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Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and students attend the ceremony in Yangon marking the centennial of scouting in Myanmar. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Myanmar Scouts celebrated

IT has been 100 years since scouting came to Myanmar, and the anniversary did not go uncelebrated, with officials, scouts and students marking the centennial yesterday from morning until evening.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Old Scout Thura U Tin Oo of Myanmar Scouts delivered speeches at a ceremony to usher in the centennial of Myanmar Boy Scouts at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Yangon yesterday.

The opening ceremony commenced with the performance of a band from Basic Education High School (2), Latha Township and

the display of scouting skills by university boy scouts.

The ceremony was formally opened by Dr U Than Oo, a university rover scout, Daw Barbra Old, an old girl guide, Dr Tin Nyo, the Chief Scout of Myanmar Boy Scouts and Dr Daw Tin Hla Kyi, Chief Girl Guide.

After the opening ceremony, boy scouts and girl guides from BEHS (1) Dagon sang "Always Ready for the People" to pay homage to late heads of boy scouts and girl guides. Dr U Than Oo, a university rover scout, Daw Barbra Old, an old girl guide, Dr Tin Nyo, the Chief Scout of Myanmar Boy Scouts and Dr Daw Tin Hla Kyi,

Chief Girl Guide made speeches before old scouts and guides sang group songs.

Then, scouts from BEHS (1) Latha sang the "Foreword Step of Scouts".

In the afternoon, the band of BEHS (1) Dagon and Myanmar Traditional Orchestra of BEHS (6) Botahtaung sang the song composed in honour of the centennial of Myanmar Boy Scouts by Alingakyawzwa Hinthada Myint Ngwe, a rover scout.

Mr Wendel, the representative of The World Organization of the Scout Movement for Asia-Pacific Region, and Ms Kunlko Taramitani, the regional representa-

tive of World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, spoke on the occasion.

The regional representatives also presented Old Scout Thura U Tin Oo, the chief minister and the chiefs of boy scouts and girl guides centennial gifts at the ceremony. Later, the chief minister and the mayor of Yangon presented awards to outstanding boy scouts and girl guides.

Performances by boy scouts and girl guides continued into the evening. An exhibition on the history of Myanmar boy scouts and girl guides and their current activities were displayed at the ceremony. —Ko Latt (MNA)

Humanitarian aid delivered to Maungtaw

THE union government, state government and international organisations are delivering humanitarian aid and cash to internally displaced persons who have been forced into relief camps.

Security forces have conducted area clearance operations in Maungtaw District since a border guard police command centre and a number of police posts were attacked by violent armed men on 9 October in order to recover looted weapons and to arrest those suspected of involvement in the assaults. During the clearance operations, villagers fled their villages in fear of the attackers.

In partial compensation for their hardship, a total of 1,084 bags of rice, 2,169 visses of edible oil, 2,169 visses of salt, 2,169 visses of pulses and beans and 93,198 tins of fish were delivered to IDPs as well as security forces by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, while Rakhine State Government provided them with 4,000 bags of rice, 1,000 visses of Nganitu dried fish, 8,487.5 gallons of fuel oil, 30 harvesting machines, five generators and Ks100,000 each to families who fled to Maungtaw and Sittway. Additionally, the Ministry of Border Affairs provided 250 bags of rice worth Ks7.5 million, Ks3.6 million for the families of the nine fallen members of security forces, Ks1 million for personnel injured on 11 November and Ks36 million for construction of ten new security posts in Maungtaw.

International organisations such as the WFP, the UNHCR and the UNOCHA provided food for two weeks, including 1,011 bags of rice, 89.5 bags of pulses and beans, 3,688 litres of edible oil and 394 visses of salt from 8 to 10 November for Kyetyoepyin, Ngasaekyu, Pyaungpeik and Wapeik villages. —Myanmar News Agency



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Monetary aid given to residents and staff in Muse township



Humanitarian aid for General Administration Department being handed over. PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

THE recent armed attacks in the Muse area of northern Shan State forced locals and staff members residing in Mongkoe township and Pansang (Kyugok) to take shelter in a neighboring country, which caused some hardship.

Yesterday morning, residents and staff working for the department of the general administration received monetary aid

for their hardships at a ceremony held at the assembly hall of township general administration department.

At the ceremony, U Kyaw Kyaw Tun, head of the district general administration department, provided Ks100,000 each for 5 families and other commodities — rice, cooking oil, noodles, blankets and other items,

amounting to Ks757,000 kyats, with Ks240,000 for 12 staff members and Ks100,000 for 10 families provided by U Kyaw Thaung, the head of township general administration department — Ks1597,000 in total. Afterward, displaced staff and their families were entertained with lunch at the dining room of the township office. —District IPRD

KIA private arrested in Muse

A LANDMINE planted near Lwe-in Village in Namkham Township, Shan State North, exploded yesterday, while a member of the KIA was arrested at Panhkam Bridge in Muse Township, according to the Information Committee of the State

Counsellor's Office.

The bomb went off at about 6:45pm near the village, but no injuries were reported.

At about 8 pm yesterday, security forces near the bridge had to fire shots at three men on a motorbike, who dropped

a mine. While conducting area clearance operations in the area, security forces discovered a landmine near a dustbin and a suspicious man on the bridge. On questioning, the security forces learned that the man was Gunmon, a private in the KIA, from Panjup Village in Manwaingyi Village-tract in Bhamaw. Action is being taken against him according to the law. —Myanmar News Agency



The landmine and accessories seized. PHOTO: MNA

The map showing the location of the explosion of the landmine.



Gunmon, a private in the KIA, who planted a bomb. PHOTO: MNA

Travellers from China, ASEAN region enter Myanmar through Myawady Gate

TRAVELLERS mostly from China used the newly upgraded border crossing between Myanmar and Thailand yesterday.

The entry and exit of foreigners at Myanmar-Thailand Border Gates opened under a contract between Myanmar and Thailand, allowing nationals from Thailand and other countries holding passports with valid visas to visit Myanmar. The agreement has been in effect since 28 August 2013.

Yesterday, under the ar-

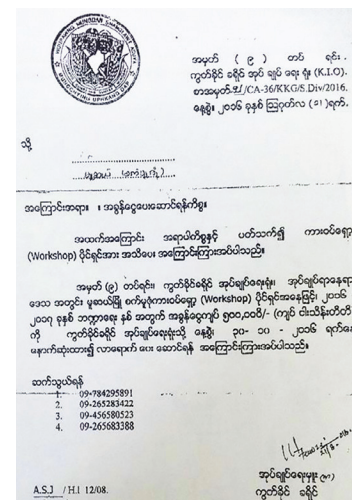
range of Myanmar Tourism Resources Co, Ltd, a team of 94 people from China and the ASEAN region led by Mr Li Yi-wen, a Chinese traveler, entered Myawady Gate in 20 cars to visit Myawady and Pa-an, it was learnt.

It is said that Daw Chaw Chaw Kyi, the head of Myawady district hotels and tourism directorate, will accompany the team, returning to Thailand on Tuesday. —Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

KIA, TNLA Armed Group attacks and extorts money from vehicles



An injured girl. PHOTO: MNA



The letter demanding extortion. PHOTO: MNA

SIX people from Panwa village of Mangton township and one from Mongpaw village of Muse township were injured Friday in an attack by combined armed forces of the the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), who also reportedly extorted people lorries and trucks traveling between Moegaung and Phakant as well as from merchants in Muse, according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.

It is learnt that the KIA, TNLA armed group launched artillery fire at government troops waging an area clearance operation near the village of Panwa, Mangton township at about 4 pm Friday. The shells exploded in the village and injured four men, including U Naungya, and two women. The injured were receiving medical treatment at Namtu Hospital.

It was also reported that the KIA, TNLA armed group shot their weapons at about 6am yesterday, hitting Ma Nam Phone in the stomach when she was picking corn in a field. She is receiving medical treatment.

In addition, KIA armed



Ma Nam Phone. MNA

group No. 6 regiment comprising about 90 troops reportedly extorted yesterday morning. the people aboard motor vehicles traveling along Moegaung-Phakant Street near Namhai cemetery, charging Ks17,000 per lorry and Ks10,000 for each light truck that passed between the villages of Namhai and Seton in Moegaung township.

The day before, KIA armed group similarly extorted the merchants in Muse by phone and letter for the month of August, it was also learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

Social welfare minister mulls building garment factories in Rakhine

The Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye urged each and every individual to cooperate in the transparent implementation of laws, rules and regulations of the government.

The union minister was talking to four families who had recently been returned from refugee camps from Thailand.

The union minister negotiated with responsible officials to provide for food, shelter, clothing, education, employment, household registration of the

family and citizenship registration cards.

Later, the union minister met with entrepreneurs and discussed matters relating to supplying electricity, setting up of garment factories in every township in Rakhine State. The discussions took place with officials from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers' Association in the day-care centre for the elderly at Gaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets with officials of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers' Association. PHOTO: MNA



U H La Aung, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment of the Kachin State Government observes a jade stone. PHOTO: MNA

Mid-Year Gem Emporium continues

A total of 1,122 jade lots were offered for sale through the open tender system on the eighth day of the Mid-Year Gem Emporium yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Gem merchants also examined the jade lots to be sold through

auction today and tomorrow with the help of emporium officials.

U H La Aung, Minister for Natural Resources and Environment of the Kachin State Government and officials, visited the emporium yesterday.

Yesterday was the last day for gems and jade to be sold through the open tender system. Starting today, the precious stones will be sold through a competitive-bidding system.

—*Myanmar News Agency*

Cash and kind to be donated for veteran journalists accepted with ceremony

A CEREMONY to accept donations for veteran journalists of 75 years of age and above was held at the Orchid Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The chairman of the My-

anmar Journalists Association explained the purpose of the ceremony and the chairman and the vice chairman accepted cash donated by well-wishers. Those who wish to donate cash

and in-kind to veteran journalists can contact the MJA at No. 173/175(6 Floor), Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Ph: 09 421094659).

—*Aung Thura*



U Thiha Saw presenting a certificate of honour to a donor. PHOTO: MNA

Death Railway Museum draws locals as well as tourists

SINCE the beginning of the open season, the Death Railway Museum in Thanbyuzayat, Mon State, which was opened to attract tourists, has been crowded with both local and foreign visitors.

The museum is located at Waekawa Village at the junction of Yangon-Yay railway and Yangon-Myeik railway and has been open since Independence Day, 4th January, with the approval of the Mon State Government.

The museum was built on four acres of land by the Talamon Company and the entrance of the two-storey museum contains sobering statues of emaciated prisoners of war holding hoes, shovels and spades who were enslaved into forced-labour to build the railway.

