



■ NATIONAL

Vice President U Myint Swe and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visit World Vipassana Pagoda in India

► PAGE 3

■ NATIONAL

Fire destroys five houses in Maungtaw

► PAGE 3



■ NATIONAL

National-level political dialogues to be held in Kayin State, Tanintharyi Region and Nay Pyi Taw

► PAGE 2

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Dawn of reopening border gates shines in Maungtaw, but security to be tightened

WITH the situation in northern Rakhine returning to normalcy, the dawn of resuming Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade, which has been stalled since the surprise coordinated attacks of violent insurgents on three border outposts on 9th October, will soon be seen, but security will need to be tightened in the first phase, officials said.

"We are working together with authorities concerned to resume the border trade as soon as possible, but it will not be easy for the situation to return to normalcy as before the conflict due to security in the state," said U U Aung Myint Thein, Chairman of the Maungtaw Border Merchants Association said yesterday.

"Security would be tightened in the first phase for the unnecessary incidents. But we will relax the security rules step by step," he added.

Recent armed attacks on northern Rakhine State prompted closure of all border gates with Bangladesh for more than two months, causing financial hardships for local shrimp and prawn farmers and merchants, according to officials from the saltwater prawn and shrimp market.

Local products such as dried fish and shrimp, which can be easily transported, were traded via Sittway. But export of products such as bamboo to Bangladesh came to a complete halt.

See page 3 >>



Police provide security to the entrance gate in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MAUNG HMWE



Authorities hold a meeting with UN/INGOs in Maungtaw Photo: MNA

More aid flows into Maungtaw

UN and international organisations will deliver humanitarian aid to 17 villages in Maungtaw District on 19 and 20 December, according to the Rakhine State Government.

The move comes as the Rakhine State Government is stepping up efforts sending aid to the conflict areas.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has delivered aid to villagers in northern Rakhine since 7th December.

Local authorities held talks with representatives of eleven

UN and international organisations at the Maungtaw District Administration Office yesterday.

The purpose of the meeting was to address the difficulties encountered by the organisations in delivering humanitarian aid to 17 villages in Maungtaw District.

The UNHCR has already delivered humanitarian aids to the region since 7th December and the World Food Programme, the BAJ, Care, UNICEF, the International Organisation for Migration and Médecins Sans Frontières will begin their efforts on 19th

December, according to the negotiations at the meeting.

A 28-member team will provide medical care to Khamaungma, Kyeinchaung and Tamantha villages on 19th December.

After the violent attacks on border guard police outposts, the WFP has been delivering aid to local residents through local staff since 4th November.

Similarly, the UNHCR has been delivering humanitarian and medical aid to the area with the assistance of the union government.—Myanmar News Agency

Government troops occupy KIA stronghold

WITH reinforcements of air support and artillery power, columns of government troops attacked a KIA stronghold, Gidon Outpost, on Friday morning, but the troops faced fierce resistance from the armed group as they stationed themselves on higher ground.

But government troops managed to take over an outpost at 2:05am on Saturday and the headquarters on Point 1103 Hill at 2:15am.

The columns of government troops were pursuing the retreating armed groups with the assistance of heavy weapons fire.

During the fighting, some officers and other ranks of the government troops suffered



The map shows Gidon Outpost. PHOTO: MYAWADY

casualties and were transported to military hospitals.

The KIA has suffered heavy casualties and lost 41 assorted weapons and ammunition in-

cluding two 120 mm launchers. The government troops are still carrying out area clearance operation nearby.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Explosions hit Kyaukme District Police Headquarters

POLICE investigated two explosions that occurred at the back of the Kyaukme District Police Headquarters in Shan State at 6:30 pm yesterday that caused two broken window panes and a

small crater in the street. Investigators recovered 18 ball bearings, one head of a 40mm shell and five pieces of shrapnel.

No one was injured in the explosions. A motorcyclist raced

away on Kyaukme-Mongnai Road as soon as the explosions occurred, it is learnt. Security forces are conducting area clearance operations nearby.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Farmers faced with difficulties because of unavailability of loans

FARMERS from Maubin township are being faced with difficulty because they were not granted the agricultural loans from Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, it is learnt.

About 100 farmers from 17 villages in Htatee village-tract are having difficulty growing monsoon and winter paddies on 400 acres of land without agriculture loans. Next year, they hope to have a chance to borrow the agricultural loans from the

bank to grow monsoon paddies.

"We have been cultivating the paddy for many years. We can provide documents that prove we had loans in those days. But beginning from 2013, we no longer received the agricultural loans from the bank. Currently, we are being faced with difficulty because we have to borrow the loans at an exorbitant rate of interest," said Daw Yin Aye, a local farmer from Galon-1 village.

The farmers who want to

receive the loans from Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank need to be a member of the bank. When they are members of the bank, they have to follow the 14-point rules and regulations, it is learnt from Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.

In 2016, Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank from Ayeyawady region lent over Ks390 billion to cultivate monsoon paddies on over 3.25 million acres of land.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



File photo shows farmers transplanting rice seedlings in Ayeyawady Delta. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

National-level political dialogues to be held in Kayin State, Tanintharyi Region and Nay Pyi Taw

Ye Khaung Nyunt

A meeting of representatives of the secretariat of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee UPDJC was held at the branch office of the National Reconciliation Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

Arrangements are being made to release the nomination of representatives from the government, ethnic armed groups, and political parties for the national-level dialogues in Kayin State, Tanintharyi Region and Nay Pyi Taw councils within a week, it is learnt.

U Hla Maung Shwe, the secretary of the UPDJC for the government, said that there were three locations which had already been organizing national-level political dialogues and the nominees for supervi-

sory committees approved by the government will be announced in the coming week, followed by an announcement of nominees for work committees. He also added that preliminary meetings for the national-level political dialogues might be held in December or January and they were working with the KNU, KNLA-PC and the DKBA for the dialogues.

It is also learnt that national-level political dialogues for ethnics in Kayin State, national-level political dialogues for the Tanintharyi Region and national-level political dialogues for issues participated by civil society organizations will be held. The outcomes of the dialogues will be submitted to the Second Panglong Union Peace Conference in February in accordance with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Representatives of the secretariat of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee hold a meeting at NRPC in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

Myanmar hosts 20th Petanque Championship

THE opening ceremony of the 20th Asian Petanque Championship 2016 was held at the Wunna Theikdi Petanque Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Hluttaw representatives, officials of the Ministry, the Chairman of the Asian Petanque Federation Mr Eddie Lin, Patron U Thein Win and Chairman U Aye Tun of Myanmar Petanque Federation.

Before the competition began, guests greeted participants in the event. After the competition, it was determined that the first and second prizes went to Thailand and Cambodia, respectively, while the third prize was jointly won by Myanmar and China (Taipei) in the junior shooting event.

In the women's shooting event, Thailand and Myanmar won the first and second prizes respectively and third prize was jointly won by Cambodia and

Laos. In the men's shooting event, Cambodia and Thailand won the first and second prizes respectively and Singapore and Laos jointly won the third prize.

A total of 129 athletes from host country Myanmar, Brunei, Cambodia, Singapore, Laos, Japan, Malaysia, China (Taipei) and Thailand participated in the events.—*Myanmar News Agency*



A contestant competes in 20th Asian Petanque Championship 2016. PHOTO: MNA

Weekend book fairs to be organized on Theinbyu Road

A coordination meeting to organize weekend book fairs was held at the Central Press Building of the Ministry of Information yesterday morning.

As a measure to contribute to the development of Myanmar literature, the meeting discussed the opening of book stalls on the roadside of Theinbyu Road in front of the Central Press Building. Measures would also be taken to prevent distur-

bances to pedestrians during book fairs.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Director General of the Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint, officials of the Sarpay Beikman, officials of the Yangon City Development Committee and Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association. —*Myanmar News Agency*



The co-ordination meeting in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Government troops clash with trespassing RCSS/SSA members

WHILE conducting area clearance and stability operations in the east of Mongpying Village-tract in Hopon Township in Shan State (South), a column of government troops engaged in four incidents with about 30 members of the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) about 2,000 metres southeast of Konnyaung Village on Friday morning.

One of the government troops was injured during the incidents and it was also found out that the RCSS/SSA, one of the signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, had trespassed into the area they have not been allowed to enter. An objection will be raised to the RCSS/SSA through the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee – Union Level (JMC). —*Myanmar News Agency*

Fire destroys five houses in Maungtaw



The scene of fire in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

A fire that began in a vacant house between Kyikanpyin (Middle) and Kyikanpyin (south) in Maungtaw Township destroyed five other houses made of bamboo mat walls and thatch roofs at 6:10 pm on Friday.

The fire was extinguished at about 7:50 pm by security forces, the fire brigade and the public.

An investigation has been launched into the fire by security forces. —*Myanmar News Agency*



VP and Senior General posing for a group photo in front of the pagoda. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visit World Vipassana Pagoda in India

VICE President U Myint Swe and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Myanmar delegation in India visited the World Vipassana Pagoda near Mumbai, India yesterday morning.

The Myanmar delegation offered flowers and lights before observing the bronze bells around the pagoda and watching the video presentation of the history of the pagoda in the Auditorium.

Afterwards, the delegation

toured the Buddha Painting Museum and a meditation hall that can accommodate 10,000 people.

The vice president and the senior general then donated cash to the pagoda and posed for documentary photos. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Dawn of reopening border ...

>> from page 1

Bangladesh buys most of the aquacultured prawn and marine shrimp from Maungtaw and regions nearby. Due to a series of violent armed attacks last month by insurgents, border gates were closed, which resulted in significant losses to farming entrepreneurs and merchants, who are waiting for the return to normalcy.

Bangladesh has been purchasing saltwater prawn from Maungtaw region for years, merchants said, and the sudden halt to the commerce is unwelcome.

Last year, the volume of saltwater prawn along the Maungtaw border trade route reached 286 tonnes, resulting in an income of US\$2million.

Similarly, there were export earnings about US\$4.3m from the sale of fishery products including mud crabs, saltwater fish and various kinds of fried fish, according to the district fishery department.

There were about 15,000 acres of saltwater prawn farms in Maungtaw prior to the armed attacks. Depots received several thousand viss of prawn daily. That figure has now been reduced by half, officials said.

“Such incidents give no benefit to anyone. We want to eke out our living peacefully”, said U Arunpar, the owner of the prawn selling and purchasing depot of Myoma/south (ward) in Maungtaw.

Meanwhile, the Maungtaw District Fishery Department is planning to expand aquaculture businesses to villages in the district as part of efforts for assisting in socio-economic development in the area.

Under the plan, five fish ponds each in 96 villages in Maungtaw District along with low-interest loans will be granted to villagers through banks, according to the Maungtaw District Fishery Department.

The department plans to spend more than Ks3.6 billion on digging fish ponds in the villages.

