THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

■ NATIONAL
Shan State cabinet assists attacked victims in Muse
▶ PAGE 2

■ NATIONAL
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses National Defence University
▶ PAGE 9

■ LOCAL BUSINESS
Joint ventures to be allowed for investment into Thilawa residential zone
▶ PAGE 5

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SE ASIAN CENTRAL BANK OFFICIALS DISCUSS FINANCIAL STABILITY

The 52nd SEACEN Governors' Conference/High-Level Seminar and the 36th Meeting of the SEACEN Board of Governors hosted by Myanmar was held at the Lake Garden Hotel in Naypyitaw yesterday.

Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Mr Amando M. Tetangco., Jr, Governor of the central bank of the Philippines, Mr. Mitsuhiro Furusawa, Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, and Dr Juzhong Zhuang, Deputy CEO of the ADB extended greetings at the event.

The morning session was chaired by the governor of the CBM. Governors of central banks from Southeast Asia discussed frameworks for monetary policies, financial stability, monetary policies of emerging countries, and impacts of global financial integration on ASEAN

SEE PAGE 3 >>

52nd SEACEN Governors' Conference in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar diplomat protests against UNHCR official

A Myanmar diplomat yesterday protested allegations by a senior UN official of ethnic cleansing in Rakhine State.

The claims of John McKissick, a member of UNHCR staff based in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, were allegedly made in a BBC news report aired on 24 November.

U Htin Lin, the Myanmar permanent representative and ambassador in Geneva, described the allegations of McKissick as baseless and in breach of the code of conduct of United Nations staff. U Htin Lin lodged a complaint to Assistant High Commissioner Mr Volker Turk of the UNHCR yesterday, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

Under the instruction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Htin Lin requested to meet with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees concerning John McKissick's "one-sided and baseless" allegations in a BBC news report, which the ambassador reiterated were contrary to the code of conduct of a UN staff member and damaged the cooperation and trust in the operations

SEE PAGE 3 >>

Myanmar and China issue a joint press release on Friday

The following is the full text of the joint communique released yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1. The First Myanmar- China (2+2) High Level Consultation led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence was held on 25th November 2016 at 10 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was co-chaired by U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Lt.Gen. Tun Tun Naung, Commander of No. (1) Bureau of Special Operation, Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and General Xu Fenlin, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China.

2. Myanmar and China enjoy traditionally good-neighbuorly relations, and the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership relations between the two countries have been growing, The said High Level Consultation was held, based on the existing bilateral friendly relations, and the two sides cordially exchanged views on matters of security and development along the borders of the two countries while covering topics on the stability in Myanmar-China border areas, China's constructive support for the

SEE PAGE 3 >>

Shan State cabinet officials inspect aids delivered for internally displaced persons.
PHOTO: MNA

Shan State cabinet assists attacked victims in Muse

IN armed attacks which occurred in Muse, northern Shan State, police forces, staff and civilians were killed and injured.

In a ceremony yesterday morning, victims were given subsidies at the assembly hall of the Muse District Police Force, Shan State Cabinet provided Ks10 lakhs each for 3 policemen, Ks3 lakhs each for 6 policemen who were seriously injured and Ks1 lakh each for 4 policemen with minor injuries, amounting to K 52 lakhs in total.

Similarly, district maternity and child care associations gave out Ks1 lakh each for the dead and the injured with Ks20,000 each to police forces with minor injuries given by the Township Women Affairs Association.

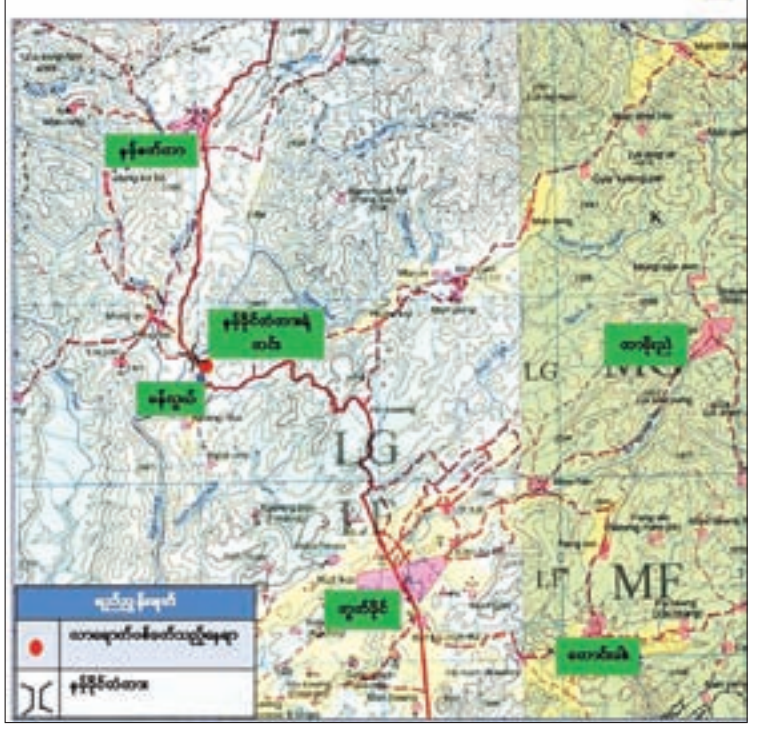
Afterward, officials gave words of encouragement to the staff of the education department, who are currently taking shelter in the compound of Muse No 2 State High School with mothers and expecting mothers supported with Ks10,000 each and one lakh for 10 educational staff members given out by the District and Township Maternity and Child Care Association.

In addition, the Shan State Cabinet provided K 5 lakhs each for 5 civilians killed in the attack and DMCCA supported Ks50,000 each, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

KIA, TNLA & MNDAA Attack In Kutkai, Northern Shan State

Daw A Mann lying at hospital with gun wound on her chest.
PHOTO: MNA

Map showing attack of KIA/TNLA against Namkhaig bridge in Kutkai.



A woman was shot in the chest and seriously injured in an attack Friday from combined forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Kutkai, northern Shan State. The Pyihtaungsu Highway was mined by the same groups. according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.

While picking corn from her field between Manlwei and Namfalon villages, Daw A Mann, of Pannein village, Kutkai township, was shot in the chest by the armed group at about 3:30 pm on November 25. Daw A Mann was transported to Muse General Hospital by the Myittashin Social Society of Namfatkar village.

In addition, the KIA, TNLA and MNDAA coordinated armed group fired on the police outpost at Namkhai bridge near Namkhai village in Kutkai township at about 5:45 pm for nearly 3 minutes.

It is learnt that security forces returned fire and drove them away, with no injuries reported among the security forces, according to the information committee. At about 8:50 pm on Friday, nearby Sanlong village, at milestone 23 of Pyihtaungsu Highway, the motorway was mined by the KIA, TNLA & MNDAA, creating two craters one foot in diameter and 8 inches in depth, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Three suspects arrested near Wapeik Village, Maungtaw Township

THREE men suspected of involvement in recent armed attacks were found near the village of Wapeik, in Maungtaw township during an area clearance operation, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

Acting on a tip that some of the alleged participants in the armed attacks were hiding in Wapeik village, government troops and border guard police conducted a raid at about 9 pm and arrested Swetamauks, 58, Sweyouhusong, 65 and Sali Armut, 52.

The three men will be handed over to authorities under rule of law.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Three suspects in police custody. PHOTO: MNA

Villager injured in artillery attack by KIA, TNLA & MNDAA

U Kyanyichan receiving medical care at hospital.
PHOTO: MNA:

A villager working in a sugar cane field was injured in an artillery attack on Friday by combined forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor Office

U Kyanyichan, 63, was working in his sugar cane field at about 2pm when he was hit on his right hand by artillery fired by the KIA, TNLA & MNDAA. U Kyanyichan is currently receiving medical treatment at Kutkai General Hospital.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor to pay official visit to Singapore

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay an official visit to Singapore in the near future at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.—*Myanmar News Agency*

SE ASIAN CENTRAL BANK ...

>> **FROM PAGE 1**

members and strategic changes in financial policies in the developed world.

In the afternoon session, the role of the central bank in financial stability and challenges for financial stability were discussed. The event will continue today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar diplomat protests against UNHCR official

>> **FROM PAGE 1**

of the UNHCR. The Myanmar ambassador met with Assistant High Commissioner (Protection) Mr Volker Turk of the UNHCR at its headquarters and lodged a complaint. The high commissioner was abroad and the deputy high commissioner was said to be too busy to meet with the Myanmar ambassador.

The Myanmar ambassador urged the assistant high commissioner to verify whether John McKissick actually made the statements to the BBC, and to refute and protest the allegations if he made the statements. The ambassador also pointed out that those statements breach the code of conduct of the UN, damage the image of the UNHCR and Myanmar and the government, before requesting the assistant high commissioner to verify the statements and Myanmar may lodge a complaint if necessary.

The assistant high commissioner told the ambassador that he was surprised to learn the statements of Mr McKissick after he had returned from abroad the day before. Mr Volk said that McKissick made the statements in his capacity as an individual and that they do not represent the position of the UNHCR. The assistant high commissioner also promised to find ways to take further action and to inform the ambassador in accordance with the request of the ambassador, saying that the UNHCR is desirous of continued cooperation of the Myanmar government and its people and will continue to provide assistance.

The press release of the information committee also said that the UNHCR is responsible for the "verification and clarification of the unethical and fabricated statements of Mr John Mckissick, because a UN staff member should observe ethics and the code of conduct of the organisation as the UNHCR is a UN agency and it is not acceptable that the media spread fake news under the name of the UN".—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar and China issue a joint press release on Friday

>> **FROM PAGE 1**

Peace Process of Myanmar, the prevention of illegal entries and the prevention of illegal trade in the border areas.

3. Both sides expressed their desire for the prevalence of rule of law and security along Myanmar-China borders, and the Chinese side expressed its hope for speedy solution of current tension in the northern part of Myanmar and to restore normalcy in the border areas as early as possible.

4. Prior to the First Myanmar-China (2+2) High Level Consultation led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, advance meetings between Minister of State U Kyaw Tin and Deputy Minister H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, and between Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and General Xu Fenlin were held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence separately on 24th November 2016.

5. The (2+2) High Level Consultation was aimed at strengthening of cooperation in security and management along Myanmar-China border areas, and it was the first High Level Consultation mechanism between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of China.

6. Both sides agreed to hold the (2+2) High Level Consultation annually in Myanmar and China alternatively. The Second Consultation will be held in China in 2017.

