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State Counsellor calls for responsible investment by Japanese Companies

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Japanese business leaders yesterday and invited responsible investment by Japanese companies for the stable development of Myanmar.

At the working luncheon hosted by the Japanese Business Federation Keidanren and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry-JCCI at the Imperial hotel yesterday, the State Counsellor also called for Japanese support for a job creation-based economy in Myanmar, saying, "We do not want to be a resource-exporting country. The only resource that we want to truly develop is human resources."

"My country is very complex. We are not at peace yet. There is still armed conflict between various armed groups in our country. We must have peace in order that our development may be stable and sustainable," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told Japanese business leaders at a separate event earlier in the day.

"In order to have peace, we have to make sure that development is equitable. We want all ethnic people to feel that they have equal chance to progress in our country," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

At the luncheon, Dr Akio Mimura, Chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry clarified preparations for promoting economic cooperation between the two countries.

In the evening, Yoshihide Suga, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation led by



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech during a luncheon organised by Japanese business and economic associations in Tokyo, Japan on 4 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

At the dinner, Yoshihide Suga said the Japanese government would cooperate with the Myanmar government to implement as

soon as possible the agreement reached between the leaders of the two countries during the visit of the State Counsellor.

He also expressed delight for the visit of the State Counsellor,

saying that the visit yielded three results : Japanese government's pledges to give assistance to the Myanmar's new government; exchanging views between the two leaders on promoting relations

between the new generations of the two countries, and the State Counsellor's offer to Japanese companies to invest in Myanmar.—*Global New Light of Myanmar with Kyodo News*

Diplomats respond constructively to handling of violence



UN coordinator Renata.

PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

DIPLOMATS who visited Rakhine State responded constructively to the government's handling of the situation after 9th October violent attacks on border guard police posts at a press conference held at the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

Not all incidents in Rakhine State affected local people as negatively as they were accused of, and local people welcomed the security provided by border

Not all incidents in Rakhine State affected local people as negatively as they were accused of...

guards, British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Andrew Patrick was quoted as saying at the press conference.

U.N. coordinator Renata said she was very sorry for people who were stranded in the situation and to learn that another border guard

post was attacked six hours before they left the state. Although some houses were burnt in some villages, there are still many houses left, she added.

She also asked the government to provide security to displaced people who returned their

homes, saying that the government has agreed with the international community to give assistance to local people.

Diplomats including the U.S. and British ambassadors and EU and U.N. officials visited early this week the areas where armed violent attacks happened killing nine police officers at border posts with Bangladesh in Maungdaw Township on 9 October.

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STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid a courtesy call on Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in Tokyo, yesterday. During their meeting at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, the emperor and empress told the State Counsellor that Japan is paying attention to bilateral relations between the two countries. PHOTO: IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY OF JAPAN/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

Maungtaw returns to normalcy

Schools that were temporarily closed due to violent attacks on 9th October have been reopened since 24th October and shops in markets have returned to normalcy, according to local people and teachers.

"Our school has about 2,300 students and 69 teachers but we

don't have enough rooms for all of them. We have to teach them in morning classes (from KG to Grade-4) and afternoon classes (from Grade-5 to Grade-11). We need a fence at the back of the school," Daw Hla May Thein, headmistress of No.2 Basic Education High School in Maungtaw,

said.

There are a total of 183 schools in Maungtaw including primary, middle and high schools. Although majority of schools have been reopened, a few have not yet.

"Our school, No.1 BEHS, has been reopened since 24th October. We have 1,640 students and 54 students' altogether. However, only about 400 students came back to school yesterday as some parents are too worried to send their children to school," U Aung Myint Thein, the headmaster of BEHS(1), said.

Similarly, shops in markets in Maungtaw are also beginning to get busy. "Although we cannot sell as much as before, business is becoming brisk," U Hla Moe, a shopkeeper from 3-Mile Ward in Maungtaw, said.

"The functions of our hospital have never been affected by the violent attacks. We are still running the hospital as before," Assistant Surgeon Dr Myat Tun Khaing of the hospital said.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Children being seen after school. PHOTO: MNA

More policemen deployed in northern Rakhine

MORE border guard policemen will be deployed for the security of the area in Rakhine State, with concurrently local ethnic youths to be allowed to serve as regional members of the police force, it is learnt.

A high-ranking official of Myanma Police Force said, "Any one wishing to defend their land and gain peace and stability of the area will be allowed to join the police force as regional members.

They are required to have their names enlisted and to undergo prescribed trainings. After training, they will be provided with salaries, provisions and fringe benefits."

Ethnic youths aged 18 to 35 will be accepted as trainees. Training camps will be in Sittwe and Maungtaw townships only. After courses they will be deployed in their locations.

He added, "In performing

area clearance operations and tasks of security enforcement, defending people's depredation is the highest on the totem pole of our aims and we are carrying out in accord with international standard." In exercising force for area clearance, four matters are focused at being in accord with the law, taking accountability, being adjustable and using only the amount needed.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Police seized pistol and rounds of ammunition

THE police seized a pistol and some rounds of ammunition used by violent attackers who launched an assault on two police guards in Norula Police Post on Thursday.

The police were hot on the heels of violent attackers and they found the weapons while clearing the route of their withdrawal yesterday.

The police post staffed with 11 members of the Border Guard Police came under attack about six attackers who arrived at the police post by motorbikes. They started firing on two guards but

had to withdraw when other police returned firing and reinforcement from the Tatmadaw arrived, sustaining injuries and leaving their bikes.

"We had exchanged fire with them for five minutes when members of the Tatmadaw reinforced us. One of them was injured in the exchange of fire. We saw some blood patch on the ground," Police Lieutenant Kyaw Myint of the post said.

One police lance-corporal lost his life during the attack and another one was injured.—*Myanmar News Agency*



A pistol and ammunition seized. PHOTO: MNA

Myinlook Ywarthit Police Outpost abandoned by Border Guard Police Station put on arson



Police outpost seen after being burnt down.

ATTACKERS and those who are related with them put an old police outpost on arson at 2:30pm or so today. It was a thatched cottage with bamboo wall mat. The fire destroyed 2 dormitories, one

cooking house and a banker and it was extinguished at 3:30.

The above outpost was abandoned on October 11. Its nearby area was being cleared by security forces, it is learnt.



Police sentry tower being seen. PHOTO: MNA

President visits Maesae border trade zone and Kyat limestone cave

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw went on a pilgrimage to Taungwe and Myonam Pagodas at Siri Mingalar Hillock in Loikaw, offering sacred water, flowers and donation.

The president was accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Than Myint, U Thein Swe, U Pe Zin Tun, State Cabinet Chief Minister U Ai Phaung Show, Lt-Gen Aye Win of Defence Services, commander of the eastern command Brig-Gen Win Min Tun, deputy minister Maj-Gen Than Htut and responsible officials.

Afterward, the President and party arrived at Maesae Border Trade Zone in Maesae, cordially meeting with town elders, departmental heads, merchants, entrepreneurs and locals.

In the meeting, President said, "The Union Government, in consultation with departments concerned, will grant necessary support to Kayah State Maesae border trade project, assuming that it is the one which will bear sustainable benefits to the Kayah State and the Union of Myanmar as well.

U Maw Maw, Kayah State minister for state project and finance explained, "There is a system of illegal black marketing between the two countries. To implement the situations in which legal trade can be made freely, border trade zone must be built as soon as possible. We need consider potential benefits, finance



President U Htin Kyaw poses for documentary photo together with departmental staff and local ethnic children in Maesae. PHOTO: MNA

allowance and requirement and matters as to allowing free visa between the two countries.

U Khin Maung Phyu, state minister for transport and communication, explained needs and difficulties experienced in building more bridges promoting construction of Loikaw-Maesae road.

Townelders, merchants and locals discussed matters concerning development of border trade, urban sprawl and urban regener-

ation and allowing locals to buy timber for construction of buildings.

Union Minister Dr Than Myint clarified matters on promoting of commerce and trade sector with Union Minister U Thein Swe on arrangements of opening border trade zones with neighboring countries and Union Minister U Pe Zin Tun on project for sufficient power supply in the region under way.

In reply to discussions, the President pledged that the present visit was aimed at helping to solve difficulties of national brethrens, and to support in sectors of economy, education, health and agriculture for the progress of the region. He added that all people were also responsible to perform their duties assigned to them with concerted effort, in unison.

Then President posed for a documentary photo with local

youths, departmental personnel and people.

In the afternoon, President and party visited the natural limestone cave—Kyat Cave and went to Kyatgutawya Reverend Sayadaw Baddhanta Vayama to pay respect and offertories such as rice, cooking oil and dry rations.

In the evening, President and party left Loikaw by air for Nay Pyi Taw.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Suspects are under investigation, innocent ones start to be released

IN the October 9 violent armed attacks which happened in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, border guard policemen were killed and some injured with arms and ammunitions looted by attackers.

As a result, the combined force of Tatmataw troops-policemen waged area clearance operations and finding out attackers, abettors, those involved and suspects. Now those arrested are being investigated in accord with law.

As of November 2, there were 113 suspects in all who were held for investigation—3 in Sittwe Myoma police station, 5 in Maungtaw Myoma police station, 49 in Ngakhuya and 56 Pinyinphu

police station. Out of them, 38 found to be innocent were released—3 from Maungtaw Myoma police station, 15 from Ngakhuya and 20 from Pinyinphu. And, one from Pinyinphu kept as suspect was released on bail.

74 suspects held on remand are now under investigation—3 in Sittwe, 2 in Maungtaw, 34 in Ngakhuya and 35 in Pinyinphu. During investigation, there was no torture, and all were recorded on video files, it is learnt.

If those investigated need medical treatment, doctors and health staff are giving timely medical care.—*Myanmar News Agency*



A doctor taking care of a suspect. Photo: PHOTO: MNA



Diplomats and departmental officials are seen during their visit to northern Rakhine. PHOTO: MNA

Diplomats respond constructively to govt's handling of violence

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At the press conference, the diplomats also welcomed the government's cooperation with them to give access to aid workers in northern Rakhine state, where deadly attacks on police border guard posts took place.

"We hope that this is the first step for greater access for us to resume humanitarian assis-

tance," said U.S Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel.

In Tokyo yesterday, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pledged to resolve ethnic conflicts, including the tensions in Rakhine state, and called for investment from Japanese companies for stable development.

"All the incidents that have taken place in Rakhine will be

examined and that will be done in accordance with our laws and regulations. We will find out what really happened and then action will be taken accordingly, in line with the rule of law through due process," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told a press conference in Tokyo.—*Global New Light of Myanmar with Kyodo News*

Water supply project opens in two villages in southern Shan State

A WATER supply project with four tube-wells and water supply facilities sponsored by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation was inaugurated in Myogyi Village and Kyungyi Village in Ywagan Township, Shan State (South) on 29th October, benefiting local people.

The two tube wells and a concrete water tank with a storage capacity of 2,000 gallons each were established in the two villages, supplying drinking water to more than 5,100 people in total and cattle in the villages.

"Thanks to the water supply facilities, we can get access to drinking water sufficiently and no longer need to worry for scarcity of water," said a villager.

As part of its water supply project, the philanthropic foundation has successfully drilled more than 180 tube wells in the areas which were experiencing water scarcity.

BFM has brought back home 2,294 Myanmar nationals, who were detained at 11 camps in Malaysia, in October, providing them upon their arrival with K100,000 each and clothes.

