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State counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi dismayed over Shan State violence

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi spoke publicly for the first time yesterday about the recent violence in Shan State committed by the combined forces of the KIA, TNLA and the MNDAA that has killed at least nine people since Sunday and resulted in scores of injuries, many of them innocent civilians. The State Counsellor's remarks came in a statement to the National Reconciliation and Peace Center that urged ethnic groups to join the government's ongoing peace negotiations.

"At a time when the people of Myanmar are in the process of striving for national reconciliation ... it is extremely disappointing and saddening that these incidents are instigated", Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in the prepared statement.

The full text of her announcement follows.

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union Myanmar established the national Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) on 11 July 2016 with an objective of giving priority and careful focus to national reconciliation and peace process. In order to formulate necessary policies to seek solutions to long standing political issues through dialogues, to establish a future under a federal union, and to hold the 21st Century Panglong Conference, the Government has been striving to build an all-inclusive peace

process not only with armed groups that have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) but also by inviting participations of those armed groups who have not signed the Agreement.

2. Government has invited non-signatory armed groups to the meetings of the Framework for Political Dialogue and on the working guidelines for holding of National Level Political Dialogues.

The non-signatories, represented by the Delegation for Political Negotiation-DPN has attended to the meeting twice. The Government with a view to holding a meaningful, substantive and inclusive conference, had coordinated to provide opportunities for non-signatory armed groups to not only to attend the 21st Century Panglong Conference held from 30 August to 3 September in Nay Pyi Taw and submit papers but also take part in the 21st Century Panglong Conference Joint Organizing Committee together with the signatories of the NCA.

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"At a time when the people of Myanmar are in the process of striving for national reconciliation, it is extremely disappointing that these incidents are instigated".



Internally displaced persons and their children display aid and supplies delivered yesterday to Shan State by donors. The food, clothing and supplies were donated by local citizens, NGOs, INGOs and international aid organisations. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

KIA, MNDAA mortar shells land in China

CHINESE authorities have recently informed their Myanmar counterparts of over a dozen heavy mortar shells from Myanmar that landed and exploded in Wantain and Manhai in the People's Republic of China.

Myanmar authorities immediately investigated the incidents and discovered that the KIA and MNDAA intentionally carried out the incidents with the aim of damaging the friendship between the two countries and the stability of the border areas, according to the Directorate of Public Relations and Mental Welfare of the Ministry of De-

fence.

A total of thirteen shells fell on China, including eleven in Wantain and two in Manhai on 20 November. The resulting explosions injured at least one Chinese civilian, according to the ministry. Over 1,000 Myanmar nationals are taking refuge in Wantain and elsewhere in China, according to the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Wantain is close to Kyukoke (Pangsang) and Manhai shares border with Mongkoe in Myanmar.

It was learnt that government troops and the police were

stationed at bilaterally agreed distances from the boundary, but these posts came under heavy weapons fires from the KIA and the MNDAA on 21 November.

According to the findings of the investigation, the KIA and the MNDAA attacked the post from several directions. The multiple fighting fronts using heavy weapons led to landing of mortar shells into Chinese territory, the ministry said.

Findings have been sent to Chinese border authorities through leaders of border defence forces from both countries.—
Myanmar News Agency



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw



Pyithu Hluttaw speaker U Win Myint .PHOTO:MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw focuses on environmental issues

THE Pyithu Hluttaw agreed to hear the issue of pollution of drinking water in the Kandawgyi watershed area due to rubber plantations in Bago.

MP U Myint Oo submitted a proposal to revoke permission given to private businessmen to set up a rubber plantation in the watershed area of the lake because the activity has caused the fouling of the water.

In his discussion, U Myint Oo said five persons who were granted permission to establish a rubber plantation in 2011 on 730 acres in the watershed area cut down all the trees in the process of establishing the plantation.

The chemicals from the plantation flow into the lake and the water has been found to be not suitable for drinking, he said.

The lake was established in 1924 and since then has supplied about 1 million gallons of water per day to residents in Bago.

Yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw also focused gold mining, safe drinking water management, protection of

elephants and tourism development.

The parliament discussed the need for public information relating to the investments of over US\$500 million from 2011 to 2016, which they said require transparency to ensure checks and balances on spending and disbursement of funds.

Regarding the protection of endangered elephants in Myanmar, the Union Minister of Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Ohn Win responded that the Myanmar Timber Enterprise and private sectors have been taking care of the elephant camps across the country.

The ministry has held workshops and seminars to seek ways for giving protection to both tame and wild elephants.

The Union minister has pledged to lay down a plan for opening a care centre for the old, invalid and baby elephants.

Members of the Parliament also discussed the Draft Law for Older Persons, which had already been approved and amended by the National Parliament.—*Myanmar News Agency*

1st Coordination Meeting of Television and Broadcasting Law Revision and Rules Drafting Committee Held

1ST Coordination Meeting of Television and Broadcasting Law Revision and Rules Drafting Committee was held at the meeting hall of the ministry of information at 1p.m today.

At the meeting, Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information made a speech.

Afterward, U Myint Htwe, Director-General of MRTV and

committee secretary clarified the matters needed for amendment of television and broadcasting law and matters to be dealt with further.

In addition, committee members and responsible officials discussed respectively and the chairman gave necessary advice over the clarifications.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses eco-tourism, water management with China

ECO-tourism and a water management agreement with China were among the items discussed at the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 3rd Regular Session's 6th Day Meeting yesterday.

The tourism topic arose in response to a question raised by Dr Khin Maung Win of constituency 11 in Tanintharyi Region, the site of many islands including the Mergui archipelago that are favoured by an increasing number of tourists as well as local visitors.

"In terms of the matters as to which arrangements are being made for the interest of the local people and for the development and perpetuation of sovereignty of the State from hiring islands in Tanintharyi Region, the Ministry is making suggestions on conservation of natural beauty of islands and coral reefs, island-originated tourism industry development and other necessary advice", said U Ohn Maung, the Union Minister for Hotel and Tourism.

The Union minister said training is being done for personnel who have contact with tourism in the region to raise awareness and education of conservation practices while pursuing tourism growth.

"The ministry conducted

3 courses for tour guides and 9 courses for hotel service personnel during the period from April 1, 2011 until now, attended by 286 trainees and 689, respectively, with a view to improving hotel and tourism industry in the region, creating job opportunities for the development of human resources. The ministry will make efforts to develop the islands in the region into an ecotourism development area without harming the natural environment, in consultation with other ministries and Tanintharyi Region Cabinet, with a view to having other islands enlisted as world heritage sites with the advice of the UNESCO", the minister said.

The issue of a possible agreement with China on management of water came up in reply to a query raised by U Soe Thein of constituency 9 in Kayah State, U Thant Zin Maung, where the Thanlwin River is located.

"For the time being, the Ministry does not yet have any plans to make the Trans-boundary Water Management Agreement with the People's Republic of China, with a view to sustainable use of the Thanlwin River and to avoid potential disputes from emerging in the future. Currently, the ministry is consulting with the Minis-

try of Foreign Affairs to discuss with the PRC through diplomatic channels and the ministry is to consult with Thailand as well, as it took part in the agreement", the Union Minister for Transport and Communication said.

Later in the meeting, Union Minister U Thant Zin Maung and Brigadier-General Myint Nwe, deputy minister for Defense Services, replied to questions raised by U Kyaw Kyaw of constituency 4, in Rakhine State, U J Yaowoo of constituency 1 in Kachin State and U Ye Myint Soe of constituency 7 in Yangon Region on matters concerning farming land, conservation of river bank erosion and aviation sectors.

U Soe Thein of constituency 10 in Tanintharyi Region and U Kyaw Naing of constituency 12 of Yangon Region discussed wording and grammatical usage in section 10, 24 and 56 of Law on Civil Service (amendments).

Mahn Win Khaing Than, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, decided to rehear the draft in Hluttaw Drafting Committee.

The 7th Day Meeting of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 3rd Regular Session will be held on November 28.—*Myanmar News Agency*



U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe.



U Soe Thein. PHOTO: MNA



U Thant Zin Maung. PHOTO: MNA

Information minister receives EU's Special Representative for Human Rights



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds talks with Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis. PHOTO: MNA

DR Pe Myint, the Union Minister for Information, received Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, the Special Representative on Human Rights for the European Union, and his delegation at the Minister's Office yesterday.

The participants discussed broadcasting and reporting relating to information about the armed conflicts in Rakhine State from state media and the progress of media exchange by the Ministry of Information.

Also present at the meeting were authorities from several other ministries.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw receives Chief of Royal Thai Armed Forces

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received General Surapong Suwana-Adth, Chief of the Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to promoting bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand and cooperation between the two

armed forces in bringing about peace and development in the border areas of the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with General Surapong Suwana-Adth, Chief of the Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets president of OISCA International



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Ms. Yoshiko Y. Nakano, President of OISCA International. PHOTO: MNA

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received a delegation led by Ms. Yoshiko Y. Nakano, President of Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International (OISCA International) yesterday morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the cooperation between Myanmar and OISCA International, including development of human resources, providing technical assistance for development of agriculture and livestock sectors and basic infrastructure in rural areas.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi dismayed. . .

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3. The reason we have not been able to put an end to protracted armed conflicts that had emerged with our independence is because we had failed throughout our post-independence history to find common solutions to fundamental political issues through dialogues with flexible open mind and mutual accommodation. Resolute to find common solutions through dialogues, our new Government makes it a priority to hold the 21st Century Panglong Conference with a view to find political solutions to political problems. We also urged the non-signatory armed groups to sign the NCA at the earliest and join the peace process. Altogether (5) meetings had been held with the DPN, twice in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and thrice in Yangon to persuade them to participate in the peace process. The Government will unwaveringly continue to strive and work towards all-inclusive peace process under the umbrella of the NCA.

4. Currently, ethnic armed groups, political parties, and civil society groups all over the country are making concerted efforts in preparation for holding national level political dialogues. Soon, they will be bringing to the Union Peace Conference all the views, positions and aspirations of our national citizens obtained and consolidated from those national level political dialogues.

5. At this important juncture, armed clashes have broken out in the northeast Shan State on 20 November as a result of coordinate attacks staged by the combined KIA, TNLA and MNDAA armed groups on the government border security outposts and 105 mile trade zone. In those incidents, not only Tatmadaw personnel and border security police but also innocent civilians have suffered casualties and fatalities. At a time when people of Myanmar are in process of striving for national reconciliation and peace that had remained elusive to them in the past, it is extremely disappointing and saddening that these incidents are instigated. Our sympathies and condolences are with victims who had lost their lives and who are wounded. Mining of bridges and attacks on border outposts by these armed groups also cut-off flow of trade, transport and communication are detrimentally affecting the socio-economic lives of civilian population in the area.

6. Taking up arms to solve political issues causes protracted armed conflicts. And for the past seventy years, people in the region suffered and lag behind in economic development that is being enjoyed by neighbouring countries. Arms will not resolve issues nor bring about the desired goals of the people. The 21st

Century Panglong Conference is the one and only way by which to end all armed conflicts and to establish a perpetual peace. Despite these incidents, the Government is keeping the peace door open to welcome all relevant stakeholders for participation in the peace process. To this end, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is needed to be signed to end all conflicts. The contribute to this process stability and normalization must return to the State State. The government is striving its utmost to return the situation to normalcy. The valiant effort of the Tatmadaw and security forces has resulted in stabilizing a certain degree of stability in the Northeast Shan State.