Gems and jade merchants examine jade lot at Mid-year Gem Emporium. PHOTO: MNA

1,200 jade lots on sale

A total of 1,200 jade lots were put on sale through the open tender system on the seventh day of Mid-Year Gem Emporium-2016 yesterday.

Floor prices of the jade lots ranged in price from 1,000 Euro to 200,000 Euro.

Altogether, 5,988 jade lots and 439 gem lots will be on sale through the open tender and auction system throughout the emporium, which will continue until 29 November.

Registered joint ventures, companies, and merchants are allowed to sell their jade and gems at the emporium.—*Kyaw Thu Htet*

KIA/TNLA armed group shoots at the town Kutkai with artilleries and firearms.

ARMED groups comprising the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) troops bombed and shot at Kutkai with firearms, rocket launchers and artillery on Friday evening, according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.

At about 9:30pm on Friday, the KIA/TNLA armed group fired one mortar with 40mm rocket launcher and two rounds of 60mm mortars at Kutkai from two separate locations. After security forces returned fire, the armed group retreated, it is learnt.

The 60mm shells fired by the KIA/TNLA group landed and exploded near Lweon village. The 40mm bomb landed near the grove close to Myoma State High School. There were no reported casualties or damage to property, according to the Information Committee. In pursuit of the group of attackers in No. 1 ward of Kutkai, two armed men on a motorcycle fired at least four rounds in drive-by shootings and slipped away to the Pyihtaungsu Highway, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Aid delivered to remote villages in northern Maungtaw

FOOD purchased with funds from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Rakhine State Government and the National Natural Disaster Management Committee were delivered to remote villages in northern parts of Maungtaw District recently, according to an official.

"We delivered aid such as rice, edible oil and salt to far-flung villages in northern Muangtaw such as Yan Aung Myin, Tamanthar, Min Khamaung, Thetkainyar and Tenaukngatha. No one was injured and no buildings wer damaged in the villages we visited today. We urged residents of the villages to be united," said Dr Min Thein, Director of the MSWRR.

"It is the fourth time aid has been delivered to our village. We received rice, edible oil, salt, pulses and beans, onions and Memee noodles. We are pleased and encouraged that aid is delivered to us. Security is stable," said U Zaw Tun, a resident of Tamanthar Village. "We thank the government. We have received aid three or four times. Dried fish, rice and edible oil were delivered at our village," said Ma Yin Nu, a resident of Min Khamaung Village. "There has not been any problem in our village. Ethnic people and those who profess other religions than Buddhism live together peacefully," U Chit Hlaing, the ward administrator of Kahmaungseik (East) told the MNA. Tamanthar Village is located 30 miles north of Maungtaw and Min Khamaung is situated 40 miles north of the town.—*A-one Soe*

Residents receive aids delivered by government. PHOTO: A-ONE SOE

UN official should maintain professionalism — U Zaw Htay

THE government of Myanmar has been conducting counter-insurgency operations since coordinated attacks on border guards in October, a senior UN official told the BBC. Myanmar officials say Rohingya are setting fire to their own houses in northern Rakhine state.

The BBC cannot visit the area to verify what is occurring there, as journalists and aid workers have been barred. The Rohingya, who number about one million, are seen by many of Myanmar's Buddhist majority as illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

Myanmar is seeking the ethnic cleansing of the Muslim Rohingya minority from its territory. Armed forces have been killing Rohingya in Rakhine state, forcing many to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh, says John McKissick of the UN refugee agency.

A spokesman said the government was "very, very disappointed" by the comments.

Although Bangladesh's official policy is not to allow in illegal entrants across the border, the foreign ministry has confirmed that thousands of Rohingya have already sought refuge in the country, while thousands more are reportedly gathering on the border.Some are using smugglers to get into Bangladesh, while others have bribed border guards, according to Amnesty International.Efforts to resolve the issue must focus on "the root cause" inside Myanmar, Mr McKissick, head of the UN refugee agency UNHCR in the Bangladeshi border town of Cox's Bazar, told BBC Bengali's Akbar Hossain.

He said the Myanmar military and Border Guard Police had "engaged in collective punishment of the Rohingya minority" after the murders of nine border guards on 9 October which some politicians blamed on a Rohingya militant group.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is in a delicate position. Security is under the control of the autonomous armed forces.If Ms Suu Kyi bows to international pressure and sets up a credible investigation into the alleged abuses in Rakhine state, she risks fracturing her relationship with the army. It could jeopardise the stability of her young government.

Myanmar's presidential spokesman Zaw Htay said Mr McKissick "should maintain his professionalism and his ethics as a United Nations officer because his comments are just allegations".

"He should only speak based on concrete and strong evidence on the ground," he said, adding that the international media is misreporting what is going on.

On Wednesday, the Bangladesh foreign ministry summoned Myanmar's ambassador to express "deep concern" over the military operation in northern Rakhine state.

It said "desperate people" were crossing the border seeking safety and shelter and asked Myanmar to "ensure the integrity of its border".Authorities in Bangladesh have been detaining and repatriating hundreds of fleeing Rohingya, which Amnesty International condemned as a violation of international law.

Bangladesh does not recognise Rohingya as refugees, and many of those fleeing Myanmar have been "forced into hiding and are suffering a severe lack of food and medical care", the rights group said. —*GNLM with BBC*

Former students of Medical University (1) pay homage to their faculty members

THE first respect-paying ceremony of medical students who studied at Medical University (1) from 1995 to 2002 (11/95) paid homage to their faculty members at the recreation centre at the medical university yesterday.

The former students also presented the teachers with gifts after paying respects to them. They also donated cash to the university.

"Respect-paying ceremonies can only be seen in Myanmar and it is a fine tradition to preserve," said Dr Nyunt Thein, a professor emeritus at the university.

Dr Khin Ya Wai Aung, who organized the event said it took about one and a half year to organize the ceremony and only about 100 out of the total students in the academic years were able to attend the event.

"I am glad I have the opportunity to organize it," she said.

Some teachers were too old or too unhealthy to attend the ceremony but the former students will pay respect to them at their homes later.

A total of 240 faculty members attended the ceremony and plans are underway at least within three years.—*Myat Sandi*

The group photo taken after the respect-paying ceremony. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

KNU chairman calls on Thura U Shwe Mann

KNU chairman talks to Thura U Shwe Mann.
PHOTO: MNA

SAW MUTU SAY PO, the chairman of the Karen National Union, and party called on Thura U Shwe Mann, chairman of the Pyidaungsu Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

They discussed the need to build mutual trust among those leading the peace endeavour through goodwill, perseverance, diligence and courage.

Also attending at the call were members of the commission and the secretary and officials of the KNU.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Arrangement for supplying more in agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in Maungtaw District

THE agricultural and livestock sectors in Maungtaw are being prioritised for support in an effort to maintain stability and development in the region, according to a Rakhine minister.

"For the sustainable, stable development of Rakhine State, the Rakhine State Cabinet is exerting more effort in the sectors of agriculture and livestock breeding", said U Kyaw Lwin, the minister for agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry and mining of the Rakhine State Cabinet. "The Union Government has already distributed machines for harvesting, threshing and winnowing across Maungtaw district. We will support farmers' needs, sharing them with techniques and driving forces".

It is learnt that a budget has been allotted to rebuild embankments by the salt water destroyed, and the process of breeding pedigree cows and goats is being upgraded. —*Myint Maung Soe*

Cows are seen feeding on the grass in the paddy fields. PHOTO: A ONE SOE

LOCAL Business

Thilawa Special Economic Zone.
PHOTO: MYAT THANDAR MAUNG

Joint ventures to be allowed for investment into Thilawa residential zone

WITH plots of land in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) set to be developed into condominiums, joint ventures will be invited to make investments in the construction sites, said Dr. Nyan Thit Hlaing, a director from Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co., Ltd.

The areas of land set aside for the project are designated as a residential zone located next to Thilawa zone A.

The residential zone comprises 80 acres of land. Condominiums will be developed on nine acres of land. Interested businessmen can invest in all or part of these nine acres of land, Dr. Nyan Thit Hlaing said.

The joint ventures for the construction of condominiums will not share by splitting the developed apartments but have to share a percentage of the income and expenses based on their percentage of contribution to the joint venture.

Additionally, the constructions are limited not to exceed more than 12 floors. However, the storey restriction can be relaxed on the basis of the project proposal of the entrepreneurs.

This condominium is slated to accommodate 600 rooms. The hotels, petrol stations, shopping centres and banks are also planned in the residential zone project.—*200*

Pedigree avocados to be selected for international market

PEDIGREE avocados produced in southern Chin State will be selected to be sold on the international market, it is learnt from Chin state sub department of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP). Previously, avocado plants were traditionally cultivated 5 to 10 feet apart in southern Chin State.

Starting this year, the plants will be cultivated 20 feet apart, resulting in a much higher yield, the association said. Avocados from Chin State are currently sent to Taunggyi and Pyin Oo Lwin at a price of Ks400 to 500 per kilo. Pedigree avocados can fetch Ks4,000 to Ks5,000 per kilo if they can penetrate the international export market.

Additionally, experts will be invited in December to discuss how to formulate the new techniques. Efforts will be made to cultivate pedigree avocados to meet export criteria.—*200*

Agricultural sector gets foreign investment worth over US$ 217 million

A TOTAL of eight countries have made over US$ 217 million worth investment in the agricultural sector, according to the the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Malaysia tops the list with an investment of US$ 76.750 million in the Myanmar's agriculture sector from 1988-1989 to 2016-2017 fiscal year.

From fiscal 1988-1989 to 2016-2017, China has invested US$ 2.6 million, Singapore, US$ 18.670 million, South Korea, US$ 67.150 million, Thailand, US$ 22.684million, Malaysia, US$ 76.750 million, France, US$ 5.360 million, India, US$ 4.5 million and Japan, over US$ 20 million, according to DICA.

"We need strong policies and systematic performance improvement to encourage foreign investment. The agricultural sector is depending on the weather condition. So, the foreign investors are not very much interested to invest in agricultural sector," said an official from the Myanmar investment commission.

Malaysia have invested US$ 287.100 million in oil and gas sector, US$ 662.887 million in manufacturing, US$ 253.202 million in transport and communication, US$ 8.136 million in hotels and tourism, US$ 15 million in real estate, over US$ 20 million in livestock and fisheries and US$ 76.750 million in agriculture. — *Min Min*

Abundant onion supply results in decreased price

A GLUT of onion stocks in the market resulted in a decrease in the price, with the possibility of a continued downward trend going forward, according to the Bayintnaung commodity depot.

The prevailing price of onions per viss is Ks375 at a minimum and Ks1,150 at the maximum. But the abundant supply of around 250,000 visses of onions in the depot drove the onion price down by about Ks100 per viss. The downward trend may continue with the infusion of newly harvested onions into the market. Additionally, domestic demand is on the decline.

