the ministry on 10 November. The Ministry of Electrical Power and Energy started verifying the applications on 16 November and will complete the

process on 31 March. After further scrutiny, the ministry will issue the temporary licenses.

The ministry originally announced it would issue the temporary licenses in March 2015, but could not do so because many of the applications did not include all the necessary documentation.

The new government announced again in September it would accept applications and issue temporary licenses if the businessmen abided by the rules and regulations.

The Ministry has launched awareness discussions for the businessmen to ensure that they abide by the rules and regulations. The awareness programmes were launched by the ministry in-cooperation with regional authorities.

A license issuance team will be formed with officials from the Union government on 16 November, it is learnt. Businessmen who wish to apply for the license must submit an application to regional offices no later than November 15.— *Min Min*

India PM visits bullet train plant on final day of Japan stay

KOBE— Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited a bullet train plant in western Japan on Saturday after Japan and India agreed to cooperate on the construction of a high-speed rail link in the South Asian country.

Abe traveled with Modi on his trip from Tokyo to Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, by shinkansen train on the last day of the Indian leader's three-day stay in Japan. Modi's visit to the plant of Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., a maker of shinkansen cars, came at the request of the Indian government.

Abe and Modi were briefed by Kawasaki Heavy Industries President Yoshinori Kanehana in front of an E5-series shinkansen train being built at the plant and listened to the history of the company's railway business.

They also viewed the inside of the Hayabusa shinkansen train to be delivered for use on the Tohoku Shinkansen Line of



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi pose at JR Tokyo Station on 12 November 2016, before boarding a shinkansen bullet train together to travel to Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan. PHOTO : KYODO NEWS

East Japan Railway Co.

The visit "gave me a firsthand view of aspects relating to high speed rail, which we are bringing to

India," Modi said in his Twitter message, while Abe told reporters, "Prime Minister Modi very much liked the visit."

Before boarding a shinkansen train at Tokyo Station for the trip to western Japan, Abe and Modi smiled and posed for pho-

tos in front of the train. On the way to Kobe, the two leaders sat face-to-face and exchanged words in a relaxed atmosphere.

After their meeting in Tokyo on Friday, Abe said he and Modi agreed to start construction in 2018 of a high-speed railway system using Japanese shinkansen technology with the aim of beginning service in 2023. The 500-kilometer railway will link Mumbai and Ahmedabad in western India.

In Kobe, the two leaders also attended a signing ceremony where the Hyogo prefectural government and the western Indian state of Gujarat exchanged memorandums on business and culture.

The Hyogo prefectural government supported Gujarat in an earthquake in 2001.

Exchanges between Hyogo and Gujarat have continued since then, with Modi visiting the western Japan prefecture twice as chief minister of the state —Kyodo News

Floods, landslides in western Indonesia damage over 3,000 houses, bridges

JAKARTA — More than 3,000 houses and 20 bridges have been damaged as floods and landslides hit West Java province in western parts of Indonesia, a senior official of local disaster agency said on Saturday.

Heavy downpours had triggered the waters submerged four sub-districts at Sukabumi district since Wednesday, Yana Rusiana, coordinator of emergency operating center at the local disaster agency told Xinhua by phone from the district.

The official said a total of 3,356 houses were damaged by the disaster and 1,498 of them suffered from serious damages.

"The transportation has been hampered as the landslides block some roads," he said.—Xinhua

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

Anger rising in India as banks slow to dispense cash to millions

NEW DELHI — Anger was rising across India on Saturday as banks struggled to dispense cash after the government withdrew large denomination notes in a shock move aimed at uncovering billions of dollars of unaccounted wealth hidden from the taxman.

Hundreds of thousands of people stood outside banks for a third day for long hours trying to replace 500 and 1,000 rupee bank notes that were abolished earlier in the week.

These bills made up more than 80 per cent of the currency in circulation leaving millions of people without cash and threatening to grind large parts of the cash-driven economy to a halt.

"There is chaos everywhere," said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and a bitter foe of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said Modi's move had upended the lives of the poor and working while the rich — whose wealth he had sought to target — had found loopholes to get around the new rules.

People argued and banged the glass doors of a branch of Standard Chartered in southern Delhi after the security guards blocked entry, saying there were already too many people in



A person stands with his documents in a queue outside a branch of the State Bank of India as people wait to exchange old high denomination bank notes in Old Delhi, India, on 10 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

side the bank.

Others turned on Modi, criticizing his ongoing visit to Japan while countrymen suffered at home. "He is taking bullet train rides in Japan and here you have old people knocking on bank doors for cash," said Prabhakar Kumar, a college student who said he had spent six hours at the line.

"He has made a terrible mistake."

Nearly half of India's 202,000 ATMs were shut on Friday and those that operated quickly ran out of the new notes as scores of people descended upon them.

Traders in Delhi's vegetable market said they were considering to shut down the market as cash

was running out and banks were dispensing a limited amount.

"We might have to close down until the situation stabilizes," said Metharam Kriplani, the president of the Chambers of Azadpur Fruit and Vegetable Traders said.

People in Mumbai said grocers were charging ten times the price of salt in return for accepting the old cash notes and in Bengaluru some people were using their old notes to buy one-time insurance policies.

The government has asked people to redeem the old 500 and 1,000 rupee notes by 30 December. The central bank said there was enough cash available with

banks and that it had made arrangements to deliver the new bank notes all over the country.

But in Dudko, about 75 kms (45 miles) from Delhi, villagers said they were struggling to pay for food and fuel, four days into the cash crunch.

One family was marrying off their daughter later this month and were worrying about their money stuck in the bank. "Bank officials are saying they will give the money on Monday. How will we make purchases," said Sunita, the mother.

Much of India's rural economy is powered by cash transactions with few people having bank accounts or operating one even if they have an account.

Modi's move was aimed at shrinking the "black economy", the term widely used to describe transactions that take place outside formal channels and which could be as high as 20 per cent of gross domestic product, according to investment firm Ambit.

Bribe and crime proceeds also go into this underground economy. Modi said he also wanted to strike against counterfeit 500 and 1,000 rupee notes that anti-India militants were using to finance acts of violence. —Reuters

Factory blaze kills at least 13 Indian garment workers as they slept

NEW DELHI — At least 13 garment workers were killed after a fire broke out in a factory on the outskirts of the Indian capital, police and witnesses said on Friday.

The blaze, which started in the early hours of Friday as the workers slept inside the leather factory workshop in Uttar Pradesh state, also critically injured eight more people.

Police investigating the cause of the fire in Ghaziabad district said preliminary findings suggested it may have been sparked by an electrical short circuit.

“We are reason to believe that it may be linked to an electrical short circuit, but we are still looking into it,” Deepak Kumar, Ghaziabad’s Senior Superintendent of Police, told reporters.

“Everyone worked together to rescue the people inside the building. These included local residents, police, fire and ambulance services.”

Police said they were also investigating the possibility the factory, was illegal and did not have a license to operate in the congested residential area.

Television pictures showed large crowds outside the gutted three-storey building, located in a narrowed-laned area lined cheek-by-jowl with similar structures in Sahibabad.

The fire, which started at around 4 am local time, spread from the ground floor housing the stitching unit to the upper two storeys, where the labourers were sleeping, said witnesses.

Fire engines were rushed to area and managed to rescue 16 workers, said witnesses, many of whom were taken to a nearby hospital suffering from

burns and respiratory problems.

Activists say the incident is one in a series illustrating the neglect of workplace safety in South Asia’s industrial sector, even in the wake of Bangladesh’s 2013 Rana Plaza disaster, in which more than 1,100 garment workers were killed.

The Rana Plaza tragedy, where an eight-storey building housing several garment factories supplying global brands collapsed on the outskirts of Dhaka, was one of the world’s most deadly industrial accidents.

In India, as well as Bangladesh, such accidents are common.

Eight people were killed in October in an explosion at a firework factory in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, while in May 2014, 15 others were killed in a similar accident in the central state of Madhya Pradesh.