7. In order to immediately end the armed conflicts in the northeast Shan State I strongly urged the armed groups to join the Government's peace process, by signing the NCA, working together with the civil society to find ways and means to strengthen the monitoring towards peace goals that are aspired by the people and to join hand with all relevant stakeholders to take part on equal terms in the 21st Century Panglong Conference that is to be held in February of 2017.

Sd/
Aung San Suu Kyi
Chairperson
National Reconciliation and
Peace Center

Fundraiser & Auction - 'Black Tie' Dinner Event

An evening of Charity Fundraising and Auction in support of the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.
Non-Profit all proceeds goes to the assistance of the underprivileged in Myanmar.

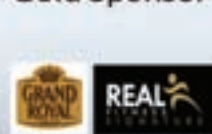
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with R Zarni, Aung Htet, Wynne Lay

Humanitarian aids reach IDPs in northern Shan State

HUMANITARIAN aids provided by the KBZ' Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation reached the internally displaced persons-IDPs yesterday in northern Shan State where armed clashes are happening.

The aids including 3,200 articles of warm clothes, 3,200 blankets, 100 bags of rice, 1,500 cans of fish, 150 boxes of instant noodles and nutrition powder were delivered to more than 3,000 IDPs taking shelter in monasteries and

churches in Muse by responsible personnel of the philanthropic foundation yesterday.

The philanthropic foundation, under the guidance of its chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham, imported 300,000 warm clothes worth more than US\$2 million and has delivered to the areas which are expected to be hit by extreme cold weather due to La Nina.

So far, more than 250 articles of warm clothing have been delivered to the IDPs from Ke-

hsi and Mongkai townships in northern Shan State; more than 3,000 pieces of warm clothes and 10,080 packs of dried instant noodles to IDPs in Myaing Gyi Ngu and Maethawaw in Kayin State; more than 36,500 pieces of warm clothing to ethnic people including monks and nuns in the Mandalay Region; more than 3,500 pieces of imported warm clothing to Naga ethnic people in Lahe, Naga Self-administered Zone in Sagaing Region; more than 7,650 articles of warm clothing to IDPs in Namtu in northern Shan State and more than 470 pieces to the local people in uneasily accessible areas in Kalay Township. The foundation has carried out philanthropic works since the Cyclone Nargis hit the country in 2008. So far, the BFM it has spent more than K110 billion on evacuation, relief and resettlement of peoples nationwide who are affected by disasters. The money is also spent on disaster preparedness, education, health, religion and sports in communities across the country. —Thae Naing Oo (Myanmarsar)



Children trying on warm clothes donated by BFM at IDPs in northern Shan State. Photo: Thae Naing Oo

Small number of vehicle owners paid Mandalay wheel tax

ONLY a small number of people have paid the wheel tax in Mandalay, either through avoidance or ignorance. officials said.

A member of the Mandalay City Development Committee said the relatively small percentage of people who have paid the tax is due in part to those who do not wish to pay, but there are also those who do not know the tax exists, according to U Than Thint, an official

from MCDC.

"Some people don't know that they have to pay the wheel tax. Some people know but they avoid the wheel tax. So, we are collecting the wheel tax in six townships as a project" said U Than Thint. "Also, we opened a service counter for wheel tax payment at the Road Transport Administration Department".

The MCDC is currently collecting the wheel tax in

Maha Aung Myay, Aung Myay Tharzan, Chan Mya Tharzi, Pathein Gyi, Pyigyitagon, Chan Aye Tharzan from June to October.

Every vehicle owner must pay the wheel tax before the deadline. After the deadline, the vehicle owner must pay double the wheel tax as a fine. The MCDC conducted the wheel tax collecting project nine times in October and five times in November. —Aung Thant Khine

Military medical mobile team leaves for Ayeyawady Region

TO provide healthcare services to residents along the Ayeyawady river in Ayeyawady

Region, specialists, medical assistants and nurses from a military medical mobile team left

for Ayeyawady Region from No. 4 jetty of the Myanmar Navy in Yangon on two Navy hospital vessels, Shwe Pazun and Saku, on Tuesday.

The medical team was seen off by high-ranking officers and their families.

The team is composed of specialists in eye diseases, bone diseases, childhood diseases, dental diseases, obstetrics, gynaecology and ear, nose and throat diseases. The team will also provide medical check ups using X-rays and ultrasound. —Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services



A vessel of military medical mobile team leaves for Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

Emergency ambulances donated for Station Hospitals In Maungtaw Area



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspects emergency ambulances donated to Alethanyaw and Kyeinchaung hospital. PHOTO: TIN TUN IPRD

FOR helping transport patients to hospitals in emergency, ambulances have been donated to Alethanyaw station hospital and Kyeinchaung station hospital in Maungtaw District yesterday.

The donation came under the guidance of the central committee of Rakhine State Peace, Stability and Development.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu addressed the opening speech at the ceremony marking the donation of emergency ambulances for station hospitals in Maungtaw area, held at the general hospital of Sittwe at 4 p.m today, followed by the

clarification of Dr Htay Aung, Deputy Director-General of the ministry of Health and Sports as regards the donation of emergency ambulances.

Dr U Shwe Thein, head of Rakhine State Medical Care Department and Dr Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, head of the department of medical care of Maungtaw District received the documents concerning the vehicles. Present at the ceremony were Rakhine State Cabinet's ministers, responsible officials of the ministry of health and sports, departmental heads of the Rakhine State and health personnel. —Tin Tun (IPRD)

Crime NEWS

Four dead, six injured in truck collision in Mon State

A 22-wheeled vehicle and a six-wheeled vehicle collided on the Yangon-Mawlamyine highway in Kyaikto township, Mon state on Tuesday, leaving four killed and six injured.

According to the investigation, the six-wheeled truck en route to Mawlamyine from Yangon driven by Aung Thura, 27, with Myat Moe, 40, on board crashed into the 22-wheeled truck driven by Zaw Myo Htet, 22, with Nyi Nyi Wai, Myo Kyaw Thu, Tayza Aung, Zwe Maung Maung, Thein Min Tun and Soe Lin on board, when the

former lost control of his vehicle.

"The six-wheeled truck made the mistake. The driver could not control his speed," said an officer from Kyaikto Myoma police station.

The collision killed the driver of the six-wheeled truck and three people from the 22-wheeled truck on the spot. Six people were seriously injured. The injured are receiving medical treatment at Kyaikto General Hospital.

The driver has been charged under section 304(A)/338/337 of the Penal Code. —Myitmakha News Agency



PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

LOCAL Business

Crackdown on illegal fishing methods in Ayeyawady Region

THOSE using illegal fishing methods and tools which are not in accordance with the law will be death with by a 12-member inspection team in each township in the Ayeyawady Region.

Each inspection team will be led by a township administrator as chairman and comprised of an official from the township fishery department as secretary, a

regional police officer, a private citizen, two fishery businessmen, five members from civil service organizations (CSOs) and a Hluttaw representative. Action will be taken according to inspections carried out by the team, it is learnt from Ayeyawady Region government.

The formation of inspection teams has already been approved at a government meeting. According

to Ayeyawady Freshwater Fishery Law, the township fishery department has to lead. However, an authority is needed to supervise to have effective inspections, said U Ba Hein, a minister for Ayeyawady Region Agriculture, Livestock, Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation.

Illegal fishing methods and fishing tools have been seen in Ayeyawady Region.

However, possible corruption and bribery are possible because enforcement of fishery law is still weak in the region, he added.

Authorities often fail to take action against those fishing after draining water in the ponds and lakes in Ayeyawady Region and fishing from electrocuting. Those illegal fishing methods adversely affect the waterways and aquaculture of the lakes,

but nevertheless there are people using illegal fishing methods widely in the region, locals said.

Weak enforcement has resulted in disputes between the fishery businessmen and water labourers. Some large-scale businessmen exploit the opportunities and rights of labourers, oppressing the small scale businessmen, causing strikes and unnecessary

problems. This leads to the degradation of the region, said Daw Khin Moe Wah, a constituency of Thabaung, Ayeyawady Region. Regarding this problem, she has been discussing a proposal to make the authorities who turn a blind eye to strictly follow the existing laws, she said at a third regular session of Ayeyawady Regional Hluttaw.—Myit-makha News agency

All stakeholders required to cooperate to enhance livestock and fishery sector

CONCERTED efforts are required to be exerted by all stakeholders to enhance the livestock and fishery sector, according to the Myanmar Fish Federation (MFF).

With the scarcity of saltwater fish, fish farming businesses need to improve if they want to fulfill the requirements of domestic consumption and export, it is learnt.

The fish federation said negotiations need to be held by all the stakeholders who are engaged in the supply chain in order to bring about effectiveness in the fishery sector. After negotiations, immediate implementation is then needed, said U Soe Win from the MFF at a regular meeting held on 22nd November.

The government plans

to bolster export volume in three ways. To do so, the government is required to formulate an effective and accurate policy to reach a target. Additionally, government subsidies are required to improve the fish farming sector.

The fishing process also needs to be closely monitored to prevent illegal fishing methods, said U Han

Tun, the chair of MFF.

When issuing licenses for fishing vessels carrying out offshore fishing, a total of 3,030 fishing vessels were permitted in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

To preserve fish resources, restricted areas and periods of fishing and types of fishing nets are prescribed. The fishery businessmen need to make con-

certed efforts to assess the situations of fishing, said U Tun Win Myint, the head of the Yangon Fishery Department. There are 520 freshwater fish species and 1,789 saltwater species in Myanmar. Only over 500 saltwater fish species are caught on a commercial scale.

Myanmar exported 376,845.689 tonnes of fish, prawns and other

fisheries products worth US\$652.840million in the 2012-2013 fiscal year whereas 34,567.36 tonnes of fishery products worth US\$536.274million were exported the following year. During 2014-2015 fiscal year, 338,290.58 tonnes of fishery products worth US\$482.2516million were exported, it is learnt.—Myit-makha News Agency



Women employees working on a production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya. File photo taken on 11 December 2015 PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Garment export jumps this year

MYANMAR apparel industry operating under the cut make pack (CMP) system, has exported more than \$1 billion dollars worth of clothing till November 11, according to an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

The country shipped garments totalling \$408.4

million in the same period in the previous year, a massive jump of \$690 million or 145 per cent year over year.

The sector has more than 400 factories, employing around 400,000 workers. According to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association

(MGMA), most of the country's apparel units operate under the CMP system, who together export 33 per cent of their production to Japan, 25 per cent each, to Europe and South Korea and only 2.4 per cent each, to China and the United States.—GNLM

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED (INDIA)

PROPOSES TO APPOINT DISTRIBUTOR FOR MYANMAR

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) proposes to appoint a national level distributor for Myanmar to market their entire range of lubricants and other special application petroleum products including asphalt in the geography of Myanmar

The distributor should be capable of (a) receiving, (b) storing at various places in Myanmar, and (c) distributing the products to the Retailers/ customers all over Myanmar.

Prospective candidates should have:

- Sound financial standing
- Warehouse space
- Awareness of Rules & Regulations of Myanmar and capacity to obtain all necessary approvals in a stipulated time.

