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Thursday, 1 December 2016



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong inspect the guard of honour. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives ceremonial welcome in Singapore

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is on an official visit to Singapore, met with Singaporean businessmen at the Shangri-La Hotel yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were the Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr

Vivian Balakrishnan, the Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Lim Hng Kiang, officials and Singaporean businessmen.

The State Counsellor explained the economic and investment policies of Myanmar and opportunities for investment in Myanmar and responded to ques-

tion raised by the businessmen.

In the evening, the State Counsellor received a ceremonial welcome at the Istana, the official residence of the president of Singapore, by Prime Minister Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Singapore's prime minister and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspected the guard

of honour before she signed the visitor's book.

The state counsellor then held talks with the Singaporean prime minister on negotiations between Singapore and Myanmar on a Bilateral Investment Treaty, the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement signed by the two countries

in 1999 and a 3-year extension of the MoU on Myanmar-Singapore Vocational Training and flights for Singapore Airlines between the two countries.

Last night, the State Counsellor attended a dinner hosted by the prime minister of Singapore.—Myanmar News Agency

Vice President U Myint Swe presents literary awards

VICE President U Myint Swe urged Myanmar writers to contribute to the development of the country at the literary awards presentation ceremony at the National Theatre in Yangon yesterday.

"Writers are urged to participate in the developmental trends of the country with the belief that

the profession of writing is a form of performing national duty in accordance with the advice of Doyen Literati Sayagyi Zaw Gyi" U Myint Swe said. "A good piece of writing can only be created with goodwill".

The literature, culture and arts of Myanmar people have been

thriving for thousands of years, and as Theravada Buddhists, Myanmar monks and laymen literati of the ancient times created their work out of the Buddhist principles like 38 kinds of auspiciousness and commiseration, promoting the status of Myanmar literature and culture, according to the vice president.

The vice president said literature is the main pillar of other forms of arts such as movies, music and performing arts and is a field where national identity and culture are fully reflected. There is a saying, he said: "High literary standards reflect the prestige of race."

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Vice President U Myint Swe.

PHOTO: MNA



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Vice President U Myint Swe presents literary awards



Vice President U Myint Swe posing for a documentary photo with the prize winners. PHOTO: MNA

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Therefore, the vice president said that the government presents prizes for good literary work every year to honor writers and doyen literati.

At the end of the ceremony, the vice president urged writers to create literary works that can promote the image of the country.

Prize-winning literary books in 16 categories were selected by a 68-member board of literary scholars and experienced publishers from 480 books that

were published for the first time in 2015.

Lifelong Literary Awards went to Sayagyi U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) and Dr Lwin Lwin Mon (Professor of Anthropology, Yadanabon University), who accepted the prize on behalf of her father Sayagyi U Win Mon (Tekkatho Win Mon).

Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, U Thein Swe and U Ohn Maung and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein presented national literary

awards to the other winners.

After the ceremony, the vice president and party posed for documentary photos with the prize winners.

Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myo Zaw Thein presented Ks1.5 million each, honoraria of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, to the two winners of lifelong national literary awards.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representative invited to debate foreign loans



Dr Than Win. PHOTO: MNA

LAND should be confiscated in the interest of the people: said Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

The State is the original and rightful owner of all land in the country, and as a result it is advisable that the state is entitled to confiscate and manage land as some people are monopolising farmland with the intention of using the land for other purposes, which leads to skyrocketing prices of land for local and foreign



U Maung Maung Win. PHOTO: MNA

investors, says the finding of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

The commission also recommended that some land should be confiscated at appropriate prices in the interests of the people.

Dr Than Win, Vice Chairman-2 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, was submitting its findings on the national land use policy to the fifth day session of the Py-

idaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

The findings suggested that the union government or state/region governments confiscated land monopolised by some people and to manage the land effectively in the interests of the country and the people.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session today also approved transfers of duties of some officials and members of Hluttaw committees and the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win clarified to take foreign loans including US\$61.3 million for Twantay Canal from Korea, ¥93,970 million from Japan for agricultural and rural development which focuses on Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady Region, Mandalay Region and western parts of Bago Region in the 2017 fiscal year and Yangon Region, Mon State and Shan State (North) in the 2018-19 fiscal year, loans from Japan to renovate roads in different parts of the country and a loan of ¥6,650 million from Japan for poverty reduction in states. Representatives were invited to debate the matters in future sessions.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Export entrepreneurs hope for reopening Maungtau Border Trade Zone as soon as possible

U AUNG Myint Thein, chairman of Maungtau border trade's merchants association said, "After a series of October 9 armed attack, Maungtau border trade had been suspended. Goods which needed to be exported essentially were transported during November 14 to November 18 by linking with the neighboring country, but it stopped now due to the current situations. For this, medium-sized merchants faced no disadvantage. For suspending the export of bamboo that is difficult to move from one place to another, it may cause in the long run, losses to reach up to kyats several billion. According to the merchants, bamboos are now beginning to bend down.

Now is the time for export-

ing prawns, and if they cannot be exported in time, it will affect merchants a lot. If and when the situations are coming stable and peaceful, we will try to reopen the border trade zone promptly."

There are two border trade zones in Rakhine State—Maungtau & Sittwe trade zones. Under the current situation, Maungtau trade zone from which fresh salty-water-prawn, dried fish and bamboos are mainly exported to Bangladesh, is still being closed.

Out of the targeted export amount for the current year—US\$ 6 million, the statistics as of month of Mid-November shows that the amount reached US\$ 3.620 million, it is learnt.—*A I Soe*



U Thant Zin Maung, minister for transportation and communications and his wife Daw Khin Than Aye are welcomed by Japanese Ambassador

H.E. Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI and wife at the reception to mark the Birthday of Japanese Emperor in Yangon yesterday.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Thura U Shwe Mann receives Mr. Hong Liang, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann meets Chinese Ambassador

THURA U Shwe Mann, chairman of Legal and Special Cases Assessment Committee of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, received H.E. Mr. Hong Liang, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday.

Present at the call were U Ko Ko Naing, vice chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and member U San Shwe Aung.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor in Singapore for official visit

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Singapore yesterday for an official visit at the invitation of Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

The Myanmar delegation led by the State Counsellor left Yangon for the host country yesterday morning. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was accompanied by

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of

Planning and Finance. The delegation arrived at Singapore's Changi International Airport at 12.40 p.m. They were welcomed by Singapore's Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Vivian Balakrishnan, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Htay Aung and officials from Myanmar embassy and the Military Attaché Office.—Myanmar News Agency



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi seen before departure for Singapore. PHOTO: MNA



Singapore Prime Minister presenting a souvenir. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor being welcomed upon arrival at Singapore. PHOTO: MNA



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting the Singaporean entrepreneurs. PHOTO: MNA

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR AT SEDONA

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 2017!

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USD 139 nett per person	(Pool Side)
USD 129 nett per person	(Pool Side)
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SEDONA
YANGON

Street vendors not satisfied with YCDC's arrangement

STREET vendors from Lanmadaw, Pabedan, Latha and Kyauktada do not have enough space to sell their wares on Strand Road, according to street vendors on Monday at a press conference.

Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) took photos of the shops to give a space to the vendors to sell on Strand Road, but it was discovered that some were not granted a space to sell.

"We welcome the night market, but there is not enough space. Today's press conference is held for those vendors who are not given a space at the market," said Ko Aung, a street vendor from Lamadaw Township.

"We were photographed individually, but we are not included on their list to provide with stalls. I heard that they will relocate all the street vendors at the end of this month. It will be very difficult for us to earn a living," said a street vendor from Lamadaw township.

"The difficulty in the night market is to have enough space for the shops. Currently, the fruit shops are given four-by-four feet

and the eat shops are eight-by-eight feet. I think the random selection with a lucky draw is not right. Some vendors are given places without participating in the lucky draw. Some don't have shops although they are listed", said U Than Oo, who has been selling fruit in downtown Yangon since 1982.

"I inspected the night market on Strand Road. I found that some of the shops are too narrow. So, the regional government will reconsider it. This is just a temporary arrangement. The government hopes to find alternative ways for the street vendors who do not have a space to sell their goods," said Regional Hluttaw Lanmadaw township Constituency2 representative U Kyaw Tun. About 1,600 out of more than 7,000 street vendors have been granted spaces at the newly opened night market. They can sell their wares from 3pm to 10pm daily. Vendors have been moved from downtown streets to the Strand Road night market since November 21.

— Myitmakha News Agency

Nocturnal Convoy Patrols in Uttara Thiri District



UNDER the instruction of the chief of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Colonel Zaw Khin Aung, nighttime convoy patrols are being made with increasing

frequency to achieve peace and stability in the area, implement the rule of law and take precautionary measures for eradicating crimes, it is learnt.

In performing these nocturnal patrols under the close supervision of Col Lay Soe, the combined force comprising the deputy chief of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, the chief of the Uttara district Police Lt Col Thein Win and township heads of the police stations, Myoma Police officers and policemen, the convoys are equipped with flashing lights and will concentrate around the Upata Thanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw Station Road, Mingalarzay, Ocean Center, Yazathingaha housing estate 1 and 2, in front of Hluttaw, Wunna Theikdi section, Yenathar ward and main market place and congested roads, it is learnt.—Min Min Latt / Mandalay University

Immigration checkpoint to reopen at 16 mile in 2017

AN immigration checkpoint will be reopened at 16-mile, Pathingyi Township, Mandalay district in 2017, it is learnt from the Mandalay region government.

