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State Counsellor speaks on border areas, races

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and chairperson of the central committee for implementation of the progress of border areas and national races, gave the opening speech at the meeting held yesterday afternoon at the Union Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Central Committee Members, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chief Ministers of States and Regions, high-ranking officials of the Tatmataw, deputy minister Brigadier-general Than Htut and other officials.

In her opening address, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the matter of race was of importance for everyone in Myanmar.

“Progress and development of border areas and national races are concerned with the whole nation. We aim at the emergence of a Federal Union, that is, a united and strengthened nation inclusive of all national races.

The state counsellor said the continued maturity of a nation cannot occur without harmony.

“Without unity and stability, we cannot achieve progress and development in any way. Development follows the unity. Without development, we will find it difficult to maintain peace and stability. Hence, it can be said that



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, left, addresses the central committee for implementation of the progress of border areas and national races yesterday. PHOTO BY INFORMATION COMMITTEE, STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

it is the responsibility of the central committee to implement the two facts in balance. Ministries of the Union have their respective responsibilities, as do the States and Regions. I assume that we, the central committee members,

are responsible to help the ministries to implement all the commitments hand in hand with one another”, she said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that the central committee will advise on how regions and states

must perform for upgrading and maintaining of nation's development sustainably, which must be done with consideration for the development of all citizens. Depending upon the submission of States and Regions, the Union

Government is to make decisions as to how to support them.

“Presently, the cooperation between the Union Government and States & Regions' Cabinets is not satisfactory as hoped.

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First phase of Kanyinchaung Trade Zone almost complete



U Aung Myint Thein. PHOTO: A-ONE SOE

THE first phase of the Kanyinchaung Trade Zone, which was begun in November 2015 with the aim of contributing to the economy of the Rakhine State, is almost complete, according to an official involved in developing the zone.

The phase is being imple-

mented with a total of Ks1 billion, including a Ks600 million budget allocation of the Union Government and Ks400 million investment of private entrepreneurs.

The government budget allocation is being spent on the construction of two jetties, the main

building and the approach way to the jetties. Investments of the private entrepreneurs are being spent on construction of 20 rice storage facilities.

In the second phase of the project, the union government has appropriated Ks2.5 billion for fencing the zone and building

a road, a security centre and public toilets.

In the third phase of the project in the 2017-18 fiscal year, power lines from the national grid and luxury hotels will be built.

“We have nine border gates in the entire country.

SEE PAGE 2 >>



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

Seventh Day Session of Pyithu Hluttaw held

YESTERDAY'S Pyithu Hluttaw session raised seven questions concerning the agriculture and irrigation sector and submitted a motion relating to disbursement of agricultural loans.

The Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu responded to the questions raised by representatives, saying that it is only possible to develop terrace farmland in Titeyan and Anpaw Villages in Lahe Township and the ministry has assigned the task to state/region governments since the 2013-14 fiscal year but it is still providing technical services.

Terrace farms will be developed in the two townships in the 2017-18 fiscal year and the ministry will provide technical assistance to the state government in surveying the acreage and location, the union minister said.

As for the question on whether Kaaukse Lake would be dredged, the union minister said that plans were underway to dredge the lake, but the budget was not available and farmers who grew crops in the area disagreed to the plan. As a result, the union minister said that dredging of the lake would occur when an agreement with

local farmers can be reached and when the budget allocation is available.

The union minister also responded to questions from five other representatives.

Dr Daw Khin Soe Kyi of Pyay Constituency submitted a motion calling for the government to disburse agricultural loans to villages, and the session approved the motion to debate at a future session. Representatives were also invited to debate the reports of the Bill Committee on a bill amending the Inland Water Transport Board Law. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Food and other aid to IDP camps to increase



Dr Win Myat Aye. PHOTO: MNA

THE union government has already coordinated with state/region governments to provide more food and financial aid, to create job opportunities, to provide more shelters, to develop land plots at appropriate places and fulfill other needs of internally displaced persons, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said at the Amyotha Hluttaw Session yesterday.

The union minister was responding to a question raised by a representative on whether the union government has plans to



U Thein Swe. PHOTO: MNA

increase assistance for IDPs.

Occupational training for a total of 918 internally displaced persons was conducted at the Occupational Training School in Myitkyina from 2011 to 2016, the union minister added.

The union minister also promised to provide other needs for IDPs in cooperation with respective state/region governments, government agencies and the UNHCR, NGOs and INGOs.

Food aid to IDP camps in Kachin State will be provided from the National Disaster Management Fund, and the union

government will take measures in cooperation with the state government for job creation and land plots, according to the union minister.

The Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe said at the session that the ministry is carrying out the process for workers who go abroad in accordance with the law, and is also monitoring the agencies that send workers abroad with the aim of protecting the interests of the workers.

However, some agencies failed to provide the necessary documents in a timely manner which can cause delays, while a few agencies are working with illegal brokers and some workers face exploitation. As a result, action was taken against such agencies and the ministry has revoked licenses from 18 agencies, suspended 13 agencies and suspended another 13 agencies for lawsuits, according to the union minister.

Other questions raised by representatives were responded by the union ministers and Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun. —*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor speaks on border areas, races

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The most important thing is that we need suggestions of all regions and states as to which way progress and development of border areas and national races should go to support and push for the process of peace", she said.

Afterward, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister for Border Affairs and secretary of the

central committee, clarified the set-up of the central committee, its responsibilities, policy and objectives, process, its background and implementation of border areas and the development of all national races.

Chief Ministers and central committee members then discussed the activities and processes to be implemented further. —*Myanmar News Agency*

First phase of Kanyinchaung Trade Zone almost complete



A thriving paddy field in Maungtaw District, Rakhine State.

PHOTO: A-ONE SOE

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Among them, the Maungtaw border gate is an export-oriented border gate, unlike Myawady and Muse. About 90 per cent of goods that go through the gate are export items and imports makes up of only 10 per cent of goods that go through the gate. The neighbouring country has a population of 160 million. The country has to import food from India and Pakistan. We should try our best to export our goods as much as possible," said U Aung Myint Thein, the secretary of the trade

zone development committee. The neighbouring country is a buyer market for Myanmar, but the Maungtaw Creek, which has been used as a major trade route, has silted up.

Another challenge has been the recent violent attacks in the state, which have their root in poverty, the secretary said.

"From an economic point of view, poverty and unemployment are the cause of violence. So, economic development is essential for the area," he said. —*A-one Soe*

Writers return from study tour of China

UNDER the China-Myanmar Literature and Art Exchange Program, a delegation of Myanmar writers led by U Kyaw Zwa (also known as Chit Oo Nyo) arrived back in Yangon at 2:30 pm on Monday after their study tour of Kumin and Beijing.

The team of writers includes U Kyaw Zwa (Chit Oo Nyo), Daw Tin Tin Win (Juu), Daw Khin Hnin



Writers' delegation seen at Yangon International Airport on their return from China visit. PHOTO: MNA

Oo, Daw Aye Aye Win (Phyu Mon), U Maw Lin, U Aung Tin (cartoonist Maung Maung Aung), U Aye Maung (Aye Maung

Kyaw), U Than Ohn (Maung Zeyar), U Win Cho and officials from the Information Ministry. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myit Swe addresses the Private Sector Development Committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President addresses private sector development

THE concerted efforts of working committees for private sector development can dramatically contribute to private sector development as well as the economic growth of the country, Vice President U Myint Swe said at the first meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In addition, the vice president

said that private businesses are allowed to participate in the economy of the country in accordance with the market economy as state-owned enterprises are being privatised to reduce the share of the state sector in the economy.

The economy of the country will grow only when the private sector thrives because about 90 per cent of the economy of the country is made up of private

businesses, the vice president pointed out.

The role of entrepreneurs, experts and skilled labourers is essential for creation of job opportunities, increased production and competitiveness in the international market and urged officials to integrate private entrepreneurs from agriculture, livestock and fishery and industrial sectors comprehensively into the private

sector, the vice president said.

In the future, the private sector will be of utmost importance for the country, as it will be driving force of the economy, U Myint Swe said. He called for improved environments for private businesses including rules and regulations, financial assistance, services for them and human resources by forming committees for each area.

Later, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint and union ministers including U Pe Zin Tun and U Ohn Maung, governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials reported to the meeting on future tasks and formation of work committees.

The meeting concluded with remarks by the vice president. — Myanmar News Agency

MYANMAR GAZETTE

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on the expiry of one-year probationary period from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1/ U Zaw Oo	Director-General education and training Ministry of Border Affairs
2/ U Ye Naing	Director-General department of border area and ethnic affairs Ministry of Border Affairs

Over 3,000 jade and gem lots sold at emporium

THE ninth day of Mid-Year Gems Emporium-2016 at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday saw a continued trend of brisk sales.

A total of 35 jade lots were put on sale through the competitive bidding system.

Until Saturday, a total of 44 gem lots and 3,008 jade lots had been sold.

Today, the last day of the emporium, altogether 31 jade lots are to be sold through a competitive bidding system. — Myanmar News Agency



Gems merchants at Mid-year Gems Emporium-2016. PHOTO: MNA

IDPs start returning home



Children of returnees leave for their homes in native villages.

INTERNALLY displaced persons at relief camps in Muse started returning home of their own accord as security improves in their respective towns and villages.

Members of the Red Cross, philanthropic associations and the health department are providing assistance to the returnees. A total of 409 IDPs have left five relief camps, including the church in Homon Ward, Aung Mingalar Monastery, Namkhun Monastery, Basic Education High School No 2 and Basic Education Primary School No 4. — District IPRD

Schools & banks in Muse reopened

DUE to the recent armed attacks in Muse, northern Shan State, schools were temporarily closed. Now that the area has regained some peace and stability, schools and banks have started to reopen.

At 10am on November 28, district and township administrators, State Hluttaw representatives and departmental officials visited No 1, 2 and 3 State High Schools to meet with teachers and students, giving words of encouragement.

Afterward, they went to the Muse General Hospital to give monetary aid to patients injured in the November 27 armed attack in Muse. The Shan State Cabinet has provided Ks100,000 each to

seven patients, and district administrator U Kyaw Kyaw Tun has given out an additional Ks70,000 each to the same patients.

U Kyaw Kyaw Tun, the district administrator and chairman of district management committee, supported the monetary aid — Ks5 lakhs each to the families of 2 civilians killed on Lashio-Muse Pyihtaungsu Highway on November 22.