While the number of saltwater prawn ponds has reached more than 100,000 in Rakhine State, the number of freshwater fish ponds was less than 100, according to the department.

The number of freshwater fish ponds in Buthidaung has increased recently from 100 to more than 300, while Maungtaw has just around 100 ponds.

“Only when the number of hatchery farms increases can the aquaculture business be thriving in this district,” said U Naing Win Thein, Deputy Director of the Maungtaw District Fishery Department. The department has asked permission from its ministry to open five more hatchery farms in Maungtaw District, which set its target of earning US\$7.5 million from exporting fishery products this year, which would be an increase from the US\$ 7.3 million earned last year. —*Tin Maung Lwin and staff of MNA*

Mortar shell explosion injures civilian

A motor round exploded between mileposts 230 and 233 on Kutkai-Muse Pyidaungsu Highway on Friday, injuring a motorcyclist.

The civilian who received significant injuries on the neck and the left shoulder due to flying shrapnel was identified as Ko Chit Htway of Homon Ward in Muse. He was rushed to Muse People's Hospital. His condition could not be determined. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Ko Chit Htway is seen at Muse People's Hospital. PHOTO: MNA

Only 70 per cent of restaurants affixing duty stamps in Yangon region

THE Internal Revenue Department fined the owners of over 280 restaurants who failed to affix duty stamps on their sales vouchers in Yangon region, it is learnt.

Between October and December, 2016, the Internal Revenue Department levied fines amounting to Ks 7.41 million on more than 280 restaurants.

"We inspected the restaurants in every township and found 30 out of 100 restaurants failed to affix the duty stamps. Only 70 restaurants abide by this

rule. Our department has also received complaints that some restaurants are not following the rule," said U Aung Kyaw Tint, divisional head of Yangon Region's Internal Revenue Department.

These restaurants that failed to abide by the rule are mostly from North Dagon, Mayangon, Kamayut, Thanhlyin, Kyauktada, Kyimyindine, Tamwe, Bahan, South Okkala, North Okkala, Insein, Yankin, Botahtaung, Ahlon, Thingangyun, Hlaing, Latha, Lamadaw, Minglardon

and South Dagon townships.

The Internal Revenue Department fines Ks0.2 million for the first offense, Ks0.5 million for the second offense and Ks0.7 million for the third offense. The department has plans to fine up to Ks 1 million for every additional failure. Most of the restaurants were found to be not following this rule, prompting special teams from the Internal Revenue Department to investigate to take action against those restaurants not in compliance.

— Myitmakha News Agency

Retailers association hosts programme on sharing business knowledge

THE Myanmar Retailers Association organised a bi-monthly programme to share knowledge about the retail business at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Com-

merce and Industry (UMFCCI), the first of which occurred on Thursday.

At the talk, General Manager Mr. Shisanupong Pitidhanyasawasdi of DHL Supply

Chain-Thailand & Myanmar gave a talk on "Supply Chain Evolution for Modern Retail". A total of 130 members of UMFCCI attended the seminar, it is learnt.—Shwe Win (Pyay)



Talk on Supply Chain Evolution for Modern Retail in progress. PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

Special economic zone commences in Rakhine State

A special livestock zone has been created in Yathet Taung township to reduce the number of young Rakhine people who want to work abroad.

The livestock project started in the first week of December at Laung Chaung village, Yathet Taung township, buying chicken, goats and pigs to raise.

"Our Rakhine people go abroad to earn money. But when they come back from abroad, they have no work to do. So, they go back abroad again. That is why we are implementing this special livestock project in Rakhine for the first time. I want to raise the livestock on a manageable scale in Rakhine state," said Ma Soe Soe Htay of Yathet Taung township.

The livestock project was started by three local villagers from Laung Chaung village. Currently, they are breeding 30 Taiwanese chickens, 90 African

goats and seven Vietnamese pigs. They are also raising a pasture for the goats on 4.5 acres of land. "The farmers from neighbouring villages come and see our livestock farm. We have to take great care of the animals as

they cannot adapt themselves to Rakhine weather yet. But, we're quite optimistic. We also have a plan to extend the project," said a young man from Laung Chaung village.—Myitmakha News Agency



Goats seen feeding on the pasture. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Geo Stone Garden opened at Mandalay University



The Geo Stone Garden being observed by the dignitaries.

PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

CEREMONY to open the Geo Stone Garden, which was built for the 63th anniversary of the foundation of the Geology Department at Mandalay University, was held on the grounds between the main building of Mandalay University and academic building and the Geology Department on Friday.

The construction of the Stone Garden started on 3rd July and was completed in the first week of December.

Present at the ceremony were U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and members of Mandalay Region Government, Dr. Zaw Win, deputy director-general of the Department of Higher Education (Upper Myanmar), the Rector of

Mandalay University and professor and heads of departments and Geology Specialisation students.

At the ceremony, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister delivered a speech and cut the ribbon to open the Geo Stone Garden. Next, the Chairman of Union Election Commission, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister and guests took a tour of the garden.

The Geo Stone Garden was created with three zones — the Igneous Zone, Sedimentary Zone and Metamorphic Zone — constructed with 150 different kinds of stones weighing a total of 90 tonnes. Plant fossils, wood fossils and minerals are also decorated in the garden. The garden will serve as a teaching aid to future Geology students, officials said.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Town hall to be built in Tamwe township

A town hall will be built in Tamwe township, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

"Tamwe township is densely populated with a scarcity of land. Even if we find a plot of land, we have to check the history of the land. Anyway, we will build the town hall in coordination with the regional government," said the Yangon Mayor on Friday at the 2nd Yangon Regional Hluttaw third regular meeting.

Tamwe township was first built by the Human Settlement

and Housing Development department. But, when they built the township, they did not build a town hall.

"We discussed building of the town hall when the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker U Win Myint came to meet us for the first time," said U Hla Thein, the regional hluttaw representative from Tamwe township Constituency 1. The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker agreed to allow us to build the town hall during his visit, it is learnt.—Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

Fire destroys hotel, houses in Homalin

A fire broke out at a hotel near Naung Poe Aung village, Homalin township, Sagaing region on Friday, burning down the hotel and three adjacent houses.

"We extinguished the fire at around 11:55am. The outbreak of fire is caused by a hotel guest called Ma Khin Hnin Yee from Tamine village, Phaungpyin township who used a candle.

She said that her room was too dark, and she had to use the candle. Then, she fell

asleep for a moment and when she was awakened by the noise, she found her room burning," said Police Captain San Yu Maung.

No one was injured during the incident, but the hotel and the three houses worth Ks7 million were destroyed.

Police from Homalin township have taken action against Ma Khin Hnin Yee under section 285 of the Penal Code.—Myitmakha News Agency

LOCAL Business

Fishery exports this year fetch over US\$350million

FISHERY exports as of 9th December in this fiscal year earned US\$352.707million, an increase from US\$ 295.132million last fiscal year, according to statistics from the Commerce Ministry.

However, the income earned from the fishery export sector dropped slightly from the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Similarly, other export sectors, except minerals and manufacturing, have also managed to scale up income. Increases of US\$166.959million in agriculture, US\$0.06million in animal products, US\$24.989million in forest products and US\$849.449million in other products, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The external trade value as of 9th December hit US\$18,088.652million, with an import value of US\$10,575.263 million and an export value of US\$7,513.389million, resulting in a trade deficit of US\$3,061.874million.

In a bid to reduce the inflation rate, the government is trying to lessen the trade deficit by scrutinising the luxury commodity and the import items, excluding essential items, according to the second five-year National Development Plan.—*Mon Mon*



A Denko petrol filling station. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Petrol price required to control at reasonable price

THE petrol price is rising month by month, keeping pace with the increasing exchange rate of the US dollar and the Singapore dollar, which will prompt efforts to keep the price at a reasonable level, according to the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy.

Myanmar Petroleum Traders Association is making concerted

efforts to control the fuel oil price in keeping with the price in world market to tackle the problem of high fuel price in the private petrol stations.

The association is also under discussions with entrepreneurs to sell fuel oil at a reasonable price on the basis of the general costs and CIF value.

A total of 261 state-owned petrol stations were handed over to private enterprises in a bid to enhance private participation in the country's economic development activities.

The ministry has already granted licenses to 2,004 private filling stations and six private fuel terminals for fuel storage

and distribution facilities. Additionally, 14 vessels are granted licenses to directly distribute the fuel oil to the vessels and 13 licenses are issued to jet fuel oil distribution business.

There are 12 state-owned fuel stations across the country, it is learnt.—*Naing Lin Kyi, Ko Min*

BASF planning to build a construction chemical plant

BASF, the world's leading chemical company, is reportedly planning to build a construction chemical plant in Yangon next year in a bid to support its growing base of local customers and cater to an increasing demand for high-quality and sustainable chemical products in the country.

Before BASF opened a representative office in Yangon in 2015, it had been offering solutions to Myanmar customers for the previous six years, including vitamins for food fortification, concrete admixtures, crop protection ingredients such as herbicides and pesticides, mining chemicals and water purification chemicals through local representatives.

BASF aims to help Myanmar to tackle challenges with rapid development and urbanisation, resulting in increasing demand of quality chemical products.

Therefore, BASF is setting to establish a plan in the country.

The BASF Group is composed of subsidiaries and joint ventures in more than 80 countries.

BASF produces a wide range of chemicals such as solvents, amines, resins, glues, electronic-grade chemicals, industrial gases, basic petrochemicals and inorganic chemicals.

The most important customers for this segment are the pharmaceutical, construction, textile and automotive industries, it is learnt.—*Ko Khant*

Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings' profit after tax increased by 42 per cent

The profits of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) Public Limited after taxes increased by 42 per cent compared to the same period of the last fiscal year, reaching Ks11.07 billion, according to an announcement released by MTSH.

MTSH attained a profit after taxes of about Ks7.8billion in the similar period of last fiscal year and the group's gross margin is 48.8 per cent. As a result of this, the earnings per share is Ks284.27, up from Ks199.64 from last year.

MTSH is trading its shares at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX). After a disclosure of interim reports was released, MTSH's

stock trading and its share price are likely to rise, said a shareholder. MTSH traded 4,186 shares at YSX with a share price at Ks4,600 on 16th December, according to the statistics of YSX.

In addition, Thilawa Property Development Limited (TPD), a joint venture with Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee (TSMC) which owns 20 per cent of shares, was formed to undertake the development, construction, marketing, leasing and operation of the Residential and Commercial Component of Zone A project in the Thilawa SEZ. TPD has managed to achieve an operating

profit of Ks1.12 billion in the first six months of operation this fiscal year, it is learnt.

Moreover, Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Limited (MJTD) was established by MTSH, TSMC, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and MMSTD, which is composed of Japanese companies to conduct the development, construction, marketing, sales and operation of Zone A, having about 400 hectares in the Thilawa SEZ. Zone A has so far attracted 79 companies from 17 countries, increasing profits by 39 per cent as of 30th September when compared to last fiscal year.—*Ko Htet*

Philippines' Duterte: 'bye-bye America' and we don't need your money

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told the United States on Saturday to prepare for repeal of an agreement on deployment of troops and equipment for exercises, declaring "bye-bye America", and we don't need your money.