The immigration checkpoint was closed last year because of the numerous checkpoints in the area. A decision was made to close the checkpoint so as not to burden people unnecessarily with gate fees. But police have now submitted a proposal to the regional government to reopen

the checkpoint.

"Currently, they are having discussions to restore the checkpoint. So, the immigration department will open a gate soon there," U Myo Thit, Mandalay Region Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry.

The immigration checkpoint will inspect visas and conduct visa extensions. One official said a recent incident prompted the reopening.

"While the immigration de-

partment was preparing to file a case against a Chinese couple in November, 2016, they couple fled to China. So, they are planning to restore the checkpoint," said an official from Immigration Department.

The immigration department is planning to open checkpoints in the 16-mile gate, Shwegyin gate, Tagundin gate, Yadanarbon bridge gate and Myit Nge bridge gate.

— Myitmakha News Agency

Child abuse cases double this year in Mandalay

Aung Thant Khaing

THE number of child rape cases has doubled in Mandalay Region this year, according to the record of the region police force.

Investigators say a total of 119 rape cases including nearly 70 recorded cases relating to child sex abuse happened in the region between January and November 25. The number of child rape cases increased by 38 compared with the same period last year.

Police recorded 75 rape cases including 31 child abuse cases in 2015. In 2014, police filed 58 rape cases including a half of child abuse cases. A total of 75 rape cases covering 28 child abuse cases occurred in the re-

gion in 2013.

Local people forced authorities to enhance sentences for dangerous offenders participated in child sexual assault, a serious form of rape, through two-day campaign on 25 and 16 November.

In recent case on 26 November, a seven-year-old boy and a four-year-old girl were sexually abused by a 40-year-old man near Mandalay Railway Station.

According to nationwide figures, a total of 762 rape cases, including 380 child abuse cases, occurred this year as of the end of October. The number of child abuse cases increased by 150 compared with similar period last year.

White ribbon movement launched in Mandalay

A White Ribbon Movement to promote the protection of women against violence was launched in five townships in Mandalay Region on 25 November and will continue until 10 December.

The movement is being launched with the objectives of making people aware of discrimination against women, engag-

ing people in efforts to reduce violence against women and ensuring peace at home as well as around the world.

The movement involves entertainment, talks and distribution of white ribbons at busy public places, markets and car parking lots.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Crime NEWS



An accident yesterday on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway involving an overturned truck resulted in injuries to 13 people. PHOTO: MPF

13 injured when light truck overturns on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

THIRTEEN people were injured when a light truck overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway between mileposts 261/6 and 261/7 yesterday morning.

The truck, driven by Ko Myo, was en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay when the driver lost control.

Thirteen out of the 24 passengers on board were injured and taken to Meikhtila General Hospital for treatment. Their injuries were described as non-life threatening. Ko Myo has been charged with reckless driving by Pay Pin Lay Highway Police.—Than Oo (Lemyethna)

Yaba seized in Kengtung

AN anti-narcotics squad from Kengtung searched a motorcycle driven by Pat Lo near Par Hote upper village, Tar Pin village-tract, Kengtung Township on Tuesday and found 1,160 yaba pills, Ks77,500 and a phone handset. Police have filed charges against Pat Lo, 20, under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Law.—Myanmar Police Force

Yaba and heroin seized in Htigyaing

LOCAL police from Htigyaing Myoma police station arrested a woman with yaba tablets at Ywar Thitkon village, Htigyaing township, Sagaing region yesterday.

Acting on a tip off, police searched the house of Ma Yee Wai Hlaing and found heroin weighing 0.27216 grams and 109 yaba tablets.

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

LOCAL Business

Entry card for Singapore Tour available at Silk Air counter during layover period in transit

WITH Singapore-Myanmar visa exemptions for the citizens coming into force starting 1 December, the entry card for Singapore tours can be purchased at the Silk Air counter at Changi Airport, said Ms. Jeanette Lee, managing director of Singapore Airlines.

The airline will offer transit facilities such as the Singapore Explorer Pass. There are two different Singapore tours: City Sight Tour and Heritage Tour. The Heritage Tour runs 4 times daily and the City Sights Tour runs 2 times daily. While your transit has at least 5 hours and

more, you can join Heritage tour. And if it's 6 hours or more, you can enjoy the City Sights Tour.

This one-day Singapore Explorer pass includes Merlion Park, a landmark tourist attraction, and can also experience a multi-sensory buzz in vibrant Chinatown or bustling Kampong Glam. Visitors can explore a panoramic view of the city, with a backdrop of the Singapore Flyer and Gardens by the Bay. The entry card costs US\$43, which can access up to 18 places without additional charge.—200

Pea price plunges due to low demand from India

WITH the decreasing demand from India due to a currency upheaval, the price of mung bean plunged by around Ks200,000 per tonne, according to Bayintnaung pea market. India is the largest buyer of various kinds of Myanmar peas.

India's prime minister announced on 8 November that all 500 and 1,000 rupee notes — India's most popular denominations that constitute 86 per cent of the country's currency, have been ordered to be removed from circulation within 50 days. People across India have been standing in long lines at banks and ATMs to exchange more than 23 billion notes before they become worth-

less pieces of paper.

The price of mung beans was nearly Ks1.5million in October, but pea prices began to decline in early November, soon after India's currency edict was handed down. The current prevailing prices of peas per tonne is around Ks1,290,000, whereas pigeon peas are selling for about Ks900,000 per tonne.

Most of the merchants have sold their stocks because the harvest time for peas is drawing nearer. The peas harvest begins in January and various peas produced from all the peas producing townships in the country will be seen in the pea markets and depots in February.—*Mon Mon*

SuPwar deposit account introduced by KBZ bank

KANBAWZA (KBZ) Bank has introduced the Su Pwar deposit account, which can gain a higher interest rate than the rate from a savings deposit account. The Su Pwar deposit account can be opened starting from 1st December, it is learnt from Kanbawza.

Those savers in SuPwar deposit account can enjoy an interest rate of 9.25 per cent for 1 year, 9.50 per cent for 2 years and 10 per cent for three years.

This account can bring more benefits to savers who can easily check their account

balance and monthly interest through the use of KBZ iBanking. If the savers do not continue to pay in their SuPwar deposit account, they can still get the interest rate of 8.25 per cent provided by the saving deposit account. If they delay for any reason, KBZ bank gives a grace period of 5 working days before the account is shut down.

Those interested can open the SuPwar deposit account in any branch of KBZ bank in the nation. For further information, please dial 012306219.—200

Mizuho Bank and MAX Myanmar inked an MoU for business cooperation

MIZUHO Bank and Max Myanmar Holdings signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for business cooperation with an aim at facilitating foreign direct investment (FDI) in Myanmar by Japanese companies. Mizuho Bank will be the first Japanese bank to sign an MoU with Max Myanmar.

Mizuho has been supporting Japanese companies entering Myanmar. It opened a Yangon branch in August 2015 and the Yangon Branch Thilawa Front Office in December 2015, and also signed MoUs for business cooperation with the Myanmar Investment Commis-

sion (MIC), the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCI), and Ayeyarwady Bank (AYA Bank).

"Under the latest MoU, we will introduce Japanese companies considering starting or expanding business in the country to Max Myanmar in order to utilise its nationwide network. We will continue serving customers' business needs, thereby contributing to the development of the local economy", according to a statement from Mizuho.

Myanmar has been attracting an increasing number of manufacturers, including Japanese

companies, since the opening of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) developed through the collaboration between the Japanese and Burmese governments. With the lifting of US economic sanctions against Myanmar in October 2016, Japanese companies are expected to accelerate their activities in the country in the form of collaborations with the local companies and to invest in Myanmar.

Max Myanmar is a major conglomerate in the country, with businesses in construction, energy, cement, agriculture, trade, infrastructure, hotel and other sectors.—*GNLM*



A visitor comes out of Yangon Stock Exchange in Yangon, on 11 November 2016. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Total value of stock trading at YSX in November decreases by half from October

THE total value of stock trading at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) by three listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) during November slumped by half compared to the previous month, according to the statistics of the YSX.

The current stock value in November is around Ks2billion, whereas in October it was over Ks4billion. The trading value at YSX in November hit a seven-

month-low. The monthly stock trading values by FMI at YSX were Ks 24,714,431,000 in March and Ks5,867,897,500 in April. With MTSH entering YSX on 20th May, stock trading values of FMI and MTSH amounted to Ks 16,216,528,500 in May and Ks 6,895,863,000 in June and Ks 3,732,548,500 in July respectively. After MCB listed stock trading at YSX, the monthly stock trading values were Ks2,907,600,800 in August, Ks 2,482,949,200 in September and Ks 4,027,821,700 in

October, it is learnt from monthly report of YSX.

A total volume of stock trading on 30th November is 13,873 shares with a value of Ks71,797,300. FMI traded 472 shares at Ks16,500 per share whereas 12,930 shares of MTSH were traded at Ks4,900 and MCB traded 471 shares at Ks9,800. Stock trading in November and in the months ahead are likely to hit record lows, said those who closely watch the stock trading market.—*Ko Htet*

South Korea, Japan, US eye nuclear envoy talks in mid-December

SEOUL — The chief nuclear envoys from South Korea, Japan and the United States are arranging talks in mid-December in Seoul to discuss and coordinate measures in response to North Korea's growing nuclear threat, Yonhap News Agency reported on Wednesday, quoting diplomatic and official sources.