Exports were forced to be halted in the Muse trade zone due to the recent attacks involving ethnic armed groups in the area. Moreover, onions from China are Ks300 per viss cheaper than the ones from Myanmar, resulting in virtually no demand from China.

About 40 truckloads of onions normally enter the depot, whereas only 10 to 15 truckloads of onions flowed into the market when the onion price was on the rise, the onion depot owners said. It is usual that the price declines when the supply exceeds the demand.

Myanmar's onions are exported to China and Thailand through border trade channel and to Malaysia and Viet Nam through sea trade, it is learnt. — *Ko Htet*

Techniques on planting mangoes to be shared

TECHNIQUES regarding the cultivation of mangoes will be widely spread to growers in a bid to help boost the production and the quality of the mango and thus make the product competitive among international exports, according to the local body.

Myanmar's mangoes are still comparatively weak in quality to penetrate the highly competitive international market, due partially to erratic weather conditions. A marketing strategy is also required for the emergence of a new market for domestic mangoes. Out of many locally produced mango varieties, only the Diamond Solitaire (Sein Ta Lone) mangoes, famous overseas, are mainly exported to foreign countries. Therefore, the techniques on planting of mangoes will be shared with growers so that they can improve the quality of their mango varieties to meet international market criteria, it is learnt.

There is a plan to formulate a crop insurance system in order to cover damage caused by the erratic weather. A survey will be conducted to collect the rate of the yield. Concerted efforts are being exerted to adopt good agricultural practices (GAP) across the country to boost customer trust in quality and safety and to help the growers sell the fruit for a higher price. — *200*

UN close to sanctions deal to slash North Korea export earnings: diplomats

NEW YORK — The UN Security Council's five veto powers are close to approving new sanctions on North Korea to cut the isolated state's earnings from exports by more than a quarter, principally by targeting its coal exports to China, diplomats said on Friday.

The US-drafted resolution, in response to North Korea's fifth nuclear test in September, would set a UN cap on North Korean coal exports with the aim of cutting hard currency revenues by at least $700 million.

The resolution would also restrict North Korea's maritime and financial sectors. If successful, it could cut the country's $3 billion in annual export earnings by at least $800 million, UN Security Council diplomats said.

The diplomats did not want to be identified as discussions were still under way. The new resolution would also target other North Koreans individuals and entities, they said.

Exports of coal from the North would be capped at $400.9 million or 7.5 million metric tonnes per year, whichever is lower, starting on 1 January, according to the draft resolution obtained by Reuters.

As soon as the resolution is adopted, North's coal exports to the end of this year will be capped at $53.5 million or 1 million metric tonnes, whichever is lower, the draft showed.

Over the first 10 months of the year, China has imported 18.6 million tonnes of coal from North Korea, up almost 13 per cent from a year ago.

The restrictions on coal would bar exports connected to individuals and entities involved in North Korea's weapons programms, the draft resolution said.

The resolution added 11 individuals, including people who have served as ambassadors to Egypt and Myanmar, and 10 entities as targets for travel ban and asset freeze for their role in the North's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

The resolution would also ban the North's export of helicopters, vessels and statues, banning contracts similar to the ones worth millions of dollars that the North had signed to build large statues in some African countries.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un takes part in a photo session with the participants of the 6th Congress of the Democratic Women's Union of Korea in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 22 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

It called on UN states to reduce the number of staff at North Korea's foreign missions and limit the number of bank accounts to one per North Korean diplomatic mission and one per diplomat at banks in their territory, highlighting concerns that the North had used its diplomats and foreign missions to engage in illicit activities.

Diplomats said on Wednesday that the United States and China had agreed on new UN sanctions to impose on North Korea, but Russia was delaying action on a draft resolution.

A senior UN Security Council diplomat who spoke on Wednesday 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.

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

The draft text was recently given to the remaining three permanent council veto powers — Britain, France and Russia.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said this week China supported further Security Council action in response to North Korea's nuclear test, but details of the draft resolution were still being discussed.

The aim of the draft resolution is to close loopholes in sanctions imposed in March, following Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test in January.

The March sanctions 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 programs.

US officials said China is now the only importer of North Korean coal. After a fall in exports following the announcement of the March sanctions, North Korean coal exports rose again and 2016 totals are expected to exceed year-ago levels, they said.—*Reuters*

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Indonesia foils IS attack plot on foreign mission

National Police Spokesperson Rikwanto shows a photo of suspected terrorist Rio Priatna Wibawa at Indonesian National Police headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 25 November 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

JAKARTA — Anti-terror squad of the Indonesian police has seized explosive materials, which will be used to explode foreign embassy offices and religious facilities, in a hideout of a member of Islamic States (IS) in West Java province, police said on Friday.

Rio Priatna Wibawa, 23, was nabbed at his house in Majalengka of the province on Wednesday and admitted that he was ordered to make bombs from the materials, said Rikwanto, a police spokesman.

The spokesman revealed that the targets of the militants were buildings or facilities owned by foreign nations.

"These explosive materials will be used to strike foreign embassy offices, religious buildings, police headquarters and the parliament building," Rikwanto said at the national police headquarters.

The spokesman said Priatna along with three fellow IS members, who remain at large, planed to make bombs at "a chemistry laboratory" at his house.

"He was arrested by the anti-terror squad before producing the bombs and giving it to other IS militants," Rikwanto said.

The official confirmed that Priatna and other IS militants operate with the coordination of a high-profile IS leader for Southeast Asia region, Bahrun Naim, an Indonesian national who leads terrorist operation from Syria.

Indonesia has been included in IS global targets as the top leader of the terrorist group has ordered militants to launch strikes in their own countries following an offensive move against the base of the group in Mosul of Iraq, according to the police.

The Indonesian security authority has been monitoring the movement of more than 50 militants who have just backed home after joining IS in Iraq and Syria, the police said.

IS members have conducted a series of small-scale suicide bombing strikes in Indonesia in recent months, targeting churches, westerners and facilities, and police, causing scores of casualties.—*Xinhua*

Police buses are parked on a road to block protesters at a protest calling South Korean President Park Geun-hye to step down in Seoul, South Korea, on 26 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hundreds of thousands gather in South Korea for fifth week of protests against Park

SEOUL — Hundreds of thousands rallied in central Seoul on Saturday for a fifth week of protests against President Park Geun-hye, in the largest ongoing series of demonstrations in the country since the 1987 movement to democratize South Korea.

Park's presidency has been rocked by allegations that a close friend used her ties to the leader to meddle in state affairs and wield improper influence. Prosecutors investigating the case have indicted her friend, Choi Soon-sil, and are seeking to question the president about her role in the scandal.

Organisers said 800,000 people had gathered early on Saturday evening and expected a total of 1.5 million people to join by the end of the night. Police declined to give an estimate of the crowd size but said 25,000 personnel had been dispatched to police the protest.

The protests, now in their fifth week, have remained peaceful and marked by huge candle-lit rallies where activists and rock bands have entertained a diverse crowd of students, office workers, and young families.

"I was watching the news and thought this cannot go on — people really want her to step down but she hasn't," said 45-year-old Kwak Bo-youn, one of the protesters.

"This is the second time for me to the protests, but the first time for my husband and kids".

Earlier in the day, a large group of demonstrators marched to within 200 meters of the presidential palace, where Park resides, but a court appeal to allow protesters to remain there after dark was rejected.

Choi Soon-sil and a former aide to Park have been indicted by prosecutors on charges of colluding with the president to pressure big business to contribute funds to two foundations controlled by Choi.

Park, whose five-year term ends in February 2018, has apologised twice over the affair but is resisting calls for her resignation. Opposition parties are canvassing for support to impeach her.

Her approval ratings slipped one percentage point on Friday after hovering at just 5 per cent for three consecutive weeks. Her disapproval rating rose three percentage points to 93 per cent, according to a poll by Gallup Korea, which is not affiliated with the US-based Gallup, Inc.

Park Geun-hye's popularity and election as president in 2012 stemmed in part from the symbolic connection to her father who ruled South Korea for 18 years until he was assassinated by his spy chief in 1979. Many, especially the elderly, credit Park's father with the rapid development of Korea.

However, only 9 per cent of people aged over 60 said Park was doing well, according to the Gallup Korea survey.

Her support is lowest amongst young people. Ninety-nine per cent of 19-29 year-olds and 98 per cent of people in their thirties disapproved of Park, according to Gallup Korea.

Fears of policy-making paralysis prompted by the political crisis has also dealt a blow to consumer confidence, which fell to its lowest in more than seven years in November, South Korea's central bank said.—*Reuters*

Boxer-turned-lawmaker says Duterte's anti-drug crusade is OK with him

TOKYO — With his storied career in the boxing ring reaching its twilight, Manny Pacquiao has increasingly turned his attention to politics in his homeland, and on Saturday said here he fully supports the controversial anti-drug purge being carried out by Filipino leader Rodrigo Duterte.

Speaking in the Japanese capital to promote a gym opened in his name by a Japanese trainer, Pacquiao, now a Philippine senator, said he is in lock-step with Duterte's policies and methods, describing the respect he has for the recently elected former local mayor's attempts to "clean" the Philippines.

"Our president has boldly, strongly (started) to fight against illegal drugs," said Pacquiao, who was once considered the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world and recently completed a successful comeback to the ring, winning the WBO welterweight title early this month.

"We respect our president and we honour our president, the only president who fights and hits on these illegal drugs, this is an opportunity to clean and bring back harmony and peace in our country," he said.

Pacquiao said his passion for ridding his country of the influence of illicit drugs comes from personal experience, explaining even he experimented with drugs when he was a teenager before realizing that "it was not good, and I don't like it, and that's why I strongly oppose and fight these illegal drugs."

After explaining that he wants his legacy to be his relationship with God rather than anything linked to his pugilistic or political career, Pacquiao was questioned whether his support of Duterte's alleged extrajudicial killings — which have reportedly claimed the lives of more than 3,000 people since mid-2016 — is likely to taint the legacy he hopes to leave.

But the eight-division world boxing champion was resolute in his backing of Duterte's programme.

"We support that, and I support that because the problem in our country is beyond our expectation, beyond our imagination. These illegal drugs in our country are really bad and a lot of government officials, elected officials, are involved in these illegal drugs," he said. —*Kyodo News*

Manny Pacquiao, current WBO welterweight champion and Philippine senator, attends a press conference in Tokyo on 26 November 2016.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

China vows to 'plug holes' in work safety after deadly power plant accident

SHANGHAI — China has vowed to "plug the holes" in its laws and safety standards to improve working conditions after a power plant accident in the east of the country killed 74 people earlier this week, state media reported on Saturday.

