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14 violent attackers, 17 terrorist trainees arrested in Maungtaw

SEVENTEEN people suspected of being violent attackers were arrested as they were allegedly preparing to attack the government troops, which are conducting their area clearance campaign in Maungtaw Township, in the northern Rakhine State.

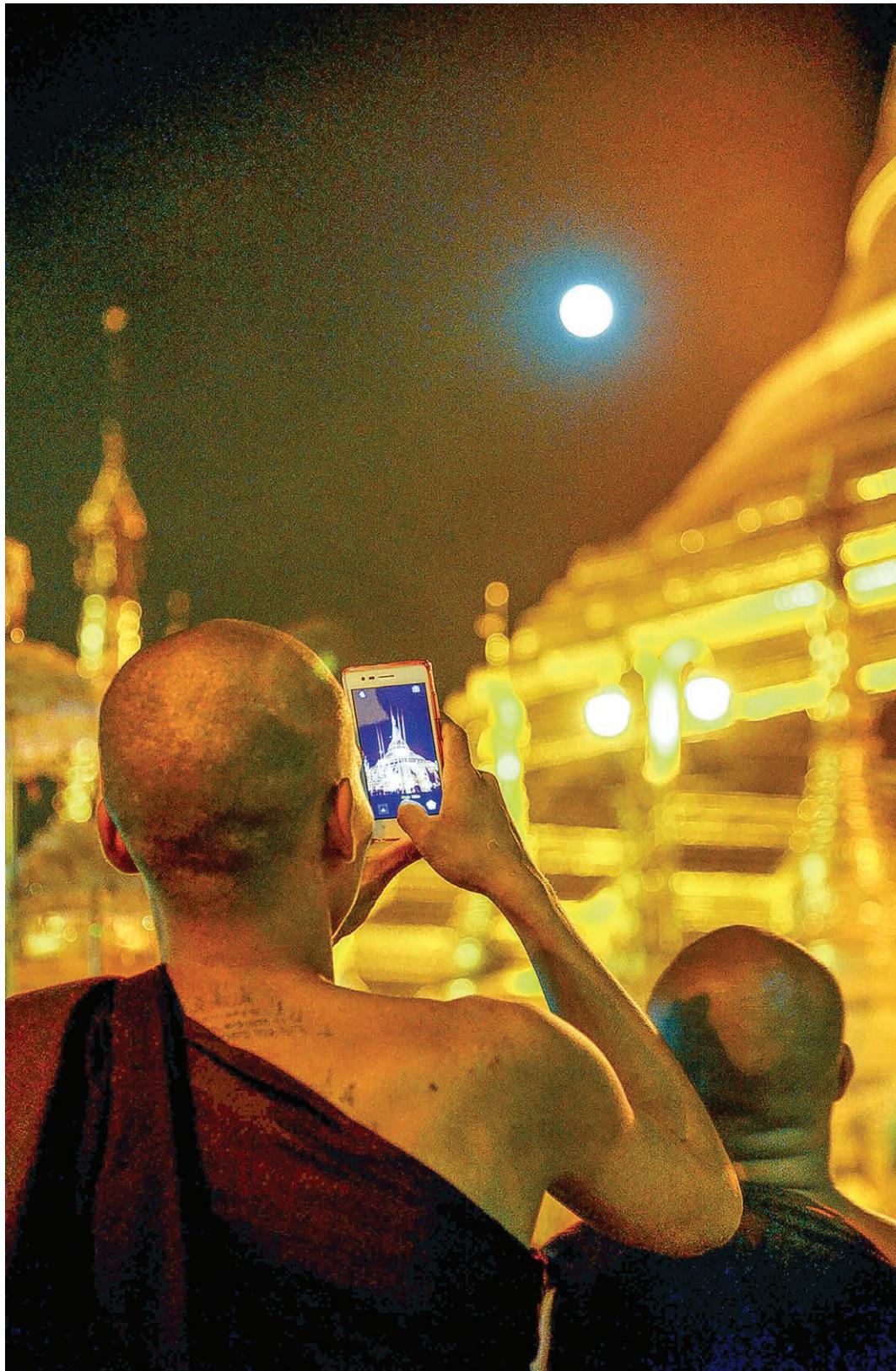
While undertaking the clearance operation in Myazin village at about 7:45am, the combined team of the government troops and the border guard police found 14 people armed with wooden clubs and machetes at the home of Adul Harmi.

The armed men are Adul Harmi, Marmat Tarlaung, Marbarlaung, Ali Ruma, Saudu Armain, Bawyi Husaung, Nu Arlaung, Bawshi Ahmed, Mutstar Kama, Idi Ras, Sweyaw Tusaung, Shaw Ahli, Marmad Islam, Arbu Arlaung and Nu Husaung. The seized weapons include five machetes three-feet in length, eight knives about 18-inches long, and one three-and-half-foot long wooden club.

Similarly, the team, acting on a tip-off, conducted its clearance operation in Yedwinkyun village in Maungtaw Township yesterday and arrested 17 suspected attackers who had recently completed the terrorist training, authorities said.

They are Muhi Eulah, Mummud Salam (son of Barsarmyar), Mummud Saulein, Zaw Phaw Ahlaung, Ramauk Dullah, Artu Eullah, Rawphe, Swe Thuram, Mummud Salam (son of Mummud Siti), Abu Husaung, Mawlawi Peyu Armauk, Duodena Tamaw, Mikarsein, Rawshi Tarmauk (son of Phwezar Mauk),

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A Buddhist monk takes a photo of the moon with his mobile phone at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon last night. The full moon last night is called a super moon, meaning that the moon last night appears to be larger because of its closer proximity to the earth. This full moon will be not only the closest and brightest supermoon of 2016 but also the largest since 1948. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Violent attackers set fire to 60 homes

ABOUT 60 houses in a village in Maungtaw Township, which were in evidence at the deadly attacks on the border outposts by the violent armed aggressors on 9th October, were torched by the attackers on 13th November.

During clearance operation on 13th November, the combined team comprising the government troops and the border guard police discovered the arson attack that destroyed 60 houses in Darcyizar village.

The attempt is aimed at sowing a seed of misunderstanding between the government troops and the people and international communities, and tarnishing the image of the troops, officials said. — *Myawady*

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is welcomed back by senior military officers at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

C-in-C of Defence Services concludes working visit to Italy

A Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived back Yangon yesterday after participating in the European Union Military Committee-EUMC Meeting.

The goodwill delegation was

seen off at the Fiumicino International Airport in Rome, Italy, on 13 November by Myanmar Ambassador to Italy U Myint Naung and officials.

The Senior General and party arrived at Yangon International Airport via Thailand at 8.50 am

yesterday. They were welcomed at the airport by Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Hsan Oo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Yangon Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Myo Zaw Thein and senior military officers. —Myanmar News Agency

Mandalay's famed U Bein Bridge to be renovated next month

WITH the advice of the Myanmar Architect Council, U Bein Bridge, which is a major tourist draw in Mandalay, will be renovated starting next month, said U Myo Thit, Mandalay Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The two German experts invited by the MAC recently arrived in Myanmar to take part in the renovation project. According to the new scheme, old wood will be replaced with new teak-

wood, which will be done without damaging the bridge's original features, he said.

U Myo Thit explained the suspension of the renovation of the bridge in the past, saying that the authorities temporarily stopped the repair of the bridge while they were waiting for suggestions from the Myanmar Architect Council for the project.

In cooperation with the Department of Archaeology and the National Museum (Mandalay),

the project will be implemented with the use of funds contributed by the Myanmar Teak Wood Company.

Located in Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region, the 1.2 kilometer-long U Bein Bridge was built in the 1850s over the Taungthaman Lake using traditional methods. It has become one of the most scenic places in Amarapura, with beautiful landscapes and authentic social life of the residents. —Aung Thant Khaing



U Bein Bridge built in the 1850s needs renovation. PHOTO: ATK



The full moon as seen from Nay Pyi Taw last night, with the Shan Hills silhouetted in the foreground. This full moon, known as a super moon, was not only the closest and brightest super moon of 2016 but also the largest since 1948, according to astronomers. The full moon will not come this close to Earth again until Nov. 25, 2034. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

14 violent attackers, 17 terrorist trainees arrested in Maungtau

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Rawshi Tarmak (son of Nardi Hussein), Eidiyes, Mawlawi Mummud Tarmi and Rara Khah.

The 14 suspected violent attackers and 17 men who had completed the terrorist training

have been handed over to the Kyeinchaung Police Station and the Kyikanpyin Border Outpost Headquarters in order to take action against them in accordance with the law. The seized weapons were also handed over to the police station.—Myawady



Performances in royal era celebrating the 506th founding anniversary of Taungoo, an ancient city located 220 km from Yangon, have attracted more than 200,000 people yesterday. The performance is better year by year and the annual celebration has boosted not only patriotic spirit but also skills of artists, said Daw Mar Mar Wai, retired professor and one of the responsible personnel for the celebration. PHOTO: BA AYE

Myanmar to share cane ball technique with Philippines

THE MYANMAR Cane Ball Federation is arranging to provide both financial and technical assistance to the Philippines next month with the aim of development of Chinlone, a traditional sport of Myanmar which was first introduced internationally at the 27th Southeast Asian Games in 2013.

The assistance aims to promote the continuous participation of neighbouring countries in Chinlone contests in the Southeast Asian Games, a regional multi-sport competition.

The federation plans to leave for the Philippines on 12 December and has already

shared playing techniques with Laos as well as Cambodia between 7 and 11 November, MCBF's General Secretary U Ko Ko Aung said. This is part of the federation's efforts for successfully holding traditional sports at the 29th SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia next August.

At least five countries will be granted to take part in the cane ball competition. U Kyaw Lin Oo, a sports fan, said that he warmly welcomes the federation's efforts to promote the role of traditional sports in foreign countries.—Myitmakha News Agency

Military's information team refutes fabrication about massive destruction in Rakhine

THE True News Information Team of Defence Services refuted the fabrications of the Bangkok Post and the RB News Website that said 430 houses, most of which are farm huts, including 245 houses in Kyetyopyin Village and about 100 houses in Warpate Village, were burnt down. In addition, the team at Defence Services that vets media allegations also refuted statements that about 700 houses in Dargyisar Village were damaged and about 80 people killed in a fire on 12 November.

It has been discovered by the Union Government that there were six villages torched by members of the violent attackers in northern Rakhine, but some media members have accused government troops of arson. As a result of the terrorists' violence act, a total of 105 houses in Warpate Village, five houses in Kyetyopyin Village, three shops in Ngakhuya Village, three empty police posts in Myinlut Village, a dormitory for teachers at the middle school in Myinlut West Village, 60 houses in Dargyisar village, 50 houses in Gwasons Village, 50 houses in Pwintphyuchaung Village, totaling only 227 buildings were burnt down. Several News Media including the military owned Myawady Newspaper released news about the fighting on 12 November on the same day and next day issues. In addition,

there were only nine fightings, 61 arrests, 10 seizures of weapons and ammunition, 9 shootings to detain, three attacks, three roadside bomb attacks leading to the death of 69 violent attackers and the arrest of 234 violent attackers between 9 to 14 November. The suspects were handed over to the Myanmar Police Force for necessary interrogation, 29 of whom have been sentenced in accordance with the law and 23 have been released as they did not related with the violent attacks.

In the area clearance operations, seven soldiers including one column commander sacrificed their lives for the country and five got injuries, and 10 police sacrificed their lives for the country and six were injured in the operations.

The measures are being taken to scrutinize the number of houses covered by The Bangkok Post in its 14 November issue and posted by RB News Website whether it was correct or not, the military information team will timely release the information related to the houses destroyed by fire in villages.