Foreign tourists frequently visit the place where a railway locomotive is displayed, as well as the starting point of the Thailand-Myanmar railway and the

museum, which is open from 7am to 7pm daily. Entrance fees to the museum range from Ks800 for locals to Ks5,000 for foreigners. Monks and children can visit the museum free of charge.

"The Japanese built the railway to connect Thailand and Myanmar to open the Asian theatre. They forced POWs from defeated countries and people from Southeast Asian countries to be labourers. About 120,000 people died of exhaustion, starvation and diseases. The number of the sleepers of the railway could represent the number of deaths to build the railway. There is also a commonwealth war cemetery for those who died to build the railway," an official of the museum said.

It is said that visitors to the museum also go to the war cemetery as well as the Kyaukme-Setse Beach.—*Soe Win MLA*



The front view of the death railway museum. PHOTO: SOE WIN MLA

Nay Pyi Taw Hot Springs Resort Camp Inaugurated



People are seen relaxing at the hot springs resort camp. PHOTO: MNA

A RESORT camp that features saunas and hot springs as treatment for joint pain, skin diseases and female ailments was officially re-inaugurated in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

The Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring Resort Camp was first opened on April 9, 2010 with four bungalows and one six-room sauna. Recently added were two duplex sauna rooms added to two exterior sauna ponds for males, two exterior sauna ponds for females, three recreation halls and separate dressing rooms for men and women.

Dr Myo Aung, chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, and members, Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee members, members of a Kayin traditional dance troupe and other

officials participated in the second inauguration ceremony of the camp on Saturday morning.

A ribbon cutting began the commemoration of Panglong Township resort, followed by the spraying of the camp's signboard with scented water.

Afterwards, the chairman and members observed the Kayin Traditional Dance (Wahnyat Aka) and inspected the interior of the camp.

The camp is situated near the village of Taungkya in Panglong, accessible by motor vehicles plying between Nay Pyi Taw and Panglong. Taking a sauna will improve blood circulation, reduce stiffness and pain, awaken nerves and is very suitable for joint pain, skin diseases and female-specific diseases. —Myanmar News Agency

Health awareness walk in Sagaing next month

THIS year's December mass walking activity will start again in Sagaing Region next month to promote public health through walking, urging urbanites to join the walk every Saturday starting next week, according to a spokesperson for the Sagaing Region government.

Under the programme, people will walk along designated streets from the bronze statue of General Aung San to the golf course in Monywa, planning to take physical exercises at the end point.

According to the arrangement of the regional government, the programme will be organised by

the region's Sports and Physical Education Committee. Interested residents should arrive no later than 5 a.m, according to the committee, which is also planning different kinds of sports competitions such as race walking, basketball, volleyball, futsal every week in December. —Kyaw Kyaw

MPD registers with UEC

AS the Union Election Commission has been permitting political parties to register with the commission, Myanmar People's Democratic Party registered with the commission for a political party yesterday. —Myanmar News Agency

Goat price plummets to record lows

GOAT breeders from Yenangyaung township are facing financial hardships because of the record-low price for goats, according to local farmers.

"I have been breeding 20 goats for 10 years. This year, I am breeding 70 goats. We can't rely on the cultivation of crops because of the (erratic) weather conditions. We can earn regular income from breeding goats. That's why we invested money in raising goats this year," said

U Tin Yun, a local breeder from Yenangyaung township.

"This year, the price of goats has hit the bottom due to lower demand. Last year, the price of goat was Ks70,000 per capita. The traders from Mandalay, Kyaunkpadaung and Magway came to buy the goats in Yenangyaung. The current price of goat is now less than half of that, around Ks30,000 per head. If we are badly in need of money, we sell for Ks20,000," said U Mya,

a local breeder.

"When we breed the goats, we have to buy one for Ks70,000. But now, we are selling them for Ks30,000. We are unhappy with it, said the local breeders.

We had better contact the canned food manufacturers to access the market, the local breeders said. Currently, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is providing medical treatment to the goats in Yenangyaung township. —Min Min

Crime NEWS

Yaba pills, heroin seized in Thingankyun and Dagon Seikkan Townships

LIFE is like a box of chocolates -- you never know what you will get, it is said. For two women in Yangon, it got them drugs charges.

Police from the Thingankyun Myoma Station searched Ma Wai Wai Hnin, 38, in front of the biryani rice shop in the Laydaungkan street, Ngamoyeik Ward, Thingankyun Township on Saturday and found 1.3 grams of heroin in a chocolate box that she was holding. Police continued to search



Ma Wai Wai Hnin and Ma Myat Suu Mar. PHOTO: MNA

her house on Ingyin street, block (C), (94) Ward in Dagon Seikkan Township and found another woman, Ma Myat Suu Mar, 41, in her house and seized 400 yaba tablets and 140.9 grams of heroin

from the bedroom.

Police have filed charges against them under the Psychotropic Substances law and Anti-Narcotic drug law. —Myanmar News Agency

Japanese war monument erected



The War monument is being formally opened. PHOTO: NE LIN (NYAUNGLEBIN)

THREE cherry trees were planted at a village in Nyaunglebin at a ceremony on 25th November in dedication to the Japanese soldiers killed during 1945 battles.

The tree-planting ceremony was held at Htwaneegon village in KaleinKhin model village-tract, Nyaunglebin township, Bago region with the monument erection committee donating over 100 dozen notebooks and 600 ball-point pens to Daw Khin Mar Win, the headmistress of the post-primary school in KaleinKhin model village. Next, peace commemorative cherry trees were planted in the field owned by U Thein

De and his daughter Daw Aye San. The monument was formally opened with the cutting of a ribbon.

The families of the deceased Japanese soldiers sought help from the Japanese embassy, which made contact with the abbot of the KaleninKhin monastery to build the monument.

Nearly 400 Japanese soldiers died in the battle against the Indian army under the command of the British on 1st August, 1945.

The peace commemorative cherry trees are called Youkou Sakura, it is learnt. —Ne Lin (Nyaunglebin)

LOCAL Business

Muse border trade value reaches almost \$3.2 billion

THE TOTAL trade value of the Muse border trade camp reached nearly US\$3.2 billion this year, a decrease of over \$140 million compared to the same period last year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Located between Myanmar and China, the Muse border trade camp has the highest volume and value of total border trade among other trade camps.

Between 1 April and 18 November, the trade value of the Muse border trade camp hit \$3.182 billion, including \$2.144 billion from the export sector and \$1.038 billion from the import sector.

The total trade value of Muse



The border trade camp located at 205 Mile, Muse. PHOTO: PHO KWAR

in the same period of last year was \$3.326 billion, including \$2.3 billion from the export sector and \$1.005 billion from the import sector.

The decrease in the value of trade is related to the recent

attacks by a combined force of ethnic armed groups near the 105-mile trade zone, killing innocent civilians and destroying warehouses and cargo trucks, according to local traders.

According to the official

figures released by the Ministry of Commerce, the trade value of Muse was \$2.829 billion in FY2012-2013, \$3.517 billion in FY2013-2014, \$5.318 billion in FY2014-2015 and \$5.377 billion in FY2015-2016.

Myanmar mostly exports agriculture products, forest products and fisheries products to neighbouring countries and imports personal goods, construction materials and other. —Shwe Khine

Petrol price increases in domestic market due to unstable currency exchange rate

THE PRICE of petrol has increased in the local market due to the unstable currency exchange rate, according to fuel filling stations in Yangon.

Starting from November 25, the price of some kinds of petrol has risen by about Ks50 per gallon. Over a two-week period, the petrol price increased by K10 per litre.

The crude oil price per barrel continued to hover around

US\$47 in the world market these days. But the exchange rate rose to Ks1,345 per US dollar on 25 November from Ks1,295 on 11 November.

Experts estimated that the price of petrol is likely to increase in the future because of the rising dollar price.

According to the filling stations, the retail price of 92 octane petrol on November 25 increased to Ks2,880 per gallon

(Ks640 per litre) from Ks2,835 on November 11, while the price of 95 octane rose from Ks3,060 (K680 per litre) to Ks3,105 but the price of high diesel remains the same.

In September 2015, 92 octane petrol was sold for Ks700 per litre, Ks95 octane petrol for Ks800, high diesel for Ks700 and diesel for Ks660 in the local market. —Kyu Kyu

600,000 Vivo mobiles sold in Myanmar this year

VIVO, the Chinese smartphone manufacturer, sold about 600,000 units in Myanmar over the past nine months, according to a press release issued by the company.

Vivo entered the Myanmar market, considered by many to be the last economic frontier in the world, in late 2014. The firm started its international expansion in 2014, targeting some ASEAN countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India and Indonesia.

According to company statistics, Vivo sold a total of 587,594 units since January, in-

cluding 186,241 units in first quarter, 196,754 units in the second quarter and 204,599 units in the third quarter.

The Chinese multinational technology company sold over 170,000 units in last quarter of 2015, about 148,000 units in the third quarter and over 124,000 units in the second quarter.

The firm, which occupies 18 per cent of market share in Myanmar, has rapidly expanded its sale centers from 700 in 2014 to over 4,000 in 2016, plus 19 service centres.

According to data from re-

search firm Counterpoint Research, Vivo is now one of the top five global vendors.

According to the third Myanmar Mobile User Behaviour Survey by Mileage Communications Myanmar this year, the presence of mid-priced Chinese brands such as Oppo, Xiaomi, Meizu, Lenovo and Vivo has increased significantly.

Vivo introduced its Vivo V5 selfie-focusing smartphone with 5.50-inch 720x1280 display and 20-megapixel selfie camera to Myanmar users on 25 November. —Khine Khant

Myanmar-Thailand border trade value increases by almost \$140m

THE value of border trade between Myanmar and Thailand this year rose to \$790.343 million from \$650.781 million the previous year, an increase of nearly \$140 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar conducts export and import business with Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Nabulae/Hteekhee and Mawtaung border trade camps.

The country imports personal goods, raw materials and capital goods from her neighbour. The export items of Myanmar include animal products, mineral resources, industrial goods and agriculture products.

According to the ministry, the annual trade value of the two countries via Tachilek border trade camp was \$39.736 million in 2012-13 FY, \$72.501m 2013-14 FY, \$101.965m in 2014-15 FY and \$74.589m in 2015-16 FY.

The trade value through Myawady border trade camp was \$144.802m in 2012-2013

FY, \$271.501m in 2013-2014 FY, \$456.902m in 2014-2015 FY and \$726.112m in 2015-2016 FY.

The trade value from Myeik border trade camp was \$155.101m in FY2012-13, \$154.422m in FY2013-14, \$145.999m in FY2014-15 and \$170.999 in FY2015-16.

