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A schoolgirl in
Muangdaw sits for
mid-year exam.
PHOTO: A ONE SOE

Three killed, one injured by armed groups

AN artillery shell fired by armed groups killed a civilian father and his son and injured the other son Wednesday evening in Honar village in Namkham township, northern Shan State, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

The shell was fired by the KIA, TNLA and MNDAA, the committee said.

The artillery shell dropped onto the roof of U P Kai Sho's house, instantly killing U P Kai Sho and his son P Kat Sao. The other son P Kai Kyone was injured. The severity of P Kai Kyone's injury could not be determined.

The administrator of Kau-ngkak village and a team sent P Kai Kyone to Namkham Hospital for medical treatment, it was reported.

One civilian killed by TNLA

TNLA troops fired on a truck en-route from Muse to Kutkai near Mile Post-233 at about 11.50 am yesterday, killing an assistant on board the vehicle. The 45 year old man, who was sitting beside the driver of the truck, was shot in the head and died instantly. The driver managed to escape from the scene.

Similarly, TNLA troops two days earlier stopped a truck near Mile Post-224 on the Union Highway, forced the driver and assistant out of the truck and destroyed the vehicle, according to the Ministry of Defence.—*Myanmar News Agency*

THREE STEPS TO RETURN MAUNGTAU TO NORMALCY

Myint Maung Soe

SCHOOLS, healthcare and security will provide the path back to normalcy, Rakhine officials said yesterday.

The Rakhine State Government is taking those three steps to restore peace and stability, in tandem with development, to Maungdaw District, which was rocked by violent attacks over a month ago.

"We officially announced that authorities are making efforts

for returning Maungdaw District into normalcy through three steps", said U Nyi Pu, the Chief Minister of Rakhine State Government. "The first two steps are to reopen schools and clinics in Maungdaw".

The third step, U Nyi Pu said, will focus on restoration of community peace and stability in the entire area of Maungdaw District.

The chief minister also called for cooperation among security forces, departmental officials and residents in bringing the peace to

the region.

But there have been some stutters on the patch back to normalcy. Another act of violence occurred on 12 November when a border police outpost was again attacked, causing the death of an officer.

The incident cast a pall on the dawn of peace and stability in Maungdaw, which was shaken to its core with the violent armed attacks on three border outposts on 9 October, resulting in the deaths of nine policemen.

But with reopening of schools, which had been shut down since the day of the attacks, school children have returned and have been sitting for mid-year examinations at schools in Maungdaw since 20 November.

There are 183 schools in Maungdaw Township and 209 schools in Buthidaung Township in Maungdaw District.

So far, 68 schools have been reopened in Maungdaw Township, along with 135 schools in Buthidaung township.



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Mahn Win Khaing Than opens statue of U Razak

Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, formally opened the statue of U Razak, who was assassinated during the independence struggle together with General Aung San, at the Razak Hall of Mandalay University, which U Razak helped found.

It was also attended by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Chief Minister of

Mandalay Region Dr Zaw Myint Maung and relatives of U Razak.

The chief minister and the chairman of the committee to erect the statue made speeches and the speaker, the union minister, the chief minister, the chairman, U Tin Myint, the eldest son of U Razak and Dr Thida Win, the rector of the university formally opened the statue. —Aye Mya (Mandalay)



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi attend ceremony to open bronze statue of U Razak outside the Razak Hall of Mandalay University. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

Bridge destroyed skirmishes between RCSS, TNLA



The Maisin Bridge is seen after the attack between RCSS and TNLA. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF STATE COUNCELLOR'S OFFICE

THE Maisin Bridge was destroyed in fighting yesterday afternoon between the RCSS and TNLA near the village of Maisin in Namtu township, according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.

Upon receiving reports that the Maisin bridge was destroyed in the fighting between the two armed ethnic groups, government troops and police forces inspected the site, discovering part of the middle floor of the Maisin Bailey Bridge between milestones 4 and 4.5 on Namtu-Monwi Road, it is learnt. During the inspection, a green backpack, a camouflage cap, a 12-volt motorcycle battery often used in mining and two flexible green wires of 50 feet in length were found, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

Kyeinchaung in northern Maungtaw returning to stability

TWO weeks after the deadly attacks by terrorists on border guard outposts in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, a nearby village is slowly returning to normalcy, according to merchants and village officials.

Kyeinchaung village is situated 24 miles far away from Maungtaw and to the north of

Kyikanpyin and Ngakhura villages, which were attacked by violent armed terrorists on October 9, resulting in the deaths of 9 police officers.

"Following the armed attacks, many shops were not reopened", said U Maung Maung Hla, the collector of the market stall tax. "Now they have reo-

pened, and it is starting to be active again. There are some 250 shops in this market. Business is now operating every day".

U Ko Ko Aung, the administrator of Kyeinchaung, said Kyeinchaung market remains an essential commercial centre for the region.

"Kyeinchaung has a population of over 380 nationals, about 400 Hindus and over 7,000 Muslims, about 1,000 households in all. There are one state high school and one hospital. Kyeinchaung is a village which is vital as a business place for nearby villages, including Kyikanpyin and Ngakhura villages.

But some merchants said business has been severely curtailed because there is still some lingering concern about safe travel from village to vil-

lage.

"Only few customers from surrounding villages come here these days", said Adu Gofah, 65, a merchant from Kyeinchaung. "We are now living under fair security. Children from Kyeinchaung go to school, but those from other villages are still absent."

Other merchants agreed.

"Previously, customers from nearby villages came to buy at this market, the business was very active" said Mamed Isid, another seller in Kyeinchaung village.

"But now it is different from before the attacks. Before the October attack, we fetched two or three lakhs every day as the sale's average amount. Today I sold a little bit. I bought clothes from Yangon. Now we are at least feeling secure for our living".

Despite the slower rate of commerce, villagers say that they are thankful for a return to some form of stability. "I am a seller of clothing" said Ko Zaw Hlaing. These days, the business is slow. Before now, daily sales fetched two to three lakhs per day. Today I got only Ks50,000 or so. But it is not a problem for me." —A One Soe



Local people are seen at the bazaar in Kyeinchaung Village. PHOTO: A ONE SOE

Gun-powder explosion leaves one dead, six injured

AN explosion of gunpowder to be used in fireworks for the Shan New Year left one dead and 6 injured in Ward-2 in Panglong yesterday.

The men were pounding gunpowder in a wooden bowl

when the explosion occurred.

Ye Lin Oo succumbed to wounds sustained during the explosion. Those who were wounded continue to be treated in hospital. —Township IPRD



A man wounded in the explosion seen on a stretcher. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu. PHOTO: A ONE SOE

Two villages to be designated as towns in Maungtaw District

MYINLOOK and Khamaungseik villages in Maungtaw District, Rakhine State, are in the process of being upgraded into towns soon, according to Dr Chantha, Social Affairs Minister of the Rakhine State Government.

The change in designation is not just ceremonial, the minister said.

“The decision has been made to upgrade Myinlook and Khamaungseik into towns,” he said. “When the villages become towns, hospitals and schools can be built there. Transportation will improve, and the areas will develop.”

Maungtaw District is a mountainous region near the Naf River and the Mayu River. The Mayu mountain ranges are Rakhine State’s most recognizable geographical feature, and the district thrives on agriculture, fishing and



Villagers loading the boats with rice bags for trading. PHOTO: NAY LIN

prawn breeding.

“As soon as the decision has been approved by the union government, fallow and virgin land will be allocated for farming, es-

pecially for local farmers,” said U Kyaw Lwin, minister for agriculture, livestock and mining of the state government.

Maungtaw District is home

to 800,000 people and shares a border with Kyauktaw, Ponnagayun and Rathedaung in Rakhine State, Paletwa in Chin State and Bangladesh.—*Min Thit (MNA)*

Suspected attackers detained in Maungtaw

THIRTEEN people suspected of involvement in the attack on the Kyikanpyin Border Guard Police Command Centre were detained by security forces in Warpake and Ooshekya villages yesterday, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor’s Office.

Two of the suspects, Einu and Eryu, were detained at Warpake Village and 11 others, including Shar Arlong, were arrested in Ooshekya Village in the morning.

The suspects will be handed over to border guard police and action will be taken against them according to the law.—*MNA*



Einu and Eryu are seen. PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE



Students march in commemoration of 96th Anniversary National Day. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Parade, salute in celebration of 96th National Day in Yangon City

A parade and march from the Shwedagon Pagoda to People’s Square and a tribute at the obelisk in Maha Bandoole Park commemorating Myanmar’s independence were some of the events celebrated yesterday in Yangon for the 96th National Day.

Some members of the 88 generation that advocated for peace and open society, members of student unions, democratic movement activists — over

100 in all, assembled in front of the bronze statue of Maha Aulala Marajina Buddha Image at the eastern part of the Shwedagon Pagoda at 2 p.m. yesterday, where messages sent by student unions were read. The group then marched to People’s Square, where the 96th anniversary of the National Day was officially observed. A committee member said in previous years many separate celebrations were held. But yesterday’s official celebration

aimed at a more inclusive celebration. “We did it this year as observed in the years after 1920”, said U Nyein Zaw Aung, a member of the 96th National Day Celebration Committee. “In previous years, old students of Myoma held events according to their own plans. It is very nice to hold the ceremony collectively and in unison. History cannot be erased. To remind us of the past event, such a ceremony should be performed”.—*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*

Series of small blasts hit Yangon

A SERIES of small blasts were reported at the Immigration Office Department in Dagon Myothit (South) Township yesterday.

There was no fatalities nor injuries in the four blasts, according to police source.

All the home made bombs are made of soft-drink bottles and police safely detonated the fourth one which was found while they were inspecting the area.

The blasts came six days after the blasts at a hypermarket in another area in Yangon.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Armed group launches artillery attacks into Kutkai

THE government troops cross-fired artillery shells in retaliation to the artillery attacks into Kutkai by one armed group at about 11:45 a.m. yesterday.

According to the Ministry of Defense, artillery shells fired by the armed group dropped and exploded at the site of cemetery and near the Oriental Toll Gate, with no casualties and injuries reported.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Government troops clear Pyidaungsu Highway blocked by KIA

TRAFFIC began to flow again after government troops cleared the Pyidaungsu (Union) Highway near the village of Kaungkha in Muse township this morning that had been blocked by armed groups with motor vehicles placed on the road crosswise, according to the State Counsellor Office’s Information Committee.

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) armed group forced articulated vehicles on Pyihtaungsu Highway between the villages of Mawtaung and Namp On, 16 miles away from Muse, to block the road by parking crosswise, it is learnt. After government troops cleared the area passenger buses and trucks were able to reach their destinations.

Combined forces of the KIA, the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) attacked an army outpost near the 105-mile trade zone in Muse with artillery and firearms at about 6:30 a.m. yesterday, it is learnt.—*MNA*

Ministry of Border Affairs provides food to IDPs

The Ministry of Border Affairs provided food to internally displaced persons in camps in Muse yesterday.

A total of 3,460 people from 1,000 families, including local people and government staff, received 284 bags of rice, 545 visses of edible oil, 1,211 visses of pulses and beans, 122 visses of salt and 1,000 blankets from the ministry. Officials de-

livered the aid yesterday.