Following their hospital visit, the dignitaries inspected activities of the Myanma Economic Bank and private banks opened in Muse and bank's routines that included — remittance, withdrawals and security arrangements. — Myanmar News Agency

Golden Paddy Fields, Mount May Yu & Northern Road Of Maungtaw



Children are playing happily. PHOTO: A1 Soe



The market is busy again with buyers and sellers. PHOTO: A1 Soe

Myint Maung Soe

It was round about 6 o'clock in the morning. Being the winter season, the atmosphere of the surrounding area was very cool. The grass was wet with dew sprayed for the whole night. Reflected gentle rays of the morning sun were casting pleasant sunshine over the whole environment.

Yet, there were people in the office of Maungtaw district administrator busying themselves preparing to deliver humanitarian aids to villages in northern Maungtaw provided by the ministry of social welfare, relief and resettlement with the help of national management committee for natural disasters.

Under the aegis of U Ye Htut, Maungtaw district administrator and Dr Min Thein, director of the ministry of SWR&R, our news

and information group left for the villages in northern Maungtaw in aid convoy.

After leaving Maungtaw, we reached Kyikanpyin, Kyeinchaung and Bandoola very soon, and from there we did move on to the villages in northern Maungtaw, enjoying the natural beauty of the May Yu mountain range, the grove of cashew trees and golden fields on the route.

Village-houses seen from afar were not pucca-buildings but neat and tidy in their appearance. The very first village in our sight is named "Nwayontaung", which is situated on Maungtaw-Kyikanpyin road. It can be said to be crowded, to some extent. On our arrival there, we found children playing and some adults gathering in front of a shop. Paddy fields outside the village saw harvesters and carriers of paddy working re-

spectively.

Then, we arrived at Kyikanpyin. Being the tarmac road, communication between Kyikanpyin and Maungtaw is good, but the

'Betel palm trees are abundant in Pharwutchaung village as well. Just outside the village, there can be ...'

road was coarse as soon as we passed Kyikanpyin, taking time more than expected. Kyikanpyin well-equipped with a police station, a school and a dispensary is a place of help for locals' health and education. Displaced people have

been found to start reoccupying their residences.

Similarly, most of the displaced people from Aung Zeya, Aung Mingalar, Maung Hnama, Aung Tharyar and other villages returned to their locations. In these villages, houses with betel palm trees planted in all surroundings are pleasant dwelling places to live. And the villages seem to be a scenic picture against the background of the range of Mount May Yu.

Betel palm trees are abundant in Pharwutchaung village as well. Just outside the village, there can be seen streams, creeks and prawn ponds. We have seen villagers reaping, threshing and winnowing paddy in the fields in Nganchaung village. Some sellers and purchasers were going to and from Maungtaw-Kyikanpyin-Kyeinchaung road in their motor bikes,

with passenger bus found occasionally.

On the road of northern Maungtaw, Long Don is a huge village, including the villages of Na Ta La with village dispensaries and schools included. It is learnt that Na Ta La villages were built as neo-villages for local nationals during the several decades ago, presently amounting to 95 in total.

Long Don, Ngakhura and Kyeinchaung are villages crowded with local residents in northern Maungtaw. Especially Kyeinchaung market with over 250 stalls for regular sellers and a row of stalls for irregular ones—is mainly relied by neighboring villages. After a short stopover at Kyeinchaung, we are to proceed to our final destination, Khamaungseik village.

TO BE CONTINUED

Crime NEWS

12,000 yaba pills seized in southern Shan State

Eik San, 24 and Eike Le, 25 with yaba tablets seized from them. PHOTO: MPF



MEMBERS of Anti-Drug Squad Unit 27 based in Loilem searched a motorbike driven by Eik San, 24, with Eike Le, 25, on board at the Tarkaw combined check-point on Karli-MongPyin road, Kunhein Township, Shan State

(South) on Sunday and seized 12,000 yaba tablets.

Police have filed charges against them under the Psychotropic Substances and Anti-Narcotic Drug Law. —Myanmar Police Force

Myanmar Weather Report

DEPARTMENT of Meteorology and Hydrology announced on 28 November that a low pressure area has formed over Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean. It may further intensify into a depression during next (48) hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere Bay of Bengal, according to the observations at (13:30)hrs M.S.T today.

Untimely rainfall warning

According to the observations at (14:30) hrs MST today, under the influence of the convergent activity with the cold air from the Western side and warm air from the eastern side, rain or thunder-showers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States during next (72) hours commencing noon today.—GNLM

Union minister visits inspection centre

THE Union Minister for Finance U Kyaw Win visited the 16-mile Kyaukchaw Inspection Centre on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

The in-charge of the centre reported to the union minister on installation of CCTV cameras at the centre, number of staff and

vehicles at the centre, the process of inspection, major goods passing through the centre, a road that allows bypassing the centre and the installation of X-ray Scanning Machines at the centre.

The union minister urged the staff to be aware of the criterion of staff, to spend budgets of the

union government on the most beneficial projects and to cooperate with other departmental staff at the inspection centre.

The union minister also met with departmental officials and officers of the finance ministry in Mandalay Region. —Myanmar News Agency.

LOCAL Business

Three more milk factories to be established

THREE more plants producing liquid milk are planned to be established in Mon State this fiscal year, said Dr. Aung Than Win, a head officer of the Mon State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

There is already a milk factory in Mudon and three more factories are slated to be built in Mawlamyine, Thaton and Bilin towns. The milk produced by the factory will be distributed in the domestic market. The milk will be provided to schoolchil-

dren through a nutrition program, said Dr. Aung Than Win.

Currently, milk cow farming is still weak in Myanmar. To help boost the industry, the new factories will be constructed with the use of high technology. Additionally, local dairy farmers will join hands with dairy businessmen from the Netherlands to improve dairy production and enhance commercial dairy farming, it is learnt from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.—200

Shell fuel oil to be directly imported to Myanmar

SHELL, the well-known global petroleum enterprise, will expand its market to Myanmar to directly distribute quality petrol at a reasonable price, it is learnt.

Currently, Shell's fuel oil is being imported from Singapore. The petrol will be directly imported from Shell based in the Netherlands and an American-based fuel oil distribution company in the future. Some petrol seen in the domestic market is of low quality, triggering outbreaks of fire in cars and making the cars malfunction. Shell aims at distributing quality fuel oil in the market.

The prices of petrol imported through Singapore are on the rise, a result of the appreciation of the dollar and the global fuel oil price, according to the petrol market. Both the retail and wholesale prices of petrol are likely to rise, experts said. The diesel price around the world per barrel is US\$58.71, whereas high diesel price is US\$59.01 per barrel. The price of 92 Octane per barrel is US\$58.62 whereas the 95 Octane price is US\$60.94 per barrel, according to Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.—*Ko Htet*

13 car-slips issued for old buses

SLIPS for 13 vehicles have been issued as of 26th November by the Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) to import cars for individual or family use when the old mini-buses and city buses are deregistered, according to RTAD.

Previously, the slips for buses were issued when the old buses were deregistered at Yangon Region RTAD according to the old regulations. Only slips for noncommercial cars are issued when the buses are deregistered starting from 17th November.

Yangon Region Transport Authority scrutinised the deregistration which proceeds to the RTAD. Thirteen buses have been currently deregistered at the aforementioned department. More vehicles could possibly be deregistered, said U Thein Oo, the head of the Yangon Region RTAD.

Issuing of the slips on the return of deregistration makes the owners do well because those old model vehicles can sell for around Ks7million. There are over 3,000 mini-buses and city buses in Yangon Region.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Thriving stable maize in Yesagyo, Magway Region. PHOTO: PE TUN ZAW

Commerce ministry to export over 10,000 tonnes of maize to China

CONCERTED efforts are being exerted by maize growers, associations and authorities to export over 10,000 tonnes of maize to China under a quota system, said U Khin Maung Lwin, the assistant secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

The plan aims to revitalize the maize market using a preferential quota system that can save the tax rate.

The growers will call on the authorities concerned to provide government subsidies so that the maize sells for a higher price. That means the government or the merchants make advanced purchases of the maize to allow the growers to earn more. The growers also want the businessmen to sell grain dryers through an instalment plan.

The number of acres of land used for maize plantation are on the rise year by year. China is the main export market, but the market has recently cooled due to confiscation from China's side.

Maize was offered at Ks8,000 per basket last year. However, the maize price dropped down to Ks6,500 per basket in October.—200

Myanmar fishery export market changes its destination

MYANMAR's fishery exporters made adjustments in their market after trade in Muse ground to a halt due to a series of attacks by ethnic armed groups in Shan State, merchants said.

The prices of fisheries products are on the decline in the Muse market. Thousands of visses of live crabs, eels and prawns have spoiled by the delays. About 90 tonnes of crabs and over 8,000 visses of eels are exported daily to China through the Muse border trade camp.

However, merchants have had to change routes because of the high possibility of delays due to the sporadic attacks in the Muse trade zone, it is learnt.

The Thailand market offers a higher price for 90-120 gram crabs than the China market. Therefore, the fishery merchants are now exporting crabs through Myawady. Some merchants have begun to export their fishery products through other border

gates after freezing the fish, prawns and other fish products.

Crab exports in the 2011-2012 fiscal year earned over US\$100million. But income from crab exporting has slightly dropped year by year. Crab exports fetched only about US\$40million in 2014-2015 whereas only about US\$20million was earned from crab exports in 2015-2016, according to the statistics of the fishery department.—*Mon Mon*

Myanmar-Thailand transportation agreement could be signed next year

MYANMAR and Thailand are in discussions about a cross-border transport facilitation agreement and will enter into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) by July, 2017, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Greater Mekong Sub-region

Road Transport Permit is slated to initially launch on 1st July, 2017 to facilitate the cross-border road transport between Myanmar and Thailand.

Myanmar and the six countries in the Mekong region entered into the Cross-border Road Transport Facilitation Agreement

in 2015. The full generation of GMS Road Transport Permit will be started on 1st January, 2019. When fully implemented, the Cross-Border Transport Agreement will improve the efficiency of transport services by facilitating cross-border transport; complement economic

corridors, physical infrastructure and investment; and create a more favourable environment for cross-border trade, investment, and tourism, it is learnt.

This implementation has not been an easy process, moving from concept to forging and concluding the agreement, to implementation.

