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State Counsellor visits vocational training Institute (SMVTI), Yangon

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor, visited Singapore Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI) on Natmauk Road, Bahan Township in Yangon yesterday afternoon accompanied by Union Ministers, Yangon Region Cabinet's Chief Minister, deputy ministers, Mr Robert Chua, Singaporean ambassador to Myanmar, and other officials.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was conducted round the institute by Mr Foo Jee Hing, the principal of the SMVTI, and Dr Myo Thidar, vice principal of the institute. The state counsellor was briefed on how students are receiving on-the-job training.

The State Counsellor was presented by the students from SMVTI with gifts of remembrance.

"Our country greatly needs vocational training. It plays an important role in the world, failing to be recognised of its importance by many. Most regard only graduates as men of wisdom and educated persons. Education means the qualification to confront the challenges of life. Only if we overcome challenges of life, can we be recognized to be men of wisdom. Failing that, it is difficult to become so. Only the people who can rely on self-help are endowed with the dignity of a human-being. There is no work void of virtue. Any work or job we value is valuable" Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said when meeting the principal, teachers and students.

The State Counsellor went on to say, "Today men as well as women need to work. Girls must stand on their own feet, that is, needn't depend on others for their living. As for students learning at



State Counsellor interacting with the students at SMVTI, Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

SMVTI, they must keep in their mind that they are learning the vocational training not only for themselves but also for the whole nation. We must aim at developing the culture of valuing the vocational training in our country. Students learning vocational training in the most developed countries such as Sweden, Germany and Switzerland are not ranked low compared to those studying at universities and colleges. In some places, they earn more money and their parents are satisfied with their offspring's

life prospects. It is incumbent upon us all to make a system a success. The students from SMVTI need to be ideals for education. You are requested to help upgrade the vocational training, an essential need of the country."

Afterward, the State Counsellor posed for the documentary photos together with the principal, teachers and students.

The institute was opened on October 16, 2015 with the aim of producing skilled workers, training ebullient youths in Myanmar, fill-

ing the needs of skilled labourers to compete with international markets and training qualified teachers.

The institute conduct classes in 10 subjects including a 6-month-course in engineering and hotel & tourism. There are 40 students in a class — 400 students in all.

Any interested youth aged 16 and older who have passed the matriculation examination are eligible to attend the school. On completion of the training course, they will be conferred with certificates of qualification in vocational training by

the Ministry of Education.

Plans for signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) are underway to create access to study while on the job and to various job opportunities, not to lose sight of potential jobs.

During her visit to Singapore from November 30 to December 2, the State Counsellor discussed with Mr Lee Hsien Loong about a 3-year extension of the MoU on Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

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Reading of contemporary historical literature, day 3 held

Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, attended the ceremony for the paper reading on contemporary historical literature and the winter season book fair festival held yesterday morning, the third day of the event held in the compound of the central press on Theinbyu road in Botahtaung township, under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Information.

The morning session of the paper reading ceremony was co-chaired by Dr Kyaw Win, Dr Tin Hlaing, (also known by his penname, Pho Hlaing), U Kyaw Naing (Htet Myet) with U Aung Myint Oo (Aung Myint Oo—M.A), the presenter of the paper introduced by Dr Kyaw Win.

U Aung Myint Oo read the paper titled “Historical Lessons on National Unity, Peace & De-



Paper-reading session on literature of contemporary history in progress. PHOTO: HLA MOE

mocracy recounted by Pyithu Yebaw,” and replied to questions raised by audience.

Afterward, the chairmen made their respective conclusions.

Dr Tin Hlaing then intro-

duced the presenter U Nay Myo Aye(Nay Myo Aye) to those present at the ceremony. U Nay Myo Aye read the paper titled “Contemporary Historical Cartoons on Politics,” and replied to questions raised by interested

persons.

The afternoon session was co-chaired by Dr Toe Hla, Dr Hla Maung and Daw Khin Hnin Oo (Khin Hnin Oo) with U Aye Nyein (Htun Aung Kyaw) the presenter of the paper introduced

by Dr Toe Hla.

U Aye Nyein read the paper titled, “Analysis of Land Reform by the Parliamentary Government in the years 1950s from Historical Aspect,” and replied to the questions raised by the audience, with the conclusions of the chairmen made afterward.

Dr Hla Maung introduced U Than Win Shwe (Maung Than Win Shwe), who read the paper titled, “Contemporary Cooperatives Literature In The Modern History on Myanma Economy,” and answered the audience raised by the audience.

Then, chairmen gave their respective conclusions.

Chairmen and paper presenters were provided with gifts of honour and honoraria.—*Yee Yee Myint & Ohnmar Than*

Kofi Annan visits Maungtaw

MR Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary-General and current chairman of the Rakhine State Advisory Commission, along with commission members and the Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Moe Tun and members of the Rakhine State Cabinet, left Sittway Airport for Kyikanpyin village in Maungtaw by helicopter yesterday morning.

Mr Kofi Annan and the commission visited the village, which is located near the No.1 Border Guard Police command centre that came under violent attack on 9 October. The commission chairman and party proceeded to Warpeik Village, where Police Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin, Commander of the No.1 Border Guard Police HQ, explained that the village was linked with the 9th October violent attacks in part because lost weapons from the Kyikanpyin No.1 Border Guard Police Command HQ were recovered there.

Afterwards, Commissioner of Maungtaw District U Ye Htut explained the situations in the area. The district commissioner and the police commander replied to questions raised by Mr Kofi Annan.



Former UNSG Kofi Annan and members of commission in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Mr Kofi Annan and members of the commission also visited Kyetyoepyin Village and met with local people before proceeding to Shwe Baho Village in southern Maungtaw to meet with local residents.

Later, Mr Kofi Annan and members of the commission visited Buthidaung and met with local ethnic people at the Guest House of the township administrator and with Muslim residents at the meeting hall of the township administrator before visiting Buthidaung Hospital.

Mr Kofi Annan expressed his thanks to authorities for arrangements to meet members of the both

communities during his visit.

The advisory commission will submit their report to the union government based on their findings on ground within 12 months and the recommendations will ease tensions between the two communities, according to Mr Kofi Annan.

Mr Kofi Annan and commissioners visited Rakhine State in September for the first time and said that they did not find any oppression between the two communities. His second visit to Rakhine State will last 9 days. The commission is scheduled to visit Myaybon and Mrauk-U today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Government troops defend Mongkoe military post

A military post in Mongkoe was under attack by joint-forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Arakan Army (AA) yesterday, forcing government troops at the military post to fight back bravely, according to a news release of the Commander-in-chief of Defence Services.

The joint-forces tried to ap-

proach the post by launching attacks from the east and south with the assistance of heavy weapons fire at 1 am, but were unable to break the staunch defences of the government troops, the statement from Defence Services said.

At 7:15 am, as the attackers launched another siege to capture the post from the east, south and west with heavy weapons, government troops had to defend the post with the use of air power and

artillery.

The joint forces were forced to halt their siege at about 10:20 am. Government troops recovered three bodies and three weapons of the joint force.

Later in the afternoon at about 1:30 pm, the joint forces in mufty approached the post again and were again halted in their attempts due to the defence of the government troops, leaving five more bodies and five weapons.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Daylight robbery of Money Changer at gunpoint in busy township of largest city in Myanmar

STAFF of a money changer in busy Sanchaung Township of Yangon, the largest and commercial city of Myanmar, were robbed at gunpoint of about K 15 million and some US\$ 15,000 in broad daylight yesterday afternoon, according to the police in the township.

“I heard some strange sounds from the money changer and went into it but I had to leave the shop when I saw a staffer lying on the floor being threatened at gunpoint.

Ten minutes later, the robbers ran out of the shop with bags of money on their shoulders,” a security guard near the shop said.

At about noon, two young men speaking an ethnic dialect entered the money changer owned by M.S Group Money Changer located at No 14 (B) on Shangon Street, where two staffers, U Myo Myint and Ma Ei were waiting for their customers. One of the men told the

staff that they needed K 200,000 for their school fees in exchange for their US dollar and asked the staff how much US currency they needed to bring. When the staff told them they needed to bring US\$ 168, they returned.

They came back at about 1.30 and robbed the staff of Myanmar and US currencies at gunpoint. One of them was using a slingshot to threaten their victims.

On their way to escape from the scene, the man with the gun shot backward but it was not sure it was just an explosion or a real gunshot, according to the security guard. The two men got onto a No 51 Bus heading to downtown and got away.

One of the men had a lame leg, according to an eye-witness.

The Police said that the gun used in the robbery was an airgun and an investigation has been launched into the robbery.—*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*



Local police arrive at money changer after the robbery. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

Peace Commission succeeds in withdrawal of Wa troops from Mongla area

THE delegation of the Peace Commission was able to defuse tension between Wa Special Region (2) and Mongla Special Region (4) but failed to find solutions through negotiations with non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, according to U Khin Zaw Oo, Secretary of the Peace Commission.

"We successfully mediated for easing of tensions between Wa Special Region (2) and Mongla Special Region (4) as we had planned before, but we could not participate in a new agenda when we arrived in China. The delegation discussed with EAOs in accordance with the agenda made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We could not discuss something that was out of the

agenda. China places emphasis on stability and trade in the border area. So, they told us to ask for any help we needed. The Chinese foreign minister said they were ready to offer us what we needed. At a time clashes are fierce in northern Shan State, it is difficult to mediate for negotiations. However, we will find out the solution through negotiations," said U Khin Zaw Oo.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, a delegation of the Peace Commission visited China from 26 November to 2nd December and held a press conference on outcomes of negotiations among EAOs at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.