Both countries made \$78.906m worth trading through Kawthaung border trade camp in FY2012-13, \$148.224m in FY2013-14, \$115.697m in FY2014-15 and \$132.380m in FY2015-16.

Nabulae/Hteekhee and Mawtaung border trade camps launched in FY2013-14.

The trade value of Nabulae/Hteekhee increased yearly to \$13.191m in 2015-2016 FY from \$1.493m in 2014-2015 FY and \$4.216m in 2013-2014 FY.

The trade value of Mawtaung decreased to \$0.663m in FY2014-2015 from \$1.988 million in FY2013-2014. It increased to \$2.512m in FY2015-2016. —Kyel Sin

11 militants killed, two soldiers wounded in Philippines clashes

MANILA — The Philippine military said on Sunday that 11 bandits were killed and two soldiers wounded in fierce clashes between troops and the Maute group in Laanao del Sur in the southern Philippines.

Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement that five other Maute members were also wounded in the clashes that broke out around 9 am Saturday after the bandits occupied an abandoned municipal hall in Butig town.

Residents fled the area as a result, according to the military.

"The recent action of the lawless Maute Group in occupying an abandoned portion of Butig Municipality 9 o'clock in the morning of 26 November 2016 has driven the people from other areas of the town to flee their homes," Arevalo said in a statement. "This prompted the immediate conduct of military operations focused on dislodging the lawless group," he said.

Arevalo said the law-

less group has reportedly raised the ISIS flag "which was expected since they have long been professing allegiance to the foreign terrorist group," he said.

"This is still part of the Maute Group's agenda in courting support and encouraging similar minded individuals to support ISIS," he said.

Arevalo said the military will continue its offensive operations against the group to prevent the situation from escalating or spilling to other areas.—*Xinhua*

Australian asthma storm claims sixth victim

SYDNEY — A sixth person has died in the Australian city of Melbourne after a storm triggered thousands of pollen allergy asthma attacks, the Victorian state government said on Sunday.

Heavy rain and winds on Monday, just as spring peaks in the southern state

of Victoria, allowed rye grass pollen to absorb moisture and burst into smaller particles that sent the pollen count soaring.

"This was a tragic and unforeseen event and hospitals are continuing to treat 12 people for a variety of respiratory and other related conditions, in addition to those in ICU care," a Victorian health department spokesman said in a statement.

Five patients are still receiving specialist intensive care treatment in hospitals and three people are in a critical condition, the spokesman said.

—*Reuters*

India's Modi calls for move towards cashless society

MUMBAI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the nation's small traders and daily wage earners to embrace digital payment channels, as a cash crunch following the government's surprise ban on high-value bank notes drags on.

Modi, speaking in his monthly address on national radio, said the government understands that millions have been affected by the ban on 500-rupee and 1000-rupees notes, but defended the action.

The government says the bank-note ban announced on 8 November is aimed at cracking down on corruption, people with unaccounted wealth, and counterfeiting of notes.

"I want to tell my small merchant brothers and sisters, this is the chance for you to enter the digital world," Modi said speaking in Hindi, urging them to use mobile banking applications and credit-card swipe machines.

"It's correct that a 100



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks to the media inside the parliament premises on the first day of the winter session in New Delhi, India, on 16 November 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

per cent cashless society is not possible. But why don't we make a beginning for a less-cash society in India?" Modi said. "We can gradually move from a less-cash society to a cashless society."

More than 90 per cent of consumer purchases in India are transacted in cash, Credit Suisse esti-

mates. While a smartphone boom and falling mobile data prices have led to a surge in digital payments in recent years, the base still remains low.

Modi urged technology-savvy young people to spare some time teaching others how to use digital payment platforms.—*Reuters*

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Najib cools snap election talk as Malaysia lacks 'feel good factor'

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Sunday that he will "not necessarily" call a snap election next year, amid talk that he would seek an early vote as splits in the opposition have hobbled efforts to oust him over a long-running financial scandal.

The multi-ethnic South-east Asian country is due to hold an election by August 2018, and a government official has told Reuters that Najib could call for a poll in the second half of 2017.

But in an interview published in *The Star* daily on Sunday, Najib, who has led the country since 2009, suggested he was in no hurry to call for a vote, and remarked on the current lack of a "feel good factor" among Malaysians.

"Not necessarily... it can be later," Najib replied when asked whether an election could be called sometime next year.

"With today's economic situation, it's going to be a challenge because you don't see the world economy on a rising trend. It's going to be much more the same next

year, as the year before," Najib said.

Najib has been battling calls to step down over a scandal involving state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

The US Justice Department filed lawsuits in July alleging misappropriation of over \$3.5 billion from the fund and that some of those flowed into the accounts of "Malaysian Official 1", whom US and Malaysian officials have identified as Najib.

Najib has denied wrongdoing and has consolidated power by sacking critics within his ruling party and cracking down on dissent.

His fiercest critic is former premier Mahathir Mohamad, who is over 90 years old. Mahathir joined hands with Najib's sacked former deputy Muhyiddin Yassin to form a new party. But the main Islamist party's failure to join efforts by other opposition parties campaigning against Najib, has made it hard for them to whip up more support among ethnic Malays.

Anwar Ibrahim, the



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak attends a Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 9 November 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

most charismatic opposition leader, is serving a five-year sentence on sodomy charges that supporters and many observers believe were politically motivated.

Looking ahead, Najib said he expected some recovery in oil and gas revenues to help the national mood.

"After that I think that the price of oil will likely be at a slightly higher level, not at the all time high, but something between \$60

to \$70 per barrel, will be a comfortable level for us," he said.

The Malaysian economy has been hit hard by the slide in oil prices. A recent slump in the ringgit currency to a near 14-month low has also raised concerns.

In the interview with *The Star*, Najib also said a free trade deal for the Asia Pacific region was important to create jobs, investment and wealth.

US President-elect Donald Trump has said he would withdraw the United States from the multi-country Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), which excludes China.

And Najib said if the TPP is a non-starter, he would hope that agreement can be reached on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a China-backed trade deal which excludes the United States.

"If the TPP is a no-go, then RCEP must be brought to a conclusion, the earlier the better and I think realistically we are talking about the end of 2017," Najib said.—*Reuters*

India's rural economy hit hard as informal lending breaks down

MUMBAI — Life was good for Mitharam Patil, a wealthy money lender from a small village in the Indian state of Maharashtra.

Small-time financiers like Patil would typically lend cash to farmers and traders every day, providing a vital source of funding for a rural economy largely shut out of the banking sector, albeit at interest rates of about 24 per cent.

All that came crashing down on 8 November, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi banned 500 and 1,000 rupee (\$7.30-\$14.60) banknotes, which accounted for 86 per cent of currency in circulation.

The action was intended to target wealthy tax evaders and end India's "shadow economy", but it has also exposed the dependency of poor farmers and small businesses on informal credit systems

in a country where half the population has no access to formal banking.

Patil was stuck with 700,000 rupees (\$10,144) of worthless cash. He can also only withdraw up to 24,000 rupees from his account every week, barely enough for his own personal needs given he also works as a farmer.

That is bad news for farmers and traders who had come to depend on Patil, despite his high interest rates, given that bank branches are located far from the village, while the process to obtain loans is long and cumbersome.

It may also hurt India's economy, as the informal sector accounts for 20 per cent of gross domestic product and 80 per cent of employment. The country is due to report July-September GDP on Wednesday.

"Sowing of winter crops has



A security guard reads a newspaper inside an ATM counter as a notice is displayed on an ATM in Guwahati, India, on 27 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

been started and farmers badly need money. But I couldn't lend (to) them due to restrictions on withdrawal," Patil said.

Some farmers and small businesses say India's informal credit system has ground to a virtual

halt, despite government measures to steer more funds to them, including 230 billion rupees in crop loans.

Not only are money lenders struggling to lend, they are also struggling to get paid.

Saumya Roy, CEO of Vandana Foundation, a micro finance firm, said it has encountered difficulties in collecting payments from borrowers, which will have a knock-on effect on how much they can lend to others.—Reuters

Sunken road found at site of huge sinkhole incident in Fukuoka

FUKUOKA — Newly paved road covering the site of a huge sinkhole that opened up recently at an intersection in downtown Fukuoka, southwestern Japan, was discovered early Saturday to have sunken slightly, police said.

The police closed part of the road near JR Hakata Station at 1:45 am, but reopened it around 5:30 am after it was deemed safe for traffic. No injuries have been reported.

An official of the Fukuoka city government said the road had sunken by up to 7 centimeters over a 30 meter square area. No power outages or gas leaks had been detected in nearby districts, according to Kyushu Electric Power Co. and Saibu Gas Co., respectively.

The municipal government said the subsidence may be the result of special soil containing cement, used to fill the sinkhole, compressing a layer of soil beneath the road.

The local government and Fukuoka prefectural police said they had anticipated the sinking of the road after filling the sinkhole and resurfacing the area.

Officials of a company in a joint venture which is taking part in construction of a subway extension line, which is believed to have caused the sinkhole, said it knew as early as Friday night that the surface of the road may have sunken by up to 8 cm.

In a press conference held near the road in question, the officials said that a worker from the

joint venture made an emergency call to police to inform them that he wanted to conduct a safety check on the road, adding that the joint venture agreed earlier to confirm the safety of the underground infrastructure and close the part of the road if the road sinks 2.4 cm or more.

The officials said they had warned about the possibility of the road sinking again at a conference convened a day before the reopening of the road.