Harmonising the varying interests and circumstances of six countries has not been easy, but the GMS countries have persevered great effort and demonstrated strong political will. The GMS countries have displayed the admirable qualities of patience and determination.—*Ko Htet*

Fearing tighter US visa regime, Indian IT firms rush to hire, acquire

BENGALURU — Anticipating a more protectionist US technology visa programme under a Donald Trump administration, India's \$150 billion IT services sector will speed up acquisitions in the United States and recruit more heavily from college campuses there.

Indian companies including Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro have long used H1-B skilled worker visas to fly computer engineers to the US, their largest overseas market, temporarily to service clients.

Staff from those three companies accounted for around 86,000 new H1-B workers in 2005-14. The US currently issues close to that number of H1-B visas each year. President-elect Trump's campaign rhetoric, and his pick for Attorney General of Senator Jeff Sessions, a long-time critic of the visa programme, have many expecting a tighter regime.

"The world over, there's a lot of protectionism coming in and push back on immigration. Un-

fortunately, people are confusing immigration with a high-skilled temporary workforce, because we are really a temporary workforce," said Pravin Rao, chief operating officer at Infosys, India's second-largest information technology firm.

While few expect a complete shutdown of skilled worker visas as Indian engineers are an established part of the fabric of Silicon Valley, and US businesses depend on their cheaper IT and software solutions, any changes are likely to push up costs.

And a more restrictive programme would likely mean Indian IT firms sending fewer developers and engineers to the United States, and increasing campus recruitment there.

"We have to accelerate hiring of locals if they are available, and start recruiting freshers from universities there," said Infosys' Rao, noting a shift from the traditional model of recruiting mainly experienced people in the US.

"Now we have to get into a model where we will



An employee speaks on a mobile phone as she eats her lunch at the cafeteria in the Infosys campus in Bengaluru, India, in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

recruit freshers, train them and gradually deploy them, and this will increase our costs," he said, noting Infosys typically recruits 500-700 people each quarter in the US and Europe, around 80 per cent of whom are locals.

Trump's election win and Britain's referendum vote to leave the European

Union are headwinds for India's IT sector, as clients such as big US and British banks and insurers hold off on spending while the dust settles. In India's IT hub of Bengaluru and the financial capital Mumbai, executives expect a Trump administration to raise the minimum wage for foreign workers, pressuring already

squeezed margins. Buying US companies would help Indian IT firms build their local headcount, increase their on-the-ground presence in key markets and help counter any protectionist regulations. Indian software services companies have invested more than \$2 billion in the United States in the past five years. North

America accounts for more than half of the sector's revenue. "We have to accelerate acquisitions," said Rao at Infosys, which in the past two years has bought companies including US-based Noah Consulting and Kallidus Technologies.

Jatin Dalal, Wipro's chief financial officer, said his growth strategy is to buy companies that offer something beyond what Wipro already does, or new, disruptive firms — such as Appirio, a US cloud services firm. The chief executive of Tech Mahindra, C.P. Gurnani, said his firm, which two years ago bought network services management firm Lightbridge Communications Corp, is on the look-out for more US acquisitions, particularly in healthcare and fintech — financial technology firms that are disrupting traditional banking services.

In a broader shift from labor intensive onsite projects, Indian IT firms are also turning to higher-tech services such as automation, cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI) platforms.—Reuters

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Philippine police find home-made bomb near US Embassy, rebels suspected

MANILA — Philippine police conducted a controlled detonation of a home-made bomb found in a trash bin near the US Embassy in Manila on Monday and said militants sympathetic to Islamic State could have been responsible.

National police chief Ronald dela Rosa said components of the improvised explosive device suggested it could have been planted by the Maute, a Muslim rebel group that has pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

Maute's fighters were locked in a standoff with the military for a third day in the country's south. More rebels were reported killed on Monday, taking the number of dead to 19.

"We could theorize that they could use this as a diversion," dela Rosa told a news conference.

The embassy had no immediate comment on the discovery of the bomb, which was left about 200 meters from the compound. Business there continued as normal, with dozens of Filipinos queuing outside for

visa applications. An 81 mm mortar round was used as an explosive device and that was a signature of the group, Dela Rosa said. Similar components were used in a 2 September

bombing in Davao, which killed 15 people died and wounded about 70.

Maute were blamed for that attack and four of its members were arrested and found with video

clips of them pledging allegiance.

Dela Rosa said intelligence operations would be stepped up and checkpoints would be set up around the capital.—Reuters



Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald Dela Rosa (R) and National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief superintendent Oscar Albayalde inspect the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) found near the US Embassy during a press conference at the Manila Police District headquarters (MPD) in metro Manila, Philippines, on 28 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fukushima cleanup cost expected at 20 trillion yen, double estimate

TOKYO — Japan’s industry ministry now expects the combined cost of dealing with the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear disaster to total more than 20 trillion yen (\$178.8 billion), nearly double the previous estimate, sources familiar with the matter said on Monday.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, which previously estimated the overall cost at 11 trillion yen, is considering passing a portion of the costs that include compensation payments and the expense of the scrapping of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant on to consumers through higher electricity rates.

The six-reactor plant, operated by TEPCO, was damaged by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami and three of its reactors subsequently suffered meltdowns due to loss of cooling power in the worst nuclear crisis since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

According to the new estimate, compensation payments will increase to 8 trillion yen from 5.4 trillion yen and decontamination costs will double at around 5 trillion yen from 2.5 trillion yen. Several additional trillion yen will be needed for decommissioning the



A member of the media, wearing a protective suit and a mask, looks at the No 3 reactor building at Tokyo Electric Power Co's (TEPCO) tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture, Japan, on 10 February, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

reactors and dealing with radioactive water at the plant on top of the earlier estimate of 2 trillion yen, the sources said.

The ministry has been discussing reforming the crisis-hit Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. at meetings of a panel and is set to formulate a support plan for TEPCO within the year, based on the new estimate.

Combined with the cost of building interim radioactive waste storage facilities, foreseen to remain at 1.1 trillion yen, the total

cost is forecast to surpass 20 trillion yen, according to the sources.

The government is studying the possibility of expanding a 9-trillion-yen interest-free loan programme for TEPCO that was set up through issuing government bonds to cover compensation payments and decontamination in the areas hit by the nuclear disaster. It is expected to take up to 30 years to recover the 9 trillion yen through payments from TEPCO and other big utilities.

The government also

plans to recover the expected increase in compensation payments and decontamination expenses by raising charges for the transmission line usage for new electricity retailers.

TEPCO needs to secure funds on its own in principle for decommissioning the plant. The government will manage the funds, which will be established using profits to be generated by TEPCO.

However, it is not clear if TEPCO alone can shoulder all the cost of decommissioning.—Kyodo News

Embattled Park refuses to accept face-to-face questioning regarding her role

SEOUL — South Korea’s embattled President Park Geun-hye on Monday declined to submit to prosecutors’ face-to-face questioning by Tuesday regarding her role in an influence-peddling scandal, citing her busy schedule.

“There are difficulties in the schedule as the president should prepare measures over the urgent situation and also consider the issue of appointing an independent counsel who will be recommended by tomorrow,” her defence lawyer Yoo Yeong Ha said in a message sent to reporters. The development comes after state prosecutors requested last week that the president accept a face-to-face questioning regarding her alleged role in the ongoing corruption scandal by Tuesday.

Prosecutors announced 20 November that Park is a suspect in a widening investigation into the explosive scandal involving her close friend Choi Soon Sil and two former presidential secretaries.

Choi, a private citizen, has been indicted on charges of using her relationship with Park to win sizeable

donations from corporations for her nonprofit foundations.

Choi has also been accused of illegally meddling in state affairs and being given access to classified documents.

As a primary suspect in the scandal, Park is now the first South Korean president ever to face a criminal investigation.

As for the naming of the independent counsel, the opposition parties are to recommend, by Tuesday, two candidates who will launch an independent investigation into the scandal, separate from the prosecution’s investigation.

Park, whose five-year term ends in February, 2018, has refused mounting calls to step down.

Opposition parties, which dominate the parliament, have decided to put forward a motion for a vote to impeach Park on Friday at the earliest, or no later than Friday, 9 December.

Park’s approval rating dropped to a record-low of 4 per cent last week. The scandal has triggered massive street protests in Seoul and other major cities.—Kyodo News

19 terrorists killed in southern Philippine

MANILA — Skirmishes between the government troops and a local terror group in the southern Philippine province of Lanao del Sur continued with death toll of the militants reaching to 19, the military said on Monday.

Spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said 13 soldiers on the government side had been injured in the renewed

clashes with the Maute Group, now occupying the town of Butig.

“The number of casualties may still go up at the end of the operation today,” he said.

The military started pursuing the local bandits, numbering to about 300, after they occupied an abandoned municipal hall in Butig on 26 November.

Although the terror group brought the flag of Is-

lamic State (IS) and pledged their allegiance to the terror group, Padilla said it did not mean that there was already IS presence in the country.

Maute group is an armed IS-influenced militant group composed of former Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels and allegedly foreign fighters led by Abdullah Maute, the alleged founder of Dawlah Islamic or IS based in Lanao del Sur.—Xinhua

China detains nine for collapsed power plant disaster that killed 74

BEIJING — Chinese police have formally detained nine people involved in a power plant construction project in the east of the country which collapsed last week killing 74 people, state news agency Xinhua said on Monday.

The accident happened on Thursday morning in Fengcheng, in Jiangxi province, during work on a cooling tower for a coal-fired power plant. A tower crane collapsed, triggering the collapse of the entire construction platform.

Xinhua said the nine included the chairman of Hebei Yineng Tower Engineering, whose family name they gave as Zhang.

State media has said the company was in charge of the building project.

A company official reached by telephone declined comment.

Xinhua said the nine

were suspected of “major liability” in the accident and would face criminal charges, but gave no other details other than that the probe was continuing.

State media said last week 13 people had been taken into custody in connection with the disaster. Xinhua did not say what had happened to the other four.

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.

China has vowed to improve its poor safety record.—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. 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 25 TH 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			

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

The days are gone when our parliamentarians used to be rubber stamps

Khin Maung Oo

Exhaustion after long days of work drives us to places of relaxation. Some go to a karaoke lounge or a restaurant. Others go home and rest. Evenings are their hours of privacy. Some spend their time reading newspapers, journals or novels, whereas some go straight in front of a TV after taking their meal. Television, in particular its entertainment channels, have occupied our recreation hours for years — since the olden days till now. In those days some used to rush to switch off the TV whenever the news was about to be broadcast. Similarly, most turned to the last pages of the newspapers of those days just to read the obituary notices. Why? The reason was that they didn't believe in the truth and accuracy

of mass media.