With the UN Security Council expected to adopt a new sanctions resolution against North Korea Wednesday in New York following its fifth nuclear test in September, the envoys are expected to discuss, in the first such talks since June, their cooperation in dealing with Pyongyang's missile and nuclear threats. The nuclear negotiators will also likely discuss the possibility of additional provocations by North Korea amid political uncertainty in the United States following Donald Trump's recent win in the presidential election, as well as a potential leadership vacuum in South Korea amid a corruption and

influence-peddling scandal plaguing President Park Geun-hye.

Kim Hong Kyun, the South Korean Foreign Ministry's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, Kenji Kanasugi, director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and Joseph Yun, US special representative for North Korea policy, are expected to attend the talks.

It will be the first meeting of its kind since Yun succeeded Sung Kim to the post in October.

North Korea has heightened tensions by drastically increasing its nuclear and missile testing this year. It conducted the latest nuclear test on 9 September following another in January, and has also carried out more than 20 ballistic missile tests this year. The latest UN resolution would be the sixth raft of UN sanctions imposed on Pyongyang since its first nuclear test in 2006. —Kyodo News

South Korea opposition to push ahead to try to impeach Park amid scandal

SEOUL — South Korean opposition parties vowed on Wednesday to push ahead to try to impeach President Park Geun-hye, rejecting her offer to resign amid a growing influence-peddling scandal, and called on members of her Saenuri Party to join them.

In a dramatic move that shifted the burden of resolving the crisis engulfing her presidency, Park asked parliament on Tuesday to decide how and when she should quit, which opposition lawmakers dismissed as a ploy to buy time and avoid impeachment.

The leaders of the three opposition parties, which together hold 165 of the single-chamber parliament's 300 seats and can initiate an impeachment motion, said they would not negotiate with Park's party on her proposal to step down.

"The only way left to go is impeachment under the constitution," the head of the Democratic Party, Choo Mi-ae, said at a meeting with the leaders of two other opposition parties.

The leader of the opposition People's Party, Park Jie-won, said a motion would be put to a vote on Friday, or on Friday week if necessary.

"Impeachment is the only way," he said.

Park, who has immuni-



A large electronic board broadcasts a news report on South Korean President Park Geun-hye releasing a statement to the public as the Presidential Blue House (top L) is seen in the background, in central Seoul, South Korea, on 29 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ty from prosecution in the case as long as she remains in office, is alleged by prosecutors to have colluded with a friend, Choi Soon-sil, to enable her to wield improper influence in government affairs and in fundraising by two foundations set up to back Park's initiatives.

She has denied wrongdoing but acknowledged carelessness in her ties with Choi.

The opposition parties have said Park missed the chance to step down voluntarily and the public wanted nothing short of her immediate removal from office.

They need a minimum of 28 votes from Saenuri to pass the impeachment bill, which will immediately suspend Park's powers while the Constitutional Court

takes up to six months to decide the validity of the motion.

The court is more likely to take as little as two months, most legal experts said. If Park is unseated, a new election must be held in 60 days to pick a successor for a full five-year term.

The prime minister, normally a figurehead post, would serve as acting head of state in the interim.

The Saenuri Party has been in disarray over the crisis and on Wednesday remained divided.

Party floor leader Chung Jin-suk said it would be best to set a deadline of 30 April for Park to step down, but a breakaway faction of more than 40 members demanded she leave sooner. —Reuters

Hwang Young-cheul, a member of the breakaway group, said on Tuesday it was willing to negotiate for an exit plan for Park but if all sides failed to reach an agreement by Friday week, it would join the opposition's impeachment motion.

The crisis has started to weigh on consumer confidence and has dealt a blow to the reputation of the "chaebol" conglomerates, accused of kowtowing to Park and her aide to contribute funds to her foundations.

Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho said on Wednesday the economy faced greater downside risks due to the crisis and a recovery was showing signs of slowing because of uncertainties in South Korea and abroad. —Reuters

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Pro-asylum seeker protesters force suspension of Australian parliament

SYDNEY — About 30 protesters clashed with security guards at Australia's parliament on Wednesday, some gluing themselves to handrails and shouting "close the camps", in a rowdy demonstration against the detention of asylum seekers in remote Pacific camps.

The protesters, who reached the parliamentary public gallery above sitting politicians, forced Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to leave the chamber and the suspension of parliament.

Many protesters were wrestled to the ground by security and dragged from the chamber.

"We are here today because you have become world leaders in cruelty," one protester shouted, according to local media.

Under Australia's tough border security policy, asylum seekers inter-



Security guards hold a protester as they remove a group from the House of Representatives after they began chanting slogans regarding the offshore detention of asylum seekers during Question Time in Parliament House, Canberra, Australia, on 30 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

cepted trying to reach the country by boat are sent for processing at the camps on Papua New Guinea's Manus island and Nauru in the South Pacific.

Both major Australian

political parties support the offshore detention policy, which has won elections, despite widespread criticism by the United Nations and human rights groups which say the detention amounts

to abuse.

Even if detainees are determined to be genuine refugees, a process which can take years, they are still banned from resettling in Australia. —Reuters

Callers for dollars: Inside India's scam call centres

MUMBAI — In late September, a woman in National City, California, received a voice message on her phone saying she was in trouble with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) over “tax evasion or tax fraud”.

Panicking, she rang the number and told a man who said he was from the IRS: “I can pay \$500,” half the sum demanded. “I could do a payment plan. I just can’t pay all of it at once.”

“Ma’am, you can pay \$500 today itself. You can do that?” the man asked, adding that lawyers would look at her accounts and work out a monthly payment plan, but she had to pay half now.

In transcripts of the conversation that investigators shared with Reuters, the man told her to keep the phone line open and drive to a nearby grocery store, where she bought \$500 worth of iTunes gift cards and gave the ‘agent’ the redemption codes.

She had just been scammed — one of at least 15,000 people the US Justice Department says lost more than \$300 million in an “enormous and complex fraud” running since 2013. The department last month brought grand jury charges against 56 people in India and the United States for “telefraud” scams run from fake call centres in India.



Police escort men who they said were arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of tricking American citizens into sending them money by posing as US tax officials, at a court in Thane, on the outskirts of Mumbai, India, on 6 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Investigators have arrested 20 people in the United States, and Indian authorities have made 75 arrests following October raids on three premises in the Thane suburb of Mumbai. Charges include conspiracy to commit identity theft, impersonation of an officer of the United

States, wire fraud and money laundering.

Indian police say they are looking for Sagar Thakkar, a man in his early 30s also known as Shaggy, who they believe masterminded the scam. Thakkar was also among those named by the US Department of Justice.

Reuters was unable to contact Thakkar for comment; he is not known to have a lawyer, and police believe he fled to Dubai last month.

“We are trying to complete the procedure to issue a red corner notice for Thakkar,” Parag Manere, a deputy commissioner

at Thane police, told Reuters, referring to an Interpol arrest warrant.

Police said Thakkar led a lavish lifestyle, frequenting 5-star hotels and driving expensive cars with proceeds from the scam. He gave one, a 25 million rupee (\$365,000) Audi R8, to his girlfriend. “We have seized an Audi car, and are trying to find other assets of Thakkar,” Manere said.

The FBI, which is involved in the investigations, declined to comment. The Department of Justice did not respond to requests for comment for this article. At a news conference last month, Assistant Attorney General Leslie Caldwell said the US would seek the extradition of suspects in India, and warned others engaged in similar schemes they could face jail terms.

In interviews before the US charges were filed, police, suspects and call center workers in India told Reuters how the scam was run.

Training materials and taped conversations, which investigators believe were made by call centre instructors for training purposes, shed some light on an operation aimed to exploit the aged and gullible. —Reuters

Australian Senate gives PM milestone victory, then defeat

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull secured the passage of some cornerstone legislation on Wednesday but quickly suffered an embarrassing defeat of a government plan for a lower “backpacker tax” on work done by young, foreign visitors.

Turnbull, facing pressure over a slump in his standing in opinion polls, was able to secure the passage of a law setting up a building-industry regulator after he struck a deal with independent senators.

The prime minister has pinned his political fortunes to the introduction of a building-industry regulator, using the Senate’s rejection of earlier such legislation as a trigger to call an election in July, when he secured a narrow victory.

But soon after securing passage of legislation on a regulator, the Senate rejected a government proposal to lower the tax paid by foreign travelers on income they earn, often in rural jobs such as fruit picking.

Turnbull now faces the prospect of angry rural voters who argue the current 32.5 per cent “backpacker tax” poses a risk to exports of fruit, which are set to earn a record A\$2.27 billion (\$1.70 billion)



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

next season.

“We remain optimistic that we can persuade the Senate to change its mind,” Turnbull told reporters in Canberra.

Turnbull this week said his government had reached an agreement with independent senators to lower the tax to 15 per cent.

The Senate, however, rejected that deal, passing an alternative rate of 10.5 per cent. Without a compromise by Friday, the tax rate will be fixed at 32.5 per cent on 1 January.