The military's information team is releasing information related to area clearance operations by the government troops in Maung-taw for guarding the country's sovereignty, for restoration law and order and community peace. —*Tatmadaw True News Information Team*

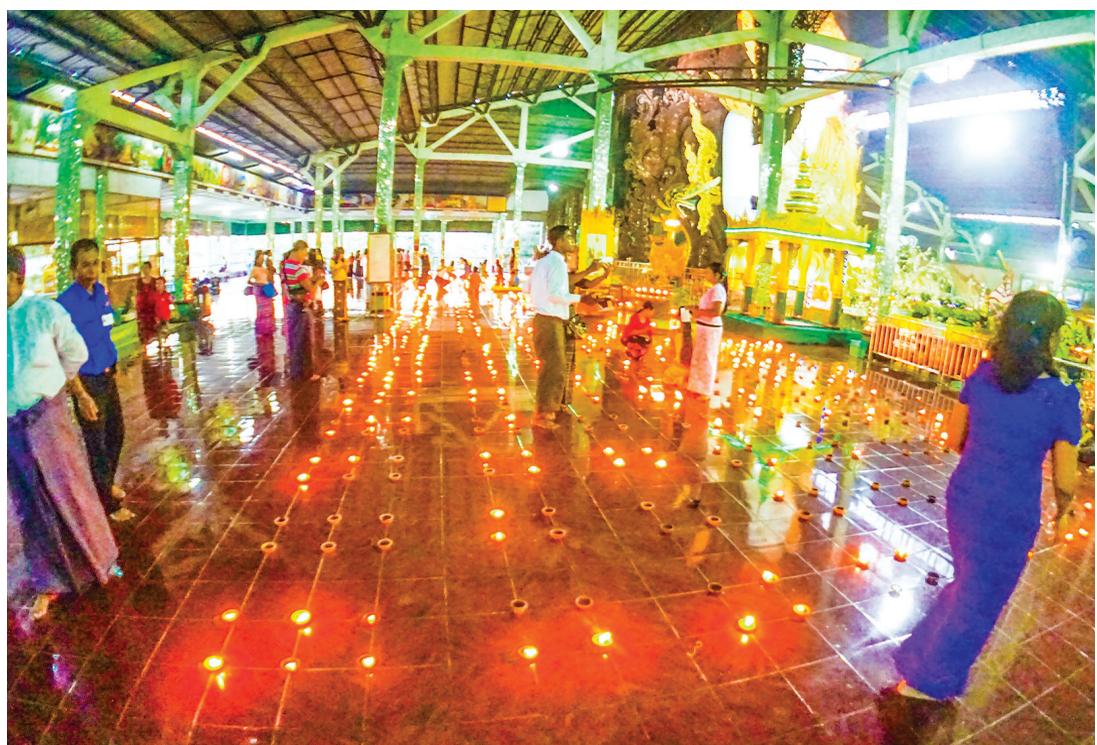


Government troops extinguishing fire at Warpaik Village. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Myanmar celebrates Tazaungmon



Shwedagon was crowded with devotees on Full Moon of Tazaungmon, (Samanaphala Day). Buddhist devotees and local residents performed meritorious deeds on the Full Moon of Tazaungmon in townships of Yangon Region. They offered Matho robes to Buddha images at famous pagodas and monasteries, donated Kathina robes to Buddhist monks, held lighting festivals and paid respect to senior citizens. PHOTO: MNA



Candles are lit on the floor of Ngar Htat Gyi Pagoda in Bahan Township for the Full Moon of Tazaungmon. PHOTO: YE NAING SOE

Sea-water dikes essential for agriculture in coastal areas on Rakhine State



PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

Maung Sein Lwin

RAKHINE State Irrigation and Water Resources Management Department is planning to start maintenance work on Chanpyintar Sea-water Dike at the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh as soon as security in Rakhine State improves.

"We will start maintenance tasks on Chanpyintar Sea-water Dike as soon as possible as we have been permitted to do so by the Rakhine State Government. Funds for the work have also been allocated but we have to work according to the security situation as it is located at the border. I think we will be able to start it in February, 2017," said

U Soe Win, Deputy Director of the Irrigation Department.

The dike on the Naf River is six miles long and can prevent sea-water tide from 1,334 acres of farmland and 790 acres of monsoon paddy.

The dike was built in 1996 to prevent sea-water from entering into paddy field of local residents.

"The dike was damaged at least three or four years ago and local people have requested to do maintenance of it since then. As it is an earthen dike and tides in it rise and fall very swiftly, it does not last long. Last month, sea-water from the Naf River flooded a lot of paddy fields," said U Kyaw Zan Myat of Nga-

khuya Village.

The dike contributes not only to the village but also to many other villages in the area including Yedwingyan, Kathapoung, Oo China Kya and Kyakhongtaung where Myo, Khami, Dinetyi, Maramagyi and local Muslims reside.

"We have not been able to grow rice, our main crop, for more than two years because of the damaged dike, which allows sea-water to our field.

So, we have to go to mountains and do fishing for a living. We requested the government to do maintenance of the dike because it is very important for us," Daw Nwe Bunaw, a farmer in Yedwingyan Village said.

Discussion with my uncle (Ba Gyi) about the law

Maung U Pa De

BEING a tenderfoot lawyer, I had to call on my uncle who is a retired magistrate to discuss the telecommunications law that is very popular among the public these days. I intend to get legal expertise from a veteran like Ba Gyi.

Neo-lawyer : Ba Gyi, are you feeling well? I'd be much obliged if you explain to me about the telecommunications law.

Ba Gyi : Under the telecommunications law promulgated by the Pyithaungsi Hluttaw on 8 October 2013 it is definitely prescribed below.

The objectives of this Law are as follows:

- to enable to support the modernization and development of the nation with telecommunications technology;
- to enable to bring out Telecommunications Services that will be able to provide high quality and worthy services to the users by allowing fair and transparent competitions from domestic and abroad in the telecommunications sector which is developing;
- to enable to give more opportunities to the general public to use Telecommunications Service by expanding the Telecommunications
- to enable to protect the Telecommunications Service providers and users in accord with law;
- to enable to supervise Telecommunications Service, Network Facilities and Telecommunications Equipments which require license for national peace and tranquility and for public security.

Listen to me to be more convinced.

Offences and penalties are

prescribed in section 66, chapter 18 of the telecommunication law.

66. Whoever commits any of the following acts shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to a fine or to both.

- Accessing and disturbing a Telecommunications Network, altering or destroying the determination of technical standards or the original form without the permission of the owner or a person who has the administrative right.
- Releasing a virus or using any other means with an intention to cause damage to the Telecommunications Network.
- Stealing, cheating, misappropriating or mischief of any money and property by using any Telecommunications Network.
- Extorting, coercing, restraining wrongfully, defaming, disturbing, causing undue influence or threatening to any person by using any Telecommunications Network.

Under section 80/A of the telecommunications law, these offences shall be deemed as cognizable offence.

Telecommunications Network means a network of telecommunication facilities, telecommunication equipments, computers, devices similar to computers, peripherals used in conjunction with them by means of wire or wireless communication technology.

Neo-lawyer : Please explain to me about section 500 of the Penal Code.

Ba Gyi : Defamation is defined in section 499 of the Penal Code as follows.

Section 499—
Imputation of truth which public good requires to be made or published .

Public conduct of public

servants.

Conduct of any person touching any public question.

Publication of reports of proceedings of Courts.

Merits of case decided in Court, or conduct of witnesses and others concerned.

Accusation preferred in good faith to authorized person. Imputation made in good faith by person for protection of his or other's interests.

Caution intended for good of person to whom conveyed or for public good.

There are some exemptions. Under section 500, punishments will be two-year imprisonment or fine or combined punishment. I think you already knew it.

Neo-lawyer : What is the difference, Ba Gyi?

Ba Gyi : No need to explain any longer. Section of Telecommunications Law and Section of the Penal Code seem to be similar but totally different in punishment and time of promulgation. Besides, their objectives are also not the same. You need to read the law on definitions of statements, 1973. In section 3(g), if there is a difference between the prescription of the previous law and that of the recent one, it is described that the recent one must be regarded to be valid.

Neo-lawyer : You mean if it is prescribed to arrest under section of the telecommunications law, the accused must have action taken under that law as a priority, with penal code to be considered as a second thought?

Ba Gyi : It is up to the desire of the plaintiff. But the judge can decide as to which law will be applied?

Neo : Isn't the legal advice of the legal officer before suing.

Ba Gyi : Important. Before the suit, legal officers at different levels are able to suggest openly.

Neo : They can distinguish volume of the sections and punishments as to whether it can be concerned with any kinds of laws. Can a case be built depending on love or hatred, anger or bias?

Ba Gyi : As we are not in the anarchism, it is not possible. We must act under the law.

Neo : Some point out that section 66 (A) should be amended, showing its weakness. What about your opinion?

Ba Gyi : As regards this part, parliamentarians can think and submit their assessments to the Pyithu Hluttaw. They are discussing the laws which are not suitable for situations of the present time. We welcome that.

Neo : News Media is defined differently. What about your opinion?

Ba Gyi : The meaning of the media is defined in section 2/A of the New Media Law as follows:

Media means getting, collecting and acquiring information, keeping them in documentation, analyzing and publishing etc. which shall be performed by Print Media, Broadcasting Media, Internet Media whose responsibilities are taken by the media or public information and communication services conducted by any other alternative ways by means of various transmission forms such as texts, voice, picture, audio and visual transmission, statistical data, and graphic designs.

Neo : What about rules and regulations of the news media?

Ba Gyi : News is defined as data, text, image, code, computer-program software and data base.

Neo : According to you, definition of the telecommunications law and that of the penal code can be studied in comparison with each other. As for the media council, what can they mediate between two parties?

Ba Gyi : In section 9 of the news media law, duty and ethics are prescribed. It is to mediate over complaints and accusations with a mediatory committee formed. It is not prescribed that the accused can claim.

Neo : Give me a clear explanation.

Ba Gyi : Any defendants can complain openly. Firstly, police station must accept the complaint and investigate. After that, he must suggest it is implied with which section of the respective law. Then he must file the case at a court. What I want to say is that the defendants are liable to complain of the true process of the case as per their desire. It depends upon the duty of judges, police officers and legal officers to decide as to which section is concerned. They will carry on the proceeding according to the law. In section 9/A rights and ethics for media men to follow are prescribed in which it includes accuracy and scrutiny of facts.

Neo : Media men are void of freedom, being suppressed by the government. Tell me about this.

Ba Gyi : Freedom of expression is within our reach to a considerable extent. And Media Council has emerged and Promulgation of Right to Information is also underway.

Neo : Give your opinion about whether section 500 and section 66/A of the telecommunications should be abolished.

Ba Gyi : One-sided opinion is not good. Whatever it is we must consider from various points of view. Suggest and criticize over existing laws and rules with optimistic minds. We need to amend where necessary. Public desire and the country's benefits should be prioritized.

Neo : Thank you very much, Uncle. See you next week.

Emerald green project promises to improve lives of fishermen

AS PART OF effort to reduce rural poverty, an Emerald Green Project is being implemented in Thaton District, Mon State by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, with plans to spend Ks60 million to improve the economic status of local fishermen.

Under the programme, loans will be offered this year to residents living in target areas, including two villages from Thaton Township, two from Paung Township, three from Kyaikhto Township and three from Bilin Township, said U Soe Win Zaw, head of Thaton District Fisheries Department.

There are approximately around 60 fishing villages across Thaton District.

The authorities are now providing training related to the project to locals with

the aim of promoting public understanding about the loan programme.

Loans with very low interest rates will be disbursed in the project areas through newly formed committees in the villages, said U Soe Win Zaw, who added that the project will help families increase their incomes, aid the village in manufacturing and upgrade the livelihoods of fishermen.

The government selects villages for the programme under its rules, which gives priority to needy fishing villages with good transport facilities and with at least 80 households. A local fish catcher who resides in Budinchaung Village said the villagers have different plans to promote their livelihood through the new loans, which will have an interest rate of between Ks0.5 and Ks1.5.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Two men found dead in burnt car in Paung Tsp

TWO unidentified men were found dead in a burnt car on the road between Yangon and Mawlamyine in Paung Township in Mon State on Sunday, police said.



The car seen badly damaged after colliding with a lamp post. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Crime NEWS

ine to Yangon crashed into a lamp post and caught fire in front of a filling station in Kyoneka Village at around 3pm on Sunday.

The collision killed both people and badly damaged the front of the car.

According to investigators, the cause of death was from a battery explosion before the car burst into flame, said U Soe Kyaw Thu from the Paung Township Fire Services Department.

Police are still investigating the case to identify the deceased.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Myanmar's river catfish to penetrate Russia's market

MYANMAR'S river catfish (Silonia children) will reportedly soon become available on the Russian market.

Catfish is inexpensive and popular among low-income people in Myanmar.

About 2,000 tonnes of sliced river catfish will be exported to Russia every month starting from March, 2017. However, exporters might be faced with difficulties in fulfilling the demand at the start. Only 200 tonnes of sliced river catfish can be exported in the first month, it is learnt.

Nevertheless, producers will try to meet the demand, said U Toe Naing Lin, who is engaged in fish farming.

Catfish farmers who operate their farms in Myanmar's rivers planning to expand their produc-

tion so that they can fulfill the requirements of demand from Russia. It takes 10 months for a fish farm to produce a yield of catfish.

If the large volume of river catfish is exported, the price will go up. The export of river catfish might impact negatively on the fish consumption of low-income people, said fish merchants.