The IDPs are taking shelter in Mahawun (North) Monastery, Zetawun Meditation Monastery, Aung Mingalar Monastery, Namkhun Monastery, Homon Baptist Church, Saint Peter’s Church, Gurkha Youth Welfare Association, BEHS (2) and BEMS (4). Healthcare services are also being provided.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Internally displaced persons gather to collect aids by Ministry of Border Affairs. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR’S OFFICE



Merchants appraising a jade stone at the Mid-Year Gems and Jewellery Emporium 2016. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister visits Mid-Year Gems and Jewellery Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw

Union Minister U Ohn Win visited the 5th day of the Mid-Year Gems and Jewellery Emporium 2016, where jade lots were sold through open tender at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Yesterday afternoon, the Union Minister also inspected the gems and souvenir shops on display in the hall, the jade lots displayed and the placing of tenders into the boxes at the Myanmar Gems Emporium.

The Secretary of the Central Committee of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and committee members explained the tender process, the sale by auction and the progress of each committee to the minister.

A total of 1,200 jade lots, including uncut jade stones with a floor price set between 4,000 euros and 200,000 euros per item

and finished jade stones with a floor price set between 1,000 euros and 200,000 euros per item will go on sale through an open tender system.

At the gems emporium attended by foreign gem merchants and local merchants, authorities supervised the sale of gems and jade lots sold through an open tender system and competitive bidding at emporium.

Nearly 1,200 jade lots will be sold on 25th November, 1,200 lots on 26th November, and 1,122 lots on 27th November through the open tender system.

Thirty-five jade lots will be sold on 28th November and 31 lots on 29th November through competitive bidding.

The exhibition of the Mid-Year Gems and Jewellery Emporium-2016 will continue until 29th November between 8am and 5:30pm daily, it is learnt.—*Maw Si (Myanmar News Agency)*

Illegal massage parlours, Karaoke lounges not yet eliminated

Ko Moe

THE crackdown on illegal massage parlours and karaoke lounges will continue in the Yangon region, said Yangon regional minister for security and border affairs Colonel Tin Aung Tun.

The colonel's statement came in response to a query from a regional Hluttaw representative.

"Does the government have plans to protect the young women working in all illegal massage parlours and karaoke lounges in the Yangon region? And if not, why not?" asked U Nyi Nyi, the representative from regional Hluttaw Dagon

Myothit (South) township Constituency 1 on Tuesday at the 2nd Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting.

The regional minister for security said the effort is ongoing because of the complexity of the problem.

"Regional Hluttaw have been conducting trafficking awareness training and distributing pamphlets. But I don't know it is fully effective yet or not," said Colonel Tin Aung Tun.

"Some of the young girls do not understand and believe the traffickers. Later on, their parents come and discuss this with us," he added.

Statistics show that the

Yangon region saw a total of four trafficking cases in the first nine months of 2016 and 130 trafficking cases across the country in 2015.

According to the regional government, 12 illegal massage parlours were shut down in Yangon from 16 March to 12 August.

The Yangon region government statistics show there are currently 307 karaoke lounges and 24 massage parlours granted permission to operate by the Yangon City Development Committee.

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was formed on 20th December 2003 to protect young Myanmar women.

Authorities grant licenses to over 400 tourism vehicles in southern Shan State in past two months

TOURISM authorities issued tourist transport licenses to over 400 touring vehicles in southern Shan State over the past two months, according to the department of hotels and tourism in Taunggyi Township.

Since October, the ministry has also allowed red colour licenses to transport tourists visiting Myanmar. In the past, the ministry granted only those vehicles with blue colour licenses for tourist transport.

From the second week of October to the third week

of this month, the department granted two-year licenses to more than 400 vehicles, including 185 vehicles with red license plates and 235 vehicles with blue license plates.

During recent days, the department has received 30 applicants who apply for blue colour licenses and 20 others for red colour licenses, U Htin Aung Naing, director of the Hotel and Tourism Supervising Department (Taunggyi branch), said.

Applicants have to pay

only Ks5,000 as a license fee to the department.

Actions will be taken against those who transport international visitors in cars without a license. Under existing laws, they will face imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or a fine of K50,000, or both.

It is estimated that the number of international visitors will grow from last year's 4.68 million to 6 million this year, according to the ministry.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Nearly 9,000 yaba tablets seized in Mongpun

AN anti-narcotic suppression squad from Mongpun searched a house owned by Ta Sin, 25, which is located at Hway Tauk Street, Myo Oo Ward, Mongpun Township on 23 November.

The Mongpon Police found and seized 8,764 yaba tablets in Ta Sin's bedroom. Police filed charges against him under the Anti-Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Law. — *Myanmar Police Force*



Ta Sin with drugs.
PHOTO: MPF

Youths killed in road accident in Paung Township

THREE young people died on the spot after a collision between a farm tractor and a motorbike on Wednesday evening in Paung Township, Mon State.

At about 10pm on Wednesday, a motorcycle collided with a tractor being driven by U Ah Tun, 45, of Moenaing Ward in Paung Township, on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road.

The collision killed three youths on motorcycle: Thar Thar,

21, Phyo Lin, 17, and Min Min Oo, 16.

U Ah Tun has been charged with reckless driving under Section 304 (a) of the Penal Code by Paung Township Police.

Police Captain Nanda Win of Thaton District Police Force said that the majority of road accidents occur due to violation of traffic rules, including the consumption of alcohol. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Tourists taking the bullock carts for sightseeing in Bagan, Mandalay Region. This photo was taken on 21 March 2016. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH



US\$2,541million invested in hotel and tourism sector

A total of 65 foreign investment projects have been permitted to invest US\$2,541.091million in the hotel and tourism sector in a three-month period, according to the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

These 65 foreign investment projects were granted permission between the end of August and

the end of October, with foreign direct investments (FDI) totalling US\$2,481.395million. These foreign firms increased their FDI by the end of September, reaching US\$2,541.091million.

The hotel and tourism sector is ranked 7th on the list of most heavily invested sectors, representing 3.79 per cent of the total FDI. As of 31st Octo-

ber, 2016, the oil and gas sector topped the list with a total of 154 projects, with FDI of US\$22,410.368million. The power sector followed closely behind with 12 projects and an FDI of US\$20,290.314million, followed by the manufacturing sector in third place with 681 projects and FDI of US\$7,311.140million, then the

transport and communication sector with 41 projects and FDI of US\$6,710.229million.

The real estate sector stands at fifth with 37 projects and FDI of 3,111.451million, while the mining sector overtook the hotel and tourism sector with 71 projects and an FDI of US\$2,897.606million. In addition, FDI is also seen in: livestock and fisheries, agri-

culture, industrial estate and construction sectors.

Myanmar's hotel and tourism sector has improved with the increasing FDI as well as joint venture investments, according to DICA. This sector is expected to earn over US\$9 billion in the upcoming five years, according to Second Five-Year National Development Plan.—*Ko Htet*

Public transport to be prioritised in Yangon urban development plan

Zin Oo, Nay Win Tun

CHANGES are planned on the ground, on the water and on the rails.

To improve public transport in Yangon, approximately eight public bus companies will be established, with Public Transport Control Center and Traffic Control Center to oversee the bus system. In addition, the circular railway system is will be upgraded. Also, bidding for the chance to operate water taxis will open soon.

Those issues are part of a master plan for Yangon that will be implemented over the next 50 years and result in a peaceful, pleasant commercial city, said U Phyto Min Thein, the chief minister of Yangon Region, who

recently gave an update on the plans for Yangon's future.

U Phyto Min Thein said efficient public transport is essential to overall development of Yangon. A reliable, convenient bus system will help workers get to their jobs, reduce the number of cars on the road, help alleviate Yangon's well-known traffic problems and boost tourism.

Improving tourism will be aided by projects planned for the two commercial corridors in Yangon, the chief minister said. Efforts are being made to encourage development in the Thilawa-Yaggon-Hanthawady airport project area and Twantay, Kungyangon-Kawhmu-Hanthawady airport project area. Part of those efforts will be maintaining the cultural heritage of Yangon,

which will hopefully result in attractions that draw tourists.

As Yangon grows and becomes more accessible through public transport, public places for taking a rest will be created in the ports, which will be systematically organized, the minister said.

"The reclamation of new satellite townships will be carried out to adapt to modern times. The regional government will draw up an urban development plan in cooperation with JICA, KOICA and experts from France and England. We will try to formulate the Greater Yangon Urban Development Plan", he added.

Part of the plan has already come to fruition in the form of a new night market by the Yan-



Passengers are getting onto a circular train at a station in Yangon, on 19 November 2016. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

gon Region government that was opened earlier this week on Strand Road. The market is meant to ease congestion in the downtown area and relocate street vendors from the busiest roads in the commercial capital.

Moreover, efforts will be

made to encourage drivers to park their cars in parking lots or garages. Some cars are found to be parked on streets the whole day until parking charges are collected. Part of this plan will be increased enforcement of parking regulations.

Philippines president says opening economy to new players, tells oligarchs 'I owe you nothing'

MANILA — Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte vowed on Wednesday to open up the economy to new corporations to halt graft and protectionism, telling the country's oligarchs he owed them no favours and to be content with their billions.

The outspoken, populist leader said it was high time to change regulations and liberalise sectors like energy, power and telecoms to make the country more competitive, and give Filipinos better services and a share of the wealth.

Duterte, who was swept to office in May by a huge margin on a platform tilted towards the poor, said he had consciously shut pow-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte speaks upon his arrival at Davao International Airport in Davao city, Philippines, after returning from a leaders' summit in Peru of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), on 23 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

erful tycoons out of his election campaign and where his reform plan was concerned they would have to like it or lump it.

"The only way for deliverance of this country is to remove it from the clutches of the few people who hold the power and money," he told a news conference.

"I do not owe you anything, that's precisely why I was avoiding you during the last election. I am not trying to destroy you. You have the advantage, you're here already, be content with that. But let us open everything."

The mercurial former mayor has shown no qualms about confronting conglomerates who dominate the

Philippines economy, which is growing at one of the world's fastest rates. Despite jitters among investors that Duterte's volatility could impact policy, the economy expanded 7.1 per cent in the July-September period — the first quarterly data of his presidency. Duterte spoke moments after arriving home from a leaders' summit in Peru of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), whose closing statement committed to fight "all forms of protectionism".

Investors have long been frustrated at being shut out of some sectors in a market of more than 100 million Filipinos, either squeezed by local monopolies or regula-

tions that limit foreign investments, like in telecoms and utilities.

The Philippines currently has 21 billionaires, according to *Forbes Magazine*, with a record number in 2016. The richest had a net worth of \$12 billion.

"You can count on your fingers the power players of this country. I would not say that they are the elite," Duterte said. "I would like just to send this strong message: it's about time that we share the money of the entire country and to move faster, make competition open to all," he said. "You stymie competition and we will always be at the mercy of the corrupt people." —*Reuters*

67 killed in scaffolding collapse at China power plant

BEIJING — At least 67 people have been killed in a scaffolding collapse Thursday at a power plant in eastern China's Jiangxi Province, local

media reported.

The reports said a worker platform at an under-construction cooling tower of the plant in the city of Fengcheng col-

lapsed around 7:30am.

According to the China News Service, 67 people died and two were injured, while one person was missing as of 5:30 pm.

Photographs posted online show scaffolding debris scattered across the floor of the cooling tower and numerous emergency vehicles at the accident site.