Officials of Peace Commission responding media questions at the press conference. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANNITA)

The Peace Commission delegation met with the Chinese foreign minister as well as special envoys and held negotiations. Chinese authorities told the delegation that China would not interfere in the internal affairs of

Myanmar and was ready to offer assistance if necessary. China also expressed its support for the peace process of Myanmar and vowed to strengthen the ties between the two countries.

As per the outcome of the

negotiations with the delegation of Wa Special Region (2), about 800 members of Wa troops would withdraw from the area of Mongla Special Region (4), according to U Khin Zaw Oo. —Zaw Gyi (Pannita)

International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 2016 held in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Naing Thet Lwin urged citizens to be proud that Myanmar is an ideal country where people help others with disadvantages at a ceremony to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 2016 held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar people who possess the fine traditions of perseverance, friendliness, generosity and sympathy always actively participate in the humanitarian tasks of the United Nations, the union minister added.

He urged all to contribute to building an ideal country that encourages Persons with disabilities to enjoy equal rights and participation by removing the barriers for the disabled.

The minister for the State Counsellor's Office read out the message of the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to the event before Resident Representative Mr Rory Mungoven read



Children from schools for the disabled entertaining guests with performance of national dances on International Day of the Persons with Disabilities. PHOTO: MAW SI (MNA)

the message of the UN Secretary-General.

Later, the Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung and the Union Minister for Health

and Sports Dr Myint Htwe presented awards for outstanding articles on rights of the persons with disabilities, endeavours for inclusive education, creation of job opportunities for the

disabled and media for the disabled.

At the ceremony, children from the schools for the disabled entertained the guests with music and performances.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 2016 was organized with the theme of achieving 17 goals for the future we want. —Maw Si (Myanmar News Agency)



Doyen laterati at the homage-paying ceremony on Sarsodaw Day. PHOTO: MNA

Homage paid to doyen writers on Myanmar Sarsodaw Day

DR Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of the Yangon Region Cabinet, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, doyen writers and donors attended the ceremony for paying obeisance to doyen writers in commemoration of Myanmar Sarsodaw Day held at city hall in Yangon yesterday morning under the sponsorship of

the Myanmar Writers' Association.

U Kyaw Win, chairman of the Myanmar Writers' Association, said that the writers deserved respect for their service because their literary works benefited mankind.

U Ohn Maung (also known by his penname Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) read out the list of

donors. The chairman of the writers' association accepted the donation of Ks60 lakhs from the office of the President, Ks10 lakhs from Yangon Region Cabinet, Ks5 lakhs from YCDC and other organisations' donations.

On behalf of the doyen writers, Dr Yee Yee Hla (Yuwady Khin Oo) spoke words of thanks. — Myanmar News Agency

Prospect of Maungtaw Trade Zone Development

Myint Maung Soe

SO as to gain sustainable peace and stability in Maungtaw region, Rakhine State, plans for the development of the area are underway. Being a border town, Maungtaw may become a developed area as well as a potential source of receiving foreign currency for the nation provided that its border trade gathers more momentum.

The Kanyinchaung trade zone started near the village of Shwe Zar, north of Maungtaw, in 2015. The first phase of construction of the main building, two jetties and 20 warehouses have been completed. In the second phase, the 50-acre trade zone's ground level will be expanded up to 5 feet in height, with fencing to be implemented further, it was learnt.

"Out of 9 border gates in the country, the Maungtaw border trade zone stood high on the totem pole of export, with 90 per cent export and 10 import import. Yet, as regards the trade amount, Maungtaw's border trade lagged behind Muse and Myawady. Export catches foreign currency from other countries with imports giving



The newly built wharf in Kanyinchaung trade zone. PHOTO: A1 Soe

out our dollars to others. Therefore, we are implementing to develop the Maungtaw border trade with greater advantage in export", said U Aung Myint Thein, the chairman of the Maungtaw Border Trade Merchants' Federation.

Now that the Maungtaw

creek has been silting up, the Kanyinchaung trade zone is being implemented for ships to call at the port for loading and unloading. On the completion of a greater national grid line that can supply electricity to Maungtaw district in sufficient amounts,

there will emerge cold-storage facilities and hotels. Presently, freshwater and saltwater fish, prawns and dried fish, cane and bamboo are mostly being exported from Maungtaw border trade. There are nearly 15,000 acres of prawn breeding farms and fish

lakes as well, it was learnt.

Geographical economic analysis shows the neighbouring country has a population of 160 million or so, having no sufficient land for the agriculture and livestock breeding. In terms of the size of the country, it is very small for their population. If more products can be exported to the neighbouring country by increasingly promoting the volume of prawn and fishing lakes, the local populace will acquire job opportunities more than ever, and fetch foreign exchange much more for the country.

Similarly, with the emergence of Kanyinchaung trade zone, hotel industry, garment factories and prawn cold storage businesses also will come into existence. The local populace will have many job opportunities if investments can be made in sectors such as transportation, electricity, fishery and agriculture.

Provided that investments in various sectors can be made in harmony with the implementation of the Kanyinchaung trade zone, socio-economic development and sustainable peace and stability of the area will surely be achieved.—
Myint Maung Soe

Developer Conference on 17-18 December

THE sixth Developer Conference in Myanmar will take place mid-December in Yangon to exchange knowledge on the state-of-the-art technologies and systems between local and foreign experts, according to the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association.

Organised by the MCPA, the event is scheduled to be held on 17 and 18 December at Yangon's MICT Park on Hlaing University Campus.

U Okka Kyaw, secretary of Mandalay Region MCPA, said the main purpose of the conference

is to encourage developers in the professional sector by exchanging their challenges and difficulties relating to the latest innovations and developing new software.

Faculty members of technological universities, IT technicians and foreign experts have been invited to attend the two-day event to display their innovative ideas and creations.

The conference is open to all IT professionals involved in any kind of software and related solutions development.

The annual Developer Conference

(DevCon) started in Yangon in 2011.

At this year's conference, the business side of software, security, software development and languages, experience/case studies, trends (Cloud, XaaS, Big Data, Apps, AI and Bots), UI/UX and other software-related technologies will be discussed.

The event is free for MCPA members, but non-members need to pay a Ks10,000 registration fees. Early-bird registration will enjoy the reduced price of Ks5,000.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

New bridge allows vehicles to resume travel

A new bailey bridge built side-by-side with Swumlon Bridge on the Muse-Lashio Union Expressway, which had been damaged by a mine, has enabled vehicles to resume travel, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor Office.

About seven feet above the floor of the bridge there was damage from a mine planted by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) on the morning of 30 November morning. Government troops repaired the bridge for temporary use but only one vehicle could drive on it at a time.



Preparations being seen to build the Bailey bridge. PHOTO: MNA

At present, a new bailey bridge 25-feet in length and 18-feet in width was built beside it

by Oriental Highway Co. and has enabled vehicle traffic to resume.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Five arrested for timber trafficking in Bilin Township

AUTHORITIES arrested five people involved in timber trafficking in Bilin Township in Mon State yesterday after they were unable to produce the documents proving their ownership of the property.

Investigators say that they also confiscated over Ks10 million worth illegally harvested teak weighing over six tonnes from the suspects.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the two suspected motor vehicles near Shwethanlwin toll gate in the township.

They found over Ks3.6 mil-

lion worth timber weighing over two tonnes from a car being driven by Hla Win, with another on board.

Police also discovered about Ks65 million worth timber weighing over four tonnes from another vehicle driven by Ko Thet, 35, of Taungoo Township.

The five suspects—Hla Win, 41, Ko Thet, 35, Sithu Aung, 26, Aung Aung, 34, and the 40-year-old Aung Hsan Oo—have been arrested under the existing laws.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Heroin and yaba seized in Lashio, Mandalay

OFFICERS and staff from Lashio seized heroin and yaba from a vehicle near the Oriental toll gate, Lashio Township on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police stopped and searched a vehicle driven by Kyu Chein Yu with Ma Hlo Shee Yu on board and found 30,000 yaba tablets and 88 soap boxes containing heroin weighing 1.144 kilos.

On the same day, police

from Mandalay searched the house of Ma Moe Thu at the Rose Estate on Kannar Road, Aungmyaythasan Township, Mandalay and found 3,370 yaba tablets.

Hsan Min was found together with the homeowner. Police have filed charges against both suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—*Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business

Rice growers ask for extension of repayment period to Kayin State government

LOCAL rice growers recently asked for the extension of a repayment period to the Kayin State government because of low production this season, according to the Kayin State Rice Growers and Producers Association.

Farmers are worried about the current low demand for rice that is estimated to continue in the market.

One hundred baskets of rice weighing 4,091.7 litres are currently selling for about Ks400,000. The price of rice for 100 baskets was worth between Ks500,000 and 600,000 last year.

Because of the current low price, growers are asking for more time to pay back the agricultural loans for monsoon paddies disbursed by the local authorities. According to the rules, growers will repay loans no later than 25 February next year.

The rice farmers submitted their proposal at the beginning of this month to the state chief minister and relevant departments to extend a repayment period from February to April.

In addition to the low yield this season, planters are also faced with growing agricultural expenses including the labour price and rental fees for harvesting machines, said U Tha Aung, the chair of the association, who wants the authorities to grant long-term loans.

"For monsoon paddy, the growers received Ks100,000 for



A female farmer harvests rice grown in irrigated field Monday, July 5, 2010, in a town near Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

an acre of plantation in 2015-2016 FY. The amount rose to Ks150,000 per acre this fiscal year. But it does not cover the costs of Ks200,000 in total," he said.