Experience in handling petroleum products and lubricants will be an added advantage.

Interested individuals (Citizens of Myanmar)/Organizations (Registered in Myanmar) may please visit our website link www.hindustanpetroleum.com/myanmar for further details and downloading the application format.

Send in your completed application along with requisite documents addressed to Dy General Manager - International Trade in the following email id: hpitrade@mail.hpcl.co.in within 10 days from the date of publication of the advertisement.

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President U Htin Kyaw sends the message on the 96th Commemoration of National Day

Following is the full-text of the message sent by the president.

Dear Esteemed Nation of Myanmar

I am sending my congratulatory wishes to you all on the 96th National Day that falls on the 10th waning day of Tanzaungmone (November 24, 2016), and wishing you all happy, healthy and full of blessings on this auspicious day.

Under the colonial power, once the University Act, which prohibited the majority of the Myanmar from accessing higher education, was promulgated in the Myanmar Calendar year 1282, on the 10th waning day of Tanzaungmone (December 5, 1920), the students' boycott against the act began. The students' boycott, emerging from the courage, enthusiasm and sacrifice of the

Myanmar people over the years of colonial period, spread across the nation. In relation with this boycott, national spirit went from strength to strength, and the national schools which emphasized on the Myanmar language and the Myanmar affairs, emerged all over Myanmar very soon. The university students' boycott was not only academic affairs, but it was a political uprising against the colonialist suppression. In fact, it aroused the national spirit of the public. The "Thakhin" spirit, as well as the "Thakhin" rules of conduct, that emerged from this national movement was the source of gaining momentum of the national spirit that led to Myanmar Independence.

The Ninth GCBA Assembly, held in Mandalay in October,

1921, proposed that the date of the first students' boycott, the 10th waning day of Tanzaungmone, 1282 (December 5, 1920), should be regarded as National Day, and the Special Conference of GCBA held in Yangon on June 17 and 18, 1922 confirmed the designation of National Day on the 10th waning day of Tanzaungmone. Since then, National Day, the symbol of unity depicting the national spirit, has been commemorated, and today is the 96th Commemoration Anniversary. It's been almost a century.

National Day is a special landmark day which manifests and develops national dignity/identity, patriotism by strengthening the Union Spirit, based on patriotism.

At this moment in history, Un-

ion Peace Conference, 21st Century Panglong, has been held based on the Union Spirit and principles of all-inclusiveness, attended by representatives of the government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, armed ethnic groups, political parties and NGOs thereby establishing firm aspirations for the future.

In drawing up and developing the national economic and development policies (2016) with the aim of continuous development and achievement of objectives, infrastructural investments, in particular – the sector of agriculture, the private sector, small and medium business, with a focus on alleviation of poverty are included.

The main objectives of people-centred all inclusive policies include national reconciliation,

job creations and maintenance of national resources, development of national youths' capacity and creation of opportunities.

To establish a Federal Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Myanmar is now implementing democracy with firm objectives in accordance with democratic norms and all the nationalities are exhorted to make efforts towards achievement of the objectives of the 96th National Day, namely:

- To uplift and strengthen the Union Spirit
- To establish union peace
- To facilitate all-round development of all nationalities
- To establish a Democratic Federal Union

by means of the strength of national unity.

Myanmar writers' delegation visits China

UNDER the literature and art exchange program between Myanmar and China, a Myanmar writers delegation left for China yesterday.

The delegation led by Writer Chit Oo Nyo (U Kyaw Swa) will visit several cities including Beijing and Kunming. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with Chinese writers, publishers and media personnel.

The delegation comprises Daw Tin Tin Win (Ju), Daw Khin Hnin Oo, Daw Aye Aye Win (Phyu Mon), U Maw Lin, U Aung Tin (Cartoon Maung Maung Aung), U Aye Maung (Aye Maung Kyaw), U Than Ohn (Maung Zeyar), U Win Cho and officials of the Ministry of Information.

They will be back Myanmar on 28 November.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Myanmar writers are seen at the Yangon International Airport before departs for China. PHOTO: SAW PYAI HMU-FB

4th High Level Committee Meeting between Myanmar, Thailand held

4th High Level Committee Meeting between armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, General Surapong Suwana-Adth of Royal Thai Armed Forces and senior military officers of the two countries.

The meeting was opened with remarks by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General praised the role of the high level committee

not only in promoting the bilateral friendship but also in building stability and security in border areas between the two countries. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Min Naung discussed outcomes of the 30th meeting of the Myanmar-Thai border committee whereas another officer discussed matters on cooperation between the two armed forces.

Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Joint Secretary of the 4th High Level Committee Meeting, discussed matters related to promotion of friendship and cooperation in military affairs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses 1st National Education Conference for Children with Intellectual Disabilities

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spoke at the opening ceremony of the 1st National Education Conference for Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Myanmar yesterday morning at the Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar International Convention Center-2.

Present at the ceremony were Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, deputy ministers, departmental heads and members of the Myanmar diplomatic corps. Also in attendance were resident representatives of United Nations organisations, NGOs, INGOs, children with intellectual disabilities, the disabled, organisations for the disabled and invited guests.

In her opening address, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said all people, including disabled children, have the right to dignity and pursuit of happiness.

"The most important thing for the autistic children, youths and adults is to make them believe in the value of their lives. Currently, besides the persons in question, societies related with them as well as human society as a whole need to acknowledge the value of their lives, hence the need to help it to be acknowledged. Each and every one of us regarded to be normal as per psychology has weakness. There is no one void of a weak point at least, that is to say, we have deficiencies in one way or other. To overcome ours, first and foremost we need to accept that point and we must be able to decide how to conquer that weakness."

The State Counsellor said the right to a full life and opportunity should be instilled into children at a young age to avoid feelings of frustration and inequality later in life.

"Generally speaking, the situ-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

ation of the disabled children and adults should be concluded based on a word, 'Self.' The first thing which will occur in the mind of the disabled is discouragement. From there it changes into grievance and grief. If it occurs in that way, I want to say that it goes on astray from the beginning. Provided that the impression — it occurs only to me among all — will go through his life, they will find it difficult to improve in their life. So as not to reach the wrong way, it is necessary for us to control and lead them."

"The first thing I want to say is that we are required to make them believe that they have equal

rights like other normal people in our society and to make them enjoy these rights, hand in hand with each other. Presently we have cutting edge technology in the world, and we have acquired opportunities to help them become strong, healthy and able ones. The most important is respect. Every individual has the right to deserve the respect once they come into the world. In term of international outlook on human rights, dignity is one's inborn feature. Nobody can take the inborn dignity and it cannot be abolished by any laws or denunciation. Paying no respect to other's dignity is self-destruction of one's dignity. We are responsible to place everyone to be able to stand on their own value. Though the ministry of education and ministry of social welfare, relief and resettlement are co-operating, one ministry alone cannot carry out the task, so we all are to help hand in hand with each other."

Afterward, Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education made speeches.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers and others posed for the documentary photos.—*MNA*



Performance of children with intellectual disabilities at the opening ceremony of the 1st National Education Conference for Children with Intellectual Disabilities. PHOTO: MNA

Power vacuum weighs on South Korea as Park fights for survival

SEOUL — As the chorus grows louder for South Korean President Park Geun-hye to resign over a corruption scandal, a power vacuum is weighing on her administration, leaving her political survival in doubt and its vulnerable economy exposed to political shocks.

South Korean opposition political parties said this week they will review strategies to impeach Park after prosecutors said she was an accomplice in the corruption scandal.

Park's close friend and a former presidential aide were indicted on Sunday for abuse of power for pressuring big businesses to contribute funds to foundations at the centre of the scandal.

"Based on the consensus that President Park is the centre of the abuse of power scandal, the best course of action to minimize the vacuum in government and to restore constitutional rule is for her to step down," the leaders of three opposition parties said in a joint statement on Sunday.

Park has all but ceased public activities as president and has withdrawn to the secluded Blue House



People chant slogans as they march toward the Presidential Blue House during a protest calling South Korean President Park Geun-hye to step down in Seoul, South Korea, on 19 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

compound at the foothill of the rocky Mount Bugak in Seoul. On 12 of the 16 working days this month, she took part in no scheduled events. She held a previously arranged summit with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on 10 November but has not had a public event outside the Blue House since 8 November, when she visited parliament offering to relinquish

some of her powers in office to placate lawmakers.

The risk of a presidential impeachment in the democratic South, along with North Korea's nuclear threat, have turned the Korean peninsula into Asia's biggest unknown for global investors, Belinda Boa, Head of Active Investments for Asia Pacific at BlackRock, told Reuters in an interview on Monday.

Park was notably absent at the meeting of 21 Asia Pacific leaders in Lima at the weekend, where free trade and a fight against protectionism were the key topics under the looming US presidency of Donald Trump, who has already said he would scrap the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact.

Half of South Korea's GDP comes from exports

so it is vulnerable to more protectionist US trade policy pledged by Trump.

Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, who attended the Pacific Rim summit on Park's behalf briefly met the host, Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski but held no bilateral meetings with world leaders, who use the occasion to deepen bilateral ties. It was the first time a leader of South Korea, which is a founding member, has not attended the APEC summit. The prime minister is largely a figurehead appointee tasked with overseeing the cabinet on domestic issues.

Park also missed the cabinet meeting on Tuesday, extending her absence since 11 October when she last led the meeting she normally chairs every two weeks. It was instead chaired by the finance minister, who is on the way out. Little has been done on replacements nominated for three cabinet positions, including the to finance job.

"She is likely to be doing her job that she can do on her own, as long as it's something that requires the least contact with the pub-

lic," said Kim Jun-seok, professor of political science at Dongguk University in Seoul.

"But she won't be able to bring any new legal initiative or raise a new policy agenda," Kim said.

Park's five-year term runs to February 2018.

Her sparse official schedule in November is in contrast to the busy month she had a year ago, including a three-way summit with the leaders of China and Japan, a separate summit with Icelandic president, four major policy conferences and two cabinet meetings.

Park's office has said she intends to fulfill her duties as president and has not formally acknowledged the calls from the public and parliament for her to step down or race impeachment.

She still intends to attend the three-way North Asia summit if this year's host, Japan, confirms the date, the foreign ministry has said. But it was unclear if Park can continue to represent the country diplomatically when other countries might be ambivalent about scheduling summit meetings with her.—Reuters

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Thai prosecutors charge influential Buddhist monk over money laundering

BANGKOK — Thailand's attorney general said on Wednesday it would charge the abbot of a powerful Buddhist sect and four others suspected of money laundering in the latest twist of a long-running saga that has divided Thai Buddhism.

Police in the predominantly Buddhist country have tried several times to arrest Phra Dhammachayo, abbot of Wat Phra Dhammakaya, a futuristic-looking monastery located some 50 km (30 miles) north of Bangkok.

"Prosecutors have agreed to charge Phra Dhammachayo of Dham-

makaya temple on charges of conspiracy to launder money, money laundering and receiving stolen goods," Somnuek Siangkong, spokesman of the Office of the Attorney General, told Reuters.

Thailand's Department of Special Investigation in 2015 summoned Phra Dhammachayo for questioning after his temple was accused of receiving more than 1 billion baht (\$28 million) of embezzled funds.

Prosecutors in charge of the case have postponed a decision to charge the monk four times while Phra Dhammachayo has failed to

show up for police questioning, citing ill health.