But Duterte suggested relations could improve under a President Donald Trump. "I like your mouth, it's like mine, yes Mr President. We are similar and people with the same feathers flock together."

Returning his focus to the present US administration which has criticised him over reports of extra-judicial killings in his campaign against drugs, he said:

"We do not need you," Duterte said in a news conference after arriving from visits to Cambodia and Singapore. "Prepare to leave the Philippines. Prepare for the eventual repeal or abrogation of the VFA." The Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA),

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte speaks during a visit to Camp Servillano S. Aquino in San Miguel, Tarlac, Philippines, on 11 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



signed in 1998, accorded legal status to thousands of US troops who were rotated in the country for military exercises and humanitarian assistance operations.

"Bye, bye America and work on the protocols that will eventually move you out of the Philippines," he said, adding his decision would come "any day soon" after reviewing another military deal, Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement.

The firebrand leader was visibly upset and vented his anger on Washington because of a decision by the Millennium Challenge Corp (MCC) board to defer vote on the re-selection of Manila for compact development due to human rights issues.

"We do not need the money. China said they will provide so many," he said. "The politics here in Southeast Asia is changing." —Reuters

Japan, South Korea swap intelligence on North Korea threats for 1st time

SEOUL — Japan and South Korea on Friday exchanged information on North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes for the first time since they inked a military intelligence-sharing pact last month, the latter's Defence Ministry announced.

A ministry spokesman said the direct exchange of classified information, made on the basis of the General Security of Military Information Agreement signed on 23 November, took place at a meeting in Seoul of the two countries' defence officials.

During the Defence Trilateral Talks held in Seoul later in the day, South Korean, Japanese and US officials agreed to strengthen cooperation and steadily implement sanctions based on UN

resolutions adopted after Pyongyang's fifth nuclear test in September.

Yonhap News Agency reported that they also agreed to continue with their missile warning exercises held in June and November to improve their combined capabilities to detect and trace North Korean missiles, of which more than 20 have been launched this year alone.

The meeting was attended by Yoo Jeh-seung, South Korea's deputy defence minister for policy, Satoshi Maeda, director general for defence policy at Japan's Defence Ministry, and Kelly Magsamen, assistant secretary of state of defence for Asian and Pacific security affairs at the Pentagon.

The next such meeting is scheduled to be held next year in Tokyo.

The pact signed by Tokyo and Seoul last month is aimed at facilitating the exchange of military intelligence while preventing such information from falling into the hands of other countries.

Previously, the two countries exchanged such intelligence through the United States under a trilateral pact signed in 2014.

Japan and South Korea were ready to sign the bilateral agreement in 2012, but Seoul postponed the process at the last minute due to fierce public opposition. Negative sentiments still linger among the South Korean public about closer military cooperation with Japan, which colonised the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945. —Kyodo News

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye

ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Expatriate Consultant Editor

Mark Angeles

markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators

Khin Maung Oo, Myint Win Thein

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor

Ye Htut Tin (Local News)

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw,

reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Computer Team

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

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

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

Circulation

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

Advertising inquiry

01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Supporters, opponents of embattled Park stage big rallies in Seoul

SEOUL — Supporters of South Korean President Park Geun-hye rallied on Saturday for her reinstatement while opponents gathered to repeat their demands that the leader impeached over a corruption scandal step down immediately.

The Park supporters, who last held a major rally in mid-November, began their demonstration first. Later, anti-Park protesters packed the streets of central Seoul for an eighth straight weekend.

Many of the opponents were angry that Park's lawyers argued on Friday that the impeachment had no legal basis.

"This is my first time out here, but yesterday when I heard about her opinion against the impeachment submitted to the Constitutional Court, whatever pity I had felt for her disappeared," Roh Yi-young, 55, said.

Park's lawyers struck a defiant note in their first comments since the impeachment vote, saying the motion should be overturned by the Constitutional Court, which has 180 days to review it.

The lawyers' submission to the court rejected all the points made in the



A supporter holds a portrait of South Korean President Park Geun-hye during a protest opposing her impeachment near the constitutional court in Seoul, South Korea, on 17 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

impeachment motion approved by a wide margin by parliament on 9 December which accused her of violating her constitutional duty and breaking the law.

Park's presidential powers have been suspended since the vote for impeachment, which set the stage for her to become South Korea's first elected leader to be thrown out of office. The Constitutional Court must first uphold the motion.

Park, 64, is accused of colluding with long-time

friend Choi Soon-sil, who has been indicted and is in custody, to pressure big businesses to make contributions to non-profit foundations backing presidential initiatives.

Saturday's pro-Park rally near the court a few blocks from the presidential Blue House drew largely older people who said those behind the movement to oust her were misguided.

"The people who love this country have come out to save the country despite the hardship," Kim Ku-ja,

69, said with the national flag draped over her.

She blamed the media for fuelling anti-Park sentiment, focusing their coverage too much on the views of younger and liberal voters and on criticism that Park received cosmetic procedures while in office.

"What's so wrong about a woman getting Botox shots? Why is that a problem?" Kim said.

Park's supporters have been in the minority in the weeks of protests demanding her removal.—Reuters

Seized US drone issue to be resolved smoothly: China paper

BEIJING — China expects a smooth resolution to the seizure by its navy of “unidentified” equipment found in the South China Sea, a state-run newspaper said on Saturday, after US officials said a Chinese warship had taken a US underwater drone.

The drone was taken on Thursday, the first seizure of its kind in recent memory, about 50 nautical miles northwest of Subic Bay off the Philippines just as the USNS Bowditch was about to retrieve the unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV), US officials said.

China’s influential state-run tabloid the *Global Times*, citing an unidentified Chinese source, said a Chinese naval vessel had discovered “unidentified equipment” and checked it to prevent any navigational safety issues.

“This person said China has already received a claim request for the equipment from the US side, relevant parties from both sides have maintained smooth communication channels, and believe this issue will be smoothly resolved,” the paper said.

China’s defence and foreign



The USNS Bowditch, an oceanographic survey ship, is seen in this undated US Navy handout photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

ministries have yet to comment publicly on the issue.

“The UUV was lawfully conducting a military survey in the waters of the South China Sea,” a US official said, speaking on

condition of anonymity. “It’s a sovereign immune vessel, clearly marked in English not to be removed from the water — that it was US property,” the official said.

The Pentagon confirmed the

incident at a news briefing on Friday, and said the drone used commercially available technology and sold for about \$150,000.

Still, the Pentagon viewed China’s seizure seriously since it

had effectively taken US military property.

“It is ours, and it is clearly marked as ours and we would like it back. And we would like this not to happen again,” Pentagon spokesman Jeff Davis said.

The seizure will add to concerns about China’s increased military presence and aggressive posture in the disputed South China Sea, including its militarisation of maritime outposts.

It coincided with sabre-rattling from Chinese state media and some in its military establishment after US President-elect Donald Trump cast doubt on whether Washington would stick to its nearly four-decades-old policy of recognising that Taiwan is part of “one China.”

President Barack Obama said on Friday it was appropriate for Trump to take a fresh look at US policy toward Taiwan, but he cautioned that a shift could lead to significant consequences in the US relationship with Beijing, as the notion that Taiwan is part of “one China” is central to China’s view of itself as a nation.—*Reuters*

Two elephants killed after being hit by train

GUWAHATI — Two elephants were killed and another critically injured in Assam’s Nagaon district today after they were hit by a train, affecting rail traffic on the route.

The incident happened when the elephants were crossing tracks in Potiyapam area of Kamrup. The two tuskers died on the spot, district administration officials said. Another elephant was battling for its life.

Train services were affected following the incident with the Dibrugarh-Delhi Rajdhani Express, Dibrugarh-Bangalore Express, Dibrugarh-Howrah Kamrup Express and Delhi-Dibrugarh

Brahmaputra Mail held up at several stations, a North East Frontier Railway spokesman said.

The spokesman said the accident area was not earmarked as an elephant corridor. “The Railways maintains speed restrictions of 40 km/hour in areas earmarked as elephant corridors but this particular area between Jamunamukh and Kamrup railway stations is not one,” the NEFR spokesman said. Ten elephants have been killed by trains in the state during the month with seven dying in Nagaon district alone. Two were killed in neighbouring Karbi Anglong and one in Bongaigaon district.—*PTI*

North Korea holds service on 5th anniversary of ex-leader’s death

PYONGYANG — North Korea held a memorial service on Saturday on the fifth anniversary of the death of its second leader Kim Jong Il, with a senior official calling for the same level of allegiance to be shown to the current regime under his son.

North Korea’s incumbent leader Kim Jong Un and thousands of officials attended the service outside the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang, where the embalmed bodies of the state’s two previous leaders — his grandfather and father — lie in state.

Choe Ryong Hae, a vice chairman of the ruling Work-

ers’ Party of Korea, delivered an address in which he praised Kim Jong Il’s contributions to the country, such as turning it into a “nuclear power,” and urged that all continue to be loyal to the third leader and the ruling party.

Kim Jong Un, whose father died of a heart attack on 17 December, 2011 at age 69, made no remarks during the service.

North Korea’s main official newspaper Rodong Sinmun ran an editorial covering its entire front page, in which it hailed the second leader’s “revolutionary exploits” before and during his 17-year-rule.—*Kyodo News*

Smoggy Beijing, under alert, orders factories to shut or cut output

BEIJING — Beijing’s city government ordered 1,200 factories near the Chinese capital, including a major oil refinery run by state oil giant Sinopec, to shut or cut output on Saturday after authorities issued the highest possible air pollution alert.

On Friday, China’s environmental watchdog issued a five-day warning about choking smog spreading across the north and ordered factories to shut, recommended residents stay indoors and curbed traffic and construction work.

Red alerts are issued when the air quality index (AQI), a measure of pollutants in the air, is forecast to break 200 for more than four days in succession, surpass 300 for more than two days or overshoot 500 for at least 24 hours.

The Beijing Municipal Environmental Monitoring Centre showed an air quality reading of 297 by Saturday afternoon as haze started to envelop the capital, after an earlier reading of around 120. Levels in the 301-500 band are considered hazardous to health.

Traffic on the city’s roads was lower than usual as residents complied with limits on car use and many of the city’s 22 million residents sat out the haze at home.

“I’ll just take a rest and not go outside,” said Wang Jianan, a 23-year-old Beijing resident and teaching assistant.

With Christmas just a week away, others resorted to dark hu-



Vehicles drive along the 4th ring road among heavy smog in Beijing, China, on 16 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

mour to help cope with the latest episode of toxic air.