Campaigners advocating for better living and working conditions in the textile and garment sector said the incident showed the plight of workers were still being ignored.

“Despite the many disasters we have seen before, and the great amount of attention to the dangerous working conditions in the South Asian garment industry, factories there largely remain unsafe.

These workers were killed because they were sleeping in the factory,” said Carin Lefler of the Clean Clothes Campaign.

“The deep tragedy that took 13 peoples’ lives in Sahibabad this morning shows that there is still a long way to go before workers can feel safe.”—*Reuters*

Hundreds of thousands to march in South Korea to call for president’s resignation



South Koreans march with candlelight towards the presidential house during a protest against South Korean President Park Geun-Hye on a main street in Seoul, South Korea, on 12 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — Hundreds of thousands of South Koreans are expected to march in Seoul, the capital city of South Korea, on Saturday night over a scandal involving President Park Geun-hye’s longtime confidante and former key aides.

After noon, a number of people began to gather around two squares in central Seoul to attend smaller rallies before the major event that kicked off at 4:00 pm local time.

One hour later, attendees are scheduled to march along the road to pre-determined locations near the presidential Blue House.

A private association to demand Park’s resignation, which is composed of about 1,500 civic groups, held a pre-official event in the Gwanghwamun Square, just 1 km away from the Blue House

where the presidential office and residence are located.

The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, another organiser and one of the country’s two umbrella labour union groups, held an occasion in a Seoul Plaza in front of the city hall, close to the Gwanghwamun square.

The number of demonstrators to attend the Seoul rally is expected to keep rising as labour unionists, youths, university students, scholars, the urban poor, the disabled and farmers plan to join the event after separate protests across downtown Seoul. Almost all of train tickets for Seoul were sold out, and chartered buses became hard to find as at least 100,000 people left for the capital city to join the mass rally. South Koreans living abroad reportedly plan to hold protest rallies.

Police estimated that 160,000-170,000 people would rally in Seoul, almost quadrupling a crowd of 45,000 turning out a week earlier. The number would be the largest since at least 2008 when around 80,000 protested against then-President Lee Myung-bak over his decision to lift a ban on US beef imports.

Organisers said as much as 1 million demonstrators would take to the streets, far surpassing last Saturday’s turnout of some 200,000 in Seoul alone. Police reportedly deployed some 25,000 officers to prevent any march on the presidential office. Two previous protests on Saturdays were peaceful and calm as ordinary people from couples wheeling a baby carriage to high school students and gray-haired old men marched peacefully. —*Xinhua*

China urges EU not to abuse trade remedy measures

BEIJING — The Ministry of Commerce said Saturday that the European Union should avoid abusing trade remedy measures, after the latest decision by the European Commission to impose anti-dumping duties on some Chinese steel products.

The European Commission Saturday decided to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of seamless steel tubes from China for six months.

China is highly concerned about the increasing steel trade protectionism from the EU, and hopes the EU will strictly

respect relevant World Trade Organisation rules, the ministry said in a statement on its website.

The “analogue country” investigation method used by the EU, a practice using price data in a third country to calculate the value of products from a non-market economy country, is unfair and unreasonable and has seriously damaged the interests of Chinese companies, it said.

It reiterated that the root cause of Europe’s steel industry woes was not imports from China but weak economic growth.—*Xinhua*

Rumours of salt shortage triggers panic buying among Indians

NEW DELHI — Worried shoppers rushed to stores in many Indian states Friday to buy iodised salt packets, officials and locals said.

The panic shopping was triggered by rumours of impending salt shortage across the country with crowds throwing stores to take enough supplies home. The rumours about imminent salt scarcity was reported from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai.

These rumours have come at a time when people are already perturbed over poor cash flow in the country after the Indian government’s announcement to demonetize currency notes of 500

and 1000 Indian rupees. Reports said salt prices skyrocketed, with a packet weighing one kilogram sold between 3 USdollars (200 INR) to 6 US dollars (400 INR) in Uttar Pradesh’s Moradabad district.

Ordinarily a kg of iodised salt cost 22 cents in India. Despite assurances from local authorities dispelling salt shortages, people made a beeline at stores to make purchases and carry packets home. Locals said some shopkeepers also panicked after hearing the rumours and closed their shops.

Police in Uttar Pradesh said strict action would be taken against people responsible for spreading rumours. In New Delhi, police is-

sued advisory and dispatched teams for patrolling to dispel rumours and inform the crowds outside stores that there was no shortage of salt in India.

India’s Minister for Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan said there was no shortage of salt and urged people not to heed to rumours.

“There is no scarcity of salt in the country and also no increase in its price. I appeal to the people not to pay attention to the rumours,” Paswan said. “If somebody spreads the rumours of price rise of salt or sells it at high price, state government should immediately take stringent action,” he said.—*Xinhua*

Trump ignorant of Europe, poses risk to relations: EU's Juncker

BRUSSELS — Donald Trump's election as US president poses risks for the relationship between the European Union and the United States, EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said on Friday.

The shock winner of Tuesday's US election was ignorant of the EU and its workings, Juncker told students at a conference in Luxembourg which can be viewed on the EU's website.

"The election of Trump poses the risk of upsetting intercontinental relations in their foundation and in their structure," said Juncker, who as head of the EU's executive is one of Europe's most powerful political figures.

His blunt remarks reflected widespread shock and concern among Europeans at the election of Trump, who among other

statements has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin and questioned the principle of collective defence in NATO.

His comments contrasted with the more diplomatic reactions of European leaders who have said they look forward to working with the next Republican president.

Juncker warned against the "pernicious" consequences of Trump's statements on security policy.

He also recalled a Trump statement in which he seemed to think that Belgium, the country that hosts the headquarters of the EU and NATO, was a city.

"We will need to teach the president-elect what Europe is and how it works," Juncker said, adding that Americans usually had no interest in Europe.



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I think we will waste two years before Mr Trump tours the world he does not know," said Juncker, who on Thursday had already raised doubts about Trump's views on global trade, climate policy and Western security.—Reuters



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (C) poses for photographers with Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci (L) and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades during the Cyprus reunification talks in the Swiss mountain resort of Mont Pelerin, Switzerland, on 7 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Talks on uniting Cyprus make progress, to resume on 20 November — UN

MONT PELERIN (Switzerland) — Talks on reuniting the divided island of Cyprus have achieved significant progress and will resume on 20 November, the United Nations said on Friday, at the end of a fifth straight day of negotiations in the Swiss resort of Mont Pelerin.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the round of talks between Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart Mustafa Akinci on Monday, saying they were both committed to trying to reach a deal this year.

"During these past five days, the chapter on territory and all other issues were discussed inter-dependently. Significant progress has been achieved," the United

Nations said in a brief statement released after 11 pm local time on Friday.

"Upon request of the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Anastasiades, it has been decided by the two leaders to take a recess and reconvene in Geneva on Sunday, 20 November 2016, to continue their deliberations from Mont Pelerin."

Cyprus's 800,000 Greek Cypriots and approximately 220,000 Turkish Cypriots live on the divided island with a UN patrolled ceasefire line splitting the island east to west.

The island was split in a Turkish invasion in 1974 triggered by a brief Greek-inspired coup. But friction between the two sides dates back at least a

decade when Turkish Cypriots pulled out of a power-sharing government at perceived attempts by Greek Cypriots to limit their say.

Anastasiades and Akinci are both moderates leading their respective communities and the negotiations are directed towards reuniting Cyprus as a loose federation of two constituent, largely self-governing states.

In addition to territorial swaps, Greek Cypriots who represent Cyprus in the European Union are adamant that a deal see the withdrawal of Turkish forces from the island. Thousands of Turkish troops are stationed in Cyprus's north, a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state recognised only by Ankara.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four killed in blast in US Bagram airbase in Afghanistan

KABUL — Four people were killed and 14 others injured in a blast inside Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan's eastern province of Parwan early on Saturday, sources said.

"On 12 November, an explosive device was detonated on Bagram Airfield resulting in multiple casualties. Four people have died in the attack and approximately 14 have been wounded. We will provide updates as appropriate," the NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) said in a statement.