"The growers expected to enjoy a handsome profit from their plantations if the government finds new market for rice pro-

duced in Kayin State," said U Soe Thein, one of local farmers.

Kayin State has over 500,000 acres of farmland. Some marketable species of paddy strains thrive in these areas. The rice from the state mostly goes to nearby regions such as Mawlamyine and Thaton townships.

The Union government is

now arranging to buy rice especially from Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions in a bid to keep the price stable. The authorities used similar methods to control the market in the 2011-2012 fiscal year, when they purchased K30 billion worth rice for reserves.—Myitmakha News Agency

Bean price continues to decline in local market

THE DOMESTIC price for mung beans and other varieties of beans continues to decline due to a large inflow of beans entering the local market while India reduces its demand this season, according to the Bayintnaung Wholesale Center.

A drop in demand for beans in India is causing difficulties for local growers and exporters to reach their profit targets, bean growers say. According to the price fixed by the wholesale centre, the price of mung beans weighing one tonne earlier this year was Ks1.85 million. The price has fallen by Ks1.172 million in the first week of this month.

A tonne of mung beans was worth Ks1.2 million on November 30, when pigeon peas were sold for Ks900,000 per tonne. On November 25, a tonne of mung beans was worth Ks1.249 million, while pigeon peas were sold for over Ks900,000 per tonne. Myanmar's bean and pulses are exported mainly to India, followed by China, Singapore, Viet Nam, the UAE, Indonesia and some European countries. Between April and November 11, Myanmar earned over US\$980 million from the export of beans and pulses, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Growers got a record high price of over Ks26 million per tonne last year.—Khine Khant



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Duterte says felt rapport with Trump, assures US-Philippines ties intact

MANILA/WASHINGTON — Philippines leader Rodrigo Duterte described as “encouraging” his phone call with US President-elect Donald Trump on Friday, during which he felt a rapport between them and gave assurance that ties were intact, despite a period of rocky relations.

Trump’s seven-minute chat with the firebrand Philippine president follows months of uncertainty about one of Washington’s most important Asian alliances, stoked by Duterte’s hostility towards President Barack Obama and repeated threats to sever decades-old defence ties.

Duterte’s anger was unleashed following Obama’s concerns about possible human rights abuses in his war on drugs, during which more than 2,000 people have been killed.

Duterte said Trump was “sensitive” and understanding about his crack-down and was encouraged by what he interpreted as Trump’s indication he would not interfere.

“I could sense a good

rapport, an animated President-elect Trump. And he was wishing me success in my campaign against the drug problem,” Duterte said in comments his office released on Saturday.

“He understood the way we are handling it ... I supposed that what he really wanted to say was that we would be the last to interfere in the affairs of your own country.”

He added: “We are doing it as a sovereign nation, the right way.

And he wishes us well. And I said that, well, we assured him of our ties with America.”

His special adviser, Christopher Go, had earlier said in a text message to media that Trump had invited Duterte to visit the White House next year.

There appeared to be confusion, however. Duterte mentioned an invite to Washington and New York, and that Trump asked him to notify him of his presence “if I’m around”.

A statement issued by Trump’s transition team



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while delivering a speech during the inauguration of a drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation center inside the military headquarters in Fort Magsaysay, in the Nueva Ecija province, north of Manila, Philippines, on 29 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

made no mention of that. It said the two men “noted the long history of friendship” between their countries and would work closely on “matters of shared interest and concern”.

Duterte made waves when he visited China in October and announced his “separation” from the United States.

In five months in office, he has upended Philippine foreign policy by berating the United States,

pursuing a new alliance with Russia and also China, with which Manila has a history of bitter disputes.

His diplomacy has created jitters among Asian nations concerned about Beijing’s influence and Washington’s regional staying power.

Duterte told Democrat Obama to “go to hell” and called him a “son of a bitch” whom he would humiliate if he visited the Philippines.—Reuters

Indonesian police arrest three of 11 detained Friday ahead of rally

JAKARTA — Indonesia’s National Police on Saturday arrested three of 11 suspects detained Friday, eight of them for allegedly attempting treason.

National Police Chief Gen. Tito Karnavian told a press conference that political activist Sri Bintang Pamungkas, 71, was arrested for suspected treason and two brothers were arrested for making defamatory statements in violation of the Electronic Information and Transactions Law.

“Mr. Sri Bintang Pamungkas hasn’t been able to go home and is still being questioned further. We have kept evidence in the form of a recording, which is now being examined by our experts,” Karnavian said.

Of the eight others who were detained Friday, seven have been charged with treason and one with defaming President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo. All

eight have been released.

The seven suspects planned to deploy people “to occupy the parliament building in efforts to force the parliament to hold an extraordinary plenary session to topple the government,” the top police officer said.

They were detained hours before a rally Friday in Jakarta by tens of thousands of hardline Muslim protesters calling for Jakarta’s governor to be jailed for blasphemy.

During a visit to an island off the northern coast of Jakarta, Jakarta Gov. Basuki Tjahaja Purnama told local residents not to be cheated by those who use a Quran verse to say that a non-Muslim shall not be a leader.

Although he later apologised for the comment, some radical Islamic groups said the governor had insulted Islam and should be prosecuted. —Kyodo News

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Relatives of missing Flight MH370 passengers ‘taking search into own hands’

KUALA LUMPUR — Relatives of those aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 said on Saturday they were taking the search for the plane into their own hands to try to push governments to expand the search area along the east African coast.

Flight MH370, carrying 239 passengers and crew, disappeared on its way from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on 8 March, 2014, sparking a search in the southern Indian Ocean that entered its 1,000 day on Saturday. Members of Voice 370, an MH370

next-of-kin support group, were speaking ahead of a trip to Madagascar, where they hoped to scour the country’s beaches for debris.

Spokeswoman Grace Subathirai Nathan said she hoped the trip would help spur the Malaysian, Chinese and Australian governments to collect debris along the continental coast where parts from the aircraft had been found. “After repeated attempts, and repeated requests for a mobilization of a search along the coastline, nothing has been done to date,”

she told reporters at Kuala Lumpur airport.

“So it has fallen into our hands to take this search upon ourselves.”

Nathan, whose mother was on the plane, was among four Malaysians, two Chinese nationals and a Frenchman who left for Madagascar on Saturday to hunt for debris and raise awareness of the plane among local communities and organisations.

Three pieces of debris found on the beaches of Mauritius, Tanzania and the French island of Reun-

ion, have been confirmed to be from MH370. Investigators are examining several other pieces found in Mozambique and South Africa.

The search is expected to be suspended by the end of the year, when an Australian-led team completes its scouring of a 120,000-sq-km target area.

“We want the world to know that just because the search is about to end, that doesn’t mean to us that the search is ending,” Nathan said. “There is still a lot at stake.”—Reuters

India, Afghanistan plan air cargo link over Pakistan

AMRITSAR (India) — India and Afghanistan are likely to announce an air cargo service on Saturday to help increase trade that both say is stymied because of their tense political relations with Pakistan that lies between them.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were meeting in the northern Indian city of

Amritsar, a short distance from the Pakistan border, for the Heart of Asia conference aimed at stabilizing Afghanistan.

Nuclear-armed India and Pakistan have gone to war three times and remain bitter foes while ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan have become strained despite their shared religious and cultural identities. Officials

say the focus of the air cargo service is to improve landlocked Afghanistan’s connectivity to key markets abroad and boost the growth prospects of its fruit and carpet industries while it battles a deadly Taliban insurgency.

Afghanistan depends on the Pakistani port of Karachi for its foreign trade. It is allowed to send a limited amount of goods

overland through Pakistan into India, but imports from India are not allowed along this route.

Afghan director general for macro fiscal policies Khalid Payenda said the potential for trade with India, the largest market in the region, was far greater than allowed by land and so the two countries had decided to use the air route.—Reuters

On final trip, Carter looks to reassure Asia allies

WASHINGTON — US Defence Secretary Ash Carter makes his last scheduled trip to Asia next week, and he will try to soothe anxieties caused by Donald Trump's election, US officials said.

The Obama administration made Asia and US alliances there a priority. While details of Trump's approach to the region remain scant, his calls for allies to pay more to sustain US forces or face their possible withdrawal have alarmed Japan and South Korea.

In Tokyo, Carter will emphasize the importance of the US-Japanese alliance and the presence of some 50,000 US troops there, given China's rise and the increasing threat from nuclear-armed North Korea, a US defence official said.

But the soothing effect of anything Carter has to say will be limited because he is a "lame-duck", and does not represent Trump's still-undefined policies.

A source who has advised the incoming president's transition team downplayed concerns about a dramatic break with the past or possibly allowing Japan and South Korea to develop nuclear weapons rather than relying on the US nuclear umbrella.

Trump wants the allies to



US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter (2nd L) inspects the honour guard before a meeting with Japan's Defence Minister Gen Nakatani (not pictured) at the defense ministry in Tokyo, on 8 April 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

shoulder a greater share of defence costs, but this would be a matter for negotiation, the source said.

"It's not an ultimatum; it's not saying 'Let's crush the alliance,'" he said. "It will be a negotiation like we always have," the source said.

Trump caused alarm during his campaign by suggesting that Japan and South Korea could acquire nuclear weapons to defend themselves, although he has not repeated those remarks since his election.

"As president-elect, there has

never been any question other than supporting the existing (nuclear) umbrella and the existing non-proliferation regime," he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was the first foreign leader to meet Trump after the election, and said afterwards that

alliances must be based on trust and that he saw the future president as a "trustworthy leader."