The philanthropic foundation also sponsored returns of more than 3,100 Myanmar nationals from Malaysia, more than 500 from Port Blair, India, and more than 510 trafficked workers



Water gushing out of the tube-well in Myogyi Village. PHOTO: BFM

from Benjina Island, Indonesia, last year.

As part of the effort to brace for La Nina in the upcoming winter, the BFM has imported clothing from China at the cost of more than US\$2million to distribute to residents, including IDPs, in areas which are expected to experience extreme cold weather.

The warm clothes were delivered to ethnic people in Lahe, Naga Self-administered Zone,

IDPs in Myaing Gyi Ngu and Maethawaw in Kayin State, to IDPs in Namtu and ethnic people in the Mandalay Region. The delivery of warm clothes to areas which are expected to be hit by extreme cold weather continues, the BFM said.

The foundation has also established K100 million-disaster preparedness fund each in fourteen regions and states this year.—Thura Lwin (Eco)

Four-lane bypass aims to reduce traffic problems

A NEW four-lane bypass will be built by the Oriental Highway Company in Nawnghkio, a town in Kyaukse District in northern Shan State, to reduce traffic jams and road accidents along Gottwin Road Session.

Currently, the company is conducting soil tests in target areas before starting construction of a new four-lane bypass that will help road users reduce travelling time. Compensation is being pre-

pared for land owners in the project areas.

A company spokesperson said the company's soil test in Nawnghkio is nearly finished. At the same time, the land compensation plan has been submitted to the authorities.

The four-lane asphalt road will be built starting from mile post No. 72/5 to 92/5, which will be about over 12 miles. Thanks to the new bypass, travelling time

for over six miles can be reduced.

A four-lane bridge under construction has also been developed on the Nawnghkio side and the new bypass will support the new bridge to reduce traffic problems.

The Oriental Highway Co got the green light from the State government to implement the project after finishing soil tests and a land compensation process.—Aung Thant Khaing

High incidence of diabetes in Yangon

THE prevalence of diabetes is higher in Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar, than other regions and states because of unhealthy, sedentary lifestyles, according to the Myanmar Diabetes Association.

The commercial capital of Myanmar ranked first with the highest prevalence rate of 18.2 per cent, while Nay Pyi Taw was found to have the fewest cases of the disease, the association announced.

Ten per cent of people between the age of 20 and 65 in

Myanmar are infected with the chronic disease, with the association planning to expand its project areas to raise awareness about the silent killer.

Diabetes is a long-term condition that causes high blood sugar levels. The disease occurs when the body cannot produce enough of the hormone insulin.

People need to change their lifestyle and leave unhealthy eating habits to prevent and control of the chronic disease, according to medical experts.

Myanmar has one of

the highest rates of diabetes in Southeast Asia. According to the 2003 public survey in Yangon, 12 out of 100 adults in the big cities of Myanmar are caused by diabetes, with estimates that three in 100 people in the hilly regions may have this chronic disease.

The International Diabetes Federation's figure shows 382 million people, or 8.3 per cent of adults worldwide are diagnosed with diabetes, over 46 per cent of whom do not notice any warning signs.—200

Traffic Police dealing with OCC complaints

THE TRAFFIC police have already taken legal action for violation of traffic rules in regard to 12,767 cases of complaint out of 17,633 cases uploaded to the On-line Complaint Centre (OCC) via Viber, it is learnt from the Traffic Police Company No 2.

OCC has been opened to enable the public to file complaints for violation of traffic rules, said a traffic police officer.

"As the internet connection is not good for about five days, we find it difficult to take prompt action. The outstanding cases from October will be carried

forward to November. So, this month will find as busy," said Police Lt-Col Aung Ko Oo from the Traffic unit. There have occurred altogether 148 cases of traffic accident in the month of October within the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) area. A total of 28 people were killed and 163 other injured.

"The cases of complaint involve clearance of traffic jam in addition to accidents, for which action has been taken according to the Motor Vehicle Law," said a traffic policeman.—Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

Caldina hits road divider on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

A CALDINA van driven by one Myo Myint collided with the road divider causing flat tire of left-sided front wheel on the morning of 4th November. The collision happened between mileposts 109/1 and 109/2, near Phyu Highway Police Station on Yan-

gon-Mandalay Highway. No one was injured in the accident but the damage of the vehicle amounted to Ks 3 lakhs. The reckless driver has been charged by Phyu Police Station under Section 279 of the Penal Code.—Than Oo (Laymyethnar)



Caldina seen on the road divider. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

Heroin, stimulant tablets seized

AN ANTI-NARCOTIC squad from Lahsio Township seized heroin and stimulant tablets from a motorbike near Oriental toll gate, Myo Shoung Street, Lashio on 3 November. Acting on an information tip-off, the police stopped and searched the motorbike driven by one Aung Myint with wife Ma Kyi Kyi Than on board. The local police found heroin weighing 110 grams and 2,145 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, Pa'O people's militia seized 4,050 stimulant tablets from a motorcycle ridden by Htet Wai Phyo with Phyo Ko Ko Lin aboard on Mong Pyin-Taunggyi Road near Sin village, Taunggyi. And the local police also searched a motorcycle ridden by Kyaw Hoe and seized 3,900 stimulant tablets.

Police have charged them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force



Aung Myint and Ma Kyi Kyi Than are seen with drugs. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

ASOCIO ICT Summit 2016 to be held in Myanmar

THE 42nd Asian Oceania Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) ICT Summit 2016 is scheduled to be held on 15-16th November in the Novotel Hotel.

The theme of ASOCIO ICT Summit 2016 is Accelerate Digital Transformation through Leveraging ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Opportunities. The role of ICT, free trade in ASEAN, ASOCIO's role and electronic trade will be discussed. ASOCIO Board Meeting, ASOCIO General Assembly 2016 and ASOCIO ICT Summit with high-profile keynote speakers, ASOCIO Awards Presentation and business matchmaking among delegates and with potential local business partners or high officials will be conducted.

Additionally, creating opportunities for those who are engaged in the IT field will be discussed, said U Zaw Min Oo, the secretary of Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF).— 200

A man fishing with a net. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH



No fishing zone for six freshwater creeks

THE Thaton district fishery department has designated six freshwater creeks in Bilin and Thaton townships as no fishing zones. The awareness campaign will be launched starting on 4 November.

The six freshwater creeks were designated as no fishing zones on 5 October. If people are found fishing in these creeks, action will be taken against them under the Mon state Fishery Law.

Township administrative authorities will launch awareness campaigns for local people.

"We will educate the villagers not to fish in the no fishing zone. If we find a person fishing, we will take action against them," said Assistant Director U Saw Lin from the Thaton district fishery department on 3 November.

"We have designated six fresh water creeks as no fishing

zones to sustain fish resources, conserve the environment for fishery work to develop systematically and to improve the eco-system", he added.

No fishing zone include Ma Than Khe Creek, Ye Sakhan Creek, Paw Daw Mu Creek, Ko Tae Su (a) Kyarsi Aung Creek, Mayangon Creek in Bilin township and Pyi Thu Sit Creek, Ka Taik Kalay Creek in Thaton

township.

There are 13 freshwater creeks in Kyaikhto township, seven creeks in Bilin township, 16 creeks in Thaton township and three creeks in Paung township in Thaton district. Among them, only four freshwater creeks from Bilin township and two freshwater creeks from Thaton township have been designated as no fishing zones.—Myitmakha News Agency

A telephone tower seen in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH



US\$641million earned by Telenor in 9 months

TELENOR earned over US\$641million from 1st January to the end of September, according to an announcement released by Telenor.

Telenor's income in the same period in 2015 was US\$407million, with last year's income totalling US\$590million. Telenor earned over US\$212million in only the first three months of 2016, compared to US\$174million in the same period of 2015, it is learnt.

Telenor has reached 17.8million members of Myanmar's population coverage in the first nine months of this year. A total of 6,524 Telenor towers have been installed. — Mon Mon

Thirteen foreign banks allowed to operate in Myanmar

A TOTAL of 13 foreign banks have been allowed to operate in Myanmar, and Shinhan Bank is among the four new foreign banks that have been given preliminary approval to open 100 per cent-owned branches in Myanmar.

Shinhan is the first Korean bank that has received a foreign bank license to launch a branch in Myanmar. Shinhan Bank will provide services to enhance bilateral trade, investment and offer various banking services for investors in Myanmar to encourage the development of small and medium sized enterprises.

The four new foreign banks granted approval from CBM are the Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam (BIDV), E.Sun Commercial Bank, Shinhan bank and State Bank of India.

Banking operations play a crucial role in the country's economic development, said U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM). The grand opening cere-



Shinhan Bank Chairman, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, and officials formally open the Shinhan Bank on 1 Nov. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

mony of Shinhan Bank was held on 1st November in Hotel Sedona, attended by U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, the governor of CBM, U Soe Min, deputy governor of CBM, U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of the Myanmar Investment Commission, Governor Mr. Zin Woong Seob of Financial Supervisory Service of Korea, Mr. Yoo Jar Kyung, the Korean ambassa-

dor, Shinhan Bank President and CEO Mr. Cho Yong Byoung, the authorities concerned and the officials from Korea, CBM and local private banks.

Myanmar plays a vital role in tapping deeper into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations market, said Shinhan Bank President and CEO at this opening ceremony.—Myanmar News Agency

South Korea's Park says 'hard to forgive myself' for political crisis

SEOUL — A tearful and apologetic South Korean President Park Geun-hye said on Friday her "heart was breaking" over a political scandal that has engulfed her administration, pledging to cooperate with prosecutors in their investigation.

Park has been rocked by an influence peddling scandal involving an old friend, sending her approval rating to just 5 per cent, a 12 percentage point drop from last week and the lowest since such polling began in 1988, according to a Gallup poll released on Friday.

In a brief televised address to journalists, Park said that prosecutors should clarify what happened and that everyone involved should be held accountable, including herself, and take responsibility if found guilty.

"It is hard to forgive myself and sleep at night with feelings of sorrow," Park, 64, said, her voice trembling.

A prosecution official declined to comment to Reuters when asked if Park would be subject to investi-

gators' questioning, which would be a first for a sitting South Korean president.

The leader of the main opposition party said Park's apology was insincere.

"The president should remove her hands from state affairs," Choo Mi-ae, leader of the Democratic Party of Korea, said in a statement, stopping short of demanding Park's resignation.

Park has faced growing pressure from the public and political opponents to resign. No South Korean president has ever failed to finish their five-year term. A group of civic organisations has planned a large street protest for Saturday evening demanding that Park step down. A former Park aide, Jeong Ho-seong, was arrested late on Thursday on suspicion of leaking classified information, a prosecution official told Reuters, the second member of Park's former inner circle of advisers to be arrested this week.

Prosecutors asked a court to grant an arrest warrant for another former adviser, An Chong-bum, on



South Korean President Park Geun-hye speaks during an address to the nation, at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, on 4 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

suspicion of abuse of power and attempted extortion, a prosecutor said, declining to elaborate. An has been under emergency detention since Wednesday.

Park's long-time friend, Choi Soon-sil, 60, is alleged to have used her closeness to the president to meddle in state affairs, and her lawyer has said he expects prosecutors to look into whether she inappropriately received classified documents and benefited unlawfully from two non-profit organisa-

tions.