The Bagram Airfield, some 50 km north of Afghan capital of Kabul, has been serving as a main US military base in Afghanistan over the past 15 years.

Earlier on Saturday, a provincial government spokesman told Xinhua that the nature of the blast was a suicide bombing.

"The initial probes found that a man disguised as a daily worker made his way to pass the first checkpoint of the base and detonated his explosive jacket inflicting casualties," spokesman Wahid Seddiqi told Xinhua.—Xinhua

Shanghai to strictly ban smoking in indoor places from March

SHANGHAI — Shanghai's legislature voted Friday to ban smoking in indoor public places, workplaces and public transport, as well as many outdoor areas, from next March.

The new regulation passed by the standing committee of Shanghai People's Congress closes loopholes that currently allow smoking in designated indoor areas of hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues, as well as airports and train stations.

It also bans smoking in outdoor areas of historic sites, stadiums, public transport waiting areas, children's hospitals and schools, among others, according to information posted on the legislature's website.

Under the current regulation, introduced ahead of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, hotels can offer smoking rooms in addition to non-smoking ones, but that will no longer be the case, nor will restaurants and other venues be allowed to offer smoking areas or rooms, the *Shanghai Daily* reported.—Kyodo News

Brazilians protest against government spending cap in 17 states

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilians on Friday held protests against the government's constitutional amendment bill which establishes a spending cap on government expenses.

Protests were registered in 17 states and were mostly peaceful. Workers blocked highways and attended large political gatherings. In several states, teachers, bus drivers and bank workers declared a day of strike.

The controversial proposal foresees that for the next 20 years the government's expenses, which include investments in key sectors such as education, public healthcare, housing and sanitation, will only be allowed to increase up to the inflation rate of the previous year.

The government says the measure is necessary to regain fiscal balance. Critics say that, in times of crisis, government investments are often the ones which give the initial boost to put the economy back on track.—Xinhua

University of Sydney launches new facility in China

SHANGHAI — The University of Sydney opened its first major offshore education and research facility — the University of Sydney Centre in China.

The new facility opened Friday at Suzhou Industrial Park in east China's Jiangsu Province. The centre will increase intellectual and creative exchanges between Chinese and Australian researchers, academics and students, according to University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor and Principal Michael Spence. He hailed the centre as an important milestone in the university's relations with China. The centre will facilitate work placements, internships and other learning opportunities for Australian students in China, host research seminars, conferences and conventions, and provide a teaching and learning environment for collaborative programmes with Chinese universities, institutes and industries. The University of Sydney, Australia's first university established in 1850, has about 12,000 Chinese students on campus and more than 200 academic staff specializing in China directly or collaborating with Chinese researchers.—Xinhua

Myanmar Senior General meets General Claudio Graziano in Italy

THE Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is on a goodwill visit to Italy, met on Friday with General Claudio Graziano, Chief of Defence Staff of the Italian Armed Forces.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to promotion of the relationship between the two militaries and bilateral cooperation, exchange of goodwill visits and future plans for possible cooperation in some sectors.

On Friday evening, the Senior General and party visited Trevi Fountain in Rome.

The Senior General and party also visited the Myanmar Embassy in Rome, where the general spoke to the members of the embassy and their families. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented gifts and food-stuff to embassy staff and their families.

Later, the Senior General and party were hosted with a dinner by the embassy. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is on a goodwill visit to Italy, met on Friday with General Claudio Graziano, Chief of Defence Staff of the Italian Armed Forces. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tours Granatieri Military History Museum in Rome

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Ambassador U Myint Naung yesterday toured the Granatieri, a Military History Museum in Rome.

Lieutenant Colonel Bruno Camarota, who is in charge

of the museum, gave a private tour to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party. World War I battles involving Italy are depicted in the museum, along with weapons and military equipment, the history of the Italian Armed Forces and documents heroics of Italian soldiers.

Lieutenant Colonel Bruno Camarota presented books of Military History Museum to the Senior General, who in turn gave a gift to Lt-Col Camarota. The military men then posed for photos to document the event. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Kathina Offering and Generous Spirit of Myanmar Buddhist Community

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The word 'ကထိနာ' in Myanmar is derived from the Pali word 'Kathina'. In those days, making a robe required spreading cloth on a frame called a "kathina." The word literally means "hard," and "firm" because it can be offered once in a year and the benefits of Kathina offering for donors can be gain firmly besides it also connotes stability and durability. So, Kathina is not just about cloth; it is also about firm commitment to monastic life.

The historical back of Kathina can be stepped that once thirty forest-dwelling monks wished to spend the rainy season with the Buddha, and they traveled together to where he would be staying. Unfortunately, the walk took

longer than they anticipated, and the monsoon began before they had reached the Buddha's summer dwelling. The thirty monks were disappointed but made the best of it. They found a place to stay together, and they meditated and studied together. And after three months, when the monsoon season ended, they hurried to find the Buddha. But the roads were thick with mud, and rain still drizzled from the clouds and dripped from trees, and by the time they reached the Buddha their robes were muddy and drenched. They sat some distance from the Buddha, uncomfortable and probably embarrassed to be wearing such wet, dirty robes in the presence of their revered teacher. But the Buddha greeted them warmly. The Buddha per-

ceived the sincere dedication of the forest-dwelling monks and felt compassion for them. A layperson had just given him a donation of cloth, and he gave this cloth to the monks to make a new robe for one among them. Due to the difficult situation faced by the monks, the Buddha allowed people to offer robes to the Sangha.

In conclusion, Myanmar people who are pious and generous in performing will keep on offering their generous spirit whenever they settle down either in the East or in the West because they believe that they have a duty to support the Sangha all over the world who are spreading the message of the Buddha for the welfare and happiness of the entire people.

POEM:

Through Meditation

- * Through meditation,
a poet may not gain concentration
since his big heart is full of feelings,
and his small head is full of thoughts,
but meditation gives no room
for feelings nor for thoughts.
- * During meditation,
his feelings surge like the sea,
his thoughts flit and fly
like the meteors in the night sky;
he is here, but his mind is not here.
It is not through meditation,
but through the absorbing task of writing poetry,
a poet can gain concentration.

Zaw Tun

Salient Points of New Myanmar Investment Law (2016)

Zaw Nyunt

INTEGRATING and merging two separate investment stipulations for nationals and foreign entities, new Myanmar Investment Law was enacted on 18th October 2016. From bird's eye view, it seems the new law is the outcome of refining the old and existing investment laws with accumulated experiences during the last three decades starting from 1988 Foreign Investment Law. While some articles which has passed the acid test of 28 years still remain, some new considerations and approaches are also introduced in this new law. Both old and new alike, the salient points of newly-enacted Myanmar Investment Law 2016 can be summarized as below:-

- (1) National treatment as well as same corporate/personal tax rate is extended to foreign investors.
- (2) Two-channel system, direct channel and channel through line ministries, are preserved.
- (3) All-must-submit-proposal approach is written off. Previous MIC permits can now be sub-categorized into MIC Permit and MIC Endorsement. Most of the small and medium investment which do not fall in strategic, capital-intensive, high environmentally impacting and state-owned-facilities using business activities will no longer need to submit proposals and they just need MIC Endorsement reducing many lengthy procedures.
- (4) All sectors are freely open to unrestrained foreign investment after defining four restricted categories, namely, State-only businesses, prohibited businesses for foreign investment, businesses allowed only for JV with Myanmar and businesses that require the recommendation from relevant ministries.
- (5) Basic land lease terms are the same: initial 50 years, additional 10 years plus 10 years

- (6) Previous stipulations of mandatory skilled labour employment percentage are now replaced with more flexible and practical ones.
- (7) Duties refund for re-export businesses is introduced.
- (8) Government guarantees, fund transfer, dispute settlement including arbitration and prevalence of signed international treaties over the stipulations in this law are maintained with more elaborate details.
- (9) Tax relief, exemptions and other incentives are entitled in accordance with promotion strategy and the period will be based on zonal classification of States and Regions as Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3 which in turn will be defined according to their development stage. If an investor chooses less developed areas, he will be entitled to more preferential treatment and thus it is an investment channeling to least-developed areas. Exemption periods are 7 years, 5 years and 3 years respectively.