The latest subsidence is almost identical to that which occurred before the sinkhole formed, the local government said, adding it has yet to confirm whether soil has fallen into the tunnel being constructed below for the subway line.—Kyodo News

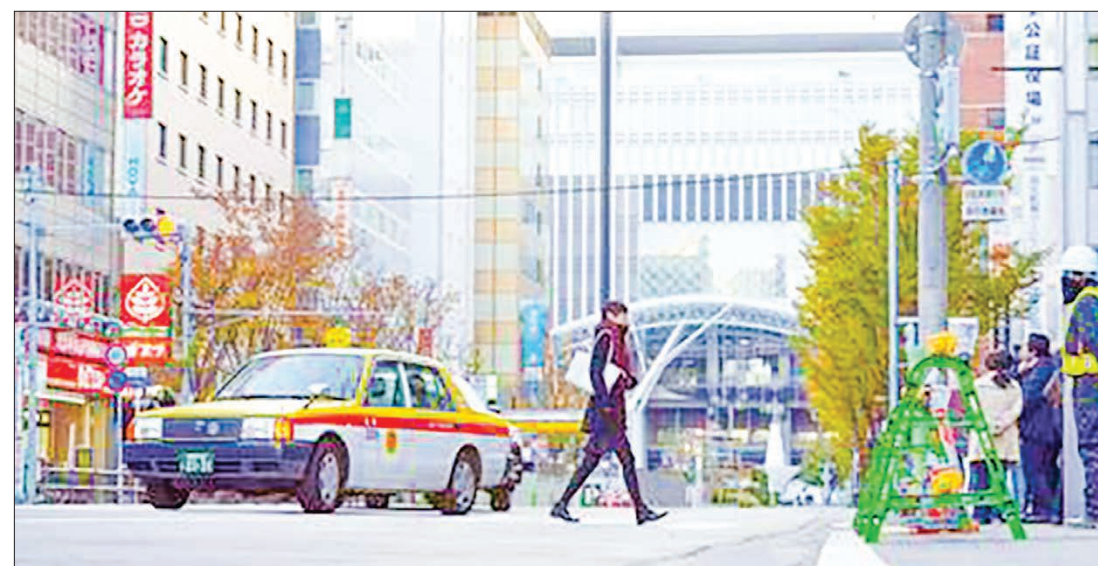


Photo taken 26 November 2016, shows a newly paved road covering the site of a huge sinkhole that opened up recently at an intersection in downtown Fukuoka, southwestern Japan, after it was discovered to have sunken slightly. Police closed part of the road at 1:45 am that day, but reopened it around 5:30 am after it was deemed safe for traffic. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Abe Cabinet's support rating rises to 60.7%: Kyodo poll

TOKYO — The support rating for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet stood at 60.7 per cent in a nationwide telephone survey conducted Saturday and Sunday by Kyodo News.

It is the first time that the support rating has topped 60 per cent in a Kyodo poll since October 2013, when it stood at 60.7 per cent. The latest approval rate compares with 53.9 per cent in October, while the disapproval rating dropped to 30.4 per cent from 33.2 per cent.

The nationwide poll followed Abe's meetings with US President-elect Donald Trump in New York and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Peru.

Regarding Japan's contribution to the costs of stationing US military forces in the country, 86.1 per cent said it was not necessary for Japan to pay more.

During his campaign, Trump complained that Japan is shoul-

dering too little of the costs of stationing US forces and said he would consider withdrawing them, raising concerns in Tokyo regarding the bilateral alliance.

Trump also opposes the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal and respondents were split on whether Japan should ratify the pact even if the United States withdraws, with 43.5 per cent saying Japan should proceed and 43.2 per cent opposed.

As for the government's pledge to cooperate in developing the Russian Far East in the hope of resolving a dispute over Russian-held islands claimed by Japan, 53.2 per cent were opposed to such economic cooperation, while 36.6 per cent were in favour.

Abe and Putin will meet in Japan on 15 and 16 December to discuss the territorial dispute and the economic cooperation.

—Kyodo News

Missing army chopper discovered in Borneo, Indonesia

JAKARTA — The position of an Indonesian army helicopter, which lost contact when it was passing above Borneo Island on Thursday, has been located on Sunday, military spokesman said.

"The personnel have received the ELT (emergency locator transponder) signal from the missing helicopter," Military Spokesman Brig. General Wuryanto told Xinhua by phone.

Five people were aboard the helicopter, comprising the pilot

and four crews, according to him. The copper was carrying logistic for soldiers guarding the borders of Indonesia and Malaysia in North Kalimantan province of the island, he said.

ELT signal informs the coordinate position of a crashed aircraft to satellite, so that the location of the incident can be found out.

The ELT signal will automatically be active when the surface of the device hit something.—Xinhua

Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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

Youths and Freedom

Myint Win Thein

YOUTHS are very important for each and every country, as they will be leaders of those countries in the future. It is for sure a fact that all leaders of the world were once youths. However, leaders of some countries are able to lead their countries to prosperity, while others are dragging their countries into chaos and poverty.

Therefore, it is worth studying how these leaders were nurtured when they

were young. What did they learn at an early age? How did they grow up? When they grow up with delusions, it is highly unlikely that they will lead a country into prosperity.

Therefore, it is important that youth of every country are free of delusions and understand their world as truly as they can. Youths should not be a wing of a particular political party and they should be left for the people and the country.

If delusions are instilled

into youths, the future of a country will be as murky as the past experiences of a country. Youths should be allowed to think freely without the influence of the people who are biased to certain political concepts, parties or powerful groups in a society. They should be guided towards the interests of a country, a people or the world.

In the history of Myanmar, various youth organisations with outstanding students such as Lanzin Youths,

Shayhsaung Youths and Teza Youths were established. They grew in strength while the ruling class had power, but they disappeared when the ruling class collapsed.

Myanmar Boys Scouts, which is not a youth wing of a certain political party, celebrated their centennial at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University yesterday. The Global New Light of Myanmar wishes the youths across the entire country freedom of thought.

Driving Etiquettes

Khin Maung Myint

YANGON is facing traffic congestions of mammoth proportions. These traffic jams are causing frustrations not only to the motorists and commuters, but also extremely annoying to the bystanders---the pedestrians and the residents in the neighbourhoods of busy traffic areas. Along with the traffic congestions came the frequent cases of accidents, incidents of road rage resulting in exchanges of foul languages and sometimes even turned into scuffles.

Such things are very rarely heard of, or seen in large cities like Tokyo and Bangkok, where the traffic jams are notorious. There may be many other cities in the region where the traffic congestions may be commonplace, but as I haven't been to those places, I give these two cities as examples. The number of cars and hence the volume of traffic in those cities are much larger and heavier than in Yangon. So, there would naturally be traffic congestions. Though there are frequent road jams in those cities that paralyzed the traffic flow and caused standstills for long durations are quite common, everything is calm, quiet and orderly unlike in Yangon, where such scenes are rowdy with continuous honking and filled with loud and abusive verbal exchanges.

So, what is at the bottom of the differences between those cities' and Yangon's traffic scenes? In my personal opinion it is the lack of driving etiquettes in our country.

Here, I used the word "our country" because the lacks of driving etiquettes or to be more precise, ignorance of them are not only confined to Yangon, but widespread throughout the country. From my studies I found that the disregards for driving etiquettes are most common in the least developed countries.

Driving Etiquettes and Road Safety Tips

Although the subheading says "Driving Etiquettes", what I'll be doing is highlighting the bad driving etiquettes commonly committed by motorists, which should be avoided. They are as follows:-

1. Nudging pedestrians. Prodding the pedestrians crossing the road to hasten, by honking is very rude and should be avoided.

2. Elongated/excessive honking. Incessant honking is also a very despicable behaviour, which is very common in our country.

3. Tailgating. Driving too close to the vehicle ahead is **tailgating** and is very dangerous and at the same time very annoying to the driver in the vehicle in front. It amounts to nudging the driver in front. Always keep a safe distance between your car and the one in front so that you'll be able to stop in time and avoid crashing onto it in case the driver in front abruptly braked.

4. Driving below or above posted speed limits. If you drive below the posted speed you will cause annoyance to the motorists behind and also slows down the traffic flow unnecessarily. On the other hand driving above the posted speed could put you in danger of being pulled up by traffic police for over

speeding or could be involved in accidents.

5. Double parkings disturb the traffic flow and are among the main causes of traffic jams and should be totally avoided.

6. Driving in busy areas with high beams on. The headlights of every vehicle have low and high beams that can be adjusted by the driver. Driving at night with high beams on along busy roads would temporarily blind the drivers of the oncoming cars, which could result in accidents. Dip your light beams at such places.

7. Refusing to yield right of way to other vehicles. Drivers should oblige by yielding right of way to the other vehicles, which show their intentions to overtake or change lanes. Obstructing the right of way of other vehicle is very rude and could lead to undesirable incidents of road rage.

8. Driving with loud, distracting music. It would deprive you of your hearing ability and you would also be distracted and could end up in accidents. Furthermore, it would cause annoyance to other drivers and the bystanders in the vicinity.

9. Changing lanes and turning without use of signals. Always show your intentions to change lanes or turning using signal lights. It is a proper driving etiquette and would also keep you from getting involved in accidents.

10. Cutting off other motorists. Changing lanes by squeezing into a narrow space between two moving cars is a dangerous move of cutting off other motorists, which is bad driving etiquette and should not be done at all.

11. Driving below the speed of traffic in center or cruising lane. Driving below the speed of traffic in the center or the cruising lanes would slow down traffic flows and cause unnecessary traffic jams. Most of our motorists are ignorant of such things and have no regards for others.

12. Slowly passing another vehicle. When overtaking another vehicle, accelerate so as to pass it as quickly as possible. Shouldn't use **cruise control** in cars with auto gears while overtaking. It would block the vehicles using the fast lane and disturb the traffic flow.

13. Distracted driving. Distracted driving puts other motorists at risk. You should focus solely on your driving to avoid such situations. Things to avoid while driving include: talking on hand-held devices, texting, eating, reaching for items, applying makeup, shaving, operating music devices, such as iPod.

14. Keep your passengers safe. When you are driving a vehicle the safety of the passengers are your responsibility. Observe every driving etiquettes to provide safety to the passengers.

It wouldn't be easy and would also take sometimes to educate our motorists to familiarize themselves with the driving etiquettes and to properly observe them. Anyhow, we should start introducing strict procedures in testing the driving abilities of the would-be drivers who applied for driving licences. The issuance of the driving licences should be more stricter. An acquaintance of mine, who had stayed in London for some years while on government assigned duty, told me of his experience with the driving tests he underwent there.

According to him, although he had an international driving licences issued by our country,

he had to undergo a driving test. The test was very strict. A driving examiner who came along with him evaluated his every move while driving along busy streets and roads of London. The examiner wouldn't give any suggestion or advice while driving. At the end of the test he was informed that he failed without giving any reasons. So he went for a second test a few days later, this time with a different examiner. He failed again. He couldn't understand why he failed because he thought of himself to be a skilled driver as he had been driving cars since he was a teenager. Then the last and third test came. If he failed that one he wouldn't get another chance and no way of getting a driving licences.

Fortunately for him the new examiner was a man of Asian origin and seemed to be lenient, so he openly asked him why he failed the previous two tests. The inspector checked the previous records and told him that he failed because he didn't observe the driving etiquettes properly. On further enquiring he was told, he used the horn unnecessarily and that the honking of the horn unless in a very urgent situation to avoid accidents was very rude. He passed that test, but he told me, he had a very difficult time suppressing his urge to use the horn while driving.

I hope by now I have made it clear what proper driving etiquettes are, and the fact that they are very essential for motorists to know and observe them properly. In my desire to reform the undisciplined ways of driving by most drivers in our country, I may sound a bit pessimistic. However, I'm sure that most people who self-drive their cars would agree with me.