Contrariwise, and wonderfully enough, the situation now is totally different. Who dares deny the fact that there are incredible number of subscribers of newspapers increasing in the country? And, people are coming to attentively listen to the news. We now have many new channels — the National Geographic channel, the Discovery Channel, various channels of entertainment, foreign news channels and the Hluttaw channel, in addition to regular ones — MRTV, MRTV4 & Myawady. Unlike the olden days, we spend many of our daily private hours watching the Hluttaw channel. We no longer stand up to switch off TVs to avoid news. Why? The reason is that there are changes that we had

hoped for. We have freedom of speech, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. We have an unprecedented opportunity to observe the Parliament in action. The best of all, we can observe the activities of the parliamentarians we have chosen, through the Hluttaw Channel, without having to get up from our seats. As per human nature, we want to know whether our people are moving on a right and satisfactory way or not. If they violate our trust, we can call them back from the seats.

It is a heartening view to see them submitting, discussing and questioning over the proposals in the parliament enthusiastically and reasonably. Every individual has the right to agreeing to differ. Of their own accord, they have

the right to like or dislike. Concurrently, they can criticise anyone because of their freedom of speech, on one condition that they must be careful so as not to humiliate others without sufficient evidence.

Rome was not built in one day, but it can be destroyed in a moment. It will take time to build a federal democratic nation. Knowingly that our parliamentarians are not rubber stamps, we should not accuse them just to defame their reputation. Observe them and their activities carefully. Criticise them reasonably. If so, you will become a participant in building up our nation into a federal democratic Union. Failing that, your criticism will be tantamount to intentionally, destructively defaming someone.

Eat only when hungry, eat what is proper, eat less

Yin Nwe Ko (Linn)

MOST Myanmar people have ever heard 'Kamma - deeds, words and thoughts -, mind, season and nutrition.'

We know very well that to keep an individual alive and healthy is completely associated with the above four factors. Out of them, the most important one is nutrition. However, if any one of these four factors is abnormal, the health of an individual concerned is affected and sometimes even dead. As the nutrition is the most important one, the saying '**Physical form is guarded by nutrition**' emphasizes the importance of nutrition.

One can obtain all round general knowledge about nutrition in the present IT age. That such knowledge is distributed through radio, T.V., newspaper, magazine and internet almost every day can be seen. For a careful observer, he or she will gain the knowledge nearly like a medico.

In the atmosphere of nutrition, food can be roughly divided into liked one or disliked one; proper one or improper one; seasonal one or unseasonal one etc. These terms can be understood by those who are not the medical men. For an ordinary one, he knows his likes or his dislikes. When he encounters his likes, he will happen to eat it a little more. Some will happen to eat more than his fills. He also knows his dislikes. When he encounters his dislikes, he will remain without having it or he will eat it less

with feeling of delicacy in an unavoidable situation. Ordinary human beings cannot easily differentiate the seasonal food and unseasonal food. Only those having medical knowledge can know them. Seasonal food means the food which can be got naturally at the present arriving season. Everyone should have it a little as a medicinal one.

Nowadays, technology is well developed and so man has succeeded in producing new varieties of plants that can give crops and also parthenocarpic fruits for all seasons round the whole year. Everyone will notice that we can buy what we want to eat in the market of large cities like Yangon, Mandalay etc.

We must take great care of the food which is proper or improper. Proper food can keep one's physical body stable and fit. However, improper one can even make a threat of one's life and at least up to severe health hazard. Here, I would like to express the admonition of a well-experienced medical man of Indigenous Medicine.

If you place some salt onto your normal skin, you will feel nothing. However, you place a little salt onto your skin with a slight cut, you will surely suffer from excruciating pain. A person who has eaten a little improper food is like the one who places a little salt onto his skin with a slight cut. We should take note what is improper with us and avoid eating it again. Unfortunately, the improper food for some people is their favourite.

Food is divided into six tastes - sweet, sour, salty, hot, acrid and bitter - according to the Indigenous Medicine. However, western medicine differentiate food as carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, mineral, water and fibres. Nevertheless, the concept of nutrition means that one should eat every taste a little each. Only one kind of tastes that is specially liked should not be eaten much. For instance, one who likes sweet eats sweet food and not the other tastes. Such activity should not be done. The remaining tastes should also be eaten a little each. In the same way, it is similar to in the western medicine. One who likes meat should not eat meat much. The remaining food such as vitamins, minerals, fibres etc. should be eaten in suitable proportion.

In western medicine, it is noticeable enough in expressing the association with physical body and food. Good food is a basic need of human body. It is of prime importance in the attainment of normal growth and development. The role of nutritious food cannot be neglected in the promotion of health and prevention of diseases. Our human body can be compared to a machine. Just as an engine burns up coal or oil in order to generate its energy, so the human body requires food in order to produce the forces which keep the heart beating, the lungs breathing and the limbs moving. But the discovery of vitamins at the turn of the present century has 'rediscovered' the science of nutrition.

Since then great advances have been made in the field of nutrition. Gradually, nutrition is assuming increasing importance in every region of the world where nutritional diseases are not only widely prevalent but they modify the course of events of almost any clinical disorder. In recent years the influence of malnutrition in the area of mental retardation is being actively investigated. In the more developed countries of the world, nutritional problems are somewhat different. Over nutrition is encountered much more frequently than under nutrition.

The health hazards from over nutrition are on increase in mortality and higher incidence of many diseases. So the nutrition of people throughout the world is one of the greatest international problems of the present day. The terms food and nutrition are sometimes used synonymously, but that is not correct. Food is a composition of mixture of various substances, the quantity of which may vary from it fraction of a gram in certain cases to hundreds of grams in other the term foodstuff is defined as anything which can be used as food. Nutrition, on the other hand, signifies a dynamic process in which the food that is consumed is utilized for nourishing the body.

Although food and nutrition are defined separate as mentioned above, there is a Myanmar saying '**Food is also medicine; medicine is also food.**' According to Indigenous Medi-

cine, food and medicine are regarded identical. It is sure as this saying is ancestrally relayed one generation after another, those of present age are find difficulty to deny.

To my long article short, I would like to put up that one should not miss the modernized view as well as one should not abandon the ancestral admonition. There are some words concerned with the food or nutrition that I like most. It was said by Sayargyi U Htut, who was our former headmaster of No. 1, Basic Education High School, Kyaunggon, Ayeyarwady Region, and who is now also a member of Council of Indigenous Medicine, Myanmar. He is living in Yangon at the moment and come to our town once a year on every National Day on which ex-teachers paying homage ceremony of No 1, Basic Education High School is held. Although he is in his 80s, he is still healthy and active and can come to the ceremony and go back to Yangon within a day. I am going to conclude my article with the words he had said in the 25th anniversary of ex-teachers paying homage ceremony.

"My students, you are also getting old. Take good care of your health. I'll give you all a present associated with food you eat. I've been still practicing it up to now.

It is nothing but if you are going to eat food, **eat only when you are hungry; eat what is proper with your health and eat less what you wish for.**"

Inle Lake, the most visited spot in Myanmar

NYAUNGSHWE, the principal town in the Inle Lake area, tops the list of most popular international travel destinations in Myanmar, followed by Bagan-NyaungU, which hosts about 300 foreign visitors per day.

Approximately 600 foreign tourists enter Nyaungshwe daily to visit Inle Lake, the popular inland freshwater lake.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has put forth concerted efforts to promote interest from international visitors by establishing tourism and recreational facilities as well as exposing more destinations.

There are about 90 registered hotels and guesthouses in Nyaungshwe, including floating

structures on the lake.

A foreigner has to pay US\$10 to enter the town, which helps raise the country's foreign currency income. The country receives over Ks7.8 million (\$6,000) daily from the town.

According to the ministry's figures, a total of 121,736 tourists entered Nyaungshwe this year, an increase of 24,745 visitors compared with last year's total.

The ministry expects that the number of international tourist arrivals in Nyaungshwe are likely to top 140,000 by the end of December.

The majority of visitors are from France, other European countries, the U.S., China, Japan and Thailand. They usually tour



Inle Lake, the popular inland freshwater lake. PHOTO : U TIN HLAING

around the town and nearby areas including Taunggyi, Pindaya and Kalaw.

Plans are underway to improve tourist attractions with night markets in both Yangon

and Nyaungshwe, said a ministry spokesperson, with plans to also ease some rules and restrictions during the high season in cooperation with relevant authorities.—U Tin Hlaing (Meikhtila)

Fire losses over past 10 months totalled Ks40 billion

TOTAL fire-related losses over the past 10 months in Myanmar totalled over Ks40 billion, according to figures issued by the Fire Services Department, urging people to follow suggestions provided by the department to reduce the incidence of

out break of fire.

The number of fire accidents across the country between January and October reached 1,569, destroying a total of Ks40.435 billion worth properties. The losses have increased significantly compared with the same period

in previous years.

In the first 10 months of 2014, 1,346 cases of fire occurred in the country causing Ks36.561 billion in losses. Over 1,446 fire accidents happened in the same 10 months of 2015, destroying property worth nearly

Ks2 billion.

This year's fires were caused by hot weather because of El Niño and negligence on the part of people who used electronic devices carelessly, said Daw Thein Kyi, assistant director of the department. — 200

Visit Singapore with Singapore Airlines' Value-Added programs



Staff of Singapore Airlines welcoming visitors to Singapore as visa exemption will start soon.

STARTING from 1st December 2016, Myanmar nationals visiting Singapore will not have to apply for a visa under the 30 days visa exemption. Travelling between the two countries is also made easier on Singapore Airlines and SilkAir, who operates 20 weekly services between Yangon and Singapore, and three weekly services between Mandalay and Singapore.

"Everyone is excited about visa free and we are happy to further promote leisure traffic to Singapore with value-added programmes such as Singapore

Explorer Pass, only for our customers. Now, even Myanmar nationals travelling en-route to other destinations can first stop-over without visa, to shop or dine in the lion city" said Jeanette Lee, General Manager, Singapore Airlines.