From analytical point of view, it can be definitely said that Myanmar Investment legal framework has entered into the third stage, i.e., 1988 Foreign Investment Law was the first initial stage and 2012 Foreign Investment Law the second intermediate stage. In other words, this new law 2016 denotes the beginning of the maturity of legal framework for Myanmar investment environment.

However, more tremendous efforts are still needed especially for consequent stipulation of robust and investment-friendly rules and regulations.

The whole world is eagerly waiting at Myanmar Gate and closely watching the trends and rapid developments in Myanmar investment environment. For Myanmar, we hope this is the right time, the right place and- last but not the least- the right Rule.

Russia says will need UN guarantee for new Aleppo humanitarian pauses

MOSCOW — The Russian Defence Ministry said on Saturday it would need the UN mission in Syria to formally confirm its ability to deliver aid to eastern Aleppo before Moscow agreed to any new humanitarian pauses in fighting in the shattered Syrian city.

Moscow says previous temporary ceasefires on the ground, called to allow aid deliveries and the evacuation of the wounded and civilians, have come to nothing because rebels have opened fire on anyone trying to come in or out.

Rebels contest that and say it is the Syrian army and its allies who have sabotaged the humanitarian pauses.

“The Russian Defence Ministry will be ready to consider introducing new ‘humanitarian pauses’ at any time as soon as representatives of the UN mission in Syria officially confirm their readiness and possibility to deliver humanitarian aid to eastern Aleppo and to evacuate wounded and sick civilians,” Major-General Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.

The occasional humanitarian pauses on the ground are distinct from a unilateral moratorium on Russian air strikes on rebel targets inside Aleppo, which remains in place for now.—Reuters

Egypt imposes big security clampdown, protests fail to materialize

CAIRO — Egypt imposed a big security clampdown in its cities on Friday as mass demonstrations called to protest against austerity measures failed to take place.

Riot police and armored vehicles filled the otherwise empty streets of central Cairo, but most people stayed at home.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has urged Egyptians not to protest and warned that there would be no going back on economic reforms, no matter how much pain they might cause.

In a boost for the government, the International Monetary Fund’s executive board approved a three-year, \$12 billion loan to Egypt aimed at supporting the reforms, and the central bank said it received a first tranche of \$2.75 billion.

A little-known group calling itself Movement of the Poor had called for Egyptians to protest on 11 November against deepening austerity measures the government says are required to save the Arab world’s most populous nation from financial ruin.

But big protests failed to materialize across the country by 8:30 pm (1830 GMT). Police dispersed several small gatherings and there were some minor clashes. No one was killed or injured.

“The Egyptian people chose stability and development and rejected any calls against that,” state television quoted Prime Minister Sherif Ismail as saying.

The calls to protest began in August, but gained traction on social media last week after Egypt raised fuel prices and floated its currency — a move welcomed by bankers but condemned by ordinary people as the latest blow to their diminish-



Members of security forces secure Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt, on 11 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing spending power.

The usually busy Tahrir Square was deserted except for armored vehicles with tear-gas launchers and dozens of riot police. Authorities shut down the Sadat metro station to prevent potential demonstrators reaching the square, which has in the past been a centre of political protest.

“I don’t think anything will happen but this security presence scares people and ensures nothing does,” said Shenouda Ishak, a driver in the Cairo district of Shubra.

There was a heavy security presence in other areas of Cairo, and other cities including Alexandria, Suez, and Minya.

The protests won little support from prominent activist and opposition groups, though they have been backed by the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

But in a country where street politics helped to unseat two presidents within two years, authorities were keen to deter protesters. Dozens of people were detained in recent weeks, accused of inciting unrest.

Protesters camped in Tahrir Square in an 18-day demonstration that ended Hosni Mubarak’s 30-year rule in 2011.

When Egyptians took to the streets in mid-2013 to end a year of Brotherhood rule, general-turned-president Sisi inter-

vened.

Security sources said police chased dozens of protesters away from Arbaeen Square in Suez, near the place where the first protester was killed in 2011. Protesters on Friday chanted against high prices.

In the coastal province of Beheira, police fired tear gas at protesters who threw rocks back. Security sources said 98 suspected Brotherhood supporters were arrested in three cities in Beheira, 14 in Alexandria, and 10 in Suez.

Muslim Brotherhood activists held a limited protest in the hometown of former President Mohamed Mursi but did not clash with police.—Reuters

Watchdog condemns Syrian government, IS use of banned chemical weapons



A view shows car parts, which according to Syria Democratic Forces fighters were used by Islamic State militants to prepare car bombs, at a workshop in Manbij, Syria. PHOTO: REUTERS

AMSTERDAM — The executive body of the global chemical weapons watchdog voted on Friday to condemn the use of banned toxic agents by the Syrian government and by the militant group Islamic State, a source who took part in the closed session said.

Roughly two-thirds of the 41 members on the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), endorsed a text compiled by Spain, sources told Reuters.

An initial US draft was replaced with a compromise text drafted by Spain, which dropped a reference to sanctions against those responsible for violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention, sources added.

The OPCW’s Executive Council, which meets behind closed doors, seldom votes on

such matters, generally operating through consensus. But this text was supported by 28 members, including Germany, France, the United States and Britain.

It was opposed by Russia, China, Sudan and Iran. There were nine abstentions. Russia and Iran are Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s main allies against rebels seeking to overthrow him. Western and Gulf Arab states back the rebels.

“There is a clear determination across the international community to hold those who have used these heinous weapons to account,” said British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson in a statement responding to the vote.

But a US-Russian split over Syria highlighted continuing divisions. It was these two countries that in 2013 took the lead in getting the Damascus government to

join the OPCW and avert threatened US-led military intervention in Syria’s civil war.

A 13-month international inquiry by the OPCW and United Nations concluded in a series of reports that Syrian government forces, including helicopter squadrons, were responsible for the use of chlorine barrel bombs against civilians.

The OPCW-UN mission found that the Syrian government carried out three toxic attacks in March and April of last year, while Islamic State militants had used sulphur mustard gas.

The findings set the stage for a UN Security Council showdown between the five veto-wielding powers, likely pitting Russia and China against the United States, Britain and France over how those responsible for the attacks should be held accountable.—Reuters

YANGON TO BANGKOK				BANGKOK TO YANGON				YGN TO ICN				ICN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily	TG-303	7:55	8:50	Daily	KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily	KE-471	18:45	22:25	Daily
TG-2302	15:00	18:55	Daily	TG-2301	13:15	14:10	Daily								
TG-306	19:45	21:40	Daily	TG-305	17:50	18:45	Daily								
PG-706	8:15	8:30	Daily	PG-701	8:50	9:40	Daily								
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily	PG-707	13:45	14:35	Daily								
PG-708	15:20	17:15	Daily	PG-703	18:25	19:15	3								
PG-704	18:20	20:15	3	PG-705	16:45	17:35	Daily								
PG-704	20:00	21:55	Daily	PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily								
BM-335	7:40	9:25	Daily	BM-336	10:40	11:25	Daily								
BM-331	18:30	18:15	Daily	BM-332	19:15	20:00	Daily								
UB-017	15:10	19:20	1,3,5	UB-020	11:00	11:30	7								
UB-017	17:50	19:20	2,4,6,7	UB-018	20:20	20:50	Daily								
UB-019	8:05	9:35	7	UB-020	9:15	9:45	1,2,4,5,6								
UB-019	8:30	8:00	1,2,3,4,5,6												