Reference:

Wikipedia

Dipavali dinner hosted in Yangon



Myanmar India International Business Association (M.I.I.B.A) and Myanmar Indians Association (M.I.A) hosted Dipavali dinner on 26th evening at Sedona Hotel, Yangon. PHOTO: PHO KWAR

MYANMAR India International Business Association (M.I.I.B.A) and Myanmar Indians Association (M.I.A) hosted Dipavali dinner on 26th evening at Sedona Hotel, Yangon.

Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs

and Culture, Thura U Tin Oo, patron of NLD, Yangon Chief minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials cut the ribbons to open and light the oil lamps to open the ceremony.

Then, Chairman of M.I.I.B.A U Zaw Zaw Naing

spoke words of greeting and Union minister and Yangon Chief Minister gave words of encouragement.

Next, activities of M.I.I.B.A and MIA were screened with the use of a projector. —Pho Kwar

Maungtaw paddies harvested on time

THE paddies in Maungtaw are being harvested in large part because peace has been restored to Maungtaw area, farmers said.

“As the area has gained stability, farmers are reaping their paddies on time. Some finished harvesting and are starting to thresh and winnow. If the harvest was not finished in time, there will be many shortages. As for me, I have grown just for the consumption of my family, so it is enough for this year”, said U Phyu Tha Tun of the village of Bodigone in Maungtaw district/south.

The Rakhine State Office, the Rakhine State Cabinet and

the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation sent 40 harvesting machines to farmers in the region to help harvest the paddies in time, by the last week of October, according to the department of agriculture.

“Some farmers managed to farm a lot of acreage and reaped their produce by the use of harvesting machines, whereas small-scale farmers did this manually, including me”, said U Phyu Tha Tun.

Harvesting machines sent to support the Maungtaw region have the capacity of harvesting 3 to 5 acres per day, at a cost of

about Ks10,000 per acre. The harvesting machines are also more efficient and reduce waste, the agricultural department said.

“Harvesting machines solved the problem of labour and they helps reduce the cost. It is more efficient than manual work”, said U Toe Wai, the head of the Rakhine State Office of Agriculture.

According to local farmers, Maungtaw area has had good weather and has yielded a large volume of produce. Out of 80,000 acres of paddy-growing farms in Maungtaw, only about 10,000 acres belong to local farmers.—Min Thit

Newly extended facilities of Thanlyin General Hospital completed



One of the new buildings in Thanlyin General Hospital compound.

THE construction of newly extended hospital facilities of Thanlyin General Hospital was recently completed, with plans to start operating early next month,

according to the medical superintendent of the hospital.

The project is part of the government's efforts to increase healthcare facilities to provide

better medical care to the general public.

According to the project, a 200-bed out-patient building, a two-storey structure, a one-storey building, staff housing and other extended buildings have already been developed within the compound of the Thanlyin General Hospital.

All establishments are planned to be put into service in early December.

Thanks to the new facilities, the hospital will be able to receive patients from Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Khayan, Thongwa, Bago, Thanatpin and Thakayta townships. The general hospital currently offers medical care to people with 300 members of staff, according to its medical superintendent. —Thet Khaing (Thanlyin)

POEM:

‘Green’ Investment Opportunities in Myanmar

Myanmar is endowed bountifully by a long coastline bordering the sea a gift of nature supporting fishery and a natural setting for *aquaculture* which is gaining popularity world over.

Myanmar's landmass, watered bountifully by rivers and streams flowing profusely irrigating the fertile land for *agriculture*, undoubtedly a precious gift of nature. Myanmar can become a food exporting nation adding to those feeding the world population.

Myanmar has regions for cultivation of tea, coffee, Teak and rubber plantation variety of fruits, vegetables and flowers providing opportunities for *horticulture*. Myanmar can export 'green' raw materials and a variety of fruits and vegetables.

The three 'cultures' are interdependent and most prospective for 'green' investment with little concern for energy management, and with capacity to provide employment to large numbers of the local residents. Some local entrepreneurs are already taking advantage of the opportunity.

The 'green products' of the three 'cultures' with the rising world population of the future will find ready markets for the exporter and lucrative returns on investments thereafter for the foreign or local entrepreneur.

Lokethar

Inmates in Myingyan to be taught reading and writing



Trainee inmates at the opening ceremony of basic literacy training.

A BASIC literacy training course has recently been launched for prisoners of Myingyan Correctional Facility in Mandalay Region to improve their reading and writing skills during their incarceration.

Among nearly 150 prisoners, most of whom have never gone to school, a total of 100 trainees, including 50 male and 50 female inmates, were selected to attend the course, which will come to an end when all trainee inmates can read and write the Myanmar language at a basic level.

U Khin Maung Htay, an assistant director of Myingyan Prison, said plans are underway to continue to conduct such training courses for the remaining inmates at the prison after finishing the current course.

The two-month training course started at the detention facility on 22 November.

Present at the opening ceremony were prison officials, the Myingyan Township administrator, members of the Myanmar Police Force and departmental officials.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



Hillary Clinton speaks at a campaign event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States, on 28 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Clinton team to take part in US state vote recount, Trump blasts effort

WASHINGTON/WEST PALM BEACH, (Fla.) — Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign will take part in a recount of Wisconsin votes in the US presidential race, an effort Republican winner Donald Trump called "ridiculous" on Saturday.

Wisconsin's election board on Friday approved the recount requested by Green Party candidate Jill Stein. She has said she wants to guarantee the integrity of the US voting system since computer hacking had marked the 8 November election.

Marc Elias, the Clinton campaign counsel, said the campaign would take part in the recount in Wisconsin as well as in the other battleground states of Pennsylvania and Michigan if recounts were mounted there.

Elias said in a statement on the Medium website that the Clinton campaign had not planned to seek a recount since its own inves-

tigation had failed to turn up any sign of hacking of voting systems.

"But now that a recount has been initiated in Wisconsin, we intend to participate in order to ensure the process proceeds in a manner that is fair to all sides," Elias said.

Clinton's campaign should be legally represented in Wisconsin to be able to monitor the recount, he said.

In a statement, Trump said the three states had been won by wide margins, including by more than 70,000 votes in Pennsylvania. The recount is a "scam by the Green Party for an election that has already been conceded," he said.

The \$7 million (6 million pound) Stein has sought to raise for the recounts is a way "to fill her coffers with money, most of which she will never even spend on this ridiculous recount," he said.

Although Trump won the Electoral College tally, Clinton will have won the national popular vote by more than 2 million ballots when the final results are in.

Stein has raised \$5.8 million of the \$7 million needed to cover fees and legal costs for the three recounts, according to her campaign website. The deadline for filing a recount bid in Pennsylvania is Monday.

The voting margins make it highly unlikely any recounts would end up giving Clinton a win in all three states, which would be needed for the overall election result to change.

Trump beat Clinton in Pennsylvania by 70,010 votes, in Michigan by 10,704 votes and in Wisconsin by 27,257 votes.

Experts urged extra scrutiny of the three states, Stein told CNN on Friday, because their voting systems were seen as vulnerable.—Reuters

With a cry of 'Viva Fidel!', Cubans begin mourning for Castro

HAVANA — Flag-waving Cuban students broke into a mass chant of "I am Fidel" to salute Fidel Castro as nine days of mourning began for the combative Cold War icon, who dominated the Communist island's political life for generations.

Alcohol sales were suspended, flags flew at half-staff and shows and concerts were cancelled after his younger brother and successor, President Raul Castro, told the country on Friday that Fidel had died at 10:29 pm, without giving a cause of death.

Giant rallies are planned in Havana's Revolution Square and in the eastern city of Santiago to honour Castro, who died aged

90, six decades after the brothers set out from Mexico to overthrow US-backed Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista.

Newspapers on the island of 11 million people were printed in black ink to mourn Fidel, instead of the usual red of the official Communist Party daily Granma, and the blue of Juventud Rebelde (Rebel Youth), the paper of the Communist youth.

"For me, it's my mother first, my children, my father, then Fidel," father-of-five Rafael Urbay, 60, said as he manned a government photo and printing store in downtown Havana, remembering his early years spent on a remote island off the mainland with no

drinking water.

"We weren't just poor. We were wretched," he said. "Then came Fidel and the revolution. He gave me my humanity. I owe him everything."

There was no heightened military or police presence to mark the passing of the epochal revolutionary leader, and at Havana University, Castro's alma mater, hundreds of students gathered to wave huge Cuban flags and shout "Viva Fidel and Viva Raul."

"Fidel isn't dead because the people are Fidel," shouted a local student leader dressed in jeans and a white T-shirt. "I am Fidel," he continued, a refrain quickly adopted by the crowd.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran may seek naval bases in Yemen or Syria — chief of staff

DUBAI — Iran may seek to set up naval bases in Yemen or Syria in the future, as distant footholds might be more valuable militarily than nuclear technology, the chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces said in remarks published on Sunday.

"We need distant bases, and it may become possible one day to have bases on the shores of Yemen or Syria, or bases on islands or floating (bases)," said General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, quoted by the *Shargh* daily newspaper.

"Is having distant bases less than nuclear technology? I say it is worth dozens of times more," added Baqeri, who was speaking at a gathering of naval commanders.

Iran is a main ally of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria's civil war and of the armed Houthi movement fighting a Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen.—Reuters

Pregnant woman shot dead by gunmen in southern Thailand

BANGKOK — Two unidentified armed men killed a Thai pregnant and wounded another woman in a drive-by shooting in the southern Pattani province, the *Bangkok Post* reported on Sunday.

The attack happened near a petrol station Saturday night, when the gunmen on a motorcycle attacked the two victims on another motorcycle, who were returning home after buying food.

Rattakikal Jawang, an 8-month pregnant, died and her baby was found not breathing at a local hospital.

Another woman, 30-year-old Saijai Thongdee, was admitted to a local hospital. Police were investigating the attack, as it was initially believed to be perpetrated by insurgents.—Xinhua

Four missing as ROK fishing boat sinks in East China Sea

HANGZHOU — Four people are missing, six others rescued, after a fishing vessel of the Republic of Korea (ROK) sunk in seas off east China's Wenzhou City Saturday night.

China Marine Rescue Center said on Sunday that the vessel coded 909 Man Pyung Ho sunk at 7:45 pm Saturday about 100 sea miles east of Zhejiang Province, with 10 crew on board.

The Zhejiang centre sent patrol vessels and called for fishing vessels close to the area to assist the search and rescue. The six crew were rescued by passing fishing vessels. The search is continuing.—Xinhua

Five killed in helicopter crash in Iran

TEHRAN — Five people were killed in a helicopter crash in the Caspian Sea in northern Iran on Sunday.