However, Trump plans to quit the trans-Pacific trade pact that was the economic pillar of Obama's "pivot" to Asia, which had Japan as its main partner.

"Regardless of what (Carter) conveys, the reverberations caused by Trump's election have made many countries envisage a future where a robust US presence may not be a certainty," said Reed Foster, a defense analyst for IHS Jane's.

Carter will also visit India. Trump pledged in his campaign that the United States and India would be "best friends" and would boost intelligence-sharing against Islamist militants.

In August, the two countries reached a deal on using each other's military bases for repairs, and they have been cooperating on an Indian aircraft carrier project.

A senior US defence official said two pacts that would allow secure communications and the exchange of nautical and other data would not be sealed before Obama leaves office.

India is pushing for faster movement on a request to buy US Predator drone aircraft.—Reuters

Chinese mine disasters kill at least 38

BEIJING — At least 38 people have died in two separate coal mine disasters in China in the last five days, state media said, the latest accidents in a country with a poor record of industrial safety.

In the first incident, authorities confirmed on Friday night that 21 people died after a coal mine blast in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang, the official Xinhua news agency said. It happened at a private coal mine in Qitaihe city late on Tuesday, trapping 22 workers underground, it said. Rescue work continues to reach the one person left trapped. On Saturday, 17 people died in a coal mine explosion in northern China's Inner Mongolia region, Xinhua added.

Many others remain trapped, it said, without giving details.

Coal accounts for almost two-thirds of China's energy consumption, but its mines are among the world's deadliest, due to lax enforcement of safety standards.

China has ordered all of the country's coal mines to conduct a safety overhaul in the past month, the deputy director of the country's work safety watchdog said on Friday. A flurry of accidents have alarmed regulators over the past month as China ramps up coal production to meet winter demand. Thirty-three people died in a gas explosion at a coal mine in the southwestern city of Chongqing on 31 October.—Reuters

South Korea opposition introduces bill to impeach scandal-tainted Park

SEOUL — South Korea's three opposition parties introduced a bill on Saturday for parliament to impeach President Park Geun-hye who, tainted by a corruption scandal, could become the first democratically elected leader to leave office early in disgrace.

The bill, signed by 171 members of the 300-seat unicameral assembly, said Park violated the constitution and criminal law by abusing her presidential power.

"We hereby propose impeachment proceedings to protect the constitution and restore constitutional order by removing President Park Geun-hye from office," it said.

"The will of the people that President Park Geun-hye should be made to cease exercising the duty of president is clear. The sovereign will has been shown clearly through rallies and protests peacefully attended by countless numbers of the public regardless of generation, ideology or background."

Park has come under intense pressure to step down, with hundreds of thousands of people streaming into the streets demanding her resignation at successive weekend rallies, which have remained peaceful.

Another large protest rally demanding she step down immediately is planned for later Saturday, the sixth weekend protest in

succession.

Park is accused of colluding with a friend, Choi Soon-sil, who has been accused of abuse of power, to put undue pressure on conglomerates to contribute money to foundations that were set up to promote her policy initiatives.

Park has denied wrongdoing but has apologized to the nation.

The three opposition parties said on Friday they will hold a parliamentary impeachment vote on Park on 9 December. A bill

once introduced is reviewed by the parliament secretariat, a formality, before it can be reported to the plenary session.

The bill was expected to go to the session on Thursday, according to the parties.

The three opposition parties have enough members to bring the impeachment but will need 28 members from Park's Saenuri Party to bring the vote to the two-thirds majority required to pass the bill.

It was not clear whether enough Saenuri members would support the vote. There are seven non-party affiliated members plus the speaker who are expected to give their backing.

Some Saenuri members had earlier said they would join the opposition parties to impeach Park but changed their position after Park offered to quit, saying she should be given the chance to step down of her own accord by April.—Reuters



Protesters attend a rally against South Korean President Park Geun-hye in Seoul, South Korea, on 3 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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.

Should problems go from bad to worse

Myint Win Thein

Sometimes, people encounter problems and have to try to solve them at their best but all their attempts fail. At such times, they should adopt new approaches to their problems as old ones will produce the same failures.

Fire is to be extinguished with water; lies are to be exposed with the truth; war is to be concluded with peace. This is what we have learnt from

our predecessors. It is also a simple logic that everyone, even a child, has already known.

If some problems exacerbate despite efforts to solve them, this may be due to faulty way of handling them. These teachings of our elders shed light on the fact that more fire can only make a burning fire more fierce and only water, the real opposite of fire, can

extinguish it.

Similarly, lies can be exposed only with the truth. Another lie to refute a former lie, instead of exposing it, may only strengthen the former. It is another simple logic all people have learnt. It is a wrong way to curb a problem, for the situation will deteriorate further.

In the same fashion, a war can only be ended with its op-

posite, peace. Countering a war with hostilities and revenge can only escalate the tensions. If tensions escalate, no peace can be maintained. This may lead to bitterness that is difficult to get rid of.

Should problems go from bad to worse even when relentless efforts are exerted to address them, it is a good idea to adopt a new approach to the problems.

Education: Academia's Resurgence on the Horizon?

Phoeblaing

(Continued from 3.12.2016)

MU's hypernuclear group

The leader of Mandalay University hypernuclear group is Professor Khin Swe Myint, a Ph.D. from Hokkaido University, Japan. There being no way in this country to honour an outstanding professor, she had been 'promoted' to rectorship of the university. How wonderful! Fortunately, now that she is retired, she is leading the group again as honorary professor, the group consisting of some staff members and Ph.D. students. How exciting to know, even from a situation of national backwardness in education, Prof. Khin Swe Myint's group at MU is abreast with similar groups in advanced countries. Search the internet for KSM's publications and citations of her work.

The basic discipline; Quantum Mechanics

At the level of atomic nucleus and sub-nuclear particles, classical physics also known as Newtonian mechanics breaks down. The new theory which theoreticians use is called Quantum Mechanics (QM), not the basic level,

but advanced QM. According to Nobel physicist Richard Feynman, with great humor and hype, no one including the greats like Einstein and Bohr understands QM. But it is a really useful tool that works at atomic level. Professional physicists have no choice, but to understand the very least the rudiments of QM.

Prof Khin Maung Maung's mission

Prof Khin Maung Maung is currently the head of department of physics at University of Southern Missouri. Although he is a theoretical physicist, his department is active in both experimental and theoretical areas. His specialty is advanced Quantum Mechanics and nuclear structure theory.

So it is easy for him to bond with the hypernuclear group in Mandalay. He will spend six months there to teach advanced QM and nuclear theory. Hopefully he will also teach QM at undergraduate level. And, occasionally in Yangon too. Students don't grumble QM is too hard; it's world class physics!

[To access the academic standings of KMM and KSM, I suggest the interested person to use internet; type in 'Khin Maung



Phoeblaing and wife at KMM's home in Hattiesburg, USA (June 2010).

Maung, physics, university of southern missouri' or 'Khin Swe Myint, hypernuclear physics, Mandalay University'. You will find how impressive. One evening before departure for My-

anmar, KMM found his QM students decorating his office door; and the next day they put seven hundred balloons in his office – a peculiar way of students honoring their professor.]

PS: I, Phoeblaing alias Dr Tin Hlaing, am proud to declare that both Profs Khin Maung Maung and Khin Swe Myint were students in my physics classes 40+ years ago.

Community radio programme to launch in Yangon's Htantabin Township

A COMMUNITY radio programme is planned to start in Htantabin Township in Yangon within next three months as a pilot project with the assistance of the German-based DW Akademie.

This is part of an effort of the German body that organised locals to establish a community de-

velopment team in 2013 to carry out sustainable development of the township.

"The project targets audiences from 51 villages out of 300 in the township in its initial stage. It will start broadcasting news after getting the green light from the government," said U Win Htut, secretary of the develop-

ment team.

Under the new plan, local people will produce and broadcast their own programmes and participate in operating the station, with plans to spread knowledge relating to healthcare, education, economic, social development, latest weather news, women and young people

as well as agricultural techniques.

The German group is now giving editing training to selected locals, including radio journalists and producers. It is also conducting a new survey across the township to spark people's interest in broadcast media.

The community-based radio programme will broadcast con-

tent relevant to the specific audience, with the aim of promoting the lives of residents through news reports.

The programme will provide a mechanism for enabling individuals, groups and communities to tell their own stories as well as to share their experiences. —Myitmakha News Agency

POEM:

Progress

Progress can be achieved through change,
by doing things better and smarter.
For that to happen one must critically examine
what the impediments to progress are.
Most people resist change for fear of upsetting
the status quo and the impediments revealing.
To my mind what really matters
is that a constructive critical approach
is needed to change things for the better.
In a democratic society the citizens
through their point of view and opinions
may make suggestions for improvements
that may help lead to changes for progress.
Articles 388 & 390 of the Union Constitution
Implicitly calls for citizens' participation
in various matters for progress of the Nation.

Lokethar

Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar donates K 30 m

KANBAWZA Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated K 30 million for internally displaced people in Muse, Northern Shan State yesterday.

Officials of the foundation including Daw Khin Win Yee and U Khin Aung presented the cash donation to Chief Minister of Shan State Dr Lin Htut, who spoke words of thanks for the donation.

U Khin Aung explained the purpose of the donation, saying that they donated the cash under the instructions

of Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of the foundation, and that the foundation also donated 3,200 jumpers, blankets, rice, canned fish and dried noodles for the IDPs on 23 November.