One Beijing resident posted a cartoon on WeChat, China’s mobile messaging platform, showing Santa Claus on his sleigh almost completely obscured by smog, saying: “I can’t find China.”

The city’s municipal government said in a statement Sinopec’s 10 million tonne-per-year Yanshan refinery, a Shougang Group steel product plant and a Cofco factory that makes instant noodles and crackers were among 500 companies it had ordered to limit output.

The statement also listed 700 companies that had been ordered to suspend operations altogether.

The national environmental watchdog was sending more than a dozen inspection teams to check that factories and heavy manu-

facturing plants were complying with the crackdown, it said.

The hazardous air underscores the challenge facing the world’s second-largest economy as the government battles pollution caused by the coal-burning power industry and other heavy industry after decades of break-neck economic growth.

The government’s colour-graded warning system was adopted as part of its crackdown on smog.

More than 40 cities have issued warnings, with 22 on red alert, including top steelmaking city Tangshan in Hebei Province around Beijing, and Jinan in coal-rich Shandong province.

In Shijiazhuang, Hebei’s capital, the air quality reading was as high as 500. Steel plants there have been forced to cut output.—*Reuters*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Students were guinea pigs for new teaching methods in our country!

Khin Maung Oo

It is universally accepted that a country's development or its national economy totally depends on its access to higher education. Following the attainment of monastic education, which was mainly targeted at giving didactic education, Anglo-Vernacular school education, university education that was designed for producing bureaucrats only for helping to operate colonial administration machinery, we had had conventional education systems. Vocational Training Schools which actually will help the populace earn their living are still something of a rarity in the country. Up to now, we are not yet well convinced of the actual need of vocational training schools in Myanmar. At a time when we are building Myanmar into a modernized developed country, we need more vocational training schools as well, that can produce skilled workers.

Here I would like to recount a noteworthy saying made by the

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during her visit to Singapore Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI) on Saturday 3rd December 2016. She said, "Our country greatly needs vocational training courses. It plays an important role in the world, failing to be recognized of its importance by many. Most regard only graduates as men of wisdom and educated persons. Education means the qualification to confront the challenges of life. Only if we overcome challenges of life, can we be recognized to be men of wisdom. Failing that, it is difficult to become so. Only the people who can rely on self-help are endowed with the dignity of a human-being. There is no work void of virtue. Any work or job we value is valuable."

Now in our country, the need-blind university admission system grants students to join universities in order of marks they score. The choice of joining

a university does not depend on the successful candidate's decisions. According to the wishes of the parents, they apply for admission, with their own hobby and interest not taken into account. Parents are satisfied with the thought that their offspring's life prospects will be perfect if they become doctors, engineers etc. We cannot neglect the fact that our country abounds in medical degree and engineering degree holders who do not enter any of the government services. Authorities concerned should take this into consideration that it would be of great benefit to the nation, if students who were greatly interested in medicine but missed to join the medical colleges with a few marks, were given admission into the medical colleges. There is a need to change the mindset of the parents. There is also a need for the authorities to assess as to whether the present university admission system is suitable or not.

The most important thing is that the authorities concerned of the education department should assess the teaching systems at schools, especially the method of teaching of English. During half a decade or so, we have had various kinds of readers. We spent over a decade up to the completion of matriculation. In fact, we should have a considerable knowledge about the language during this period, but the reply would be, "No." There have been several millions who passed the matriculation in our country but it will be a great mistake for us if teaching methodology goes unrepaired. Evidently, students were guinea pigs for new teaching methods as said by many scholars in our country. Students as well as the country have suffered a great loss. We firmly believe that the authorities concerned will urgently find ways of solving problems we are facing in terms of teaching languages at the schools.

Dust, Enemy Or Friend ?

Yin Nwe Ko (Linn)

THERE were only three motorbikes in the small town where I live in. I saw a motorbike or two which passed the road in front of my house in a whole day. It was about thirty years ago. The road is a tarred road because it is situated in the center of the town. Now, there are so many motorbikes that I can see about fifteen motorbikes within fifteen minutes. There are plenty of not only motorbikes but cars in the town. Although the town is small, there are about fifty private cars here.

As there are in an increase number of motorbikes and cars, the numbers of vehicles passing the road in front of my house also increase and consequently there is so much dust entering the house. This becomes an annoying one for me as well as the people who are living on either side of this road.

In 1980s, it was enough to clean the house once a day. Now, it is not so. Even the cleaning of house twice or thrice a day is not enough. I said earlier that the road is a tarred road and one will ask me what connection of a tarred road with dust is. Please don't ask me. It is right. I do not know which kind of tar and which

amount of tar was used there. It is the road that creates a cloud of dust when even a car passes through. As they can make a tarred road which is to rise a cloud of dust due to a car, I cannot help praising them and their Organization.

The road I am mentioning is Yadanarbon road, situated in Ward 1, Kyaunggon, Ayeyarwady Region. It will not be wrong if one says as a kind of dusty road. Due to being dusty, I get annoyed as I have to clean the dust on the floor and the furniture again and again in a single day. Some dust entering the house is visible and some is not. Although I can cover my nose not to inhale the visible dust, I cannot guess how much invisible dust enters my air passage daily.

Dust can enter our body via the air passage as well as the alimentary canal. When we were in our childhood, we had ever played in the dust. As it was the age lack of knowledge about health, I did not know the danger to be frightened. Now I am with only the smattering of knowledge, I become realized to be frightened our survival among the dust.

Although I do not understand the other diseases, I have read and noted that one can have round-worms due to dust. The

eggs of round-worms can survive in the dust. After playing in the dust, if the dusty hands are not washed well with water and soap, they can get to the alimentary canal with food. Then the eggs become small round-worms affecting the diseases such as welts on the skin and asthma.

Other diseases contagious from dust are fungus on the skin and nail and scabies on the skin. In addition, a certain kind of bacteria living in the dust can cause abscesses in brain, lung, spleen and on the skin. It is difficult to cure and even causes death. If so, we can generally guess that we should prohibit our children in order not to touch the dust and soil particles.

Almost all of us are those who have ever played in dusty places. However, does everyone suffer from the diseases mentioned above. Do all of us have many round-worms in the wombs? My dear readers will remember the words of our ancestors "Let the children play in the dust, they will get stronger." Are those ancestral words right? Maybe some well-educated people cannot accept it. I remember I have seen a doctor who serves as a Township Medical Officer (TMO) in my town let his children under the direct sun's rays on the ground.

An article in the Washington Post said, "Let your children eat some dust." It means that some germs in the dust can raise the immune system of the body of the respective children. They also make the children more resistant. They also stimulate to wake the immune which is like the guardian armed forces of the body up. Then the soldiers from the armed forces get enough practicing power and then they can easily destroy the other germs which will enter the body further. Some researchers say that the children who are treated extremely clean are not as fit as those who are always touching dust and soil powder. In addition, they can suffer more from allergy.

An American microbiologist suggested, "Boldly let your children touch the sun's rays, air, soil powder and all in the environment. Don't utilize antibiotics if unnecessary." The experience of a woman who is a Myanmar citizen and now in the United States of America is as follows. As she gave birth to her first child in very cold winter, she placed it just indoors with well-treated warmth. She never took her baby outside as the cold was intense. Then she noticed that her baby was often in catch-cold and cough. When an experienced nurse who was right up to one's door got there, she took the baby outside in order to get cold. The mother was amazed and

frightened. However, after doing this for several times, the baby felt better and was free from the former symptoms. In addition, he also urged that every child should be fed every kind of legumes, seafood and egg starting from the age of 4-7 months. By doing this, when the child grows up, he will suffer from allergy less.

A report from Sweden indicates that in the comparison of two groups of children – one of those use dirty pacifiers and the other, well-washed ones with water- allergy symptoms are not found in those who use unwashed pacifiers. Therefore, we can find that it is more suitable not to be clean the children in some extreme degrees.

My anger on the dust which enter my house from the front road and my dissatisfaction upon those who made a tarred road dusty get rather reduced after I have read the December issue of a magazine in which above general knowledge is mentioned. Moreover, I became realized the association with which initially exists between man and dust i.e. the given environment to us.

For my dear and esteemed readers, I would like to leave the solution about the query in which the dust is either an enemy or a friend. As we are Buddhists, we should avoid the two extremes. Therefore, I would also like to put up the fact that we should not live so dirty as well as we should not do to be so clean.



Polish opposition parliamentarians protest against the rules proposed by the head office of the Sejm, the lower house of parliament, that would ban all recording of parliamentary sessions except by five selected television stations and limits the number of journalists allowed in the building, in the Parliament in Warsaw, Poland, on 16 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Police break up blockade of Poland's parliament amid political crisis

WARSAW — Police early Saturday forcefully broke up an hours-long blockade of exits from the Polish parliament by protesters who said ruling party lawmakers violated the constitution by illegally passing the budget for next year.

The passage sparked the biggest political standoff in years in European Union member Poland and the sharpest escalation of the conflict between the opposition and the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party since it came to power in October 2015.

The head of the PiS party,

Jaroslav Kaczynski, left parliament in the early hours of Saturday after police used force to remove protesters blocking the exit from parliament, television footage showed.

"PiS has crossed a certain line and nothing will be the same again," Tomasz Siemoniak, deputy leader of the biggest opposition party Civic Platform told local media outside parliament.

Opposition party lawmaker Jerzy Meyszowicz told television network TVN24 that police used tear gas to disperse the protesters who tried to prevent the

convoy of cars carrying Kaczynski and Prime Minister Beata Szydlo from leaving.

Warsaw police spokesman Mariusz Mrozek denied use of tear gas, but confirmed physical force was used to remove protesters. Mrozek said the gathering before the parliament has been declared illegal starting from midnight.

By 0237 GMT, many protesters had left, but some remained. Several opposition lawmakers said they would spend the night in parliament. —Reuters

Obama says China would not take change in US policy on Taiwan lightly

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said on Friday it was fine for President-elect Donald Trump to review Washington's "one-China" policy towards Taiwan, but he cautioned that a shift could lead to significant consequences in the US relationship with Beijing.

"For China, the issue of Taiwan is as important as anything on their docket," Obama told a news conference. "The idea of one China is at the heart of their conception as a nation and so if you are going to upend this understanding, you have to have thought through what ... the consequences are."

China lodged a diplomatic protest earlier this month after Trump, a Republican, spoke by phone with President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan.

The 10-minute telephone call was the first of its kind by a US president-elect or president since President Jimmy Carter switched diplomatic recognition

from Taiwan to China in 1979, acknowledging Taiwan as part of "one China". China considers Taiwan a wayward province, to be taken back by force if necessary.

Obama noted that, under the decades-old policy, China had recognised Taiwan was its own entity that did things its own way, while Taiwan had agreed that, with some autonomy, it would not declare independence.