The controversy over Phra Dhammachayo, 72, has fueled a feud between traditionalists in Thai Buddhism and those who support more modern sects.

The country's dominant religion has come under repeated scrutiny following a series of sex, drugs and money scandals involving several temples and monks over the years. Critics say that the Dhammakaya Temple, which says it has millions of followers around the world, is too money-focused and encourages financial donations as a way

to gain good karma. They also say it strays from the Theravada Buddhism practiced by millions of Thais. The temple denies this. The attorney general's office on Wednesday said the statute of limitations in the case against Dhammachayo was 15 years and that police would have to arrest Dhammachayo within that time.

Phra Sanitwong Wuttivangso, the temple's public relations chief, said Dhammachayo was at the temple and has not fled abroad.

"Our abbot is very sick and cannot travel outside the temple grounds," he said.—Reuters

China, Malaysia begin joint military exercises amid closer ties

PAYA INDAH, (Malaysia) — Chinese and Malaysian armed forces began a joint exercise on Tuesday in Paya Indah, a wetlands park in the state of Selangor, as the two countries aim to forge closer military ties and safety and security cooperation.

"Aman Youyi 2016," or "Peace Friendship 2016," is a joint exercise on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, involving 410 participants from the Malay-

sian Armed Forces and 195 from the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Observers from the Royal Thai Armed Forces will also witness the exercise.

Launching the opening ceremony of the exercise, Fang Fenghui, a member of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) and chief of the Joint Staff Department under the CMC, expressed the hope that the two sides can take this op-

portunity to make continuous joint efforts in combating terrorism and addressing maritime threats.

"We've always believed that nothing is more important than the all-round growth of the friendly relations between the two countries and the two militaries as well as jointly safeguarding peace and stability in the region including the South China Sea," said Fang.

He also reiterated Chi-

na's stance on the South China Sea and pointed out that China always opposes outside interference in the South China Sea issue.

Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zin, chief of the Malaysian defence force, said multinational initiatives such as "Aman Youyi" would afford greater synchronization and stronger awareness in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.—Xinhua

Opinion

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Dignity and the potential of the disabled

Myint Win Thein

SOME people think that they are free from any form of disability. But this is not always true because everyone has one defect or another, though it might not be noticeable, according to psychologists. Therefore, it not fair to treat the disabled with contempt. All of us are disabled and they are human beings who are entitled to the same rights, status and potential to contribute to the

society.

If people who think themselves normal or so-called able-bodied persons fail to fairly treat the so-called disabled, the latter will feel inferior and later will be traumatised, forcing them to live outside the society for the rest of their lives. We cannot afford to lose their precious potential to contribute to the society as we live together with them. According to the 2004

census, 2.5 million people out of the approximately 50 million in Myanmar are registered as disabled. This figure amounts to 5 per cent of the population of the country.

That is why State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged all to cooperate to help the disabled in her speech at the 1st National Education Conference for Children with Intellectual

Disabilities in Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. She pointed out that every individual deserves their own dignity once they have come into the world. "Dignity is one's inborn entitlement. No one, no law, or denunciation can revoke their innate dignity", the State Counsellor said. "No respect to other's rightful dignity amounts to self-destruction of one's own dignity".

Morality & Ethics

Khin Maung Myint

Morality

The **morality** defines a person's moral standards or, in other words, the principles or the moral values that person upholds. It's also an indicator of the character and mindset and is a measure of the level of dignity and respectability of a person. If you care to look up in any modern dictionary, you can find a variety of definitions in connection to **morality**, so I will not be unnecessarily reproducing them here. In this article I will attempt to analyze or evaluate the **morality** of some individuals.

The **morality** should not be confused with **ethics** or **discipline**. While ethics are guided by some sort of codes and disciplines are controlled by rules and regulations, the morality is born out of a person's inherent character and in the upbringing. Furthermore, the morality has nothing to do with professions. It is an attribute unique to each individual.

To clarify the above statements it would be necessary to give a few examples. Here, I would like to cite some recent incidents from the transport sector, which were noteworthy. The first was the news of an honest taxi driver who returned a bundle of precious stones worth over 100 million Kyats left behind in his car, to the rightful owner. The second was the driver and conductor of a bus transport who returned a wallet containing US \$80,000 worth over 100 million Kyats to a foreigner. Such good deeds stemmed from the high morality of those persons and are very rare in this age of greed and

dishonesty. They deserved the praises and citations bestowed on them by the State Counselor.

Contrary to the above mentioned deeds of decent morality there were many incidents of shameful acts committed by some taxi drivers who extorted or robbed the passengers. To save time and space I wouldn't be detailing the various acts of indecent behaviours of some taxi drivers. Also there were frequent incidents of rude bus drivers and conductors who have no respect or regards to the commuters---insulting verbally and beating up even the elderlies. The latest incident of kicking a sixty year old man off the bus and continued beating him up once on the ground was totally unacceptable. Even foreigners were not spared from the wraths of the unruly bus conductors. Such behaviorisms tarnish the image of our nation.

Based on the above examples it is quite evident that the morality of a person has nothing to do with the profession. Thus we should not take it for granted that all taxi drivers, bus drivers and conductors are bad people. The morality also has nothing to do with wealth or status either. There are many crooked and rude wealthy persons everywhere in the world. In my opinion the morality of such wealthy persons are no better than the morality of the greedy and rude taxi drivers, bus drivers and conductors.

Ethic

Ethic can be defined as a system of accepted beliefs that controls the behaviours, especially such a system based on morals. The **ethic** is either a written or unwritten obligation that every professionals must observe. Every

profession has its own **code of ethics** to observe. In the medical profession the doctors are required to acknowledge them by signing. As for the other professions they also have ethics to be observed, but I must admit I'm not sure whether it is necessary for their professionals to sign them. However, every professionals are expected to observe the ethics of their respective professions.

Though there may be certain ethics for certain professions, there are some who do not abide by them. As examples I would like to point out a few professions where there are disregards for professional ethics by some.

The medical profession is one of them. I don't mean everyone in the medical profession, but only those few who are disgraces to the profession. Many people, like me, might have at one time or another encountered such unethical persons in the medical profession. I'll not be stressing at length on the different ways they are disregarding their code of ethics. However, I will mention one example in case someone should challenge the authenticity of my statement. Some years ago at a certain private clinic, prescriptions were written in code numbers, which, only the sales clerk at that clinic's pharmacy knew how to decipher. So, the patients had no choice but to buy the medicines from that clinic, where the prices were marked up way above the prices in other drug stores. I learned from some respectable doctors that such a practice is not in line with the ethics. This is just the tip of an iceberg; there are many more examples up my sleeve, but it would suffice for the

purpose of this article.

The second example of disregard for professional ethics is found in the teaching profession. Most parents will agree with me if I say that favouritism is shown towards the students who took private tuitions, while neglecting or bullying of students who couldn't or wouldn't take tuitions are common in our schools for decades. These actions are the most unethical behaviours among some teachers in the primary, middle and high schools. In most cases even to get admission to a certain school had to be exorbitantly bribed. The worst were the recent news of male teachers molesting and seducing underage girl students under their charge. The morality of these people had plummeted to the lowest levels and their ethics are totally non-existent.

The last example I would like to cite is the journalistic ethics. The journalistic ethics are not only disregarded in our country. News of fake informations promulgated during the US presidential campaigns are emerging today. We are now witnessing, firsthand, the fabricated, false and unconfirmed news about our domestic affairs popping up in world renowned news agencies and broadcasting stations. Thus there is no wonder unethical journalists also exist in our country too. Now that the media has more freedom with the absence of censoring, instead of improving, it has become even more unethical. As some young rookie reporters and journalists in their enthusiasms to get scoops, unconfirmed news and even rumors and gossips are sent in and are being published without much scrutiny by the responsible persons.

Though I have avoided going into detail in the previous two examples, I would like to take some of the readers' precious time to spotlight a few unethical actions

in the media domain of our country. Fabrication of the news by a foreign journalist working for a prominent local English language paper, about the persecutions and burning down of houses belonging to the Bengali villagers, was an act of gross unethical journalism. However, credit should be given to that media group for taking drastic action by immediately firing that journalist.

Then, there was an editorial column, accusing a certain Chief Minister of a Regional Government of accepting a very expensive wrist watch from a wealthy ex-convict. It was the most outrageous breach of the journalistic ethics if the accusation couldn't be proved. I don't belong to any of the multitudes of political parties and I've no obligation whatsoever to be advocating for anybody or any party. **Criticism is one thing and defamation is another.** It's now for the court to decide whether the accusation has any concrete ground or just based on gossips and rumors. If it is found to be false, it would tantamount to defamation, which is unethical journalism and a criminal offence.

To sum up my discussions, the morality is an extension of a person's character and dictates the behaviour or ethics of a professional. A person with high morality is respectable, honourable, creditable and would be held in high esteem regardless of status or wealth of that person. However, a person with low morality is a despicable, untrustworthy and lowdown person, like those rude drivers and conductors and unethical professionals. Thus it could be concluded that the morality is the measure of the degree of the moral values that a person possesses and also an indication of the level of his or her professional ethics.



PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives EU's Special Representative for Human Rights

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, European Union's Special Representative for Human Rights at Bayintnaung Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, they discussed matters related to EU's assistance in peace making processes, humanitarian assistance and the rule of law in Rakhine State.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Civilian injured by KIA/TNLA/MNDAA troops

A civilian farmer was injured after he was fired upon by combined troops from the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Kutkai, Shan State, on Tuesday, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office yesterday.

U Yan Phar, 43, of Mansar Village, Kutkai Township, was



U Yan Phar is receiving medical care at the hospital.

PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

attacked by the troops on his way back home on his motor-bike from his tea plantation.

The villager was shot in the

left leg and was taken to Lashio People's Hospital, where he continues to receive medical care.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Weapon, ammunition recovered



GOVERNMENT troops and police on security duty near the Nampong Bridge have recovered a lost weapon and ammunition during an area clearance operation on Monday afternoon, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

The weapon and ammunition were lost when the police post on the bridge was attacked by joint forces of the KIA, the TNLA and the MNDAA. During the attack, a police sergeant was killed and his M-23 rifle, one cartridge and 25 rounds of ammunitions were lost.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Fire destroys fighter jet

A Fighter Jet was destroyed by fire while testing engine at Mingaladon Air Base in Yangon yesterday morning, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The accident happened when the F-7 fighter jet was on a ground check, and the cause of the incident is under investigation.

No one was injured in the fire.—*Myanmar News Agency*



TNLA bombs Moneseinchaung Bridge in Shan State

ACCORDING to the news from the office of the directorate of public relations and spiritual operation of the ministry of defense, an armed group from the TNLA destroyed the Moneseinchaung Bridge, five miles from Namtu in the northern part of Shan State, with multiple incendiary devices.

The Bailey bridge that links Monesein and Monetat villages is 60 feet in length and 15 feet wide and plays an important role for locals in transporting and trade. It is learnt that the government troops are making area clearance operations.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Security forces extinguish the fire in Dargyizar Village.

PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

Arsonists set fire to homes in Dargyizar Village

SECURITY forces rushed into extinguish several residential fires in Dargyizar Village, Maungtaw Township yesterday, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

While conducting area clearance operations on Tuesday, the troops comprised of the government forces and border guard police found smoke billowing from

multiple fires and proceeded to the village.