River catfish is favorite among low-income people because of its taste and price, which is cheaper than rohu, said U Soe Shwe, a fish breeder. The minimum fish prices are Ks2,500 per viss of rohu, sturgeons, river catfish and catfish, while the maximum price of fish is Ks4,500 per viss. Over 80 per cent of the population consumes cheap farmed fish and saltwater fish, according to the Fishery Department.—200

About 100,000 tonnes of pulses to be sold to India under G to G agreement

About 100,000 tonnes of pulses will be sold to India per year under a government-to-government (G to G) agreement, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Preparations to sign a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) about the export of pulses are being made. The Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seed Merchants' Association will cooperate with the Commerce Ministry for the pulses export. Over 600,000 tonnes of mung beans and over 200,000 tonnes of pigeon peas were yearly produced before 2015. The yield has been on the decline since. Therefore, pulse merchants

are concerned that they will not be able to meet the demand of India, it is learnt. During the recent visit of the president of Myanmar to India, the government proposed to increase its annual demand by 25,000 tonnes for Myanmar's mung beans and pigeon peas starting in 2017.

About 240,000 tonnes of various pulses are yearly exported on average to foreign countries. India is the major export market, but the pulses are also exported to Japan, China, Indonesia and the countries of the European Union, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants' Association.—Mon Mon

Myanmar's pomelo planned to export to China market

Myanmar's pomelo is being planned to be exported to China, according to the Myanmar Pomelo Producers and Exporters Association.

Over 12 tonnes of pomelo were exported to Singapore in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The vast market of China is expected to create space for Myanmar's pomelo. Myanmar's mangoes have already influenced China market. Efforts will be similarly be exerted for Myanmar's pomelo to penetrate the international market, said U Win Shwe, the chairperson of the aforementioned association.

Pomelo growers will be offered courses to receive a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certificate so that the pomelo export

market expand to the European Union and European countries, it is learnt.

"The Ministry of Planning and Finance will provide the necessary assistance to be able to export our vegetables and fruits cultivated under good agricultural practices", said U Soe Than Mindin, the chair of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

Pomelo plantations need to expand to meet the market's demand. There are over 3,000 acres of pomelo plantations in Myanmar. The pomelo is mainly grown in Mon State and also in Kayin State, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Mandalay regions, it is learnt.—Myitmakha News Agency

Bulk volume of watermelon and muskmelon planned for export to China

WITH the demand from China increasing, 600,000 tonnes of watermelons and 150,000 tonnes of muskmelons are planned to be exported, according to the Myanmar Watermelon and Cucumber Growers and Exporters Association.

The watermelon market was ruined in previous months because of unpredictable weather and a mismatch between demand and supply. There was an excessive supply of watermelon in the market from lower Myanmar. Additionally, watermelon was cultivated in Shan State as crop substitution for opium poppy, it is learnt.

The market recovered, however, thanks to demand from China. The number of watermelon growers has risen this year because watermelon was sold at a good price last year. This has resulted in excessive supply in market. It is normal for the market to decline when the supply exceeds demand.

Over 570,000 tonnes of watermelon and over 100,000 tonnes of muskmelons were exported last year. During this year, 600,000 tonnes of watermelons and over 100,000 tonnes of muskmelons are expected to be exported.

From the 22nd to the 28th October, 8,429 tonnes of water-

melons worth US\$0.868 million were exported to China through the Muse 105th mile border trade camp, according to the statistics of the border gate. About 100 12-wheeled truckloads of watermelon are exported to China a day. Sometimes, over 200 truckloads of watermelons enter China in a single day. The export volume is likely to increase in December, said an exporter.

Myanmar's watermelons and muskmelons mainly flow into China through the Muse border trade, while they are also exported to Singapore and Malaysia, according to the association.—Ko Htet



A boy carries CP chicken. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Highly inflow of CP chicken to Kyaukpyu adversely effects indigenous chicken husbandry

THOSE engaged in traditional poultry farming are facing difficulties due to the high influx of CP chicken into Kyaukpyu's retail and wholesale markets, with some of them shutting down their businesses, indigenous chicken breeders said.

Some locals in Kyaukpyu Township are involved in family chicken farming on a manageable scale so that they earn a living and pay for education and health expenses. Starting in late 2015, the C.P Group based in Kyaukpyu invested in poultry farming and providing feedstuff, medicines, capital and an incu-

bation process. As a result, CP chicken farming has grown in the villages.

"The entry of CP chicken resulted in the suspension of traditional chicken husbandry on a manageable scale. Indigenous chicken breeders are not able to turn to CP poultry farming due to a lack of technical know-how in husbandry and capital. If the company provides the locals with necessary assistance, we can change the business", said U Tun Aung Kyaw who suspended his traditional chicken farming from Kyaukpyu.

The price of CP chicken ranges from Ks6,000 to Ks8,000 per head on the basis of the size. CP poultry farming has become widespread in the villages because CP chickens grow rapidly, allowing farmers to more easily earn a profit.

The price of traditionally raised chicken is between Ks8,000 to Ks12,000 per head. The stall in tradition chicken farming is attributed to the expensive price, the small number of consumers and the length of time it takes to raise a marketable chicken, it is learnt.—Myitmakha News Agency

Malaysia jails opposition MP for leaking audit details at scandal-hit 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR — A Malaysian court on Monday sentenced an opposition lawmaker to 18 months in prison for releasing confidential information related to scandal-hit state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), keeping up a crackdown on critics of the government.

The verdict comes just days ahead of a massive rally planned on Saturday by pro-democracy group Bersih, calling for Prime Minister Najib Razak to step down over his alleged involvement in the 1MDB scandal.

Rafizi Ramli, a member of the People's Justice Party (PKR), was found guilty of violating the Official Secrets Act (OSA), by possessing and disclosing a page from the auditor-general's report on 1MDB without permission earlier this year.

The audit was carried out last year following allegations of mismanagement and graft at 1MDB and has yet to be declassified.

The court allowed a stay on the execution pend-

ing an appeal of the verdict. Rafizi said on his Twitter account that he would appeal the verdict.

"This is a sad day for Malaysian democracy, when a democrat has been brought to court for daring to speak up to protect the rights and interest of the people," PKR chief Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said in a statement.

Wan Azizah's husband, charismatic opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, is serving a five-year prison sentence after being found guilty in a case that supporters and many independent observers regarded as politically motivated.

He was convicted in 2015, just as the pressure on Najib began to mount over the financial scandal at 1MDB.

Founded by Najib, who chaired its advisory board, 1MDB is currently the subject of money laundering investigations in at least six countries, including Switzerland, Singapore and the United States.

Najib has denied any wrongdoing.



A man walks past a 1 Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) billboard at the funds flagship Tun Razak Exchange development in Kuala Lumpur in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The government has clamped down on anti-government rally organisers, opposition leaders, activists and media groups who have raised the 1MDB issue. It has also proposed amendments to the Malaysia media law and Legal

Profession Act.

Phil Robertson of Human Rights Watch said in a statement that Rafizi's conviction under the OSA was "unprecedented" and the act was used to "intimidate whistle-blowers into silence".

Responding to the verdict, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Abdul Rahman Dahlan said Rafizi had been repeatedly warned that he would be breaching the Official Secrets Act if he disclosed content from the audit.

"He tried a cheap stunt for personal political gain but he knowingly committed a serious crime in doing so. It is right that he pays the price, and he only has himself to blame," he said in a statement. —Reuters

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Duterte says if Islamic State comes to Philippines, forget human rights

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned on Monday that Islamic State militants driven out of Syria and Iraq could set up in his country, and if that happened he would forego human rights obligations to keep his people safe.

Duterte said the southern Philippine province of Mindanao was already a hotbed of rebellion and banditry and he was worried about "looming terrorism" and an influx of extremists who could exploit the insecurity.

"Once the terrorists of the Middle East are deprived of the land area, the real estate area where they can sleep ... they will wander to other places and they will come here and we



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while delivering a speech during the 80th National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) founding anniversary at the NBI headquarters in metro Manila, Philippines on 14 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

have to prepare for that," he said during a speech at a law enforcement agency. "Remember, these guys, they do not have an iota of what is human rights,

believe me. I will not just simply allow my people to be slaughtered for the sake of human rights, that's bullshit."

Human rights have

been a touchy subject for Duterte, who has vented daily fury at activists and Western governments that have shown concerns about his war on drugs and the high death toll. A native of Mindanao and mayor of Davao City for 22 years, Duterte said there was a "very strong" Islamist rebellion there and Abu Sayyaf rebels were taking hostages almost every day.

Abu Sayyaf is holding 21 captives, most of them foreign, and despite an ongoing military offensive to wipe them out, its piracy and kidnappings continue unabated. Duterte said the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia were working closely to keep foreign extremists at bay.—Reuters

All 4,300 makeshift homes completed in quake-hit Kumamoto

KUMAMOTO — The construction of temporary housing units was completed Monday in southwestern Japan's Kumamoto Prefecture, devastated by powerful earthquakes in mid-April, paving the way for affected residents to rebuild their lives.

The plan to construct 4,303 temporary houses in

a total of 16 municipalities was achieved as the last 42 homes were finished in the town of Mifune. Shown to the media Monday were six barrier-free houses built for physically disabled people in the town of Mashiki, one of the communities hit hardest by the series of strong quakes. The first makeshift homes with barrier-free

functions in the prefecture boast flat entrances and wide bathrooms, allowing easy access for wheelchair users and their helpers, according to the prefecture.

In addition to the construction of temporary homes, the prefectural government is earmarking a budget to secure 14,600 rented homes for affected

residents. An official of the prefecture said, "From now on, we want to support residents to secure permanent homes." The two powerful earthquakes struck Kumamoto Prefecture and neighboring areas in April, killing a combined 50 people and forcing hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate at one point.—Kyodo News

China's Xi tells Trump cooperation is only choice

BEIJING/WASHINGTON — Chinese President Xi Jinping told US President-elect Donald Trump that cooperation was the only choice for relations between the world's two largest economies, with Trump saying the two had established a "clear sense of mutual respect".

Trump lambasted China throughout the US election campaign, drumming up headlines with his pledges to slap 45 per cent tariffs on imported Chinese goods and to label the country a currency manipulator on his first day in office.

His election has injected uncertainty into



China's President Xi Jinping. PHOTO: REUTERS

relations at a time when Beijing hopes for stability as it faces daunting reform challenges at home, slowing growth and a leadership reshuffle of its own that will put a new party elite around Xi in late 2017.

In their first interaction

since the US election, Chinese state media said Xi told Trump in a telephone call on Monday that as the world's largest developing and developed economies, there were many areas where China and the United States could cooperate.

"The facts prove that cooperation is the only correct choice for China and the United States," China Central Television (CCTV) cited Xi as saying.

Xi's remarks were a reiteration of phrasing typically used by Beijing to describe bilateral relations.

The two sides must

"promote the two countries' economic development and global economic growth" and "push for better development going forward in China-US relations", Xi said.

"During the call, the leaders established a clear sense of mutual respect for one another, and President-elect Trump stated that he believes the two leaders will have one of the strongest relationships for both countries moving forward," a statement from Trump's presidential transition office said.

The two agreed to maintain close communications and meet soon, CCTV said. Xi had con-

gratulated Trump in a message delivered shortly after his surprise election victory last week.

There is intense speculation over the impact of Trump's win on issues facing the two countries, from climate change and global trade to the security balance in the Asia-Pacific.

Trump's criticism of US allies, including Japan, for free-riding on US security guarantees, has deepened anxiety among Washington's allies about its commitment to post-war security arrangements in the face of a rising China and volatile North Korea.—Reuters

Indonesian police arrest five after church attack

JAKARTA — Indonesian police on Monday arrested five people in connection with a suspected militant attack on a church that killed one infant and injured three.

Police said they were investigating possible links to the Islamic State extremist group.

Sunday's attack in the parking lot of a church in East Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo was the latest in a series that has raised concerns over rising militancy in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation. An Islamic State-linked assault in the capital Jakarta in January killed four people.

Police said the attacker had been imprisoned on terrorism charges in the past and had links to existing radical networks.—Reuters

Australia PM says asylum seekers to be resettled in US after Trump takes office

SYDNEY — Australia's prime minister said on Monday resettlement to the United States of many of the 1,200 asylum seekers held in detention camps on Papua New Guinea and the Pacific island of Nauru will begin after President-elect Don-

ald Trump's inauguration in January.

Whether Trump honors the deal Australia reached with the outgoing Obama administration, and announced earlier this month, will provide an early test of Trump's anti-immigration stance.

Campaigning for the presidency, Trump had started by advocating a blanket ban on Muslims entering the United States, but later adjusted his stance to propose that the ban should apply to people from nations that had been "compromised

by terrorism". Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Sunday that the United States had agreed to take a "substantial" number of those held on Manus Island and Nauru. Many of them are Muslims who have fled conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Af-

ghanistan and Pakistan.

Under Australia's tough border security laws, asylum seekers intercepted trying to reach the country by boat are sent for processing at the camps on Papua New Guinea's Manus island and Nauru.—Reuters

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Opinion

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The importance of principles

Myint Win Thein

PRINCIPLES are moral rules derived from a strong belief that guides an individual's actions. The strong belief also shapes a person's vision. Therefore, a person's actions always reflect his or her principles, belief and vision. In addition, every action of a person is important for the achievement of that person's vision. Therefore, a person's principles form the foundation for achievement of a personal vision as they guide the

course of actions for individuals.