The accident happened at 04:20 am local time (0050 GMT) as the helicopter, belonging to Iran's Oil Company, crashed near Amir Kabir drilling rig over the Caspian Sea, state IRIB TV reported.—Xinhua

Seven killed, 18 injured after jeep plunges into ravine in Nepal

KATHMANDU — Seven people were killed and 18 others injured when an overloaded jeep plunged into a 100-meter ravine in Nepal's central Nawalparasi District on Sunday.

The vehicle, which was heading for Kadabheri from Bulintar of the district, slipped off a mountain highway, some 170 km west of the capital Kathmandu. The condition of three injured, including the driver, were critical at a local hospital, District Police Constable Kismat Balal Magar told Xinhua.

Nepal's Home Ministry officials said such accidents have been frequently taking place for overloading and speeding. "The local administration and police have been given stringent order to control such practices," the ministry said in a statement.—Xinhua

East Congo militia kills 30 civilians, most from rival ethnic group

KINSHASA — An ethnic Nande militia in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo killed about 30 civilians, mostly Hutus, on Sunday morning, local sources said, in an apparent escalation of deadly violence between the two groups that has flared repeatedly this year.

Joy Bokele, territorial administrator in North Kivu province's Lubero territory, told Reuters that fighters from the Mai Mai Mazembe militia attacked the village of Luhanga at about 5 am (0300 GMT) with guns and machetes.—Reuters

French cancer specialist Innate Pharma can remain independent, for now

PARIS — France's Innate Pharma believes that its cash position and portfolio are sufficiently robust for the cancer drug company to remain independent for the time being and will seek co-development deals modeled on an agreement struck with AstraZeneca in April.

Innate sees its independence as key to delivering optimum shareholder value in a sector characterized by big-money deals as large drugmakers look to acquire new, effective

cancer treatments. In August Pfizer announced the \$14 billion purchase of Medivation Inc, adding its blockbuster prostate cancer drug Xtandi to a growing oncology portfolio.

Marseille-based Innate specializes in immuno-oncology, a new therapeutic field that has attracted investors' attention with drugs that stimulate or take the brakes off the body's immune system to recognize and kill cancer cells.

Big pharma groups such as Bristol-Myers

Squibb, Merck, Roche and AstraZeneca are leading the immunotherapy pack, but smaller rivals have also been active in the field.

Innate's share price has risen by more than 30 per cent over the past month after positive preliminary data for trials involving the combination of Lirilumab, a human monoclonal antibody, with Bristol Myers Squibb's (BMS) Opdivo in solid tumor's of the head and neck.

The two companies, which teamed up in 2011,

have other trials in the works and are hopeful that the combination will prove beneficial for patients suffering other forms of cancer.

"Head and neck cancers are on the rise," Innate Chief Executive Herve Brailly told Reuters.

"We see some 600,000 new cases of this form of cancer every year in Europe, Japan and the United States," he said, adding that Lirilumab would be tested in indications such as leukemia.—Reuters



Herve Brailly, CEO of Innate Pharma, attends the Reuters Biotech summit in Paris in 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

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

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

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

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

YGN TO SIN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:50	Daily
SQ-997	10:35	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6
MI-533	13:10	20:15	2
3K-584	19:15	23:50	2,5
3K-582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	Daily
UB-001	7:30	12:00	Daily

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YGN TO DAC			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:15	18:00	1,3,6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PG = Bangkok Airways	TR = Tiger Airline
UB = Myanmar National Airlines	
VN = Vietnam Airline	
3K = Jet Star	
AI = Air India	
CI = China Airlines	
DD = Nok Airline	
KA = Dragonair	
MI = Silk Air	
TG = Thai Airways	

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



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Miami's Cubans celebrate Castro's death, hopeful for fresh start

MIAMI — Cuban-Americans poured into the streets of Miami's Little Havana on Saturday to celebrate the death of Fidel Castro, while leaders of Florida's Cuban emigre community portrayed his passing as a hopeful sign for reform in their homeland.

Thousands of revelers turned out in force on the streets of the city's Cuban neighbourhood, waving flags, setting off fireworks and banging on pots to mark the death of a man who many scorned as a dictator.

But the crowd included many people too young to remember Castro in his heyday in the 1960s and 1970s, and many of them sounded more pragmatic than ideological when speaking about his death at the age of 90.



A man holds a Cuban flag after the announcement of the death of Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, in the Little Havana district of Miami, Florida, US on 26 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vendors selling "Cuba Libre" flags and T-shirts set up shop on nearly every street corner, as rows of cars, many of them blaring

horns, flooded the streets.

At the Versailles Restaurant, long a centre of the city's exile community, the wait for a table at lunch-

time was more than an hour and a half.

"This is the happiest day of my life, Cubans are finally free!" said Orlidia

Montells, 84, who said she had waited for Castro to die for more than 50 years.

But Julie Peñate, a 15-year-old student who was at the Versailles with her family, spoke of Castro's death in terms of the future.

She said it was an opportunity to build on the warmer relations established under the Obama administration.

"I think now we have a more civilized bond and we can come together and do something greater," Peñate said.

Hugo Ravelo, an 83-year-old former casino employee, said he hoped change would come to the Caribbean island, but he was not sure how much would happen.

"The other one is still there," he said, referring

to Cuban President Raul Castro, Fidel's younger brother.

Ric Herrero, executive director of Cuba Now, was more optimistic. He believes Castro's death should free his brother to push ahead with measures that the more hard-line "Commandante" had long opposed.

Cuba Now is a non-partisan advocacy group that played a pivotal role in persuading President Barack Obama to re-establish diplomatic relations with the communist nation.

"We know that Fidel opposed normalization with the United States and put the brakes on many of the economic reforms that his younger brother tried to implement," Herrero said. "This opens up space for Raul."—Reuters

Canada PM's positive Castro remarks spark ire, humour

TORONTO — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose family's ties with the late Cuban leader Fidel Castro go back decades, mourned the loss of a "remarkable leader" on Saturday, sparking a flurry of criticism and humour at his favourable tone.

Castro, who died on Friday aged 90, won support for bringing schools and hospitals to the poor but also created legions of enemies for his ruthless suppression of dissent.

Trudeau's comments on Castro were markedly more positive than most Western leaders, who either condemned the revolutionary leader's human rights record or tip-toed around the subject.

Instead, Trudeau warmly recalled his late father's friendship with Castro and his own meeting with Castro's three sons and brother — Raul, Cuba's current president —

during a visit to the island nation earlier this month.

"While a controversial figure, both Mr. Castro's supporters and detractors recognised his tremendous dedication and love for the Cuban people who had a deep and lasting affection for 'el Comandante'," Trudeau said in the statement.

He called Castro "larger than life" and "a legendary revolutionary and orator."

Fidel Castro was an honorary pall bearer at the 2000 funeral of Trudeau's father, former prime minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau. In 1976, the senior Trudeau became the first NATO leader to visit Cuba since its revolution, at one point exhorting "Viva Castro!"

"I know my father was very proud to call him a friend and I had the opportunity to meet Fidel when my father passed away," the Canadian prime minis-

ter said on Saturday.

Trudeau did not see Fidel Castro during his official visit to Cuba in November.

His statement was met with puzzlement and derision by some Americans, including US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, who is of Cuban descent.

"Is this a real statement or parody? Because if this is a real statement from the PM of Canada it is shameful and embarrassing," Rubio tweeted.

The statement spawned the Twitter hashtag #TrudeauEulogies, which quickly began trending as people emulated Trudeau's upbeat tone and lack of criticism.

"While controversial, Darth Vader achieved great heights in space construction and played a formative role in his son's life," tweeted @markusoff, riffing on the Star Wars movie villain.—Reuters

France votes for centre-right candidate — and perhaps next president

PARIS — Former prime ministers Francois Fillon and Alain Juppe go head-to-head on Sunday in a runoff vote for France's centre-right presidential nomination, with the winner likely to face a showdown against a resurgent far-right in next year's election.

Opinion polls show Fillon, a social conservative with a deep attachment to his Catholic roots, going into the race as the clear favourite after stunning his centrist challenger with a massive surge in support just before the 20 November first round.

A 62-year-old racing car enthusiast who lives in a Loire valley chateau, Fillon promises radical reforms to France's regulation-encumbered economy, vowing to roll back the state and slash government's bloated costs.

Scrambling to regain

momentum, Juppe, 71, a soft-mannered moderate who is currently mayor of Bordeaux, has attacked the "brutality" of his rival's reform programme and says the Paris lawmaker lacks credibility.

But in a blow to his comeback bid, television viewers found Fillon more convincing in a head-to-head debate on Thursday.

"My enemy is the decline of France," Fillon declared on Friday night, speaking to supporters in Paris at a final rally before the vote. Many French citizens view Sunday's Les Republicains primary contest as a proxy for next spring's presidential election. Pollsters say the winner will be favourite to enter the Elysee palace, with the ruling Socialists in turmoil and the anti-establishment National Front historically disad-

vantaged by France's two-round system.

Yet after Britain's vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump's shock triumph in the US election, France's vote is shaping up to be another battle of strength between weakened mainstream parties and the rising force of insurgent populists. There could still be upsets ahead.

Voting opens at more than 10,000 polling stations across France at 8 a.m. (0700 GMT) and closes at 7 pm. The first results may emerge within an hour and a half of polls closing.

With France still under a state of emergency since Islamist militants killed 130 people in gun and bomb attacks in Paris in November 2015, and with soldiers on patrol in the capital's streets, security will be tight near polling points.—Reuters



French politician Alain Juppe (C), current mayor of Bordeaux and member of the conservative Les Republicains political party, stands between his wife Isabelle (R) and former candidate Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet (L) at a campaign rally in the second round for the French center-right presidential primary election in Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France, on 25 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Anti-pipeline protesters told to leave North Dakota camp by 5 December

CANNON BALL, (ND) — Activists protesting plans to run an oil pipeline beneath a lake near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota said on Saturday they have no intention of leaving a protest camp after US authorities warned it must be vacated by 5 December.

The US Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the federal land where the main camp protesting the Dakota Access pipeline is located, said it would close public access to the area north of the Cannonball River, including to protesters. It said this was partly to protect the general public from violent confrontations between protesters and law enforcement that have occurred in the area.

Those who stay could face prosecution for trespassing, the Corps said in a letter to tribal leaders on Friday.

Organisers told a news conference on Saturday at the main protest site where about 5,000 people are camped that they had no intention of moving.

"We are staying here committed to our prayer," said Dallas Goldtooth, an organiser with the Indigenous Environmental Net-



The Oceti Sakowin camp is seen during a protest against plans to pass the Dakota Access pipeline near the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, US, on 26 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

work. "Forced removal and state oppression? This is nothing new to us as native people."