The fires, which started at about 11:30 am, were under control by 12:30 pm. The fires destroyed seven houses.

It was found that arsonists set fire to the houses in tandem with the patrolling by the troops, according to the Information Committee.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Three suspects for violent attacks are seen in Maungtaw.

PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

Three suspects for violent attacks arrested in Maungtaw

THREE suspects for the violent attacks in Maungtaw were arrested by security forces recently in Maungtaw, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office yesterday.

During the area clearance operation near Myawtaung Village in Maungtaw Township, the

security forces found Naubi Hsaung, 25, together with a handphone.

Similarly, the security forces also arrested two suspects Hsaung Ali, 50, and Ali Arbaw, 40, Thaechaung Village on suspicion of attending the terrorism training.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Trump keeping 'open mind' on pulling out of climate accord

NEW YORK — US President-elect Donald Trump said on Tuesday he was keeping an open mind on whether to pull out of a landmark international accord to fight climate change, in a softening of his stance toward global warming.

Trump told the *New York Times* in an interview that he thinks there is "some connectivity" between human activity and global warming, despite previously describing climate change as a hoax.

A source on Trump's transition team told Reuters earlier this month that the New York businessman was seeking quick ways to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris Agreement to combat climate change.

But asked on Tuesday whether the United States would withdraw from the accord, the Republican said: "I'm looking at it very closely. I have an open mind to it."

A US withdrawal from the pact, agreed to by almost 200 countries, would set back international efforts to limit rising temperatures that have been linked to the extinctions of animals and plants, heat waves, floods and rising sea levels.

Trump, who takes office on 20 January, also said he was thinking about climate change and American competitiveness and "how much it will cost our companies," he said, according to a tweet by a *Times* reporter in the interview.

Two people advising Trump's transition team on energy and environment issues said they were caught off guard by his remarks.

A shift on global warming is the latest sign Trump might be backing away from some of his



US President elect Donald Trump walks up a staircase to depart the lobby of the New York Times building after a meeting in New York, US, on 22 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

campaign rhetoric as life in the Oval Office approaches.

Trump has said he might have to build a fence, rather than a wall, in some areas of the US-Mexican border to stop illegal immigration, tweaking one of his signature campaign promises.

Also in Tuesday's interview, he showed little appetite for pressing investigations of his Democratic rival in the presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton.

"I don't want to hurt the Clintons, I really don't. She went through a lot and suffered greatly in many different ways," he told reporters, editors and other newspaper officials at the *Times* headquarters in Manhattan.

But Trump said "no" when asked if he would rule out investigating Clinton over her family's charitable foundation or her use of a private email server while she was US secretary of state during President Barack Obama's first term.

If Trump does abandon his

campaign vow to appoint a special prosecutor for Clinton, it will be a reversal of a position he mentioned almost daily on the campaign trail, when he dubbed his rival "Crooked Hillary," and crowds at his rallies often chanted: "Lock her up."

His comments to the *Times* about Clinton angered some of his strongest conservative supporters.

Breitbart News, the outlet once led by Trump's chief strategist, Steve Bannon, published a story on Tuesday under the headline, "Broken Promise: Trump 'Doesn't Wish to Pursue' Clinton email charges."

The FBI investigated Clinton's email practices, concluding in July that her actions were careless but that there were no grounds for bringing charges.

The Clinton Foundation charity has also been scrutinized for donations it received, but there has been no evidence that foreign donors obtained favors from the State Department while Clinton headed it.—*Reuters*

Erdogan says EU lawmakers' vote on Turkish membership 'has no value'

ISTANBUL — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday that a vote by the European Parliament on whether to halt EU membership talks with Ankara "has no value in our eyes" and again accused Europe of siding with terrorist organisations.

"We have made clear time and time again that we take care of European values more than many EU countries, but we could not see concrete support from Western friends ... None of the promises were kept," he told an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) conference in Istanbul.

"There will be a meeting at the European Parliament tomorrow, and they will vote on EU talks with Turkey ... whatever the result, this vote has no value in our eyes." Leading members of the European Parliament on Tuesday called for a halt to EU member-

ship talks with Turkey because of its broad purges in the wake of a failed July coup.

More than 125,000 people — including soldiers, academics, judges, journalists and Kurdish leaders — have been detained or dismissed over their alleged backing for the putsch, in what opponents, rights groups and some Western allies say is an attempt to crush all dissent.

Erdogan said on Tuesday the measures had significantly weakened the network of US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, whose followers are accused of infiltrating state institutions over several decades and carrying out the coup attempt. Erdogan, and many Turks, were angered by the Western response to the putsch, viewing it as more concerned about the rights of the plotters than the gravity of the events themselves, in which

more than 240 people were killed as rogue soldiers commandeered fighter jets and tanks.

He has also repeatedly accused Europe of harbouring members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group, which has waged a three-decade insurgency against the Turkish state and is deemed a terrorist organization by the EU and United States.

Erdogan is still seething over the presence of protesters sympathetic to the PKK near an EU-Turkey summit in Brussels in March, which he said at the time demonstrated the EU's "two-faced" behaviour.

"On one hand you declare the PKK a terrorist organisation, on the other you have terrorists roaming freely in the streets of Brussels. What kind of sincerity is this?," he said on Wednesday.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lufthansa pilots start two-day strike, hundreds of flights cancelled

BERLIN — Lufthansa (LHAG.DE) pilots in Germany began a two-day strike on Wednesday, grounding hundreds of flights at one of Europe's largest airlines in a long-running pay dispute.

The Vereinigung Cockpit (VC) pilots' union initially called a 24-hour walkout for Wednesday but extended the strike for an extra day after two courts rejected attempts by Lufthansa to halt the industrial action. Lufthansa management, led by CEO Carsten Spohr, has refused to budge from its insistence that, despite record profit in 2015, the airline has no choice but to reduce costs if it wants to compete with leaner rivals such as Ryanair (RYA.I) on short-haul flights and Emirates EMIRA.UL on long-haul routes.

Shares in the company have lost 12 per cent of their value this year, but were up 0.3 per cent at 0817 GMT, outperforming German blue chips .GDAXI.

The airline said it had cancelled 876 of roughly 3,000 flights scheduled for Wednesday, affecting about 100,000 passengers in what is the 14th strike in the dispute since early 2014.—*Reuters*

Germany's Merkel says supports efforts against hate speech

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday threw her support behind efforts to fight the use of hate speech posted on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Google's YouTube.

Under a programme that runs until March, German authorities are monitoring how many racist posts reported by users of social media sites are deleted within 24 hours. Justice Minister Heiko Maas has pledged to take legislative measures if the results are still unsatisfactory by then. "I support efforts by Justice Minister Heiko Maas and Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere to address hate speech, hate commentaries, devastating things that are incompatible with human dignity, and to do everything to prohibit it because it contradicts our values," Merkel said in a speech to the Bundestag lower house of parliament.—*Reuters*

China holds landmine clearance training for Cambodians

NANJING — A six-week landmine clearance training programme for 40 Cambodian soldiers and aid workers ended Tuesday at the People's Liberation Army University of Science and Technology.

The programme taught trainees how to handle landmines and explosives, use landmine clearance equipment and conduct landmine actions in accordance with international and United Nations procedures. It also included a field drill. At Tuesday's closing ceremony, the Chinese government donated land mine clearance and protection equipment to Cambodia, which suffers from severe landmine and explosive remnants as a legacy of war.—*Xinhua*

Russian Strategic Rocket Forces completes 2016 recruitment of contract soldiers

MOSCOW — Russian Strategic Rocket Forces (SRF) has completed "by 100 per cent" the 2016 plan to recruit contract soldiers, the press service of the Russian Defence Ministry announced on Wednesday.

"In 2016 Strategic Rocket Forces took more than 2,000 people under the contract, and completed 100 per cent plan. And 78 per cent of them have higher or secondary professional education," the announcement said.

Contract soldiers in SRF serve as launchers' mechanic drivers, technicians, chiefs of estimations, platoon commanders and top sergeants of subunits. They also bear combat duty.—*Xinhua*

Ex-CIA boss Petraeus indicates would serve Trump if asked

LONDON — Retired US general David Petraeus indicated on Wednesday that he would serve in President-elect Donald Trump's administration if he was offered a job, according to an interview on Britain's BBC radio.

The Wall Street Journal has reported that Petraeus, who resigned as CIA chief in 2012 after an extra-marital affair was revealed, was under consideration for the post of defence secretary.

Asked if he would agree to serve in the Trump administration, Petraeus said: "I've been in a position before where a president has turned to me in the Oval Office in a difficult moment and said 'I'm asking you as your president and commander-in-chief to take command of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan'.—*Reuters*

Civilian victims of mortar, sniper fire pour into Mosul clinic

KOKJALI (Iraq) — Iraqi military medics rushed a man whose mouth had been blown apart by mortar shrapnel into their temporary field clinic on the eastern edges of Mosul.

They bandaged the wound and gave him morphine as he gasped in pain, bleeding profusely onto a camp bed laid out in the courtyard of an abandoned home.

Seconds later, a boy with a large hole in his leg and one arm peppered with cuts from a shell blast was brought in on a stretcher. “That’s already more than 30 people wounded today,” a medic said. “And two dead.”

All the victims are from areas closer to the centre of Mosul and which Iraqi forces recaptured from Islamic State two weeks ago — but which they have sometimes struggled to secure as civilians remain within the range of the jihadists’ mortar and sniper fire.

Black armored vehicles sped into the clinic run by the elite Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) throughout the morning, ferrying in the casualties — an elderly man shot through the knee, another with a leg wound, a girl hit in the chest.

US-backed forces fighting to drive Islamic State out of Mosul, the militant group’s Iraqi stronghold, are facing stiff resistance from fighters using car bombs and



An injured man receives treatment by Iraqi special forces soldiers in Mosul, Iraq, on 22 November 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

human shields to slow their advance.

“Most casualties here are civilians,” medic Mohammed, 23, said at the clinic in the Kokjali area. “Islamic State shell randomly or target civilians with mortar and sniper fire. Most of the wounded are from mortars.”

A Reuters correspondent also saw a wounded soldier brought

back from the front line a few kilometers (miles) to the west.

Mortar shells fired by Islamic State landed intermittently in the area while the medics from the CTS forces treated the wounded.

“Part of the problem is securing the areas the special forces have taken,” Mohammed said. “If bigger army units or the federal police came in to clear the areas

behind where CTS have advanced, maybe fewer people would be getting hurt, and it would make our job easier.” Military doctor Captain Nizar said his comrades treated between 50 and 200 wounded civilians every day. “We had 25 civilian deaths yesterday,” said Nizar, who did not give his full name. Reuters could not independently verify casualty tolls,

but in the space of two hours the correspondent saw one dead body and at least six other wounded including two serious cases.

The medics had put up a white flag with a red crescent close to the clinic. The building had been damaged by shellfire and was mostly empty apart from several camp beds used to treat patients.

A crude surgical table stood in the hallway, made of metal stands and a wooden board, surrounded by boxes of painkillers and wound dressings.

Captain Nizar said those who were more seriously wounded were taken to hospital, sometimes more than an hour’s drive away in Erbil, capital of the Iraqi Kurdish autonomous region. For some, it was clear to the medics that it would already be too late.