YGN TO DMK				DMK TO YGN				YGN TO TPE				TPE TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily	FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily	CI-7916	10:45	18:15	1,2,3,4,6	CI-7915	7:00	9:45	1,2,3,4,6
FD-256	13:25	15:10	Daily	FD-255	12:05	12:55	Daily								
FD-254	17:30	19:05	Daily	FD-253	16:20	17:00	Daily								
FD-258	20:05	21:55	Daily	FD-257	18:05	18:55	Daily								
DD-4231	08:00	9:50	Daily	DD-4234	10:25	11:15	Daily								
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily	DD-4230	8:20	7:05	Daily								
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily	DD-4238	19:30	20:15	Daily								
SL-201	11:00	13:00	Daily	SL-200	9:05	10:00	Daily								
SL-207	20:05	21:45	Daily	SL-206	18:15	19:05	Daily								

YGN TO CAN				CAN TO YGN				YGN TO HKG				HKG TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BM-711	20:30	01:05+1	5	BM-712	2:45	4:20	6	KA-251	1:10	5:45	1,2,3,4,6,7	KA-252	22:50	00:30+1	4
BM-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,7	BM-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,7	KA-251	1:30	5:55	5	UB-8027	9:45	14:15	1,5,7
CZ-3056	11:25	16:15	3,8	CZ-3055	8:50	10:25	3,8								
CZ-3056	17:30	22:35	1,5	CZ-3055	14:40	16:30	1,5								

YGN TO SIN				SIN TO YGN				YGN TO DOH				DOH TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BM-231	8:20	12:50	Daily	BM-232	13:50	15:20	Daily	QR-919	8:15	10:55	1,4,6	QR-918	20:40	6:25	3,5,6
SQ-997	10:35	15:10	Daily	SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily								
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,5	MI-522	11:00	12:20	4,6								
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily	MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily								
MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6	MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,5								
MI-533	13:10	20:15	2	MI-533	11:00	12:20	2								
3K-584	19:15	23:50	2,5	3K-583	17:05	18:35	2,5								
3K-582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,6,7	3K-581	8:55	10:25	1,3,4,5,6,7								
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	Daily	TR-2822	7:20	8:45	Daily								
UB-001	7:30	12:00	Daily	UB-002	13:15	14:45	Daily								

YGN TO NRT				NRT TO YGN				YGN TO DAC				DAC TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	21:45	06:50+1	Daily	NH-813	11:00	15:40	Daily	BG-061	16:15	18:00	1,3,6	BG-060	12:45	15:30	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK				DMK TO MDL				MDL TO SIN				SIN TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:45	15:00	Daily	FD-244	10:50	12:15	Daily	MI-533	15:20	20:15	2	MI-522	11:00	12:50	2,6
								MI-522	13:40	20:15	2,6	MI-533	11:00	14:25	2

MDL TO BKK				BKK TO MDL				MDL TO KMG				KMG TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:05	16:30	Daily	PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily	MU-2030	14:05	16:45	Daily	MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

MDL TO NYT				NYT TO MDL				BKK TO NYT				NYT TO BKK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	20:25	22:35	2	PG-722	19:30	22:30	1,2,3,4,5,7	PG-721	18:25	19:35	2	PG-721	17:00	19:00	1,2,3,4,5,7

Night delight: 'supermoon' to grace Earth's skies

CAPE CANAVERAL (Fla.) — The largest, brightest full moon in nearly seven decades will be on display in the coming days, promising Earth-bound sky-watchers a celestial "supermoon" spectacle.

The full moon will come nearer to Earth than at any time since 1948, astronomers said. At closest approach, which occurs at 6:23 am. EST on Monday, the moon will pass within 216,486 miles (348,400 km) of Earth's surface, about 22,000 miles (35,400 km) closer than average,

they added. The moon's distance from Earth varies because it is in an egg-shaped, not circular, orbit around the planet. If skies are clear, the upcoming full moon will appear up to 14 per cent bigger and 30 per

cent brighter than usual, making it what is called a supermoon, according to NASA.

A supermoon occurs when the timing of a full moon overlaps with the point in the moon's 28-day orbit that is closest to Earth. About every 14th full moon is a supermoon, said University of Wisconsin astronomer Jim Lattis.

The next time a full moon comes as close to Earth will be in 2034.

"If you could stack up full moons next to each other, there is clearly a difference," Lattis said, but to a casual observer it is going to look very similar to a regular full moon.

Weather permitting, sky-watchers in North America and locations east of the International Dateline will have a better view on Sunday night since the moon will set less than three hours after closest approach on Monday.

"The difference in distance from one night to the next will be very subtle, so if it's cloudy on Sunday, go out on Monday. Any time after sunset should be fine," Noah Petro, deputy project scientist for NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, said in a statement.—Reuters

New 'brain-spine' device tested in monkeys may help cure paralyzed humans

GENEVA — Swiss scientists have developed a new implantable device to help monkeys with spinal-cord injuries regain the use of their legs, which may eventually lead to a cure for paralyzed humans.

The device, which is a neuroprosthetic interface, can function as a brain-spine connector, transmitting signals wirelessly from the brain to stimulate electrodes in the legs, said the researchers at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL). It means the interface can relay the movement instructions while bypassing the damaged area of the spine causing the paralysis, according to their study released Wednesday by the scientific journal *Nature*.

The treatment used in monkeys is seen as a potential boon for immobile patients. "For the first time, I can imagine a completely paralyzed patient able to move their legs through this brain-spine interface," said Jocelyne Bloch, a neurosurgeon at the Lausanne University Hospital, in a press release from EPFL.—Xinhua



People watch as a supermoon rises over Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on 16 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Supporters to Trump: break campaign promises at your peril

WASHINGTON — Kathryn Stellmack expects the world from Donald Trump.

After listening to his speeches and casting her vote for him, she expects Trump to toughen immigration laws, restore lost jobs, upend a corrupt political system, build a wall on the border, and be, as the millionaire put it, the “greatest jobs president that God has ever created.”

“We expect him to move forward on all the items he has promised to move forward on,” said Stellmack, 69, a retiree in West Palm Beach, Florida.

“And if he doesn’t, we will hold his feet to the fire.”

After a presidential race fueled by brash but constantly shifting policy proposals, Trump’s millions of followers — from social conservative activists to struggling blue-collar workers to hardline militant groups — say if he does anything less than take a wrecking ball to business-as-usual Washington, they will be disappointed.

“We’ll be watching, Mr. Trump,” said Stellmack.

Trump’s promises have been hard to pin down, with many policy details left elusive and vague. NBC News identified 141 “distinct shifts” on 23 major issues since Trump announced his candidacy on 16 June, 2015.

Still, his fiery rhetoric had an unmistakable message of ending big government and the entrenched power of establishment elites in both parties.

That inspired hope that

Trump can break through Washington’s gridlock to make progress on plans to invigorate the economy, eliminate terrorist threats, rip up trade agreements and repeal President Barack Obama’s healthcare plan known as Obamacare.

“I totally trust him,” said Laura Czarniak, 56, of Manistee, Michigan, a Rust Belt state that leans Democrat in presidential elections but which flipped to Trump on Tuesday.

“I know he’ll build the wall. I know he’ll take care of the Syrian refugee problem. I know he’ll get rid of Obamacare. There is not a chance in hell he won’t do those things,” she said.

But even with Republicans retaining control of Congress, Trump will have to accept limits and compromises on some of his plans. Many Republicans, for example, are wary of his proposals to

scrap trade deals and boost spending on infrastructure improvements.

Some of his plans have already been rolled back.

Trump faces his highest expectations on the issue of immigration, given his intense focus on attention-grabbing campaign proposals like forcing Mexico to pay for a border wall, and temporarily banning Muslims from entering the country.

But he recently indicated he would at first deport only criminal undocumented immigrants, after previously pledging to deport all undocumented aliens, while the Muslim ban has softened into “extreme vetting” of immigrants from some countries.

He told the *Wall Street Journal* in an interview on Friday that he would consider keeping parts of Obamacare intact

— easing off his calls for a total repeal — after Obama spoke to him on the issue at the White House on Thursday.

Mark Morris, a leader of the Colorado-based Three Percent United Patriots militia group, said he understood Trump would need time on some issues, but he expected quick movement on repealing Obamacare and appointing a conservative Supreme Court justice to fill the seat of the late Antonin Scalia.