There are smaller camps on land not subject to the planned restrictions, including an area south of the Cannonball River where the Corps said it was establishing a free-speech zone.

North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple, a Republican, on Saturday said he supported the decision and the federal govern-

ment, which allowed the protesters to become entrenched, must lead in the camp's peaceful closure.

Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault said he received notice on Friday about the decision in a letter from Colonel John Henderson, an Army Corps district commander.

Archambault said the best thing the federal government could do for safety is deny the easement for the pipeline. "We have an escalating situation where

safety is a concern for everybody."

Archambault said he did not see the letter as a forced eviction and the tribe would continue to exercise its First Amendment rights to free speech. The tribe is working on a location on reservation land should people choose to go there, he said.

"I don't think it will ever be an eviction where forces just come in and push people out," Archambault said.—Reuters

Amusement park draws flak for 5,000 frozen fish in ice rink

KITAKYUSHU, (Japan) — An amusement park in southwestern Japan was forced to close its skating rink Sunday after sparking a wave of criticism for freezing around 5,000 fish in the ice.

The operator of Space World in Fukuoka Prefecture opened the ice rink on 12 November, hoping to give customers the impression of skating on the sea, but it started receiving complaints that the attraction was cruel and disgusting, with a rumor circulating online claim-

ing the fish had been frozen alive.

The park operator purchased about 25 types of fish, including horse mackerel and saury, from the fish market in the city of Kitakyushu and also embedded photos of whale sharks and rays in the ice.

"We are sorry if there were people who found it unpleasant," an official of the amusement park said, adding it is considering holding a memorial service for the fish it used.—Kyodo News

Suspect arrested after Japanese woman raped at Indian resort

NEW DELHI — A 25-year-old man was arrested late Saturday on suspicion of raping a Japanese tourist the previous day in the famed beach resort of Kovalam in India's southern state of Kerala, according to police.

According to the police, the woman was hospitalized following the attack in her room in a small hotel in the town famous for its crescent beaches. "The woman called the police and was found bleeding when we reached her at the crime spot," an investigation officer said.

The accused, identified as Tejha Pawar, is son of the owner of handicrafts shop at Kovalam beach, the officer said. The Japanese Consulate General in Chennai said the woman is conscious and able to communicate. There is concern over increasing sexual violence against women in India, with attacks against foreign travellers also on the rise. Last year, six men were arrested for the gang rape of a young Japanese woman in Jaipur, a popular tourist destination in the western state of Rajasthan.—Kyodo News

Don't underestimate EU warnings on membership talks, Juncker tells Turkey

BRUSSELS — Turkey should heed European Union warnings over halting membership talks and carry out reforms demanded by the bloc, the president of the European Commission said on Saturday in a newspaper interview.

Jean-Claude Juncker said Thursday's vote by the European Parliament to suspend talks with Ankara should not be underestimated

ed because, although not binding, "it will produce effects in the capitals" of EU states that decide on membership. Speaking to Belgian newspaper *La Libre Belgique*, Juncker also dismissed President Tayyip Erdogan's threats to end a refugee deal with the EU that has sharply reduced the flow of migrants to Europe from the Middle East and Asia.

He urged Erdogan to

carry out the necessary reforms, starting with an overhaul of anti-terrorism legislation, if he wants Turkish citizens to get visa-free travel to the EU — a concession that is part of the refugee deal.

Juncker also denied having said he would quit if Martin Schulz left his job as president of the European Parliament, dismissing media reports more strongly than in previous statements.

Schulz, a German center-left politician, decided this week not to seek a new mandate, a move that is likely to alter the EU's political balance.

A shift in favour of Europe's center-right could raise questions about Juncker's staying in his post and on Donald Tusk's presidency of the European Council of EU governments.

"According to legal texts, I am in charge until the first of November 2019," Juncker said.—Reuters



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker addresses the European Parliament during a debate on the last European Summit, in Strasbourg, France, on 26 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Amber Heard stars in video on domestic violence

LOS ANGELES — Amber Heard, who just settled her acrimonious divorce case with Johnny Depp, has spoken out about eliminating violence against women in a video. The actress partnered with the #GirlGaze Project for a new video about domestic violence, and briefly shared her personal story, reported *People* magazine. “I guess there was a lot of shame attached to that, the label of victim. It happens to so many women you know, when it happens in your home behind closed doors with someone you love it’s not straightforward,” Heard, 30, says.

“If a stranger did this as it was pointed out to me if a stranger did this it would be a no brainer.” Heard had filed for divorce from ex-husband

Johnny Depp in May after 15 months of marriage, claiming in court filings that Depp, 53, had abused her throughout their relationship.

She had also filed a domestic violence restraining order against Depp four days after filing for divorce.

“If I hadn’t had a few people that I really trust around me, a few women support, a few friends. If I hadn’t had them around me, how different my life would be,” Heard said in her emotional PSA.

“Just as a woman having gone through this in the public stage, in the public arena that I did it, I have a unique opportunity to remind other women this doesn’t have to be the way it is, you don’t have to do it alone, you’re not alone. We can change this,” she added.

The couple announced they had reached a divorce settlement outside of court in August, just one day before their scheduled restraining order hearing. The judge ultimately dismissed the domestic violence case against Depp and terminated the actor’s temporary restraining order.—PTI



Keiko Yagi (C), director of “Behind the Cove,” a documentary aimed at ending “misconceptions” about the long standing Japanese tradition of whaling and dolphin hunting, speaks with people who came to see the film at a movie theater in New York, on 25 November 2016. PHOTO: W

Screening of Japanese whaling documentary begins in New York

NEW YORK — A Japanese woman who directed a documentary aimed at ending “misconceptions” about the long standing Japanese tradition of whaling and dolphin hunting said Friday she hopes her film will help many Americans learn different perspectives.

“I believe the United States is a country which would listen to opinions different than theirs if they are clearly stated,” said Keiko Yagi, as the film “Behind the Cove” began showing in New York that day.

For the film to be nominated for an Academy award next year, the 49-year-old Tokyo native has been fulfilling requirements such as getting documentary shown across the United States.

After the weeklong screening in New York through Thursday, Yagi will fly to California for another weeklong screening in Beverly Hills.

Yagi began making the independent documentary after the International Court of Justice decision in March 2014 that Japan should abandon its so-called research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean drew her attention to the issue.

“In the beginning I did not intend to make a film, I was just trying to find the answer to one question: why is the whale being targeted?” she explained as the impetus for her documentary.

“Behind the Cove” attempts to rebut the 2010 Oscar-winning US film “The Cove,” which thrust the small Japanese whaling town of Taiji into the international spotlight with bloody scenes of its annual dolphin hunt.

“Who can judge which animal should be eaten or not?” said Yagi during the Q & A session at the end of the first screening in New York.—Kyodo News

Memorabilia torched on London barge to protest punk gone rotten

LONDON — Piles of punk music memorabilia went up in flames on a river barge in London on Saturday in a protest against the way the once rebellious genre has been subsumed into mainstream culture.

Joe Corre, son of former Sex Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren and designer Vivienne Westwood, set fire to clothes and paraphernalia he valued at between 5 and 10 million pounds (\$6.2 million - \$12.5 million), on the 40th anniversary of the band’s debut single “Anarchy in the UK”.

Standing in front of flags bearing the names of global corporations, Corre also burned firework-stuffed effigies of Prime Minister Theresa May and her predecessors David Cameron and Tony Blair, dressed in Sex Pistols clothes.

“Punk was never meant to be nostalgic,” Corre said, addressing a crowd of around 100 people on the bank of the River Thames in the affluent Chelsea area of London.

“Punk has become another marketing tool to sell you something you don’t need,” said Corre, who himself co-founded lingerie brand Agent Provocateur.

He directed his “Burn Punk

London” protest at a celebration of punk music backed by the Mayor of London and the British Council, called Punk.London.

Corre’s punk collection, which he began burning a few

days ago and will continue to destroy over the coming weeks, includes rare Pistols recordings.

Sex Pistols guitarist Glen Matlock told Sky News that Corre’s protest was “dopey”.

“I want to paraphrase Monty Python — he’s not the savior, he’s a naughty boy. I think that Joe is not the anti-Christ, I think he’s a nincompoop,” Matlock said.—Reuters



A collection of punk memorabilia belonging to Joe Corre, the son of Malcolm McLaren, the former manager of the Sex Pistols and fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, is burnt on a boat on the River Thames, in London, Britain, on 26 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Haute cuisine? Santa serves up sleigh-borne dinner in the sky

BRUSSELS — Not waiting at home for Santa Claus, gourmets in Brussels are flying off aboard his sleigh to dine with him above the city's rooftops and twinkling Christmas lights.

"Santa in the Sky" is a novel twist on the Belgian capital's "Dinner in the Sky" venture, where diners and the chefs cooking for them are lifted high in the air on an open platform suspended from a construction crane.

This weekend on the city's chic Sablon square shopping district, a bell-ringing Santa Claus is welcoming people aboard the "restaurant" fitted out as a sleigh decked with lights and drawn through the air by four theater-prop reindeer.

Diners, who sit strapped to chairs to eat at a



Guests enjoy dinner at the table 'Santa in the sky', lifted by a crane and decorated to match the appearance of a 'Santa Sleigh' as part as the Christmas festivities, in Brussels, Belgium, on 25 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

bar running round the open kitchen, can pay up to 250 euros (\$265) for a gastronomic four-course supper with wine, or go for options

starting at 55 euros for tea — of course, it's "high tea".

Free to marvel at Brussels' Flemish Renaissance grandeur and mediaeval

churches, customers can savor haute cuisine from distinguished chefs, some with Michelin stars to their name.

On Friday evening, Maxime Mazier's menu included a lobster and artichoke starter, line-caught sea bass with shellfish and coconut marshmallow with mango. The trick, he said, was coping with the gusts of winter night air that whip around the sleigh.

"It's not that warm," he said. "Just as you're serving, if the wind gets up, for the fish, which has to be served just right, it's the timing that's important."

Michael Chiche, who helps run the Brussels-based firm that over the past 10 years has brought the sky-dining experience to 58 countries, said he was confident the four-day Christmas event which ends on Sunday, would be repeated next year.

"To be in the air, first, it's the view," he said.

"Secondly, you're blocked. It means that you are with your guests, you are with the chef and all the flavors, everything, you're going to experience it completely differently."

Helene Ziegler, 19, an art history student, said it had been worth a moment of panic: "As we were on the way up, I got a bit scared. It was moving. But once on top, it became very quiet."

"It's great to see the entire city. The food is very good. The chefs prepare it in front of us. It's wonderful."