China has been hit by a series of deadly industrial accidents caused by lax safety management, including a massive explosion at a warehouse in

Tianjin, Hebei Province, in August 2015, and a landslide of construction waste in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, last December. — *Kyodo News*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye

ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Expatriate Consultant Editor

Mark Angeles

markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators

Khin Maung Oo, Myint Win Thein

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor

Ye Htut Tin (Local News)

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw,

reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

Advertising inquiry

01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Helicopters drop warning leaflets as Indonesia braces for new protests

JAKARTA — Indonesian President Joko Widodo called for calm on Thursday amid simmering religious tension as helicopters dropped police leaflets over the capital, warning residents of the risk of harsh penalties if new rallies led by Islamists turn violent.

Widodo sought this week to reassure investors and show his political coalition is united after over 100,000 Muslims, led by hardline groups, took to the streets on 4 November to call for the ouster of Jakarta's Christian governor, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, accused of insulting the Koran.

One person was killed and more than 100 were wounded when the protest, the biggest in the city in recent years, briefly turned violent, and police fired tear gas and water cannon.

"I just want to convey one word and that is optimism. Let us not forget that word...even though the political situation is a little heated," Widodo told an investors' forum.

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim



Indonesia's President Joko Widodo delivers a speech in front of parliament members at the House of Representative building in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 16 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

population and is home to Christian and Hindu communities. Widodo has met with top political, security and religious figures since the 4 November rally, after accusing unidentified "political actors" of inflaming the tension.

The trigger was a comment that Jakarta governor Purnama, the first Christian and ethnic Chinese in the job, made about his opponents' use of the Koran in

political campaigning.

Police last week named Purnama a suspect in the blasphemy probe. He faces up to five years in prison if found guilty.

Despite moderate Muslim groups now calling for restraint, Indonesia's police chief has said that some demonstrators may use rallies on Friday to destabilise the government. One hardline group, the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI),

said its members planned to march again on Friday week, though it pledged it would be peaceful.

Police plan to deploy 18,000 officers for any new protests and have used helicopters to drop about 50,000 leaflets in parts of the capital of 10 million, where high-rise apartments sit next to slums.

The leaflets warn residents not to disrupt public order or undertake "subversive" activities, which carry punishments including death or life in prison.

"These are extra security measures and pre-emptive moves to remind the public not to violate the law," Jakarta police spokesman Awi Setiyono said.

Purnama, who is running for reelection in February, is up against two Muslim rivals. A poll published Thursday showed he has slipped to second place as his popularity declines amid the blasphemy allegations. Rival Agus Yudhoyono, son of previous president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, had taken the lead, the poll showed. —*Reuters*

A silent emergency: Violence against women and girls

Today on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the supporters of the Women and Girls First initiative argue that while violence against women is a global problem, the situation in Myanmar is exacerbated by high levels of social acceptance and a weak legal system.

Violence against women and girls is a silent emergency in Myanmar. It ranges from groping on buses to human trafficking. It includes harassment, cyber exploitation, psychological and economic violence, date rape, marital rape, gang rape — the complete list could fill this entire column.

And then there is domestic violence. Many of us have experienced domestic violence in our own homes. Maybe you were the one who had your hair pulled or your face slapped. Maybe you were the one who did the pulling and slapping. Maybe you were the child who saw or heard it happening.

On this International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, let us work together towards zero-tolerance in our communities, in the law and in the justice system. Let us not stop until violence against women, just because they are women, is consigned to the shameful chapter of history where it belongs.

We often think of violence against women only in its most extreme forms, such as rape and murder by armed forces. But the problem is not isolated to conflict zones, and it is not unique to Myanmar. It is a global problem of epidemic proportions. Violence against women and girls is one of the world's most per-

vasive human rights violations. It knows no social, economic or national boundaries. Today, there is no country in the world where women and girls live free from violence — it is here on our streets, in our workplaces and in our homes. Globally, an estimated one in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime.

Now, for the first time, the global community is united in its resolve to end violence against women. Last year, the elimination of gender-based violence was included as a target in the Sustainable Development Goals.

In Myanmar, one of the biggest challenges is social acceptance of violence against women, as is the lack of response to assaults in our midst. Domestic violence in particular is largely regarded as a private matter. Earlier this year a journalist wrote a personal account of seeing a crowd simply watch a man beat a woman on the street in Yangon. When the journalist tried to intervene, the man said: "It is OK. She is my wife."

Marital rape is not a crime in Myanmar. This testifies to the high level of acceptance in the country of violence against women not only in society but also in the law. It illustrates how the legal system is not set up to protect women against violence. A National Prevention of Violence against Women Law has been in the works for years, but there is no indication of when it will be passed.

In the meantime, few women report assaults. They suffer in silence. Many are caught in a vicious circle of abuse because they do not have the financial means or



the social support structures needed to leave their husbands. Too often, settlement is made with the perpetrator on behalf of the woman or girl without her having a say. Impunity has to stop, and the court must be the place for judgement.

Myanmar is one of the few countries in the region for which there is no national data on violence against women. But even if official figures were available, recorded cases only tell a very small part of the story. In the face of a weak legal system, and the stigma of community disapproval, even women who are repeatedly and seriously injured often choose not to report the crime or take legal action.

One of the few figures available on domestic violence comes from information that UNFPA has collected from its Women and Girls Centres around the country. It shows that 70 per cent of women who visit the centres have experienced domestic violence. The centres have been set up to help women and girls cope with life in camps for displaced peo-

ple in conflict-affected areas. But there is no indication that levels of domestic violence are lower in villages and towns. In fact, an Oxfam-supported report from Kachin shows that displaced people who live in camps are far less likely to think that domestic violence is justified than people who live in villages and towns.

Daw Khaung Nan helps abused women at the Women and Girls Centre in Waingmaw, Kachin. For her, strengthening the legal system must be a priority: "I want to give these women access to medical care and counselling. But not only that. I want to give them access to justice. This is the only way to prevent more and more violence."

Because domestic violence is taboo, we tend to speak about it in general terms. But domestic violence is not something that just happens. It is one person, usually a man, intentionally causing physical and/or psychological harm to another person, usually a woman. Violence deprives women and girls of their human rights to health, education and participa-

tion in the affairs of their communities and countries. It is time to end the gender inequality and the impunity that allow this violence and human suffering to continue on such a widespread scale.

Violence against women is a global problem. In Myanmar, the situation is exacerbated by high levels of social acceptance and a weak legal system. Myanmar needs a law that criminalises all forms of violence against women, and a strong justice system to underpin it. This is the Government's responsibility. But we also have a personal responsibility. As we commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, let us all take a stand against gender-based violence in our communities, in Myanmar and in all countries. Prevention worker Daw Khaung Nan's words capture the core of what's at stake:

"We should not have to live in fear of violence, just because we are women. We have the right to live in peace in our homes and in our country."

Janet E. Jackson, UNFPA Representative for Myanmar

Jarmo Kuuttila, Chargé D'Affaires, Diplomatic Mission of Finland

Ann Stödberg, Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden Section Office

Peter Tschumi, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar

Gavin McGillvray, Head of Office, UK Department for International Development

Peter Batchelor, Country Director, UNDP Myanmar

Troels Vester, Country Manager, UNODC Myanmar

Jean D'Cunha, Head UN Women, Myanmar

South Korean investigators raid Lotte and SK offices amid political scandal

SEOUL — South Korean investigators raided the offices of Lotte Group, SK Group and government agencies on Thursday, officials said, as part of a widening probe into alleged influence-peddling that has engulfed President Park Geun-hye.

The businesses are suspected of providing money to two foundations controlled by Choi Soon-sil, a close friend of Park who is at the centre of a growing scandal, to win government favours in relation to duty free licenses, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Prosecutors indicted Choi and a former presidential aide on Sunday on charges of colluding with Park to pressure companies to contribute funds to the foundations at the centre of the scandal, which has rocked Park's presidency.

Spokesmen at Lotte Group and SK Group confirmed the raid

without elaboration. A prosecution spokesman was not available for comment. The finance ministry and customs service, which oversee duty free licenses, were also raided, Yonhap reported. A finance ministry official and a customs official confirmed the raid but did not provide further information.

On Wednesday, investigators carried out related searches at offices of Samsung Group, South Korea's largest family-run conglomerate and the parent of global smartphone leader Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

Samsung is alleged to have provided 2.8 million euros (\$3.1 million) to a company co-owned by Choi and her daughter to use her influence to gain backing from a state pension fund for the \$8 billion merger of two Samsung Group affiliates, Samsung C&T Corp and Cheil Industries,

last year. South Korea's National Pension Service (NPS), the world's third-largest pension fund, voted in favour of the merger despite criticism that the deal helped the Samsung Group family to cement control at the expense of other shareholders. Its backing was seen as crucial to the success of the merger and some South Korean media reports said its approval came under mysterious circumstances. Prosecutors also raided NPS offices yesterday in a clear signal they were expanding their investigation into the corruption scandal, which has left a worrying power vacuum in South Korea.

The Democratic Party, the main opposition party with 121 seats in the 300-member parliament, said on Thursday it was working towards impeachment proceedings against Park, aiming to put a motion to a vote early next month.—Reuters

Indian police arrest 11 people for trafficking babies in biscuit boxes

KOLKATA, (India) — Eleven people have been arrested in India on suspicion of duping single women into selling their newborn babies and trafficking the infants inside biscuit containers to an adoption centre to be sold on to childless couples, police said on Wednesday.

A senior official from Crime Investigation Department (CID) in West Bengal said the arrests began on Monday after police raided a private nursing home and found two babies hidden in cardboard boxes in a locked medical store-room.

Those arrested included the owner, midwives and other staff at the nursing home in Baduria, 80 km (50 miles) from Kolkata.

Police have also arrested court clerks suspected of making fake documentation for the children and the head of a charity which ran the adoption centre.

"The inquiry is underway and

more information will be revealed only after some more progress is made," Bharat Lal Meena, Deputy Inspector General for the CID in West Bengal, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Staff at the nursing home and the charity were not immediately available for comment.

Police said initial investigations indicated that unmarried girls and women who visited the clinic for an abortion were persuaded by staff to give birth and sell their babies. The police did not give a price, but local news reports said the mothers were given 300,000 rupees (\$4,380) for a boy and 100,000 rupees (\$1,460) for a girl. Babies were also stolen from women who delivered at the clinic, but who were told by staff that their children were stillborn. Some were even shown the bodies of stillborn babies preserved by the clinic to dupe parents, police said.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

We had best perform assigned duties peremptorily, not perfunctorily!

Khin Maung Oo

THERE used to be a well-known phrase on the lips of our people. It was "Live on 3 NOTs" — "မ သုံးလုံးကိုဆောင်" in Myanmar. Here it needs explaining at length. Authorities in those days were mostly involved in bribery and corruption. Being self-centered, they did try to persuade others to join them by paying certain amount of shares. Thus some became involved in bribery and corruption before they recognized, on the wrong pretext they could not withstand the impact of inflation, skyrocketing commodity prices, poor living standards, and so on. They extended their power and empire by exercising nepotism and cronyism. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that they destroyed rule of law. No, no! Really it was. Why? Not to have taken action against by the prescribed laws and rules, they were never reluctant to retain the services of persons in power and those manipulating administrative and legal matters in dubious ways, at their disposal. Sorrowfully enough, some dignified

persons surrendered themselves to the lure of filthy lucre.