The official Xinhua news agency reported that the State Council has approved the formation of a team to be led by Yang Huanning, head of the State Administration of Work Safety, to investigate the accident.

A platform under construction collapsed on Thursday during work on a cooling tower for a coal-fired power plant in Fengcheng, Jiangxi province. State media said a tower crane fell, triggering the collapse of the entire platform. Police have since taken 13 people into custody.

Deadly accidents are relatively common at industrial sites in China, where anger over lax standards is growing. Three decades of swift economic growth have been marred by incidents ranging from mining disasters to factory fires.

"We must focus on the problems exposed by this incident, take a further step to strengthen and perfect the law, standards and regulations, plug any holes, constantly strengthen and safeguard the foundations of production safety, and raise standards of safe production," Xinhua said, citing Yang.

The company in charge of the power plant, Jiangxi Ganneng Co, said in a stock exchange filing on Thursday it was cooperating with authorities. —*Reuters*

Rescue workers search at the site where a power plant's cooling tower under construction collapsed in Fengcheng, Jiangxi province, China, on 24 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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A Flea Cannot Make a Whirl of Dust, But----

Khin Maung Oo

AS per nature, we all want to live in peace and stability. Somehow, some want others to live differently. These people make our environment unstable and plunge it into chaos. The mass media brings us global news around the clock, unlike the situations in olden times. Naturally, good things accompany bad ones. Out of watching scenic views, wonders of the world, happy & interesting lives of different peoples/races around the world, war victims and scourges of wars, we get vicarious joys, thrills, sorrows and fears. Once we begin using the internet, a mosaic of news, views and information come into our sight. As per usual, we would like to accept only the crème de la crème of the news. Very often, a childish idea occurrs to me about whether it would be better for us to have never seen any bad news. How impossible! Our planet is not a utopia, an imaginary place that exists only in mind. People live in different parts of the world, and they live different lives. Each and every individual has woes, difficulties and sufferings. In this regard, I suddenly remembered a paragraph which appeared in the "Looking at the children of other lands" when I was in the standard 8. It reads: "Can you imagine what it would be like if the climate were the same all over the world? All the flowers and the trees would be the same. Then, the animals might be the same, and the same crops would be grown in the ground. This would mean that the people would all be alike. They would look alike and dress alike and they would all eat the same food. What a dull world this would be! Fortunately this is not so. Because of the change of climate on the earth, the people change too. Their habits change and their ways of living are different. Oh, quite right in saying so! We are in favor of nature, having places of pleasure to live, abundance of edible foods, fruits and vegetables, enormous natural resources to exploit and use. So our natural world is a pleasant and lovable place per se for all beings to peacefully dwell together. Simultaneously, the nature gives us bad guys who are morally bad and wishing to cause trouble or harm — villains".

It is a sure thing that those evil guys in our world are infinitesimal in number in proportion to the rest of our human society. In fact, extremists, terrorists, ultra-opportunists and aggressive criminals can be likened as fleas that we greatly loathe for their stench and for sucking our blood. Those human fleas are destroying our world by killing people and harming others' sovereignty. Likewise, our country is also facing the danger of the human fleas. A flea cannot make a whirl of dust, but they are trying to combine with each other to amass their force. And they are trying to disintegrate our unity and strength in many ways, by waging armed attacks, spreading rumours and performing subversive activities. We should not underestimate this enemy.At such a time when the country is moving toward a federal democratic nation, with destructive elements in all surroundings, we need to constantly be wary of the dangers of detestable human fleas.

A Rocking Boulder On A Mountain Summit

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

MYANMAR, the land of pagodas, has several sites and places where pagodas are located usually and unusually-they are found on the ground, on hillock, on summit, on islet, in lake, on island, in mid stream, on rock, in sea, on river bank, on sand bank, in cave, in tunnel and underground. But the most unusual among them is a pagoda built on a rocking boulder on the precipice of a mountain summit. It is a world renowned pagoda named ''Kyaik-hti-yoe''.

The Kyaik-hti-yoe Pagoda stands on a literally rocking monolith of quite a huge size on the top of a mountain called Paung Laung with an altitude of 3615 feet above sea-level, situated in Kyaikhto township, Thaton district, Mon State in Myanmar. Because of this strange phenomenon, Kyaik-hti-yoe lures pilgrims and visitors from all direction of the world.

Legends woven around the Pagoda and associated religious edifices are beyond scientific explanation. The history of the pagoda on the rocking rock goes far back to the life time of Gotama Buddha [B.C 588-543]. In the Maha Sakarit year 111 [B.C.581] when Gotama Buddha had obtained the 8th year of his Buddhahood, a saint monk named Gavampati, one of the Buddha's disciples, requested the Buddha to visit his native place Suvanna-bhumi [Thaton] to deliver a sermon. The Buddha with his disciples came and preached the Dhamma [His teachings]. Two hermit brothers Tissa and Siha, the Mon King of Thaton Tissadhamma Siha Raja and his people listened to the Buddha's sermon and they became Buddhists. They entreated the Buddha to leave his representative to worship. The Buddha offered strands of his hair to them. One of the recipients of the sacred hair relics was the hermit Tissa. Though other recipients had enshrined their share of the sacred relics in the stupas, the hermit Tissa kept his in his hair knot. When he reached a ripe age and was about to die, he wished to enshrine the sacred relic in a stone which looked like his head. Sakka Deva [the Thunder god] tried to help him by bringing up from the bottom of the ocean, stones that might look like his head and showed them to the hermit. Finally, the hermit chose the one which he thought was shaped exactly like his head. Sakka Deva placed the chosen stone on a high precipitous rock mountain. A hole was drilled in the centre of the stone to a depth of over 3 cubits and a diameter of 6 inches. The scared relics of the Buddha's hair taken out from the hair knot of the hermit was placed in an emerald-studded gold casket which was enshrined in the hole. In the Maha Sakarit year [Buddhist Era] 114 [B.C. 574] the king of Thaton built a stupa on the enshrined hole. The stupa came to be known as ''Kyaik-hti-yoe'' which is corrupted from the original Mon word ''Kyaik-i-si-yoe'' meaning a pagoda on the rock shaped like the head of a i-shi [hermit].

According to this legend, Kyaik-hti-yoe is now 2750 years old. Over these long years the Pagoda fell into oblivion and was swallowed up by wild vegetation. In Kawza Sakarit 1185 [Myanmar Era] A.D. 1823, the governor of Sittaung town Minhla Thin Kha Thu discovered the Pagoda. Since then the Pagoda has attracted pilgrims and visitors from far and near to venerate it and to marvel at it as well as to enjoy the thrill of reaching the destination after a long arduous journey of hiking and mountaineering 33 forested hills. Starting with King Bayintnaung of Hamsavadi, successive Myanmar kings had put a new hti [umbrella] on the stupa. The original stupa was 13 feet 8 inches high and the hti 18 feet. In the Kawza Sakarit 1362 [A.D. 2003] on 19 March a new hti of gold weighing 9 viss and 32 ticals, and 10 feet 9 inches high was put the stupa. The stupa was raised to a height of 22 feet and 5 inches and was also strengthened. The three relic chambers were enshrined with 3708 pieces of jewelleries and 1279 pieces of gold ornaments weighing 10 viss and 41 ticals. They were donated by pious devotees.

The boulder is a granite monolith, 26.75 feet high, 84 feet wide, weighing 611.75 tonnes. It rests precariously on the top of a cliff of 83 cubits high and over 55 cubits wide with a deep precipice down below. The rocky floor of the cliff is not even. It is high inward and it slides down outward. The boulder juts out 5 feet. The area where the boulder and the top of the cliff meet is also uneven and limited. It is only 7.69 square feet. The boulder and the cliff are separate. They are of two different types of rock. Besides, the cliff and the main mountain are separated by a deep gap which is crossed over by a man-made bridge.

You can rock the boulder. Under the untouched space between the boulder and the cliff a hen can go in and rest comfortably. To test that the boulder and the cliff top are separate, you may put a string under the boulder from one side and pull it out from the other side, or two persons, each holding one end of the string can swing it under the boulder.

Out in the open, on the top of a cliff in the remote forest, weathering all climates, storms and rain and withstanding all natural disasters, this rocking boulder has remained in its original position through centuries.

Questions are raised to explain this strange phenomenon scientifically. Is it a piece from a falling meteor? It it a piece thrown out from the depth of earth by a volcanic eruption? Is it a piece left on the edge of this cliff by the tide when the sea receded? Is it a stone placed there for worship by prehistoric men as in the case of Stonehenge in England? Why does lightening not strike it? Why does not forest fire consume it? Why does it not fall down from rain and storm or earthquake?

The above questions crop up as you gaze at this shaky monolith on this precipitious cliff at any time of the day or night in any month of the year. There are strange rock formations in the vicinity but nothing of this sort.

All-round developments have provided many facilities to visit this Pagoda. Motor roads, hotels, rest houses and restaurants as well as residences for the monks and nuns. There is a helicopter pad on a range nearby.

The festive period to visit Kyaik-hti-yoe Pagoda begins on the full moon of Thadingyut (October) and ends on the full moon of Kason (May) a long period of 7 months covering the cold and warm seasons of the country.

Kyaik-hto, a town where rail and road running between Yangon and Mawlamyine meet, is the starting point to go up to Kyaik-hti-yoe. The distance by car from Kyaik-hto to Kin-pun Station is 9 miles [144 km]. From Kin-pun Station to Yathe Taung Station is 7 miles 4 furlongs and from there to the Pagoda platform is 1 mile and 4 furlongs, totaling 9 miles. It is an exciting and hair raising uphill car road with many U-twists and U-turns. Only specially trained drivers driving special cars run the ferry service. No other cars are allowed on this uphill journey.

For hikers, mountaineers and adventure-lovers a 7.4 mile [12 km] uphill foot path awaits them. From Kin-Pun Station to the Pagoda platform they have to climb 33 steep mountains and pass 17 Stations. There are wayside inns where you may stay a night. For this arduous uphill journey, get on to a makeshift litter of bamboo borne on the shoulders by two stout local men, one at the front, one at the rear who will take you to the Pagoda platform and you pay liberally for their hard labour.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses National Defence University

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addressing senior military officers at National Defence University. PHOTO: MNA

TATMADAW has to continued to play a role in national politics for the political stability and ethnic affairs of the country, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told senior military officers in his speech at the National Defence University yesterday morning.

The senior general pointed out that provisions for emergency situations are included in the Constitution of Myanmar, 2008 and members of the Defence Services are required to learn the situations on the ground and to work in the interest of ethnic people.