Turnbull has been expected

to focus on economic reform, a traditional area of strength for conservative governments like his, but he will need to turn around negative polls to avoid internal challenges, political analysts say.

“One of the rationales for replacing Abbott was the 30 consecutive bad polls, he will need to arrest the slide in popularity to avoid a similar pressure,” said Haydon Manning, professor of political science at Flinders University, referring to previous prime minister, Tony Abbott.

—Reuters

Nepal proposes amending Constitution to satisfy ethnic group demands

KATHMANDU — Nepal’s government proposed amending the country’s new Constitution on Tuesday night, in hopes of satisfying ethnic Madhesis who protested for months until February this year, claiming that the Constitution discriminates against them.

The proposal, registered in parliament late Tuesday, which will require a two-third majority in the parliament to pass, offers to create a second Madhes province in southwestern Nepal.

The new Constitution, adopted in September last year, already guarantees one province for the Madhesis, who are dwellers of Nepal’s southern flatlands bordering India. Saying it was not enough, the Madhesis protested violently for months, resulting in the deaths of 58 people, including policemen.

The amendment bill is expected to meet tough resistance from the main opposition party, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), which commands 182 seats in the 594-member parliament.

“The amendment proposal is against people’s wishes and is aimed at deepening ethnic discord to cause further instability

in the country,” Ishwor Pokhrel, general secretary of the party, told Kyodo News. “We will strongly oppose the proposal.”

On Wednesday, students protested against the amendment proposal in Butwal town, Rupandehi district, in southwestern Nepal. Rupandehi is among five districts affected by the proposed revision of provincial boundaries.

The proposal also appears unlikely to fully placate the Madhesis.

“The proposal was brought without consulting with us. It does not address all our demands,” Upendra Yadav, chairman of the largest Madhesi party, the Federal Socialist Forum Nepal, told Kyodo News.

The Madhesis, who have cultural, family, and linguistic ties with Indians across the border, have been demanding that the entire stretch of Nepal’s southern flatlands be made part of one or two Madhes provinces.

The new Constitution was the culmination of a protracted peace process with former Maoist rebels who fought state forces for 10 years until 2006. The armed insurgency left more than 17,000 dead. —Kyodo News

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.

Readers' recognition is the greatest reward for writers

Myint Win Thein

Literature is of utmost importance for national identity and culture. Therefore, the role of writers is always highlighted in every society. That is why prizes are awarded to writers in every country.

Successive governments, including the incumbent union government, present national literary awards for outstanding writers each and every year without fail in order to honour

those who should be honoured.

In the same manner, cash rewards for the prizes are also increased to reflect the prestige of the literary awards in recognition of the role played by writers in a society.

However, true writers always write what they think is right for their readers, while genuine readers always honour their favourite writers, although not everyone likes the same writers.

This being so, different readers like different writers. Therefore, it can be said that readers' recognition is the most importance reward for writers.

On the other hand, who are writers creating their work for? It is not for any one other than their readers. Writers may be awarded with prizes by governments or other organisations, but they should not be content with prizes, because

their greatest reward is the recognition of their readers, the majority of the people of Myanmar.

The Global New Light of Myanmar is proud of all the award-winning writers of the national literary awards and Sarpaybeikman literary awards but would like to remind them all to continue to serve the interest of their readers, the majority of the people of Myanmar.

Notary Public

U Mya Thein B.A.,B.L.

A Notary Public or Notary or Public Notary of the common law system is a public officer appointed by law to serve in matters usually concerned with deeds, powers-of-attorney, protest to be made in local or in foreign.

A Notary's main functions are to witness, authenticate the execution of certain classes of documents, protest notes and bills of exchange, prepare marine or ship's protest in cases of damage, translate, provide notarial copies, and perform certain other official acts depending on the law of the country. Any such act is known as a notarization. The term Notary Public refers to common law Notaries.

Notaries are appointed by a government authority, such as Supreme Court or Lieutenant governor, or by a regulating body often known as society or faculty of Notaries Public. For lawyer notaries, an appointment may be for life, while lay notaries are usually appointed for a short

term, with the possibility of renewal.

In most common law countries, appointments and their number for notarial districts are regulated and restricted.

However, since the majority of American notaries are lay persons who provide officially required services, numbers are not regulated, which is part of the reason why there are far more notaries in the United States than in other countries. Furthermore, all U.S. and some Canadian notarial functions are applied to domestic affairs and documents, where fully systematized attestations of signatures and acknowledgment of deeds are a universal requirement for document authentication.

By contrast, outside North American common law jurisdictions, notarial practice is restricted to international legal matters or where a foreign jurisdiction is involved, and almost all notaries are qualified lawyers.

For the purposes of authentication, most countries require commercial or personal docu-

ments which originate from or are signed in another country to be notarized before they can be used or officially recorded or before they can have any legal effect.

To these documents a notary affixes a notary certificate which attests to the execution of the document.

It has a long and distinguished history of Notary Publics. The office has its origin in the civil institutions of ancient Rome. Public officials, called scribes, that is to say, scribes, rose in rank from being mere recorders of facts and judicial proceedings, copiers and transcribers to a learned profession prominent in private and public affairs. Some were permanent officials attached to the Senate and courts of law whose duties were to record public proceedings, transcribe state papers, supply magistrates with legal documents, and register the decrees and judgments of magistrates.

In the last century of the Republic, probably in the time of Cicero, and apparently by his adoptive son Marcus Tullius Tiro, after whom they were named 'notae Tironianae' a new form of shorthand was invented and certain arbitrary marks and signs, called notae, were substituted for words in common use.

A writer who adopted the new method was called a notarius. Later, the title notarius was applied almost exclusively to registrars attached to high government officials, including provincial governors and secretaries to the Emperor.

In Myanmar, Notary Publics may be appointed by S.138 and rule making by S.139 of the Negotiable Instrument Act 1881. Very recently many notary public were appointed by the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar which we should heartily welcome. Nowadays, foreign business transactions become higher and higher. Foreign business partners come to and fro. More Notary Publics are needed in the development of international trade and industry. Myanmar citizens go out for work and foreign expatriates need to come in. So Notary Publics become valuable assets for our country to promote trade and industry in the market oriented economy of a democratic forwarding country.

Notary Public has to carry out some kinds of work:

1. Attestation to the Authenticity of signatures.
2. Certification of copies.
3. Certification of photos of person.
4. Attestation of documents

and facts.

5. Notings and Protests in accord with law.
6. Translation of documents.
7. Statement attached to documents.
8. Others Notary duties in accordance with law of the country.

Notary Public must have an office, phone numbers, a notary logo round seal, a seal of a notary public's name and office address and Myanmar and English signatures. These specimens together with the copy have to be filed with the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar. The recognition process will be carried out by the Supreme Court with the Ministry of Foreign affairs for Myanmar embassies in foreign countries.

Most of the countries over the world have already enacted Notary Public Act and Rules relating to, qualifications, appointment of Notary Publics, powers and duties, standard rate of fees, action to be taken to Notary Publics and so on.

Till now Myanmar has no specific Notary Public Act and Rules which we should consider to enact. It would be the right and proper time to promulgate at this democratic dawn with start rising market economy.



Terrence Tan. PHOTO: GNLM

Myanmar National Literary Award for General Knowledge(English)

ANCIENT Jewelry of Myanmar from Prehistory to Pyu Period is the book for which Terrence Tan was awarded the Myanmar National Literary Award. The literature deals with the popular gold and bead jewelry of the Prehistoric and Pyu Periods as well as the evolution of ornaments and fashion.

'I have been obsessed with ancient jewelry since childhood. Myanmar, as far as I know, was rich in culture even from the Prehistoric period and the Pyu era.

Despite the fact that literature evolved from the Pyu era, translation and decoding of many of the records and writings were not feasible. The Bagan Period was when literature fully developed and records were more accessible. That is the reason why a line was drawn between the Prehistory, Pyu and the Bagan periods. This book deals with the first part. I want to make this period come to light from where it had been in the shade for centuries. That is why I have spent almost

20 years, travelling and collecting data from all over the country. I have tried to publish my work from time to time but I felt there were still some more out there and my work was incomplete. Thus the 20 years. The entire work, of which this awarded honour is the first part, deals with the evolution of design technology throughout the many historical periods. It would be worth all the hardships and time, should my work become a reference for those who take an interest in Ar-

chaeology. My work also targets awareness of the rich culture of Myanmar by the international community.

At the moment, Terrence Tan is working as a part time lecturer at the Yangon University and Pyay Archaeology Training School. Every now and then he is invited to deliver speeches and lectures on Archaeology at institutions abroad such as the Yale University, the Harvard University, the Oxford University and many others.—GNLM

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates offertories to Masoyein Taikthit Monastery



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla receive sermons from Sayadaws. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

RICE, edible oil, offertories and cash were donated to monks at the Masoyein Taikthit Monastery by families of the Defence Services at a ceremony held at the monastery yesterday morning.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and senior military

officers, including the commander of the Central Command, attended the ceremony.

The senior general and party received the five precepts from the Sayadaws at the monastery and the abbot preached sermons.

The senior general and his wife had earlier presented rice, cash and other offertories to the Sayadaw, with senior military

officers following suit.

The congregation then shared the merit gained and served meals for the monks.