Some who disliked such practices showed their hatred against them and their habits. These people had been fired from job or made scapegoats by being accused of being involved in a scandal or a misappropriation case, by the above influential groups. On seeing these, fellow partners tried their best not to join in these malpractices, neglecting corrupt people's behaviors. In other words, they were performing their duties perfunctorily —without interest and just as a duty so that they could manage to remain in their jobs. The phrase, "Live on 3 NOTs" was derived from this — "If you are not involved in our malpractices, do not disturb us. If so you will not be sacked."

Generally speaking, the way of living on 3 NOTs is a seemingly correct attitude. In reality, it is totally wrong. We need to be well convinced that moral bankruptcy is worse than poverty. We can work hard to liberate ourselves from poverty. Once we develop

the spirit of opportunism in us, our dignity will surely fall down sooner or later. Backbiting and humiliation will go toward him. However wealthy or influential, if a person is deprived of their reputation, they will find it difficult to win people's trust again.

At such a time when we are moving towards a federal democratic Union, we need people of honesty and ebullience. Honesty is a thing of great virtue. Yet, people who dare speak out the truth are greatly in need as the public is the fifth pillar of a nation. If we keep silent with our mouths closed, in spite of seeing wrong deeds before our eyes, it will be tantamount to destroying the future of our younger generations. To put it simply, current situations of people's mindsets and attitudes are in unwholesome state. Though asserting that they love truth and now is the time for everything to change, they still abuse power, authorities and their positions to make money. If our society abounds with such persons, how could we reach our goal?

Once, there were two villages on each side of a river. Villagers in one village lived in unity, but those in another did otherwise. The former managed to build a bridge to cross the river. The latter could not build, blaming each other. One day, the village head assembled his villagers and told them to fetch a bowl of milk from their houses and pour it into the tub in front of his house in the early hours of the next morning. Instead, each person brought stealthily water for milk, thinking in their mind that no one would know who adulterated the milk. In the morning, the village head made the villagers gather at his house to inspect the milk, discovering water only in the tub void of any milk in it. Then he reprimanded his followers that evil mindsets bore no fruit.

Our current situations resemble the story. If we move on, like this without changing our attitudes and minds, we will be obstacles on the way to a federal democratic nation under the leadership of our government.

Hailing 96th National Day and anticipating the Centenary of Yangon University

**Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu,
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt**

ON the 18th November 2016, a 2017 calendar was presented to me by the teaching staff of the Department of History, Yangon University. It is a commemorative calendar celebrating the 96th year of our Alma Mater, anticipating its centenary in four years' time that is in 2020. What a significant historic coincidence that 96th National Day and the 96th year of Yangon University fall on the same red letter Day in our calendar. I could not resist the temptation to look at twelve sheets of the beautifully illustrated with good photographs of the land mark buildings of the campus. So all along my homebound journey from Weithali Hall, I was spiritually, transported back to my College days as I carefully turned every page of the 1917 calendar. I was suddenly aroused from my absorption in the past by the driver's announcement of my arrival at home.

The Calendar indeed is a historical document of a sort. Its photos and captions below vividly record our Mother Universi-

ty, just like Yaza Kumar Stone inscription or Shin Ditha Pamaukha Stone Inscription of Ancient Bagan Period. The first photo and caption that catch my eyes are those of Convocation Hall for January 2017. The Chancellor Road is leading straight to it. Old and mossy but massive and dignified the Hall still bears its Crest and motto in English, Pail and Myanmar on its façade. Two Lion bronze statues on either side at the front entrance of the Council Chamber are still faithfully alert at their duty. Here in this grand spacious Convocation Hall, degrees had been conferred upon several graduates, honorary titles upon eminent persons, prominent international heads of State, heads of government and political leaders have given their addresses and the corpse of U Thant, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization received public homage and respects for nearly a month.

The month of February 2017 shows the entrance gate of the Chancellor Road leading

straight to the Convocation Hall. But the gate and signboards are later additions. What is conspicuously missing is the small round about circus right in the center of roads crossings- the University Avenue and the Chancellor Road. That round about circus commonly known as "Awaing Kalay" among students and teachers was demolished soon after the tragic event of 7 July 1962. The month of March 2017 is illustrated by a photograph of the Chancellor Road with its Burmese name "Adi Padi Lan", lined on either side with beautiful lam post grassy and wide path ways for the pedestrians under the green foliage.

The April of 2017 is shown with the photo picture of University Central Library- an old colonial building surrounded by shady, fragrant blooming Gant gaw trees, where U Khin Zaw (K) U Thein Han (Zaw Gyi) and Dr Thaw Kaung had given their life-long services. The May of 2017 gives the picture of Recreation center, a new complex with a new design in which shops, stadium and staged theatre are combined. Recreational and extramural activities of the stu-

dents take place there.

Next appears the picture of Thit Pok Pin, the oldest or one of the oldest trees on the main campus. Some students say they had seen the ghost of an Englishman professor residing on that tree on full moon or no moon nights. This tree has witnessed and has been witnessing all events-good or bad, happy or tragic, on the campus. The June of 2017 gives this picture. The photo pictures of Arts Hall (Weikza Khanma) and Science Hall (Theik Pan Khanma) appear in July and August of 2017 respectively.

For September 2017 the photo picture of the Building of Science Research. Though they still retain their original designs and looks, their floral surroundings have changed, unrecognizably. Next come photo pictures of women's and men's hostels. Original two women's hostels Benton (Thiri) and Inlya in the month October of 2017. I remembered that Miss E San Htay was the warden of Benton (Thiri) Hostel and English Lecturer Daw Thein Nyunt (Norma) was the warden of Inlya Hostel. I am pleased to find the correct Burmese spelling of Inlya (အင်းလျားဆောင်) on the façade of

the hostel. Not the wrong spelling Inya (အင်းလျား). Because the hostel faces the elongated lake it was named "အင်းလျားဆောင်", not "အင်းလျား" which means Itchy Lake. These two wardens were noted for their strict disciplines. Many men students had unpleasant experiences with these two wardens when they visited there to date their girl friends. They had their jokes about them.

The month of November of 2017 has the photo pictures of five men's hostels known as Central Halls namely (1) Inwa hostel, (2) Sagaing hostel, (3) Pyinya hostel, (4) Pegu hostel and (5) Tha hton hostel. They all retain their original looks, encircled by nicely trimmed Ponayeik bushes under the shades of Padauk, Sein ban and Tayoke Saga and Ngu tress. Pegu hostel was where Bogyoke Aung San resided in his college days. Inwa, Pinya and Tha hton hostels produced good soldiers, artists, film stars, singers, politicians and Sagaing hostel where I resided and served as hall tutor and deputy warden turned out good "Dobhat and Ozi" players, cartoonist, pleader and judge and student's union' leaders.

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Lay Htat Kyee Pagoda.
PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHINE

Lay Htat Kyee Pagoda renovation

Aung Thant Khine

THE government has spent Ks15million on renovation of the Lay Htat Kyee Pagoda in Mandalay region, according to U Nyo Myint Tun, director of the Mandalay branch of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum, and Library.

“The project was started

in the first week of November and it will be completed in December. The parts of the pagodas that were damaged after the 2012 earthquake are being repaired”, U Nyo Myint Tun said. “Renovating pagodas are not like putting up a new building, because these are valuable ancient architectures”.

The Lay Htat Kyee pagoda was built by King Nyaung Yan

in A.D 963. The pagoda was destroyed by fire in 1020. The special chamber with a tiered roof (Gan Da Gu Di Taik) that houses the Buddha was built during the King Thipaw Dynasty.

The Department of Archaeology, National Museum, and Library have restored a total of 300 ancient pagodas since the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Control center to be built in Htaukkyant

A control centre will be built to monitor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) buses in Htaukkyant town, according to All Bus Lines Control Committee.

“We are planning to build a control centre in Htaukkyant town. The control centre will be only for the BRT bus lines. We can check those vehicles with a mobile phone. We are also constructing a GPS system that can check the location with a phone”, said Dr. Maung Aung, chairman of the Yangon Bus Line Public Company.

Currently, the BRT line is operating with 65 vehicles, some of them made in China and Korea. Three kinds of vehicles

connected with a GPS system can be check for location on the BRT line.

In operation since last February, the BRT bus line has received positive reviews from commuters who previously had to endure crowded buses and sometimes rude bus conductors.

“With BRT we can get a seat. It is more comfortable to ride the bus without a bus conductor”, said Daw Mon Mon, a passenger. Currently, the BRT operates three routes in Yangon from Htaukkyant to 8 Mile junction, plying along Pyay and Kabar Aye Pagoda roads and making a total of 23 stops. — *Myitmakha News Agency*



A BRT bus plying in Yangon. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Hailing 96th National Day...

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December 2017 gives a good photo picture of Judson (Saya Yudathan in Burmese). With Benton (Thiri) women's hostel and two men's hostels Wellington (Dagon) and North (Shwe bo) halls around it the church looks majestic, its bells chiming regularly giving religious and social services. The two rare trees that grow in Upper Myanmar but I found near Judson Church are Yin Kat tree and Neem tree. I hope they are still there.

As you come near the main gate of the Chancellor Road, you suddenly notice that one important building on the campus was conspicuously missing. That building is a Student's Union Building (Ta-Ka-Tho Kyaung Tha Myar Tha Ma Ga ah saut ah Oo). It was very sad and unfortunate that immediately after the tragic event of 7th July 1962 the building was demolished by heavy explosives. To-day the site is covered with grasses and planted Seinban tress. In the immediate background still stands the original stadium and sports training center with original statues on its façade. On either side of the Chancellor Road are houses

where Professors, high ranking administrators resided on the left side, at the corner was the house where Professor of Mathematics U Aung Hla and his wife film actor and singer May Than lived. Next close to Pegu hostel were two houses where Professor of Law, U Myint and Sayagyi U Kar had lived. On the right side are houses where Dr Hla Myint resided, Bursar U Thein Maung had lived, Professor of Botany, Dr Ko Ko Lay and Register Pwa Yu Khin had lived. I moved into U Thein Maung's house No.33 where I resided for 18 years.

My memories rolled back to our good old days. There were no separate colleges. There were Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Engineering, and Faculty of Education. At the Convocation, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor the Rector and Deans of Faculties confer degree upon the successful graduates.

Hostels were under the supervision of wardens, deputy wardens and hall tutors who were teaching staffs of departments. Four meals were served at hostels; early morning breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and

dinner. Messing was managed and run by messing committees of hostel students' representatives under the supervision of deputy wardens and hall tutors. After study bell is rung every hostel student must be at study in his room. Saturday, being half holiday was devoted to extra-mural activities such as billiard, table tennis, and public speaking called “Kyaban or impromptu speaking”. There were many associations- subject wise, township wise, hobby wise, visual arts, performing arts could be pursued at the Recreation centers. Very exciting events were debates, annual dinners and excursions. Every hostel had yearly magazine in which students and teachers had the chance of training in the literary art. New types of verse prose and plays and also translation appeared in them. Of course the University's Annual magazine and “O Way” magazine (the annual magazine of Student's Union) were the leading ones. Besides the world renowned Journal of Burma Research Society (JBRS) and “Gandaloka”, The world of Books “Khit San Sarpay” publications were prestigious. Later radical Thakins formed “Naga Ni” Red Dragon publications. Its leaders were Thakin Nu, Thakin Aung San, U Thant, Thakin Ba Swe, Thakin Tin,

Thakin Ba Nyein, Thakin Ba Thaung, Thakin Thein Pe (Tet-phongyi Thein Pe Myint) etc.