He said he hoped Trump would stand with ranchers in their disputes with the federal government over fees charged for cattle grazing on public land — a call to arms for many in the patriot and militia movement.

Morris warned Trump should not count on his followers to stay with him if he did not produce results.—Reuters



Demonstrators hold signs in support of President elect Donald Trump outside of Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, California, US, 11 on November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Austrian presidential hopeful aims to hammer far right with Trump’s own message



Austrian presidential candidate Alexander Van der Bellen, who is supported by the Greens, addresses a news conference in Vienna, Austria, on 10 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

VIENNA — The independent candidate in Austria’s tight presidential run-off plans to use the far right’s support for Donald Trump as a weapon against it to ensure the US election outcome will not help his opponent as many suspect.

Former Greens leader Alexander Van der Bellen narrowly won a run-off in May against the anti-immigration Freedom Party’s Norbert Hofer, but the result was overturned in July. The re-run is due to be held on 4 December.

Events since the original run-off, including Britain’s vote to exit the European Union, appear to have had little effect on the race for Austria’s largely ceremonial presidency, with polls giving a slight edge to Hofer but within the margin of error.

But Trump’s victory on Tuesday, on top of Brexit, has raised the prospect of a right-wing populist wave sweeping the West.

A survey in Austria by pollster Market conducted on Tuesday found 58 per-

cent of respondents believe Trump’s victory would boost Hofer’s chances of winning, with only 14 per cent saying it would lift Van der Bellen.

“It is, I think, a mistake to change strategy in a short-term panic,” Van der Bellen, a softly spoken, 72-year-old former economics professor, told Reuters in an interview on Friday. “You can refine and change tactics, but not the broad line.”

Asked what tactical changes he had in mind, he said: “Point out slightly more directly what it means if you support Donald Trump in such a fervent manner. Does it mean you also support what he (promised) during the campaign? Does it mean you are against health insurance in Austria? Does it mean you want to wall off the borders whatever the cost?” The Freedom Party (FPO), which like Trump has capitalized on grassroots fears about unemployment and immigration as well as anger at the political establishment, congratulated Trump on his victory. But it has been less enthusiastic in its support for him than some of its European allies, such as the far-right National Front in France. Van der Bellen is also seeking to capitalize on Hofer’s U-turn on Britain’s Brexit vote — Hofer initially said Austria could hold its own referendum on leaving the EU within a year, but now no longer wants one.

“Mr Hofer is constantly changing his strategy,” Van der Bellen said, and was likely to dissolve parliament to bring about a snap election that polls suggest his party would win.—Reuters

Migrants stranded in Serbia march toward Croatian border

BELGRADE — Some 150 migrants, trapped in Serbia, set out on Friday to walk about 125 km (80 miles) to the Croatian border, demanding free and secure passage toward Western Europe, police said.

Police are following the group along the highway connecting Belgrade and the border. “We started marching toward the border with Croatia. The camps are full, we sleep in parks, we cannot stand it any more,” said a migrant from Pakistan who gave his name as Habib.

According to the UN refugee agency, around 6,400 migrants from countries such as Syria, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan are currently registered in Serbia, while local non-governmental organisations say their number is close to 10,000. They mostly arrive from Bulgaria and Macedonia. Last month another group tried a similar protest march toward the Hungarian border, but eventually decided to return to Belgrade. Hungary has practically sealed its borders to mi-

grants. Last year a total of 579,518 migrants and asylum seekers were registered arriving in Serbia, out of more than a million who made it to Europe by land and sea.

A deal between Turkey and the European Union, struck in March, has largely shut off the flow of people reaching Greece and the Balkans, but Austria kicked off consultations with Balkan states this month to see what measures can be taken if the deal collapses.—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

Germany cuts CO2 targets for industry ahead of Morocco talks

BERLIN — The German government has bowed to pressure to water down its CO2 reduction targets for industry in the final version of its climate action plan, a document seen by Reuters showed.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government is determined to hammer out the final details this week so that Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks can present the plan at global climate talks in Morocco next week.

The government is now calling for German industry to cut its CO2 emissions by 20 rather than 30 per cent by 2030 compared with 2014, according to the document which was seen on Friday.

The plan sets out how Europe's biggest economy expects to move away from fossil fuels and cut CO2 emissions by 95 per cent by 2050 to implement pledges made as part of a global climate treaty agreed in Paris in September 2015.

A leader of the Greens, Anton Hofreiter, said the watered-down goals as showed how Germany, which once considered itself a leader in climate protection, has gone off course.

"The climate protection plan remains just a skeleton," he said. "There still aren't any clear goals or measures. This government is afraid to tackle issues like more CO2-free vehicles on the road or closing down coal-burning plants."

In the new plan, the emissions-cutting target for power stations was reduced, although only slightly.

Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel, leader

of the Social Democrats (SPD) who share power with Merkel's conservatives, blocked a deal late on Tuesday on the initial plan, aimed at cutting German CO2 emissions by 55 per cent by 2030.

His unexpected veto came after trade union IG BCE, with the support of the BDI industry group, raised concerns about plans for Germany to end its use of brown coal amid calls for it to set out a timetable for ending coal-fired power production.

Gabriel said it was important to achieve ambitious climate and energy policies that also take into account modernisation, economic growth and job security.

The document also dropped a previous government call to set a minimum price for carbon permits auctioned by countries under the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS).

The ETS charges power plants and factories for every tonne of carbon dioxide they emit, but to stop industries moving their operations to countries with looser environmental regulations, many firms have been handed free permits.

The German document suggested 10 per cent of the most efficient plants in sectors that could be vulnerable to so-called carbon leakage should continue to get free allowances.

EU lawmakers are currently working on reforms of the market that will reduce the share of free carbon permits handed out after 2020 as part of an effort to fix the oversupply in the system and boost prices.—*Reuters*



A man looks for groceries and goods at a supermarket in Caracas, Venezuela, on 11 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Venezuela floods shops with unaffordable goods ahead of Christmas

CARACAS — Topping off a year of economic crisis that left many Venezuelans hungry, the country's socialist government is flooding shops with products ahead of Christmas, at prices that most cannot afford.

Thousands of containers of festive food and toys are on their way, say authorities, and while supermarket shelves appear fuller, prices are ludicrously high for people earning just tens of dollars a month at the black market exchange rate.

"If you've got money, then of course you're happy," said Geronimo Perez, selling newspapers in the centre of Caracas. "But

if not, you're left empty-handed."

A 1.8-kilogram (4 lbs) carton of powdered milk costs the equivalent of \$20 in Caracas at the black market exchange rate. That's more than two weeks' work at Venezuela's minimum wage.

The country is undergoing major economic and social problems, as a decade and a half of currency controls, price controls and now low oil prices have left the government and businesses without sufficient hard currency to import goods.

This means supermarkets are empty of basics from rice to chicken, let alone Christmas gifts.

Queues at supermarkets that stock regulated goods can run into hundreds or thousands, many of whom are left disappointed.

President Nicolas Maduro blames the problems on an "economic war" waged against the country and his government has promised that supply will be "sufficient" in December.

The bolivar currency has weakened some 40 per cent against the dollar at the black market rate in the last month alone. One dollar buys nearly 1,900 bolivars on the street, compared to just 10 bolivars at the government's strongest official rate.

This means that importers bringing products in on the black market are paying even more and passing those costs onto consumers, fueling inflation that the IMF says will surpass 2,000 per cent next year.

Anger is mounting and hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in recent weeks hoping for change. Some though, are pleased with the festive respite.

"It's better that at least we can celebrate a little amid all these problems, at least the children," said Karina Mora, as she left a supermarket in the center of Caracas with her two small children.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANI BHUM VOY. NO ()

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

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185



PHOTO: REUTERS

Robert Redford plans 'goodbye to all that' acting

LOS ANGELES — Robert Redford says he is planning on retiring from acting soon to focus on directing and on his first love - art.

The 80-year old star of "Out of Africa" and "The Sting" told his grandson Dylan in an online interview that he was getting tired of acting.