People, especially those who are in organisations, tend to lay out their visions and plans publicly. Later, their action turns out to be completely opposite to their self-declared visions and commitments. They are considered to be people without principles, or invertebrates, because their actions will never result in achievement of their visions.

Principles are of individ-

uals, whereas policies are of organisations. Policies guide the activities of an organisation as they are a plan of action agreed by all members to achieve a particular vision. Activities of an organisation should always be a reflection of its policies and the vision. Or else it will not achieve its vision. If activities of an organisation are completely contrary to its policies and vision, there is a need to make adjustments between the vision, policies and activities of

the organisation. Without such adjustments, vision and policies of the organisation will be just empty words to trick its members.

Moreover, actions of all members of the organisation should also be in line with its vision, policies and activities. Otherwise, the organisation will be in disorder and lose sight of its vision. Principles are of utmost importance for success of individuals, as well as organisations, to achieve a vision.

Festivals of the month "Tazaungmon" Part II

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu,
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

THERE are other religious and socio-cultural festivals associated with Kahtein robe offering of Tazaung mon. In the life time of Lord Buddha, his foster mother Gotami marked a robe for him. It was of finest cotton skillfully woven at the palace by master weavers. Gotami herself participated in the weaving. It was finished overnight. The robe came to be known as Matho-Thingan, which literally means non-stale robe, because it was woven to the finish within the period of night. With pomp and ceremony Gotami took the Matho-Thingan to offer to Lord Buddha at Nijorda Vihara. Myanmar Buddhists following that precedent, perform the festival of weaving Matho-Thingan on the full moon night of Tazaungmon Myanmar Kings held this festival without fail and Myanmar Buddhists till today hold Matho-Thingan weaving competitions on the full moon day of Tazaung mon.

There are also two other types of robe offering either to Buddha Images or monks in Tazaungmon namely "Pant Tha Ku" robe and "Kya Thingan". Pant Tha Ku is a Pali word meaning clothing, food, money or anything discarded on the ground for anyone to take. During the first twenty ordained years of Lord Buddha there was no donor of robe. Lord Buddha and his disciple monks had to collect clothings discarded on the ground for making robe by themselves. Such robes were called Pant Tha Ku robes meaning robes made out of old clothings discarded on the ground. Later Pant Tha Ku came to acquire a wider meaning—any offering by an anonymous do-

nor to an anonymous recipient. Greater merit is gained by making Pant Tha Ku offering, because no personal attachment is involved as both the donor and the recipient are anonymous and unknown to each other. On the full moon night of Tazaung mon robe or any priestly utensil, or dry ration, or money is placed by the donor on the ground in the neighborhood of monasteries or nunneries. The monk or nun who finds it, takes it to the superior monk who decides whether it is a Pant Tha Ku offering or lost property. Usually the donor attached a letter card "Pant Tha Ku offering- to his offering. The monk or nun who finds Pant Tha Ku offering is entitled to use it.

Kya robe is lotus robe woven with threads made out of lotus stems. Lotus flower is the symbol of Buddhism. Four lotus blooms represent four Buddhas already revealed and one Lotus bud represents the 5th upcoming Buddha. Lotus robe is fine and light, making the wearer cool in summer and warm in cold season. Lord Buddha had worn lotus robe in his life time. In the Shan State, Mon State and Rakhine. State of Myanmar lotus robes are made for offering to Buddha statues and reputedly learned head monks on the full moon day of Tazaungmon.

Shin Ma Lei festival is another religious event commemorated on the full moon night of Tazaungmon. This event and festival originated in post Buddha's time. Shin Ma Lei was a great monk who resided in a village monastery in Ceylon [Sri Lanka]. Legend has it that by means of supernatural power he gained through intense

concentration of mind [Samatha meditation] he went up to Tavatimsa the Celestial Kingdom] to worship Sulamani Pagoda in which the hairs of the head of Prince Siddhartha and the sacred tooth relic of Lord Gotama Buddha were enshrined. There, he met a deva who was the future Metteya Buddha. The deva requested Shin Ma Lei to preach to the people the Vessantara Jataka [The story of the last human life of the future Gotama Buddha on every full moon day of Tazaung mon. Shin Ma Lei consented and when he returned to earth he preached the said Jataka with one thousand Pali poems to the people on every full moon day of Tazaung mon. To commemorate this event, one thousand fruits, one thousand lotus blooms, one thousand fistfuls of cooked rice and one thousand light of oil lamps placed on a Hlaw Ka boat are offered to Shin Ma Lei. One thousand represents his one thousand Pali poems, and the Hlaw Ka boat represents the ferry boat [the Dhamma or the Teachings of the Buddha] to salvage the sentient beings from the whirl pool of rebirths [Samsara] to the Land of Nivirna [the end of all sufferings].

There are two traditional practices Myanmar people perform on the full moon night of Tazaungmon. They are Me Zali Salad feast and Kyi Ma No Pwe. Both are associated with Net Khat Tabin Pwe [The festival of constellations and planets]. Legend has it that on the full moon night of Tazaungmon when the constellation Kyattika and the moon shine together, the guardian gods of all medicinal herbal plants and trees and creepers come together to attend on the guardian god of Me Zali tree [Cassia Siamea]. Another version says that it was on the full moon night of Tazaung-

mon that the guardian god of constellation Kyanika which is also Fire god, used to come down to earth and stayed with the guardian god of Me Zali tree. The guardian gods of all medicinal herbal flora gathered at Me Zali tree to pay respects to Kyattika god. So it is believed on this full moon night of Tazaungmon all medicinal, curative powers and properties of herbal flora are concentrated in Me Zali tree. Me Zali tree grows in any part of Myanmar. Its leaves, buds and flowers are edible Myanmar Treatises on herbal medicine recommend that Me Zali is medicinal. This is the reason why Myanmar people eat slightly bitter but appetizing Get Zali salad made out of its buds boiled and seasoned with ingredients like pea nut, fried garlic, sesamum, fresh peeled onion, cooking oil, salt and fresh lemon juice. You are cordially invited to Me Zali salad eating party on full moon night of Tazaungmon.

Kyi Ma No festival is in fact a customary prank played by youths. Literal meaning of Kyi Ma No festival is that it is a performance held before crows wake up. It is sometimes and at some places, known as "Thief's Night". On the full moon of Tazaung mon when all heavenly bodies appear, Sawya Net Khat or Thief's constellation also appears, which exercises its influence upon the youths who thus suffer temporarily from kleptomania on that night. Kleptomania is a kind of psychological madness- irresistible desire to steal anything. So at midnight of Tazaung mon's full moon, youths play their pranks. Individually or in group they "steal" anything found in the house compound [not from inside the house] --pots pans, clothings, baskets, skirts, women's under

wears, braziers, chamber pots etc. and leave them at the public places, road crossings. Skirts, under wears, braziers and chamber pots are hung up on tall trees. The following morning everyone is amused and moved to laughter to see the owners looking for their missing properties only to find them at public places. Male youths laugh heartily when old ladies come out to reclaim skirts, under wears or braziers on behalf of their real owners who being young are inhibited by their feminine modesty.

Midnight picnic is held on full moon night of Tazaungmon. It is famous for its chicken curry cooked by male youths. In Myanmar it is called Kyet Tha Kala Tha Chet [Chicken curry cooked by male youths]. Live chicken pinched from any house compound is killed and cooked with any vegetable easily available mostly gourd. No oil no spices, just water salt and green chilly. Cooked in a big pot and male youths by turn eat with cooked rice directly from the pots. No plate, no spoon. They use any long wooden ladles. Communal cooking and eating having been done, they now turn to communal courting with any musical instrument, usually wind instrument flute or oboe or string instrument harp or banjo or mandolin they serenade in the neighbourhood or in front of the houses of local belles performing love music and singing love songs. Parents and old people pretend to be asleep.. While young girls switch off all lights and open the windows to listen and watch their courtiers.

Today, with the booming of Tourism, Kyet tha kalatha chet is becoming the favorite of foreign tourists. They would like to join the serenade as well.

See page 9 >>

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 26/ 2016
15th Waxing Day of Tazaungmon 1378 ME
(14th November 2016)
Six Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw
Representatives substituted**

ACCORDING to request made in accordance with Article 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Law to substitute six Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following six Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives under the Notification 1/ 2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| (1) BC 27485 | BC 24311 |
| Lt-Col Myint Zaw | Lt-Col Myint Swe |
| (2) BC 25161 | BC 21899 |
| Lt-Col Naing Zaw Min | Col Than Aung |
| (3) BC 27972 | BC 33593 |
| Lt-Col Myat Min Moe | Maj Win Min Tun |
| (4) BC 29709 | BC 32394 |
| Maj Htin Aung Kyaw | Maj Hla Nyi Nyi |
| (5) Air 2879 | Air 1773 |
| Maj Ye Thiha Tun | Brig-Gen Oo Kyaw |
| (6) Air 2896 | BC 17287 |
| Maj Myo Min Maung | Brig-Gen Win Maung |

By Order
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 27/ 2016
15th Waxing Day of Tazaungmon 1378 ME
(14th November 2016)
Ten Defence Services Personnel Ahmyotha
Hluttaw Representatives substituted**

ACCORDING to request made in accordance with Article 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Law to substitute ten Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following ten Defence Services Personnel Ahmyotha Hluttaw representatives under the Notification 2/ 2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| (1) BC 21503 | BC 28292 |
| Lt-Col Zaw Moe | Lt-Col Thant Swe |
| (2) BC 31933 | BC 37232 |
| Maj Nay Aung Oo | Maj Min Aung Phy |
| (3) BC 27356 | BC 32577 |
| Maj Win Thein | Maj Zaw Win Oo |
| (4) BC 30577 | BC 32850 |
| Maj Tin Maung Win | Maj Kyaw Soe Oo |
| (5) BC 33565 | BC 37634 |
| Maj Myo Min Thant | Maj Naing Thu |
| (6) BC 35600 | BC 21750 |
| Maj Than Zaw Tun | Lt-Col Myint Thein |
| (7) BC 36253 | BC 38051 |
| Maj Phyto Wai Tint | Maj Htet Lin |
| (8) BC 38480 | BC 37264 |
| Maj Win Naing Oo | Maj Thet Min Oo |
| (9) BC 38596 | BC 41808 |
| Maj Min Khant | Maj Soe Yazar Thaik |
| (10) MN 4154 | BC 40574 |
| Lt-Comdr Ko Ko | Maj Naing Myint |

By Order
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 28/ 2016
15th Waxing Day of Tazaungmon 1378 ME
(14th November 2016)
Thirty Defence Services Personnel Region and
State Hluttaw Representatives substituted**

ACCORDING to request made in accordance with Article 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Law to substitute thirty Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following thirty Defence Services Personnel Ahmyotha Hluttaw representatives under the Notification 3/ 2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016.

Kachin State Hluttaw

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| (1) BC 28398 | BC 27430 |
| Maj Soe Naing | Maj Thein Zaw Oo |

Kayin State Hluttaw

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| (2) BC 32377 | BC 34702 |
| Maj Htin Lin Kyaw | Maj Win Min Lwin |
| (3) BC 32414 | BC 34866 |
| Maj Hein Maung Myint | Maj Lin Tun |

Sagaing Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| (4) BC 31366 | BC 53865 |
| Maj Thein Htoo | Capt Nyan Tun |
| (5) BC 35782 | BC 36638 |
| Maj Kyaw Thura Win | Maj Zaw Myo Yee |
| (6) BC 39000 | BC 38809 |
| Maj Nyan Min Maung | Maj Thet Win |

Taninthayi Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| (7) BC 27519 | BC 34836 |
| Maj Swe Lwin Aung | Maj Ko Min |

Bago Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| (8) BC 29699 | BC 24050 |
| Lt-Col Tin Myo Naung | Maj Hla Moe Thein |
| (9) BC 30083 | BC 25174 |
| Maj Ye Maung | Maj Saw Sein Kyaw |
| (10) BC 35606 | BC 31366 |
| Maj Zayar Oo | Maj Thein Htoo |

Magwe Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (11) BC 27185 | BC 30083 |
| Maj Myint Thiha | Maj Ye Maung |
| (12) BC 29564 | BC 32571 |
| Maj Ye Myint | Maj Myint Naing |

Mandalay Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| (13) BC 24231 | BC 20573 |
| Maj Kyaw Thu Lwin | Maj Soe Myint Oo |
| (14) BC 35631 | BC 20304 |
| Maj Nyan Phyto Khine | Maj Tin Tun |

Mon State Hluttaw

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| (15) BC 20573 | BC 21384 |
| Maj Soe Myint Oo | Maj Soe Thura |
| (16) BC 24050 | BC 38464 |
| Maj Hla Moe Thein | Maj Myo Zaw Aung |