Among Professors and lecturers whom I admired most for their teaching, speaking and mannerisms were Dr Htin Aung, Mr J, Kangyi, U Khin Maung Latt, Daw Khin Myo Chit, U Myo Min of English department, Professor Ba Nyunt, Daw Mya Sein, Dr Ohn Khaing of Modern History and Political Science department. U Aye Maung, U Maung Maung Gyi, U Hla Shwe, U Kyaw Yin, Daw Than Swe and Daw Myint Than of Burmese department. Professor Dr Hla Bu and U Pe Aung of Logic and Philosophy department, Dr Tha Hla of Geology department and Dr Daw Thin Kyi of Geography department. I also owed a great deal to Mr J. Moonie and Daw Hla Shwe of English department, Dr Maung Maung Gyi of History and Political Science department, and Saya Ba Thaung of Burmese department of Mandalay Degree College. Professor U Ba Nyunt always sent me to Ministry of Foreign Affairs on request for a guide for foreign visitors. Therefore I came into contact with Ministers and ambassadors. Among them were Mr James Barrington, I.C.S U Pe Khin, I.C.S U Kyin, I.C.S U Aung Soe and wife whom I admired and from whom I learnt

most.

We never failed to make a day trip to historic sites and tours around Yangon costing only 3/kyats or later 5/kyats per head inclusive of everything Thanlyin, Twantey, Pegu, Thadu Kan, Gyo Phyu Kan, Hmawbe. We sand, dance, played instruments, played games, partook meal communally and became friends for life or lately found lovers. All daily newspapers, English, Burmese monthly magazines were on the table and rare ones where in the cases in the Social and Recreation Club down stair room of hostels. Students may bunk classes but they never miss tutorials and reading dailies and monthlies. So they need not take tuition when they sit for Public Service Commission's Exams (PSC exams) on English, Burmese and General Knowledge.

Dear readers, I have been too long to tell you about our good old days. My article is to hail the 96th National Day and to anticipate the 100th year Centenary of our Alma Mater Yangon University in 4 years time.

So please old students and new students wherever you are at home or abroad, kindly contribute your share for the successful celebration of this great event.

US, China agree on new North Korea UN sanctions, Russia has issues — diplomats

UNITED NATIONS — The United States and China have agreed on new UN sanctions to impose on North Korea over the nuclear test it conducted in September, but Russia is delaying action on a draft resolution, a senior Security Council diplomat said on Wednesday.

The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, believed China could persuade Russia to agree to the new sanctions and that the 15-member Security Council could vote on the draft resolution as early as next week.

Since North Korea's fifth and largest nuclear test on 9 September the United States and China, a close ally of North Korea, have been negotiating a new draft Security Council resolution to punish Pyongyang.

That draft text was recently given to the remaining three permanent council veto powers

— Britain, France and Russia.

"The (permanent five members) are getting very close to agreement on a draft resolution," the diplomat said. "The key thing is that China and the US, who have led this, have got to a position that they agree on. So the issue now is Russia.

"The Russians are trying to hold it up but the Chinese are comfortable with it in terms of content," the diplomat said.

Two other council diplomats confirmed China has agreed to new sanctions but that Russia had some issues.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China supported further action being taken by the Security Council in response to North Korea's nuclear test, but details of the draft resolution were still being discussed.

The senior diplomat said the

draft resolution closes loopholes in sanctions imposed on North Korea by the council in March, following Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test in January.

It cracks down on North Korea's coal exports, the diplomat said, and lists new names for targeted sanctions of a global travel ban and asset freeze. The senior diplomat gave no further details.

In March the council banned the 193 UN member states from importing North Korean coal, iron and iron ore unless such transactions were for "livelihood purposes" and would not generate revenue for Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes. Coal is particularly important to the economic health of North Korea, as one of its only sources of hard currency and largest single export. Coal also is bartered for essentials, including oil, food and machinery.—Reuters

EU lawmakers denounce Russian info tactics, anger Putin



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a meeting with journalists at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia on 23 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

STRASBOURG — The European Parliament called on the EU and its states to do more to counter Russian "disinformation and propaganda warfare" on Wednesday, drawing an angry response from President Vladimir Putin.

A motion endorsing a committee report, which also called for more effort against attempts by Islamic State to radicalise Europeans, passed by 304 votes to 179. Members on the far left and far right were opposed; many in the centre-left abstained. "The European Parliament ... expresses its strong criticism of Russian efforts to disrupt the EU integration process and deplores, in this respect, Russian backing of anti-EU forces in the EU with regard, in particular, to extreme-right parties, populist forces and movements that deny the basic values of liberal democracies," the 59-point motion read. With East-West relations in deep freeze since Mos-

cow responded to an EU pact with Ukraine by annexing Crimea in 2014, the Parliament's report accused the Kremlin of funding media outlets that spread falsehoods and of sponsoring eurosceptic movements in Western Europe which are growing in strength.

Putin said that after lecturing Russia on democracy Europe was now trying to silence dissenting opinions. He told reporters in Moscow: "We are observing a certain, quite obvious, degradation ... of how democracy is understood in Western society, in this particular case in the European Parliament."

In Strasbourg, centre-left lawmakers said they could not endorse the report because Russia was not alone in posing such threats and they objected to the way it appeared to be given an equivalent status to the non-state militants of Islamic State. Left-wingers denounced "neo-McCarthyism" that risked harming media freedom by

treating suspect outlets as agents of Moscow and said the report could stoke confrontation with Russia. Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, speaking for Marine Le Pen's French National Front called the report "lying European propaganda". Le Pen, riding high in polls before April's presidential election, turned to a Russian bank to fund her anti-immigration, anti-EU party. Polls show her unlikely to win power. She said last week she would form a trio with Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump that would be "good for world peace".

The UK Independence Party and Italy's 5-Star eurosceptic movement also voted against the motion. James Carver for UKIP, whose success in the Brexit vote for Britain to leave the EU has raised concerns about the bloc's ability to confront Russia, said the report was "worryingly reminiscent of the Cold War".—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Twelve bodies found in southwestern Mexico's violent state of Guerrero

MEXICO CITY — As many as 12 bodies have been uncovered in hidden graves in Mexico's violent state of Guerrero, the state government has said, and authorities will continue to investigate on Thursday.

Cartels are battling over drug trafficking routes in the southwestern state, home to the beach resort of Acapulco.

Five bodies were found on Wednesday and seven on Tuesday, the state government said on its website, all located in hidden graves in the municipality of Zitlala.

Nine corpses with signs of torture were also found on Monday in the state, where the disappearance of 43 students in 2014 sparked a major human rights crisis for President Enrique Peña Nieto. Peña Nieto's popularity has hit fresh lows over his handling of the economy, rising violence and perceptions of corruption.—Reuters

Thai election roadmap on course: deputy PM

BANGKOK — Thailand's military government has no plans to push back a return to democratic rule, Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said on Thursday, in comments that came little over a month after the death of revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Thailand is observing a year of mourning and political talk has largely been shelved out of respect for the late monarch, who reigned for 70 years and was seen as a unifying figure in the politically fractious country.

There are fears among government critics that the military, which seized power in a 2014 coup, would delay a general election planned for 2017 until several months after the end of the mourning period.

Prawit brushed aside those concerns and said a general election will take place next year.—Reuters

Israeli army officer killed in tank accident during training

JERUSALEM — An Israeli army officer was killed when his tank overturned in the Golan Heights, a military spokesperson said on Thursday morning.

Three other soldiers were also injured in the accident that occurred overnight during "routine training," the spokesperson said.

The soldier killed in the accident was identified as Sergeant Ido Ben-Ari, a 20-year-old tank commander in the 401st Brigade.

Military authorities have launched an investigation into the incident. Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War, and annexed it in 1981, a move not recognized internationally.—Xinhua

Personal data for more than 130,000 sailors hacked: US Navy

WASHINGTON — Hackers gained access to sensitive information, including Social Security numbers, for 134,386 current and former US sailors, the US Navy said on Wednesday.

It said a laptop used by a Hewlett Packard Enterprise Services employee working on a US Navy contract was hacked. Hewlett Packard informed the Navy of the breach on 27 October and the affected sailors will be notified in the coming weeks, the Navy said.

"The Navy takes this incident extremely seriously — this is a matter of trust for our sailors," Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Admiral Robert Burke said in a statement. Burke said the investigation of the breach was in its early stages. "At this stage of the investigation, there is no evidence to suggest misuse of the information that was compromised," the Navy said.—Reuters

Over 48,000 Vietnamese killed in traffic accidents in past 5 years

HANOI — Over 48,000 Vietnamese were killed in traffic accidents in 2011-2016 period, down 20 per cent compared to the previous five years, local media reported on Thursday.

During five-year period, over 158,000 traffic accident occurred nationwide, down 18 per cent compared to the previous five years while over 162,000 people were injured, down 22 per cent, reported the state-run radio VOV.

The country is striving to reduce the number of daily deaths by traffic accidents to less than 20 by 2020 by carrying out reforms in the mobilization of people to participate in ensuring traffic order and safety, said President of Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee Nguyen Thien Nhan.—Xinhua

Blast kills two at governor's office in southern Turkish city of Adana

ISTANBUL — An explosion killed two people and wounded more than a dozen outside the governor's office in the southern Turkish city of Adana on Thursday, weeks after the United States warned extremist groups were planning attacks.

Video footage showed a vehicle ablaze in the car park outside the building and thick black smoke rising into the sky in the city, 40 km (25 miles) from Turkey's Mediterranean coast. Windows were blown out and parts of the facade of the building, roughly six floors high, were torn off.

The state-run Anadolu agency quoted provincial governor Mahmut Demirtas as saying two people were killed and 16 wounded. Anadolu said the blast, which occurred shortly after 8 am (0500 GMT), came from a vehicle in front of the building.

Adana is about 10 miles (16 km) from Incirlik Air Base, which the US military uses to launch attacks against Islamic State militants in Syria. Families of US military personnel were ordered to leave Adana and some other parts of Turkey in March over security concerns.

"Damned terror continues to target our people. We will fight with this terror to the end in the



A firefighter tries to extinguish burning vehicles after an explosion outside the governor's office in the southern city of Adana, Turkey, on 24 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

name of humanity," Turkish EU Affairs Minister Omer Celik wrote on Twitter, saying he had spoken to the Adana governor.

Labour Minister Mehmet Mu-ezzinoglu said Kurdish PKK militants may have been responsible and that 21 people were wounded, five of them seriously.

"It looks like they (the PKK) were probably behind it this morning yet again, as this looks like their one of their actions," he told broadcaster CNN Turk.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Kurdish, Islamic State and leftist militants have all carried out bomb attacks

in Turkey in recent years.

The US Consulate General in Adana warned three weeks ago that extremist groups "continue aggressive efforts to attack US citizens and other foreigners in Adana". The State Department has warned US citizens to avoid travel to southeastern Turkey.—Reuters

Intelligence gaps may have helped Afghan Taliban breach NATO fortress

BAGRAM, (Afghanistan) — In the year before Qari Naib blew himself up on 12 November inside a NATO base near Kabul killing four Americans, Afghan intelligence warned the US military at least twice that a worker could be planning an attack, government and security officials said.