A total of 80 rice bags, 200 visses of edible oil, salt, potatoes, onions, and cash donations of Ks10 million were donated to the monastery by the Defence Services families.—*Myanmar News Agency*

8,000 affordable flats to be established within five years in Mandalay Region

Aung Thant Khaing

MANDALAY Region authorities plan to develop affordable housing with 8,000 apartments across the region within five years, according to the Urban and Housing Development Department (Mandalay).

The project aims to fulfil the housing needs of residents as well as to stabilise the local property market. The department recently invited eligible persons who do not own homes to send application forms to the department to be considered as

buyers for 560 apartments next month.

The region government provides land for housing projects to establish residential buildings to meet significant population growth in Mandalay, said U Aung Kyaw Oo, director of the department.

The Department of Urban and Housing Development has already built 27 four-storey buildings with 432 apartments in Myayinanda Ward in the 2014-2015 fiscal year and 20 five-storey buildings with 800 apartments in the 2015-2016 fiscal

year. A local real estate agent said his view is that a problem in the apartment market is likely to appear if authorities do not take action against some people who breach the rules that prohibit them from transferring ownership of the property to others.

Local government is now drafting town plans to bridge the housing gap between urban and rural people. According to the official population record of Mandalay Region, over 2.1 million people are living in urban sites, when more than 4 million people are in rural sites.

International Disabilities Day celebrated with Myanmar skills demonstration

IN HONOUR of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which falls on 3 December, the Disabled Person's Wheelchair Skill Demonstration is being held on Monywa-Mandalay road under the sponsorship of the Shwe Min Thar Foundation (Myanmar).

The 25 disabled youths are participating in the wheelchair skill demonstration event for the disabled in commemoration of

the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2016. The participants began their demonstration yesterday and will finish on 2 December.

They will spend one night each in Chaung Oo Township, Myin Mu Township, Ohndaw village in Sagaing Region and Sagaing Township along Monywa-Mandalay Road.

In the evening, Aung Si Phyio Tha, the musical band of the blind

and disabled from Pyin Oo Lwin School for the Blind, will speak words of advice and provide counseling for the disabled.

On December 2 and 3, the Aung Si Phyio Tha Musical Band from Pyin Oo Lwin School for the Blind will perform at the Manawayamman Grounds on 62nd street between 39th and 40th street in Mahaaungmyay Township.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



POEM:

Dear December

Speedy cold wind teases mornings
still faded winter scenes
move and suddenly wake up
tiredness of lives soundly inert
hustle and bustle
mind is on pins and needles
no days supported with chemicals
aged physiognomy
aged vitality
aged scrutiny
unable to refresh misty future
don't make our dreams so blur.

Yin Nwe Ko (Linn)

Cardiologists transplant porcine tissue valve



Cardiologists are operating on a patient. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

CARDIAC Surgeons from Mandalay General Hospital's Cardiovascular Surgical Ward, in co-operation with French cardiologists, jointly operated on a patient for the first time on Monday.

The cardiologists successfully transplanted a one-way valve made with porcine tissue from the heart of a pig. The success of the transplant is a historic landmark in the history of the cardiovascular surgery unit of Mandalay General Hospital.

"Although there are alternative methods, such as the transplanting of a mechanical/prosthetic valve, there can be such side effects as blood clotting, brain haemorrhage, stomach bleeding and over-bleeding in the menstruation period etc. But this kind of transplant can reduce the side effects," said Associate Prof Dr Khin Maung Htwe of the Cardiovascular Surgical Ward of Mandalay General Hospital.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

KIA, TNLA group destroys bridge, shoot at Tatmataw aid convoy



The bridge destroyed by KIA and TNLA near Muse. PHOTO: C-IN-C's OFFICE

AN armed group comprising members of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) destroyed a bridge near the village of Sonlone in Muse at about 3:30 am on Tuesday and attacked an aid convoy of government troops, according to the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

troops delivering provisions for troops providing security duty to ensure peace and stability in the area was fired upon by the combined KIA, TNLA group, who then detonated a mine to destroy the bridge near the village of Sonlone. Government troops returned fire, causing the KIA/ TNLA group to retreat at about 6:10 am, it was learnt.

In the attack, an RPG fire-arm, a bomb, one M 22 magazine and 30 M22 bullets were seized. One of the KIA/TNLA troops was injured. The floor and railing of the bridge were destroyed, it is learnt.

The government troops are in pursuit of the armed group, it is learnt.

—Myanmar News Agency

List of the killed & the injured in attacks by KIA, TNLA & MNDAA

ACCORDING to the list of the killed and the injured in armed attacks by KIA, TNLA & MNDAA combined groups recently released by the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office, three policemen, one people's militia-man and 10 civilians — 14 in all — were killed. Eleven policemen, two staff members and 37 civilians were injured.

Nine firearms were lost or stolen from the police force. Two of those weapons have been recovered, it is learnt.

Sr	Subject	Killed / Injured			Injured		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Police Force	3	-	3	11	-	11
2	Staff	-	-	-	2	-	2
3	People's Militia	1	-	1	-	-	-
4	Civilian	7	3	10	26	11	37
Total		11	3	14	39	11	50

NB = Police Force lost 7 firearms as it recovered 2 units out of 9 looted.

The State Counsellor Office's Information Committee



Scene of shooting near Ngakhuya Village.

One suspect involved in Maungtau armed attacks arrested

THE State Counsellor Office's Information Committee released the news that a suspect named Nurlamein aged 30 residing in Shwezar Alei village involved in the armed attacks in Maungtau township, Rakhine State was arrested in the Myoma market at noon on November 28, and he is being interrogated under the law.

—Myanmar News Agency

Two missing policemen from Namphatka police outpost found



Map showing the place where two missing policemen were found. PHOTO: C-IN-C's OFFICE

TWO policemen who went missing Monday evening on their way back from Kutkai returned to the Namphatka outpost Tuesday night after being accosted, handcuffed, robbed and interrogated by members of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.

Upon their arrival at the village of Namkwet at about 5:30 pm on Monday on their way to their outpost, a KIA armed group of about 10 men stopped their car by aiming firearms at them and took them to one of their stations on the top of a hill, with their hands handcuffed. After enquiring their personal details and confiscating their hand phones, they were released on Tuesday morning, it is learnt.

—Myanmar News Agency

KIA, TNLA attacks Kutkai, Mongkoe outposts

COMBINED forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) launched two artillery attacks against Kutkai at about 6:40 am yesterday, with a mortar exploding 300 meters west of the Oriental Toll Gate. There were no reports of casualties or damages, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Local troops returned fire, causing the group to retreat, it is learnt.

At about 7:45 pm on Tuesday, nearly 30 KIA troops attacked the Mongkoe outpost. Government troops responded with artillery attacks and the armed group retreated.

Tatmataw troops pursued the fleeing KIA/TNLA group and cleared the area.

—Myanmar News Agency

One escapes, one found dead out of three captured by KIA, TNLA and MNDAA

ONE of the three men abducted by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) from the Oriental Highway toll gate near the village of Namphatlon in Kutkai Township has escaped, said the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office said yesterday.

Kyaw Zin Oo was able to escape, but a second man, U Tint Naing, was found dead near the grove of Namphatlon Tuesday afternoon with bullet wounds to his head, back and stomach, the information committee said.

The third man is still being searched for, it is learnt.

—Myanmar News Agency

Assad, allies aim to seize all Aleppo before Trump takes power

BEIRUT — Syria and its allies aim to drive rebels from Aleppo before Donald Trump takes office as US President, a senior official in the pro-Damascus military alliance said, as pro-government forces surged to their biggest victories in the city for years.

Rebels face one of their gravest moments of the war after pro-government forces routed fighters over the past few days from more than a third of the territory they controlled in the city. Thousands of civilians have fled for safety.

The pro-government official, who declined to be identified in order to speak freely, nevertheless indicated that the next phase of the campaign could be more difficult as the army and its allies seek to capture more densely populated areas.

Rebel fighters fought



Syrian government soldiers walk near a general view of eastern Aleppo after they took control of al-Sakhour neighbourhood in Aleppo, Syria in this handout picture provided by SANA on 28 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

fiercely to stop government forces advancing deeper into the opposition-held enclave on Tuesday, confronting pro-Assad militias who sought to move into the area from the southeast,

a rebel official said.

The attack on eastern Aleppo threatens to snuff out the most important urban centre of the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad, who has been

firmly on the offensive for more than a year thanks to Russian and Iranian military support.

Capturing rebel-held eastern Aleppo would be the biggest victory to date

for Assad in the conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people since it arose out of protests against his rule nearly six years ago.

As Russia and Iran have stuck steadfastly by Assad, the rebels say their foreign backers including the United States have left them to their fate in their besieged enclave of eastern Aleppo, Syria's biggest city before the civil war.

Government forces backed by Shi'ite militias from Iran, Lebanon and Iraq punched into the rebel-held area from the northeast last week. The senior, pro-Assad official said the rebel lines had collapsed more quickly than expected.

"The Russians want to complete the operation before Trump takes power," said the official, repeating a previous timetable which pro-Damascus sources had

said was drawn up to mitigate the risks of any shift in US policy towards the war in Syria.

The Russian Defence Ministry did not immediately respond when asked whether it had drawn up such a timeline.