The foundation has donated cash for religious affairs, education, health and sports activities across the country and carried out relief work at places hit by natural disasters. The foundation imported 205,000 jumpers for IDPs.—Thura Lwin



Donations of Kanbawza Brighter Future being handed over.
PHOTO: THURA LWIN

Hong Kong tops oil and gas investment list

A TOTAL of 19 countries have made over US\$20 billion worth investments in the oil and natural gas sector, according to the the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). DICA recently announced that Hong Kong is ranked first among foreign countries investing in the Myanmar oil and gas sector.

Hong Kong topped the list with an investment of US\$4796.200 million from fiscal

year 1988-1989 to 2016-2017.

Myanmar oil and gas sector statistics show the investment lists of foreign countries. China has invested US\$2695.579 million, Singapore US\$3347.730 million, Korea US\$2695.188 million, Thailand US\$2176.400 million, the United Kingdom US\$2877.533 million, France US\$532.250 million, Malaysia US\$287.100 million, Viet Nam US\$20 million, India US\$668.650 million,

the Netherlands US\$732.855 million and Canada US\$153.040 million.

Also, Hong Kong has invested an additional US\$874.146 million in the manufacturing sector, over US\$1.3 billion in the mining sector, over US\$44 million in the hotels and tourism sector and over US\$222million in the real estate sector from 1988-1989 to 2016-2017 fiscal years, It is learnt from DICA.—Min Min



Yedagun offshore natural gas rig. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Ks375m in compensation paid by insurance industry over past five years

Aung Thant Khaing

THE Myanma Insurance has issued compensation of Ks375.44 million to third-party liability insurance policyholders over the past five years, a spokesperson said.

This kind of policy helps protect other people, vehicles and property in the event of an accident, said an official of the MI, who explained that third-party insurance is essentially a form of liability insurance purchased by the insured (the first party), and issued by an insurer (the second party), for protection against the claims of another, the third party.

Between the fiscal years of 2011-2012 and 2015-2016,

the MI compensated Ks363.42 million per year for the approximately 780 people who died in accidents and Ks12.02 million for an estimated 86 people injured in accidents per year.

The MI currently underwrites 47 kinds of both life and non-life insurance. Non-life insurance policies are in higher demand in the local industry than that of life insurance, which is more popular in other countries, U Aye Min Thein said.

The state-owned MI invited the private sector to participate in 2013. Only 19 out of 217 applicants who submitted proposals to the MI were accepted, which allowed some of them to operate insurance businesses un-

der its rules that allow them to underwrite 12 kinds of insurance policies in the country.

The compensation for an injured person is paid case wise depending on the amount of losses.

Under the third party liability insurance policy, the MI provided Ks1 million compensation for people involved in fatal accidents. The compensation for injured person is different in each case.

Within seven months of this year, the MI paid compensation of Ks883 million for damages by fire, about 500 million for damages by flooding and over Ks2 million for damages by earthquake.

Child sexual abuse prevention video to be developed

A MYANMAR film director will develop a three-minute video programme which aims to prevent childhood sexual abuse, targeting information mainly to children, parents and related community.

Creation of the new pro-

gramme is planned to start on December 5 by director The Khit Nay, the young filmmaker, who said the move aims to reduce child rape cases happening in the country by raising awareness about the serious crime among the general public.

"I'm ready to make the short video to increase community education and awareness about child molestation," said The Khit Nay, who said the increasing number of child rape cases is probably linked to the lack of sexual and reproductive health

education in the country.

According to nationwide figures, a total of 762 rape cases, including 380 child abuse cases, occurred in Myanmar this year as of the end of October. The number of child abuse cases increased by 150 compared with

similar period last year.

Between 2014 and October 2016, there were 1,087 reported child rape cases across the nation, mostly from Yangon, Ayeyawady, Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.—Myitmakha News Agency

Norway urges Trump to issue predictable, clear policy on Russia

SIMI VALLEY, (Calif.) — Norway on Friday urged US President-elect Donald Trump to enunciate a clear and predictable policy on Russia as soon as possible, amid growing concerns in Oslo about increasing Russian military activities in the “High North” or Arctic region.

“What is most important to us right now is to have both a predictable and a very clear policy on Russia,” Norwegian Defence Minister Ine Eriksen Soereide told

Reuters ahead of the annual Reagan National Defence Forum in California.

“The earlier and the clearer that the new administration comes out with this, the better it is, also for European security,” Soereide said.

Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg spoke by telephone with Trump on Thursday, addressing concerns of the transatlantic NATO alliance and Europe about Russia’s increasingly aggressive

military stance, Soereide said.

She said Trump reassured Solberg about the United States’ commitment to the NATO alliance and common security.

During the U.S. election campaign, Trump talked of building closer ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin. He questioned whether the United States should protect allies seen as spending too little on their defence, raising fears he could withdraw funding for NATO.—*Reuters*



A British Royal Air Force Typhoon aircraft in flight during a mission over central Iraq, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

British fighters to overfly South China Sea; carriers in Pacific after 2020: envoy

WASHINGTON — British fighter planes visiting Japan will fly over the South China Sea and Britain will sail aircraft carriers in the Pacific once they are operational in 2020, given concerns about freedom of navigation there, Britain’s ambassador to the United States said on Thursday.

The envoy, Kim Darroch, told a Washington think tank that British Typhoon aircraft currently deployed on a visit to Japan would fly across disputed parts of the South China Sea to assert international overflight rights, but gave no time frame.

Speaking at an event also attended by Japan’s ambassador to Washington, Darroch said that most future British defence capacity would have to be directed toward the Middle East, but added:

“Certainly, as we bring our two new aircraft carriers onstream in 2020, and as we renew and update our defence forces, they will be seen in the Pacific.

“And we absolutely share the objective of this US administration, and the next one, to protect freedom of navigation and to keep sea routes and air routes open.”

In spite of Britain’s preoccupations in the Middle East, “we will try to play our part” in the Pacific, he said.

Four British fighter planes arrived in Japan in October to take part in exercises with Japanese

forces at a time of rising tensions over China’s pursuit of disputed territory in East Asia, including the South and East China Seas.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said all countries had freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, in accordance with international law, and there was no dispute about that.

“We hope the relevant party can earnestly respect regional countries’ efforts to safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea,” he told a daily news briefing. A commentary on the official Chinese news agency Xinhua took a stronger tone, saying UK-China ties could be hurt.

“Such remarks create the impression that London may soon deviate from a largely aloof attitude over the South China Sea issue and start playing a meddling role there like the United States and Japan,” it said.

“Should a British warplane embark on a so-called “freedom of navigation” mission in the South China Sea, it would only serve to further complicate the issue and weigh on thriving China-Britain ties.”

Japan’s ambassador, Kenichiro Sasae, said the United States, Japan and Britain discussed greater naval cooperation at a meeting at the Pentagon in October and Tokyo welcomed greater British

involvement in Asian security.

Darroch said British Prime Minister Theresa May and US President-elect Donald Trump discussed the importance of all NATO members meeting their defence spending commitments in a telephone call this week, their second since Trump’s 8 November election. Darroch said all NATO states had committed to spending at least 2 per cent of GDP on defence, yet only five, including the United States and Britain, were doing so.

“I think the criticism ... during this election campaign that a number of NATO countries aren’t doing everything they can ... is entirely fair and we will see how the incoming administration wants to take that forward,” he said.

Trump has criticized European NATO members for not meeting their spending commitments and has also called on US Asian allies Japan and South Korea to pay more for their defence or risk the alliances. Trump has said he plans to build up the US military, and advisers have said he will pursue a policy of “peace through strength” in the Pacific in the face of China’s growing assertiveness.

The advisers say Trump can also be expected to take a more “robust” approach to naval operations to assert navigation rights in the South China Sea, a vital global trade route.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran’s supreme court upholds tycoon’s death sentence for graft

DUBAI — Iran’s supreme court has upheld the death penalty against Iranian businessman Babak Zanjani for corruption, the judiciary said on Saturday, a sentence critics say will mask the identity of senior officials who supported him.

By his own account, Zanjani had for years helped circumvent sanctions by arranging billions of dollars of oil deals through a network of companies stretching from Turkey to Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. Prosecutors accused Zanjani of owing the government more than \$2.7 billion for oil sold on behalf of the oil ministry. He was sentenced in March.—*Reuters*

Taliban hang student suspected over assassination: official

KABUL — Taliban militants hanged a university student in public in a village west of Kabul after accusing him of involvement in the death of a senior Taliban official, a local government spokesman said on Saturday.

Abdul Rahman Mangal said Faiz ul Rahman Wardak, a fourth-year student at Kabul Polytechnic University, was hanged in Sewaka village in Chak district, 60 km (37 miles) outside the Afghan capital.

He said local Taliban insurgents accused him of being involved in the assassination of a Taliban intelligence official named Mullah Mirwais. “He wanted to spend his holiday at home but was captured on Thursday by local Taliban and they hanged him in public,” Mangal said. “As soon as we got information, we tried to help him but the Taliban hanged him immediately.” —*Reuters*

Japan to pay 90m yen for death of each SDF soldier in South Sudan

TOKYO — Japan plans to raise the amount of compensation to be paid to the families of Japanese soldiers killed during operations for the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan to 90 million yen (\$788,000) from 60 million yen currently, a government source said on Saturday.

The government has found it necessary to increase the compensation amount following its decision last month to assign Self-Defence Forces personnel new controversial responsibilities — rescuing UN staff and others under attack — during peacekeeping operations in the conflict-mired country.

The Defence Ministry is also arranging to pay 8,000 yen per day to Ground Self-Defence Force troops who actually perform such duties in South Sudan, according to the source.—*Kyodo News*

China busts 108,000 piracy, counterfeit cases in first nine months

BEIJING — Chinese law enforcement agencies handled 108,000 piracy and counterfeit cases in the first three quarters, the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) said.