The Afghan officials also said they repeatedly asked Western forces to share information about local employees at the vast Bagram air base in order to check for "suspicious people among them", but were refused.

When asked about the information sharing, NATO spokesman Captain William Salvin said NATO forces "routinely partner with ANDSF (Afghan National Defence and Security Forces) on all elements of security, to include information sharing."

"We maintain a strong, day-to-day working relationship with our Afghan counterparts but due to operational security we do not get into specifics about what is shared."

According to Afghan authorities, the US military was cooperating closely now.

"After this attack, American forces have agreed to share that information about their Afghan workers with us," said Wahid Sediqqi, the governor's spokesman for Parwan province where the sprawling, heavily fortified base is located.

Authorities subsequently discovered that Naib, a known Taliban militant before undergoing a government de-radicalisation programme, was using a fake name, Qari Enayat, at work.

Many intelligence leads turn out to be false and it is not clear whether better coordination would have unearthed Naib's true intentions in time to prevent him killing two US soldiers and two contractors and wounding at least 15 others, in one of the worst assaults on US forces for years. But the first attack inside one of NATO's most secure bases has raised questions about Western forces' screening of local workers and about programmes designed to reintegrate insurgents into society.

The insider attack has also further complicated operations in a country where the Afghan Taliban, al Qaeda and, more recently, a local offshoot of Islamic State, are inflicting heavy casualties and making more territory unsafe.

Since the Bagram attack, the base has been in near-lock-down, with few Afghan workers now permitted inside.—Reuters

Kurds, Shi'ite fighters to coordinate after sealing off Mosul

ERBIL/BAGHDAD, (Iraq) — Iraqi Kurdish and Shi'ite forces agreed to coordinate movements after cutting off Mosul from the rest of the territory held by Islamic State in western Iraq and Syria in support of a US-backed offensive to capture the city, US and Iraqi officials said on Thursday.

The agreement was reached at meeting on Wednesday between commanders of Kurdish Peshmerga forces deployed in Sinjar, west of Mosul, and Hadi al-Amiri, the leader of the Iranian-backed Badr Organisation, the biggest component of the mostly Shi'ite paramilitary coalition known as Popular Mobilisation.

Popular mobilisation, or Hashid Shaabi, deployed southwest of Mosul to complete the encirclement of Islamic State's last

major city stronghold in Iraq.

Mosul was already ringed to the north, south and east by Iraqi government forces and the Peshmerga. Iraq's US-trained Counter Terrorism Service unit breached Islamic State defences in east Mosul at the end of October and is fighting to expand its foothold there.

The offensive started on 17 October with air and ground support from a US-led coalition. It is turning into the most complex campaign in Iraq since the 2003 invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, and empowered the nation's Shi'ite majority.

Al-Amiri "came in order to coordinate with us," said Mahma Xelil, the mayor of Sinjar, a city where Islamic State committed its worst atrocities after taking over the region two years ago, killing

and enslaving thousands from the Yazidi minority. Controlling the road will make it easier for the Iraqi army to enter Tal Afar, Xelil said. "There must be cooperation between us to prevent ISIS from moving their equipment and their fighters," he added, referring to Islamic State.

Sinjar was recaptured a year ago by the Peshmerga, forces of the Kurdistan Regional Government of northern Iraq. It lies west of Tal Afar, another stronghold of Islamic State, 60 km (40 miles) west of Mosul.

"The joining of these forces greatly reduces the freedom of movement of ISIL insurgents in and out of Mosul," said Air Force Col. John Dorrian, a Baghdad-based spokesman for the US-led coalition, referring to Islamic State. "They have already lost the effective ability to move in large numbers, but now this has been made more difficult for them."

Another prominent leader of the Popular Mobilisation units, Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes, said on Wednesday the Shi'ite forces had linked up with the Peshmerga near Sinjar, completing the encirclement of a region that extends from Mosul and Tal Afar.

Mohandes said Popular Mobilisation would try next to separate Mosul from Tal Afar, which lies on the route between Mosul and

Raqqa, the main city of the militant group's self-styled "caliphate" in Syria.

Thousands of civilians fled Tal Afar as Popular Mobilisation closed in on the town mostly populated by ethnic Turkmen.

The exodus is worrying humanitarian organisations as some of the civilians are heading into insurgent territory, where aid cannot be sent to them, provincial officials said on Wednesday.

Those fleeing Tal Afar are Sunnis, who are in a majority in Nineveh province in and around Mosul. Tal Afar also had a Shi'ite community, which fled in 2014 when the Sunnis of Islamic State swept through the region.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi tried to allay fears of ethnic and sectarian killings in Tal Afar, saying any force sent to recapture it would reflect the city's diversity.

The Iraqi military estimates there are 5,000 to 6,000 insurgents in Mosul facing a 100,000-strong coalition of Iraqi government units, Kurdish peshmerga and Shi'ite militias. Mosul's capture is seen as crucial towards dismantling the caliphate, and Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, believed to have withdrawn to a remote area near the Syrian border, has told his fighters there can be no retreat.—Reuters



A Shi'ite fighter stands on top of a vehicle at a check point near Bartella, Iraq, on 21 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Peru slams UN agency for hiring former first lady under investigation

LIMA — Peru rebuked the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation on Wednesday for hiring former first lady Nadine Heredia as a Geneva-based director while she is a suspect in a money laundering inquiry.

The South American country's Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement expressing its "displeasure and protest" over the appointment, which comes amid allegations by public prosecutors that Heredia and her husband, former President Ollanta Humala,

took illicit funds from the government of Venezuela and Brazilian construction companies.

"We see this as interference in a public investigation of enormous national sensitivity," Foreign Affairs Minister Ricardo Luna said on local broadcaster RPP.

Earlier this year a judge barred Heredia from leaving Peru while her finances were probed, but prosecutors have yet to press charges against her or Humala in the high-profile case.

Peru's objections come as current President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has sought to shore up his anti-corruption credentials after his adviser was ousted for appearing to plot corrupt acts in leaked audio.

The FAO defended its decision to hire Heredia as director of the agency's liaison office in Geneva, saying travel restrictions for her expired in October and were not extended.

"The appointment of Ms. Heredia was transparent applying ordinary competitive procedures and

based on a rigorous selection process," the FAO said in a statement. "The case in Peru does not pose any impediments to her performing her new role."

Heredia was a FAO special ambassador in 2013, tasked with promoting the consumption of quinoa, a protein-rich Andean seed grown by Quechua-speaking farmers in Peru and Bolivia.

Heredia's attorney, Roy Gates, asked the government to respect Heredia's right to due process and said prosecutors should carry out their work free from political pressure.

Heredia travelled to Europe this week, worrying some in Peru who remember authoritarian President Alberto Fujimori fleeing the Andean country in 2000 before eventually facing extradition and jail-time for human rights violations and corruption.

Heredia, the co-founder and president of Humala's Nationalist Party of Peru, was once widely seen as having a bright political future, possibly as president. But she faced constant criticism for playing an influential role in Humala's government, which left office in July with low approval ratings.—Reuters



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks during his weekly broadcast "En contacto con Maduro" (In contact with Maduro) in La Victoria, Venezuela, on 20 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Venezuela's Maduro says OPEC output pact 'imminent'

CARACAS — Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said on Wednesday an OPEC deal to cut output and hike oil prices was "imminent," and dispatched his oil minister to Russia to help bring other producers on board.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in Algeria two months ago to limit supply, with special conditions given to Libya, Nigeria and Iran, whose output has been hit by wars and sanctions.

The details are meant to be finalised when OPEC ministers meet in Vienna on 30 November.

"An agreement is imminent by OPEC countries to freeze and reduce production, balance the market, and raise prices in a realistic, fair and responsible manner," Maduro said in a speech to workers of state oil company PDVSA.

"A complete success. I trust in God and his blessings. I trust in the efforts we have made," he added, praising PDVSA President and Oil Minister Eulogio Del Pino's efforts to reach an international consensus.

Venezuela depends on oil for about 95 per cent of export revenues,

so the price fall has contributed to a severe recession along with failing socialist economic policies.

Since oil prices collapsed in 2014, Venezuela has been among the most vocal in pushing both OPEC and non-OPEC countries to slash output.

Its calls were initially ignored by major energy players such as Saudi Arabia, but producers have shown increased interest in coordinating output amid weak crude markets.

Doubts remain over whether OPEC will agree to a proposed cut of 4 per cent to 4.5 per cent that has been discussed.

That would imply a supply cut of more than 1.2 million barrels per day, according to Reuters calculations.

Non-OPEC member Russia has said it would cut production in support of OPEC, but domestic oil companies have not worked out details, muddying the outlook.

"I have given new tasks to comrade Eulogio Del Pino so that in the next few days he goes to Russia to finish the agreement with Russia, the non-OPEC nations and OPEC," Maduro added.—Reuters



Peru's then President Ollanta Humala (R) and his wife Nadine Heredia attend a ceremony at the Government Palace in Lima, Peru in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

US airports ease Thanksgiving rush with friendly dogs

NEW YORK — US airports trotted out friendly companion dogs to calm jittery travellers and offered perks including free parking on Wednesday as throngs of people rushed toward their Thanksgiving holiday celebrations.

Up to 2.8 million people per day, about 600,000 more than average, are expected to fly in the United States over the coming six days, making it a busy period for travel, according to the trade group Airlines for America.

Airports will not be the only crowded places as some 48.7 million people, the most since 2007, are expected to travel 50 miles (80 km) or farther for the holiday, according to motor club AAA. It said the 1.9 per cent increase from last year's level reflected an improving economy and low gasoline prices.

Some travelers early on Wednesday reported smooth experiences.

"I got there at 7:10 and there was no line to get

past security," said Grant Grindler, 24, of his arrival at Washington Dulles International Airport for his flight to Chicago, where he planned to drive to Wisconsin. Ticketing at Dulles was also "a breeze", he said.

To relieve passengers' anxiety, airports in cities including Chicago and Memphis, Tennessee, have deployed therapy dogs to wander around terminals with their owners to help ease stress among travelers.

At Chicago's O'Hare and Midway International Airports, the dogs in service this week include a Jack Russell Terrier mix and a German Shepherd mix provided by a local charitable group, Canine Therapy Corps.

"Just the entertainment of a dog distracting your attention for a least a little while helps to improve your experience at the airport," said Ann Davidson, the group's operations manager.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (15 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-015(16-17)	CAP Oil Tanker (3200 Gals)(6x4) (370HP, 10 Wheels) (1) No	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 15-12-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 25TH November, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. +95 67 - 411274 / 411206

Tokyo sees 1st recorded snow accumulation in November

TOKYO — Snow fell in Tokyo and other parts of eastern Japan on Thursday, the first snow accumulation in the capital in November since 1875 when the government started collecting statistics, with the unusually cold snap disrupting traffic and spiking electricity demand.

East Japan Railway Co. said services on parts of the Ome and Chuo lines were suspended as snow-laden tree branches were sagging over tracks. Other trains including Seibu and Keio services were also delayed, operators said.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. said

electricity consumption had surged to 95 percent of supply capacity as of 11 a.m. due to rising demand for heating.