Trump, who takes office on 20 January, has indicated that he may abandon support for Syrian rebels who have received military aid from states including the United States, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and could even cooperate with Russia against Islamic State in Syria.

The United States has offered aid including military support to some rebel groups under President Barack Obama, though the rebels have always said this backing has fallen well short of what they need against better armed government forces.—Reuters

Ohio State attacker may have self-radicalised, officials say

WASHINGTON/COLUMBUS, (Ohio) — A Somali immigrant who injured 11 people at Ohio State University in a vehicle and stabbing attack before he was shot dead may have followed the same path to self-radicalisation as militants in a number of "lone wolf" attacks, US officials said on Tuesday.

Abdul Razak Ali Artan, 20, was shot dead by a police officer on Monday moments after he plowed his car into a crowd of pedestrians and then leapt out and began stabbing people with a butcher knife.

Investigators were probing the background of Artan, a Muslim who was a lawful permanent resident of the United States and a student at Ohio State.

Authorities have given

no direct motive for the attack on the Columbus campus. US Representative Adam Schiff, the ranking Democrat on the House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said Artan appeared to have been influenced by material on the internet.

"It appears that the attacker was radicalised online by jihadist propaganda," he said in a statement.

Schiff said no evidence has been uncovered showing that Artan communicated with or was directed by overseas militant groups.

It was unclear what prompted Artan's family to immigrate to the United States or if his time outside the United States played a part in his decision to

launch the attack, Schiff said.

The Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility on Tuesday for the attack. But a federal official who asked not to be identified said investigators have seen no evidence so far that the militant group's role was anything more than inspirational.

Artan's actions fit the pattern of lone-wolf militants who carried out other attacks, such as the gunman who shot to death 49 people at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in June, and the man who killed four US Marines and a Navy sailor in a shooting in Chattanooga, Tennessee, last year, the officials said.

Those gunmen were also killed by police.—Reuters

Water cuts and rising food prices leave Mosul facing crisis

MOSUL/BAGHDAD, (Iraq) — Fighting between Iraqi troops and Islamic State militants has cut water supplies across a large part of Mosul, where poorer families are already struggling to feed themselves, and a local official said the increasingly encircled city was in crisis.

Water was cut to 650,000 people — or 40 per cent of residents — when a pipeline was hit during fighting between the jihadists and US-backed Iraqi government forces trying to crush them in their northern Iraq stronghold, a local official said.

"We are facing a humanitarian catastrophe," said Hussam al-Abar, a member of Mosul's Nineveh provincial council, adding that 1.5 million people were still inside Mosul. He said the pipeline ran through a contested part of the city and could not be reached by repair teams.

"Basic services such as water, electricity, health, food are non-existent," he said, standing in an eastern suburb while mortars were fired inside the city.

The battle for Mosul has already raged for six weeks. An alliance of Iraqi forces, backed by US-led air power, have surrounded it and elite troops have



A Kurdish Iraqi woman inspects her destroyed kitchen after returning to her house in the town of Bashiqa which was retaken by Kurdish Peshmerga fighters following a battle with Islamic State militants, north of Mosul, Iraq, on 29 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

seized eastern districts, but face deadly and determined resistance.

Aid workers say a full siege is developing and fear that the longer the conflict drags on, the more civilians will suffer.

"Key informants are telling us that poor families are struggling to put sufficient food on their tables," UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq, Lise Grande, told Reuters. "This is very worrying."

Others are hoarding and hiding food as they expect prices to rise further.

The capture of Mosul, Islamic State's last major urban stronghold in Iraq, is seen as crucial towards dismantling the caliphate which the militants declared in Iraq and Syria after sweeping through Sunni populated northern and western Iraqi provinces in 2014.

Iraqi government and Kurdish forces surround the city from the north, east and south, while Popular Mobilization forces — a coalition of Iranian-backed Shi'ite groups — are trying to close in from the west.

Last week Popular Mobilization fighters cut the supply route to Mosul from the Syrian half of Islamic State's self-styled caliphate, driving up prices in the city. With the last supply route cut off, basic commodity prices in Mosul could double "in the short term", said a humanitarian worker, who declined to be identified. Some 100,000 Iraqi government troops, Kurdish security forces and mainly Shi'ite militiamen are participating in the assault on Mosul that began on 17 October, with air and ground support from a US-led international military coalition.—Reuters

MYANBUILD'16

မြန်မာ့အသင်းကြီးကျယ်ဆုံး၊ ထောက်လှမ်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းသုံးပစ္စည်းများဆိုင်ရာ ကုန်စည်ပြပွဲ

1-3 DECEMBER 2016 • ခန်းမ အသစ် မိုင်ဒါကွင်း

- ထောက်လှမ်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းများအတွက် လိုအပ်သော ပစ္စည်းကိရိယာများကို ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏ ပွဲတွင် နိုင်ငံခြား (၁၀) နိုင်ငံမှ ထောက်လှမ်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းများအတွက် ပြပေးမည်။
- အထူးသဖြင့် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ကုန်စည်များကို ပြပေးမည်။
- စီမံကိန်းရေးဆွဲခြင်း၊ အသုံးပြုမှုနှင့် ထောက်လှမ်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းများ ဆိုင်ရာ ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏ အတွေ့အကြုံများကို မျှဝေဆွဲနည်းများကို ပြပေးမည်။
- အထူးသဖြင့် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ အကြောင်းအရာများကို ပြပေးမည်။

Organized by MAMBI Myanmar Association of Military Builders Inc.

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Spurred by Trump and Brexit, EU plans five-billion-euro defence fund

BRUSSELS — The European Union unveiled its biggest defence funding and research plan in more than a decade on Wednesday to reverse billions in cuts and send a message to US President-elect Donald Trump that it wants to pay for its own security.

Part of a broader push to revitalize defence cooperation, the European Commission proposed a 5 billion-euro (\$5.3 billion) fund to let governments club together to buy new helicopters and planes to lower costs.

Another plan to let the EU's common budget and its development bank invest in military research would open the door to new drones, cyber warfare systems and other hi-tech gear, EU officials said.

"This is not about an EU army, this is not about spending on the military instead of social security," European Commission Vice President Jyrki Katainen

said. "We face multiplying threats and we must act," the former Finnish premier said, stressing that all assets developed would belong to national governments.

The main proposal is an investment fund for defence, which could allow EU governments that pay in to also borrow from it.

There were no immediate details on how the bloc planned to persuade member states to move away from the current system, where many pursue their own defence projects, favouring local manufacturers and duplicating efforts.

The bloc has 19 types of armored infantry fighting vehicle, compared with one in the United States. Wasted funds amount to 25 billion euros a year, according to Commission data.

One proposal is for the fund, which would require an intergovernmental treaty to be set up, to raise capital on financial markets by issu-



A technician works on a German Tornado jet at the air base in Incirlik, Turkey, on 21 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing bonds, with the Commission offering to run the fund but taking no ownership of it.

In a gesture to indebted France and Italy, government capital in the fund that is not spent directly on purchasing equipment could be excluded from national budget deficits that EU rules require to be less than 3 per

cent of economic output.

The Commission said it was also time to lift restrictions on using its budget for military research — proposing 500 million euros a year could be spent on innovation from 2021.

A 90-million-euro pilot plan is set to get under way next year and the Commission could potentially allo-

cate 3.5 billion euros from the budget between 2021 and 2027.

"It won't be easy but we need to spend better by spending together," said EU Industry Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska, adding that money would be for agreed projects, not an open invitation for broad research.

To help smaller com-

panies, the European Investment Bank could also finance innovation if a majority of governments agree to remove the ban on backing military projects, possibly as early as next year.

Defence research spending by EU governments has fallen by a third since 2006, leaving the EU reliant on the United States for advanced warfighting equipment.

During the US election campaign, Trump questioned whether the United States should protect allies seen as spending too little on their defence, raising fears that he could weaken support for NATO at a time of heightened tensions with Russia.

A report by the German military seen by Reuters showed its Tornado jets were ready for use just 44 per cent of the time and its newer Eurofighters had a readiness rate of 52 per cent.—Reuters

Soccer crash survivors undergo operations in Colombia, probe begins



Brazilian soccer player Alan Luciano Ruschel of Chapecoense soccer club receives medical attention after a plane crash in Antioquia, central Colombia. PHOTO: REUTERS

LA UNION (Colombia) — Doctors treated traumatized survivors and an investigation was to get underway on Wednesday into an air crash that killed 71 people and wiped out Brazil's Chapecoense soccer team en route to a cup final in Colombia.

Only six people—three players, a journalist and two crew members — survived the disaster on Monday night when Chapecoense's charter plane hit a mountain

en route to their Copa Sudamericana showdown in Medellin city.

All were being treated at local hospitals.

Of the players, goalkeeper Jackson Follmann was recovering from the amputation of his right leg, doctors said.

Defender Helio Neto remained in intensive care with severe trauma to his skull, thorax and lungs.

Fellow defender Alan Ruschel had spine surgery.

Investigators from Brazil were flying in to join Colombian counterparts checking two black boxes from the crash site on a muddy hillside in wooded highlands near La Union town.

Soldiers guarded the wreckage overnight after rescuers left, and investigators were to start work at first light.

Bolivia, where the charter company LAMIA was based, and the United Kingdom, also sent in experts to help the probe.

Prior to crashing, the BAe 146 had radioed it was having electrical problems, and weather conditions were poor — but there was still no official word on the cause.