Earlier, Ahmed Hussein wept standing over the body of his 17-year-old son Ayman, who had been shot through the back just half an hour before in Mosul’s Zahra neighbourhood.

Ayman, his eyes closed and mouth open, was wrapped in a blanket placed on a stretcher outside the clinic after medics had tried in vain to save his life.

“It was a sniper, I think,” 48-year-old Hussein said, his voice trembling. “The bullet went through next to his heart.” —Reuters

Haiti police clash with demonstrators ahead of election results

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Haitian police fired tear gas at demonstrators backing presidential candidate Maryse Narcisse on Tuesday, in the second day of tension as the Caribbean nation awaited results from elections at the weekend.

Haiti voted in presidential, parliamentary and local elections on Sunday that were meant to end a year of political and economic uncertainty. A previous vote in October 2015 was annulled due to allegations of widespread fraud.

Official results from the

provisional electoral council are not expected until next week, although some 29,000 “tally sheets” showing results from polling stations throughout the country should be uploaded onto the council’s website sooner.

It is normal for Haiti to take days counting ballots, but the process for this election has been exacerbated by the fallout from Hurricane Matthew, which devastated the country last month.

Demonstrators backing Narcisse, of the Fanmi Lavalas party, took to the streets of

Port-au-Prince, the capital, on Tuesday, where police dispersed them with tear gas.

Dozens of supporters walked and jogged through the streets of working-class neighbourhoods like Delmas 18, carrying posters for the party.

“Maryse Narcisse: revolution!” one demonstrator called.

In the Saint Martin neighbourhood, the main road had been cleared but a tire continued to burn in the middle of the street. Residents lined the avenue and occasionally threw rocks at passing cars.

Fanmi Lavalas, which claims to have won the election, wants protests to continue.

The Bald Heads Party of rival candidate Jovenel Moise has also already claimed victory.

More than two dozen candidates competed in Sunday’s presidential vote. Unless one candidate wins more than 50 per cent, the election will go to a second round in January.

Electoral law bans the forecast of results before the electoral council proclaims a winner, as well as demonstrations for candidates, political parties or groups between Election Day and when the results are announced. —Reuters



Men help a woman affected by tear gas used by National Police officers to disperse a demonstration of supporters of Fanmi Lavalas political party in the streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 22 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

UN envoy fears ‘brutal’ Aleppo assault before Trump takes office

BERLIN — The UN Special Envoy for Syria on Tuesday said he was worried that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad could launch a new offensive to crush eastern Aleppo before US President-elect Donald Trump is inaugurated on 20 January.

Staffan De Mistura did not explain why he thought Syria might make such a move, but European diplomats have said Assad may feel emboldened by Trump’s vow to build closer ties with Russia, and the current US government is unlikely to strike back so close to leaving office.

De Mistura joined German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in calling for an end to the bombardment of civilians in Syria and a political solution to the conflict. He said that moves by Syria to escalate the military conflict could have tragic consequences for 275,000 civilians still in the eastern part of Aleppo, and drew parallels to an 87-day siege of Vukovar, Croatia by Serbian forces in 1991.

“I am very concerned about what can happen before 20 January,” de Mistura told a group of Social Democratic lawmakers. “We are very concerned (about the

possibility of Assad) ... taking over in a brutal aggressive way what is left of eastern Aleppo,” he said. “It could be tragic. It could be a new Vukovar.” De Mistura said little was known about Trump’s Middle East policy, but there might be a chance of progress in ending the Syrian war if Trump stuck to his campaign pledge to fight Islamic State together with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russia views Assad as a bulwark against Islamist militancy, while the Obama administration is pushing for his departure.

Steinmeier cited talks about bringing relief supplies into Aleppo via Turkey, but gave no details and said there were no guarantees for the success of the effort.

Rolf Muetzenich, a contender to replace Steinmeier if he is elected German president in February, said Syria and Russia were using the time before Trump’s inauguration to step up their attacks on rebel-held areas in Syria.

He said Trump’s failure to articulate a clear agenda for the Middle East had created a “conceptual vacuum” that could lead to “further instability and even possible additional proxy wars” in the region, he said. —Reuters

I am no 'medieval reactionary', says France's Fillon

PARIS — France's frontrunner for the conservative ticket in next spring's presidential election hit back on Tuesday after a personal attack from his rival, heralding a hard-fought final week of campaigning before the primary run-off this weekend.

Francois Fillon, who unexpectedly won the last vote by a wide margin against the then-favorite, Alain Juppe, were both known until now as mild-mannered former prime ministers.

Whoever wins the candidacy is expected to beat far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen to the presidency.

On Monday, Juppe started the war of words by branding Fillon's conservative social views and reservations about abortion as "outdated" and said his free-market economic policies reflected "a great social brutality".

Speaking on Tuesday to lawmakers supporting him, Fillon retorted: "After



Francois Fillon, candidate in Sunday's second round of the French centre-right presidential primary elections, members of the conservative Les Republicains political party, leaves after a meeting with deputies in Paris, France, on 22 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

calling me an ultra-liberal, I am now billed as a medieval reactionary. This is grotesque and ridiculous, let's focus on the real issues."

Later in the day, Juppe reacted to Fillon's remarks on Monday that Russia did not constitute a security threat, saying that France

would have to engage in a dialog with Russia over issues such as Ukraine and Syria but that Paris would have to remain faithful to its principles.

"Talk to Russia doesn't mean becoming 'yes' men," Juppe, who has also been foreign minister and de-

fence minister, said at a rally in Toulouse.

Juppe, 71, presents himself as a more modern centrist, able to win a majority of open-minded conservatives, centrists, undecided voters and even some left-wing voters. Former president Nicolas Sarkozy,

who came in third in the first round, has thrown his support behind Fillon.

Anyone can vote in the primaries, which are not restricted to members of the conservative Les Republicains party.

Born in a traditionally Catholic region of western France, Fillon, 62, is backed by groups that oppose France's same-sex marriage law. He says he wants to tweak that law to limit same-sex couples' adoption rights.

As a Catholic, he is personally opposed to abortion but has said he would not try to change the 1975 law that legalized it.

Juppe insisted on Monday that Fillon's statements on abortion were ambiguous and some of his positions on society represented a "backward step".

"Fillon belongs to a traditionalist family. I am more open to modernism," he told France 2 television.

In a Tuesday radio interview, he again urged Fillon to clarify his stance on

abortion.

Later, Fillon told reporters: "I never thought my friend Alain Juppe could sink so low."

At a news conference at his headquarters, legislators in a "Women with Fillon" support group took to the stage to say how "shameful" and divisive they considered Juppe's comments to be.

"Panic and bitterness are bad counselors," said Valerie Boyer, campaign spokeswoman for Fillon. "We're shocked that such divisive societal questions are raised within our political family to divide us."

Another lawmaker, Isabelle Le Callennec, echoed Fillon's reservations by declining to say abortion was a fundamental right in France, as pro-choice activists assert. "It's allowed by law," she said. "One should not trivialize abortion."

Socialist Prime Minister Manuel Valls told lawmakers on Tuesday that Fillon's programme was "reactionary on many societal issues".—Reuters

Russia deploys antiship missiles on disputed isles off Hokkaido

VLADIVOSTOK — The Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet has deployed state-of-the-art antiship missile systems on islands off northern Japan at the centre of a long-running spat between Tokyo and Moscow, the fleet's newspaper reported recently.

The Bastion missile system has been installed on Etorofu Island and the Bal system on Kunashiri Island, according to the report. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said in March his country would deploy the shore-to-ship missile sys-

tems on the islands before the end of the year. The row over the four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido that are claimed by Japan has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty following World War II.

The islands — Etorofu, Kunashiri and Shikotan as well as the Habomai group of islets — were seized by the Soviet Union following Japan's surrender in August 1945. The islands are called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia.—Kyodo News

Colombia, FARC rebels to sign new peace deal on Thursday

BOGOTA — A new peace accord between Colombia's government and Marxist FARC rebels will be signed on Thursday and sent to Congress for approval, President Juan Manuel Santos said on Tuesday, bringing a formal end to the 52-year civil war ever closer.

The revised document will be signed in Bogota between FARC leader Rodrigo Londono and Santos, who won the Nobel Peace Prize last month for his efforts to end the conflict with the insurgent group.

"We have the unique opportunity to close this painful chapter in our history that has bereaved and afflicted millions of Colombians for half a century," the president said in a televised address.

The government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have been in talks in Havana, Cuba for the last four years, hammering out a deal to end a conflict that has killed more than 220,000 and displaced millions in the Andean country.

The government published the revised peace deal last week in a bid to build support after the original draft was rejected in an 2 October referendum amid objections it

was too favourable to the rebels.

Santos and Londono signed the original deal two months ago in an emotional ceremony before world leaders and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The decision to ratify the revised accord in Congress instead of holding another referendum will anger members of the opposition, particularly former President Alvaro Uribe who spearheaded the push to reject the original accord and wants deeper changes to the new version.

"This new accord

possibly won't satisfy everybody, but that's what happens in peace accords. There are always critical voices; it is understandable and respectable," said Santos, 65, warning another plebiscite could divide the nation and put in danger the bilateral cease-fire.

The expanded and highly technical 310-page document appears to make only small modifications to the original text, such as clarifying private property rights and detailing more fully how the rebels would be confined in rural areas for crimes committed during the war.

Uribe has criticised it as just a slightly altered version of the original and wants rebel leaders to be banned from holding public office and for them to be jailed for crimes.

The FARC, which began as a rebellion fighting rural poverty, has battled a dozen governments as well as right-wing paramilitary groups.

An end to the war with the FARC is unlikely to end violence in Colombia as the lucrative cocaine business has given rise to dangerous criminal gangs and traffickers.—Reuters



A supporter rallying for the nation's new peace agreement with FARC attends a march in Bogota, Colombia, on 15 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (132N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (132N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Asia outbreaks prompt question: Is all Zika dangerous?

CHICAGO/BANGKOK — Zika's rampage last year in Brazil caused an explosion of infections and inflicted a crippling neurological defect on thousands of babies — an effect never seen in a mosquito-borne virus.

It also presented a mystery: why had a virus that had been little more than a footnote in the annals of infectious diseases taken such a devastating turn in the Americas? How had Africa and Asia, where Zika had quietly circulated for decades, escaped with no reports of major outbreaks or serious complications?

Scientists initially theorized that Zika's long tenure in Africa and Asia may have conferred widespread immunity. Or, perhaps older strains were less virulent than the one linked in Brazil to more than 2,100 cases of microcephaly, a birth defect characterised by arrested brain development.

Now, amid outbreaks in Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and other parts of Southeast Asia, a much graver explanation is taking shape: perhaps the menace has been there all along but neurological complications



A worker fogs the common area of a public housing estate at a new Zika cluster in Singapore, on 1 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

simply escaped official notice.

The question is driving several research teams, according to leading infectious disease experts and public health officials.

The answer is immediately important for Asia, the region most affected by Zika after the Americas. Thailand has been hardest hit with more than 680 reported Zika

infections this year, followed by Singapore with more than 450 and Viet Nam with as many as 60.