Building on the latest progress, the country will launch more campaigns featuring strengthened international cooperation in 2017, it said in an online statement Friday.

Considering the challenges of cross-region and transnational cases, China still has a long way to go before it fully solves the problem of fake goods in high-street and online outlets, MoC said.

The ministry called for stronger market supervision, better prevention measures and a consolidated legal framework to fight brand fraud. In a guideline issued on 27 November, China vowed to improve its protection of intellectual property right, and promised to record any violations on the individual’s credit records.—*Xinhua*

Indonesian police plane carrying 13 goes missing off Sumatra

JAKARTA — Authorities on Saturday morning lost contact with an Indonesian police aircraft with 13 people on board, including five crew members, off Sumatra Island, police said.

National Police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar said the N-28 Skytruck left Pangkalpinang on Bangka Island, east of Sumatra, at 9:24 am. and was scheduled to arrive on Batam Island, near Singapore, about 466 kilometers away, at 10:58 am.

Air traffic controllers in Singapore lost contact with the plane at 10:15 am.

“Until now, the aircraft has made no contact with air traffic controllers and it was not seen on the radar,” Amar said. The police officer said that fishermen found aircraft debris including seats and documents of the aircraft in waters near Batam.—*Kyodo News*

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

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

AIRLINE CODES

8M = Myanmar Airways International	AK = Air Asia
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines	CA = Air China
MH = Malaysia Airlines	CZ = China Southern
MU = China Eastern Airlines	FD = Air Asia
NH = All Nippon Airways	KE = Korea Airlines
SQ = Singapore Airways	QR = Qatar Airways
PG = Bangkok Airways	TR = Tiger Airline
UB = Myanmar National Airlines	

Obama expresses confidence in incoming UN chief Guterres

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama on Friday said he was confident that United Nations secretary general-elect Antonio Guterres would be an effective leader of the international organisation.

“He has an extraordinary reputation,” Obama told reporters ahead of his meeting at the White House with Guterres, a former prime minister of Portugal.

Noting that Guterres had led multilateral delegations at the highest levels, Obama said he had “great confidence” that Guterres would be able to ensure that the UN would be able to operate efficiently and effectively when taking on issues such as climate change and the international refugee crisis.

“At a time when those challenges are mounting, having an effective partner in the United Nations secretary general will

be critically important,” Obama said.

Guterres will take over as head of the world body for five years on 1 January, 2017. He was Portugal’s prime minister from 1995 to 2002 and UN High Commissioner for Refugees from 2005 to 2015.

Obama and Guterres were expected to discuss cooperation between the United States and the United Nations.

Guterres said he was ready to forge a relationship with US President-elect Donald Trump’s administration.

He said he was totally committed “to work closely with the United States in the present administration” and “also with the next administration.”

Trump, who takes office 20 January, has named South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who has relatively little foreign policy



US President Barack Obama delivers remarks to reporters as he welcomes UN Secretary General-designate Antonio Guterres (C), of Portugal, in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, US, 2 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

experience, as the next US ambassador to the United Nations.

The real estate magnate’s unconventional campaign prompted uncertainty about how his administration will handle international relations. Some of his campaign

promises, such as building a wall along the US-Mexican border and suggesting NATO partners need to pay more for their security, have raised concerns among allies.

Trump was slated to meet

with John Bolton, who served as US ambassador to the UN under President George W. Bush, on Friday. Bolton, who is in the running for a cabinet position, has called for major reforms to the UN.—Reuters

Gunman takes hostages in Paris travel agency robbery



French police secure a street near the travel agency where a gunman has taken hostage about half a dozen people in what appears to be a robbery, a police source said, in Paris, France, on 2 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — A gunman has taken hostage about half a dozen people at a travel agency in southern Paris in what appears to be a robbery, a police source said on Friday.

Armed police are on the scene, the source said, adding that

the incident did not appear to be terrorism linked.

The travel agency, which is used in particular by Asian customers who deal in cash transactions, has previously been held up, the source added.—Reuters

Europe must brace for new, varied IS attacks: security chief

BRUSSELS — Islamic State will attack Europe again, security chiefs warned on Friday, and may add car bombs, cyber and chemical warfare to its local arsenal as European militants drift home after reverses in Syria and Iraq.

Gilles de Kerchove, the European Union’s Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, said it was impossible to know for sure how many militants were already in Europe plotting. A report on Friday by the EU’s Europol policy agency referred to dozens.

Some 2,500 Europeans may still be fighting in the Middle East, de Kerchove estimated in an interview with Reuters. But as they face setbacks in Mosul, Aleppo and elsewhere, Europe must track them if it is to contain a diaspora of trained militants like that which followed the 1989 Soviet with-

drawal from Afghanistan.

“We have to be prepared because some of them will come to Europe,” said de Kerchove, a veteran EU official whose Brussels office is packed with books and souvenirs from nine years of intensive travel and talking with Europe’s troubled neighbours.

“They may try to come back home and we don’t want to repeat the mistake we made in the late 80s when the Russians left Afghanistan and we left these mujahideen ... in the wild.”

Many of those fought in Algeria’s bloody 1990s and went on to operate in conflicts from Chechnya and Kosovo to Yemen.

Some Europeans, among them also wives and children of fighters, may choose to stay in the Middle East even if IS loses its territorial grip. Others may go further afield, with lawless Libya already

looking like a new base for European militants and the movement likely to go on recruiting over the Internet.

“The physical caliphate ... is collapsing but we still have the virtual caliphate and this allows the organisation to direct attacks,” de Kerchove said.

In his post since 2007, the Belgian lawyer said the past two years have seen an “impressive” leap forward in intelligence co-operation among EU states and a tightening of law and practice on Europe’s borders in response to the variety of IS attacks that have included mass killings in Paris, Brussels and Nice.

“We have nearly fixed most of the loopholes,” he said of what Europe could do internally to combat the Islamist militants who pose by far the bulk of violent threats.—Reuters

‘Unprecedented’ numbers face severe hunger in South Sudan: UN

ROME — Some 3.6 million people in South Sudan face severe food shortages — the highest levels ever experienced at harvest time — and the crisis is likely to worsen when food from the current harvest runs out next year, the World Food Programme (WFP) said.

The country’s hunger levels have doubled since last year, the UN agency said in a report released on Friday.

Nearly 60 per cent of the population of Northern Bahr el Ghazal state is affected, 56 per cent in

Unity, and 47 per cent in Western Bahr el Ghazal. “The scale of food insecurity remains unprecedented in South Sudan, despite seasonal improvements that are typical of the harvest season,” WFP said.

The number facing severe hunger is expected to rise to 4.6 million between January and April next year, and increase even more from May to July unless aid is scaled up, it added.

“Food ... insecurity is anticipated to further deteriorate ... to the highest levels ever in the lean

period, unless the humanitarian response is stepped up further to an unprecedented level,” the UN agency said. South Sudan descended into civil war in December 2013 when a row between President Salva Kiir and his sacked deputy, Riek Machar, ended with fighting that often erupted along ethnic fault lines. A peace deal was signed in 2015 but violations have been frequent, and heavy fighting broke out again in July.

More than a million people have fled to neighbouring countries

and another 1.87 million people are internally displaced.

The conflict has stopped farmers from reaching their farms in several parts of the country including the main food basket in the Greater Equatoria region, WFP said. The fighting and tumbling oil production and prices have hammered South Sudan’s economy. Inflation has shot to 835 per cent in the year to October, while the official value of the pound has plummeted.

Conflict and insecurity have

cut off trade routes and disrupted imports.

UN officials told Reuters on Thursday that attacks on aid workers and bureaucratic interference are preventing supplies from reaching tens of thousands of desperate South Sudanese who have fled their homes amid escalating violence.

Last month, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said there was a growing “risk of famine” especially among the country’s most vulnerable communities.—Reuters

Japan, Russia foreign ministers meet ahead of Abe-Putin summit

MOSCOW — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov met Saturday for the final bilateral political dialogue before a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin in less than two weeks.

In the meeting in Moscow, Kishida and Lavrov are expected to discuss a decades-old territorial row over Russia-held islands off Hokkaido that are claimed by Japan, which has prevented the countries from concluding a post-World War II peace treaty, Japanese officials said earlier.

Japan and Russia are “in the final stages of (preparations) for the presidential visit,” Kishida said at the outset of the meeting, saying both sides will work on them “with each feeling its responsibilities.”

Abe hopes to advance the long-stalled issue when he meets Putin on 15 and 16 December in Japan, though Russia continues to assert it seized the islands legitimately as a result of the war.

In their third meeting this year, Kishida and Lavrov are also set to discuss economic cooperation based on an eight-point plan that Abe proposed to Putin in May in an effort to move forward the talks on the territorial row.

The plan includes Japanese support for developing the medical and energy sectors in Russia and in constructing an export base in the Russian Far East, a region Putin is eager to develop.

Russia's *Tass* news agency reported that Lavrov told Kishida at the outset that bilateral economic cooperation projects, if implemented, will bring the re-

lationship between the two countries to a new level.

“We continue working on the so-called Shinzo Abe Plan of eight items and also on the Russian list of priority projects,” Lavrov was quoted as saying. “Implementation of those will bring out relations to a new level.”

The ministers may also touch on global issues, such as North Korea's nuclear and missile development programmes. The UN Security Council on Wednesday unanimously adopted a new sanctions resolution in response to Pyongyang's fifth and largest nuclear test in September.