Part of the mission of his officers, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said, is to successfully run manageable agricultural and livestock farms and to adopt thrifty measures. The senior general explained that this was because food is essential.

In the administrative sector, the rule of law cannot be maintained by the police alone and the public is obliged to live in accordance with moral principles, he said.

In conclusion, he said that Tatmadaw is building a standard army that possesses defence capabilities through preparation, training and the upgrading military hardware. He urged all to build the defence capabilities of the Tatmadaw in local and international contexts and financial constraints.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and senior military officers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Construction of Kanthaya Consortium Towers 70 % completed

CONSTRUCTION of the Kanthaya Consortium Towers project is now 70 per cent complete, with a finishing date sometime in December, according to Project Director U Khin Maung Phyu.

The towers are being constructed on 3.52 acres of land located at the corner of Kanyeiktha Street and U Aung Myat Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon with the use of US$200 million invested by the Yangon City Development Committee and Asia Myanmar Consortium Development Co.

The construction works were initiated in late 2014 after getting the green light from the Myanmar Investment Commission.

The project covers a 25-storey residential tower with 132 units, a 22-storey office tower, a 22-storey five-star hotel and a 23-storey serviced apartment building with 171 units.

The estimated useful life of the steel structure buildings built with Singapore's state-of-the-art technology is over 100 years, U Khin Maung Phyu said.

The project is being implemented with 20 foreign engineers, 30 local engineers and over 300 workers. It is estimated that the project will create over 3,000 job opportunities after it is finished, with the project implementers planning to carry out social activities for residents living near the project area.—*Soe Win (MLA)*

Kanthaya Tower in downtown Yangon, currently under construction . PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)

Campaign aims to eliminate cataract blindness

THE two-day programme to remove cataracts from patients in Mon State will begin next month, with the aim of reducing cataract blindness in Myanmar.

About 200 people affected by cataracts will receive the free eye surgery performed by a mobile medical unit, including eye surgeons from both Myanmar and abroad on 1 and 2 December.

This is the second time the Sight Care Group (SCG) has provided free eye surgery for Myanmar patients. The free eye care programme was initiated by the Ministry of Health and Sports in 2015, in cooperation with Thailand's Banphaeo Hospital.

Under the programme, several educative campaigns will also be held in the country to improve eye health knowledge, including the burden of cataracts and other chronic eye diseases, ways to prevent eye diseases and eye care for the general public.

The most common eye diseases in Myanmar are cataracts, glaucoma, corneal diseases, injuries and retinal diseases.

A cataract is the clouding of the lens of the eye, which prevents clear vision. It may develop after eye injuries, due to inflammation, and from eye diseases. Cataracts are the most common cause of vision loss in people over age 40. It is the principal cause of blindness in the world.

According to the World Health organization's assessment, cataracts are responsible for 51 per cent of the world's blindness.—*200*

Elephant eco-tourism camp to be opened near Chaung Thar beach

A private elephant camp will be opened near Chaung Thar beach to enable tourists to have an opportunity to observe the nature of elephants, ride them and feed them, it is learnt from the Chaung Thar elephant camp.

The private elephant camp will be built on Pathein-Chaung Thar Road between Chauk Kaung and Seikkyi villages. They will implement eco-tourism activities with five elephants from the Myanma Timber Enterprise and five from a private company. The Chaung Thar elephant camp covers an area of 37 acres.

The elephants at the camp are no longer used in timber extraction and will be used in eco-tourism activities. —*200*

Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro dies at 90

Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro (L) holds up the arm of his brother, Cuba's President Raul Castro, during the closing ceremony of the sixth Cuban Communist Party (PCC) congress in Havana in 2011 file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

HAVANA — Fidel Castro, the Cuban revolutionary leader who built a communist state on the doorstep of the United States and for five decades defied US efforts to topple him, died on Friday, his younger brother announced to the nation. He was 90.

A towering figure of the second half of the 20th Century,

Castro stayed true to his ideology beyond the collapse of Soviet communism, and retained an aura in parts of the world that had struggled against colonial rule and exploitation.

He had been in poor health since an intestinal ailment nearly killed him in 2006. He formally ceded power to his younger brother two years later.

Wearing a green military uniform, Cuba's President Raul Castro appeared on state television to announce his brother's death.

"At 10.29 at night, the chief commander of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, died," he said, without giving a cause of death.

"Ever onward, to victory," he said, using the slogan of the Cuban revolution.

Tributes poured in from world leaders including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Venezuela's socialist President Nicolas Maduro, who said "revolutionaries of the world must follow his legacy."

The streets were quiet in Havana, but some residents reacted with sadness to the news, while in Miami, where many exiles from the Communist government live, a large crowd waving Cuban flags cheered, danced and banged on pots and pans, a video on social media showed.

"I am very upset. Whatever you want to say, he is public figure that the whole world respected and loved," said Havana student Sariel Valdespino.

Castro's remains will be cremated, according to his wishes. His brother said details of his funeral would be given on Saturday.

The bearded Fidel Castro took power in a 1959 revolution and ruled Cuba for 49 years with a mix of charisma and iron will, creating a one-party state and becoming a central figure in the Cold War.

He was demonized by the United States and its allies but admired by many leftists around the world, especially socialist revolutionaries in Latin America and Africa. After Nelson Mandela was freed from prison in 1990, he repeatedly thanked Castro for his firm efforts to weaken apartheid.

In April, in a rare public appearance at the Communist Party conference, Fidel Castro shocked party apparatchiks by referring to his own imminent mortality.

"Soon I will be like all the rest. Our turn come to all of us, but the ideas of the Cuban communists will remain," he said.

Transforming Cuba from a playground for rich Americans into a symbol of resistance to Washington, Castro outlasted nine US presidents in power.

He fended off a CIA-backed invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 as well as countless assassination attempts.

His alliance with Moscow helped trigger the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, a 13-day showdown with the United States that brought the world the closest it has been to nuclear war.

Wearing green military fatigues and chomping on cigars for many of his years in power, Castro was famous for long, fist-pounding speeches filled with blistering rhetoric, often aimed at the United States.

At home, he swept away capitalism and won support for bringing schools and hospitals to the poor. But he also created legions of enemies and critics, concentrated among the exiles in Miami who fled his rule and saw him as a ruthless tyrant.

Although Raul Castro always glorified his older brother, he has changed Cuba since taking over by introducing market-style economic reforms and agreeing with the United States in December 2014 to re-establish diplomatic ties and end decades of hostility.

Six weeks later, Fidel Castro offered only lukewarm support for the deal, raising questions about whether he approved of ending hostilities with his longtime enemy.

He lived to witness the visit of US President Barack Obama to Cuba earlier this year, the first trip by a US president to the island since 1928.

Castro did not meet Obama, and days later wrote a scathing column condemning the US president's "honey-coated" words and reminding Cubans of the many US efforts to overthrow and weaken the Communist government.

"With Castro's passing, some of the heat may go out of the antagonism between Cuba and the United States, and between Cuba and Miami, which would be good for everyone," said William M. LeoGrande, co-author of a book on US-Cuba relations.

However, there was uncertainty whether US President-Elect Donald Trump will continue to normalize relations between the two countries, or revive tensions and fulfill a campaign promise to close the US embassy in Havana once again.

His death — which would once have thrown a question mark over Cuba's future - seems unlikely to trigger a crisis as Raul Castro, 85, is firmly ensconced in power. In his final years, Fidel Castro no longer held leadership posts. He wrote newspaper commentaries on world affairs and occasionally met with foreign leaders but he lived in semi-seclusion. —*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ukraine's missile test plans near Crimea heat up row with Russia

MOSCOW/KIEV — Moscow protested against Ukraine's plans to carry out missile tests near Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014 following the toppling of a pro-Russian Ukrainian president, raising the temperature in the dispute between the two countries.

Russian aviation agency Rosaviatsia said late on Friday it has received a notification from Ukraine on missile tests in "Russia's sovereign air space" on 1 and 2 December in the region of Simferopol in Crimea.

Russia's Defence Ministry handed over a protest note to the Ukrainian defence attache, while Oleksander Turchinov, Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council Secretary, dismissed Moscow's claims that Kiev had breached international agreements. —*Reuters*

Major search underway after deadly boat accident in New Zealand

WELLINGTON — Police have confirmed that several people died when a small boat got into trouble in the Kaipara Harbour, north of Auckland, Saturday.

Emergency services had been told that 11 people were on the vessel and a major search and rescue operation is underway.

"Although at this stage Police are unable to confirm figures, there are a number of fatalities," said a Police statement.

An earlier statement had said that six people had been rescued, but the most recent statement only said "a number of people have been rescued."

Three helicopters and an airplane were continuing to search as light faded. A Police launch was also involved in the search. The police, Coastguard, St John ambulance and surf life saving organisations were all involved in the rescue operation.

It has been reported the boat was a fishing charter that can carry a maximum of 20 people.—*Xinhua*

Turkish FM in Iran for closer ties and cooperation

TEHRAN — Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu arrived here on Saturday morning for political talks with Iranian senior officials, official IRNA news agency reported.

Cavusoglu will meet with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to discuss the latest developments in the region.

Situations in Syria and Iraq would be at the agenda of talks between Iranian officials and Cavusoglu, it said.

Despite differences over the ongoing political and military situations in Syria and Iraq, Turkey and Iran have had close relations, particularly in economic sectors, over the past years. — *Xinhua*

Quake strikes China, Tajikistan border; kills at least one: agency

SHANGHAI — An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 struck China's northwestern border with Tajikistan killing at least one person, destroying houses and severing a railway line in the sparsely populated region, state news agency Xinhua reported on Saturday.

Rescue teams in the Xinjiang region have been sent to help isolated communities in Akto County, which sits on China's mountainous border with Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Xinhua said the quake hit the area late on Friday evening, and its magnitude was measured by the China Earthquakes Networks Centre. — *Reuters*

Joksimovic, Slovenian MPs discuss Serbia's EU path

BELGRADE — Serbian Minister for EU Integration Jadranka Joksimovic spoke with a delegation of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Slovenian National Assembly, led by Chairman Jozef Horvat, about bilateral relations and Serbia's European path.

Joksimovic stressed that the two countries have good bilateral relations accompanied by an open political dialogue and intensive contacts on all levels, confirmed by joint sessions of governments, regular visits of parliamentary delegations and Slovenia's expert assistance in the European integration.

The Slovenian delegation expressed support for Serbia's EU path and stressed the importance of opening negotiation chapters.— *Tanjug*

Hello! This week lesson is focused on Grammar.