"That status quo, although not completely satisfactory to any of the parties involved, has kept the peace and allowed the Taiwanese to be a pretty successful ... economy and a people who have a high degree of self-determination," Obama said. The Democratic president said he had advised Trump that foreign policy had to be conducted in a systematic, deliberate, intentional way.

"There's probably no bilateral relationship that carries

more significance and ... where there's also the potential, if that relationship breaks down or goes into a full conflict mode, that everybody is worse off," he said of the US-China ties.

He said Beijing would not treat a departure from US policy towards Taiwan lightly.

"The Chinese will not treat that the way they'll treat some other issues. They won't even treat it the way they treat issues around the South China Sea, where we've had a lot of tensions," he said.

Taiwan reiterated it was committed to keeping the status quo in its relations with China and in promoting peace and stability, and thanked Washington for deepening US-Taiwan relations.

A statement from Taiwan's Presidential Office said Tsai's government looked forward to strengthening that relationship under Trump's administration. —Reuters

UN Secretary-General's Message on International Migrants Day

18 December 2016

This has been another turbulent year for refugees and migrants. We have seen the continued devastating effect of armed conflict on civilian populations, leading to death, destruction and displacement. We have witnessed the unacceptable loss of thousands of lives of people in transit in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. And, to add insult to injury, we have witnessed the rise of populist movements that seek to alienate and expel migrants and refugees, and to blame them for various ills of society.

Yet, within this turbulence we also find rays of hope, with concerned citizens and communities opening their arms and hearts. We have also seen a promising international response, culminating with the New York Declaration adopted in September at the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants. It is now crucial that governments honour and build on their commitments to govern large movements of refugees and migrants in a way that is compassionate, people-centred, gender-responsive and rooted in fundamental human rights.

Every migrant is a human being with human rights. Protecting and upholding the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their status, is a foundational element of the New York Declaration. To accomplish this, we need stronger international cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination that is guided by international law and standards. We must reject intolerance, discrimination and policies driven by xenophobic rhetoric and the scapegoating of migrants. Those who abuse and seek to harm migrants must be held to account.

A sustainable response to migration needs to address the drivers of forced and precarious movements of people. These include poverty, food insecurity, armed conflict, natural disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, poor governance, persistent inequalities and violations of economic, social, civil, political or cultural rights. Good governance of migration also demands expanding legal channels for safe migration, including for family reunification, for labour mobility at all skill levels, and educational opportunities for children and adults, as well as decriminalizing irregular migration and regularizing the status of undocumented migrants.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers an opportunity to ensure that the needs of the most marginalized, including migrants, are made a priority so that no one is left behind. On this International Migrants Day, I call on the international community to act on the global compact on safe, regular and orderly migration as an important contribution to building a world of peace, prosperity, dignity and opportunity for all. —UNIC/Yangon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen kill five female Afghan airport staff in Kandahar

KABUL — Five female Afghan guards working in the airport in southern Kandahar were killed by unknown gunmen as they were on their way to work, security officials said on Saturday, the latest in a string of attacks against women in Afghanistan.

From bomb attacks to targeted or honour killings or domestic abuses, Afghan women have borne the brunt of the 15 years of conflicts during the Taliban-led insurgency as security has deteriorated and violence has increased in most parts of the country.

Samim Khpulwak, spokesman for the governor of Kandahar, said the five women were in charge of searching female travellers at the Kandahar airport, and had been hired by a private security company. "Two gunmen on motorbike followed their van and opened fire on them, killing the five and their driver this morning, said Samim. —Reuters

New Zealand issues tsunami warning after quake off Papua New Guinea

WELLINGTON — New Zealand issued an official tsunami warning on Saturday following an earthquake off Papua New Guinea initially measured with a magnitude of 8.0 by the US Geological Survey.

We're continuing to assess the situation ...at this stage we are advising New Zealanders to stay off the beaches, stay out of the water, not to go sightseeing and to listen to the radio and TV," a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management said. "At this stage the warning's been issued from the whole of NZ," she said. —Reuters

Syrian rebels, government say new deal reached to secure Aleppo evacuation

ALEPPO, (Syria)/BEIRUT — A new deal has been reached to complete the evacuation of rebel-held areas of Syria's east Aleppo which ground to a halt on Friday over demands from pro-government forces that people also be moved out of two villages besieged by rebels.

Syrian rebel official al-Farouk Abu Bakr, speaking from Aleppo to news channel al-Arabiya al-Hadath on Saturday, said the deal comprised an evacuation from the two Shi'ite villages besieged by insurgents, the evacuation of wounded people from two towns besieged by pro-government forces near the Lebanese border, and the full evacuation of rebel-held east Aleppo.

A Syrian government official also said the stalled evacuation of Aleppo would resume, alongside some evacuations from the four besieged towns and villages.

"It was agreed to resume

evacuations from east Aleppo in parallel with the evacuation of (medical) cases from Kefraya and al-Foua and some cases from Zabadani and Madaya," said the government official, part of the evacuations negotiating team.

The Shi'ite villages of al-Foua and Kefraya in Idlib province are besieged by insurgents. The towns of Madaya and Zabadani are blockaded by pro-government forces.

The operation to evacuate fighters and civilians from the last opposition-held area of Aleppo was suspended on Friday, its second day, after pro-government militias demanded that wounded people also be brought out of al-Foua and Kefraya, and protesters blocked the road out of Aleppo.

There were recriminations on all sides and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said "Aleppo is now a synonym for hell".



A child reacts while waiting with others to be evacuated from a rebel-held sector of eastern Aleppo, Syria on 16 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rebel sources accused pro-government forces they identified as Shi'ite militias of detaining and opening fire on a convoy carrying evacuees from east Aleppo on Friday.

Abu Bakr told al-Hadath the previous agreement was breached by pro-government militias who detained "hundreds" of people trying to leave, leading to some

deaths. A Syrian military source denied this, but said a convoy trying to leave Aleppo was returned back to the city.

"Now we are working on international guarantees to guarantee the safety of those who leave Aleppo so that such violations are not repeated," Abu Bakr said.

The chaos surrounding the Aleppo evacuation reflects the

complexity of Syria's civil war, with an array of groups and foreign interests involved on each side. Aleppo had been divided between government and rebel areas in the nearly six-year war, but a lightning advance by the Syrian army and its allies that began in mid-November deprived the insurgents of most of their territory in a matter of weeks.—Reuters

IS shows no sign of weakening as Mosul battle enters third month

BAGHDAD — Islamic State fighters have stepped up counter-attacks on Iraqi forces in Mosul amid bad weather as the US-backed offensive to capture their last major city stronghold in Iraq enters its third month.

With cloudy skies hampering coalition air surveillance, the militants carried out attacks in three districts of eastern Mosul, al-Quds, Ta'mim and al-Nur, over the past four days, residents and security officials said on Friday. "We heard clashes and explosions and then somebody shouting on the loudspeaker of the mosque 'Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, the Islamic State is staying'," said a Ta'mim resident. The campaign that started on 17 October has turned into the biggest battle in Iraq since the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The humanitarian situation of the besieged population is causing alarm amid reports of food, water and fuel shortages, while the fighting is making ac-

cess to hospitals difficult.

Nearly 100,000 people have fled the city, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

More than 100,000 Iraqi soldiers, Kurdish fighters and Iranian-backed Shi'ite volunteers are taking part in the offensive. The latter are attacking the militants supply lines in a remote and semi-desert area west of Mosul to avoid fanning sectarian tensions with the city's Sunni population.

The Iraqi military estimate the number of militants in the city at 5,000 to 6,000. They are dug in amid the city's remaining population of about one million, moving through tunnels and using suicide car bombs, sharpshooters and mortar fire to slow the advance of the Iraqi forces.

A mainly western coalition is providing air and ground support to the offensive, led by the US with more than 5,000 troops deployed in Iraq.

The fall of Mosul would mark the defeat of the ultra-hard-

line Sunni group in the Iraqi half of the caliphate that also extends over parts of Syria.

The city is by far the largest seized when they overran about a third of Iraq in 2014 and is the place where their leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared his theocratic dictatorship.

At the current pace of advance, the offensive is likely to extend into next year, beyond the initial forecast of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi who pledged to take the city in 2016.

The US-trained Counter Terrorism Service, which is spearheading the fighting inside the city, has so far taken about half of its eastern side. Mosul is divided in two parts by the Tigris River that runs through its centre.

Four of the city's five bridges have been destroyed to hamper the movement of the militants and their ability to bring car bombs and weapons from the western side. The fifth was also hit, but only at its edges, only allowing pedestrians to cross.—Reuters

Thirteen Turkish soldiers killed, 48 wounded in car bomb attack

ANKARA — Turkey Thirteen soldiers were killed and 48 more were injured when a car bomb hit a bus transporting off-duty military personnel in the central Turkish city of Kayseri on Saturday, one week after a similar attack targeted police outside an Istanbul stadium.

The blast is likely to further anger a Turkish public frustrated by a string of deadly attacks this year, several of which have been claimed by Kurdish militants, including last week's which killed 44 and wounded more than 150.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Deputy Prime Minister Veysi Kaynak likened the bus attack to the twin bombings outside the stadium of Istanbul soccer team Besiktas last Saturday. Those attacks, which targeted police, were later claimed by an offshoot of the

militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). "The car bomb attack resembles the Besiktas attack in terms of its style," he told a group of reporters, adding the attack would not put Turkey off of its goal of fighting militancy.

The blast hit as the bus passed by a car believed to be packed with explosives, Turkey's Dogan news agency said. It occurred near the campus of Erciyes University in Kayseri, broadcaster NTV reported.

Turkey faces multiple security threats including spillover from the fight against Islamic State in northern Syria, where it is a member of a US-led coalition against the militant group. It also faces regular attacks from Kurdish militants, who have been waging a three-decade insurgency for autonomy in largely Kurdish south-east Turkey.—Reuters



People react after a bus was hit by an explosion in Kayseri, Turkey, on 17 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US-led strikes destroy tanks, air defences near Syria's Palmyra

WASHINGTON — The US-led coalition battling Islamic State said on Friday it destroyed 14 tanks, an air defence artillery system and other weaponry near the Syrian

city of Palmyra after Islamic State seized the city from Syrian and Russian forces this month.

The strikes, which the military said in a statement took place

on Thursday, followed a warning from the US military that it could strike weapons it believed posed a danger to the US-led coalition in the region.—Reuters

Hi Everyone, this week. Shall we check some business vocabularies doing some exercises.

I. **Your Interview**
Complete the interview questions with words from the box.

achievement	approach	get	good	know	learn	like	look for
motivates	offer	plan	sort	strengths	tell	weaknesses	work

1. _____ me about yourself.
2. Why should we _____ you the job?
3. What is your major _____?
4. What are you _____ at?
5. What _____ of person are you?
6. What are your _____ and _____?
7. What do you _____ about our organization?
8. How would you _____ this job?
9. How do you _____ things done?
10. What do you _____ in a manager?
11. What _____ you?
12. Do you like _____ in a team or on your own?
13. What do you _____ best your current job?
14. What did you _____ in your last job?
15. How long would you _____ to stay with this company?