"It is very miserable and regrettable that a particular individual is said to have taken profits and committed several unlawful acts, while we are working on a job in hopes of helping the national economy and people's lives," Park said, referring to Choi.

Park closed her remarks with a bow and walked towards a row of journalists and repeated her apology. She did not take questions.

"I think she'll manage

to regain a bit of sympathy from the people who used to like her, but the speech itself was not enough to fix the crisis at hand," said Kim Man-heum, head of the Korea Academy of Politics and Leadership, a research organisation. Park acknowledged carelessness in her ties with Choi, who Park has said helped her through difficult times.

"It is true that I lowered the wall of caution myself because she stood by me in the most difficult period in my life," Park said.

"I've already cut all the connections in my heart but from now on will completely break my private connections." Their friendship dates to an era when Park served as acting first lady after her mother was killed by an assassin's bullet intended for her father, then-president Park Chung-hee. Five years later, in 1979, Park's father was murdered by his disgruntled spy chief.

Choi, who has been in custody since Monday, told South Korea's *Segye Ilbo* newspaper last week that

she received drafts of Park's speeches after Park's election victory but denied she had access to other official material, influenced state affairs or benefited financially.

Choi's late father, Choi Tae-min, headed a now-defunct religious sect and was also close to Park during and after her father's presidency.

A 2007 US diplomatic cable described the senior Choi as the "Korean Rasputin", an allusion to a close adviser to the last tsar of Russia and the perceived influence over Park Geun-hye.

Choi Soon-sil has been portrayed in Korean media as having inherited her father's influence over Park, while local media have also characterized Choi Tae-min's religious group as a cult and alleged that Park held a shamanistic ritual at the presidential compound.

Park rejected those allegations.

"There is even talk that I fell into a cult or I held a shamanistic ritual at the Blue House," she said. "I am saying clearly: none of this is true."—Reuters

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Thailand's junta and ousted PM Yingluck seek rice farmers' support ahead of 2017 election

BANGKOK — Thailand's politically powerful rice farmers are becoming the new battleground between the country's junta and ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, with both trying to woo their support amid concerns of a flashpoint ahead of 2017 elections.

Yingluck on Friday attacked the military government's recent rescue packages worth at least \$1.70 billion aimed at stabilizing low rice prices as it tries to maintain stability ahead of the general election.

"The military government's latest rice measures are no different from the rice pledging policy (of my government)," Yingluck told reporters outside a Bangkok court on Friday.

The military overthrew Yingluck in 2014, charging her government with corruption. She is currently in court fighting charges of criminal negligence over her government's rice subsidy scheme which paid farmers above-market rates rice.

Critics say the scheme, which helped sweep her to power in 2011, haemorrhaged billions of dollars. Last month authorities fined Yingluck 35 billion baht (\$1.00 billion) over her government's rice scheme.

Thailand is the world's



Ousted former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra gestures as she arrives at the Supreme Court for a trial on criminal negligence looking into her role in a debt-ridden rice subsidy scheme during her administration, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 4 November 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

second-largest rice exporter.

Yingluck cannot run in the 2017 election because the junta banned her from politics for five years but that hasn't stopped her from making a series of cross-country trips that her team says are aimed at keeping her in the public eye.

For more than a decade, Thailand has been rocked by clashes between supporters of Yingluck and her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup, and those who back the royalist-military establishment.

On Thursday, Yingluck visited rice farmers in the northeastern province of Ubon Ratchathani. Thailand's rice farmers have traditionally supported the Shinawatra family.

"Low rice prices are a truth and a burden for the people which should be a burden for, and the responsibility of, every government," Chayika Wongnapachant, Yingluck's niece and aide, wrote on Twitter, along with photographs of a tearful Yingluck next to farmers in Ubon Ratchathani.

Government spokes-

man Sansern Kaewkamnerd warned the former premier not to use farmers for political gain. "I believe people will be uncomfortable with the fact farmers' problems are being used as a political tool," Sansern said.

Manas Kitprasert, head of the Thai Rice Millers Association, resigned on Thursday after Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said this week that rice millers and politicians were colluding to drive down rice prices for political reasons.

Manas denied the accusations.—Reuters



A combination photo shows US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump (L) at a campaign event in Charlotte, North Carolina, US on October 26, 2016 and US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton during a campaign rally in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, US on October 27, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump gains ground on Clinton: Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation

NEW YORK — The race for the Oval Office tightened significantly in the past week, as several swing states that Republican Donald Trump must win shifted from favouring Democrat Hillary Clinton to toss-ups, according to the Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project.

The two presidential candidates are now tied in Florida and North Carolina, and Clinton's lead in Michigan has narrowed so much that the state is too close to call. Ohio remains a dead heat and Pennsylvania is now tilting to Clinton. While Clinton remains the odds-on favourite to win Tuesday's election, Trump now has a plausible route to victory, especially if there is a sharp fall in turnout among African-Americans from the levels of the 2012 election.

Still, Trump must win both Florida and North Carolina to have a good chance of winning

the White House. Clinton could lose both states and still win.

The States of the Nation project estimates Clinton's odds of winning the needed 270 Electoral College votes at about 90 per cent, down from 95 per cent last week. If the election had been held on Wednesday, the project estimates, she would have had 256 solid electoral votes and an estimated final tally of about 302 votes, to 236 for Trump. Last week, she had 278 solid votes and a final tally of 320 votes, to 218 for Trump.

By any measure, however, Trump has had a good run in the past week. He has seen his support grow in 24 states while losing ground in 11. Conversely, Clinton's support grew in 13 states while shrinking in 22. Trump's gains came in a period in which he had few new controversies to fend off, while Clinton faced renewed scrutiny of her email practices.

Most respondents to the latest survey were asked about their support for the candidates after FBI Director James Comey announced last Friday the agency was examining newly discovered emails that might pertain to Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

Comey had concluded in July at the end of a year-long FBI probe of the email issue that there were no grounds to bring any charges against Clinton. His brief letter to Congress last week said the new trove of emails might or might not be significant.

Trump and other Republicans seized on the news to question Clinton's credibility, while Democrats complained it could unfairly influence voters so close to the election. The States of the Nation project is a survey of about 15,000 people every week in all 50 states plus Washington, D.C.—*Reuters*

Paris climate pact enters into force, focus shifts to action

LONDON/WASHINGTON — A landmark global accord to combat climate change officially entered into force on Friday, putting pressure on countries to start executing plans to slash greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming.

The 2015 Paris Agreement was agreed last December by almost 200 countries and has been described as the most complex global treaty since the Marrakesh (trade) Agreement, signed in 1994.

The Paris accord passed a threshold on 5 October of 55 nations accounting for more than 55 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, allowing it to come into force 30 days later.

Ratification was swift compared to other international treat-

ties, showing strong international support, but around 100 countries have yet to ratify it.

"This is a moment to celebrate. It is also a moment to look ahead with sober assessment and renewed will over the task ahead," United Nations' climate chief Patricia Espinosa said in a statement. "In a short time — and certainly in the next 15 years — we need to see unprecedented reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and unequalled efforts to build societies that can resist rising climate impacts," she said.

The Paris Agreement seeks to wean the world economy off fossil fuels in the second half of the century, limiting the rise in average world temperatures to "well below" 2.0 degrees Celsius (3.6

Fahrenheit) above preindustrial times.

It also notes an ambition to limiting temperature rise even further to 1.5 degrees.

The pact kicked off a rolling start in the Pacific region on Thursday, home to low-lying islands states which are in danger of rising sea levels.

On the same day, the annual report of UN Environment analysed countries' current pledges for emission cuts and said they were not sufficient. Even if emission-cutting pledges under the Paris agreement are fully implemented, predicted 2030 emissions could put the world on track for a temperature rise of 2.9 to 3.4 degrees Celsius this century, the report said.—*Reuters*

UN Secretary-General's message on World Tsunami Awareness Day

5 November 2016

Today marks the first observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day. On this day, in 1854, a Japanese village leader recognized the signs of an approaching tsunami and improvised a remarkably effective early warning system — he set fire to his rice sheaves, saving the lives of the many villagers who saw the smoke and ran uphill to help put out the flames.

Over the years, early warning systems have grown more sophisticated, particularly since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which claimed nearly 226,000 lives. That tragedy prompted the introduction of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

In September this year, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO invited disaster management officials from 24 countries around the Indian Ocean to participate in one of the largest tsunami simulation exercises ever organized. The importance of simulation exercises and evacuation drills is underlined in a report released today by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. It highlights that population growth has greatly increased exposure to tsunamis and other hazards in many regions.

Since 1996, 250,900 people have died in 21 countries affected by 30 tsunamis. Tsunamis also pose a significant threat to major infrastructure either already built or planned for coastal areas. The significance of this threat was demonstrated in March 2011 by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which claimed many lives, left many more homeless and triggered a meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

World Tsunami Awareness Day serves as a reminder of the importance of reducing current and future levels of risk. This should be a clear guiding principle for all those working in the public and private sectors who have to take decisions on major infrastructure projects in seismic zones and near exposed coastlines. Tsunamis may be rare but, like any other natural hazard, if we fail to prepare and raise awareness, then we risk paying a heavy price.—*UNIC/Yangon*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Journalist killed by roadside bomb in Helmand Province, Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan) — A journalist working for Afghan television station Ariana News was killed by a roadside bomb in the southern province of Helmand on Friday, his employer said, adding to a growing toll on media workers in Afghanistan this year.

Witnesses said Nematullah Zaheer had been traveling with other journalists to report on a police operation just outside the provincial capital Lashkar Gah when their vehicle came under fire and police advised them to leave the main road.

Shortly after leaving the road, the vehicle hit an improvised explosive device and Zaheer was killed.

Ariana News confirmed the death in a statement posted on Twitter.—*Reuters*

54 killed in Indonesia's sunken boat

JAKARTA — The death toll of a speedboat which sank in western of the country on Wednesday rose to 54 on Friday with 6 others still missing, rescuer said.

Search for the missing persons is underway now, involving rescuers from navy, police, local search and rescue office, local disaster agency personnel and volunteers, said Marsudi, spokesman of national search and rescue office.

"Dozens of bodies were discovered by rescuers today (Friday). And search and rescue operation continues now," he told Xinhua by phone. Mr. Marsudi disclosed that 41 people had been rescued safely in the sea incident.—*Xinhua*

13-year-old Aussie girl charged with 21 counts of theft, break-in offences

SYDNEY — A 13-year-old Australian teenager has shocked the police to the core after racking up a total of 21 charges during a three week crime spree around Cairns, Queensland.

The Cairns Property Crime Squad Detective Acting Senior Sergeant Gary Hallen told News Corp on Friday that all 21 alleged offences that were committed by the girl, including break-ins and car theft.

"It looks like she's been travelling with male friends and relatives who have been involved," Hallen told News Corp.

"She's been influenced by friends and relatives, but she's actively involved," he said. In a statement police said the girl was detained at a Whitney Street residence at Manoora on Thursday. —*Xinhua*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

History and human progress

Myint Win Thein

EVERY student has to learn history at school because the correct understanding of the past helps them, at the very least, not to repeat the same mistakes made by their predecessors. In this sense, the same mistakes of predecessors could be committed by posterity again and again if history was not taught at school.

This is also the case with the teaching of incomplete historical facts with incorrect

conclusions. Misguided history and erroneous conclusions lead students to a faulty understanding of present events. As their understanding of the world is incomplete, they cannot make correct decisions and could commit the same mistakes like their predecessors.