Sometimes we just say a word but is not enough for meaning. So, we need to give its means in detail. So How shall we say? Don't worry. There is Relative Clause using 'who, which, that or whose'.

1. If we use a sentence like:
   The police have found the boy.
   it may not be clear which boy. We can make it clear like this:
   The police found the boy have who disappeared last week.
   'who' links the relative clause (who disappeared last week) to the main clause (The police have found the boy)
2. When we talk about people, we use that or who:
   I talked to the girl that (or who) won the race.
   When we talk about things or animals, we use that or which :
   I like the car that (or which) won the race.
3. That, who, or which can be the subject of the relative clause, like this:
   I talked to the girl who won. [who refers to subject 'the girl']
   That is the dog that attacked me. [tht refers to subject 'the dog']
   There is no other pronoun (e.g. it, they) : Not That is the dog that it attacked me.
4. That, who, or which can be the object of the relative clause, like this:
   The card which Ken sent was nice. [which refers to object 'the card']
   The man that I saw was very rude. [that refers to object 'the man']
   There is no other pronoun (e.g. him, them) : Not The man I saw him was very rude.
   When that, who, or which is the object of the relative clause (e.g. The card which Ken sent_, we can leave them out:
   The card Ken sent was nice.
   The man I saw was very rude.
5. Now look at this sentence with *whose* :
   Susan is the woman whose husband is an actor. (= Susan's husband is an actor.)
   We use whose in place of his, her, their, etc.
   We only use it with people, countries and organizations, not things. It has a possessive meaning. Here is another example :
   The man whose dog bit me didn't apologize. (= The man didn't apologize. His dog bit me.)

Shall we do these exercises?

A : Complete the sentences using the information in brackets using who or which.

Eg : (I went to see a doctor. She had helped my mother.)
I went to see the doctor who had helped my mother.

1. (A dog bit me. It belonged to Mrs Jones.)
   The dog _____ belonged to Mrs Jones.
2. (A woman wrote to me. She wanted my advice.)
   The woman _____ wanted my advice.
3. (A bus crashed. It was 23 years old.)
   The bus _____ was 23 years old.
4. (Ann talked to a man. He had won a lot of money.)
   Ann talked to the man _____.
5. (Mary was staying with her friend. He has a big house in Scotland.)
   Mary was staying with her friend _____.
6. (He's an architect. He designed the new city library.)
   He's the architect _____.

B. Complete the sentences using the information in brackets using that.

Eg : (Jack made a table. It's not very strong.)
The table that Jack made is not very strong.

1. (I read about a new computer. I had seen it on TV.)
   I read about the new computer _____.
2. (Jane made a cake. Nobody liked it.)
   Nobody liked the cake _____.
3. (Mary sent me a letter. It was very funny.)
   The letter _____ was very funny.
4. (My sister wrote an article. The newspaper is going to publish it.)
   The newspaper is going to publish the article _____.
5. (I met an old lady. She was 103 years old.)
   The old lady _____ was 103 years old.
6. (I saw a house. My brother wants to buy it.)
   I saw the house _____.

C. Complete the sentences with one of the phrases in the box using who or whose.

Interviewed me	has visited so many different countries
Had saved their son	wives have just had babies
Book won a prize last week	divorce was in the papers
Car had broken down	complain all the time

Eg : The parents thanked the woman who had saved their son.
Eg : The couple whose divorce was in the newspaper have got married again.

1. It is very interesting to meet somebody _____.
2. The person _____asked me some very difficult questions.
3. In my office there are two men_____.
4. What's the name of that writer_____?
5. I don't like people _____.
6. We helped a won _____.

HSU ENGLISH SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

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

BANGKOK TO YANGON

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

YGN TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily
FD-256	13:25	15:10	Daily
FD-254	17:30	19:05	Daily
FD-258	20:05	21:55	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:50	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:00	Daily
SL-207	20:05	21:45	"Daily

DMK TO YGN

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

YGN TO CAN

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

CAN TO YGN

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

YGN TO SIN

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

SIN TO YGN

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

YGN TO NRT

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

NRT TO YGN

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

YGN TO ICN

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

ICN TO YGN

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

YGN TO KUL

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

KUL TO YGN

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

YGN TO KMG

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

KMG TO YGN

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

YGN TO TPE

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

TPE TO YGN

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

YGN TO PEK

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

PEK TO YGN

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

YGN TO HAN

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

HAN TO YGN

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

YGN TO SGN

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

SGN TO YGN

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

YGN TO HKG

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

HKG TO YGN

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

YGN TO DOH

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

DOH TO YGN

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

YGN TO CNX

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

CNX TO YGN

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

YGN TO DAC

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

DAC TO YGN

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

MDL TO DMK

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

DMK TO MDL

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

MDL TO SIN

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

SIN TO MDL

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

MDL TO BKK

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

BKK TO MDL

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

MDL TO KMG

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

KMG TO MDL

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

NYT to BKK

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

BKK TO NYT

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

AIRLINE CODES

8M	= Myanmar Airways International		
BG	= Biman Bangladesh Airlines		
MH	= Malaysia Airlines		
MU	= China Eastern Airlines		
NH	= All Nippon Airways		
SQ	= Singapore Airways		
PG	= Bangkok Airways		
UB	= Myanmar National Airlines		
VN	= Vietnam Airline		
3K	= Jet Star	AK	= Air Asia
AI	= Air India	CA	= Air China
CI	= China Airlines	CZ	= China Southern
DD	= Nok Airline	FD	= Air Asia
KA	= Dragonair	KE	= Korea Airlines
MI	= Silk Air	QR	= Qatar Airways
TG	= Thai Airways	TR	= Tiger Airline

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

The building of Greek Parliament is lit up in pink in support of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in Athens, capital of Greece, on 25 November 2016. In 1999, the UN General Assembly designated on 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to raise public awareness of the serious problem. PHOTO: XINHUA

UN chief calls for more investments to end violence against women, girls

UNITED NATIONS — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday called for global action to increase resources and spending to promote solutions to violence against women and girls.

"Violence against women and girls imposes large-scale costs on families, communities and economies," said Ban in a message on the day. "Violence against women also results in lost productivity for businesses, and drains resources from social services, the justice system and health-care agencies."

Ban said though there is growing global recognition that violence against women and girls is a human rights violation and serious obstacle to sustainable development, yet there is still much more to do to turn the awareness into meaningful response.

Therefore, he called on governments to increase national spending in all relevant areas, including in support of women's movements and civil society organisations. And he also encouraged the private sector and citizens to do their part in support of women and girls.

In 1999, the UN General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to raise public awareness of the serious problem.—*Xinhua*

Mexican army involved in students disappearance two years ago, author says

MEXICO CITY — Mexican soldiers were involved in the disappearance and apparent massacre of 43 students two years ago, according to a leading journalist, implicating the military directly in a crime that has been blamed solely on corrupt police and drug gang members.

Anabel Hernandez, a well known investigative journalist, leveled the allegation in her soon to be published book, titled "The True Night in Iguala". The first chapters of the book, based on interviews with a drug lord and other direct sources, were released on the website Aristegui Noticias on Friday.

In one excerpt, a source had described how members of the army were tasked by a drug lord with recovering two million dollars worth of heroin that was stashed in two buses taken at random by a hundred students.

The students were seeking transportation to Mexico City for a protest, but were stopped by the police so that soldiers could search the buses, the book said.

"As the military was retrieving the drugs from the buses, the students on board must have realized what they were taking from the compartments. That would have created the unexpected need to 'disappear' them so as not to leave witnesses," it said.

Mexico's army has been accused of human rights abuses, including extra-judicial killings in the past. Neither the Defence Ministry, nor the Interior Ministry responded immediately to requests for comment. The President's office declined to comment.—*Reuters*

Relatives hold pictures of some of the 43 missing students of Ayotzinapa College Raul Isidro Burgos, as they take part in a protest to demand justice for the missing students, near the Interior Ministry in Mexico City, Mexico, on 15 April 2016. PHOTO: 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

France's Fillon seen as favourite to beat Juppe for conservative nomination

PARIS — Former prime minister Francois Fillon looked on Friday to be in a strong position to claim his centre-right party's nomination to contest next year's French presidential election as he and rival Alain Juppe held final rallies of the primary campaign. In an impassioned speech to supporters in Paris, Fillon, 62, struck a strong patriotic note, vowing to halt "the decline of France" under the ruling Socialists by sticking to what he said was a realistic programme that included ending the 35-hour working week and making big savings by slashing public spending.

Francois Fillon, former French prime minister and member of Les Republicains political party, attends a rally as he campaigns in the second round for the French centre-right presidential primary election in Paris, France, on 25 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Juppe, 71, also a former prime minister, defended his more moderate policies, telling supporters: "I'm not going to engage in any grandstanding against our public service. I want to manage, not demonize, it." A new survey issued on Friday night saw Fillon as clear favorite, winning Sunday's vote with 61 per cent against Juppe's 39 per cent. The ballot on Sunday will send one of the two veteran conservatives into an electoral battle that opinion polls say will boil down finally to a duel with far-right leader Marine Le Pen next May.

Fillon, who defied predictions to emerge as surprise winner of Les Republicain' first-round primary on 20 November, is tipped to win the second round with two-thirds of the vote. He was also boosted by a convincing performance in a televised debate. Even as their supporters prepared for the last rallies, Paris's chief prosecutor issued a reminder of the security threat that has hung over France since Islamist militants killed 130 people in attacks in Paris in November 2015. Le Pen's National Front party, which is anti-immigrant and anti-European Union, has made big inroads against mainstream left- and right-wing parties as France struggles with a jobless rate of 10 per cent and insipid economic growth. The Paris massacre and other militant attacks have also fueled support. But with President Francois Hollande's socialists in disarray and opinion polls showing a majority of voters opposed to seeing the far-right in power, many pollsters are seeing Fillon — France's closest thing to a genuine conservative on both economic and social issues — as having the best chance of becoming president.

Opinion polls have, however, lost credibility since Donald Trump's surprise win in the US presidential election and the Brexit vote to take Britain out of the European Union. With the Socialists yet to declare a candidate and with independent candidates, including former Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron in the field, many pundits say that much could change between now and next May.

Polls for months have predicted that Le Pen would qualify for the second round of the presidential election but lose the run-off to a mainstream right-winger. —*Reuters*

Saudi wants OPEC to solve own problems before meeting non-OPEC

DUBAI/LONDON — Top OPEC oil exporter Saudi Arabia has told the producer group it will not attend talks on Monday with non-OPEC producers to discuss limiting supply, OPEC sources said, as it wants to focus on having consensus within the organisation first. The 28 November meeting in Vienna was planned to discuss the contribution that producers outside OPEC will make to a proposed supply-limiting agreement. OPEC oil ministers meet on Wednesday in an effort to finalize their deal.