Customers travelling on any Singapore Airlines or SilkAir flight can enjoy a special price of USD43 for a 1-day "Singapore Explorer Pass", covering major attractions such as the Singapore Zoo, Sentosa, Gardens by the Bay, Singapore Flyer and many more.—GNLM

Myanmar women's football league to begin next month

THE first-ever match of Myanmar Women's League for the 2016-2017 season will take place on December 10 at Bogyoke Aung San Stadium in downtown Yangon.

Seven football clubs — Sports and Physical Education FC, Myawady FC, Gandama FC, Zwagabin FC, YERO FC, Home Affairs Ministry FC and Institute of Sports and Physical Education FC — will participate this season for the first time. Although it is difficult to attract more football fans for women's leagues internationally, the organisers will run the game with female players to improve their football skills and ability of referees, said U Zaw Zaw, chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation.

The MFF's efforts to establish a women's league started two years ago. U Hla Htay, chairman of Myanmar Women League Organising



Members of the MFF and officials of KBZ Bank at the ceremony announcing KBZ's league sponsorship. PHOTO: MMK

Committee, said the committee will provide Ks20 million each participating team. Currently, Kanbawza Bank, the largest private commercial bank, pledged to offer Ks300 million as a major sponsor to support the league. Kanbawza bank inked the one-year sponsorship agreement on Friday in Yangon. In the past, Myanmar faced

difficulties in starting the women's league at a time when some ASEAN countries had already developed women's football leagues.

The best FC will be awarded Ks15 million, with Ks10 million for second place team and Ks5 million for third place team. The best player will be awarded Ks300,000. — Myitmakha News Agency

Survey aims to raise access to education for needy children

A NEW population survey to find out the exact number of needy children has been conducted by a social organisation based in southern Shan State for the purpose of offering equal access to education.

Daw Keinnari of Kanlntmyitta, an NGO, said the organisation is now collecting data on working children, young beggars and street kids across the state.

Kanlntmyitta started its advocacy for child rights before its establishment in 2015, eliminating the use of minors in armed groups and promoting the life of working

children and street kids.

The body recently celebrated the international day for children in Taunggyi, the capital of the state, in cooperation with 10 local civil society organisations, urging authorities to increase jail sentences for dangerous offenders who have participated in child sexual abuse, an especially heinous form of rape.

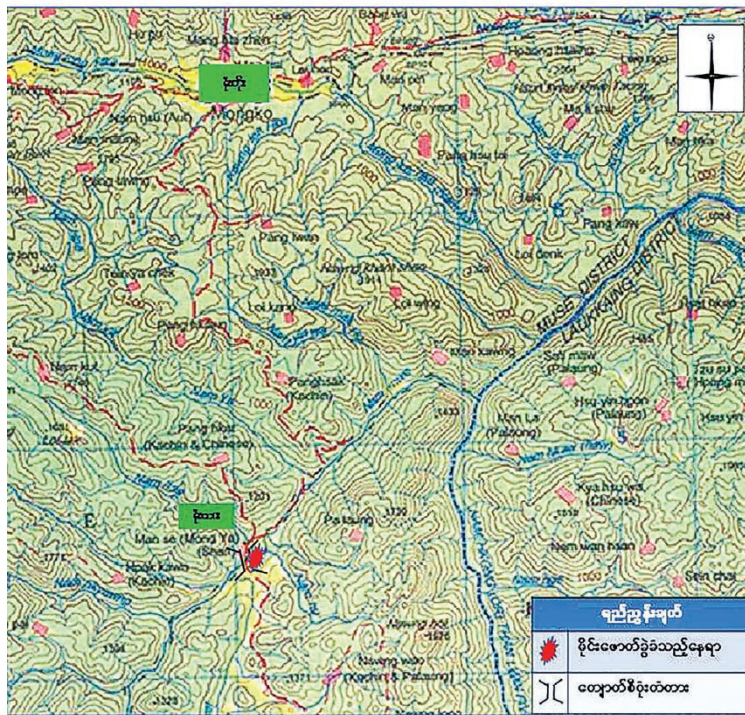
The NGO's spokesperson said monthly discussions have been made between the social organisation and the local government to promote cooperation in child development rights activities as

well as to improve the protection of children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation through effective support.

Many Myanmar children can be found at workplaces as their low-income families cannot afford to send them to school.

According to a report released by UNICEF and the Department of Social Welfare in 2011, 73 per cent of children in institutions had one or both parents alive, and 50 per cent were brought to an institution by parents or relatives. — Myitmakha News Agency

KIA/TNLA/MNDAA blow up bridge in Kutkai



A 40-foot — long bridge on Mongkoe-Mongse Road near Mongyar Village was blown up by combined troops of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic

Alliance Army (MNDAA) on Sunday, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office. The bridge is unusable at present due to the explosion. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Four suspects in Maungtau attacks detained

Four people suspected of involvement in the recent violent attacks in Maungtau were detained by security forces on Saturday and Sunday, and a body was found between Wapeik Village and Kathkelpyin Village in Maungtau Township, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office. The four suspects including Swetarmak, 58, Swayork Hsaung, 65, and Sarli Armud, 51, from Warpeik Village were detained on Saturday near their village. Husein Ahmad, 32, of Shwezar Ale Village was

detained in Maungtau Myoma Market. Action has been taken against them in accordance with the law. Government troops and the police, while conducting area clearance operations, found a body of a man wearing a redish-brown T-shirt and a black longyi. An autopsy has been being carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations at Maungtau Hospital, as the security forces did not find any injuries on the body and assumed that he had died of pneumonia. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Landmine explosion kills two KIA troops

Two land mines accidentally exploded and killed two members of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) who had planted it and were recovering it on Sunday evening, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence

Services.

Government troops, while conducting area clearance operations in Karmine Township, spotted Khali and Dutlar, two members of the KIA, and detained them on Tuesday. Promising to defuse two land

mines planted by them near Labunkadaung Village, security forces took the two men to the site on Sunday evening. The land mines exploded while they were defusing it, instantly killing both of them. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Fire Breaks Out In Kyaukpantu Village In Maungtau

A house belonging to the man in charge of 100 households was set on fire. It was found to be an arson attack, according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.

An unidentified group of people set fire to the house of Raufi at about midnight on Friday by throwing a bottle of petrol with a flaming fuse onto the roof of the house. The house owner and family members extinguished the fire. Nearby the house, a bottle of oil and two lighters were found. The investigation to find the perpetrators of the arson is ongoing. — *Myanmar News Agency*



The house of the man in charge of 100 households. PHOTO : INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE



PHOTO : INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

Two hand-made mines explode near Lashio

Two hand-made mines exploded in Hopeik village in Lashio at 11 am or so on November 28, but no injuries resulted according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee. Security forces are clearing the site. — *Myanmar News Agency*

11 men suspected of involvement in attacks arrested

THE State Counsellor Office's Information Committee released a news that 11 men suspect of involvement in the October 9 armed attack and its related series of attacks were seized on November

26 and 27 in villages of Maungtau township.

In an area clearance operation, security forces comprising of government troops and the police arrested 11 suspects likely

to get involved in armed attacks — one from Myawchaung village at noon of November 26, two from Wapeik village, one each from Myawtaung, Ywetnyotaung, Bodipyin, Zinpaingnyar and

Thuoolar villages in Maungtau District in the morning of November 27, one from Shwe Zar Alei village in the afternoon of November 27, one from Meti village in the same district at night

on November 27.

Detainees were handed over to respective border guard control police force to have action taken under rules and regulations. — *Myanmar News Agency*



PHOTO : INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE





Smoke rises after airstrikes on the rebel-held al-Sakhour neighborhood of Aleppo, Syria, on 29 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Syrian army seizes key Aleppo area from rebels — Observatory

BEIRUT — The Syrian army and its allies drove rebels from a strategically important area of eastern Aleppo on Monday, the army and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, in an accelerating attack that threatens to crush the opposition in Aleppo.

One rebel official denied the report that al-Sakhour had fallen, an advance that would cut the rebel-held eastern districts of Aleppo in two, while another said the situation was not yet clear. The Observatory said rebels had lost control of more than a third of eastern Aleppo in recent days.

Citing a military

source, Syrian state TV said the army and its allies had seized the entire Sakhour area and were working to clear it of mines. Backed by allied militiamen, the army has been advancing into eastern Aleppo from the northeast since last week, making steady gains over the weekend.

A fighter on the government side in Aleppo said the army and its allies had now driven a wedge through eastern Aleppo, leaving a corridor for rebels to quit the northern part for the south.

“In the coming hours, the rest of the northern sector will be taken,” the fighter told Reuters, declining to be identified be-

cause he is not an official spokesman.

Capturing rebel-held eastern Aleppo would be the biggest victory for President Bashar al-Assad since the start of the Syrian uprising in 2011. Aleppo is the most important urban stronghold of the uprising.

Observatory Director Rami Abdulrahman said government forces were now in effective control of a swathe of eastern Aleppo stretching north from the al-Sakhour neighbourhood, having seized a third of eastern Aleppo in recent days.

“It is the biggest defeat for the opposition in Aleppo since 2012,” he told Reuters. Abdulrahman

said the army and its allies were now in control of an entire swathe of eastern Aleppo stretching north from al-Sakhour.

Part of the northern area was seized by the Kurdish YPG militia, which is hostile to the rebel groups in eastern Aleppo and advanced into the rebel-held territory from the Kurdish-controlled Sheikh Maqsood district, Abdulrahman said.

Backed by the Russian air force, the Syrian army and its allies have been gradually closing in on rebel-held eastern Aleppo this year, besieging it before launching a fierce assault in September.—*Reuters*

One killed, three injured in shooting incident in US state of Louisiana

HOUSTON — One person was killed and three others injured late Sunday afternoon in a shooting incident in Baton Rouge, capital city of the US state of Louisiana.

The shooting occurred about 5:30 pm local time (2330 GMT) at the United Plaza Boulevard in Baton Rouge, and three people were sent to the hospital, one after being hit by gunfire and the other two after being hit by the suspected shooter's vehicle, according to the state's English daily, the *Times-Picayune*.

A police source said that it is believed a man and a woman were traveling together in a car. The man allegedly shot the woman and pushed her out

of the vehicle. EMS staff and some passers-by were trying to help the woman, then the suspect drove his car into the crowd and started shooting, injuring three people.

Louisiana State Police confirmed that the gunman, who killed the woman and fled the scene, was later shot and killed in a shootout with police officers on Sunday night.