Much of the population lives in the so-called "dengue belt," where mosquito-borne diseases are prevalent. And vulnerable countries — including Viet Nam, the Philippines, Pakistan and Bangladesh — are ill-prepared to handle an out-

break with any serious consequences, experts said.

Lacking evidence of varying degrees of virulence, public health officials have warned Asia leaders to prepare for the worst. The scientific community is following similar assumptions.

"Zika is Zika until proven otherwise. We assume that all Zikas are equally dangerous," said Dr. Derek

Gatherer, a biomedical expert at Lancaster University in Britain.

The World Health Organisation recognises two major lineages of Zika. The first originated in Africa, where it was discovered in 1947 and has not been identified outside that continent. The Asian lineage includes strains that have been reported in Asia, the Western Pacific, Cabo Verde and, notably, the Americas, including Brazil.

The Asian lineage was first isolated in the 1960s in mosquitoes in Malaysia. But some studies suggest the virus has been infecting people there since the 1950s. In the late 1970s, seven cases of human infection in Indonesia were reported.

The first record of a widespread outbreak was in 2007 on Micronesia's Island of Yap.

Experts began to suspect a link to birth defects during a 2013 outbreak in French Polynesia when doctors reported eight cases of microcephaly and 11 other cases of fetal malformation.

In 2015, it hit Brazil, causing spikes in an array

of neurological birth defects now called congenital Zika virus syndrome, as well as Guillain-Barre syndrome, a neurological disorder that can lead to temporary paralysis.

Viruses mutate rapidly, which can lead to strains that are more contagious and more virulent. Many researchers theorised early on that the devastation in Brazil was caused by an Asian strain that had mutated dramatically.

That theory relies, among other things, on the absence of Zika-related microcephaly in Asia. So when Zika broke out in parts of Asia earlier this year, researchers were on the lookout.

If researchers were to connect a case of microcephaly to an older Asian strain — and not one that boomeranged back from Brazil — it would debunk the early theory. It would mean Zika "did not mutate into a microcephaly-causing variant as it crossed the Pacific," Gatherer said.

At least three microcephaly cases have been identified in Asia, but the verdict is still out.—Reuters

Russian tankers defy EU ban to smuggle jet fuel to Syria — sources

LONDON — Russian tankers have smuggled jet fuel to Syria through EU waters, bolstering military supplies to a war-torn country where Moscow is carrying out air strikes in support of the government, according to sources with knowledge of the matter.

At least two Russian-flagged ships made deliveries — which contravene EU sanctions — via Cyprus, an intelligence source with a European Union government told Reuters. There was a sharp increase in shipments in October, said the source who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

A separate shipping source familiar with the movements of the Russian-flagged vessels said the ships visited Cypriot and Greek ports before delivering fuel to Syria.

The Russian defence and transport ministries did not initially respond to requests for comment. The defence ministry later said EU sanctions on fuel supplies to Syria could not be applied to the Russian air group in that country. A

spokeswoman for EU foreign affairs and security policy said the implementation of EU restrictions lay with member states. "We trust that competent authorities are complying with their obligation to ensure respect of the restrictive measures in place and to pursue any circumvention attempts," she added. Greece's foreign ministry referred questions to the shipping ministry, which was not immediately available to comment.

The Cypriot government said its authorities had not approved the docking of any Russian tankers carrying jet fuel bound for Syria. "We would welcome any information that may be provided to us on any activity that contravenes UN or EU restrictive measures," the Cypriot foreign ministry added. Syria's civil war, which began in 2011, has become a theatre for competing global powers, with Russia and Iran supporting President Bashar al-Assad, and the United States, Gulf Arab and European powers backing rebels who want to depose him.

Russia changed the



Russian military jets are seen at Hmeymim air base in Syria, on 18 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

course of the conflict in favour of Assad's government last year when it intervened with air strikes. Moscow says it targets only Islamic State militants and other jihadist fighters.

EU Council Regulation 1323/2014, introduced two years ago, bans any supply of jet fuel to Syria from the EU territories, whether or not the fuel originated in the European Union. Over one two-week period in October, Russian tankers delivered 20,000 metric tonnes of jet fuel to Syria — worth around \$9 million at today's world prices — via the European Union, according to the EU government intelli-

gence source. "The jet fuel shipments from these vessels have played a vital role in maintaining Russian air strikes in the region," said the source. "This points to a sustained Russian build-up of resources needed to support their military operation and ambitions in Syria."

Some of the shipped fuel also went to the Syrian military, helping to "keep Assad's air assets operational", the source added. The shipping source and a third person, an intelligence consultant specialising in the Mediterranean area, also said the fuel was likely intended for Russian and Syrian military use.—Reuters

New UN chief says politicians are failing 'losers of globalisation'

LISBON — The incoming head of the United Nations warned on Tuesday that "losers of globalisation" in rich countries have felt ignored by establishment politicians, prompting them to turn to nationalist agendas, as in the US election and Brexit referendum.

Antonio Guterres, elected in October to take over as UN secretary general next year, told a conference in his native Lisbon that this trend had undermined the willingness to receive refugees in Europe this year.

He said the world must re-establish international protection for refugees coming from war zones such as Syria, but it would not be easy as developed countries were turning to nationalist agendas.

Europe has struggled to handle a huge influx of refugees, many of whom displaced by the war in Syria. The United States has accepted only a very small number of refugees and may take in even fewer next year.

"In 2016, we have wit-

nessed a dramatic deterioration of that international protection regime (for refugees)," Guterres said.

"This example started in the developed world, it started essentially in Europe, it is spreading now like a virus into other parts of the world."

Guterres, who was UN High Commissioner for Refugees until last year, linked the growing resistance to accepting refugees to wider concerns about globalisation.

"I don't think we can look strictly at the refugee issue, I think the problem is a broader problem," he told the conference on Europe's refugee crisis. There was a consensus in the mid-1990s that globalization would benefit all, he said.

"But a lot of people were left behind ... In the developed world, (there are) those who have been losers in globalisation," he said. "The recent analysis of the rust belt in the United States, I think, is a clear demonstration of that, when we speak about the elections."—Reuters

A Minute With: Lin-Manuel Miranda on 'Moana' and 'Mary Poppins'

LOS ANGELES — Award-winning "Hamilton" musical creator Lin-Manuel Miranda swaps the politics of 18th century Washington for the charms of Polynesia in the Disney animated movie "Moana."

Miranda, 36, worked with musicians from the South Pacific to create original songs for the movie about a plucky teenage girl who sets sail on an epic journey to help save her tribe.

Miranda spoke with Reuters about "Moana," which opens in US movie theaters on Wednesday, and his work as an actor on the upcoming "Mary Poppins" movie sequel.

The interview took place before Friday's performance of "Hamilton" in New York at which US Vice President-elect Mike Pence was booed by some

in the audience and the cast of the play — with Miranda's support — urged Pence to "work on behalf of all of us." President-elect Donald Trump said the cast owed Pence an apology.

Following are edited excerpts of the Miranda interview.

Q: What were you eager to capture of the Pacific Island community when you were working with Samoan-born musician Opetia Foa'i and his band Te Vaka?

A: We all went into this keenly aware that this is a part of the world that isn't represented on screen very much so you want the people who live there to see the movie and say hey, that's us, and with pride. Opetia took the lead on the rhythms and harmonies ... I'm Ginger Rogers - he leads the dance and I write lyrics, I write melodies.

Q: Which was your favourite song?

A: The one that represents our collaboration the best is "We Know The Way." We started writing that the weekend we met. We met in New Zealand (and) we went to this Pacifica music festival where we heard choirs from all over the different islands.

Q: How has life been post-"Hamilton"?

A: I love the subway in New York. I think it's a national treasure. I did a lot of writing on the train. For a while, I couldn't take the train without someone sitting next to me and talking to me ... (Now) I'm working on a movie in London. I can walk around with my son (and) it's not a big deal, so it's nice to have that back.

Q: Speaking of "Mary Poppins," what can you tell us about your character Jack? Will we be hearing a Cockney accent?



Actor and composer Lin-Manuel Miranda poses at the world premiere of Walt Disney Animation Studios' 'Moana' as a part of AFI Fest in Hollywood, California, US, on 14 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

A: You're going to hear the worst accent you've ever heard in your life! You're not going to know what country I'm from. It's going to sound like I came from another planet!

Q: You've worked on "Star Wars" music for "The Force Awakens" and you're involved in Disney's princess world with "Moana" and "Little Mermaid." Any Marvel comic characters?

A: I'm a Marvel buff. I grew up reading those comic books. If they ever do a "Maximum Carnage" storyline, I want dibs on Carnage.—Reuters

Q: You've worked on "Star Wars" music for "The Force Awakens" and you're involved in Disney's princess world with "Moana" and "Little Mermaid." Any Marvel comic characters?

Brad Pitt cleared by FBI for airplane incident, will not face charges

LOS ANGELES — Movie star Brad Pitt will not face any charges stemming from an incident on a private plane in which he was reported to have lost his temper in front of one or more of his children, an FBI spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

Pitt, 52, earlier this month was cleared by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services for the incident on 14 September. His wife, the actress Angelina Jolie, filed for divorce five days later.

"In response to allegations made following a flight within the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States which landed in Los Angeles carrying Mr. Brad



PHOTO: REUTERS

Pitt and his children, the FBI has conducted a review of the circumstances and will not pursue further investigation," said Laura Eimiller, a spokeswoman for the FBI's Los Angeles field office.

"No charges have been filed in this matter," she said.

Jolie, 41, filed for divorce from Pitt, her husband of two years and romantic partner since 2005, citing irreconcilable differences and seeking full physical custody of their children, ages 8 to 15.

At the time, the Oscar-winning actress said her decision to end the marriage "was made for the health of the family." Their children include two adopted sons, Maddox from Cambodia and Pax from Viet Nam, an adopted daughter from Ethiopia, Zahara, and three biological children, Shiloh Nouvel and twins Knox Leon and Vivienne Marcheline.—Reuters

Kardashian family accepts honour for late father

NEW YORK — Kourtney and Khloe Kardashian picked up an honour for their late father in New York on Monday but sister Kim pulled out of the event to tend to her rapper husband Kanye West.

The reality TV sisters and their mother, Kris Jenner, were attending the Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research yearly fundraiser.

"It's such a lovely event that Kim usually comes to. Khloe and I have never been. So we're really excited and cancer is something that's really near and dear to our hearts," Kourtney Kardashian told reporters on the red carpet.

Attorney Robert Kardashian Sr. died in 2003 just two months after being diagnosed with esophageal cancer. He was honoured on Monday with an award recognising his philanthropic contributions during his lifetime.

Jenner presented a check to the foundation for \$250,000 from all of her children.

"We've been coming to the event for a few years and it's been one of the most rewarding things that we do on an annual basis," Jenner said. The foundation was set up by songwriter Denise Rich and is named after her daughter, who died 20 years ago.

Kim Kardashian had been expected to make her first public appearance since being robbed at gunpoint in Paris in early October. But she pulled out after West was hospitalised in Los Angeles for exhaustion.—Reuters

'Moonlight,' 'American Honey' lead indie film Spirit nominations

LOS ANGELES — Two coming-of-age movies, "Moonlight," and "American Honey," got a leading six nominations each on Tuesday for the Independent Spirit Awards which celebrate low-budget artistic films that often also do well at the Oscars.