Here are some other questions you can prepare to ask or answer in a job interview:

1. How important is work to you?
- 2.What sort of salary are you expecting?
- 3.What will you do if you don't get this job?
4. What decisions do you find it easy to make? difficult to make?

II. **Your education**
Marcia Garcia tells us about her educational background. Complete each sentence with one of the words or phrases from the box below. You will need to put the verbs into the right tense. (you can then make similar sentences about your own education and qualifications- academic and professional.)

Apply degree graduate (verb) grant higher degree job option Ph D place primary school thesis secondary school stay on study subject

1. I started at _____ in London when I was five.
2. A the age of 11, I went on to _____ , also in London.
3. At 17, I _____ to university.
4. I got a _____ at Manchester to _____ Engineering.
5. But at the end of the first year I changed to another _____.
6. I _____ from university in 1997.
7. I have a first-class _____ in Economics.
8. I decided to _____ at university.
9. So I did a _____ in Business Administration at the University of California.
10. During the course, I did an _____ on small business development.
11. I found the topic so interesting that I applied dor a _____ to do a dictorate on the same subject.
12. Once I had got the money, I had to write a 50,000-word _____ .
13. So now I have a BA, an MBA and a _____.
14. All I need now is a _____!

People who do well in their examinations (‘exams’) at school or at university usually have good academic qualifications. In Britain and the USA, the most common university qualifications are a BA (Bachelor of Arts) or BSc (Bachelor of Science) after three years and an MA (Master of Atrs) or MSc (Master of Science) after another one or two years. Many people in business also have some kind of professional qualification and for some jobs you must have such a qualification.

When students get grants from the government, they keep the mon-ey.
When they get loans, they have to pay the money back later.
A PhD is a Doctor of Philosophy. Doctors fo Medicine are MDs.

Answers

- I.
1. Test 2.offer 3.achievement 4.good
- 5.sort 6.strengths, weaknesses
- 7.know 8.approach 9.get 10.look
- for 11.motivates 12.work 13.like
- 14.learn 15.plan
- II.
- 1.primary school 2.secondary school
- 3.applied 4.place, study 5.subject
- 6.graduated 7.degree 8.stay on
- 9.higher degree 10.option 11.grant
- 12.thesis 13.PhD 14.job





INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily
TG-2302	15:00	16:55	1,5,6,7
TG-302	15:00	16:55	Daily
TG-306	19:50	21:45	Daily
PG-706	6:00	8:15	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily
PG-708	15:30	17:25	Daily
PG-704	18:20	20:15	Daily
8M-335	7:30	9:15	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	15:45	19:15	2,4,6,7
UB-017	17:45	19:15	1,3,5
UB-019	8:00	9:30	3,5,7
UB-019	8:55	10:25	1,6

YGN TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily
FD-256	12:55	14:20	Daily
FD-254	17:35	19:25	Daily
FD-258	21:40	23:30	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:45	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:35	Daily
SL-207	19:45	21:45	Daily

YGN TO CAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-012	07:00	11:30	7
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ-3056	11:35	15:50	3,6
CZ-3056	17:40	22:20	1,5

YGN TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ-997	10:25	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,3,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	16:20	20:50	4,6
MI-533	13:35	20:50	2
3k-584	19:40	00:10	Daily
3K-582	11:35	16:05	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	1,2,4,5,6,7
UB-001	7:30	11:45	Daily

YGN TO NRT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	22:10	06:45	Daily

BANGKOK TO YANGON

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-303	8:00	8:45	Daily
TG-2351	10:10	11:00	1,5,6,7
TG-301	13:15	14:00	Daily
TG-305	18:05	18:50	Daily
PG-701	8:45	9:40	Daily
PG-707	13:45	14:40	Daily
PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-336	10:15	11:00	Daily
8M-332	19:20	20:05	Daily
UB-020	10:35	11:10	3,5
UB-018	21:05	21:35	Daily
UB-020	11:30	12:05	1,6,7

DMK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-255	11:35	12:25	Daily
FD-253	16:20	17:05	Daily
FD-257	20:15	21:10	Daily
DD-4234	10:30	11:15	Daily
DD-4230	6:30	7:15	Daily
DD-4238	19:25	20:15	Daily
SL-200	08:45	10:00	Daily
SL-206	17:10	18:35	Daily

CAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-012	12:30	15:45	7
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ-3055	8:40	10:35	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:40	1,5

SIN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-232	13:40	15:15	Daily
SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-522	11:30	15:30	4,6
MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,3,5
MI-533	11:30	12:45	2
3K-583	17:30	19:00	Daily
3k-581	09:10	10:40	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2822	7:20	8:45	1,2,4,5,6,7
UB-002	13:00	14:30	Daily

NRT TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-813	11:00	16:30	Daily

YGN TO ICN

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

YGN TO KUL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily
AK-503	19:10	23:30	Daily
8M-501	16:00	20:15	2
8M-501	11:45	15:45	1
MH-741	11:15	15:40	Daily
MH-743	16:00	20:15	1,4,6,7

YGN TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:30	16:00	Daily
MU-2032	15:30	18:50	Daily
MU-2012	12:55	19:55	3

YGN TO TPE

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:50	16:10	Daily

YGN TO PEK

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

YGN TO HAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:35	Daily

YGN TO SGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	14:55	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-251	1:05	5:25	Daily
UB-8027	09:00	13:30	1,3,5,7

YGN TO DOH

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:05	11:30	1,4,6

YGN TO CNX

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-724	13:40	15:35	Daily

YGN TO DAC

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:45	18:30	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:55	15:15	Daily

ICN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-471	18:30	22:30	Daily

KUL TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-504	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-502	17:20	18:30	Daily
8M-502	16:45	17:45	1
8M-502	21:10	22:10	2
MH-742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
MH-740	09:10	10:15	Daily

KMG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-415	10:50	11:30	Daily
MU-2031	14:00	14:30	Daily
MU-2011	08:20	11:55	3

TPE TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:50	Daily

PEK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	3,5

HAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-957	16:40	18:10	Daily

SGN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-943	9:25	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

HKG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-250	21:50	23:45	1,3,5,7
KA-252	22:20	00:10	2,4,6
UB-8028	14:50	16:20	1,3,5,7

DOH TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-918	20:10	5:20	3,5,6

CNX TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-723	12:00	12:55	Daily

DAC TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-060	13:30	16:00	1,3,6

DMK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-244	11:10	12:25	Daily



MDL TO SIN				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
MI-533	15:45	20:50	2	
MI-522	14:15	20:15	4,6	

SIN TO MDL				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
MI-522	11:30	13:20	4,6	
MI-533	11:30	14:50	2	

MDL TO BKK				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
PG-710	14:10	16:35	Daily	

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

MDL TO KMG				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
MU-2030	14:25	17:15	Daily	

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

NYT to BKK				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
PG-722	19:50	22:50	1,3,4,5,6,7	

BKK TO NYT				
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days	
PG-721	17:20	19:20	1,3,4,5,6,7	

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Prison Officers regain control over rioting inmates in UK jail disturbance

BIRMINGHAM (England) — Prison officers regained control of inmates at a prison in Birmingham, England on Friday more than 12 hours after rioting broke out among some 300 prisoners.

A Ministry of Justice spokeswoman said officers have control of all four wings of the jail.

Prisoners took over of at least two wings of HMP Birmingham jail on Friday, authorities said, in the latest and most serious disturbance at a British prison this year.

The trouble erupted at the prison in central England, which can hold 1,450 male prisoners, shortly after 0900 GMT, forcing staff to withdraw, according to G4S (GFS.L), the private firm that runs the jail.

“Our teams withdrew following a disturbance and sealed two wings, which include some administrative offices,” said Jerry Pethericka, Managing Director for G4S custodial and detention services. “The disturbance has since spread to two further wings. All staff have been accounted for.”

The Prison Officers’ Association (POA), which represents jail staff, said the incident involved about 300 inmates.

“It’s understood a set of keys giving access to residential areas was taken from an officer and that offenders have since occupied some blocks and exercise facilities,” West Midlands

Police said in statement.

G4S said extra officers had been sent to the jail near Birmingham city centre which was built in 1849. Specialist riot control officers and dog units had also been deployed to attempt to regain control. The company said due to the severity of the incident, the Prison Service had taken charge of the operation.

“The situation is contained, the perimeter is secure and there is no risk to the public,” the Ministry of Justice said in a statement. “We are absolutely clear that prisoners who behave in this way will be punished and could spend significantly longer behind bars.”

There have been several serious incidents in jails this year including an alleged murder, and last month prisoners took over parts of Bedford prison in central England before police and extra prison officers were drafted in to restore control.

A week after the Bedford incident, thousands of prison officers in England and Wales walked out in protest at rising levels of jail violence and concerns about the health and safety of staff and inmates. The government has unveiled plans to reform prisons and improve safety, but the Prison Governors’ Association (PGA) said jails were in a parlous state because of a decline in pay and the cutting of staff numbers. —Reuters



People take pictures next to a pole covered with 100-bolivar bills during a protest in El Pinal, Venezuela, on 16 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Protests flare over Venezuela cash chaos; three deaths reported

EL PINAL/CIUDAD GUAYANA, (Venezuela) — Protests and looting broke out in parts of Venezuela on Friday due to a lack of cash after the socialist government suddenly pulled the nation’s largest banknote from circulation in the midst of a brutal economic crisis.

An opposition legislator said there were three deaths amid violent scenes in the southern mining town of Callao — but there was no confirmation of that from the government.

Waving the now-worthless 100-bolivar bills, pockets of demonstrators blocked roads, demanded that stores accept the cash, and cursed President Nicolas Maduro in a string of towns and cities

around Venezuela, witnesses said. Dozens of shops were looted in various places.

Last weekend, Maduro gave Venezuelans three days to ditch the 100-bolivar bills, arguing that the measure was needed to combat mafias on the Colombia border despite warnings from some economists that it risked sparking chaos.

Opposition leaders said the move was further evidence he is destroying the OPEC nation’s economy and must be removed.

Authorities have thwarted a referendum sought by the opposition against the leftist leader. That might enable him to complete a six-year term ending in early 2019, but increases the pros-

pect of social unrest.

With new bills — originally due on Thursday — still nowhere to be seen, many Venezuelans were unable to fill their vehicles’ fuel tanks to get to work, buy food or purchase Christmas gifts.

Adding to the chaos, many cash machines were broken or empty. And large lines formed outside the central bank offices in Caracas and Maracaibo where the 100-bolivar bills could still be handed over and deposited for a few days more.

“This is a mockery,” said bus driver Richard Montilva as he and several hundred others blocked a street outside a bank in the town of El Pinal in Tachira

state near Colombia.