Police have begun investigating the cause of the shooting. This is the second shooting incident in the state on Sunday, which also saw a shooting in the state's largest city of New Orleans earlier Sunday morning, which left one person and nine others wounded.—*Xinhua*

Turkey targets foster families in post-coup crackdown

ANKARA — Turkish authorities are investigating foster families for suspected ties to a failed coup and may remove children from homes if their guardians are found to be supporters of the putsch, a government official said on Monday.

The government has so far detained or dismissed 125,000 people over alleged links to the network of Fethullah Gulen, a US-based Muslim cleric accused by Ankara of orchestrating the 15 July coup. Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in the state of Pennsylvania, has denied involvement in the putsch and condemned it.

The scope of the crackdown has alarmed

human rights groups and Turkey's Western allies who fear President Tayyip Erdogan is using the coup as a pretext to curtail dissent. The government says its investigations are necessary to stamp out the influence of Gulen's network, which it refers to as the “Gülenist Terror Organisation”, or “FETO”.

“It would not be right for a child to remain with a (foster) family if links to FETO are confirmed as a result of the examinations,” the official from the Ministry of Family and Social Policy told Reuters.

The official, who declined to be identified, said the investigations had been going on since 23 August.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.11.2016 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC JAVA VOY. NO ()

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PTE LTD

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Resettled in the Baltics, refugees flee for wealthier lands

RUKLA — In early November, 34 Syrian and Iraqi refugees boarded buses heading for Germany from Lithuania, the country where they had been resettled. No one expects them to return.

Only a tiny number of refugees from war in the Middle East have been sent to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, among the European Union's poorest countries. The Baltic states were nobody's first choice. "When we left from Turkey to Greece, our final goal was Germany or Holland," said Mohamed Kamel Haj Ali, 52, once a shopkeeper in Syria, who for the time being still lives in Rukla in Lithuania.

"But the land route from Greece was already closed, so we had no choice but to enter the relocation programme, which brought us here."

Seventy-two out of the 90 Syrians and Iraqis resettled to Lithuania from Greece or Turkey, and granted refugee status under its EU quota, have since left, according to official figures. "The ones who left (for Germany) said they left Syria out of fear of death from bombs, but here they feared they would die from hunger," said Haj Ali. "So they took the risk and left."

Under EU rules, refugees are forbidden to work or claim refuge in other member states. Some destroy their identity documents after leaving the Baltics, in the hope of claiming refugee status anew in richer countries like Germany. But Haj Ali, who is in touch with some of the refugees who took the buses from Lithuania to Germany, says things are better there. "They are satisfied living in a German refugee centre, and are receiving everything they are entitled to," he said. More than half of the 63 refugees given asylum in Latvia under its EU quota have left, according to an estimate by the Latvian Red Cross. The European Union is struggling to implement its 2015 agreement to share 160,000 refugees across 28 member states. —Reuters

Support for Australian PM falls with another legislative compromise

SYDNEY — Support for Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has fallen to its lowest levels since he took office more than a year ago, an opinion poll showed on Monday, potentially loosening his already tenuous grip on power.

Approval ratings for Turnbull had fallen to 46 per cent by 17 November, the Fairfax poll showed, a fall of 4 percentage points from the previous survey in June. With support dwindling, Turnbull has sought to demonstrate his leadership by pushing through several laws that were the centrepiece of his narrow election win in July.

However, a hostile upper house Senate, where Turnbull's conservative coalition failed to gain a clear majority, has fought him at every turn. Political commentators have questioned how long he will survive as prime minister.

In the latest blow, Turnbull was forced to accept another compromise legislative deal on Mon-



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull reacts as he answers questions during a media conference in Parliament House, Canberra, Australia, on 22 November 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

day, this time with a drastic weakening of a planned tax hike on foreign travellers.

The government had originally planned to make foreign travellers on working holiday visas pay tax of 32.5 per cent on every dollar earned. But fierce opposition from farmers, who

said the "backpacker tax" would drain much-needed resources and risk exports, forced Turnbull to reduce the rate by more than half to 15 per cent.

"Compromise is a reality in this parliament that we have before us," Senator Fiona Nash, minister

for regional development, told reporters in Canberra. "We have an outcome that will deliver for farmers." Farmers said the higher tax would discourage holiday workers who make up the bulk of fruit pickers at harvest time, threatening an industry that is set for record

exports of A\$2.27 billion (\$1.70 billion) next season.

Demonstrating his roller-coaster performance as leader, Monday's dramatic compromise came only days after he scored a much-needed victory in parliament with the passage of two other controversial bills last week.

However, Turnbull faces an uphill task in introducing another cornerstone piece of legislation aimed at creating a building industry watchdog. That bill was one of two he used to invoke rarely used powers to dissolve both houses of parliament and call the July election, which he fought on his government's record of economic management.

He has less than a week to push it through before parliament rises for the year.

"... if Turnbull isn't able to pass the building industry legislation, I expect further poll slides," said Haydon Manning, professor of political science at Flinders University. —Reuters

Toshiba targets bigger share of Thai electrical appliance market

BANGKOK — Toshiba Thailand Co. has optimistically forecast consumer spending on electrical appliances will recover next year after leveling off in the past 12 months, helping boost its sales revenue 5 per cent in fiscal year 2017.

Masaaki Kimura, president of Toshiba Thailand, an official distributor of Toshiba brand products, says the

Thai economy will be "better" next year as the government and private sector are trying to boost consumption expenditure while the upcoming traveling season will bring greater spending from inbound visitors.

The proportion of sales revenue from information technology products has decreased from 30 per cent previously to 10 per cent of the

total since a shift in the company's sales strategy from mainly targeting consumers to focusing on corporate customers such as companies, government offices and educational institutes due to their higher demand, according to Kimura.

To build up sales and increase market share, Toshiba has reinforced its product lineup, especially air condi-

tioners, televisions and fridges, for domestic distribution from this yearend to next summer as consumer spending is expected to recover gradually during the period. The Thai air conditioner market is currently running at 1.2 million units worth 12 billion baht (\$336 million) a year, marking a high growth rate of 10 per cent this year thanks to the country's hot

weather. Toshiba launched last Thursday nine air conditioner models, including some with inverter systems, in a bid to offset a decrease in income from IT products as the company sees opportunities to grow in the air conditioner market, aiming to raise its share from the current 2 per cent to 10 per cent in the next four to five years. —Kyodo News



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MV BEST HONOR VOY. NO (-)

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Dr. May San Pwint
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Phone: 09977111291-5
Date: 29 November 2016

Climate change 'threatens Thai fight against illegal fishing'

SAMUT SAKHON, (Thailand) — Climate change threatens to undermine Thailand's efforts to combat illegal fishing and avoid a potential European Union ban on exports by the multi-billion dollar seafood industry, environmental groups say.

They warn that climate change is slowing the recovery of fish stocks in traditional fishing grounds, prompting boats to venture outside Thai waters in search of fish.

"Overfishing plays a major role in the decimation of the fish stock in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, but climate change is just as big a threat," said Suchana Chavanich, a marine biologist at Chulalongkorn University.

"Warmer oceans mean that fish don't grow to their full length. Coral bleaching caused by climate change means fish nurseries and their food sources are also under threat," Suchana said.

Thailand's fish stocks peaked in 2006 at 856,212 tonnes of fish caught in the



Fishermen download the catch at Samut Sakhon port in Thailand, on 22 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gulf of Thailand, according to One Shared Ocean, a group that monitors marine issues.

Four years later it was down to 617,568 tonnes, the last year for which the group has data.

The EU issued a "yellow card" to Thailand in April 2015, warning the country should clean up its poorly regulated fishing industry or face a ban on seafood exports.

Thailand is the world's third-largest seafood exporter, shipping \$7 billion worth

of fish and seafood products in 2013, according to fisheries department data.

Exports to the EU were 481 million euros (\$511 million) last year, EU figures show.

Since the EU "yellow card", the Thai government said it has registered most of its fishing fleet and banned ships fitted with push nets and bottom trawling equipment from going to sea.

As a result, more than 3,500 fishing boats have been unable to leave port for at least a year, according to

the Thai Overseas Fisheries Association.

Earlier this month, the last of 48 boats seized during operations against illegal fishing were sunk off the Thai coast in an effort to create artificial coral reefs for tourism.

The EU said it is working with Thailand on implementing an action plan and no deadline has been set for a decision. "The dialogue with the Thai authorities is ongoing," Enrico Brivio, spokesperson for Environment, Maritime and Fisheries, said in an emailed statement.

While the government has sought to avoid an EU ban, it has not done enough to address the effects of climate change on marine aquaculture, said Anchalee Pipattanawattanakul, an ocean researcher at Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

"Any recovery made by fish stocks from the government's new illegal fishing initiatives are threatened in the long term by warming oceans," Anchalee said. — Reuters

Incoming UN chief places high hopes on China's greater role

BEIJING — The United Nations' incoming secretary-general on Monday placed high hopes on China's greater role in making the world a more peaceful place.

"Cooperation between China and the UN is absolutely essential," Antonio Guterres, a former Portuguese prime minister, who will begin his five-year term as the new UN chief on 1 January, said in Beijing.

"China can play a very important role in the diplomacy for peace that the world badly needs."

Speaking to the press following a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Guterres praised China for being a "solid pillar" of the world's multilateralism, and one of the largest financial supporters of the United Nations and its activities.

He also spoke highly of recent China-led programs, such as the establishment of the Asian

Infrastructure Investment Bank and the "One Belt and One Road" initiative aimed at promoting regional connectivity, as fruitful contributions to the world's sustainable development. At the same time, Guterres, also a former UN high commissioner for refugees, did not forget to say that when he runs the world body, he attaches top priority to making sure that universal principles, including human, political and social rights, will be respected.

Wang said China believes "the purposes and the principles of the UN Charter serve as the basic norms governing contemporary international relations."

The foreign minister said he and Guterres agree to leverage the influence of the United Nations, underscoring that no country in the world can succeed in overcoming today's numerous global challenges "alone." —Kyodo News

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'Moana' Tops Thanksgiving Box Office, 'Rules Don't Apply' Bombs, 'Allied' and 'Bad Santa 2' Stumble

LOS ANGELES — Disney's "Moana" sailed to the top of the Thanksgiving box office, earning a mighty \$81.1 million over the five day holiday period and \$55.5 million for the weekend.