Kishida held a meeting with Putin on Friday in St. Petersburg, in which he called for progress on the territorial row at the upcoming leaders' summit. In the meeting, Putin gave a positive assessment of recent de-

velopments in bilateral ties.

Ahead of Kishida's talks with Putin and Lavrov, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov, who is in charge of peace treaty negotiations with Japan, said Friday that for the peace pact talks to move forward Japan needs to recognize Russian sovereignty over the disputed islands, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

He said the two foreign ministers are expected to touch on the peace treaty but will not have full-fledged discussions at their meeting Saturday.

The disputed islands are called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia.

Japan lodged a protest last week in response to Russia's deployment of antiship missile systems on two of the disputed islands.—*Kyodo News*



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L, front) and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov (R) meet in Moscow, on 3 December 2016, for the final bilateral political dialogue before a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

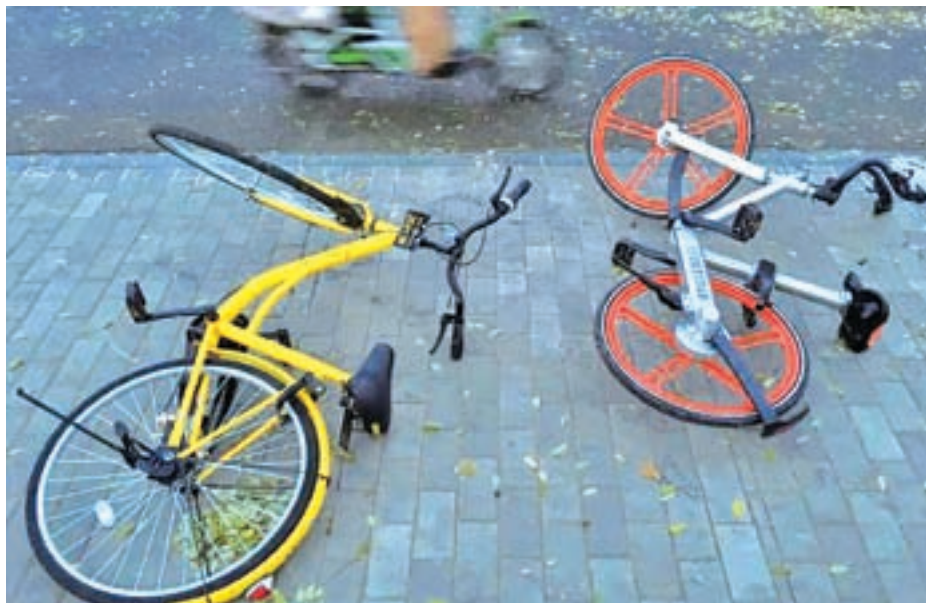
Chinese bikes just one obstacle for WTO environmental trade talks

GENEVA — European resistance to China's massive bicycle industry is just one potential stumbling block for environmental trade talks this weekend in Geneva, where World Trade Organisation members could pave the way to scrap tariffs on exports worth over \$1 trillion.

Trade ministers from the European Union, China and 16 other WTO members including the United States and Japan hope to agree a list of environment-related products that will have their import tariffs scrapped, cutting costs and boosting sales.

But trade officials say that there are still many objections to including many of the 300 or so specific products under discussion, and a deadline penciled in for Sunday is far from certain.

Japan is sensitive about putting wood on the list, China is resisting a US bid to



A man on an electric scooter rides past fallen rental bicycles as a wave of cold weather with sub-zero temperatures hits Beijing, China on 21 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

include turbines, and the EU is adamant that China's massive over-capacity in bicycle production would swamp the European market.

“We're not on a path to conclude a deal,” said one trade official involved in the

talks, adding that failure of the negotiations would be “China's fault”.

The same official said an ominous sign was that China was sending a vice minister rather than Commerce Minister Gao

Hucheng, a possible signal that it didn't expect a deal at the meeting.

“You can't have the most controversial demands and not send your best striker to the match,” the same official said.—*Reuters*

30 migrants arrested in Slovenia for crossing border illegally

LJUBLJANA — Thirty migrants were arrested in a village in southwest Slovenia on Thursday night for entering the country illegally.

The migrants include 25 Afghans and five Pa-

kistanis. Police believe they reached Slovenia's Podgorje after crossing Slovenia-Croatia border illegally. The migrants will be handed over to Croatian authorities, the Slovenian Press Agen-

cy (STA) has reported. Podgorje, which locates on a route between Croatia and Italy, has registered an increase in illegal crossings recently, according to STA.

In the first 10 months

this year, Slovenian police detained 792 migrants for illegal border crossings, according to data from the Interior Ministry. The figure marks an 89.5 per cent increase from the same period a year ago.—*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO (1008W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO (1008W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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Musician Lady Gaga. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lady Gaga performs on London rooftop to promote new album

LONDON — Global pop star Lady Gaga gave an intimate performance at a shopping mall in London on Thursday night, where she promoted her new album “Joanne” and discussed the pitfalls of fame and celebrity.

Around 60 fans gathered on the roof of the Westfield Mall to watch Gaga on a dome-covered stage perform acoustic versions of new and old songs, including classic hits like “Bad Romance”.

“Joanne”, Gaga’s fourth chart-topping album, has been described by many critics as the 30-year-old’s most personal

and authentic release to date.

“You know, during the holidays I love to be with family and that’s really why I chose to create ‘Joanne’,” Gaga told Reuters Television.

“I feel that money and being a celebrity has been put on a pedestal and it’s not really at the center of happiness. What is at the center of happiness is family and friendship and love and kindness,” she said.

Gaga later posed for selfies with some of her fans who won tickets to the show through an online contest on the mall’s website.—Reuters

Matt Goss says 2017 Bros reunion gigs will wow fans

LONDON — Singer-songwriter Matt Goss says he and his twin brother Luke will make sure their Bros reunion tour wows fans of the British 1980s pop band when they come to Britain next August.

The brothers announced in October they were reuniting to play at London’s O2 Arena on 19 August — some 28 years after performing at Wembley Arena to an audience of 77,000. They have since added further dates around Britain.

Known for songs such as “When Will I Be Famous?” and “I Owe You Nothing”, the band formed in 1986 with bassist Craig Logan. Logan left after three years and the twins stopped playing together in 1992.

“We had a civilized conversation about the process of becoming a unified force again and just putting on a show that we knew would blow people’s minds,” Goss, who lives in the United States but is

back in Britain for a solo Christmas tour, told Reuters.

“We really want to put on the best show we can ... We’re genuinely excited about being on stage again together ... Obviously if we’re going to come back, we want to make sure that it’s ... just something where people go ‘Wow’.”

Goss, 48, went on to carve out a solo career and has recently been performing at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

“I love being in the States and I love that I’ve made some new fans in America and been able to connect with a new audience,” he said.

His Christmas tour will include covers and festive numbers alongside his own songs.

“There’s definitely going to be some Christmas stuff - but it’s very smoky, easy, kind of almost like a New York jazz kind-of feel.”—Reuters



Performer Matt Goss. PHOTO: REUTERS

Elton John raises awareness about HIV and AIDS

LONDON — Musician Elton John has raised awareness among people in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The 69-year-old Grammy-winning singer has written a blog, where he detailed how his foundation and the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief had teamed up to help keep HIV clinics open across

the world, reported Femalefirst.

“For World AIDS Day 2016, we are proud to celebrate its first successes. To date it has issued 24 grants in nine countries through small grants, keeping HIV clinics open and protecting the brave LGBT activists that run them.

“This work is badly needed. In a short space of time, the Fund received more than 235 applica-

tions. Each request makes horribly clear just how much LGBT human rights abuses serve as a barrier to ending AIDS.

Now more than ever it’s time for government leaders and philanthropists to join efforts to overcome the anti-LGBT stigma, discrimination and violence that is making the HIV epidemic worse,” he wrote.—PTI

British band Duran Duran lose battle to reclaim US rights

LONDON — The British 1980s pop band “Duran Duran” will not be able to reclaim the US copyrights to some of their most famous hits, an English court ruled on Friday.

Songs including “Rio”, “Girls on Film” and “A View to a Kill”, a James Bond theme tune, were among the copyrighted tracks that the court ruled should remain with Gloucester Place Music, owned by Sony/ATV, and not with the band.

“We are shocked that English contract law is being used to overturn artists’ rights in another territory,” founder Nick Rhodes told the BBC.

“We signed a publishing agreement as unsuspecting teenagers, over three decades ago, when just starting out and when we knew no better.” He said the ruling would set a bad precedent for other songwriters.

The band had served legal notices on Gloucester Place Music citing US copyright laws, which they argued gave them an “inalienable right” to call for the copy-



British band Duran Duran talk on the stage after receiving the “Video Visionary” award during the MTV EMA awards at the Assago forum in Milan, Italy, on 25 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

right of their own works to revert to them after 35 years.

But the judge ruled that English contractual law barred them from doing so.

Duran Duran were formed by Nick Rhodes and John Taylor in the late 1970s, and found their greatest fame with Simon Le Bon as lead singer. Reportedly a fa-

vorite of Princess Diana’s, they went on to sell over 60 million records and win Grammy, Brit and Ivor Novello music industry awards.—Reuters

I’m not married: Katie Holmes

LOS ANGELES — Actress Katie Holmes has cleared her relationship status debunking the reports of her secret marriage to rumoured boyfriend Jamie Foxx.

The “Dawson’s Creek” alum was asked if she is still single, or is there a secret marriage, to which she replied with a “No,” reported E! online.

“Nooo, I’m not married. But thank you for asking,” Holmes said.