"I'm an impatient person, so it's hard for me to sit around and do take after take after take," Redford said in the interview published on Thursday for the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. "Going back to sketching — that's sort of where my head is right now."

Redford, who has never won an Oscar for acting despite a storied 50-year career, will not be departing from the big screen any time soon.

He said he has two more acting projects in the works. One is a love story for older people with Jane Fonda, his co-star in the 1967 romantic comedy "Barefoot in the Park," and the other is a lighter movie with Casey Affleck and Sissy Spacek. According to movie website IMDB.com, both movies are expected to be released in 2017.

"Once they're done then I'm going to say, 'Okay, that's goodbye to all that,' and then just focus on directing," he said.

Redford recalled that his first love was art and that he spent time in Europe as a teenager "exploring story-telling through painting."

Movies like "All the President's Men," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "The Way We Were" made Redford into one of the world's biggest movie stars of the 1970s and 1980s.—Reuters

Jeff Beck, Jimmy Page among stars in Tokyo for Classic Rock awards

TOKYO — A host of rockers gathered in Tokyo for this year's Classic Rock Roll of Honour on Friday, an annual awards ceremony hosted by Classic Rock magazine.

Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry and heavy metal band X Japan co-founder Yoshiki Hayashi were joined on the red carpet by Hollywood actor and musician Johnny Depp.

Other attendees included guitarist Jeff Beck, who was presented with The Icon award.

The event, which began in 2005, was being held in Japan for the first time.—Reuters



(R-L) Musicians Rudolf Schenker, Orianthi, and Richie Sambora pose on the red carpet at the 2016 Classic Rock Roll of Honour awards in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Why Ang Lee chose 'Billy Lynn' to showcase new movie technology

NEW YORK — It's usually comic book or adventure movies that get advanced technology treatment but when Oscar-winning director Ang Lee was looking to showcase groundbreaking extra-fast, high-resolution imagery, he chose a drama about American soldiers returning home from Iraq.

"Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk," based on the satirical 2012 novel by Ben Fountain, is shot in 3D, 4K resolution and 120 frames per second - five times faster than an ordinary movie. The aim was to immerse the audience in the experience of the film's conflicted 19-year-old protagonist.

The movie follows young soldier Billy Lynn, portrayed by newcomer Joe Alwyn, who returns from Iraq with his squad in 2004 for a victory tour of the United States after being hailed as heroes.

The soldiers take part in the surreal spectacle of a Thanksgiving football halftime show on the eve of their return to war.



Director Ang Lee (R), his son cast member Mason Lee (L) and Joe Alwyn pose before the Asian premiere of the film "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" in Taipei, Taiwan on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lee said the high-definition technology aimed to underline the contrast between the soldiers' sensation of being on the battlefield and the noisy patriotism of their reception back in the United States.

"I think it makes it easy to see things through his (Billy's) eyes," Lee said. "One of the

hardest things was translating from the book to the film. It's very internal. One day the boy is experiencing bullets and the next the halftime show and the still fresh memory of battle."

The movie opens in New York and Los Angeles on Friday — Veterans' Day in the United States — in a tribute to

the military.

It comes a decade after a slew of films about the Iraq war that largely failed at the US box-office a decade ago. Yet Lee said he hoped his movie will give audiences "a little more understanding of what soldiers experience. They are the people who do things we don't want to do."

Only a handful of US movie theaters are equipped to handle the new technology, meaning most Americans will see the film in regular format or 3D when the opening expands on 18 November. The movie also has Kristen Stewart as Billy's cynical sister, Steve Martin as a football team owner and Vin Diesel as Billy's military mentor.

Stewart said Lee wanted "to get closer to the honesty in the situation."

"Usually technically advanced movie are a little more fake - they are about superheroes or about things that don't exist, and this is the absolute opposite of that," she said.—Reuters

After 15 years, Beatty returns to cinema in 'Rules Don't Apply'

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood actor Warren Beatty returns to cinema screens after a 15-year absence in the romantic drama "Rules Don't Apply", playing billionaire Howard Hughes.

The Oscar winner, known for movies such as "Bonnie and Clyde", "Bulworth" and "Dick Tracy", also wrote and directed the film about a young actress, played by Lily Collins and her driver, portrayed by Alden Ehrenreich.

The movie, which had its

world premiere at the American Film Institute festival in Los Angeles on Thursday, is Beatty's first film appearance since 2001's "Town & Country".

"I always take a long time to finally begin a movie," the 79-year-old said at the premiere. "I've had this in the back of my mind for a long time and ... so to be able to finally go ahead and do it is very satisfying, and I got lucky with a terrific cast."

Beatty walked the red carpet

with his wife, actress Annette Bening, who also stars in the movie alongside Ed Harris, Alec Baldwin and Matthew Broderick.

"I think that the sexual puritanism of America and the rise of feminism in the late '50s and the early '60s which occurs in this movie is meaningful," Beatty said.

The AFI Fest runs until Nov. 17 and will feature premieres of such other films as "The Comedian," starring Robert De Niro, and Disney's "Moana".—Reuters



Director Warren Beatty and Annette Bening. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cuba tourism revenue jumps 15 per cent in the first half of 2016

HAVANA — Revenues from tourism in Cuba rose 15 per cent in the first half of 2016 compared with the same period last year, official data showed on Friday, with the number of visitors from the United States soaring around 80 per cent.

Tourism income rose to \$1.2 billion in the January to June period, the National Statistics Office data showed, helping sustain an economy struggling with lower global commodity prices and a crisis in key ally Venezuela.

The sector is expected to boom further over coming years given easing US restrictions on travel, the return of US cruise ships to the Caribbean island and regular commercial flights between the two countries.

While Canadians still make up the largest group of tourists to Cuba by far, Americans came in third place after Cubans living abroad in the first half of this year, the data showed.

Until very recently, there were more visitors from Germany, Italy, France and Britain than from the United States.

But the tourism sector in a country famed for

its beaches, classic cars and fading glamour has changed fast since US and President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro decided to put an end to half a century of Cold War hostility in December 2014.

While the trade embargo still prohibits Americans from visiting Cuba as tourists, the Obama administration has approved 12 categories of exceptions to the ban ranging from cultural travel to business, within which many visitors fit.

The total number of visitors to Cuba was up 11.8 per cent, the data showed.

The boom in the tourism sector contrasts starkly with the gloomy picture in the broader economy. Cuba's trade surplus fell more than 40 per cent last year, according to data released on Thursday.

Service exports, despite an increase in tourism, were down \$1.3 billion. While tourism is becoming increasingly important, receipts from healthcare and other professional workers sent overseas still make up the bulk of Cuban services.—Reuters



Jean-Michel Basquiat's 'Air Power', owned by the late David Bowie, is removed from a plinth after selling for £6,200,000 at the 'Bowie/Collector' auction, at Sotheby's in London, Britain on 10 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bowie artworks fetch \$30 million in first round of auction

LONDON — A first auction of items from late rock star David Bowie's private art collection has fetched more than \$30 million (24 million pounds), with some going far above their estimated prices.

In a packed salesroom on Thursday evening, auction house Sotheby's held its first of three "Bowie/Collector" sales of art owned by the music icon, who died in January at the age of 69, raising

24.3 million pounds (\$30.66 million).

"David always enjoyed sharing the works in the collection, loaning to museums and actively supporting the art and artists that were part of his world," a Sotheby's statement quoted the Bowie estate as saying.

"While the family have kept certain pieces of particular significance, now was the time for others to share David's love for these re-

markable works and let them live on."

Among the works under the hammer was late American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat's painting "Air Power", which sold for 7.1 million pounds (\$8.96 million) including the buyer's premium — far more than its estimated 2.5 million-3.5 million.

British artist Frank Auerbach's "Head of Gerda Boehm" went for 3.8 mil-

lion pounds. Its estimate had been 300,000-500,000.

"Beautiful, hallo, space-boy painting" by British artist Damien Hirst with Bowie, sold for 785,000 pounds, after being estimated at 250,000-350,000.