Rakhine State Hluttaw

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| (17) BC 28064 | BC 39414 |
| Lt-Col Naing Win Aye | Capt Lu Maw Myint |
| (18) BC 32571 | BC 37960 |
| Maj Myint Naing | Maj Tun Ko Ko Latt |

Yangon Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (19) BC 30064 | BC 28521 |
| Lt-Col Zaw Myo Tun | Maj Maw Thu Rein |
| (20) BC 20304 | BC 25303 |
| Maj Tin Tun | Maj Win Han |
| (21) N 564 | N 721 |
| Maj Daw Hnin Yu Kyaw | Maj Daw Maw Maw Than |

Shan State Hluttaw

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| (22) BC 21384 | BC 27185 |
| Maj Soe Thura | Maj Myint Thiha |
| (23) BC 25174 | BC 37254 |
| Maj Saw Sein Kyaw | Maj Ye Myint Tun |
| (24) BC 25303 | BC 38947 |
| Maj Win Han | Maj Aye Min Htaik |
| (25) BC 27430 | BC 28398 |
| Maj Thein Zaw Oo | Maj Soe Naing |
| (26) BC 28242 | BC 29699 |
| Maj Nay Myo Oo | Lt-Col Tin Myo Naung |
| (27) BC 35652 | BC 30064 |
| Maj Kyaw Kyaw Wai | Lt-Col Zaw Myo Tun |
| (28) BC 35936 | N 564 |
| Maj Yee Mon | Maj Daw Hnin Yu Kyaw |

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| (29) BC 28521 | BC 37364 |
| Maj Maw Thu Rein | Maj Min Thu |
| (30) BC 53865 | BC 37961 |
| Capt Nyan Tun | Maj Ko Ko Maung |

By Order
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Festivals of the month "Tazaungmon" Part II

>> from page 8

It would not be complete if the most important commemorative day of Myanmar National Day in Tazaungmon is left out. It was on the 10th waning moon of Tazaungmon in Myanmar Sakarit year 1282 [1920] that the Yangon University Boycott broke out. The immediate cause of the Boycott was the passing of the Yangon University Act by the British Government regardless of the public demand for some amendments of the Act. But the principal motivating force behind it was Myanmar dislike of colonial education which trained the youths only to become servants of the British colonial administration. Myanmar

people wanted national education which would nurture Myanmar youths in national culture, history and literature and train them in vocational subjects.

The boycotters set up their headquarters on Shwedagon Pagoda platform and formed the council of National Education to open a National College and National Schools throughout the country.

The British Government gave in and later recognized national schools by granting them financial aid. The success of this Boycott was so important and its effects were so far-reaching upon Myanmar struggle for national freedom that the date of the Boycott was chosen as

National Day which Myanmar people have been commemorating annually ever since.

Tazaungmon light festival in Taunggyi Southern Shan State is the tourist attraction. You can enjoy spectacular displays of fire works-lanterns of all sizes, balloons and rockets of local make flying in the sky and Satuditha feast given gratis to all corners to eat glutinous rice seasoned with coconut cream, sugar and peanuts plus fresh orange juice and to participate in communal singing and dancing.

No other month of Myanmar calendar has more festivals than Tazaungmon.

Trump hires Republican insider, conservative firebrand for White House



US President-elect Donald Trump holds arms with Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus (R) while speaking at his election night rally in Manhattan, New York, US, on 9 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday picked Reince Priebus, a Washington insider who heads the Republican National Committee, as White House chief of staff, signalling a willingness to work with Congress to advance his agenda when he takes office in January.

But while giving the influential post to the low-key Priebus, Trump handed another senior White House job to rabble-rousing conservative media figure Stephen Bannon, his campaign chairman who helped engineer his surprise victory on Tuesday over Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Priebus is a friend of US House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan, who distanced himself from Trump during the campaign but embodies the Republican establishment in Washington and will play a critical role in shepherding Trump's agenda in Congress. Both Priebus and Ryan are from Wisconsin.

But Bannon, former head of the right-wing Breitbart News website, has been fiercely critical of Ryan.

Trump's statement announcing the appointments said Bannon and Priebus would be "working as equal partners to transform the federal government," with Bannon serving as chief strategist and senior counsellor to the president.

The White House chief of staff serves as a gatekeeper and agenda-setter for the president, but Trump's statement mentioned

Bannon's job first.

"I am thrilled to have my very successful team continue with me in leading our country," Trump said in a statement. "Steve and Reince are highly qualified leaders who worked well together on our campaign and led us to a historic victory. Now I will have them both with me in the White House."

Before joining Trump's team, Bannon spearheaded Breitbart's shift into a forum for the "alt-right," a loose online confederation of neo-Nazis, white supremacists and anti-Semites. Bannon's hiring by Trump's campaign this year signalled the businessman's dedication to operating outside the norms of Washington.

Under Bannon's leadership, the Breitbart site presented a number of conspiracy theories about Clinton as well as Republicans deemed to be lacking in conservative bona fides.

Critics have accused Bannon of harbouring anti-Semitic and white nationalist sentiments. In a 2007 court filing during divorce proceedings, Bannon's former wife accused him of making anti-Semitic comments on at least three occasions.

As head of Breitbart, he repeatedly attacked the Republican Party establishment including Ryan, alienating many veteran Republicans. Bannon showed his willingness to engage in brutal political tactics when he instigated the appearance before a pres-

idential debate of three women who said they had been sexually abused by his Democratic rival's husband, former President Bill Clinton.

Trump, who will succeed Democratic President Barack Obama on 20 January, has been contemplating the candidates for top jobs in the White House and in various Cabinet positions since Tuesday's victory.

Priebus' appointment could anger some hardline Trump supporters who were counting on Trump to keep his campaign promise to "drain the swamp" of business-as-usual Washington insiders.

Priebus is a longtime Wisconsin political operative who was credited with marshalling party resources for Trump's White House bid. The Republican National Committee stepped in and ran most of the party's get-out-the-vote effort this year in the absence of such an operation by the Trump campaign.

While some Republicans fled from Trump during the campaign, Priebus was unwavering in his backing for the New York real estate developer.

Priebus frequently travelled with Trump on the campaign trail and was seen as a positive force who helped rein in the unpredictable Trump in the closing weeks. Trump made his high regard for Priebus known on election night when he pulled him to the microphone to take a bow for his campaign efforts.—Reuters

Bulgarian PM Borisov tenders his government resignation

SOFIA — Bulgarian Prime Minister Boiko Borisov has submitted his minority government's resignation to parliament, the government's press office said in a statement on Monday.

Borisov said on Sunday he

would resign after his centre-right party's candidate lost the race to become the Balkan country's next president.

"In his letter to the lawmakers, the prime minister stated that the government will continue to

perform its duties until the election of a new government," the statement said. The collapse of Borisov's government is likely to result in months of political uncertainty and probably trigger early elections in the spring.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia says ready to move fast to fix ties with Washington — RIA

MOSCOW — Russia is ready to work fast to repair relations with Washington now that Donald Trump has been elected US president, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying on Monday by RIA news agency.

But he said Russian authorities knew little of Trump's policy plans, and recognised there was a difference between his election campaign pledges and the policies he would implement once in office.

Ryabkov said Russia's support for the Iran nuclear deal was unchanged, despite Trump's campaign statements that if elected his priority would be to dismantle the pact, Interfax news reported.—Reuters

Suicide bomber kills six near Iraq's Shi'ite city of Kerbala

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber killed six people in rural area west of Iraq's Shi'ite Muslim city of Kerbala on Monday where locals were preparing for a major religious event, the interior ministry said. The bomber blew himself up in Ain al-Tamr after security forces killed five of his accomplices and surrounded him in a house, the ministry added.

The attack came as Iraq's Shi'ite majority were preparing to mark Arbæen on Monday - the end of a 40-day mourning period for Imam Hussein, the Prophet Mohammad's grandson.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, but hardline Sunni Muslim group Islamic State has attacked Shi'ite rituals in the past.—Reuters

Pakistan says seven soldiers killed by Indian shelling

ISLAMABAD — Seven Pakistani soldiers were killed by Indian shelling across the frontier in the disputed Kashmir region overnight, Pakistan's military said on Monday, as tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours simmer.

Pakistan's military media wing, ISPR, said in a statement the seven soldiers were killed in the Bhimber sector on the "Line of Control" de facto border in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman could not be immediately reached for comment.

Relations between Pakistan and India have been strained for several months, while cross-frontier shelling has intensified in recent weeks leading to deaths of civilians and soldiers stationed along the disputed frontier. Tensions have been fraught since July when India-administered Kashmir was rocked by street protests after the killing of a militant leader there.—Reuters

Swedish prosecutor arrives at Ecuador's embassy to question Julian Assange

LONDON — Swedish Chief Prosecutor Ingrid Isgren arrived at Ecuador's London embassy on Monday to question Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, in connection with a rape investigation, a Reuters photographer said.

The interview, which will be led by an Ecuadorian prosecutor, could end a four-year deadlock since Assange took refuge in the embassy.

Swedish authorities want to question Assange over allegations that he committed rape in 2010. Assange denies the allegations.

The Swedish Prosecution Authority said last week that Ecuador had granted a Swedish request for assistance in criminal matters.—Reuters

Hungary's Jobbik to resubmit constitutional amendment on migrants

BUDAPEST — Hungary's radical nationalist opposition party Jobbik said on Monday it would resubmit to parliament a constitutional amendment banning the resettlement of migrants in Hungary.

Jobbik chairman Gabor Vona told reporters he planned to repeat verbatim an amendment submitted by Prime Minister Viktor Orban which fell short of the needed two-thirds majority in Parliament last week largely due to Jobbik's resistance.

Vona said Jobbik's own legislative proposal would contain one additional element, the scrapping of a scheme that allows foreigners to buy residency rights.—Reuters

Jihadists say Trump victory a rallying call for new recruits

KABUL/CAIRO — From Afghanistan to Algeria, jihadists plan to use Donald Trump's shock US presidential victory as a propaganda tool to bring new fighters to their battlefields.

Taliban commanders and Islamic State supporters say Trump's campaign trail rhetoric against Muslims—at one point calling for a total shutdown of Muslims entering the United States—will play perfectly in their recruitment efforts, especially for disaffected youth in the West.

"This guy is a complete maniac. His utter hate towards Muslims will make our job much easier because we can recruit thousands," Abu Omar Khorasani, a top IS commander in Afghanistan, told Reuters.

Trump has talked tough against militant groups on the campaign trail, promising to defeat "radical Islamic terrorism just as we won the Cold War."

The president-elect later toned down his call for a total ban on Muslim entry to say he would temporarily suspend immigration from countries that have "a history of exporting terrorism."

But he has offered few details on his plans to combat various radical groups, including IS, the Taliban and al Qaeda, which represent a wide spectrum of political views.

"He does not differentiate between extremist and moderate Islamist trends and, at the same time, he overlooks (the fact) that his extremism will generate extremism in return," Iraq's powerful Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said in a statement.

Sadr's political reform move-



Members of the Taliban gather at the site of the execution of three men accused of murdering a couple during a robbery in Ghazni province, Afghanistan in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ment, which commands thousands of followers, is a staunch opponent of the radical Sunni movements IS and al Qaeda, and unlike them has not waged or promoted attacks in the West.

The United States has seen a handful of attacks inspired by Islamist militant groups, including the June massacre of 49 people at an Orlando nightclub by a gunman who called a TV station swearing allegiance to IS and the killing of 14 people at a San Bernardino, California, social services agency last December.

US officials have warned the country will likely face a higher risk of similar attacks as IS urges supporters to launch attacks at home instead of joining its fight in the Middle East.

"Our leaders were closely following the US election but it was unexpected that the Americans will dig their own graves and they did so," said IS's Khorasani, who described President Barack Obama as a moderate infidel with at least a little brain in comparison to Trump.

Al Qaeda, which has proven resilient more than 15 years after launching the 11 September attacks on New York and the Pentagon, has yet to comment on Trump's victory.

The militant group will likely respond after Trump's first speeches as president, anticipating they will be able to exploit his comments to win support, said Hisham al Hashemi, who advises the Iraqi government on

Sunni jihadist movements.

"Al Qaeda is known for its recruitment strategy that heavily quotes speeches of the White House and other Western officials," he told Reuters.

Trump's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the statements from the militants.

Even if Trump tones down his anti-Muslim comments when he takes office in January, analysts say his statements during the campaign trail were enough to fuel the militants' propaganda machine.

"Militants will still use those quotes," said Matthew Henman, head of IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre.—Reuters

Turkish warplanes strike 15 targets in Syria's al Bab area — military

ISTANBUL — Turkish warplanes struck 15 targets in the al Bab area of northern Syria on Sunday in an operation with Syrian rebels to drive Islamic State (IS) militants out of the border region, the Turkish military said on Monday.