Temperatures in the capital and neighboring areas fell to near zero Thursday morning, a level rarely seen in late November—Kyodo News

Rupee hits record low as emerging market rout intensifies

MUMBAI — The rupee fell to a record low of 68.86 on Thursday, pressured by a rallying US dollar, capital outflows from emerging markets, and worries about the country's demonetisation drive.

Despite repeated interventions by the central bank to slow the slide, the rupee breached its previous low of 68.85 to the dollar set in August 2013, when the country was mired in its worst currency crisis in more than two decades.

The Reserve Bank of India intervened again in the afternoon, after spending around \$500 million in the morning, but the rupee was able to claw back only a fraction of its losses.

It was trading at 68.82 as of 0826 GMT, down

about 0.4 per cent on the day.

The rupee has fallen around 3 per cent so far this month, its biggest fall against the dollar since August 2015, though it has fared better than many other emerging market currencies since Donald Trump's shock win in the US presidential election.

Analyst said they expected the rupee to remain under pressure, with the RBI continuing to intervene to smoothen volatility but without defending a specific level.

"It is frankly difficult to say where the rupee will be in the near-term," said Pramod Patil, Vice President, Global Markets at United Overseas Bank.

"We will have to wait

and watch Trump's actions once he is in the White House, only then will we have some certainty."

In 2013, pressure on the current account triggered heavy rupee selling, but this time India is seen as being far better positioned to resist outflows from investors attracted by higher US interest rates.

Expectations that President-elect Trump will pursue an expansionary fiscal policy that will drive inflation higher and lead to higher US interest rates are behind rising US yields that have attracted investors to the dollar.

Since the US election on 8 November, foreign investors have sold a net \$1.59 billion from equity markets and \$2.02 billion



A woman holds 20 Indian rupees banknotes after exchanging them with old high denomination banknotes at a bank in Allahabad, on 13 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in debt.

Although foreign investors are pulling money away from India's capital

markets, analysts say its strong economic growth should lend some support to the currency. Foreign

exchange reserves also are at a near record high and inflation remains low.—Reuters

Hiroshima raps Japan gov't for opposing UN resolution on nuke ban

TOKYO — The mayor of Hiroshima registered his regret in a meeting with Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Thursday over the Japanese government's opposition last month to a UN committee resolution calling for negotiations to start in 2017 on a treaty outlawing nuclear weapons.

"The Japanese government's opposition to the resolution goes against the earnest feelings of the victims affected by atomic bombings and is extremely

regrettable," Mayor Kazumi Matsui said in a letter he handed Kishida at the Foreign Ministry.

The letter, addressed to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, also urged the government of Japan, as the only country ever attacked with atomic bombs, to take the lead in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. Along with the city of Nagasaki, Hiroshima was devastated by US atomic bombs in August 1945.

The letter was compiled at a recent meeting

convened by 1,643 Japanese municipalities of Mayors for Peace, a global organisation of cities seeking a nuclear-free world. Matsui currently heads the organisation.

Amid opposition from Japan and other countries, the First Committee at the UN General Assembly on 27 October passed the resolution with the support of 123 countries, paving the way for launch next spring of talks on a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons.—Kyodo News

New Zealand claims world's first successful eradication of pest butterfly

WELLINGTON —

Environment authorities in New Zealand Wednesday claimed they had achieved the world's first successful eradication of a pest butterfly.

The invasive great white butterfly was first found in New Zealand in 2010 and had been wiped out after an eradication programme over three and a half years, said Conservation Minister Maggie Barry and Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy.

"This is the first eradication of an unwanted butterfly

population in the world and is another impressive example of New Zealand's innovation and skill in removing pests," Barry said.

Great white butterflies had posed a major threat to native plant species and the primary sector economy since they were discovered in the Nelson region at the top of the South Island.

"It's now been two years since any have been seen, and we're confident we can declare them eradicated," Guy said.

Community involvement in the eradication effort

had been crucial to its success.

A bounty of 10 NZ dollars (7.07 US dollars) for dead butterflies had been a powerful incentive, with children netting 134 of them, Barry said.

"Another innovation was the use of a modified garden ornament to attract butterflies to be caught in a net," she said. The great white butterfly was a major pest of brassica crops, with caterpillars feeding voraciously in groups and rapidly reducing host plants to a skeleton.—Xinhua

Wild fires plague Israel, minister says about half are arson

MODI'IN, (Israel) — An easterly wind whipped up more forest and brush fires across Israel and the West Bank on Thursday, temporarily forcing the closure of a highway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and a senior minister said he suspected many blazes were deliberate.

A lack of rain combined with very dry air and strong easterly winds have spread the fires this week across central and northern Israel, as well as parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Scores of homes have been damaged or destroyed, although no deaths or serious injuries have been reported.

"Almost 50 per cent of the fires are apparently arson," Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan told Army Radio, while Education Minister Naftali Bennett, the leader of a far-right party, suggested those who set them could not be Jewish.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said investigators had not yet been able to determine whether any of the dozens of fires reported countrywide had been set deliberately. But he said four people were arrested on Wednesday after negligently starting a bonfire and were set to appear in court on Thursday.



A firefighting plane drops fire retardant during a wildfire, near the communal settlement of Nataf, close to Jerusalem, on 23 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bennett, the leader of the pro-settler Jewish Home party, said on Twitter that arsonists were disloyal to the state, and hinted that those who set the fires could not be Jewish.

"Only those to whom the country does not belong are capable of burning it," he said in a tweet in Hebrew.

Highway 443, which links Jerusalem and Tel

Aviv crossing through the West Bank, was temporarily closed to morning rush-hour traffic on Thursday as flames reached the city of Modi'in, about half way between the two major conurbations.

Large fires were also burning within the boundaries of Haifa, Israel's third largest city, and residents were told to leave their homes.—Reuters

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for Cooperation with No.23 Heavy Industry (Nyaung Che Dauk) and No.26 Heavy Industry (Tha Ga Ya) Under No.2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

No.23 Heavy Industry (Nyaung Che Dauk), and No.26 Heavy Industry (Tha Ga Ya), No.2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry are intended to cooperate with Local and foreign entrepreneurs as JV, Long Term Lease, Product Share, etc.

(1) No.23 Heavy Industry (Nyaung Che Dauk)

- PVC Wire Production Shop and Related Shops
- Transformer Production Shop
- Machine Tool Production Shops

(2) No.26 Heavy Industry (Tha Ga Ya)

- Turbine, Generator and Related Shops

Companies may choose/ select all production shops or interested shops.

As a first step, Companies who interested in those Cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) not later than 3 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), on 21st December 2016 to Production Department, No.2 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No.41, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entities can take over the EOI Form and other indications at above office commencing from 25-11-2016 by presenting the document of company profile.

Document of company profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Record and Regulation of Company
- Name of Foreign's Technical Cooperator

(For more information: Please Contact : 067-408183, 408204)



Recording artist Mariah Carey poses for a portrait while promoting her documentary series 'Mariah's World' in Los Angeles, California, US, on 18 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Marriage or not, Mariah Carey goes ahead with reality TV show

LOS ANGELES — Mariah Carey's new reality show sees the larger-than-life singer trying on wedding dresses and wrestling with a decision to postpone her marriage to Australian businessman James Packer.

Nine months on, as "Mariah's World" prepares to air in December, Carey is dodging questions about the sudden breakdown in October of her engagement to the billionaire.

Asked if the eight-part series would show what really went on to cause the split, Carey told Reuters. "Do we ever know what's really real?... I hope we learn a lesson of being good people."

Packer, 49, and twice-married Carey, 46, started a highly-publicized relationship in June 2015, and in January, the Australian proposed with a massive 35-carat diamond engagement ring. Last month, the engagement was suddenly off, sparking

conflicting rumors about who backed out, and why.

Packer appears briefly in the first episode of "Mariah's World," when the couple enjoyed happier times in the spring vacationing on yachts. Carey is seen lounging in lingerie, trying on a wedding dress, and debating whether to wear a tiara.

Filming started while the "We Belong Together" singer was preparing for her European tour that began in March and the first episode shows her reluctantly deciding to postpone her wedding to Packer because of her work commitments.

Carey, the world's best-selling female singer, says she wants the show to capture "behind the scenes and the moments... when you are getting ready to go on stage and putting on a tour."

"I don't think people really know who I am, or the different sides of my personality, so I

am excited about it," Carey told Reuters.

Although the show was first promoted as showing Carey planning her wedding, it remains to be seen how much Packer will now appear.

On Wednesday, Carey told Ellen DeGeneres in an appearance on her talk show that her relationship with Packer was "kind of difficult to talk about" and described the split as "a whole friggin' thing."

"Mariah's World" shows Carey to be heavily involved in planning and rehearsing for her European tour, as well as flirting with her back-up dancers.

"There is a lot to get stressed out about and you do go through a lot of angst," she told Reuters. But "if I'm able to have my music... it's my saving grace."

"Mariah's World" premieres on cable network E! on 4 December. —Reuters

Warren Beatty returns to movies with 'Rules Don't Apply'

LOS ANGELES — After a 15-year absence, Warren Beatty returns to the big screen in "Rules Don't Apply," a personal project about the eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes.

Set in Hollywood in 1958, the movie focuses on the budding romance between Hughes' young driver (Alden Ehrenreich) and a naive young actress (Lily Collins) who is under contract at the mogul's movie studio.

"I've been very lucky because I haven't had to do picture after picture, so I'm not sick of making movies. I've been away from movies for years at a time," said Beatty, 79, who also wrote and directed the film that opened in US theaters on Wednesday.

"I've been very lucky that I've been able to do a lot of other things in this little thing called life. I've had a political life, I've

had a life with my kids which has meant more to me than anything," added Beatty, who has four children with actress Annette Bening.

Beatty, the Oscar-winning director of "Reds" and star of 1967's "Bonnie and Clyde," has said the "Rules" movie has been on his mind for years. —Reuters



Producer/director Warren Beatty and cast member Annette Bening arrive at the premiere of 'Rules Don't Apply' during the opening night of AFI FEST 2016 in Hollywood, California, US, on 10 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan TV personality Kobayashi among BBC's 100 Women for 2016

LONDON — Japanese TV personality Mao Kobayashi, who has been fighting breast cancer for about two years, has been named in the 2016 edition of the BBC's 100 Women list.

Kobayashi, 34, who has been married to kabuki star Ichikawa Ebizo since 2010, was chosen because she broke her silence and has been blogging about her struggle with the disease that she says has spread to her bones and lungs.

In a commentary published on the BBC's website on Wednesday, Kobayashi said she decided to start her blog called "Kokoro" (heart) in September after hiding the disease for a long time. As it turned out, she said, many readers empathized with and prayed for her. "If I died now, what would people think? 'Poor thing, she was only 34'? 'What a pity, leaving two young children'? I don't want

people to think of me like that, because my illness isn't what defines my life," she said.

"My life has been rich and colorful — I've achieved dreams, sometimes clawed my way through, and I met the love of my life," said Kobayashi. "I've been blessed with two precious children. My family has loved me and I've loved them."