The evening, she said, was a gift to her and her sister from their father though he found a convenient excuse not to join them 100 feet (35 meters) above the cold cobbles of the Sablon.—Reuters

Computer science to become Ireland's Leaving Cert subject by 2019

DUBLIN — All second-level students in Ireland are required to study computer science, including coding, as a subject of the country's Leaving Certificate Examinations in three years' time, a cabinet minister said on Thursday.

Irish Education Minister Richard Bruton said he had set 2019 as a target for

the introduction of the new subject in all Irish primary and second-level schools.

The Leaving Certificate Examinations, commonly referred to as the Leaving Cert, is the final examination in the Irish secondary school systems.

The new subject is one of a number of recommendations in an expert report

on education in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in all Irish schools.

"This will ensure that every child has an opportunity to develop the computational, and flexible and creative thinking skills that are the basis of computer science and coding," Bruton said. The STEM Education

Review Group, which produced Thursday's report, was led by Professor Brian MacCraith, and included experts in STEM education as well as industry figures from world-leading companies including Intel and IBM.

The report outlines the extent of the economic and job opportunities for Ireland that are dependent on

high quality STEM education, and also outlines that a step-change is needed in the provision of that education if the country is to compete on an international level. It proposes 47 recommendations in order to deliver on these ambitions. In response to the publication of the report, the Irish minister has identified 21 of these actions for initial

priority implementation. All STEM teaching should be delivered by qualified STEM teachers, he said. "Currently, there are challenges in the sciences, including an imbalance between the number of teachers with biology, chemistry and physics qualifications, which we are committing to address," he added.—Xinhua

One ticket has winning numbers in \$421 million Powerball lottery

SAN FRANCISCO — A lottery ticket sold in Tennessee had the winning numbers for a \$421 million Powerball jackpot, one of the biggest on record, officials said after Saturday's draw.

The winning numbers selected were 17, 19, 21, 37, 44, with the Powerball 16. No one as yet had stepped forward to claim the prize, which grew in size since 17 September, the last time anyone

matched all six numbers.

The jackpot soared from \$403 million to a reported \$420.9 million on Saturday due to a spate of late ticket-buying.

The prize is paid out over 30 years, with the option of a lump sum payment, which officials said would add up to about \$254.7 million.

The odds of winning the Powerball jackpot are 1 in 292 million.

The largest ever US

lottery prize of \$1.6 billion was split between three winning tickets in January.

Powerball, one of several games run by the Multi-State Lottery Association, a non-profit owned and operated by member states' lotteries, is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Players can either buy \$2 tickets using their own numbers or have them randomly generated by

a computer. The Mega Millions lottery, also offered by the association, produced the country's second-largest-ever prize, worth \$656 million, in a 2012 drawing.

For every \$1 worth of Powerball sales, half goes to prizes, 40 per cent to state governments for causes such as education, and 10 per cent to retailers who sell the tickets and other administrative costs.—Reuters



Lottery stubs are pictured at an ampm convenience store in Pasadena, California US, on 21 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(28-11-2016 07:00 AM ~ 29-11-2016 07:00 AM)

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-2) Myanmar Chinthe(Myanmar Lion)
07:41	Am	Myanmar Harpist
07:47	Am	ABU Radio Song Festival
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Visit To Ye
08:47	Am	A Star for Great Achievement
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Clam Farming
09:43	Am	Safari World
09:55	Am	Soft Drinks without Vendor

10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory of Bago City
10:51	Am	ARTIST SOE HNIN AUNG

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (EP-4)(Part-1)
07:45	Pm	Elephant Catching and Scaring Trip Mile Stone 26
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Enchanting Rakhine Land
08:45	Pm	Entrepreneur: Nan Ei Ei Zar

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

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

Int'l flower show takes place in central Viet Nam

HANOI — Flower designers from Asian countries and Viet Nam are taking part in Viet Nam's central Da Nang International Flower Show which opened on Friday.

According to the organiser, the two-day event will draw 18 international and local designers who will compete in two categories of flower fashion design and free style.

They will present flower arrangements in accordance with the theme "Mediation in Tea and Flower" on the second day.

A flower fashion show will also take place on Saturday evening, featuring a fashion collection made of fresh and dried flowers, reported the state-run news agency VNA.—Xinhua

Chelsea stay at the summit, Aguero at the double for Man City

LONDON — Chelsea stayed at the top of the Premier League after coming from a goal down to beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 at Stamford Bridge on Saturday after earlier winners Manchester City and Liverpool also briefly scaled summit on a topsy turvy day.

City came from behind to beat Burnley 2-1 with two Sergio Aguero goals in the day's early kick off with Liverpool later edging above them on goal difference after Divock Origi and James Milner finally broke fierce Sunderland resistance in a 2-0 win at Anfield.

Chelsea goals either side of halftime from Pedro and Victor Moses cancelled out an earlier strike by Christian Eriksen to end the league's last unbeaten record and secure a seventh successive league victory for the Blues, who retain a one-point lead over their two closest title rivals.

That winning run has coincided with Moses securing a starting spot and the Nigeria international, so long the forgotten man at Chelsea, was particularly impressive



Chelsea's Pedro celebrates scoring their first goal with Gary Cahill at Stamford Bridge, on 26 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

on Saturday, charging down the right to collect Diego Costa's pull back on 51 minutes, firing the ball into the net off Jan Vertonghen.

"I was very pleased with the goal," said Moses, who spent the

previous three seasons on loan at Liverpool, Stoke City and West Ham United before Antonio Conte converted him into a wing back.

"I am delighted to have

found a home. I am pleased to be playing this season. The manager gave me the chance to express myself and I am relishing it."

Eriksen had slammed home a thunderous finish from just out-

side the area to put Spurs ahead after 11 minutes, before Pedro turned neatly and curled in a magnificent shot to level just before halftime.

City and Liverpool had earlier both struggled for their victories with the Reds' win over Sunderland coming at a potentially high price with an ankle injury to Philippe Coutinho, who left the ground on crutches with his left foot in a protective boot.

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said it was too early to say how serious the injury is after the Brazilian came off second best in a challenge with Didier Ndong late in the first half. But with Adam Lallana already out injured, the German faces a nervous wait for Coutinho's scan results.

On the pitch, Coutinho's replacement Origi eventually made the breakthrough against Sunderland with a shot that looked more like a cross from the left of the area. Milner scored their second after Sadio Mane was fouled in the box.—Reuters

Ronaldo double as Real ride luck to beat Sporting

BARCELONA — Cristiano Ronaldo continued his rich vein of form by scoring twice in Real Madrid's 2-1 home win over struggling Sporting Gijon on Saturday, although the La Liga leaders got a lucky break when the visitors squandered a second-half penalty.

The prolific Portuguese put Real ahead from the spot in the fifth minute and dived in to head the second in the 18th, claiming his eighth goal in four league games to go top of the scoring charts with 10 strikes this season.

Sevilla beat Valencia 2-1 to go second, while Espanyol picked up a first home win of the season by beating Leganes 3-0 and Malaga overcame a late fightback from Deportivo La Coruna to win 4-3.

Despite the early goals, Real struggled to control the game on a rainswept afternoon at the Bernabeu, and Carlos Carmona pulled one back for the visiting side 10 minutes before halftime.

Sporting had a golden opportunity to level in the 78th minute after Nacho was punished for a shove on Victor Rodriguez but Dujé Cop sent the penalty sailing over the bar to hand Real a somewhat fortuitous sixth successive league victory.

Real top the standings on 33 points, six ahead of Sevilla in second and seven ahead of Barcelona, who visit Real Sociedad on Sunday.

"It was a game to forget for

us because nothing went how we wanted it to. We lacked a bit of everything but we're happy with the three points, which is the most important thing," Real coach Zinedine Zidane told reporters.

"We can't be happy with our display but sometimes this happens. Above all I'm annoyed because we had the game in our hands and their goal changed the game, they came out more motivated in the second half. The game got complicated but we can be happy by the fact we're still top and unbeaten."

Sporting went to the Bernabeu in the relegation zone and without a win in their last nine games but gave Real two early frights, Cop and Carmona squandering clear chances.

Ronaldo gave Real the lead by squeezing a penalty under the grasp of Diego Marino to add to his hat-trick in the 3-0 win over Atletico Madrid last week and did not have to wait long for his second, sliding in to nod home Nacho's cross.

An uncharacteristically sloppy ball from Luka Modric led to Sporting striking back through Carmona and Real should have been punished further by Cop, but the Croatian lacked the composure needed to silence the Bernabeu and Real survived.

In Seville, an own goal by Ezequiel Garay put the home side ahead in the 53rd minute after an uneventful first half before Barcelona loanee Munir El Haddadi levelled in the 65th.—Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo runs with the ball past Sporting Gijon's Manuel Castellano Castro 'Lillo' and Ismael Lopez during Spanish La Liga Santander, at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, Madrid, Spain on 26 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Milan thump Empoli, Chievo furious after Torino defeat

MILAN — Gianluca Lapadula scored his first Serie A brace to help AC Milan thump Empoli 4-1 away on Saturday while Chievo were left fuming after their 2-1 defeat at Torino.

The win moved second-placed Milan, who are enjoying a revival this season under coach Vincenzo Montella, within four points of leaders Juventus who face an awkward trip to Genoa on Sunday.

Lapadula, signed in the close season after scoring 30 goals to help win Pescara promotion from Serie B last season, put the visitors ahead after 15 minutes.

The 26-year-old, who has spent his entire career in the lower divisions of the Italian league apart from a season with Gorica in Slovenia, turned in Suso's cross with a first-time shot after Empoli lost possession.

Empoli quickly equalised when Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma flapped at Massimo Maccarone's cross and the unmarked Riccardo Saponara blasted the ball in, ending a five-match scoreless run in home games for the Blues.

Milan appeared to be making heavy weather of the game until they floored Empoli with three goals in a 16-minute spell in the second half.

Suso side-footed in Ignazio Abate's cross in the 61st minute, Empoli defender Andrea Costa turned Lapadula's low cross into his own net and Lapadula himself scored the fourth with an angled drive.

Chievo coach Rolando Maran claimed that his side should have been awarded three penalties and that one of Torino's goals was offside after his team's defeat.

"This controversial situation has shaped the match," he said. "If the right decisions had been made, we would not have lost."

Chievo were especially unhappy when Sergio Pellissier's header hit Antonio Barreca's outstretched arm, although they were already two goals behind by then.

Iago Falque headed Torino ahead after 35 minutes and curled in the second three minutes later.

The Flying Donkeys — who adopted the nickname after supporters of neighbours Verona claimed that donkeys would fly before Chievo got into Serie A — pulled one back through a Roberto Inglese header with five minutes left.

They pushed hard for an equaliser but lost their heads when Fabrizio Cacciatore was sent off for dissent.—Reuters