President Tayyip Erdogan has said seizing control of al Bab, around 30 km (19 miles) south of the border, is a goal of the operation before targeting Manbij, from which Kurdish-led forces recently drove IS, and the IS stronghold of Raqqa.

Ten Islamic State defensive positions, command centres and an ammunition store were destroyed in the strikes, the army said in a statement. Nine Syrian rebels were killed and 52 wounded during clashes in the region, it added.

The Turkish military launched the operation, dubbed 'Euphrates Shield', on 24 August and the rebel forces have so far seized control of about 1,620 square km (625 square miles) of territory, the military said.

The operation has also targeted the Kurdish YPG militia in the region and 10 of the group's fighters were 'neutralised' in shelling over the last 24 hours as they tried to seize control of the Tal Jijan area, the statement said.

The YPG is an ally of the United States in its fight against Islamic State. Ankara denounces the YPG as an affiliate of the PKK, which has fought the Turkish military in southeast Turkey for three decades and which is designated as a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.—Reuters

Iraq troops aim to tighten noose on Islamic State in Mosul

BAWIZA (Iraq) — Iraqi soldiers fighting just north of Mosul, within sight of city neighbourhoods, said on Sunday they were ready to tighten the noose around Islamic State militants waging a brutal defence of their Iraqi stronghold.

Four weeks into the campaign to crush Islamic State in Mosul, the city is almost surrounded but the jihadists' defences have so far been breached only to the east, where they have battled elite troops for control of around a dozen districts.

The battle for Mosul, the biggest city held by the ultra-hard-line Sunni Islamist group in Iraq and Syria, is the largest military operation in Iraq in a decade of turmoil unleashed by the 2003 US invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein.

Iraq's Shi'ite-led government, which has assembled a 100,000-strong coalition of troops, security forces, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and mainly Shi'ite militias, backed by US air power, says it will mark the end

of Islamic State in Iraq.

But it says the fight will be a long one.

An army special forces officer on the northern front line said his men aimed to target Hadba, the first neighbourhood ahead



An Iraqi federal policeman aims his heavy machine gun on a vehicle in Samah district, eastern Mosul, Iraq on 12 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

of them within city limits. The district was visible from his position in the village of Bawiza.

Brigadier Ali Abdulla said Islamic State fighters had been pushed out of Bawiza and another village, Saada, although progress had been slowed by the presence of civilians he said were being used by the militants as human shields.

"Our approach (to Hadba) will be very slow and cautious so that we can reach the families and free them from Daesh's (Islamic State's) grip," Abdulla said.

One man who escaped from Saada to Bawiza with his young son and daughter said they had to move from house to house and hide among sheep to avoid being caught by Islamic State fighters.

The timing of the decision to move on Hadba would depend on

progress on other fronts, Abdulla said. Security forces are advancing to the south of Mosul, targeting the city's airport on the west bank of the Tigris river.

Abdulla said Islamic State was using suicide car bombs, roadside bombs, snipers and long range mortars to try to hold back the army advance in the north - all tactics it has used to lethal effect on the eastern front as well.

Another officer, Captain Oqba Nafaa, said the militants were still fighting in Saada, using a network of tunnels to carry out surprise strikes on the attacking forces. The urban warfare tactics were similar to those they have deployed to lethal effect in the east of the city against elite Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) forces and an armoured division.—Reuters

New UN role needed to fight human trafficking in conflict — experts

LONDON — People displaced by war across the world are at heightened risk of human trafficking due to gaps in the United Nations' response, campaigners said on Monday, calling for the creation of a new UN office to fight modern slavery.

Nearly 46 million people around the world are living as slaves, forced to work in factories, mines and farms, sold for sex, trapped in debt bondage or born into servitude, according to the 2016 Global Slavery Index by rights group Walk Free Foundation.

Refugees are considered particularly vulnerable as poverty, insecurity and the necessity to flee war push them in the arms of traffickers who often operate with impunity in conflict areas.

Almost half of migrants travelling to Italy from North Africa said they were forced to work against their will along the way, mainly in lawless Libya, a survey by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) published last month found.

The UN's response to trafficking amid the global refugee crisis has been fragmented, according to



Refugees and migrants shout slogans as they cross the Old Sava Bridge heading in the direction of the Croatian border, in Belgrade, Serbia on 11 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

a report by Freedom Fund, an international initiative to fight slavery.

Several agencies, including the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have taken steps to tackle different

forms of trafficking, but with little coordination, the Freedom Fund said.

"There is a tendency for the agencies to their own thing and not be sufficiently aware of what other agencies are doing," Freedom Fund's CEO, Nick Grono, told the

Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview.

In April, a Freedom Fund report said a growing number of children whose families fled the Syrian war to Lebanon were being forced to work for little or no pay.

Interviews with humanitarian workers in conflict zones revealed they often lack proper training on what to do when dealing with a potential trafficking victim, Grono added.

In the new study published on Monday, Freedom

Fund said the appointment of a UN special coordinator on modern slavery could help ensure anti-trafficking efforts are coordinated and more effective.

The envisioned role would answer directly to the UN Secretary-General and have a wider mandate and resources than existing figures, Grono said.

Several Special Rapporteurs currently operate under the UN Human Rights Council with focus on modern slavery including a Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, a Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons and a Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery.

"They have minimum funding and are often effectively part-time positions," said Grono. "We need a central responsibility".

A spokeswoman for the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon stressed the UN was committed to eradicating modern-day slavery.

"We must end the suffering of all victims of trafficking, including those subjected to slavery, servitude, forced labour or bonded labour," she said in a statement.—Reuters

China worried over Japan's bid to add remote islands to UNESCO list

BEIJING — China has told Japan through diplomatic channels that it is concerned about Tokyo's attempt to add remote southwestern islands to UNESCO's World Heritage list, officials with knowledge of the situation said Monday.

China's worries stem from its belief that the designation of the Amami-Ryukyu islands, straddling Japan's Kagoshima and Okinawa prefectures, could have a negative effect on its claim to a small group of islands in the East China Sea,

a major source of tension between the two countries.

Although Japan has explained many times that the Japanese-controlled, Chinese-claimed Senkaku Islands are not part of its application to the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organisation, Beijing has not changed its view, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. China claims that the uninhabited Senkaku Islands, which it calls Diaoyu, are an integral part of its territory and Japan has no

right to apply for the inclusion of the Amami-Ryukyu region, located not too far away from them, in the list, according to the officials.

Japan is hoping to include four areas — Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the

northern part of Okinawa's main island and Iriomote Island — in the list in 2018.

Despite China's opposition, Japan is expected to submit the necessary recommendation for inclusion to the UN body by 1 February.—Kyodo News

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI) for Cooperation Public Private Partnership (PPP) in No. 14 Heavy Industry (Thagaya) & No. 15 Heavy Industry (Thagaya) No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

No. 14 Heavy Industry (Thagaya) (Multipurpose Diesel Engines Factory) and No. 15 Heavy Industry (Thagaya) (Earth Moving Equipments Factory) under No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry are intended to cooperate with Local (or) Foreign Entrepreneurs as PPP (JV, Lease, etc)

As a first step, Companies who are interested in that cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) not later than 3:00 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), on 5 December 2016 to Planning Department, No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No. 30, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entities can inquiry and take over the EoI Form and other indications at above office commencing from (17.11.2016) by presenting document of company profile.

Document of Company Profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
 - Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of Company
 - Name of Foreign's Technical Cooperator
- (For more information: Phone no: 067-405159, 067-405322)

Lack of school drives girls into armed groups in eastern Congo: charity

DAKAR — Girls in conflict-ravaged eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are joining armed groups because they cannot afford to go to school, while former girl soldiers struggle to return to class amid stigma from their communities, a charity said on Monday.

Many girls in the region join militia groups to obtain food and money, to seek protection against violence, or because their families cannot afford to pay their school fees, according to a report by Britain-based Child Soldiers International (CSI).

Eastern Congo is plagued by dozens of armed groups that prey on

locals and exploit mineral reserves. Millions died between 1996 and 2003 as a regional conflict caused hunger and disease.

Around a third of all children in armed groups in the country are estimated to be girls, who are often married off to militants and are vulnerable to abuse and rape, activists say.

"It is deeply shocking that, because their families cannot afford to pay school fees, some girls see joining an armed group as their only option, and decide to throw themselves in harm's way," said Isabelle Guitard, director of programmes at CSI.

While primary edu-

cation is free and compulsory by law, most schools in Congo charge fees for books and uniforms, CSI said.

"Despite the horrific abuse the girls go through while with armed groups, it is the rejection from their families and communities which distresses many of them the most," Guitard told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from London.

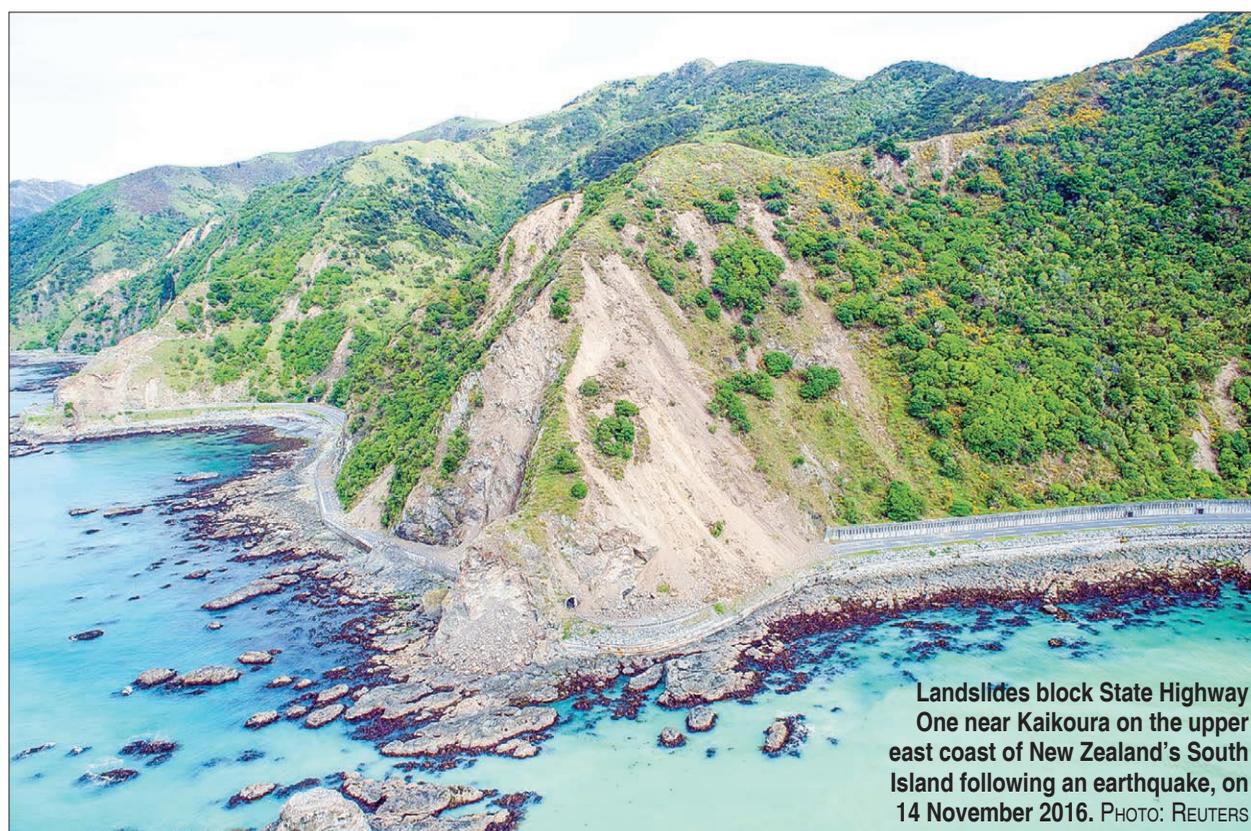
While civil society groups have had some success in getting boys out of armed groups and into reintegration programmes, this shame and fear of rejection back home has kept many girls in the bush, according

to CSI's report.

"If we leave the group, we're going to be targeted ... so many girls accept and continue to live with their bush husband," said one of the 150 former girl soldiers interviewed by CSI.

Most of these girls said going to school was the best way to regain acceptance from their communities, and that it helped them to deal with trauma suffered while with the armed groups.

CSI said it was working with local partners to help former girl soldiers go back to school, provide catch-up sessions and literacy classes for those who have never been educated or who are too old to start.—Reuters



Landslides block State Highway One near Kaikoura on the upper east coast of New Zealand's South Island following an earthquake, on 14 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Utter devastation' after major quake, aftershocks hit New Zealand

WELLINGTON — A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake pummeled central New Zealand early on Monday, killing at least two people, damaging roads and buildings and setting off hundreds of strong aftershocks.