"So I've decided not to allow the time I've been given to be overshadowed entirely by disease. I will be who I want to be." Kobayashi also said on her blog that she thanks her readers for their moral support. "Everyone gave me a supportive push," she said. BBC 100 Women selects "influential and inspirational women around the world" for the annual list. Kobayashi is the only Japanese among the 19 women chosen from Asia this year. —Kyodo News



PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Actress Michelle Yeoh speaks on stage at the 8th Annual Governors Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, on 12 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Michelle Yeoh coy about 'Star Trek' as Singapore festival opens

SINGAPORE — Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh, one of Asia's biggest film stars, played coy about her reported casting in the upcoming television show "Star Trek: Discovery" during a red carpet appearance at Singapore's film festival on Wednesday.

CBS will launch the "Star Trek: Discovery" television series in May.

"Well, I think CBS will make their own announcement. ... But we all grew up with the 'Star Trek' generation, so of course I'm a big fan," said Yeoh, best known to Western audiences for her roles in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Tomor-

row Never Dies."

The show's consulting producer, Nicholas Meyer, in an interview with entertainment website ComingSoon.net, said Yeoh would be in the show but did not say what role she would take.

The Singapore International Film Festival opened with Malaysian film "Interchange," a fantasy thriller about a forensics photographer in the world of tribal myths, and Singaporean short film "The Pursuit of a Happy Human Life." The film festival will screen more than 160 films from the city state and around the world before closing on 4 December. —Reuters

Urban sprawl threatens Thailand’s Ayutthaya world heritage site

BANGKOK — Sprawling urban growth and water management problems are threatening conservation efforts at Thailand’s ancient city of Ayutthaya, experts say.

The UNESCO World Heritage site located some 80 kms (50 miles) north of the capital, Bangkok, was once among the world’s wealthiest cities and a major trading port from the 14th to 18th centuries.

Today, the city attracts tourists from around the world who come to admire the ruins and stone Buddha statues at Ayutthaya, once the ancient capital of Thailand, then known as Siam.

However, poor urban planning and its impact on water management in the low-lying area pose a threat to the historic park, said Montira Horayangura Unakul, National Professional Officer with UNESCO’s Culture Unit.

“Half the island is protected as a historic park and is also a world heritage site and the eastern half is where a lot of the modern development has taken place,” Montira told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Rapid development has fueled concern over the area’s capacity to defend against floods.

Devastating floods in Thailand in 2011, which killed more than 900 people and cost billions of dollars, hit Ayutthaya. Dozens of temples were inundated for weeks, although most suffered little damage.

“Once the waters receded there didn’t seem to be too much damage,” said Montira.

“However, after that we found residual effects for example to mural paintings.”

A lack of knowledge about traditional materials used at some sites is another problem that besets Ayutthaya and other heritage sites, including the awe-inspiring Angkor Wat temple complex in neighbouring Cambodia. “An issue we are trying to address now is knowing what the ancient materials used in Ayutthaya were and what the composition of them was,” Montira said. Thailand held an international conference, in collaboration with UNESCO, last month to discuss conservation of brick monuments at the site.—Reuters



A view shows the ruins of the ancient city of Ayutthaya, Thailand, on 14 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US Powerball lottery players eye \$359 million prize

SAN FRANCISCO — Lottery players checked their Powerball tickets after numbers were drawn on Wednesday for one of the biggest jackpots — \$359 million — in US history that grew over the last few weeks as no one took home

the prize. The winning numbers selected were 07 32 41 47 61, with the Powerball 03. The next draw will be held on Saturday. Wednesday’s draw was for the 11th largest-ever Powerball jackpot and the 18th largest jackpot in US history, lottery

officials said.

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

The jackpot has rolled over twice per week since someone matched all six numbers on 17 September. Powerball is played in 44

states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Players can either buy \$2 tickets using their own numbers or have them randomly generated by a computer.

If a single winner claims the jackpot on Wednesday’s drawing, they would receive \$359 million over 30 years or \$219.6 million in a lump sum payment, before taxes.

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

It is one of several games run by the Multi-State Lottery Association, a non-profit owned and operated by member states’ lotteries.

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



The Powerball jackpot is displayed at an ampm convenience store in Pasadena, California US, on 21 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ancient ‘thinking person’ statuette unearthed in Israel

JERUSALEM — A team of Israeli archaeologists and high school students have unearthed a 3,800-year-old pottery jug bearing a statuette of a person who appears deep in thought, sitting with knees bent and head rested on hand.

The Israel Antiquities Authority said on Wednesday the jug, dating back to what archaeologists refer to as the Middle Bronze Age, had been found during an excavation in Yehud, a Tel Aviv suburb.

“It seems that at first the jug, which is typical of the period, was prepared and afterwards the unique sculpture was added, the likes of which have never before been discovered in previous research,” said Gilad Itach, who directed

the excavation, which included teenage diggers.


The statuette is about 18 cm (7 inches) tall.

“One can see that the face of the figure seems to be resting on its hand as if in a state of reflection,” he said. Other vessels and metal items were found such as daggers, arrowheads, an axe head, sheep bones and what are believed to be the bones of a donkey.

Itach said the collection seemed to be funeral offerings, likely of an important member of an ancient community. “To the best of my knowledge such a rich funerary assemblage that also includes such a unique pottery vessel has never before been discovered in the country,” he said.—Reuters



Journalists are shown a 3,800 year-old pottery jug with a rare statuette, discovered during excavation in central Israel, at the Israel Antiquities Authority offices in Jerusalem, on 23 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(25-11-2016 07:00 AM ~ 26-11-2016 07:00 AM) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am “Discovering Tribes” Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part-I)

07:48 Am Pet Fish Biz

08:03 Am News

08:25 Am Kyaikhteyoe: Mountain Drivers

08:31 Am Coconut Shell Artis

08:55 Am Gemstone Sculptor

09:03 Am News

09:25 Am News Extra — Indonesia-Myanmar Bilateral Ties

09:44 Am Natural Mineral Water

10:03 Am News

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:27 Pm Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence...To Kachin State

07:47 Pm A Simple And Peaceful Life (The Nature of Upcountry)

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm “Myanmar Music Icon” Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-1)

08:53 Pm School for the Blind

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday 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)

10:25 Am The Green Corner (Ep-3) Flower Wreath

10:34 Am A Lucky Boy

10:50 Am Inspiration

(1:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

Messi back at the double after illness to sicken Celtic



Barcelona's Lionel Messi in action with Celtic's Emilio Izaguirre during UEFA Champions League Group Stage, Group C, at Celtic Park, Glasgow, Scotland, on 23 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

GLASGOW — The dazzling Lionel Messi returned from illness to score yet another double to help Barcelona ease into the knockout stages of the Champions League for a 13th successive year with their 2-0 win at Celtic on Wednesday.

Messi, who missed the goalless draw with Malaga on Saturday with a sickness bug, was back to his tormenting best just as he had been when scoring a hat-trick in Barca's 7-0 win in the their Group C fixture at the Nou Camp two months earlier.

The Argentinian followed up an impressive first-half strike from close range with a penalty after the break, and was a constant threat throughout the match alongside Brazilian team mate Neymar.

The brace took Messi's Champions League total to 92 goals, including nine in this

season's group stages alone, and though he narrowly missed a hat-trick, his genius ensured Celtic exited all European competition while Barca will progress as group winners.

"It was a game that we expected. In one of the toughest groups, we have come top. I have to congratulate the team," said Barcelona coach Luis Enrique.

Celtic coach Brendan Rodgers had impressed upon his players not to give their illustrious opponents too much respect as they had done in Barcelona and they were certainly not humiliated in the same manner as they were in September.

They had some decent goalscoring opportunities which fell to striker Moussa Dembele, but he failed to add to his three goals in this season's group stage.

For all Celtic's pressing and possession, however, Barca had too much class with Messi their executioner again, latching on to Neymar's dinked through ball to fire first-time past Craig Gordon in the 24th minute.

He doubled his tally from the penalty spot in the 56th after Luis Suarez was fouled by Emilio Izaguirre.

Messi had further opportunities to add to his tally and only a remarkable save by Gordon from a Suarez header in the first half prevented the winning margin from being wider.

"The players gave everything," said Celtic boss Brendan Rodgers.

"We restricted them to one or two chances and at 1-0 we had a real chance to equalise. However, they went up to the other end and scored a second." —Reuters

Former Liverpool and England captain Gerrard retires

LONDON — Former Liverpool and England captain Steven Gerrard announced his retirement on Thursday a week after confirming he would not be returning to play for MLS side LA Galaxy.

"Following recent media speculation surrounding my future I can confirm my retirement from playing professional football," Gerrard, 36, said in a statement.

"I've had an incredible career and I'm thankful for each and every moment of my time with Liverpool, England and LA Galaxy."

Gerrard spent virtually his entire career at Liverpool having made his debut as a substitute against Blackburn Rovers in 1998. He is third on the club's all-time appearances list with 710, behind only Jamie Carragher and Ian Callaghan.

He scored 120 goals in 504 Premier League games.

One of the most highly-regarded midfield players in world football at his peak, he was capped 114 times for England, 40 as captain, and played in six major tournaments. Gerrard left Liverpool in 2015 and spent 18 months with Galaxy, scoring five goals in 34 appearances.

While he never managed to win an English league title medal with Liverpool, Gerrard will forever be associated with the Champions League final in 2005 when

Liverpool fought back from 3-0 down at halftime to win on penalties in Istanbul.

Gerrard scored Liverpool's first goal and drove the team on to arguably one of the greatest nights in the club's history.

Liverpool had looked on course for a first title in 24 years in 2014 after an 11-match winning streak but Gerrard's costly stumble at home to Chelsea in April gifted Demba Ba a goal that put the visitors on the way to a 2-0 victory.

The club's title charge fell apart thereafter and Manchester City snatched it.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about what if that didn't happen," Gerrard once said. As well as the Champions League, Gerrard won two FA Cups with Liverpool, three League Cups and the UEFA Cup.

Individually he was named in third place in FIFA's World Player of the Year in 2005 and PFA Player of the Year in 2006.

"I feel lucky to have experienced so many wonderful highlights and I'm proud to have played over 700 games for Liverpool, many as captain, and helping to bring major honors back to the club, none more so than the famous night in Istanbul," Gerrard said in his lengthy statement.

He has been linked with a return to Anfield in a coaching capacity. —Reuters



Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Steven Gerrard. PHOTO: REUTERS



A woman is silhouetted against a monitor showing Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics emblems during the Olympic and Paralympic flag-raising ceremony at Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building in Tokyo, Japan, on 21 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tokyo won't make 2020 venue changes but will pare costs — Nikkei

TOKYO — Tokyo's government is unlikely to make major changes to the plans for several 2020 Olympic Games venues, including one it had proposed moving elsewhere, but it will make efforts to pare costs, Japanese media said on Thursday.

Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike ordered a review of ballooning Olympic expenses that recommended changing three venues in an effort to rein in costs projected to hit 3 trillion

yen (£21.40 billion), some four times the initial estimates made when Tokyo won the right to host the Games.

Among the proposals was moving rowing and canoe/kayak sprint events some 400 km (250 miles) north of Tokyo to use existing facilities rather than building new ones in the capital, a move opposed by both Olympic and sports officials.

But the city is now leaning towards building new venues for

these and several other events in Tokyo as originally planned, although it would cut the price tags by modifying plans, the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Nikkei)* and other papers reported, quoting people connected with the matter.

For the rowing and canoe/kayak site, known as the Sea Forest Waterway, the city planned to cut costs to 29.8 billion yen from 49.1 billion yen by building temporary seats, the *Nikkei* said. —Reuters