First Justice lawmaker Angel Medina said large numbers of shops had been ransacked, destroyed and burned in El Callao, with three people killed and many injured. Reuters could not independently confirm his statements.

Speaking in general terms, Maduro condemned the violence around the country, and said two banks had been attacked by people linked to the opposition coalition.

He said the new bills would come into circulation soon, appealed for the population’s “comprehension”, and urged Venezuelans to use electronic transactions where possible. —Reuters

JOB VACANCY

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR နေပြည်တော် အင်္ဂလိပ် သတင်းစာတွင် အချိန်ပြည့် တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်ရန် အောက်ပါ ရာထူးများ လက်လှည့်ကျခံယူပါသည်။

(၁) Chief Accountant မ (၁) ဦး
 B.Com, CPA or ACCA, Chief Accountant လုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံ (၅)နှစ်ရှိရမည်။
 English (4 Skills) အသင့်အတင့်ရှိရမည်။
 Internet & Email, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word ကွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။
 ကုမ္ပဏီအခွန်လုပ်ငန်းဆိုင်ရာ ကိစ္စရပ်များတွင် နားလည်ရမည်။
 ဆက်ဆံရေး ပြေငြိမ်ကောင်းမွန်ရမည်။

(၂) ကြော်ငြာအရောင်းကွမ်းကျင်ဝန်ထမ်း ကျား (၁) ဦး ၊ မ (၂) ဦး
 တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုမှ ဘွဲ့ရ အသက် (၂၀) မှ (၃၅) နှစ် အတွင်း
 Internet & Email, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word ကွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။
 ကြော်ငြာလုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံရှိရမည်။ အင်္ဂလိပ်စကားပြော အခြေခံ ရှိရမည်။
 (ယာဉ်မောင်းကွမ်းကျင်၍ လိုင်စင်ရှိသူ ဦးစားပေးမည်။)

စိတ်ပါဝင်စားသူများ အနေဖြင့် မိမိတို့၏ ကိုယ်ရေး အချက်အလက်များကို နူးချိန်အတွင်း ဖော်ပြပါ လိပ်စာသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင် (သို့မဟုတ်) Email ဖြင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း ၂၀၁၇ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ၊ (၁၀)ရက်နေ့ နောက်ဆုံးထား ပေးပို့လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။
 Tel : 01-8604530, Hotline: 09974424848
 Email : marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
 အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

Theme park rapped over frozen fish in rink to close at end of 2017

FUKUOKA — An amusement park in southwestern Japan that sparked a flood of criticism for using thousands of frozen fish in an ice rink said Friday it will be closing at the end of 2017.

Space World in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, closed the skating rink last month after people complained about its attraction in which around 5,000 fish purchased from a market were embedded in the ice to give the impression of skating on the sea. An online rumour at the time claimed the fish had been frozen alive.

The theme park, which

opened in April 1990 on an unused lot of the Yawata steelworks, did not specify the reason for the closure.

It had 2.16 million visitors at its peak in fiscal 1997, but the number of visitors has dwindled recently.

“We will be closing on the last day of December 2017 for various reasons,” the park said on its website. “We thank you for your patronage for such a long time.” Space World informed the Kitakyushu city government of its closure plan on Thursday, municipal officials said.

The city held talks the same day with Nippon Steel

& Sumitomo Metal Corp., the landowner of the facility, about future plans for the 240,000-square-meter site.

Nippon Steel promised to seek a tenant for the land taking the promotion of the local economy into consideration, the officials said.

Both Kitakyushu Mayor Kenji Kitahashi and Fukuoka Gov. Hiroshi Oga-wa expressed concern about the closure’s effect on the local economy.

Space World “has led the tourism industry as a symbol of the city,” Kitahashi said in a statement. “It is truly regrettable,” he said. —Kyodo News

No progress as Colombia's president, rival meet with pope

VATICAN CITY/BOGOTA — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and opposition leader Alvaro Uribe were unable to find common ground on a peace accord with Marxist FARC rebels, even with the mediation of Pope Francis when they met at the Vatican on Friday.

On his third visit to the Vatican, Santos appealed to Francis for support in ending a 52-year war that has killed more than 220,000 people and dis-

placed millions.

"We need your help," said Santos, who signed a modified peace deal in November after a previous pact was rejected in a plebiscite. He gave the pope a gift of a pen made from a machine gun bullet.

Francis, an Argentine who has helped broker diplomatic efforts in Cuba and Venezuela, then received Uribe, a right-wing senator and former president who has been one of the harshest critics of the new peace

deal. The former allies also met Francis together for around 20 minutes. A photograph released by the Vatican showed them sitting side by side at a table in the pope's private study. It appears no consensus was reached.

"I told ex-president Uribe that we are always ready, as we have said in previous occasions, to continue dialogue, to reach agreement about how the peace accord should be implemented," Santos said after the joint meeting.

Uribe argues the new deal is not tough enough on Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels since it does not include opposition demands that they serve traditional jail sentences and be barred from forming political parties.

"If the government allows room to examine certain issues, we could look for options," Uribe said, reiterating a previous demand.—Reuters



Pope Francis (L) meets Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos (R) and former president Alvaro Uribe (C) at the Vatican on 16 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Peru rejects new request to pardon imprisoned Fujimori

LIMA — The centrist government of President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski said Friday that it has rejected a new request to free imprisoned former authoritarian leader Alberto Fujimori filed by a supporter because it did not meet basic requirements.

Justice Minister Marisol Perez Tello said the paperwork reached the government early this month but was declared inadmissible days ago because it lacked the signature of Fujimori or one of his relatives.

"It is another process that unfortunately ends ... because of reasons of form and without a decision on the core issue," Perez told reporters in comments broadcast on TV station Canal N.

The announcement comes ahead of a meeting between Kuczynski and Fujimori's daughter, opposition leader Keiko Fujimori — raising the possibility of a pardon being on the negotiating table as they seek to ease hostilities after her rightwing party ousted Kuczynski's education min-



Peru's former President Alberto Fujimori leaves the clinic where he was transferred from his prison cell to undergo neurological tests after feeling dizzy and briefly losing the strength in his legs, his doctor said, in Lima, on 31 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ister on Thursday. Kuczynski, who had a razor-thin victory against Keiko Fujimori in a June runoff election, said before taking office that he would not sign a pardon to clear her father of convictions for human rights violations and corruption even if the pardons committee recommends doing so. However, Kuczynski has said he would sign a bill that allows ageing prisoners like Fujimori to carry out their

sentences from home. Keiko Fujimori's party, Popular Force, controls an absolute majority in the single-chamber Congress but has yet to propose any such legislation.

The most recent request to release Alberto Fujimori, 78, came from one of his supporters who asked Kuczynski to pardon him or put him under house arrest because of health problems, the magazine Hildebrandt en sus trece reported.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ASIATIC CLOUD VOY. NO (007)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC CLOUD VOY. NO (007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CONTENDER VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CONTENDER VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/ where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ()

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Mark Wahlberg says that his upcoming film *Patriots Day* is much more important than anything he has ever been a part of. PHOTO: PTI

Patriots Day is the most important movie I've made: Mark Wahlberg

LOS ANGELES — Mark Wahlberg and director Peter Berg may have collaborated on two previous real-life dramas, including *Lone Survivor* and *Deepwater Horizon*, but the actor says their upcoming film *Patriots Day* is much more important than anything he has ever been a part of. The 45-year-old star says though he wants all his films to do well at the box office, *Patriots Day* is little more special to him, reported *Entertainment Weekly*.

"When you're making a movie about something like this, it really becomes about the story, the people, and not your own individual experience. These are the ones that really matter. "Obviously, I'm very serious about

all the movies that I make and I want them all to be successful, and I want them all to work and serve their purpose, but this is so much more important than anything I've ever been a part of," he said.

The movie details the events surrounding the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. Wahlberg plays Boston Police Sergeant Tommy Saunders, a fictional character who's a composite of officers who worked during the day of the bombing and subsequent manhunt. The film also starring Michelle Monaghan, John Goodman, Kevin Bacon and J K Simmons, is set to hit the US theatres on 21 December. —PTI

US rapper Common on teaming up with '13TH' director

NEW YORK — American rapper Common said it was "very special" to team up again with director Ava DuVernay on her latest documentary "13TH", which deals with issues of race and the US criminal justice system.

The Chicago native, who won a 2015 Academy Award for best song "Glory" from DuVernay's 1960s civil rights drama "Selma," said it was important for him to work on her latest project.

"I think it's very, very special. She is like one of those creative, passionate, intelligent beings and visionaries and is committed. So I'm like always saying, ok, what can we do?," Common said in an interview.

The documentary argues that although slavery was officially abolished in the United States 150 years ago, it is still alive in the form of mass incarceration that disproportionately affects black people.

The film, which uses television footage, music and interviews with former prisoners, politicians and academics, owes its title to the 13th amendment to the US Constitution, which ended slavery in 1865.

Common released in November his eleventh album, "Black America Again," which he hopes will spark a retelling of the black American experience and a past that includes lynchings, discrimination and other injustices.

The album includes the song

Rapper Common presents the best song award at the 22nd Annual Critics' Choice Awards in Santa Monica, California, US, on 11 December 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS



"Letter to the Free" which was used in DuVernay's documentary.

"I had written the first verse and then I watched the film and then I continued to work on the second verse. And she and I went

back and forth as far as some of the ideas and what we wanted to hear in the second verse," he said.

"13TH" is playing on Netflix. "Black American Again" debuted at number 25 on the Billboard 200 charts.—Reuters

China to review film limits as box office growth slows

LOS ANGELES/SHANGHAI — China's box office is set to end the year with its smallest growth in a decade, clouding the outlook as Hollywood pushes to show more of its films in theaters in the world's second-largest movie market.

Beijing caps the number of imported films each year under a revenue-sharing deal reached in 2012. That quota, which Hollywood wants to increase from the official level of 34, is scheduled to be reviewed in 2017.

China accounted for 18.8 percent of worldwide movie ticket sales last year, versus 7.5 per cent in 2012, according to research firm comScore.

For films imported under the cap, 25 per cent of China ticket revenue goes to the US film studio, a smaller share than the roughly 40 percent average in other international markets.

While a drop in China's ticket sales growth could muddy the outlook for foreign movies, Sanford Panitch, president of Sony Corp's Columbia Pictures, shrugged it off, saying: "We'll take this slowdown



Actor Matt Damon attends a red carpet event promoting Chinese director Zhang Yimou's latest film 'Great Wall' in Beijing, China on 6 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in any territory in the world. It's still an incredible story of a big growth market."

Between January and November, tickets worth 41.4 billion yuan (\$5.97 billion) were sold in China, industry tracker EntGroup said,

up 4.4 percent over 2015. That is sharply slower than last year's 50 percent jump and on track for the slowest annual growth in a decade.