For going on years now, Holmes, 37, and Foxx have been romantically linked, but they have never opened up about the equation they share.—PTI

Japanese smash-hit animation ‘your name.’ hits Chinese screens

BEIJING — Japanese smash-hit animated film “your name.” hit Chinese screens on Friday, already raking in millions in ticket sales, despite years of tense political relations.

The film, directed by Makoto Shinkai, which took Japan by storm, will be shown at as many as 7,000 theaters across China, the world’s second-largest movie market.

According to China’s popular website for cinema tickets, Maoyan.com, box-office sales topped 70 million yuan (about \$10 million) as of around 8:30pm in its first day of release.

China limits the number of foreign movies that theaters can show every year and maintains a tight control over which films are distributed.

Shinkai’s blockbuster, which was first released in Japan in late August, was permitted by Chinese authorities to screen at an exceptionally fast speed, according to people in the movie industry.

Chinese President Xi



A billboard advertising “your name.”, a Japanese smash-hit animated film, is displayed at a movie theater in Beijing on 2 December 2016, the day when the film hit Chinese screens. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Jinping and other top Chinese officials have said the two Asian countries should expand positive aspects in the bilateral relationship, while acknowledging that more needs to be done to manage differences over territorial and wartime issues.

The film, full of

picturesque scenes, is a body-swapping fantasy involving two teenagers: a girl living in the countryside and a Tokyo boy.

Shinkai, who is being touted as a successor to Japan’s internationally acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki, came to Beijing last month to promote

his latest work. Attention lavished on him and the blockbuster by Chinese media has only grown since then.

Already a big hit in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand, the film is slated to be distributed in a total of 89 countries and regions.—Kyodo News

Stolen iron gate of Nazi death camp found in Norway: police

OSLO — An iron gate from Dachau concentration camp in Germany with the notorious “Arbeit macht frei” (work sets you free) slogan has been found in western Norway two years after it was stolen, police said on Friday.

“The gate is in okay condition and will be returned to German authorities as soon as practical,” police in the western city of Bergen wrote in a statement.

Police got an anonymous tip that led to the find and a source said no arrests had been made. They issued two pictures of the gate propped up in a store room, apparently intact and mostly black with some flaking paint.

German authorities made a replica of the gate, 1.87 meters (6.14 ft) high and weighing 108 kilos (238 lbs), that they installed at Dachau last year to mark the 70th anniversary of the

camp’s liberation by US troops on 3 May, 1945.

The Nazis set up the camp in Dachau outside Munich only weeks after Adolf Hitler took power. Initially designed to detain political rivals, it became the prototype for a network of concentration camps where 6 million Jews were murdered.

More than 41,000 died at Dachau and more than 200,000 people had been detained in the camp by the

time it was liberated at the end of World War II.

Television footage showing piles of bodies and starved inmates of the camp were among the first images the world saw of the Holocaust.

In December 2009, a similar “Arbeit macht frei” sign was stolen from the entry gate of the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz in Poland by a Swedish man with far-right ties.—Reuters



A handout picture made available to Reuters on 2 December 2016 shows the iron gate from the Dachau concentration camp in Germany bearing the notorious ‘Arbeit macht frei’ (work sets you free) slogan, which has been recovered in west Norway two years after it was stolen, police said. PHOTO: REUTERS

Egyptian man grows ‘Beard of Bees’, hopes to promote apian benefits

SHIBIN EL KOM (Egypt) — Mohamed Hagra stands barechested as dozens of honeybees congregate around his face, eventually forming what he calls the “Beard of Bees”. To attract the insects he has a box housing their queen’s hormones strapped to his chin.

The 31-year-old engineer-turned-beekeeper has been doing this for years both competitively — he fondly recalls a Canadian model’s “Bikini of Bees” at a beekeeping event — and as an effort to educate Egyptians on the usefulness of bees.

“The goal is to show that bees are not aggressive,” he told Reuters at his farm in Shibin El Kom,

the capital of the Nile Delta province of Menoufia.


“One the contrary, they are helpful and produce things that help humans and agriculture.”

Hagra extracts hormones from queen bees after they die and uses them to attract bees from the same hive to perform his show. He uses the same technique to form new hives, he says.

He uses the “Beard of Bees” at contests and exhibitions where like-minded people try to break world records. The current holder is a Chinese beekeeper who in 2015 covered his entire body with over a million bees, a combined weight of almost 110 kg (242.5 lb). —Reuters



Mohamed Hagra, 31, performs the ‘Beard of Bee’ before the upcoming Egyptian Agricultural Carnival of Beekeeping in his farm at Shebin El Kom city in the province of Al-Monofia, northeast of Cairo, Egypt, on 30 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(4-12-2016 07:00 AM ~ 5-12-2016 07:00 AM) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Conflict & Solution Between Man & Elephant
07:43	Am	Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: IN-LEAF
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Prehistory
08:50	Am	Myanmar Traditional Bullock-Cart & Equestrian Racing
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	A Day In Bagan
09:47	Am	A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	An Ardent Aficionado Of Traditional Design
10:56	Am	Doctor Painter

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday 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
07:25	Pm	Travelogue: To my dream city (Part-1)
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: Stop Sexual Violence
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose — Min Thu Wun (Ep-3)
		His Public Service & Literary World
08:54	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Contemporary

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

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

Bolt and Ayana win IAAF awards

MONACO — Jamaica's Usain Bolt and Ethiopian distance runner Almaz Ayana were crowned as the IAAF's athletes of the year on Friday.

Bolt completed his amazing Olympic "triple triple" of 100metres, 200metres and 4x100m relay golds at the Rio Games in August despite missing much of the season through injury and took the award for the sixth time. He clocked season's bests of 9.81 and 19.78 to win the 100m and 200m in Rio and then anchored the Jamaican team to a world-leading 37.27 when winning the 4x100m.

He also went undefeated throughout the whole season at all distances, including heats.

Bolt, 30, plans to run the 100m at next year's world cham-

pionships in London, seeking to add to his haul of 11 world titles.

Ayana produced a stunning run on the first day of athletics in Rio when she shattered the 10,000-metres world record that had stood for 23 years.

Her time of 29 minutes, 17.45 seconds smashed the mark of 29:31.78 that was set by Wang Junxia of China in 1993. Ayana also took bronze in the Rio 5000m, her only loss of the year over the distance. She ended the year as the Diamond Race winner for that discipline. She becomes the third Ethiopian woman to win the IAAF award, following Genzebe Dibaba in 2015 and Meseret Defar in 2007.—Reuters



Usain Bolt of Jamaica (R) and Almaz Ayana of Ethiopia pose with their awards after being elected male and female World Athlete of the Year 2016 in Monaco, on 2 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Napoli rediscover scoring touch, back to drawing board for Inter

MILAN — Napoli rediscovered their scoring touch as they brushed aside Inter Milan 3-0 on Friday, sending their opponents' new coach Stefano Pioli back to the drawing-board.

The result was never in doubt after Piotr Zielinski and Marek Hamsek put Napoli 2-0 ahead after six minutes. Lorenzo Insigne completed the scoring early in the second half.

Napoli had scored only 13 in their previous 11 games in all competitions and it was by far their best performance since striker Arkadiusz Milik suffered a long-term knee injury while playing for Poland in early October.

Inter had given Pioli his first win in three games as coach when they beat Fiorentina 4-2 on Monday but were quickly sent back into crisis mode.

Napoli's win took them into sixth place with 28 points, five behind leaders Juventus. Inter are eighth with 21.

"Of course, this is a step backwards in relation to our last game," said a disappointed Pioli. "We made

mistakes at the start and it's always more difficult when you go two goals behind.

"We gave them too much space and when we created our own chances,

we missed them. There were more negatives than positives... there are difficulties and we have to solve them."

Inter scored three goals in the first 19 minutes against Fiorentina on Monday but found themselves on the wrong end of a similar start by Napoli. The hosts went ahead in the second minute when a flowing move ended with Hamsik chipping the ball to Jose Callejon, who knocked it down for Zielinski to volley in from 12 metres.

Four minutes later, Hamsik broke clear of the Inter defence and placed his shot wide of Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic.

Napoli were playing some flowing football and threatened to add a third against shell-shocked opponents. Although Inter enjoyed more possession in the second half,

Napoli scored again in the 51st minute when Insigne volleyed in a loose ball.—

Reuters



Napoli's Marek Hamsik in action during Champions League, Group B at San Paolo Stadium, Naples, Italy, on 23 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Chelsea's Willian celebrates scoring their second goal and holds an armband in respect for the victims of the Colombia plane crash containing the Chapecoense players and staff during Premier League at Etihad Stadium, on 3 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ruthless Chelsea fight back to sink Man City

LONDON — Chelsea came from behind to secure a 3-1 win at Manchester City and forge further clear at the top of the Premier League as a dramatic top-of-the-table clash ended in a mass brawl and two City players being sent off on Saturday.

Diego Costa, the league's leading marksman, scored his 11th of the season on the hour to equalise, substitute Willian notched on the counter-attack 10 minutes later and Eden Hazard sealed the deal in the 90th minute.

Gary Cahill had given City a deserved lead just before half-

time, slicing the ball into his own net with a clumsy attempted clearance, and the home side looked ready to wrap up the points after the break as Kevin De Bruyne missed from three metres when it seemed easier to score.

In stoppage time, with Chelsea's eighth straight win sealed, mayhem broke out following a terrible tackle by Sergio Aguero on David Luiz.

The Argentine was shown a red card and, as players piled in, Fernandinho was also dismissed for pushing Cesc Fabregas over the advertising hoardings.—Reuters