Emergency response teams flew by helicopter to the region at the epicenter of the tremor, which struck just after midnight some 91 km (57 miles) northeast of Christchurch in the South Island, amid reports of injuries and collapsed buildings.

"It's just utter devastation, I just don't know ... that's months of work," New Zealand Prime Minister John Key told Civil Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee after flying over the coastal town of Kaikoura, according to Brownlee's Twitter account.

He described landslips in the area as "just horrendous". In a statement seen by Reuters, Key said of the likely damage bill: "You've got to believe it's in the billions of dollars to resolve." Powerlines and telecommunications were down, with huge cracks in roads, land slips and other damage to infrastructure making it hard to reach the worst-affected areas.

A tsunami warning that led to mass evacuations after the original quake was downgraded after large swells hit New Zealand's capital Wellington, in the North Island, and Christchurch.

Wellington was a virtu-



Local residents Chris and Viv Young look at damage caused by an earthquake along State Highway One near the town of Ward, south of Blenheim on New Zealand's South Island, on 14 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ghost town with workers ordered to stay away while the city council assessed the risk to buildings, several of which were damaged by the tremor. There were concerns that loose glass and masonry could be dislodged by severe weather hitting the capital, with 140 km per hour (85 mph) winds forecast.

Hundreds of aftershocks, the strongest a 6.2 quake at about 1.45 p.m. local time (0045 GMT), rattled the South Pacific country, fraying nerves in an area where memories of a deadly 2011 quake are still fresh.

Christchurch, the largest city on New Zealand's ruggedly beautiful South Island, is still recovering from the 6.3 quake in 2011 that killed 185 people.

New Zealand's Civil Defence declared a state of emergency for the Kaikoura region, centered on a tourist town about 150 km (90 miles) northeast of

Christchurch, soon after Monday's large aftershock.

Kaikoura, a popular spot for whale watching, appeared to have borne the brunt of the quake.

"Our immediate priority is ensuring delivery of clean water, food and other essentials to the residents of Kaikoura and the estimated 1,000 tourists in the town," Brownlee said.

The Navy's multi-role vessel HMNZS Canterbury was heading to the area, he said.

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) said a 20-person rescue team and two sniffer dogs had arrived in the town. A second team was on standby in Christchurch, USAR said in a statement.

Police in the area around Christchurch reported 19 burglaries of homes and commercial properties after the quake as residents headed for higher ground.

"It is extremely disappointing that at a time

when people are facing such a traumatic event and communities are coming together to support one another, there are others who are only interested in taking advantage," Canterbury District Commander Superintendent John Price said in a statement.

Hours after the quake, officials said a slip dam caused by the quakes that had blocked the Clarence River north of the town had breached, sending a wall of water downstream.

A group of kayakers missing on the river was later reported safe.

New Zealand's Geonet measured Monday's first quake at magnitude 7.5, while the US Geological Survey put it at 7.8. The quakes and aftershocks rattled buildings and woke residents across the country, hundreds of kilometres from the epicenter.

Geonet said four faults had ruptured, with one at the coast appearing to have slipped as much as 10 metres (33 feet).

Government research unit GNS Science said the overnight tremor appeared to have been two simultaneous quakes which together lasted more than two minutes.

New Zealand lies in the seismically active "Ring of Fire", a 40,000 km arc of volcanoes and oceanic trenches that partly encircles the Pacific Ocean. Around 90 per cent of the world's earthquakes occur within this region.—Reuters

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT Invitation for Bids

Date: 14th November, 2016
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: Distribution Transformer for National Electrification Project
Reference No. : C1-G1

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Distribution Transformer for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of 11/0.4 kV-50 kVA, 100 kVA, 200 kVA, 315 kVA and 33/0.4 kV-100 kVA, 200 kVA and 315 kVA distribution transformer, for the total quantities of 5,389 transformers to be delivered in 2017 and 2018 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 10 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots. Evaluation and award of contract will be on a lot-wise basis.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's [Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmomoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in CD with English language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Myanmar Kyats 100,000. The method of payment will be transferred to the following account:

Electricity Supply Enterprise, account no. SEE 10316 at Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The transferred slip shall be submitted with the above application. Once the application and the transferred slip received the bidding documents will be provided in the CD.

In case of any difficulty in purchasing the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

1. Director General
Department of Electric Power Planning
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Email: dep.pssp.info@gmail.com
2. Ms. Xiaoping Wang, Task Team Leader
The World Bank
Address: 30th Floor, Siam Tower,
989 Rama I Road, Pathumwan Bangkok 10330,
Thailand
Email: xwang3@worldbank.org

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 am, 30th December, 2016. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below at 10:00 am, 30th December, 2016.

Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the bidding document.

8. The address referred to above para 4 and 5 are :
Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone : +95 67 410203
Facsimile : +95 67 410077
E-mail : nep.pmomoep@gmail.com
Web site : <http://www.moep.gov.mm>

'Doctor Strange' stays on top With \$43 million, 'Arrival' impresses

LOS ANGELES — Alien invasion thriller "Arrival" capitalized on strong reviews to score an impressive debut, while Marvel's "Doctor Strange" topped the box office for the second consecutive weekend.

The superhero adventure picked up \$43 million to bring its domestic total to \$153 million. DreamWorks Animation's "Trolls," another holdover, came in second, earning \$35 million to bring its stateside haul to \$94 million after two weeks of release.

"Arrival" took third, easily outpacing pre-release tracking with a debut of \$24 million. Heading into the weekend, the film was expected to launch to \$16 million. "Arrival" was directed by Denis Villeneuve, who has built a steady following with the likes of "Prisoners" and "Sicario." It focuses on a linguist (Amy Adams) who is recruited to try to communicate with alien visitors. Paramount picked up domestic rights to the film for \$20 million. FilmNation, Lava Bear and 21 Laps financed the \$47 million production.

"Arrival's" strong box office result is a shot in the arm for Paramount, which has weathered a string of flops such as "Zoolander

2," "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows," and "Ben-Hur." The instability starts at the top. Viacom, Paramount's corporate parent, was engulfed in an internecine war for much of the past year, as Shari Redstone, the daughter of founder Sumner Redstone, successfully worked to oust Philippe Dauman from his perch as the company's CEO. Paramount chief Brad Grey is trying to convince Shari Redstone that he has the vision to lead the company out of its doldrums, and has pointed to films like "Arrival" as proof that the studio's slate is improving. Universal's "Almost Christmas" debuted to a solid \$15.6 million across 2,376 locations for a fourth place finish. The comedy about a dysfunctional family gathering for the holidays after their mother dies was economical to produce and carries a \$17 million budget. It stars Danny Glover, Gabrielle Union, Kimberly Elise, and Jessie Usher.

Liongate's "Hacksaw Ridge" rounded out the top five, earning \$10.8 million to bring the war drama's total to \$32.3 million.

Among the weekend's other wide releases, EuropaCorp's "Shut In" stumbled out of the gate, kicking off to a paltry \$3.7



Cast members Benedict Cumberbatch, Tilda Swinton (L) and Rachel McAdams pose at the premiere of "Doctor Strange" in Hollywood, California US, on 20 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

million from 2,058 locations.

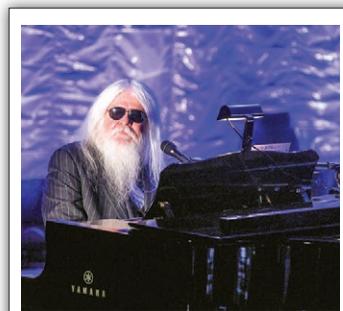
Sony bowed "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" on two screens where it made \$120,300. The Iraq War drama is shot at an accelerated framerate, but few theaters will be able to exhibit the film at

speed. The limited release did exhibit the picture in the immersive format that director Ang Lee has pushed theaters to incorporate. It was screened in 4K, 3D, and at 120 frames per second. "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" will expand next weekend on to

more than 800 theaters.

In limited release, Sony Pictures Classics debuted "Elle" on two screens where it earned \$56,012. The thriller stars Isabelle Huppert as a woman who plots revenge against the man who raped her.—Reuters

Leon Russell, musician known for dynamic performances, dies at 74



Inductee Leon Russell performs during the Songwriters Hall of Fame awards in New York in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

NASHVILLE (Tennessee) — Leon Russell, who emerged in the 1970s as one of rock 'n' roll's most dynamic performers and songwriters after playing anonymously on dozens of pop hits as a much-in-demand studio pianist in the 1960s, died on Sunday at age 74.

Russell, who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2011, died in his sleep in Nashville, Tennessee, his wife said in a statement on his website.

Russell suffered health problems in his later years, having surgery to stop leaking brain fluid in 2010 and suffering a heart attack in July 2016.

"He was recovering from heart surgery in July and looked forward to getting back on the road in January," said his wife, Jan Bridges.

Russell's period of stardom

as a performer was relatively brief, but Elton John, who had once been Russell's opening act, engineered a comeback for him in 2010 when they collaborated on an album titled "The Union."

"He was my biggest influence as a piano player, a singer and a songwriter," John told ABC News.

Russell recorded more than 35 albums and also excelled as a songwriter for other performers. His "A Song for You" was recorded by Joe Cocker, the Carpenters, the Temptations, Neil Diamond, Lou Rawls, Dusty Springfield, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin and good friend Willie Nelson. The Carpenters, Helen Reddy, Shirley Bassey, Robert Goulet and George Benson all covered Russell's "This Masquerade," with Benson's version winning the 1976 Grammy as record of the year.

Russell was known as "the master of space and time" in his 1970s heyday. He wore a cocked top hat, and with salt-and-pepper hair past his shoulders and a beard that reached his chest, created an inscrutable image that was equal parts shaman, tent revival preacher and cosmic ringmaster. He ruled the stage with piano-banging abandon and, backed by a multi-piece band and a backup chorus, put on a show that was a roiling stew of rock, soul, gospel and country.—Reuters



Author J.K. Rowling. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mostly magical reviews for 'Fantastic Beasts' but is it too dark?

NEW YORK — British author J.K. Rowling has conjured up her "Harry Potter" magic in the spin-off film "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," but some early reviews wondered if it may be too dark for a family audience and whether the story can sustain four more movies.

The Warner Bros. movie, to be released worldwide on 18 November, got mixed reviews, with critics in Britain generally proving more enthusiastic than their US counterparts.

"That entertainment enchanter J.K. Rowling has come storming back to the world of magic in a shower of supernatural sparks and created a glorious fantasy-romance adventure," wrote Peter Bradshaw in Britain's Guardian newspaper.

"Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them" takes place 70 years before the first "Harry Potter" books and features a cast of new characters with magical powers. Set in 1926, it centers on Newt Sca-

mander, a "magizoologist" who arrives in New York with a case full of strange creatures that quickly escape.

It marks Rowling's debut as a screenplay writer and is the first of five movies based on the Scamander character that seek to build on a wizarding franchise that has made \$7 billion at the global box office.

The Hollywood Reporter's John DeFore said "Fantastic Beasts" would appeal both to Potter fans and to newcomers, praising its invention and special effects. "This world invites us in as effectively as the best of the Potter episodes," he wrote.

But DeFore said casual audiences "may be less convinced that this spin-off demands the five feature-length installments Warner and Rowling have planned." Variety noted the movie's themes of intolerance and xenophobia beneath the wands and the cute beasts.

"Just when you thought the world of Harry Potter couldn't get any darker, along comes a bleak-as-soot spin-off that makes the earlier series look like kids' stuff," wrote Variety's Peter DeBruge.—Reuters

Population of endangered gazelles expands in NW China

XINING — There are now more than 1,400 Przewalski's gazelle, a species even more endangered than the giant panda, living around a lake in northwest China's Qinghai Province, its only habitat.

According to a survey by Qinghai Lake National Nature Reserve, there were 1,464 gazelle living around the lake, around 200 more than the number recorded last year.

He Yubang, with the reserve, said the survey, which was conducted in August, recorded 324 fawns born this year and 1,140 older gazelle, consisting of 445 males and 695 females.

"This is a record high since our surveys began," He said.