But given the market's size and potential, the Motion Picture Association of America remains

eager for Beijing to open its doors wider. Box office experts say China's ticket sales will overtake those in the United States and Canada within the next few years.

An MPAA official said it was "very encouraging" that US and

Chinese officials had agreed in recent talks to address issues including increasing the annual film quota and the revenue share that foreign studios receive.

For now, co-productions are helping bring the two sides together.

On Friday, Chinese theaters debuted "The Great Wall," starring Matt Damon and produced by Legendary Entertainment — the Hollywood studio purchased by China's Dalian Wanda — along with China Film Group and others. The movie was partly filmed at Wanda's new studio in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao. It has been designated an official China co-production and therefore avoided the cap on US-made movies.

China is juggling its desire to welcome US films, its investments in Hollywood and efforts to protect its industry.

"Culturally, they are very suspect of having too many American imports flood their country. They want their citizens to see home-grown hits and Chinese stories," said Jonathan Papish, analyst for China Film Insider.—Reuters

Senseless selfies, creepy clowns and Trump's triumph make year of odd news

BOSTON — Searches for selfies led to many bad decisions, an outbreak of creepy clown sightings chilled even horror maestro Stephen King, and a hard-fought campaign ended with the election of former reality TV star Donald Trump as president of the United States.

Along with moments of triumph and tragedy, 2016 brought stories that ranged from weird to wonderful, funny to flummoxing.

New York's Museum of Modern Art rolled out an exhibit of emojis this month. In September, the Satanic Temple, which says it promotes separation of church and state rather than devil worship, found a new home in Salem, Massachusetts, best known for the 17th-century witch trials.

A man visiting New York in October sparked an evacuation of the city's Metropolitan Opera when he sprinkled the cremated

remains of his mentor, an opera aficionado, into the orchestra pit.

One common theme among the strangest stories was that access to a camera and a desire for attention was a recipe for bad ideas.

A Texas teen in Oc-

tober crashed her vehicle into the back of a police car while trying to take a top-less photo of herself.

"I asked her why she was not dressed while driving," the arresting officer wrote in an affidavit. "She stated she was taking a

Snapchat photo to send to her boyfriend."

In April, a California man was sentenced to 20 years in prison for setting one of the state's worst wildfires after filming himself surrounded by the flames.—Reuters



A person dressed in a clown costume stands amongst attendees during the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade in Manhattan, New York, US, on 31 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lights, Santa, action! English village puts on show for charity



A home is decorated with a display of Christmas lights in a tradition that has grown over recent years in the small village of Westfield in Sussex, south east England, on 15 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Residents in the southeast English village of Westfield have transformed their homes into a vast Christmas light show in order to raise money for charity.

Around 30 homes in Westfield, Sussex, have taken up the annual challenge, with hundreds of bright lights decked out across exteriors and images of Father Christmas and snowmen dotted throughout the village.

The light display, which runs until Jan 1 and attracts many curious visitors, has raised over 35,000 pounds (\$43,500) for a Westfield hospice in the past.—Reuters



Pierre Le Guennec leaves the courthouse after his appeal trial in the Le Guennec-Picasso case in Aix en Provence, southeastern France, on 16 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Elderly French couple convicted over Picasso works kept in garage for decades

AIX-EN-PROVENCE (France) — An elderly French electrician and his wife were convicted on Friday of illicitly procuring hundreds of Picasso artworks that they kept for almost 40 years in the garage of their home.

An appeals court in the southern city of Aix-en-Provence gave a two-year suspended sentence to Pierre Le Guennec, who carried out electrical work at the home of Pablo Picasso's last wife in the early 1970s, along with his wife, Danielle.

The two were also ordered to hand the works over to Picasso's heirs and to pay legal and other related costs.

The court also upheld an earlier ruling ending six years of legal wran-

gling that began when the Le Guennecs took out the 180 paintings and other artworks as well as a book of 91 drawings in 2009-10 to get them authenticated, revealing their existence.

The artworks that were kept in a box in the Le Guennecs' garage have an estimated combined worth of 60-100 million euros (\$63-\$105 million), according to public prosecutors. Pierre Le Guennec, now 77, worked for several years at the Picasso couple's villa in the French Riviera town of Mougins.

He argued at the trial that he was given the artworks by Jacqueline Picasso upon her husband's death at 91 in 1973, which sparked a succession feud between her and her son-in-law, Claude.—Reuters

ARTV (18-12-2016, Sunday)

6:00 am • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw 7:35 am • Business News 8:35 am • Beautiful ASEAN 8:45 am • Documentary 9:35 am • People's Talk 10:00 am • Sunday Talk 10:35 am • Women in Myanmar Society 11:15 am • Teleplay 11:35 am • Documentary 12:50 am • Myanmar Movie 2:30 am • Documentary	3:15 pm • Documentary 4:35 pm • Mono Classical Songs 4:50 pm • Analysis for Myanmar Movie 5:15 pm • Gitadagale Phwintbaohhn 6:35 pm • Wut Hmon Music Troupe 7:15 pm • TV Drama Series 8:00 pm • News/International News/Weather Report 8:35 pm • Life Struggles 9:00 pm • News/ Weather Report • Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions
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Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

10:03 Am News	10:26 Am A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township	
10:26 Am A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township	10:50 Am Beach Food Delivery	

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

Prime Time		
07:03 Pm News	07:26 Pm Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-5)	
07:43 Pm Parents' Day	07:49 Pm Today Myanmar "Yangon Night Market"	
08:03 Pm News	08:26 Pm Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part- 3)	
08:55 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture		

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

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

07:03 Am News	07:26 Am Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market	
07:35 Am Myanmar Charitable Labour Association	07:47 Am Around The Maha Boditahtaung	
08:03 Am News	08:26 Am Tourism development of Bagan	
08:48 Am Buddha Image Built of Bamboo Strip	09:03 Am News	
09:26 Am Discovering Tribes "Tai Khun (or) Gon: their life and customs(Part A)"	09:47 Am Moe La Win's Piano Melody 3 (Jingle-Bell Rock by Joe Beal & Jim Boothes)	
09:49 Am Dhamma School		

Liverpool need no extra motivation against Everton, says Klopp

LONDON — Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp is looking forward to his first Merseyside derby at Goodison Park on Monday and says his players will need no extra motivation ahead of the season's first Premier League clash with locals rivals Everton.

Liverpool make the trip in good spirits having arrested a mini-slump by beating Middlesbrough 3-0 in midweek to rise to second in the table and will want to keep up their impressive recent record against their neighbours.

The visitors are unbeaten in 11 top-flight matches against Everton, who are in eighth place, culminating in last season's 4-0 win at Anfield under Klopp in April.

"It's our job to keep Everton fans as quiet as possible - if possible," Klopp told a news conference on Friday.

"It will be a real battle between two good teams. Motivation will be clear. We will fill each space they give us in the stand," he added.

"For me it's really special. It's my first time at Goodison

Park. I'm really looking forward to it, it's a very important moment of the season."

The German confirmed that Simon Mignolet would keep his place in goal after replacing Loris Karius for the win over Middlesbrough, adding that striker Daniel Sturridge and midfielder Emre Can could also get run-outs.

Karius was criticised after making mistakes in the 2-2 draw with West Ham last weekend and the 4-3 defeat at Bournemouth, and Klopp said it made sense to ease the pressure on the 23-year-old German.

"I won't change each week," he added. "Simon had a really good game. Loris can use the time in training with no pressure."

"I thought it made absolute sense. I saw it as a good decision for both (keepers) to take Loris out of the firing line."

Sturridge (calf) has not

played since Nov. 19 while defender Joel Matip (ankle) missed the game against Middlesbrough.

"Sturridge is still a maybe," Klopp said. "He is closer to team training than he was last week

and maybe we can involve him today or tomorrow. "Danny cannot be at 100 percent but having Daniel Sturridge for 20 minutes would

be fantastic."

"We haven't made a decision (on Matip). We have to see whether to try him for Everton or give him few more days."

—Reuters



Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp celebrates after the game with Jordan. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wenger tells Arsenal to be brave against Man City

LONDON — Manager Arsene Wenger wants Arsenal to reinforce their title credentials by beating Manchester City in the Premier League on Sunday and called on his players to show no fear at the Etihad Stadium.

Arsenal slipped to third in the table after being beaten 2-1 by Everton at Goodison Park in midweek, while fourth-placed City recovered from last weekend's 4-2 defeat by Leicester City by beating Watford 2-0 on Wednesday.

The loss at Everton was Arsenal's second league defeat of the season and Wenger said his players needed to show more courage

on the ball and take their chances if they wanted to avoid another reverse.

"What is important is that we respond straightaway," the Frenchman told a news conference on Friday.

"Big games against Man City mean defend well together and not be timid when you get the ball."

Arsenal's free flowing, possession-based style has been compared to Pep Guardiola's all-conquering Barcelona team of 2008-2012, and Wenger said it was only a matter of time before the Spaniard began to make his mark at City. "He brings his phi-

losophy through," Wenger added. "You expect him to put his print into his team."

"What you want of a top-level game is that it reaches the expectation quality-wise. I think that will happen because I am a positive man."

City are missing striker Sergio Aguero due to suspension, but Arsenal have a host of absentees as well, with defender Shkodran Mustafi out with an ankle injury, Santi Cazorla out for months and Aaron Ramsey and Danny Welbeck still unavailable.

"Look, I don't deny Sergio is an important player for them but they have other important players... we have plenty out," Wenger said.

The Frenchman, who is never shy to point out refereeing mistakes in his post-match news conferences, also pushed for the quick introduction of video technology in the Premier League to help officials make decisions during games.

The technology is being tested by FIFA at the ongoing Club World Cup in Japan.

"I am a long-time fan," Wenger said. "The speed of the game — referees need help. I would like to see it tomorrow morning." —Reuters



Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez is substituted as manager Arsene Wenger looks on during Premier League at Emirates Stadium, on 10 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chelsea march on as Costa seals victory at Palace



Chelsea's Diego Costa scores their first goal against Crystal Palace during Premier League at Selhurst Park, on 17 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Leaders Chelsea stretched their Premier League winning run to a club record-equalling 11 as Diego Costa's header shortly before halftime secured a 1-0 victory at London rivals Crystal Palace on Saturday.

The Spain international climbed high to connect with Cesar Azpilicueta's cross in the 43rd minute, guiding a header beyond the reach of Wayne Hennessey at a foggy Selhurst Park.

It was Costa's 13th league goal of the season and took his Chelsea haul to 50 in all com-

petitions.

Chelsea were well worth the win and had chances to extend the lead after the break with Marcos Alonso and N'Golo Kante forcing fine saves from Hennessey before Alonso struck the underside of the crossbar with a free kick.

Antonio Conte's side have 43 points from 17 games, nine more than Liverpool and Arsenal who are not in action on Saturday. Palace have won only once in their last 11 league games and remained three points above the bottom three. —Reuters