"There is an official letter from (Saudi Arabia) saying (it is) not attending the meeting because the ministers should agree to the cut and then present the agreement to non-OPEC countries," an OPEC source said. "This will be more effective." The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is trying to cement a preliminary September agreement in Algeria that would reduce its production to between 32.5 million and 33 million barrels per day, its first supply curb since 2008.

OPEC aims to remove a supply glut and prop up oil prices, which at below $48 a barrel are less than half their level of mid-2014. Oil prices extended an earlier decline on Friday after news of the Saudi no-show. The organisation also wants non-OPEC producers such as Russia to curb output. Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak on Thursday said OPEC had proposed that non-OPEC cut oil production by 500,000 bpd. Monday's talks will be converted into another OPEC-only meeting, OPEC sources said, to try to resolve the group's internal differences before the ministerial gathering on Wednesday.

A similar OPEC and non-OPEC meeting in October resulted in no specific pledges from outside producers to cut output, with attendees citing the lack of an internal OPEC agreement.

Saudi Arabia had asked that this earlier meeting be called off, but was convinced by other members to attend in order not to embarrass the group, a source said.—*Reuters*

OPEC logo is pictured ahead of an informal meeting between members of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Algiers, Algeria, on 28 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Haneda airport to undergo large-scale renovation ahead of Tokyo 2020

File photo taken in Septem-ber 2016, shows the Terminal 2 building of Tokyo's Haneda airport. The airport will undergo a large-scale renovation in response to an expected surge in flight numbers ahead of Tokyo's hosting of the Olympics and Paralympics in the summer of 2020, officials at the transport ministry said 26 November. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Tokyo's Haneda airport will undergo a large-scale renovation in response to an expected surge in flight numbers ahead of Tokyo's hosting of the Olympics and Paralympics in the summer of 2020, officials at the transport ministry said.

The airport's Terminal 2, which is currently used mainly for domestic flights by All Nippon Airways, will be renewed to include immigration, customs and quarantine facilities to accommodate international travellers.

The building will also have new duty-free shops and lounges, while some of the terminal's boarding gates will be designated for international flights.

A detached supplementary boarding area for domestic flights will be built in an area north of Terminal 2 used for aircraft parking.

Part of Terminal 1, which is used chiefly by Japan Airlines, will have rental offices, lounges and an indoor golf driving range, according to officials from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Existing parking spaces at the airport will be expanded to accommodate an additional 500 cars.

At the same time, the airport's current international terminal will be renamed Terminal 3.

In line with the move, the government plans to increase the number of flight slots by up to 39,000 from the current 447,000 annually by the 2020 Olympics, mainly by establishing new approach routes over central Tokyo. —*Kyodo News*

Japan, China agree to expand cooperation on green business

BEIJING — Japan and China agreed on Saturday to expand environmental business cooperation, although the pace of reconciliation in the political realm has not yet picked up.

Japanese industry minister Hiroshige Seko and Xu Xiaoshi, chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, signed an agreement to that end during a one-day forum in Beijing involving about 800 government and company officials of the two countries.

"There is an extremely big potential for the two countries to cooperate in the field of the environment and energy conservation, which will benefit both sides," Xu told the gathering.

On the occasion of the event, public entities and companies of the two countries signed a total of 28 agreements on new projects.

Seko and Xu, who heads China's top economic planning agency, agreed also that the two countries should boost their environment-related cooperation in other Asian countries and beyond.

"In order to significantly expand the scope and area of Japan-China cooperation, we should enter a new phase," Seko said.

The forum has been held alternately in Japan and China almost every year since 2006, even when their ties were severely overshadowed by territorial and wartime issues and heightened tensions over them prevented any meaningful communications in various fields.

Japan and China have identified environment protection as one of the most promising areas for them to strengthen cooperation.

It was only in 2013, when diplomatic ties were especially icy, that the Japan-China Energy Conservation and Environment Forum did not take place.

Still, it was the first since 2012 that ministers of the two countries have attended the forum.

While grappling with hazardous pollution from its rapid economic growth, China has said openly it wants to gain expertise and technological know-how from Japan, which faced similar environmental problems some five decades ago.

Japanese companies, meanwhile, see the challenges facing China as offering ample business opportunities.—*Kyodo News*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ASIATIC CLOUD VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC CLOUD VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Putin presents Russian passport to Hollywood actor Seagal

Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) meets with US actor Steven Seagal (C) at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on 25 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin presented a Russian passport to US actor Steven Seagal on Friday and said he hoped it would serve as a symbol of how the fractious ties between Moscow and Washington are starting to improve.

At a Kremlin ceremony where Seagal signed his new passport in front of Putin, the Russian leader said: "I want to congratulate you and express the hope that this is another, albeit small, gesture and it might be a sign of the gradual normalization of relations between our countries."

When Putin then asked how he was doing, the actor replied that "everything is good. We will talk later. For now just honored to be here." Putin, a fan of the kind of martial arts that Seagal often practices in his Hollywood action movies, signed an order at the start of this month to grant Russian citizenship to Seagal.

At the time, a Kremlin spokesman cited Seagal's "warm feelings towards Russia" and his celebrity as the reasons for granting the gesture. For more than a decade Seagal, who according to his own website is 64, has been a regular visitor to Russia. His movies, including such titles as "Under Siege" and "Sniper: Special Ops," are popular with Russian audiences.

Seagal is the latest Western celebrity to have been given a Russian passport in the past few years. In 2013, Gerard Depardieu, a French actor, was given citizenship by Putin.

In the past two years, relations between Russia and Washington have deteriorated to their worst level since the Cold War as a result of the armed conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, where Moscow and Washington backed opposing sides.

Putin has expressed hope that, with the election of Donald Trump as the next US president, relations will improve. Putin has praised Trump's personal qualities, and the US president-elect has said he wants friendly ties.—*Reuters*

Zayn Malik named GQ's Best Dressed 2017

LOS ANGELES — Singer Zayn Malik has been crowned GQ's Best Dressed 2017 in the publications first-ever Reader's play-offs, which saw him win with 59 per cent of the vote.

The 23-year-old singer songwriter has beaten "Night Manager" actor Tom Hiddleston to the post and has taken the title in the publications first-ever Reader's Play-offs, which saw him gain an impressive 59 per cent of the vote according to GQ Online.

Zayn Malik. PHOTO: REUTERS

However, this is not the first time the "Pillowtalk" has received the accolade as he was recognised for his incredible sense of style in 2013, which makes him the only male to receive the honour twice.

Meanwhile, Malik, who has recently joined forces with Donatella Versace on a new collection for Versus Versace called Zayn x Versace, believes he has "individual style" ever since he was a child, because he used to customize his school uniform.

"I've always had a bit of an individual style, even when I was a kid — for real. I hated school uniforms, and all the rules, having to wear a tie and shit.

"But when I sussed out that there were no rules regarding how we wore our school blazers, I would walk around the place with one arm in a sleeve, the other out, with my jacket dangling over a shoulder," he had said.—*PTI*

Opera singer Placido Domingo performs on stage during the opening ceremony of the Opera Ball in Vienna, on 4 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Placido Domingo in Cuba ahead of first Havana concert

HAVANA — They've had the Rolling Stones. Now Cubans are about to hear tenor Placido Domingo sing live for the first time.

Domingo is to make his Cuban debut on Saturday in Havana, singing with the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba at the capital's Gran Teatro. The concert will also be shown on outdoor screens. Domingo, who was welcomed to Havana by Cuban National Ballet director Alicia Alonso, said he had long wanted to sing in Cuba.

"I have always wanted to come and the only issue was that there was no possibility. The only thing I wanted was to push it ahead a bit, because it had taken so long," the singer told reporters.

"We were getting to the point where it became essential for me to come because I don't know for how much longer I will be singing," added Domingo, who is 75.

"If the concert ... leaves the audience happy, I will want to come back again, because I wanted to sing for all of Havana."

The arrival of Spanish-born Domingo, one of the most famous opera singers in the world, comes at a time of transition for Cuba as it reshapes its relations with the United States.

The Rolling Stones in March because the first major Western rock band to perform in Cuba, playing a free, outdoor concert for an estimated 500,000 people.

Domingo, who is currently general director of the Los Angeles Opera, has a large footprint in Latin America. He performed benefit concerts for Mexico's earthquake relief efforts in 1985 and again after Hurricane Pauline devastated parts of Mexico and El Salvador in 1997.—*Reuters*

JK Rowling sends Harry Potter books to Syrian girl

LONDON — "Harry Potter" author JK Rowling has gifted a young girl living in war-torn Syria with copies of her famous boy wizard books.

Seven-year-old Bana has been watching the "Harry Potter" films to distract her from the bombings and fighting, which is occurring in her hometown of Aleppo.

After watching the film earlier this week, Bana's mother Fatemah reached out to Rowling via Twitter, revealing her daughter and other local children were interested in reading the books the movies are based on, reported CNN.

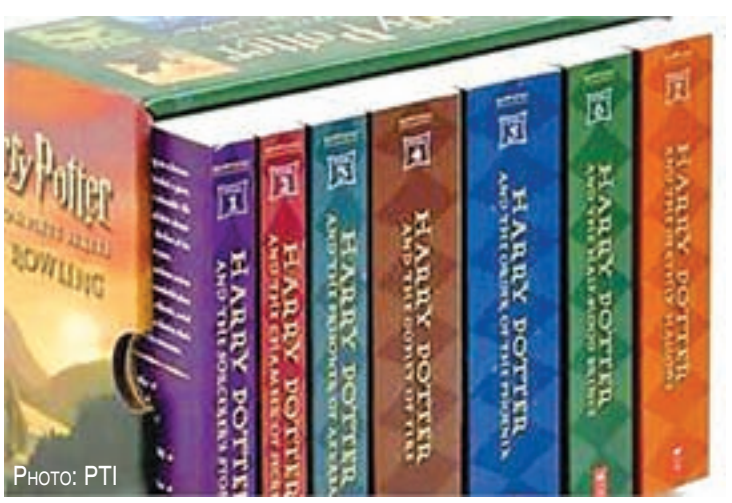

PHOTO: PTI

Rowling was moved by the message and replied, writing, "Bana, I hope you do read the book, because I think you'd like it. Sending you lots and lots of love xxx."

The 51-year-old writer subsequently sent her electronic copies of all the books in the franchise.