Its success builds on the studio's hot streak. Disney has released five of the year's ten highest grossing films, is the leader in terms of market share, and is poised to set a new record for annual grosses. Its hits include "Captain America: Civil War," "Zootopia," "Doctor Strange," "Finding Dory," "The Jungle Book," and now "Moana," with "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" waiting in the wings.

Disney distribution chief Dave Hollis said that the success of "Moana" and others like it justified the company's decision to make fewer films, while taking bigger bets. Part of that strategy involved shelling out billions of dollars to buy Pixar, Marvel, and LucasFilm, the brands behind "Toy Story," "The Avengers," and "Star Wars."

"We are working with the greatest brands and we're doing big, broad storytelling that resonates domestically, but has the power to transcend borders and languages and cultures around the world," said Hollis.

While "Moana" thrived, other new releases weren't as fortunate. Paramount's "Allied" earned \$18 million over the five-day period and \$13 million for the weekend, a weak result given its \$85 million budget. The film stars Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard as spies who marry only to have their love affair become entangled in a larger conspiracy. Robert Zemeckis ("Flight") directed the picture.

Pitt has gone through a bruising divorce from Angelina Jolie that limited his participation in publicizing the film. The actor didn't do television interviews or magazine spreads, which might have helped raise "Allied's" profile. The film also drew a much older crowd, with 39% of ticket-buyers coming in over the age of 50. Paramount suggested that might mean that its core group of ticket buyers may be slower to embrace the picture, even as it acknowledged that the results were disappointing. "It's just okay, and over Thanksgiving you always hope for something a little better than okay," said Megan Colligan, Paramount's head of marketing and distribution. "The bright spot is that there's not a lot of competition in the marketplace over the next few weeks and our audience takes



Alan Tudyk, Rachel House, Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Nicole Scherzinger and Temuera Morrison. PHOTO: REUTERS

a minute to get to the theater." Paramount is coming off a series of bruising failures such as "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows" and "Zoolander 2." As its parent company, Viacom, prepares to merge with CBS, there are questions about studio chief Brad Grey's leadership of Paramount. Last month, Grey hosted a preview of the studio's film slate for media, during which "Allied" was positioned as a key component in Paramount's revival. The studio did enjoy a hit with "Arrival," a brainy sci-fi thriller, but after "Allied's" struggles, it will now have to look to "Fences" and "Silence," two awards hopefuls from Denzel Washington and Martin Scorsese, to close out the year on a high note.

Broad Green and Miramax's "Bad Santa 2" also failed to ignite. The follow-up to the 2003 cult comedy "Bad Santa" earned \$9 million over the five day stretch and \$6.1 million for the weekend. It cost \$25 million to produce and had been tracking to open in the mid-teen millions. Broad Green, a newcomer to film distribution, has also been floundering of late. It has released a number of flops and disappointments such as "The Infiltrator," a thriller by Bryan Cranston, and "99 Homes," a drama with Andrew Garfield, and has only had one true breakout hit with "A Walk in the Woods," a Robert Redford comedy that debuted last year.

Warren Beatty's "Rules Don't Apply" was roundly rejected by

moviegoers. The romantic comedy about Howard Hughes bombed, earning a disastrous \$2.2 million over five days and \$1.6 million over the weekend. Beatty hasn't been on screens in more than a decade and has spent years trying to assemble financing for the film. Hughes, the famously reclusive billionaire was something of an obsession for the actor. To realize the passion projection, Beatty tapped a network of one-percenters that includes Steve Bing, Steven Mnuchin, and Ron Burkle to pull together "Rules Don't Apply's" \$25 million budget. Fox is distributing the picture. Its opening is one of the worst ever recorded for a movie that debuted on more than 2,000 screens.—Reuters

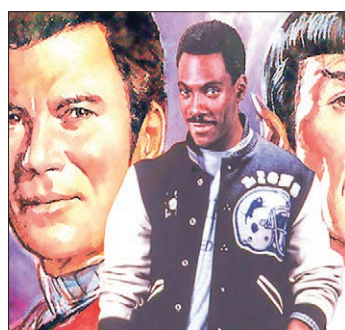
Star Trek IV writer reveals how Eddie Murphy lost role in film

LOS ANGELES — Steve Meerson, the screenwriter of Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home, says they had originally written a small part for actor Eddie Murphy in the film but when his casting deal fell through, they worked on the character of Catherine Hicks.

Meerson worked on the screenplay with his writing partner Peter Krikes. The duo wrote somewhere between seven and 10 outlines, with the final one getting approval. It included a role for Murphy that never would materialize, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"It was always the same story that got approved, but the original draft included a part for Eddie Murphy. Eddie was on the lot at Paramount at the time and arguably was the biggest star in the world. They had told us he was a huge Star Trek fan," he said.

Murphy was going to play an astrophysicist at Berkeley, and the original story did not include Dr Gillian Taylor, which



Steve Meerson. PHOTO: PTI

was played by Hicks.

Eventually, Murphy's deal got canceled and Gillian Taylor was worked into the script to replace him.

"At the beginning of the process, it was actually a lot of fun. As the process progressed, it became less fun, because it became more political. And I don't say that with any bitterness.

"It's just the way things work in all businesses. We began to feel like at a certain point that this was going to be taken away from us, which in fact, it was," Meerson said.—PTI

Robert De Niro wants to work with Martin Scorsese, Leonardo DiCaprio in same movie

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actor Robert De Niro, who collaborated with Martin Scorsese on classics like GoodFellas, Taxi Driver and Raging Bull, would love to work with the director alongside Leonardo DiCaprio. The 73-year-old star, who had one of the most successful collaborations with Scorsese in many films, says Titanic star has a similar kind of bond with Scorsese, having worked with him on five movies, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"Leo loves Marty the way I do, so it's great. I'd love for the three of us to do something," he said. De Niro also revealed that Scorsese asked him to appear in DiCaprio-starrer Gangs of New York and The Departed but his scheduling issues got in the way. The actor is set to reunite with Scorsese, Heat co-star Al Pacino and GoodFellas and Casino co-star Joe Pesci on the film The Irishman. The film will hit theaters in 2018.

Meanwhile, Robert De Niro



Robert De Niro, who collaborated with Martin Scorsese on classics like GoodFellas, Taxi Driver and Raging Bull, would love to work with the director alongside Leonardo DiCaprio. PHOTO: PTI

refused to pose for a picture with Arnold Schwarzenegger at a VIP cocktail reception here. "If you're supporting Trump, I want nothing to do with you," said De Niro, 73, after refusing to pose for a photograph with Schwarzenegger, the former Republican governor of California.

The Friends of the Israel De-

fence Forces Western Regional Gala was held in Beverly Hills, reported Variety. "Are you voting for Trump?" De Niro kept asking Schwarzenegger, 69. The Terminator star tweeted on 8 October that he would not be voting for Trump, he still has not made clear for whom he will be voting.—PTI

Pressed for successful games, Koike hopes to learn from Rio Games

TOKYO — Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike said she feels pressed to host a successful Olympics in 2020 as the International Olympic Committee's three-day debriefing session of the Rio Games got under way Monday.

"With the world watching, I accepted the two flags of the Olympics and Paralympics from the (Rio) mayor and felt then that it is now Tokyo's turn," Koike said. "The flag itself was not heavy, but the burden of responsibility which comes along with it was."

"We need to capitalize on the experience from the Rio Games as we prepare for 2020."

The IOC, together with the International Paralympic Committee and the Rio organizing committee, is holding a series of workshops in Tokyo to transfer knowledge to the host cities of the next three Olympics — Pyeongchang (2018), Tokyo (2020) and Beijing (2022).

The bidders of the 2024 Summer Games — Los Angeles, Budapest and Paris — are also attending.

IOC President Thomas Bach, who is not here for the debriefing which will be followed by a meeting of the 2020 coordination commission on Thursday and Friday, said in a video message that

with Rio now over, Tokyo is the IOC's priority.

"It is important for Rio 2016 to share the experience with future host cities," Bach said. "So it is great that representatives from Pyeongchang 2018, Tokyo 2020 and Beijing are all joining the discussions."

"Now, all our attention turns to Tokyo, to build on Rio's success and write the next chapter of the Olympic Games. I'm confident that the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 can be a transformative moment for all of Japan."

Swirling the debriefing will be the matter of Tokyo's budget, which the organizing committee is trying to keep to around 2 trillion yen, after the metropolitan government esti-

mated total costs could hit 3 trillion yen.

Some sense of direction is expected to be given Tuesday, when top officials of a four-party working group including the Japanese and Tokyo metropolitan governments, the IOC and 2020 organisers are scheduled to meet.

A decision on the venues for the swimming, volleyball and rowing/canoe sprint is set to be announced in conjunction with the overall budget, which has caused national uproar and has been a target of Koike's aggressive reform panel along with the Tsukiji fish market move.

Tokyo is hoping to take a few cost-cutting tips from Rio during the debriefing.

"In the organisation in

Brazil, a lot of attention was given to cutting costs," said Toshiro Muto, chief executive officer of the 2020 organizing committee.

"The use of overlay at the venues was noticeable, and using not just taxpayers' money but private funding was also noticeable. It was an important suggestion made to us."

Rio organisers urged Tokyo to work fast and play nice.

"The clock is ticking," said Nawal El Moutawakel, who chaired the coordination commission for Rio. "There is no time to lose at any moment so keep on the pressure and work hand in hand. The Tokyo team really needs to be united and speak one language and have one goal."

—Kyodo News



A panel discussion is held in Tokyo on 28 November 2016, as part of a three-day debriefing session on the Rio de Janeiro Olympics for the 2020 Tokyo Games. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



A tourist takes photos of stone sculptures at Jianling Mausoleum, the tomb of Emperor Suzong of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), in Liquan County, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 27 November 2016. The ancient tomb sculptures occupy a very important position in the history of Chinese art, its distinctive style features directly from Chinese traditional culture, especially in the Tang Dynasty. PHOTO: XINHUA

10 of Japan's 48 shelters for women almost unused: survey

TOKYO — Ten of the 48 public shelters for women suffering from abuse or poverty in Japan are unused or had only one person staying in fiscal 2015, with support groups calling for easing strict regulations on use, a survey by Kyodo News showed Monday.

The 48 public shelters for women in need of help are located in 39 prefectures, mostly run by prefectural governments, to offer support and job training to allow them to lead independent lives.