When a country is not united and prosperous, it is almost surely because it has not been able to emancipate itself from past mistakes. This may

be one of the reasons why the new government reformed the Myanmar History Commission and urged its members to compile correct history with facts, noting that history texts written by successive governments were just praise for the ruling classes.

In a recent meeting, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko told historians to review all history and bravely rewrite it with the facts. He also point-

ed out that the depiction of some famous events in ancient as well as in recent history, such as what occurred in Myanmar during last five decades, should be examined and rewritten with the facts.

If historians were able to rewrite history with facts, the country could avoid repeating the past mistakes and move toward to a democratic federal union in the future. History and human progress are interrelated.

To become an effective teacher

Dr. Myo Win
Yangon University of Education

IAM an associate professor in Methodology Department, Yangon University of Education. I entered my teaching profession as a primary assistant teacher in a state primary school in Thebyu village, Labutta township in 1981. So I have been a teacher for about 35 years. May I share my teaching experience with the reader?

To be frank, I did not know how to teach at that time. Children were very playful. I wanted them to sit still while I was teaching. But, as soon as I stood with my back to them, they started to move. I wanted them to study. But they wanted to play. While I wanted them to be silent, they wanted to make a lot of noise. When they did not obey me, I became angry. When I became angry, I used to beat them. As a teacher, I loved my children. So I wanted them to understand what I taught. When they did not understand what I taught, I scolded or beat them. My children were often scolded or beaten. But they still did not understand what I wanted them to understand. My action did not fulfill my wish. Why? I could not answer that question at that time.

In 1986, I attended one year JAT training course in Patheingyi Teacher Training College to be a junior assistant teacher. In that course, I had to study educational theory among other academic subjects. I still remembered what the principal said at an assembly. He said that a teacher is similar to a shepherd.

The only thing a shepherd can do is to take all the sheep to a stream to have a drink. But he cannot make every sheep drink water. Those sheep which are not thirsty do not want to drink water even though they are at the stream. After his speech, I at once remembered my children in Thebyu primary school. Was I a shepherd who could not make my children drink water? The principal left me one question- How should the teacher motivate his students if they do not bring their own intrinsic motivation into the classroom?

After JAT training course, I attended B. Ed one year course in Institute of Education in 1987. In that course, I had to study educational theory, educational psychology, methodology and two specialized subjects. After studying educational theory, I started to know that to be a good teacher, he must have at least two qualifications: academic qualifications and professional qualifications. To possess academic qualifications, a teacher must know his subject. To possess professional qualification, the teacher must know how to teach his subject effectively. To be able to do so, educational theory, educational psychology and methodology help a teacher. After studying educational psychology, I became to know child psychology. Then I realized why my children in Thebyu primary school did not do what I wanted them to do. As I realized the nature of children, I also realized how to use extrinsic

motivation if students did not bring their intrinsic motivation into the classroom. Now I could answer the question that I could not when I was a primary teacher. I also understood the importance of ASK. Then I realized it is not easy to become an effective teacher. A person who earns his living as a hunter must know the habit of wild animals. He must also know how to use his bow and arrows skillfully. Otherwise, he cannot become a good hunter. If a village boy is asked to hunt deer, giving him a bow and arrows, he cannot be expected to hunt animals simply because he is not skillful in hunting. At least, he must learn how to hunt under the control of an experienced hunter.

ting ASK. ASK is an acronym. But it is not as well-known as UN, UNESCO, USA, etc. It is well-known only in education circle. It shows the objectives of teaching. Why do we teach? We teach our students because we want them to develop attitude, skills and knowledge. In fact, the objective of teaching is not only to develop students' academic performance. If a teacher places too much emphasis on the subject he teaches, he can be said to be dutiful only one third of his duties. He must also make his students physically strong. He must have the ability to relate his students' theoretical knowledge in the classroom with practical application for his real life. The third part which is technically

"Why do we teach? We teach our students because we want them to develop attitude, skills and knowledge. In fact, the objective of teaching is not only to develop students' academic performance. If a teacher places too much emphasis on the subject he teaches, he can be said to be dutiful only one third of his duties."

After B.Ed course, I became a senior assistant teacher in No (2) Basic Education High School, Labutta, my native town. I worked there for seven years from 1988 to 1995. I could use the knowledge that I studied in Institute of Education in my profession. Later, most students passed the BEHS examination with good marks. Their parents started to recognize me as a teacher who could teach very well. To tell the truth, I was pleased with such praise, forget-

termed as affective domain is most important. It is a must for the teacher to instill his students with right attitude. It seems fair to say that most teachers place too much emphasis on their students' excellent academic performance. They seem to take pride that they can teach their students to have all Ds. It is my only sincere wish to remind teachers that it is not sufficient for us to be able to produce academically strong students. It is also our chief duty to nurture them to become

well disciplined, kind-hearted, patriotic, etc. so that they will become useful members of the society.

While I was a tutor in Thegong Teacher Training School in Pyaw in 1995, I attended M. Ed course on deputation term from 1995 to 1998. In one module in the course, I had to study professional ethics. To be able to say that one is a professional, he must have at least three qualifications: expertise, commitment and ethics. Without these three qualifications, one cannot be said to be a professional. To be an expert in one field, one must have training in this field. Without training, one cannot become a professional. I became a tutor in Yangon Institute of Education in 1999. As in Patheingyi TTS, there was usually staff meeting at the end of every month. I still remembered rector's speech at one meeting. He said that when there was a strong wind, Mr. A built a great wall and Mr. B built a windmill. After some time, the wall was broken down but the windmill still produced electricity. What he wanted to point out was not to prevent nature but to use it. Again, I immediately remembered my children in Thebyu primary school. In fact, when I was a primary assistant teacher, I was Mr. A. A good teacher knows how to exploit the nature of children in his teaching. Therefore, language games, teaching through playing are successful in teaching children.

In conclusion, the teacher plays a vital role in education. The future of the society depends on the youth of this society. In the same way, the future of the youth also depends on the teacher. Therefore, we, the teachers should always try to become effective teachers. —To teachers



Authorities hold talks with diplomats in Sittway, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Arrangements made to arrest attackers at large

UNION Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, UN resident coordinator Ms Renata Dessallin and ambassadors arrived at no 1 border guard control camp of Kyikanpyin, Maung-taw township, Rakhine State on the morning of November 2.

On their arrival, Pol Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin clarified in detail violent surprise armed attack the Koetankauk and Ngakhuya police outposts on October 9.

He added, "After the attack, Tatmataw-Police Combined forces pursued attackers, launching area clearance operations and blockage of potential routes. Out of arms looted from Kyikanpyin, 13 units were recaptured. Beginning from 10 October, authorities concerned are continuously carrying out process of administration and security of the area, rule of law. As the first stage, we took measures for these armed attacks not to turn into religious and racial conflicts, concurrently airlifting more Tatmataw troops and police forces to increase regional security by Tatmataw-owned helicopters. As the second stage, security measures were made by deploying more troops in key outposts for attackers not to be able to launch fierce fighting. Thirdly, for aggressive attackers not to sever communication including riverine routes, security arrangements were increased, but there were slight travels these days for fear, and we are transporting them un-

der the supervision of departments concerned. As the fourth stage, we did try to contact the village administrators via administrative bodies to call for locals to keep staying and for displaced people to return home. At the same time, lengthening of curfew period is being carried out depending on the situation of respective townships with the instruction of the State Cabinet. As the fifth stage, for the administrative machinery to smoothly run, we have taken measures in consultation with responsible officials of Rakhine State Cabinet for governmental staff to resume their routines."

Rice and basic foodstuff supported by Tatmataw, ministry of border affairs, ministry of social welfare, relief and resettlement and the state government are being delivered in convoy to distant villages facing food shortage due to these armed attacks.

Police force was equipped with non-lethal weapons to protect villagers and mobs. Those arrested were investigated in accord with the law without torturing them, with time for sleeping and taking meal granted. All investigations were recorded on video files. Families of the deceased were allowed to hold their funeral rituals according to their traditions.

Arrangements are being made to arrest attackers at large, to recapture lost firearms and ammunition.

Till October 19, in 12 head-on confrontations, 5 Tatmataw-men,

9 border outpost policemen and 3 civilians were killed, with 2 arms from Tatmataw and 64 units from policeforce, 10140 ammunition, 173 cartridges and 47 bayonets looted. 33 bodies of attackers were recovered and 89 suspects under arrest and investigation.

In a news release issued by the President's Office on October 14, it is described that those investigated stated that the attacks were manipulated by AKALMUL MU-JAHEDAN led by RSO-related extremist HARVIT TUHAL.

HARVIT TUHAL posted 4 video files on social websites on October 12 in which the former invited them to wage Jihad operation in Maungtaw region and commit suicidal bomb attacks.

Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Mr Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General formed on August 24 visited Myanmar during September 3-8 just prior to the armed attacks, discussing with governmental officials and dignitaries from both societies, with their findings to be reported.

Myanmar will never accept any terrorist attacks and make response to them and their abettors, with a view to protecting national security and depredation of the people in accord with Myanmar Constitution, anti-terrorism law and other existing laws and regulations.

Afterwards, responsible officials replied to the questions raised by UN resident coordinator and diplomats. —Thapyay

Letter to the Editor

Reply to "As before, Sir" opinion piece on Oct 11 Issue

As everything is changing at every nano-second, I am not as before, Ko Kyaw Kha.

I am U Sein Win (Chemistry Department), now 70 years old. With the help of my friend, I came across to read your opinion piece "As before, Sir". I have never been an atheist but seemed to be an atheist because Buddha was hidden in my heart when I was young. May I let you know that U Tin Than is still working at Myanmar Statistics Research Company (MSR), but U San Tint already passed away two years ago unfortunately.

I want to congratulate Ko Kyaw Kha on acquiring the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of Buddhist thoughts.

Sincerely,
U Sein Win



Compensation paying ceremony of Myanma Insurance in progress. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Myanma Insurance pays compensation of Ks44 million as fire insurance

MYANMA Insurance paid out over Ks 44 million to households who bought premium for the fire insurance in Mandalay highway express supervisory committee hall on 3 November.

The building was destroyed by the fire around 6 pm on 20 October. The compensation for fire insurance is paid depending on the amount of the losses.

"Buying the insurance premi-

um can protect the insurers, and the burden upon government can be reduced. Two out of 10 houses from the town buy the fire insurance premium," said U Aye Min Thein, Managing Director of Myanma Insurance.

The compensation awarding ceremony was attended by the authorities of Myanma Insurance and staff from the relevant departments.—Myitmakha News Agency

Three-day land mine awareness workshop held in Kayin state

A WORKSHOP to raise awareness on landmines left by the war was conducted in Kayin state Red Cross society from November 2 to 4, attended by 12 volunteers from Kya-in-Seikkyi and Hlaingbwe townships.

Under the guidance of Kayin State Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department, the workshop was jointly conducted by Myanmar Red Cross Society and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"We will conduct landmine

awareness training to seven townships in the Kayin state. Also, Myanmar Red Cross Society and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will assist the people who are suffering from landmines and other explosive remnants of war. After the course, participants will share information with the people two times per month," said U Tin Moe Kyaw, mine awareness coach and coordinator from Myanmar Red Cross Society.

"The villagers will not be interested in who laid

these landmines.

They may be interested in how to protect themselves against those landmines. So, we will share our information to prevent further harm," said a volunteer called Naw Thidar Htway from Kya-in-Seikkyi township.

State Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department conducted the five-day landmine awareness training course in August in cooperation with UNICEF.—Myitmakha News Agency



Land mine workshop in progress. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium
The announcement of Mid Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2016

1. The significant Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held on November 20 to 29, 2016 at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.
2. Rough jade, rough gems, cut and polished gemstones, pearls, jewelries, jade carvings, gemstone pictures and gold and silver wears will be sold in Euro currency at the Emporium.
3. Gems lots and jade lots will be put up for sale through open tender and competitive bidding, specifying reserve prices as follows:

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Reserve Price (Euro) for Open Tender	Reserve Price (Euro) for Competitive Bidding
a	Gems	500 to 20,000	20,001 and above
b	Jade	4,000 to 200,000	
c	Finished product and Jade Carving	1,000 to 200,000	20,0001 and above

4. Foreign visitors eligible for the following qualifications will be granted admission to the Mid-Year Emporium 2016, excluding those blacklisted for their default on payment in the previous emporiums;

- (a) The person who was invited by the Emporium Central Committee with invitation card.
- (b) The person who requested the invitation card via the Foreign Jade Associations.
- (c) The person who requested to receive the invitation card through the respective Embassies and Consulate - General.
- (d) Foreign visitors are permissible to make bids for the lots up to the value of the 20-fold of the minimum deposit paid by the types of gemstones. The minimum amount of deposit to be paid and the amount permitted to bid are as follows;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Deposit to be paid	Permitted limit to bid
1	Gems	€10,000	€ 200,000
2	Jade	€ 50,000	€ 1,000,000

- (e) Making bids for lots priced more than the permitted limit is required to make additional deposit (5% of its value) to the Account No. EEM 400034 opened with the Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) by the name of The Central Committee of Emporium (Deposit). Deposit must be made by the preview deadline as below;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Deposit Payment Date
1	Gems	November 21, 2016
2	Jade	November 22, 2016 (Tender) November 27, 2016 (Competitive bidding)

5. Starting from 7th Nov 2016, admission card will be issued at the Maniradana Jade Hall, Registration Office to the foreign merchants who have already paid the deposit ahead.
6. Application Forms for admission to Emporium can be downloaded from provided websites (www.mining.gov.mm or www.mge.gov.mm), starting from 26th Oct 2016. Application can also be submitted via On-Line Pre-Registration System from www.mge.gov.mm. The requirements to make the admission card are as follow;
 - Name, Position, Passport and National Scrutiny Card No. (Passport Issuing Country)
 - Photocopy of Passport.
 - Two passport photos taken within one month.
 - Complete contact information, (to state Phone No., Fax No. and E-mail if applicable)
 - Admission fee in U.S. dollar.
7. Buyers shall settle payment for the purchases within deadline as prescribed by the Sales Agreement. The necessary arrangements will be made if the buyer desires to bring his/ her fully paid purchase along with them.
8. Shipment of fully paid purchase to the buyer is made under the EXW(EX Works)System. Purchase will be timely despatched once the buyer has made full payment for the purchase. Emporium Central Committee will be responsible for loading the merchandise onto the Transportation Vehicles from the Emporium Hall while the buyer himself or his authorized representative company will be held liable for the remaining processes.

Emporium Central Committee



Iraqi security forces launch a rocket towards Islamic State militants during clashes at the frontline in Ali Rash village, southeast of Mosul, Iraq, on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iraqi forces say step up attack on east Mosul

BAGHDAD/ERBIL, (Iraq) — Iraqi special forces stepped up attacks against Islamic State fighters in their Mosul stronghold on Friday, seeking to expand the army's foothold in the east of the city after the leader of the jihadist group told his fighters there could be no retreat.

An officer in the elite Counter Terrorism Service said CTS troops had launched a major operation.

He gave no details, but officers have said troops fought in at least four neighborhoods in the east of the city on Thursday, and may try to push all the way to the Tigris river, which runs through the centre of Mosul.

Iraqi television footage from the east of the city showed heavy palls of gray smoke rising into the sky.

Iraqi regular troops and special forces, Shi'ite militias, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and other groups backed by US-led air strikes launched a campaign two weeks ago to retake Mosul.

Winning back the city would crush the Iraqi half of a crossborder caliphate declared by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque two years ago.

Islamic State also holds large parts of neighbouring Syria, but Mosul is by far the largest city under control of the ultra-hardline militants in either country, and the campaign to retake it is the most complex in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein and unleashed a decade of turmoil.

In a rare speech released on Thursday Bagh-

dadi — whose whereabouts are unknown — said there could be no retreat in a "total war" against the forces arrayed against Islamic State, telling fighters they must remain loyal to their commanders.

The city is still home to nearly 1.5 million people, who risk being caught up in brutal urban warfare. The United Nations has warned of a potential humanitarian crisis and a refugee exodus, although Iraqi officials Islamic State is holding the civilian population as human shields.

Mosul residents, speaking to Reuters by telephone, said Islamic State fighters were deploying artillery and rocket launchers inside and near residential areas.

Some were hidden in trees near the Wahda district in the south, while others

were deployed on the rooftops of houses taken over by the militants in the Ghizlani district close to Mosul's airport, they said.

"We saw Daesh (Islamic State) fighters installing a heavy anti-aircraft machine gun alongside a rocket launchpad, and mortars as well," one Mosul resident said.

People in the southern and eastern neighbourhoods reported on Thursday night that barrages of artillery shells and rockets being launched from their districts towards the advancing troops had shaken their houses.

As well as the Islamic State resistance in Mosul itself, the militants have launched a series of diversionary attacks across the country since the start of the offensive.—Reuters

Car bomb rocks southeast Turkey after pro-Kurdish lawmakers detained

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey) — A car bomb rocked southeastern Turkey's largest city on Friday, killing one person and injuring more than 40, security sources said, hours after police detained politicians of the mostly Kurdish region's biggest party.

The blast struck an area near the police station where some of the party leaders were being held in a terrorism probe, the sources said. It tore off the facades of buildings and firefighters were searching debris for people trapped there.

Police raided the homes and detained the joint leaders of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP),

the second-biggest opposition party in the national parliament, and nine other HDP lawmakers early on Friday after they refused to give testimony for crimes linked to "terrorist propaganda".

Southeastern Turkey has been rocked by political turmoil and violence for more than a year after the collapse of a ceasefire with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group, which has waged a three-decade insurgency for Kurdish autonomy.

The lira currency hit a new record low against the dollar after the arrests, trading at 3.1319 at 0640 GMT. President Tayyip Erdo-



Damaged cars are seen on a street after a blast in Diyarbakir, Turkey, on 4 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

gan and the ruling AK Party accuse the HDP of links to the PKK, which is deemed a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union. The HDP denies any direct links.

The government introduced a nationwide state of emergency after a failed military coup on 15 July which gave it broad powers to round up suspects linked to the putsch. More than

110,000 civil servants, soldiers, police, judges, journalists and other officials have been suspended or detained.

The authorities have also used the emergency powers to round up pro-Kurdish opposition politicians, including Diyarbakir's joint mayors, who were detained late last month, and has closed all major Kurdish media outlets.—Reuters

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK				BANGKOK TO YANGON			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily	TG-303	7:55	8:50	Daily
TG-2302	15:00	16:55	Daily	TG-2301	13:15	14:10	Daily
TG-306	19:45	21:40	Daily	TG-305	17:50	18:45	Daily
PG-706	6:15	8:30	Daily	PG-701	8:50	9:40	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily	PG-707	13:45	14:35	Daily
PG-708	15:20	17:15	Daily	PG-703	18:25	19:15	3
PG-708	18:20	20:15	3	PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-704	20:00	21:55	Daily	PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-335	7:40	9:25	Daily	8M-336	10:40	11:25	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily	8M-332	19:15	20:00	Daily
UB-017	15:10	19:20	1,3,5	UB-020	11:00	11:30	7
UB-017	17:50	19:20	2,4,6,7	UB-018	20:20	20:50	Daily
UB-019	8:05	9:35	7	UB-020	9:15	9:45	1,2,4,5,6
UB-019	6:30	8:00	1,2,3,4,5,6				
RGN TO DMK				DMK TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily	FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-256	13:25	15:10	Daily	FD-255	12:05	12:55	Daily
FD-254	17:30	19:05	Daily	FD-253	16:20	17:00	Daily
FD-258	20:05	21:55	Daily	FD-257	18:05	18:55	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:50	Daily	DD-4234	10:25	11:15	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily	DD-4230	6:20	7:05	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily	DD-4238	19:30	20:15	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:00	Daily	SL-200	9:05	10:00	Daily
SL-207	20:05	21:45	"Daily	SL-206	18:15	19:05	"Daily
RGN TO CAN				CAN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-711	20:30	01:05+1	5	8M-712	2:45	4:20	6
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,7	8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,7
CZ-3056	11:25	16:15	3,6	CZ-3055	8:50	10:25	3,6
CZ-3056	17:30	22:35	1,5	CZ-3055	14:40	16:30	1,5
RGN TO SIN				SIN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:50	Daily	8M-232	13:50	15:20	Daily
SQ-997	10:35	15:10	Daily	SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,5	MI-522	11:00	12:20	4,6
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily	MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6	MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,5
MI-533	13:10	20:15	2	MI-533	11:00	12:20	2
3K-584	19:15	23:50	2,5	3K-583	17:05	18:35	2,5
3K-582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,6,7	3K-581	8:55	10:25	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	Daily	TR-2822	7:20	8:45	Daily
UB-001	7:30	12:00	Daily	UB-002	13:15	14:45	Daily
RGN TO NRT				NRT TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	21:45	06:50+1	Daily	NH-813	11:00	15:40	Daily
RGN TO ICN				ICN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily	KE-471	18:45	22:25	Daily
RGN TO KUL				KUL TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily	AK-502	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-503	19:30	23:45	Daily	AK-502	17:50	19:00	Daily
8M-501	7:50	11:50	1,3,5	8M-502	12:50	13:50	1,3,5
MH-741	12:15	16:30	Daily	MH-742	13:40	14:50	1,6,7
MH-743	15:45	20:05	1,4,6,7	MH-740	10:05	11:15	Daily
RGN TO KMG				KMG TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:15	15:45	Daily	CA-415	10:45	11:15	Daily
MU-2032	15:20	18:40	2,4,5,6,7	MU-2031	14:00	14:30	1
MU-2012	12:25	18:40	3	MU-2011	08:15	11:25	3
				MU-2031	13:55	14:30	2,4,5,6,7
RGN TO TPE				TPE TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:45	16:15	1,2,3,4,6	CI-7915	7:00	9:45	1,2,3,4,6
RGN TO PEK				PEK TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	3,7	CA-905	19:30	22:50	3,7
RGN TO HAN				HAN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:30	1,3,5,6,7	VN-957	16:50	18:10	1,3,5,6,7
RGN TO SGN				SGN TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	15:00	2,3,4,5,7	VN-943	9:35	11:10	2,3,4,5,7
RGN TO HKG				HKG TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-251	1:10	5:45	1,2,3,4,6,7	KA-250	21:45	23:30	1,2,3,5,6,7
KA-251	1:30	5:55	5	KA-252	22:50	00:30+1	4
UB-8027	9:45	14:15	1,5,7	UB-8028	15:15	16:55	1,5,7
RGN TO DOH				DOH TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:15	10:55	1,4,6	QR-918	20:40	6:25	3,5,6
RGN TO CNX				CNX TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-724	13:10	15:05	Daily	PG-723	11:40	12:35	Daily
RGN TO DAC				DAC TO RGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:15	18:00	1,3,6	BG-060	12:45	15:30	1,3,6
MDL TO DMK				DMK TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:45	15:00	Daily	FD-244	10:50	12:15	Daily
MDL TO SIN				SIN TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-533	15:20	20:15	2	MI-522	11:00	12:50	2,6
MI-522	13:40	20:15	2,6	MI-533	11:00	14:25	2
MDL TO BKK				BKK TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:05	16:30	Daily	PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily
MDL TO KMG				KMG TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:05	16:45	Daily	MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily
NYT TO BKK				BKK TO NYT			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	20:25	22:35	2	PG-721	18:25	19:35	2
PG-722	19:30	22:30	1,2,3,4,5,7	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	
VN = Vietnam Airline	
3K = Jet Star	
AI = Air India	
CI = China Airlines	
DD = Nok Airline	
KA = Dragonair	
MI = Silk Air	
TG = Thai Airways	

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

New heavy-lift carrier rocket boosts China's space dream

WENCHANG (Hainan) — China on Thursday launched its new heavy-lift carrier rocket Long March-5.

The rocket, which looked much “fatter” than other rockets of Long March series, blasted off at 8:43 pm. Beijing Time from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre in south China’s Hainan Province. The payload was sent into the preset orbit about 30 minutes later.

The State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND) later announced the complete success of the launch.

The launch was delayed for less than two hours from the previously scheduled time. Tian Yulong, chief engineer of the SASTIND, told Xinhua that as it was the first launch of Long March-5 in a new launch site, many parameters needed to be debugged and various systems needed to be matched with each other.

“It was normal preparation work to ensure a successful first launch,” Tian said, adding that it caught up with the launch window.



The graphics shows China successfully launched its newly-developed heavy-lift carrier rocket Long March-5 from the coastal Wenchang Space Launch Centre in southern Hainan Province at 8:43 pm on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

The major targets of the mission are to verify the design and performance of the new rocket and test the rocket’s flight programme, according to China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), the developer of Long March-5.

A congratulatory letter sent late Thursday night by the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commis-

sion hailed the new rocket as the pinnacle of innovation in carrier rocket science and technology.

Its successful launch has propelled China to the forefront of the world in terms of rocket carrying capacity, and marks a milestone in China’s transition from a major player in space to a major power in space, the letter said.

The Long March-5 is a large, two-stage rocket

with a payload capacity of 25 tonnes to low-Earth orbit and 14 tonnes to geostationary transfer orbit, the largest of China’s carrier rockets. Its carrying capacity is about 2.5 times that of the current main model Long March carrier rockets.

According to the CASC, the rocket uses two kinds of fuel, kerosene/liquid oxygen as well as liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen, rather than highly toxic

propellant, making it more environmental friendly and less expensive.

The rocket is about 57 meters long, with a takeoff weight of 870 tonnes and a thrust of 1,060 tonnes. It is equipped with eight liquid oxygen/kerosene rocket engines in four strap-on boosters, two liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen engines in the first stage and two relatively small liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen engines in the second stage.

Li Dong, designer-in-chief, said the rocket was the most complicated of the Long March series with over 100,000 components instead of tens of thousands of components in other Long March rockets. Scientists conducted over 7,000 tests during its 10 years of development.

With a 5-meter diameter core stage, Long March-5 is much thicker than China’s previous carrier rockets with 3.35-meter diameter core stages. Other launch sites in China are located in inland areas. Accordingly, transportation of rockets rely on railways, so that rockets can-

not be too wide.

The heavy-lift rocket launched Thursday was taken to coastal Wenchang from the northern port city of Tianjin by ship in early September.

“It is not just a simple enlargement of the diameter, it raised new requirements of materials, manufacturing and equipment,” said Lou Luliang, deputy designer-in-chief.

Lou said the new technology in Long March-5 would be used in other Long March series rockets in a bid to upgrade all rockets.

The heavy-lift rocket is a milestone for China to become a real space power in the world, said Li Dong.

Experts said the Long March-5 will also lay the foundation for future rockets with heavier payload capabilities. The new rocket is of great significance as China’s space programme relies on the carrying capabilities of launch vehicle systems.

With the heavy-lift carrier rocket, China can build a permanent manned space station and explore the moon and Mars.—Xinhua

Majority of Colombians back peace talks but see no deal this year

BOGOTA — A majority of Colombians support peace talks with Marxist rebels but they also doubt that the government will be able to reach a new accord with the country's largest guerrilla group this year, a poll showed on Thursday.

The Gallup poll was published a month after a landmark peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, was unexpectedly rejected in a referendum.

The Gallup poll showed that 77 per cent of Colombians want a negotiated solution to the 52-year conflict with the FARC, while only 19 per cent support a military solution.

But voters rejected a signed peace deal with the FARC by less than half a percentage point in the



A woman holds flowers and stands amongst messages as Colombians in favor of peace march through the streets of Medellin, Colombia, on 7 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

shock result of an 2 October referendum, meaning it could not be implemented.

Opponents of the accord, reached after four years of intense negotiations, said it was too lenient on rebels who had committed crimes. Many voters also opposed

provisions that gave the guerrillas seats in Congress.

The government and rebels alike had said the accord was the best that could be achieved. But the government is now fighting to salvage the peace deal and extended meetings this week

with the right-wing opposition, led by former President Alvaro Uribe, which backed the 'no' vote in the plebiscite. Government peace negotiators were also due to travel on Friday to Havana, Cuba, where the talks took place, to continue meetings with the FARC leadership.

Sixty-one per cent of those polled by Gallup said the government would not reach a final accord with the FARC this year, while 37 per cent said it would.

The poll also showed that 80 per cent of Colombians support peace negotiations the National Liberation Army (ELN), the country's second-largest rebel group.

The government has postponed planned talks with the group pending the release of a politician held hostage.—Reuters

Russia says UN South Sudan mission 'in ruins' after firing

UNITED NATIONS — Russia on Thursday criticized UN chief Ban Ki-moon's decision to fire a Kenyan peacekeeping commander in South Sudan as premature, saying the mission there was now "in ruins" after Kenya vowed to withdraw all its troops in response to the move.

Ban dismissed Lieutenant General Johnson Mogoia Kimani Ondieki after a UN inquiry into the response by peacekeepers to several days of violence in the capital Juba in July found a lack of leadership and that UN troops failed to protect civilians. Kenya said it would withdraw some 1,000 troops deployed with the 13,000-strong peacekeeping mission in South

Sudan, where UN peacekeepers have been deployed since 2011 when it gained independence from Sudan. In an unusual move, Russia, a UN Security Council veto power, and Kenya publicly criticized Ban's response to the report. "For us the decision was premature," Russia's Deputy UN Ambassador Petr Illichev said. "We don't have a special representative, she's leaving, we don't have a force commander. ... The whole structure is in ruins."

Ondieki became the force commander in June, just three weeks before the outbreak of heavy fighting between South Sudan President Salva Kiir's troops and soldiers loyal to his rival, Riek Machar.—Reuters

Hurricane survivors' lives in limbo as Haiti tries again to hold vote

JEREMIE, (Haiti) — Haiti launched its ill-fated presidential campaign for the fifth time in a year on Thursday, but people in the hurricane-destroyed southwestern town of Jeremie have more pressing concerns, such as staying alive and finding a home.

"We don't have anywhere to live, cholera is killing people," said Joselyne Saint Preux, who, along with dozens of others, has stayed in a school since Hurricane Matthew flattened much of the port town a month ago.

"We'd like the elections to take place, but we need the government to make decisions about us," said 29-year-old Saint Preux, who'd made a living as a street vendor before the disaster struck. Matthew killed up to 1,000 people and 1.4 million remain in need of humanitarian aid, while tens of thousands are packed into schools and other buildings used as polling centers, raising questions about the viability of the vote set for 20 November. The storm has triggered one disaster after another. The area's fertile

farms lost their crops, raising fears of famine. Water and sanitation systems were destroyed, leading to a flare-up of cholera that had been all but conquered in the region. Flooding has compounded the damage and caused even more deaths. And social tensions have boiled up over the slow distribution of aid.

Add a history of political instability and previous accusations of fraud by losing candidates and it is easy to see why many fear the new vote will not be seen as legitimate if it is held now.—Reuters

Ministry of Electricity and Energy Electric Power Generation Enterprise INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION (EPGE G-02) Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (Phase I) Loan Agreement No. MY-P2

This invitation for prequalification follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business of 31st October 2016 on-line.

The Republic of The Union of Myanmar has received a credit from Official Development Association (ODA) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of the Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (Phase I), (MY-P2) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Package 2 "Renovation Works of Transmission System" which includes Rehabilitation Work to four Substations at the existing Gas Turbine Power Plants (Ahlone, Hlawga, Ywama and Tharkayta) in Yangon Region. The Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) intends to prequalify contractors for supply and rehabilitating of four Substations which will supply as much electricity as possible to the grid.

It is expected that invitations for bid will be made after prequalification. Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures specified in JICA Guidelines: Procurement under Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans dated April 2012 and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Prequalification notice with following contents;

1. Package Name:	Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (Phase I) Package two (2) "Renovation Works of Transmission System"
2. Prequalification Document issuance time:	10:00 to 15:30 on 4 th November 2016.
3. Prequalification Document fee:	Three Hundred Thousand (300,000) kyat only
4. Application submission closing date and time:	26 th December 2016 by 14:00 (Myanmar Standard Time)
5. Submission place:	Procurement Department Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
6. Others:	Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Renovation Work to Four Substations in Yangon Region (ICB EPGE-G-02)"

Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document between 10:00 - 15:30 hrs at:
Thermal Power Department
Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE),
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Phone : + 95 67 8104282
Facsimile number : +95 67 810 4280
E-mail : epgethermal@gmail.com

ဓာတ်အားစနစ်၏ လျှပ်စစ်ဓာတ်အားလိုအပ်ချက်များ အား ထပ်မံဖြည့်ဆည်းရန် ဒုတိယမြောက် ကုမ္ပဏီအား ထပ်မံရွေးချယ်ခွင့်ကို ကြေညာခြင်း

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအတွင်း နှစ်စဉ်လျှပ်စစ်ဓာတ်အားလိုအပ်ချက်မှာ ယခင်တွက်ချက် မှုများအရ ၃၀၀ မဂ္ဂါဝပ်ဟု ခန့်မှန်းထားရှိသော်လည်း လက်ရှိဓါတ်အားသုံးစွဲမှု ကိန်းဂဏန်းများအရ ၂၀၁၇ ခုနှစ် နေရာသီ၌ အမှန်တကယ် ဖြစ်ပေါ်နိုင်သည့် လိုအပ်ချက်မှာ ၄၅၀ မဂ္ဂါဝပ် ကျော်ခန့်ရှိနေကြောင်း ခန့်မှန်းတွက်ချက်ရပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ လျှပ်စစ်ဓာတ်အား လိုအပ်ချက်အား ဖြည့်ဆည်းပေးနိုင်ရန်အတွက် လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်ရွက်ရန် အချိန်ကန့်သတ်ချက်များရှိပါသဖြင့် (၄.၇.၂၀၁၆) ရက်တွင် နိုင်ငံပိုင်သတင်းစာမှ ခေါ်ယူခဲ့သော တင်ဒါမှ ဆန်ကာတင် ရွေးချယ်ခဲ့သည့် ဒုတိယမြောက် ကုမ္ပဏီဖြစ်သည့် Karpower Asia Pte., Ltd. အား တင်ဒါအောင်မြင်ခဲ့ပြီးသော Consortium of National Infrastructure Holding Co., Ltd., MCM Pacific Pte.Ltd., APR Energy PLC & Ace Resources Group Pte. Ltd. ကုမ္ပဏီနှင့် ဓာတ်အားခရီးနန်းတူညီအောင် ဆွေးနွေးညှိနှိုင်းသဘောတူညီချက်များရရှိခဲ့ပါသည်။ သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ မူလရွေးချယ်ခဲ့သော ကုမ္ပဏီအပြင် ထပ်တိုး၍လိုအပ်သော ဓာတ်အားထုတ်လုပ်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် ငှားယူသောစနစ်ဖြင့် Karpower Asia Pte., Ltd. အားရွေးချယ်လိုက်ပါကြောင်း ကြေညာအပ်ပါသည်။

တင်ဒါစစ်စစ်ရေးကော်မတီ
လျှပ်စစ်ဓာတ်အားထုတ်လုပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်း



Migrants wait before entering buses as part of their transfer by French authorities to reception centres across the country during the dismantlement of makeshift camps in a street near Stalingrad metro station in Paris, France, on 4 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Police evacuate Paris migrant camp that grew after Calais

PARIS — French police started evacuating thousands of migrants on Friday from an illegal camp in northeastern Paris where numbers soared after the closure of the large “Jungle” camp in the port city of Calais last week.

Police moved in at day-break, Reuters reporters at the scene said. They escorted migrants to dozens of buses from the sprawl of tents and mattresses where numbers living rough surged in recent days to as many as 3,000.

A spokeswoman for the Paris prefecture said the migrants — many from war-ravaged countries such as Afghanistan and Sudan — would be transferred to hold-

ing centres in and around the French capital pending the processing of asylum requests. “The evacuation operation is running smoothly so far,” she said, adding that all the migrants would be moved out on Friday. Some 600 police officers were deployed at the location.

The estimated total of around 3,000 at the Paris camp is about twice as many as just a week ago when the bigger camp in Calais was evacuated and demolished.

One Reuters journalist at the location, around a canal and an urban railway bridge at Paris’s Stalingrad metro station, said three buses had left by 0700 GMT

amid cheering, applause and, in some cases, cries of solidarity with the migrants.

About 80 buses were present. “We have the means to evacuate up to 4,000 if necessary,” Housing Minister Emmanuelle Cosse told France 2 television.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo urged the government earlier this week to clear the camp as a matter of urgency.

Bruno Morel, director of the Emmaus Solidarite charity that has been helping migrants said: “Things are going smoothly so far. It’s above all a question right now of reassuring people that there are other options.”

The illegal Paris and Calais camps, home to close

to 10,000 migrants in all who are being put in smaller but less ramshackle lodgings, have come to symbolize Europe’s fraught endeavors to deal with a record influx of migrants from war zones in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. In the case of Calais, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said around 85 per cent of migrants were expected to qualify for refugee status and asylum. France is currently negotiating with London to ensure that Britain takes in child migrants from the now-closed Calais camp, which for years was a magnet for migrants desperate to make it across the narrow Channel sea crossing to Britain.—Reuters

Kerry says confident on Philippines ties, hopes to visit again

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Thursday he remained confident about the future of the US-Philippines relationship despite “a difference here or there” and that he hoped to visit Manila again before leaving office.

New Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has thrown Manila’s long-standing alliance with Washington into question since taking office in June with a series of insults and threats to cut ties with the former colonial power.

Speaking at a swearing-in ceremony for the new US ambassador to the

Philippines, Sung Kim, Kerry called the alliance “between the two peoples ‘indelible.’”

Kerry recalled shared resistance to Japan in World War II and noted that nearly 4 million people of Philippine descent live in the United States while almost a quarter of a million Americans live in the Philippines.

“I am confident about the future of our bilateral relations, notwithstanding a difference here or there about one thing or another,” he said.

Kerry did not mention Duterte by name but said all needed to have the wisdom to adjust to change

brought about by democratic elections. He noted that Sung Kim had tackled “some really tough, complex challenges” in the past, given his previous assignments dealing with North Korea.

Kerry said the United States and the Philippines would “continue to consult openly and honestly” and added: “I very much hope to visit there before leaving my term of office as secretary of state.”

Kerry’s term officially ends on 20 January after Tuesday’s US presidential election, although he could be asked to stay on temporarily under the future administration.—Reuters

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Dated. 5 November 2016

Venezuela opposition gives Maduro until 11 November to meet demands

CARACAS/SAN CRISTOBAL, (Venezuela) — Venezuela’s opposition exhorted President Nicolas Maduro on Thursday to set an election and start releasing jailed activists within days, while students opposed to Vatican-led talks protested in the streets.

The opposition coalition drew hundreds of thousands into the streets when authorities quashed its drive for a referendum against Maduro last month in the country of 30 million people.

But it suspended street actions out of respect for talks with the government that began at the weekend mediated by a Papal envoy.

However, with one major party dissenting and many supporters fearful Maduro is playing for time, opposition leaders said they would wait until 11 November before possibly quitting talks and returning to street tactics if demands were ignored.

Carlos Ocariz, an opposition mayor speaking

on behalf of the coalition, reiterated their first demand was the revival of the referendum or a moving forward of presidential elections to the first quarter of 2017.

The next presidential vote is currently set for late 2018.

“Our second goal is the freedom of all political prisoners in Venezuela,” Ocariz said, referring to what the opposition estimate are around 100 Maduro critics unfairly imprisoned.

The coalition also wants to overturn Supreme Court rulings that have annulled the opposition-led National Assembly and to name a new board to the national election council, which it accuses of favoring Maduro. The 53-year-old socialist leader won election to replace his late mentor Hugo Chavez in 2013, but has seen his popularity plummet to just over 20 per cent amid an unprecedented economic crisis in the OPEC member.—Reuters

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Joanne Froggatt poses as she arrives for the world premiere of 'A Street Cat Named Bob' at The Curzon Mayfair in London, Britain, on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

'A Street Cat Named Bob' brings heartwarming tale to screen

LONDON — The heartwarming true story of a stray cat that helped change the life of a London busker musician gets a big screen adaptation in "A Street Cat Named Bob" that premiered in the British capital on Thursday.

Based on the book of the same name, the film stars "Clash of the Titans" actor Luke Treadaway as James Bowen, a recovering drug addict who upon returning from busking one evening in 2007 found an injured ginger cat at his sheltered accommodation.

Bowen nursed the animal, which he named Bob, back to health and soon realized the cat was inseparable from him, following him as he went busking in London's central Covent Garden area. The sight of Bob on Bowen's shoulders or sitting by his feet as he performed on the streets caught the attention of increasing numbers of passersby and led to a life turnaround and bestselling book for the busker.

"He gave me a reason to get up in the morning ... and now I'm

standing here," Bowen told Reuters on the red carpet with Bob perched on his shoulders. "A movie about a part of our lives is just mind blowing."

While producers had several cats on hand for the shoot, Bob also starred as himself, with co-stars Treadaway and "Downton Abbey" actress Joanne Froggatt describing him as "a professional" on set.

"It was kind of an unusual experience filming in Covent Garden with real Bob on your should-

ers but it was amazing," Treadaway said. "He would just know what he had to do."

Bob lay on Bowen's shoulders throughout media interviews on the red carpet ahead of the film's screening, for which the two were joined by Prince William's wife Kate, who attended as patron of the Action on Addiction charity. Fans cheered as they saw Bowen and Bob, with some saying they had traveled from as far as the United States for the premiere.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Meryl Streep to get Golden Globes lifetime award

LOS ANGELES — Meryl Streep, regarded as the finest actress of her generation, will get the Golden Globes lifetime achievement award at the annual ceremony in January, organizers announced on Thursday.

Streep, a three-time Oscar winner, will be presented with the Cecil B. DeMille award in recognition of her 40 years in the industry.

"She has always taken roles with strong female leads, creating art by showing vulnerability and portraying truth on the big screen. Simply put, she is a trailblazer, having paved the way for women in television, film and stage," Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) President Lorenzo Sofia said in a statement.

"For shattering gender and age barriers, all with finesse and grace, the HFPA is humbled to bestow this honour upon her," Sofia added.

The HFPA organises the Golden Globes awards for film and television, one of the biggest ceremonies in Hollywood's long awards season. The 2017 ceremony will take place in Beverly Hills on 8 January.—Reuters

Meat Loaf serves up a glimpse of 'Bat Out of Hell' musical in London

LONDON — Rocker Meat Loaf's 1977 breakthrough album "Bat Out Of Hell" has inspired a passionate love story for the stage, fusing the classic catalog of songs with some previously unreleased music.

"Jim Steinman's Bat Out Of Hell — The Musical" will open at the Coliseum in London's West End on 20 June, 2017 and run for a limited month-long engagement. On Thursday, Meat Loaf, 69, and the cast offered a preview to an audience in the British capital with an outdoor performance.

The stage musical is a tale of youth, love and rebellion, set in a dystopian city. The lead character is the head of a gang and falls in love with the daughter of a tyrannical ruler.

About a hundred people packed St Martin's Lane in Covent Garden to catch a glimpse of the live renditions of the record's famous songs, while a dozen or so Harley-Davidson bikers revved their engines in support.



US singer Meat Loaf. PHOTO: REUTERS

American musician Meat Loaf, born Marvin Lee Aday, told Reuters that it was lyricist and composer Steinman's idea to open the musical in London instead of New York, because he felt music played a more integral role among the British audience.

"He felt the people in London and in Europe ... relied still on music to be part of their lives,

where America really doesn't. You used to mark time, events in your life, by music that was playing," the Grammy-winning rocker said.

"Bat Out of Hell" became one of the best-selling albums in history, with hit singles such as "You Took The Words Right Out Of My Mouth" and "Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad."—Reuters

UN chief Ban honoured by Elton John AIDS Foundation

NEW YORK — United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been honoured by the Elton John AIDS Foundation with its Founder's Award, which recognizes "extraordinary contributions to the global effort to end AIDS".

The non-profit organization, founded by veteran singer Elton John, gave away the award at its 15th annual "An Enduring Vision" Gala in New York on Wednesday night.

"He continues to be a vocal supporter for LGBT equality and HIV/AIDS advocacy, declaring LGBT rights as one of the great neglected human rights issues of our time," John said of Ban's efforts in promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights in September, when the award was announced.—Reuters



Singer Elton John performs with Diana Krall (L) during his Elton John AIDS Foundation's 15th Annual 'An Enduring Vision Benefit' in New York City, US, on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ACT cancels test scores in Asia after leak of essay question

LONDON — Students in Asia have been notified that their scores on the writing section of last month's ACT college-entrance exam are being cancelled, in the latest example of how standardised test makers are struggling to contain an international epidemic of cheating.

The incident comes just months after ACT Inc, the Iowa-based nonprofit that operates the test, was forced to cancel its exam for all takers in South Korea and Hong Kong. That incident, in June, marked the first time the high-stakes exam was cancelled for an entire country.

ACT spokesman Ed Colby declined to say how many students were affected by the October score cancellations, which he said involved test centres in Asia and Oceania. He described the incident as the result of "a compro-

mise in the testing process" and said the affected students "amounted to only a small portion of examinees in the region."

Affected students for the October score cancellation received a message from ACT that stated: "Unfortunately, events occurred which compromised the testing process for the writing portion of your test event. As a result, you will not receive a score for your writing test response/essay. Your multiple choice ACT tests—English, mathematics, reading, and science tests—WILL be scored."

The message added that ACT will issue each student a \$16 refund.

The ACT writing section is nominally voluntary, but many colleges require students to take it to gauge an applicant's writing and reasoning abilities.

The latest security incident is "a frustrating and



Students attend a lecture for the entrance exam for postgraduate studies at a hall in Jinan, Shandong Province, China, on 18 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

complicated situation for our students," said Kristin J. Dreazen, president of the international affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

The day before the ACT was administered on

22 October. Reuters obtained a copy of an ACT writing test on the subject "Fame" that an Asian source said had leaked and was to be given the next day. Test administrators in Asia were instructed shortly before the test to substi-

tute a different essay topic than the one that originally had shipped. Colby declined to comment on the test Reuters obtained.

Reuters reported in July that ACT's test security unit repeatedly had recommended tightening se-

curity overseas before the June breach, but that ACT executives had rejected the recommendations. The organisation later laid off the head of the unit. ACT's chief executive, Marten Roorda, has declined to be interviewed.—Reuters

Refugee restaurant dishes up African fare to win Italian hearts

LONDON — A refugee-run restaurant opening in Venice this week hopes to exploit Italians' renowned passion for food to improve community relations, one of its founders said on Thursday, as the arrival of thousands of migrants stokes tensions around the country.

Italy has become the main arrival point in Europe for people fleeing persecution and poverty in Africa, most of them crossing the Mediterranean from lawless Libya in search of a better life.

Their stories inspired Hamed Ahmadi, an Afghan refugee living in Ita-

ly, to open Africa Experience, a restaurant managed and run exclusively by refugees.

The eatery, which opens its doors on Friday in the centre of the picturesque lagoon city, will serve fusion dishes mixing the cuisine of various nations sub-Saharan migrants crossed or left during their journey to Europe.

"Food is a pretext," Ahmadi told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, explaining he hoped the restaurant would help bring down barriers between migrants and locals.

"Getting to know each other is essential — and

empty-bellied people pay special attention to you when you give them something to eat," he said in a phone interview. Ahmadi, a movie director who said he fled Afghanistan in 2006 after a controversy stirred by one of his short films, founded the restaurant with three fellow refugees — two of them women — from Afghanistan, Egypt and Iran.

Africa Experience employs four staff and three chefs from Nigeria, Ethiopia and Guinea, who were selected in a cooking competition moulded on hit television show MasterChef and run with the assistance

of reception centres in the area, he said. None of the cooks had any previous work experience behind the stove.

Mohammed Sow, 20, said he learned the craft preparing food for himself on the way to Italy, where he arrived on a migrant boat in 2014, after leaving his home in Guinea as a teenager.

"I never thought I could become a cook but it happened," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"I'm lucky I have found a job," he added. "I hope the restaurant is a success."—Reuters

Airbag bike helmets may be safer than conventional foam versions

PALO ALTO (Calif.) — Bicycle helmets that utilize airbag technology instead of conventional hard foam may offer five times more protection against brain injuries, according to Stanford University researchers.

These inflatable helmets cannot be sold in the United States due to current federal regulations. Two sets of test dummies, one wearing a standard helmet and the other wearing one that is worn around the neck and inflates like an airbag when it senses a collision, were dropped from varying heights in a lab to simulate bicycle accidents. "It was a big difference," Stanford University bioengineer David Camarillo said. Bicycle accidents are a leading cause of sports-related head injuries in the world due to the sheer number of bicyclists. Conventional helmets, according to Camarillo, are designed to prevent skull fractures but do not protect well against injuries such as concussions, which can occur when neurons in the brain stretch due to impact forces sustained during an accident. Airbag helmets, which are available for sale in parts of Europe,

are typically successful in protecting the brain from impact force but pose risks because they can fail to deploy properly. "You can actually be at more risk of injury compared to a standard helmet," said Mehmet Kurk, another member of the research team that conducted the study. If the airbag is late to deploy, the amount of pressure may not be sufficient to keep the head from making contact with the ground. "These helmets are going to have failure modes different than conventional bike helmets, but there could be ways in which they are much safer," said Camarillo. "You have to look at the relative risk."

Swedish company Hovding, which makes the airbag helmet in the Stanford study, said the technology it uses was fully tested and safe. However, Camarillo said US regulations did not reflect new research on the dangers of concussions and other brain injuries. The Consumer Product Safety Commission, which regulates bicycle helmets, does not even have a testing method in place for inflatable versions, he added.—Reuters

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Myanmar International

(5-11-2016 07:00am ~ 6-11-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon -The Planetary Posts
07:39	Am	Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	Myanmar Traditional Festival
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Discovering Tribes "Rvwang (Part-2)"
09:55	Am	Doctor Painter
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Next Generation "Tyrah T (DJ)"
10:36	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Novicehood in Myanmar

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar: Inflation & Economic Stagnation
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Creator of Imagination
08:54	Pm	Traffic Police

(09:00 Pm ~11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (09:00Am~11:00 Am)
(11:00Pm~03:00 Am)-Friday Repeat(07:00 Am~11:00 Am)
(03:00Am~07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00Am~11:00 Am)

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

Turkish torture as Manchester United lose again at Fenerbahce

LONDON — Manchester United's woes deepened as stunning goals by Moussa Sow and Jermain Lens gave Fenerbahce a 2-1 Europa League win on Thursday that left Jose Mourinho's side facing a battle to reach the knockout stages.

Without a victory in four Premier League games, United desperately needed a morale-lifting result in Turkey but were undone by a brilliant second-minute overhead kick from Sow and a superb curling set piece by Lens before Wayne Rooney smashed home a consolation.

While Mourinho's men are third in Group A, Zenit St Petersburg, Ajax Amsterdam, Shakhtar Donetsk and Schalke 04 have all sauntered through to the knockout rounds with two matches to spare.

What Mourinho would give for an in-form striker like Athletic Bilbao's Ariz Aduriz who became the first player to score five times in a Europa League match, his haul comprising three penalties in a 5-3 triumph over Racing Genk in Group F.

A gloomy pall has descended over Mourinho's reign at Old Trafford with the manager under

scrutiny for his team's poor start and the disciplinary problems that have earned him a domestic one-match touchline ban.

After victories in their last two group games, Europe's second-tier competition had supplied United with some relief from their league struggles but they were sliced apart by Fenerbahce who exposed some glaring defensive weaknesses.

The two spectacular goals they conceded, however, were almost unstoppable.

The match had barely begun when Sow flung himself on the edge of the box into an overhead volley from a floated cross, smashing the ball past United keeper David De Gea and into the top corner.

Fenerbahce then took a stranglehold on the tie when Lens stepped up to nonchalantly curl a free kick around the wall and into the corner 14 minutes after the restart, leaving De Gea rooted to the spot as the ball bulged the net.

It should have got a lot worse for United when second-half substitute Emmanuel Emenike threatened three times to extend the lead before Rooney drove the ball home from 25 metres to set



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney scores their first goal during their UEFA Europa League Group Stage, Group A at SK Sukru Saracoglu Stadium, Istanbul, Turkey on 3 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

up a nervy finish.

It was United's start, however, that most displeased Mourinho who railed at the lack of intensity in their play.

"Our problems started in our global attitude. They were playing the Champions League final, we were playing a summer friendly," he told BT Sport.

United, who suffered an injury blow when the world's most expensive player Paul Pogba was forced off in the first half, are now a point behind group leaders Feyenoord and Fenerbahce with two games remaining.

Zenit defeated Irish side Dundalk to maintain their per-

fect record in Group D while Shakhtar hit five for the second time in Group H as they overcame Belgians Gent 5-3.

Ajax reached the last 32 with a 3-2 Group G win over Celta Vigo while Schalke won Group I after goals from Junior Caicara and Nabil Bentaleb secured a 2-0 victory over Krasnodar and a fourth straight triumph.

Southampton, playing in the third tier of English football six years ago, came from a goal down to beat former European royalty Inter Milan 2-1 in a tempestuous encounter in Group K.

Mauro Icardi gave Inter the lead with a well-struck finish be-

fore tempers flared when Southampton were awarded a penalty at the end of the first half.

Dusan Tadic missed from the spot with the last kick of the opening 45 minutes but Virgil van Dijk levelled from close range and Yuto Nagatomo's own goal gave the hosts all three points.

Anderlecht were on the goal trail in Group C as Nicolae Stanciu and Lukasz Teodorczyk netted twice for the Belgians in their 6-1 rout of Germans Mainz 05.

AS Roma's Edin Dzeko bagged a double as they moved top of Group E after a 4-2 win at Austria Vienna. —Reuters

Infantino says World Cup plan would keep dream alive for more teams

ZURICH — FIFA president Gianni Infantino says his plan to expand the World Cup soccer finals is less drastic than his critics suggest, and would create more excitement for fans, broadcasters and sponsors.

The Swiss-Italian was elected president of the sport's world governing body in February, having promised as part of his campaign to expand the World Cup from 32 teams to 40. In October, however, he suggested that from 2026 the tournament could have 48 teams, although 16 of those would be eliminated after a single game.

The plan has attracted fierce criticism. Germany coach Joachim Loew expressed concern about a "watering-down of qual-



FIFA President Gianni Infantino gestures during an interview with Reuters at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland on 2 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ity", while the chief executive of leading German side Borussia Dortmund described it as "complete insanity".

But Infantino told Reuters in an interview it was simply a case of holding a round of playoff

matches before the tournament proper. In effect, he said he was proposing a 32-team tournament preceded by a knockout round which would be held in the same country as the tournament itself.

"Actually, it is 32 teams but with an additional playoff round where you can bring in teams from different confederations and make sure the best 32 qualify for the group stage," he said. The qualifying competition for a World Cup ends the preceding November, but Infantino said his plan would keep the alive the dream of qualifying until June for an extra 16 teams, compared with the present system, and allow them a taste of the tournament's atmosphere.

"If we shift the last Novem-

ber date into June, then we move the whole perception of 16 more countries in the world. "It is the World Cup fever you can create in a country from November until June, and this brings in kids who register in clubs, broadcasters who go to the local association, sponsors, the whole football movement in a country is really boosted."

The winners of the 16 initial playoff games would go through to join 16 teams already sure of their places thanks to superior results in the qualifying stage. The rest of the tournament would take place as usual, with eight groups of four.

In the interview, Infantino also said he wanted to bring greater transparency to the

sport's murky multi-billion-dollar transfer system and supported the idea of introducing squad size limits to stop the 'hoarding' of players by rich clubs.

He said an alternative system for the World Cup could be to introduce a final round of two-leg intercontinental playoffs played home-and-away.

"That is also an option but if you stage a playoff outside the World Cup atmosphere, you have not really qualified for the World Cup; if you qualify for the World Cup, it's a much bigger event," he said.

A single match playoff would also give a better chance of upsets, he said. "In a one-off match anything can happen." —Reuters



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