Locals are accustomed to planes flying overhead at all hours, but many were disturbed by the massive crash noise that interrupted their sleep and evening television.

"It came over my house, but there was no noise, the engine must have gone," said Nancy Munoz,

35, who grows strawberries in the area. "I thought it was a bomb, because the FARC rebels used to attack military infrastructure here. Then we heard the rescuers arriving," said her husband Fabian.

By nightfall on Tuesday, rescuers had recovered most of the bodies which were to be repatriated to Brazil and to Bolivia, where all the plane's nine-person crew were from.

Soccer-mad Brazil declared three days of mourning. Chapecoense's opponents, Atletico Nacional of Medellin, asked for the tournament to be awarded to the Brazilians in honor of the dead.

Fellow top division Brazilian sides also showed solidarity, offering loan players to Chapecoense and urging the national federation to give it a three-year stay against relegation while the club got back on its feet. Global soccer greats from Lionel Messi to Pele sent condolences.—Reuters

Fire in Turkish dormitory kills 12, including 11 teenage girls

ANKARA — Twelve people, including eleven teenagers, were killed when a fire swept through a girls dormitory in the southern Turkish province of Adana on Tuesday, officials said.

The fire, which broke out in a dormitory housing

middle and high school students, may have been caused by an electrical fault, Omer Celik, a senior government official who represents the province in parliament, told broadcast CNN Turk.

At least twenty-two

other girls were injured, Celik said. Also among the dead was a woman who worked at the dormitory.

The dormitory housed impoverished girls whose families coming from nearby villages where there are no schools, Elif

Dogan Turkmen, an opposition parliamentarian, told CNN Turk.

Television footage showed a blaze rising from the rooftop of a multi-storey building and teams of firefighters working to put it out.—Reuters

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'Manchester by the Sea' named best film by National Board of Review

LOS ANGELES — Independent drama "Manchester by the Sea," about a working-class American family dealing with multiple tragedies, has become an early front-runner in Hollywood's awards season as the National Board of Review named it the best film of 2016 on Tuesday.

"Manchester by the Sea" won four honours, including best actor for Casey Affleck and best original screenplay for Kenneth Lonergan.

"Moonlight," a film about a young black impoverished man's struggle with his sexuality, won best director for Barry Jenkins and best supporting actress for Naomie Harris.

Both films have received critical praise and are among the top nominees for the Independent Spirit Awards, which celebrate low-budget artistic films that often go on to do well at the Oscars.

"Manchester by the Sea" is a masterful film which explores love, loss, and redemption in a deeply moving and completely original way. We are thrilled to award it our Best Film, as well as to honour Barry Jenkins' singular directorial vision for Moonlight,"



Actors Casey Affleck (L), Michelle Williams (C) and director Kenneth Lonergan poses for photographers at a Gala screening of their film "Manchester by the Sea" at the 60th BFI London Film Festival in London, Britain, on 8 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Annie Schulhof, president of the National Board of Review, said in a statement.

Other top wins include best actress for Amy Adams in "Arrival," Jeff Bridges for best sup-

porting actor in "Hell or High Water," and best animated feature for "Kubo and the Two Strings."

The Board of Review will present its awards at a ceremony in New York on 4 January.

The 100-year-old organisation, which comprises academics, filmmakers, students and professionals, selected studio and independent films for its top ten films of the year, which included Coen

Brothers comedy "Hail, Caesar!" and Mel Gibson's war drama "Hacksaw Ridge."

"Patriots Day," based on the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, "Hidden Figures," the true story of three black female mathematicians helping NASA in the early space race, and Martin Scorsese's historical drama "Silence" made the top films list.

"La La Land," a modern day musical set in Los Angeles and starring Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling, was also named among the top films year but did not score individual recognition for the cast or writer-director Damien Chazelle.

Notable Oscar hopefuls left empty-handed by the Board of Review included "Lion," the true story of a lost Indian boy, and "Fences," based on the award-winning play by August Wilson and starring Denzel Washington and Viola Davis.

Last year, the Board of Review surprised awards pundits by picking action film "Mad Max: Fury Road" as its best film of the year. The movie went on to win six Oscars in the technical categories.—Reuters

Grammy Awards may return to New York, but not a done deal: source



Adele holds her awards for Best New Artist and Best Pop Vocal Album for "Chasing Pavements" while backstage at the 51st annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles in 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — The organisers of the Grammy Awards are in negotiations with the city of New York to bring the annual music show back to the Big Apple, a source familiar with the negotiation said Tuesday.

After the *New York Times* reported that music's biggest night was headed out of Los Angeles to New York in 2018, the source confirmed that organisers were in discussions with the city, but a deal had not yet been finalized.

A decision on the matter may come as early as the next

few weeks, the source told Reuters.

The *New York Times* said New York mayor Bill de Blasio's administration made a bid for the ceremony, but that the Recording Academy, which organises the awards, needed to overcome the extra costs associated with producing the show in New York over Los Angeles.

The Grammy Awards, the top US honours for the music industry, were first held in 1959 at two simultaneous locations: the Beverly Hilton Hotel in the Beverly Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles and at the Park Sheraton

Hotel in New York.

Since then, the awards have moved mainly between Los Angeles and New York until 2000, when the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles became the home of the ceremony. An exception was made in 2003, when the Grammy ceremony took place in Madison Square Garden in New York.

The upcoming 59th Grammy Awards will give out gold gramophone records to winners in over 80 categories on Feb. 12 at the Staples Centre. Nominations will be announced next week.—Reuters

Britney Spears recording her 10th album

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Britney Spears may be still in full promo mode for "Glory", but she's already recording her tenth album.

The "Make Me..." hitmaker revealed she's already back in the studio working on new music for her new record, reported Ace Showbiz.

When asked if a follow-up to her ninth album could come quickly, Spears said, "I'm not sure what I want the next album to sound like. I just know that I'm excited to get into the studio again and actually have already been back recording."

Of her "Glory" album, the 34-year-old songstress said, "I think the vibe of 'Glory' is a lot different than my previous albums. We experimented with so many things while we were making the record. I feel like this time, I was really able to be hands on. I'm so proud of every song that we put on the album."

"It took us a couple of years to make this album, and of course over time, musical styles change and sometimes other ideas pop up that you just like better. The songs on 'Glory' were no-brainers for me—they were the best of all the songs we recorded," she added.—PTI

Hollywood actresses take centre stage for 2017 Pirelli calendar

PARIS — Hollywood actresses take over the 2017 Pirelli calendar, with Uma Thurman, Helen Mirren, Kate Winslet and Nicole Kidman among the big names featuring in the latest edition unveiled in Paris on Tuesday.

German photographer Peter Lindbergh snapped simple, black and white pictures of the celebrities, which also include Julianne Moore, Lupita Nyong'o, Charlotte Rampling and Alicia Vikander, for the 44th edition of the calendar, known for its images of scantily-clad models.

At a news conference, Mirren, Thurman and Kidman praised Lindbergh's stripped back photographs, which show

the actresses with minimal make-up, saying they portrayed natural beauty and femininity.

"We are used to such spectacular images ... with such amazing locations and when you look at Vogue magazine or any magazine or the earlier Pirelli calendars, these amazing locations and incredible lighting and airbrushing," Mirren said.

"And so you have this amazing image and here we're going ... away from that and saying: 'No. Let's find the amazing in something that's simple and human and real.'"

For the 2016 edition, American photographer Annie Leibovitz took pictures of wom-



Actresses Nicole Kidman (L) and Uma Thurman. PHOTO: REUTERS

en including tennis player Serena Williams, comedian Amy Schumer and artist Yoko Ono.

"Sexy is normally translated by bikinis and high heels and this is the opposite of what

I think is sexy," Lindbergh, who has shot three editions of the calendar, told Reuters of his latest photographs.

"I think sexy is something very, very hidden and not exposed."—Reuters

Thriving on raw eggs, world's oldest person marks 117th birthday in Italy

VERBANIA, (Italy) — Emma Morano, thought to be the world's oldest person and the last to be born in the 1800s, celebrated her 117th birthday on Tuesday, still swearing by her diet of two raw eggs a day.

Morano was born in November 1899, four years before the Wright brothers first took to the air. Her life has spanned three centuries, two World Wars and over 90 Italian governments.

Friends, neighbours and her doctor gathered in her small apartment in the northern town of Verbania, on the shores of Lake Maggiore, to mark the latest milestone, presenting her with a large white birthday cake.

"My life wasn't so

nice," she told Reuters TV as she sat in an armchair by her window, a white shawl over her shoulders. "I worked in a factory until I was 65, then that was that."

In an interview with *La Stampa* newspaper five years ago she said her fiancé had died in World War I and that she had then been forced to marry a man she did not love.

"Either you agree to marry me or I will kill you," Morano said, recalling his proposal. "I was 26. We got married."

It was not a happy marriage. They had a boy in 1937, but the baby died after just six months and the following year Morano kicked out her abusive husband. "I separated from him in 1938. I think I was



Emma Morano, thought to be the world's oldest person and the last to be born in the 1800s, reacts in front of her 117th birthday cake in Verbania, northern Italy, on 29 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

one of the first in Italy to do that."

Morano lives alone and has outlived all her eight brothers and sisters, including one who died at 102. She has thrived despite an unorthodox, unbalanced diet.