Around 350 items are up for sale including sculptures and design furniture. Two further auctions of items from Bowie's collection take place on Friday.—Reuters



Yukio Mishima (1925-1970). PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Handwritten manuscripts of novelist Mishima's early works found

KUMAMOTO (Japan)—Handwritten manuscripts of four early works by renowned novelist Yukio Mishima (1925-1970) have been discovered, a literature museum in southwestern Japan said Friday.

The museum in Kumamoto city said the four works include Mishima's

debut piece entitled "Hanazakari No Mori," which he wrote in 1941 as a 16-year-old junior high school student. The short story was published in a literary magazine that year.

In addition to the 56-page manuscript of Mishima's debut piece, the manuscripts of two other short

stories and an 11-page essay were found.

The manuscripts were among the possessions of literary scholar Zemmei Hasuda, and were donated to the museum by Hasuda's surviving kin.

Hasuda, who died in 1945, had close ties to Mishima. The wherea-

bouts of these manuscripts were unknown after Hasuda went to war abroad and died there.

The discovery is "very significant for research" about Mishima and Hasuda, a museum official said, adding that while the manuscripts cannot be made public for now due to cop-

yright reasons, the museum is looking into its options.

Mishima, whose real name was Kimitake Hiraoka, wrote fiction, plays and essays. His famous works include "Spring Snow," "Confessions of a Mask" and "The Temple of the Golden Pavilion." —Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International

(13-11-2016 07:00am ~ 14-11-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Charitable Labour Association
07:38	Am	The Beauty In The North of Myanmar
07:54	Am	Human Right Human Dignity "International Film Festival"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Beautiful Month of Myanmar, Tazaungmone Philatelic Pleasure
08:51	Am	News
09:03	Am	Sons of the lake
09:26	Am	To The Blue Ridge Mountains of Rhododendrons
09:49	Am	

10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part - I)
10:53	Am	Graffiti: Portraiture

(11:00Am-03:00Pm)-Saturday Repeat(07:00Am~ 1:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00Am-11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Five Treasures in the Ancient City of Mrauk U
07:41	Pm	Kayah
07:48	Pm	Today Myanmar: Motorcycle & Yangon City
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye)(Ep-2)

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

Serbian film 'Wind' to premiere in Turin

BELGRADE — "Wind", a feature film by Tamara Drakulic, will premiere as part of the main selection of the 34th international film festival in Turin on 18-26 November.

The film is based on the coming-of-age story "Kites" by screenwriter Ana Rodic.

The relationship between platonic and physical love is explored while discreetly addressing a fa-

ther-daughter conflict.

Colourful kites in the wind, endless sandy expanses and hidden corners of Montenegro's Ulcinj, as well as the magical flora and fauna of the Bojana River delta, make the foundation of the specific poetics of "Wind".

Tamara Stajic, Erol Bilibani, Darko Kastratic and Tamara Pjevic make their acting debuts in this film. — Tanjug



England's Gary Cahill scores their third goal during 2018 World Cup Qualifying European Zone, Group F at Wembley Stadium, London, England on 11 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

England keep their heads to down Scotland 3-0

LONDON — A trio of thundering headers gave England a thumping victory over their oldest foes as Scotland put up a fight before being swept aside 3-0 in Friday's World Cup qualifier at Wembley.

Daniel Sturridge's bullet header in the first half and equally impressive efforts after the break from Adam Lallana and Gary Cahill ensured England emerged

from international football's oldest fixture having consolidated their lead at the top of Group F.

While it was not the one-sided romp the scoreline suggests and England only pulled clear in the second half having survived some nervy moments, the result will have strengthened interim boss Gareth Southgate's chances of claiming the role on a permanent basis.

With his side having moved onto 10 points from four matches, two clear of nearest rivals Slovenia, Southgate now looks almost certain to be appointed the permanent replacement to Sam Allardyce.

"Tonight is down to the players they have shown what they are capable of," he told reporters — although he was equally keen to stress his side had almost been

the architects of their own downfall when Scotland put them under pressure in the second half.

For his counterpart Gordon Strachan, though, the future looks increasingly bleak, his side sitting second bottom in the standings with four points.

However, he was adamant, that he would not be rushed into decisions about his role.

"If you think I'm thinking

about myself now, or worrying about myself, you don't know me," was his response to questions about his future.

Strachan had made sweeping changes to the side that lost to Slovakia in their previous qualifier and had clearly set his team up to make England uncomfortable and it was a gameplan that worked to perfection until 24th minute.—Reuters

Back to business for Murray as he aims to end year on high

LONDON — Andy Murray's climb to the top of the world rankings took a while longer than it takes thrill-seeking tourists to reach the summit of the O2 Arena roof walk. Ten years in fact.

Which is why the 29-year-old Scot will be the man to beat next week as he attempts to win the ATP World Tour Finals for the first time to seal the year-end number one ranking.

The distinctive domed arena next to the River Thames, home of the season-ending showpiece since 2009, has never been the happiest hunting ground for Murray.

He has never made the final but knows that must change if he is to stop Djokovic from snatching back the crown.

"I've said over the last few moths I expect Novak to start playing his best tennis again," Murray, who boasts a 19-match winning streak, told reporters on Friday.

"The last couple of months he hasn't but before that it wasn't just months it was years of him playing his best tennis.



Great Britain's Andy Murray. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I don't think he has too much to worry about. He's played extremely well here the last few years and I'd imagine he will have a really good tournament."

Murray holds a 405-point lead over Djokovic but with 275 Davis Cup points to come off his total, next week's tournament is effectively a decider.

What is more, Djokovic, winner of the last four ATP World Tour Finals, has been

placed in the easier of the two groups.

The 12-times grand slam champion opens against Austrian debutant Dominic Thiem on Sunday and will also face big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic and another first-timer Gael Monfils.

He has never lost to any of them.

Murray, on the other hand, starts on Monday against Croatian Marin Cilic, who beat him this year in Cincinnati, before taking on and Kei Nishikori, who ended his US Open hopes at the quarter-final stage, and US Open champion Stan Wawrinka.

It is a tough task, but there was little evidence of vertigo on Friday as Murray spoke of life from his new vantage point looking down on his rivals.

The Scot was just going about business as usual with coach Ivan Lendl, back at court-side after watching the Scot's unstoppable late-season charge from afar.—Reuters

Hamilton fastest in Brazilian practice

SAO PAULO — Triple world champion Lewis Hamilton reminded Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg that he will not hand over his Formula One title without a fight after dominating Friday practice at the Brazilian Grand Prix.

The Briton, 19 points behind the German with two races remaining, was fastest in both sessions at a hot and sunny Interlagos with his best lap of one minute 11.895 seconds set on soft compound tyres in the morning.

Rosberg was third, and 0.230 off the pace in that session, but ended the day second on the afternoon timesheets and just 0.030 slower.

"It's been a good day. We got through all of our run programmes and the car is feeling really good," Hamilton, who is seeking his third win in a row, told reporters.

"It's pretty tough out here physically right now with the heat as high as it is...finding the right balance isn't easy either in these conditions as the tyres are getting really hot."

Red Bull's Dutch teenager Max Verstappen was second in

the morning but sixth after lunch, when the Williams pair of Valtteri Bottas and home favourite Felipe Massa were Mercedes' closest rivals.

Rosberg, who described his day as a "pretty normal Friday", can clinch his first championship title if he wins on Sunday, wherever Hamilton finishes.

"Our car looks quick but Red Bull are definitely close. The soft tyre is degrading quite a lot on the long runs, with blistering on the rears," the German said.

"There's a surprising amount of degradation on the medium tyre too — but I think overall we've got decent pace on the long runs."

On paper Rosberg has a good chance, having won the last two Brazilian Grands Prix from pole position, but Hamilton — wearing an Ayrton Senna themed helmet this weekend — has the momentum after victories in Texas and Mexico. The weather at Interlagos can change from sunshine to torrential rain in a matter of minutes and the race has a history of surprises and drama, meaning there is still everything to play for.—Reuters