Many such shelters accept people with a mild degree of psychological disorder and intellectual disability, with users usually staying for more than a month, sometimes over a year. Public shelters usually have capacity for five to 30 people.

They were originally set up to shelter former prostitutes after prostitution was banned in Japan in 1956 and later came to support domestic violence victims, women in poverty and others.

The survey found that three shelters in Ibaraki, Saitama and Yamaguchi prefectures had no admissions and seven shelters in seven prefectures, such as Akita and Ehime, had only one resident.

The low level of usage is believed to reflect strict regulations imposed due to increased needs to shelter victims of domestic violence. Most of the 10 shelters with no or only one resident offer temporary protection for victims

of domestic violence.

To prevent the leakage of information about the victims of domestic violence, including their whereabouts, the facilities have taken the policy of accepting only those who pledge to adhere to strict rules on the ownership of mobile phones and going outside.

A shelter official said many women also dislike rules for group living and that even if they need a long-term support, they are refusing to enter the shelters.

The situation stands in stark contrast to the flooding of some private shelters by women in need of help, a member of a supporters group said.

"It is necessary to revise rules on facility use to make it easier to use for women who've come to a dead end and are asking for help," said Ikuko Abe, a professor at Fukushima University's graduate school.

Among the 48 facilities, there are shelters with many admissions, with six shelters in six prefectures such as Miyagi and Kagawa having more than 21 residents each. Five shelters in Tokyo have a combined 80 residents and two shelters in Osaka had a total of 158 residents, according to the survey.

Many of those facilities said they in principle tried to accept women who have no place to go by bending the guidelines on the conditions of use. —Kyodo News

Aliens land the prize at Hong Kong Flugtag

HONG KONG — Spacehips, flying lobsters and a team based on characters from the hit mobile game "Angry Birds" attempted lift-off from Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour at the annual Red Bull Flugtag competition.

Hundreds of specta-

tors watched in amusement on Sunday as the 41 teams presented their handmade aircrafts to the crowd before mostly belly-flopping flat into the water off the six-meter (19.6 ft) flight deck.

"Chinese always have this problem to express their fun part, so I think this event

really helped Hong Kong culturally, to help express themselves to do something crazy and wild," said Charlton Lau, an engineer.

The international Flugtag — German for 'flight day' — started in Austria in 1992 as a way to instill ingenuity and bravery.

Team "Blank Space" won Sunday's Hong Kong event, flying 15 meters (49 ft) through the air in a creative device shaped like a green alien spaceship. The event, which has been held in more than 40 countries around the world, is not for the fainthearted. —Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(29-11-2016 07:00 AM ~ 30-11-2016 07:00 AM) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Home Grown Treasure (Part-1)
08:45	Am	Home Grown Treasure (Part-2)
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw
09:44	Am	Myanmar Betels
10:03	Am	News

10:25	Am	Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
10:50	Am	Today Myanmar: Seat Belt & Road Safety

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday 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
07:27	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Shan Style Clay Pot)
08:45	Pm	Chef Life: Avi Bitton (Israeli Chef)

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

Argentina beat Croatia to clinch maiden Davis Cup title

ZAGREB — Argentina lifted their first Davis Cup title after Juan Martin Del Potro and Federico Delbonis won Sunday's reverse singles to complete the South American nation's spectacular comeback in a 3-2 victory over hosts Croatia in the final.

Del Potro fought back from two sets down to beat Marin Cilic 6-7(4), 2-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-3 before Delbonis swept aside Ivo Karlovic 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in the decisive rubber, sparking wild celebrations among several thousand away fans in the Zagreb Arena.

Argentina joined the list of Davis Cup winners after losing all four finals they had previously contested and their dismal record in the title showdown appeared set to continue when Cilic came within a set of clinching Croatia's second title.

The 2005 winners saw the red carpet pulled from under their feet, however, as a battling Del Potro launched a ferocious comeback and played through the fifth set with a broken finger on his left hand.

"It happened when I tried to catch a ball in the fifth set," Del Potro, who had struggled with wrist injuries in recent years, told a news conference before rushing back courtside to watch



Argentina's Leonardo Mayer, Guido Pella, Federico Delbonis, Juan Martin del Potro and Daniel Orsanic pose with the trophy during the victory ceremony at Arena Zagreb, Croatia, on 27 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

Delbonis pick apart Karlovic.

"This was an emotionally exhausting match and one of the biggest wins of my career. Thanks to all those who prevented me from retiring, I was very close to never playing again and, well, here I am."

Having clinched the opening

set tiebreak, Cilic raced through the second set before Del Potro, who improved his record against the Croatian to 9-2 in all competitions, started his comeback with a passing shot between his legs.

He broke Cilic's serve in the ninth game of the fourth set and

then held his own to draw level but fell behind again at the start of the fifth, handing the initiative back to the home crowd favourite.

Once again Del Potro showed nerves of steel and the heart of a lion as he broke straight back and forced the final twist to

seal the contest in four hours 53 minutes, laying the path for Delbonis to finish the job.

His team mate did so superbly, holding serve throughout his one-sided contest with Karlovic as he kept running the Croatian ragged with punishing baseline shots.

The Argentine fans, including the country's former football World Cup winner Diego Maradona in the VIP box, treated their team to a standing ovation at the end of the tie as disappointed home supporters left the Zagreb Arena in a hurry.

Argentina coach Daniel Orsanic, who has Croatian roots, heaped praise on all his players but singled out Del Potro's heroics.

"What Del Potro did was amazing. He represents his country with so much pride and he also showed how good a player he is," he said.

"His achievement today borders on the impossible, while Federico played a perfect match and was on top of every ball throughout the contest."

A delighted Delbonis added: "The team captain elected me to play the final rubber but anyone on this team is always ready to step up."—Reuters

Serie A leaders Juventus blown away by Genoa in half an hour

MILAN — Genoa blew away Serie A leaders Juventus on Sunday, getting three goals in an astonishing first half-hour on the way to a pulsating 3-1 win.

Giovanni Simeone, the 21-year-old son of Atletico Madrid coach Diego, scored twice in the first 15 minutes before Alex Sandro put through his own goal on a miserable afternoon for the Turin side.

Miralem Pjanic pulled one back for the titleholders when he curled in a free kick in the 82nd minute.

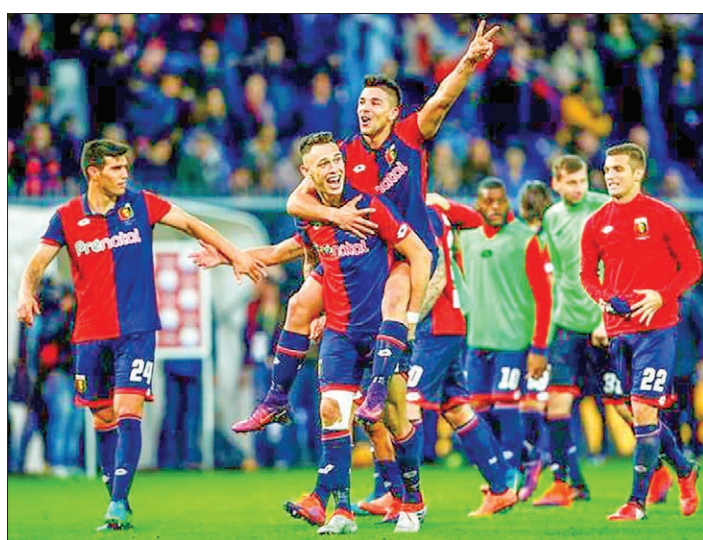
It was the first time since October 2005 that Juventus had conceded three goals in the first half of a Serie A match.

Juve's defeat was good news for the title race as it allowed AS Roma and AC Milan to move within four points of them.

Roma beat Pescara 3-2 in the late game, thanks for a flying start by Edin Dzeko who scored twice in the first 10 minutes to take his tally for the season to 12.

Milan had won 4-1 at Empoli on Saturday. Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri recognised that his side had been outmuscled by their opponents.

"There's only one way to



Genoa's Lucas Ocampos and Giovanni Simeone celebrate at the end of the match at Luigi Ferraris stadium, Genoa, Italy, on 27 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

sum up the game: we suffered 25 fouls and we only committed eight ourselves, and when you suffer physically, then you are going to lose the game," he said.

Genoa, ninth in the table with 19 points, went ahead with an extraordinary goal after just three minutes.

Juventus defender Leonardo Bonucci lost possession and Luca Rigoni sprinted clear.

His shot was parried by

Gianluigi Buffon, who also saved the rebound from Lucas Ocampos and then another effort from Simeone before the Argentine forward scored at the fourth attempt.

Ten minutes later, a flowing move found Darko Lazovic on the right and he turned Sandro inside out before delivering a low cross which Simeone met with a diving header to score the second.—Reuters

Germany has a new F1 champion but race in doubt

ABU DHABI — Germany has a new Formula One world champion in Nico Rosberg, after Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel, but fans may not see him race on home soil next season.

The German Grand Prix, absent in 2015, is set to be struck off again in 2017 for financial reasons and Rosberg's dominant Mercedes team say there is little they can do about it.

"We are hearing various rumours," motorsport head Toto Wolff said at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, where Rosberg clinched the title.

"Having a German Grand Prix is part of the history, and especially for us as Mercedes with our factories nearby and many fans in Germany. It is important to race in Germany."

Wolff said Mercedes had offered financial and marketing support in the past but it was not taken up. There had been no such talks this time.

Hockenheim boss Georg Seiler told German media last week that the economic risks of his circuit hosting the event in successive years were too great. Only 57,000 fans attended on race Sunday this year.

Next July would have been

the Nuerburgring's turn under an alternation agreement that collapsed when that circuit changed owners.

Germany was listed on a provisional 21-race 2017 schedule with an asterisk but Formula One's commercial supremo Bernie Ecclestone has indicated it will be dropped.

Asked why Germany had seemingly fallen out of love with the sport, despite Mercedes winning both drivers' and constructors' championships for three years running, Wolff — an Austrian — suggested various reasons.

"I have the theory, and it's a personal view, that there is a bit of a hangover after all those years of dominance of Sebastian and Michael," he told Reuters. "The Germans have won it all."

"You can see that it's coming in cycles, how there are other sports like the football team (reigning world champions) that is of great interest and it might change with different drivers, maybe with Nico winning a championship," he added.

"It would be really great if we could re-ignite the passion of the German fans in the same way Michael was able to achieve it 20 years ago."—Reuters