"When I first knew her she used to eat three eggs a day. Two raw, and one fried. Today she has slowed down a bit, reducing the number to two some days because she says three can be too much," her doctor Carlo Bava told Reuters TV.

"She has never eaten much fruit or vegetables. Her characteristic is that she always eats the same thing, every day, every week, every month and every year."—Reuters

Gothic ice dome rises in Slovakia's High Tatra mountains

HREBIENOK, (Slovakia) — Fifteen sculptors worked three weeks to shape 90 tonnes of ice into a gothic-style dome that opened to visitors last week in the High Tatra mountains of Slovakia.

Built 1,285 meters (4,240 feet) above sea level in the resort of Hrebienok, the ice dome also serves for weddings and engagement ceremonies and should last until April.

It features replicas

of gothic statues from the nearby Spis region, including a statue of Virgin Mary with baby Jesus and a statue of Master Paul of Levoca, a 15th century woodcarver who made the world's highest gothic altar. The

ice dome is protected by a special tent which keeps the temperature at around minus seven degrees Celsius (20 degrees Fahrenheit) to keep it from melting, according to dome guide Jaroslav Orencak. —Reuters



A statue inside the gothic-style ice dome is seen at the mountain resort of Hrebienok near the town of Stary Smokovec, Slovakia, on 28 November 2016 PHOTO: REUTERS

New British bank notes fall foul of vegetarians

LONDON — Britain's new plastic five-pound notes, bearing the portrait of wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill, have fallen foul of thousands of people who object to the use of animal fats in their manufacture.

An online petition against the notes, started by campaigner Doug Maw, was signed by more than 13,000 supporters in less than 24 hours.

"This is unacceptable to millions of vegans and vegetarians in the UK," Maw wrote in the online petition.

"We demand that you cease to use animal products in the production of currency that we have to use," the petition continued, adding that some religious groups may also object.

The Bank of Eng-

land confirmed that tallow, which contains animal fats, is used in the production of the new currency, and said the substance was also commonly used in candles and soap.

"We can confirm that the polymer pellet from which the base substrate is made contains a trace of a substance known as tallow," a Bank spokeswoman said.

The new, light-blue five pound notes are worth just over \$6 and were introduced in September. They are smaller and stronger, with more security features than their predecessors, with the aim of making them harder to counterfeit.

A plastic 10-pound note featuring the author of "Pride and Prejudice", Jane Austen, is due to appear next year.—Reuters



Bank of England governor Mark Carney poses with a new polymer five pound note at Whitecross Street Market in London, Britain, on 13 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv

Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(1-12-2016 07:00 AM ~ 2-12-2016 07:00 AM) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Betel Nut Farmer
07:39	Am	Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Family of Toys
08:47	Am	Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Marketable Goods (Straw painting)
09:45	Am	Civic Duty
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)

10:51 Am Today Myanmar: CBT in Myaing Township

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
07:47	Pm	MURAL PAINTING BAGAN
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-3)The Sphinx of Egypt And The Manousiha of Myanmar
08:40	Pm	Bago: A City Of Famous Historic Pagoda

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

Record-breaker Woodburn helps Liverpool reach League Cup semis

LONDON — Liverpool reached the League Cup semi-finals after 17-year-old Ben Woodburn enjoyed a night to remember by becoming the club's youngest ever goalscorer when he wrapped up a 2-0 victory over Leeds United on Tuesday.

The youngster volleyed powerfully into the net from close range in front of the Kop in the 81st minute to double Liverpool's lead and simultaneously erase former England striker Michael Owen from the club's record books.

At 17 years and 45 days, Woodburn was 98 days younger than Owen, when he found the net for the first time in 1997.

It had been a testing evening for Liverpool, who were frustrated for the majority of the tie at Anfield and were outplayed at times by their second-tier opponents, with Leeds pegging them back and striking the woodwork in the second half.

However, the hosts' Divock Origi slid home the opening goal after 76 minutes before Woodburn struck four minutes later against the Anfield side's old rivals.

"We all know how young Woodburn is, but it doesn't look like this in training sessions," Liverpool boss Juergen Klopp told Sky Sports. "It's a nice story and all the boys are really happy for him. Everybody is smiling in the dressing room."

Liverpool will be joined in the last four by Hull City, who got past Championship (second-tier) leaders Newcastle United as the



Liverpool's Ben Woodburn celebrates scoring their second goal during the EFL Cup Quarter Final at Anfield, on 29 November. PHOTO: REUTERS

visitors missed three penalties in a 3-1 shootout defeat after the match had finished 1-1 at the end of extra time.

With a host of injuries to deal with and a congested festive fixture schedule looming, Liv-

erpool coach Klopp rang made eight changes from the side that beat Sunderland in the Premier League on Saturday and gave several youngsters an opportunity to shine.

There was a makeshift feel to

the way Liverpool played in the first half as Leeds enjoyed the best chances with Hadi Sacko forcing a superb early save from Simon Mignolet and Kemar Roofee curling a beautiful effort against the post after the break.

It was not until later in the second period that the hosts began to find some rhythm, with Georginio Wijnaldum striking the post minutes before Origi slid in to poke a brilliant cross from another youngster, Trent Alexander-Arnold, in at the near post.

Woodburn's moment arrived five minutes later with Origi's cross to the far post finding the young striker unmarked. He smashed the ball high into the net and wheeled away in celebration in front of a jubilant Kop.

A drab encounter that finished 0-0 after 90 minutes at Hull sprang to life in extra time as Newcastle took the lead when Mohamed Diame prodded home in the 98th against his former club.

The advantage lasted just a minute, however, with Robert Snodgrass equalising for Hull, who played with 10 men in extra time after striker Dieumerci Mbokani was sent off in the 89th.

Hull keeper Eldin Jakupovic was the shootout hero, saving from Jonjo Shelvey and Yoan Gouffran, while their Newcastle team mate Dwight Gayle hit the crossbar.

Arsenal host Southampton and Manchester United welcome West Ham United in the two remaining ties on Wednesday. —Reuters

Argentina's Davis Cup winners return to heroes' welcome

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina's Davis Cup champions returned to a heroes' welcome in Buenos Aires on Tuesday after clinching their maiden title with a stunning 3-2 win over Croatia at the weekend.

Injury-prone 2009 US Open champion Juan Martin Del Potro led a spectacular final day comeback against the hosts that delighted the massed ranks of Argentine fans, including football legend Diego Maradona, who witnessed the final at Arena Zagreb.

"I have achieved things throughout my career that have filled me with pride and my dreams came true but with this beautiful cup, I will sleep well," Del Potro told a news conference in the Argentine capital.

Del Potro, whose career has been blighted by a number of wrist injuries, won a silver medal at the Rio Olympics in August and played through the pain barrier as he rallied from two sets down with a broken finger to level the tie in Zagreb on Sunday.

Federico Delbonis then went on to complete an emotional victory with a straight sets triumph over Ivo Karlovic in the final rubber.

Argentine fans cheered the team captained by Daniel Orsanic as they made their way through the streets of Buenos Aires on an open-top bus. —Reuters

Bale undergoes successful ankle surgery

MADRID — Real Madrid's Gareth Bale has undergone successful surgery on his right ankle in London, the club said on Tuesday.

The Wales international damaged tendons in his ankle during his team's 2-1 Champions League victory at Sporting Lisbon on 22 November.

"Our player Gareth Bale has undergone today successful surgery to repair damaged tendons in his right ankle," Real said in a statement.

"The operation took place at King Edward VII Hospital in London by doctor James Calder and Real Madrid Sanitas doctor Mikel Aramberri, under the supervision of doctor Jesus Olmo, head of Real Madrid's medical



Real Madrid's Gareth Bale walks on the pitch observed by a team doctor after sustaining an ankle injury during their Champions League match against Sporting in Lisbon, Portugal, on 22 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

services."

The 27-year-old forward has scored seven goals and set up three more in 16 starts for Real in all competitions this season.

No time frame was given for his return to action. Zinedine Zidane's team are six points ahead of Saturday's opponents Barcelona at the top of La Liga. —Reuters

Chapecoense vow to rebuild after airline accident

SAO PAULO — The vice-president of Brazilian top flight side Chapecoense has vowed to get the club back on its feet and playing again next year after a plane crash in Colombia wiped out almost the entire squad.

Colombia's worst air disaster in two decades killed all but five people as the team flew to face Atletico Nacional of Medellin in the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana final, South America's equivalent of the Europa League. Club vice president Ivan Tozzo told Brazil's Globoesporte website he was determined to rebuild Chapecoense and play in the Brazilian league again next year. "We are going to have to restructure the club, sign new players, hold lots of meetings and have lots of patience to keep going in the Brasileiro, a tour-

namment that is very important to us," Tozzo said.

"We intend on continuing next year." The BAe 146 charter plane went down about 10:15 pm on Monday night with 68 passengers and a crew of nine on board. The aircraft had reported electrical problems and declared an emergency minutes earlier as it neared its destination, Medellin airport officials said.

While talk of football has been muted as fans, players and officials come to terms with the tragedy, starting afresh would not be a new experience for the club.

Chapecoense almost went to the wall at the start of the century but battled back to rise from the fourth to the first division in just five years, including two consecutive promotions in seasons 2012 and 2013. — Reuters