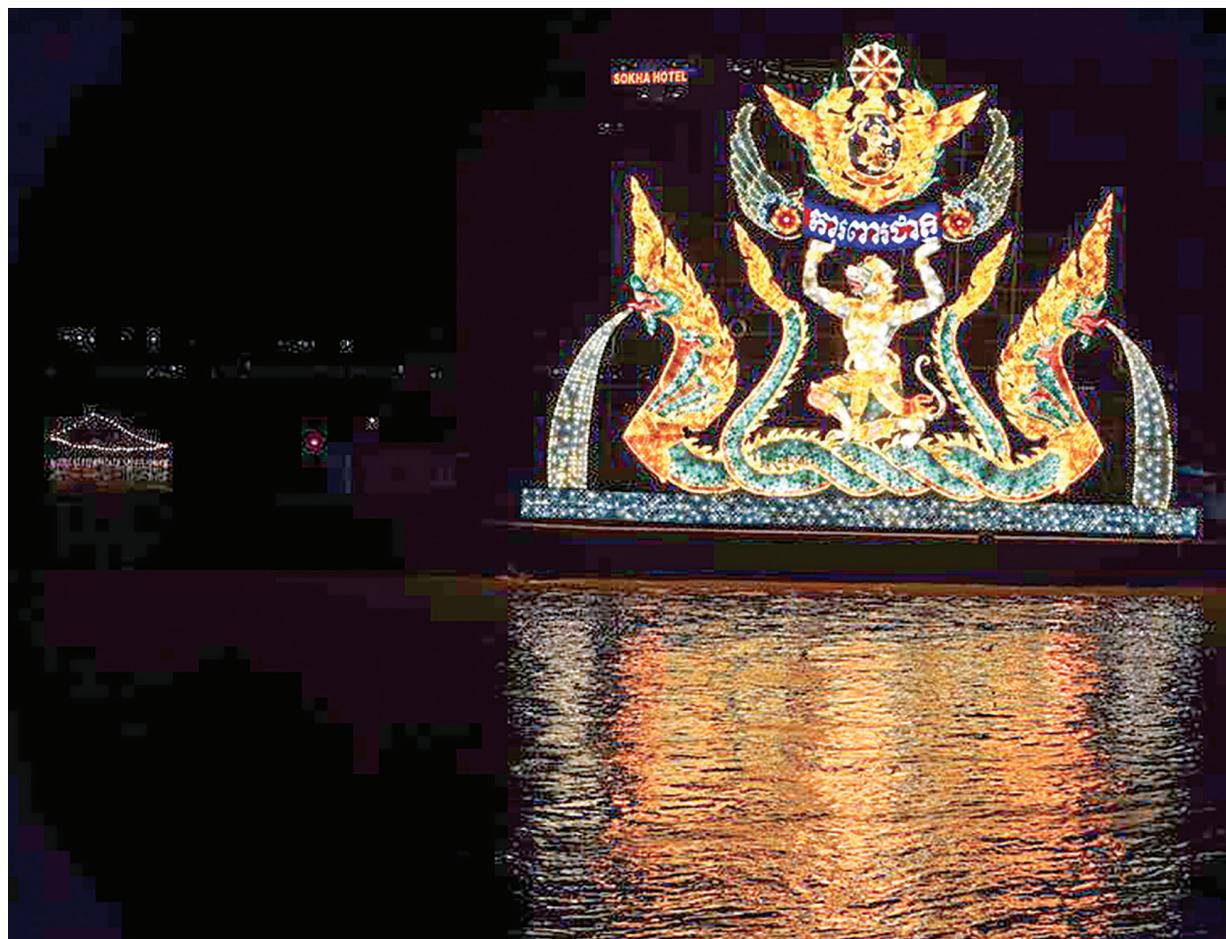
Years of protection has seen the gazelle population quadruple in the

past 20 years and lowered its status on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species from "critically endangered" to "endangered."

The local government has set up watering places and supplied foraging food in the winter, and dismantled barbed wire fences, once used to restrict the movement of livestock and mark ownership of the grassland. The sharp, barbed fences have killed many of the gazelle's in the past, as the animals tried to jump them.

The provincial forestry authorities tore down 515,000 metres of fencing or barbed wire across four counties around the lake from 2009 to 2015 and lowering the height of the remaining fences from 1.5 metres to 1.2 metres. —Xinhua

Water Festival celebrated in Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Colourful lantern boats are seen during the annual Water Festival in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 13 November 2016. The 3-day Water Festival kicked off here on Sunday. PHOTO: XINHUA

Gov't aims to draw more foreign tourists to national parks



Undated file photo shows the Aso-Kuju National Park, which straddles Kumamoto and Oita prefectures in southwestern Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — The Environment Ministry will introduce new measures to draw more foreign tourists to Japan's eight national parks by 2020, when the country will host the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, ministry sources said Saturday.

The new measures include tours to areas that are currently off limits in Lake Akan in Hokkaido, known for its population of marimo balls of green algae, and improvements to cycling roads in the prairie of the Aso-Kuju National Park, which straddles Kumamoto and Oita prefectures.

The ministry current-

ly does not allow tours to Akan National Park, where marimo can be found clustered in the lake. But the ministry plans to allow small groups for canoeing and trekking tours with a guide, according to the sources.

The ministry will also bury overhead power lines on cycling roads in the Aso-Kuju park so riders can have more beautiful views and allow tourists to observe colonies of rare flowers and watch terrain which has been affected by natural disasters such as major earthquakes in Kumamoto in April.

The plan to draw more

tourists to the eight parks is part of the ministry's efforts to take the number of foreign visitors to national parks to 10 million in 2020, more than double the present number.

It has earmarked a total of 20 billion yen (\$187.4 million) in the second supplementary budget for fiscal 2016 through March, which was approved at parliament last month, and a draft full-year budget for fiscal 2017.

The ministry is also considering asking visitors to bear some of the cost of environmental conservation, the sources said. —Kyodo News

<p>(15-11-2016 07:00am ~ 16-11-2016 07:00am) MST</p> <p>Today Fresh</p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:25 Am Myanmar Game Changers (Ep-5)</p> <p>07:51 Am Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:27 Am History and Mystery Behind The Caves</p> <p>08:52 Am Paper Art Creator</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:27 Am Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)</p> <p>09:48 Am Toddy Palm Product Shop</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:26 Am Super Myanmar Traditional Stick Form (EP-2)</p>	<p>10:42 Am Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)</p> <p>10:49 Am Today Myanmar: Motorcycle & Yangon City</p> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>Prime Time</p> <p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:27 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)</p> <p>07:52 Pm Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:27 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Rice Salad with Vegetables)</p> <p>08:46 Pm Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe</p> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>
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UNESCO chief hails development of Chinese museums

SHENZHEN — A top UN official commended China's museums, saying she was "very impressed" by the facilities and Chinese culture in general.

Irina Bokova, director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), made the remarks in an interview with Xinhua on the sidelines of the inaugural UNESCO High Level Forum on Museums, which concluded Saturday in Shenzhen,

south China's Guangdong Province.

"I think it is very emblematic that we have this conference in Shenzhen and China, because in China there are more than 4,000 museums, and this is something that is still developing," she said.

"There is much more thinking about the role of museums, and the achievement of this forum is precisely to give this modern vision about museums," she said. —Xinhua

Ronaldo scores twice, misses penalty in Portugal win

FARO (Portugal) — Cristiano Ronaldo converted one penalty, missed another and also scored from open play as Portugal beat Latvia 4-1 in their World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

On a typically dramatic night for the Portugal captain, Ronaldo fired the European champions ahead from his first spot kick of the evening in the first half, but missed a chance to double their lead when his second effort struck the post.

It looked a costly miss when Arturs Zjuzins equalised for Latvia in the 68th minute but William Carvalho headed Portugal back in front two minutes later, Ronaldo volleyed the third and Bruno Alves completed the win.

Portugal stayed second in Group B with nine points from four games, three behind leaders Switzerland.

Portugal survived an early scare when a corner landed at the feet of Igors Tarasovs but he failed to connect cleanly and Rui Patricio saved.

After being restricted to long-range shots, Portugal broke the deadlock when Nani was

tripped by Gints Freimanis and Ronaldo fired low to Andris Vainins' right in the 28th minute.

Portugal won another penalty when Glebs Kluskins tripped Andre Gomes in the 58th minute but this time Ronaldo, who also missed a penalty in the Euro 2016 match against Austria, saw his shot hit the inside of the post and roll across the goal.

Ten minutes later, Latvia, who had barely got out of their own half, equalised when substitute Zjuzins scored with his second attempt from the edge of the area. But midfielder Carvalho came to the rescue two minutes later when he headed his first international goal from Ricardo Quaresma's cross.

Another Quaresma cross led to the third as it found Ronaldo at the far post and Portugal's all-time leading scorer volleyed home his 68th international goal.

Ronaldo then missed an easy chance for his hat-trick from Renato Sanches' pass and also headed against the crossbar before Alves headed in Raphael Guerreiro's chipped cross at the far post.—Reuters



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo kicks to score a goal during 2018 World Cup Qualifying European Zone at Algarve Stadium, Faro, Portugal on 13 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Djokovic beats debutant Thiem after early scare

LONDON — Deposed world number one Novak Djokovic suffered a scare at the hands of Austrian debutant Dominic Thiem before launching his bid for a fifth successive ATP World Tour Finals title with a 6-7(10), 6-0, 6-2 victory on Sunday.

Knocked off the summit he had occupied for 122 weeks by Andy Murray last week, Djokovic must better his British rival's performance at London's O2 Arena to snatch back the top ranking, but things did not go entirely to plan.

Thiem, the youngest of the eight qualifiers for the year-ender at 23, grew increasingly dangerous throughout the first set and blazed several stunning winners to pocket a gripping breaker on his seventh set point.

After that, though, the match was a procession as Djokovic racked

up a 19th win in his last 20 matches at the tournament.

Even after sealing victory though, Djokovic's mood was soured by a reporter asking him about an angry reaction to losing the opening set when the Serb slammed a ball into the ground and it bounced into the stands, prompting a warning from the umpire.

When it was suggested he could have found himself in hot water had the ball hit a spectator, a tetchy Djokovic snapped: "It could have been yeah, but it could have snowed in the O2 Arena as well, but it didn't."

Hiccups aside, including a cut finger that required treatment, the 12-times grand slam champion was happy to get a victory that now turns the spotlight on Murray who plays Marin Cilic in his opening match on Monday.

Djokovic, bidding to end the year ranked number one for the fifth time in six seasons, trails Murray by 405 points in the standings but Murray will lose the 275 points he gained for winning the Davis Cup for Britain last year.

That means they are virtually neck-and-neck and the 200 points

Djokovic earned for beating Thiem edged him ahead in what is turning into a thrilling race for the year-end honour.

Djokovic's Ivan Lendl group looks easier than Murray's section. As well as Thiem, the Serb will face Canada's Wimbledon runner-up Milos Raonic and Gael Monfils.

He has never lost a match to any of them although Raonic was in ominously good form as he overpowered Monfils 6-3, 6-4 in Sunday's late match — offering not a single break point in a dominant display.

Murray takes on former US Open champion Cilic in the John McEnroe group on Monday and also faces reigning US Open champion Stan Wawrinka and Japan's Kei Nishikori, who beat the Scot at Flushing Meadows this year.

Without doing anything spectacular Djokovic was cruising throughout the first set against Thiem, dropping only four points on serve on the way to a 5-4 lead.

Thiem was not overawed though and forced Djokovic to save a break point at 5-5.

The tiebreaker was a classic. Three sublime winners helped Thiem into a 6-3 lead but he twice double-faulted as Djokovic clawed back to 6-6.

Thiem had three further set points to Djokovic's one before nailing a forehand winner at 11-10 to huge roars from the sell-out crowd in the arena.—Reuters

Czech Republic down France to retain Fed Cup title

STRASBOURG (France) — The Czech Republic further established themselves as the dominant force in women's team tennis as they claimed a 3-2 comeback win against hosts France to capture their fifth Fed Cup title in six years on Sunday, and 10th overall.

Karolina Pliskova and Barbora Strycova downed Kristina Mladenovic and Caroline Garcia 7-5, 7-5 in the doubles to hand the visitors the decisive point.

The nation won five titles as Czechoslovakia in the 1970s and 80s before dominating the women's team competition in recent years.

Only the US have won more titles, having prevailed 17 times since the competition was created in 1963.

Against the pair who won this year's French Open, Strycova and Pliskova returned well and made the most of Mladenovic's below-par performance to hand the Czech Republic victory.

Petra Kvitova, twice a champion at Wimbledon, had been expected to spearhead the Czechs' charge towards victory but after her unexpected defeat in her opening singles, she was a no show on Sunday.

"Kvitova could not play today, we did not have many options, but Strycova played really

well," said Czech captain Petr Pala, who helped his side recover from a 2-1 deficit to become the first captain to win five Fed Cup titles.

"The girls never gave up, like the French, but there is only one winner."

Rather than dwelling on Kvitova's absence, her Czech team mates simply focussed on the task ahead and their determination paid off as they became the first team to win three successive Fed Cup titles since Spain achieved the feat from 1993-95.

"It's a wonderful day. It was not easy that's why we are so happy," said Pliskova.

"The secret was to go out there and fight for every point. We fought until the end," added Strycova.

"It's sad for the players but that's sport. The players gave everything, they were brave and did their best. Congratulations to the Czech," said French federation president Jean Gachassin.

Pliskova had put the visitors ahead on Saturday with an epic 6-3, 4-6, 16-14 win against Mladenovic after a nail-biting third set, the longest ever played in a Fed Cup final.

Garcia drew France level as she beat world number 11 Kvitova 7-6(6), 6-3 with an aggressive display, suggesting an upset was possible.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS