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Aids flowing into northern Rakhine State

Service personnel of the Tatmadaw unloading donations off a ship for the local people and service personnel in Maungtau township yesterday. Military aircraft carrying aid including food sent by people across the country left Yangon on 15 November and arrived at Sittway Jetty yesterday. The food will be delivered to local peoples in villages in Maungtau Township. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Sender of fake news in Rakhine linked to int'l extremist groups

A 21-year-old resident of Buthitaung Township in the northern Rakhine State has been sending fake, inflammatory news to extremists in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, an investigation has revealed.

The false dispatches include items that state: security forces are torturing Muslims to death, authorities said.

Acting on a tip, regional forces visited the residence of Ramauk Tula, 21, of the village of Kyaukphyu Tharthaykan, Buthitaung township, accompanied by the village administrator and the ward-in-charge.

An inspection of Ramauk Tula's residence led to a search of his mobile phone, which revealed a Viber contact by the name of Rohingya Muslim Group. An audio file in the Bengali language was found that said: "Help us! Government troops and police forces are killing Bengalis in Buthitaung Township!"

Viber is a phone call and text messaging application for mobile phones that can be used globally.

From the investigation of Ramauk Tula, it was learnt that Maulawi Mamudsha of Kyaukphyu Tharthaykan village, who

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Reports of hundreds fleeing Myanmar being pushed back by Bangladesh said to be false

AN inquiry into news reports by Reuters that nearly 200 people fleeing Myanmar had been arrested and repulsed yesterday by Bangladesh border guards has been found to be false, according to the News Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

A representative of the Myanmar Border Guard made a contact with Lt Col Abu Zar Al Zahid, Commander of No. 2 Border Guard Bangladesh with the help

of an interpreter to inquire about the media reports that claimed hundreds of people trying to enter Bangladesh across the river Naf were stopped and pushed back into Myanmar. Lt. Col. Abu Zar Al Zahid said he had also heard the same reports, but stated such events never happened, it is learnt.

The news reports allegedly said the mass exodus from Myanmar into Bangladesh was the result of situations currently occurring in the north-western

Reuters News Agency's report in which government troops were said to have shot dead 72 people who tried to flee is also found to be false.

part of Maungtau in the villages of Yaykhatchaung Gwasone, Myawtaung, Dargyizar, Yedwinkyun, Pwintphyu, Ushaygya and Ngakhuya. It was further reported that nearly 200 may have been kept in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Due to the faulty news reports, the News Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office said that inquiries were made by Myanmar of the Bangladesh army and border guard forces as to whether there were armed conflicts or not at the

border areas.

The news item of November 16 from Reuters News Agency further reported that Myanmar government troops were said to have shot dead 72 people who tried to flee. These claims also said to be false. The border guard representatives said that there was no conflict at the border areas and stated that their combined forces were launching inland area clearance operations. —Myanmar News Agency

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



MPs of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and officials of Hanns Seidel Foundation pose for photo: PHOTO: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Hanns Seidel Foundation sign MoU

THE Memorandum of Understanding-MoU was signed between Myanmar Hluttaw and the Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany signed yesterday, becoming the first cooperation of the parliaments of the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion held at the Zabuthithiri Hall of

the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw, U Tin Khun Myi-at, Chairman of the Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development stressed the importance of cooperation and assistance from the international parliaments in making efforts for more transparency and democratic institutions.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's strategy includes promotion of communication and cooperation, he added.

The MoU was signed by President Hanns Seidel Foundation Prof Ursula Mannle and Director-General of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office U Kyaw Soe.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw

Third meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw continues

THE government has no plan to grant a general amnesty as a sign of welcoming the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference as the conference has already started since 31 August, 2016, said Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe for Home Affairs at the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

The deputy was responding to a question whether the government had a plan to grant an amnesty at the session.

Law offenders are sentenced to prison in accordance with the law for stability and the rule of

law of the country but the president has the right to pardon prisoners under Sub-section (a) and (b) of Section 204 of the State Constitution, the deputy minister added.

Moreover, the deputy minister continued to say that the president can also release prisoners under Sub-section (1) of Section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code either without or on condition that such a released prisoner who commits crime again shall serve both the remaining prison term and the new prison term.

However, as the union peace conference has already started since 31 August, it is too late to welcome it and the government has no plan to grant an amnesty, according to the deputy minister.

In response to another question, the deputy minister said that application for permit to organize events like literary talks and preaching will not be lengthy process after the third amendment bill for The Ward or Village-tract Administration Law has been approved.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Investigation commission vows to help local residents in Maungtaung

A COMMITTEE investigating into violent attacks in Maungtaung and Rathetaung on 9 October formed by Rakhine State Government made a field trip to Kyikanpyin Command Centre, Chanpyin Village, Sabaipinyin Village, Yemyettaung Village, Ngakhuya Village and Kyainchaung Village on 17 November.

First, members of the committee met with 17 households of Maramagyi ethnic group from Forkitaung Village of Laungdon Village-tract, who fled their homes in fear to Kyainchaung Village and inquired about the security situation in their village.

Emergency Assistance Committee of Maungtaung, that accompanied the Investigation Committee on 9/10 Violent Attacks, delivered rice, edible oil, drinking water, dried noodles and fried dry-fish to residents of Hparwutchaung and Kyainchaung villages and security forces along the route. The assistance committee also presented K 20,000 do-

nated by monks and laypersons in Kalay Township to each family in Kappakaung, Myyemyattaung and Kyainchaung villages on behalf of the well-wishers.

Rakhine State Government formed the investigation committee with 11 members on 9 October.

Chairman of the commission

U Aung Win said, "This is the second time we have visited the area to learn what the difficulties of local people are. We visited many villages including Sabaipinyin, Ngakhuya and Kyainchaung villages today. We found only a few people in villages resided by Muslims.

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U Aung Win, Chairman of the investigation committee talks to villagers during his visit to villages in Maungtaung Township. PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

Amyotha Hluttaw

Ring road to be built in Kengtung

THE Amyotha Hluttaw session yesterday focused on the construction of new ring roads for Kengtung and Tamu.

The representative of the Shan State Constituency raised a question whether the government has a plan to build a ring road in Kengtung in Shan State so as to provided access for trucks.

Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing said arrangements are underway to build a ring road around Kengtung, with compensation to be paid to farmland owners for 97 acres of land.

A budget allocation for

construction of the road and compensation for the land has also been submitted to the union government for the 2017-18 fiscal year, he added.

The union minister also responded to a question related to compensation for landowners whose farmland was confiscated for construction of Tamu ring road. In his response, the union minister said that an agreement between authorities and landowners has been reached through negotiations and compensation will be paid as soon as the regional government approves it.—*Myanmar News Agency*



MPs sign in attendance book. PHOTO: MNA

Suspected arson in school complex In Maungtaung Township

A fire broke out at Ward Shitar in the village of Zankara, Myinlut of the No. 8 area of Maungtaung township at about 6:30pm on Thursday, destroying an unoccupied teachers' hostel and the housing estate of the general administration office's clerical staff, both of which have thatched roofs and

bamboo-walls. The loss caused by fire is estimated at Ks50,000.

A report describing the fire as an arson was filed by ward administrator Sweyok Arlong. An investigation is ongoing, according to the information committee of the State Counsellor's Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Elder village leader murdered in Maungtaung

MEMBERS of the Border Guard Police Command Centre in Makyichaung Village are questioning a man arrested by local residents in Gawduthera (West) Village suspected of murdering a village leader in Maungtaung, according to the State Counsellor's Office Information Committee.

Germerl, an elder and head of the 100-household village of Gawduthera (West), Maungtaung Township, was found dead with wounds consistent with a sword slashing on his throat, head and

chest near Gawduthera (South) Village on Thursday.

The victim reportedly went to Gawduthera (South) Village to have dinner at the home of Harby Eula on Thursday evening. At about 7.30 pm, his family began to search for him after he failed to return home on time.

The head of the village reported the murder to the police command centre after local residents arrested a suspect by themselves.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President accepts credentials of newly-accredited ambassadors

MR. Haydar Kerem Divanlioglu, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Myanmar presented his credentials to President U Htin Kyaw at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 2.35 pm yesterday.

Mr. Tshewang Chophel Dorji, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan to Myanmar presented his credentials to President U Htin Kyaw at 2 pm yesterday.

Ms Karen Anita MacArthur, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar presented her credentials to President U Htin Kyaw at 3.10 pm yesterday.

Present on the occasions were Deputy Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin and Director-General U Ko Ko Naing of the Protocol Department.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw poses for a documentary photo with Ambassador Mr. Tshewang Chophel Dorji and diplomats of the Kingdom of Bhutan at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw . PHOTO: MNA



Sate Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes with Ms. Ina Marciulionyte, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania. PHOTO: MNA

Sate Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives ambassadors

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr. Jong Ho Bom, Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Myanmar, Ms. Ina Marciulionyte, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania as well as H.E. Mr. Kreso Glavac, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia and Mr. Tshewang Chophel Dorji, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday separately.

At the meeting with the Korean ambassador, they exchanged views on bilateral relations between Myanmar and Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

At the meeting with Ms. Ina Marciulionyte and Mr. Kreso Glavac, they exchanged views on the bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and their countries. At the meeting with Mr. Tshewang Chophel Dorji, they exchanged views on promoting bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Sender of fake news in Rakhine . . .

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returned from Bangladesh two months ago, taught Ramauk Tula and others how to create Viber accounts and post news in the group. Ramauk showed others how to open accounts. It was learnt that some extremists from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia and India include in this viber group. It was found that participants in the Viber groups are extremists who aimed to launch subversive attacks on the government and for illegal immigrants in the region to become nationalized.

According the messages, it was also discovered that this Rohingya Muslim Viber group is linked with the California-based Rohingya Vision News, a connection used to get necessary aid from international extremist groups. Other messages exchanged in the Viber group were informed about terrorist attacks in June 2016.

The Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office said it will continue to investigate and will release information in a timely manner.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Third meeting held to implement Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State

A national-level investigation commission will be formed to probe into the violent attacks in Maungdaw, according to the resolution at the third work coordination meeting of the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State yesterday.

The commission will submit a report based on its findings in the investigation and will also give suggestions for prevention of such kind of attacks in the future. At the third coordination meeting, which was opened with an address by the committee's chairperson State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu clarified the ground situation in the state.

In the clarification, Chief Minister said, "As regards humanitarian aids provided by

international organisations to Maungdaw region, World Food Programme provided 202,308 tons of rice, 4,217 tons of cooking oil, 2,374 tons of salt, 351,286 tons of biscuits, 200 tons of nourishment food from November 4 2016 to November 15. Those are being distributed by local personnel of WFP."

He went on saying, "Similarly, WFP has been distributing humanitarian aids to Kyetyoepyin, Ngarsarkyu and Pyaungpik villages on 8/Nov/2016, supporting 1011 bags and 48 pyis of rice, 89 bags of pea, 3688 litres of oil, 394 viss of salt and other nutritious food. And Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Rakhine State Government as well are supporting provisions."

The World Food Programme, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

and the Rakhine State government have delivered food to the local people in affected areas in the state from 4 to 15 November. Measures would be taken to step up assistance in the current supply of humanitarian aid to the people in northern Rakhine State to be more effective, according to the meeting.

The Myanmar Police Force refuted the allegations of 'community police' formations in Rakhine State.

"There is no plan to establish community police in Rakhine State and in other regions and states as well", said Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe.

"However, to reinforce the country's police force, the Myanmar Police Force has a plan to recruit new members in the regions and states", he added.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Sate Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the third work coordination meeting of the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine. PHOTO: MNA



The wheelchair journey is flagged off from Kanbawza Bank's Kamayut Branch. PHOTO: THURA LWIN

Wheelchair journey launched to hail Int'l Day Of Persons With Disabilities

A long journey campaign from Yangon to Mawlamyine by people with disabilities in wheelchairs launched in Yangon yesterday as a gesture of hailing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities which falls on 3rd December.

The event sponsored by the Kanbawza Bank was held the Kanbawza Bank's Kamayut Branch-2.

People with disabilities from different societies joined the journey, and it will take for 15 days.

Speaking on the occasion, U Aung Ko Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Federation of Disabled Persons, expressed thanks to the KBZ Bank and its Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation and people with disabilities from different societies.

He also called for keeping co-operation in promoting ability of the Disabled persons and public awareness to the people. Daw Mya Thida Lwin, Deputy Headmistress of the Yangon School for the

Blind, also pledged to promote the school's efforts for interest of the blind nationwide. The event was formally opened Daw Nang Lang Kham, Executive Director of the KBZ Bank Ltd and U Thein Lwin, Vice Chairman of Myanmar Federation of Disabled Persons.

The event also aims to celebrate the annual event of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) which will fall on December 3.—Thura Lwin

Trade value under ITC reaches over Ks4,400 million

The value of trade with Individual trading cards (ITCs) from 1st April to the end of October in this fiscal year reached over Ks4,400 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

This year's figure is up slightly compared to the same period last year. The number of ITC users has also risen, an official from the Commerce ministry said.

A total of 117 cards have been issued so far in the first seven months of this fiscal year. Some merchants who use ITC at the Muse border trade zone pointed out that ITC helps facilitate the process for small individual traders. The ITC was introduced on 21st November, 2012 in a bid to boost border trade and to encourage merchants to trade legally.—Ko Htet

Exhibition in Bagan to show off Myanmar traditional products

TRADITIONAL products made in Myanmar, from slippers to seasonings, will be displayed by over 200 local manufacturers at the compound of Shwezigon Pagoda in the Bagan region, according to the Ginga Shwe Nadi products.

There are expected to be 600 exhibitors at the event. The exhibition will be held from December 30 to January 4.

This is the first time to show off our Myanmar traditional products. We will celebrate this show with the aim of promoting Myanmar traditional products because Myanmar products are difficult to export and it can help

facilitate the process to create export opportunities, said U Kyaw Khine Htet, founder of Ginga Shwe Nadi products.

"At the display, we will also discuss how to control food quality and how to penetrate the international market with Myanmar produce," said Daw Win Kyi, chairman of the Food Science and Technology Association.

Over 200 local manufacturers will display including oil, coffee, tea, thanaka (Myanmar sunscreen makeup), jams, juice, crafts, slippers, hand-weaving, spices and seasonings.—Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

Yaba, heroin seized in Lashio and Moemeik

An anti-narcotics suppression squad from Lashio searched a GI Group Express bus and seized 4,000 yaba tablets from Ma Mar Bauk, a passenger, near Oriental Toll Gate at the entrance of Hsenwi Township on 16 November.

Similarly, Lashio police

searched a Yazar Tun Express bus and seized 4,000 yaba tablets from passengers Sai Sein Pan and Sai San Mat near Oriental Toll Gate at the entrance of Nawnghio Township.

On the same day, police from Moemeik Township seized hero-

in weighing 25 grams and 2,380 yaba tablets from Tun Moe Kyaw near Margyibin village, Moemeik Township.

Police filed charges against the traffickers under the Anti-Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

Sleepy driver crashes into road divider on Highway

A micro-van driven by Myo Zaw Hein hit the road divider and overturned when he apparently fell asleep at the wheel and lost control en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon on 17 November. The accident occurred at about 1am between mileposts 39/3 and 39/4 near Bawnatkyi Highway Police Station on Yangon-Man-

dalay Highway.

Two of the three people on board the Hijet micro-van were seriously injured in the accident. Myo Zaw Hein has been charged with reckless driving by local police. Most of the accidents take place because of undisciplined drivers, motorbikes, three-wheeled vehicles and cattle

encroaching onto the road, said local highway police.

Therefore, police from Highway Police Stations launched safety awareness campaigns, distributing pamphlets periodically to the people residing in the villages situated along Yangon-Mandalay Highway.—Than Oo (Lemyathna)

Man charged with car theft in Pathein

POLICE have filed a lawsuit against a man suspected of car theft near Pathein town station, Ayeyarwady region on Thursday.

The police stopped and investigated Kyaw Swe, alias Rakhine, when but he failed to prove that the vehicle he was driving belonged to him. When interrogated, Kyaw Swe, from Chaung

Thar village, admitted that he had stolen the vehicle from Sing Oho Pho ward, Pathein town.

"The suspect opened the car lock with scissors. Now, we are still investigating him," said Inspector of Police Zaw Min Tun from the Pathein Myoma police station.

"I usually park the car in front

of my mother's houses but I couldn't find it this morning. A friend of mine said that he found my car near the station. So, I informed the matter to the police station," said the car owner.

The local police station is taking action against the suspect under section 379 of the Penal Code.—Myitmakha News Agency

Heroin and yaba worth Ks 8 million seized in Monywa

POLICE from Monywa seized heroin and yaba tablets worth Ks 8million from a motorbike near mileposts 93/6, Monywa-Budalin road, Bandula ward, Monywa town, Sagaing region.

Acting on a tip-off, the police stopped and searched the motorbike heading from Budalin to Monywa driven by Swe Myint, 35, with Ma Zin Wine, 34, on

board and found six soap boxes containing heroin weighing 72 grams and worth Ks 7.2million, 190 yaba tablets worth Ks 0.95 million, two mobile phones and Ks 19,000.

Police have filed charges against both of them under section 15/ 19(A)/ 20(A)/ 21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—Myitmakha News Agency



Swe Myint and Ma Zin Wine with drugs. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

LOCAL Business

Maritime trade value declines while border trade value increases

THE value of trade through normal trade as of 11th November in this fiscal year declined by over US\$328.406 million, while value of trade through border area increased by US\$ 390.421million, according to the statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

The value of exports as of 11th November in the current fiscal year was US\$4,234.941million through sea trade and US\$2,763.047 from border trade, while those in the similar period of last fiscal year were US\$3928.9 million via normal trade and US\$2,516.629 via border trade.

According to the Second Five-Year National Plan, imported items are scrutinised to reduce the deficit in trade, excluding essential import items. Therefore, the import through sea trade as of 11th November in this fiscal year

slumped by US\$634.447million, which is down from US\$ 8,050.11million in the previous fiscal year. Meanwhile, imports through border trade increased by US\$1,44.003 million, which is up from US\$1,547.582million in the previous fiscal year.

Out of seven export groups, minerals and finished industrial goods export earnings declined. However, other export groups are on the rise. The export of agricultural products as of 11th November topped in the list, fetching US\$1,671.038million. The exports of agricultural products, livestock, fishery products, forest products, minerals, industrial finished goods and other products as of 11th November amounted to US\$6,997.988million which is up from US\$6,445.529million in the similar period of last year.

The values of export through



Trucks line up near Muse 105-Mile Trade Zone in northern Shan State recently. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

the Muse, Keng Tung and Sittwe border camps declined while those through other border trade camps rose. However, the Muse border trade camp is seen to have the highest trade value of

3,105.175million, whereas the Mawtaung and Sittwe border trade camps earned the lowest, according to statistics from the Commerce Ministry. There are 15 border trade camps in Myan-

mar: Muse, Lweje, Chin Shwe Haw, Kan Pike Tee, Keng Tung, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maw Taung, Sittwe, Maung Taw, Tamu and Reed.—*Ko Htet*

Export volume of rice drops by over 100,000 tonnes

THIS YEAR'S export volume of rice has declined by over 100,000 tonnes compared to the similar period last fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between April and September of this year, Myanmar exported over 500,000 tonnes of rice to foreign trade partners. The country earned US\$177 million from the export of rice over the past six months. The

export value has decreased by over US\$60 million compared with the same period last FY.

The country received over US\$1.3 billion from the export of agriculture products including rice this year. It exported agriculture supplies amounting to over US\$2.5 billion to its trade partners.

According to official figures from the Commerce Ministry, Myanmar annually produces 13

million tonnes of rice, of which about eight million tonnes go to the domestic market for local consumption.

The 12.5 per cent of the total volume of rice from Myanmar flows into foreign market, mostly to China.

Myanmar yielded about 12.20 million metric tonnes from 7.21 million hectares of acres of land in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.—*Khine Khant*

Modern car park system will hopefully help ease Yangon traffic congestion

A JOINT venture company is offering the first-ever modern car park system in Yangon with Japanese technology, in hopes of easing the traffic congestion in Yangon.

The JV- company's workshop jointly established by Shin Ye Htut Company and Japan's Watahan Company, was opened in Mingaladon Township on 17 November.

The factory will mainly focus assembling "location parking" with a capacity of 14 to 15 cars and 14 to 15-storey car parking with a capacity of 70 cars.

"We have sought cooperation from the Yangon Region Government to produce the modern car park systems," said U Ye Htut, Chairman of the Shin Ye Htut Company.—*Khin Maung Htway*

Over 140,000 tonnes of rubber to be exported this fiscal year

WITH the demand of natural rubber rising from foreign countries, over 140,000 tonnes of rubber is planned for export in the current fiscal year, said an official from the Commerce Ministry.

The demand was not that high in previous years, with about 80,000 tonnes of rubber exported per year. This year, the demand from countries such as Japan has risen, possibly a result of Japan's increased export volume, it is learnt.

The demand of synthetic rubber made from petroleum by-products has declined as a result of the high global price. That has made the demand for natural rubber from Myanmar to increase in the international market. The

Myanmar rubber price has also risen with exports to Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan and especially to China.

The prevailing domestic price of rubber is Ks150 higher than that of last month. However, Myanmar's rubber is offered about US\$200 lower than the export market price due to unstable quality. Concerted efforts are being exerted to control the quality of rubber with technical assistance from the Japanese government.

Over 180,000 tonnes of rubber are produced per year in Myanmar and from 80,000 to 90,000 tonnes of rubber are exported to foreign countries, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.—*Mon Mon*

Japan and Myanmar to boost trade, investment this year

JAPAN and Myanmar are planning to boost trade and investment this year through effective bilateral business strategies, according to a member of the local chamber of commerce.

The news comes from meetings on Wednesday in Yangon between the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

This is the first time both parties have gathered to discuss

promotion of bilateral business relations and cooperation. The two sides also discussed the effective use of Japanese loans.

Japanese government vowed to grant nearly US\$8 billion in aid, loans and investment to promote development and reconciliation in Myanmar during the official visit of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi earlier this month.

Development of infrastructure as well as improvement of industry business in the country

top the list of priorities, said U Maung Maung Lay, vice-president of the RUMFCCI.

Japan is one of main trading partners of Myanmar. Since 2011, Japanese investment has rapidly increased in the country.

In 2015-2016 fiscal year, Japanese investment in Myanmar totaled US\$86 million, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The East Asian country established diplomatic ties with Myanmar in late 1954.—200

Fire in Melbourne bank branch injures 27, one man under police guard

MELBOURNE — A fire in a Melbourne branch of Commonwealth Bank of Australia on Friday, which police said was allegedly set by a man, injured 27 people, including six critically.

Victoria police, in a statement, said the man who allegedly started the fire “has been taken to hospital in a serious condition under police guard”.

The bank branch, about 23 kilometers (14 miles) from Melbourne’s central business district, has been evacuated, the police added.

A statement from Ambulance Victoria said the injured ranged from a toddler to people in their 80s.

CBA confirmed the incident in a statement and said the branch will remain closed for the rest of Friday. —Reuters



An electronic cash machine is burned at a branch of the Commonwealth Bank after a fire injured customers in Melbourne, Australia, on 18 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Duterte says Philippines would welcome refugees: ‘They can always come here.’

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has lashed out at the “hypocrisy” of the West for closing borders to an exodus of refugees he said he would welcome to his country and accept until it was “filled to the brim”.

In a short documentary broadcast Thursday by Al Jazeera, Duterte lambasted critics for complaining about his deadly war on drugs and rallied at the United States for “bullying” that he said someone had to stand up to.

He accused Washington of double standards and said where human rights were concerned the Philippines was in the same league as the United States, where “bigotry is very much alive” and where police kill innocent people, not drug pushers.

In interviews crammed with expletives, the 71-year-old former mayor spoke warmly of Beijing and Moscow, describing Chinese President Xi Jinping as “a very courteous



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte talks to members of his cabinet (not pictured) after arriving from Malaysia, at Davao International airport in Davao city in southern Philippines, on 11 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

person” and Vladimir Putin as a man who was sincere.

Commenting on the refugee exodus that has plagued Europe, Duterte said Western countries had failed those most in need and the Philippines, a developing country of 100 million, was willing to take them in.

“They can always come here, and will be

welcome here, until we are filled to the brim,” he said.

“It’s all right. We will survive. I say send them to us. We will accept them. We will accept them. They are human beings.”

Since he was elected in May, Duterte has been shaking up the Philippines and scoring high approval ratings, despite his hostility towards ally the United

States and an anti-drug campaign that has killed more than 2,400 people.

Many of the deaths have come during police operations to arrest suspects, but some are believed to be the work of vigilantes.

Duterte denied responsibility for unleashing a wave of vigilante killings and denied that gunmen were hired by authorities to carry out hit-and-run killings.

But he said he would take the law into his own hands if his own family members were killed, saying, “I will kill you.”

Asked if that meant he was encouraging vigilantism, he responded: “Yes I am encouraging. So what’s wrong now?”

Duterte said he was “pissed off” hearing criticism from the West about his drugs crackdown.

“If I look like a bad boy to them I really do not give a shit,” he said. “Who are they to me? They are nothing.”—Reuters

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Aid convoy reaches quake-hit New Zealand town as damage bill mounts

WELLINGTON — A convoy of 27 military trucks reached the quake-stricken New Zealand town of Kaikoura on Friday, five days after the seaside community was completely cut off by huge landslides caused by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake that killed two people.

The convoy, which had been delayed by bad weather on Thursday, carried food and medical supplies and a team of civil engineers, officials said.

Helicopters have also flown provisions to the town from navy vessels anchored offshore since the quake struck early on Monday. More than 1,000 tourists and residents were evacuated from the small fishing town, a popular whale-watching base on New Zealand’s ruggedly beautiful South Island.

Relief efforts by sea, air and road would continue to supply the town of around 2,000 people as roads remained shut to the public.

“Our people are going to be there for a very long time,” a spokeswoman for

the New Zealand Defence Force said.

Not all tourists have left, and New Zealand media reported that a local lawmaker and motel owner had complained that some were staying to get drunk and party through the night for a “cheap holiday” as residents tried to clean up.

Warships from Australia, Canada and the United States, in New Zealand for the Royal New Zealand Navy’s 75th anniversary,

have also been assisting with Kaikoura’s recovery.

The quake’s cost could add up to almost NZ\$12 billion (\$8.4 billion), which would likely take a toll on the government’s finances and possibly push the country’s budget back into deficit after two years of surpluses, according to analysts. “This week’s disaster struck in more lightly populated areas but damage to infrastructure has been severe,” said Citibank econo-

mists in a research note. The note compared this week’s tremor with the 2011 quake in Christchurch, the South Island’s largest city, that killed almost 200 people and required a NZ\$40 billion rebuild.

Others have put the bill lower. Prime Minister John Key said earlier this week the damage bill would be about NZ\$2 billion (\$1.40 billion), although he cautioned that was only an early estimate.—Reuters



Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel lead those stranded by an earthquake to an NH90 helicopter to evacuate them from Kaikoura on the South Island of New Zealand, on 16 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Philippine dictator Marcos buried with military honours at heroes' cemetery

MANILA — Former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos was buried with military honours at a heroes' cemetery in the capital Manila on Friday, almost 30 years after his death in Hawaii, amid protests by human rights groups and opposition politicians.

Many in the Philippines were angered by the way Marcos' family had kept the timing of the burial secret, with Vice President Leni Robredo likening the ceremony to "a thief in the night".

"This is nothing new to the Marcoses — they who had hidden wealth, hidden human rights abuses and now hidden burial — with complete disrespect for the rule of law," Robredo said in a statement.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who is attending the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Lima, Peru, had ordered the burial in August, fulfilling an election campaign promise.

Marcos' eldest daughter, Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos, thanked Duterte for allowing her father, a former soldier and guerrilla leader during



Protesters display a banner and placards denouncing the burial of former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (heroes' cemetery), along a main street in Taft avenue, metro Manila, Philippines on 18 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

World War II, to be laid to rest with soldiers.

"At last, my beloved father's last will to be buried with fellow soldiers was fulfilled today," she said. She also asked people to understand the family's decision to keep the ceremony "simple, private and solemn".

Human rights groups opposed his burial at the heroes' cemetery south of Manila but

the Philippines Supreme Court ruled against their protests last week.

Marcos ruled the Philippines for 20 years, during which time he, his family and cronies amassed an estimated \$10 billion in ill-gotten wealth, a commission found. Tens of thousands of suspected communist rebels and political foes were killed.

He was chased from office

in a people's power revolt in 1986 and died in exile in Hawaii three years later. His family returned to the Philippines in the 1990s and became powerful politicians representing his home province of Ilocos Norte.

Military spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said they were just following orders to bury Marcos at the heroes' ceremony. "We do not side with anyone, we serve everyone," he told a press briefing.

The media was banned from the ceremony. Throngs of journalists waited outside the cemetery as a 21-gun salute was fired and a Philippine flag was handed to Marcos' widow, Imelda.

"This is what we have been praying for," Marcos supporter Cherrie Cobarrubias told Philippine television.

Dozens of protesters rallied around Manila, some burning pictures of the late ruler.

Marcos' body was returned to the Philippines in the early 1990s and was placed in a refrigerated mausoleum at his hometown in Paoay.—Reuters

Mysterious disease kills buffalo herd in eastern Thailand

BANGKOK — Some 21 buffaloes in Thailand's eastern Prachin Buri province have died in 3 days, which local official said may be caused by Hemorrhagic Septicemia.

These buffaloes belonged to 31-year-old Suthat Somthong, who lives in Kabin Buri district of the province.

Suthat said one of the 47 buffaloes died on Tuesday, following by another one on Wednesday and 19 more on Thursday, the *Bangkok Post* reported.

Local officials and vets were investigating the issue and trying to control the spread of the disease by burning those dead animals and monitoring the remaining buffaloes.

Wanlop Prawatwong, chief of Kabin Buri district, said it was not yet known what kind of disease had struck these buffaloes, but it was presumably caused by Hemorrhagic Septicemia, an acute, highly fatal form of pasteurellosis that affects mainly water buffalo, cattle and bison. Wanlop said tissue samples of these dead buffaloes had been sent to livestock office in Chon Buri for testing.—Xinhua

Japan's PM Abe meets Trump, says confident can build trust

NEW YORK — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe described Donald Trump as a "trustworthy leader" after meeting the US president-elect on Thursday to get clarity on statements Trump had made while campaigning that had caused concern about the alliance.

Abe, speaking after the hastily arranged 90-minute meeting at Trump Tower in Manhattan, reporters: "The talks made me feel sure that we can build a relationship of trust." But he would not disclose specifics because the conversation was unofficial.

Japan's leadership has been nervous about the future of an alliance that is core to Tokyo's diplomacy and security.

Trump had fanned worries in Tokyo and beyond with comments on the possibility of Japan acquiring nuclear arms, demands that allies pay more for keeping US forces on their soil or face their possible withdrawal, and his opposition to the US-led 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade pact.

Abe had worked closely with President Barack Obama on the TPP trade pact, which was part of Obama's push to counter the rising strength of China and a pillar of Abe's economic reforms.

"Alliances cannot function without trust. I am now confident that President-elect Trump is a trustworthy leader," said Abe, describing the talks as "candid" and held in a "warm atmosphere".

Abe gave Trump a golf driver



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets with US President-elect Donald Trump (R) at Trump Tower in Manhattan, New York, US, on 17 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

and received golf-wear in return, Japanese officials said.

Photographs taken inside the ornate meeting room at Trump Tower showed Abe accompanied only by an interpreter and Trump by his daughter Ivanka, her husband and Trump adviser Jared Kushner, and Retired Lieutenant General Michael Flynn whom a senior Trump official said on Thursday had been offered the national security adviser position.

Abe said he had agreed to

meet again with Trump "at a convenient time to cover a wider area in greater depth."

It was unclear if that would happen before Trump's inauguration on 20 January. Trump official Kellyanne Conway told CBS earlier on Thursday that "any deeper conversations about policy and the relationship between Japan and the United States will have to wait until after the inauguration."

Trump officials did not immediately comment following the

meeting with Abe.

Back in Tokyo, Finance Minister Taro Aso commented: "The meeting ran longer than planned, which means that they were on the same wavelength and it went well."

Some of Trump's campaign rhetoric suggested an image of Japan forged in the 1980s, when Tokyo was seen by many in the United States as a threat to jobs and a free-rider on defence.

A Trump adviser who spoke

earlier in the week, however, stressed a more positive view and credited Abe with making changes.

"Frankly, the prime minister has been more assertive and forthright in trying to make those changes to Japan's global posture," he said.

Trump, a brash billionaire real estate magnate, and Abe, a political blue blood, share a stated desire to raise their countries' global standing and both have support from right-wing constituencies.

Abe has boosted Japan's overall defence spending since taking office in 2012. He has also stretched the limits of its pacifist postwar constitution to allow the military to take a bigger global role. Japan's defence spending, though, still stands at just over 1 per cent of GDP compared with more than 3 per cent in the United States.

Abe was expected to see Obama at an Asia-Pacific summit in Peru on the weekend. Hours before Abe and Trump met, Obama's secretary of state, John Kerry, and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida met in Lima to discuss the Paris climate accord — a deal Trump has pledged to exit.

Diplomats and analysts say that however good the atmospherics, it will be hard to assess Trump's policies on security issues ranging from overseas deployments of US troops, China's maritime assertiveness and the North Korean nuclear threat until Trump makes key appointments.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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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.

Vulnerable agriculture sector

Myint Win Thein

Agriculture is a major industry in Myanmar but is also one of the most vulnerable sectors of the economy. The sector is prone to natural disasters such as floods, droughts and storms that have an enormous impact on crop yields. This year, Myanmar suffered losses due to floods, with many acres of rice paddy fields inundated at the start of the rainy season.

Moreover, economic factors such as demand and supply also determine crop prices.

According to a recent news report, Myanmar's rice exports dropped by over 100,000 tonnes compared to the same period last year. Declines in export demand will greatly affect the local prices of rice at present and during cultivation next year.

In addition, rising prices of imported fertiliser and pesticide also place a burden on the sector. Farmers have to take out agricultural loans from banks as well as borrow money from private lenders at high

interest rates. When natural disasters and economic factors are not in their favour, they struggle to repay their debts on time.

Therefore, it can be safely said that the people who are engaged in the agriculture sector are unusually vulnerable to natural disasters and economic impacts. Peasant farmers make up a great majority of the population of Myanmar. Economic damage to the majority of the population of a country will have long-term

consequences for the entire country.

Therefore, it is important that the impact of natural disasters and economic factors are reduced as much as possible by finding out a means of safeguarding them from its effects. Disaster preparedness in the agriculture sector may be able to reduce the impact of natural disasters, while diversification of export markets is likely to help raise the demand. It is time we paid attention to the agriculture sector.

Water service delivery in Myanmar cities

Reinforcing operators' capacities to sustain upgraded services

Dr. Khin Maung Lwin

According to the 2015 data from WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP), 93% of the urban population of Myanmar has access to improved water supply and 97% to improved sanitation. However, as stated in the most recent sector situation analysis, there is some concern that JMP data presents an overly positive picture, partly because they do not take account of serious deficiencies in service quality and reliability. While infrastructure projects in urban areas have multiplied in recent years, little attention is indeed given to the capacities of operators to better manage services. Recent projects rarely include technical assistance and training, especially in secondary cities, and the extent to which they will durably improve the quality of service is therefore questionable.

Different cities, similar issues

A seminar organized in June 2016 in Mandalay by the Mandalay City Development Committee with support of the Embassy of France in Myanmar gathered technical representatives of more than fifteen major cities of Myanmar. These operators, who are responsible for providing water services in their respective cities, discussed during two days their challenges and shared their experience with their peers in the presence of international experts.

Cities attending this event were diverse in every respect. While the smallest city has less than thirty thousand inhabitants, the biggest gathers several hundreds of thousands of inhabitants. Climatic conditions and environmental features are also very different with cities sited on flat land at sea level and others located in

mountainous areas. Moreover, even if the urbanization process is visible countrywide, economic growth is faster in some cities than it is in others.

However, despite these differences, problems faced by local authorities to provide high quality water services are similar in all Myanmar cities. First of all, no city is in a position to provide water to its whole population. When water networks exist, they are often insufficient in terms of coverage and greatly deteriorated: physical losses are important, aging pumps do not run at their optimal capacities, individual water meters do not accurately record the clients' consumption, etc. Likewise, the lack of measuring instruments on the networks prevents to carry out sound monitoring of their conditions and to properly operate the facilities.

But infrastructural issues are not the only factor contributing to the poor quality of water services in Myanmar cities. Thus, while the City Development Committees of Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Daw are each endowed with a specific Water & Sanitation Department, Engineering Departments of the Township Development Committees are generally understaffed or deprived of staff dedicated to the water service. Staff of these departments often have limited skills when it comes to operating and managing a water service, and training processes are weak. Likewise, these departments lack financial means since revenues generated by the water service are well below expenditures. Largely unbalanced, water budgets thus do not allow covering the needs to maintain, operate and develop water supply systems.

Improving management skills to sustainably enhance the service

In the light of the above con-

siderations, the need to upgrade water facilities and to reinforce capacities of urban water service providers seems obvious. But while there is an increasing effort to expand or improve infrastructures, very little is done to strengthen operators' skills. And yet, while new or enhanced infrastructures will positively impact the quality of service in the short term, improvements cannot be sustainable if operators are not endowed with the required skills to maintain facilities and to properly manage the service. Therefore, we may well be justified in thinking that most current projects, mainly focused on infrastructures, will not prevent the recurrence of the aforementioned problems in the future.

As a consequence, public health and environmental hazards caused by defective water services will remain. Poor supplied water quality will continue to threaten consumers' health, especially for the poorest who cannot afford buying purified water. In a context where water resource mobilization becomes increasingly difficult and costly, deteriorated facilities and an inefficient management of the service will also continue to lead to widespread and significant waste of precious water. In order to really improve the quality of the service delivered to urban citizens, infrastructures and operators' skills should therefore be built together.

In Yangon and Mandalay, large scale projects under preparation or implementation generally include the provision of technical assistance and measures aiming to transfer know-how from international experts to local services providers. But the lack of capacity building measures is particularly striking in secondary cities where ongoing projects include very limited activities of such kind. And when trainings are provided

through internationally-funded projects, they are usually provided to managers only and they almost exclusively focus on purely technical matters.

Apart from these few perfectible -yet needed- capacity building activities, technical staff of the City and Township Development Committees, which work under the umbrella of Departments of Development Affairs, no longer receive training at a national level. Following the enacting of the 2008 Constitution, these departments were indeed moved out of the Ministry of Border Affairs and their components spread into sub-national offices between the 15 States, Regions and Union of territories. Now under the full remit of the new state and region governments that were created in April 2011, urban services no longer have a line ministry at Union level to support them in an improvement process.

The right time for action

The increasing presence of private investors, donors and other sector actors in Myanmar represents an opportunity to rapidly upgrade and develop water infrastructures. However, as highlighted above, improvements brought by new facilities will be sustainable only if sector actors adopt an approach where the reinforcement of operators' capacities to manage the service is at the heart of the projects. Contrary to the widespread belief that new facilities would solve all the problems by themselves, sustainable improvement of water services will first and foremost be achieved by better management.

A rapid assessment of the situation of water services in Myanmar cities shows that existing facilities could already be much better managed. Enhancing billing and fee collection modalities, better monitoring water volumes at

stake, eliminating illegal connections and replacing defective meters are some measures which could be implemented without significant investments. Such improvements would allow to increase revenues, to limit water production costs and to contribute to a fairer access to the service for all.

And these measures are far from being utopian. Several cities across Myanmar have already started to implement this kind of action and to reap their benefits. In Mawlamyine city for instance, monthly revenues generated by the sale of water to one thousand customers were doubled after the replacement of their meters. In the same city, the Township Development Committee managed to negotiate with schools, hospitals, monasteries and other public institutions for the latter to pay their water bill like any other consumers, thus limiting water wastage and increasing revenues. While such measures are undertaken with varying success in different places, their results are rarely shared with other cities. Likewise, local expertise is growing but remains unevenly distributed, with staff of the biggest cities often being both the most skilled and yet the most supported operators.

Because now is the time to definitely reverse the trend, and move towards better performing and more sustainable water services, capacity building activities should become an integral part of any intervention in the sector. Alternate and innovative ways to train all urban services operators should also be sought to complement usual theoretical classroom trainings provided by international experts.

Fostering the use of local expertise and the sharing of experience among public water service providers from various cities, encouraging on-the-job training and developing technical literature in Myanmar language could thus prove to be more relevant to achieve this aim.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order 59/2016
4th Waning of Tazaungmon 1378 ME
Termination of Duties

The duties of Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win are terminated with effect from today in accordance with the 1/sub-section (c) under the Section 235 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and sub-section (a) under the Section 69 of the Union Government Law.

Sd/
Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 29/2016
4th Waning of Tazaungmon 1378 ME

Announcement of the Decision of Union Election Commission under session 75/B of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law

1. Union Election Commission made a decision on the objection of U Tun Tun Win, contestant candidate against the election of U Ko Ko Naing as the Hluttaw representative for the constituency of Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region after hearing of the electoral appeal on objection under section 75 of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law by Election Tribunal formed under section 69 of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

2. In the decision on the electoral appeal on objection no (20/2016) issued by the Union Election Commission dated 17/11/2016, it has been decided that election of U Ko Ko Naing as the Hluttaw Representative for the constituency of Yamethin township, Mandalay Region is invalid, and U Tun Tun Win is the Hluttaw Representative of the said constituency under section 75/A of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

3. With effect from the date of this announcement hereupon, it is declared that U Ko Ko Naing no longer has the right to stand for as a Hluttaw Representative, and U Tun Tun Win { 5/Ah Ta Na [Naing] 053898} is the Hluttaw Representative for Yamethin constituency, Mandalay Region under section 75/B of the Respective Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 30/2016
4th Waning of Tazaungmon 1378 ME

Announcement of the Decision of Union Election Commission under session 75/B of Region/State Hluttaw Election Law

1. Union Election Commission made a decision on the objection of U Aung Myo Oo, contestant candidate against the election of U Kyaw Myint as the Regional Hluttaw representative for the constituency 2 of Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region after hearing of the electoral appeal on objection under section 75 of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law by Election Tribunal formed under section 69 of Region/State Hluttaw Election Law.

2. In the decision on the electoral appeal on objection no (19/2016) issued by the Union Election Commission dated 17/11/2016, it has been decided that election of U Kyaw Myint as the Hluttaw Representative for the constituency of Yamethin township, Mandalay Region is invalid, and U Aung Myo Oo is the Regional Hluttaw Representative of the said constituency under section 75/A of the Region/State Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

3. With effect from the date of this announcement hereupon, it is declared that U Kyaw Myint no longer has the right to stand for as a Hluttaw Representative, and U Aung Myo Oo { 9/Ya Ma Tha [Naing] 084536} is the Hluttaw Representative for Yamethin constituency, Mandalay Region under section 75/B of the Respective Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

Chairman
Union Election Commission



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mr Hideo Watanabe at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Defence Services C-in-C holds talks with JPN-MYN Friendship Association Chairman

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Hideo Watanabe, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association and the former Min-

ister of Posts and Telecommunications, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on boosting investment in Myanmar for mutual

benefits, upgrading rail transportation system and water transportation infrastructure and vocational training for the defence services personnel with disabilities.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Harvesting Season Commences About Maungtaw Township

NOW that paddies in the paddy fields have ripened, process of harvesting, threshing and winnowing is being seen about Maungtaw Township.

A farmer in Myothagyi village, Maungtaw said, “My family ekes out our living by farming alone. We own 20 acres of farming land and we get some 1200 baskets of paddy a year at the crop yield rate 50/60 baskets of paddy per acre. In recent years, rates of crop yield have lowered, compared to those of previous years.

Most populace in Maungtaw District mainly lives on farming and fishery as their occupation. After harvesting monsoon crops—paddy, they grow winter crops on small scale such as peas, chilli, eggplant, tomato, etc., it is learnt.

U Aye Tha Kyaw of Myothagyi village told, “I grew 14 acres of monsoon crop—paddy this year. I am a tenant farmer, having no land of my own. I have to give 25 baskets of paddy per acre to the landlord as a tenant pay. Last year only a small amount of baskets was left for me with tenant pay excluded, as crop yield was not good. Yet this year it is expected that at least 200 baskets of paddy will go to my hut barn.”

Main paddy seeds for paddy growers in Maungtaw Township are Manaw Thukha(2), Sinn Thwe (latt),

Yadanar Aung, Thihtatt Yin and Vietnam—kinds of short and medium-aged seeds.

U Shwe Hlaing Maung, a local from Inn Din village, expressed, “This year I grew only 3 acres of monsoon paddy, growing less than ever because of few family members in my family. In this area the amount of monsoon paddy produce is greater than summer crops.

In recent years, rates of crop yield are lessening as we cannot use fertilizers, which are too expensive for farmers to afford for purchase. Formerly we can apply natural fertilizers, like cow dung/manure as a substitute for chemical fertilizers.

We found farmers reaping paddy by the use of 40 harvesting machines hired from the depart-

ment, during our visit at the village of “Mawrawady.” We learnt that the agricultural department shared knowledge to farmers how to use these harvesters.

With a view to collecting news, we went to the Buthitaung-Maungtaw road, Maungtaw-Kyeinchaung road and Taungpyo Letwe road and Maungtaw-Alaithankyaw road, seeing many farmers performing the process of harvesting, threshing and winnowing by applying machineries along the ripe paddy fields.

We imagined in our mind that the area would have a great promise of benefits if the authorities concerned would fulfill the needs of the farmers—subsidy of fertilizers and insecticides.—*Ko Thet and Group*



Rice paddy field in Maungtaw. PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

MPU holds 5/2016 meeting



Speaker U Mahn Win Khaing Than speaks at 5/2016 meeting of Myanmar Parliamentary Union. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR Parliamentary Union Meeting held its 5/2016 meeting discussing inclusion of organizational set up for region and state Hluttaws in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The meeting was opened with remarks by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, who is also the chairman of the

MPU. Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint, who is also vice chairman of the MPU, called for discussion of the three points suggested by President U Tin Kyaw regarding the issue. U Aye Thar Aung, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, who is also Secretary of MPU, clarified the resolutions of the

MPU. The meeting was also attended by speakers and deputy speakers of region and states Hluttaws, deputy attorney-general, members of the Board of Civil Service, members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Investigation commission vows to help local residents . . .

>> FROM PAGE 2

It is said that they leave their villages during mornings and come back at nights. We also found that some buildings in some villages, including Ngakhuya and Kyikanpyin, were burnt down. We later learnt that the buildings were set on fire by residents to cast suspicion over security forces. Another fact we found is that ethnic local people are too afraid to go out as they are minority in the area. They have to live on donations of local social organizations. It is difficult for them to move to Maungtaw. Their rice is

ripe but they do not have harvesting machines. Although the government and social organizations are donating harvesting machines, it is still not enough. They urgently need harvesting and winnowing machines at the moment. The paddy will be ruined. We will discuss the issues with the state government as soon as we arrive back.” In addition, the chairman said that the ethnic families are requesting the government to resettle them in Kyainchaung as they had to live in fear in their native village. One of members of the ethnic group lost his ear

and was injured on the throat as he was attacked with swords. He was left as his attackers thought he was dead. He was later treated by the Tatmadaw. “Education and health conditions are also bad. Schools are still closed. No student dares to go to school,” the chairman added. The ethnic group also want security for them to go to a market in Maungtaw. The chairman promised to report to the state government everything the resident requested.—*Ye Khaung Nyunt and News Team*

14 Suspect Villagers Seized in Maungtaw Township

POLICE forces of no 4 border guard control forces (branch) arrested 5 suspect villagers including Demo Hamad aged 33 in a clearance operation into the village of Thetkainyar at 9 a.m on November 17. Similarly, police forces of Phawwuchaung police outpost waged a clearance operation into the village of Wetpyin, at about 11 a.m, arresting 3 sus-

pects including Sweyok Karsin aged 36. And, the information committee of State Counsellor Office released that 6 suspects including Al Karon aged 35 residing in the village of Pwintphyuchaung during a clearance operation launched by no 1 border guard control force at about 11:30 a.m in the village of Pwintpyuchaung.—*Myanmar News Agency*



14 suspects are detained for necessary interrogation. PHOTO: MNA

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Terminally ill British girl wins right to freeze her body: BBC

LONDON — A 14-year old girl who died of cancer has been cryogenically frozen in the hope she could be brought back to life in the future after winning a landmark court case shortly before her death, the BBC reported on Friday. It said the girl was supported in her wish to be preserved by her mother but not by her father. The BBC said a High Court judge ruled that the girl’s mother should be allowed to decide what happened to the body. The girl, who lived in the London area, cannot be named for legal reasons. When she died in October her body was taken to the United States and preserved there, the BBC added. Cryonics is the practice or technique of deep-freezing the bodies of those who have died of an incurable disease, in the hope of a future cure.—*Reuters*

Thirteen workers trapped, three dead, in Turkish copper mine after landslide

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey) — Rescue teams sought to free 13 workers trapped in a copper mine in southeast Turkey on Friday after it was hit by a landslide that killed at least three people, the local governor’s office said. The mine’s owner, Park Elektrik, said heavy rain appeared to have caused the landslide at the Madenkoy mine, in the Sirvan district of Siirt province. All activity at the mine has been suspended given the risk of further landslides, the company said in a statement to the Istanbul stock exchange. The dead body of one worker has been retrieved and two more have been located, the governor’s office said.—*Reuters*

Turkish police detain 73 academics in Gulen-related probe

ISTANBUL — Turkish police detained 73 academics in dawn raids on Friday targeting followers of US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, accused by Ankara of orchestrating an attempted coup in July, state-run news agency Anadolu reported. Some 110,000 people have been sacked or suspended in the civil service, army and judiciary and 36,000 people jailed pending trial in the investigation of the failed putsch, in which over 240 people were killed. Gulen denies involvement. Istanbul prosecutors issued detention warrants for 103 teaching staff accused of “membership of an armed terror group” in the investigation targeting the city’s Yildiz Technical University, the agency said.—*Reuters*

Delivery of Aid from WFP to villagers in Maungtaw from 4-11-2016

Transport Plan for NGOs (Maungdaw and Butthidaung) as of 15.11.2016															
Sr No	Destination	Rice	Pulses	Oil	Salt	WSB+	WSB++	HEB	Total (MT)	Loading Date	ETD Sdms	ETA	Mode of Transport	Status	
	Township	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT							
1	Maungdaw	58,308	5,013	2,217	0,374	0,255	8,798		74,965	7-Nov-16	8-Nov-16	9-Nov-16	Waterway + Road	Nyein Chan Kyaw Boat	
		60,000	16.000	0.000	2,000			17,100	0,000	95,100	7-Nov-16	8-Nov-16		9-Nov-16	Khaung Myat Kyaw
		30,000		1,000				40,000	0,000	71,000	8-Nov-16	9-Nov-16		10-Nov-16	Shwe Lin Thu Boat
		14,000								14,000	9-Nov-16	10-Nov-16		11-Nov-16	Thawar Shwe zin Boat
		7,000						30,000	18,900	55,900	10-Nov-16	11-Nov-16		12-Nov-16	Ag Zaw Zaw
		33,000						10,000	30,000	73,000	11-Nov-16	11-Nov-16		13-Nov-16	
								15,000	41,100	56,100	11-Nov-16	12-Nov-16		14-Nov-16	
								80,388	10,000	90,388	14-Nov-16	15-Nov-16		17-Nov-16	
Total	202,308	21,013	3,217	2,374	0,255	201,286	100,000		530,453						
2	Butthidaung		4,000	1,000					12,600	47,600	9-Nov-16	10-Nov-16	11-Nov-16	Waterway + Road	Thawar Shwe zin Boat
								30,000		67,600					Nyein Chan Kyaw Boat
								30,000	37,400		11-Nov-16	12-Nov-16	13-Nov-16		
								35,000	35,000	70,000	14-Nov-16	15-Nov-16	16-Nov-16		
								55,000	15,000	70,000	15-Nov-16	16-Nov-16	17-Nov-16		
		Total	0,000	4,000	1,000	0,000	0,000	150,000	100,000		255,000				
Grand Total (MT)		202,308	25,013	4,217	2,374	0,255	351,286	200,000	785,453						
Dispatched completed															



French President Francois Hollande (R) awards the Legion of Honour (Legion d'Honneur) to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, on 17 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hollande awards France's Legion of Honour to UN's Ban Ki-moon

PARIS — United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon received the Legion of Honour from French President Francois Hollande on Thursday for his contributions to tackling climate change.

The South Korean diplomat helped push through the 2015 Paris Agreement, a deal aimed at moving away from fossil fuels to cleaner energies that was signed

by almost 200 countries after nearly two decades of negotiations.

"It was largely because of your contribution, because many years ago you started putting this topic on all the agendas," Holland said at the ceremony of Ban's efforts.

The Legion of Honour was established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte and is considered to be

one of France's highest civilian awards.

"By doing this you are rewarding our honourable organisation and I feel deeply honoured and proud," said Ban, who will step down as head of the 193-member world organisation after 10 years on 1 January. He will be replaced by Antonio Guterres of Portugal.—Reuters

Planet heads for hottest year after third-warmest October — US agency

WASHINGTON — The earth is on track for its warmest year on record after October temperatures equalled the third-warmest for the month ever, a US government agency said on Thursday.

October globally was 1.31 Fahrenheit (0.73 Celsius) above the 20th century average of 57.1 F (13.9 C) and tying it with 2003 as the third-warmest October on record, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said in a statement.

For the year through October, the average global temperature

was 1.75 F (0.97 C) above average, topping the record set in 2015 by 0.18 F (0.1 C).

"With only two months left in the year, the globe remains on track to be one of the warmest years, if not the warmest, in the 122-year record," the agency said.

It said temperatures had begun to fall because of the La Nina weather pattern. It is characterized by unusually cold temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Among standouts last month, Alaska and Finland had the driest Octobers on record. Africa

also notched the second-warmest October, behind the record set in 2015. The US weather agency's report comes as negotiators meet in Morocco to hammer out the fine points of the historic 2015 Paris accord aimed at staving off climate change.

Almost 200 nations reaffirmed support for the deal on Thursday. The talks which have been overshadowed by worries that US President-elect Donald Trump, who has called climate change a hoax, would pull out of the accord.—Reuters

Greeks march to mark 1973 student revolt, protest against austerity

ATHENS — Thousands of Greeks vented frustration at their economic lot on Thursday as they marched in Athens to mark the anniversary of the bloody 1973 student uprising that helped topple the then-military junta.

Students, workers and pensioners held banners reading: "We won't become a generation of unemployment and fear," reflecting widespread fury at the leftist-led government which signed up to more austerity as part a third international bailout, despite its pre-election promises.

Hundreds of police guarded the peaceful march to the Embassy of the United States, which supported the seven-year military dictatorship that collapsed in 1974.

At the front of the procession, individuals held a blood-stained Greek flag which belonged to students engaged in the revolt which triggered an army crackdown.

Clashes between police and a separate, much smaller group broke out in the streets near the Athens Polytechnic University, where dozens are believed to have been killed when tanks smashed its gates in 1973.

Several dozen hooded protesters threw petrol bombs at riot police and TV images showed thick clouds of tear gas rising into the air.

The annual march often becomes a focal point for protests against government policies amid rising public anger at pension and wage cuts demanded by the European Union and International Monetary Fund in exchange for loans.

"We want the government to do a true redistribution of wealth and, at long last, tax the wealthy. Not just pass the burden of the crisis onto the poor," said Sotiris Vapouridis, 58, a pensioner.

A group of self-proclaimed anarchist protesters occupied one of the Polytechnic University's buildings: "We won't forget the fallen of the war waged against society," they said in a statement on the Internet, referring to the financial crisis.

Since 2009, the debt crisis has shrunk Greece's economy by about a quarter, putting thousands of Greeks out of work and shutting down businesses.

Many Greeks blame governments since the fall of the junta of driving the country to near-bankruptcy.—Reuters



Riot policemen stand guard outside a hotel during a rally marking the 43rd anniversary of a 1973 student uprising against the military dictatorship that was ruling Greece, in Athens, Greece, on 17 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

UN climate conference adopts declaration for action

MARRAKETCH, (Morocco) — The United Nations Marrakech climate conference on Thursday adopted a proclamation calling for the highest political commitment and solidarity in the fight against climate change, amid fears that the next US administration may change US policy in this regard.

"We call for the highest political commitment to combat climate change, as a matter of urgent priority," said the proclamation adopted at the closing plenary session of the conference.

"We call for strong solidarity with those countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and underscore the need to support efforts aimed to enhance their adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability," read the document. This brief proclamation was issued to "signal a shift towards a new era of implementation and action on climate and sustainable development."

The proclamation stressed that an "extraordinary" momentum on climate change generated world-

wide this year is "irreversible" since "it is being driven not only by governments, but by science, business and global action of all types at all levels."

"Our task now is to rapidly build on that momentum, together, moving forward purposefully to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to foster adaptation efforts, thereby benefiting and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its sustainable development goals," it said.

The conference, which opened

on 7 November to pave the way for the implementation of the landmark Paris Agreement, has been overshadowed by the unexpected win of Republican candidate Donald Trump in the US presidential election.

During his campaign, Trump described the issue of climate change as a "hoax" and vowed to cancel various actions taken by the Obama administration, including the US ratification of the Paris Agreement.

The statement also reaffirmed

the goal of mobilizing 100 billion US dollars to help developing countries cope with climate change, but it doesn't mention any clear timeline or roadmap for developed countries to provide this funding as promised in 2009.

According to US special envoy for climate change Jonathan Pershing, developed countries have pledged more than 60 million dollars to help developing countries build their capacity to report on their efforts in addressing climate change.—Xinhua

Iraq's oil contracts make joining OPEC output cut more painful

LONDON/BAGHDAD — Iraq would have to compensate international oil companies for limits placed on their production, according to industry sources and documents seen by Reuters, further reducing the prospect it will join any OPEC deal to curb the group's output.

The compensation — stipulated in contracts — would compound the financial hit of losing much-needed revenue from crude sales, if the cash-strapped country were to yield to OPEC entreaties to curtail national production.

OPEC member Iraq pays developers a fixed dollar-denominated fee for every barrel of oil produced in the south of the country — home to its biggest reserves — under technical service contracts agreed between the international firms and the state-owned South Oil Company (SOC).

"Immediately after (an) SOC notice of ... production curtailment, the parties shall agree ... a



A worker checks the valves at Al-Sheiba oil refinery in the southern Iraq city of Basra, on 26 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

mechanism to promptly fully compensate (the) contractor as soon as possible," according to an excerpt of the contract the ministry signed with BP in 2009 for the company to develop the 20-billion-barrel Rumaila field.

The compensation, according to the excerpt seen

by Reuters, "may include, amongst other things, a revised field production schedule or an extension to the term or payment of all or part lost income to contractor".

Britain's BP declined to comment.

The same clause also applies to other fields cov-

ered by the technical service contracts in the south, including fields being developed by Anglo-Dutch firm Shell, US major Exxon Mobil and Italy's Eni, according to industry sources.

A Shell spokeswoman said it did not comment on contracts. Exxon and Eni

did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

A senior oil official with SOC told Reuters the country would not have to worry about curtailment clauses because it had no plans to limit production.

"On the contrary, we're encouraging the foreign companies to raise production as much as they can," said the official, who declined to be named as they are not authorized to speak publicly.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in Algiers in late September to limit its collective output to 32.5-33 million barrels per day (bpd). The group's production hit a record 33.64 million bpd in October.

Iraq has asked to be exempted from output curbs, arguing it is still trying to regain market share lost when sanctions were imposed in the 1990s during the Saddam Hussein era, and that it needs to keep up a costly battle against Islamic State.—Reuters

EU drops part of reservation to Hungary's Paks nuclear project

BRUSSELS — The European Commission has ended proceedings against Hungary over the award of a contract to Russia's Rosatom to expand the Paks nuclear power plant, although it is still investigating the country's funding for the project.

The Commission said in a filing that its infringement proceedings had closed on 17 November. EU rules allow public procurement without call for competition if the contract can only reasonably be given to one company.

Hungary has said that no supplier other than Rosatom would have met the government's demand of keeping the plant in Hungarian state ownership permanently. Hungary plans to build two Russian VVER 1200 reactors for a total budget of 12.5 billion euros (\$13.2 billion), of which 80 per cent will be financed by Russia and 20 per cent by Hungary.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DYNASTY XIA VOY. NO (0471)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNASTY XIA VOY. NO (0471) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV LE TONG VOY. NO (125)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LE TONG VOY. NO (125) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 24th NOVEMBER 2016 (National Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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French singer Michel Polnareff. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brussels honours French singer Polnareff by dressing up Manneken Pis

BRUSSELS — Brussels honoured French singer Michel Polnareff by dressing up the Manneken Pis, the Belgian capital's iconic bronze statue of a boy urinating, in one of the singer's exuberant stage costumes.

"I love it. I love it. It's great fun," Polnareff, who has sold around 60 million records during his 50-year career, told Reuters after the unveiling on Thursday night.

Polnareff, 72, rose to prom-

inence in 1966 with the song "La Poupée qui fait non" ("The Doll That Says No"), where he was accompanied by future Led Zeppelin band members Jimmy Page and John Paul Jones.

Known for his colourful outfits, Polnareff followed up with many more French chart hits such as 'Mes regrets', 'Le Bal des Laze' and 'Lettre à France' and will perform at Forest National, one of Brussels' largest concert halls, later on Friday.—Reuters



Actress Mallika Sherawat poses on the red carpet as she arrives for the screening of the film "Macbeth" in competition at the 68th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bollywood actor Mallika Sherawat assaulted in Paris: media

PARIS — Bollywood actor Mallika Sherawat and her partner were assaulted in Paris last week, AFP and other media reported on Thursday, just over a month after US reality TV star Kim Kardashian was attacked and robbed in the French capital.

The assault on Sherawat took place on 11 November, AFP said.

"Sherawat was punched in

the face and sprayed with tear gas by masked attackers who tried to steal her handbag," the French news agency said, citing a police source.

The attackers fled without taking anything, a source close to the investigation told AFP.

Nobody was immediately available to comment at the Paris prosecutor's office. A police spokesman declined to comment.—Reuters

Leonardo DiCaprio lunches in Edinburgh to support the homeless

EDINBURGH — Oscar winner and Hollywood heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio visited a cafe in Edinburgh, Scotland on Thursday to raise awareness of the plight of homelessness.

The actor, well known for his roles in "The Revenant" and "Titanic", stopped in for lunch at "Home" a restaurant that serves Scottish and French cuisine and spends its profits on projects supporting the homeless.

Crowds of fans braved the wet weather to catch a glimpse of DiCaprio, who signed autographs before eating at the cafe.

Fellow Hollywood actor George Clooney visited a sister cafe "Social Bites" in Edinburgh last year.—Reuters



Actor Leonardo DiCaprio accepts the Hollywood Documentary Award for "Before the Flood" at the Hollywood Film Awards in Beverly Hills, California, US, on 6 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Late Mexican singer Juan Gabriel wins three Latin Grammys

LAS VEGAS — Late Mexican singer and actor Juan Gabriel finally won his first ever Latin Grammys on Thursday, taking album of the year for "Los Duo 2" and two other awards three months after his death.

Gabriel, one of world's best-selling Latin singer-songwriters, also won for best traditional pop/vocal album, while his work for Puerto Rican singer India on "Intensamente India Con Canciones de Juan Gabriel," led her to a win for best salsa album.

Gabriel, who died in August

at the age of 66 in California while on tour, had never won a Latin Grammy despite recording some 18 albums.

Colombians Shakira and Carlos Vives were the other big winners, taking home two Latin Grammys for their catchy summer song "La Bicicleta."

"La Bicicleta", the first collaboration between the two singers, won record and song of the year on a night that celebrated the best of Latin music.

Mexican sibling duo Jesse & Joy's "Un Besito Mas" was de-

clared the best contemporary pop/vocal album and Mexican-American guitar player Julieta Venegas won the rock/pop album Latin Grammy for "Algo Sucede."

Colombian singer Manuel Medrano was named best new artist. The three hour show featured performances from Marc Anthony, the newly-crowned Latin Recording Academy's person of the year, as well as Wisin, and Jesse & Joy. The Latin Grammy nominees and winners are voted for by members of The Latin Recording Academy.—Reuters



Producer Gustavo Farias accepts the award for album of the year for 'Los Duo 2' by Juan Gabriel at the 17th Annual Latin Grammy Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 17 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan Post, others to set up firm to help elderly people nationwide

TOKYO — Japan Post Co. will launch a service to help the elderly with activities such as shopping and health management by forming a new company with a telecommunications company, a security service and other firms, company officials said on Friday.

The envisioned company aims to satisfy the increasing needs among the elderly in the rapidly aging society by providing house-to-house visits utilizing the existing network of Japan Post, which has more than 24,000 offices nationwide, the officials said.

The postal service firm and Japan Post Insurance Co., another unit under Japan Post Holdings Co., will hold a majority stake in the joint venture with six other firms such as NTT Docomo Inc. and Secom Co.

IBM Japan Ltd., Dai-ichi Life Holdings Inc., Sohgo Security Services Co., popularly known as ALSOK, and Dentsu Inc. are also expected to join the alliance, which aims to launch the service in February, the officials said.

Japan Post workers will visit customers once a month to check on their health and notify family or medical institutions of results upon individual approval.

The postal workers can also deliver products from retail shops such as local supermarkets when an order is placed via a tablet computer, which has been specifically developed by IBM Japan. Japan Post Insurance and Dai-ichi Life will give advice on health, while Secom and Sohgo Security Services will provide staff round-the-clock who can call on customers suffering health problems and then report on their condition to their family if the relatives live away from them. —Kyodo News

Skydiving magic, bungee dunk for Guinness World Records day

LONDON — From the highest dunk of a biscuit into a cup of tea by a bungee jumper to the most magic tricks performed during a skydive, the adventurous and imaginative are marking Guinness World Records Day on Thursday with all sorts of feats.

Thousands of people around the world are attempting new records for the occasion, which was launched to mark the day when the 100th millionth copy of the Guinness World Records book was sold and is now in its 12th year.

In Britain, Simon Berry took the Guinness World Records title for “highest bungee dunk” after dipping a biscuit into a cup of tea from his 73-metre (239.5 ft) bungee rope.

Martin Rees did about 10 magic tricks while skydiving from roughly 15,000 feet to get his name into the record book.

In London, Paulo Gabriel da Silva Barros and Katyucia Lie Hoshino were crowned the new title holders for “shortest married couple” with a combined height of 181.41 cm (71.42 inches).

“We hope our new record will encourage the world to look past the physical differences in others and understand all people should be treated equally,” they said in a

statement.

In California, Skipper, a blue and gold macaw, was awarded the “most rings placed on a target by a parrot in one minute” title, with a total of 19 rings.

Basketball team the Harlem Globetrotters also secured records, including the titles for the “farthest basketball shot under one leg” at 15.98 metres.

In Japan, Keisuke Yokota secured the record for “the most traffic cones balanced on the chin” with 26.

In Australia, fitness guru Kayla Itsines led a mammoth exercise class for the titles of “most people performing squats” with 2,201 participants, “most people star jumping” with 2,192, “most people performing lunges” - 2,146 - “most people performing sit-ups” — 2,005, and “most people running in one place” - 2,195.

Separately, at a ceremony in Beirut on Wednesday, former Lebanese racing driver Nabil Karam broke his own Guinness World titles when he was awarded two new records for having the largest collection of miniature cars, with 37,777 models, as well as 577 dioramas. —Reuters



Nabil Karam poses with his Guinness World Record certificates for the largest collection of model cars and the largest collection of dioramas, in celebration of the Guinness World Records Day in Zouk Mosbeh, north of Beirut, Lebanon, 16 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nagoya castle warns structure could collapse in strong quake

NAGOYA — The Nagoya municipal government on Friday took the unusual step of posting a warning to tourists that they enter Nagoya Castle’s tower structure at their own risk due to the building being in danger of collapse in a strong earthquake.

Three signs were installed within the castle grounds to warn of the risk of entering the multistory building, whose concrete is degrading and therefore lacks resistance to tremors, according to the city.

The idea of the warning signs came from Mayor Takashi Kawamura, who is frustrated with a lack of progress in restoration work due to opposition from the city assembly. The city is hoping to restore the castle’s tower, rebuilt in 1959 and which has two fish-like golden ornaments on the roof, with wood.

“If something happened, it would be the city’s responsibility. I’m angry” at the lack of progress, Kawamura said.

Unimpressed by the mayor’s move, an assembly member said, “He’s been this city’s mayor for years. Why call for (anti-earthquake) measures now? I’m amazed.”

The signs read: “After more than 50 years, the concrete and facilities are deteriorating. As a result, the main tower has insufficient earthquake resistant capabilities...In the event of an emergency earthquake alert or earthquake, please follow the security guard or staff’s instructions to evacuate.”

They continue that in the event of a temblor measuring upper 6 on the Japanese seismic scale of 1 to 7, the building poses “a high risk of collapse or destruction.” Sachie Yokoyama, a 68-year-old woman from Aomori Prefecture who visited the castle with her colleagues, said the signs make her feel a little safer. “If the city is going to rebuild the castle anyway, I hope they spend enough time building a sturdy one.” —Kyodo News

mitv

Myanmar International

(19-11-2016 07:00am ~ 20-11-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am Great Shwedagon — The Religious Insignias of pagodas In Myanmar

07:44 Am Visiting A Serene Village In The Northwest of Myanmar

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am Lantern Floating Festival in Kyauk Kyi Township

08:41 Am A Tea Business Pankwan

08:52 Am Tea

09:03 Am News

09:27 Am A Highland with Peace and Charm

09:45 Am Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies

10:03 Am News

10:27 Am Next Generation (3 Pencils)

10:37 Am Five Hair Relic Enshrined Pagodas

10:50 Am The Youth & Library

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

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm A Famous Pagoda in the Sea

07:50 Pm Today Myanmar: Motorcycle & Yangon City

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part-II)

08:57 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism

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

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

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

MRTV (19-11-2016, Saturday)

6:00 am

• Paritrt by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 am

• Hyper Sports

8:50 am

• Documentary

9:35 am

• Business News

10:35 am

• Poem for Children

10:50 am

• Documentary

11:15 am

• Health and Vegetables

11:35 am

• Game for Children

1:20 pm

• Weekly Entertainment News

2:20 pm

• HUMAN DIGNITY FILM INSTITUTE (We are Ahle)

3:15 pm

• TV Drama Series

4:35 pm

• NHK Programme “Top Technology” (Top at Work)

5:15 pm

• Football Magazine

5:40 pm

• Monthly Weather Forecast

6:35 pm

• Tasty Trip

7:15 pm

• TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

• News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

• Documentary

9:00 pm

• News/ Weather Report

• Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

English Premier League sells China TV rights for \$700 million

SINGAPORE — The English Premier League has sold its television rights in China to streaming service PPTV for \$700 million (565 million pounds), a source familiar with the matter said, several times the size of past deals as it cashes in on a growing enthusiasm for football.

A spokesman for PPTV, part of retail group Suning (002024.SZ), confirmed a three-year deal that will kick in from the 2019/20 season. He did not comment on the value as the agreement has not yet been formalised.

"We were successful in our bid, but it hasn't formally been signed yet," said PPTV spokesman Sun Xiaobo. "We've definitely already won the tender."

The Premier League has not confirmed the deal. PPTV is one of China's largest streaming services and already owns the rights to Spain's La Liga.



A television camera films the match ball before Liverpool's English Premier League soccer match against Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England, on 10 February 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Under President Xi Jinping, China has been looking to expand its global presence in the sport.

It has invested billions of

dollars to develop grassroots football academies, brought high-profile players and managers into China from overseas, and is buying into global assets from

Italian club Inter Milan to Manchester City.

The Premier League, for its part, has seen television revenues shoot up globally in recent years — back home in Britain, pay-TV group Sky (SKYB.L) last year agreed to pay 4.2 billion pounds (\$5.21 billion) to show 126 live English Premier League matches a season from 2016 to 2019.

NBC last year paid around \$1 billion for a six-year deal to broadcast the league in the United States until the end of the 2021/22 season, near double that of their prior three-year deal.

Beijing-based Super Sports Media is the current rights holders in China with local media reports suggesting they paid more than 1 billion yuan (\$145.13 million) for a six-year deal until the end of the 2018/19 season.

The deal with PPTV will al-

low the English Premier League to tap into the growing market for pay-per-view online streaming and subscription services in China.

A 2014 survey by Repucom estimated there were 170 million fans of the English Premier League in China, while Chinese state media last year reported that some 350 million had tuned into matches beamed live from Britain.

Suning have been enthusiastic supporters of President Xi's ambitious plans for China to become a dominant force in the global sports market.

The acquisition of nearly 70 per cent of Italian glamour club Inter for about \$300 million in June was the first major step in its plan to create a global sports empire stretching from football clubs to online broadcasting. — Reuters

Djokovic thrashes Goffin, picks row with umpire

LONDON — Defending champion Novak Djokovic trounced stand-in David Goffin 6-1, 6-2 for a clean sweep of his group at the ATP World Tour Finals on Thursday but spiced up a leisurely afternoon workout by picking a row with the umpire.

The world number two, who will be joined in the last four by Milos Raonic after the Canadian beat Austrian Dominic Thiem 7-6(5), 6-3, began the week at London's O2 Arena quarrelling with a reporter and despite being relatively untroubled on court, there has been an edginess about the 12-times grand slam champion.

It surfaced again against Goffin, who pocketed \$179,000 for his 69-minute cameo appearance having stepped in to replace Gael Monfils who withdrew citing a rib injury.

While serving at 3-1 the Serb was given a time violation warning by chair umpire Fergus Murphy and let rip at the changeover.

"You have no clue about

the game," an irate Djokovic told Murphy before turning to continue the debate with tournament director Tom Barnes who was hovering nearby.

Djokovic's complaint that Murphy had punished his first transgression rather than offer a quiet word seemed fair enough, although his reaction was out of context in a match that lacked any kind of nervous tension.

There was more at stake later, when Raonic, who did not face a single break point, became the first Canadian to reach the last four when he downed Thiem in straight sets.

There were no breaks in the opening set but Raonic stole his opponent's serve in the first game of the second and did not look back, ending the contest on his second match point when Thiem netted a backhand.

Belgium world number 11 Goffin had been hanging around all week in case of a withdrawal. He tried his best to make a match of it but looked off the pace from

the moment he double-faulted to give Djokovic his first break in the fourth game.

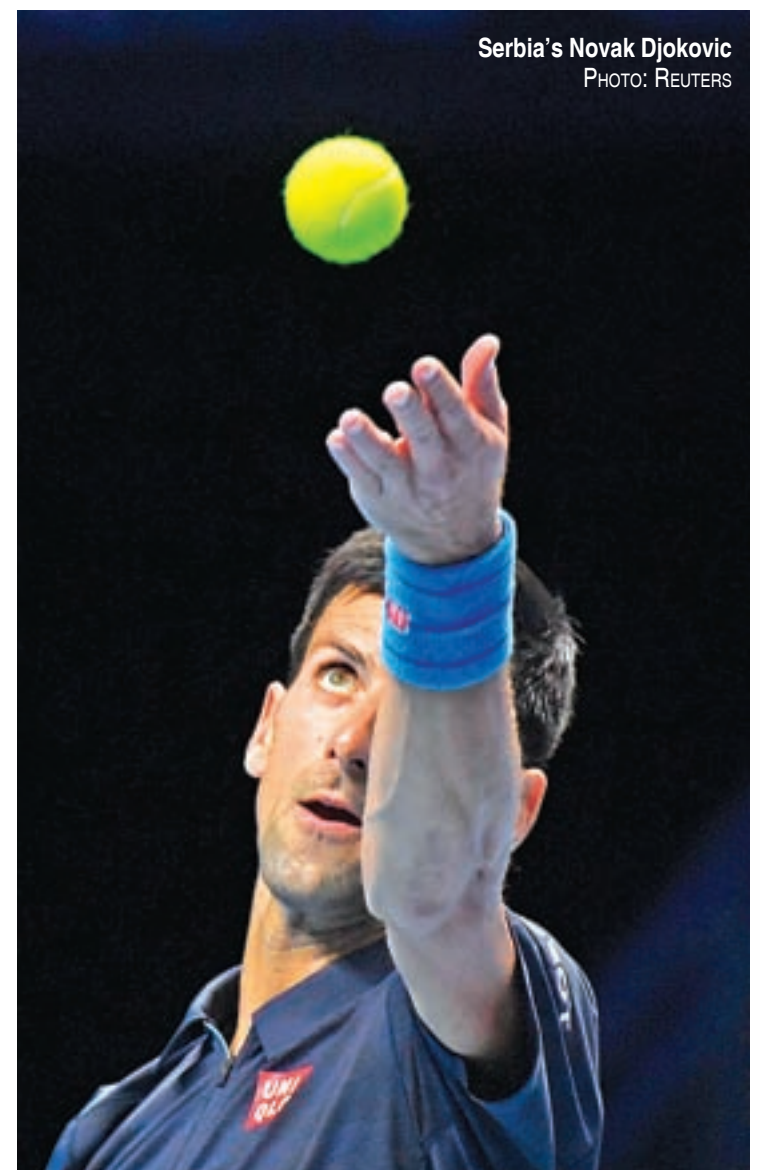
"Yesterday I was feeling a bit like I was on holiday," Goffin, who would have received a cool \$100,000 even if he had not been required for action, told reporters.

"All of a sudden someone tells you you have to play in front of 15,000 people against Novak."

It was poor value for the O2 Arena crowd who probably expected something more competitive — not that Djokovic was too concerned. He was able to conserve energy for what could yet be a Sunday showdown with Andy Murray, the man who ended his 122-week reign as world number one last week.

After losing a colossal points lead over the Briton since beating him to win the French Open, Djokovic is now two wins away from grabbing it back.

He bridled at suggestions that it would be a surprise if he did achieve that by claiming a fifth successive London title. — Reuters



Serbia's Novak Djokovic
PHOTO: REUTERS



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