Grief-driven blue-collar family drama "Manchester by the Sea" and "Jackie," about former US first lady Jacqueline Kennedy, also did well, earning nods that included best film and best actor for their respective leads, Casey Affleck and Natalie Portman.

"Moonlight," which follows a young black man growing to

adulthood in a hard-scrabble Miami neighbourhood, received six nominations in all, including best film, best director Barry Jenkins and for Jenkins' screenplay.

But there was nothing for "Moonlight's" three main actors, who play the central character at different stages of his life.

Kenneth Lonergan, the director of "Manchester by the Sea," and Michelle Williams in an emotionally powerful supporting role, were also left off the list on Tuesday.

Shia LeBeouf, 30, efforting a comeback after alcohol disrupted his career for five years, was nominated best supporting actor

for his turn as the leader of a gang of thieves in "American Honey."

The British-directed tale of a teenage runaway who travels across the American Midwest with a band of misfits, will also compete for best film, best director, and best actress for newcomer Sasha Lane. The last three winners of the Independent Spirit Awards — "Spotlight," "Birdman" and "12 Years a Slave" — all went on to win the best picture Oscar, the highest honour in the movie industry.

But this year, some of the films getting the most awards buzz were not eligible for the Spirit Awards, which is open to



Cast members pose as they arrive for the gala screening of the film "Moonlight", on the second night of the 60th British Film Institute (BFI) London Film Festival at Embankment Garden Cinema in London, Britain on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

movies made for less than \$20 million.

That meant no nominations for musical "La La Land," psychological thriller "Nocturnal Animals" and adoption drama "Lion."

The 2017 Independent Spirit Awards will be handed out at a ceremony in Santa Monica, California, on 25 February - the day before the Academy Awards ceremony.—Reuters

Kate Middleton gives London dinosaur a royal send-off

LONDON — The Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton visited Britain's Natural History Museum on Tuesday ahead of a nationwide educational tour by its best-known exhibit, Dippy the diplodocus.

For 40 years, the skeleton cast, 4.25 metres (14 ft) high and 21 metres long, has been the first sight to greet museum visitors as they pass through the main entrance on London's Cromwell Road.

The 292-bone cast was presented to the museum by Scottish-born American industrialist Andrew Carnegie in 1905, but did not make the move into the entrance

hall until 1979.

Dippy's last day on show in London will be 4 January next year and conservators will then spend 12 months preparing a delicate plaster-of-Paris cast for its journey.

In all, the huge skeleton will visit eight different locations around Britain, ending in the eastern English city of Norwich in 2020.

"We wanted Dippy to visit unusual locations so he can draw in people who may not traditionally visit a museum," said Museum Director Sir Michael Dixon. "Making iconic items accessible to as many people as

possible is at the heart of what museums give to the nation, so we have ensured that Dippy will still be free to view at all tour venues," he added in a statement.

Diplodocus was first described as a new type of dinosaur in 1878 by Professor Othniel C. Marsh at Yale University. The herbivore species lived sometime between 156 and 145 million years ago and belongs to a group called sauropods, meaning 'lizard feet'.

The museum plans to fill the dinosaur-sized gap in its entrance hall with a 100-year-old skeleton of a blue whale.—Reuters



Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge makes a dinosaur egg whilst attending a children's tea party with pupils from Oakington Manor Primary School in Wembley, at the Natural History Museum in London, Britain, on 22 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mariachis parade in Mexico to celebrate patron saint of musicians



An image of baby Jesus dressed up as mariachi plays is seen at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe to celebrate Santa Cecilia, patron of musicians in Mexico City, Mexico, on 22 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MEXICO CITY — Hundreds of mariachi folk musicians filled the streets of Mexico City on Tuesday to celebrate and serenade the feast day of Cecilia,

the patron saint of music.

Clad in their traditional cropped jackets and wide sombreros, the mariachi guitarists, trumpet-ers and violinists played

songs and marched in procession to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

For years, Mexico City's mariachis have gathered to honour Saint

Cecilia's feast day on 22 November. Cecilia was an early Roman martyr who is often represented in art by a harp.—Reuters

Joint art exhibition opens to celebrate 25 years of Brunei-China relations

BANDAR SERI BEGA WAN — Thirty-nine pieces of art work by 13 artists from Brunei and China went on display at a joint exhibition on Tuesday afternoon at the Brunei Darussalam Maritime Museum.

Organised by the Chinese Embassy here and Brunei's Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, the month-long exhibition marks 25 years of diplomatic relations between Brunei and China, while at the same time promoting art exchanges and friendship between both countries.

Since China and Brunei established diplomatic relations in 1991, bilateral exchanges and cooperation have been expanding on the basis of traditional friendship. However, "the exchanges in the field of art between China and Brunei have not been frequent


over the past 25 years.

The exhibition today could be regarded as an innovative step to promote the understanding between the two sides", Yang Jian, Chinese ambassador to Brunei told Xinhua at the exhibition.

The art exchanges have opened up a new chapter since last year, when three artists from China Academy of Arts (CAA) visited Brunei last year. And in April this year, a delegation of Brunei artists had exchanges with their CAA counterparts, during a 10-day trip to China. In July, another five CAA painters came to Brunei for discussions with local artists, and to capture their impressions of Brunei on canvas. "I believe that the artists were deeply impressed by the ethos of the other country", the ambassador said.—Xinhua



Hj Awang Halbi (2nd-L), Brunei's Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and Yang Jian (2nd-R), Chinese ambassador to Brunei cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony of a joint exhibition, in Bandar Seri Begawan, capital of Brunei, on 22 November 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA



Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(24-11-2016 07:00 AM ~ 25-11-2016 07:00 AM) MST

<p>Today Fresh</p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:26 Am Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-1)</p> <p>07:50 Am Next Weekend</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter</p> <p>08:33 Am School for the Blind</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am Products of Myanmar - Craft Blacksmithing</p> <p>09:50 Am Myanmar's Export: Mango</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:25 Am Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"</p>	<p>10:38 Am The Recycle Art: Tyre</p> <p>10:53 Am The Storytellers</p> <p>(1:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(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>07:26 Pm Cruising to Precious Islands (Part-2)</p> <p>07:48 Pm Temple Stalls</p> <p>07:54 Pm Now in Yangon</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art</p> <p>08:42 Pm A Life in The Ring</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(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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Hosts Myanmar triumph as Cambodia knocked out

YANGON — Cambodia became the first side to be knocked out after they suffered a 3-1 defeat to hosts Myanmar.

It did not look to be the case initially though, as they had the brighter start to the game and had the lead just after 15 minutes. Sos Suhana scored after superb work from Chan Vathanaka, who drew all the attention after making a run in before cutting back for Suhana.

But that was all that went well for the Cambodians, who could not withstand the subsequent pressure from the White Angels.

Defender Zaw Min Tun scored twice from set-pieces in a five-minute span to give his

country the lead at the break, before Aung Thu wrapped up the win with a clinical finish 11 minutes into the second half.

Myanmar subsequently slowed down the pace of the game, and while Cambodia certainly tried to chase back the score, fatigue hindered them, which meant that the hosts were able to see out the game.

Post-match quotes:
Cambodia coach —
Lee Tae Hoon:

“It’s always disappointing to lose a game. In the first half we had a good note for our team when we had the ball but our young boys made big mistakes from set pieces. They were told

to man-mark but they forgot and that was a big mistake which only made things more difficult for us. I hope my players better understand the need to maintain concentration and finish the game. We need quality and passion for the next game and we need to take responsibility for the country.”

Myanmar coach —
Gerd Zeise:

“We could have finished a little bit better but maybe we’ll do that in the next match. The pressure is very high. The pressure was high before the Viet Nam game and it’s equally as high now as we had to win to stay in the competition.”—AFF



Myanmar's Zaw Min Tun celebrates scoring their goal against Cambodia during AFF Suzuki Cup 2016 at Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon, Myanmar, on 23 November 2016. PHOTO: AFF



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo and Sporting's Ruben Semedo in action during UEFA Champions League group stage Group F at Jose Alvalade stadium, Lisbon, Portugal on 22 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

Late Benzema header gives Real 2-1 win at 10-man Sporting

LISBON — Champions League holders Real Madrid secured a last-16 berth for the 20th successive season after an 87th-minute header by substitute Karim Benzema gave them a laboured 2-1 win at 10-man Sporting Lisbon in their Group F clash on Tuesday.

The result left Real second in the group on 11 points from five games, two behind Borussia Dortmund who crushed Legia Warsaw 8-4 to set a record for the most goals scored in a Champions League match.

Dortmund need a draw when they visit Real at the Bernabeu on 7 December to win the section. Sporting have three points and will clinch a consolation last-32 berth in the second-tier Europa League with a draw at Legia.

Real stretched their unbeaten run in all competitions to 30 games after a patchy performance in which their top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo, needing two goals to reach a 100-goal milestone in European club competition, was largely subdued. France defender Rafael Varane fired Real ahead in the 29th minute but it took a late glancing header by Benzema to rescue them after Adrien Silva had equalised with a penalty after Joao Pereira's 64th-minute red card.

Varane drilled the ball home from six metres after Ronaldo unwittingly laid the ball into his path following an inviting cross by Luka Modric.

Needing a win to keep alive their own hopes of advancing, Sporting matched Real in every

department for long spells but were up against it after Pereira was sent off following an altercation with Mateo Kovacic.

Their 80th-minute equaliser came out of the blue, with substitute Fabio Coentrao handling the ball while raising his arm to appeal for handball by Sporting forward Joel Campbell.

Real appeared to be heading for a draw — and the group's runners-up spot — after Silva blasted his spot kick past Keylor Navas, but Benzema made his presence count after coming on for Isco midway through the second half.—Reuters

Impressive Viet Nam too good for Malaysia

YANGON — Viet Nam established themselves as one of the tournament favourites in the 2016 AFF Suzuki Cup after an impressive 1-0 win over Malaysia.

A fine individual goal by Nguyen Trong Hoang with 10 minutes to go put Viet Nam on course to make the semi-finals with two wins from two games in Group B.

Viet Nam looked quicker and more fluid and after a tame and tactically careful first half they stepped up the tempo and had numerous chances in the second.

Malaysia did well to contain the talented Viet Nam side for much of the game but in the end they were under too much pressure in a crucial match for both sides.—AFF

Scott delights at World Cup format, still cold on Olympics

MELBOURNE — Adam Scott is delighted that this week's World Cup of Golf has returned to a more traditional team event but the Australian remains opposed to any future participation at the Olympics.

The primarily individual format used at the last edition in 2013 has been jettisoned in favour of a two-player team event for this year's 72-hole tournament, starting at Melbourne's Kingston

Heath on Thursday.

The first and third days of 28-nation competition will see the teams compete in alternate shot play while the second and final days are best ball.

Former world number one Scott and Jason Day won the last edition, also held in Melbourne, with the latter clinching the individual title for the lowest overall score. Current number one Day has been forced to withdraw from the tournament due to a lingering back injury so Marc Leishman has stepped in to partner Scott in the Australia team at the tournament. “It was great to win but it was a shame that we didn't play one round together through the event,” Scott told reporters on Wednesday.

“It didn't have that team feel even though we were playing as a team, so this week will be a lot more fun for Marc and I going around together all four rounds.”—Reuters



Adam Scott of Australia. PHOTO: REUTERS