Bana's mother has since shared her gratitude with the author on Twitter, writing, "Thank you my friend Jk Rowling for the books", to which Rowling responded, "Thinking of you, keep safe #Aleppo.—*PTI*

French 'Spiderman' climbs Barcelona skyscraper harness-free

BARCELONA — French "Spiderman" Alain Robert scaled one of the tallest skyscrapers in Barcelona without a harness on Friday.

Bystanders and police watched as the 54-year-old climbed up and then descended the Torre Agbar, a glass-covered office building known for its night-time illuminations, completing the feat in around one hour.

The urban climber is famous for his daredevil, harness-free approach to scuttling up buildings with nothing more than some chalk on his hands and climbing shoes on his feet.

Robert has conquered over 100 structures worldwide including San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Dubai's Burj Khalifa complex, the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Sydney Opera House without safety equipment.—*Reuters*

French climber Alain Robert, also known as 'The French Spiderman', scales the 38-story skyscraper Torre Agbar in Barcelona, Spain, on 25 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Washington zoo's panda cub recovering after emergency surgery

WASHINGTON — Bei Bei, a giant panda cub who is a star attraction at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C., was in stable condition on Friday after emergency surgery to remove a "lemon-sized mass of bamboo" lodged in his digestive tract, officials said.

The 1-year-old panda, the youngest of the zoo's four giant pandas, started showing signs of stomach discomfort and nausea on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day.

He was sleeping more than usual and had little appetite for bamboo, his favourite food. Veterinarians performed an ultrasound on Friday morning, revealing a life-threatening blockage in his small intestine.

A volunteer veterinary surgeon then performed the operation to remove the dense, masticated mass of bamboo, which was preventing intestinal movement. "Bei Bei's prognosis is very good," zoo director Dennis Kelly said in a statement.

The 90-pound cub was an internet sensation even before his birth on 22 August 2015, as people around the world monitored his mother's pregnancy on the zoo's "panda cam" in anticipation of his arrival at the Washington zoo. First lady Michelle Obama and Peng Liyuan, the first lady of China, selected the name Bei Bei, or "Precious," for the cub from a list of suggestions from the staff of the National Zoo and a panda reserve in China.

As part of the zoo's breeding agreement with the China Wildlife Conservation Association, all cubs born at the National Zoo move to China by the time they turn 4.—*Reuters*

Giant Panda cub Bei Bei is shown to the media at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington in 2015. Bei Bei is four months old and weighs 17 pounds. PHOTO: REUTERS

South African cave pebble outshines treasures at British Museum

LONDON — In a corner of the British Museum's new South African exhibition, near an ancient golden rhino and a collection of apartheid-era campaign badges, sits a glass case holding a pitted, reddish-brown stone.

It is the Makapansgat pebble, on display for the first time in its three-million-year history, curators reckon — an object that, in its own way, outshines the other treasures in the museum's halls.

Experts theorise a very early ancestor of humans, Australopithecus africanus, picked up the pebble and took it home, mainly because it was interested in a pattern of lines on the surface that, even today, look startlingly like a face.

"This is an example of early curiosity, a pre-cursor to true art that some people have called the earliest piece of art of anywhere in the world, the earliest piece of found art," said John Giblin, co-curator of the show "South Africa: the Art of a Nation".

The naturally-formed pebble — also known as the stone of many faces — was found in Makapan valley in Limpopo province near some Australopithecus remains in the 1920s, several kilometres away from its likely source.

The theories have clustered around it since. It could be the earliest known sign of empathy — if the creature saw it as a baby. It could show the development of self-awareness — the stone forms a different face if you turn it the other way round, a face very much like an Australopithecus africanus.

It also has a claim to being the world's earliest known exhibit — in the sense of an object set aside for special contemplation — giving it an edge over the Elgin marbles one floor down in the British Museum, or the Egyptian mummies two floors up.

That is all theorising. "It's impossible to ever really know what's behind the pebble and if these early australopiths recognised it as a representation of something that looked like them," said Bernhard Zipfel from the Evolutionary Studies Institute at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, which loaned the pebble.

But it is theorising that has continued to compel experts in the field.

"When you are holding it and looking at that face and imagining how another being three million years ago saw a face in that — and you remember how you walked along a beach and picked up stones that looked like they had faces or other features in there — you see this really common experience," said Gibli.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(27-11-2016 07:00 AM ~ 28-11-2016 07:00 AM)

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	MOYINGYI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
07:44	Am	Myanmar Invites You
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Caves of Myanmar
08:50	Am	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Phyu Mon
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Trekking Around Kalaw Township
09:42	Am	Gardener: King Orange Plantation
09:55	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-1)
10:45	Am	Farming: Duck Breeder
10:56	Am	Goldsmith

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Alaungdaw Kathapa
07:44	Pm	Scented Buddha Images
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar: Seat Belt & Road Safely
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	"Myanmar Music Icon" Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-2)
08:49	Pm	Myanmar Master Class "Artist Pann Kyi"

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

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

MRTV (27-11-2016, Sunday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 am
- Business News

8:35 am
- Documentary

8:50 am
- Documentary

9:35 am
- People's Talk

9:50 am
- Poem for Children

10:00 am
- Sunday Talk

10:35 am
- Women in Myanmar Society

11:35 am
- Thai PRD (Parchuab City of Bays)

12:35 pm
- This Weeks Special Interest

12:50 pm
- Myanmar Movie

4:35 pm
- Mono Clssical Songs

5:15 pm
- Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

6:35 pm
- Shwe Pyi Aye Music Troupe (Part-1)

7:15 pm
- TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
- News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm
- Life Struggles

9:00 pm
- News/ Weather Report
- Myanmar Traditional performing Arts Competitions

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 27 November 2016

Mighty Myanmar make it through to the semis

YANGON — Hosts Myanmar sent the crowd wild at Thuwanna Stadium after beating Malaysia 1-0 to make it through to the last four of the AFF Suzuki Cup for only the second time in their history.

Myanmar only needed a draw in the Group B match to go through but they went one better when David Htan scored in the 89th minute.

In what was a mini Cup Final, Myanmar controlled most of the game with Aung Thu excelling particularly in the first half when he hit the woodwork and missed a penalty.

After a pulsating first half the second half was surprisingly subdued with few chances and Malaysia struggling to create chances.

Myanmar now face defending champions Thailand in the semis.

David Htan celebrates after scoring their goal during AFF Suzuki Cup group stage at Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon, Myanmar, on 26 November. PHOTO: AFF

Goal

89' (1-0) David Htan caps off an outstanding match for the Myanmar number 4 with a brilliant individual goal. Using his pace he skipped past two Malaysian defenders on the right and from the edge of the box hit a pure strike with his left that went low and hard into the back of the net.

Match Highlights

Off the post -

Malaysia's Hazwan Bakri nearly got a brilliant opening goal for Malaysia in the seventh minute. From five-yards outside the box he unleashed a low curling shot that beats the keeper Kyaw Zin Phyo but hits the inside of the right post.

Long range effort -

After 10 minutes Myanmar's star striker Aung Thu is brought down by Baddrol Bakhtiar 10-yards outside the box. Aung confidently stepped up to take the free kick and fired in a goal bound ball that Malaysian shot stopper Khairul Fahmi is able keep out with a fine save down the right.

Penalty miss -

Aung Thu is again in the thick of the action in the 11th minute when he makes a skillful turn in the box but is tripped by Hazwan Bakri. Referee Yaqoob Abdul Baqi gave the penalty to the delight of a packed stadium but a weak Aung penalty is easily saved by Khairul Fahmi low to his right.

Heading towards goal -

Just after the half hour mark Myanmar centre back Zaw Min Tun gets up well to meet a corner cross. He makes a strong header forcing Khairul Fahmi to make another low diving save to his right that needed him to be at his sharpest.

Aung Thu hits the woodwork -

Aung Thu showed his class with a stunning free kick in the 44th minute that has Khairul Fahmi well beaten but to the frustration of the Myanmar fans it hits the crossbar. Aung looked away in disbelief.

Rare shot on goal -

Three minutes before the 90 minutes is up Aung Thu cracks in one of the few shots on goal in the second half. It is straight into the hands of Khairul Fahmi.

David's day -

In stoppage time David Htan nearly gets his second goal when Aung Thu provides a fine cross which Htan heads on target but Khairul Fahmi pushes wide with a stretching save.—*AFF*

Mayweather rematch not out of question: Pacquiao

TOKYO — WBO world welterweight champion and boxing legend Manny Pacquiao said on Saturday in Tokyo that a much hoped-for rematch with Floyd Mayweather remains possible.

"If he comes back into boxing there is a possibility, but right now we are not talking about that or discussing about that," said Pacquiao, who has been world champ in eight different divisions and is in Japan to open a gym bearing his name.

"Actually, we are not talking about or discussing about my next fight because I am so busy working in the office as a (Philippines) senator. That's my focus right now." Despite parrying the now-familiar Mayweather question, Pacquiao said his career is not over, and that his recent comeback WBO welterweight title victory over Jessie Vargas was not a high-point on which he would end.

"I don't know when my career will end, but just recently I came back and...when I watched a fight...I realized I feel lonely inside because I realize that I am no longer am active in the sport of boxing," he said.

"I asked myself if I can still fight, and I decided to come back and continue the journey of my career."The Filipino legend and parliamentarian said he hopes his involvement here would lead to the sport's increased popularity, especially considering Japan's "advanced" boxing infrastructure.

"With the opening of the Manny Pacquiao boxing gym here, we are looking for a much closer relationship with Japan, particularly in the sport of boxing," he said.

"I am willing to help develop and train Japanese boxers. Japanese people are disciplined and hard working. It is not difficult to produce a Japanese version of Manny Pacquiao."—*Kyodo News*

Filipino boxer and Senator Manny Pacquiao raises his boxing winning belt during a news conference upon arrival, after winning WBO welterweight bout with Jessie Vargas, at Ninoy Aquino International airport in Paranaque, Metro Manila in the Philippines, on 8 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Manchester City's Sergio Aguero scores their second goal against Burnley during Premier League at Turf Moor, on 26 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Aguero double leads Man City to win at Burnley

LONDON — Sergio Aguero struck twice as Manchester City came from behind to beat Burnley 2-1 at Turf Moor in the Premier League on Saturday.

Aguero scored the winner in the 60th minute when he fired home at the far post for his 33rd goal in his last 34 games having equalised in the 37th minute when he beat Burnley's stand-in keeper Paul Robinson from close range.

Dean Marney had opened the scoring for Burnley in the 14th minute with a stunning 20-metre volley from Nicolas Otamendi's headed clearance.

City moved top of the table on 30 points, two ahead of Chelsea who travel to the Etihad Stadium next Saturday. Burnley remained in mid-table on 14 points.—*Reuters*

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